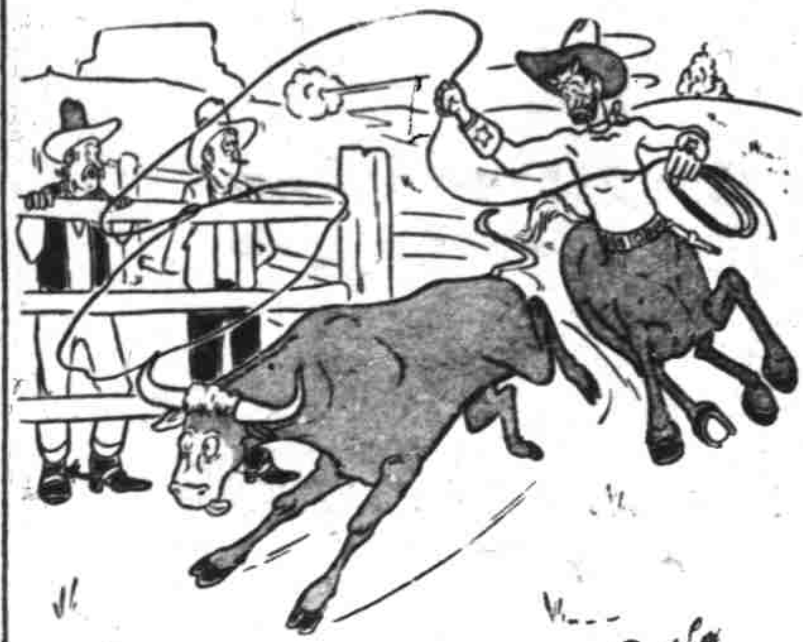




"He's my top hand!"

Former Residents of Camp Adair Territory Hold Reunion

By Mrs. Beulah Craven
Statesman Monmouth Correspondent

MONMOUTH — Sixty people gathered Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy A. Lamb, north of Monmouth, to enjoy a no-host picnic while re-creating the ties of a neighborhood relationship which was cut short when Camp Adair came into being.

In 1928, a group of women met at the home of Mrs. Vern Fox in the Elkins district southwest of Monmouth on December 8, to organize a neighborhood club. It was named the "Elkins Woman's Club", and 15 charter members started out this active rural women's group with this credo: "Our object shall be for the betterment of community life; and for charity or other work we might wish to take up."

These ideals grew with the club's growth. The first officers were: president, Mrs. Frank Laughery; vice-president, Mrs. Jesse V. Johnson; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. C. O. Allen. Club meetings occurred twice a month during the club year of nine months. The club sponsored the annual community Christmas tree and program held at the Elkins schoolhouse; an annual all-day meeting to entertain the members' families and friends; promoted sale of tuberculosis seals; engaged in Red Cross work; entertained other organized groups; and aided the sick in the community.

When the Elkins school merged with Monmouth, the Elkins Woman's club sponsored annual benefits to raise money for school hot lunches. Amounts ranging from \$72 to \$172 were raised by this public spirited group. In October 1929, the club voted to affiliate with the Polk County Federation of Rural Women's clubs, and participated actively until the Camp Adair cantonment absorbed most of the members' homes and their club house.

September 29, 1942, was the date of final meeting, and disbanding. Formal disposal of club property sent three dozen chairs to help equip the USO at Monmouth. Other gifts were dishes, silver and towels to the USO. Draperies, fixtures and table cloths were given to the Monmouth Rebekah and IOOF lodges. The large flag with standard went to Monmouth high school. The piano was also turned over to Monmouth high school. (Part ownership was vested in school district 28, Elkins). A savings account of \$30.00 also went to the USO. All remaining funds, after bills were settled, were divided equally between the Children's Farm Home at Corvallis, and to Camp Adair soldiers' recreational committee.

At time of disbanding, club membership was 36, plus one honorary member. The life of the club lacked one month of 17 years. Each member felt that she had "individually profited from personal contacts, fellowship, and enriched her own experiences in living by sharing with her co-workers."

The members with their families then scattered through western Oregon, in a small way as did the French Acadians of long ago. But so enduring were the ties of their worthwhile relationship, they have maintained contact throughout the past seven years, as manifested in the meeting held July 17 at the Lamb home. Representatives were present from Dallas, Independence, Oregon City, Corvallis, Sweet Home, Nashville, Toledo, Siletz and Monmouth.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Elkins of Monmouth extended an invitation for the group to meet for a Christmas party and covered-dish dinner, in December.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Nelson have bought a house and two lots at Sidney. They have been living in the small guest house on the Henningsen place at Talbot.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Shaik of Los Angeles, Calif., were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Enos Nelson at Talbot. Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Shank are sisters.

Ernie Henningsen's 3-year-old quarter horse stallion, Silver Flex, placed third in the stock horse class reining event recently at Portland mounted posse events at Jantzen Beach.

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