

Griffin Creek School Has Interesting Past

12 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
Sunday, May 3, 1959

Boy Scouts

Pack 8
Awards were presented members of Pack 8, Jackson school, at the regular meeting of the Pack Thursday at Jackson school gymnasium. About 70 parents and cubs attended the ceremonies.

Den 10 led the flag salute and Jack Lynch, Cubmaster, led the invocation. Awards presented were:

Den 1-Webelos, Jack Rice, three year pin. Den 4-Paul Chinn, denners badge; Lee Grimes, assistant denners badge; Greg Meadows, denners badge; Rick Singler, gold arrow and silver arrow; and Bill Wimer, year pin.

Den 6-Danny Hansen, bear badge and gold arrow; Shawn Lees, bear badge. Den 8-Ronnie Ogier, denner stripe and wolf badge; Craig VanBrunt, denner stripe. Den 10-Larry Noss, and Ken Murray, wolf badges.

Den 11-Richard Campion, denners badge; Jack Young, assistant denners badge; Richard Cole, silver arrow. Den 12-David Uhrine, denners badge; Larry Russell, assistant denners badge and silver arrow; Paul Greeny, and Rickey Frazier, silver arrows.

John Wimer, assistant Cubmaster, discussed the "Scoutennial" ticket sales. The event will be held May 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Medford High school's stadium.

Den 5 won the attendance cup having the most family members present.

United Shows Best Quarter in History

The best first quarter in the 33-year history of United Air Lines was reported recently by W. A. Patterson, president.

Net earnings and gain on aircraft sales totaled \$1,851,710, or 50 cents per average share outstanding, compared to a loss of \$384,593 in the corresponding three months last year, he said.

The company's record net earnings of \$1,642,431 were augmented by a gain of \$209,279 on sale of aircraft. Operations in the first quarter last year resulted in a loss of \$559,964, which was partly offset by a gain of \$215,371 on aircraft sales, Patterson noted.

Operating revenues showed an increase of 18 per cent over the 1958 period, while passenger revenues were up 17 per cent. Cargo revenues were up 28 per cent this year, he said. Operating expenses totaled \$73,479,416, a 10 per cent increase attributed to expansions in ton-mile capacity, he noted.

Patterson said United will receive the first of the DC-8 Jet Mainliners during the second quarter this year. Production of the aircraft is proceeding on schedule, he added. United has 40 DC-8s and 11 Boeing Jet aircraft on order at a cost of about \$275,000,000.

High Court Rules In Man's Favor

Ashland - The United States Supreme Court last week ruled in favor of Marion S. Felter, 321 Alta st., Ashland, who had filed action to prohibit Southern Pacific from deducting dues for the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen after Felter had resigned and joined the Order of Railway Conductors.

Felter, an SP conductor, said he started the action several years ago when the company continued to deduct B of RT dues from his pay check after he had resigned from the union. The original action was filed in San Francisco federal district court.

The decision of the district court was against Felter, and the case was taken to the circuit court of appeals where the ruling also was against the Ashland man.

Felter said the decision will be effective in 52 instances in Oregon where conductors have resigned from the B of RT and joined the Order of Railway Conductors.

Gerald Young Presents Paper at Conference

Portland-Gerald L. Young of Medford recently attended the annual Oregon Student Science conference at Lewis and Clark and presented a paper based on his scientific research project at Oregon State college.

Thirty-eight science students from seven Oregon colleges participated and the program covered the areas of biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and geography.

Parent District For Medford Was Organized in '54

By JANET GUCHES
School district 2, the Griffin Creek school district, has one of the oldest and most colorful histories of any in the southern part of the state.

Its boundaries now encompass a fertile little valley and the hillside homes adjacent to the southwest foothills in the Rogue valley. Originally, however, district 2 included what is now the Medford district and many of the surrounding districts.

It is interesting to note that in the Oregon Centennial year, just 105 years after organization of district 2 in 1854, the district has recently been consolidated with the Medford district, which was created in 1884 by a division of district 2.

Minutes of Meeting
In the courthouse at Medford is a record book which sets forth, in beautiful Spencerian hand, minutes of the first meeting organizing the school in September, 1854. The Jacksonville school district has been formed two months previously in July, 1854.

