

*Eugene Register-Herald*  
**Brownsville Pioneer  
Queen has Birthday**

*Apr. 17, 1940*

**HALSEY, April 17.—(Special)**  
—Mrs. Eliza Brandon, queen of the Brownsville Pioneer picnic since June, 1938, will celebrate her 90th birthday Thursday. She was born April 18, 1850, on her father, Richard C. Finley's donation land claim which was near what is now Crawfordsville.

She says she remembers well when the first flouring mill he erected there from materials cut with whip saws was washed down the river in the high floods of 1861 and '62. The present mill had been erected in 1847 and the old mill was used for a hog pen and 20 fattened hogs, ready for slaughter, were washed away. He later salvaged some in badly bruised condition standing on logs and banks of stream near Brownsville. Her father's mill greatly assisted her parents and neighbors in getting flour as this was the first mill this side of Oregon City.

Mrs. Brandon married Thomas Brandon of Plainview community. He died November, 1909. They lived the first few years near Crawfordsville, then purchased a farm near Halsey, where they spent many years, only a few years being spent near what is now Ellensburg, Wash. Mrs. Brandon has lived in town since Mr. Brandon's death.

They have five children, three sons, all deceased now, and two daughters, both living, Mrs. G. C. Osburn of Portland and Mrs. Viola Sutton of Orondo, Wash. The youngest son, Hugh, died last winter as results of an automobile accident.

Mrs. Brandon has five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She has been a member of the local Methodist church for 60 years and has watched it grow from a small church to its present size. The congregation and Mrs. Osburn had planned a celebration in the new Educational hall in honor of Mrs. Brandon on her birthday but due to her recent illness, it has been cancelled. Mrs. Brandon has always been healthy and always tended her yard, her garden and house. Friends have offered to cut her wood and kindling but she has preferred to do it herself.

Mrs. Brandon was made queen of the Brownsville Pioneer picnic in June, 1938, and was crowned by Mayor B. M. Bond. She succeeded "Aunt Becky" Morris after her death.

Mrs. Brandon is the last of the seven Finley girls. She has three brothers living and one dead. The living brothers are George Finley of Roseburg, Alec Finley of Los Angeles, and William Finley of Hermiston.

Mrs. Brandon will be pleased to have her friends call at her home Thursday on her birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lowery and two little daughters, Cara Lee and Corinne of Eureka, Cal., stopped recently as they were enroute home from Toledo where they had visited Mr. Lowery's parents, to visit Mrs. Lowery's mother, Mrs. Gladys Palmer and her sister, Mrs.

Albin Walberg. They were in an accident just off the highway at Sprenger's crossing. They were forced into loose gravel by an approaching car and turned over. The most seriously injured was Cara Lee, who had a badly bruised cheek and eye. Mr. Lowery received a cut on his head presumably from the rear view mirror.

The Dorcas circle had a meeting recently in the new Educational hall of the Methodist church. Mrs. Floyd V. Barrett, president for the last few years, presided. Election of new officers resulted in the election of Mrs. Hattie Peterson, president; Mrs. Loyal Shafer, vice president; Mrs. Louise Straley, treasurer; and Mrs. Clarence Starnes, secretary. Miss Sibyl Tucker, of the Wesley Foundation at the Oregon State college, was a guest and principal speaker for the afternoon.

Mrs. Barrett was presented a gift by the members of the circle for her work during the past few years as a parting gift, for Prof. and Mrs. Barrett are leaving Halsey after school is out. Mrs. Frank Starnes and Mrs. Clarence Starnes, joint hostesses, served refreshments.

Miss Tucker remained over for the evening and conducted an Epworth League party for the young folks. She told the story of "The Angelus" after it was acted out by two young people.

Rev. Fox and family enjoyed a visit of his parents and brother Sunday afternoon. It was not

learned where they were from.

Of particular interest was the launching and christening of Loyal Shafer's new boat at Triangle lake recently. James Hamer was the speaker and broke a bottle over its bow. It was named the "Hilda J." Among local people there were Charles Gansle and daughter Doris, Jean Workinger, James Hamer, Mr. and Mrs. Loyal Shafer and son Eldon and daughters, Geraldine and Donna Jean, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Holloway and others.

*Apr. 19, 1940*  
**Opposition  
to Project  
Develops**  
*Salem Ore  
Capital Press*

Oregon people are a problem, and the queerest of them seem to be here in the Willamette valley. As a preservation of soil and general prosperity stream control has proved to be the salvation of many localities in the United States, and with the active help of leading citizens in the valley the government has worked for several years perfecting such a project for the Willamette valley, entailing an eventual expenditure of nearly \$70,000,000. There has been no thought that the project would meet anything but popular approval and rejoicing, as it would convert the whole valley into a teeming hive of industry and enable it to accomodate

another million of prosperous people. But now, at the last moment, little yelps of opposition are being heard. The chorus is "save the fish? The Willamette has become a sewer in which salmon no longer abide noticeably. There are laws which forbid the contamination of rivers, but Mr. Finley has made no move to enforce those laws during the years when salmon have been driven from the Willamette. But now he roars that the projected government dams will ruin the fishing. What fishing? Anyone who would seriously go fishing for salmon in the Willamette would be called crazy. Nevertheless, the government has made elaborate provisions for fish ways in the dams, and for additional hatcheries to supply fish for the stream when it is again made habitable for them. And the Capital Journal also continues its role as a self-appointed fish authority; but no one any longer concedes sincerity or reason to that maudlin sheet. Its right to be wrong about everything is fully conceded.

In connection with the Willamette Valley Project the first thing that will happen in Marion county will be the building of the new highway across the bottle-neck on the North Santiam highway to the Santiam pass. Then will come the building of the flood control dam between Sardine and Detroit. These operations will mean the disbursement of nearly \$20,000,000 in Marion county—fully 80 per cent of it being for labor. The big valley project is barely begun, a start having been made on the construction of one of the smallest of the dams on the upper reaches of the Willamette, but already Eugene is feeling the beneficial results in added population and a lot of new money spent with Eugene merchants, and a building boom to meet the housing shortage. But here in the lower valley the old-timers sniff at such things and growl suspiciously. They want twenty years to think about it. They persist in viewing it the same as they view the PUD movement; for although public power and stream control are both highly successful all over the nation and are old stories in many states, here in the lower valley they are still viewed as doubtful "experiments" by many of our stubborn and moribund citizens. O well, under such conditions the only thing to do is to go ahead and make them more comfortable, happy and prosperous without hoping for their approval—the same forward looking citizens finally succeeded in getting Salem paved and doubling the value of the property in spite of the stubborn opposition of most of the old property owners.