

AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

Area and family history has held my attention this last week which began with the 90th birthday party for Zetta Brosnan and with a most interesting letter from New York City from Mrs. H.C. Wood (May Rea).

May Wood wrote that she enjoyed the column about the 75th anniversary of the Heppner Flood. "I am a survivor of that day in June, 1903. I was born in Heppner in 1899 and remember much of it very vividly. My older brother and I were with my grandmother, and as she had experienced a flood in Sand Hollow, she knew what to do. So she took us and ran for the hills. She, at that time, lived near the old Frank Gilliam home. I think her home later belonged to Sadie Parrish.

"My mother had gone up to our home to close the doors and windows when the storm came, but she was able to get to the hills from upper Main Street and was saved. The cottage we lived in at that time was on Main Street and belonged to Henry Heppner...we didn't know where our mother was for several hours, but she finally came to us, coming along the hills back of Heppner. I'll never forget how she looked—all soaking wet and her hands and face bleeding from the barbed wire she had fallen into.

"So many people were drowned because they stayed in their homes. To this day I am deathly afraid of thunder and lightning storms."

This nice letter also tells that May's grandfather George W. Sperry and my late husband's grandmother Alice Sperry Weatherford were brother and sister. She states that she remembers all of the Weatherford children and that Rev. Fred conducted her grandfather's funeral in Heppner. She expects to visit her brother Clell B. Rea near Ione later this summer, and I do hope we get to meet and visit, too.

During the week Mr. Ulrick Rabey, past 84, from Chico, California and his daughter Marie and son-in-law Don Long spent several days enjoying this area where he lived long ago and where his daughter visited as a youngster. They had a fine visit with Judge D.O. Nelson, with Rachel Harnett at the museum, and with me, because Bill and I had gotten acquainted with Mr. Rabey when he visited here in 1972.

The annual McDaniel family reunion was held at Anson Wright park last Sunday—and there might have been more attending if it hadn't been so cold. However, there were McD's from several far places: Sylvia and Carl's daughter Carolyn McDaniel came from Maryland with her daughter Leslie and son Doug. Sylvia says they will visit here until next Sunday.

Alice Hasting's daughter Yvonne and husband Roger Connor, son of Gladys and Frank, came from Forest Grove. Ivan McDaniel came down from Long Creek. He and Robert Hunt entertained with guitar and violin music during the afternoon. The oldest couple present were Frank, 91, and Mabel Howe, 86, of Spray. Gale Batty Renne and her son Ryan, who are visiting from Houston, Texas, attended with her parents Vern and Ken Batty.

I had long been looking forward to attending the Eastern Oregon Pioneer Picnic at Julia Henderson Park near Fossil last Sunday, July 16. From its opening processional until the close of the afternoon program, it was most delightful. I was glad that I took along my coat—although several years ago that same park was so dry, so hot, so dusty!

There were fifteen of Queen Daisy Irby Weatherford's family listed on the day's program as participants in the opening ceremonies, the church service and the afternoon session including oldest grandson, Heppner's Grant Weatherford. Daisy was a most gracious queen, the 29th to reign over this annual event. All who attended learned a bit about pioneer history. The Eastern Oregon Pioneer Society was formed in 1899, the year that this year's queen was born. Their first summer reunions were camp meetings that lasted several days. The present officers are: President George Prindle; Vice-president, Carroll Hollen; Secretary Doris Prindle and Treasurer Gordon Dunn.

The opening program featured the crowning of Queen Daisy and the reading of a lively, amusing and informative history of her life read by her sister-in-law Edythe Weatherford Newell. The church service spotlighted Rev. Fred M. Weatherford and original music sung by Daisy's granddaughter Heidi Buce. The queen's children are Bobbie Joyce Buce, Seattle, and J. Earl Weatherford, Olex. The morning sermon was given by Rev. Don Dyke of the Arlington Church of The Nazarene.

After a sumptuous noon potluck picnic with considerably more than one hundred partaking, and after much friendly chatter, the crowd reassembled, in the seating arena in front of the creek-spanning stage for the afternoon program which included more musical selections by Daisy's grandchildren, Mr. Hollen's leading the entire assembly in singing several old, favorite songs and an historic address by the queen's brother-in-law, Marion T. Weatherford. He stressed the importance of pride and understanding of family and area history. He extolled Oregon's pioneers who were a "very special breed—who did not come because of gold fever as many Californians came or for political reasons as many Washingtonians came." He urged families to write simple histories. He stressed that the recent Bicentennial showed us that the collection of local histories is very important.

My Sunday was especially pleasing because my friend Rachel Harnett and her granddaughter Dawn Harnett, who is visiting from Issaquah, Washington, accompanied me. Historian Rachel found many there to visit with about early days. Dawn was a great help with the six-week-old puppy "Tip" from Prineville which I had arranged to take possession of at the picnic.

Dawn also won the approval of the queen and all who sat at her table with a beautifully decorated cake which amid its dainty flowered topping carried a skillfully written "Congratulations to Queen Daisy." Dawn has taken a class in cake decorating this year and has passed with high marks. She is spending part of her visit here assisting at the Heppner Public Library.

Before I sign off, I want to mention that one of our rather new Heppner residents whom I hope to become better acquainted with is Ginger Bowman who came from Hawaii via O.C.E. and then Fossil where she taught all of the high school English. Her husband Ron, formerly of Kinzua, is employed at Jerry Samples' Mobile Station. Ginger says she plans to be a substitute teacher here. This sounds super to me, and I think that the county school district should feel very lucky to have to her help.

Rodeo Court hosted

By Delpha Jones
The luncheon tables at Frasu's restaurant in Hermiston last Thursday were centered with white vases filled with green carnations tied with green and silver ribbon, in honor of the Morrow County Rodeo Court. These colors matched those of the girls' outfits. The flowers were presented to the girls' mothers and grandmothers at the end of the luncheon. Mrs. Virginia (Gary) Grieb was hostess of the affair.

Time was spent in getting acquainted with each other and being interviewed by the local newspapers. Those pre-

sent were Queen Donna Palmer and her grandmother Geneva Palmer, Princess, Kim Pettyjohn and her grandmother Helen Pettyjohn, Princess Laurie Childers and her mother Marilyn Childers, and the chaperone and mother of the queen, Marianne Palmer. Others present were Delpha Jones, Morrow County Fair committee chairman, and Millie Rauch, secretary of the Morrow County Fair Committee. Gifts were presented to the girls by Mrs. Grieb and Mrs. Jones with wishes for a successful and fun-filled summer.

City church for sale

Heppner's Assembly of God church at Willow and Gale streets was placed on the real estate market this week, according to its pastor, the Rev. C. Wayne Smith.

The congregation is looking for land on which to build a more modern, spacious fac-

ility, Mr. Smith said. The current location offers no room in which to expand Sunday school facilities, and offers no off-street parking, the pastor noted.

No location for the new church has yet been secured.

Ione gardeners return from state conference

Judy Osmin and Loree Hubbard have returned to Ione from the meeting of the Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs at Timberline Lodge which was held in the middle of June.

Ione Garden Club received awards for 100 per cent subscriptions to Oregon Newsletter, contributing to World Gardening, for Helen Martin's Wild Flower slides, the Junior Recycling Contest, contribution to Blue Star Marker, and

contribution to Willamette Cemetery.

Jean Nelson and Judy Osmin acted as hostesses for the June meeting at the Nelson ranch home. Plans were discussed for preparation of a booth for Morrow County Fair.

The August meeting will be a no-host luncheon at West of Willow, with a discussion on the Growing of Gladioli by Dr. Wallace Wolf to be held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

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