

76-Year-Old Medford Artist Active In Painting Flowers, Nature Scenes

Mrs. Edmondson Fills Life-Long Ambition in Art

By Frances Bulkin
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Mrs. Elizabeth Edmondson, 854 West Second street, has an impressive faculty of painting nature in its naturalness, an art she has pursued since she first could hold a paint brush.

The 76-year-old artist, who specializes in paintings of wild flowers, says she doesn't feel that anyone can "improve on God's work," and that she wants her works to look as nearly as possible "the way God made them."

So natural do her paintings of wild flowers appear, that one feels the urge to reach out and pluck the flowers.

Entered Art School
One of nine children, the artist was born near Plymouth, Ind., and so possessed was she with the desire to draw and paint that at the age of 12 years her family sent her to an art school in Valparaiso, Ind. There she worked energetically at her easel from seven in the morning until evening. Though she particularly likes to do wild flowers or land or seascapes, she also learned at school to do portraits, generally considered one of the most difficult types of painting. Before finishing her course, she began to get orders from friends, and then from their friends, to do portraits. She now has a portrait of a granddaughter which won second prize in its division at the Oregon State fair.

Later, after teaching school for a time, she married and became the mother of a daughter. Her husband had an appreciation of art and encouraged her painting. So in her spare time she kept up with her urge to paint. After his death, in Wisconsin, she decided to take her family and "go west to Oregon."

Remains 48 Years
Here she had visualized a "perfect heaven for painting nature's subjects." Not being disappointed in her vision, she has remained 48 years. For many years she lived on a homestead on Butte creek, near McLeod.

Two of her most interesting scenes are of the home on that homestead—one done after a snowfall and the other a summer scene. Another of her homey and interesting paintings which she calls "Haying on the Homestead," shows a horse-drawn wagon from which hay is being mowed into a barn, with barnyard animals in the foreground.

Uses Many Mediums
Just as Mrs. Edmondson is versatile in portraying different types of subjects—portraits, animals, landscapes, seascapes and flowers—so is she in mediums of her work. In particular, she uses water colors, but as easily can switch to pastels, oils, charcoal or tempera. As an experimenter, and without knowing the



CONTINUES TO PAINT AT 76—Mrs. Elizabeth Edmondson, 76-year-old Medford artist whose hobby since childhood has been painting, continues to wield her brush to fill orders for those "who see my paintings and like them." Specializing in wild flowers and nature scenes, she is versatile in portraying other subjects and in the use of various mediums. With a talent for painting nature in its naturalness, Mrs. Edmondson still believes no one can "improve on God's work."

technique, she tried her hand at using India ink, with water lilies as her subject. Though she does not consider it her best work, with the flowers and foliage in white, the background shaded in black, one can only imagine the hours of patience it took to finish.

After coming west Mrs. Edmondson remarried, and became mother of two more children. After her second husband passed away, she taught in rural schools in Washington and Oregon. In 1920 she moved to Medford. Up to the year 1945-1946 she was teaching in public schools of the state.

Helps Form Art Group
After moving here she was instrumental in organizing the Southern Oregon Art association, which banded together the few artists there were in the county. Through this group, art exhibits were arranged with displays from Paris, New York and San Francisco, which Medford residents were able to view without charge.

For a number of years, Mrs. Edmondson taught classes in her home, and at one time had as

many as 100 students, with separate classes for children and adults during the day and evening.

She recently spent a year and a half at Gold Beach, where she went with "the purpose of painting wild flowers for the children of the future."

More Than 100
Always painting her subjects first-hand, she has done well over 100 different Oregon wild flowers. In natural colors, all

Dr. Inskeep Back From Inspection Tour of Hospitals

Dr. L. D. Inskeep, president of the state board of health, returned to his home here Friday after the board's week-long tour of eastern Oregon hospitals and communities where hospitals are under construction or contemplated.

The board sought first hand information on progress in hospital construction since enactment of the Hill-Burton act which provides one-third the cost for construction. Inspections were made at The Dalles, Redmond, Bend, Prineville, Heppner, Pendleton, LaGrande, Enterprise, Vale, Nyssa, Ontario and Burns.

Funds Awarded
Funds have been awarded at Bend, Heppner, Enterprise and Burns. A number of hospitals in other communities were privately financed but come under state licensure provisions. The eastern Oregon hospital program is eliminating the region's medical isolation.

Making the trip with Inskeep were Dr. Thomas Griffith, The Dalles; Dr. Harold M. Erickson, Portland; state health officer, Mrs. Inskeep and Mrs. Griffith.

are easily recognizable as the familiar flowers one often sees but frequently passes without notice.

