

Martin Luther Morris Points To Hard Work, Good Food as Major Factors for Longevity

By Marguerite Wright
Staff Writer of The Statesman

A man who is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, living natives of Oregon allows that hard work, plenty of good food, and doing no wrong to anyone could be responsible for his longevity.

Martin Luther Morris, 94-year-old descendant of Robert Morris, who signed the Declaration of Independence, was born in a log cabin near Yamhill and now lives with his daughter, Mrs. Rosavelle Allender, at 2395 N. 4th st., Salem. Dr. Henry E. Morris, Salem optometrist, is a son and another son lives in Wyoming.

Luther Morris' parents came to Oregon in 1851 by ox team across the plains and settled on a land donation grant homestead west of Yamhill. His mother, Susan Good Morris, was the first white girl born in Missouri, and his father came from Pennsylvania.

11 Children in Family
There were 11 children in the family and a brother, 84, and sister, 81, still live on the old homestead where Luther raised hops for most of his life. His wife, Emma Daniels, who came to Oregon from Minnesota, died in April, 1946.

He has lived in Salem for nearly 11 years, surrounded by mentees of the past, and gladdened by visits from friends and relatives. Three of his four children are living and he has six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Although a few of the many events of the past have slipped from his memory, Morris delights in recalling the highlights of his long years. One of these is his horse-powered merry-go-round swing that helped make the Gay '90s gayer. He bought the brightly-painted, 20-seat swing in the late '70s and for many years it was carted to fairs at Salem, Hillsboro and elsewhere.

Free Rides on Sunday
Between carnivals and other

gatherings, it was set up on the Morris farm and people used to come from far and near to get free rides on Sunday afternoons.

Musicians — fiddlers, mostly — were hired to play quadrilles, schottisches, polkas and waltzes, Morris remembers, and he said he would have liked to attend the old-time fiddlers' contest here in Salem recently.

Although the farmers in those days worked a lot harder than farmers do now—and got less for their labor—they had their fun, too, Morris recalled. He liked to go fishing and hunting with hounds, and has a lifetime license. Listening to politicians was sometimes entertaining, too. He can remember hearing Bryan and McKinley speak and said he always voted for the best man regardless of party.

Registered to Vote
Morris hasn't decided who will be his choice for president in November, but he's registered to vote anyway.

A life member of the Elks lodge, this white-haired Oregonian will turn 95 on September 4, and if his formula for a useful and long life still holds, the hard-working farmer who now likes nothing better than to sit in Oregon sunshine (better even if sometimes scarcer than in some other climes, he believes) should become a centenarian.

Oregon Native Nears Age of 95



Martin Luther Morris, 94, one of the oldest living natives of Oregon, recalls years of hard work and fun.

Mrs. Sowa to Head Woodburn Women

WOODBURN — Mrs. Sowa was elected president of Woodburn Junior Woman's club at a recent election at the library club room. She succeeds Mrs. Lawrence Heer. Other officers are Mrs. C. Edwin Enos, first vice president; Mrs. Lois Gaviola, second vice president; Mrs. Walter Scarborough, Jr., secretary; Mrs. Lyman Seely, treasurer; Mrs. Heer and Mrs. Tony Zastoupil, directors. The club voted to pay two half scholarships to send Camp Fire Girls to the annual camp.

8th Graders Given Diplomas at Program

SILVERTON — The six eighth graders of St. Paul's parochial school received their diplomas Friday night at the new church. Father Mollenbeier of Woodburn addressed the class. Graduates are Katherine Brandt, Sharleen Moe, Carl Esser, John Gander, Edward Gerlits and Robert Buchheit. Following formal ceremonies, the Men's club sponsored a party honoring the mothers in the parish as well as all newcomers. The program was presented by the school children.

Legion Lays Plans For Memorial Day

STAYTON — Stayton post, American Legion, made plans for the observance of Memorial day at its meeting in the city hall.

Members will meet at the Women's clubhouse at 10:30 a.m. to place flags on graves of war veterans. The Boy Scouts have been invited to participate.

Dave Hoss of Salem told of Legion activities in Klamath Falls.

A nominating committee, composed of John Christensen, Frank Basl, Gabe DeJardin, and Blynn Humphreys, will report at the next meeting, Wednesday, May 19.

Monmouth Woman Heads Mothers

MONMOUTH — Mrs. Harry Thompson of Monmouth was named president of the newly organized Mothers' club of OCE, during the recent Mothers' weekend on the campus. Mrs. C. A. Pittman, Portland, was named vice president; and Mrs. Allen I. King of Coos Bay, treasurer. The secretary will be appointed from Polk county mothers.

Mrs. Thompson, an alumna of the school, is the mother of twin daughters, Jeanne and Deanne Thompson, now freshmen at OCE. Mrs. Pittman is mother of Barbara Brose, freshman. Mrs. King's sons are Alton, senior, and James, freshman.

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Dayton Paper Sold To Jess F. Jones

DAYTON — The Dayton Tribune has been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Jess F. Jones of Portland who will take possession June 1. The new owners have had many years' experience in the newspaper field. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Leiseth, present owners, have no definite plans beyond a vacation.

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