

City Briefs

Benefit Dinner—The Congressional Community circle will sponsor a public benefit dinner Sunday, February 25, in the Community Social hall on Garden avenue. Dinner will be served from 12:30 until 2:30. The proceeds will be used to purchase a new gas range for the community hall. Mrs. W. L. Larsen, Mrs. Anna McGilvery and Mrs. W. O. Lohrey are in charge of the dinner.

Attend Moose Meet—R. G. Molschenbacher, junior vice president, and Clyde Thompson, first vice president, attended the mid-winter conference of the Oregon State Moose association held at Portland last week-end, and will give their report of the conference at the meeting of the Loyal Order of Moose scheduled for Friday evening, 8 o'clock, at the KC hall.

Friendship Club—The Friendship club will meet Friday, February 23, at the home of Mrs. J. H. Dunham at 534 North Tenth street. A dessert luncheon will be served at 1:30 o'clock. Co-hostesses are Mrs. C. O. Dryden and Mrs. Thomas Hart. Mrs. L. R. Stringfellow expects to leave this weekend for Los Angeles and will not be able to entertain the club.

Potluck Supper—A potluck supper was on the program for the meeting of the Eagles auxiliary in the Eagles hall Thursday night.

M and M Circle—The Mary and Martha circle of the First Presbyterian church will meet at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Emery, 1902 Esplanade street, Friday at 2 p. m. Mrs. Greer Drew will be assisting hostess and Mrs. Harold Van Duker will give the Bible lesson.

Sponsor Card Party—The Women of the Moose will sponsor a public card party Friday afternoon, February 23, at 2 o'clock at the KC hall. The hostesses will be Theda Fehl, Ethel Colvin, Margaret Johnson and Martha Barron.

Return Home—Mrs. J. J. Pex and daughter Janice have returned to their home at 2036 Vine avenue from San Francisco where they visited for several days with Pex, who is in San Francisco on trainmen business.

Royal Neighbors—The Royal Neighbors of America will meet in regular session Friday at 7:30 p. m. in the IOOF hall. All are urged to attend and visiting neighbors invited.

Suburban Meet—Residents of St. Francis Park and Glenier Tracts were invited to meet Thursday night in the Altamont Junior high school to discuss community problems.

Mineral Club—The regular monthly meeting of the Klamath Mineral club will be held Friday evening.

Lady Eagles—The Lady Eagles club will meet February 23 for a 1 o'clock potluck luncheon and regular business session. Maudie Larson and Lucille Ruge will be hostesses at the Ruge home, 1603 Siskiyou street.

Masons Meet—A special communication of Klamath Lodge No. 77 A. F. & A. M. has been called for Friday evening, February 23 at 7:30 o'clock. The Fellowship degree will be conferred. Members and visiting brethren are invited to attend.

SKI CLUB PLANS TO INSTALL BIG LIFT

Questions of installation and operation of the new Crater Lake Ski club ski lift at Crater lake were discussed at a meeting of the club Wednesday evening to view motion pictures of skiers in action.

A "muscle gang" of ski club members will assemble at the rim early Sunday to skid the heavy lift into position at the foot of Knob hill. Weighing nearly a ton, the left machinery must be hauled half a mile from the end of the road to its platform in the bottom of the ski bowl, where electrical connections are being installed this week.

The ski-tow has a guaranteed pulling capacity of 2000 pounds and should be able to handle at least 20 skiers at a time continuously, pulling them up the hill at a rate of approximately 6 miles per hour, according to figures given by President Emert Fossum.

Fossum asked for continued pressure on skiers to join the club. A membership card entitles the skier to free use of the ski-tow. The club's franchise for a bus to operate between Government Camp and the rim is still pending in Washington.

Motion pictures shown at the meeting included several reels of action at Crater lake and at Sun Valley, Idaho.

Cold figures worked out by a highway research board show that auto drivers between 45 to 50 years of age kill the fewest persons—about 66 per year for each 100,000 drivers.

