

Jackson County Native Daughter Observes Ninety-Sixth Birthday

Eagle Point—Mrs. Sarah G. Riley, Eagle Point resident and native daughter of Jackson county, was honored at a tea Thursday, October 6, which observed her 96th birthday anniversary. The tea was given at the home of her daughter, Mrs. George B. Holmes, Eagle Point, who was assisted by her sister, Mrs. Elmer E. Wilson, Medford.

The tea table was centered with a birthday cake encircled with flowers and pouring were Mrs. W. H. Young and Mrs. Don Kimmel. Other guests were Mrs. William Brown, Mrs. Minnie Crauce, Mrs. Walter Simmons, Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. Frank Brown, Mrs. Ruby Stowell, Mrs. James C. Lusk, Mrs. Lottie Van Scoy, Mrs. Jack Fortin, Mrs. Thomas Shearin, Mrs. W. V. Johnson, Mrs. Etta Jackson, Mrs. Perry Regester, Mrs. Harvey Stanley, Mrs. W. T. McKinney, Mrs. Verne Bonebrake and Miss Ava McKinney.

Mrs. Riley wore a corsage of pink and lavender althea blossoms from Mrs. Wilson's garden.

On October 6, 1859, the same year that Oregon was admitted into the Union, Mrs. Riley was born at Sterling, a mining district about four miles from Jacksonville. She is the daughter of Martin F. and Margaret Hurst. Mr. Hurst had been lured west by the news of the 1849 gold rush in California, coming "around the Horn" from Indiana. Mrs. Hurst crossed the plains with her parents by covered wagon, first settling in Portland and later moving to Sterling. This community, then known as Sterlingville, had more votes cast in the election of 1860 than any other precinct in Jackson county.

When a small girl, Sarah Hurst moved with her parents to a farm on Antelope creek three miles south of Eagle Point, where she attended the district schools and grew to womanhood. On December 31, 1882, Sarah was married at the home of her parents to Thomas Riley, the late Judge Purdin performing the ceremony. Her husband, too, was a pioneer. Wishing to avail himself of the advantages of the west, he rode horseback from his native state of Ohio to the Rogue river valley.

Except for five years spent in Jacksonville, Mrs. Riley has lived all her life in the Eagle Point area for she and her husband also established a home on Antelope. They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary there in 1937.

Mrs. Riley has seen many changes take place during her span of years. She recalls most distinctly when wool and other products were hauled by team and wagon to Roseburg, then the



Mrs. Sarah G. Riley, Eagle Point, born in the pioneer settlement of Sterlingville in Jackson county, celebrated her 96th birthday anniversary October 6. Mrs. Riley was honored at a tea given by her daughters, Mrs. George B. Holmes, Eagle Point, and Mrs. Elmer E. Wilson, Medford, in the former's home. (Brainerd photo)

terminal of the railroad, and the excitement when the railroad was continued through southern Oregon, and the site of a town to be named Medford was selected. In those days, the land where Medford now stands was pasture and fields.

Changes in home lighting are and example of the progress which Mrs. Riley has seen. Their home was first lighted by candles, then kerosene lamps, followed by a carbide home system, a home electric plant and finally the present-day electricity. She can look back to many changes in the lumber industry. The lumber which was used in building the family home was cut at Climax, which is at the head of Antelope, hauled by Mr. Riley to Jacksonville, where it was planed and then returned to the farm, a distance of about 60 miles. The complete trip took about four days.

Mrs. Riley recalls how hundreds of acres of wheat were once grown in the valley and hauled to the Snowy Butte Flour mill operated by the Holmes Brothers in Eagle Point. At the peak of the harvesting, wagons would line up for nearly a mile, awaiting delivery. An interesting fact is that flour made at this mill won second place at the St. Louis Fair, with flour from Pillsbury taking

first. During the boom days of 1910 these wheat fields were planted to Spitzenburg and Newtown apples and then later to pears.

The evolution of the dairy industry in the valley also has interested Mrs. Riley. When she was a girl, cows were milked into an open pail, often in the pasture. Today automatic milking machines are used, with the milk being piped directly to cooling systems without being exposed to the air or handled. In the early days, butter sold for 25 cents for a two-pound roll, and eggs for about 7 cents a dozen.

Mrs. Riley lived on the family farm until her husband died in 1938 at the age of 94. Since that time, she has made here home with her son, Thomas M. Riley, in Eagle Point. The 96-year-old woman is healthy and active, does her own housework, cans fruit, raises flowers, sews and is adept at braiding rugs. She is interested in current events and enjoys reading the daily paper, as well as magazines and books.

She is proud to be a native of Jackson county and of the fact that her three children, her son-in-law, the late George B. Holmes, her grandson, Orville R. Wilson of Elko, Nev., and her granddaughter, Mrs. John A. Redmond of Livingston, N.J., were all born in this county.

Sorority to Hold Guest Luncheon

Members of Epsilon chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma sorority, will meet for a nohost luncheon Saturday, October 15, at 12:30 p.m., in the Elks temple, Ashland. Members of Alpha chapter of Klamath Falls and Omega chapter, Grants Pass, will be guests.

Miss Dorothy Wilson, who recently returned from a three-months' tour of Europe, will show colored slides of her trip.

Sunday, October 8, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—SEVEN

WCTU To Hear Talk on Nutrition

Woman's Christian Temperance union will meet Thursday, October 13, at 2 p. m., in the Girls Community club. "Living Foods" and nutrition will be the afternoon's subject, and Mrs. Harlan P. Bosworth Jr., will present the program.

Mrs. Mabel Houck and her committee will serve refreshments in keeping with the program.

Miss Elizabeth Burr, treasurer,

has announced that October is annual membership month when dues should be paid. Mrs. Donna Taylor will lead the devotionals and Mrs. William McAllister will furnish a solo.

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Reames Chapter Plans For Obligation Night

Reames chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, will observe obligation and instruction night during their meeting Thursday, October 13, at 8 p.m., in the Masonic temple. Mrs. Glen Linn and Mrs. Charles Hoppe, cochairman, will serve refreshments.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.



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