"Griffin Creek School History, 1854 to 1963" is the title of a little booklet which Griffin Creek Parent Teacher association members have assembled to raise funds for seed to sow the turf of the school's new athletic field. The district, second to be organized in the county, has one of the oldest and most colorfully exciting histories of any in southwest Oregon. Pictured above is a group of children in front of the school soon after the turn of the century. The original school, opened in September, 1854, was in one half of a log building used as a supply way station for pack trains and which burned in 1857 during an Indian raid. Its first "bus" was a white hearse drawn by two white horses. The booklets, may be obtained by calling the principal, Mrs. Myrna Frink, telephone 773-2404 or at the M and M Market, Griffin Creek road at South Stage road.

Historic Griffin Creek School Booklet on Sale

Persons interested in the history of this area, may obtain a little booklet, "History of Griffin Creek School District." The information covers the span of 109 years, 1854 to 1963, which the school district has been in existence. Incorporated are many sidelights which went into the settling of the valley.

Sold for a small charge, the booklets were published by by the Griffin Creek School Parent Teacher association, to raise funds for seed to sow the turf of the school's new football field.

They are available through Mrs. Myrna Frink, principal, by contacting her through the school office, telephone 773-2404 or may be purchased at the M and M Market near the school on Griffin Creek road at South Stage road.

The material was compiled by Mrs. Chester Guches, Griffin Creek road, whose husband both attended the school and has served as a school board member. Information was gathered from numerous sources including original records in the Jackson county courthouse and many oldtimers who lived through much of the district's existence.

Organized in September, 1854, only two months after Jacksonville School district No. 1 was formed, District 2 encompassed all of the present Medford district and much of the areas of other present districts. It was in this year, 1854, that the first county tax levy of 2 mills was established for permanent school purposes

The Griffin Creek district history records that Indian raids made attending school a precarious situation, and because of the danger of raids no school was held the year 1855-56. At another time the old log station which housed the lone school room was destroyed by fire during a raid, and another recording lists as an excuse for not holding school the full year, the "imperfect state of things."

The original school, opened in 1854, was known as the Van Dorn school and from the 31 eligible children in the district 12 attended. Today over 320 students are registered at the school in the grades one through six. The district since has been divided with the upper grade and high school students attending school in Medford.

The first school "bus" which operated in the district is recorded in 1915. It consisted of a white hearse drawn by two white horses and this operated until automobiles began to be used extensively, when a Model T bus, enclosed with chicken wire to keep in the children, was used.

Many well-known and respected family names appear in the book, the first, the late Burrill Griffin, who with his family established a residence in the area in November, 1853. The Griffin farm included 640 acres,, a donation land claim, which included much of the area now known as Griffin creek.

Because of Mr. Griffin's prominence in the early-day activities and because of the size of his holdings, it followed that the three-forked creek flowing through the valley was named for him. The original Griffin home was on the site of the home now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Darby. Mrs. Darby is Mr. Griffin's granddaughter. The Griffin's first home was burned during an Indian raid.

A cemetery, established for members of his family, gradually became the burial place for others of the area and now contains between 60 and 70 graves.

Numerous Activities Set By Amethyst Rebekahs

Gold Hill – Mrs. A. A. Walker was elected by Amethyst Rebekah lodge at the February 20 business meeting to represent that organization as a delegate at the annual meeting of the Rogue Basin Flood Control and Water Resources association.

The meeting will be held in the Josephine County courthouse in Grants Pass on Monday, March 4 at 8 p.m. By this action the lodge has authorized Mrs. Walker to cast a vote in the election of seven directors for the association board.

Mrs. Albert Gascon, noble grand, presided at the business session held at the tenant house of Mrs. Evert Jennings. Plans for February activities of the lodge were concluded and arrangements made for several projects in March.

Fund Committee Report

Mrs. Charles Stripling, general chairman for the IOOF and Rebekah building fund committee reported that $517.52 has been deposited in the bank as of February 20. In a review of activities and progress report, Mrs. Stripling said February benefits for the fund will conclude with a food sale scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, beginning at 10 a.m. at Gail's Market.

A planning committee will meet with members of Mt. Pitt Rebekah lodge, Central Point, Monday, February 25, to make arrangements for the Crater high basketball achievement dinner which will be held at the school on Thursday, March 14.

The event is sponsored by Odd Fellows and Rebekah lodges in Central Point. The Gold Hill lodge was invited by them to participate in the affair. Proceeds will be divided between the groups. The Gold Hill lodge will add its share to the IOOF building fund. Those on the Amethyst lodge planning committee are Mrs. Cassie Johnson, Mrs. Stripling, Mrs. Jennings, and Mrs. Leonard L. Martin.

Plans for March 4 were made to participate in Friendship night at Olive Rebekah lodge, Medford at 8 p.m. Mrs. Walter McLean, good of the order chairman, will have charge of planning a number for the program. Numbers are asked to meet in front of the Gold Hill post office for transportation shortly after 7 p.m. on that date.

