

Polaris Woodheater Has Part In Gold Hill Church History

By MRS. CLYDE KELL
Gold Hill—About 40 members and friends of the Gold Hill Community Methodist church, attended an all church family fellowship night, held recently at the church.

The affair began with a potluck supper, followed by music furnished by James Coward and Edward Griggs, who played their electric guitars. Mrs. Roy Eskew was in charge of the entertainment and group singing. The closing devotions were given by the Rev. James F. Eubanks Jr., pastor of the church.

This was the first social of many such family fellowship events which will be held once a month at the church.

Those attending inspected the new oil furnace which was installed recently to replace the "black monster" as the congregation had termed the former heating facilities. The old furnace consisted of a small oil stove in the sanctuary and an old-fashioned cast iron Polaris woodheater, which stood in the area of the basement where the new furnace was installed.

Now pews have been constructed in the space previously occupied by the oil stove providing an addition seating for 15 people.

The oil stove, one portion of the "monster," was used as a place for the family fellowship event. It was placed in the center of the dining room with a sign on top inscribed "for sale."

It is believed that the stove had been used to heat the sanctuary since Jan. 22, 1939, when the first services were

held in the church. Dedication of the building was held Feb. 12, 1939.

The site for the present Gold Hill Community Methodist church was chosen because it is a central location and easier for the older people to get to since it is on level ground. The new structure replaced the old Methodist Episcopal church which was on a hill located on Fifth

ave., and which had been moved and repaired about 1911-12.

Built Fires
Nearly 40 years ago a small boy who lived with his parents across the street would rise early every Sunday morning and go to the old Methodist Episcopal church, where he built the fires in the Polaris heating stove. At that time it stood in the center of

the approximately 20 by 30-foot one room church building.

Several years later this same stove was moved to the present church basement where it had been used continuously until the new furnace was installed. Women of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the church kept food for their church dinners warm on top

of the large old stove, which was made by the St. Louis Iron Works, and holds a chunk of wood about three feet in length.

On fellowship night, old Polaris, the second part of the "black monster" was purchased by one of the men in the community who bought it because of sentimental reasons, as well as to heat the basement in his home. This man was the small boy who had tended the church fires. Funds from the sale of the stove were placed in the "black monster fund," which was started several months ago to finance the new heating system. A container for donations for this project is placed each Sunday on a table at the rear of the sanctuary so that those who wish may make a contribution.

Old Polaris had been used for over 50 years to warm the hands and feet of those attending Sunday school on cold winter mornings.

Early Services
The first Methodist services are believed to have been held in Gold Hill in the early 1890s, the location is

