

The current large and active Volunteer Program was started in November of 1975. Later came the Memorial Gift Program and the first Newsletter of the Center was mailed out to 439 seniors in November of 1975. In September of 1987, the mailing list had grown to almost 3,000 copies of "Senior News and Views" each month!

The Center continued to grow and in March of 1977 the Blackhawk Engraving Building on Washington Street was donated to Yellow Bird as a gift from Lester Sanderson and Fay Henderson.

Since that time the agency, now known as Ogle County Senior Services, Inc., has become the hub of Ogle County, serving not only locally, at the Yellow Bird Center, but providing services to all Ogle County seniors over age 60.

The first Executive Director was Barbara Weng, who served from March 1, 1976, to September 1, 1979.

Jane Reid was the next Executive Director, serving four years.

In the summer of 1983, Joan Patterson became the new and current Executive Director of Yellow Bird Senior Citizens, Inc.

The agency offers a wide variety of activities, interests, and programs for all the seniors of Ogle County. It is a clearing house for all services available to seniors in Ogle County, making information available and arranging referrals to all other resources that will be helpful to an older person or their families.

The outreach service gives access to community resources to isolated and homebound persons. A county-wide transportation program helps many older or handicapped persons remain active and independent in their own communities. And finally, over 100 senior volunteers give back service to other seniors and their own communities through the agency's programs.

Ogle County Senior Services, Inc., is supported with a combination of public and private funds. Over 50% of the budget is met with local donations. A portion of the Government funding is from money authorized by the Older American Act, channelled through the Illinois Department on Aging, and the Northern Illinois Area Agency on Aging and, therefore, a part of the national network of services. We are, however, organized as a private, not-for-profit corporation, remaining responsible to a local Board of Directors representing all segments of Ogle County.

Our Motto: SENIORS HELPING—HELPING SENIORS

Organizations in which teenagers participate:

Submitted by: Lawrence J. McDonald, Counselor.

S.A.D.D. (Students Against Drunk Drivers): Dee Forrest, 314 Prairie, Creston, IL 60113.

Natural Helpers: Julie Gatz, 3881 S. Chana Road, Chana, IL 61015.

National Honor Society: The Oregon High School Chapter of the National Honor Society began in 1974. Since then approximately 175 students have been in-

ducted. The qualities for consideration for National Honor Society are: scholarship (minimum of 3.4 Grade Point Average), leadership, character, and service. The primary thrust for service activities in the Oregon chapter of National Honor Society is their tutoring program. Students are referred to the tutoring coordinator who then links them with National Honor Society members. These National Honor Society students will have proficiency in that subject area. Students and tutors will meet during study halls. Historically, most of the National Honor Society members go on to college and earn 4-year degrees. Many of those earn Masters' and Doctoral degrees.

Student Council: Beverly Sevick, 17 Terrace View, Oregon, IL 61061.

Snowball: Lisa Scott (Student), %Ken Scott, 411 S. 4th St., Oregon, IL 61061.

Booster Club: Ed Rader, President, 1121 Mongan Drive, Oregon, IL 61061.

Academic Bowl Team: Roberta Lovelace, 1096 Etnyre Terrace, Oregon, IL 61061.

*As far as we know, T.A.P. is no longer in operation. We also have clubs such as F.F.A. (Future Farmers of America), Year Book, School Newspaper, etc.

THE UMZOOWEES

Submitted by Helen Jones

One of the earlier Clubs in Oregon was the "Umzoo-wees." This Club, originally "the Doves" was organized in 1897 under the Indian name—"Umzoo-wee" (Pleasure Seekers). Inasmuch as it was originally "the Doves," it is presumed that the young unmarried ladies at that time organized the Club to parallel "the Owls" which was a popular club organized by bachelors. At the time of the organization, Ida Marshall (Mrs. J. T. Fredinnick) was President, Laura Sanderson (Mrs. Packard) was Vice President and Alice Sears (Mrs. A. G. Baker) Secretary & Treasurer.

The Club held an annual picnic the last Wednesday of July. From various sources it appears that at one time, of the 235 members whose signatures appeared on the Secretary's book, the majority had paid "the fine of ninety-nine cents after entering upon the bonds of matrimony," which forfeited membership. It is noted that the 25th anniversary picnic was held on Wednesday, August 4, 1921, at Elm Island (also known as McKinney Island) and Ex-Umzoo-wees were invited to help celebrate the quarter century anniversary, and many who attended were charter members.

I have been unable to determine just how long this Club was in existence, but from inquiries of friends who had been members at one time, it is believed that it disbanded in the early 1920's.

V.F.W. POST 8739

Submitted by Richard Fridley

In the summer and fall of 1946 a V.F.W. Post in Oregon was founded and organized by Eugene Myers. On Sept.

26, 1946 an organizational meeting was held at the Third Precinct building on South Third Street.

Several meetings later a total of 101 charter members were signed up, although only 12 were needed at that time for a charter. I believe 25 is the figure now.

The men who signed the application were as follows: Melvin Priller, Floyd Cordes, Earl Masters, Fay Forman, Alphie Bennett, Robert Bennett, Walter Spangler, David Warner, William Landsiedel, Mac Hulse, William Peterson, and Eugene Myers.

The rest of the charter members were signed up later. It is interesting to note that only five of the 101 charter members have been Post Commanders.

The charter fee was \$25. We were instituted on Dec. 1, 1946. Our first meeting was held in the supervisor's room in the court house.

We finally found a place to hold our meetings in the rooms over the City Meat Market, owned by Harm Johnson. Some remodeling had to be done, including general repairing, painting, also installing a restroom. We were given the first year rent free for the work we did. Our first meeting there was held Feb. 11, 1947. The entrance to the rooms was by a catwalk on the alley side. That was our Post home for over six years.

We started having growing pains and considered purchasing several buildings, such as the Lazurus building where the Ace hardware is now, and Maxson's Manor.

We finally purchased 1¼ acres of land from Clyde Koontz, where we are now.

We started to build in 1952. Earl Cline, who was our corporation president and Post senior vice commander, became the capable chairman of the building committee. This title speaks to the responsibilities we placed on "Bump's" shoulders.

Most of the building work was accomplished with the help of many members and friends of Post 8739. It goes without saying that thousands of man-hours were expended.

Our building was completed in 1953 and we held our first meeting here July 4, 1953.

Several projects were used to help pay off the mortgage. We held bingo twice a week, dinners, and Saturday night dances, etc.

Also the building committee decided to sell promissory notes for ten years at 4%. A total of \$13,500 worth were sold. The notes ranged from \$25 to \$2,000. The last note was paid off or forgiven 4½ years later in Nov. 1957. A mortgage-burning ceremony was held Dec. 10, 1957.

In Jan., 1958, with 26 Life Members, our Post was presented with Perpetual Charter #25. If I remember correctly, the State of Illinois Commander at that time came here to personally present it to us at a ceremony. We now have 166 Life members on our roles.

Those members on the Perpetual Charter are as follows: Eugene Myers, Harold Long, Earl Cline, Ed Dvorak, Keith Myers, Wm. Watson, Donald Kearns, Wilbur Cline, Richard Fridley, Dominic Padulla, Hubert Mongan, John Clapper, Leroy Clapper, Warren Reinke, Orville Carr,

Harley Helle, Lester Janssen, John Franklin, Donald Blumeyer, Arthur Bergquist, Robert Brown, Nelson Cann, Roe Grover, David Warner, James White, and Earl Masters.

In June, 1964, we built an addition of 24 × 40 ft. to the north end of this building.

In 1967 we purchased another 2½ acres south of this building from Clyde Koontz. Clyde Myers hauled many loads of fill for the parking lot. The total acreage now is 3¾ acres.

In 1950 we built and dedicated the World War Memorial on the Courthouse lawn.

In 1960 or '61 we built, and dedicated, a new flag pole and light on Oregon High School Athletic Field.

Our various programs have generally followed the guidelines of the parent organization, as to community service, youth activities, etc. Some of our donations and sponsorships are as follows: donations to Cancer, Red Cross, Salvation Army, VFW National Home, City of Oregon, the Fire Dept., Sheriff's office, City Police, Kennedy Memorial on court house square, Yellow Bird, Lion's Club, Statue of Liberty, High School, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Village of Progress, and many other individual donations.

Post 8739 formed and has had charge of the Oregon Christmas Basket program for the needy, starting in 1950. The first year we distributed four baskets costing \$56. Last Christmas 84 baskets cost \$1660.67. We receive many donations from outside sources for this program.

Some of the various sponsorships have included: A boy to Boy's State, 1948 through 1967, originated and sponsored Flag Football, 1956 through 1971, when it was taken over by the Grade School. We continued to sponsor a team through 1980. Robert Pelsma was instrumental in starting this program, and was involved in it for many years. Over the years we spent \$1465 on this program.

A freethrow trophy has been furnished to a High School Varsity player with the highest free throw average continuously since 1962. We also have a plaque on display at the High School with the player's name and the percentage of accuracy.

We co-sponsor, with the Ladies' auxiliary, an annual "Voice of Democracy" program in which High School students nationwide compete for scholarship prizes.

We jointly sponsor High Schools from Oregon, Byron, Stillman Valley, and Leaf River. Post 8739 has sponsored Little League or "T" ball teams every year since 1958. We have given hundreds of flags over the years, have assisted many needy veterans, conduct a Memorial service each year in Oregon, and place U.S. flags on all veteran's graves, provide Flag folding ceremonies for deceased, as requested, participate in Flag Raising for all Home football games, take part in parades.

Some Post and Auxiliary members journey to Madison V.A. hospital to visit the hospitalized Vets there and pass out gifts. Over these 40 years Post 8739 has given a total of \$45,066.00 in donations.



(Donna Kennedy photo)

I personally believe the past 40 years have proven us to be, first of all, an outstanding service organization. An aggressive fraternity that has proven, by its excellent membership, that it can get the job done.

PAST COMMANDERS AND YEARS SERVED TO POST 8739 Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars: Eugene Myers 1946-1952, Fay Forman 1952-1953, Wilbur Cline 1953-1954, Robert Pelsma 1954-1955, Cletus Miller 1955-1956, Robert Kuhn 1956-1957, Richard Fridley 1957-1958, Leroy Clapper Jr. 1958-1959, Donald Kearns 1959-1960, John Berger 1960-1961, Gene Medlar 1961-1962, Robert Gigous 1962-1963, Nelson Cann 1963-1964, Gene Helle 1964-1965, Leo McGinnis 1965-1966, Donald Untz 1966-1967, Walter Coy 1967-1968, Orville Carr 1968-1969, Donald Pazera 1969-1970, Max Newcomer 1970-1971, Francis Skelly 1971-1972, Kenneth Giese 1972-1973, Richard Fridley 1973-1974, John Leary 1974-1975, Francis Blumeyer 1975-1976, Eugene Myers 1976-1977, Russell Jones 1977-1978, Mark Davis 1978-1979, Lee Stevens 1979-1980, Robert Gigous 1980-1981, Gary Hurd 1981-1982, Walter Coy 1982-1983, John Leary 1983-1984, William Keene 1984-1985, Jim Potts 1985-1986, Jim Potts 1986-1987.

V.F.W. AUXILIARY

Submitted by Edith A. Fridley, Past President of Oregon Auxiliary 1964-66. Past President 6th District Ladies Auxiliary to the V.F.W. 1967-68. Past Blackhawk Counties Council President-1969

The Oregon V.F.W. Auxiliary to Post No. 8739 was instituted March 21, 1947. Forty-one ladies received the obligation that evening in the Coliseum basement. Meeting places have been: the old V.F.W. meeting room over what is now Shouer's, Red Cross rooms, Rebekah hall and now Hwy 64-Oregon Trail building. There are at present 166 members of which nine are life members. The life memberships were first offered for 1986.

Funds to carry on the programs of the auxiliary were obtained by the following methods: turkey dinners, fish fries, galloping breakfasts, cosmetic parties, toy parties, come-as-you-are coffees, magazine sales, card parties, auction, bazaar and bake sales, foodless food sale, rummage sales, semi-formal dance, ice cream socials,

style shows, cooking school, selling U.S. flag pins, auto flags, French fry cutters, kitchen knives, Christmas and all-occasion cards, serving mother-daughter banquets—eight years for the Methodist church, two years for Paynes Point church, and one year for Presbyterian church; food stand at 4th of July celebration, operating the Fair Stand for approximately 35 years. (The Fair Stand was sold to the Rock Falls V.F.W. Auxiliary in 1985.) We now obtain our funds serving the once-a-month breakfasts in conjunction with the Post.