Included in her collection are two plates of wild roses, one in full bloom, the other with their cheery red seed pods. Others portray bird bill, manzanita, pond lilies, daisies, fly catcher, grass of parnassus, fox gloves, mosses, flowers, chicory, rhododendron, trillium, and wild iris, to name a few. On many the artist has spent countless hours, putting down what she has found in explanation of the flowers either from library research or first hand.

Paints "Mother Madrone"
One of the paintings is of the "mother madrone" which she found in Thompson's meadows in Curry county. She says it is claimed the tree is not known to grow anywhere but in that vicinity.

Painted principally for children who might be unable to view the actual flowers, the reproductions would hold the interest of anyone, both for pleasure and for information included with them.

With a twinkle in her bright blue eyes, the 76-year-old artist, who is still filling orders for those who "see my paintings and like them," actively continues her life-long desire to paint, paint, paint.

Western Pine Report Shows Orders Increase

Portland, Ore., June 17—(U.P.) The Western Pine association today issued a report which showed orders for the current period of 1950 were 25 per cent more than for the same period in 1949.

Weekly averages for June during the past three years were 63,448,000 feet as compared with 67,862,000 feet for the current period of this year.

Cambridge, Mass.—(U.P.)—Bow and Arrow streets intersect here.

Posthumous Honors Due Emil Britt for Weather Bureau Aid

The late Emil Britt, Jacksonville, will be posthumously honored at informal ceremonies tomorrow night for the 58th consecutive years he spent as a volunteer observer for the United States weather bureau. A medal authorized by the department of commerce will be presented to his sister, Mollie Britt.

Bob Church, official in charge of the Medford weather bureau, will make the presentation on behalf of F. W. Reichelderfer, chief of the bureau. The ceremonies will take place on the steps of the old Jackson county courthouse in Jacksonville, at 8 p. m. Monday.

Lions Arrange Program
The Jacksonville Lions club is arranging the program, and will appear in a body. Mayor Albert Hackert of Jacksonville will represent that community, and girl students of the Eve Prentice recitation studio will furnish music.

Mr. Britt began his service with the weather bureau as a cooperative observer for Jacksonville on Aug. 1, 1891, and continued in that capacity until his death last January.

Throughout this entire period he performed the daily observations of temperature, precipitation and other weather factors for Jacksonville, and like the many thousands of other cooperative observers never received a cent for this work. His only compensation, weather officials report, was the satisfaction he gained in performing an important public service well, and

in the knowledge that he was building a wealth of scientific knowledge about Jacksonville and the Rogue valley.

Records of Value
Not only are these records of immeasurable value as they are being compiled, but weather men point out that there is a value which will continue to increase as more and more interests of all types—engineers, agriculturists and industrialists are only a few—make repeated use of them.

Mr. Britt's record of public service has been equalled by few men. Exact comparative records are not available. But a 1947 pamphlet issued by the weather bureau gave a description of Mr. Britt's service, and at that time only one man had served longer (by one year) and only four others equalled his service in the entire country.

A letter to Church from the weather bureau chief recently took note of the planned ceremony where the medal will be presented to Miss Britt, and continued:

Extends Congratulations
"I am grateful of this opportunity to extend sympathetic greetings to her as well as my sincere congratulations for this well deserved recognition of Mr. Britt's unselfish and devoted service to the bureau."

"Mr. Britt was one of the deans of the bureau's volunteer cooperative observer service and his contribution with those of his fellows for the foundation for the present knowledge of the climate of the United States and its territories."

"Please present this letter to his sister as an expression of my appreciation for Mr. Britt's service to the weather bureau."

First Rehearsals Of Summer Music Classes Monday

First rehearsals for summer music classes and concert groups will begin this week, according to I. A. Mirick, supervisor of instrumental music for the Medford schools.

Membership in the concert orchestra, which will rehearse at 8 p. m. Mondays, is open to all advanced string players in the high school, to college students at home on vacation, and to adults. The group is being formed for the first time this summer in connection with the summer music school. A concert is being planned for the group in July. Those wishing to participate may telephone Mirick at 2-4609.

Plan Two Concerts
All adults who were members of the concert band last summer, as well as any new musicians in the valley, are invited to participate in this organization Mirick said. Two concerts are planned.

All classes and group rehearsals will be held in the senior high band room, No. 32, starting at 9 a. m. Monday. Classes will end July 26. Those who have been unable to register may do so at the first scheduled class this week.

Grade school band and orchestra, and junior and senior high school beginners will hold classes during the day.

The Junior high school band rehearsals will be held Mondays at 6:30 p. m., and the concert band will rehearse Tuesdays at 8 p. m.

