

Mehama's Growth Fast, But Haunted House and Indian Stories Still Linger



MEHAMA—Shown is the main street of Mehama, one of the fastest growing cities in the booming Santiam canyon. The city has doubled its population since the end of the war. (Statesman photo).

Swegle Club to Gather Tuesday

Statesman News Service
SWEGLER — A meeting of the Swegle Road Garden club will be held Tuesday night, April 11, at 7:30 in the home of Mrs. Ross Bales. Members will bring primroses for judging and for a show. There will be a seed and plant exchange, a round table discussion and a talk on dusting and spraying.

Keith Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hillard Hanson, has been seriously ill at the home of his parents, for several weeks. He is a third grade pupil in the school.

Two new homes in the community being remodeled include those of Charles Bottorf on Sunnyview avenue and Robert Darby on Birchwood drive.

Idanha Red Cross Exceeds \$250 Goal

Statesman News Service
IDANHA — Lloyd Girod, chairman of the upper canyon Red Cross drive, reported the quota of \$250 was exceeded in the first day of soliciting by the American Legion auxiliary. The drive in this area was held up until April 16 for the first mill payday of the year.

The Detroit theatre has offered the building and personnel for a free show to be held Tuesday night, April 11, for all Red Cross members and their families. The film rental is to be paid by a local merchant.

Heading the soliciting were auxiliary members Jane Weisgerber, Elsie Girod, Jean Cannon and Opal Leming.

Valley Obituaries

Statesman News Service
Mrs. Louisa C. Hume
ALBANY — Mrs. Louisa C. Hume, 80, of Brownsville, died at a Salem hospital April 6, following a lingering illness. Funeral services, in charge of the Fisher Funeral home, were held from the First Presbyterian church in Brownsville Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m. The Rev. R. E. Clark officiated.

Louisa McHargue was born in Brownsville June 21, 1859, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James McHargue, Linn county pioneers of 1847.

On Sept. 23, 1881, in Brownsville, Louisa McHargue and Joseph Hume were married. Hume died in 1937. Surviving Mrs. Hume are one son, George Hume of Brownsville, and two grandsons, Joseph Robert Hume of Phoenix, Ariz., and George Hume, Jr., of Brownsville. Mrs. Hume was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Mussett A. Overton
ALBANY — Mrs. Mussett A. Overton, 76, died at the family home in Brownsville Friday, April 7, following a prolonged illness. Funeral services in charge of the Fisher Funeral home will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, April 10, from the Christian church in Brownsville. Rev. Harry Benton will officiate. Burial will be in Alford cemetery.

Mussett Houston was a daughter of J. B. and Caroline Lane Houston. She was born at Harrisburg on Feb. 26, 1874, and had spent her entire life in the Harrisburg and Brownsville communities. She was a member of Rachel Rebekah lodge No. 9, and of the Brownsville Christian church.

At Albany in 1894, Mussett Houston was married to Albert Overton, and they celebrated their golden wedding in 1944. Surviving beside the widow is one daughter, Mrs. Faye Holleman of Brownsville; one granddaughter, Mrs. J. M. Koonz, and one great granddaughter, Sherry Suzanne Koonz, both of Brownsville.

Delores Leneve Childers
ALBANY — Delores Leneve Childers, 16, of Crawfordville, died in a Lebanon hospital April 8, from rheumatic fever. Funeral services under the direction of the Fisher Funeral home will be held from the Crawfordville Community church at 2 p.m., April 11. Rev. Donald Dahlgren will officiate. Burial will be in Union cemetery.

Miss Childers was born February 9, 1924, in Crawfordville, and had spent her life there. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Childers; her grandparents, Mrs. Edna Childers, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Robinette; three brothers, Jimmy and Charles at home and LeRoy in the U.S. air corps; and four sisters, Dorothy, Darlene, Donna and Dianna, all of Crawfordville.

Ferry Owner Decided Site of Mehama

Statesman News Service
By Jean Roberts
MEHAMA—Mehama, so one legend goes, was named for an Indian princess who once roamed this region. Still others claim that this small town on the North Fork of the Santiam was christened for Mehama Smith, early settler and owner of the original Mehama hotel.

There is evidence to support either story. Indian mounds have been found above Mehama at the site of the Oakdale school house. Near here also is an Indian war dance ring with mounds encircling a central dais lending credence to the Indian princess legend. A few years ago the cement blocks that once supported the hotel operated by Mehama Smith were still in place. These, however, have been destroyed to make way for new businesses.

Mehama is principally a logging and sawmill community whose early morning slumber is broken by the whine of logging trucks gassing up for the day and any population in sight consists of loggers in their familiar tagged off jeans and caulked boots.

Growth Rapid
This typical small town has shown rapid growth of recent years. On a former vacant lot 10 new houses now stand. Four eating establishments are located on the main street as well as a huge general store owned and operated by Ken Golliet, which boasts everything from raisins to refrigerators.

Another business enterprise is a small but attractive motel strikingly named "Lak-O-Wampum" managed by Elmer Husted. He was once asked why he didn't enlarge his investment and his answer was simple. "Can't you read my sign, Lak-O-Wampum?"

