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LET ME TELL YA!

BY IANTHE SMITH

I had a real surprise the other night when Susan Batis (Mrs. Harry) McKee of Bend called me from her home to ask if I'd found out who all the girls were that played in the All-Girl AHS band. Quite some time ago Susan and I worked together on the Albany Evening Herald before its consolidation with the Albany Daily Democrat. She was in circulation and bookkeeping and I was in proof reading and reporting and society. One thing we laughed a-plenty about was the time we broke Mrs. E. M. Reagan's ruler, a 20-inch column length one. They were hard to come by—and we hid it in the safe!

Now I know that doesn't sound funny to anyone but us—and how we tried to look nonchalant when Mrs. Reagan, the boss' wife, would ask around if anyone had seen her ruler! We had some other things to talk about, too! It was indeed a pleasant interlude in my evening.

It was fun working with Susan because she laughed a lot and always with her eyes.

Now—back to the bound file of the 1921 Albany Daily Democrat and we turn to Friday, May 6. I had read that Cyrus H. Walker had been seriously ill and on the above date I found that his funeral had been held that day at the United Presbyterian (White-spires) church. Mr. Walker was well known in many ways—for he was the first white male child born west of the Rocky Mountains. He also had had something

to do with the Indians at the Whitman mission or some such—and he would sing church hymns for the edification of the young in Indian jargon. He was, I believe, a Civil War veteran, as he always made the rounds with Johnny Catlin Decoration Day time to the public schools giving patriotic talks. All flags were at half-staff on most of the schools the day of his funeral. Burial was in the Masonic cemetery where "Comrades of McPherson Post of the Grand Army of the Republic conducted graveside services."

The Rev. T. J. McCrossan preached the funeral sermon, and vocalists, as a trio, were Mrs. C. E. Sox, Mrs. W. H. Rhodes and Bill Barton. Estar Ryder (Mrs. Harold Irvine of Lebanon) was the organist.

Mr. Walker was a historian of note and at that time the Democrat was running historical articles written by him.

In the Saturday, May 7, 1921 issue of the paper a story stated that "Residents of the Riverside school district, who have been using the school house as a community center for several months, decided at their last meeting this week to build a community house. Several hundred dollars have already been subscribed and a community sale in prospect to be staged in the near future, which is to be on the unigue order of the farmers giving something from their farms to be sold and the contents being placed in a common

fund to assist in paying the expense of the building.

"According to reports, this building is to be a two-story structure, with the kitchen and dining rooms on the first floor and the general assembly hall on the second floor.

"The building is to be used for all public occasions in the community and will doubtless become the open forum for the discussion of public questions."

The Riverside Hall became quite a community center—one of the best—and the feeds—suppers and what-have-you that came out of that kitchen! The prognostication about it becoming an "open forum for the discussion of public questions" was right and many a political rally and other speaking forums went on within its walls. The Riverside folk were mighty up and coming—and "home talent" abounded in the area and it seemed to me there was something going on there ALL the time.

A club reporter was in my cubicle the other day and said she had come in to see how I looked out the window—so I gave her a demonstration—and she said it was no wonder I couldn't see anything—after the grandstand or box seat I had in the old office where the parking lot now is next to the city hall! But I keep looking, and ONE day I'll see something—and butter won't be able to melt in my mouth before I" pass it on to my favorite people—my readers!