

Legion Auxiliary Organized First Girl Scout Troop Here

Girl Scouts of this area can be proud of the fact that a small group of civic minded women of the valley understood what the Girl Scout program could mean to girls here.

It was early in 1927 when a group of well-known women of Medford became concerned with the structure of forming a permanent organization of Girl Scouts here.

Mrs. R. E. Green, of Medford, and the late Mrs. Ernest Scott were the first two registered commissioners (now called presidents). Mrs. Leonard Carpenter, Mrs. Gordon Vorheis, Mrs. H. Wilson, Mrs. Ethel Latham and others were committee members working with the president on the organization and were called a community committee.

Day Camp Site
In 1935 through the efforts of Mrs. Green, Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. Vorheis, a Day Camp site was made possible with the cooperation of the Medford city council. Many well-known women have served as Day Camp chairmen, unit leaders, (with the help of the older Girl Scout as aides,) at the site on the Bear creek for two-week, day camp sessions. This has kept up through the years and is well attended.

First Troop
The first troop was organized in May, 1927, and was sponsored by the American Legion auxiliary. Troop 1 was led by Mrs. Catheryn Belcher, then called captain, and trained by Mrs. Helen Wilson with the help of Mrs. Val Stark from regional headquarters. The troop met at the Baptist church Friday evenings.

As leaders and girls became aware of the program, other troops were formed and a part time director was needed. Mrs. Mabel Sims was hired.

In 1927 the first camping program was undertaken at a site on the Applegate river near Rush, which was donated by Mrs. Leonard Carpenter and called Camp Willpen Pines.

It was used successfully for several years. There was a large cabin furnished by Mrs. Carpenter, and a mess hall was built by the American Legion and Boy Scouts. Boy Scout equipment was used and the American Legion and Lady Lions gave camp supplies.

The camp continued until 1933 when mining interests in the area made the camp site undesirable. Mrs. Charles Bateman served as the first camp director and at different periods from 1932 until 1935.

Registered Scouts
There were only 25 registered Scouts in 1928, but by 1930 there were 175 girls and adults actively interested in Scouting.

Mrs. Gordon Vorheis donated the fee to incorporate the organization which was completed Feb. 2, 1928, to be known as Medford Girl Scout Council, Inc. Since the council had been operating with only a part time director, Mrs. Marjorie Pena Hopkins was hired in January, 1937.

Brownie Revel Is Annual 'Playday'
The Brownie Revel is an annual "get together" for Brownie Scouts. It is known as a "playday" and is planned by the program committee. The Revel is usually planned in the spring and is held in each district once a year. McLoughlin Junior High has been successfully used for the Revel, but last year the Medford district held its Brownie Revel at the Velle park on the Rogue river to give more variety in the program. It was attended by 289 Brownie Scouts.

A treasure hunt was part of the program and an Indian theme was used with approximately 40 girls assigned to each "tribe." They all wore Indian headbands and Senior Scouts of district planned and lead each "tribe" in activities, which included crafts, games, folk dances and songs.

The Brownie Revel for the Grants Pass district will be held Wednesday, March 13, at 1:30 p.m. at Highland school. Plans have been made for 27 troops of second and third grade Brownies to do new crafts and songs and games. The Grants Pass Senior Scouts will assist in teaching and serving refreshments.

as a full time director and served the council for several years.

In the early years many well-known Medford women became interested, serving as commissioners, committee chairmen and leaders. A leaders club also was formed. Among those who contributed time and energy in the early years were Mrs. Alberta Morrow, Mrs. William Holloway, Mrs. Reese Braley, Mrs. Myron Root, Mrs. John Boyle, Mrs. H. N. Hogan, Miss Helen Bullis, Mrs. Charles Thatcher, Mrs. O. A. Eden. The latter four are still active today. The late Mrs. Porter Neff and Mrs. Raymond Driver also were among the first workers.

Building Chairmanship
Under the camp building chairmanship of workers such as John Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Jones, Col. Charles Stafford, O. A. (Zeke) Eden, Roy Boyd and at present Maurice Ritchey, who is serving his second term, and fathers of "Scouters," civic groups, interested organizations and business men who have combined their efforts, Camp Low Echo has been made one of the most outstanding camps on the Pacific Coast.

Proceeds from the Girl Scout annual cookie sale and the annual doll project of the Kiwanian Dames have also given money to provide improvements and lasting additions to the camp each year, such as shelters, infirmary, staff house, kitchen, boats and equipment needed in the kitchen to meet standards of the national organization and the American Camping association.

The council was known as a "traditional council" up to 1945 and during that year was changed to the "association" type council, making it a more democratic unit allowing every registered adult a vote on making policy, which was definitely an improvement and which gave a better vision for training on the job with better understanding of each person's responsibility within the organization.

Jurisdiction Extended
During 1948, Girl Scouting in the valley extended its jurisdiction to include Josephine county and all of Jackson county and became known as the Rogue Valley Area Girl Scout Council, Inc. Mrs. M. N. Hogan was elected the first council president and served for two terms with representatives on the board of directors from Grants Pass, Ashland, Medford and Illinois Valley. A field director also was added to the staff.

With the expansion of the jurisdiction business men and individuals from Grants Pass and Ashland made contributions of materials and efforts to the camp each year.

