

"Lips that have touched legends shall never touch mine!"

That's where it all started. We did the show "The Circus's Plans" at the old Lee Elder Junior High School on November 20, 22, and 23, 1943. Unfortunately, we shared the headlines with the assassination of President John Kennedy. Harry Howard, a volunteer, Hear Day, brought tears to many a woman's eyes singing "It's a lovely night on the Hudson River", and every to many a man's heart singing "We're off!". However, competition was fierce, with Art Carlini, Oakley Moore, Charles Mc Intosh singing such numbers as "The Horse Boys" and "My Mother isn't getting any younger". And then there was Olga Scott with "Do my eyes deceive me?" and Virginia Christensen singing "I like the way you look on your Face". Many are still here (Ralph Rainer, Elaine Olson), some have moved on (Charles McIntosh, Olga Scott). Some met with tragedy (Kay West), some met with success (Ron Swenson, Assistant to Gov. Langston). I thought a combination of a melodrama and a comic musical would pull them in by the hundreds but, ~~what~~ the audience was sparse, ^{and} ~~and~~ fast had the time of their lives.

And then we moved up to the big time. We put on "Promised Valley" at the High School on September 11 & 12, 1944 for Paeal Days. We had a cast of ⁸⁴135 with a staff of ~~(officers)~~ approximately 30. J. Lehigh Cutler, the leading man,

shared the stage with such former colleagues
as Olga Scott and Art Barlini but introducing
newcomers such as La Mayne Frost, Hazel Stevens,
^{Ann Rosemary} and Dean Redford. The music was unforgettable
with local talent doing a professional job with
"Winter Quarters", "The Shunt Song", "My Heart
is Lost and Truly", "Love is My Song", and
finally, "Valley Home". We had a left of room
to create such as the tree with floral casts,
campfire scene, and the crickets (using
paper scraps falling in front of a spot light).
But again, the cast had more fun and notable
experiences than the audience.

So then we decided to take all this talent and
experience, and combine it into a locally written
melodrama-musical-pageant. One May 9,
1969 we put on "The Dandy Dancers for
the Golden Spike Centennial". What a show
that was! Stan Richards was assistant
Foreman to the boss laying the railroad
out at Corvallis and the auditorium literally
~~shook~~ ^{shook} when the boys belted out "Foggy Steel".
It's hard to say which musical numbers were
the most outstanding, because each in its own
place was outstanding. But the numbers that
people still remember years later were ones
such as Oakley Moore singing "The Bug on the Bear",
and La Mayne Frost, Ralph Raiser, and Wendell
"Hoss" Christensen singing "The Dandy Dancers",
and of course, "The Golden Spike March". And don't
forget Deanne Holmes, who wrote the play, singing

"I wanna be Patentation" as Corinne, herself.

I sincerely thought that many of your small
~~little~~ ^{your} ~~small~~ ^{small} were destined to reach national
attention. But it looks as if the last you'll
~~be~~ going to do is wind up in a few (we hope)
scraps books for ^{your} grandchildren to ~~see~~ ^{read}, ~~maybe~~ ^{perhaps}.
There were good times and I am proud to
have shared them with you. ^{happy birthday} May you have
many more; birthdays and opening night!