

Early Pioneers Buried in Phoenix Cemetery

Lions Club Starts Drive to Clean-Up Historic Site

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
"I would rather sleep in the southern corner of a little churchyard, than in the tombs of the Capulets," Burke—Letter to Matthew Smith.

Gravestones are the trail-markers of time. That's the way they appear in the pioneer cemetery at Phoenix behind the Southern Oregon auction yard.

However, many of the gravestones marking the final resting places of Phoenix leaders and Jackson county pioneers have been broken by vandals. The graves, with a few exceptions, are covered with weeds and wild growth. Tin cans and beer bottles have piled up along the borders and in some cases have been tossed on the graves themselves.

Attempt Clean Up
Phoenix Lions club is attempting to clean up this venerable historical spot. A community-wide call for volunteer workers has been issued. However, only a dozen people turned out Saturday, May 16, the first project day. The same number turned out Sunday. The Lions plan to have another work party again, hoping more people will turn out.

Walking down paths recently cleared of debris and under tall pine trees, a graveyard visitor can see many thin white slabs peeping from vines and weeds grown wild. Chiseled into the ancient stones are such names as E. Gore, S. D. Van Dyke, William M. Mathes, John Coleman, E. K. Anderson, Samuel Furry, Frederick Barneburg, James and Alice Reames, Samuel Colver and Joseph Howard Stewart. These are just a few of the pioneer settlers of the Phoenix area who have staked their last claim.

Old time Rogue valley orchardists will remember the last name.

Joseph Howard Stewart was possibly the father of the Oregon pear and apple industry. Like many of the old timers of the Hood River valley, another pear producing center of the state, Stewart came from New England—Maine, to be exact. His father was born of Scottish parents in Northern Ireland.

Learns from Father
It was from his father he learned proper care of fruit trees. The senior Stewart owned and operated a nursery and farm in Illinois. From this nursery, the first fruit trees were sent to Oregon by ox train.

Young Joseph Stewart was too busy working in the nursery and on the farm to spend much time in school. He made up for his lack of formal education by constantly studying horticulture. In the early 1880's he displayed in Quincy, Mass., the first large fruit exhibit in the east. On display were 120 varieties of pears and apples.

When the "Oregon fever" was infecting many easterners, Stewart came to Oregon to see if the soil would grow a commercial fruit orchard.

First Year
Many farmers of that time hooted at the idea. However, the first year Stewart had 160 trees growing in his orchard in the Phoenix area. The next year he had 100 acres planted to pears and apples.

In 1890, he shipped his first load of fruit and the first load of fruit to be exported from Jackson county. In 1896 he shipped 95 carloads of apples and pears. A total of 400 acres were producing fruit for him then.

This was a big jump from the time the first pear tree was planted along what is now the first road to the left across Voorhies crossing.

In 1899 the farmer turned merchant and became one of the organizers of the Bank of Medford. He was the owner of the building and for two years served as president.

William Stewart, Joseph's son, also became a fruit grower.

Phoenix Founded
Old time residents claim if the railroad had been given two or three more blocks of land, Phoenix would have become a terminus for Southern Pacific railroad. Phoenix then might have become the county seat or the good sized city Medford now is.

Hub Coleman, uncle of Mrs. Lillian Coleman's husband, owned a donation land claim along Pioneer rd. Hubbard Coleman is now buried in the Talent cemetery. One of the



FURRY TOMBSTONE—This venerable tombstone marks the grave of Samuel Furry and other members of his family buried in the Phoenix pioneer cemetery, located behind the Southern Oregon auction yards in Phoenix. It is being cleaned up by members of the Phoenix Lions club. Samuel Furry located his donation land claim on both sides of Bear creek and donated land upon which the town of Phoenix now stands.



COLVER TOMBSTONE—This gravestone marks the burial place of Samuel and Huldah Colver, Jackson county pioneers. Samuel Colver founded Colver House, a stopover for stagecoach passengers. Colver House still stands on the South Pacific highway at the south end of Phoenix. It is now used as a museum and antique shop.



