

Phoenix Sets County Pattern in Community Center

Four Years' Work Completes Building Festival Is Help

1952 Celebration Scheduled May 24

About five years ago there were a lot of Rogue valley citizens who thought the small community of Phoenix must be nuts to believe it could raise enough money to build a large community center for its youth and grown-ups to enjoy.

This was in 1948. Prior to this the idea had been mulled over by the Phoenix Thursday club but there had been no action. In February, according to an edition of The Mail Tribune, "members of the Phoenix city council and heads of various organizations met and laid first plans for promotion of a community building."

Idea Catches On
The idea caught on. But how was the money going to be raised? The women answered this question with action. A benefit card party by the originating Thursday club started the ball rolling and by April 7, by-laws had been drawn up for the Phoenix Community and Youth club. On March 30, it was decided that the proposed building would be a memorial to the youth of Phoenix who gave their lives in World War II. A temporary directing board to serve for three months was elected with A. C. Lewis as president; Mrs. George Bourne, vice-president; Mrs. Bert Stancliffe, secretary; and Mrs. Walter Germmer, treasurer.

On June 9, at a mass meeting of interested citizens, the group adopted non-profit corporation

status for the club, with any resident of Phoenix's two precincts eligible to belong after paying a membership fee. Lewis, Mrs. Bourne and Mrs. Germmer were re-elected for one year terms and Mrs. Myra Elson was elected secretary. At this time, the group had raised \$1,200 toward the building fund. But it needed a lot more.

Plan Festival
Things hung on until the next year when plans were conceived in March, 1949, for a May festival to swell the building fund. Before this event, however, other methods used for fund-raising were a boxing show, a benefit play by the Phoenix Little Theater which was performed at Butte Falls and the Upper Applegate as well as at Phoenix, and the Medford Trail Riders presented a horse show, donating all the proceeds to the building fund. When the first Phoenix May festival was held on May 14, 1949, the results were beyond all expectations.

Then came 1950, when there was finally enough money. And the answer to those who said it couldn't be done was written on every grey brick of a new community center building, which was rushed to completion by May 14 in time for Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, to officiate at the dedication ceremonies.

\$18,000 for \$7,000
The estimated value of the completed building was \$18,000—but it only cost the club about \$7,000 because it was built the Phoenix way: with volunteer labor similar to an old fashioned house raising, and with donated lumber and plaster.

Other materials and labor were supplied at never more than cost, and sometimes less than cost. When the last bit of dust had cleared from those attending to the 1950 festival, and the weary volunteers were done

with their work, the building was up and a \$2,500 net profit was realized from the festival.

But a building wasn't enough. Equipment and other additions were needed, and there are constant maintenance costs. So, the receipts from the 1951 festival were earmarked for a much-needed kitchen, which has just been completed.

Plan New Room
What about 1952? Added use of the building now calls for a combination dining and club room for use by all age groups. So next Saturday, May 24, the fourth May festival will be staged with the receipts earmarked for the new room, building maintenance and repairs, an enlarged youth group and landscaped grounds.

As for 1953, who knows? Interested Phoenix children and their parents have a lot of progressive ideas for their town and Community center and will no doubt continue expansion.

All Use Building
But what of the building? Who uses it?

Well, just about everybody. For instance, the following clubs either meet there regularly or occasionally: Boy and Girl Scouts, the Neighbors of Woodcraft and the Thimble club, the First Presbyterian church and its Ladies Aid society, the Parent-Teachers association, the Grange, the Phoenix Lions and Lady Lions, Volunteer Firemen, Garden club, Home Economics Extension units, Thursday club and the Medford Trail Riders.

Besides these, the primary use of the building, as a youth center, is carried out by two age groups of the Phoenix Youth club: the pre-teen age group, (sixth to eighth grades) and those of high school age only. The Youth club was first organized in September, 1950, under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Norton. For a time the club



SHUFFLEBOARD—Shown above enjoying a game of shuffleboard are members of the high school group of the Phoenix Youth club. The members pay a 10-cent admission charge each time they attend their Wednesday meet-

ings and raise funds from dances and other projects. The building houses two shuffleboards which were purchased entirely from Youth club funds. The pre-teen age group (sixth to 8th grades) has purchased pucks for the boards.



