

Brookings-Harbor Pilot

Nowhere A Finer Climate — Nowhere A Finer Community

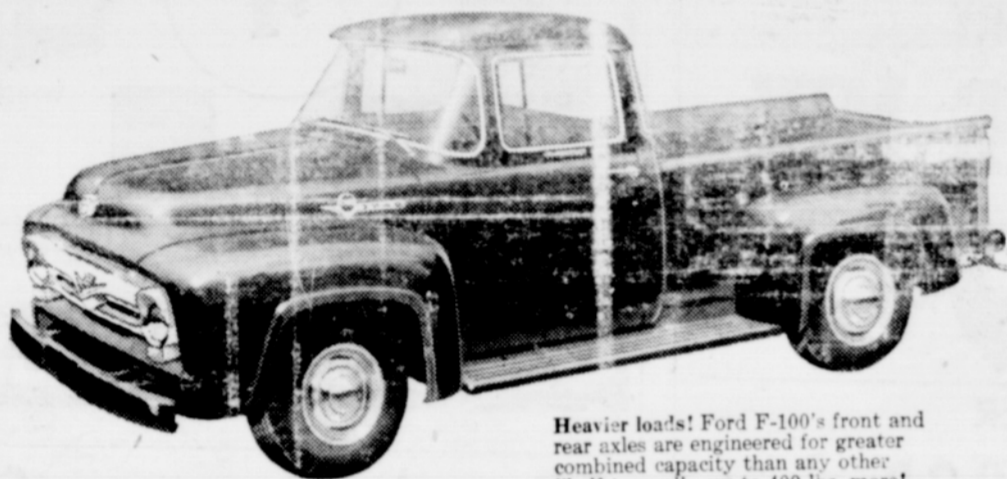
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DUNNING MOTORS

Highway 101

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Brookings, Oregon

Bells make unusual collection here

One of the most unusual collections to be found in Brookings is the collection of bells which the John Darger family have. Mr. Darger's mother began this collection in 1938 and it grew to ninety before she passed away.

The bells occupy three shelves in a cupboard with glass doors. The bells range in size from one-fourth inch in height to six inches. There are elephant bells, cow bells, dog bells, sleigh bells, school bells, dinner bells, souvenir bells and decorative bells. They're made from all kinds of materials, steel, brass, silver, lava, wood, glass, copper, china, pottery, and other metals which I'm not familiar with. Yes, there is even one which has been crocheted from cotton thread. The tones of the bells make one think of Edgar Allan Poe's poem, "Bells." They tinkle, clang, chime, jangle, clash in an array of sounds, some of which are pleasant and some a bit annoying.

Mrs. J. Darger's favorite is an Elephant which came from India. It is spherical with long lugs near the bottom to allow the air to enter. It is about five inches high and decorated with a blue and metallic silver design. The deep rich tone of the bell is what makes it a favorite. There are also a number of smaller elephant bells in the collection.

One of the few stories known about the bells is about one of the dog bells. This bell was worn by the lead dog in a team which carried serum in Alaska during the terrible smallpox epidemic of many years ago.

Included in the collection is the old hand school bell Mrs. Darger John's mother used when she taught school in Rural Minnesota.

One interesting but not particularly attractive set of bells came from Mexico. These four bells are of grey lava, shaped like dolls with full skirts under which is hidden the clapper.

We often think of Korea only in the Korean War but the collection of bells includes one which Mrs. Darger's son sent from Korea. Inscribed on the bell which is about two and one-half inches tall and shaped like our liberty bell are the words, "Seoul, Korea, 1945."

One of the most modern styled bells is one made of shiny metal. The bell is two inches in diameter and flat on top, a straight round handle comes out of it. The only decoration is a number of plain grooved lines going around the bell and handle.

There are many souvenir bells

in the collection, one is of brass with a ship on top commemorating the anniversary of "A Galleon 1556." Another looks like an old fashioned street lamp, but instead of a light suspended from the pole there is a bell and on the sign we read, "San Diego." Many of the bells are of glass, pottery, and China.

Not all of the bells are meant to be shaken to make their sound. There are a number which have stands and need to be tapped like a drum. One setsa salt and pepper set which are silent but dispense salt and pepper when they turned to the side.

Hollow sounds echo forth from an old wooden bell which is about five inches tall and is painted in gay reds, blues, and yellows.

Mrs. Darger explained that it takes at least three hours to clean the cupboard with the bells in it, not because it is such a difficult task or that they have to be so careful but because each bell has to be shaken to see how it sounds. Neighbors often call to see when the cleaning is going to take place so that they may have a hand in it. The collection brings many happy hours of enjoyment to the family and their friends. Mrs. Darger's mother kept a history of the bells but when she died it could not be found. The family has spent quite some time looking for it and think that perhaps it was loaned out to a friend and that it may have been misplaced.

August may be a bad month for fires. Our hills are extremely dry. All people are urged to be especially careful with their smoking and camp fires.

Smokey Bear is doing his part to spread the gospel. He is riding on both sides 25000 U. S. mail trucks during the month of August. Postmaster General Summerfield estimates that over 50,000,000 people will see the mail truck poster.

W. Ragland
District Ranger

Brookings Items

The women's golfing tournament continues this week and the next at the Crescent City golf course. This year the tournament is in the form of a seventy-two hole medal play.

In the men's tournaments, Lee Hein and Bill Hardtson are leading. Their opponents are from Crescent City.

Monday is children's day out at the golf course.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Dye, Linda and Ward from Portland are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Palmer.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Pollard have sold their home on Benham Road in Harbor to Robert Wilcox also of Harbor.

Mrs. Joseph Kanick left Saturday to attend the leadership training session for church leaders and educators on the campus of Lewis and Clark college in Portland. Mrs. Henry Ostermeier remained from the sessions of last week to attend this week.

Bobby Upp's girl scout troop is busy collecting old wire clothes hangers to sell to raise money for their troop. Contact the troop if you can help them out in this project.

Mrs. Raymond Wood of Ocean Lake spent a few days in the community. She took the bus Tuesday afternoon. As "Laura" she is an old neighbor of many around here.

Mrs. Harold Moore, Ronnie Moore, and Mrs. Harold Jochens made a trip to Medford Monday. Ronnie visited the Orthodontist and Mrs. Jochens visited her brother and family.

Mrs. Glen Rogers entertained three tables of bridge at her home Monday evening. Glen's sister was visiting this week. Mrs. Willis Ragland won high prize. Dessert and coffee were served.

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NEW FALL COLORS

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REGULAR 29c

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19c

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YOUNGS

HIGHWAY 101 — NORTH BROOKINGS