Some of the programs sponsored over the years have been: sending Betty Crocker coupons to our National Home for children for a fire truck; hosting cancer teas; sponsoring "Keep America Beautiful," "Plant a Tree," "Clean Up Day,"—with coordinating essay contest; setting up Cancer displays in windows of downtown businesses; "Drive-to-Survive" course (first one in Oregon); Lite-a-Bike; Oregon's 125th Anniversary Belles chapter; manning information booth for Autumn on Parade the first two years; Christmas caroling; sending servicemen boxes of goodies; U.S. flag presentations (received 1st place in the State one year); sponsoring movie "While Brave Men Die"; decorating graves of deceased members for Memorial Day; participating in Memorial Day parades and programs; presenting baby spoons to members having an addition in their family; sending cards and planters to the ill members; remembrances to the bereaved; entering poppy display contests (winning many awards for these) sold poppies every other year until 1971, now selling every year with some help from the Post; sponsoring since 1975 the twice-a-year blood bank drive through the Aurora Blood Bank; sponsored a style show for the Ambulance Fund; a card party for Winning Wheels; presenting citizenship awards to grade and high school graduates; starting in 1977, hosting nursing home birthday parties twice a year; loaning hospital equipment for 39 years with the Post now heading up this program; since 1967 have co-sponsored the Voice of Democracy script writing contest; sponsored the Juniors, a pom-pon group, in 1972 through half of 1975. The school hall monitors were honored at a dinner. The firemen and policemen were also honored and presented citations at a dinner. With the Post, purchased a climber for Nash school. Also with Post sponsored family picnics and corn boils; proceeds of one monthly breakfast donated to Voices to Vienna.

We as an auxiliary have marched in the Dixon Petunia Day parade, Byron, Leaf River and Stillman Valley Fall Festival parades, Veterans Day parades, Loyalty Day in Rochelle, Let Freedom Ring parade in Mt. Morris, and our Harvest Time parades.

In 1967 the auxiliary voted to implement the Dread Disease policy for all members in good standing of our auxiliary through the National organization.

New uniforms were introduced in 1966 and changed again in 1972. The latter is our official uniform to date. The annual auxiliary membership dinner was initiated in 1974.

The first of a number of 6th District V.F.W. & Auxiliary meetings to be held in our new clubrooms on Hwy 64 was in 1955. Sophia Goldstein, Dept. Pres., was an honored guest. Since then we have also hosted a number of Past-President Past-Commander banquets for the 6th District.

In 1972 the Auxiliary cooperated with the Post in celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Post and auxiliary. Honored were our charter members and past commanders and past presidents. Arthur Muller, past State Commander, was the guest speaker.

As of Nov. 7, 1986, we have 43 members deceased. There have been 27 ladies serving as president.

From records beginning in 1952 through Nov. 6, 1986, the auxiliary has donated \$1628.87 worth of flags to the community; \$1887 to Christmas baskets; \$1451.64 to local schools for AFS, bands, camps, raincoats, chorus; to the Village of Progress—\$1382.55; Oregon Ambulance—\$562; Harvest Time Parade—\$550; Yellow Bird Senior Citizens—\$175; Gifts to the ill and bereaved—\$2029.64; Loyalty Day—\$753.42; Service men's boxes—\$381; V.F.W. National Home—\$871; Department Child Welfare—\$1079.65; Hospital for Department Fund and Dixon, Downey, Hines and Madison VA—\$7353.52; Hospital equipment other than that received for selling products—\$974.64; Cancer Aid and Research—\$5259.55; Voice of Democracy—\$1587.36; Safety Programs—\$122.50; Citizenship awards—\$221.33; College scholarships to high school graduates—\$4250; to Post 8739 cash donations and freezer, steam table, curtains, tablecovers, storage building, outside flag light, insulation, driveway—\$12,941.46; initial cost of equipping kitchen—\$3031.36; to Radio Free Europe, Disaster Relief-Belvidere, Alaska, Savanna-Rice for Life, Operation Help, Community Chorus, Hall of Fame, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Statue of Liberty, Chamber of Commerce, Winning Wheels, Lifeline, USO-O'Hare, Save Woods, Crimestoppers, Outstanding Young Women of America, Aimee Sassaman funds—\$1748.45; Finally, to all the local crusades such as Fish, Mental Health, Day Care Center, Teen Canteen, Scouts, Hope, T.B., Cancer, Salvation Army, Muscular Dystrophy, March of Dimes—\$1559.28.

Our auxiliary could not exist without the permission of our parent organization. We therefore thank the Post members for allowing us to be their auxiliary. Thank you to the Post for providing a building for our meetings and for the opportunity to serve our veterans, their families, and the local community.

Charter Members of Oregon Ladies Auxiliary to V.F.W. Post No. 8739: Anne Dvorak, Marjorie Blagg, Hazel Coy, Elsie Johnson, Justina Remour, Shirley Young, Blanche Stull, Myrtle Hiscox, Rose Masters, Neva Messenger, Edna Myers, Viola Myers, Elsie Rosenbalm, Patricia Talbott, Josephine Heinz, Mary Jane Sharick, Alpha Sharick, Frances Sharick, Arlene Waggoner, Marion Otten, Ruth Catey, Maxine Heinz, Etta Flood, Mary Jane Roos, Vera Schier, Dorothy Freed Janssen,

Elizabeth Heinz, Doris Unger, Elizabeth Ulferts, Hazel Stultz, Henrietta Black, Marjorie Bonnell, Margaret Garriety, Alice Merritt, Olive Reed, Alberta Roos.

Presidents of Oregon Ladies Auxiliary to V.F.W. Post No. 8739 Oregon, Illinois: 1947—Justina Remour Klockenga, 1948—Ethel Coe, 1949—Ethel Coe, 1950—Ethel Coe, 1951—Justina Remour Klockenga, 1952—Justina Remour Klockenga, 1953—Betty Wells, 1954—Leila Shindle* (the daughter), 1955—Freda Miller, 1956—Hazel Coy, 1957—Bette Landers, 1958—Justina Remour Klockenga, 1959—Justina Remour Klockenga, 1960—Donna Cline, 1961—Della Young, 1962—Betty Berger, 1963—Shirley Young, 1964—Edith Fridley, 1965—Edith Fridley, 1966—Betty Gigous, 1967—Lydia McGinnis, 1968—Hilda Bailey, 1969—Sylvia Newcomer, 1970—Sylvia Newcomer, 1971—Mary Kay Seaworth, 1972—Barbara Giese, 1973—Viola Adams, 1974—Viola Myers, 1975—Kathleen Blumeyer, 1976—Helen Cann, 1977—Mabel Sharick, 1978—Betsy Pontnack, 1979—Mary Leary, 1980—Betty Gigous, 1981—Viola Myers, 1982—Barbara Davis, 1983—Mary Leary, 1984—Viola Myers, 1985—Viola Myers, 1986—Kay Karhatsu, 1987—Kay Karhatsu.

OREGON WOMAN'S CLUB*

Submitted by Lila Heuerman

The Oregon Woman's Club was organized in 1922 and Federated in 1924.

Its predecessor, the Oregon Woman's Council was organized in 1901 with 39 members with Mrs. Rebecca Kaufmann as president for many years. Under her leadership, the Ogle County Courthouse grounds were landscaped and 125 elm trees planted in honor of the men in four Ogle Community townships who served in World War I. In 1903 the Council presented a bill to the Illinois State Legislature for the purchase of 300 acres of White Pines at the cost of \$30,000. On September 16, 1927 White Pines was made White Pines State Park at the cost of \$63,949.

Mrs. H. A. Smith was one of the first presidents of the Oregon Woman's Club and she held office for several years.

In 1915, fifteen ladies organized a Garden Club as a department of the Oregon Woman's Club. They held six successful shows at the Coliseum with the last one in June, 1931.

Shrubbery was planted at the Coliseum. Mrs. William deLorbe and her Committee compiled a census and history of the oldest trees in Oregon.

During the presidency of Mrs. Elmer Pryor, 1938-40, Lorado Taft's dioramas were bought and placed in the corridor of the Oregon High School. The other diorama was donated by Mrs. Taft in honor of her husband.

Beginning with an idea fostered by Mrs. Russell Lamb, Mrs. Phyllis Haas Powers and Mr. Bill Hooks, the first Antique and Hobby Show was opened in October, 1951. Under the sponsorship of the Oregon Woman's Club, the show grew and for years enjoyed the reputation of not

only being the first of its kind, but the finest!

Over those 35 years, the Oregon Woman's Club has presented the best antique dealers and displayed hobbies and collections of area residents ranging from the Civil War to Storybook dolls.

Room settings were reproduced depicting days of yester-year. . . . Christmas in the Parlor, Dr. Mix Studio and the Abe Lincoln Room to mention a few. Hundreds of hours of work by the Oregon Woman's Club members, their spouses (and any one else they could persuade to work) moved furniture, painted, wallpapered and whatever was necessary to create a theme of the particular show.

The husbands, sons and brothers of Oregon Woman's Club members (God Bless 'Em) pitched in (with a minimum of grumpiness) doing *almost* anything asked of them, and during show weekend, put up with late meals, schedules thrown into "tizzies" and absentee wives or wives glimpsed only in passing.

We used hostesses for many years, modeling dresses donated to the Club by the late Mrs. H. A. Smith but found among the problems was to find enough girls with 16" waists and button hooks to button the shoes.

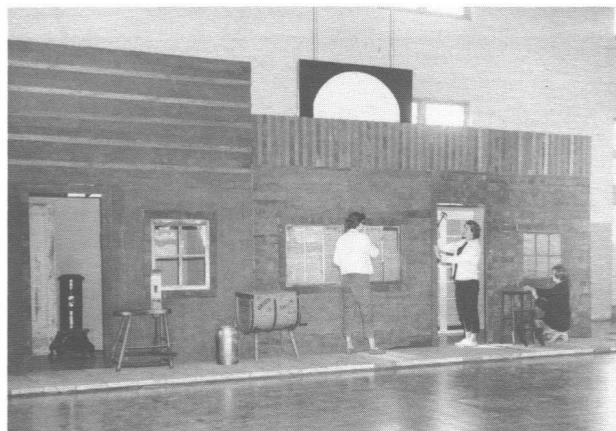
Probably the most ambitious undertaking of the Oregon Woman's Club was the recreation of the "Streets of Yesteryear." Three complete store fronts were constructed complete with a boardwalk. The project entailed tearing down a barn at Mrs. A. F. Madlener's, moving the lumber and then construction of the actual store fronts. The Oregon Jaycees were the carpenters for that project and many members of the Club learned to wield hammers and saws during the construction period! Dr. Moss of Grand Detour was among the biggest contributors, opening the doors of his museum to fill the three stores with authentic antiques depicting a hardware, apothecary and photography shop as they were in Oregon at the turn of the century.

Eagle's Nest Art Group furnished local color and art for the background with many local artists working in their various mediums during the show.

The Men's Garden Club was pressed into service and



Karen Woodrick pauses at the door of the Hardware Store—one of three stores re-created by the Oregon Woman's Club Antique and Hobby Show—Streets of Yesteryear.



Wielding hammers to put the finishing touches on the Apothecary Shop for the Streets of Yesteryear, re-created by the Oregon Woman's Club for the Antique and Hobby Show are Anne Geiken, Evelyn Joesten and Peg Cordes.

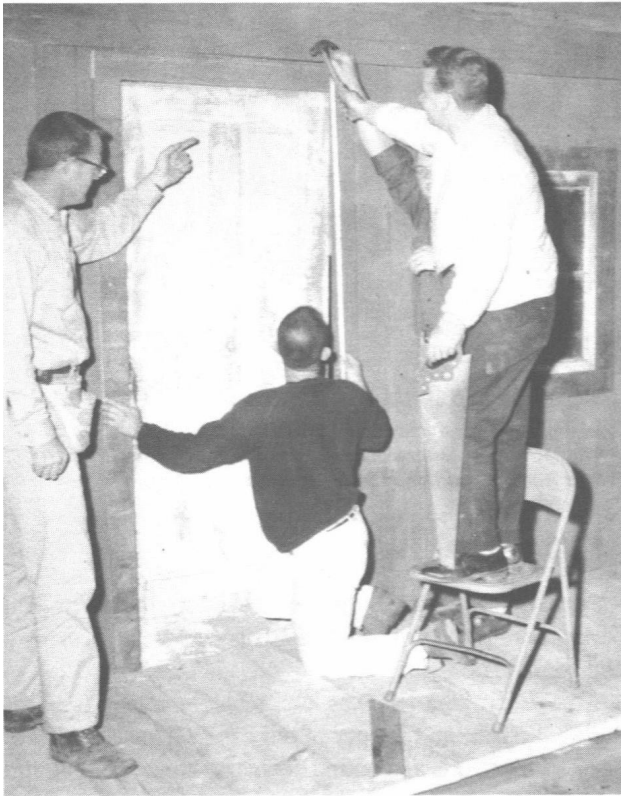
for many shows literally moved the outdoors in; creating parks, gardens, even small forests complete with owls and squirrels!

Mr. R. L. Sharick was our resident historian, head morale booster and keeper of our sanity during the hectic week of setting up and taking down the show. As custodian of the Coliseum, he was a valuable source of information on Oregon history as well as our very good friend and aide.

Proceeds of the first two Antique Shows purchased playground equipment for Mix Park. The site of Mix Park was presented to the City of Oregon by Mrs. Lydia Mix Slagle and her husband in May, 1920. Mrs. Lucretia Benedict of Rochester, New York gave \$100 to landscape the Park as a memorial to her uncle, William A. Guilford, who was a drygoods merchant at 305 Washington Street for 40 years. The landscaping was superintended by Thomas Seyster, without cost. The fountain was designed by Lorado Taft as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Reuel Mared Peabody, pioneers who came to the area in 1836. The labor and materials were a gift of Mrs. Emma O'Bryne of Oregon.

