

Farm Grange a Vital Factor in Development



J. R. BOWEN
Master Enterprise Grange



ALFRED C. MITTELSTAEDT
1929 Master Eagle Point Grange



C. F. ESTES
Master of Talent Grange



JOHN A. ANDERSON
Master Central Point Grange



FLOYD CHARLEY
Master Lake Creek Grange



R. E. NEALON
Overseer Sams Valley Grange and
State Deputy Master for Jackson
County



D. T. GALLIGAN
Master Live Oak Grange



ROSS KLINE
1928 Master Eagle Point Grange

MOST STRIKING CHANGE IN RURAL LIFE OF JACKSON CO. HAS BEEN GROWTH OF GRANGE

In a survey of the year 1928 in Medford and Jackson there is one item of change and growth which stands out above all others in its interest and significance—that is the amazing progress made by the farm Granges, both in membership, and in importance, as a factor in community development.

There have been farm Granges in Jackson county since the early 70's, but it was not until 1912 that the modern Grange movement appeared in Southern Oregon, and not until 1925, that this movement became in any sense general. But there has been a greater advance in the past twelve months, and a greater increase in membership, than during any decade of past history.

In fact economically, politically and especially from the standpoint of rural development, the Farm Grange in Jackson county, now holds unquestioned authority and leadership, and promises to occupy even a more important place in life and development of Southern Oregon in the future.

By R. E. Nealon

Grange activities in Jackson county date back to the early seventies only a few years after the organization of the National Grange as a means of rehabilitating southern agriculture and helping the war-stricken farmers of the South to regain their courage and begin the task of reconstruction.

We do not know the number of Granges in the county at that time but know there were two and perhaps more.

R. E. Dean, a pioneer of Jackson county and a member of the Central Point Grange remembers the Grange organization back in the seventies.

He remembers that the Grange building was used at the funeral of his father, Nathaniel Cobb Dean in 1876, and that Col. Fred Ross of Indian war fame was one of the Grange officers who officiated at the funeral.

Built a Flour Mill

Mr. Dean tells us that the Granges at that time built and operated a flour mill at Phoenix and operated a general store in the Appleton district.

Also members of the Sams Valley Grange at that time secured a right-of-way and constructed a ford across Rogue river about a mile west of what is now the Hybee bridge and where at that time a toll ferry was operated.

There is some lapse of time between the discontinuing of these earlier Granges and the organizing of the Enterprise Grange at Wilmer in 1912 with fifteen charter members. At that time several other Granges were organized but during the World War gradually lost members until they all became dormant except Enterprise and Live Oak in the northwestern end of the county.

For many years these two Granges were the only representatives of Grange life in Jackson county. During the spring of 1925 Eagle Point Grange was organized. The Jackson county Grange movement has since then become the leading institutions in their communities and made rapid progress in their activities and number of memberships.

Following the requisites of these older Granges the State Grange sent a deputy here last May who assisted in organizing four more Granges, one at Lake Creek, Central Point, Talent and Jacksonville. The Jackson county Grange membership numbers more than nine hundred with prospects of two more Granges being organized in the near future.

A County of Pomona Grange was organized in August 1928 which now has a membership of one hundred fifty.

The County Grange meets every three months and considers business that is passed on to them after being discussed in the subordinate Granges, here after consideration and discussion, if these

measures are found worthy they are passed on up to the State Grange which meets once each year.

The Grangers since their advent in this county have undertaken and accomplished many things for the good of the rural population and the public in general.

The big project of the Jackson County Grangers during 1928 is the reorganization and financing of the Farm Bureau Exchange of Medford. When this work is completed the Jackson county farmers will own and operate one of the biggest and best co-operatives in the state or Oregon.

Pomona Grange
Jackson County Pomona Grange organized August, 1925 with 26 charter members.

Present officers: H. W. Sparks, master; Geo. Hilton, overseer; Nora Strauss, lecturer; Albert Strauss, steward; Fred Smith, assistant steward; Mrs. J. P. Galligan, chaplain; Ed. Thomson, treasurer; Margaret Wilson, secy. Ed. Dimick, gate keeper; Cora, Bessie Fredenburg; Pomona, Mrs. Brown; Flora, Mrs. Charley; L. A. Steward, Mrs. H. W. Ward.

One of the principal aims of the Pomona Grange has been to establish a complete marketing system between the producer and consumer. Useful resolutions pertaining to the social welfare of the county have been passed by the organization with realized results.

