

Razing of Beall Mansion Built in 1872 Recalls Pioneer Days in Rogue Valley Scene of School and Social Gatherings

STOUT BEAMS IN OLD STRUCTURE TO BE UTILIZED

By Eva Nelson

Sun, rains and snows failed to weather its boards of sugar pine as season after season resigned to give place to another, completing the cycle of each new year dating down from 1872. March winds that blew through the sturdy maples and walnuts, lashing their branches across the high roof, preparing it for the coming tattoo of April rains, left few scars on the old Beall house, constructed 58 years ago as home of Thomas Fletcher and Anne Beall, former pioneers of Jackson county.



The home constructed in 1872 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fletcher Beall, now deceased, pioneers of southern Oregon, will give way to a modern dwelling. The Beall ranch and house now belong to John C. Thorson, who will build a bungalow to replace the old colonial house, sold to him by Asbury Beall, son and heir of the original owners. In the photograph are Mrs. Anne Beall (left) and her sister, Mrs. Maria Parkyette.

Today the stately old house of southern colonial design surrenders to human hands. Rafters and beams that have the echoes of pioneer children's voices, the clatter of horse hoofs hurrying down Beall lane, the road that leads by the house through one of the richest farming areas of southern Oregon, are yielding to the hammers and hatchets of wreckers.

Modern Home To Rise
They are tearing down the old Beall house in order that John C. Thorson, who recently purchased the farm from Asbury Beall of the West Side district, son of Thomas Fletcher and Anne, may replace it with a modern bungalow.

The rafters and beams will learn new echoes. They will be utilized in the construction of the bungalow. For while styles in architecture, dress and travel have changed and its owners, the sugar pine lumber has retained its youth. Today the timbers, scattered about the grounds where lilacs bloomed before long white columns in spring time, are better than those used in most present day houses, according to carpenters who are wrecking the structure.

Motorists who in future drive thru the lane which lies between highways, will miss the friendly lights that used to twinkle at travelers through old fashioned window panes. But to pioneers of southern Oregon, who attended the first winter school ever held in the region of Central Point, and what is now Medford, conducted in the "east room," the old Beall house will always be standing, protected by maples and walnuts. For the memories of which it is the foundation, will never surrender to wreckers.

Winter School
Prof. J. N. Hall, father of Court Hall of this city and brother of the former Mrs. Anne Beall, taught the school before the "east room" fireplace, one of the three that warmed the eight room house.

His son Court, the Bealls, the Merrimans and Plymalls attended the classes and were later rewarded for flights in mental arithmetic, when the house was thrown open for dancing parties and "Old Man" Beery, father of Wilkes Beery, tuned up his fiddle.

The children who went to the school were: Bell Merriman (Mrs. Frank of Portland), Effie Merriman (Mrs. Mill of Seattle), Cassie Plymale (Mrs. John Curry of San Francisco), Tyson, Lee, Tom and Clark Beall, children of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Fletcher Beall and Mamie Beall (Mrs. Chas. Strang of Medford), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Beall, whose house, constructed on the adjoining farm in 1865, is still standing and owned by their son, Vinton Beall.

Remembers Teacher
Mrs. Ed Strohmeler of Central Point (Lulu Beall), the youngest of the eight children, was not admitted to the classes in the "east room," for educational purposes, she stated a few days ago when reminiscing, but frequently sauntered up the long winding stairway to bring down the first shovel. This school and the schoolmaster in particular stood out clearly in her memory because on one of these occasions he gave her several energetic raps on the legs as she loitered from step to step crying out in sing-song fashion, "Bring me the shovel, bring me the shovel."

Court Hall's cousins, who lived at Myrtle Creek and came down to attend summer school at Central Point each year, did not participate in the spelling and arithmetic matches in the "east room" but were frequent visitors at the Beall house and enjoyed sliding down the long polished banister of the stairway, which led into the downstairs hall.

Death A Visitor
Even as people with character, the old house has known sorrow. Death visited it almost frequently, taking from the family three children, Carrie, Tom and Ben Beall. The three deaths are compensated in its record by three births, Tyson, Lee and Lulu Beall were born there.

