

Fort Rock Matriarch Remembers Early Days

By HELEN PARKS

FORT ROCK — Grass up to a horse's stomach and the mice in their makeshift shelter are among the earliest recollections of Fort Rock homestead days for Mrs. Bridget Godon.

This matriarch of the Fort Rock Valley, with her sparkling Irish eyes and laughter, will tell you in the rich brogue of her native land that she wished she hadn't come. Nevertheless, she stuck it out.

Then there was another earlier trip that she wished she hadn't made. At 17, as Bridget Monahan, she traveled steerage for 14 days from Ireland to New York City. Her mother and father had both died and the property went to the eldest child. She paid her way by selling needlework and embroidered two nice dresses to take along.

It had cost three pounds, then about \$15, for steerage passage. "If it had cost any more I couldn't have come," she said. "It was crowded, riding in the bottom of the boat, but there was also a sense of adventure. In America I thought I would get everything I wanted." She went to Philadelphia where she had an older sister whom she scarcely remembered.

Jobs were not plentiful but the worst one, she recalled, was working long hours as a domestic for a hard-to-please housewife near Hopewell, New Jersey, at a wage of \$8 a month.

Then it was that she remembered the old home with its flowers and trees and the fireplace which gave warmth and a place for cooking and the view of the ships with white sails billowed against the blue-green of Donegal Bay.

Better jobs came along and in time she met and married Pete Godon, a French chef and a good one.

It was October, 1911, when they left Philadelphia with their five small daughters, Louise, Alice, May, Josephine and Mable, to seek their fortune in the West.

"Gold on the ground, fruit on the trees" was the kind of advertising that lured them to travel with their friends, the Alec Belletable family, top homestead 320 acres in the Fleetwood community 11 miles northeast of Fort Rock. They arrived with only their personal belongings at Opel City, then the end of the railroad where they were met by Holly Swingle who hauled passengers and freight to the "land of opportunity."

It was two weeks before Swingle hauled lumber for their house and Mrs. Godon wouldn't have minded sleeping in the barn that furnished them shelter if she hadn't had to share it with the mice. She preferred sleeping in the open, she pointed out.

"Pete dug our well by hand, 85 feet deep," stated Mrs. Godon. "Louise (now Mrs. Tim Lane of Bend) and I would crank him up and down with a windlass. I was nothing but skin and bones when we finished. He weighed 225 pounds." Before they had their own well they carried water a quarter mile in buckets. That was some distance on washday.

With their first spring came the

job of grubbing brush by hand and they managed to sow 15 acres to rye. The Godon daughters, Alice and Josephine, are still raising rye on the same 15 acres as well as 230 acres more. Pete Godon had more than he bargained for at harvest time when he cut his crop with a scythe and raked it with a wooden toothed rake, he concurred. "Our whole crop was about enough for the horses we'd bought," recalls Mrs. Godon.

Soon funds were close to exhausted and Pete, who had been head chef at more than one leading Philadelphia hotel or club, sought a job in Reno. There he was chef in the French Hotel for three years.

You just can't realize the hardship and suffering, Mrs. Godon feels. She was left to shoulder the responsibilities of head of the house under forbidding, almost impossible circumstances. Her chief asset was her ability to work hard.

There were lots of neighbors in the Fleetwood community as homesteaders moved in on available tracts. The town itself boasted a store and post office, a dance hall and a weekly newspaper published by L. B. Charles, father of Glen Charles, publisher of the Lake County Examiner. Similar communities sprang up all over the valley and schools were built as needed. The Godons attended the Cougar Valley School and treasure friendships with children of families who left.

Later, while their father worked in Bend to help support the family the girls continued to grow in ability to help their mother carry on. After most of their neighbors gave up and left, Alice and Josephine took up 640 acre grazing homesteads which are a portion of the more than 4,000 acres they have acquired.

May (now Mrs. Jack O'Keefe of Bend), Alice and Josephine milked cows for 20 years and shipped the cream to Bend. There were 27 cows, nine for each to milk.

The Godon girls became adept at being self sufficient. Their father died in 1927, still working in Bend. They could haul seven loads of hay a day pitching it both on and off the wagon. When a friend showed them how to roll the load off they could haul nine loads. They still stack hay loose but a hydraulic tractor stacker replaces the pitchforks. They always have an abundance of hay for their cattle. They sell yearlings as feeders and they consistently have good weights.

