

Messner, Ella Katherine STUIVENGA -
b. 28 Jan. 1890 d. 10 Sep. 1977

Ella's husband was Bill Messner, and her children were Lola, Henry and Frank. Typed for the web by Dean Bones in February 2023

In 1884 my parents, Louis and Katherine Stuivenga, and my sister, Sophia, came from Holland to Chicago where I was born. We then moved to Hillsboro, Oregon in 1893. While we lived there Father came on to Tillamook. He rented some land a mile up the Trask River from Claude Thayer. After building a house and boat he had us come to Tillamook in 1895. We came by water from Portland on a boat named Elmore. We stayed in a hotel in Tillamook for a few days before going up to the Trask.

Father raised vegetables, and my sisters would take them to town by wagon to sell. The 2 winters we lived on the Trask in 1895 and 1896 it overflowed. This was due to a rack heap below our place. The water was so high we were finally forced to move.

Below us on the river lived the Charlie Desmond family and Walter Clay and his father from North Dakota. Above us were the John Brower family, the Mahonie family and then the bridge. The bridge was built while we were there. It was about 3 miles up the river from Tillamook.

We then rented the hundred acre Hodgdon place, a horse, and a wagon from Claude Thayer the banker. This was 4 miles east of town and about 3 miles from Fairview School. The Tinnerstett family lived near the schoolhouse. Their son, Dolph, was the first to have the recipe for Tillamook cheese. Father raised oats and did the mowing by hand with a cradle. The place had 2 apple orchards and a large barn. The house had 3 bedrooms and 2 fireplaces. In 1899 we moved 2 miles east to what we called "the homestead" where Father stayed until 1929. This was 9 miles east of Tillamook. At this time I had 3 sisters, Sophia (Himes), Josie (Thorall), Minnie (Payne) and one brother, Will. John, Annie, and Stella (Nash) were born on "the homestead."

There was an old logging road that went up to our place. Father built a road west of the Balmer place that came out by the Red Clover cheese factory and school.

Mrs. Fred Beals and Arthur Beals taught Sunday School at the Fairview Grange Hall. Fred Beals sold real estate. Arthur's wife was named Grace

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When I was 12 I babysat for Dolly Mellaman during the summer. I later worked for Burkhalters, Donaldsons, and Frank Bester who all had farms. Josie and I also worked for Eric Glad. Josie later married Julius Thorall, Hilda Glad's brother.

When I was 15 I worked for B.C. Lamb who had a freight warehouse. I worked for Mrs. Lamb for about a year. She had a son named Charles and a sister named Anna.

I then went to work at the Trask House for Jim and Bell Brown. Mrs. Brown was a friend of my sister Sophia, Mrs. Charley Himes. The Brown's son, Jimmy, of Grass Valley, Oregon, was born while I worked there. He was delivered by Dr. Boals.

People would come to the Trask House in the summer to fish for trout. They would often stay from a few days to a week. We cooked lots of trout. Other girls that worked there were Pearl Saunders of Yamhill, Zella Blackburn of Yamhill, Alma Ripley of Nehalem, and Liz Van Paten of Tillamook. Wilson Taylor of Hillsboro worked there and at George Grayson's livery stable. Osher Stinberg was the fire warden. I also remember visitors Delia Stout and Lillian Refinburg.

The girls took turns fixing the 2:30 AM breakfast for the stage drivers. Stage drivers at that time were Dick Reed, Brian Springer, Cid Travis, Bill and Jim Messner. I met my husband Bill here when I went out to open the tollgate for him. Bill Messner drove the stage from Fairdale to Tillamook.

After working at the Trask House for 2 years I went to work for my sister, Josie. Josie was the camp cook at Hobsonville where the railroad was being built. Josie's husband, Julius Thorall, was the camp foreman. I then married Bill Messner. We ran a dairy at Sylvan, Oregon, for one year and then at Dolph. While at Dolph we sold our milk to the Hebo cheese factory. We then rented the Fletcher place at Hebo and the Daniels ranch near Cloverdale. Our friend, Scott Boatman, rented Judge Conder's place near Hebo. Our sons, Hank and Frank, were born while we were at the Daniels place. Our daughter, Lola, was born at Sylvan.

In 1920 we moved to a place Scott Boatman owned up Cedar Creek which was comprised of the former Wilson and Getchel places. Here we

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milked a few cows, and Bill packed trees for the Forest Service into a planting camp at Cedar Lake on the west side of Mount Hebo. The cooks at the camp were Mamie Johnson and Mrs. Mitchell. Jack Johnson who now lives at McMinnville took care of the camp. Many Douglas fir trees were planted all over the west side of Mount Hebo.

In 1922 we bought a place 2 1/2 miles from Hebo towards Mount Hebo. We milked cows and ran cattle on Mount Hebo which was quite open then. Bill had a string of pack horses and packed for the Forest Service. He and Bill Land packed all the lumber on horses 8 miles to the top of Mount Hebo to build the lookout. Then he, Jack Johnson and Roy Garwood, the forest ranger at Hebo, built the lookout in the summer of 1923. Our family along with our cows and chickens lived at the top that summer while I cooked for the men. I, Frank, and Henry never left the top in 3 months. My daughter, Lola, who was 14 packed in all our supplies. She brought them from Hebo on pack horses, a 21 mile round trip.

We lived on the ranch on the hill for 15 years. Most of that time the road ended at our place. The rest of the way to Mount Hebo and beyond was by trail. Bill packed in supplies and telephone wire and built trails and telephone lines. Other men working with him and running some of the lookouts were Vic Affolter, Jack Johnson Ada Lane, Wert Sappington, Kenneth Thorall, Earl Greenlee, Bert Adams, Earnest Bohna, Ira McKinley and Jim Imlah. Roy Garwood was the forest ranger during this time until 1935.

The road to the top of the mountain was built in 1932. In 1933 Bill helped dam up a swampy area where the old sheep sheds used to be. This made Hebo Lake. They also built the picnic shelter which still stands.

After the C.C.C. boys came they helped build roads on the mountain. Bill supervised one of the crews.