Sams Valley Grange
Organized April, 1925 with 87 members; charter members Frances Wilson, Edwin Morgan, Margaret Wilson, Chas. Dunlap, Catherine Koger, R. E. Nealon, Bertha Wyatt, O. T. Wilson, Chas. Morgan, S. S. Abbott, Nora Strauss, M. R. Harper, O. T. Davis, Hershel Harper, Geo. McDonough, Dick Strauss, Lloyd Abbott, A. L. Strauss, Elwood Abbott.

Present membership 122.
Present officers: Albert Strauss, master; R. E. Nealon, overseer; Ruth Frink, lecturer; S. S. Abbott, steward; Hershel Harper, assistant steward; Mrs. Jay Frink, chaplain; Paul McKinnis, treasurer; Geo. McDonough, secretary; Max Schulz, gate keeper; Mrs. Donna Strauss, Cora, Rosalie Schulz; Pomona, Ruth Frink, Flora and Eva Frink, lad; assistant steward; Frances Wilson, pianist.

New officers to be installed Jan. 5 are: Master, Albert Strauss; overseer, R. E. Nealon; lecturer, John Neidermeier; treasurer, Peter Fick; steward, Chas. Hoover; asst. steward, Callie Sanden; chaplain, Geo. Sanden; treas., Mabel Simms; secretary, J. D. McDonough; gate keeper, Max Schulz; cora, Donna Strauss; Pomona, Rosalie Schulz; Flora, Pearl Hughes; L. A. Steward; Eva Frink.

Albert Strauss is the youngest master in the state and is serving his third term in the local Grange. R. E. Nealon, chairman of the legislative committee has done a great deal towards increasing the voting capacity of the country precincts; also held meetings to study measures to be voted upon at county and state elections, was the promoter of radio programs by the Grange.

Paul McKinnis as captain has organized and produced one of the best drill teams in the county.

Jackson County Has Youngest Grange Master on the Coast



Albert L. Strauss

The youngest Grange master on the Pacific coast and perhaps in the entire country is the proud distinction of Albert L. Strauss, who after being master of the Sams Valley chapter for three years, takes the post of Pomona master, or leader of all the Granges in Jackson county, during the coming year.

Mr. Strauss was born in Lucena, Vista County, Iowa, on March 13, 1905 lived there until he was ten, then came with the rest of the family to Sams Valley where he has since resided, on their 240-acre ranch. He is therefore only 23 years of age—a tender age to take up the responsibilities of such important leadership—but Mr. Strauss is a living example of the fact that a wise head often rests upon young shoulders, and his many friends predict a brilliant career for him, in the Grange movement in this state, in the future.

Mr. Strauss became a chapter member of the Sams Valley Grange in his 'teens' when it was organized in 1924, and has now held the master's chair in that organization for four consecutive years. Under his direction this chapter has steadily grown, until it is now one of the most active Granges in Southern Oregon.

Before his elevation to the post of Pomona master, Mr. Strauss held the position of Steward of the county Grange and is also a member of the State Grange, having taken his degree three years ago at Baker, Oregon.

On November 5th of this year, the Pomona master, married Donna McDonough of Sams Valley, and Mr. and Mrs. Strauss, have established a home on the family ranch, with Grange activities as one of their most important, mutual interests.

Talent Grange
Talent Grange No. 669 was organized May 4, 1928 by W. R. Gekker and Mrs. Z. A. Haak, with 47 charter members.