CLEAN-UP GRAVEYARD—E. D. Loucks, left, and Bert Stancliffe, both of Phoenix, have been donating their spare time in helping to clean up the Phoenix pioneer graveyard. Paths between rows of tomb-

stones have been cleared and several truckloads of debris carried away. However, considerable work remains to be done for the Phoenix Lions club and community project.

father of Mrs. Lillian Coleman, of Phoenix, had a donation land claim southwest of Jacksonville. His body was removed from the Phoenix cemetery and now is in Jacksonville cemetery.

E. K. Anderson and Reames founded the Anderson and Reames mine on February, 1861, and started place operations near Phoenix. An early history reports \$170,000 in gold was taken from the mine at one time. However, Mrs. Lillian Coleman, Phoenix, a descendant of Reames is now owner of the property.

On Coalmine Rd.
Samuel Furry located his donation land claim on both sides of Bear creek and donated land upon which the town now stands.

The Starlight theater is located on what used to be the E. E. Gore donation land claim.

Woodford Reames, grandfather of Mrs. Lillian Coleman, owned a donation land claim along Pioneer rd. Hubbard Coleman is now buried in the Talent cemetery. One of the

12 MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
Sunday, May 24, 1959

100 Attend Open House at Senior Activity Center

More than 100 persons attended open house at the Senior Activity Center, 601 East Jackson st., last Sunday when wood carvings, oil paintings and metal craft articles were on display.

The open house was held in connection with National Senior Citizens Week, which was observed locally with various activities during the week.

Part of the exhibit displayed at the Center is now on display at the Jackson County Federal Savings and Loan association, 126 East Main st.

Among Displays
Among the displays at the Center were a scene depicting the Oregon Trail made by Mrs. Bernice Janosky, Jacksonville; a group of totem poles; and a Nativity scene of nine figures made by Mrs. E. E. Evans.

Visitors came from all sections of the valley and represented the county court, the city recreation commission, county Granges, and other organizations. The garden clubs provided flowers for decorations.

Other activities during Senior Citizens Week include an inter-club picnic at Camp White, and automobile tours of the valley for residents of rest homes who can not ordinarily travel.

All classes at the Activity Center resumed last week, and will continue throughout the summer. Activity Center personnel said. All senior citizens are invited to visit the Center and join one of the 50-plus clubs in the valley, representatives said.

ITALIANS RAISE SALARIES

Rome — (UPI) — The Italian Chamber of Deputies has voted into law Premier Antonio Segni's financial "package plan" raising civil servants' salaries, increasing some taxes and easing tax pressure on lower income groups. The measures, acted on by the assembly Friday, had been passed by the Senate previously.

The girls who received chapter degrees were Wanda Davis, Donna Codpitts, and Nancy McKay. Receiving junior degrees were Sharon Brown, Elaine McKay, Joyce Klutensbecker, Sandra Prom, Sharon Thompson, Sharon Trautman and Beth Wilcox.

The Crater high school choir and band made two trips last week. On Wednesday they entertained the students at Central Point Junior high. Friday, they spent the day at Illinois Valley where they also entertained.

The choir sang "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "Dry Bones," "All in the April Evening," and "Gary, Indiana." At the junior high on Wednesday, they sang "H. F. Jewett" by special request. The song was especially written by the choir as a dedication to Howard Jewett, retiring superintendent.

Among those at the band played were "Venus" and "Italian Festival." Senior Kerman Bennett played the solo in "Italian Festival."

The music department is planning a music party May 25. Swimming, refreshments and dancing are planned.

Amid an Arabian setting, the junior-senior prom was held last week. Students danced around an oasis in the center of the gymnasium. Stereophonic music was provided.

During the intermission, Senior Mary Howard was crowned queen. The coronation took place amidst a throne of exotic pink and orange material with multi-colored pillows. The other princesses were Donna Burnett, Sherry Koellner and Vernola Hutchinson. Dayle Nesheim performed an Arabian dance to entertain the queen and her court.

