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MEATS

GEO. KOHLHAGEN

RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES OF DOUGLAS COUNTY

(Continued from page 16).

were engaged in mining on the stream, among whom was Robert Easton, who made with a short sluice from two to four dollars per day. Another attempt was made by a company in 1864, but a difference in their councils stopped the work when it was likely to be profitable. Since that time nothing has been done, and one of the best portions of the county has remained a wilderness. The creek is accessible from Patterson's mill by an Indian trail; but small difficulty would be found in building an excellent wagon road to the head-branch of the North Umpqua, which will develop a section of the county unsurpassed for mining or grazing purposes, without counting its agricultural facilities.

About the time when Steamboat creek was being prospected, miners were also examining the other tributaries of the North Umpqua with a view to working the auriferous sands. In 1870 placers were discovered on Fall creek, flowing into the south side of the river, in township 26 south, range 3 west. For a time the miners were said to be making from four to ten dollars a day. These deposits proved of small extent, however, and were soon abandoned. On White Rock creek, Copperhead creek and neighboring small streams the "color" was easily found, and a small amount of gold was taken out, chiefly by some half dozen men among whom was R. L. Cavitt, now residing in the vicinity of his mining labors. Three hundred dollars were the result of his operations in a certain small gulch. The deposits of gravel, though paying pretty well for a short time, proved of too small extent to be of importance, and placer mining upon the North Umpqua and its tributaries is a thing of the past.

Placer mining has been carried on for a number of years in a desultory manner and with varied success, on Cow creek and its tributaries, Tennessee gulch, Hog'em and Starve-out. Cow creek takes its rise on the south side of the Umpqua mountains, but turning north cuts through these mountains and empties into the South Umpqua about twenty miles south of Roseburg. Hog'em, Starve-out and Tennessee gulch are south of the canyon. Placer gold has also been discovered and mined on Coffee creek, a stream which empties into the South Umpqua twenty miles above Canyonville; on Oilly, a branch of Looking Glass creek; on Porman's creek near Canyonville, and on Myrtle creek. Mining is now being quite extensively pursued along Cow Creek, where the hydraulic process is being used to some extent. There are no data

by which the amount of gold obtained from these mines can be ascertained, but it is very considerable, the most of them having yielded largely when first discovered. They are all surface diggings and having been carelessly worked, have for the most part been abandoned to the Chinese, who undoubtedly work them with profit.

Quicksilver is another mineral to be found in Douglas county, and for several years the cinnabar ore has been worked to advantage. In 1882 the firm of Todd, Emerson & Co. made a run of 100 tons of ore at their Elk Head mine and took out 500 pounds of quicksilver, besides which some 200 pounds more remained in the condensers. They claimed to have an abundant supply of ore, their works passing through over thirty feet of paying rock. This company began work in 1880. The Nonpareil and Bonanza mines, Mining Company, are in the vicinity of Oakland. Tellurium, also is being mined with good success. Copper and nickel are found, but no mine is being worked. Valuable deposits of lime rock and cement also exist.

The item of coal must not be omitted in detailing the bountiful gifts of nature bestowed upon this region. Coos county, adjoining Douglas county on the west and southwest, is almost a solid bed of coal beneath the surface, and this broad expanse of carboniferous veins extends far into Douglas county. Coal also exists in the Calapooia mountains. No effort is being made to develop this great resource in this county, but it lies there ready to yield up its treasure to those who seek it. With the most diligent and extensive working of these mines the fields remain inexhaustible for centuries to come.

The most permanent, reliable and available source of wealth Douglas county possesses, is her winding valleys and fertile soil. Here thousands of people have built their homes and here they draw from the willing earth the food that supports many thousands more. Though small in proportion to the whole area of the county, the total of valley and bottom lands amounts to many thousands of acres. The valleys have, in the main, long since been cleared of obstructing timber and subdued to the yoke of the plow, or fitted for the grazing of sheep and cattle. There is, however, much bottom land, and some valleys somewhat remote from the usual routes of travel, which can still be located upon by those seeking a home. When the land has been denuded of its enormous store of trees, the flats, hills and bottoms become valuable for the crops they will raise

or the herds they will support. The soil is good; no other could support the immense growth of trees and shrubs. It is mostly a dark mold, derived from the decomposition of vegetable matter, as leaves, roots, trunks of trees and their admixture with earthly ingredients, carried sometimes by the floods upon low lands, or by the force of gravity from higher elevations. A sort of rich red loam is frequent, a gravelly soil of less productiveness covers large tracts, and sticky clays, of various colors and appearances are often found. Quite to the top of high hills the best of soil is found, and few localities are so sterile as to be unable to produce grass sufficient for the support of sheep or stock. Wheat, oats, barley, corn, flax seed, vegetables, etc., produce in abundance. Potatoes and other root crops are of superior quality. The Umpqua basin is the only portion of Oregon lying west of the Cascades, except Rogue River valley, where corn can be produced in quantity and quality to make it profitable. The season of 1883 was a phenomenally dry one, the total rainfall at Roseburg being but 22.45 inches, while in June, July and August but .95 of an inch fell. Notwithstanding this fact the grain crop of this region was a large one, many fields yielding from thirty to thirty-five bushels of wheat to the acre in fields as large as 100 acres.