The house was not completed when Tom was born at the R. V. Beall home, due to the fact that his father was called to Ransheree, which was then owned by Mr. Beall and his brother. Work was discontinued for a while and Tom, who was expected to be the first son born in the big white house, arrived at the home of his aunt and uncle. His brothers and sisters, who are still living are: Asbury Beall of Medford, Mrs. I. M. Lewis of Reno, Nev.; Lee Beall of Lakeview, Ore.; Tyson Beall of Willow Creek, Calif. and Mrs. Ed Strohmeler of Central Point.

proaching his throat, when the slamming of the house door caused the jack to bolt and run.

More pleasant events at the Beall home in Court Hall's memories are the mental arithmetic contests inspired by his father at winter classes and the big dance given 44 years ago in celebration of his birthday.

Storehouse of Memories
Seasoned with these memories the house has endured. Each of the eight rooms, contributing something of romance to the lives of southern Oregon's early settlers and their descendants. The "dark room" upstairs, which was lighted only by a tansom, the spacious pantry downstairs, with a cookie jar, always filled, the "east room" facing snow-capped Pitt, the two big rooms downstairs with fireplaces voicing hospitality through crackling logs, withstood all trials but the insistent and destructive tools of the wreckers.

The shingles, hand shaved by Joe Geppert in the early 90's to replace those made by Dave Dunlap when the house was built, fall to the ground to exhibit firm textures, through which the most ambitious rains have not penetrated. The beams and rafters, dovetailed in the manner of those in King Solomon's temple, along with the hand dressed lumber still bear the penciled lines drawn by thorough carpenters of the past century.

They will soon resign themselves to the markings of the modern carpenter's pencil, even as they have fallen before the wreckers. They will be saved and planed and nailed into a "modern bungalow," where there will be no corner plaques beneath the roof reading, 1872.

In the Skies in August

By Robert H. Baker
(Professor of Astronomy, University of Illinois)

URBANA, Ill. (AP)—Meteors or shooting stars always appear in more than usual numbers during August. This annual display of Perseids or August meteors never is spectacular, but if the evening sky is watched for a few minutes one or several are likely to be seen.

Meteors are fragments of stone or metal, on the average no larger than the head of a pin. They are moving in vast numbers through interplanetary space. In the neighborhood of the earth their speeds are as much as 25 miles a second. Ordinarily cold and dark and therefore invisible, meteors come suddenly into view whenever they encounter the earth's atmosphere, for resistance of the air to their swift flight heats them to incandescence and quickly consumes them, causing the luminous streak that we call shooting stars.

Many meteors travel in great swarms around the sun in elongated orbits like those of comets. If the orbit of the swarm crosses the earth's orbit and if the earth and swarm arrive at the point of

intersection at the same time, a shower of meteors results.

The orbit of the Perseids or August meteors cross that part of the earth's orbit that we traverse in July and August, and the mem-

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bers of this swarm are so scattered around the orbit that we run through great numbers of them yearly, from the middle of July to the middle of August. The greatest display is to be seen about August 11.

Each shower of meteors is named from the location of the radiant point among the constellations. Thus the Perseids seem to diverge from a point in the constellation Perseus. This constellation is located in the Milky Way.

It has the appearance of a great arrow which points upward toward the familiar Chair of Sausage and may be seen rising in the northeast before midnight on the first of August.

