

Doll House, Indian Museum Opened For Business In Old Lightfoot Hospital Building

Opening of a new enterprise, the Chalmers' Doll House and Indian Museum, in Klamath Falls, has been announced by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Chalmers of 404 Warden. The location is in the old Lightfoot Hospital, which has been converted to accommodate a collection of nearly 1,000 dolls and hundreds of Indian artifacts from many American Indian Tribes.

Preparation for opening of the doll house was begun several years ago in Washington state when Mrs. Chalmers restored and dressed dolls for needy children of itinerant fruit workers, who carried their cherished and often only possession, putting on a leg, a wig, replacing eyes.

Later in California, then the Chalmers home state, keepsake dolls were made new. As interest in this type of doll grew, Mrs. Chalmers dipped into an old trunk, and brought out a china-headed "Vasey" doll, prized as a child by her grandmother, to start a collection.

She delved into doll lore, studied materials used in the different eras of doll production, paper-mache, china, metal, cloth, wax, bisque, tulle, wood, corn shucks. Her doll collection grew. The dolls came from many sources, many lands. Three from South America are made from the pith of sugar cane.

Her present display contains a Christmas crèche with tiny figures in the holy stable that is 300 years old. There are French fashion dolls of a century ago, that carried the fashion story to women instead of illustrations in magazines and newspapers as the story of fashions is broadcast today.

These dressmaker dolls were completely outfitted with the trunk packed with the latest styles, right down to tiny hand-stitched gloves, a primping mirror, and costume accessories. They were gifts to women, never to children.

"Dolls," says Mrs. Chalmers, "carry the story of the culture, costumes, and appearances of

the population of many generations. They were buried with nobility of ancient Greece and Rome. The sarcophagus of an Egyptian ruler held a doll that had been prized by his dead owner.

Dolls have been used in religious ceremonies down

through the centuries. White doctors used maimed dolls in an effort to bring injury to enemies. Indian tribes made dolls of native material. The Hawaiians used the bright plumage of birds and the Eskimos fashioned seals of their children from seal pelts and reindeer bones.

For more practical purposes, prospective fathers of a first child now learn how to handle an infant with the aid of a life-size replica. Dolls have also made fortunes for the designer.

Visitors to The Chalmers Doll House, Hospital, and the Indian Museum, will be given

facts, a hand-woven rug, hand-made ring and bracelet made by one of the most versatile Navajo silversmiths, was the nucleus for the Chalmers' present fine collection, representing 40 American Indian tribes.

The museum also will be open to the public on appointment, and youth groups will be particularly welcome.

Numerous local people have contributed to the Indian artifacts: Mrs. Eves Adams, member of a pioneer Klamath county family, gave a rare billed

hens family. A hat and berry hat woven by the late Mrs. Lizzie Kirk are included.

Appointments should be made well in advance of the day wanted for the tour.

HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Oregon Friday, Feb. 26, 1965 PAGE 11



DOCTOR COULDN'T HELP — Two little girls, who were sisters, Sharron, left, and Sherrell, sought help from Dr. L. D. Gass, for a broken doll. Repairing a damaged doll body was beyond the ken of the pioneer physician and surgeon, now retired. So there was only one solution, to turn the broken plaything over to Mrs. Ray Chalmers, near who now has opened a doll hospital and Indian museum in the building, the old Lightfoot Hospital, where Dr. Gass once cared for patients.

Homemaker Aid Given

LAKEVIEW — Sewing on buttons, mending garments, washing, bleaching, ironing are tasks that most homemakers consider chores when doing for their families, but there are dozens of women in Lakeview who are doing these things for the benefit of the many low-income families who can take advantage of the new Opportunity Shop that opened here recently.

The shop, sponsored by the Community Service Council, is a beehive of activity when open every Thursday, but there is untold time and effort put into the preparation of garments and articles furnished for a very nominal price, and for no cost if the need is there.

Mrs. Carl Simpson directs the operation which includes volunteers from twelve local organizations.

There is a need for a sewing machine at the shop so that some of the mending work can be done there. This can be any model or type, even to the old treadle style. There is a need for donation of boys' clothing and heavy work garments for men, for these have been going out as fast as they are received. Extra hangers are always welcome and maternity clothing is also needed.

What happens to the money received from the sales at the shop? It is expended for heating, mostly from a wood stove, electricity, eventually for a nominal rent, the building having been donated by Dick Caudson for the early operations, and for the cleaning of heavy garments, which was also donated at first.

Families or individuals who cannot afford even the small price marked on articles they need, can secure them free by getting an order from the welfare office or from school principals.

Up to now the shelves and racks have been kept pretty well filled but it is hoped that in the future, there will be room for small appliances, as there is a constant demand for these.

Meet Slated

PORTLAND (UPI) — The board of directors of Pacific Power & Light Co. will hold its regular quarterly meeting March 10 in Roseburg. On March 9 PP&L's new office building there will be dedicated.

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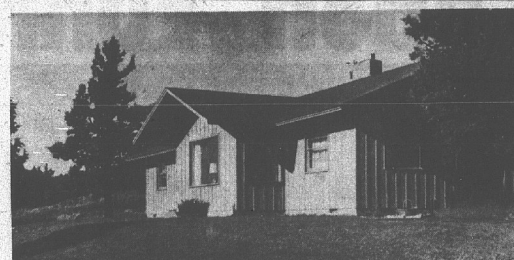
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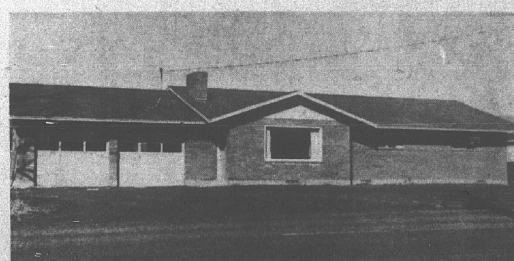


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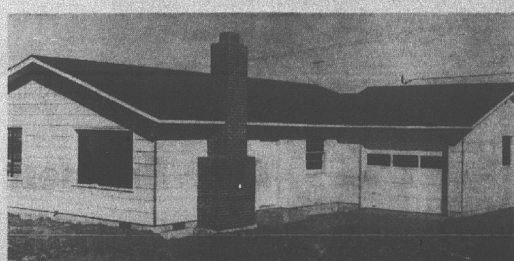
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