Proceeds from subsequent Antique Shows include triangle plantings at Route #2 and Pines Road; redwood flower boxes donated to the City; for several years, a Scholastic Banquet honoring high school juniors and seniors was held each spring; a drinking fountain at the Library. Sizeable donations were given for books at the Library, the Elementary Schools, Oregon High School, St. Mary's School, Lions Club Park, Project Concern in Vietnam; students were sent to music, art, and conservation camps.

Outstanding speakers at Club activities included Lorado Taft, Ralph Clarkson, Sidney Harris, Norman Ross, Mme. Anne Chenault, John B. Anderson, Mrs. Leon Gonigam, Rev. Charles Willey, the "Spanking Judge" William B. Obermiller of Whiting, Indiana, Ray Montsalvatage, Dr. Marcus Bach, Norma Lee Browning, William L. Oltmanns, foreign correspondent.



Gene Moring, Don Paul, Tim Sassaman and Bob Johnson, members of the Oregon Jaycees, volunteered their efforts to the re-creation of the Streets of Yesteryear for the Oregon Woman's Club Antique and Hobby Show.

In 1962 during the 1960-63 presidency of Mrs. John (Carol) Moore, the Oregon Woman's Club approved a community swimming pool as a civic project and placed funds earned from the Antique Shows in an allocated Special Pool Fund.

There were many meetings with city officials, clubs and organizations. The cost of the project seemed "prohibitive" to the Club but funds were put aside each year from the Antique Show.

On April 2, 1966 Dr. Ralph Story, Director of Field Services of the University of Illinois in charge of Recreation and Park Management was a speaker for the Oregon Parents Club. In a renewed effort and interest concerning a community swimming pool, several members of the Parents Club called on Anne Geiken who was president of the Oregon Woman's Club.

On May 17, 1966 Anne Geiken invited representatives of clubs, civic organizations and interested parties to discuss the possibility of a community swimming pool. The cost seemed prohibitive for so small a group. After many meetings, it was decided that the formation of the Oregon Park District was the answer.

The Oregon Woman's Club agreed to bear the costs of an election for formation of the Oregon Park District. On December 13, 1966 the Oregon Park District and their Board was made a reality by the voters. The Oregon Woman's Club president, Anne Geiken, Chrissie Martin, Richard Meyer, James Patrick and Richard Davis were elected to the Board.

On May 31, 1967 the pool funds of \$4,044.32 of the Oregon Woman's Club were given to the Park Board.

This year, 1986, is a memorable year for the Oregon Woman's Club. It is the culmination of a dream—a community swimming pool, now a reality through the Oregon Park District's Nash Recreational Center.

Presidents of Oregon Woman's Club since 1932:

Mrs. S. W. Crowell, Mrs. H. A. Smith, Mrs. R. L. Kiest, Mrs. A. I. Maxwell, Mrs. E. L. Pryor, Mrs. W. L. Pickering, Mrs. John Hayden, Mrs. James White, Mrs. Howard Engelbrecht, Mrs. C. D. Hollewell, Mrs. Robert Catey, Mrs. Ivan Kuntzelman, Mrs. Neil Crawford, Mrs. John O. Thomas, Mrs. R. D. Luedtke, Mrs. Ivan Kuntzelman, Mrs. Walter Hinkle, Mrs. John Moore, Mrs. Edward Roth, Mrs. Donald Joesten, Mrs. Anne Geiken, Mrs. Nelda (Sassaman) Johnson, Mrs. Opal (Stupka) Farrell, Mrs. Harold Willis, Mrs. Fred Louzon, Mrs. Lila Heuerman, Ms. Claire Allen, Mrs. Glenn Alter, Mrs. Frank Lucas, Mrs. James Rogers—2 terms, Mrs. Eleanor Yates, Miss Margaret Sauer, Mrs. Frances Bryer.

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS

Submitted by Verda Huffman

The Oregon Woman's Relief Corps was instituted at Oregon, Illinois on April 16, 1889 by Julia Sine, with 22 Charter members. Meetings were held in Memorial Hall (located in the Court House) until February 23, 1909 when T. A. Jewett gave the Corp the use of the basement of his drug store. Later he permitted the use of a large room on the second floor of his building. Meetings were held there until August, 1919 when the I.O.O.F. in the Peek building was leased for meeting purposes. Later the meeting place was changed to the I.O.O.F. Temple. In November 1945 they moved to the Burchell Building.

In the spring of 1957 the Corps purchased the old Emerson home on Madison and Third Streets from Cyrus Jones. At this time the Corps was incorporated. The mortgage was paid and the Corps received the deed to the property in 1964. The Corps has since disbanded and the home has been sold.

The first president of the Relief Corp was Mrs. Chloe Cartwright, pioneer school teacher and mother of Justice James H. Cartwright and Miss Emily Cartwright who was the librarian in Oregon for many years.

The members of the Corps attended church in a body with all patriotic orders, took part in Memorial Day services, and held services for the soldiers and sailors preceding Memorial Day services on the bridge and at the upper cemetery.

Over the years the Corp donated to many veterans' hospitals, and most local fund drives to the needy and burned-out families. The Corps served many banquets—public—Better Businessmen—Rotary and others. They sponsored a Junior Corps with some joining the Senior Corps when they became sixteen years of age. They sponsored several home talent shows. The Corp was privileged to have two members having been elected

Department President (State)—Vena M. Colson, now deceased and Verda Huffman.

The Corp provided a flag pole and flag, with public presentation to Lowden Memorial Park when it first opened. A bronze plaque set in cement designates this project.

Editorial note: Mrs. Clarence Hartsell submitted a copy of a letter written by Ruby Nash. It was not dated but we think you will find it to be of interest.

Dear Friends of the Oregon W.R.C. #132.

Before writing the story of the "Marsh" flag now in my possession and which I am about to release to your care, I think a little background of the Marsh family, will add interest to the flag story.

The two brothers, Chas. T. and Frederick H. were born in England. Chas. in 1845, and Frederick, somewhat earlier. Their mother was Widow Nye who had two sons, who came to America and located in Mt. Morris when young. (Some of the "Nye" family are still represented in Mt. Morris—relatives of our Miss Gertrude Gilbert)

Then, at an early age, (before 20) the two Marsh boys followed, and located also in Mt. Morris. They attended the College there and "C.T." taught school in Ogle Co.

When the Civil War came, both enlisted and saw long service. The war record of "F.H."—or Cap't Marsh, (as he was usually called) as found in "Chapman's Biographical Album 1886" reads like a story book.

After the war, he and "C.T." opened a book store (1870) about where the Bradbury Store now is located. Later "F.H." sold his share to "C.T." and entered politics. He was Rep. at Springfield, Sheriff of Ogle Co. and later U.S. States Marshal for Northern Ill.

His wife was Kate Lehman, sister of Harry Carman's mother. "C.H." built the house at 306 So. Third St. now the Bolwahn home. The Lehman home was 203 So. 3rd St.

Their daughter Katie, whom I remember as a pretty, cute little girl is living in Seattle.

Now about "C.T."

He married Lucy (?) whose step-father was a "Wagner" from around Mt. Morris, and who owned the house at 704 Madison where the Boomgarden's now live. Later they lived over the book-store. Many an evening I spent going with my mother to visit "Lu" Marsh. I bought my first school books of him. I remember him as very pleasant—quite a joker and popular among the men.

Now the Flag Story.

Mr. Marsh was prominent in all G.A.R. affairs—went to all the Reunions & made speeches, was toast-master etc. He finally gave up his store. (I can't recall when "Lucy" died, or where, or where he went.) There was a sale and we bought a parlor suite.—I am guessing that was about 1895. (There is no one left in Oregon whom I can ask!) He married again—I believe she was quite a well known woman who went with him to all the meetings. Later they lived in Rockford.

He died and was buried in Riverside Cemetery (or Lower Cem.) Because he was such an outstanding G.A.R. man (was State commander one year.) she wanted a flag to *always* wave over his grave. She had the pole raised and for some reason, I don't recall why, gave me the flag to keep & care for. About that time, perhaps 1925, the "Mary Morrison Tent" Daughters of Union Veterans was organized. It was then that we persuaded Mrs. Marsh to personally turn the flag to their care, and have it displayed only on *special* days. She reluctantly consented, but did not live long to know that we followed her desire.

The D.U.V's met regularly at my house and all equipment was kept here. But we had difficulty in keeping up the organization. We used the money on hand, plus some extra

donations and placed the marker in Riverside Cem. at the "Triangle", and added some shrubbery and then "folded up" our "Tent" and left it in the hands and hearts of the more vigorous patriotic women of the W.R.C. to carry on.

You have done an outstanding thing to buy a "Home" as a center for patriotic observances.

There is no authority remaining to direct the disposal of the Marsh flag but it is the flag of all of us and I know you'll be true to the trust.

Very sincerely,
Ruby Nash.

Eugene Myers will be honored to continue in raising the flag each Memorial Day.

OGLE COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

Submitted by Linda J. Ketcham B.S. Supervisor Y.S.B./L.S.S.I.

The Ogle County Youth Service Bureau (Y.S.B.) is a county-wide, not-for-profit organization. Youth Service Bureau was founded in 1976 by a group of citizens in Mount Morris and Oregon who were concerned about the youth of Ogle County. Youth Service Bureau has traditionally provided both youth activities, counseling and prevention programs.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (L.S.S.I.) is a statewide, not for profit Illinois Corporation and licensed Child Welfare Agency. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois provides a broad spectrum of residential and non-residential social services to children, families, and older adults throughout the state of Illinois.

On March 1, 1983 the North Central Area Services of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Youth Service Bureau formed an affiliation in order to better serve the residents of Ogle County. This affiliation combined the programs, financial resources and the expertise of both Youth Service Bureau-Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

Services offered in Ogle County are:

Y.S.B.-L.S.S.I.

Counseling

Crisis Intervention to Runaway Youth and Families

Status Offender Services

Guardian Ad Litem

Alcohol Education

Foster Care

In School Prevention Programs and Counseling Groups (K-12)

Custody Investigation

Juvenile Offender Groups

Parenting Classes

Community Development and Education

Consultation Services

Sub-Contracted Group Counseling for Battered Women

L.S.S.I.

First Steps to Parenting

Child Abuse Program

Project Secure

Unified Delinquency Program

Emergency Foster Care

Long Term Foster Care

Youth Service Bureau-Lutheran Social Services of Illinois maintains a significant, positive relationship with the local courts, police, schools and other providers in its efforts to strengthen and preserve the individual, family and community through quality social services.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

(Submitted by Marge and Morrie Cann)

The Boy Scouts of America was a thriving organization in Oregon by 1912, soon after it was first incorporated as a charitable organization in the United States. The Boy Scout program was started in England by Lord Baden Powell in 1907, primarily to teach outdoor skills to boys from ages 12 to 18.

In the Ogle County Republican newspaper dated May 30, 1912, was the following article: "Frank O. Lowden has very generously invited Boy Scouts to camp on his farm. The program will include daily instructions in woodcraft and swimming. About thirty boys are expected to attend."

Another article from the same newspaper, dated March 23, 1915, stated that "members of the local squad of Boy Scouts left Wednesday of last week for a camping outing on Phantom Lake, near Mukwonago, Wisconsin. The group enjoying the outing under charge of Scoutmaster Rev. George Swertfager is composed of the following: Edward Etnyre, Henry Cotlow, Harvey Jewitt, Ralph Beveridge, George Mix, Allen Spoor, Charles Nygren, Everett Tilton, and Leo Curtis."

On December 17, 1925, Boy Scouts from Dixon, Mt. Morris, and Oregon met in the basement of the Coliseum for a supper provided by the scout mothers of Oregon, under the direction of Mrs. W. J. Emerson. After supper the scouts assembled for the Court of Honor under the Chairmanship of Judge Zick and assisted by Scoutmaster Rev. H. L. Todd. First Class Scout honors were bestowed upon Paul Smith, Cecil Crowell, Howard Todd, and William DeLhorbe; Second Class Scout honors upon Jordan Sanford and Albert Sauer; and Tenderfoot honors upon Stephen Reed, Clifford Wernick, and Donald Kelly. Philip Nye and other boys were also members of the troop. Steve Reed recalls that the troop camped at Franklin Grove on Mill Creek, which is now a State Park.

A July, 1927 newspaper tells that Albert Sauer and Paul Smith were leaving Tuesday, in company with a number of Boy Scouts from the Blackhawk Area Council, to make a 1500 mile trip through Wisconsin and Michigan, winding up with a visit to the Chicago Stockyards.