LARGER ENGINE IN CHRYSLER 70 MODELS

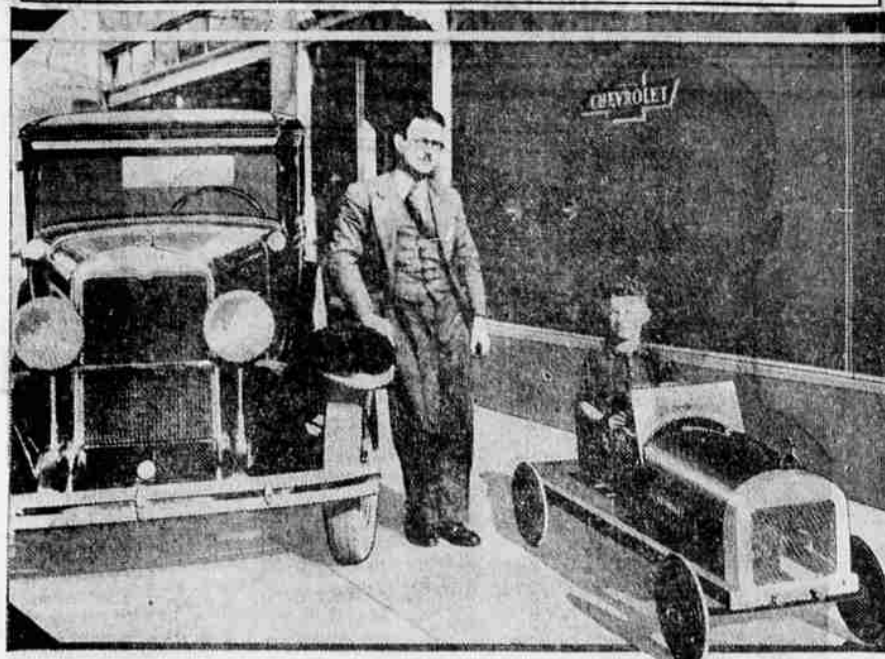
Increased power and improved performance of all Chrysler "70" models has been effected with the announcement by the Chrysler Sales corporation that the 93-horsepower engine used in the "70" models is now offered as standard equipment in all cars of the "70" series. The change to the larger engine has been made at no increase in retail prices, and provides the motorist in the moderate price field with mechanical equipment heretofore associated only with cars of higher price.

Models available in the "70" series include theoyal sedan, brougham, Royal coupe, business coupe, convertible coupe, and roadster. The power plant of the "70" models now has a bore of 3 3/8 inches, a stroke of five inches and a displacement of 268.4 cubic inches. Compression ratio is 5 to 1. Seven bearings, having a total area of 76 square inches, support the counterweighted crankshaft.

Down-draft carburetion and the four-speed transmission with multi-range gearshift continue as outstanding features of all "70" models. Improved manifold, positive fuel pump are provided with the down-draft system to insure maximum performance under all operating conditions.

With the four-speed transmis-

A Small Boy's Dream



Are happy days here again? Ask Bill Hooper (right), eight-year-old son of Harold Hooper, Chevrolet dealer at Ellensburg, Washington (left). Bill is at the wheel of his "Chevrolet," built for him by his father. At the left is one of the real Chevrolet Sixes. While the big Chevrolet is noted for its gasoline economy, it doesn't hold a candle to Bill's car, which will deliver 120 miles to the gallon. Summer vacation is here. "Oh, oh," says Bill.

sion with multi-range gear shift, every requirement in engine flexibility is met. Having four forward speed ranges: heavy duty, starting, acceleration and driving ranges, this gear shift offers the motorist maximum efficiency for power, speed and acceleration with just a flick of the control lever.

Automatic thermostatically controlled radiator shutters are also standard equipment on all "70" models. Chromium plated exterior hardware and the bondite rust-proofing processes are continued as outstanding features con-

tributing to their fine exterior finish and typical Chrysler color combinations make these cars stand out as one of the most attractive ever offered by any manufacturer.

DUBLIN (AP)—The Irish Free State is to establish its own Order of Merit, a precedent among British dominions which hitherto have always looked to London for decorations.

ISTANBUL (AP)—D. Talbot Rice, British archaeologist, recently brought to light another of Istan-

bul's buried treasures, ruins of a hitherto unknown Byzantine church in the Vlanga Bostan quarter. The work was financed by Rudolph Mosel of Drexelstegen, Devon, England.

Italy is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the St. Gotthard tunnel, nine and a fifth miles long.

A republic is a land that spends fifty thousand on a job and pays a committee seventy-five thousand to investigate it. — Boston Post.

BUCHAREST, Rumania (AP)—Some 10,000 petitions have reached King Carol since he seized the throne but a note from the palace states that he intends to give all of them personal attention.

Perpetuation of the weird Galah meteors, chanted and sung by slaves of their ancestors is the object of a Charleston, S. C., society recently formed.

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