At the time the meeting was held by a few of the early pioneers residing in the southwest corner of the valley, settlement of the Rogue valley was still in its infancy. Medford was not yet thought of, although Jacksonville was a thriving community composed largely of gold miners with a large number of Chinese who had come to work the "diggings."

Gold had been discovered near Jacksonville a few years previously and the pack trail for transporting the gold and to bring in supplies from California territory ran southeast along the foothills and across the mountain pass of the Siskiyou.

Through Griffin Creek
The pack trail ran through the area now known as Griffin Creek. Gradually, some of the miners gave up digging for gold for the more profitable digging to raise food. All food products were at a premium (flour \$50 a sack, wheat \$12 a bushel) and some of the pioneers saw an opportunity here. Many of these cleared away the manzanita and sage brush in the part of the valley now known as Griffin Creek for their fields.

Many of the settlers who were following the Applegate trail to the Oregon country to avoid payment of the high river barge toll to the north stopped off and liked what they saw in the Rogue valley.

Among these was the Burrill Griffin family who established a residence here in November, 1853, one of the first settlers in this section. The family emigrated from Missouri, first settling near Seio, Ore.

Origin Griffin Home
The original Griffin home in this section was on the site of the home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Darby. Mrs. Darby is a granddaughter of Burrill Griffin. The Griffin farm included 640 acres which was acquired through a donation land claim and the farm included much of the area now known as Griffin Creek. Because Mr. Griffin was prominent in early day activities and because of the size of his holdings, it was only natural that the creek flowing through the valley and the territory surrounding was called "Griffin."

By the fall of 1854, there were a number of log cabins housing settlers in this section and they soon became concerned about the education of their children. From the minutes contained in the early school record book, it seems a meeting was called and plans made to establish a school. Although the Jacksonville school was ready to go, it was too far to send children there and every available horse was needed for farming.

Two Difficulties
The two biggest difficulties to be surmounted in organizing the school were the Indian raids and the deep mud in the winter and spring. The wagon trails were so muddy and the clay so thick in some places that no one could do much traveling during the winter months. Many went for supplies using a sled attached to front wheels of their wagons.

However, despite these and many other problems, school opened in September, 1854, in half of the log building which was used as a supply and way station for pack trains going over the Siskiyou.

This log building was located



GRIFFIN CREEK SCHOOL - Shown above is the new school building and students in 1902 when Griffin Creek school was completed. The building has served as the main structure since that time. Students in the picture include Wilbur Kime, Alan Andres, Millie Gordon, Floyd Minear, Bob Hayes, Lester Weiss, Floyd Fraley, Ray Lofland, Earl Fraley, Harvey Kime, Susie Minear, Milton Fraley, Roy Spencer, May Drake, Grace Copley, Jennie Drake, John

ed amid the brush approximately where the South Stage and Griffin Creek roads now converge.

The first school was known as the "Van Dorn" school. There is no record of why it was called Van Dorn, but presumably it was because of a Van Dorn family living in the district.

Pioneer Cemetery
A grave in the pioneer Griffin Creek cemetery bears the Van Dorn name. This cemetery located on the hillside to the right of Griffin Creek rd. a short distance above the Grange hall was originally established by Burrill Griffin for members of his family and the first grave was dug for Mr. Griffin's grandchild in 1859. Gradually friends and neighbors asked to be buried in the cemetery and there are now between 60 and 70 graves.

The records show 12 children attended the Van Dorn school when it opened in September, 1854. There were 31 eligible children in the district. Minutes of the first school meeting listed boundary lines for the district running from the boundary of the Jacksonville district to Bear creek, then known as Stewart creek, north to the Gates claim, south to the mountains including the Hamlin, Heron, Frick and Whitworth claims. This included all of the area now encompassed by the Medford district and much of the area of a number of other districts.

That next summer, Indian raids were particularly ferocious. Nearly all of the settlers lost their homes, among them the Burrill Griffin home. About the only cabin left standing was the Hamlin home, located near the town of Phoenix. While the men were working in the fields, mothers watched for Indians and many times took their children to hide in the tall grass. Because of these tragedies, no school was held in the year 1855-56.

