

Ashland's Chautauqua Started for Religious Group

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Much of early day entertainment in the Rogue valley grew out of the skits and musicals put on by the wagon train pioneers as they crossed the plains into Oregon.

But the Southern Oregon Chautauqua in Ashland was probably the first mass adult education program attempted for this area.
Chautauqua received its name from Lake Chautauqua in New York where the first such series of lectures, seminars and entertainment originated. The program in New York started as a training program for Sunday school teachers, but quickly lost its religious emphasis when a nationwide circuit was developed.

The later aim was to crowd in as much entertainment as possible in as short a time as possible to obtain as much profit as possible.

Maintains Background
The Southern Oregon Chautauqua maintained its religious background from the time it was founded in 1892 at a Central Point Methodist camp meeting to the early 1900's when it faded out under circuit management. Prayers opened and closed each session and non-denominational services were held Sundays. The building was wood frame in a beehive shape to provide plenty of ventilation for hot summer days and to eliminate the need of view obstructing pillars. Two large heating stoves kept the building tolerable in winter.

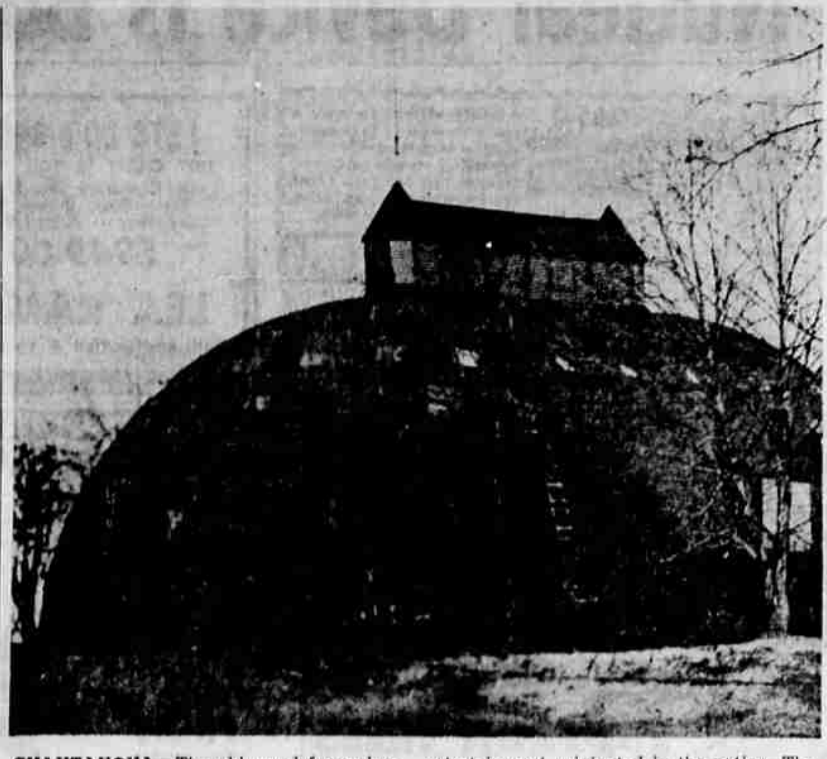
Later, in 1918, a \$15,000 bond issue was floated to build a large concrete structure. The Shakespearean Festival theater now uses these walls.

In fact "Roper Grove" on Ashland creek later became the focal point for the development of present-day Lithuania park.

From Ashland Man
Most of this information comes from notes by Homer Billings, Ashland, local historian whose father, C. F. Billings was one of the founders. The late C. F. Billings argued for the Ashland site since the town could provide electric lights, city water and better hotel accommodations. In the spring of 1893 a visit by the late Dr. C. Stratton, president of Portland University, convinced the other founders. Stratton came to Ashland to find a site for a new college or normal school which would be an extension of the Portland college. Upon seeing "Roper Grove" he turned it down as a college site, but suggested it as a Chautauqua site.

