

Church Founded in Early Jacksonville Years



JACKSONVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

The oldest Protestant church west of the Rocky Mountains still stands in Jacksonville after 105 years. Dedicated in 1854, services were held there by both the Methodists and Presbyterians until 1881 when the Presbyterians built a church there. Few changes have been made to the building.

Services were not held in the church for several years. During the past year Sunday services under the auspices of the Village church have been held at 10:45 a.m. Plans are under way to have the church, which is across from the Jacksonville museum, open to the public on week days during the late spring and summer months.

Methodist Group Solicited Money To Save Building

By PEG HUTCHINSON
Mail Tribune Church Editor
Jacksonville in the early 1850s usually brings to mind thoughts of gold since that was what attracted persons to the small town in southern Oregon.

Gold was important, very important indeed in 1853, but only two years after the first gold nugget was found on Jackson creek, a large religious group arrived in Jacksonville.

Under the guidance and encouragement of the Rev. Joseph S. Smith, steps were taken to found a Methodist church. Active workers for the project were Mrs. Smith, and a Miss Overbeck and Miss Royal.

Solicit Funds

Times were flush during the gold rush days and Miss Overbeck and Miss Royal had little difficulty going from camp to camp to solicit funds. Gamblers, sporting men, and persons from all walks of life gave generously for the construction of the church.

Land for the church was deeded by James Cluggage, who with J. R. Poole are accredited with the discovery of gold in the area. Timbers for the church and shingles for the roof were hand-hewn by William Kaler, who hauled them to the original site by ox team.

Actual work began on the building in 1853 with David Linn, pioneer builder, erecting the structure. The church was not finished that year, but was moved to the spot where it now stands across from the Jacksonville museum.

Building Completed

The building was completed by the Rev. T. F. Royal, successor to Mr. Smith. The first minister served as Oregon's representative in Congress from 1869 to 1871.

Dedicated June 1, 1854, the Methodist church building was also used as a place of worship by the Presbyterians who had donated and worked towards its construction. The two denominations alternated in conducting church services there until in 1881 the Presbyterians constructed their own church, which too, still stands in Jacksonville.

The church was the first Protestant church in southern Oregon and is reported to be the oldest Protestant church west of the Rocky mountains.

Except for a new ceiling in recent years, no known changes have been made inside the church. The original pulpit and altar railing still stand and the original flooring, made of "whip-saw" lumber which cost more than \$200 per thousand and laid with square nails, is still in use.

Around Horn

The Mason and Hamlin reed organ, dated 1881, was shipped around the Horn to Crescent City from where it was packed by mule to Jacksonville. The organ is still used in the weekly worship services.

During the Oregon Centennial year an old Bible printed in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1805, and loaned to the church by Mrs. Shelby Wilcox, Ashland, will be used for the Sunday services.

Deed Land

August 12, 1937, the trustees of the Methodist church deeded the land and the church to the city of Jacksonville. A commemorative service was held with the Rev. E. N. Mallory, pastor of the Jacksonville First Presbyterian church, and the Business Men's association of Jacksonville in charge of the event.

