

# George Putman Celerbating His 88th Birthday Today; Dinner Planned

By DOTTIE HARBISON  
Eagle Point—George Francis Putman, better known as "Dad," is celebrating his 88th birthday today with a family dinner of all his children and grandchildren who live in the valley.

He was born in McNary county, Tennessee, Feb. 22, 1872, to Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Michael Putman, the oldest of two sisters and one brother.

While a boy at home, Putman learned the milling business from his father as they made the two stoves for flour and corn meal grinding. At 14, he started his own butcher shop in Black Rock, Ark., and operated it until he was forced to leave by law.

**Owed Him Money**  
Putman said a man and his two sons owed him a bill of \$4,000.40 and refused to pay. Putman knew he had the money and was a friend of the bank cashier who notified him when the man deposited \$12,000 one Saturday morning. Putman wrote out a check for the exact amount owed him and paid a call on the three men about 9 p.m. that evening, asking him to sign the check he placed on the table.

He finally gave him five minutes to sign the check or he would use the six gun he leveled on the boy's father. Four and one half minutes ticked by and Putman warned him he had just 30 seconds left. When he warned them he just had 15 seconds to live the boys yelled to sign the check.

Putman left town and returned to cash the check Monday morning and the man followed him in the bank. Putman informed him his gun was still loaded and he would use it if he opened his mouth. Putman had the reputation of being one of the fastest and straightest men with his six gun in that territory so he cashed the check before the man could stop payment on it.

**Marshal Also Friend**  
The marshal was also a friend of Putman and sent him word by a mutual friend that a warrant had been sworn out against him, and to lay low, so he went to the sheriff's home about three miles from the court house and about 2 1/2 miles from town, and the sheriff hid him in his house. A reward of \$1,000 was put out for his arrest and remained there until he was 37 years old and the man died.

This man also had an old widow sign what she thought was a paper to sell her home and turned out to be the deed to her home. The sheriff was in contact with Putman every day this reward was in force, Putman said.

**Indian Territory**  
Putman left Arkansas and went into the Indian territory in Oklahoma just outside of Tulsa, where he cowboied for six years. At the time a three-year-old steer was being sold in Kansas City at top price for \$7.50 apiece.

Putman became straw boss in his fifth year of cowboying for the Mashed Toe ranch in which his father owned 6 of the 10 shares and no one knew he was related to the owner. The ranch was located in Texas and the cattle delivered to him in Oklahoma. They sold the stock for \$3.00 apiece for 3 year old steers.

Putman tells of the time the wranglers changed his brand on 500 head of baby calves to the Buckle J brand one year so the next year they confiscated 750 head of his calves and put Brown's brand on. No one, not even Brown, was aware that had happened.

Putman moved to northwest Missouri where he learned the roll business of milling and married Miss Minnie Geuyer Nov. 30, 1899. Their oldest son, Ed, was born there.

**Move to Nebraska**  
The Putmans moved to Nebraska where he took four years as an apprentice in the flour milling work and owned his own mill for 23 more years. He quit the mill a year before World War I broke out and went to Lexington, Mo., and to Lake Charles, La., where he worked for 3 1/2 years in an aviation camp, and then moved to Orange, Tex., and New Orleans in the shipyards for the government during the war.

All surplus goods and materials were sent there for reselling. Putman remembers having to dump a whole car load of good bacon in the bay to prevent hurting the price of the local meat market.

While still in Kansas, Frank, Louis and Christina were added to the family and Florence and Minnie were later born in Kansas.

Putman moved to southeast Missouri, to Minnesota, and back to Missouri. The family moved from Popular Bluff, Mo., to Riverton, Minn., with two wagons and a hack and this is a trip none of the family ever forgot.

Dad Putman was required to walk ahead of the group and buy supplies in order to get them. This was the period in history where everyone was scared by gypsies as they had been kidnaping small youngsters etc., and the minute they came within sight of towns everyone grabbed the youngsters and let out the cry of gypsies—the doors were slammed shut and locked as everyone grabbed the youngsters and ran inside.

