

Know Your Community

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles on a community survey conducted recently by the League of Women Voters. The survey is being printed in its entirety, and we feel you will find it of considerable interest.

By LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of Klamath Falls believes that citizen participation in government is the basis of our democratic system, and that informed voters are a prerequisite if good civic plans are to be made and translated into the reality of better community living. With increased population there must be answers to immediate need and contemplation for long range planning.

We have undertaken this community survey in order to inform ourselves better about Klamath Falls, and through this printed report we are sharing our findings with you. We think, faultless or not, that Klamath Falls is a fine place to live. We feel that its citizens are intelligent and responsible and that this community is alert to progress. We feel we have increased our knowledge and understanding of the complexities of Klamath Falls. We have had many fine discussions at our unit meetings about the information we have collected.

APPRECIATION

The league wishes to express its deep appreciation for the great cooperation which it received from our public officials, school administrators and others who so patiently answered our questions.

The first white man known to have explored the territory now included in Klamath County was Finan McDonald, a trapper in the employment of the Hudson Bay Company. Peter Skeen Ogden reports in his Journal that McDonald was trapping in the Klamath Marsh area in 1825-26. Ogden came late in 1825, traveling south from the Deschutes, when he came suddenly into a wide flat country covered with water and wet meadows — our Upper Klamath Marsh. Here the white man found log huts, others of mud, scattered from the marsh down along the Williamson River. These Indian villages continued around Modoc Point and clear down to Link River.

EXPLORERS

After them came other explorers, and then the settlers — the first being Wendolen Nuss who came in 1866. In 1867 George Nurse, who had been a settler at Fort Klamath, put into motion his cherished idea of starting a settlement at the mouth of Link River. He obtained a franchise from the government to operate a paid ferry across Link River, and homesteaded that land now occupied by the Great Northern for its railroad tracks, along South Riverside, together with other acreage, and built his homestead house where the Link River Auto Court now stands. He brought his small stock of goods, consisting largely of trinkets for the soldiers and Indians, and started a little store. At first his trade was mostly with the natives for furs. Lumber was rafted down from the Fort over the lake and a little box cabin was built on a rocky point on the river's bank, on what is now the east corner of Conger and Main streets. His next enterprise was a modern hotel, which probably stood close to the river near Conger Avenue.

SETTLERS

The seventies brought more settlers, most of them engaged in stock raising, and so, Linkville began to grow. There were also a few who made steady contact with the country but did not make their homes here. Some brought cattle over the mountains to range through the summer months, taking them out again in the autumn. In 1872 the Linkville Post Office was established with Mr. Nurse as postmaster. In 1882 Klamath County was formed and Linkville became a county seat, May 10, 1884, marked the date of the first newspaper, the Weekly Star Press. In July 1884 a new courthouse was acquired; the second in 1887. In 1889 a city charter was granted. The disastrous fire of 1889 and the depression years of the early '90s retarded development for some time. It was not until the late '90s that growth again started. On February 20, 1893, the town of Linkville incorporated as the town of Klamath Falls. (It was felt that the name Linkville denoted smallness.) In 1905 it was incorporated as the city of Klamath Falls. A new charter was adopted in 1913, and the city hall was built in 1914.

IRRIGATION

The first attempt at irrigation in Klamath County was made by a number of Linkville citizens who incorporated their enterprise under the name of "The Linkville Water Ditch Company" in 1878. This company placed a head gate in the east bank of Link River near its emergence from Upper Klamath Lake and dug a small canal through the present city of Klamath Falls and used it for the irrigation of town lots. The canal was enlarged and extended from time to time, and in 1905 Oregon state took action by passing its own irrigation act which provided for the appointment of a state engineer and for cooperation with the National Reclamation Service. The second project undertaken (the first being in the Umatilla Valley) called for entering the tule marsh lands of Klamath County and Northern California. Here the project called for use of the upper Klamath, Clear, and Horse Fly lakes as natural storage reservoirs with very little construction necessary. These waters (the surplus of which normally drained into Klamath River) were tapped for



FREMONT SCHOOL PTA OFFICERS keep the wheels of meetings moving smoothly. Left to right are Mrs. J. E. Hosley, treasurer; Mrs. Neil Black, secretary; Mrs. Robert Puckett, first vice president; Mrs. Lloyd Ford, second vice president, and Mrs. Clyde Dixon, president.

Lake Rotary Club Presents Awards To 4-H Members

LAKEVIEW — Welthy Warner was named winner of the \$100 award given by the Lakeview Rotary Club for outstanding work in livestock breeding in 4-H Club competition during the past year. The award was announced and granted at the 4-H Club West Side achievement program held Friday evening, November 1, at the West Side Grange Hall.

