

Native Daughter Recalls Olden Days in Rogue Valley

A visitor in the valley last week was Mrs. Elva Person, Burbank, Calif., oldest member of the pioneer Taylor family of southern Oregon. Mrs. Person, who is 88 years old, came north for the annual reunion, held September 2 at Tooville park. About 75 attended the event.

Mrs. Person, born May 12, 1868 in Grants Pass, recalled her girlhood days during an interview last week. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. John Wheeler and her mother was the former Rachel Taylor, daughter of the pioneer couple, Steven and Abigail Taylor, who came to Oregon in the early 1850's and took up a donation land claim on the slopes of Roxy Ann in Jackson county.

Recalls Toll Bridge

The visitor remembered that a highlight of her girlhood days were the visits of her grandparents, who lived with a son after the death of her husband, but who frequently stayed with the Wheelers in Grants Pass. The Wheelers would drive by farm wagon to the Rock Point toll bridge near the "lime works" at what is now Gold Hill, and there would meet relatives who would drive from their home farther up the river.

"We always crossed the bridge by foot," she said, "because we couldn't afford the 50 cents toll which Mr. Cavanaugh, the bridge owner, charged for wagons." The family members would enjoy a picnic meal together before each wagon load started on their return trip in opposite directions.

Mrs. Person, who was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Clifford, 1211 West Main street, displayed a number of family treasures. Some of these have been placed together under glass in a large frame in order to preserve them. The articles include a picture of the schoolhouse in Colerain, Mass., where Abigail Taylor went to school as a small child and which, according to the inscription, shows the first raising of an American flag over a Massachusetts schoolhouse.

Also displayed is a scrap of a dress made for Grandmother Abigail with the notation that the seamstress "cut and basted the dress for the sum of 25 cents." Another scrap of material is from a counterpane spun and woven by Abigail Clark Taylor in Shelburne, Mass., before her marriage to Steven Taylor, the counterpane having been part of her "setting out." Mrs. Person explained that the articles collected by early-day brides-to-be in Massachusetts were referred to as her "wedding setting out," much as later-day girls referred to their "hope chests."

Another memento is a scrap of "linsey woolsey" material from a dress worn by Hannah Clark McKowen, who was killed by Indians in Massachusetts in 1759. The thrifty pioneer woman made the dress into a quilt, with a homespun lining, and it was given to Abigail, who used it to hang in a doorway of her pioneer cabin on Roxy Ann.

Picture by Britt

Another picture in the frame was a picture of Hobart Taylor, one of Steven and Abigail's sons, and which was taken by Peter Britt, pioneer Jacksonville photographer. Mrs. Person recalled that Hobart had joined the United States Army as a young man and had been trained at the old Camp Baker, (for which the Jackson county road is named). The young man joined the Army with the promise that he would be sent east, she said, because he wished to return east and meet again "the girl he left behind." His company was sent to Oregon City on the first lap of the journey east, and there misfortune befell the young man. He first learned that "the girl" had married someone else, and the troops were ordered into eastern Washington to quell an Indian uprising. Hobart Taylor spent the remainder of his Army service fighting Indians and guarding immigrant trains, and never was sent east, she recalled.

Another of Mrs. Person's treasures is a sampler made by her grandmother, Abigail Taylor, when she was four and five years of age. Embroidered on

handwoven material, the sampler has the traditional letters and numbers on the top, but the bottom of the design was never completed. Mrs. Person has willed it to a young girl among the Taylor descendants and hopes that it will some day be completed.

Favorite Story

Mrs. Person related what she said was her grandmother's favorite story about the crossing of the plains to Oregon. When the immigrant train reached a point in Nevada where the trail branched, one road going to California and the other into Oregon, two men appeared on the trail, each carrying a small girl on the horse with him. They asked the women of the train to take charge of the two youngsters, saying the mother had hired them to take the three to Portland where she would seek medical aid, but that she had died shortly thereafter. One girl was two small to talk, the other spoke but with a speech impediment which made it difficult to understand what she said.

The women accepted the responsibility of the children, and the two men hurried off down the trail which led to California. A day or so later one of the men in the train was idly tossing a \$10 gold piece up and down when the older girl asked to see it and then said "Mama had a big box filled with these."