During a Central Point meeting of June 14, 1893, the founding committee was authorized to purchase the 7.72-acre tract for \$1,800 and to issue bonds for \$2,500 at 8 per cent interest for 10 years to construct the wooden building.

Senior residents of the valley still talk of how they used to hitch up their bug-



CHAUTAUQUA—The old wood frame beehive structure is shown in its prime at Roper Grove, now Lithuania park in Ashland in the early 1900's. Chautauqua was named after Lake Chautauqua in New York where the first such group of lectures, seminars and

entertainment originated in the nation. The Southern Oregon Chautauqua was conceived in Central Point then located at Ashland due to plentiful electricity, water and hotel accommodations. Founding date was 1892.

gies, load it with camping equipment and camp out in the grove during the two weeks of Chautauqua. People learned to entertain themselves then and did not rely on television, one old timer recalled.

Admissions were kept low, at first at \$1, then \$1.50 and finally \$2.50 for season tickets for the whole 10-day session. The low price kept the support of the common people but made it hard to finance the operation until it finally crept into the black in 1901 to 1903. In 1905 the circular building was cut in two and half of it moved uphill to make an oblong amphitheater and nearly double the seating capacity.

The first year's programs included speeches by Dr. C. C. Stratton of Portland University, W. C. Hawley, of the Willamette university faculty, and Selah Brown from California. Mr. Brown spoke on "What I Saw in Dixie" during the Civil War. A featured attraction was Grand Army of the Republic Day which included plenty of oratory and a sham battle. The first year's program probably cost less than \$300, according to Billings.

Bryan Speaks
In 1897 William Jennings Bryan spoke on "bi-metalism" in the Ashland grove. (The building was not large enough to hold the crowd.) The same day John P. Irish, of San Francisco, trumpeted about "Sound Money."

Other entertainers that year were Joaquin Miller, Dr. Charles E. Locke (later a Methodist bishop), Edward

Page Gaston, Miss Jessie Ackerman and Miss Ida Benney. These were most travel lectures. Miss Benney held a children's matinee in which she read "A Tale of Two Cities" and "Les Miserables."

Other featured Chautauqua entertainers were William Sterling Batts, Dickens impersonator; Capt. Jack Crawford, Indian scout and poet; John Temple Graves, Atlanta, Ga., editor; Ng Poon Chew, San Francisco Chinese daily editor; Col. Henry Watterson, of Louisville Courier Journal; Dr. William S. Sadler and company of Chicago; and later, Billy Sunday and Madame Schuman Heineke, evangelist and opera star, respectively. Jacob Rils, famous emigrant and author, and Booker T. Washington, Negro leader and educator, also were included.

Musical features included bell ringers, Swiss yodelers, Chicago Operatic company, the Simpson University Ladies' glee club, Cirillo's Italian band, and finally, in 1918 or 1919 Sousa's famous Marine band.

The Chautauqua also included classes. These were for physical training, swimming lessons, nature study, elocution, Bible study, WCTU methods and others.

In its early days, the Southern Oregon Chautauqua was one of four such institutions on the Pacific Coast.

Many of the lecturers and entertainers who came to the Southern Oregon institution

were impressed with the people and the area's scenic beauty. One, Frank J. Hanly, ex-governor of Indiana, climbed Mt. Ashland and later wrote a book, "A Day in the Siskiyou." This book is still in the Ashland library although out of print.

In the early 1920's Chautauqua faded out under a combination of pressures, perhaps from the automobile, radio and the attempted razzle dazzle management of the circuit which took it out of local hands and lowered the quality of performances.

And so in a few years Chautauqua in Southern Oregon faded out. The mortgagee foreclosed and the city took the property over, much to the relief of the mortgagee," Billings wrote.

"Mainly I think it failed because Ashland as a community was a bit blind to what was slipping away from them and failed to produce the leader willing to meet the emergency," Billings continued.

