

Elks ceremony honors flag, details history

BY SAM WRIGHT
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

Did you know that Oregon's was the 33rd star added to the U.S. flag? Last Tuesday (June 14) marked national Flag Day, and on Thursday, June 16, the Cottage Grove Elk's Lodge hosted a short, but informative presentation on the history of the Star Spangled Banner.

The current flag we see today is the 27th design, and local Boy Scouts presented several of the designs used throughout the history of the nation.

The very first flag was brought out that resembled the flag of the British East India Company with a few tweaks. It was originally called "The Continental Colors" and was also dubbed the "Grand Union" later in the 19th century.

Then the first flag with stars and stripes was presented. However, this flag was originally meant for the U.S. Navy and had 13 stars as well as striped to represent the 13

colonies. At this point, the stars were six-pointed stars, as opposed to the five-pointed stars used today.

There was also a point where the flag had 15 stars and 15 stripes as Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union.

In the early 19th century, the flag reached 20 stars, with a new star being added upon a new state's admittance, but the number of stripes was reduced to 13 in honor of the original 13 colonies.

Since then, the flag underwent many changes, with more and more states joining the union until the appearance of the 48-star flag, as it took 47 years for Alaska, and a year after that, Hawaii, to join the U.S.

The Elk's Lodge ceremony was a very traditional and patriotic one. Members of the Elks gave premeditated statements on what the flag symbolizes and means for the United States. The Boy Scouts showcased a total of eight different flags including the Gadsden flag that was used by the Continental Marines.



photo by Sam Wright

Local Boy Scouts were on hand to present several flags representing the evolution from the U.S. Flag's earliest days until the present at a ceremony held Thursday, June 16 at the Cottage Grove Elks Lodge. The flag has undergone several evolutions since before the United States achieved its independence.

THEFT

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He said police have located several of the cars the sisters are believed to have purchased and seized three of them. The women also allegedly attempted to convince the man to cash in a CD.

The victim reportedly learned of the deception perpetrated against him when one of the sisters went to California to see to the burial of the man's wife, Skaggs said.

"Within 15 minutes, she's gone, and he can't find her," Skaggs said. "He's got no groceries and can't get his medicine."

Skaggs said the man then took off on his own, walking the 1-1/2 miles from his home to the police station with the aid of a walker to report his situation.

"He had no idea how extensive it was, and it just about broke him," Skaggs said.

The bank used by the victim was cooperative and provided

records, though Skaggs said police are still looking for checks that have gone missing and other items.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we found more," he said.

Amundson and Taylor were lodged at the Lane County Jail, and both were reportedly booked on charges of aggravated theft in the first degree (charges which involve theft over \$10,000 and which Skaggs said could multiply). Amundson was also charged with first-degree crimi-

nal mistreatment stemming from her disappearance from the man's home while she was employed as his caregiver. Skaggs said the sisters have no known criminal history, and both were unemployed. The investigation continues.

Skaggs described the man's situation as "sickening."

"Here he's looking for somebody to help him, and he gets wiped out," he said. "It really hit us in the gut."

OFFBEAT

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to do, when it had happened. The Drexel Victory drew 30 feet of water fully loaded; the channel where she started taking on water was 60 feet deep. And the Army Corps of Engineers, surveying the channel after the sinking, found no obstructions there.

So either the Drexel Victory rammed a derelict ship, or — as seemed far more likely — that

pesky metal-fatigue problem that had plagued the older Liberty ships had not been completely licked.

And if that was the case, the crew of the Drexel Victory had had a very narrow escape indeed. The bar that day had hit the ship with a few big swells, but nothing compared with what a good January storm can dish out on the north Pacific, between Portland and Yokohama. And if

the hull had cracked as it did in the middle of one of those, there likely would have been no survivors.

(Sources: Gibbs, James A. Pacific Graveyard. Portland: Binford, 1950; National Parks Service, "Liberty Ships and Victory Ships, America's Lifeline at War;" Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plans, www.nps.gov; S.S. Lane Victory museum

ship Web page at www.lanevictory.org)

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JOYCE

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follow the Holy Spirit. I can tell you that life will never be boring with Him in the lead. When I first met my husband, Dave, I never would've thought God was leading him to me. But he had been praying for a wife...and particularly someone who needed help. He came to the house one day to visit a friend of his who lived upstairs from us. I was outside washing my car and he said, "When you finish that one, you want to wash mine?" My response was, "If you want your car washed you can wash it

yourself!" It had to be the Holy Spirit leading him, because he says that's when he thought, "That's the girl for me!"

Everyone's story is different but the point is the Holy Spirit wants to lead us all according to the plans God has for each of our lives. I'm not saying it will always be easy. King David was called a man after God's heart, but we know it wasn't because he did everything right. However, David had cultivated a passionate heart for God's will. He learned how to recover from his failures and move on in God, and because of that "God testi-

fied concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do'" (Acts 13:22 NIV).

In our relationship with God, our part is to pray, study His Word, and learn to develop our own sensitivity and obedience to the Holy Spirit's lead. His promise to us is, "I will give them one heart [a new heart] and I will put a new spirit within them; and I will take the stony [unnaturally hardened] heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh [sensitive and responsive to the touch of their

God]" (Ezekiel 11:19 AMPC).

Trust the Holy Spirit and follow His lead. You'll discover His way is the best, most exciting journey you can find!

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored 100 books, including *Battlefield of the Mind* and *Overload: How to Unplug, Unwind and Unleash Yourself from the Pressure of Stress* (Hachette).

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