WAC Enlistments Now Accepted by Army

T/Sgt. Gene Davis, army and air force recruiting officer here, said Saturday that women without previous military service are now eligible for enlistment in the women's army corps reserve for specific vacancies in reserve units. Applicants between 18 and 34 years of age are eligible, with those possessing special skills acceptable up to 45.

Non-combat posts in the signal corps, quartermaster, military intelligence, censorship, personnel, historical, finance and other units are available.

Full details, including information about officer candidate schools, are available at the recruiting office in the Medford post office.

Electric Work Bids Asked at National Park

An invitation for bids on electrical installations at Munson Springs pump house at Crater Lake national park has been issued by the park administration. Plans and specifications are available to bidders upon payment of a small deposit which will be refunded if plans are returned.

Applications for plans should be addressed to the superintendent, Crater Lake national park, Crater Lake, Oregon. Bids will be opened at 3 p. m. July 5.

DOG MISSES SIGNALS

Chicago—(U.P.)—Sandy, a cocker spaniel, romped playfully about as two robbers taped his master, Dr. Ralph T. Ball, but snapped and growled at the policeman who came to make a report of the \$10 robbery.

Copco Applies for Power Development

Salem, Ore., June 17—(U.P.)—A \$2,200,000 expense by the California Oregon Power company for development of additional power facilities in southern Oregon was indicated here today on the basis of an application filed with the state hydro-electric commission.

The application asks for a license to cover the proposed development. It would include improvement of a concrete diversion dam with fishways on Fish creek, a tributary of the north Umpqua river in Douglas county, and five miles of canals and flumes.

The commission will review the application during its July 25 hearing.

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• **VALLEY VIEW DRIVE** (Driving time—1 hour). Follow the old Military Road from Gold Hill through Jacksonville and into Medford. A pleasant drive. This scenic tour skirts the western rim of the valley and grants spectacular views of the valley and the mountain ranges in the distance.

• **THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY** (Driving time—45 minutes). Located off Highway 99 about 14 miles north of Medford, this fascinating phenomena has been publicized in magazines and newspapers throughout the world. We were puzzled, and we'll bet you will be too!

• **CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK**—82 miles away (Driving time—2 hours.) The drive along the Rogue, and through scenes of majestic beauty is a trip long to be remembered. What can we say about this Wonder of the World that hasn't already been said . . . and countless times? CRATER LAKE IS OPEN THE YEAR AROUND. The Lodge, however, is open to guests only in the summer months. Marvellous skiing in winter. You just mustn't go home until you have seen this awe-inspiring crater.

• **LAKE OF THE WOODS** (Driving time—2 hours.) A favorite summer retreat for many Rogue Valley residents, this forest-snuggled recreational area can be reached via the Dead Indian or Butte Falls roads. A pleasant drive through primeval forests. Cabins, dining service, boats are available. Fishing? Good!



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O & C Administrator To Talk Here Friday

Daniel L. Goldy, regional administrator of the bureau of land management (including the O and C revested lands administration) will be the guest speaker at a meeting next Friday of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, it was announced Saturday.

Goldy will explain the recently announced O and C road right of way regulations, which have created considerable controversy in lumber circles, and other recent changes in O and C timber sales policies.

The dinner meeting will be at 7:30 p. m., Friday, June 23, at the Pioneer room of the Jackson hotel.

L. L. Simpson, secretary-manager of the association, said the regulations present a grave problem to the entire lumber industry throughout the northwest and that the group is fortunate in having the administrator coming to Medford to discuss the regulations, in person, with industry representatives.

Invitation Extended
Simpson emphasized that anyone concerned with the lumber industry, and not just members of the association, is welcome to attend. Those who have not received personal invitations are asked to write or call Simpson at the association office in the Goldy building, Medford.

The regional administrator will also attend a meeting of the regional advisory committee of the O and C administration Thursday afternoon, according to District Forester E. K. Peterson. New officers of the committee will be selected at that time. George Flanagan of Elk Lumber company is present chairman.

Delegates Named for Eagles Conclave

Delegates who will represent Crater Lake aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Medford, at the 1950 Oregon State aerie convention of the FOE at Grants Pass, June 22, 23 and 24, have been announced by Aerie President Ray Watkins.

They include O. H. Bengston, Frank Shafer, George Tucker, Jack Meacham, Fred Johnson, Howard Brooks, John Black, Percy Culley, Art Klatt, Earl Mercer, Alvin Lucas, Ed Olson, Ray Watkins, Damon Floyd, George Denney, LeRoy Smith and Hans Rammin.

The drill team will also accompany the delegation. The convention will be held at the Memorial gymnasium of the Grants Pass senior high school.

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