Competing for the prize were club members in dairy, sheep, beef and hog projects. Welthy's efficiency was noted in the sheep division. Screening of members was done by a special committee, which narrowed the competition to four. Another committee then made the decision.

Other Rotary awards presented by W. H. (John) Buell, went to Donna Odegaard for senior clothing; Rhea Garrett, senior cooking; Tamara Tomlin, outdoor cooking; Joyce Fenimore, junior knitting; Louise Moulton, senior knitting; Helen Odegaard, clothing sweepstakes; Dale Vandergaw, woodworking. Demonstration awards went to Don Hill, special livestock demonstration; Dolores Heavilin, junior clothing; Jay Johnston and Linn Sipp, outdoor cooking; Dale Vandergaw, woodworking; Maurice Odegaard and Sidney Tracy, junior livestock team.

The Lake County Tuberculosis and Health Association, represented by Mrs. Betty Elliott, awarded the top boy and girl in the health groups of each school as follows: New Idaho School, Leslie Ann Gorsch and John Moran; Union School, Mary Lynne Fenimore and Tommy Hart; Vernon School, Max Huff and Marian Angele. The boy and girl from the New Idaho School were also picked as tops in all three schools.

Dolores Heavilin was first and Mary Lynn Fenimore second in the news reporter scrapbook contest sponsored by the Lake County Examiner. The 4-H Club Leaders Association awards for secretary's books went to Joy Kerr, first, and Maudie Jean Batman, second.

irrigating a strip of land about 50 miles long, running northward from the California line, and for development of power at the outlet of the Upper Klamath Lake. The lakes held large quantities of water and were fed from a sufficiently large watershed which would enable discharge by gravity of the water requirements for irrigating an eventual total of 236,401 acres.

TWO FACTORS
Two other factors contributed to the growth of the city between the years 1900 and 1910 — the coming of the timber claimers, and the coming of the railroad. It was on May 19, 1909 that the first railroad train steamed into Klamath Falls.

The tiny village of 400 in 1904 had grown to 4,801 in 1920. In 1956 the population was estimated to be 18,300. Since 1930 there has been a large increase in the suburban areas, and the Oregon state estimate of 1956 gives the population of the metropolitan area as 30,000. The area of the city is 6.0 square miles, and the altitude is 4,105 feet.

Klamath Falls is served by three railroads and maintains a municipal airport. The city is the distribution center of an extensive lumbering and agricultural area, ranking second in the state in volume of sales of industrial supplies. The leading products of the Klamath Basin, the fertile irrigated region surrounding the city, are livestock, poultry, grains, hay, potatoes, onions and sugar beets. The principal industrial establishments are sawmills, lumber mills, lumber-processing plants, and meat-packing plants. Educational institutions include the Oregon Technical Institute, located three miles from the city. Religious denominations are well represented. There are over 40 churches in this area.

Klamath Falls is also the center of a leading resort and recreational area. The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is an active civic organization. This and other businessmen's and businesswomen's organizations, service clubs, and fraternal organizations work individually, or in groups, for the interests and betterment of the community.

PNW Area Tax Collections Up

The Safeway livestock breeding award of a summer school scholarship was presented to Welthy Warner by Sam Kimpton, local manager.

Presentation of member awards was made for the First National Bank of Portland by Dewey Meredith. The leader awards were given for the U.S. National Bank by Al Haslebacher, club agent, taking the place of Lee McMullen who was unable to attend.

Completion awards were granted as follows: First year — Jim McNeely, Mari-Ann Angele, Dallas Angele, Sam Anderson, Hank Albertson, Tommy Barclay, Frank Burrows, Carl Biggs, Rita Barclay, Leslie Ann Gorsch, David Johnston, Bobby LaPlant, Bobby Moore, Sonja Maddock, Tommy Oakley, Chuck Reed, Ernie Simpson, Greg Tracy, Dave Cleland, Johnny Cole, Ernie Cooper, David Cooper, Nancy Ann Clair, Kenneth Black, Shirley Davis, Joyce Fenimore, Max Huff, Pete Kimzey, Linda Moran, Mike Meadows, Frank Nelson, David Peay, Mike Ray, Bonnie Thomas and Kenneth Giles.

Second year — Jennie Cleland, Lois Fawver, Ruth Goss, Denise Haven, Deanna Johnston, Larry Maxwell, Cheryl Newman, Johnny Sipp, Harlene Clark, Lotha Giles, Dolores Heavilin, Tom Hart, Susanne Klippel, Connie Nelson, Camille Simpkins, David Vansteenberg and Wayne Wolf.