Girls from the council jurisdiction camp at Low Echo. Among the gifts from Grants Pass was a new Chevrolet Station Wagon presented to the council by the Kelt Chevrolet company in May, 1955, which has been used for groups of Girl Scouts for program, conferences, training and many camp and staff needs with great appreciation.

Present Registration
There is now a registration of more than 2,300 Brownies, Intermediate and Senior Scouts in 175 troops with 800 adults in the council. Adults are from Medford, Ashland, Pinehurst, Grants Pass, Rogue River, Wolf Creek, Murphy, Wonder, Wilderville, Elk, Trail, Illinois Valley, Talent, Phoenix, Central Point and Jacksonville. They work in various capacities so the program will expand to greater success.

With the jurisdiction of West Siskiyou being added this year, plans are being made to give limited service to 150 girls in 16 troops from Yreka, Hill, Ft. Jones and Happy Camp.

Swimming Privileges Extended Scouts by Y
Girl Scouts accompanied by adults are given the privilege of swimming at the Medford YMCA without charge, when clearing through the Girl Scout office by their leader. Adults cannot enter swim area in street clothes but must wear swim suit, shower and be with the girls, scout officials said. A qualified life guard is always on duty.

This courtesy from the Y gives Girl Scout the opportunity to earn requirements for the swimmer badge before camp opens. Only those with these requirements completed are allowed in the boats and canoes at Camp Low Echo, the Girl Scouts' camp at Lake of the Woods.

United Fund Groups Provide Scout Budget
The Rogue Valley Area Girl Scout Council, Inc., is one of several organizations which received funds from the Ashland-Talent Youth Fund drive, the Josephine County United Fund, the West Siskiyou County Girl Scout Fund campaign and the Rogue River Girl Scout fund.

The camp was named "Low Echo" after the founder of Girl Scouting, Juliette Low, and an echo of the work she began in Savannah, Ga., in 1912. Low

Echo was opened for a three-week period within six weeks of the time work started.

Since 1946 longer camping periods have been necessary to take care of the growing membership and expanding jurisdiction of the Girl Scout organization. The camp building program was kept separate from the camp operating program.

The operation of a Girl Scout camp is expected to be self-supporting and must keep high standards for health and safety of the girls. This can only be achieved by increasing the fee as necessary and by gifts from interested and civic-minded citizens and fraternal groups of which there have been many through the years, helping with campships and providing equipment and materials.

Under the camp building chairmanship of workers such as John Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Jones, Col. Charles Stafford, O. A. (Zeke) Eden, Roy Boyd and at present Maurice Ritchey, who is serving his second term, and fathers of "Scouters," civic groups, interested organizations and business men who have combined their efforts, Camp Low Echo has been made one of the most outstanding camps on the Pacific Coast.

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BROWNIE TROOP—Shown above is Girl Scout Troop 1, the fourth grade Brownie troop at Jefferson school. The 15-member troop is led by Mrs. C. J. Fox Jr., and Mrs. Ralph Bross, and two Intermediate Girl Scouts, Loria Beth Buonocore and Layne Galbraith, are assisting Brownies to learn Scouting songs. The troop has several projects for holidays during the year. Last Christmas members made and decorated styrofoam picture frames, they made baskets for Valentine's Day, and, after a tour of a local candy store, they made candy for the baskets. Members of the troop are Sharon Bross, Madelyn Buonocore, Vickie Clark, Darlene Flass, Susan Fox, Susan Gordon, Libby Ann Ivester, Ann Jensen, Darcy Johnson, Billie McKesson, Pamela Newland, Mary Lee Rhodes, Karen Schulz, Nancy Taylor and Patty Malott.

Activities of Scouts Seen on Seven Days
Major Girl Scout activities and interests are demonstrated in the seven days of Girl Scout Week.
The week opens with Girl Scout Sunday. Other activity days are Homemaking Day (Monday), Citizenship Day (Tuesday), Health and Safety Day (Wednesday), International Friendship Day (Thursday), Arts and Crafts Day (Friday), and Out-of-Doors Day (Saturday).

We Salute You . . . Girl Scouts



Upon Your 45th Birthday And Fine Youth Activities!



MEDFORD'S FASHION CENTER

We are happy to join with the people of this community in greeting Rogue River Valley Girl Scouts upon the occasion of the 45th birthday.

Girl Scout Week MARCH 10 to 16



A CALL FOR AID..



THE Medford Council of Girl Scouts, Inc., needs help.

It is currently conducting a drive to recruit adult women in our city for the important role of assisting in several ways in the Girl Scout movement.

HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

There are not enough leaders for the number of girls ready and anxious to become part of this outstanding activity. Can WE afford to let these youngsters down?

As a Medford public service institution we are pleased to join in this important effort to emphasize affirmative value for our children.

Medford has always responded to worthy appeals. This one is directed to the time, talents and energy of women in the community. There is no doubt, too, that a call for their help will bring results.

Published In Cooperation With The GIRL SCOUTS by The Bakers of - - -



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We Know What Service Means!

We take the opportunity to acclaim the Outstanding Service of the

Girl Scouts

of this valley and their volunteer Adult Leaders — Happy Birthday

Fred Gatter Ins. Co.

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