

# 'Sissy Seniors'

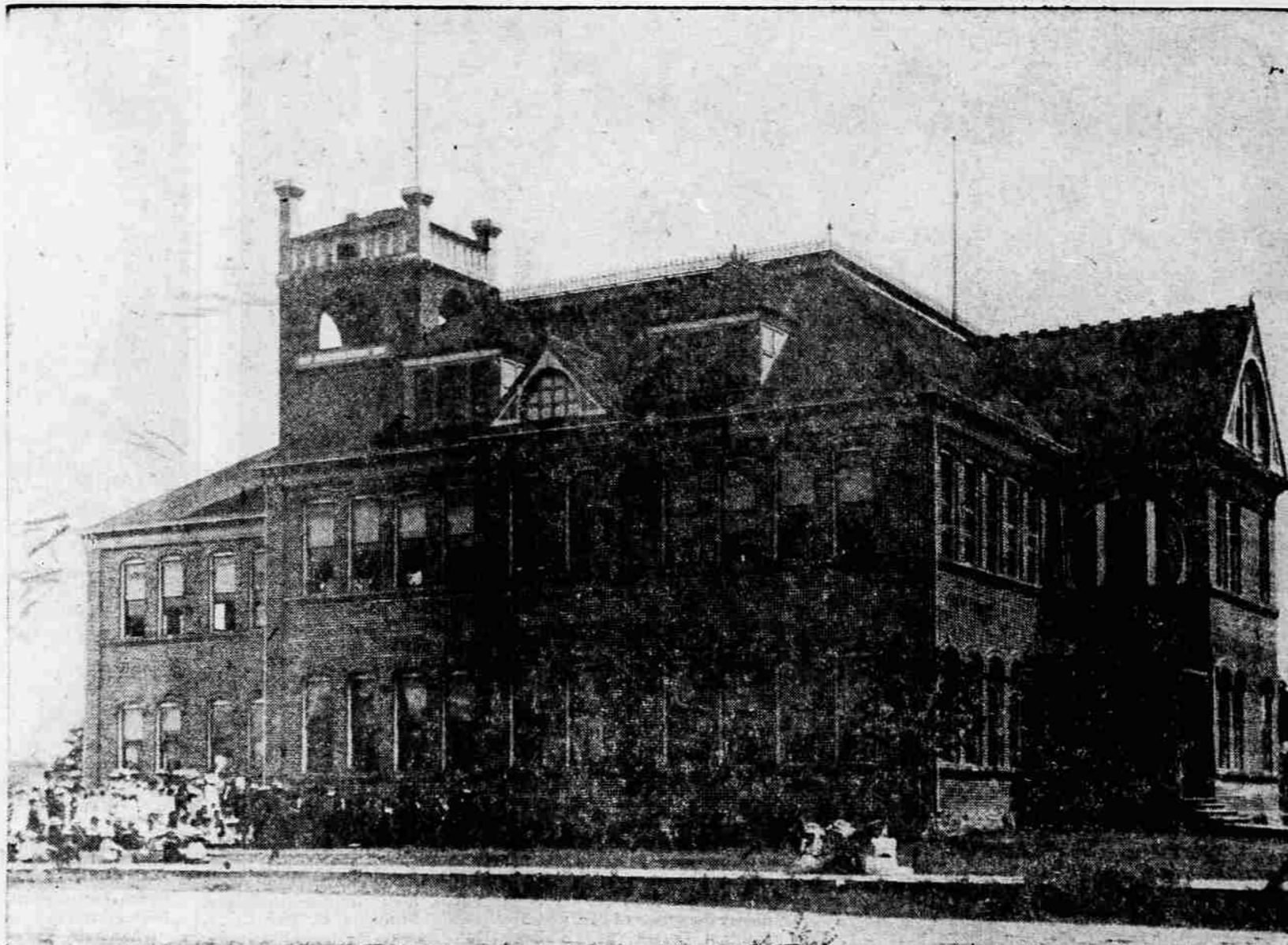
By Olive Starcher

On May 30, 1907, seven young women were graduated from Medford High school. Because it was an all-girl class, they were dubbed "The Seven Sissy Seniors." Only four of the seven original members of the 1907 class are now living, and these four held a reunion Monday and Tuesday.