Third year — Fred Baldwin, Douglas Damron, Sharon Giersdorf, Jay Johnston, James Millard, Barbara Thomas, Don Williams, Dean Davis, Mary Lynne Fenimore, Mary Ann Hart, John Moran, Dwayne Taylor, Tamara Tomlin and Fred Williams. Fourth year — Sharon Ashcraft, Judy Kerr, Beverly Tomlin, Dale Vandergaw, Dwayne Davis, Wayne Sipp and Sidney Tracy.

Fifth year — Phyllis Ashcraft, Don Hill, Lynn Peay, Judy Goss, Maurice Odegaard and Bob Warner. Sixth year — Joy Kerr, Edward Sipp, Welthy Warner, Janet Oakley and Frances Stewart. Seventh year — Judy Haven, Leta Odegaard, Charlene Lantz and Pat Oakley. Ninth year — Rhea Garrett and Barbara Oakley. Tenth year — Maudie Jean Batman, Donna Odegaard, Louise Garrett Moulton and Karilyn Padget Story.

Receiving leaders pins or certificates were as follows: First year — E. L. Elliott, Warren Maxwell, Marguerite South, Edna Schuler, Betty Johnston and Minnie Meadows. Second year — Elizabeth Swartz, Mary Heavilin and Bill Warner. Third year — W. J. Vandergaw, Tom Crawford, Perry Ashcraft and Idrora Tomlin. Fourth year — Nancy Fenimore and Pearl Christensen. Fifth year — Shirley Sipp. Seventh year — Mildred Garrett. Ninth year — Ray Kerr. Tenth year — Coral Hill; 14th year — Mary Odegaard.

Junior leaders were represented as follows: first — Phyllis Ashcraft, Karilyn Story and Helen Odegaard; third — Donna Odegaard; and fourth — Louise Moulton.

MALAYAN RECOGNITION
KUALA LUMPUR (UP) — The government of newly-independent Malaya today announced official recognition of 87 nations, including Russia and the tiny republic of San Marino. Six states that Malaya did not recognize were Communist China, Nationalist China, East Germany, North Korea, Outer Mongolia and North Vietnam.

CASTLE AFB (UP) — A B52 Stratofortress, the Air Force's largest bomber, crashed and burned on the runway here Wednesday, but all 10 crewmen escaped unhurt.

Castle said the plane crashed during a landing and burst into flames moments after the crewmen had cleared the giant jet. Exact cause of the accident was not known, but it was believed to have been landing gear trouble. The B52 is the largest bomber the U. S. has and has set many records, including flying nonstop around the world. The one involved in Wednesday's accident was attached to the 330th Bomb Squadron of the Strategic Air Command.

Two Indicted For Fraud

WASHINGTON (UP) — The Internal Revenue Service reported Wednesday that federal tax collections in the three Pacific Northwest states during the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1957, showed increases over the previous year.

Federal tax collections in Washington showed the biggest jump, from \$847,574,000 in fiscal 1955-56 to \$899,366,000 in fiscal 1956-57.

The figures for the other states and Alaska, with the 1956-57 collection first, were: Oregon — \$514,746,000 and \$498,205,000; Idaho — \$131,203,000 and \$120,184,000; and Alaska — \$36,431,000 and \$43,566,000.

Two Indicted For Fraud

SAN FRANCISCO (UP) — A prominent East Bay home builder and his son were indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday on charges of defrauding the Veterans Administration out of three million dollars by falsifying credit reports of prospective buyers.

Indicted were Thomas Norman Plumleigh Sr., 52, and his son, Robert, 27, both of Antioch. They are officers of the Plumleigh Development Company, which specialized in tract developments of homes in Pittsburg, Antioch, Concord and Irvington.

The two men were indicted on 19 counts of making false representations about prospective clients, and on one count of conspiracy. If convicted, each faces 100 years in prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard H. Foster said Wednesday's indictment specifically named 10 houses, but false representations may involve 200 of the 266 houses built by the firm in 1956 and 1957.

Foster said the Plumleighs gave false credit reports, exaggerated the income of some buyers, suppressed the fact that one purchaser had been bankrupt, and in one case cut three pages of derogatory information from a credit report.

False information was given on a total of three million dollars in VA-backed loans, Foster said. The fraud was discovered when a loan company asked an East Bay credit agency for a supplemental report on some of Plumleigh's clients.

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