After about a dozen years a young professor, Angus Bowmer, arrived at Southern Oregon State Normal school and conceived a series of open-air Shakespeare plays.

The Shakespeare Festival began as an inconspicuous three-day community event in 1935, Billings wrote. Gradually it grew from a local participation and audience to national and international participation and audience.

Capt. Paul Morgan Reviews Police Work

By PEGGYANN HUTCHINSON
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

"I never had to fire my gun in the line of duty, but did have to draw it several times to stop persons - it had a wholesome effect."

"In fact, my gun was the first issued to any officer after the Oregon state police was organized. Got it in Salem in 1931-it is a Smith and Wesson 38 special."

Speaking was Capt. Paul E. Morgan who retired Feb. 1 from the Oregon state police.

Captain Morgan reminisced of his more than 34 years of police work recently at his home in Medford. The captain has been commander of district three in southern Oregon since Aug. 15, 1958. He was transferred to Medford as assistant commander on May 15, 1947.

"I started in police work as a Saturday night policeman in 1928 at Cottage Grove," the officer explained. "My boss was the late Green Pitcher, who was chief of police. The pay was \$5 for 12 hours," he continued, then added, "those loggers were pretty tough."

Serves Cottage Grove
"During the period I was at Cottage Grove I served the city as everything except mayor and councilman," the state police officer commented. "I was fire chief, traffic officer, read water meters. . ."

"A friend, Harold Howard, who later was a state police captain, suggested I join the state traffic division, and much to my surprise a short time later got a letter from the late Tom Rafferty, chief of the traffic division.

"We had to buy our own equipment and uniforms, which were khaki, and we couldn't enforce anything except traffic laws," the captain recalled. "I had commissions in the sheriff's department in both Lane and Douglas counties so I could make other arrests."

Shooting Near Marcola
One case recalled by the officer was a shooting near Marcola in 1930. A police officer was ambushed by a moonshiner and killed. Later another officer was fatally shot and two wounded.

"That night I was one of the officers who waited for the moonshiner to return," the captain explained. "I was really scared as it was so dark that night we couldn't see a thing. Then I heard steps and after waiting a bit, eased my flashlight away from me and holding it way out spotlighted what I thought was the moonshiner."

"It was a cow! Boy, was I relieved."

"The moonshiner was killed later," the captain recalled, "but I wasn't there at the time."

Transfers to Department
When the Oregon state police was organized in 1931 to enforce other laws in addition to traffic on a statewide basis, Morgan transferred to that department.

Prior to his transfer he received a letter from the late Hal E. Hoss, then secretary of state, expressing his appreciation for Morgan's service. It concluded, "You may at the expiration of your term of service with the state traffic division, keep your badge as a souvenir."

The badge, along with numerous pictures, letters and

other articles accumulated during more than 30 years, was located. It was a fairly large shield and with it was another badge-the state seal with wings-which was worn on the cap.

"Bet this is one of the few remaining copies of this," the captain remarked as he pulled out of a box three typewritten sheets of paper, slightly wrinkled.

District General Order
The three pages were District General Order 1, effective Aug. 1, 1931. Glancing down the list of names one stops at this notation:

"Paul E. Morgan. Patrol: north, south and west; Equipment: car; Headquarters: Cottage Grove."

You mention the size of the area patrolled by one man.

"We didn't have a very large force in those days," he commented.

"My first patrol car was a white 1929 Chevrolet," the captain continued. "Sixty was its top speed."

Prior to this time he had used a motorcycle.

Uniform Hasn't Changed
Morgan explained that the state police uniform hasn't changed much since 1931. The major change is the hat-they did away with the wide brim ones for the present caps. Now the department also has a summer uniform.

The first murder investigated by the department was in October, 1931, Morgan recalled. It was a railroad payroll holdup at Fields, Ore., east of Oakridge.

"It was a rough one," the officer remarked, "and an education for the department."