FESTIVAL COORDINATORS—A get-together of past and present Phoenix May festival coordinators is shown above. Pictured (left to right) are Mrs. George Bourne, 1949 chairman and originator of the community center idea with the Thursday club; Opie Frazier, 1950

chairman and a director for the center's non-profit corporation; Paul Hartsook, 1951 chairman; and Curt Fisher, 1952 chairman. The receipts from the festival have gone into the building and improving of the center.

operated under paid chaperones. But in October, 1951, a committee was appointed to sponsor the club composed of Mrs. M. C. Fisher, Mrs. Glen Miller, and Mrs. Dick Perry. These committee members with the help of a few parents have chaperoned the group every meeting since that time.

Meet Weekly
The high school group meets every Wednesday from 7:30 to 10:30 p. m. with an average attendance of 40. At every meet-

ing, each youth pays 10 cents which goes into the treasury. The club bought both shuffleboards (see picture) now in use in the building and uses its own funds for repairs and replacement of equipment and to buy phonograph records. The group is currently sponsoring its own queen candidate for the coming festival and recently raised \$60 for the candidate at a May 3 benefit dance. Larry Miller is president of the high school group and Miss Helen Harris is

secretary. Last February, a pre-teen age group was formed for those youths in the sixth to eighth grades. Each member of this relatively new group pays a 10-cent admission charge every meeting and pop and candy is sold, with the profits going to buy needed things such as records and pucks for the shuffleboards and ping pong equipment. **Hold Dances** For recreation, the group par-

ticipates in square, modern and folk dancing. The average attendance of this group is 55, according to the chairman of the three-member committee in charge, J. M. Cook. Other committee members are Mrs. Opie Frazier and Mrs. Larry Lawrence.

In this group the youths themselves, choose their own chaperones (always three) and sign them up personally. Besides the chaperones, parents and visitors are always welcome at the pre-teen agers meetings on Friday, from 7 to 9:30 p. m., as they are at the older group's meetings.

During youth nights and whenever else the building is in use, there is supervision by the officers and directors of the Community club and Youth Center. Heading the non-profit corporation for the present year are Mrs. George Bourne, president; A. H. MacKintosh, vice-president; Mrs. A. C. Lewis, secretary; Frank Lovett, treasurer; Opie Frazier, Marle Simmonds, Mark Norton, Johnny Klassen and Larry Miller (student member from the Youth club), directors. A sixth director, Earl

Briscoe, died earlier this month. **See How It's Done**

If you live somewhere in the Rogue River valley and want to get a community building for your area's citizenry, but don't quite know how to go about it, why not venture down Phoenix way this Saturday and see how it's done?

Festival directors promise a lot of "fun for everyone" with a variety of events lasting well into the evening. When its all over they will have a new addition for their community center. You could have the same in your community. Just ask Phoenix. They know the way.

FRUITFUL YEARS

Bessemer, Ala. —(UP)— They claim only a record for happiness, but the ages of Mr. and Mrs. Killis Sellers total 186 years and they have had 70 years of married bliss. Married on Sept. 15, 1881, he is now 93 and she is 91. The family has grown somewhat during that time and the Sellers have seven of their children living, plus 34 grandchildren and 62 great-grandchildren.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturdays.



CO-EDUCATIONAL RECREATION—Members of the Phoenix Youth club's high school group are shown "kibitzing" a ping pong duel between three players. Pictured (left to right) are Delbert Moore, Phoebe Brockway, Betty

Cummons, Dave Haggard, Phyllis Miller, Dick Miller and Betty Hopper. Miss Hopper is the Youth club's candidate for May festival queen. Besides ping pong, the members also play shuffleboard at two tables, and dance to records.

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3. If you believe that baldness cannot be prevented, you're 95% wrong!

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