Other Events Noted

Mrs. Stripling said plans are under way for a rummage sale on Wednesday, March 27, at the Fehl building in Medford. Proceeds will benefit the building fund. Persons who have items to donate may contact Mrs. Stripling.

She said among other fund raisers being planned is a Street Carnival to be given as soon as the weather permits and a talent show.

It was decided that future meetings of the group will be held in the homes of various members until a permanent hall is available. Mrs. Stewart will have the two meetings in March at her home on Fourth avenue. Co-hostesses for the March 20 refreshment committee are Mrs. Lester Parker, Mrs. Joseph Lewis and Mrs. Clarence Parsley. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 6, at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Gascon named a telephone committee for 1963 including Mrs. George Dorman, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Thomas Z. Smith. Mrs. Parker will serve as alternate.

Mrs. Parsley reported that charter members of Amethyst Rebekah Friendship club were honored at the annual dinner meeting of the group on Monday, February 18, at North's Chuck Wagon by the new president, Mrs. Jennings. The event was the tenth anniversary of the club.

Mrs. Parsley, chairman of the Past Noble Grands treasure chest project for the building fund, gave a progress report. Mrs. Harry Newnham is cochairman for this event.

The Rogue chapter, Grandmother Clubs of America, plans a covered dish luncheon Monday, February 25 at 12:30 p.m., in the Girls Community club.

Husbands of members will be guests. Mrs. J. P. Graham and Mrs. William McCracken will arrange the program. Mrs. Otto Gaston will preside for the business session.

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MANOR-ISMS . . . .

By ETHELYN EVANS

A number of Manor members, with Medford, Ashland and Fresno, Calif. companions flew off recently for four days in Honolulu and four days in the outer islands. The "Manorites" were Mrs. F. S. Breed, Mrs. Chloe Shook, the Misses Irma Barnes, Auriel Spencer, Ruth Nye and Jeannette Stevens. Also making the trip are Edward Hearin, Dr. E. C. Clendenin, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Woodcock and Mr. Woodcock's brother and wife from Fresno. Mrs. Louilse Brockway and Mrs. Ora-Mae Waldron, Medford, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wagner, Ashland, joined the party in San Francisco. They flew jet from San Francisco.

• • •

The Shakespeare Tudor guild is putting on a "Book Fair" in the Mark Anthony hotel, Ashland, March 29, 30, and 31. The proceeds of this book sale will be used to increase the scholarship fund for young actors. Guild members in the Manor have placed a box in the Library, asking residents to deposit therein any surplus books they may have which would be duplicates of books in our Manor library. Our members have been extremely generous in donating books to the Library and, of course, some have been duplicates. We feel sure the owners of such books would be happy to have them sold for the benefit of the Festival association and, also have them read and enjoyed by others.

• • •

This week we visited the Shakespeare Festival association's office in the Mark Antony (Shakespearean spelling) and had a pleasant chat with William Patton, general manager of the association. Mr. Patton told us that season tickets for the plays, especially tickets for the opening night ("Merry Wives of Windsor") and the Feast o' Will in Lithia park are in great demand–reservations should be made soon. Also, this should remind us that it is time to renew our memberships in the association.

We left the Shakespeare office for an interesting tour of the hotel and ate lunch in the Crown room. We learned from Jack D. Pumphry, who purchased the property from one of our Manor members, Mrs. Charles Cooley, that he remodeled and decorated with the idea of keeping the hotel in harmony with the Shakespearean atmosphere which prevails in Ashland all year round–not merely during the Festival. There are many pictures of actors in scenes from Shakespeare plays on the walls; and we saw a number of interesting antiques in the mezzanine and lobby. Guests may walk out of a door on the third floor and land on the hill in the rear–just a stone's throw from the Elizabethan theatre. Many Tudor guild and association social meetings are held in the banquet room, which is named "Ceasar," naturally.

Miss Virginia Gray, the hotel's director of programs and social activities, is very much interested in arranging and supervising several college affairs which are held in the hotel each month. The academic atmosphere emanating from the Southern Oregon college in Ashland is all-of-a-piece with the Shakespearean, of course.

Out of town and state visitors to the Festival should be well taken care of this season. In addition to the existing accommidations, the new "Bard's Inn" (Shakespeare again) reportedly will be ready by that time.

• • •

"KO-REK-SHUN" – Our Members' Council does good work, of course; but that is no excuse for me going overboard and giving credit where NO credit is due. I glibly insisted the Council had purchased looms for the hobby room; whereas, these looms were bought, paid for, and delivered by the weavers themselves. The beautiful work they have produced on them was displayed in our hobby show last year. The owners of the looms are Mrs. Neal McGrady, Mrs. Eloise Falkner, Miss Elizabeth Roberts, Mrs. Essie Kowntz, Mrs. C. W. Woodcock, Miss Emma Walkins, and Mrs. George Hagman. So – as they say, "That's that!"

