



THESE NINE LADIES ARE CHARTER members of the Owyhee Garden Club, which was organized February 11, 1955. Back row, left to right: Maude Cooper, Betty Nielsen, Martha Langley, Jean Price and Axella Stephen. Front row, left to right: Maudrean Evans, Billie Tallman, Clara Price and Wilma Strickland.



PRESIDING OVER THE TEA TABLE at members were, left to right: Bertha Atagi, the Owyhee Garden Club Tea for its charter. Eve Stubstad, Polly Holub and Doris Chapin.



ELECTED TO SERVE AS THE FIRST SLATE OF Officers in 1955 were, left to right, Betty Nielsen, president; Martha Langley, treasurer; Axella Stephen, vice-president; Joanne Holcomb who now lives in Culver, Oregon was the secretary when the Owyhee Garden Club organized.



THE OWYHEE GARDEN CLUB HAS ELECTED, left to right, Ellen Strickland, president; Sono Arai, treasurer; Eve Stubstad, who is the district director; and Bertha Atagi vice-president, and Eleanor Brewer (not pictured) as secretary for a full slate of officers for 1975-76.

Owyhee Garden Club Marks 20 Years of Undaunted Work

by Pat Savage

"I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its soil, and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife." This Conservation Pledge was taken by a group of serious minded women, interested in preserving the bountiful riches of our land on April 2, 1955. They called themselves "The Owyhee Garden Club."

These ladies organized this garden club on February 11, 1955 with 15 members at the home of the late Mrs. George Schweizer, who was the district director of the Malheur garden club district. The club set its membership at 24, with Mrs. Schweizer being an honorary member making 25. With this amount there would always be a hostess and a co-hostess.

The club was then Federated as another club in the Federation of Garden Clubs of America on April 2, 1955. This new addition brought the number of garden clubs in the area to four, including ANK, Ontario and Vale clubs.

The members at the time of organization were: Mmes. Gabriel Astoreca, Donald Brewer, Homer Brewer, Grover Cooper, Howard Evans, Howard Finger, Delbert Garner, Vern Garner, Stanley Hill, E. J. Hobson, Duane Holcomb, Wilbur Holcomb, Morris Huffman, J. A. Langley, Frank Mitchell, Elver Nielsen, Frank Perko, Kenneth Price, Ira Price, Eugene Stephen, Lee Stoker, John Strickland, Keith Tallman, Robert Morfitt and Mrs. George Schweizer.

The first officers elected were: Mrs. Elver Nielsen, president; Mrs. Eugene Stephen, vice-president; Mrs. Duane Holcomb, secretary and Mrs. Jim Langley, treasurer.

Anxious to get their club active, they held their first flower and plant sale April 3, 1955, at the Nyssa Insurance office. The profit was \$47.00. This sale was to become an annual Memorial Day Plant Sale and a true money raiser for this club.

Enthusied and convinced they could function as a club, the ladies tackled a booth at the Malheur County Fair. This also was to become a yearly project. They took top honors among five other garden exhibits in August 1955.

The general theme of the fair was "The World Is My Garden." The Owyhee Club portrayed the beautiful "Crystal Gardens" in Victoria, British Columbia. Needless to say, these club members were overjoyed by winning and more inspired than ever with setting and keeping high objectives of a well-organized and Federated garden club.

It is interesting to note that even then, in 1955, the club was fighting the problem of litter. They gave each member a litter bag with large red letters "Keep America Clean" and "Don't Be A Litterbug." These were handed out over the Community. There were also many meetings based on conservation problems and how to solve them.

In the year of 1966, The Owyhee Garden Club took a good look around and decided to jump headfirst into a community improvement program. They had done this type of thing for several years but now it was to be done in gigantic proportions. They decided to beautify the Owyhee Cemetery.

It has been said, "If you want something done get a busy person to do it." The members of this club are, for the most part, women from the Owyhee or Adrian area who live on farms. However, there is a member from Ontario and some from Nu Acres or Parma and Sunset Valley. Anyway, these are very busy women with families and other activities in which they are involved. Were they daunted at the prospect of all this work? Never!

