

Historic Wilbur Marks Century Of Existence

Church, Hotel Of Early Day Still Stand

Pioneer Era Prominence In Education Built By Methodist Workers

By GEORGE CASTILLO

About eight miles north of Roseburg, on Highway 99, squats a drowsy little community unimpressively named Wilbur. Travelers seldom take a second look while speeding through, because its size hardly gives them time. Anyway, a second glance has little more to offer than the first.

However, the humdrum little settlement gained attention Sept. 23 of this year with the event of the wedding of Shirley May Lee and David Allen Christie. A wedding doesn't seem unusual, but in this case, it was the first such event in the Methodist Episcopal church of Wilbur for 36 years. The last ceremony took place on Feb. 11, 1914 when Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wells, presently of Roseburg, were married. Even more amazing is the fact that only three weddings can be accounted for in the 75-year history of the church.

Further investigation of the history revealed this little one-room church as a sturdy monument to a Methodist stronghold — a community with one of the richest histories in the turbulent annals of the state. In fact, by 1867, the little town had gained such importance that Rev. Robert A. Booth was sent as Methodist pastor. By this time Booth made his mark as a courageous circuit rider and a statue commemorating his work now stands on the capitol lawn in Salem.

First School Crude
The history of Wilbur unfolds 100 years ago. In 1859 Elijah Buntun settled on a claim there and the site became known as Buntun's Gap. In 1851, one of Oregon's first public schools was inaugurated under a temporary shed made by leaning long planks against a pole that rested on pins driven into oak trees. Also, the first Sunday school was organized by B. J. Grubbe and Calvin Reed.

In that same year Fleming Hill built a stage station, which shortly after became a hotel, known as the Wilbur house. The two-story frame structure still stands as solidly as ever after 99 years. It can



CHURCH OF FEW WEDDINGS—The Wilbur Methodist Episcopal church resounded with its first wedding vows in 36 years last month as Shirley May Lee and David Allen Christie were married. The approximately 75-year-old, one-room building was originally owned by the Presbyterians, but was transferred to the Methodists in 1901.

be seen as the first house on the right side of the road coming from Sutherlin.

House Attains Fame

The Wilbur house was operated judiciously by Hill and his wife Delinda, "Aunt Lindy," as she was called, gained such fame as a cook that the Wilbur house became the "only" place to stay in southern Oregon. All the circuit riders made it a point to stop there and a star boarder was General Joe Hooker when he was engineering the Scottsburg military road to Fort Lane in Jackson county. The hotel was located at the juncture of the road from the "United States to Umpqua county," and the old military road at a time when Scottsburg was bigger than Portland.

In 1853, a stately circuit rider rode into town. He was Rev. James Wilbur, for whom the community was later named, and who was to see the stage for Wilbur's greatest claim to historic glory, the Umpqua academy.

Father Wilbur Takes Over

Father Wilbur had begun to make history in Portland before coming to the Umpqua country. Through his effort the first school and first church were built there, so it was only natural that under his guidance the then greatest educational center between Salem and Sacramento came into existence. He established his residence in the first Methodist parsonage in southern Oregon.

The "feeder school" for Willamette university at Salem came into existence in 1854 and was chartered in 1855. Students began pour-

ing in from miles around to attend the academy. Mrs. Mary McKay, still living in Wilbur, notes that she rode by horseback from Elkton to go to school there.

Among the impressive names appearing on the first rolls are Judge George W. Liddle of Douglas county; Elizabeth Knott, later Mrs. Robert Ladd of Portland and Sarah Watson, later Mrs. S. Hamilton, mother of the late Judge J. W. Hamilton.

Another name connected with the school was that of Matthew P. Deady, one of the first trustees. Deady became justice of the peace in Umpqua county, then in turn became chairman of the State Constitutional convention, regent of Leland Stanford Jr. university, first president of the board of regents of the University of Oregon and federal judge of the district.

Joseph Lane and LaFayette Grover add still further the names of governors to the list of men connected with the academy.