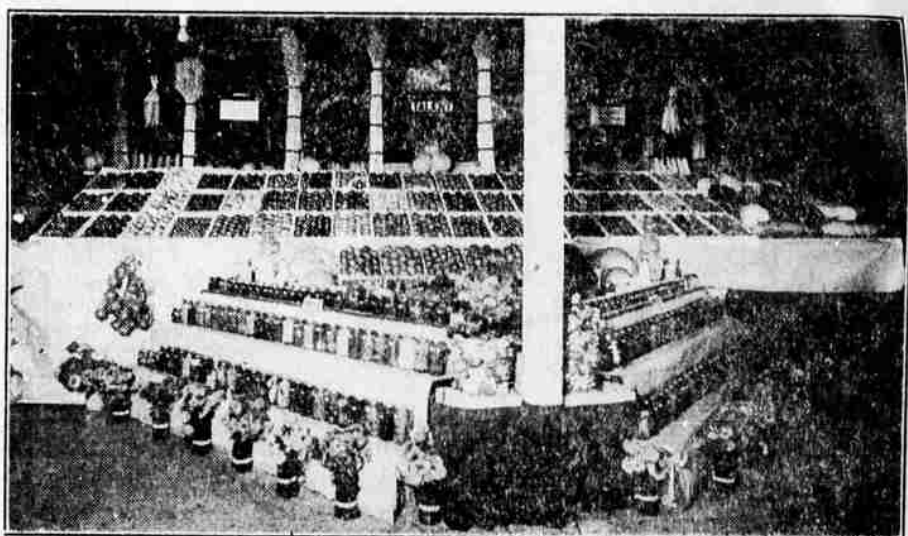
Master, C. F. Estes; lecturer, Mrs. O. L. Penland; secretary, Floyd V. Bell; H. E. C. Mrs. Harvey Walter; fire insurance agent, Floyd V. Bell.

The Grange is new to most of us in this part of the valley, although some of the members belonged to Granges many years back.

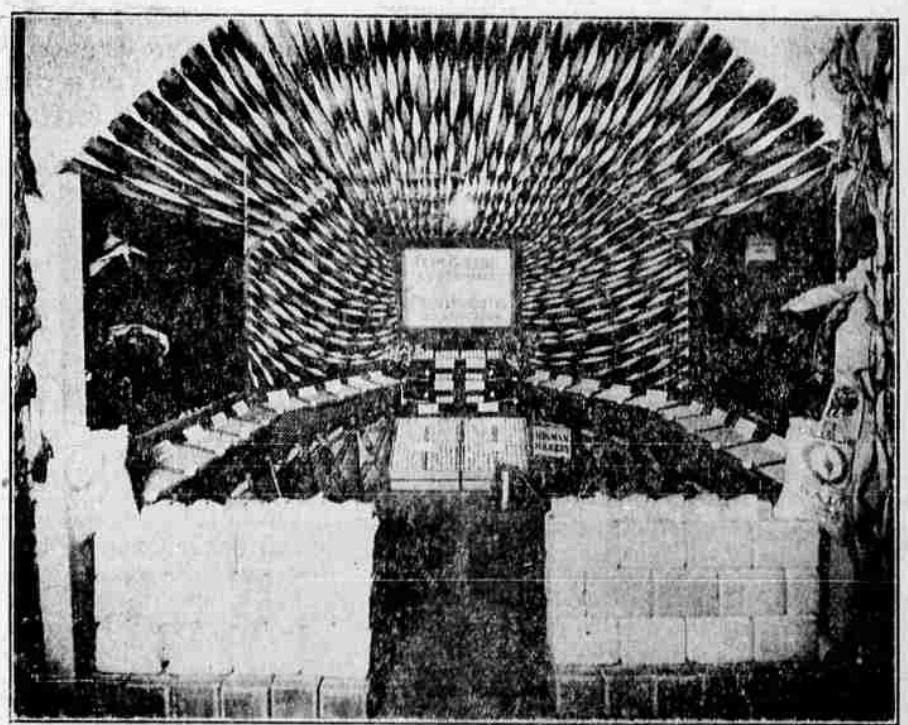
The interest is very good and very good attendance. New members coming in at each meeting; at this writing December 1st we have a membership of 132 with a nice list to be balloted on at the next meeting. Grange insurance to the amount of \$9,100 has been taken in.

A 5-ton car of sulphur and gypsum has just been distributed among the Grangers at a very good saving. A very nice order for a new Grange.

A nice program of entertainment was had recently, followed by a bountiful lunch. This was given



Here is an example of Grange achievement in Jackson county, the prize winning exhibit by Talent at the Jackson County Fair.



The Grange is particularly interested in the egg and poultry industry. Here is a view of the Farm Bureau Co-operative Exchange exhibit at the Jackson County Fair.

free to our friends and neighbors of which there were 225 present. The interest shown by quite a number of Granges towards the Farm Bureau Co-op. Exchange is quite keen.

Quite a number have subscribed for stock.

This is a great country. The Talent Grange had one of the best farm products exhibits at the Jackson County fair this fall, that has ever been exhibited in the county.

Due credit is given Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Walters for the arranging of the fair booth and earnest efforts in getting the exhibits.

