

Former Fort Klamath Resident Finds Writing Desire Fulfilled In Novel

By MYRTLE WIMER

PORT KLAMATH — Many people who have had some small success in the literary field have often become ambivalent to write a book some day—maybe even the "Great American Novel" which would make them famous, however, for various reasons, the dream dies, and comparatively few attain the successful goal of writing a book and having it published.

This is a story of the achievement of such an ambition—its subject is Mrs. Pearl Biddlecome Baker, who with her family lived here some 25 years ago, owning and operating the present-day Leonard Meshek Ranch, on miles north of Fort Klamath, on Crater Lake Highway 62.

When she was 2 years old, with her parents, Mrs. Pearl moved to a large cattle ranch at Robbers' Roost, Utah. Here she grew up, riding the range on her parents' ranch, helping her father with roping, branding and the general work of a ranch hand, taking the place of a brother she never had.

The Robbers' Roost country was the old stamping ground of the notorious Butch Cassidy and his gang of outlaws, which held that area of Utah in a



PEARL BIDDLECOME BAKER

grip of terror at the turn of the century. Their headquarters was at Robbers' Roost,

where shopping and railroad point was Green River then as it is at the present time. Stories of the wild Cassidy gang legend the young girl to write a book about the desperados—the dream, although frustrated for many years by the vicissitudes of life, never faded.

On the death of her father in 1908, Pearl and her husband bought the interests of her mother and sister in the home ranch, and operated it until 1939. After her husband's death, she supported and educated her family of three sons by teaching school, clerking, working for the press, running a boarding house, operating a motel, and traveling as a representative for a woolen mill. For the past year and a half she has been employed as a clerk-typist and receptionist by the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, whose headquarters are eight miles south of San Antonio, New Mexico. She found time to write several successful magazine articles, and also to work on her book. Finally in late 1964 she saw her cherished dream come true.

She wrote a book on the history of the Cassidy gang, entitled "The Wild Bunch at Robbers' Roost," and had the manuscript accepted by the Western Lore Press of Los Angeles, for publication this coming summer.

Two of her sons live in Utah—one in Green River and the other in Monticello. The youngest son, Capt. Noel J. Baker, is an overseas duty with the U.S. Air Force. She now has seven grandchildren.

The holder of a pilot's license, the working grandmother—author does not expect to have much leisure time for flying, at least not for a while. Stimulated and encouraged by the success of her first major literary effort, Mrs. Baker will be busy in her spare time gathering material for a second book.

Friends in Klamath County join in extending congratulations to the writer who is a wife, mother and grandmother in success, and will be looking forward to reading her first book when it is published in the summer.

Weed Voters Approve New School Building

(Continued from Page 8-C)

grade, the nurse's room and the school library.

It is interesting to note, that in the year 1927 all the pupils who graduated from the high school, except one, went on to obtain a higher education.

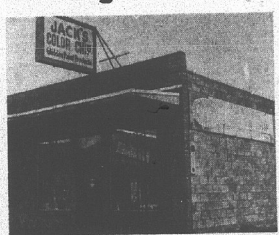
During the early months of 1964 it was found that a multi-purpose room would have to be constructed to augment the existing buildings, but in further studies it was found that these buildings were actually sub-standard. In December plans were offered for the building of three classroom buildings to replace the ones found to be substandard. On Jan. 5 of this year a public meeting was held at the Weed Elementary School to discuss the plans and on Jan. 12 the voters approved a bond issue with two propositions to erect the three buildings.

Proposition One on the ballot provided a \$350,000 bond issue and Proposition Two approved a \$300,000 state appropriation, to replace structures existing between the multi-purpose room and the west wing classroom unit. Two would each include six modern flexible classrooms and a central multi-use classroom. The third unit would contain a central library, office space and two additional classrooms.

Contracts on the construction are now being issued with the actual completion and construction date still undetermined. At the present time, the total enrollment of the Weed Elementary School is 605 and there are 22 teachers.

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Plush Area Work Done

LAKEVIEW — The biggest share of county road work during the past year was done in the Plush area, according to County Judge C. W. Ogle.

The grade was raised 18 inches on six miles of road from Plush to the end of the paving, with a rough cost estimate of \$80,000.