The academy was discontinued in 1900 after public schools had taken over the reins, but these 46 years were marked for posterity. From the beginning and throughout most of its history, the academy had a very strict code of rules. An example of which follows:

"This institution, being open for both sexes we will define their relative positions; they are to have no intercourse in school hours or recitations. Under no circumstances are they to join in plays either at the school or elsewhere, unless at home and members of the same family. In short, their intercourse, if any, shall be confined to polite, respectful conversation, such as would be entirely becoming if it were in the presence of their parents or other revered personages."

To bolster this regulation, there were separate school entrances for each sex and a high board fence to separate playgrounds for each. Furthermore, young men were never allowed to approach closer

than ten feet to a girl.

Even with these somewhat rigid strictures, the student roll expanded rapidly. Some of the names that appear stand high in the successful history of the state: The Dillons, the Casebeers, Watsons, Grubbes, Stearns, Kuykendalls, Millers, Pinkstons, Reeds, Chapmans, Slocums, Tiptons, Wades, Fitzhughs, Mires, Hills, Clinkinbeards, Oteys, and Akins.

The record ends on Oct. 30, 1900, when the last premises and building were sold to the public school for \$400. The present school was built on the site of the last academy building.

With this background it seems evident that Wilbur was a deeply religious community and old timers still talk of an incident that attests to that fact.

In 1886, Matt Short decided to start a saloon in the thriving little community. Of course it shook the town to its roots; so, as is usually the case, the ladies took it upon themselves to act — and they did.

The townswomen gathered and descended en masse on the one and only Wilbur saloon. Working in four hour shifts, they stayed the entire day holding a prolonged prayer meeting. To say the least, Matt Short's business didn't show signs of prospering and died a dispirited death. Duration of operation — one day.

Air Force Reserve Enlistment Open To Vets Of War 2

HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA — All veterans of World War II, regardless of branch of service, are eligible for enlistment in the air force reserve in the grade held at time of discharge. Qualified non-veterans with skills in fields where critical Air Force needs exist except those classified I-A under selective service, are also eligible to enlist in the USAF reserve under this program.

The air force, endeavoring to maintain the strength of its reserve force as well as expanding the active air force, has recently instituted a concentrated drive throughout the United States to accomplish this purpose.

Enlistment in the reserve at this time does not necessarily mean immediate call to active duty but it does assure an individual that in case of a general mobilization, he will be called to duty at the grade held in the reserve.

Former members of the WAF's (women's air force) and WAC's (women's army corps) are included in this program and are eligible to enlist. They may also be signed up in their former rank which assures them of maintaining their reserve grade in case of mobilization.

Veterans enlisting for duty in an air force reserve training center or a corollary unit will be eligible for 4 days pay by devoting 2 days of hard work each month. Also, each two days of training gives the reservist points toward retirement and promotion. Many air reservists increase their earning capacity in civilian life by learning new trades through attendance at service schools.



WILBUR HOUSE—This 99-year-old structure, located at Wilbur, was once a stagecoach hotel stop on the old Military road and the road from the United State to Umpqua county. It was built in 1851 and lodged such eminent guests as General Joe Hooker and circuit rider Robert Booth.

Winston

By MRS. GEORGE BACHER

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Glen Jr., owners of Glen's Grocery, have returned from an extended vacation with Mrs. Glen's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Tulley, in Denver, Colo. Traveling east by automobile, they toured the states of Idaho and Utah on their way to Colorado and on their return trip they visited in Wyoming. While in Denver they spent several days at the Tulleys' summer cottage at Evergreen and later at their ranch in Estes Park. They reported beautiful weather on their journey.

Mrs. John Wilson of Roseburg, formerly of Winston, is vacationing in Winston. Upon her return to Roseburg, Mrs. Wilson plans to leave for California and spend the winter months with relatives in San Francisco and Alhambra.