Between 1929 and the early 1930's some of the members of Troop 69 were Morrie Cann, Herbert Weyrauch, George Etnyre Jr., Harry Wade, Henry Smith, Richard Smith, Robert Smith, and Stub Allen. They were sponsored by the Shirley Tilton American Legion Post, and among their Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters

in those years were Gerald Gerard, Rev. Dale (pastor of the Lutheran Church), Frank Einsweiller, Carl Crowell, and Rudy Diamond. The Blackhawk Area Council summer camp at that time was Camp Amos Horton at Lyndon, on the Rock River south of Sterling. It was very primitive and poorly located. Troop 69 visited the Parker Pen Co. in Janesville and the Chevrolet Assembly Plant on one of their weekends, and among the places they had campouts were Canfield's Woods near Chana, The White Pines State Park, and Weller's Woods near Mt. Morris. George Etnyre Jr. tells of a campout at Weller's Woods with his troop and their Scoutmaster Carl Crowell. Mrs. H. H. Smith, mother of the three Smith boys, learned that a storm was forecast while the scouts were camping. She proceeded to drive to Weller's Woods in her old Nash car and announced that her boys were not going to camp out in a storm. She took them home with her, and after they left, the rest of the troop decided they better go home too.

Morrie Cann remembers that in 1932 he was invited by his cousin H. Roe Bartle, Scout Executive for the Kansas City, Missouri region, to attend their Boy Scout Camp in Osceola, Missouri for the entire six weeks' summer camp. It was a good camp with a nice swimming pool.

John Maxwell recalls that he, Gene Pryor, and Donald Cole were members of Troop 69 during the middle 1930's, and they met below the present Decker Drug Store. Paul Smith, Melvin Kaney, and Mr. Blackwell were among the Scoutmasters in those years. The troop went to summer camp at Camp Rotary. Donald Cole attained the rank of Eagle Scout in June, 1936. John's father, Arnold Maxwell, was also involved with the Scout movement for a number of years.

By 1937, Troop 69 was sponsored by the Oregon United Methodist Church, and met over the downtown store that is now Allum's. Fred Death was Scoutmaster from 1937 to 1943 when he entered service in World War II. He was assisted by John Carr, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1939 while he was assistant Scoutmaster. The troop attended summer camp at Lake Delevan, Wisconsin where, among other skills learned, they earned the canoeing merit badge. The 1937 winter campout was held at White Pines Forest State Park in the tourist cabins. In 1939 Fred Death and his assistant Scoutmaster Homer Ludwig took the troop camping on Margaret Fuller Island north of Oregon and south of the Blackhawk Statue. The boys and their supplies were ferried across the river to the island by rowboat. In May, 1940 Troop 69 had the honor of being among the first group of scouts to camp at the present Camp Lowden site, before it was officially dedicated. There was a well there but no sanitation facilities, and swimming was in the Rock River. James Lamb, Earl Cline, William Edward Jones, and Gerald Weyrauch are some of the boys remembered as being associated with the troop then. In 1943 the Hon. Philip Nye, a County Judge at that time, took the troop to summer camp at Camp Lowden as

acting Scoutmaster, because the troop's leaders had gone to service.

Howard Fox, Forester at Sinnissippi Farms near Oregon, took over as Scoutmaster for the next two years. He and the boys built a big council ring in the woods west of the Fairgrounds, and used it for many of their meetings.

In May, 1946 Ray Moody was Scoutmaster of Troop 69, assisted by Martin "Bud" Eakle. By now the troop was meeting in the basement of the Coliseum. Bud Eakle later took over as Scoutmaster, assisted by James Maxson, Franklin Basler and others. William Fearer and Jack McCarthy were among the members of the troop. In July 1947, Troop 69 attended Camp Lowden, with Don Wachlin as acting Scoutmaster, Robert Wachlin as junior assistant, and camp staff members were James Purcell, William Bergner Jr., Richard McCarthy, and Robert Beaman.

During the next few years, Hobart Haney was Scoutmaster, assisted by Morrie Cann, and Troop 69 attended the Sinnissippi District Camporee at Fearer's Woods, about 1½ miles west of the Silica Plant on Gale Creek. The scouts had to carry everything in by backpack to the camp site, which was about a half a mile and then across the creek, including a large cast iron griddle that they made super pancakes on in the morning. The boys constructed a pioneer bridge to return across the creek when it was time to leave. Troop 69 apparently disbanded in the early 1950's. Several of the churches and service organizations sponsored this troop over the years.

Boy Scout Troop 81 was started in May, 1951, and was chartered at that time and still is chartered by the Oregon United Methodist Church. Its first Scoutmaster was Melvin Priller, followed over the years by Bill Hooks, Keith Eyrick, Dick Mulford, Jack Metcalfe, James Ker-even, and Wilbert Schultz, the Scoutmaster at present and for the past 15 years.

Boy Scout Troop 52 was first chartered by the First Presbyterian Church of Oregon in June, 1953, with six boys. Its first Scoutmaster was James Maxson, followed by Donald Gardiner, Henry Behning, John Basler, James Mathews, Warren Reed, Douglas Sutton, Russell Otten, James Bottoms, John Ennenga, John Witmer, Dale Collins, Richard Adams, and present Scoutmaster Ray Gruber.

There was also a Boy Scout Troop 79 at Sinnissippi Farms which was active for a number of years in the early 1950's. Their Scoutmaster was Howard Fox, Forester at Sinnissippi Farms. This troop was sponsored by a group of citizens, including Dr. Miller, Governor Lowden's son-in-law. Among the boys in the troop were Fred Pauls, Ronald Fox, the Cater boys, and Dr. Miller's two sons Warren and Philip, who, although they lived in Chicago, came out weekends on the train to take part in troop meetings and activities.

In 1954 Troop 81 Scouts went on a camping trip to Canada, in which they covered 1400 miles in 14 days. When they got off the ferry to Canada at Sault Ste. Marie, they were greeted by a Canadian Mountie who

escorted them to their first campgrounds in Canada in the Algonquin Provincial Park. They also camped at Niagara Falls and at Dearborn Village, Detroit, Michigan, with special permission to camp inside the village itself. The boys traveled by school bus, accompanied by their leaders Melvin Priller and Bill Hooks, with their supplies in a truck driven by Dr. Lloyd Wood.

For several years the boys in Troop 81 had permission to use the cabins and camp on the land near Castle Rock which was owned at that time by Steve Reed. These cabins were in an area included in the present Castle Rock State Park. Many times the boys enjoyed an overnight campout, especially in the winter when a roaring wood fire kept everyone warm, at least on one side.

Each year Troops 81 and 52 attend the Sinnissippi District Camporees in the winter, spring, and again in the fall. One of the earlier events was the Dogpatch Camporee at Paynes Point, east of Oregon, held in 1952. Annual Scout Shows in the spring gave the boys a chance to display their Scout knowledge and outdoor skills which they had learned at troop meetings. The Boy Scouts also take part in district first aid meets.

In 1958 the troops participated in what was called the River Bend Camporee. Troop members traveled by bus to Dubuque, Iowa where they boarded a stern wheeler boat and took a trip down the Mississippi River.

In the early 1960's a District Camporee was held at a state park near Thomson, Ill. The boys traveled there by train with a steam locomotive as the engine. When they were boarding the train at Oregon, a "hobo" was walking up the track from the Carnation Co. toward the depot, and he asked for a ride to Thomson with the boys. They agreed, and later that night were very surprised to learn that he was an imposter when he took off his disguise and acted as master of ceremonies for their skits at the evening campfire. It was Melvin Priller, a committee member from Oregon, playing a joke on the scouts.

For a Camporee in 1955 the boys and leaders hiked from their churches to the railroad station at the south end of Oregon. The troops boarded sky-domed passenger cars, new to the railroading industry at that time, and were transported to Galena. There the cars were switched to a siding and all the Scouts from the Sinnissippi District hiked to the city park for the Camporee competition.

Another trip was when the boys all boarded buses on a Friday night for a ride to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There they boarded the car ferry "Clipper" and traveled across Lake Michigan to Ludington, Michigan, where a Camporee was held. Saturday night was spent on Lake Michigan, where everyone enjoyed the sunset and sunrise on the lake and the moon over the water at night.

The 1960' also provided another ride on the Mississippi River for the members of the troops. They traveled by bus to Dubuque, Iowa, where six barges with sand on the bottom waited for them to pitch their tents. The Scouts camped and held troop competitions as the tug boat moved them downstream to Clinton, Iowa where

they packed up their gear for the journey home by bus.

The Sinnissippi District Camporee in 1973 was held in a Pine tree wooded area belonging to the Willard Dickerson family, and was located north of Lowden State Park. The unusual feature of this camping experience was that the Dickersons had marked trees that needed to be cut to thin out the woods, so the boys were given permission to cut Pine trees and boughs to construct shelters and mattresses and for building towers which they lashed together. Some of the boys constructed a rope bridge with pine poles lashed together and a long rope between. These were some of the requirements for the pioneering merit badge. Normally Scouts have to respect the timber when camping in wooded areas and never take an axe or a saw to a living tree without permission, so they had a great time sawing and cutting. Entertainment at night was skits by all the different troops around a big campfire.

A few years ago Oregon Scouts visited the Boy Scout National Jamboree at Fort Hill, Virginia, and included was a trip to Washington, D.C. A summer pilgrimage to Indianola, Iowa to the National Hot Air Balloon races is a memory for former scouts of Troop 52. Troop 81 has made trips in the last few years to Cody, Wyoming, and Charleston, South Carolina, and in 1969 they went to the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Farragut Park, Idaho.

In 1961, a troop of boys from the Blackhawk Area Council participated in an International Goodwill Tour of Europe. Howard Fox was selected to lead the group, and Stanley Fox of Oregon Troop 52 was one of the scouts who went on the trip.

The Boy Scout International Jamboree was held in the Scandinavian Countries in 1963. David Wood of Oregon Troop 81 was selected as one of the Scouts to attend from Region 7, with Howard Fox as a patrol leader. His patrol went to the Northwoods of Sweden.

For a number of years the Blackhawk Area Council has conducted a pilgrimage every spring to Galena to celebrate the birthday of President Grant. Oregon Boy Scouts usually attend this celebration for the weekend, marching in the parade, camping out, and taking part in other activities which demonstrate their scout skills.

Blackhawk Area official summer scout camps have been held at Camp Lowden, near Oregon; Canyon Camp at Stockton, Ill.; and Northwoods Camp at Watersmeet, Michigan, a high adventure camp. However, Northwoods Camp is no longer available to the Boy Scouts.

The National Boy Scout Council maintains a high adventure camp at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and over the years several Oregon Boy Scouts and some of their fathers and Scoutmasters have participated in this unique experience.

The highest rank that a Boy Scout or Scoutmaster may earn is that of Eagle Scout, and a number of Oregon Scouters have been honored by this award. Troop 81 of the Oregon United Methodist Church has awarded Eagle Scout rank to the following Scouters: Melvin Priller, 1954; Ronald Fox, 1954; Brian Doyle, 1954; Mart

Nurmet, 1954; Harry Fletcher, 1954; Bill Hooks, 1954; Allen Lewison, 1956; Wayne Hughes, 1956; Robert Seibert, 1956; Joseph Reed, 1956; Michael Maxson, 1957; Richard Wood, 1957; John Berger, 1970; Mark Newcomer, 1970; Lee Bastian, 1971; Todd Flessner, 1973; Gary Schultz, 1974; Stephen Mackay, 1976; Kevin Collins, 1978; Peter Kruger, 1978; David Stevens, 1979; Brian Aurand, 1980; Chris Draege, 1983; Matthew Bunger, 1985; Michael Leitz, 1986. Troop 52 of the First Presbyterian Church of Oregon has awarded Eagle Scout rank to the following Scouters: Stanley Fox, 1961; Bradley Teasdale, 1978; Kenneth Farrey, 1981; John Ennenga, 1981; Robert Gruber, 1986.

The Silver Beaver Award is an honor given by the Boy Scout Council to an adult volunteer who has contributed an unusual amount of time and effort to support the Scouting movement. Recipients from this area who have achieved this honor include the following: Ben Adams; Dr. Sherwood Baker; Henry Behning; Milton Dunk; D. C. Findlay; Harry Fletcher; Howard Fox; O. August Hanke; Grant Herman; Theodore Incontro; Becky Lauer; Perry Peters; F. Willard Powers; Harold Ross; Elmo Tudor; Richard Watson; Dr. Lloyd Wood; Ralph Young.

Scouting is alive and well in Oregon, as it has been for over 75 years. We like to believe that although Scouting is not for every boy, it helps to build character and leadership qualities in many boys and men who take part in the Scouting program. Oregon can be very proud of the Scouts who have gone on to become caring adults and outstanding men and leaders in many different fields.

CAMP LOWDEN

Submitted by Marge and Morrie Cann

Camp Lowden is a heavily wooded reservation operated by the Blackhawk Area Council Boy Scouts of America, and is located south of Oregon along the east bank of the Rock River. The camp serves Boy Scouts from six counties, namely: McHenry, Boone, Ogle, Lee, White-side, and Winnebago. In May, 1940, the late Hon. Frank O. Lowden, former Governor of Illinois, made possible on a long-term free lease the use of 252 acres of beautiful timberland on his Sinnissippi Farm Estate as a Boy Scout camping and recreation area. The property was formally dedicated and named Camp Lowden on June 16, 1940. The ceremony was held among the hickory and oak trees on the property, and was attended by Col. Lowden and his family. Lease to the tract was handed to the President of the Blackhawk Area Council by Col. Lowden's grandson and namesake, Frank Lowden Madlener, a member of the Cub Scouts. In turn, the Blackhawk Area Council presented Col. Lowden with a statuette of a Boy Scout, upon the base of which was inscribed the words: "To Colonel Lowden, a Real Scout". Then a representative of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America awarded Colonel Lowden the Silver Buffalo, scouting's highest honor given to a volunteer.

