



ONE ACRE of ground was donated in the corner of his homestead by the late John Kootz to be used for the first small Mt. Laki Community Church half a century ago. The small frame building was later moved to make room for the new, modern structure. Elder J. G. Stevenson helped raise the funds and supervised construction of the original building.



THE SANCTUARY and furnishings of the new Mt. Laki Community Church was given by the late Henry Semon, veteran Oregon representative and Mrs. Semon. The building was completed in 1952 in time for the Christmas services. Residents of the community financed the educational unit.



The Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Alex Jarvis, sen, David and daughter, Susan.



JOHN KOONTZ
Trustee - Gave Land



MRS. A. D. (Ruth) ADDISON
Charter Member



JACOB G. STEVENSON
Charter Member



MRS. J. G. STEVENSON
Charter Member

Mt. Laki Community Church Observes 50th Anniversary

By RUTH KING

The struggles of a small band of Christians to organize and build a sanctuary for community worship will be recalled Sunday, March 8, when members of the Mt. Laki Community Church meet to observe the 50th anniversary of the founding of the church in a farming district south of Klamath Falls. Sunday School had been held for some time in the old Spring Lake Schoolhouse. While the thought of a church had often been in the minds of those who saw the need, it was not until the Rev. Thomas P. Howard, Presbyterian Sunday School missionary, talked of such a possibility that any concrete action was taken.

In October, 1908, the community petitioned the Southwest Presbytery for permission to establish a church. The request was granted and on November 1, 1908 a charter was signed.

The Rev. George T. Pratt, pastor of the Klamath Falls First Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Louis M. Anderson, pastor of the Merrill Presbyterian Church were appointed by the Presbytery to assist.

There were 11 charter members, J. G. Stevenson, Mrs. J. G. (Helen McCornack) Stevenson, A. D. Addison, Mrs. A. D. (Ruth S.) Addison, Mrs. A. L. LaPrairie, Rex LaPrairie, Roy LaPrairie, George D. Grizzle, Mrs. George (Minnie) Grizzle, Mrs. Sarah Steelman and Florence M. Short. Of the 11, three, Mrs. Grizzle, Roy LaPrairie, both of Klamath Falls, and Florence M. Short, now Mrs. Guy Selfish, Tulare, California, are still living.

Talks Slated By Evangelist

Evangelist Monte Lasater of Seattle, will be guest speaker from March 8 to March 20. The closing two weeks of the "Crusade for Christ."

He will preach eight sermons in the two weeks here.

Evangelist Lasater has made several appearances here while presiding as bishop of the Pacific Northwest for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He presided as bishop for 30 years with his office in Seattle. In the spring of 1958, he was ordained an evangelist.

On March 22, Evangelist Lasater will start a series at Medford and another in Eugene April 15 to April 19.

While visiting in Klamath Falls he will reside at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crooker, 2030 Arthur Street. Anyone wishing special visiting by Evangelist Lasater, please make arrangements.

This week he will speak on subjects of great concern to all. They are March 8, Sunday morning, "What Lack I Yet;" March 8, Sunday evening, "God Touched Men;" March 11, Wednesday evening, "The Good Way of Life;" March 13, Friday evening, "What Lies Ahead."

He has an inspirational message for everyone.

REVIVAL MEET

Vasti Johnson, Klamath Falls, will hold nightly revival meetings in the Gospel Mission of the United Holy Church of America for two weeks, beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 8. The church is located at 251 Commercial Street at the intersection of Commercial and Walnut streets. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the services. There will be singing by the congregation. Mrs. Carrie M. Timms is pastor.

ALL STOCK WALL PAPER 1/2 - 1/2 OFF A & B PAINT 1229 E. MAIN

Jacob G. Stevenson, grandfather of A. D. Addison, advertising manager for the Klamath Falls Herald and News, was named as first elder. Articles of incorporation were signed in the home of Mrs. Alma LaPrairie, March 11, 1909. Elected as the first board of trustees were John Kootz, who later deeded one acre of his homestead for a church site; Charles Steelman and J. G. Stevenson.

The land donated for the first church by Mr. and Mrs. Kootz, is the site of the present modern church.

A building committee was organized and in May, 1910 an application was made to the Presbyterian National Board of Missions for a loan of \$300 to help build a church. The loan was granted and a small one-room frame building was put up soon after the money was made available.