School Started Again
In 1857 school was again started by subscription. The year previously, \$117 had been received from the county to operate the school. Not many children were able to attend this year and finally, an Indian raid destroyed the log station housing the school room.

In 1858, a new one-room school was constructed in a grove of trees on the Heber claim. This was located a little northwest of the original school and was approximately at the corner of what is now the Hull and Walz roads. The school was known as the Heber Grove school an listed Burrill Griffin as clerk.

The Heber claim had originally been located in the Jacksonville school district but the early records contained a marginal notation that in 1855 Mr. Heber petitioned to be listed in District 2.

'Imperfect State'
Here school was held sometimes two months a year, sometimes more, as conditions allowed. The school record book lists as excuse for not holding school the full year the "imperfect state of things."

In 1856 the Rogue River Indians made their last raid on the white settlers in the Griffin Creek area and were taken to a reservation in the Willamette valley. Indians then inhabiting the valley were the Cheeta Scotons, who apparently were not so warlike.

One of the "old-timers," now dead, who attended the Heber Grove school, used to tell of the tall, silent Indian who used to appear regularly

at the school door, fold his arms and observe school activities, much to the discomfort of the teacher and amusement of the children.

The toll road was built across the Siskiyou in 1857. Prior to this only a narrow, steep and rocky trail made by the Indian ponies and immigrants led the way across the mountains.

25 Attend School
By 1861, 25 children out of a possible 40 were attending school and classes were held 180 days. In 1866, there were 54 pupils with an average attendance of 25. The teacher was paid \$110.95 and incidental expenses for the school were listed as \$473.98.

David Redpath was listed as clerk. The Rev. E. F. Royal was listed as superintendent of schools for the county. By 1875, the district listed 73 boys and 46 girls attending school and by 1879 there were 130 pupils with an average daily attendance of 41. There were 40 pupils who did not register.

The first directors for District 2 were listed in 1881 and included J. P. True, John Dolarhide and C. Mungus, all old family names in the Rogue valley.

At this time, Phoenix was known as Gas Town. Amid the sage brush was only a log building or two where the town of Phoenix now stands. One of these buildings was a boarding and eating house run by a woman known by all who traveled by as a loud and vociferous talker. She talked so much that she became known as "Gassy," and it wasn't long until the place was called "Gastown."

Population Grows
As the population grew, a flour mill was established there and supplied much of the valley with flour. Later a fire destroyed the mill and a good deal of the town. It is reported by old-timers that the Phoenix Insurance company paid off so well and so promptly that the people out of gratitude named the town "Phoenix," others say it was rebuilt because like the Phoenix bird it rose out of the ashes.

The town of Medford was beginning to be settled, built up near the railroad tracks which had been extended through the valley. Some say the name came from Medford, Mass., and others say it was derived from "Middle Ford" as the settlement was first called.

February, 1884, saw Medford district 49 formed, using a large portion and many students from the Griffin Creek district. Today the Medford district has far outstripped its parent district.

First Generation
Some of the first generation to attend district 2 have now graduated. This included Nick Kime, who before his death told many stories about early school days and whose children and grandchildren still live in the area. Mrs. Belle Griffin is another.

In 1889, Gus Newbury, then a young man whose family had come to Jacksonville, was hired as teacher. He later became a prominent attorney and a colorful figure in the valley. His salary to teach all eight grades was \$200 and for this he also dug a well, built a washhouse and two privies. This year desks were purchased for the first time. In 1890 school was held only 3 months, and pupils living outside the district were charged \$2.50.

By the beginning of the new century, the school at Heber Grove was much too small and in 1901 a new

Drake, Cora Witcher, Bertha Morrison, Ruby Lofland, Marie Lofland, Cora Weiss, Blanch Guches, Frank Griffin, Gladys Kime, Floyd Whetstone, Laura Guches, Verna Griffin, Hazel Whetstone, Zoia Griffin, Emma Copley, Laura Finch, Ada Weiss, Bessie Gordon, Allie Gordon, Jessie Thumberg, Dora Thumberg and Francis Thumberg. Teachers were G. R. Carlock and Anna Jeffery.

school was started at a cost of not more than \$1,000. In fact, a motion was made and carried that the new school could cost no more than \$1,000.

