



FRANCES HOLMSTROM HONORED

Portland Sunday Paper Pays Tribute To Famous Coquille Writer and Her Work

THE SHEARERS
By FRANCES HOLMSTROM

Shorn are the sheep that are mountains, huddled against each other,
Looking askance and bewildered, each at his naked brother.
The Titan blocks of the mountains, that ruled the plains in peace,
Have bowed to the shears of the shearer, have yielded the golden fleece.
That which was down upon them 'ere breath touched the shearer's lips
Shall rise in his cloud-hung towers, shall rock in his masted ships.
But when the cities are leveled, and the great hulks rot in the sun,
They shall ask again of the mountains, and learn that the shearing is done.

Conservation of Northwest forest was little more than an idealistic dream in the middle '20s—when Frances Holmstrom wrote, and the American Mercury published, this fine poem with its superbly inevitable last line. Like other writers who have served in the vanguard of industrial and social reforms, the Coquille mother and housewife—the widow of a logger—has lived to see her challenge headed and her beloved mountains less ruthlessly sheared than was the old thoughtless way of the past.

Mrs. Holmstrom was born in 1881 in Michigan. During Frances' childhood, her talented mother was a regular contributor to the Michigan Farmer and the Detroit Free Press; she wrote both prose and verse. Frances later was a student for two years at the Cleveland (Ohio) School of Art—a period which she now considers the most important part of her education, "since it was there my inherent perception of beauty was trained and developed." Her art training resulted in a lifelong interest in water colors.

After the family came to Oregon, the future poet taught school, married and became the mother of four children. One of her sons was the late "Buzz" Holmstrom—well known as a flier, adventurer and explorer.

During her years on a farm at McKinley, in Coos county—the "hardest and also happiest" of her life—Mrs. Holmstrom began to express her thoughts in verse. The death of her husband brought a strong religious note to her work.

She has published two volumes of verse, "Western Windows" and "Rich Lady." Both are now out-of-print and unobtainable. Forum, American Mercury, Ladies Home Journal, Sunset and a number of other markets accepted her serious poems and light verse.

While Mrs. Holmstrom's themes spring principally from the everyday background of a country housewife, they are in most cases illuminated by some telling phrase or original image. Cast in traditional forms, they have excellent versification, varied rhythms and a poignant cadence to give them distinction.

The poet now lives in Coquille, at the home of her son Carl, and takes much pleasure in her young grandchildren. "I have written very little the last four years," she writes, "but the Muse isn't dead; she occasionally stirs in her sleep." In the meantime Mrs. Holmstrom continues to record in water colors the rural coast-country scenes she loves so well.

—By Virginia Corning
—Sunday Journal Magazine

Spend Week-End Here—Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mullen and three sons, Jimmy, Dick and Tommy, spent the week-end in Coquille. They are residing now at Glide, Oregon.

Leave For San Bernardino—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Greenough left on Monday on a trip to San Bernardino, California. They expect to be away for several weeks.

In Portland On Business—M. F. Pettit, of the J. A. Lamb company, was in Portland Friday on business.

Here For Week-End—Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Arrell of Corvallis spent the week-end visiting relatives in Coquille.

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Wage-Hour Exemptions Explained For Log Operations; Retail Stores, Papers

Three new tests to determine whether retail and service establishments can qualify for exemption from the wage and hour provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (Federal wage and hour law) were written into the amendments to the Act by the Eighty-first Congress.

These tests, together with other exemptions under the law, were explained here by Madison R. Smith, investigation supervisor for the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor, the State of Oregon, during a special program broadcast Friday by Station KWRO here.

"The amendments define the term, 'retail or service establishment,' and spell out the conditions under which exemptions may be taken," he said. "These tests are based on annual dollar volume of sales of goods or services and such establishments must meet all three tests to be excluded from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Act."

A new exemption applies to employees of logging operators having no more than 12 workers engaged in logging and forestry, he said, but does not apply to workers in the sawmill or processing plant. Such workers are exempt from the minimum wage and overtime pay sections, he added.

Another new wage and hour exemption applies to irrigation workers if they are employed by non-profit companies for the operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways used exclusively for supply and storing water for agricultural purposes, he said.

"Daily and weekly newspapers with circulation under 4000 are also exempt," he said. "So are small telephone exchanges with less than 750 stations. Employees of taxicab companies are exempt for the first time. Newsboys are exempt from the minimum wage, overtime and child labor sections if they deliver papers to consumers."

"Some exemptions were added, some were removed, and a number of changes were made in other exemptions, but the most important exemption is that for retail and service establishments."

The fourth, and final program will feature a discussion of the changes made to strengthen the child labor provisions and to plug some of the loopholes in those sections, he said.

Boy Scout Work Grows Past Year In Coquille Valley

Coquille Valley Boy Scout work grew and grew in 1949; and it was one of the most successful years for Scouting in the history of the Coquille Valley district. So stated C. Eugene Fields, district chairman, during National Boy Scout week.

Comprising the cities of Bandon, Coquille, Myrtle Point, Powers, Fairview and other areas from which Boy Scouts come, the Coquille Valley district saw a membership increase of over fifteen per cent during the year, Fields said.

Active and enthusiastic progress was made at Bandon and Myrtle Point where wholehearted support was given the rejuvenated programs.

Aiding in the enthusiastic development during the year was Mayor Ray Joub of Coquille who served as the 1949 vice-president of the Oregon Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which district includes Coos, Curry, Benton, Douglas, Lane and Lincoln counties with a total of over 7,000 Boy Scouts registered in it.

President Truman greeted twelve outstanding Boy Scouts in the White House during Boy Scout Week, Feb. 6 to 12, to mark the 40th birthday anniversary of the organization.

Boy Scout Week marking the 40th birthday of Boy Scouting in the United States, was observed from Feb. 6 through Feb. 12. On the actual birth date (Feb. 8) all the members had an opportunity to recommit themselves to the Scout Oath or Promise at 8:15 p. m., in the four time zones.

The theme of the birthday celebration was "Strengthen Liberty." Since in every city and town and

operated on — Monroe Swindall underwent an operation at Mast hospital on Saturday.

Oh, Teacher



Here's one bathing beauty at home in or on the water. She's a volunteer faculty member at a Red Cross national aquatic school for water safety and small craft handling.

nearly all villages and hamlets throughout the nation and its territories more than 71,000 units took part, this is the largest birthday celebration observed by young America.

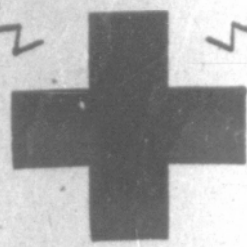
Return From Eugene—Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crouch and baby have returned from Eugene where they spent several days. The baby who was given medical attention in Eugene, is much improved.

Leave For Astoria—Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Reisdorf left on Saturday for Astoria where they will spend several days visiting relatives.

Sunday In Coos Bay—Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Barton spent Sunday visiting friends in Coos Bay.

Week-End In Gearhart—Mr. and Mrs. Tallant Greenough spent the week-end in Gearhart visiting the former's brother and sister-in-law.

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