

John N. Hedden of Scottsburg Approaches His 80th Birthday

Lower Umpqua Merchant, Postmaster 53 Years, Talks of Pioneer Day Events.

(By PAUL JENKINS)

"Yes, I've always liked dogs," John N. Hedden, elderly Scottsburg merchant, told me not long ago. "I guess I inherited it from my father, who was a great dog lover. He always kept dogs, and if occasionally they got into a fight, he enjoyed that immensely. After some dog fights the owners often would get into a battle, too, and my father was no exception. He enjoyed that, and could fight better than any dog he ever owned."

Three dogs were looking all over Mr. Hedden as he spoke, trying to lick his ears, and succeeding now and then. You could tell they liked him pretty well. Two of them were Boston terriers, fine specimens both, and the third was a well-bred, I'm going to spare your feelings, and his too, by not delving into his ancestry. It might bring up something awkward.

It is quite likely that John Hedden is the best known citizen of the entire lower Umpqua country. He was born in Scottsburg eighty years ago, on May 1, 1856, the son of Cyrus and Margaret Hedden. His father came to Scottsburg from California in 1851, the next year after the town's founding by Levi Scott.

John attended school in Scottsburg and when 13 years old became a student at Umpqua academy at Wilbur. Later he attended and graduated from the Portland Business college, Portland, Oregon. For many years thereafter he was engineer on the steamers Enterprise and Argus, plying between Scottsburg and Gardiner. Later he entered business with his father in the store purchased by the latter in Scottsburg in 1870. In 1883 he was appointed postmaster there, a position he has held uninterrupted since—fifty-three years. He is credited with being the oldest postmaster in point of service in Oregon, and doubtless in the United States.

Born when Scottsburg was only 6 years old, and having been continuously identified with the growth of the entire lower river country, Mr. Hedden is exceptionally well informed upon all matters bearing upon that locality's affairs. He has embarked upon any number of business ventures which brought him into intimate contact with some of the best known and most influential men in the markets of the Pacific coast, and has had his share of successes. A story long told about him—but not by him—is indicative of this success, and also gives an insight into his character.

For many years he had done business with a mercantile firm in San Francisco, buying large quantities of goods from them from time to time. He received news of the big earthquake and fire of 1906, along with a consignment of supplies from them. He promptly paid for his shipment, and, as an afterthought, dispatched a box containing \$50,000 in gold to them, by the first boat, with instructions to use it in repairing the damage suffered by the quake, and to repay him when they got good and ready!

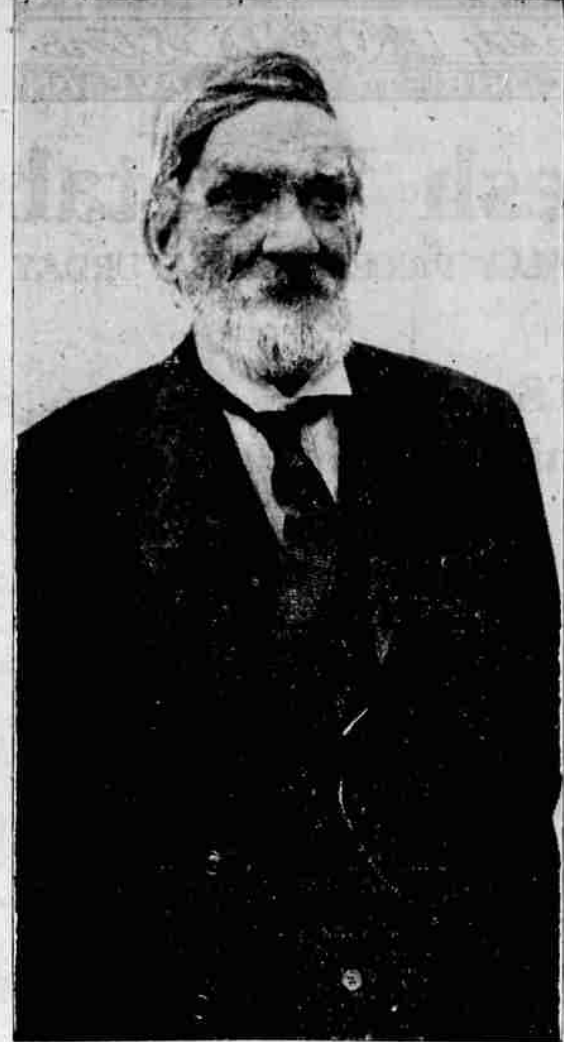
I was in the Hedden store several years ago, and found an old counter in the process of being dismantled. It was one of the first used in the original structure built in 1851, John told me. It had several long wooden strips which had been nailed to its edges and these had just been removed, discovering a considerable amount of gold dust which had sifted into the crevices.

"In the early days," John said, "when Scottsburg still was supply headquarters for the entire southern Oregon and northern California, dust and nuggets was our chief medium of exchange. Customers would come into the store and in paying for their purchases throw a poke on the counter and spill out the quantity of gold they guessed to be about the right amount, which was then weighed. During this process some of the dust inevitably drifted into these cracks. Well, nobody paid any attention to such affairs these days. For a long time gold was a lot easier to get, than flour!"