The Blackhawk Area Council then began a fund raising program to net about \$40,000.00 to equip the camp for

the boys. O. August Hanke of Mt. Morris was Council President at that time and had much to do with the success of the fund raising promotions.

One of the unusual features of the camp is the location of the camp sites. Each campsite is in almost complete isolation because of the hilly terrain and the thick stand of trees. Just prior to the dedication, the first district overnight encampment was held on the newly acquired property, and was attended by 54 boys, including boys from Troop 69 in Oregon and their Scoutmaster Fred Deuth. Sanitation facilities and a well were being installed, but camping those first years would only be in tents pitched on the ground. Later on platforms were built. The first building to be constructed at Camp Lowden was the Main Lodge, in 1942, and it was built under the supervision of Frank Einsweiller, who had long been a volunteer in the scouting organization. In 1948, a permanent residence was built to house a resident all-year camp director. This made it possible to have year round use of the camp. Bill Mulford was the first Camp Director and held that position for 16 years. He and his family moved into the house in 1948, and his wife took over the job of cooking for the camp. The Staff Quarters behind the dining room are dedicated to Bill and they are named Mulford Woods.

A new 35' by 90' swimming pool was ready for use in 1950. The place chosen for the pool was at the bottom of a natural bowl behind the lodge. Adjoining the pool was a bathhouse, complete with showers and toilet facilities, which was constructed from boards salvaged at Camp Grant, Rockford. A replica of the Statue of Liberty was erected at the corner of the swimming pool to honor the 40th anniversary of scouting in America.

Since that time, many improvements and additions have been added, including an Administration Lodge, Health Lodge, Trading Post, Cook's Residence, Director's Cabin, modern Dining Hall, Amerock Training Center, Rifle Range, Archery Range, several camp shelters, boats and canoes, and other facilities to give the Scouts a top quality experience under healthful and safe conditions and well trained instructors.

Since 1940, Camp Lowden has played host to over 175,000 scouts, leaders, and other scouters. They have made good use of the hiking trails in the camp: Boundary, Lost Cave, Pine Bluff, and Cascade. The famous Blackhawk Trail Hike starts at Camp Lowden and follows the Rock River up to Lorado Taft's State of Blackhawk in Lowden Memorial State Park, a distance of 20 miles round trip. Each boy is required to write a book review on the life of Blackhawk and submit it before going on the hike. On completion of the hike, he is eligible for a patch and a medal. This trail hike is open to scouts from other councils as well as Blackhawk Area Council boys, and around 3,000 scouts hike it each year.

Order of the Arrow is an honorary scouting organization to which a boy must be elected by his fellow scouts. These scouts do volunteer work at the camp and assist with developing and operating Camp Lowden.

Around 1960, 90 of the original Camp Lowden acres were deeded outright to the Council by Florence Lowden Miller. Another 112 acres has been acquired by Blackhawk Area Council through the generosity of the Sundstrand Corporation of Rockford. This makes a total of 202 acres that the Council now owns.

We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to the interest and generosity of Colonel Lowden, his children, and his grandchildren.

STRONGHOLD

Compiled and submitted by Thelma Carpenter

A tourist brochure, *An Inimitable Summer Resort*, extolling the beauty of the river valley near Oregon published by the Burlington Railroad in the 1890's, characterized the Rock River as the "Hudson of the midwest". Stronghold, the summer home built by Walter Strong on the limestone bluff just south of Mud Creek on the west side of the river, epitomized that description. Mr. Strong was familiar with the area through visits to his father-in-law, Towner K. Webster's, summer home, Bee Tree Farm, which was built in 1917 on an acreage of wooded hills and fields north of Mud Creek on Silver Creek. Mr. Webster, a Chicago businessman, was the inventor of the Webster magneto. He sought the benefit of the rural life for his family which included Josephine, Towner, Jr., Maurice and Henrietta. His daughter, Josephine, became Walter Strong's wife and wished to continue her family's tradition of summers along the Rock River for her own five children, Walter, Jr., Jonathon, Robert, Anne and David.

Mr. Strong became the publisher and editor of the *Chicago Daily News* when he purchased the paper from the estate of Victor Lawson, its founder, for \$14,000 in 1925. He and his family resided on Tower Road in the north shore suburb of Winnetka.

In 1928, another Chicagoan, Wallace Heckman, who owned property on both sides of the river in addition to his Ganymede Estate where Lorado Taft's Eagle's Nest Art Colony was located, sold the first 60 acres on the west bank to Mr. Strong. Later in the year an additional 262 acres was purchased. In November of that year quarrying of limestone was begun in the bluff just off the Black Hawk Trail (Highway 2) near the Narrows and a road was built from the quarry to the top of the bluff through a deep ravine.

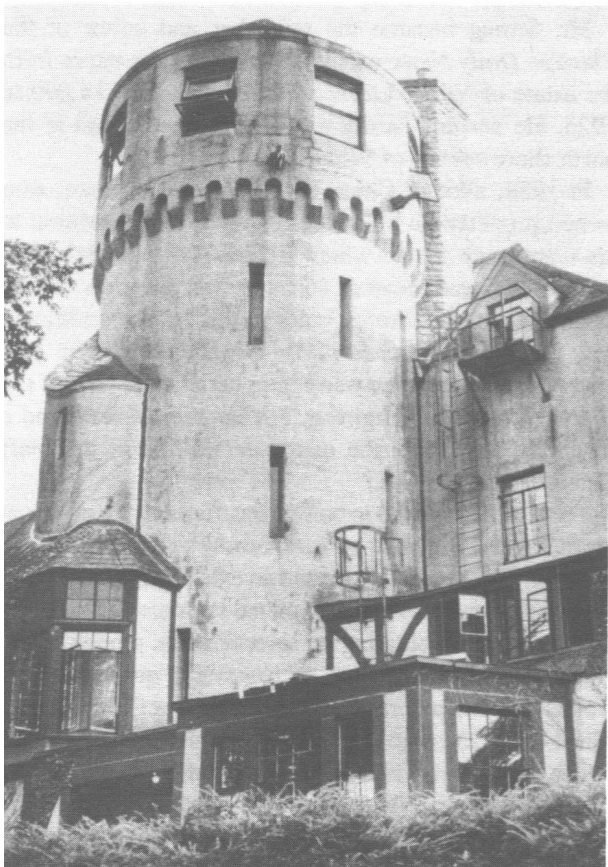
This stone was used to begin construction of a medieval type "castle" designed by Mrs. Strong's brother, Maurice Webster. The plan incorporated an existing silo, adjoining barn and lean-to. When completed the complex of a 65-foot tower, main building on several levels, a bunk house annex, and a garage wing with servants quarters above would enclose a formal garden with a reflecting pool. There were 25 rooms, 16 of them bedrooms, 9 baths, a dining room with a massive 20' x 6' table of solid oak, a great hall, and a library with a secret panel providing access to a room intended for a chapel. A passageway from the staff quarters above the 7-car garage, through

the space above the north arch, to the second floor bedrooms was said to have been convenient for young people returning from late night exploits. Although construction was not complete, a house-warming party was held on Thanksgiving Day of 1929. The main building was completed at a cost of \$55,000.

During the next few years landscaping and construction work continued with the addition of a swimming pool, a tennis court, a limestone toboggan tower, play house, vegetable and flower gardens, and driveways. The impressive wrought iron entrance gates and other ornamental iron works were created by Mr. Strong in a small blacksmith shop near the garage. The total cost amounted to about \$80,000.

The family was in residence at intervals from spring until late fall when the ten fireplaces were no longer able to provide adequate heat. During the early years, a staff of nine looked after the family and house guests that might number 40 on a weekend. The summer of 1930 was highlighted by a costume ball to celebrate Mrs. Towner K. Webster's 80th birthday. Large trunks of costumes were kept in the north passageway for use in amateur theatricals and other dress-up activities.

This summer was the only one that Walter Strong was to enjoy with his family in the medieval "castle" on the Rock River. He died of a heart attack in May 1931 at his home in Winnetka. He was only 46 years old. His ashes were scattered on a wooded slope just north of the swimming pool and a semi-circle of Norway spruces were planted as a memorial to mark the place.



A Russian artist, Nicholas Kasaroff, spent about six weeks at Stronghold in 1932. He painted decorative panels on the beamed ceiling of the library and a mural depicting the fairytale "Rumpelstilzkin" on the walls along the stairs and in the upper room of the tower. Some of the figures were said to be humorous portraits of family members.

As a traditional part of summer activities, Mrs. Strong encouraged and financed quite ambitious building projects to be designed and completed by her sons. In 1933, Jonathon constructed a log cabin in the pasture just west of the toboggan run, overlooking Mud Creek. During the summer of 1940, David and his cousin, Maurice Webster, Jr., worked on a cement block tower sited on a gravel hill prairie with a broad view of the Rock River valley south toward the Blackhawk statue and Oregon.

David was drafted at the age of 18 and died in the Battle of Ardennes on November 7, 1944. His ashes joined his father's in the semi-circle of spruces. His tower remains as a local landmark on the south portion of the property. In 1962 when the land was sold, his young nephews lettered "We Shall Return" over the entrance to the tower.

In 1935, Mrs. Strong rebuilt and refurnished Basswood, a spacious wood frame house at the southeast edge of the property for her sister and her husband, Henrietta and Arthur Bass. Mr. Bass, a dedicated gardener, created a garden that was a local showplace with a wide variety of flowers and shrubs, a spring-fed stream, and a miniature waterwheel.

During the 1940's, just north of her parent's home, a small house was built by Mrs. Strong for her niece, Elinor Doyle and her three children, Brian, Colin and Linda who moved north from Texas following some marital problems. In 1956, the Besses were killed in an automobile accident while on vacation, and Mrs. Doyle moved to Basswood with her children. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Carpenter and their son Craig came from the Lorado Taft Field Campus to live in the vacated "Little House". This cottage was named after the picture book by Virginia Lee Burton and also painted pink with white trim. They remained as tenants of Mrs. Strong and the family until the spring of 1963 after the property was sold in October 1962 to the Presbyterian Camping Association.



During the years following her husband's death in 1931 until she died in 1961 at the age of 79, Mrs. Strong reigned, each summer, as the matriarch of a very active clan of summer residents with a nucleus of family members that included her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and their children. The activity was most hectic on weekends when visitors arrived from the North Shore and Beloit where her children lived. Staff was brought out from the city to help the local cook and resident couple. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Logsdon and Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds Carr lived in the caretaker's quarters at different times during these years and served as caretaker-gardener and housekeeper.

On week days Mrs. Strong maintained a sedate routine suited to the lady of the manor. She spent much of the early part of her day in the blue and white morning room above the dining room overlooking the pool with its attendant spruces. Here she rested, read and worked on such prosaic needlework projects as stitching potholders from worn, flannel plate protectors. She took a vital interest in the landscaping and maintenance of the grounds. Gathering flowers from her cutting garden for floral arrangements was a regular part of her day, which

also included planning menus with the cook, checking linen and other supplies with the housekeeper, and attending to details of the gardens and grounds with the caretaker-gardener. She made occasional visits to Oregon and to her brother, Towner Jr., at Bee Tree Farm and her sister Henrietta at Basswood.

During the quarter century, from the time of her husband's death until failing health forced her to pass on some of the responsibility for managing the property to her sons, Mrs. Strong fully appreciated and preserved the natural beauty so lavishly displayed in her acres of field, woodlands, prairie hills, bluffs, streams and river banks. She refused to allow any lumbering or pasturing except in two fields which were designated as pasture when the land was purchased. Most of the property was an undisturbed natural living "herbarium" with wide variety of habitats including gravel hill prairies, mesic and Xerec forests of mature trees with an understory of shrubs and wild flowers, fern covered ravines, three woodland fens, river flood plains with a cattail marsh, and open fields of grasses. These various habitats supported an exceptionally rich flora with many species of herbaceous plants rarely found locally.

Beginning in 1959, Dr. Robert A. Bullington, Professor of Biological Science at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, conducted several surveys of invasion by woody species in a field west of the Little House on the south edge of the property. His findings were published in a paper, *Forest Invasion on Abandoned Pasture Land at the Stronghold in Ogle County, Illinois*, in 1973. Other college classes frequently studied the geology and flora of Stronghold on field trips with William Hooks. Mrs. Strong was most gracious in permitting guided hikes for Girl Scouts and other local groups.

Mrs. Strong's health failed during the late 1950's, and by 1960 she was blind and confined to a wheel chair. She died in 1961 at the age of 79. After much discussion the family decided to sell Stronghold. The property was



Castle windows reveal forest scenery.

purchased by the Presbyterian Camping Association, made up of four Presbyterys and a board of directors, for \$175,000 from the Strong Estate in October 1962.