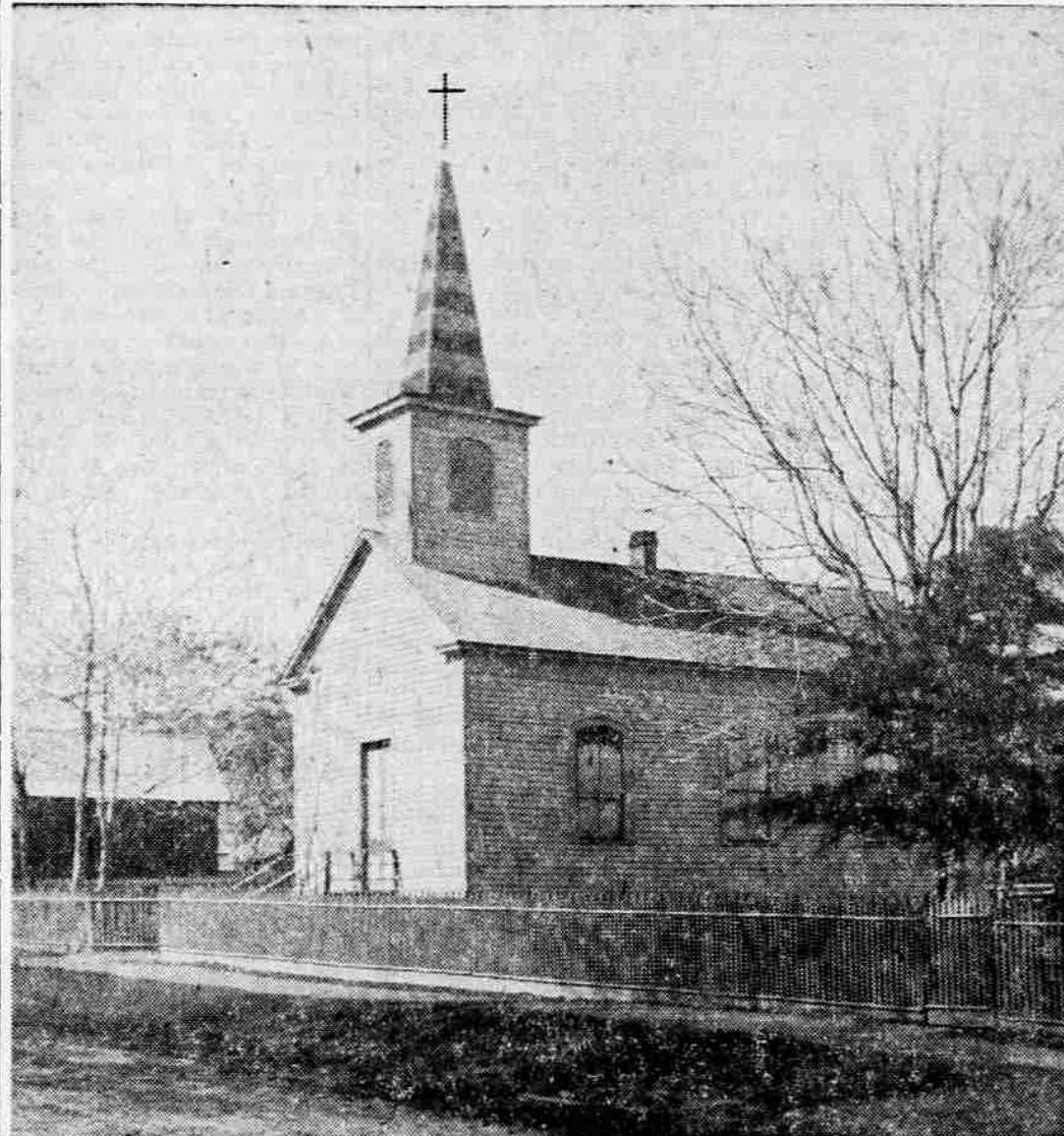
A group estimated at more than 700 attended the service. The windows of the building were opened and loud speakers set up so all could hear the service. Speaker was Professor L. Vining, Ashland, who was born and reared in Jacksonville.

Contributions received that day paid for materials for a new roof.

Pays for Repairs

In September, 1938, another rally was held. The Rev. Sherman L. Devine, pastor of First Presbyterian church, Medford, was speaker. The money received that year paid for other necessary repairs inside the building. Also completed was the installation of water pipes and lawn and shrubbery planted.

For many years only annual services were held at the church. During the past year weekly services at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday have been held under the auspices of



BRITT PHOTO - Peter Britt, Jacksonville early day photographer, photographed the Methodist church there built in 1854. Except for the fence, which was removed many years ago, the church has changed little during its 105 years. A new ceiling

was added inside the building about 20 years ago. In 1937 the trustees of the Methodist church deeded the land and building to the city which is now responsible for its upkeep.

SCHOOL NEWS

Medford High School

Edited by Barbra Nulton, Reporters, Rosemary Eismann, De Russell, Peggy Fisch, and Margie Good.

The student council has nominated candidates for the associated student body offices for the 1959-60 school year.

Those for president are Paul Moore, Pat McLoughlin, Carolyn Mencke, and Doug Kliever.

Vice presidential candidates are Dick Peterson, Clinton Steiger, Ray Knopasek, and Keith Berg.