Donated Land
The new school was built on land donated by Mrs. Kime to the school district and the original building is now incorporated as part of the present Griffin Creek school. However, the district was then called the Enterprise district. No reason is listed for the change of names from Van Dorn, to Heber Grove to Enterprise and now Griffin Creek.

The Nick Kime family had a large section of land in this valley and Mrs. Kime gave a portion to the school with the stipulation that it must be used only for school purposes and was to revert back to the Kime estate and heirs if the land was ever used for any other purpose. Many of the students who went to this school, which was completed in 1902, are now living in this area and include Wilbur Kime, Mr. and Mrs. John Darby, the Loflands, L. D. Minear and many others.

In 1902, there were four homes from Kings highway to Griffin Creek rd. and were occupied by the Gordon, Kime, Morrison and Bashford families. There were six families living between South Stage rd. and the Grange hall.

Continued to Grow
The school continued to grow once again after the loss of many to the Medford district and by 1912, 74 were attending and school was held the full nine months each year. More classroom space was needed and so by 1915, two schools were maintained, one, called the Rosedale for the lower four grades, was constructed and is now the Griffin Creek Grange hall. The upper grades attended the present school.

It was about this time that the first school bus was operated by a district. This consisted of a white bus drawn by two white horses and was used to transport pupils between the two schools operated by the district, according to John Darby, who was the school clerk in 1915.

The horse-drawn school bus was operated until automobiles began to be used extensively and then various drivers contracted with the district, using Model T's in some instances, to haul children between the two schools and finally to take high school students to Medford.

Water From Well
During this time, and for many years, water for the school was obtained from a well with a manually operated pump where you "pumped" with one hand and drank from the other," according to former school board members.

With the advent of public health sanitation regulations and as school standards to obtain financial aid became more strict, it was necessary to make a number of improvements. This was felt to be too expensive for two schools so the improvements and ad-

Tree Farm System to Certify 50 Millionth Acre This Summer

Washington, D. C. - Some time about mid-summer, the American Tree Farm system of growing trees as a crop on taxpaying lands will certify its 50 millionth acre.

Thus, 18 years after its beginning, the Tree Farm movement has grown into probably the greatest voluntary forest management program on private lands the world has ever known.

The state having the honor of certifying the 50 millionth acre in the Tree Farm program will be determined in the normal course of inspections and certifications by Tree Farm committees in the various states. Only after the records have been filed with American Forest Products Industries, the national sponsor, will the locale of the "golden milestone" be known.

Not only does tree farming accout the multiple use values of timberlands-recreation, wildlife, soil and water conservation - but it is helping the nation to maintain a favorable balance of timber growth over removal.

For the first time in many years, the country is growing timber faster than it is being harvested for use and lost to fire, insects and diseases.

Tree farming is an industry

sponsored program in which the landowner protects his trees from fire, insects and destructive grazing, and harvests in a manner that insures repeated crops. There are no dues, assessments nor subsidies.

Now active in 46 states, the movement is bringing forestry assistance to thousands of small landowners anxious to manage their timberlands on a profitable basis.

Small Woodlot Owners
In the United States today are some 4,461,274 "small" woodlot owners whose holdings are under 500 acres. They hold 61 per cent of the country's commercial forest land. Each year they take to market and sell \$700 million worth of sawlogs, pulpwood, posts, turpentine, Christmas trees, maple syrup and other forest products.

Because the small landowners control most of the nation's forest land, it is clear that increasing demands for wood open the door to greater opportunities for producing timber as a cash crop. The farmer who has paid little or no attention to his woodlot might well look into the advantages of forest management.

The farmer with the initiative and energy is the farmer who'll make money from his timber, provided he has a fair

chance from nature. Tree farming is not something that the government, or anybody else, does for the landowner, although the landowner may get technical advice from a trained forester.

Management Recognized
The American Tree Farm System is a program through which good forest management is publicly recognized. When a landowner feels that he is managing his woodlot wisely, he may contact his state Tree Farm committee which will arrange to have the woodlot inspected.

If the inspection by a recognized forester shows management measures up to standards of the American Tree Farm System, the landowner gets a certificate of membership. He also gets a Tree Farm sign for display on the land.