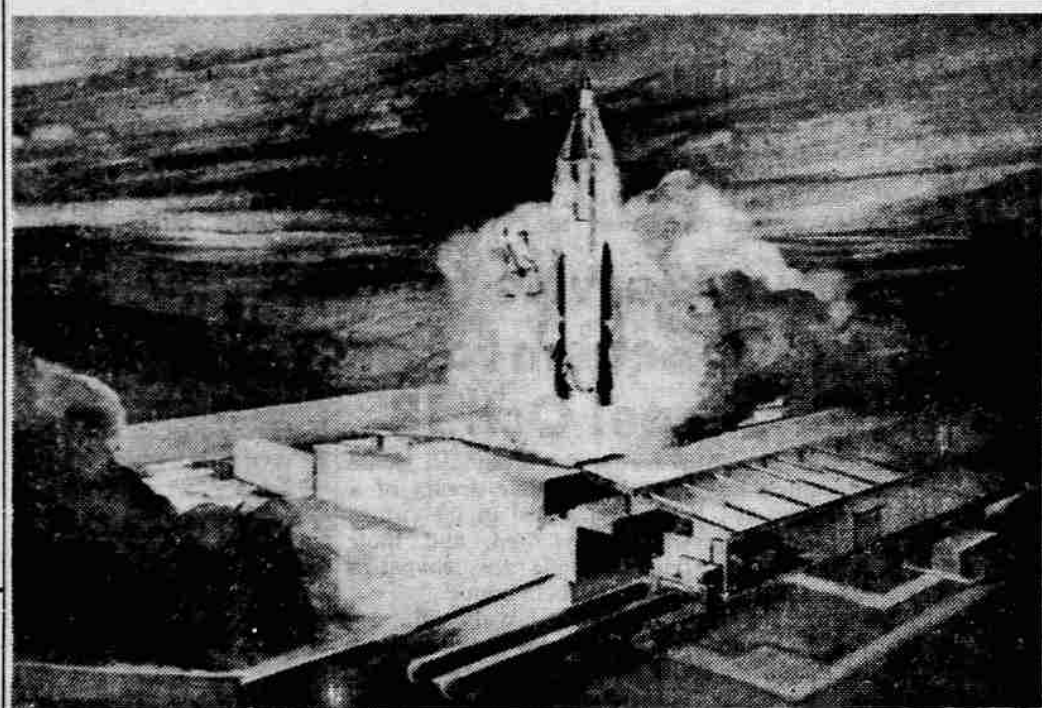
Tropical Storm Lashes Pensacola

Pensacola, Fla.—(UPI)—Tropical storm Irene hit Pensacola Thursday with 55-mile an hour winds, then dumped torrential rains over Southern Alabama as it punched inland. Residents in Southern Alabama and North Georgia were alerted to expect up to five inches of rain from the dying storm today.

About 47 million Americans live in the suburbs.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

2nd SECTION MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1959 Pages 1-10



ATLAS LAUNCH COMPLEX—This is an artist's conception of the U.S. Air Force Atlas ICBM launch complex at the Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo. (UPI Telephoto From Defense Dept.)

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Gold Hill Community Methodist church.

The old Methodist Episcopal church building on the hill was torn down in October, 1938. Valley men assisted local men with tearing down the structure and helped build the new building. On Jan. 22, 1939, the first services were held in the new church at the present location on the corner of Fourth ave.

and Fourth st. While the building was being constructed church services were held in the Gold Hill Grange hall.

About this time the church became known as the Community Methodist church instead of the Methodist Episcopal church. It is supported by the entire community with a number of denominations worshipping there. It was legally recorded in 1937 as the

Gold Hill Community Methodist church and is one of the churches of the Oregon Annual Conference of the Methodist Church.

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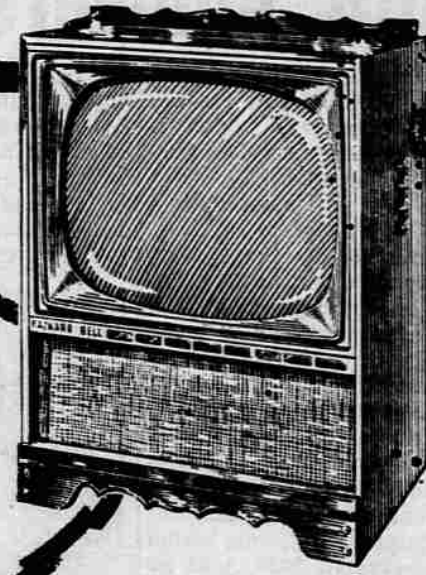
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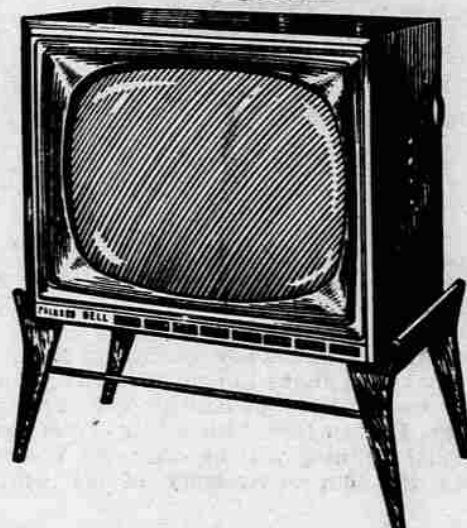
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