

Gold Hill Couple Honored on Sunday

By Lynne Scott
American Correspondent

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Damewood of Gold Hill and their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Slagle of Medford, were entertained on Mother's Day in Grants Pass at the home of another daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ryan and family. Mr. Damewood, a retired bridge carpenter, is 90 years old. Mrs. Damewood is 82.

Mrs. Rolland Washburn of Gold Hill returned home Saturday from Richland, Wash., where she had spent a week with her husband. He is employed at Richland by BCD Enterprises, builders of prefabricated homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Weber and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Brown, all of Medford, visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Warden on Old Stage road.

Guests from Eugene

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Slagle and two children of Eugene spent Saturday at the homes of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Damewood, of Gold Hill and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Slagle, of Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Scott of Klamath Falls spent Saturday night and Sunday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Scott on Old Stage road.

A school of instruction for election board members in and around Gold Hill was conducted Monday afternoon in the Gold Hill school gym by Mrs. Bereth Hopkins, Jackson county clerk.

Mustard Threat Revealed by Agent

Patches of Marlahan mustard will be sprayed at not cost to the owner if reported to the office of the county agent, according to word from Agent Earle Jossy this week.

Marlahan mustard was first discovered in Jackson county about one year ago. This year it has been found in 18 separate places along the highways and in one field according to Agent Jossy.

Hay from Scotts Valley

The weed comes into Oregon with hay from Scotts valley since that is the only area which is known to be infested.

It is of European origin; grows one to three feet tall and differs from common mustard in that the blossoms are smaller, lighter yellow and join in a cluster at

the top of the plant. The leaves are narrow, lance shaped, three to four inches long and seem to clutch the stem. They are bluish green in color. The seed pods are somewhat purse-shaped, bear, only one seed and turn black when mature.

Farmers who have purchased hay from Scotts valley in the last few years are apt to have this weed on their places. It is reported to be difficult to control. This is a new introduction into the county and is considered to be a menace if not checked.

BABY GIRL BORN

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Sletten of 264 N. Eighth street are parents of a baby girl born Sunday, May 9, at Osteopathic hospital. The young lady weighed eight and three-quarter pounds at birth.

RETURN FROM PORTLAND

Mrs. Rudy Frohreich and daughter, Connie, returned last week from Portland where they had stayed several days with a relative who was ill.

Irrigation District History Published For Local Readers

By E. H. Judd—1935

Apparently, from information obtained from Fred M. Cummings, the Fish Lake Water Company was a California Company in 1897 for the purpose of storing and transporting water into the Rogue River Valley for irrigating some 55,000 acres of land. Promoters of this organization were a Mr. Vawter and I. L. Hamilton.

Water filings were made and permits granted by the State of Oregon, (see files for permits) and in 1898 some construction work was done on the Fish Lake Road. However, for unknown reasons, work was discontinued until 1900.

From 1900 until 1902 this work was continued, completing the road to Fish Lake and building a log dam capable of improving some 4500 acre feet of water. Canals were constructed into that part of the valley known as the Agate Desert.

In 1904 the Canal was enlarged and extended to the Upton Lateral. In 1906 M. F. Hanley and a Mr. Hopkins extended this ditch across Bear Creek to Section 12 and 13, Township 37 S., R. 2 W.

In 1909 or 1910, the Fish Lake Water Co. mortgaged the system

to Pat Welch of Spokane, Washington who later bought out the Fish Lake Co. and sent his own personnel consisting of Fred M. Cummings, Ralph Cowgill, McRae and others, into the valley and had them plant several hundred acres of orchard on the desert and do a general land promotion project, selling planted desert orchards for two or three hundred per acre. This 1910 boom and the Welch's from scheme failed shortly after the then on operated as a private water company and their own lands as a cattle ranch.

The Welch interests, operating as the Rogue River Valley Canal Co., The Mt. Pitt Water Co., and the Public Water Co., constructed the Hopkins Canal extension from Owen-Oregon mill to Scenic Ave. below Central Point in 1916. No further enlargement was made until 1919-20 when Pat Welch contracted with the Medford Irrigation District to construct, furnish water, and maintain for two years the Medford Irr. District. This work was done under the management of Ray Moran, a nephew of Pat Welch. Mr. Moran was sent here in 1916 and continued as manager until 1930. Engineering work was under H. M. Chadwick for Pat Welch and R. P. Cowgill for the Medford District.

During this construction period the Fish Lake dam was completed to its present height; Cascade canal was constructed; Four Mile dam completed and the Medford system built and the main canal from Little Butte Creek to Bradshaw Drop and the Hopkins Canal were enlarged and more permanent structures installed.

The Welch interests and the Medford Irrigation District were soon involved in endless litigations over incomplete construction work, water rights, etc. This continued until 1927 when a stipulation was made which conceded that the water supply was insufficient for 55000 acres of land. In consequence the Medford district was cut to 10,500 acres and the Hopkins system to 4784 in the system with enough additional water to irrigate 150 acres if they cared to rent said water.

In 1928 the Welch interests, then operating as the Public Water Co., went before the Public Utilities Commission and in spite of having out many contracts which call for "not to exceed 2.50 per acre for O. & M., were successful in having operation and maintenance rates raised to 6.50 per acre. This caused

the farmers of the District to organize and form the present District in the fall of 1929. A deal was made with the Welch's whereby the District took over the system on a payment of \$15.00 per acre for 4784 acres and an additional amount equal to the outstanding contracts of the Public Water Co. The total price being \$183,000 which the Welch's accepted in bonds at 95 per cent of par.

John Carkin was attorney during this transaction and F. C. Dillard, engineer. Upon taking over the system, E. H. Judd was made manager, this was in February, 1930. Directors were Victor Bursell, M. F. Hanley and Donald S. Clark. Harry C. Skyrman was appointed attorney. M. F. Hanley was replaced by C. H. Taylor as director in January 1932.

1930 Short water season—no storage after July 17.

1931 Worse water season—no storage after July 17.

1934 Partial shortage.

1937 Partial shortage.

1940 Partial shortage.

1941 Partial shortage.

1942 Partial shortage.

In December 1944, E. H. Judd resigned as Sec.-Mgr. and was replaced by W. D. Steadman who had been ditch rider and foreman since February, 1930.

EAST OREGON VISITORS

Mrs. Alyce Moore and daughter, Mrs. Wayne Adams, of Dayville spent a short time Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ashton. Ashton is co-publisher of the American.



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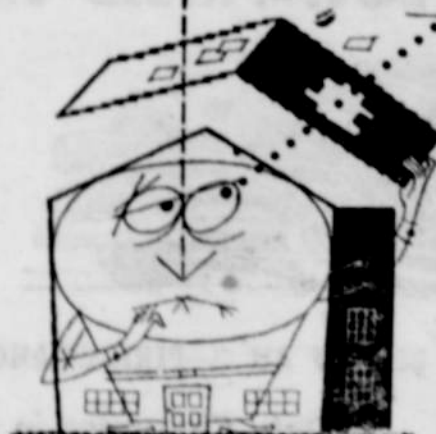
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