In 1932 Morgan was transferred to Eugene where he remained until 1937.

Police work in the 1930's ranged from the lumber union strikes, moonshiners to murder, the captain recalled. Check cases were in the news then as now, he added. One month in Eugene 27 persons were sent to the penitentiary on forgery or related check charges.

Had Tear Gas Guns
"Even in the early days of the department we had tear gas guns," Morgan explained. "The patrol cars had radio receivers from the mid-1930's, but we didn't get two-way radios in the cars until after World War II."

In 1937 Morgan was transferred to Salem where he remained for one year.

Chuckling to himself the captain recalled the days when state police patrolmen had coupes, which always raised a problem when a number of persons had to be taken to the station.

"Caught five men in a hop yard one night near Salem," Morgan recalled, "had two of them in the trunk under the lid and three in the front with me. Made it to the station, though," he added.

Promoted to Sergeant
On Dec. 27, 1938, Morgan was promoted to sergeant and assigned to Grants Pass where he stayed for six months. He was then transferred to Roseburg and remained there until being sent to Medford in 1947.

"We didn't have too much equipment in those days," Morgan recalled. "I remember one time when we had gotten a new car with all the accessories-we were really proud of it."

Recalled as the most vicious murders that he investigated were the Billy Junior Nunn killing of a 14-year-old Klamath Falls boy in a roadside park on Highway 86 in Jackson county in 1956 and the murder of Mrs. Fern Hile in Medford in 1954 by James Norman Jensen.

Both men were found guilty of first degree murder, but had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Mentions Another Case
Another case mentioned by the state police officer, which has a direct bearing on his retirement, occurred in 1956. The case concerned a narcotic charge against Donald La-

Verne Ambuehl. Prior to Ambuehl's arrest he attempted to escape from police officers. In the resulting chase his car and the one driven by Morgan, collided.

As a result of the collision Morgan suffered injuries which have been continually aggravating, causing his resignation from the department at this time.

Morgan was promoted to captain following the retirement of Capt. Paul Parson. With his promotion he became commander of district three which comprises Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties and includes some 123 police officers.

In looking back over his 34 years as a police officer, Captain Morgan said that he has no regrets about entering that profession.

Upon being transferred to Medford in 1947, he was promoted to lieutenant.

"One of the more exhaustive cases was tracking down Gerald Theodore Macomber in 1952," the captain explained. "With three men I spent 40 days and nights tracking the man after he escaped from the state penitentiary where he was serving a ten year sentence for larceny. Spotted in the Upper Applegate officers searched for him from there to the Cave Junction area in Josephine county before he was recaptured after being shot."

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SOC's Civil Defense Plan Praised by Hicks

Ashland - "An excellent plan" was the overall opinion voiced by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hicks, Jackson County Civil Defense director, who reviewed the Southern Oregon college defense plans recently.

General Hicks said that the plan was particularly praiseworthy in respect to its provisions for managerial efficiency and the fact that it had been placed on a continuing basis by action of Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, SOC president.

Measures taken to assure its continuity included the formation of a permanent College Civil Defense committee; the adoption of steps to be taken to inform all new students, faculty and civil service employees; and the maintenance of a close liaison between college and CD authorities.

Some discussion was devoted to the possible uses of defense space areas in excess of the 2,100 earmarked by the committee for campus use. It was decided that the spaces would be surveyed and assigned upon joint recommendations made by Ashland and college defense officials.

Permanent CD committee members consisted of those originally appointed by Stevenson at the peak of the Cuban crisis, Robert McCoy, assistant professor of mathematics, chairman; Carson Veirs, director of dormitory services; Hugh Simpson, director of information; and Lowell Lux, North Bend student, who was recommended for the committee by Fred Heard, editor of the college newspaper, the Siskiyou.

Court Order Needed To Cancel Trademark
Salem - Trademarks cannot be cancelled from the state registry by the secretary of state except by court order, Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said Friday.

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