C. F. ESTES,
Master Talent Grange.

Lake Creek Grange

The Lake Creek Grange was organized on April 11, 1928 with 44 charter members. There have been 60 new members initiated and a few candidates to be voted on at our next meeting.

The officers are as follows: Master, Floyd Charley, overseer, Reed Charley, lecturer, Helen Culbertson; steward, Louis Wyant; assistant steward, R. J. Chapman; lady assistant steward, Mrs. C. H. Moore; chaplain, C. R. Moore; secretary, Julia Sidley; treasurer, Tom Farlow; gate keeper, Wm. Alma; cora, Mary Hanley; Flora, Mrs. Reed Charley; Pomona, Helen Sidley.

The meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. There has been very good attendance at each meeting, the

members all taking very much interest in Grange work.

The good attendance has been mostly due to the splendid program arranged by our lecturer, Helen Culbertson.

The Grange has created a very high community spirit as was shown by the interest taken by our members in the community exhibit at the County fair. One other project that we were successful in was the planning of a schedule for the cream trucks, whereby the creameries were benefited by the saving of time in gathering the cream, and in delivery received sweet cream prices by not letting the cream sit by the roadside in the sun.

Live Oak Grange
Live Oak Grange was organized February 7, 1925 at Rogue River. Its first master was A. K. Eahart, who resigned near the close of his second term of office on account of ill health.

Under the present master, L. T. Galligan, the Grange has doubled its membership, but will always remain one of the small Granges of the county on account of the small territory from which it has to draw its membership.

Mr. Galligan is serving his second term as master, but was not a candidate for re-election as he believes each active member should serve his turn in the principal offices of the Grange.

This has been a busy year for the working members of this organization. They did their bit in securing signatures for the different bills sponsored by the state

Grange. During the "lecture hour" each bill that appeared on the ballot was discussed or debated.

The principal project that has engaged their time and attention has been the reorganization of the Farm Bureau into a Farmer's Cooperative exchange, and although there are only two Granges in the county farther from the place of meeting, there has never been a regular or special meeting of the marketing committee without this Grange being represented, generally by the full committee and the master.

They are enthusiastically in favor of the new organization and believe it will materially increase the prosperity of the farmers of Jackson county if given the proper support.

Central Point Grange
The Central Point Grange was organized on April 12, 1928, with 102 charter members. It has been growing steadily since that time. We have a membership of 152 at the present time. Due to the fact that the officers and members of this Grange have been very loyal to their organization, it has made it possible for it to grow the way it has.

Due credit to our worthy lecturer, our present county judge Alex Sparrow, for the splendid entertaining programs that he has put on which have helped to draw the crowd, many of our members have not missed a meeting since we organized. But

the chamber of commerce, and also master of state and county Granges—all at the same time.

The interests of the town and the county, those of a chamber of commerce and those of a Grange, are supposed to be conflicting, but Mr. Sparks apparently did not find them so, for he made an enviable record in all departments.

Naturally Mr. Sparks believes, hostilely between the city and county is unnecessary, and his interesting career is an absolute demonstration of the truth of this contention.

What helps the county helps the city and all other sections of a community. In Mr. Sparks' opinion, some of the warfare between the town and the county should be the closest cooperation.

Cooperation, in fact is the cornerstone of the economic philosophy of the present mayor of Rogue River and master of the Pomona Grange, and it was due to his leadership, that the present movement for the Grange to take over the Farm Bureau Co-operative, was launched, and is now nearing a successful conclusion.

One of the greatest needs in Jackson county, according to Mr. Sparks is the establishment of some official agency, which will be authorized to investigate both organizations of producers and buyers in this state. The small irresponsible buyer of farm products, here today and somewhere else tomorrow, is in his opinion, one of the greatest obstacles to the prosperity of the Jackson county farmer. He would like to see the farmer sell only to those buyers who have been endorsed by this official—perhaps federal—inspection agency.

The Surplus Problem
Mr. Sparks also favors local storehouses for agricultural sur-

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WHAT JACKSON COUNTY NEEDS TO AID FARMS

H. W. Sparks, Leader of
Grange Movement in
Southern Oregon, Points
Out Some of Organization's
Aims—Co-operation
Keynote of Successful
Program.

H. W. Sparks of Rogue River, present master of the County Grange, who retires in favor of Albert L. Strauss, the coming year, has the unique distinction of having been a mayor, a president of



H. W. Sparks

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