**Help Drive Wagons**  
At one town the grocery clerk asked Dad to stay with her until the gypsies went by. The oldest two youngsters had to help drive the wagons and hack, and the roads were full of deep holes in which they had to get out and actually lift the wheels out of the holes in order to proceed. The last leg of the journey saw them approaching with their wheels wired together on the wagons, and one of the horses became lame so a large horse was paired off with a small one, making them look more gypsified.

The return trip to Missouri found them riding in cars. Putman sold their property in Missouri and he and his family moved to Oregon. The family arrived in Medford Aug. 13, 1925, and have lived in the valley since. Putman went to work for Owen Oregon or what is now Medford corporation, and worked for three years. His son, Ed, worked there for 12 years, Frank for 14 years and Louis for 7 years. They went on a farm just above Eagle Point across the Rogue river in 1928 but lost \$1,200 the first year so they moved to Phoenix where he made a success at three years of farming.

**Move to Eagle Point**  
He moved to Eagle Point Nov. 20, 1932, with farming once again in mind but while riding by the old building which is now Putman Brothers Feed and Seed store, cold storage plant, and the Burr or stone ground flour mill, Putman agreed to assemble the machinery that was laying all over the floor for a couple of perplexed men trying to move it. With the aid of his sons they had just about completed the job when Mrs. Campbell, the owner, approached him with an offer to buy the mill and three quarters of an acre of ground for \$600.

them to the car for her. She was all prepared to tell them at the bank that she had robbed a bank to get the money but when she took the money up, Walter Young, cashier, just blinked a couple of times, counted out the money and asked no questions. Mrs. Campbell was also president of the bank at that time.

Two years later at the time of Mrs. Campbell's death, Victor Hay, a school teacher, was telling Putman of the strange and cold money she had deposited at the bank and no one knew where she got the money. Putman laughingly told them where she got it and for some time when he deposited his money and checks at the bank they asked him if he had any more of that cold money.

The first taxes Putman paid on his property in Eagle Point were \$1.86 and his present taxes are just a little higher at \$1,111.34, but Putman stated he had no mortgages, notes or debts.

**Has Heart Attack**  
Putman's wife died at their family home on the Brownsboro rd. just a short distance from the mill Dec. 11, 1937, after 37 years and 11 days of married life with Putman. He had a heart attack Jan. 26, 1942, and has had several since including a severe one when the family were all home for Thanksgiving last year. The doctor ordered him to bed for six months and Dad says he is still alive because he "did what the doctor told him not to do."

All of his children have lived close to Dad all their lives except Minnie, and her family who moved to New Mexico about three years ago. A grandson, Jerry Warren, and his family lives in Sutherland, and a daughter, Mrs.

**Band Concert Draws Crowd at Days Creek**  
Tiller-Drew - A large crowd attended the band concert at Days Creek last week sponsored by the student body of Days Creek school.

The Willamette university concert band were given a chicken dinner in the school cafeteria at 6 o'clock furnished by mothers of the students. The concert began at 8 o'clock in the school gymnasium with the 44 piece band playing nine numbers. After the concert, four members of the band played music for dancing.

The band is under the direction of Maurice W. Brenner, and Roy Chapin is the manager.

**BUILDING PERMITS**  
Central Point—Two building permits for new homes were issued at the city hall recently. They are to build homes in the Faber - Crater subdivision, and will be constructed by Petrehn and Purdy Construction company.

Clifford (Florence) Roush and family live in Medford, but the rest of the family all live in Eagle Point. Putman has nine grandchildren and has made and is making plans for increased work in the future.

**Regional Calendar**  
Applegate Valley - Mrs. Francis Krouse and Mrs. George Brown will discuss synthetic fabrics at a joint meeting of local extension units at Upper Applegate Grange hall Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 10:30 a.m. There will be potluck dinner and child care.

Gold Hill - The executive committee of the Gold Hill Parent Teacher association will meet Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Hanby Elementary school to outline preliminary plans for a safety program, according to Mrs. Ogden Kellogg, president.

Eagle Point - The Home Economics club of the Eagle Point Grange will meet at the home of Mrs. C. C. Hoover on Gregory rd. at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 24. Mrs. Tom Vestal will be hostess.

Gold Hill - Amethyst Rebekah lodge will sponsor a luncheon and card party Wednesday, Feb. 24, beginning at noon at the Odd Fellows hall on Fourth ave. Mrs. Clarence Parsley, ways and means chairman, said.

