

## SMITH RIVER

By Ethel Goodlin

A large group of friends from all over the county attended the funeral of John L. Childs, which was held Thursday afternoon, March 26, from Wier's Mortuary Chapel with Rev. Don Chase officiating.

Mr. Childs was born in England May 27, 1863, and came to this country and settled in New York until he was 27 years old, then came west and went to Gold Beach where he taught school. From Gold Beach he went to Crescent City and had made his home there. He was in the newspaper business for a number of years. He later was elected county clerk and has also served as district attorney and county judge. He retired from public life in 1950 at the age of 87.

Mr. Childs was active in the development of Del Norte county and remained active until his death. He was a member of the Crescent City Masonic lodge, the I.O.O.F., the Moose lodge, Chamber of Commerce and charter member of the Kiwanis club.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Edna Childs; one son, Richard Childs, and two grandsons and a host of old-time friends.

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Methodist church on Easter Sunday are as follows: Sunday school, 10:00 a.m., with J. W. Hall, superintendent. Easter message, 11:00 a.m. Rev. James Shelton, pastor.

A cantata, The Glory of the Cross, will be put on by the choir, with Mrs. Evelyn Slater at the organ. All are invited to attend this morning service.

Miss Nadine Lehmkuhl, member of Smith River 4-H Club, has been selected by Del Norte county club leaders as the All-Star girl in 4-H work. She will attend the three-day session of the 13th annual All-Star conference to be held this week at Berkeley. Miss Lehmkuhl is in her tenth year of club work and was presented with an airplane ticket by Del Norte Farm Bureau Association. She left on the plane Sunday afternoon for Berkeley and will be joined by 80 All-Star boys and girls from all over the state of California who will attend the conference.

Early morning sunrise service will be held on Easter Sunday at 6:30 o'clock at the ocean beach near the Shaker church. Rev. James Shelton will be in charge of the morning service. Bonfires will be made on the beach to provide warmth for those who attend. Following the service breakfast will be served on the beach. All are invited to attend this service. In case of rain service will be held at the Community church.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Hursh, accompanied by the latter's mother, Mrs. J. W. Moore, motored to Umpqua Sunday where they visited with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hinkle. Mr. Hinkle is the son of Mrs. Hursh.

Mr. and Mrs. John Barnum and three daughters left Monday on a week's vacation to Portland and will spend Easter with the parents of Mrs. Barnum, Mr. and Mrs. Murtin Rice.

## It Did Happen Here December 9, 1942

With the organization of "Operation Skywatch," by Civilian Defense in the Brookings-Harbor area, it brings to mind happenings on this section of the Pacific coast at the beginning of World War II. Actually defense work seemed a long way from this remote forest surrounded spot, yet a full-time civilian defense set-up operated 24 hours a day. Strangely this was the only place on the continental U.S. soil that was bombed.

Other places shelled were Goleta, Calif., north of Los Angeles; Seaside, Oregon, and Estevan Point on Vancouver Island, all presumably shelled by guns on submarines.

On the morning of Sept. 9, 1942 at 6:24 a.m., a small two-wing seaplane, without markings and sounding like a model T Ford engine, came in from the ocean, supposedly launched from a submarine. Flying low over the house tops it circled Mt. Emily to the east of Brookings and returned seaward in about 30 minutes over the Crissey residence.

Howard Gardner was "Look-out" at the U. S. Forestry Service Station on Mt. Emily at the time and remarked that he could have shot it had he known it was a Jap plane.

Report to Civilian Defense headquarters in Portland brought Army patrol planes to the area immediately and at 11:00 a.m. an unidentified submarine was sighted and bombed with undetermined results. Later a remark was made to Ruth Bathiany, on whose place the patrol set up a center, that we wouldn't have any more trouble with that one. About 12:20 a small fire was observed on Mt. Emily and Gardner, with Freddie Flynn, Bob Larson and Keith Johnson, proceeded to the spot, where they found small fires and a foot-deep crater-like hole, three feet across. Scattered about were many little pieces of some spongy stuff about an inch square and a half inch thick, each with a hole in the center, carrying an odor like burnt rubber or the smell of a carbide lamp. Heat had been so great that in spots the ground was fused like cooled slag.

The next day Ed Marshall, accompanied by Les Colville, assistant supervisor of Siskiyou National Forest went to the scene of the fire. Digging into the crater they found metal, including a piece which looked like the fusehead of a bomb, with a little fan-like propeller set in the nose. Altogether they found about 40 pounds of metal fragments and rubber bits, but apparently the bombing had been bungled. The plane had flown too low to permit the timer to do its full work. The plane was heard by Tom Page, Mr. and Mrs. Crissey, Asa Carpenter, and others.

In no time Brookings was full of "Big Brass," and military restrictions clamped on the area. A Coast Guard unit had been installed in the Chetco Inn before that time. Additional coast guns were set up and troops alerted.

The year before on Dec. 17, 1941, the Emidio, freighter, was bombed off the Crescent City point. It drifted into the harbor and a portion of the bow is now a historical marker set in cement across the street from the Lauff hotel.

Citizens have felt for some time that a unit of the Civilian Defense should be functioning locally at this time and are pleased that the organization is beginning to get under way.

Last week at the Chamber of Commerce dinner, Lt. Norton Guon and Airman Norman Macht of the Portland Filter Center were present and asked for volunteers for the work. Response

was general and a station will soon be set up and functioning. Mrs. Ruth Bathiany has offered the use of a site and 24-hour access to her private phone until one is available to the center here. Those interested may contact Homer Haggerty for information.

Miss Grace Wells, demonstrator for electric appliances, visited her friend, Mrs. Eva Lee Long, this past week. She has just received a quarter century pin for faithful service. Her territory included the Klamath Falls-Medford, Grants Pass area, Cobs Bay and coastal areas.

Brookings Harbor Pilot 7  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1953

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