In 1939 a Federal Resettlement Administration land purchase program was set up at Fort Rock to enable unfortunate homesteaders to get a new start elsewhere. But, by then, the Godons had purchased additional land themselves, changed from dairying to commercial Herefords and owned the largest beef cattle herd in the valley. As for her amazing ability to



AN ALL-WOMAN RANCH OPERATION is unique anywhere but the Godons at Fort Rock do all the work themselves, farming 250 acres and managing every phase of their cattle business. Constant observation of their Hereford cattle, with selection of top breeding stock, has built quality into their herd and created buyer demand. With Mrs. Bridget Godon, left, are her daughters, Josephine, center, and Mable, Alice, not in the picture, is the other member of this all-woman team that has won the battle begun with all odds against them in early homestead days. — Parks Photo

stick when other homesteaders left by the thousands, Mrs. Godon says they just didn't have money enough to go anywhere else and when they finally did, they found they no longer wanted to go.

After 13 years in Chicago Mable Godon returned three years ago to the old homestead. She still misses her friends and the opportunities Chicago afforded.

Although not the first to adopt new implements, the Godons have made the change gradually from farming with teams to a well balanced mechanized operation.

One modern convenience not yet employed is electricity. Power lines were built past the house two and one half years ago. Although they use electricity to pump water for cattle at a remote location in the range, they do not yet use it in their home. Lights? We go to our beds when it is dark and are up before the sun. Appliances? They are fine for other people but we don't need them.

The furnishings of the comfortable home of Mrs. Godon and her three daughters, Alice, Josephine and Mable, include the sturdy chairs made by Pete Godon. Though some rooms have been added, much of the house is the original one built when they first came and is the scene of many family get-togethers that include children, grandchildren and now one great-grandson.

A fascinating story teller her memory ranges far — baggling with buyers of embroidery back in County Donegal — struggling for acceptance as an immigrant girl in a strange country, learning the life of a young homemaker in one of the more fashionable parts of Philadelphia, wrestling a living for her children from a forbidding land when conditions were at their worst. Few can equal Irish folk in adapting to changing conditions and a few can equal Mrs. Godon in rising to meet a wider assortment of them.

MIDGET MOTORIST

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Timothy Lee Bunn, 3½ years old, decided to go for a drive in the family car. He climbed in the vehicle, released the brakes, shifted the gears to neutral and it started rolling down hill. The car struck a telephone pole, causing \$25 damage.

TELEVISION

Conner's Service Co.
Call TU 4-6878

WOOD'S DRUGS

Prompt, Accurate Service
On Your
PRESCRIPTIONS

Ask Your Doctor to Call Us!
Medical-Dental Bldg. Phone TU 4-6712

CAL-WESTERN LIFE

Announces the establishment of a

New DISTRICT OFFICE

Medical-Dental Bldg. • 9th & Main • KLAMATH FALLS
Telephone: TUXedo 4-7428

and the appointment of
RAY D. BLAIR
as District Manager

An outstanding representative of our organization, Mr. Blair comes to his new assignment from Northern California where he represented this company for 2½ years. He is eminently well qualified to serve our rapidly-growing clientele in this area.



Ray D. Blair

CALIFORNIA-WESTERN STATES LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Home Office: Sacramento

American Friends Service Group Ends Summer Slate

By NELSON SHARP

KLAMATH AGENCY—The summer recreation program on the reservation, which had been supervised by Art and Helen Currier of the American Friends Service Committee, was concluded last week. The program proved to be very successful as some 250 persons had participated in a number of activities.

The largest and most popular project, undertaken by the Curriers was the swimming program. Some 235 youngsters participated in this program. The swimmers in the Chiloquin, Klamath Agency, and Fort Klamath areas met twice a week at Denton Park. In the beginners class, 35 youngsters were taught to swim. In the 12-15 year age bracket six were qualified as junior life savers. In the 16 and over age bracket, four were qualified as senior life savers.

Swimmers of the Sprague River and Beatty areas swam once a week in a pre-determined area of the Sprague River near Beatty. Twenty five youngsters were taught to swim in this program. Other activities in Beatty included games, picnics, and singing for both children and adults.

Five field trips were also a part of the summer agenda. They included Crater Lava Beds, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company in Klamath Falls, the fish hatchery, the Agency Butte Lookout, the Bend Rock Gardens and Shevlin State Park.

A girls softball team was organized in Chiloquin and finished the season with an enviable record—three wins and only one loss.

Other activities of the summer program included games for the preschoolers at the Chiloquin Grade School and volleyball for all ages.