In 1963 L. B. Sharp, from the Outdoor Education Department of Southern Illinois University, on the basis of maps and photographs, completed an evaluation of the property in preparation for establishing a summer church camp. Little attention was given to preserving the natural habitats and flora of the area. Campsites and trails were developed in the central wooded portion of the property. Subsequently, several lumbering operations have further degraded the varied ecosystems. Frank Lupton, who held a degree in recreation, was hired as the first Director of Stronghold Church Camp.

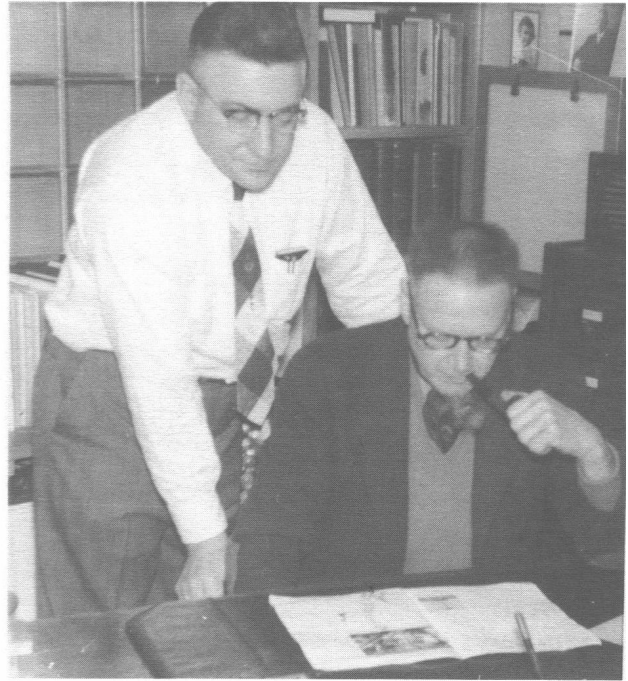
In 1964, Van's Kopje and 30 acres of land were purchased from Miss Mildred Van Inwegen. This acreage, adjoining the "castle" grounds on the south, included limestone outcroppings along the highway to the east, a high gravel hill prairie overlooking woodlands to the south and west, an entrance drive on the south side of a sandstone ravine, a red pine plantation, and a cultivated field and garden. The lovely old home, originally built as a summer place, was designed and decorated to reflect the family's Dutch heritage and to accommodate their musical, literary and artistic activities. A large, rustic "summer room" housed a grand piano and collections of books, paintings, and interesting artifact brought back from travels as far afield as Alaska and Hawaii. Mrs. Mary Van Inwegen, the widow of a coal and building materials dealer on Chicago's South Side, purchased the property in the early 1900's as a mini-farm where school age boys and girls, any of them children of professors at the University of Chicago, could stay for a few weeks and directly experience country life as well as adventures in art, music and literature. During these busy summers before World War I, she and her three daughters, Mildred a writer of magazine fiction, musician and piano teacher; Constance, a teacher and artist; and Helen, the pampered little sister, maintained a close relationship with the Lorado Taft family and their associates at the camp across the river. In her biography of her husband, Ada Bartlett Taft mentions that a visit to the Van Inwegens "by canoe followed by a steep climb was always a rewarding intellectual and musical treat."

During the depression years of the early 1930's Mrs. Van Inwegen and Mildred lived at Van's Kopje year-round and took part in the social and cultural life of Oregon. Mildred taught piano and served as organist for the Presbyterian Church for many years. Her piano recitals with punch or tea and cookies served to her pupils and their parents in the spacious "summer room" after the program continued through the 1950's. Constance taught in schools on the North Shore and spent summers and most holidays with her mother. Helen married an army officer, Colonel Farrant Turner stationed in Hawaii. He was decorated for serving with the Nisei Japanese troops in World War II and became Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii after the war. Her son, Bert, was a frequent visitor

Medicine



Dr. H. A. Mix (son of Dr. Wm. J. Mix, Sr.) with a cadaver. He had his office in his residence which was razed to make way for the North Third Street Apartments. Notice the tag attached to the cadaver's foot. (Picture courtesy Republican Reporter)



Doctor Catey and Doctor Warmolts.



July 9, 1952 in front of Warmolts' Clinic: Alice Smith, Charles Olafsen, Arlene Camling (Mrs. Earl Klein), Ruth Olafsen, Linda Nurmet, Blanch Butler, Ferne Burrignt, Ethel Luhrs, Florence Diehl (now Mrs. Twigg), Earl Pankhurst, Dr. Wessels, Dr. Warmolts, Dr. Norbert Metz.

Nursing Labor Of Love For Ferne Burrignt

By Jim Kaye

You have to truly love something a great deal when you stay at it for 30 years. Such is the case with Oregon's Ferne Burrignt.

In June of 1929, she visited her sister in Mt. Morris. Ferne had recently graduated from a nurses training course at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Her sister mentioned that a Dr. Lambertus Warmolts in Oregon needed an office nurse. So, she went to see him, applied for the job and was hired.

"I had no idea that I would work here for 30 years," Ferne said during a recent interview at her home on 87 North Sixth Street. "I didn't plan it but it just worked out that way."

During her 30 year nursing career in the community, she worked primarily for Dr. Warmolts. The exceptions were time-off for raising her family and when the doctor left Oregon to study surgery in Europe for 1 1/2 years.

City residents are not about to let the anniversary of Ferne's starting here as a nurse be forgotten.

At a recent city council meeting, Mayor Jim Barnes proclaimed that Wednesday, March 26, be



Ferne Burrignt goes over some office papers with Doctor Lambertus Warmolts at his clinic on 95 N. Fourth Street. This spring marks the 30th year Ferne has served the Oregon community as a registered nurse.

to Oregon as a teen-ager, and her sisters and mother spent several long vacations in Hawaii.

By 1956, both unmarried daughters were living at Van's Kopje. Mrs. Van Inwegen, at the age of 96, continued to be mentally alert and physically able to move about although hampered by failing eyesight and hearing loss. She planned to celebrate her 100th birthday, but died on June 27, 1957. Constance had been in poor health for many years and died shortly after her mother. Mildred lived at their home until the property was sold. The house was remodeled to serve as a residence for Frank Lupton until he moved to Basswood in 1966. The structure now serves as a gate house and information center at the south entrance to the camp near the Brubaker Dining Center that stands in the southwest corner of the Van Inwegen's soy bean field.

The first improvements made at Stronghold in 1964 included fencing the swimming pool, establishing a primitive campground in the old pasture at the northwest corner of the property and installing a central heating system in the "castle" for year-round accommodations.

During the late 1960's an additional 147 acres adjoining Stronghold on the south, were purchased from Charles W. Mongan and George M. Etnyre, who acquired the land in 1947. This acreage of ravines, woodland, and a large alfalfa field was part of the 400 acre farm Springvale, owned by Judge James H. Cartwright, a justice in the Illinois Supreme Court, who raised horses for harness racing that were famous in the midwest.

Since that time, a maintenance building and four new structures have been built to accommodate visitors to Stronghold. The Brubaker Dining Center is a modern, multipurpose facility with a main dining room which seats 200. A smaller dining room for 30 can be used as a classroom. A larger meeting room with seating for 250 is suitable for programs such as films and slide presentations and is made available to community organizations that hold dinner meetings at the center.

Walnut Lodge provides dormitory style sleeping areas for 32 with two large conference rooms and kitchen facilities. Sears Center accommodates 32 in rooms with one double bed and two bunk beds. It has conference space and a fireplace and is accessible to the handicapped. Hickory House was designed for smaller groups with a capacity of 12 in double rooms and has a fireplace and kitchen facilities.

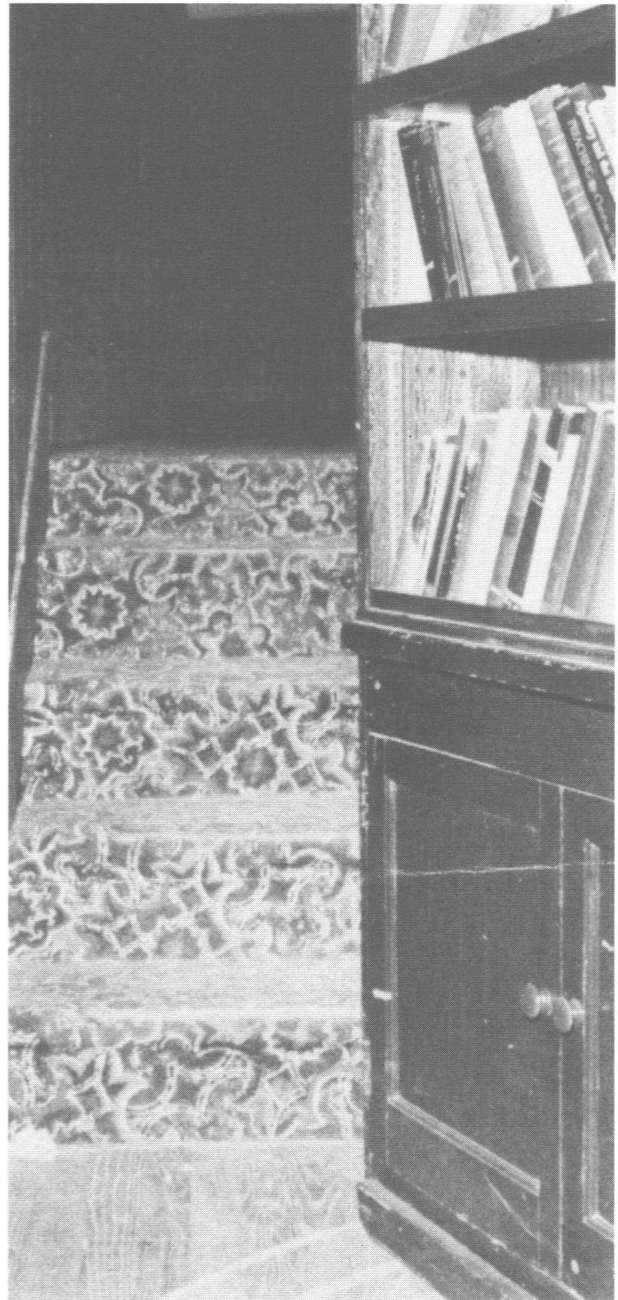
Stronghold now serves as a year-round conference, retreat and camping center owned and operated by the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is the governing body of 92 churches in Northern Illinois, excluding Chicago. The varied and flexible facilities make it possible to accommodate almost any type of group such as Christian adult and youth groups, education organizations, community service agencies, the disabled and disadvantaged, business planning groups, and senior citizens, including Elder Hostel classes. Activities and programs include overnight retreats, single day seminars and workshops, banquets, proms, picnics, wed-

ding receptions, family reunions, outdoor education courses, nature hikes, and family camping. Program assistance is available upon request.

From its origins as a church camp, the function of Stronghold as an institution has expanded to include a variety of continuing education and spiritual enrichment programs for adults as well as a summer camping program for children and youth.

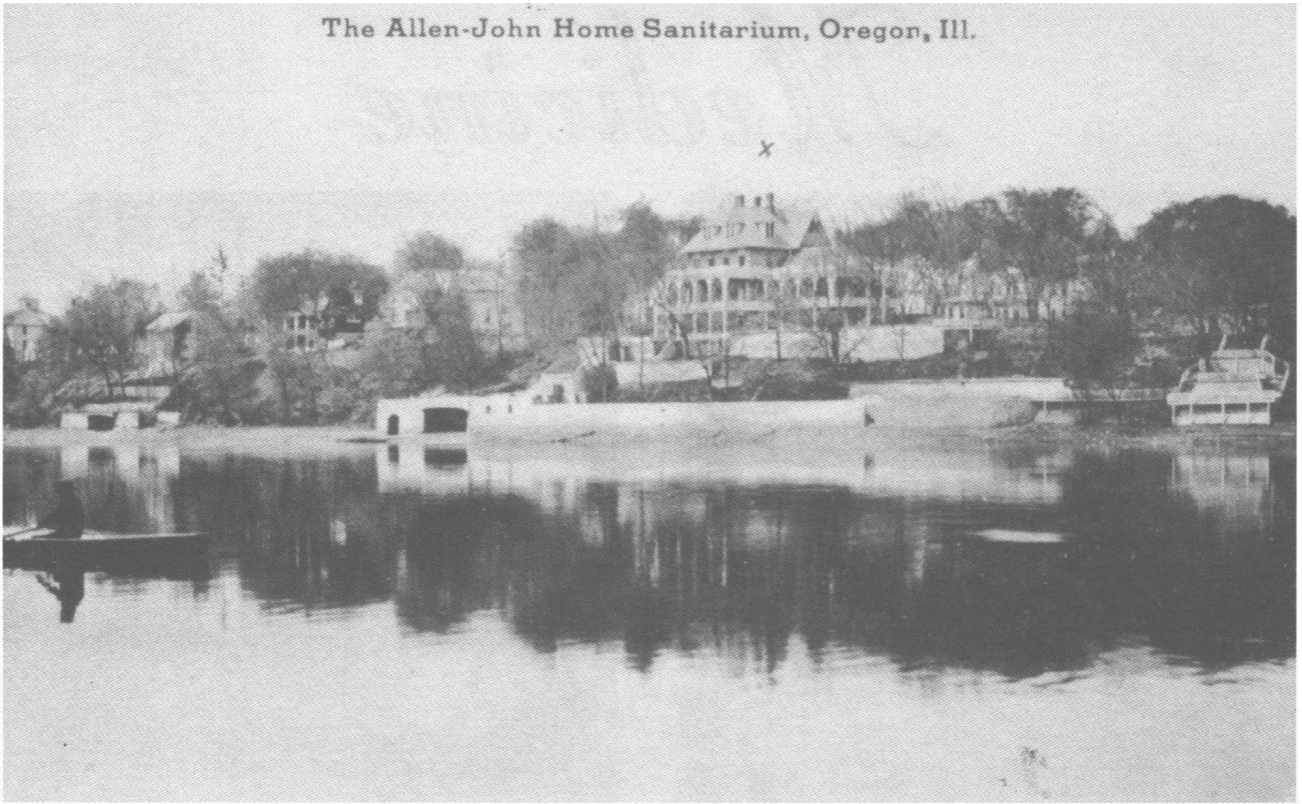
(Submitted by Thelma Carpenter)

Editor's Note: This entire section was organized by Lois Cline who spent many hours contacting writers for the various organizations listed. Several organizations declined to provide information so, of course, they are not mentioned. Thank you Lois for your efforts.



