

Pioneer group 'born' at Butteville

Oregon Pioneer Association, first association of Oregon pioneers, was organized Oct. 18, 1873, at Butteville, and the first reunion held Nov. 11, 1873, at Champoeg, to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the adoption of a State constitution. Five hundred attended. Speaker was Hon. George Law Curry (qv). Purposes of the association were to collect from living witnesses available facts of Oregon pioneer life and history, and to promote social intercourse among members. Membership was limited to those individuals, male and female, coming as immigrants and settlers within bounds of the original Oregon Country held under treaty of joint occupancy by the United States and Great Britain, prior to Jan. 1, 1853; later this was extended to statehood date, 1859. Forty-five members signed the first register. At the second reunion held at Aurora Park, June 16, 1874,

1500 persons attended, with 145 pioneer names on the register. F. X. Matthieu (qv) was first president and never missed a meeting until his death in 1914. George H. Himes (qv) served continuously as secretary from 1886, until, with death reducing memberships to a mere handful, the association

faded into the twilight. The 79th annual reunion, held at Portland, June 21, 1951, was the last. Each year this pioneer fellowship of sail and wagon-wheel published a sizeable edition of its annual *Transactions*, filled with names and facts of Oregon history.

Tues Feb 18 - 1964 (Albany Democrat)

LET ME TELL

BY IANTHE SMITH

I had a real surprise the other night when Susan Batis (Mrs. Harry) McKee of Bend called me from her home to ask if I'd found out who all the girls were to do with the Indians at the Whitman mission or some such — and he would sing church hymns for the edification of the young in Indian jargon. He was