

First Valentine Unromantic; Oldest Sample Now in Museum

It has taken more than 1,000 years for valentines to develop into the colorful "symbols of love and devotion" that will delight sweethearts come Monday, February 14th.

It's strange but true that valentines were originally strictly messages of friendship—with no romantic significance.

The first was sent in 270 A.D. by St. Valentine himself, on the eve of his execution for refusing to renounce Christianity. Signed "From Your Valentine," it was a note of appreciation from the young priest to his jailer's blind daughter, who had brought food and delivered messages for him.

It was not until the Middle Ages that the love element was introduced into the celebration of St. Valentine's day. Primitive valentines were hidden in hollow trees to elude vigilant fathers.

The oldest known valentine is in the British Museum in London. It was penned by the Duke of Orleans to his lady-love after he had been taken prisoner by the English in the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 A.D.

Only a few years later, King Henry V wooed Catherine of Valois with valentine verses composed for him by John Lydgate, first of the many anonymous writers of "standard love rhymes" for tongue-tied suitors to copy.

During the Puritan dictatorship in England, Cromwell suppressed the valentine custom as "immoral." But later, in the merry court of King Charles II, popular Valentine's day gifts were jasmine-scented gloves and jeweled garters.

Valentines reached a peak of size and elegance in 18th century France. They were filled with cut-out hearts, paper fountains, tiny birds, cupids, flower reproductions, and romantic scenes on cardboard hinges, set in a framework of expensive Venetian lace.

The first valentines in America were exchanged during Revolutionary days. These colonial creations were mostly handmade and were notable for their graceful pen-and-ink drawings illustrating extremely sentimental verses written in flowing script.

It was not until 1840 that Miss Esther Howland, an imaginative student at Mt. Holyoke College for Women in South Hadley, Mass., became the first regular publisher of valentines in the United States. Admiring a handmade English valentine in her father's stationery store, she had copies printed for her school chums. It was leap year and the venture was an instant success. Later, Miss Howland became a successful businesswoman, heading a publishing firm specializing in valentines.

By the middle 1850's the publishing and distribution of valentines had become a very sizable business. About this time, the first "vinegar valentines" were introduced by a Scotsman named John McLaughlin, who had a book and printing business in New York City. His representatives traveled throughout the south and west selling these masterpieces of insult which were usually sent anonymously for obvious reasons. Rivaling sentimental valentines in popularity for many years, it was not until around 1910 that public taste began to turn away from the "vinegar valentines."

However, sentimental valen-

tines have become more popular from year to year. Today, in addition to the traditional valentines for sweethearts, there is a tremendous variety of valentine greeting to select from, both affectionate and humorous.

The very latest additions to the valentine family are the uninhibited "studio" creations which combine fantastic designs and art work with equally fantastic valentine messages.

So even if Dan Cupid was an added starter in the valentine race, he's made up plenty of lost time because it is estimated that over 350,000,000 valentines will delight happy hearts everywhere on Monday, February 14.

State Convention Oregon League To Be in Eugene

Announcement of the coming state convention of Oregon League of Women Voters was made at the quarterly board meeting of the state league held recently in Corvallis. Mrs. Ronald K. Campbell, Corvallis, president of the state league, stated the convention has been set for May 22, 23 and 24 in Eugene. At this time new officers and board will be elected and program items will be chosen.

Mrs. Ralph Rasmussen, Portland, chairman of the state platform division committee, reported on the proposed revision of the state platform of the league and it was suggested that items for current agenda and platform, discussed at the board meeting, be sent to all local leagues to receive study before the state convention.

It was also announced that Mrs. Errol Horner, Washington, D.C., member of the staff of the League of Women Voters of the United States, would arrive in Oregon March 9 to visit local leagues. The next state board meeting will be March 12.

The progress of the provisional league at Beaverton was commended following the report of Mrs. K. E. Montgomery, Eugene, state organization chairman.

Another announcement was to the effect that Mrs. Leo Friedman, Corvallis, had been named chairman of "development of understanding of the relationship between individual liberty and the public interest" which is item two on the national platform. Mrs. Jerome Bischoff, Portland, was appointed to fill a vacancy as press chairman of the Oregon league.

Also recently announced was the granting of provisional status for the Coos Bay League of Women Voters. Mrs. C. C. Halski is president of the group.