Moving bookcase unveils a secret way.

The Allen-John Home Sanitarium, Oregon, Ill.



Called Dr. John's Sanitarium. On the site of present Riverside Apartments in 300-400 block of North Third Street. Built in 1874 by H. A. Mix, M.D.



1880s toboggan slide from the east side of Riverside Cemetery south of the Doc Mix residence and continuing out onto Rock River.

*This section compiled and written by Jean Davis,
Charles Mongan and Viola Myers*

**TAKEN FROM 1886 OGLE COUNTY HISTORY
BOOK, page 631:**

and

**TAKEN FROM HISTORY OF OGLE COUNTY,
1909, VOLUME II, page 685:**

Mix, H. A., M.D., whose portrait appears in this work, is the youngest son of Wm. J. Mix, Sr., M.D., deceased, one of the earliest settlers of Ogle Co.; the subject of this sketch was born in Oregon, in this Co., July 12, 1838; at an early age he developed a natural taste for anatomy, having, when only ten years of age, put together the entire parts of a skeleton; at the age of twelve he dissected a human body and exposed every muscle; after studying medicine for three years, with Dr. E. S. Potter, of Oregon, he attended Rush Medical College, graduating from that institution in February, 1864; he immediately entered the service as 2d Asst. Surgeon of the 64th I.V.I., and was made in Sept. following, 1st Asst. Surgeon; during Sherman's campaign, was one of the operating staff of the first division of the 16th corps, being appointed to that position over many older surgeons, on account of his surgical skill; in May following he was made Surgeon of the 64th I.V.I.; in June, 1865, he was selected as one of the three surgeons in the Army of the Tennessee, to form a board of medical examiners and served as such until the close of the war. He then returned to Rush Medical College and took a course of lectures on diseases of women and children. He then commenced the practice of medicine in partnership with Dr. E. S. Potter, in Oregon, and continued as such until 1874, when he started for himself, and has continued so up to the present time, having a large and lucrative practice; the same year he built his fine residence, which is an ornament to his native town; he married Adeline A. Perry, in Lynnville, in this Co., July 11, 1868; have one son, Morton P., born July 19, 1873.

Mix Wm. J., Sr., (Deceased), whose portrait appears in this work, was born in Grand Isle, Vt., May 20, 1795; he was the eldest of eleven children; in his early life he was engaged in lumbering and in the fishing trade on the St. Lawrence River, continuing at the same until the age of 25; he then studied medicine with Dr. Wood, of Campbell's Landing, Canada, and after pursuing a full course at the Medical Institute at Montreal, graduated at the age of 29; he soon after settled in Conneautville, Crawford Co., Penn., and after practicing his profession there for eight years, moved to Tecumseh, Mich., where he remained one year; he then moved to Ottawa, LaSalle Co., Ill., and in the year 1835 came from there to Oregon Tp., in this Co., where he remained up to the time of his death, March 12, 1850. He served as assistant surgeon in the battle of Plattsburg in 1816, his father being a captain in the same battle; while residing in Pa., he

served as surgeon of the 129th Pa. Vols.; he married Annice Drury in Pittsfield, Vt., July 25, 1816; she was born in same place June 24, 1799; they had one son, Wm. J. Mix, Jr., living in Oregon, and two daughters, Abigail Minerva, who died Oct. 22, 1828, and Sarah Annice, who died Sept. 26, 1826; Mrs. Mix died in 1834; he then married Miss Eliza Wood Goodwin, at Tecumseh, Mich., in Feb., 1836; she was born in Onondaga Co., N.Y.; they had one son, H. A. Mix, M.D., of Oregon, and four daughters: Martha E., now Mrs. McKenney, Mary A., now Mrs. O. W. Garrison, of Iowa Falls, Iowa, Francis C., who died at the age of four years, and Alice R., now Mrs. Worthington, living near Los Angeles, Cal.

Dr. Burns, Dr. Beatty, Dr. Hurd, and Dr. Reed were the first physicians of Polo, Mount Morris, Byron and Rochelle, respectively. Dr. McNiell, Dr. Stephens and Dr. McCosh, of Mount Morris; Dr. Snyder, of Polo; Dr. Potter, of Oregon; Dr. Gould, of Rochelle, and Dr. Russell and Dr. Helm, of Byron, were among the early practitioners of the county.

In later years, and until his death in 1901, Dr. H. A. Mix, of Oregon, and a son of Dr. William J. Mix, was well known throughout the county as a capable physician and surgeon. He was graduated from Rush Medical College, where he did post-graduate work after his return from the War of the Rebellion, in which he was Assistant Surgeon and later Surgeon of the Sixty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry from February, 1864, until the close of the war. Dr. George M. McKenney, who had been associated with him, and is now a practicing physician of Oregon, is a grandson of Dr. William J. Mix, another instance of three generations of physicians in a pioneer family of this county.

In surgery the progress has been no less marked than in materia medica. With ether and chloroform for general and cocaine for local anesthesia, with antiseptic bandages and solutions and with finely made instruments designed for particular uses according to anatomical knowledge, the most exact and profound, the surgeon of today performs marvelous operations for the health and life of his patients. At this time Dr. Helm and Dr. Allaben, of Rockford, and Dr. Staley, of Freeport, are called to Ogle County for difficult surgical cases. The trained nurse is a most valuable adjunct of the medical profession of the present time. A number of young women of the county have taken the instruction and attended upon the general hospital practice in Chicago, Rockford, or elsewhere, necessary to entitle them to certificates to act as trained nurses.

The physicians of the county at the present time and in the different towns are the following:

At Rochelle—William J. Gould, G. E. Bushnell, F. G. Crowell, E. C. File, J. L. Gardner, J. C. Kennedy, B. G. Stevens.

At Oregon—G. M. McKenney, J. A. Beveridge, B. A. Cottlow, J. Benjamin Roe, Leo E. Schneider, Horace H. Sheets, E. J. Wolcott.

At Polo—L. A. Beard, W. B. Donaldson, S. D. Huston, J. H. Judson, George Maxwell, C. W. McPherson, C. E. Powell.

At Mount Morris—George B. McCosh, W. W. Hanes, C. J. Price, J. G. Brubaker.

At Forreston—J. C. Aikens, F. S. Overfield, R. O. Brown.

At Byron—A. J. Woodcock, W. E. Coquittelle, J. A. Johnson, S. E. Thompson.

Creston—A. G. Blanchard, H. C. Robbins, J. F. Vanvoorhis.

Leaf River—S. B. Bowerman, J. T. Kretzinger, Dr. Replogle.

Holcomb—G. S. Henderson, John Murray.

Stillman Valley—A. H. Beebe, Joseph Replogle.

Grand Detour—James Pankhurst, J. B. Werrens.

Monroe—J. F. Snyder, H. G. Davis.

Chana—Malcolm C. Roe.

Brookville—C. R. Brigham, Harriet E. Gammon.

Kings—E. B. Johnson.

Franklin D. Swan, M.D.

May 10, 1957, Franklin D. Swan, M.D. established his office over Decker's Drug in Oregon.

Dr. Swan was born on a farm at Minonk, Woodford County, Illinois. He received his education in Minonk Schools, received his college degree at Wheaton College. While he was at Wheaton College, Dr. Howard A. Kelly, one of the big four medical men of our time, (others were Osler, Halsted, and Welch) gave a week's lecture. He spoke of many things, not medical, but everyone knew his medical reputation. It was there and then that this college student named Franklin D. Swan, decided to become a Doctor.

He pursued his medical studies at Loyola University, Chicago; interned at Milwaukee County Hospital and served with the First Army during World War II in Europe and England. Augustana Hospital, Chicago was his choice for his surgical residency.

His practices include Chicago; Massillon, Ohio; Brodhead, Wisconsin.

He then took off for 6 months on a 5600 mile tour to "check out" 50 cities which needed doctors. Most of his travels were in the western United States, (Oregon, Colorado, the Dakotas, Minnesota and California). Kalmath Falls, Oregon and Florence, Colorado sparked an interest. He took the board exams and acquired licenses to practice in both states. There was a recession in 1957 and the two towns were not as prosperous as when he first visited them.

He decided to come back home to Minonk to his folks and the farm and check around to see what was available. He came to Dixon and met Dr. Gordon McFetridge (he had trained with him) and he told him about K.S.B. Hospital and Dr. Murphy.

He became a member of the KSB staff and so established his office in Oregon. He was on the Hospital

staff for 16 years. He delivered 1000 babies during his practice years. The KSB staff was congenial and were very helpful to him.

He did not think Oregon was a friendly town but felt that was perhaps his own fault—he did not join organizations and being single having no family ties here, having his Hospital affiliation out of town were among the reasons it was perhaps unfriendly. Once established through patient connections, his affiliations with the doctors in Oregon, this was corrected.

In 1973, Dr. Swan decided to resign from the staff at KSB as the "red tape" bookwork, bureaucratic regulation, etc. took so much time, he had none left for doctoring! He felt that the average doctor is so regulated by government edicts, he had no autonomy left. So he practices medicine in the office building he purchased in 1961 at North Fifth Street.

Some of his thoughts concerning major changes in medicine include the cost of medical care (doctors are paid more for doing less); and the astronomical costs of prescription drugs; the increasing technologic capabilities of medicine such as organ transplants, heart surgeries, laboratory tests, exotic X-rays exams, genetic, reproductive manipulation influencing both the initiation and cessation of life; and the increasing growth of the number of physicians. Medical care costs have increased from 70 billion in 1970 to 370 billion in 1983, \$1700 for every person in the United States. 25 years ago, 83 medical schools graduated 8,000 students a year—now 127 schools graduate 16,000 per year.

His hobbies are reading especially economics and business economics, doing his own yard work and travel. His first love is farm animals, especially purebred (Angus) cattle. As a boy and a young man, he raised and showed them in competition. He occasionally attends the International Livestock Exposition (it used to be in Chicago) but is now held annually in Louisville, Ky.

"I was fortunate to practice during the golden years of medicine about 1940-1965 when our work was unfettered by extensive documentation and regulation. This ended as a result of a tremendous sweep toward social reform, nationally, in this country," Dr. Swan reflected.

He feels that the general practitioner is a "vanishing breed". Now, the satellite clinic with their affiliations with a city hospital or a medical school using medical students in training, the large clinics with specialists and now the Health Maintenance Organization concepts are replacing the "family doctor." In the next few years, 250,000 enrollees in HMO's with physicians clamoring to seek employment with them instead of establishing practices on their own, will be the norm.

Doctor Antreas Mesrobian

Ethiopia, Armenia and the state of West Virginia was the route taken by Dr. Antreas Mesrobian to a family practice as a doctor in the Warmolts Family Clinic in Oregon in July, 1979.

Dr. Mesrobian was born in Ethiopia, a country in East

Africa formerly called Abyssinia. It was an area of 409 square miles with a population of 21 million. As an Italian colonial possession with Haile Selassie as Emperor, it was a prosperous country. Thirteen months of sunshine and a rainy season was the climate. The calendar has 30 days for each month with the 13th a short one. Addis Ababa, the capital is on the mountain top while the rest of the country is flat. There was a change in Ethiopia after 1974 Revolution, Socialist government, Soviet influence. We have all seen the pictures of the poverty, and hardships and famine now.

Dr. Mesrobian received his education in Ethiopia up to sixth grade. Grades 6-12 he received in Cypress and his professional training in Armenia. He met his wife, who is also a doctor, in Armenia. Armenia is an ancient country in western Asia with the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Turkey and Iran bordering it. The capital is Erevan. Armenia is now a part of the USSR.

The Mesrobians have two children, a son, Varouge, a graduate of Oregon High School, who was born in Armenia and a daughter, Hasmig, a student at Oregon High School, who was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dr. Mesrobian has a brother in Ethiopia and his parents, who have been married for 60 years, live in California.

