

The Cottage Grove Sentinel

COTTAGE GROVE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

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'Woman With An Idea' Brought Extension Service to Lane Co.

Charge it up to dreams and courage born of a pioneer background—or to the determined persistence of a woman with an idea. Either reason (or both) could have made Mrs. Frank B. Harlow the activating force which brought the home economics phase of extension service to Lane county 36 years ago.

And over the years, Mrs. Harlow hasn't lost a whit of the magnetism and charm which rallied rural women around her and helped to convince the Lane county court that training in home economics was no frill—but instead a necessity for the welfare of home and community.

Seated in the living room of her comfortable home, which is located on the original site of the Harlow's pioneer homestead at 3600 County Farm Road, Eugene, Mrs. Harlow reminisced about the beginnings of the extension program in home economics in Lane county. Sunlight pierced through the giant maple trees which Mrs. Harlow and her husband planted as saplings 57 years ago when they were newlyweds. And less than a quarter of a mile down the road to the east was the old pioneer home where her husband was born and reared, and in which they had lived the first 26 years of their married life. It had been moved to make way for the present home which was built 31 years ago. A magnificent backdrop for both homes are 125 acres of beautifully groomed orchard planted in walnuts, filberts, cherries, and pears.

Uncharted Field
Mrs. Harlow's interest in home demonstration for rural women (as that phase of extension was then known) began in 1920 when she was elected chairman of the Pomona Grange's first home economics committee. The fact that an entirely uncharted field was hers to explore was a challenge she approached with a characteristic organization. She made a trip to Oregon State college to meet with Mrs. Jessie McComb, state leader in home economics.

"The wealth of material I found was exactly what the rural women wanted and needed. And the college said it would send a specialist to meet with clubs and groups of women asking for demonstrations. My next thought was of how to introduce the program to the women, who for the most part weren't organized in clubs. But I shouldn't have worried. Word-of-mouth carried news fast

in those days — and I was to discover that the program would catch on like wildfire."

Farmers Union Cooperative
Mrs. Harlow returned to Eugene, fired with her idea of a training program in home economics available to every woman in Lane county. She contacted the Farmers' Union which named a committee of three ladies to develop the group's first venture in a program for women. Working in close cooperation, the two committees representing the Granges and Farmers' Union introduced Lane county's first home economics new and happy fellowship which made its oldest one the "magic lore of homemaking."

Cohorts in getting the program on stable footing were Mrs. Ralph Laird and Mrs. Clyde Wright, both who have died in recent years. Mrs. Betty Kappauf, who has moved away, and Mrs. J. W. Maxwell, a member of Irving extension unit who lives on Route 1, Eugene.

"We were pretty crude in our planning compared to the smoothly organized program in existence today," laughed Mrs. Harlow. "Groups of ladies would drop a note to the college and ask that a specialist be sent to discuss a particular topic."

Many of the topics the ladies requested were the same as the ones they have studied in recent years — breadmaking, table setting, sewing, kitchen arrangements, and vegetable gardens.

"We all had opportunity to discover our talent — or lack of it," said Mrs. Harlow. "I especially enjoyed my lack of it when my group asked the specialist to give a class in millinery. My hat was most peculiar. It was a wide brim model of light tan beaver fur. For the elegant touch I added a black ostrich plume and yards of black moline swished round and round the brim. She added ruefully, "I never wore it."

The haphazard program with its spasmodic meetings was getting results. And more and more rural women were expressing their desire for "a home demonstration agent readily available in their own front yard."

"We were told," recalled Mrs. Harlow, "that we could have a home agent if our county could provide a certain amount of money which could be matched by the state college. It was up to the rural women to convince the county court."

Thanks to the moral support of the state leader, the group had "courage to go before that austere body."

"I was spokesman," said Mrs. Harlow, "and I've never been so scared in my life. There I stood before those men knowing it was my job to put across the idea. Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. Laird also gave short talks. And Judge Clinton Hurd excused us. We didn't think we had a chance. But I hadn't been home more than an hour when my uncle, M. H. Harlow, who was a commissioner, called to say the money had been appropriated."

In 1927 the first fulltime county home agent was named. Mrs. Ralph Laird served as chairman of the county committee. After seven years of organizing and planning, Mrs. Harlow had stepped



ACCLAIMED A "FIRST LADY" among extension units, Mrs. Frank B. Harlow, Eugene, hastened the event of the home economics phase of the Lane county extension service 36 years ago. An active member of the Willakenzie unit, she is helping with plans for the Homemakers' Festival May 4 in the auditorium building at Pioneer Park. The public is invited to this day-long event planned and produced by Lane county homemakers.

aside for a short respite. But the women soon found they could not rest on victories won. Each year the nightmare of appearing before the county court to have the budget renewed loomed again. And each year, rural women turned out in larger groups to the budget meetings to press their point. But in 1934, the axe fell. In spite of the pleas made by the women, the county court did not appropriate funds for a home agent until January 1, 1936.

During that two-year interim the women were far from inactive. They organized study clubs on family relationships and recreation — and wisely included the men.

Extension Units Formed
In 1936 when the home extension program was resumed, the present "unit system" was originated.

"I never thought the project leader system would work," remembered Mrs. Harlow. "Rural women had been so timid and so unused to expressing themselves before a group. But how wrong I was. No unit has ever been without leaders. The development of local leaders which has brought rural women to the front has been the most wonderful thing in the extension program. I never cease to feel proud when I see our rural ladies get up and present a lesson with assurance. It's such a change from the timid scared group we were 36 years ago."

Progress is unending — and Lane County's "first lady in home extension" declares that after 36 years she still returns home from meetings "with a new thought or idea."

