

Around About By Justine Weatherford

Now most schools' graduation exercises are over. One can read on T-shirts that some new graduates in answer to that popular question "How do you spell relief?" are saying "G-R-A-D-U-A-T-I-O-N." Their family members will probably spell relief "Graduation and a Job"—when these young folks finally are able to make that big step into the real world of wage-earners.

Last week was very special for me because I left Heppner for six days and lived a different sort of life with some friends I don't see often. Last Monday about 10 a.m. Irene Swanson and I drove west-by-south through Condon, Fossil, Antelope, Madras, Redmond, Sisters and the beautiful still snow-laden central Oregon Cascades to Salem. There I spent Monday night with Irene and her brother and sister-in-law, Joe and Dorothy Miller, in their delightful northeast Salem home before my early Tuesday a.m. departure to the Willamette University campus to attend the annual conference of the Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Church. I still enjoy campus life, the being with folks who are trying to learn and to solve problems, the walking through landscaped areas between the halls of ivy where dedicated teachers try to inspire others to worthwhile growth. My three nights of dormitory living were pleasing. By chance I was assigned to share a room with a very interesting lady stockbroker, an account executive with Merrill Lynch and the lay delegate from the Beaverton church.

Each morning I attended church services in Salem's historic, very beautiful First Methodist Church before plunging into the serious deliberations of the days when many social problems were carefully considered and when the two-state conference's impressive annual budget was adopted. What inspirational words I heard, what soul-lifting music, what legislative struggling. Between business sessions, quick visits with former Heppner friends, the Rev. Edwin and Doris Cutting and the Rev. Steve Tollefson were very pleasing. Because I have attended the annual conference for so many years now, I have made June friendships with many lay persons and clergy persons from throughout the two states.

After the business sessions concluded on Friday, I moved back to the Miller home for the night. Irene and I left early on Saturday to drive to Portland's Lloyd Center where we parked the car and walked about four blocks to Union Avenue where we luckily managed to achieve a good place to sit and to view the 75th Portland Rose Parade. Such excitement! How fresh the flowers on the gorgeous floats were in the coolness of the forenoon. We were very few blocks from the starting place, the Coliseum, and many of the bands and other marching units were so peppy and put on special drills as they passed.

As I enjoyed observing again the lovely landscaping at Willamette University, around the state capitol grounds and throughout the very neat residential sections of Salem, I could easily understand how that city won All-American honors a few years back. It seems like every yard we saw was well enough cared for to qualify it for Yard of the Month honors. How carefully the grassy spaces were edged, how beautifully the shrubbery and the flower beds were cultivated. Salem has a wonderful variety of trees and shrubs. We wondered if residents had made special efforts to have their places looking so pretty because they were hosting graduation guests and Methodists, but we decided they are just competitively, and perhaps habitually, very neat with their yards, their clean streets and the well-groomed parks. We wished that all communities could look so "ready for company" as Salem looks. I came home determined to at last get with the weeding around my yard. I think Irene Swanson is about ready to start a campaign in Heppner to get citizens to clean up and to beautify this community before the company expected at Fair and Rodeo time arrives.

Saturday evening we surely timed our return to Morrow just right. We had not eaten since our post-parade luncheon in the Lloyd Center and were talking about having some nourishment when we reached Ione. Irene asked that we drive to Jim and Monica Swanson's home first—and there we found a goodly group of happy Ione Lions and their ladies gathered. They generously insisted we joined them at their potluck-steak barbecue. So we were welcomed home with unexpected good cheer. We immediately were informed about the big excitement of the week, the Ione bank robbery. What a surprise! We were glad to hear there was no shooting—but sorry to learn that the robber was not yet apprehended.

In Heppner last Sunday after church, the Lutherans of the county joined at Hope Lutheran Church to honor the departing Francis Stack Family with a farewell dinner. The ladies, who had created a beautiful quilt and a pair of quilted pillows as a surprise gift for the family, made their presentation, and the Valby congregation presented a money box. All the Stacks, who have not lived in Heppner very long, will be greatly missed as they go to live on Fran's family ranch in Montana. His retired parents joined the family here for the Sunday party. Karen Stack has endeared herself especially to south Morrow through her graciousness in sharing her musical skill. She has played the organ and-or the piano at the Lutheran, Catholic and Methodist churches and has been most helpful to the school music department. How quickly this family became a significant part of our community—and now how quickly they depart to make new lives and to bring joy to another area in another state where everyone here is wishing them many happy years.

26 attend monthly family golf and B.B.Q. at W.C.C.C.

Willow Creek Country Club held its monthly family golf and barbecue last Sunday, June 12.

Twenty-six members attended the event and chairperson Ed Heimstra organized six teams for a best ball scramble.

A club spokesperson reported that the weather was ideal and scores reflected this with the low team score being 26 and high, a very respectable 29.

The winning team consisted of Harriet and Gerald Pierson and Marylee and Ed Heimstra.

Second place, with a team score of 27, was Carol and Earl Norris, Bev and Darrel Wilson and Jon Mitchell.

Third place prizes were awarded to the team of Kathryn and Roy Lindstrom, Susan and Rick Johnston and Bob Jepsen, who came in with a fine score of 28.

Following the golf scramble, a barbecue was enjoyed by the golfers and their families, the spokesperson said. The next family play and

barbecue is scheduled for July 4. This special day will consist of a flag tournament with the golfers playing as far as they

can with their handicap added to par and placing a flag when they reach that combined

score. At the conclusion of play, the spokesperson explained,

the course should be covered with flags, emblematic of the Fourth of July.

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