Girls Athletic association members elected new officers last week. They are Alice Thompson, president; Judy Kimmey, vice president; Jeanette Purdy, secretary-treasurer; Sandra Prom, point manager; Rayanne Greene, point manager; and Donna Colpitts, head of sports.

Girls League officers for next year are Shirley McAllister, president; Diana Cummings, vice president; Phyllis Woods, secretary; Joan Skov, treasurer; and Marilyn Hixson, publicity manager.

The Medical Minded Maids, an organization for girls interested in the field of medicine, have elected next year's officers. They are Rosanna Shelley, president; Janice Hansen, vice president; Marilyn Jones, secretary-treasurer; and Connie Mitchell, reporter.

The Shadows, a group of six St. Mary's High school students, entertained Crater students at an assembly May 21 to publicize the Farm Festival Days held May 22 and 23.

Students took an important part in student government when they voted on six constitutional amendments, passing five and defeating one. The changes will go into effect next fall.

Changes or additions that the students approved were: Students holding office must maintain a "C" average in grades, student officers doing unsatisfactory jobs may be recalled by a two-thirds vote, primary elections will be held a week preceding the general balloting for class and student body officers, and all elections will be by secret ballot.

This year's student officers felt that the passing of the amendments was a great step forward in student government.



VIEW CARVINGS—Handicrafts, oil paintings and other work by members of Medford's 50-Plus club were on display at the Senior Activity center open house last Sunday held in observance of National Senior Citizens' week. Looking over some hand-carved totem poles, the work of Bernice Janosky, Jacksonville, are, left to right, Robert Haworth, parks and recreation director for Medford, John Gribble, chairman of Senior citizen's week activities, and Russ Jamison, chairman of the Medford parks and recreation commission. Senior citizens are invited to join a 50-Plus club and work with hobby groups and other facilities of the Senior Activity center, at 601 East Jackson st., Medford.

SCHOOL NEWS

Crater High School

By Darlene Tomlinson

The installation of the new Future Teachers of America officers was held May 19. Chapter and junior degrees were given to those eligible.

Retiring officers are Arvela Prom, president; Connie McDonough, vice president; Mary Howard, secretary; Joan Skov, treasurer; Nancy McKay, parliamentarian; Nelda Robbins, degree chairman; and Jeanette Purdy, historian. Each of the retiring officers lit a candle and, at the same time, explained one of the purposes of F.T.A.

New officers are Jeanette Purdy, president; Janet Johnson, vice president; Nancy McKay, secretary; Darlene Tomlinson, treasurer; Beth Wilcox, parliamentarian; Sharon Thompson, degree chairman; and Connie McDonough, historian.

The girls who received chapter degrees were Wanda Davis, Donna Codpitts, and Nancy McKay. Receiving junior degrees were Sharon Brown, Elaine McKay, Joyce Klutensbecker, Sandra Prom, Sharon Thompson, Sharon Trautman and Beth Wilcox.

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Mac Junior High golfers have been having a good season in their matches against Hedrick on the Rogue Valley Country club golf course. This week two matches are scheduled against the faculty. Student golfers are Ronnie Vincent, Tim O'Mara, Larry Simmonds, Brian Porter, Terry Winetrot, Jeff Monroe, and Clay Varney. Faculty members playing will be Dale Bates, John Reed, Gene Helm, Dennis Davis, J. O. Evans, and Ralph Perkins.

Seventh and eighth grade students were given registration slips for next fall Friday, and they were to be returned Monday. Seven periods will be scheduled at McLoughlin next year. Students were explained the new hours and courses they would be eligible to take.

McLoughlin Junior High

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The only measure which failed to pass by a two-thirds majority was: "The student council, by a two-thirds vote, may refuse to accept an undesirable home room representative." This was to eliminate the forgetting by some representatives to attend student council meetings.