Eight miles of road from the Forest Service boundary at Drews Dam to the Westside Road were regraded.

There was no paving or oiling other than oiling on a PAS contract of 4.8 miles from Dry Creek to the state line.

Other work during the year consisted of routine repair work.

Conservation Plan

"TULELAKE—On Dec. 9, 1964, California Wildlife agencies, the Tulelake Irrigation District, Siskiyou County Fish and Game Commission and other agencies came to a meeting of the minds for a volunteer conservation program for Chinese or ring neck pheasants in this part of Northern California.

ALTAMONT SCHOOL — The present elementary school at Altamont was built in 1926 and junior high school was started at Altamont in 1953. It always has been one of the largest schools in the county system, Altamont Junior High now has more than 500 students.

The first two wings were built in 1944, a second addition was completed in 1954 and a year later the storage company acquired the Cal-Ore Packing Company storage.

The extra storage will be of pumice tile with dimensions 120 by 100, two stories high. Refrigeration will be piped from the present plant.

Construction will start in early spring, destined for completion by Sept. 1 of this year.

During the 29th annual convention of the Order of the Arrow held in July there were 344 visitors at the Blue Sky Hotel on the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge.

A number of persons interested in the Civil Defense program gathered for a full day session at the Memorial Hall

On Tuesday, Nov. 10. Disaster readiness was emphasized in a course in local preparedness, planning for handling of major disasters, readiness capabilities, use of local resources and agencies.

Lakeview was one of four towns in Oregon selected for a seminar sponsored by the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Corporation and presented by the Oregon Academy of General Practice. The seminars are conducted annually to bring practical and usable medical information to the medical profession, primarily in areas where the doctors cannot easily attend major lectures. The meeting was held at Van's Brother on Nov. 10, followed by a dinner that evening. This was the first time in six years of the seminars that one was held in Lakeview.

A two-day range tour in June attracted more than 150 men and women to view private ranches, public domain ranges, and national forest lands on the 18th and 19th. About 160 attended the dinner at the Indian Village. The tour was hosted by the South Central Oregon chapter, Pacific Northwest Section of the American Society of Range Management. About 110 members came from British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon locations outside Lakeview.

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Expansion Planned By Plant Lakeview's Tall Man On 1964 Conventions

LAKEVIEW — Lakeview's "Tall Man," the trade mark signifying the tallest incorporated town in Oregon, appeared on the progress of a number of conventions held here during the year.

On May 1 and 2 the Lake County Local No. 642, National Federation of Federal Employees, hosted the 22nd annual Oregon convention. The meetings and banquet were held at Hunter's Lodge. The national group is the oldest general organization of federal employees in the United States.

Lakeview's first convention on a national scale was noted with the gathering here on June 12-14 of some 225 delegates from about 25 units of the National Jeep Search and Rescue Association. Events ranged from a cowboy steak breakfast, to a rock climbing demonstration, to a hotpottery. Lakeview was declared a "wonderful convention town" by the many delegates.

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Community Of Dunsmuir Remains Essentially A Railroad Center

By PEGGY WALSH

DUNSMUIR — The community of Dunsmuir, numbering around 4,000 persons, if the unincorporated areas as well as the town proper are included in an estimate, is still essentially a railroad town.

Conductors, brakemen, engineers, firemen, railroad clerks, civil engineers, maintenance workers and other Southern Pacific personnel are among the principal wage earners and salaried persons in the community.

But transition rather than payroll is still estimated at progress could be the terminal \$400,000 monthly, no negligible ogy applied to Dunsmuir's iden-factor in the town's economy.

However, steps directed at automatic processes and management policies aimed at reducing train crews provides a stimulant to the town of Dunsmuir to continue exploration of other economic supports.

The Dunsmuir Chamber of Commerce stepped up its promotional efforts this year in purchasing a billboard south of town to encourage the traveling public to leave Interstate 5 freeway at the Dunsmuir exit. The chamber also published a six-fold color brochure which includes data of interest to prospective industrial developers as

the local Southern Pacific terminal is still estimated at progress could be the terminal \$400,000 monthly, no negligible ogy applied to Dunsmuir's iden-factor in the town's economy.

(Continued on Page 11-C)



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