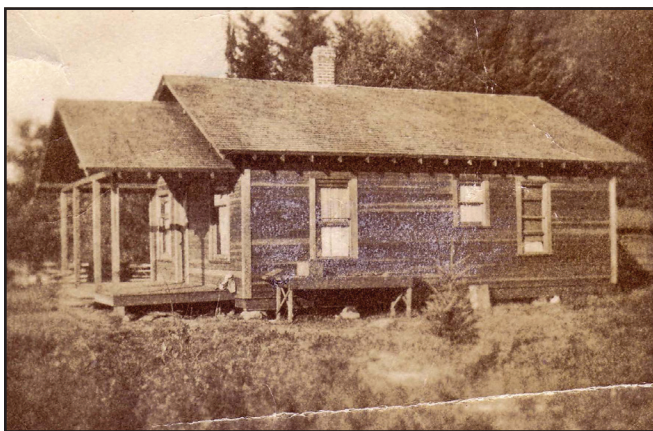


Lost in Fox Hills

BY: **LOYCE MARTINAZZI**

Funny thing happened to me the other day. I was driving along Borland Road, and seeing a couple of garage sale signs in the Fox Hills area I pulled in and followed the winding streets of lovely homes with manicured lawns till I arrived at the sale locations. I purchased some Irish linen tablecloths which we can use on the long Grange hall tables when we have the next community dinner.

I got back in my car and started driving, but couldn't figure out how to get back to Borland Road. I saw Greenwood Circle, named for the first blacksmith in the area. I followed Malsom and Bushbaum streets. I knew that both of those gents helped build the brick store (Robinsons) in 1912; Malsom took his pay in bricks with which he built his home. I knew I was at the east end of the area, but where was the outlet? My gosh, I had lived on the south side of Borland Road, across from Meridian Park Hospital for almost 40 years. A filbert orchard used to grow on part of the property, and my family once owned a 10 acre strawberry patch to the east of Bridgeport School. And I couldn't find my way around? True, I am directionally challenged, but this seemed ridiculous. So I rolled down my window and asked a pretty lady who was jogging



Minnie Skog's little cottage can still be seen along the north side of Borland Road.

Courtesy of the Tualatin Historical Society

along, "Could you tell me how to get back to Borland Road?" "Hi Loyce," said Trish Hennon. Oh my, I felt so stupid. So I proceeded to tell Trish that I had stopped at a sale and what with all the winding roads, I had lost my way. She laughed and pointed me in the right direction.



This A-frame building was the field office while the hospital was being constructed.

The changes through the years to that particular piece of land encompassing the Legacy Meridian Park hospital, Fox Hills development and Bridgeport School is very interesting. It was given to Oliver Perry Goodall in 1853 as a donation land grant. There was 320 acres in all, from the Tualatin River south, and bordered on the west by Meridian Road. (65th Avenue). The Goodall family did not stay long, as there was a dispute over the parentage of Mrs. Goodall's youngest child. Actually, Mr. Goodall ended up shooting his wife's supposed lover. You can read all about the Goodall-Potts affair in our book *Tualatin... From the Beginning*.

A bachelor named Henry Hotchkiss purchased the property and rumor has it that he died alone in the house he built down close to Nyberg Lane. The Fredericks family purchased part of the place, and that's where Ed Fredericks and Minnie Frobese raised their family. When her husband died, Minnie's father-in-law built her a little craftsman style house and moved it up close to Borland Road. Poor Minnie didn't have good luck with husbands. She later married Julius Skog, who became depressed and went out into the filbert orchard and shot himself. Minnie was my neighbor, and one of the kindest, sweetest ladies I have ever known.

The 320 acres was divided up over time and Fred Sagert acquired the big field where the hospital is located. Larry Lee told me that when Fred was dynamiting stumps to clear the land for plowing, there were all kinds of stone bowls, pestles and other tools left behind when the Atfalatis were taken to the Grand Ronde reserve.

Fred tried to sell the land for some time and finally sold it to a big time development corporation who then sold it to Emanuel Hospital for at least double the amount per acre that farmer Fred received. In 1973 the hospital opened, making excellent medical care more convenient to the southwest community. The population of Tualatin at that time was 750.

In 1952 Phyllis Ibach purchased 20 acres from her aunt, to the east of Fred's field, and married George "Jake" Gruit. It was a good marriage: Phyllis, a strong farm girl, wanted a husband, and Jake wanted a farm. They raised chickens, had a large garden and an apple orchard. The Grimits built two little rental houses and then purchased Minnie Skog's place. After Jake died, Phyllis stayed there on her little farm, collecting her



Phyllis Ibach as a teenager with her mother Jane rolling the milk can out to the road.
Courtesy of Bobbi Ibach Lemme

rents, happily pressing apples into cider and canning her garden vegetables.

Phyllis was encouraged to sell her property to the hospital but she drug her feet, saying "Where would I go?" Everyone told her she could go anywhere she wanted to, but she said "I don't want to go anywhere else. I like it right here."

Phyllis died a few years ago. Her little 20 acre farm was sold to the hospital for seven million dollars, making the campus, now part of the Legacy Health System, 75 acres in all.

What'cha want to bet that if Phyllis were still around, she would get lost in Fox Hills these days too?

Read all about the Goodall-Potts affair along with the many other stories of Tualatin history in "Tualatin... From the Beginning," available at the Tualatin Heritage Center located at 8700 SW Sweek Dr. (503) 885-1926 • Open weekdays 10-2