Art and Helen Currier and their three children make their home in Portola Valley, California. During the fall and winter months they are school teachers. This summer they spent six weeks on the reservation.

Sponsorship by the Friends Service Committee does not mean that their representatives are paid a salary, they are merely assisted with their expenditures. In the Curriers case, local organizations also assisted them. These organizations were the Reservation Jaycees, the Beatty Recreation Council and the Reservation Discussion Group.

First Jet To Fly

MIAMI (UPI)—The first commercial flight of an American-built jet airliner takes off today on a flight to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Instead of the 169 passengers the swept-wing plane is designed to carry, the Boeing 707 will haul cargo, mostly cut flowers for florists in Puerto Rico. It should make the flight in about two hours.

The plane, first flown in 1954, has been undergoing extensive tests before being turned over to Pan American Airways for passenger service.

Natives of the Faeroe Islands, which are about half-way between Iceland and Scotland, catch seabirds with nets on long poles. But, they catch no birds carrying fish. This is a sign they are bringing food to youngsters in their nests.

Delicious, Home-Made
ENCHILADAS
Phone TU 2-4441
or TU 2-1570



ART AND HELEN CURRIER

On tiny Fair Isle in the North Sea the flocks of sheep graze on the grassy top of Sheep Rock which is accessible only from the sea. By means of chains, men climb the bare face of the rock, and lower bags of wool and young lambs to waiting boats.

PICK UP Air Tickets, domestic and international, Steamships, Tours, Hotels . . .
NO EXTRA COST
McIntyre Travel Service
716 Main Ph. TU 4-5143

Adding Machines - Calculators FOR SALE - RENTAL - LEASE

Factory TRAINED Service Technician

CLIFFORD C. VOIGHT, Mgr.

Friden Agency
KLAMATH FALLS MEDFORD
Phone 4-3716 41 So. Grape, Ph. SP 2-4100

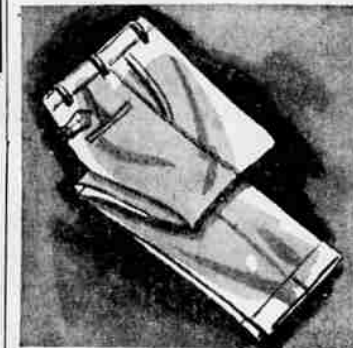
Phone TU 4-3188

9th & Pine



Compare these Ward savings anywhere in town!

BACK TO SCHOOL



School Ivy slacks in choice of rugged fabrics

Save 25%. Polished cotton or sturdy cotton twill. Tailored like dress-trousers with fitted waist, ivy buckle back, pleatless front.

2.98 **4.77**

SPECIAL PURCHASE

Stay soft washing after washing. Quick-drying, need no blocking. Rust, blue, red, white, grey, 36-42. Matching poloover, 36-42. . . . 3.77



Girls Back-to-School cottons in fall's newest styles

Famous fabrics by Don River with Wrinkle-Shed finish. Little or no ironing needed! New chemise styles, bouffants too. Brilliant fall colors!

1.98 **7.88**

2 SKIRTS IN ONE

65% Orlon®—35% wool . . . needs little if any ironing. Stitched down pleats on one side, knife pleats on other. Bright or muted plaids, 10-18.

SPECIAL PURCHASE MEN'S DRESS BELTS

¾" to 1" widths, Fraternity quality. Top grain leather. Assorted designs. Black, brown and gray. Sizes 30 to 42.

Values to \$2.50 **99c**



SAVE 20% on school shoes! Supple leathers, Neolite soles

Sensational savings for boys and girls! Each pair built for sturdy wear, snug fit, room-for-growth comfort. Popular colors. Hurry! Sizes 8½ to 3 REG. 4.98 **3.99**



GIRLS' SADDLE OXFORDS
Supple leather, rubber soles. 4 to 9. **4.98**



SALE! GIRLS' NYLON SLIPPERS
Fast drying, no ironing! Lace, ribbed. 7-14. **1.98**



Bulky Orlon*
cardigan classics with the new, hand-knit look

Save 3.10
Reversible pleated plaids, washable Orlon®-wool

7.88

SPECIAL PURCHASE MEN'S DRESS BELTS

¾" to 1" widths, Fraternity quality. Top grain leather. Assorted designs. Black, brown and gray. Sizes 30 to 42.

Values to \$2.50 **99c**

OPEN FRIDAY NIGHTS TILL 9 P.M.