Whether a landowner joins the American Tree Farm system or not, he may reap cash benefits from a well-managed woodlot. If he applies for Tree Farm certification and gets it, his woodlot then simply wears the badge "Tree Farm" and stands as an example to others. This way the tree farmer is contributing to the Tree Farm movement by encouraging other landowners to grow trees as a crop.

The American Tree Farm system is administered by the forest industries through American Forest Products Industries, Washington, D. C. Industry committees administer it in the various states. To retain his status as a certified tree farmer, the landowner must maintain good management of his woodlot. This is determined by periodic inspections by foresters who work with the Tree Farm committee in each state.

Body of Young Girl Found Under Porch of House

Buffalo, N.Y. - UP - The bruise-covered body of a pretty, 3-year-old girl who had been missing since Tuesday was found late Thursday by youngsters playing cowboys and Indians. Police said Friday they believed she had been murdered.

Frail, blonde Sharon Crossman, dressed but shoeless, was found beneath the front porch of a dilapidated house nearly three miles from her home.

Several hours later blood-stained children's clothes were found in a cellar wash-tub of the Crossman home. Laboratory tests were planned to find out if there was any connection with Sharon's death.

Often Had Nosebleeds
Sharon's father, Robert A. Crossman, 28, said the three Crossman children often had nosebleeds. He said his wife, Eleanor, was apt to pick up any piece of clothing at hand to wipe away the blood.

Medical examiner Milton J. Schulz said Sharon had not been sexually molested, but evidence pointed to homicide. Further post mortem examination and toxicological tests were being made to determine the exact cause of death, he said.

Search of the Crossman home also turned up lengths of wire which detectives said matched a piece of wire found wrapped in a recently dated newspaper close to Sharon's body under the porch.

The Crossmans were questioned by top police officials. Paper mills in the United States use about 600 million pounds of corn starch a year.

Students Taking Part in Elks Club Activities Honored

Students who participated in this year's Elks scholarship and leadership contests and in the annual Student Government Day program were honored during Elks National Youth Day ceremonies Thursday at the Elks temple.

First place awards in the leadership contest were presented to Miss Vernola May Hutchison and Walter A. Barnes, seniors at Crater High school, Central Point. Second place awards went to Miss Dewanda Winchell and Dale Feeze, seniors at Medford High school.

Miss Mary Louise Cole and Donald D. MacKintosh, Phoenix High school; Shirley Ellen Callaghan, Eagle Point High school; and Deloris May Brown, Butte Falls High school, received honorable mention awards.

Scholarship Winners
Miss Elaine Kroon of Crater High school and Bob Pond, Medford High school, were presented first place awards in the scholarship contest.

Second place winners were Miss Andy Hess, Medford High, and Herschel Mack, Crater High. Miss Susan Walker, Phoenix, and Miss Carol Scott, Eagle Point, received honorable mention.

William Ruch, exalted ruler, remarked that this year

ditions were made to the lower school and the Rosedale school was discontinued in the fall of 1941.

The district has experienced a steady growth through the years with almost a phenomenal growth during the past 10. Most of the large farms have been subdivided to provide homes for families who have moved into the Griffin Creek district. It is no longer an agricultural district but has become a residential district with the majority of the parents employed in Medford.

Every few years additions have had to be made to the school, all built onto or around the original 1902 building. Today there are 13 classrooms and 15 teachers, a cafeteria, health room, a gymnasium and office. Also employed are four cooks, one maintenance man, two custodians, three bus drivers and a secretary.

Throughout the 105 years, many self-sacrificing public spirited citizens of the Griffin Creek district have served without pay on the school board-some as many as 25 to 30 years-and many long hours have been spent guiding the destiny of Griffin Creek school and the children.

A Tribute To Our Neighbors

Those people who live next door or down the street a ways or around the corner. Do you know them? Do you put yourself out just a little sometimes to make their lives more pleasant? A cheery "hello", a genial smile, an invitation to come in and sit awhile. These are the tiny miracles that make neighborliness blossom and grow into a thing of strength and beauty. Charity, they say, begins at home. Similarly, it is from your home that nextdooriness emanates. Let's all be good neighbors. Remember, there is no tax on your investment in friendship!

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