The sheep and wool of the Umpqua valley are the most celebrated of Oregon, and Umpqua fleeces command the highest price in the San Francisco market of all that reach the city from the Pacific coast. It was several years after the settlement of the Umpqua valley before sheep were introduced in considerable number. The Applegates, of Umpqua, were the first to enter upon wool growing, and from the flocks of Charles Applegate many of the later sheep owners obtained their start. The sheep of this flock were without pretensions to purity of blood, were a hardy, useful, good framed and tolerably well woolled lot, shearing about four pounds of medium length wool to the fleece; and may be taken as a fair type of the average sheep. From the Williams valley and from California importations were made at times varying much in quality. From the former region came the splendid flock of merinos owned by T. Smith, a very prominent and successful wool grower and once president of the State Agricultural Society. The improvement of sheep engaged more and more attention as time passed. Some few merino rams were introduced before 1880, but in that year came Rockwell, a noted importer, breeder, and more than all, a seller of stock sheep. His coming is not yet forgotten in Douglas, at least among the sheep men. He brought a flock of merino rams for which he found a ready sale at prices ranging from \$300 to \$700. Few were proof against his persuasive powers. Among others, mechanics, men who had not an

ROSEBURG'S PIONEER BUILDING



The city hall of Roseburg was constructed about 35 years ago and is still in use as the home of the city government and the fire department. The building is now almost entirely covered with a beautiful vine and the ground surrounding it is nicely kept. It is one of the beauty spots of the city, in spite of its age.

great stock county, but gradually pastures have disappeared before the plow, and cattle have given away to grain; still, the stock interests of the county are considerable.

Durham and Devon cattle are the prevailing breeds, though a few Jerseys have recently been imported, a few of pure blood and the others crossed. Cattle thrive best when fed through the winter season, though they can pick their own living in the foothill ranges. The excellent winter pasturage, affording grass for the cattle at a season when the stock of the eastern dairy regions are living upon hay, renders the Umpqua Valley especially adapted to dairying. The blood of draft horses in the county has been undergoing a process of improvement for a number of years by breeding to imported Percheron stallions.

As a fruit region, the Umpqua Valley shares with the Rogue river the honor of producing the finest quality and the greatest abundance of Oregon fruit. Apples, pears, plums, cherries, peaches, apricots and grapes grow in profusion. In the line of small fruits, especially strawberries, Douglas county rules the Portland market. The first settlers found plums and raspberries growing wild in the greatest luxuriance, and time has shown how well the soil that sustained them was adapted to the cultivated vine.

play an important part in developing the natural resources of any region. Douglas, was until four years ago (1880), but poorly provided with means for sending her products to market. She is now better situated, and expects soon to have a route to the sea, by way of Gardiner, involves hauling by wagon to Scottsburg and transfer to steamers at that point. For a number of years, Roseburg was the southern terminus for the Oregon and California railroad, but that line has been extended south, and now passes through the whole length of the county, from north to south. A project of much importance is being well advanced, and that is the construction of a road from Roseburg to Coos Bay, passing by way of the Coquille through the heart of the vast timber and coal regions of Douglas and Coos counties. The construction of a railroad line to some harbor on the coast, accessible to deep water vessels, has long been regarded as the one thing useful for the Umpqua Valley.

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Pioneers and Pioneer Life in Umpqua Valley

(By T. W. Morgan.)

Douglas county, which contains the beautiful Umpqua valley, was first settled about the year 1845, but during the year 1851 there was quite an immigration to various parts of the Umpqua valley in what is now known as Winchester, Wilbur, Roberts Creek, Roseburg, Looking Glass, Yoncalla, Oakland, Umpqua, Myrtle Creek, Canyonville and perhaps other localities, were settled even before this. About the only means of transportation in early days was by ox team. Nearly all supplies were hauled by team from Scottsburg, at the head of tidewater on the Umpqua river, Scottsburg being perhaps the oldest town in Douglas county.

What a wonderful business opportunity for the early settlement of the Umpqua valley has been passed up by our former members of the United States congress. At this late day, December 16, 1923, the splendid harbor at the mouth of the Umpqua river is very limited. At the same time there is being shipped from this port perhaps more lumber than from any other river along the great Pacific coast outside of Portland. This is being done by small craft and by the Southern Pacific railroad, which passes through the new town of Roseport.