The old Owyhee Pioneer Cemetery at the time it was chosen for a project, did have water available and was surrounded by an old wire fence. Burials date back to at least 1892 and the members of the club felt this was a most worthy project. The work on the foundation and the wall containing the name plaque was the first step. This was completed in 1967. They were presented the National Sears Award for the beautification project in the amount of \$128.

When the first burials were made in 1892, the cemetery was a hot, dusty area surrounded by sagebrush. After the Owyhee Dam was completed and the sagebrush lands surrounding the cemetery were converted to irrigated fields in the 1930's, neighboring families began to improve the small cemetery.

The 29 members donned their working clothes and planted flowers in front of the old wire fence, but the weeds grew better than the flowers so the peonies and other plants were removed and the area was treated with weed spray. It was at this point the dream of a pretty wall to set the cemetery apart was born. Many hours were spent pulling weeds, planting shrubs, and grooming the area. The two beautiful Junipers, which were placed at the main entrance, were in memory of Mrs. George Schweizer. The project was finished and dedicated in May, 1974.

Presidents during the period in which this project was underway were Mrs. Ira Price, 1965-67; Mrs. Carl Lee Hill, 67-69; Mrs. Kenneth Price, 69-71; Mrs. Keith Tallman, 71-73 and Mrs. John Stubstad, 73-75. Mrs. Stubstad is from Ontario and has become affiliated with the group.

The garden club spent over \$3,200 in cash on the cemetery, which didn't include donations of material and labor from many sources. Cut flower sales raised some of the funds and the selling of note cards and many other fund raising projects helped them to meet the total they so badly needed. While working on this project, the members were exhibiting at the County Fair, took part in district garden club events and carried on a continuous educational program within their club.

Annual club events are: the making of corsages for the Adrian teachers; making table decorations for the Adrian smorgasbord; the naming of committees to clean up the Owyhee cemetery each year; making May baskets for shut-ins and Senior Citizens; work days for Christmas decorations, etc.; sponsoring the essay and poster contest at the Adrian Grade School; holding cooked food sales and bazaars; holding plant sales and exchanges; and the Memorial Day flower sale.

By pitching in and working together the Owyhee Garden Club now has 29 members,

and meets the second Friday of each month. Their club flower is the chrysanthemum. Their program book for 1974-75 includes a wide variety of well-chosen subjects such as the potted plant exchange, rock hunting, a garden tour and learning about wild flowers, flower drying, the fair booth, corsage making, macrame, the Christmas workshop, flowers from other countries, garden therapy and lawn care.

For twenty years this group of enthusiastic women have continued to function and have contributed much to the community. The present day members chose Friday, June 13, to celebrate and honor their charter members. The "Tea" was held at the home of Mrs. Ellen Strickland. The party meant a social visit for the nine charter members of the club and for all its members since 1955. Guests included, Mmes. Mae Shireman, past president of the Town and Country Garden Club; Alice Payne, president of the Town and Country Garden Club; Jansie Stam, who was district director several years ago; Lois Boenig, Mary Hoffman, Lake Puett and Wilma Strickland.

Refreshments were served with a beautiful tea table decorated with a beautiful green and yellow sheet cake. Medallion rose bushes



Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Robbins, nee Barbara Charland, of American Falls, Idaho very happily announce the arrival of a bouncing baby boy, Andrew Paul. He tipped the scales at six pounds and ten and one-fourth ounces and arrived at the Power County Hospital in American Falls on Friday, May 30, 1975. Young Andrew is the couple's first child.

Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Charland and Mr. and Mrs. Merileand Robbins, all of rural Nyssa. Beaming great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Robbins of rural Nyssa and Mrs. Lois Henderson of Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Morris of Salt Lake City, proudly announce the birth of a nine-pound son. The nine-pound bouncing baby boy, unnamed at this time, arrived Tuesday, June 3, 1975 at the Salt Lake City Hospital. He joins two sisters at home, Maggie, age nine and Andrea who is two years of age.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lester Oden of Nyssa. Mrs. Oden returned to Nyssa Friday after a ten-day visit during which time she got acquainted with her new grandson and enjoyed her granddaughters very much.