Only then did the adults in the train begin to wonder what became of the dead woman's possessions, and to conjecture that possibly she had not died of natural causes. One family in the immigrant train later took the two girls to Portland, and thereafter Abigail Taylor heard nothing more of them. "All grandmother's life she wondered and fretted about the girls," Mrs. Person said, and added that she herself had made an effort to trace the family through the name "Wyeth" which was what the older girl had called herself, although some thought the name could have been "White" or "Wyatt."

Visits Chum

Mrs. Person, who is a "cousin once removed" of Mrs. Clifford, said she planned to visit in Grants Pass before she left since three of her girlhood friends still live there. She was a member of the first class ever to graduate in that town. Mrs. Person was mildly annoyed with the son with whom she makes her home because he has forbidden her to ride on buses. "Last year when I was here I went everywhere on the bus and got along fine," she said.

The 88-year-old woman is busy, cheerful, and industrious. Her visit to Medford did not mean that she would remain idle, for she brought along her sewing equipment and her quilt material. When this reporter arrived at the Clifford home, Mrs. Person was busy tying a small quilt which she was making for a friend, and also had some Red Cross work with her.

Mrs. Person believes in helping others—she has been a Red Cross volunteer worker for no less than 39 years—O.S.

Townsend Club Plans Picnic for Wednesday

Medford Townsend club has planned another picnic meeting for Wednesday, September 12, in Hawthorne park. A potluck luncheon will be served at 12:30 p.m.

The secretary asks members having birthdays in September to attend, and it is stated also that urgent business is on the agenda.

At last week's meeting 23 members and guests were present. A short business session closed with a program of various readings.

The club and auxiliary alternate, meeting every Wednesday. Visitors are welcome.

Society

Auxiliary Members Resume Program

Women of the auxiliary to Crater Lake post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, have already started the fall program of activities.

Members are at this time assisting Girl Scout Troop 159, which the auxiliary sponsors, in the collection of old newspapers which the troop delivers to fruit packing plants. Funds from the project will be used for a future trip to Yellowstone National park which is being planned.

Mrs. Maurice Ritchie and Mrs. E. Warren are troop leaders. At the last meeting of the auxiliary it was announced that the sewing club will hold the first fall meeting at the home of Mrs. Ivan Lusk, on Manzanita street in Central Point September 19. Dessert will be served.

Plans for a District 7 meeting of VFW and auxiliary to be held at Shady Cove September 16 were discussed. Many members plan to attend.

Mrs. Ben Allison reported on the Field day held September 3 at Camp White, saying that it was well attended and that many veterans participated. Attending from Crater Lake post and auxiliary were Mr. and Mrs. Lusk, Mrs. Amy Randle, Mrs. Ralph Pittcock, the auxiliary president, Mrs. Allison and Mrs. Fred Lawrence.

Guests at the meeting were Mr. and Mrs. Dan Krotz, Shady Cove, Bert Swigh and Henry Albrecht, Grants Pass.

Party Server



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Vicki Lee Milnes Gives Swim Party

Mrs. Vicki Lee Milnes entertained her kindergarten classmates last Thursday with a swimming party, held at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Milnes, 15 North Groveland avenue.

A "back to school motif" was used in the program where the children gathered at refreshment time. The centerpiece decoration depicted a typical school room scene. Primary pencils with the names of guests engraved were used as place cards.

The children attending were all graduates of the East Side Kindergarten and all will attend Roosevelt grade school this fall.

Special honored guests were the kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Jack Walker and Mrs. Norman Hillier.

Children attending were Janet Knight, Cindy Walker, Jimmy Price, Tommy Caspey, Ricky Groomes, Marty Brown, Bruce Legas, Billy McVair and Vicki Milnes. Miss Gail Bender assisted Mrs. Milnes with arrangements for the party and acted as life guard at the pool.

The pioneers who crossed the plains in Conestoga wagons carried with them slips of roses as hundreds of old fashioned roses blooming today in western states will testify.

CALENDAR

Calendar notices and news for the society section of The Mail Tribune must be submitted in writing and deadline for the Sunday edition is 3 p.m. Friday. Deadline for the weekly calendar is 9 a.m. of the day of publication and for week day news is 3 a.m. the day before publication.

