

Ladies Community Lounge Provides Unique Service

By RUTH KING



MRS. NINA BECK, seated, has been hostess of the Ladies Community Lounge since it opened more than 10 years ago. Her assistant, Mrs. Anna Bean, standing, has served as part-time hostess for four years.

A community service unique in this part of Southern Oregon and Northern California, the Ladies Community Lounge in Klamath Falls, has won acclaim from hometown folks and from travelers from all parts of the United States and many from abroad. It was opened 10 years ago in the present American Legion Building.

The lounge at 118 North Seventh Street, now functioning under the Klamath Basin Civic Service League, Inc., was the brain child of a handful of farm women who saw the need for a spot where city women could rest when shopping, where women coming to town to shop could wait while husbands bought farm machinery or "talked crops and livestock," where they could take restless children for a bottle or a nap, where packages could be left safely, where working women could take lunches and where there was a clean room in which to relax.

The idea immediately met with favor but there were obstacles.

financing, the first problem, was for a long time solved with donations of cash from various organizations and individuals. Today annual income from the city

and county provides for rent, salaries for Mrs. Nina Beck, hostess; Mrs. Anna Bean, part-time hostess; utilities and repairs.

Much of the furniture in the attractive, street level rooms, the equipment and items that add to the comfort of visitors have been donated.

Probably the most used items are three baby strollers donated by the Klamath Falls Letter Carriers Auxiliary that are loaned to lounge guests without charge. Members of the American Legion and the Auxiliary keep a watchful eye to provide necessities and business firms, particularly children's specialty shops, have donated needed items. Most recent contribution was a wheelchair.

A reading corner for adults and children is provided by the Klamath County Library. The Oregon State Highway Department has placed signs for guiding visitors. Only advertising done is through visitors, small cards and placards in occasional windows.

A hot plate provides heat for warming baby food; there is a "quiet room" for resting away from noise and friendly greetings

from those in charge.

Visitors are amazed to find a homelike spot so advantageously located to the shopping center of the city. Numerous cards and letters from guests are proof of the lounge's popularity.

The register tells the tale of the phenomenal increase in patronage since the doors first opened on the new venture. In 1950 - 51 total attendance was 12,899. In the 10th year of operation, 1959 - 1960, 33,036 persons used the facilities. December was a record month with 4,031 names left on the register.

Few who enjoy use of the lounge know of the long struggle to maintain it in the early years, the many meetings, the determination of those few women who never gave up and the generosity of those who gave everything from a tea cup to a davenport. Mrs. Fred (Elsie) Rueck, Bonanza, is president; Alice Vitus, vice president; Mrs. Mary Woodhouse, secretary, and Mrs. Margaret Holliday, treasurer. Other members of the executive board are Mrs. Violet Harris, Mrs. Elaine Kerns, Mrs. Grace Birk and Mrs. Bertha Enman.



MRS. KIRT SMITH puts booties on Baby Boy Smith at Community Lounge where city women, those from outlying communities and visitors from elsewhere can go to care for children, rest, read and wait. Great-grandmother of baby, seated, is Mrs. Edna Midland.



THE ENTRANCE of the Community Lounge is located conveniently just one-half block from Main Street on Seventh Street. It provides a respite for the weary shopper or traveler. The registry includes names from many foreign countries as well as from neighboring states and all parts of the nation.

Looking Forward... To The Future Of The Klamath Basin



30 years ago the Fred E. Barnett Company first started in the industrial tool and supply business. Since that time we have expanded to where we now have 7 plants in Southern Oregon and Northern California. At first we dealt mostly with the lumber industry; then as business improved we started handling more and more industrial tools and supplies. The Fred E. Barnett Company now deals with practically all types of heavy industrial and construction firms in the area. In these years we have been able to analyze the qualities of the various products we handle and have been able to improve our stock so that we can give immediate service on most repairs and replacements.

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With the advent of the "Miracle" fabrics, Orlon, Nylon, Acrilan, and the host of others, even Fibre-Glass and paper, today's dry cleaner studies constantly. New cleaning and finishing techniques, new solvents, new spotting process to best take care of the ever increasing number of "man-made" fibres are thoroughly tested by the American Institute of Launderers and The National Institute of Dry Cleaning. These findings are passed along to us as member cleaners.

We have kept abreast of the latest techniques, and the equipment in our four modern plants is the latest available. You can trust your clothing to us!

These 4 cleaning plants include Klamath's most modern insured fur storage vault. Refrigerated and controlled for perfect care of all furs and fur garments, plus furrier method cleaning for all fur garments; Klamath's most modern and complete rug, carpet and furniture cleaning plant; Klamath's most modern commercial and family laundry plant including linen and industrial supply garment rental. First in personal service for over 30 years.

The owners of these establishments have been in business in Klamath Falls for over 30 years. Ed and Esther Isensee have owned and operated the Cascade Laundry and Cleaners for 33 years.

grown to 60 with an annual payroll exceeding \$150,000.00.

Men's Hand Laundry merged with Cascade in 1963 and has been operated as a Division of Cascade. In recent years, Broadway, New Method and Village Cleaners were added.

Ed and Esther Isensee certainly appreciate all the wonderful customers that have helped their progress through the years and say "thanks" for a wonderful 33 years.

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