Dr. Mesrobian feels that Oregon is a friendly town. Its advantages for him are his family practice in the Warmolts Family Clinic, his affiliation with the KSB Hospital in Dixon. He is hopeful that a young doctor or two will be interested in joining him as he feels there would be a challenge for them. The patient potential is here.

He is a member of the American Medical Association. His hobbies are foreign stamp collecting, swimming and traveling.

Joseph J. Kerwin, M.D.

One summer day in 1979, the Joseph J. Kerwin's were returning to their home in Chicago from a drive in several small towns in northwestern Illinois. They drove along Route 2 and when they came to Oregon, they were impressed by the scenery, the Ogle county Courthouse and the Square.

The Warmolts Clinic was being established as a satellite clinic for KSB Hospital, Dixon and a dentist was needed so Oregon became the home of Dr. Joseph J. Kerwin Jr., Dentist, in 1979.

Dr. Kerwin was born and reared on Chicago's south-side. His father, a machinist, and his mother, a telephone operator, are the parents of eight children—Dr. Kerwin has a twin brother.

The family, a Catholic family, considered the parish the community center of their lives—their own small towns. Dr. Kerwin received his education at St. Rita's, Leo High School and Illinois Benedictine College of Lisle. His professional training was completed at the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in Chicago.

He and his wife, Nancy have a daughter, Colleen 6, and Joey 5.

Dr. Kerwin belongs to K.C., Jaycees, Rotary Club,

Chamber of Commerce, and Cancer Society. He serves on the legislative committee of the U.S. Grant Dental Society which encompasses northwestern Illinois. He is an elected member of the Board of Education of the Oregon Community Unit School District.

David J. Anderson, Optometrist

Dr. David J. Anderson Optometrist, who has an office in the Warmolts Family Medical Clinic, came to Oregon from Hinsdale, Illinois in March, 1980.

His parents are long time residents of the Plano, Illinois area. He received his elementary school education in the Plano schools and graduated from Plano High School. He did his undergraduate work at Western Illinois University in Macomb, and graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago.

Two colleagues from Dixon told him about the need for an optometrist in Oregon at the Clinic and he decided to move west. Dr. Anderson and his wife Marcy decided Oregon would be a nice town to raise a family. It was near Rockford, and convenient to Chicago as well as the most scenic part of the state. He and his wife Marcy have three children: David Jr. 8, Elizabeth 6, who attend St. Anne's School in Dixon and Timothy, 9 months old.

Dr. Anderson's assessment of Oregon is a warm progressive town. He is amazed at the number of "displaced Chicagoans" who chose to make Oregon their home. The "public awareness", friendly, highly informed people, and the natural beauty of the area are strong points of the town.

The Andersons are members of St. Mary's Church, a member of the Knights of Columbus, past parish council member, 4-H foundation board member, Past President of the Ogle West Unit of American Cancer Society, Past President of Oregon Rotary Club, and a member of Citizens Advisory Committee to the Oregon Park District.

Two Wades Serve Here As Dentists

Doctor Harry E. Wade (1867 to 1952) was born in Stephenson County, Illinois and came to Oregon with his parents when he was 15 years of age. From that time on, he attended local public schools, afterwards choosing dentistry for a profession. Accordingly he entered the Chicago Dental College of Surgery from which he was graduated in 1887.

Immediately after leaving college, he began his practice of dentistry at Polo, Ill., where he remained for 5 years, and at the end of that period he returned to Oregon to practice.

His first office was located upstairs over the F. G. Jones establishment (now the present location of the Kroger Store). He remained in this location until about 1935 when he purchased the building on the northeast corner of the 4th and Jefferson Sts., from the Dr. Bunker Estate. (Dr. Bunker had been a practicing dentist in Oregon, having located here in 1879.)

Dr. Harry F. Wade, son of Harold E. and Anna Brown Wade, and grandson of Dr. Harry E. Wade, was born in Oregon. He attended local schools and Knox College at Galesburg, Ill. He received his D.D.S. from Northwestern University Dental School in 1942. The elder Dr. Wade semi-retired at this time and Harry F. took over most of the practice. However, when Harry F. left for the service in 1944, his grandfather took full charge of the practice again until October 1946 when Harry F. returned to continue the practice in this same location.

Dr. Henry L. Hefty

Dr. Henry L. Hefty, D.D.S. spent most of his early life in Monroe, Wisconsin.

Immediately after graduation from high school, he served in World War I.

After his return from the service, he attended the University of Wisconsin and completed his professional training at the Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1925.

In the same year (1925) he came to Oregon, and took over the dental practice of Dr. Clark. He established his office in the Ogle County National Bank Building and has remained at this location during the forty-three years that he has so capably served the people of this area.

(From *Republican Reporter*)

The Oregon Hospital (from Republican Reporter)

Dr. L. Warmolts, who returned to Oregon six months ago to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery dropped into a splendid business from the very start, which fact encourages him to greater efforts in his profession. He left the Oak Park community after four years of highly successful experience in the local hospital, and returned to Oregon with the purpose of establishing a hospital. An institution this community has greatly needed for a quarter of a century past.

The doctor, after due consideration is about to realize the ambition of his dreams and now has a force of mechanics busy at remodeling and refinishing the Warmolts home east of the river, which he will convert into a modern up-to-date hospital with ample room to care for from 15-20 patients, and plans to have it ready for occupancy not later than October 1st. The location is ideal for a hospital. Absolute quiet, over-looking Rock River, and one of the most sightly spots on the river. The grounds comprise approximately ten acres, a part of which is covered by stately forest trees and can easily be made into a wonderful park. The hospital, we are informed, will be known by the plain, comprehensive name of the "Oregon Hospital" and will be conducted as an open hospital, which means that patients entering herein may be treated by their favorite physician or surgeon. A local hospital will prove a great convenience to the residents of this vicinity as well as substantial saving in expense and the close in location will make it

possible to visit the hospital much more frequently than is possible when friends are under treatment 25-100 miles distant.

The Oregon Hospital struggled along for ten years or so and went broke during the depression and was forced to close, leaving Oregon with no hospital.

For several years Dr. Warmolts operated out of area hospitals, at one time performing three gallbladder surgeries in three cities in three days.

Space became available over Decker's Wallgreen Drugstore and Dr. Warmolts set up Hospital No. 2, with operating room and some private rooms ending up with 13 beds.

Having selected several possible sites, Dr. Warmolts asked Father Kreckel for his opinion as to which site would be the best. The Father asked if he'd considered the lots north of the Catholic Church; Warmolts had not considered them because he'd understood the parishoners held on to what they had. Two hours later, after a conversation with Fr. Kreckel's Boss, Dr. Warmolts had his lots for his hospital.

Designing the hospital entailed visits to hospitals within a 100 mile radius by Drs. Kloster and Warmolts. One evening, at a cocktail party, Dr. Warmolts sketched the floor plan on an old envelope exactly as it is today. He drew up scale plans and transferred them to the site using pegs and string and even moving beds and furniture to provide the feasibility of the layout. Kike Hawn, one of the Dr.'s favorite nurses held the string while Dr. laid out the floorplan.

Work Will Begin Soon on the New Oregon Hospital

Dr. L. Warmolts Has Let Contract for New Hospital to be Built on North 4th Street

Excavation will be under way in a few days for the new hospital on the lots north of St. Mary's Catholic Church, North Fourth Street, which is to be built by Dr. L. Warmolts. Willis Hubbard of Rockford is the architect and Charles Mongan, Oregon builder has the contract for the construction. The building is to be one story, approximately 72 by 109 feet, three sections, separated by two corridors. It is to be of white brick construction. In the front section will be the private offices of Dr. Warmolts and Dr. N. Izbicky. A large reception room will be located in the center of the second section, the four corners of which are to be of glass brick six feet high. A pool will occupy the center of the room, and a large skylight will be built in the ceiling.

Other rooms of the center section will be X-ray, dark and fracture, nurse's lounge, drug, sterilizing, besides several service rooms, library, kitchen and dinette. Provision in made for nursery and obstetric rooms in the southeast part.

In the east section will be seven private rooms and two four-bed wards, and in all there will be accommodations for twenty patients. An intercommunicating system will be installed throughout the building. Floors are to be of

terrace composition, of gray and black color, resembling granite.

Dr. Warmolts' efforts were rewarded and the hospital finished in the Spring of 1943 and on May 10, 1943, they moved into the new building. Eighteen months later, the bond issue was paid off, though the months establishing the hospital were rugged, it survived and flourished.

Government regulations made it increasingly difficult for small hospitals to remain open and in 1969, Warmolts Clinic was closed. Dr. Warmolts retained his offices there and rented the space to the Ogle County Special Education Cooperative for their offices.

In 1979 the clinic reopened its doors as the Warmolts Family Medical Center, having been updated to serve in association with the Medical Arts Clinic in Dixon.

FERNE BURRIGHT

From Republican Reporter

By Jim Kaye

You have to truly love something a great deal when you stay at it for 50 years. Such is the case with Oregon's Ferne Burright.

In June of 1929, she visited her sister in Mt. Morris. Ferne had recently graduated from a nurses training course at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Her sister mentioned that a Dr. Lambertus Warmolts in Oregon needed an office nurse. So, she went to see him, applied for the job and was hired.

"I had no idea that I would work here for 50 years," Ferne said during a recent interview at her home on 607 North Sixth Street. "I didn't plan it but it just worked out that way."

During her 50-year nursing career in the community, she worked primarily for Dr. Warmolts. The exceptions were time-off for raising her family and when the doctor left Oregon to study surgery in Europe for 1½ years.

City residents are not about to let the anniversary of Ferne's starting here as a nurse be forgotten.

At a recent city council meeting, Mayor Jim Barnes proclaimed that Wednesday, March 28, be "Ferne Burright Day" in Oregon.

From: 'Scope Spring 1987 p. 15

Dr. Warmolts says he ran his practice single-handedly until Ferne Henderson Burright, R.N., a 22-year-old nurse from Eau Claire, WI, entered his office one Saturday afternoon in 1929 to apply for a job as a surgical nurse.

"I was in the middle of trying to run the office, take care of patients, and do X-rays," he recalled. "I hired her immediately!"

"Doc" and Ms. Burright worked side by side for 50 years. She assisted with deliveries, anesthetized patients, supervised obstetrics and surgery, and took care of the general office work.

"Words cannot adequately express how I feel about Dr. Warmolts," Ms. Burright said. "He helped a lot of people. He is a wonderful, intelligent man who was tireless in his energy and devotion."

DOCTORS MENTIONED IN THE OGLE COUNTY HISTORY BOOK 1886: pages 631, 633, 637

Mix, Wm., Sr.; Mix, H. A., M.D. (son of Wm. J., Sr.); Potter, Dr. Elias E.; Dr. John Roe.

DOCTORS MENTIONED IN HISTORY OF OGLE COUNTY 1909, VOLUME II: page 685

G. M. McKennely, J. A. Beveridge, B. A. Cottlow, J. Benjamin Roe, Leo E. Schneider, Horace H. Sheets, E. J. Walcott.

Editor's note: Not listed in the fore-mentioned book was a Dr. Robert Hall and a Dr. Farney.

LISTED FROM MEMORY AND COMMUNITY INPUT:

(We will accept no responsibility, blame, or credit for spelling, deletions, etc.)

Doctors: Johns, Bell, Warmolts, Catey, Wood, Kloster, Metz, Wessels, Swan, Mesrobian, Srichai, Isbecky, Wakfield, Bowen, Adler, Mann, Appenheimer.

Dentists: Bunker, Harry E. Wade, "Doc" Bemis, Gormley, Ponstone, Clark, Hefty, Harry F. Wade, Canova, Solkah, Stupka, Orr, Harunani, Novak, Kerwin.

Chiropractors: Schade, Hulsebus (Lea Medical Center in 50s), Rice, Wood, Fallon, Cates, Jensen.

Podiatrist: Bailey.

Warmolts Clinic opens doors

More than 700 persons attended the open house Sunday at the Warmolts Family Medical Center here. The facility has been developed and updated to make ready for a new doctor, Dr. Antreas Mesrobian, after having been closed many years.

The Warmolts Clinic, which carries the name of the original builder, was originally operated as a 26-bed hospital. Dr. Lambertus Warmolts built the building in 1942 and, due to government red tape, closed the hospital facility a few years ago. He maintained his business with the help of his nurse of 50 years, Ferne Burright. She was honored earlier this year for her service to the community.

Dr. Warmolts will maintain an office in the building, to be open whenever he is in Oregon. The doctor is away during the winter months.

A doctor research group was formed in 1971 when the city of Oregon was left with only two doctors and the need for better coverage was felt to be necessary.

Four of the original members were on hand Sunday to serve as hosts, including Kenneth and Jean Davis, Charles Mongan and Neil Holland.

Dr. Mesrobian is associated with the Medical Arts Clinic in Dixon and will have an X-ray facility, a laboratory, a surgery room for minor surgical work and several examining rooms.

Staff for the clinic will be Mrs. Joyce Tremble of Oregon, registered nurse; Debbie Cloutier of Dixon, X-ray and lab technician; and Susan Schneider of Oregon, secretary-receptionist.

(From Republican Reporter August 12, 1979)