The sturdy old pioneers came to the Umpqua for the purpose of finding homes for themselves and families and their old neighbors whom they had left mostly in the middle west, Missouri and Iowa contributing largely to their settlement. These settlers, realising their handicaps, built on the rock. The first school house built was perhaps at Wilbur and later was termed the Wilbur Academy, of which a great many of the most prominent statesmen have graduated, and where the pioneer graduates hold their annual love feasts.

There were many hardships endured during this period of undeveloped resources, many deprivations and watchful waitings, but their great strength of purpose and implicit faith in God, gave them optimistic courage which we of today do not seem to grasp with avidity. Nearly all of the early settlers came to stay and never returned to their native haunts. Outdoor life agreed with them as does with anyone, and long life and contentment was their lot. The earliest settlers have, as far as the writer knows, all passed to the great beyond, but also the advent of the Oregon and California railroad in the year 1874 we find many descendants of the oldest pioneers still around Roseburg, our county seat.

that name that were inhabiting this section of Oregon Territory, Oregon having been admitted as a state in 1859.

When the O. & C. railroad was completed to Roseburg there was a big excursion from Albany and nearly all of Douglas county was there to meet them and drive the golden spike. Many of the older settlers will remember the ball game between Albany and Douglas county. This game was won by our boys and was one of the best games ever played in Douglas county, the score standing as near as we remember 2 to 3, with Jack Rutherford of Roseburg behind the bat. The home team was composed of players from Roberts creek, Looking Glass and Roseburg.

In the early 80's Roseburg, our county seat, had outgrown the other towns along the railroad and taken on city incorporation and a decided gain in population. Some of the then business houses were:

Home of the County Government 25 Years



When fire destroyed the old court house a structure of stone was erected and although not in the best of condition it is still housing the county government after about 25 years of service.

Flood & Company, Sheridan Bros., Hardy Stanton, postmaster, Caro Bros., Abraham, Wheeler Company, J. Jaskulek, S. Marks and Company, J. H. Hogan, P. Benebick, Sam Josephson, S. Hamilton, Parks and Barker.

The Abraham, Wheeler store stood where the handsome Umpqua hotel now stands and was the last business house between the city and the depot, but alas, what a delightful and substantial change has taken place after an absence of

twenty-five years spent in Eastern Oregon, from muddy streets, difficult to traverse to more than twelve miles of pavement greeted the eye of the former resident; and we were glad to see it and some few of the old friends. This of course being our greatest disappointment.

With your permission, Mr. Editor, will give the names of some of those still remaining in Roseburg who were there during 1852-53-54: J. F. Barker, C. W. Parks, L. B. Mathews, Fred Tolles, W. H. Fisher, E. L. Parrott, H. Marks, S. D. Evans, A. S. Buell, Walter Hamilton, J. W. Hamilton, Blinger Herrmann, J. C. Fullerton, A. J. Bellows, J. C. Fields, M. Gifford, T. Williams, Dave Shambrook, W. E. Rose, O. A. Rose, Ike Thornton, Jake Jones, G. W. Hall, A. G. Martens, Fred Haynes, Albert Abraham, P. M. and H. R. Mathews.

We shall indeed beg the pardon of any of our old friends, if they were omitted from this list.

The resources of the Umpqua valley are varied and comprise commercial orchards of prunes, apples, cherries, apricots, plums, almonds, walnuts, filberts, strawberries, blackberries, currants, evergreening, salmo berries, thimbleberries, dewberries, hazel nuts (wild), also vegetables of all kinds. This being the home of broccoli which is grown by the carload, as well as melons, corn, potatoes, cabbage and all vegetables that grow in a temperate climate.

Hay and grain are also grown for local consumption, horses, cattle, mules, sheep, hogs are raised here, and this is also the home of the turkey, which finds ready sale at a fair profit to the grower.

Roseburg, the metropolis and county seat of Douglas county, had a population of a little more than five thousand people according to the last school census, has a good pay roll, railroad, auto, and processing plants, and lumber interests, flour mills, canneries, etc., is well equipped with good standard schools, churches and not the least a citizenry derived from pioneer stock who welcome the stranger among us that makes you indeed feel at home.

Early History of Scottsburg

(Continued from page 15).

The stage coach line established between Portland and Red Bluff, was the final blow. Scottsburg ceased to exist and a town grew upon Aaron and Sarah Rose's place, which became Roseburg. The paper failed, the type and press were taken to Jacksonville. My father, got a boy to lead him and he needed to walk to Roseburg and Empire City and give concerts and also to give music lessons.

"Finally, in 1881, we moved to Marshfield. In 1903 our old home burned and so passed into history, one of the historic places of early Oregon."