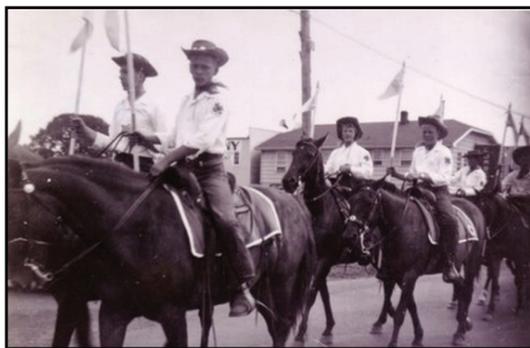


You Get a Line and I'll Get a Pole, We'll Go Down to the Fishin' Hole... BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI



Bobby Salzer leads the 4-H horse club in the 1951 parade



Parking lot of Clark Lumber Co, then Silveys, full of spectators waiting for parade to wind it's way down to the park.

Tualatin's famous Crawfish Festival got its start in 1951, when the Veterans of Foreign Wars needed to raise funds to build their Quonset Hut on Seneca Street. The festival drew visitors from far and wide.

The Tualatin River was crawling with crawfish in those days, which volunteers trapped, cooked and served free to festival goers. Along with free crawfish, the first festival featured a parade with dozens of floats, horses, and music by McLaren's boys school marching band. A baseball game and motion pictures were enjoyed in the afternoon. Later that evening, young Darlene Shuman, who sold the most tickets, was crowned queen was at the VFW hall. Dancers filled the hall

and spilled out into the street to the music of a live band.

The VFW sponsored the festival each year on the second Saturday of August until 1956, when pollution in the Tualatin River caused concern about the safety of eating the crusty critters. Also, the VFW was having trouble getting enough volunteers to do the work of planning the festivities.

With Oregon's Centennial year coming up, in 1958 the Tualatin Booster Club joined the Washington County Centennial Committee, and decided to revive the Crawfish Festival



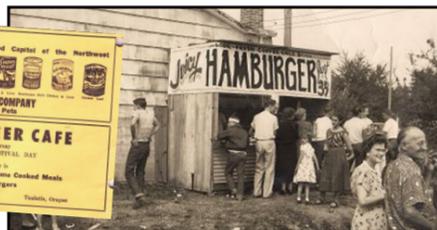
Hanegan's service station advertised Mobil gasoline. 1959

as a part of the Centennial celebration. Lois Dalton, president of the Booster Club, arranged several fund raisers to fix up the park. There were rummage sales, dances, dinners and holiday greenery sales. The Booster club was able to add a boat ramp, tennis court (for dancing), fireplaces, restrooms and picnic facilities to the park.

A free pancake breakfast at the VFW hall started the festivities, and the parade assembled at the old Tualatin Elementary



Above: May's Cafe was just south of the brick store. Best hamburgers in town.



Left: The VFW sold hamburgers out of their newly constructed hall in 1951.

Miss Pioneer court honored three young ladies who were

descended from Tualatin pioneer families, Miss Pioneer Patty Jurgens and her attendants Sharon Ladd and Tammy Galbreath. Ladies were clad in pioneer dress and bonnets, and most men grew a beard. There was a contest at The Spot, now the Country Inn, to see who had the best growth of whiskers. Alpenrose Dairy brought their country fair, with animals to pet, and The Sweek house was open to the public in the afternoon.

The festival was a huge success, and has been going strong ever since. Horse shows, canine reviews, ball games, and even a Pee Wee Rodeo were features of later festivals.



Horse and buggy in 1959 parade at intersection of Boones Ferry and Nyberg Road.



Miss Pioneer court in 1959. Tammy Galbreath, Patty Jurgens, Sharon Ladd

Dinners, entertainments and court selections were often fund raisers and were held either at the Elementary School, or Winona Grange hall. Besides a queen's court, six year old girls could compete for the title of Miss Tadpole.

In 1968, Governor Tom McCall issued a proclamation to open the festival. The paper was taken by horseback all the way to Tualatin Elementary School, where it was presented to the queen. Six riders, including an 11 year old girl, ran the relay.

In the early days, most fraternal and business clubs participated in the festivals. Profits earned helped not only the park improvements, but also the charities of each organization. There were no fences around the park, and no admission charge. And everybody from miles around had a wonderful time catching up with old acquaintances.



The Winona Grange youth group rides a hay truck in 1951.

School at 10 am, and wound it's way through the town's streets, ending up at the City park.

Clyde Hedges, descendant of 1852 Oregon Trail Pioneers, was declared Grand Marshall of the parade. Many of the old time families had floats in the parade: the Ciminos constructed a log cabin on their trailer, and the Jurgens family rode in a 1900 hay wagon that had once belonged to George Galbreath. Charlie Roberts, also descended from a donation land claim family, was honored as the oldest native of Tualatin still residing in the area.

Photos courtesy of the Tualatin Historical Society