Gold Hill - Mrs. Wilmer Bailey will be hostess at her home on Fifth ave. for a meeting of the Past Noble Grand's club of Amethyst Rebekah lodge, Thursday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Bailey said those who have Amethyst secret friends should bring a Valentine gift for exchange.

Sams Valley - A silver tea will be held in observance of Founder's Day at the meeting of Sams Valley Parent Teacher association Thursday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m. at the school, according to Mrs. Alfred Gowen, publicity chairman. Past presidents will be honored.

Tiller-Drew - Tiller-Drew PTA will hold its Founder's day tea in the school gymnasium Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. Mrs. George Stone is program chairman and Mrs. Howard Midkiff is refreshment chairman.



## Crater Agriculture Students to Start Courses in Shop

Gold Hill - Delmar Smith, Crater High Future Farmer of America reporter, said students of the agriculture 1-A and 1-B classes will enter shop courses for the first time beginning this six weeks. They will be taught several skills. Welding will consist of learning how to make a but-weld, which must withstand blows with a sledge hammer. In oxo-acetylene cutting, the student must cut a 3/16 piece of metal that will be judged by smoothness of the cut edge. They also will learn the knowledge of brazing, which he said is useful when working with metal that is too thin to weld and also in cast iron work.

## Hornbrook Resident Attends Bureau Meet

Hornbrook - Mrs. Marion (Elva) Grieb attended the meeting of the Shasta Valley Farm Bureau Women at the home of Mrs. Beverly Ashcraft in Little Shasta Saturday.

Highlights of the program were colored slides and a talk on Alaska presented by Mrs. Laura Cawley, who made a trip to Alaska last year. During the business meeting it was announced that the next joint meeting of the Shasta Valley and Edgewood Farm Bureau Women will be held in the Edgewood Center building in Edgewood in April, the exact date to be announced later.

Also discussed was the coming annual Farm Bureau party to be held Saturday night, March 5 at the Montague auditorium.

## Volunteers Working On Recreation Hall

Hills—Work has been started here to remodel the community center building to serve as a community recreation hall. Crews are working from 6-10 p.m. each week-end and from 8 a.m. until noon each Saturday.

Overseeing the crews on a rotation basis are M. E. Barron, Al Simmen, Warren Fox and Glen King. Materials are being furnished by the Fruit Growers Supply company, and all labor is voluntary.

## Couple Called South Because of Death

Eagle Point—Mr. and Mrs. Merle McGraw was called to San Louis Obispo, Calif. Wednesday, Feb. 17 by the death of Mrs. McGraw's father, Theodore Veaulieu, 85.

Mr. Veaulieu was an early resident of Jackson county and had made his home with his daughter in past years. During the winter months, he visited his son in California.

Mr. Veaulieu attended the Shady Cove Our Lady of Fatima Catholic church and Sacred Heart Catholic church of Medford. He was an orchardist and managed several packing plants in the Medford area.

## GIRL SCOUTS MEET

Gold Hill - Local Girl Scouts have been meeting at the homes of the members once a week to earn cloaking badges, Mrs. Floyd Taylor, leader said. Meetings are held after school Fridays.

## LOSES FINGERS

Shady Cove - Jimmy Ford, Butte Falls, son of Mrs. Johnnie Minor of Shady Cove lost two fingers in an accident while he was working at Medford Corporation last week. He was admitted to a Medford hospital, and released later in the week.

## COUPLE RETURNS

Applegate Valley - Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Milam have returned from Long Beach, Calif. where they visited their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Apostolo.

## Rural Reflections

By MAUDE ZIEGLER  
Applegate Valley - If evidence is any criterion there will be a rounding up of cougars here some day at a bounty rate of \$60 from county and state.

Charlie Williams discovered a huge track in the back yard. He poured it full of plaster and took the cast to Medford, where it was identified as a cougar's.

The Otis Buck's report a cougar was seen in day light near their ranch, and a deer it was credited with killing was found near by.

Don Moulton of the forest service scaling station near Ruch says a cougar which he thinks lives in the Forest creek back country chased a deer into the road near the station one day.

