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SINCE, 1920!

Wi-Ne-Ma Hotel, Home Owned And Managed, Is Considered One Of The Most Valuable Assets Of Klamath Falls

With large, comfortable and well furnished rooms—dining and banquet rooms which are perfect facilities for business and social functions, both large and small, makes this hostelry a credit to this community.

By R. KENNETH EVANS

The WI-NE-MA Hotel plays a prominent and popular role in entertaining travelers and catering to the Big Empire of Southeastern Oregon.

Taking its name from the story of an Indian Princess, WI-NE-MA, (woman of the brave heart) who was born in the Indian village of Eulalona located at the point where Klamath Lake pours into Link River and where Captain John C. Fremont crossed the River in his explorations of 1846. The Hotel carries out the motif of the early history of the Klamath Basin which was interwoven with the life of the Modoc and Klamath Indians and their hunting grounds.

WI-NE-MA, the Indian girl, was a heroine of the Modoc Indian War which took place in the Klamath Basin in 1872 and 1873 and one of the few Indians who could speak English. Through the role of interpreter she did everything in her power to promote peace between the Indians and the white settlers. She always had uppermost in her mind the best interests of both the red men and the white men. Even while the bloody battles were being fought in the Lava beds 40 miles south of Klamath Falls she fearlessly mingled with both warring factions, acting as a mediator. At the turning point of the war she risked her life in warning the Army officers when the Indians planned a false truce and treachery.

The WI-NE-MA Hotel was bought in 1942 by a small group of local business leaders, Merle West, Tom Watters, Cliff Dunn, and Andy Collier, all of whom have lived in Klamath Falls for more than 40 years. Their community interests lead them to spare no expense in furnishing, equipping and redecorating the hotel to provide an environment of livability that could not be excelled. They have established for the hotel an enviable position as one of the top rank among the Northwest hostleries.

The WI-NE-MA is literally an "Open House" with the latch string always on the outside. All who enter its doors are welcomed by Earl Russell, the genial manager, and every employee has a smile of eagerness to make the visitor feel genuinely at ease. Old fashioned Hospitality prevails and the hotel is a natural rendezvous for tourists, local business men, industrial executives, farmers and cattlemen who are seen mingling together in their natural fashion, and a spirit of friendliness prevails.

Earl Russell, with a background of wide hotel experience, has been manager of the WI-NE-MA Hotel for the last four years. He is constantly on the alert to see that every operation of this hotel, from front to back, moves along as smoothly as the precision movement of a Swiss watch. And he does this, always with the thought uppermost in his mind, that the best employee might make a mistake and needs encouragement rather than criticism. This is one of the major reasons that every one of the 40 local people employed by the hotel management indicate that they like their work and take pleasure in doing it right. A hotel guest quickly senses this cosmopolitan atmosphere and appreciates it to the fullest extent. Mrs. Russell makes a team with Earl, and does an equally good job as hostess in the Coffee Shop. She always, smilingly, walks from booth to booth to see that the guests are properly served and that all their desires have been taken care of.

Having in mind that the majority of the guests come by automobile and have the universal problem of what to do with the car after they have registered, two large free-parking lots have been provided. The larger of these, located on Main Street with a wide entrance, normally will provide for all guest cars. In case of over-flow a second parking lot is provided, off Eleventh Street, back of the hotel, to care for this heavy demand.

There are two floors of sleeping rooms covering almost a city

block, served by elevator and courteous bell-boy service. The rooms are all large, well lighted and comfortably furnished and have outside exposure. Ninety per cent of the rooms have private tiled baths, well equipped.

The WI-NE-MA has two banquet rooms for larger gatherings of local activities and has an especially attractive Coffee Shop and adjacent party rooms for meetings of business groups, directors luncheons, women's organizations and family gatherings of all kinds.

Of this group the "Empire Room," a bright and cheerful room seating about 45 persons, has paintings on the walls depicting local Klamath Basin industry, such as logging, harvesting potatoes, grazing of sheep herds, saw mills and a bucking bronco with the rodeo rider's hands in the air—unseated. This room is constantly in demand by various groups.

The walls of the Coffee Shop itself is decorated entirely with Indian hunting scenes and with wild life as it was in the early days in Klamath County. The Annex room is delightfully decorated with drawings on the walls of hunting and sporting scenes of present day Klamath. Then there is the Crater Room for smaller parties which is the gem of them all. This room serves a group of 18 people. Its walls are a continual panorama painting of majestic Crater Lake done by Verne Swanson, a talented local artist now studying in Paris. The guests can envision themselves sitting in the center of this nationally historical lake with the deep blue water below them and the distant Fort Klamath and other scenes beyond the rim of the Lake.

The large immaculate and ultra sanitary kitchen of the WI-NE-MA is the last word in modern kitchens. Stainless steel predominates throughout on the working tables, the walls and covering "every nook and cranny" from the standpoint of sanitation.

The serving table, where the orders are placed for the waitresses, is kept electrically warmed so that no meals are served that are not steaming hot, regardless of the few minutes delay which is sometimes unavoidable. The whole kitchen is electrified, providing an even and intense cooking heat which is easily controlled. A large walk-in refrigerated room opens off the kitchen which has ample capacity for preserving perishable foods such as meat and vegetables. In this cooler room is a quick freeze compartment large enough to meet all demands.

The WI-NE-MA Hotel, today, is all that the present three community builders who are responsible for it—West, Watters and Collier—anticipated when they started its development back in 1942, but still they have new ideas for adding to its attractions and rendering service to the community. The three owners recently purchased the famous Frank Payne Indian Collection, containing twenty-thousand Indian artifacts gathered in this empire of Southeastern Oregon over a period of many many years and hope to make provision for a museum room or window display where all citizens can view them and all travelers who pass through the WI-NE-MA will see them and learn of the interesting factors in the history of the Klamath country.

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