Those nominated for secretary include Molly Barker, Marian Parsons, Patty Barnes, and Peggy Keith.

Linda Lowry, Elaine Jennings, Mieke Noble, and John Lacy are nominees for business manager.

Those nominated for treasurer are Beverly Todd, Toni Spence, Sherrie Funk, and Loretta Caldwell.

Candidates for yell queen are Jaci Skelton, Ros Randles, Joy Olson, and Pat Newberry. Those for yell king are Don McCurdy, Ken Hall, John Cantrall.

Thursday was the deadline for petitions of 50 signatures to be turned into room 217. The petition gives the petitioner the right to run for the office for which he petitioned.

Primary elections will be held April 1.

Solos and ensembles in vocal, piano, woodwind, strings, and brass divisions participated in the solo and ensemble contest festival Saturday at Fruitdale school near Grants Pass.

Sophomores and seniors received their scores from the Iowa tests taken last year.

The cards told each person's score; the norm being 50. Many students were surprised to find they had scored in the eight for ninth percentile in the quantitative thinking part of the test. Others found themselves to be lower than expected in the other four divisions of the test which included social studies background, natural science, correctness in writing, and vocabulary. As a whole, however, both classes averaged well above the national norm.

Juniors are scheduled to take the exam sometime this spring.

Last week it was time once again for juniors to sign up for the National Merit Scholarship test to be given April 28. The test will enter the juniors in all of the National Merit Scholarship programs and certain other scholarship competition.

The Village church, Richard Merriman, social studies instructor at Jackson school, Medford, has been conducting the services.

Plans are under way to have the church open to the public on week days during the late spring and summer

months this Centennial year.

Good Friday services were held at the First Christian church Friday afternoon for senior high students. Captain Ricken of the Salvation Army was the speaker.

Only students who had brought excuses from home were excused for the service.

Phoenix High School

Edited by Ginger Martin

Some outstanding Phoenix High school musicians performed in the annual solo-ensemble contest on March 28 in Grants Pass.

Joyce Hunter has received superior ratings on her French horn in the past, and she hopes to duplicate the performance this year.

Joyce Stockstill is playing the well-known flute solo, "Chinese Dance," from the Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky. She hopes to repeat her usual "top notch" performance.

The girls' quartet will also perform. They sing two selections, "Robin in the Rain" and "Grant Us Thy Peace."

Under the instruction of William Schulz, shop teacher, a number of projects in advanced woodworking are nearing completion. For the school athletic department Rance Eagleton has made a shot put ring and several starting blocks. The wood shop is building flats for the Ag department to be used in the spring planting projects.

Other projects nearing completion are a walnut desk by Larry Morin; a mahogany chest of drawers by Roger Gascon; a China corner cabinet by James Scott; and a gun cabinet by Sande Beddoe.

To better acquaint the students in the Spanish classes with the people whose language they are studying, Mrs. Reno Offutt showed them slides she took when she lived in Bolivia during 1951 and 1952.

The slides showed the landscape on the Altiplano, which is a high plateau of 14,500 feet; Carnavales, a pre-lenten celebration observed by the Indians; and the important animals of South America. Mrs. Offutt also showed slides of the city of La Paz, a fancy hotel with a patio and several gardens, and Patino's Palace.

Exhibited in the hall now are two choices of class rings. From the ring styles the sophomore class will choose the style of class rings.

The class officers - Otter Richey, Shearon Poole, Frances Kievet, and Beverly Johnson - selected the two styles over the other two for presentation to the class.

Did you ever see a five-inch Cecropia moth? After caring for the cocoon since last fall when Barrie Witte brought it into biology class, Roscoe Larson finally saw the results of his labor on the morning of March 26 when a beautiful Cecropia moth

emerged from the gray cocoon.

This moth, a native to the east coast of the United States, is tan colored with dots in the middle of both sets of wings. Its wing span is a good five inches.