Together again were Inez McCray, now Mrs. Dave R. Wood of Medford, who has lived here almost continuously since graduation; Ethel Curry, now Mrs. C. H. Putney of Ashland; Flora Gray, now Mrs. Frank Pumphrey of Portland, and Helen Watt of Altadena, Calif.

Plans for the reunion were started about two years ago by Mrs. Putney, who wrote to the other three former classmates and made arrangements for the gathering. Monday the four women spent the day in Ashland at the Putney home talking of their school days and events of the 50 years which have elapsed since they attended classes together in Medford's one schoolhouse at the corner of West Main street and Oakdale avenue.

Tuesday was spent in Medford hunting up old landmarks and visiting with two former teachers still living here, Miss Jane Snedcor and her brother, Fred Snedcor.



In 1907 when "The Seven Sissy Seniors" were graduated, Medford's entire school system was housed in this building which stood where the present Jackson county courthouse is now located. M. B. Signs was superintendent and Miss Bessie Hill was principal. Also on the faculty were Miss Olive Huffer and Miss Jenhie (Jane) Snedcor. Fred Snedcor first taught in Medford and then resigned to teach in the Grants Pass High school. After the erection of a separate building to house high school classes, this brick structure became the first Washington grade school. The picture is from the collection of W. E. Thomas, 41 Ashland avenue, who as a boy attended grade school here.



In 1907 high school senior girls all wore handmade white shirtwaists with high necks and elaborate embroidery and tucking. All seven of "the sissy seniors" had long hair, of course, and some wore big bows of taffeta or grosgrain ribbon at the back. Photographed one day after classes the seven girls were (left to right) Flora Gray, now Mrs. Frank Pumphrey of Portland; Sadie Van Dyke, member of a pioneer valley family; Ethel Curry, now Mrs. C. H. Putney of Ashland; Inez McCray, now Mrs. Dave R. Wood and the only one of the remaining four who lives in Medford; Helen Watt, who came from Altadena, Calif., for the reunion; Minnie Corey, who later became the first wife of the late Mayor Clarence Meeker of Medford, and Eleanor Maule, member of another old-time family.



Fred Snedcor and his sister, Miss Jane Snedcor, who were on the faculty of Medford High school when the Class of 1907 was in school, were hosts Tuesday afternoon to the four remaining members of the class. Mr. Snedcor taught science and his sister art and other classes.



The four remaining members of Medford High school's class of 1907 gathered Tuesday afternoon at the home of Miss Jane Snedcor and her brother, Fred, who were on the faculty when the four were attending high school. Pictured (left to right) are Mrs. C. H. Putney, Ashland, (Ethel Curry); Mrs. Frank Pumphrey, Portland, (Flora Gray); Mrs. Dave R. Wood, Medford, (Inez McCray), and Miss Helen Watt of Altadena, Calif. Mrs. Putney, wife of a retired railroad man, raised two sons; Mrs. Pumphrey, who taught piano for a time, and her husband, retired businessman, collect antiques for a hobby; Mrs. Wood, whose late husband was a Medford arborist, is known for her ability as a gardener, and Miss Watt, a businesswoman, teaches English classes for the foreign born as a hobby.



The 1896 graduating class of Medford High school was composed of five girls and three young men. Shown (left to right, front row) are Helen Haltan, G. A. Gregory, school principal, Zoë Bruns and Ida Weaver; in the back row (left to right) are Floyd White, Edith White, Warren Cameron, May Phipps and Walter Ferguson. Only Walter Ferguson, who now lives in Central Point, still makes his home in the valley. Mr. Ferguson left Medford after graduation and for 25 years lived in various Washington cities, returning to Jackson county in 1927 to make his home permanently. Mr. Ferguson is not in touch with any of his former classmates. This picture was loaned by Mr. and Mrs. John Black, 216 South Orange street.