Many interior innovations are underway on Hunter's Cabins, which were recently purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Flagler, who came to Winston from Idaho Falls, Idaho. The office has been entirely redecorated in pastel tones and a similar motif will be carried out in the eight housing units on the property, the new owners have indicated. All the units are to be modernized and some are to be equipped for light housekeeping, they said. Their plan includes construction of additional cabins early next spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Wilson have received a letter from their son, Travis, who enlisted in the navy several months ago. The letter was mailed from aboard the troop carrier, the General M. M. Patrick, which is en route to Japan. He was enjoying his first voyage, he said, and at that time had not been sea-sick.

In response to many requests, a box has been placed at the Myrtlewood Treasure house and Malt shop for the purpose of collecting news items to further the community column. Anyone wishing to contribute is welcomed to

do so. Collections will be made regularly.

W. C. Stonebraker, Winston resident and principal of the Green school, was in Salem on Tuesday to attend the elementary school principals' conference.

Mr. and Mrs. Oren Heath and daughters, Sharon and Vicky have moved from this community to Bremerton, Wash.

After a successful hunting trip in the Lake View area, Ed Thiele and Bob Kleist of Winston, and George Trumbo of Oakland, have returned to their homes. They bagged two large hawks.

Phenazil season opened with a "bang" on Saturday. Hunters and their dogs lined up early in the morning hours, awaiting the 12 noon gong when the season would be officially open. Birds which had been living unmolested on the fat of the land around Winston unmolested, rambled unafraid near the hunters. However, after the first few shots they migrated to safer territory (destination unknown), and the hunting proved surprisingly unsuccessful.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bingham have moved to Roseburg. The Community Chest drive

Winston Motel, Edwards' Auto Court, Myrtlewood Treasure House, Markham's Toy Shop, Winston Sincere appreciation is extended to Fullerton Beverage, Benetta Theatre, Coos Junction Cafe, Getman Service Station, Howard's Hardware, True's Grocery, which got underway Monday, October 9, and will continue for two weeks has been completed in Winston. Sincere appreciation is extended to Fullerton Beverage, Benetta Theatre, Coos Junction Cafe, Getman Service Station, Howard's Hardware, True's Grocery, affair in this community.

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RECALL HALON CORNELL HORMONE CREAM 1 1/2 oz. jar, reg. \$1.00 2 for 101	RECALL PETROFOL MINERAL OIL REG. 50c. 2 for 60c	RECALL HOUSEHOLD GLOVES Lace, rubber, sizes 7-9 REG. 75c. 2 for 76c
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RECALL ROUND PAPER 50 white linen sheets... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL ENVELOPES 100 white... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL HAND LOTION... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL COUGH SYRUP... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL STORK NURSER... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL ADHESIVE TAPE... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL SHAVE CREAM... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL CANDY POPPS... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c
RECALL QUICKSWABS... Reg. 50c. 2 for 90c

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MILK CHOCOLATE BARS
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Limit 2 bars
2 for 37c

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Plain or medicament treated. Pkg. of 36. Reg. 25c. Limit 1 package
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24 large flat sheets, 23 envelopes.
Choice of colors. LIMIT 1 BOX
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No unpleasant after taste!
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RECALL 3 Barbers' HAIR OIL HAND LOTION plus
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"Big Value" ENVELOPES
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23c

Elkton

By MRS. PHYLLIS A. SMITH
A daughter, Carol Jean, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thomas on Sunday, Oct. 15. The baby weighed seven pounds, ten ounces and is the Thomas' first child.

Sympathy is extended to the family of the late Joseph Hudson, who died Monday at his home. He will be missed by his many friends.

Good progress is being made on the bridge across Elk Creek at the Lester Riley ranch.

The Cook-Terrill mill is nearing completion on the George Binger place, and will soon be in operation.

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VOTE 306 X YES

Roseburg Section, Douglas County Committee for Basic School Fund Increase; Warren Ewing, chairman.

INVESTORS MUTUAL

Dividend Notice No. 40
The Board of Directors of Investors Mutual has declared a quarterly dividend of Twenty-seven cents per share payable on September 29, 1950 to shareholders on record as of September 15, 1950.
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