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Merrill Firemen Recall First Use Of Modern Truck

By RUTH KING

Flames shot from the roof of the Mel Mitchell house just off Main street. Grocer and druggist, livery stableman and miller, Merrill's volunteer fire department, abandoned tasks at hand and at the clang of the old fire bell went into action. The newly purchased chemical equipment, paid for with city funds was ready for its first tryout. The old order of fighting fire, the bucket brigade, used since the department came into being in 1907 only a few years before was history. The whole slope of the roof with the exception of a low shed burned briskly as the chemical wagon arrived. Time was short, water too was needed and the old well, at the back of the house was full of water, so Dr. Alec Patterson, alert to the proximity of the shed roof to the support for the windlass in the well, straddled the space, the better to draw up the full buckets. The brace was old. The doctor of substantial weight and with the fire crackling about his ears, fell feet first into the well.

Pandemonium reigned. Fire Chief Ben Faus, directed his rescue. He came out on the end of a rope and the battle against the flames went on. The house, located on the property where Dean Lodge now lives was not seriously damaged and the value of the chemical equipment was established.

The life of a fireman is replete with such incidents and Merrill's fire chief, 58-year-old Ben Faus, who since he was 12 years old has answered the call of many a fire bell, can recall a lot of them.

Mr. Faus, native of Boulder, Colo., was the son of a fire fighter. His father, a member of the department in his home city encouraged the youngster in his interest in the department's equipment and at 12 years he was voted mascot of the men who fought fire.

In 1899, he became a regular member serving until 1903 when he came to Merrill to look over real estate purchased in White Lake City, sight unseen. It had been advertised as the up and coming settlement of southern Klamath county but the buy was a disappointment. Prospects for making even a meager living on it were nil so he went to work on the Sheets-Murphy store at White Lake as a carpenter. The job ran out and he cast about for new employment.

Along with his yen for the life of a fireman, he had inherited his father's skill at the anvil and he turned to George Jerry, local blacksmith for work. When this too evaporated into thin air he butchered hogs for Nathan Merrill.

Eight months after landing in southern Oregon, he was in business for himself. Two kegs of horseshoes and a sack of coal were bought from Ed Martin. He rented the Martin Kozak shop and shod his first team, driving bays for Gene Hammond.

But something was lacking. He liked the town, the folks in Merrill were good neighbors, he had a home and family. The only thing in life he really lacked was a fireman's helmet and a fire. So he gathered together the citizens of the town and organized a volunteer department with 20 members. They made him chief, and for many a day, Henry Cox, John Martin, Henry Anderson, Joe Dewey, John Cox, George Orfield, "Bob" Dalton, Malcolm Durham and a Mr. Dunning, among others, rallied round him when the need arose.

He fought Merrill's most spectacular fire early in his career here. The exact date is unknown since records burned years ago when the city hall went up in smoke. Twenty-two head of horses, stabled in the livery barn operated by Ray and Ralph Merrill, perished. The building, on the ground where Dr. Luther

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Fire Chief Ben Faus

Taber now owns apartments, was the property of Kale Oliver.

Martin's Mercantile, where the Safeway now does business, was consumed in the same blaze, and the whole block in less than an hour was a pile of ashes. Grain and hay in those days were being freighted to Montague and Frank Blooming lost his freight team.

The town grew and the need for more modern fire equipment was urgent. Dances during the early life of the department had been a means of raising funds for the needed supplies. Folks came from miles around to frolic all night, so the dances were made an annual affair and for thirty-two years, the men have turned out to play host to the community to replenish the treasury. Saturday, February 24, marks the 33rd anniversary of that first dance.

Present day equipment, two motorized trucks, hose, booster pumps, and all else that is needed to check a blaze has been bought and paid for and maintained through the efforts of the department. Valuation is rated at \$3000. Work of the department members, is gratis and any cash turned in by grateful property owners in the rural districts goes into the department treasury.

Mr. Faus is proud of his family, which includes Mrs. Faus, two sons, Robert J. and Reo and a daughter, Mona. The children were all born and grew up in Merrill.