VFW AUXILIARY PLANS DANCE AT CAMP WHITE

The auxiliary to the Department of Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars will sponsor a dance at the Camp White theater Monday, February 7, at 8 p.m. A bus will be available at the Trailways depot for those who want transportation.



Mrs. Frank H. Ray, (right) of Medford and Mrs. Hannah Ford, Eugene, are shown here in the gardens of Kauai Inn during a visit to Kauai in the Hawaiian islands. Kauai is known as the Garden island because of its lush tropical foliage.

Oak Grove Plans Show for Friday

Parents and teachers of Oak Grove school will present the "Oak Grove Varieties" Friday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The show is a ten-act entertainment staged by parents of students in the eight grades and the teachers of the school, and ranges in scope from music to drama and dancing, with "plenty of nonsense."

Refreshments will be available for young and old in the cafeteria following the show.

This is the annual fund-raising event of Oak Grove Parent-Teacher association and a charge will be made. It is stated that the family ticket will entitle all members of any family to attend for the price of one ticket.

Medical Masseurs Hold Meeting at Allinghams

Southern Oregon chapter of the Oregon State Association of Medical Masseurs met Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Kathleen Allingham, Medford. Mrs. Allingham, who is president, conducted the meeting.

Mrs. Lottie Belle Taylor, Ashland, was welcomed as a new associate by the group.

The study "Muscles of the Human Body," was in charge of Lew Gilman, Medford.

Refreshments were served by the hostess during the social hour.

Women of Rotary To Meet at Days

Women of Rotary will meet Wednesday, February 9, at the home of Mrs. John S. Day, South Groveland avenue. Luncheon will be served at 12:30 o'clock.

Hostesses will be Mrs. Day, Mrs. Elmer Herried, Mrs. Martin Sands, Mrs. William Schei, Mrs. William B. Tucker and Mrs. W. E. Edwards.

FOE Auxiliary Announces Events

The auxiliary to the Fraternal Order of Eagles will conduct a "white elephant" sale Thursday evening, February 10, at the Eagles hall. Proceeds from the sale will go toward the lodge's Memorial Foundation fund. The project is conducted by Eagles lodges throughout the country to help with schooling, medical care and homes for children whose fathers served in the wars and who were Eagle members, now deceased.

Women of the auxiliary will honor members whose birthdays are in January and February at a dinner Saturday, February 12, at 6 p.m. at the Eagles hall. The dinner will take place after a sale which the women will conduct that day at the hall. Those attending the dinner are asked to take pies, or to contribute a small amount toward the dinner.

Women's Fellowship Sets Meeting Tuesday

Womens fellowship of First Baptist church will hold a business and missionary meeting Tuesday, February 8, at the Mienar home, Griffin Creek road, with Mrs. J. E. Lester as hostess. Dessert will be served at 1 p.m. Mrs. Gertrude Neff will give devotionals and Mrs. F. Landers will present the missionary program on "proclaiming good news in Portugal and Argentina."

Mesdames Donn Platt, E. H. Niedermeyer, Charles Boyden and F. Stinson make up the social committee.

All women of the church are cordially invited.

Book Review

AAUW book review group will meet Wednesday, February 9, at 1 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Aletha Vawter, 97 Black Oak drive. Mrs. Milo Kubalek will review "Tatoosh" by Martha Hardy.

Speaker Explains Work for Blind; Announce Parties

Guest speaker for the meeting of Crater Lions' auxiliary Wednesday was Mrs. Chris Zink, a volunteer worker with the Oregon State Commission for the Blind.

Mrs. Zink spoke briefly of her experience as a volunteer to help the blind and visually handicapped. She told how these people are found and helped by the commission. During the discussion which followed she spoke of the need for aids such as Braille typewriter, talking book machine, the folding cane and how they are used. Members were asked to report on the visually handicapped as well as to be alert to possibilities of employment for them.

It was reported that the auxiliary netted \$35 for the March of Dimes from the sidewalk toll Saturday afternoon.

Plans for the Lions' auxiliaries interclub card party to be given in the Medford Hotel Friday, February 11, were discussed. All Lady Lions in the district are invited.

The auxiliary will also hold a valentine party Saturday, February 12, in the American Legion hall. Husbands of the members are invited and each couple is to come dressed as a song. A prize will be given for the costumes judged to be the best.

Mrs. Abb Gressett, Mrs. John Lusk and Mrs. Mike Morris were hostesses for the evening.