Happy Birthday

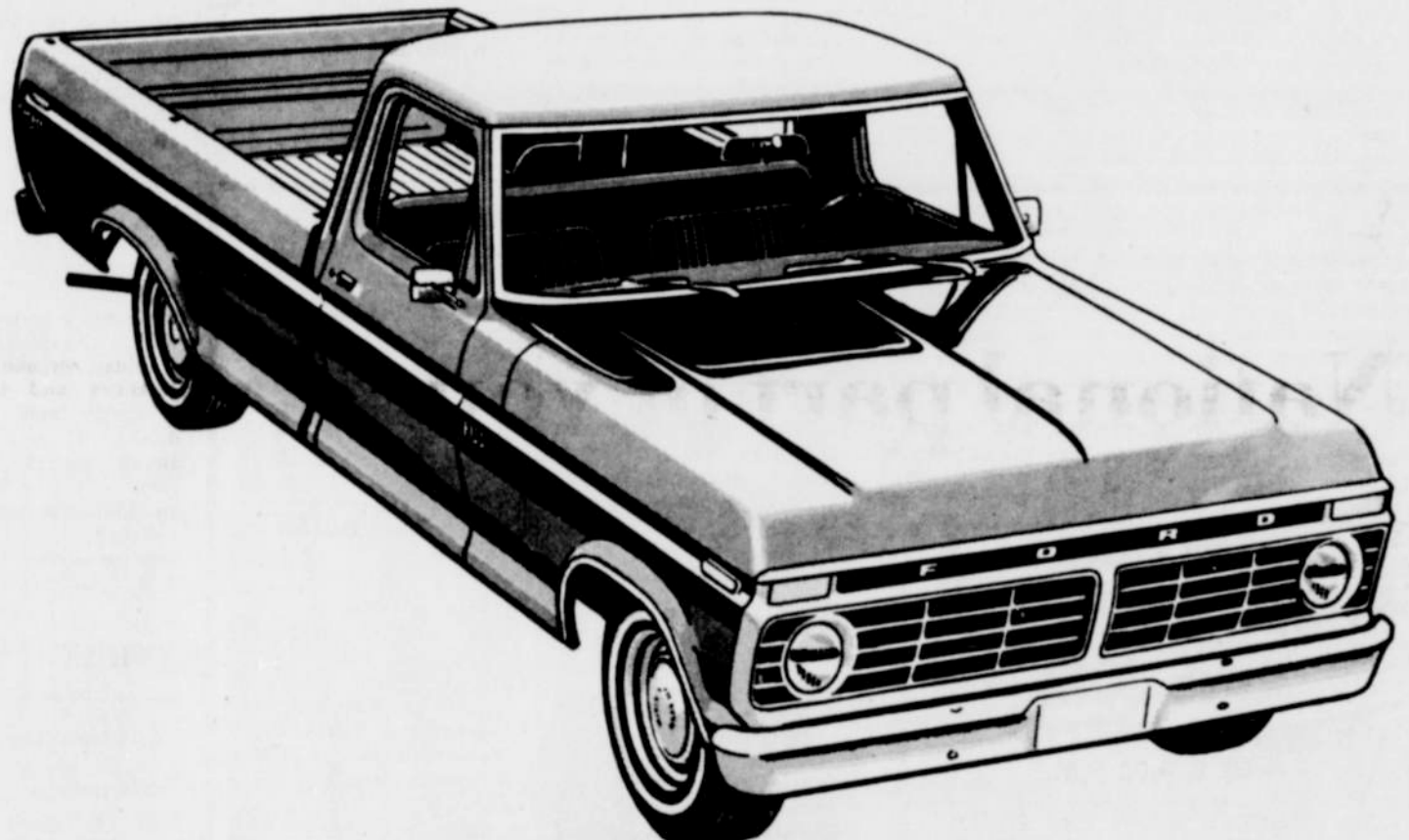
June 20 - Terry Richesin, Enriqueta Loera, Steve Bos-selman.

June 21 - Paige Burbank
June 22 - Kerrick Bauman, Rick Thomas, Don Strickland, Joey Jayo.

June 23 - Glenda Barnes
June 24 - Sandra Morrison, Lorraine Bauman, C. A. Wernick, Dave Rieb, Tim Phillips.

June 25 - Freddie Lopez, Anselmo Siffuentes, Allen Ballantyne, Chip Burningham, Bill Montoya, Diane Langley, Thomas D. Church.
June 26 - Dottie Corfield

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