He is justly proud to, of his collection of hand turned steel, nickel-plated horseshoes, samples of animal footgear made to remedy every foot and leg imperfection known to horseflesh. He cherishes, too, in his small office in the corner of his shop, a picture of his father and three

sons, grouped about the implements of labor where first he learned to hammer heated iron. Of the three sons, Faus is the only one to follow his father's trade.

As do so many other fireman, he indulges when time allows in a bit of needlework and to prove his adeptness he displays pillows, towels, table covers and other articles that would do credit to any lady competitor.

But this accomplishment doesn't mean that he has any feminine hesitation against pitching into trouble, if the need arises. In addition to his fire marshal's badge he has worn the badge of law enforcement authority for about all the years he has served the department as chief. He has officiated as city marshal and a constable and deputy sheriff and on the side he shoots trouble for the California Oregon Power company.

He boasts that only once has he lost the chief's badge presented by co-workers. Concerned over it's disappearance he spread the word about town. Time passed and one day, after he had given up hope, a native of the "Auld Sod" returned it, flattened by a wagon wheel but otherwise intact.

This year Mr. Faus has an enviable record. In point of service he is Oregon's oldest fire chief. For eight years he has held third place in the state but since last year's meeting of the state fire association, one of his seniors has retired and the second no longer worries about the wail of a siren.

The personnel of Merrill's volunteer department has changed with the years, the equipment has progressed from the bucket and tub brigade to the motorized stage, buildings have gone up and burned down but as he did 33 years ago this weekend, Merrill's loyal chief will carry through his share in the plans for the fire laddies' ball.

Red hail has occurred in various regions of the earth. It is caused by a fine dust in the atmosphere, blown up from red soil, and frozen into the hailstones.

Julius Caesar, after his conquest of Egypt, brought the first giraffe to Rome, where it aroused great curiosity. It was the first one to reach the European continent alive.

The annual beer and whisky bill in the United States is \$4,000,000,000. That doesn't include tomato juice and bromide powders.

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OWNERS OF BEAUTY SHOPS ORGANIZE AS STATE UNIT

Klamath Falls beauty shop owners have organized as a unit of the Oregon Beauty Shop Owners association.

At a meeting Tuesday night officers were elected as follows: Velma Sauer, president; Hershel Hadley, vice president; Ruby Hastings, secretary; Thelma Lindfield, treasurer.

The next meeting of the unit will be held Tuesday, February 28, at the home of Alec Brearcliffe.

OBITUARY

MARY ELIZABETH WYMAN

Mary Elizabeth Wyman, for the last 12 years a resident of Klamath county, Oregon, passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Frank N. Boral, on Riverview drive at 8 a. m. Thursday following an illness of three years. She was a native of Canada and at the time of her death was aged 73 years 7 months and 10 days. Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Frank N. Boral of this city, Mrs. Alfred Stenberg of Thief River Falls, Minn., and Mrs. Darwin Giles of Chillicothe, Oregon; one son, Richard Wyman of Beardsmore, Ontario, Canada; one sister, Mrs. Anna Stean, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada; two brothers, John and William Ellis, both of Toronto, Canada, also thirteen grandchildren. The remains rest in the Earl Whitlock Funeral Home, Pine street at Sixth,

where friends may call after 11:00 a. m. Friday, notice of funeral to be announced in the next issue of this paper.

NILES CENTER?—YES!

NILES CENTER, Ill. (AP) — Note well the name of this town, because it is still just plain Niles Center despite a three-months' campaign and the cheers, jeers and threats of the Ridgeviewites.

After two hours' debate and much heckling on the part of a faction which wanted to change the name of the Chicago suburb to Ridgeview, village trustees decided, 4 to 2, that the old name — Niles Center — was good enough.

Opponents of the change claimed that theirs was the only Niles center in the United States, while Ridgeviews come a "dime a dozen."

It's about time that we as a people became intelligently selfish about our own national welfare. There's plenty of crusading to be done here at home.—Raymond J. Kelly, national commander, American Legion.

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