The old time livery stable once an important part of the town, was torn down years ago and while there's no hitching rail outside Mehama's Bridge Tavern it's not unusual to see a saddle horse patiently waiting at the door with the reins looped over the doorknob in real old western style.

Mehama even holds the questionable distinction of a haunted house nearby. A few miles above the village on the Fern ridge road stands a crumbling house of mysterious sounds. Rather ramshackle and run down of late years it still evinces an air of a more prosperous time.

Mehama Unique
Inside an immense double fire-place nearly fills the kitchen and living room and the walls now rotting and warped still show the grain of fine lumber. Outside a huge cherry tree barely clears the roof and from this vantage point many nearby residents have claimed to have heard secret obscure noises, emanating from the vacant house.

Mehama's uniqueness does not stem entirely from its name nor its businesses but from the varied inhabitants that comprise this lusty little town.

Ed Taylor, Mehama's oldest old timer, hale and hearty at the age of 80 still indulges in a dance at the community grange hall where he can enjoy a do-ce-do with a pretty girl. He eagerly recalls his life as a youth when he was raised on "symp, milk and venison," occasionally fording the river in a canoe to get to town where venison hams could be traded for staple groceries. "My brother chopped a finger off one day," relates Mr. Taylor, "but we doctored it with brown sugar and tied it back on with a rag."

Still other early residents ardently recollect the Mehama of years ago when a ferry operated by "Gassy" Smith was the only means of transportation across the river. There was some disagreement at the time as to where to locate the town. One man insisted that up stream further near the present site of Wilson's hatchery, was the better place. Gassy Smith however, proved to be more

STADIUM MOVES
The clever to-scale miniature of Charles E. McCulloch football stadium moves from Maple's window to Sears Roebuck in the Capitol Shopping district this week. The stadium shows by means of tack-pins the number of tickets already sold for the 1950 season.

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Frozen Food Lockers at Stayton Plant

Statesman News Service
STAYTON — A warm frozen food locker room is being planned by Freys' Grocery as an addition to their store at Third and Florence streets here. A building permit for an addition, 30 by 55 feet, to house it was allowed by the city council in regular session Monday evening.

The Iceberg lockers will be of the six cubic foot size and will be set up five high with 60 to 80 in a unit. Walter Frey, senior member of the firm, said this week that it is planned to have the locker room open daily until 9 p.m., Sundays and holidays included.

Other council-approved building permits included one for a \$12,000 building at the corner of Ida and Second streets, to be built

by Jacob Spaniol for Spaniol and Company, plumbers.

Mrs. Elsa Taylor will build a \$3,000 frame house on her property at Third and Marion streets. H. E. Smith was given a permit to build a one-story, six-room house at 210 First street for \$8,200. Frank Schumacher is building a frame house on West Ida street consisting of five rooms and a garage.

40 Inches Snow At Marion Forks

Statesman News Service
MARION FORKS—The weather bureau records here show a snow fall of 40 1/4 inches during March, making a total snow fall of 24 feet and 8 inches this year. Snow now measures 5 feet on the level here.

The new salmon hatchery still lies buried under more than three feet of snow.

Word has been received that Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jones will return from Manhattan, Montana, within the next two weeks.

Dayton Pioneer Buckeroo Planned For July 29-30

Statesman News Service
DAYTON — Preliminary plans for the fourth annual rodeo have been made by the Dayton Pioneer Buckeroo association. Date of the Buckeroo was set for Saturday and Sunday, July 29 and 30. A dance will be held about two weeks prior and a queen will be selected to reign over the affair.

Les Leach was reelected president, H. W. Frink, vice president, and J. S. Imlah, secretary-treasurer. The board of directors for the coming year will be H. W. Frink, Harry Williams, Bill Maxwell, Robert R. Stilwell and Warren Dundas.

Committees were appointed by President Leach and include, grounds, Harold Frink, chairman, Bill Maxwell and Harry Williams; concessions, Robert R. Stilwell, chairman, and Gordon King; events, Warren Dundas, chairman, and Dick Rockhill.

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Property Sales Made At Stayton Last Week

Statesman News Service
STAYTON — Sale of property in Stayton this past week included that of the home of Mrs. Grace Garbe at 1229 Third street to Jake Lambrecht. The Lambrecht family will move from their farm to Stayton next summer.

Mrs. Garbe and her two daughters will move to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kreitzer, which she has recently purchased. The Kreitzers will occupy the Peabody rental at the Goode turn east of Stayton.

Some prehistoric burial mounds in Effigy Mounds National monument, Iowa, are in the forms of birds and animals.

Cannery Local 670

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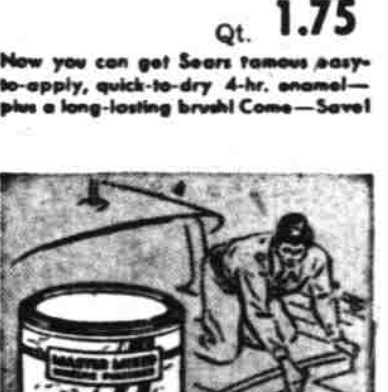
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