The Phoenix High Mask club directed by Bob Myrick have announced the cast for the school play, "Bull In The China Shop," by C. B. Gilford. The cast consists of 11 students. They are Darlyn Popow, Amantha; Joyce Stockstill, Birdie; Nancy Stewart, Nettie; Darlene Palmer, Jane Rogers; Gail Glidden, Hildegarde; Nedra Harris, Elizabeth; Eldon Mitchell, Mr. O'Finn; Leon Small, Johnson; Jack Hoffbuhr, Kramer; Bill Oldham and Don MacKintosh, stretcher bearers.

A large production staff is headed by Tom Troxel, student director. Student chairmen of the various committees are Margaret Ann Bolz and Sharce Skipworth, makeup managers; Joyce Hunter, properties manager; Sandy Skinner, publicity manager; Lola Good, house manager; Ernie Bolz, stage crew manager; and Roger Kelson, lighting director.

The play will be presented April 24 in the Phoenix High gym.

About 10,000 oil wells drilled in the U.S. annually do not reach oil. Some oil wells cost as much as \$1 million for drilling operations.

Migrants Committee By Statute Opposed

Salem—Opposition to House Bill 140, creating an interim interagency committee on migrant labor, was registered before the Senate Committee on State and Federal Affairs by the Oregon Farm bureau Friday.

George Dewey, executive secretary of the Farm bureau, told committee members that his organization favored the committee but felt that in place of its being authorized by statute, the governor should name such a committee and the same results could be obtained.

Spoke in Favor

Cecelia Galey, chairman of the state unemployment compensation commission, spoke in favor of the bill. She said that through appointment of such a committee excellent results could be obtained and

expenses would be paid by the agencies to which the committee members were attached.

Approval of House Bill 128, allowing commodity commissions to prepare their own budgets, was urged by Rep. Don McKinnis (D-Summersville), who said that he has served as a director of a commodity commission.

Under the bill the commodity commission budgets would be submitted first to the contributing members and then to the department of agriculture for approval, after which they would be filed with the secretary of state.

Recreation Director

Sen. Jean Lewis (D-Portland) urged committee approval of a bill setting up a recreation director in the state highway commission. Among other things, she said, such a director would study the recreational needs of the state and also give aid to cities, and counties desirous of developing recreation areas.

No action was taken on three bills. Chairman Boyd Overhulse (D-Madras) said several members were absent and he wanted the full committee to vote.

44 Influenza Cases Reported in County

Forty-four cases of influenza were reported in Jackson county last week, Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician, has reported. The total included 17 cases in Medford, 10 in Shady Cove and Central Point, 4 in Phoenix and 3 in Ashland.

There were 37 cases of measles and 34 cases of German measles last week, Dr. Merkel said.

Twenty-three regular measles cases were reported in Medford, 6 in Central Point, 5 in Phoenix and 3 in Ashland. Eighteen cases of German measles were reported in Medford, 12 in Central Point and 4 in Ashland.

Other communicable diseases reported last week included pneumonia, 1 each in Ashland, Medford, Talent; mumps, 2 in Medford; scalp ringworm, 1 each in Medford and Shady Cove; scarlet fever, 2 in Central Point; pink eye, 1 in Medford; strep throat, 1 in Eagle Point, and chicken pox, 13 in Central Point and 2 in Medford.