Session Planned By Pythian Club; Hostesses Named

Pythian club will meet Tuesday, February 8, at 8 p.m. at Girls' Community club. Hostesses will be Mrs. Margaret Davis and Mrs. Dollie Love.

Talisman temple, Pythian Sisters, met Tuesday evening with 29 members present. An application for membership by Mrs. Hugo Guenther was read.

Five recommendations made by the officers at a recent meeting were acted upon.

The refreshment committee was Mrs. Harry Bryant and Mrs. George Bryant. The committee for the next meeting, February 15, will be Mrs. Polly Offutt and Mrs. John Fugill.

Past Chiefs' club of Pythian Sisters met last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Della Watkins. Mrs. Harry Bryant will be hostess for the next meeting, February 16.

Sunday, February 6, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Miss Mollie Ray Is Hostess for Extension Unit

Upper Applegate—Miss Mollie Ray, Ruch, was hostess to members and guests of the Upper Applegate Home Extension unit Wednesday. Mrs. Robert Sorber gave the group an outline on present price and income trends. This is in keeping with the units emphasis on national economy.

Mrs. Sorber pointed out that family relations may be improved by inclusion of children of suitable age in discussions of the family budget. "In this way," she added, "the child will understand why he or she cannot have a new bicycle or dress."

Mrs. Arthur Strauss and Mrs. Arnold Bohner, members of the county alumnae committee, attended and other guests were Mrs. Milton Houston, Mrs. George Mitchell and Mrs. Gerald Hutchins.

The members voted at the meeting to donate \$10 to the March of Dimes drive. A dance and auction to benefit the MOD was announced by Mrs. Gail Buffington. The event is being sponsored by the Upper Applegate.

Auxiliary Announces Business Meeting; Junior Session Set

Disabled American Veterans' auxiliary will meet for a business session Tuesday, February 8, 8:00 p.m., at the D.A.V. hall, 1515 North Riverside avenue.

Members of the Junior auxiliary take home-made candy for a candy sale after the meeting.

Members of the Junior auxiliary to the Disabled American Veterans auxiliary, Jackson County, will meet Saturday, February 12, at 1 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Harvey Cassman, Seventh and Cherry streets, Central Point.

Two Groups Plan Annual Dinner Tuesday at Hall

The annual dinner for Medford firemen and Medford Lady Lions club members is scheduled this year for Tuesday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m., at the main fire hall.

The event will be potluck and each member is to take table service.

Wives of Medford Lions are invited. Anyone wanting transportation should call Mrs. Alva Perkins, 2-8633.

Princess Visits Crusoe Island

Scarborough, Tobago — (UPI) Princess Margaret flew today to this tiny "Robinson Crusoe" island in the Caribbean on the second leg of her goodwill tour of the British West Indies.

Tobago is the scene of Daniel Defoe's famed novel "Robinson Crusoe."

The 24-year-old princess brought with her from nearby Trinidad a collection of Calypso tunes which had so captivated her during her five-day stay on the island.

Waiting to greet the princess at Crown Point was the Tobago island warden, Ray D'Abadie. The princess had a busy schedule mapped out for her brief visit to this 26-mile long by 7½ mile wide island. She will sail tonight aboard the royal yacht Britannia for spice-rich Grenada.

Meeting Announced For Reames Chapter

Reames chapter will meet Thursday, February 10, at 8 p.m. in the Masonic temple. The 1955 officers and courtesy girls will be hostesses for the social hour.

Members Speak For Club Session In Central Point

Central Point—Mrs. Jerry MacDougal, 425 Linwood avenue, Medford, was hostess to members of the Crater Garden club when they met January 20. Mrs. Arthur Straus reported on a flower judging course which members are attending and members approved sponsorship of a conversation poster.

Mrs. Warren Holbrook was in charge of the program on poinsettias and Mrs. Charles Taylor spoke about woodpeckers. Roll call was answered by household hints and Mrs. Henry DeVoss won a prize.

Mrs. Ernest Ludwig was co-hostess. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Warren Holbrook with Mrs. Warren LaBounte as cohostess. Yearbooks will be given out at the next meeting.

Visitors Here

Mr. and Mrs. Shelby G. Tuttle and two children, Portland, are spending the weekend in Medford with Mr. Tuttle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Shelby M. Tuttle, 232 Valley View drive.



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