

100 Year Reunion of Tualatin Old Timers

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

About 100 kin and kith of the Casteel family met recently at George and Evie Andrews' spacious home and yard on 65th Avenue in Tualatin, in a reunion that began 100 years ago. What started as a gathering of Casteels, and those who married Casteels, the Robbins, Rays, and Days soon morphed into an enormous family tree, and the leaves and branches of that tree gathered to reminisce on August 14, the 2nd Sunday in August as in years past.

Charles and Emma (Peters) lived in Cipole at the turn of the 19th century. Charles worked for the Tualatin Mill Company, located in our current city park, where he lost his arm in a sawmill mishap.

My dad said Charles told him the Smith ladies tried but failed to re-attach the arm, so he was taken to a hospital, but it proved too late to save the arm. Charles' arm was buried near the intersection of Tualatin Road and Boones



Harvey Casteel (left) worked in the woods as a "donkey doctor." That is, he was the mechanic that kept the donkey engine working. The donkey powered the cable that pulled logs.

Ferry Road (across from the brick store). Charles was known to say that his stump hurt every time he went around that corner. Later he lost two fingers of his remaining hand in the Nyberg gravel pit. The United Artisans, a fraternal organization popular with local folks at that time, gave him a three-acre plot of land along Boones Ferry Road, where a home was built for the family.

Charles was industrious even after his injuries and would push the mail cart from the railroad station to the post office in the brick store, and accomplished many other tasks despite his loss of limb and digits. He was given an award for bravery in overcoming his problem. Later son Harvey, who had worked in the woods as a "donkey doc" returned to Tualatin and built a home nearby so he could care for his aging parents.

When water and sewer came to the area in the 1970s. Harvey and his wife Rose's nee Jurgens house was moved across Boones Ferry Road and an apartment built on the lot. The residence is still inhabited 35 years later.

Rose Jurgens Casteel was my great aunt, and a great lady she was. Aunt Rose was a young girl when her mother passed away, and she was sent to live with her father's sister's family, Lou and Mary Delker Sagert. There Rose learned the housekeeping and management skills which served the community well for many years. Aunt Rose was one of the first women to organize the hot lunch program for the students at the old 1900 school. She led a neighborhood quilting bee, served as president of the Methodist Church Ladies Aid for 25 years, and was a skilled midwife, who delivered more babies than all the doctors of the area.

Rose and Harvey raised three daughters: Vella, Evelyn and Arlene. Evelyn married Kenneth Andrews, who was descended from Tualatin Oregon Trail pioneers George and Sarah Jane Painter Day. Ten children blessed Ken and Evelyn's home, among them George "Corky" Andrews who now hosts the Casteel clan reunions along with his wife Evie.

Rose's sister Emma married Burl Ladd, and my grandmother Nettie, also Rose's sister married Julius Martinazzi. People used to warn each other not to gossip about anyone in Tualatin, because they were all related.



Loyce Martinazzi was born and raised in Tualatin and is passionate about Tualatin History. She is currently Lecturer of the Winona Grange, Co-Founder of the Tualatin Historical Society and Co-Author of *Tualatin...From the Beginning*.



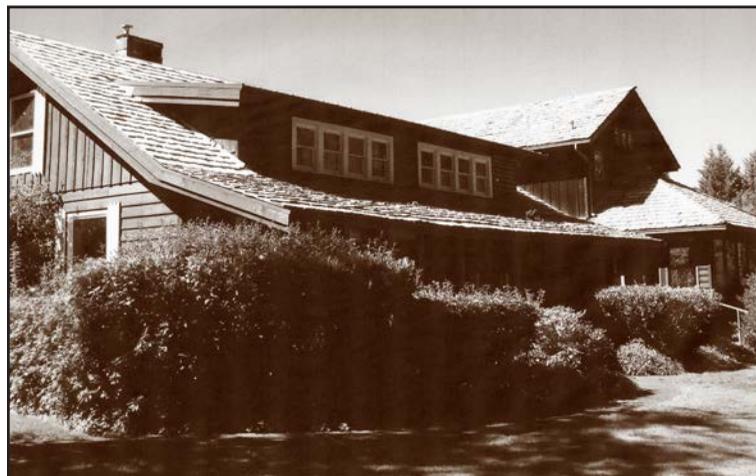
Some of the relatives that met in August to celebrate 100 years of the Casteel-Robbins, Jurgens families.



Jurgens kin: Left to right: John Jurgens, Jeanne Jurgens, Patricia Jurgens, Loyce Martinazzi, Evie Andrews, George Andrews, Sharon Ladd Miller with grandchild, Cecelia Jurgens Kelley.



Casteel, Ray, Robbins, Days met at the Tualatin home of Charles and Emma Casteel in the 1930s



George and Evie Andrews home on 65th Avenue is the site of many and various celebrations, including the Casteel-Robbins-Jurgens reunion.



Harvey and Rose Casteel sitting on the porch of their home on Boones Ferry Road. Bill Ray sits in a chair beside his wife Sadie Casteel Ray. Sadie and Harvey were brother and sister.



Charles and Emma Casteel by their home which was just north of Cypress Garden apartments on Boones Ferry Road. Charles learned to perform many tasks with just two fingers of one hand. The couple's children all pitched in \$10 monthly to help out with costs.