Cash was scarce in those days and the early efforts to provide heat and light and other incidentals, was a continual financial struggle. Help sometimes came in unexpected ways. Women of the church helped raise funds and enough silver found its way from pockets of men who attended to keep the few financial needs of the church in the black.

There was always a Sunday School and occasionally a visiting pastor or a layman preached a sermon, but the small congregation was unable to support a full time pastor. Early congregations averaged between 15 and 20 persons.

In 1948 the congregation and the church officials determined they were ready for a full time minister. Chaplain Gilmer, serving at the Marine Barracks, now OTI, served as pastor during the winter of 1945-1946. Laymen and visiting pastors assisted during the next three years. During that time a fulltime minister was sought but the little church, still had only one room with few conveniences, and there was no manse. No minister was found who was interested in coming to serve a congregation under those circumstances.

The members of Mt. Laki Community Church again went into action in true pioneer spirit. A building committee was appointed, money came in and with the help of one paid carpenter, men of the church donated labor and materials to build a debt-free home for a pastor, completing the undertaking by the spring of 1949.

The Rev. J. R. DeLap, son of Charles DeLap, present Klamath County clerk, who had grown up in the community consented to be the first pastor. The Rev. and Mrs. DeLap and their family moved into the new pastor's home. A year later the pastor answered a call to Redding and he was followed by the Rev. Arthur L. Rice.

By 1950, the congregation of the Mt. Laki Community Church was crowding the walls of its original small home and efforts were turned to the construction of a new church.

Contributions began coming in. Oregon State Representative Henry Semon and Mrs. Semon donated the sanctuary and its furnishings in memory of a son, lost in World War II. Money from others living in the Mt. Laki community built the educational unit.

The cornerstone of the handsome new structure, built on the site of the original church, was laid on July 13, 1952.

The Rev. William Ainley and his family, now serving as missionaries in Africa pastored until 1956.

The present pastor, the Rev. Andrew Jarvis came one year ago.

Members of the present session include Mrs. Ethel Whitlatch, Leonard Burkart, Ralph Hill Don Johnson, Earl Mack; trustees are Charles Snyder, Bob Hunt, Arnold Brandt, Joe Wright, Roy Patton, and L. M. McBride. Mrs. Gretchen Enman is church treasurer.

The Henley Grange has deeded the church a strip of land for future expansion and for parking.

Reminiscing of the past would not be complete if the loyal work of Mrs. John Kootz were not mentioned. It was she who besides teaching a girls class in Sunday School, serving as president of the ladies aid for many years, found time to suggest ways and means to raise needed funds and to put her shoulder to the wheel. Or to omit the memory of D. A. McComb, one of the early missionaries who traveled muddy roads with horse and buggy, in the saddle, or often on foot to reach his pulpits.

Mr. McComb, whose family lived here for many years, moved into the Mt. Laki Community in 1916, serving in any capacity where he was needed until his death in 1934. His work in the church was taken over by his daughter, the late Mary McComb, who served Klamath County as librarian for many years.

Members of the congregation, next Sunday will serve a potluck dinner following the morning service. During the afternoon, J. L. O'Donahue will show movies of laying of the cornerstone of the present church. Ralph Hill will recall some of the church history and the congregation will sing some of the old hymns.

It's Difficult To Keep Secret From His Wife

DENVER (AP) — "I'm going downtown on a little business," Leonard H. Wilson remarked slyly the other day.

"Anything I can take care of? I'm going downtown too," said his wife.

The Wilsons parted, only to meet a few hours later — in traffic court where each had been charged with a minor violation. "I should have known better," said Wilson later. "I haven't been able to keep a secret from her for 32 years."

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Petite Blonde Foils Holdup

NEW YORK (AP) — "The quietest girl in the office" — a petite young blonde — battled a holdup man Thursday in a Broadway concern and saved a \$20,000 payroll.

Mrs. Joan Greco, 30, a slender 5-foot-2, was with two other women in the seventh floor office of the Venetian Manufacturing Co. when a Negro entered. He produced what appeared to be a gun and ordered the three to drop face down on the floor.

Two of the women complied. Not Mrs. Greco. She sailed into the man, fists flailing and feet flying, kicked him off balance and tore the weapon from his hands. The handit walloped her on the temple, grabbed the gun and ran.

Mrs. Greco told her boss, Abraham Britebart: "It was a toy gun. I know it was a toy gun."

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Silas H. Jones, Pastor

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- Worship Service—11 a.m.
- Christ's Ambassadors—6:30 p.m.
- Evangelistic Rally—7:30 p.m.

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