

Winona Grange's "Garden Party"



Three teams of horses pulling Fresno scrapers leveled the ground on the west side of the Grange hall in 1941. Hillar Ibach is 6th from the right, and Mark Hoggatt, 2nd man from the left, stands next to his team. This photo was recently discovered in an old scrapbook.

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

Winona Grange will be going back to its agricultural roots on Saturday, April 5 when Master Gardeners will present gardening classes for children in the morning and adults in the afternoon.

The Grange in Tualatin was organized in 1895 to elevate the lives of farmers. The name "Winona" was chosen to honor J. R. C. Thompsons' eldest daughter who passed away at a young age.

The new organization met in the upstairs of Potts' store. It was on the south side of the railroad and located just next to where the Tualatin Animal Clinic is now. Most everyone around joined the fraternal organization, not only farmers, and the folks took much delight in the secret rituals and floor work of the order. Women were held in high esteem and could be elected to any office. One can only imagine how pleasant it must have been for a farm woman to take a break from her endless chores, doff her soiled apron, and attend a meeting where she was given full equality.

In order to help train the fledgling organization in the rituals of the order, Grangers from Butte Grange, (later known as Tigardville, then Tigard), Oswego, and Tualatin, (later Frog Pond) came to teach proper procedure. Applicants for membership would be balloted on, a white ball going in the slot for yes, and a black ball for no.

Garden Party

The OSU Extension Master Gardeners and Tualatin's Winona Grange are hosting a Garden Party!

Saturday, Apr 5th 10:00am

Winona Grange #271 Tualatin, OR
10:00am-12:00pm Parents w/children K-5
1:00pm-3:00pm Adult Classes
Everyone is welcome to this FREE event!

Morning Children Programs

K-5th Graders and Parents Hands On Activities

10:00am **"Composting with Worms"**
11:00am **"Good Bugs/Bad Bugs"**
Take home miniplanters plus seed packets!

Afternoon Adult Programs

1:00pm **"Starting your Vegetable Garden"**
1:45pm Loyce Martinazzi **"History of the Tualatin Winona Grange"**
2:00pm **"Gardening for Bees"**
3:00pm Pick up your seed packets

In studying the old record books, I notice only one person was blackballed. That name will remain anonymous.



The Winona Grange Band was organized in 1908 and from the look on the conductor's face, he probably enforced the rule of no dirty talk! When the band finally broke up, the bass drum was given to the old high school.

Agriculture was a main topic of discussion, with new ideas and methods coming from the Land Grant colleges. Music was always important, and the minutes show that almost everyone participated. Vocal solos, choruses, and a stringed orchestra performed, and in 1908 Winona Grange band was formed. Band rules required players to take good care of their instruments, attend rehearsals regularly, and engage in no vulgar talk, stories or obscene language. Poems and recitations were delivered as well as discussions on such subjects as:

- *Automobiles, and the trouble they caused.*
- *How to keep young people interested in staying on the farm.*
- *Railroad monopolies.*
- *Safe use of pesticides.*
- *In 1904 Winona Grange made a resolution approving suffrage for women.*
- *Use of commercial fertilizers.*

Other fraternal organizations also came to the area, some offering life insurance programs, including The United Artisans, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and Woodsmen of the World. Some time later the I.O.O.F, and its auxiliary, the Rebecca's also organized.

From the beginning, the Grange organization longed to have its own building. But that was not to be until 1939 when the members put their shoulders to the wheel and built the present hall on Seneca Street.

Besides participating in many community programs, the Grange started a Juvenile Grange for young people early on, and in the 1940s and 1950s sponsored a large youth group which won many honors for degree and drill teams. Dances, parties and plays kept Tualatin's youth happy and busy, a time many of us remember with pleasure. The Grange also sponsored 4-H scholarships and Little League teams.

When the City began planning the new Commons area, the Grange hall was slated to be torn down but negotiations between Grange members and City staff finally decided that the hall could stay.

In 1974 Oswego Grange hall on Stafford Road burned down and its members, as well as its treasury united with Winona. That treasury helped paint and re-roof the old hall, renovate electrical wiring, and add insulation. Plans are moving forward to renovate the rest rooms. The hall is still filled with music and dancing, and the hard maple floor is considered one of the best dance floors in Washington County.



After the store closed down, the Grange met in the gymnasium behind the old school.

Winona Grange currently offers a \$2,000 college scholarship to any Tualatin High School senior going on to higher education and majoring in some area of agriculture.

With its farming and agricultural background, the Grange is proud to sponsor a free "Garden Party" on April 5. We hope to see you there.



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*.



Merrill Pennington, shown here with his horse and grandchildren, cut trees from his farm, which was located where Tualatin High School is now, to build the Grange hall. Merrill was a carpenter and did most of the construction work on the hall. His wife, Ethel, was Master of the Grange at the time of construction.



Winona Grange members met in the upstairs of the old Potts store in the early days.