Representatives from the baby-sitting class which has been in session for the past six weeks, will appear on television Tuesday at 5 p.m. Mrs. Gladys Van Dyke, Capt. Clyde Fichtner from the Medford police, Mrs. Martha Donahue, school nurse, Miss June Wheaton, Hedrick Dean of Girls, and several McLoughlin and Hedrick students will explain the benefits from such a course. Graduates receive a certificate showing they are qualified baby-sitters.

Mrs. Van Dyke said that a number of inquiries had been received this year from all parts of the United States regarding the baby-sitting course. Inaugurated several years ago at McLoughlin, a special feature with pictures appeared in the American Weekly section of the New York Times last year, gaining widespread publicity for the study.

Many Mac Frosh have auditioned and already gained places in Senior high activities next year. Twelve students will join the 100 piece high school marching band. They are Donald Biegler, Lois Stedman, Mike Drinkwater, Carol Standridge, Lynn Peterson, Kare Ekberg, Pat Allen, Marilyn Harwood, Jeanette Jones, Rodger Hockersmith, Karlene Neill and Merle Guches.

Orchestra members joining the senior high group will be Julie Latham, Loretta Turman, Cheryl Potucek, Cheree Paulazzo, Claudia Owens, Jean Miller, Ronnie Stockman and Steven Hubler.

Lois Stedman, Rome Atkins, Claudia Owen, Wally Huffman, and Joel Gregory were selected to join the special high school choir under the direction of Lynn Sjolund.

Two ORIGINALS BY ESTEVEZ
OFFER SLIM OR SWIRLING SKIRTS

Today, we declare an exciting fashion dividend—two silhouettes in one couture pattern, and both by that master shape-maker ESTEVEZ. Take the slim and narrow path to spring allure—or follow the rounded curves of his wide-end wonderful skirt. If you can't make up your mind, make both dresses. A dramatic play of color contrasts in the Originals points up the striking seaming of the bodice. Choose pique, shantung, silk faille, or linen—and prepare to turn all heads your way wherever you go in your exclusive Estevez.

Printed Pattern M221 is available in Misses' Sizes 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18. See your pattern for yardages.

Send ONE DOLLAR for Printed Pattern M221 to Medford Mail Tribune, Pattern Department, P. O. Box 59, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N. Y. Please print plainly YOUR NAME, ADDRESS with STYLE NUMBER and SIZE.

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Shirley Donahoo, under a crown made of white carnations, reigned as queen of the ninth grade party in the girls' gym Friday night. Princesses in the royal court were Lana Merrifield, Karleen Neill, Joyce Leon, Nancy Maxson, Sheryl Martin, Bonnie Knapp, Cheryl Linn, and Jackie Rummel.

The queen and her escort led the Grand March after the coronation. Dancing began to the music of Bill Hannafor and his combo. The girls' gym was turned into an "Underwater Garden" for the party. Beautiful sea-like gardens and an old pirate ship were painted by Carl Washburn. Netting, shells and a giant octopus added to the marine theme.

Jim Burk, Claudia Owen, Richard Knights, Caroline Denyer, Joe Gregory, JoAnn Johnson, Lois Stedman, John Alansky and Carl Washburn were student committee members working on the party.

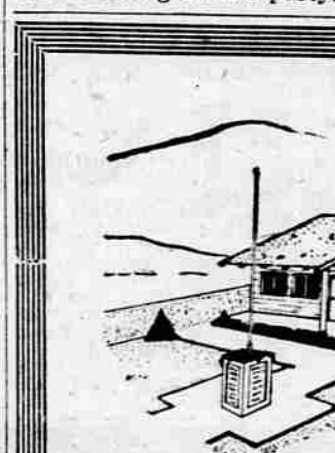
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New Chapel Nearing Completion

Construction work has been completed and the decorators are busy putting the finishing touches on the new Conger-Morris Hillcrest Chapel. The specially designed chapel, with a large picture window, faces south into the Siskiyou mountains. Here family and friends can meet in a beautiful setting, where quietness is added to the beauty of nature.

HILLCREST Memorial PARK

Bill Driscoll, manager North Phoenix Road

Phone SP 3-6162 or SP 2-7111