"But the present belongs to the young," remarks the gracious 79-year-old lady, "I had my day of planning. Each group must have its day for progress."

Her interest in the extension program is actively maintained through association with the Willakenzie unit and the Lane County Alumnae committee. The "alumnae" are those ladies who have graduated from the Lane county advisory committee members of which help the agents in directing the course of home extension in the county. The term "alumnae" in no way denotes retirement.

"We meet bi-monthly mainly to keep old friendships alive," said Mrs. Harlow. "But our major project is raising funds for Azalea House at Oregon State college. This year we will add to that fund by selling coffee and milk at the Homemakers' Festival."

Oldest Rural Club
No story about Mrs. Harlow would be complete without mention of her interest in other groups. She is "first lady" in the First Baptist church, with a membership of 62 years. She's a charter member of the original "Keep Oregon Green" committee, has served as deputy for juvenile grange in Lane county, four years as home economics chairman of the Oregon State Grange, and is a member of the oldest rural club in Lane County — the Willakenzie Thimble club which recently celebrated its 45th anniversary.

"My main interest now is my home," she smiled, "and my major hobby is taking care of my husband."

No use borrowing trouble — there are always people willing to give it to you.

Daughter Born To Delight Valley Couple April 7

By Mrs. Roy L. Stone

Phone 1114R5

DELIGHT VALLEY—Mr. and Mrs. William Manbeck are receiving congratulations upon the arrival of a daughter, Mary Margaret, April 7, at the Cottage Grove hospital.

Mrs. John Seabloom was a visitor at the home of Mrs. Garland Hartman in Roseburg Thursday. School was closed Thursday so the teachers could attend a workshop in Eugene. Classes continued Friday.

Vanilla is being sold by club members in several communities to pay for steel folding chairs for the clubhouse at Walker. Persons wishing to purchase vanilla may contact Mrs. Glen Platner at Saguinaw, Mrs. Odell Heath at Walker or Mrs. Lee Harrison at Delight Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Derby left Tuesday morning for Fairbault, Minn., where they have purchased a farm.

Petitions are being circulated for paving the Delight Valley road and also to secure a southbound access road on the new highway. Interested persons may contact James Hemenway, Walter Tracey, Louis Conley or Kenneth Zumwalt.

Irwin Iberg, Kenneth Zumwalt and Roy Stone were among those who went clam digging near Reedsport Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Seabloom and children spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hansen at Walden. Mary and Karen remained for a longer visit.

Mrs. J. L. Conley and her mother, Mrs. Eastburn, motored to Brookings Friday. They were accompanied by Mrs. Conley's sister, Mrs. Peggy Wahlund, Melissa and Don who had been visiting at the Conley and Eastburn homes.

Claude Davidson returned home Wednesday from the Veterans hospital in Portland.

Chester Hays of Eugene was a weekend visitor at the home of his brother, Rice Hays.

Pink and Blue Shower Surprises Latham Matron

By Mrs. Esther Trunnell

Phone 1211

LATHAM—A real surprise for Mrs. Elmer Rikala was a pink and blue shower given in her honor April 11 by Mrs. Marvin Wright and Mrs. Gilbert Yearous at the home of the latter. After the gifts were presented in a doll buggy and opened by Mrs. Rikala, refreshments were served.

Dick and Jeff Landers spent from Thursday to Sunday with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harris, while their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Landers, of Portland were on a fishing trip at Gold Beach.

Homer Hull has been getting examination and treatment at Veterans hospital in Vancouver, Wash., since March 29. Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hull visited him there.

Rev. J. Michael Shelley preached at the Church of Christ at Garibaldi last Sunday evening. He was accompanied by Mrs. Shelley.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Godard and two children of Corvallis spent Saturday at the home of his father, J. F. Godard.

Move to Cottage Grove
Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Neils and children moved the last weekend from one of the houses of Mrs. A. A. Hull to a house about four blocks from the Catholic school in Cottage Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gridley and son of Prineville, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Garoutte and family and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harrington of McKenzie Bridge were recent dinner day guests at the home of Miss Belva Garoutte.

The barn on the former Walter Garoutte place which was built in 1904 is being torn down. The part of the place on which the buildings stand was recently purchased by Dean Kelley.

Mr. and Mrs. George Campbell operate a theatre in a small town near Fairfield, Calif. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Campbell and children of Creswell recently visited them. They also visited Mrs. Juanita Campbell and Mrs. A. L. Bennett in South San Francisco.

An interesting experience for some members of Hebron Grange, who visited Goshen Grange last Saturday evening, was to meet Mrs. John V. Johnson who lived in Cottage Grove in 1901. Her father was Rev. Crandell, minister at the Methodist church at that time. He was the author of "Home on the Range," which the two granges sang. Mrs. Johnson was introduced.

Mr. and Mrs. John Van Trunnell and children of Medford spent the weekend visiting at the H. O. Bennett and John Trunnell homes. Jennings Beers visited at the Chester Morris home in Roseburg Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hadley of Silver Lake spent two nights over the weekend at the home of his sister, Mrs. Ralph Hawley. They were on a trip and could not be located at the time of Mr. Hawley's death.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Corke of Los Angeles spent Tuesday evening with Mrs. Ralph Hawley enroute to Alaska to visit Mr. Corke's daughter.

EDWIN ERICKSON DIES
Edwin A. Erickson, brother-in-law of Mrs. Mary Ann Miller of Cottage Grove, died at his home in Oswego on March 26. Mr. Erickson was a veteran of World War I. He was 67 years old at the time of his death.

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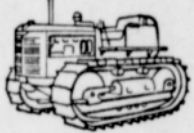
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