Grace Pearson still is a little breathless from hearing a cougar's cry on the mountain close by about 4:30 one morning, which she describes as the wierdest, creepiest sound combining the qualities of a human's scream with that of a cat and a red-tailed hawk.

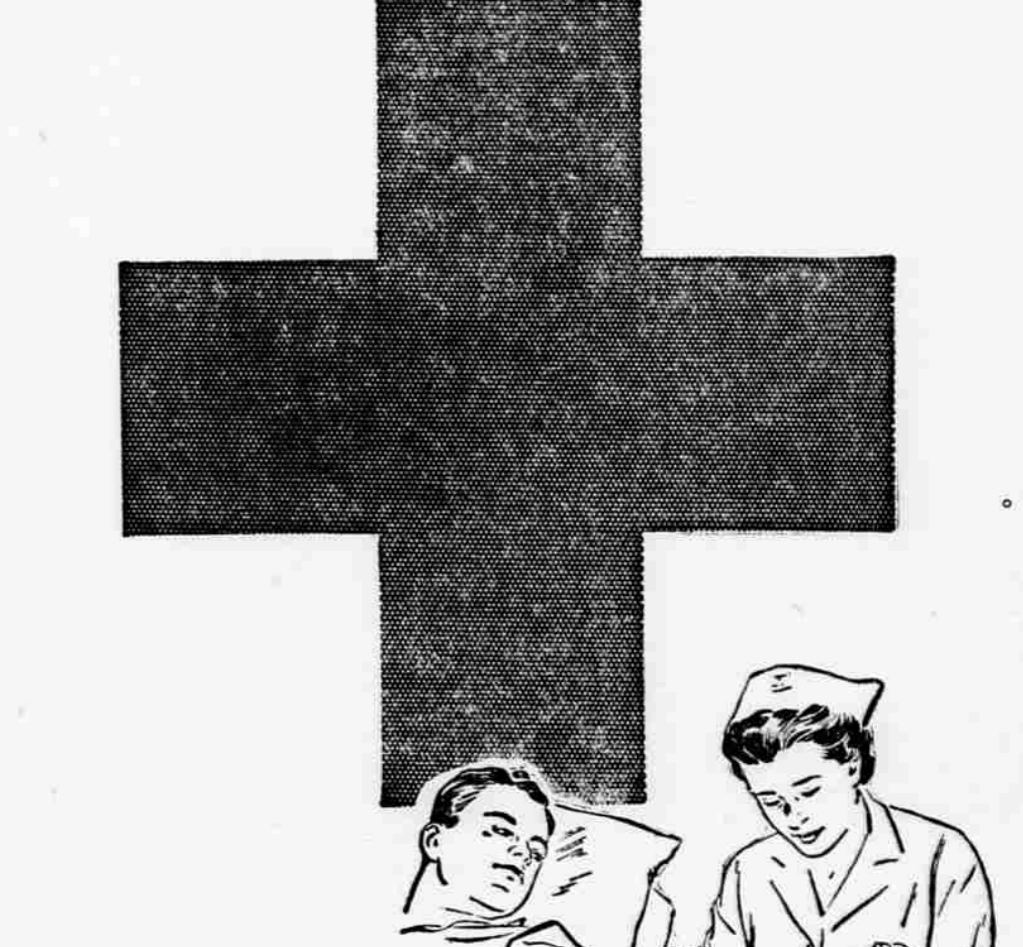
## District 6C to Hold Speech Event

Gold Hill - A bulletin has been sent to teachers in District 6C announcing preliminary plans for a speech festival, which will be sponsored by the speech department at Crater High school under the direction of D. E. Lacy, speech instructor.

Seventh and eighth grade students of Hanby, Sams Valley and Central Point schools will be invited to participate in the festival, which is slated for Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7, at Crater High school.

There is a possibility that a fourth, fifth, and sixth grades of the schools might be included. Whether or not they will participate will be decided and announced later.

Most events will take place Saturday, May 7. However at this time it is planned that some will be held Friday to allow more than one round of speaking for each contest. It will be possible for contestants to listen to other events when they are not involved in a round of their own.



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Medford Mail Tribune

# ATTENTION ALL FOOD CLERKS!

ASHLAND-MEDFORD-GRANTS PASS  
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Monday, February 22nd  
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✓ Health and Welfare  
✓ Union Contracts

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