

Grandma Thomson Recalls Story of Thomson's Lodge

By RUTH WEST
A wealth of memories surround the name, "Thomson's Lodge," and in spite of the fact that the lodge has now passed into the hands of the Thomson family, the story of its founding in 1880, and the famous hospitality of the place will continue to be remembered by the oldest residents of the city.

It was exclusively for the benefit of one family, it was said by the past week to Mr. Alvin P. Gannon of Dayton.

Milo Thomson were owners of the property, which was used for the purpose of the Thomson family and the two houses were in the city.

Thomson is retaining part of the land and barn which was on the land where his own house is located, at the rear of the property.

The Lodge has been in the management of Dayton since it has been forced to leave the city of health during the past two years.

Some states, that although willing all of his interest in the lodge property, he will handle the business and handle reservations for the same as in the past.

Through the exact selling price given, Thomson stated that it was in excess of \$35,000.

Dayton Thomsons are now on the highway side of the property, which joins the Carl property on the west side. The road was cleared and graded the year during the past year and is now to start building their modern house at once.

New owners will take possession of the lodge on Oct. 1. The lodge will continue to be managed for the benefit of the fishing season. Mr. Gannon are planning to improve the lodge to continue to run the business of the same as in the past.

They are also considering the lodge open all the time and serving meals to the public.

It will be announced later.

It is a brother-in-law of Voljansky, Eugene real estate, who made the sale of the property. Mr. Voljansky has long time fishing guest at the lodge. Gannon will help Voljansky with his real estate business.

Gannon's have two children who attend the McKenzie School. They plan to move to the lodge in September. They will live in the lodge until the Dayton family move into their new house and then they will move to the Thomson house for their residence.

Go Back

The Thomsons prepare to leave the lodge property, thought to go back over the years this place has been used and business.

Cary Thomson Sr., who was 80, and who is affectionately known to her many neighbors as

for fishermen.

Dayton Thomson the next to the eldest son, started rowing for fishermen in 1911, he was 14 years old at the time. The other two sons York and Carey Jr. started rowing at an early age for fishermen and for a long time the Thomsons were the only ones on the river who rowed boat on a commercial basis. The two younger sons sold their interest in the place to their brothers a few years ago and went into business for themselves, of another kind.

How It Was Done

Transportation of boats in the early days was considerable different from the present time. The heavy boats would be loaded on a wagon, usually two or three boats, one inside the other, and the party would start out the evening before and drive all night and get as far as Blue River by morning. When cars came into use the fishermen would come along later in their cars to meet the wagon and boats to meet morning. Many times the cars would be delayed because the rough roads would cause troubles. They said it was nothing uncommon for a car to have six or seven flat tires on a trip of this kind.

Many of the fishermen who did not come in their own cars, and those who came before cars were in use, would ride out from Eugene on the stage that was run by John West Sr. West ran horse stages for many years and then ran the first automobile stage to travel the McKenzie River. Often his horse drawn stages would be the auto stage due to tire and car troubles on the rough roads.

The "grandfather" of the present light boat cart, was an ironed wheeled trailer fastened on back of the wagon, to haul an extra boat. The Thomson family would make boat trips for fishermen as far up the river as Belknap Bridge and as far down river as Hendricks Bridge. It was 1915 before a Ford car was used to haul the boats and fishermen.

Good Old Days

Dayton Thomson recalls that in 1910 there was a limit of 75 fish per day, per person, and it was not hard to get the limit.

This is the first "limit" that he can remember of but says there might have been limit numbers set before this. Later the limit dropped to 50 per day and on down, as the fishermen became more numerous, with modern roads and cars and the country became more thickly settled, until we reach our present limit of ten fish per day or 20 fish in any seven days.

We pause here to try and contemplate what the limit catch will be for the younger generation of today, when they get older and start teaching their children to fish.

It is safe to say that unless this generation is taught conservation methods and unless the State Game Commission can increase the raising and planting of more fish, this limit may be very small. Those "good old days" when you could stand on the bank of the McKenzie and catch all the fish you wanted to eat, with a bent pin and worm are as far in the background as the rough wagon roads.