Monday:

- 6 p.m.—Christian Business and Professional Women, Jackson hotel.
- 7:30 p.m.—Eagle Point Lions auxiliary, Teen-Age club.
- 7:45 p.m.—Gorsline circle, First Baptist church, home of Mrs. Gary Shuler, 17 Corning court.
- 7:45 p.m.—Westminster guild, First Presbyterian church, at church.
- 8 p.m.—Degree of Honor, Redman hall.
- 8 p.m.—Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority, home of Mrs. Lyman Smith, 317 Howard street.
- 8 p.m.—Neighbors of Woodcraft, Moose Hall, 11 Newtown street.
- 8 p.m.—St. Mark's evening guild, Parish house.
- 8 p.m.—Scottish Rite Women's club, Masonic hall.

Tuesday:

- 10 a.m.—Woman's Mission society, Eastwood Baptist church, at church.
- 10:30 a.m.—Reese Creek Extension unit, home of Mrs. Jim Duncan, Ball road.
- 12:30 p.m.—First Presbyterian circles: Charity, home of Mrs. Jasper Grigsby, Eagle Point; Faith, home of Mrs. O. R. Emig, 16 Glen Oak court; Grace, home of Mrs. E. B. DeVore, 12 Glen Oak court; Hope, home of Mrs. Scott Davis, summer home on Rogue River; Mercy, Fireplace room, at church; Temple, home of Mrs. C. R. Fry, 407 Laurel; Trinity, home of Mrs. Marris Gibbons, Route 2, Box 252.
- 1 p.m.—Bethany, First Presbyterian church, home of Mrs. Richard Alley, 3 Greenway circle.
- 1 p.m.—Women's Fellowship, First Baptist church, church annex.
- 1 p.m.—St. Anne's Altar society, Sacred Heart parish hall.

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Bridge Club Plays For Master Points

Riverside Bridge club played for master points when the club met last Wednesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Pruitt. Mrs. W. W. Stevenson and Mrs. R. J. Conroy scored 82 points to lead north-south players, and Mrs. Fred Purdin and Mrs. George Dean headed east-west players with a score of 74½ points.

Other north-south winners were Berg Marten and Dr. George Dean, second, 76 points; Mrs. B. B. Hughes and Mrs. H. J. Boyd, third, 70½ points; Mrs. F. R. Baker and Roy Pruitt, fourth, 68 points.

Additional east-west winners were Mrs. T. J. Fuson and Miss Isabel Stuart, second, 72½ points; Mrs. Van Gilbert and Mrs. C. L. Howard, third, 62 points; Mrs. B. L. Sanderson and Mrs. Fred Rehling, fourth, 59½ points.

Baptist Women Plan Meeting for Tonight

Gorsline circle of First Baptist church will meet tonight at 7:45 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Gary Shuler, 17 Corning court. A missionary program on Formosa will be given by Mrs. Don Milner. Visitors will be welcomed.

West Side Mothers Announce Meeting

West Side Mothers' club will hold the first meeting of the school year Wednesday, September 12, at 8 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Fred Beck, Old Stage road.

Committee chairmen have been appointed by the executive officers and are Mrs. John Gates, hospitality; Mrs. Allyn A. Monroe, ways and means; Mrs. Robert Kagy, library; Mrs. Fred Beck, publicity. Room mothers are Mrs. Robert Johnston, Mrs. M. A. Salade, Mrs. Chauncey Florey and Mrs. John E. White Jr.

Chapter Announces Fall Homecoming

Central Point—Nevita chapter, Order of Eastern Star, will celebrate homecoming night Tuesday, September 11. A potluck dinner will be served at 6:30 o'clock and members are asked to take table service.

A stated meeting and initiation will be held at 8 p.m. with Mrs. Melvin McGrew, worthy matron, presiding.

Mrs. Walter Turnquist is chairman of the dinner. If your shoes get wet, apply saddle soap and let them dry with the soap on to keep the leather from stiffening.

Party Celebrates Tenth Birthday

Fritzie Beck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Beck, Old Stage road, celebrated his tenth birthday last Tuesday with a swimming party and wiener roast.

Present were Jimmy and Bobby Barry, Donald Kengla, Brian Porter, Dick Florey, John Gates, Jimmy Dawson, Jeffrey Monroe, Jerry and Terry Winemout, Riecke Gilcrest of Arcadia, Calif., a former West Side resident, and Fritzie's sister, Betsy Beck.

Union Daughters Announce Meeting

Elta Deuel Hubbs tent, Daughters of Union Veterans, will meet Tuesday, September 11, at 8 p.m. in the county courthouse auditorium.

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