Burglars Take TV Set from Home

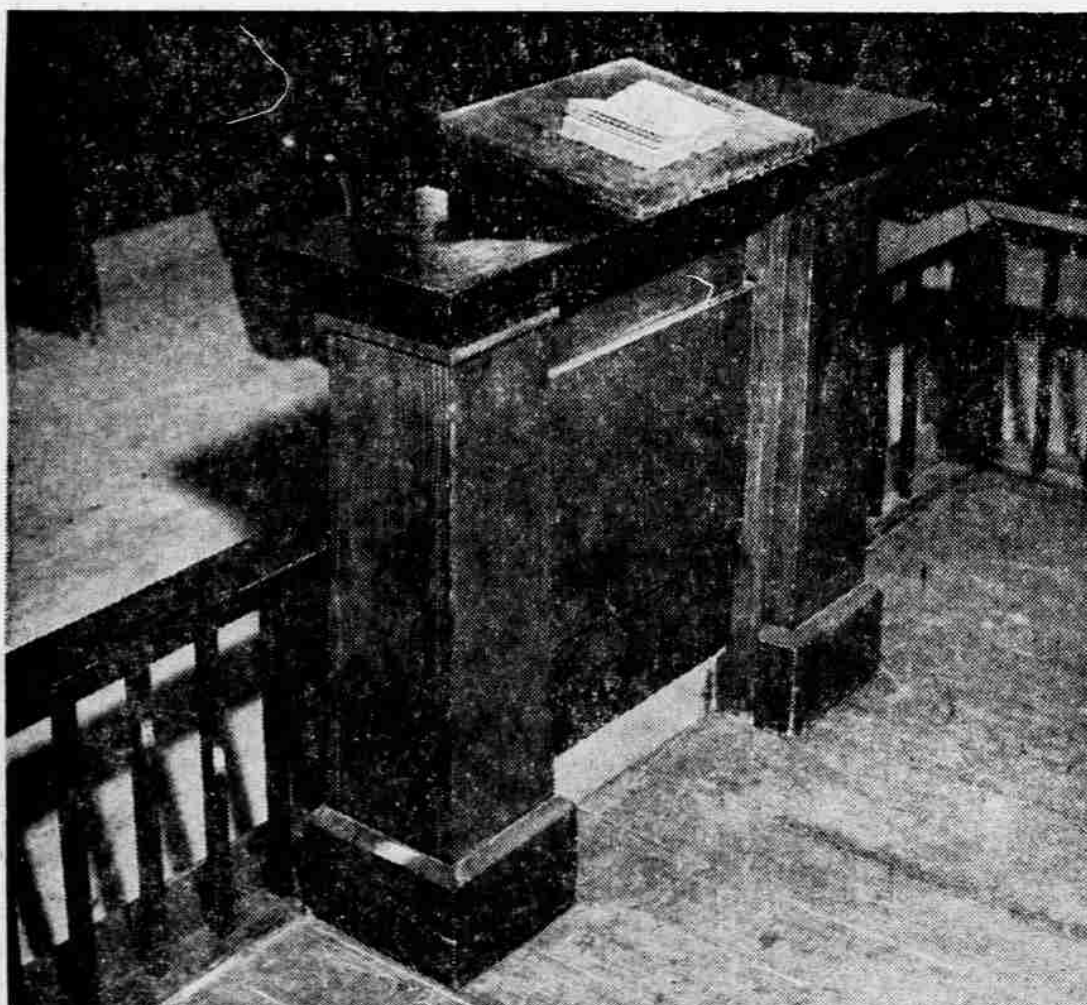
Clara Ellen Phipps, 78, of 955 Biddle rd., was the victim of burglars who stole a \$100 television set and a large quantity of preserved fruit Tuesday or Wednesday, according to Medford police.

Police said the only clue was a piece of burned paper, apparently used as a torch. The television set was taken from Mrs. Phipps' residence and the fruit—dozens of jars of peaches, apricots, young berries, pears and assorted jellies and jams—from her pump house, according to the report.

The burglary was reported to police by her daughter, Mrs. Mary Ethel Payton, 991 Biddle rd.

