

Up-and-down attendance at Home Show

John Wilson of Cottage Grove spins the prize wheel donated by radio station KNND for use by CG Area Habitat for Humanity at the Home and Garden Show held Saturday and Sunday at Cottage Grove High School. Organizers with KNND say attendance was good early on both days but added that nice weather Sunday may have kept some people outdoors as opposed to attending the show. Cameron Reiten, KNND owner, said competition from other home shows in the region means that many vendors now choose not to attend the Cottage Grove show, adding that he's uncertain if the event will be scheduled again next year.



photo by Jon Stinnett

ROSIES

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photo by Jon Stinnett

'Rosebuds' Yvonne Fasold, ARRA President, and Corolene Correia (top row) with Rosies Alice Heiney, Lorette Wedlake, Doris Graham and Opal Nelson.

Wedlake spoke of employment at a much younger age. The war caused a shortage of fuel that left farmers exploring their options for harvest without gasoline-powered farm implements. Wedlake was one of many Massachusetts teens hired for about four hours a day to harvest acres of carrots, beets, spinach, corn and tomatoes.

Doris Graham's presentation included tales of several brushes with celebrity. In June of 1942, the day before she graduated high school, Graham took a job with the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., where she would type war bonds for the better part of three years.

Previously a "farm girl," Graham spoke of her view of the White House grounds and her father's position with the Secret Service. During that time, she met stars such as Marlene Dietrich and Maureen O'Hara and shook the hand of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during an inaugural ball.

Nelson shared the news that she was an actual riveter during the war, though she could have had a number of jobs back then. "Everybody was hiring," she said. "You didn't have to look for a job; they came to you."

Nelson eventually took a position with Douglas Aircraft riveting together the fuselages

of airplanes in places where machines couldn't reach.

"Sometimes we'd get to go out to the runway," she said. "They'd give us five to 10 minutes to look at the airplanes and put our names on them (and maybe our phone numbers.)"

Nelson appreciated the work but eventually sought a position with the Red Cross. She showed the Cottage Grove crowd her uniform from that time, emblazoned on one sleeve with the Red Cross insignia.

"It still fits," Nelson said with a laugh, "as long as I don't button it."

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