Eating an apple after lunch is an excellent midday toothbrush, as well as an aid to digestion.

CALENDAR..

Today:

12 Noon – Mt. Pitt chapter, Townsend club, home of A. W. Ellison, 110 East 11th st., apt. 1.

Monday:

12:30 p.m. – Rogue Grandmother club luncheon, Girls Community club.

7:30 p.m. – Degree of Honor Protective association, with Mrs. Clyde Hillyer, 538 Mary st.

7:30 p.m. – Neighbors of Woodcraft, Eagles hall, 217 West Main st.

7:45 p.m. – Medford Rose society, courthouse auditorium.

8 p.m. – Scottish Rite Women's club, Medford Masonic temple.

Tuesday:

9:30 a.m. – Women of the Guild pre-Lenten devotional Zion Lutheran church.

10 a.m. – Relief society of Second Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, at church, 648 South Ivy st.

10:30 a.m.–Applegate Home Extension unit, home of Mrs. Lester Rich, Thompson creek.

10:30 a.m. – Women's association of First Presbyterian church, at church.

12 Noon – Past Chiefs club, Pythian Sisters, home of Mrs. P. M. Aldredge, 833 West Second st.

12 Noon–Westminster Presbyterian Women's association, at church.

1 p.m. – Howard Garden club, with Mrs. N. F. Gier, 2902 North Pacific highway.

1 p.m. – Travel Study club, Girls Community club.

7 p.m.–Slimmer Yets TOPS club, conference room at Public Library of Medford and Jackson county.

8 p.m. – Antiques group of AAUW, home of Mrs. Duane Richardson, 749 West 14th st.

8 p.m. – IOOF and Olive Rebekah lodge, IOOF hall.

8 p.m. – Nevita chapter, OES, Central Point Masonic temple.

8 p.m. – Prospect PTA, school gymnasium.

Wednesday:

10 a.m. – Relief society of First Ward, Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints, at church, 648 South Ivy st.

11 a.m. – Security Benefit club, Knights of Pythias hall.

12:30 p.m. – Chapter AA of PEO Sisterhood, home of Mrs. F. C. Lorish, 830 Minnesota ave.

12:30 p.m. – Mistletoe Club of Royal Neighbors of America, Girls Community club.

1:30 p.m. – Book Review group of AAUW, home of Mrs. Richard Gilkey, 424 Willamette ave.

1:30 p.m. – Central Point Grange Home Economics club, home of Mrs. Marshall Weidman, North Tenth st.

1:30 p.m. – Oak Grove Neighborhood club, with Mrs. Brill, 75 Lozier lane.

6:30 p.m. – Order of Patriarchs Militant, Siskiyou canton auxiliary, IOOF hall.

7:30 p.m. – Order of De Molay, Medford chapter, Masonic hall.

7:30 p.m. – De Molay Mothers club, Masonic hall.

8 p.m. – Roxy Ann Home Economics club, home of Mrs. Eva Garrett, route 3, box 79.

8 p.m. – Xi Mu chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, Rogue Gallery, 220 West Main st.

12:30 p.m. – Medford Sojourners club, Girls Community club.

1 p.m. – Golden Link class of First Baptist Sunday school, home of Mrs. B. E. Andrews, 785 Waverly ave.

8 p.m. – Phoenix Thursday club, home of Mrs. Ernest James, 209 Fifth st., Phoenix.

8 p.m. – Reames chapter, OES, Medford Masonic temple.

Friday:

1 p.m. – Phoenix Thimble club, home of Mrs. Arthur Hunter, Arnold lane, Medford.

2:30 p.m. – Wilson School PTA, school cafeteria.

Pre-Lenten Event Is Announced For Zion Church Guild

The Women of the Guild of Zion Lutheran church are sponsoring a pre-Lenten devotional Tuesday, February 26, for all men and women of the church. Mrs. Walter Nunley is the general chairman.

Coffee will be served in the Fireside room at 9 a.m. and the program will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary.

Theme for the devotional is "The Meeting Place" and will be presented in five meditations. They are "We meet our Father in his world, his word, in his worship, his work and his will."

Following the meditations a luncheon will be served in the Felowship hall. Nursery care will be available and mothers are to provide a sack lunch for each child's noon meal. Milk will be provided.

Security Club Adopts Plan

A life insurance and sickness benefit plan was decided upon by the Security Benefit club during their Wednesday meeting in the Pythian building.

Members are asked to take their membership receipts to coming meetings for the purpose of providing the club with names of beneficiaries under the plan. James Bishop is in charge of this service.

At the Wednesday, February 27 meeting those whose birthdays are in February will be honored.

Another benefit dance is planned by the group, to be held in the Pythian building, March 15. Theme will be St. Patrick's day.

Guests at last week's meeting were the Walter Scotts, and Mrs. Ethel Hartly attended after a long absence.

The group meetings are held each Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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