We prefer the good roads, and the real sport of catching fish the hard way, with a fly, we have tried. Maybe that's because we appreciate that fish all the more, when he does decide to take a nibble at our fly, because we know this is a highly educated fish that has been taught to avoid those flies with sharp points. These modern fish are even very particular about the kind of flies you give them. They must closely resemble the flies on the water at the time they are feeding or they just won't take a chance. Maybe the Thomson women are to blame for this, because for many years they have been tying flies and have originated some of the exclusive McKenzie River fly patterns. Mrs. Dayton and Mrs. Mile Thomson still tie many of the flies used by guests at the Lodge.

In 1923 Dayton Thomson, who took over the management of the business, added on a new addition to the farm house, which was also remodelled. A light plant was installed and later changed over to the Eugene City electric line when through the efforts of Dayton Thomson and others on the river, the service was extended as far up the river as the Thomson place. Improvements have been added every year to the Lodge, and there is also a modern rustic cabin near the Lodge, that sleeps eight people.

The Thomson Lodge has always catered to the more hardy type of sportsmen, who enjoy the rustic atmosphere of the Lodge, good ranch type meals, served family style. You did not have to "dress for dinner" at this lodge. Fishermen feel right at home in

AT SAGINAW

SAGINAW—Mrs. R. P. Bash left for Los Angeles Friday morning to bring back Bash's mother who has been very ill.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Sailor of Los Angeles are spending a week at the home of Mrs. Sailor's cousin, Mrs. Harold Laird.

Mrs. Pollie Brennan is visiting a couple weeks with her daughter, Mrs. Jake Schwarzer.

Several of the children from here are employed at a cucumber field in Delight Valley.

Mrs. Goldie O'Neil has gone to visit her son, William Horn and family in southern Oregon.

Freda Schwarzer is spending several days at Prineville visiting relatives and friends.

C. G. Keene is having a well drilled on his place this week.

Mrs. Jim Abbott and son Quinna, who have been staying in California, returned home this week.

MONROE PERSONALS

MONROE—Overnight guest at the Del Carpenter home here this week, visiting with their daughter, Virginia, was Helen Nordyk, a former high school student here. The two girls were class mates, graduating from the Monroe High in 1948. Shortly after graduation, Miss Nordyk moved from here to Arizona. But the Nordyk family are back again now living on a place out from Corvallis. Miss Nordyk plans to be in Monroe again next week to renew acquaintances here.

House guest at the Lefe Hundley's at this time is Mrs. Lee Nelson of Camas Valley, about 22 miles southwest of Roseburg. Mrs. Nelson plans to stay a week.

Mrs. Clara Wheeler of Sweet Home is here visiting in Monroe, a house guest of Mrs. Flora Dunne.

Mrs. Millard Shelton and two children, Peter and Ann, are visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Oeder, in Salem at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Talbot, former residents of Monroe, but now of Otis, Oregon, are in town, guests of Miss Dolly Howard. Some years ago Mrs. Talbot was a clerk here in the Wilhelm dry goods store.

Mrs. Ralph Sinclair's father, John Albin, and his wife from Caldwell, Idaho, were visitors at the Sinclair home here this week, on their way to the Coos Bay country to look over property that would be suitable for a home site. For many years Albin ran a barber shop here.

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Jackson moved recently from their apartment in downtown Monroe to the Ben Kowalski place about two miles north of town.

AT MOHAWK

MOHAWK—Louise Kay is the name given the baby girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Roebuck Sunday, Aug. 1.

Ray Bruce is away on a motorcycle vacation trip through Idaho to Yellowstone National Park and other scenic places.

School patrons and others interested in helping are asked to reserve the dates of Aug. 21 and 22 for renovation of the school play shed. There will be old flooring to tear out and new to lay and outside boards to nail on. Tentative plans call for a picnic lunch by the ladies for those working. Complete plans will be announced later in this column.

AT DEXTER

DEXTER—The Charles Pettis family and relatives in Springfield are spending the week at coast resorts.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hughes and daughter, Lois, were called to Salt Lake City, Utah by the serious illness of his mother.

Tommy Cruzan is visiting his daughter, Mrs. D. H. Mathews, for a few days.

Mrs. Jim Bedinger and Mrs. Clara Smith left Friday to visit Mrs. Smith's daughter, Mrs. Lee Whitney, and family at Sisters, Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. O. K. Eller have moved into their new home. They purchased part of the Bill Bauges place and erected a house.

Miss Eunice Stevens is now employed at the Dexter Market.

Old friends and neighbors of Mrs. Evelyn Fir of 2172 Hillyard in Eugene surprised her with a birthday potluck dinner recently. Also celebrated was Mrs. Ed Zonleck's birthday.

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