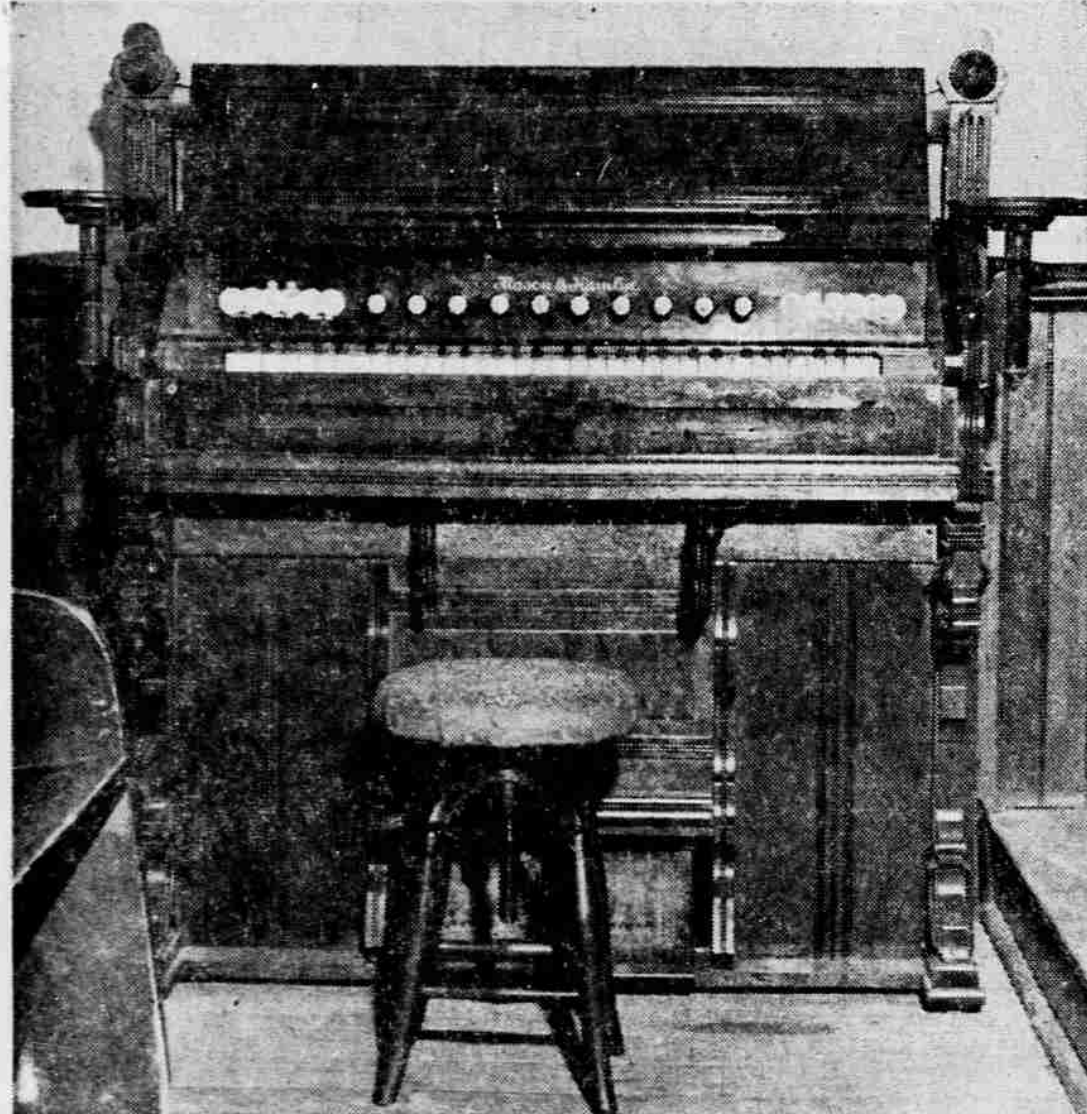


RESOURCE HANDBOOK—Governor Mark Hatfield is presented a forest resource handbook, containing information on forestry and the forest industries of Pacific northwest states, from Sam Robb of Willamette Valley Lumber company. Robb is chairman of the Oregon committee of American Forest Products Industries, which compiles information on America's forest resource.



PULPIT AND RAILING - Still in use are the pulpit and railing at the Protestant church in Jacksonville built by the Methodists in 1854. The church building, reported to be the oldest Protestant church west of the Rocky Mountains, is used each Sunday for services at 10:45 a.m. under the auspices

of The Village church. The Bible on the pulpit, loaned for the Centennial year, was printed in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1805, and is owned by Mrs. Shelby Wilcox, Ashland. The "whip-saw" lumber in the floor was laid with square nails. The pews also are made with square nails.



ORGAN - The Mason and Hamlin reed organ, made in 1881 and shipped to the west coast around the Horn and overlaid by pack train, is played during the Sunday-morning worship service at the church.

The circular stands on either side of the organ above the stops originally held lamps to light the music in days prior to electricity.

Endowed Care

Adequate funds are placed in an irrevocable trust fund to fully insure future upkeep of your Memorial. Call Mr. Driscoll for information.

Conger-Morris Hillcrest Chapel

HILLCREST Memorial PARK

Bill Driscoll, manager

North Phoenix Road

Phone SP 3-6162 or SP 2-7111