Packers would arrive in town from a long trip from the mines, throw down packs after packs containing gold and kick the pile contemptuously to one side and leave it lying absolutely unguarded while they headed their pack animals down to the corrals for water and feed. Often they would consign this gold to destinations in San Francisco by ship captains, or members of the ship's crew, or passengers, never bothering to ask for a receipt or anything—and John says he cannot recall of any instance when this trust was misplaced.

The packers were busy fellows in those hectic days. They brought gold from the mines to Scottsburg, and returned with provisions, mining equipment and supplies of all kinds. They could carry anything. One Charles W. Henderer, a hillbilly table on one trip—and delivered it in Jacksonville in perfect condition.

On March 11, 1886, Mr. Hedden was married to Miss Fannie A. Henderer, the daughter of Chas. G. and Emaline F. Henderer of Elkton, Mrs. Hedden died October 1, 1933, the victim of an automobile accident which very nearly took the life of her husband as well. Surviving children are Cyrus,



JOHN N. HEDDEN

Emma, Charles G. and Fannie Lorraine Hedden, and June Salchenberger.

Having been overtaken by deafness in recent years, Mr. Hedden has become an inveterate reader, and the walls of the living room in his fine home in Scottsburg are covered with a seemingly endless array of bookshelves containing hundreds and hundreds of volumes, relating to nearly every subject under the sun. Among them are many most interesting histories dealing with early Oregon events and several old newspapers dating back to the war of 1812, during which conflict, and during the Revolution, too, the Hedden family lived in New Jersey.

A principal himself in many interesting adventures, Mr. Hedden takes his greatest pleasure in recounting the exploits of his father, Cyrus Hedden. The latter was a native of Newark, New Jersey, having been born there March 4, 1820. He came overland to California in 1850, and the next summer took ship for Portland, Oregon. At the time Cyrus landed in Portland, or very shortly thereafter, a certain Wm. Tichenor, captain of the vessel which brought Hedden there, recruited him and eight other men for a settlement project at Port Orford, on the southern Oregon coast. These men left Astoria the 6th of June, 1851, on Tichenor's ship, and disembarked at Port Orford three days later. They made camp on the big rock there known ever since as Battle Rock, and no sooner was the ship out of sight than Indians appeared and made most unfriendly advances.

The party consisted of Cyrus Hedden, J. M. Kirkpatrick, J. Carrigan, Erasmus Summers, J. Hussey, J. Elman, J. T. Slater, T. P. Palmer and George Riddings, none of whom knew much about Indian habits, with the possible exception of Kirkpatrick, their leader. The men were very poorly armed, as they were employing them either through ignorance or something worse, had anticipated no trouble with the natives. A good rifle, a few old muskets and an old cannon completed the sum of their armament.

On the 10th the Indians attacked in force, and advanced to within a few yards of the settlers, when the latter discharged the cannon into the midst of the mob, killing a dozen or more of them and wounding a much greater number. The remainder, appalled at

CAMAS VALLEY

CAMAS VALLEY, April 23.—Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Paulsen, and son James, spent Saturday night and Easter Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Elbert at Lookoutgates. Miss Evelyn Paulsen spent Saturday night with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Paulsen, at Canyonville, and all were at the Ollivant home on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martinide entertained the following guests on Easter Sunday: Mr. and Mrs. William Goodman and two children, Billie and Colleen, of Empire; Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Goodman and two children, Mary and Edgar Jr., of North Bend, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Centers of North Bend.

The demonstration of the wonders of liquid air, given by James Williams at the schoolhouse Wednesday evening, was very interesting. A small number attended but feel that they were amply repaid

by the entertainment. Mr. and Mrs. Mock and family, lately from Sutherlin, are living in one of the houses at the Standley mill. Walter Mock entered school last week in the seventh grade.

Orval Thrash and Edward Dahl went to Oak Ridge Sunday where they have secured employment in a sawmill.

Allen Church spent Saturday and Sunday here with his family, returning to his work at Remote Sunday evening.

THE DALLES, Ore., April 23.—(AP)—Orchardists said today a record cherry crop is in prospect for Wasco county, unless unusual weather conditions occur during the growing season.

Mild weather the past two weeks has been perfect for pollination of the unusually heavy bloom.

Only a few blossoms appeared, however, in apple orchards. The peach and apricot crops also were damaged by the unusual cold weather early last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chenoweth and son, Tommy, and Mrs. James Duncan spent Wednesday in Roseburg on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Copenhaver left this week for Shadron, Neb., where they will make their home. Mr. and Mrs. Copenhaver have

been residents of Sutherlin for several years. Their son, Carl Allen, arrived here last week to drive their car through to Nebraska for them. He is employed in that state as a fireman for a railway company.

Mrs. Copenhaver is a sister of Walter Hedden of the Dutch Lunch cafe in Sutherlin.

News of Douglas County

CAMP BRADFORD

CAMP BRADFORD, April 23.—Capt. A. C. Joslyn, camp surgeon, has returned from Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was sent east in charge of a train carrying casualties being sent home for discharge. Dr. Robert McCune, of China Flats, was acting camp surgeon during Capt. Joslyn's absence.

Ian K. Plowman, state administrator of CCC camps, inspected Camp Bradford this week.

Camp Bradford will be transferred to Diamond lake for the summer months. The project at that point is building road to connect Roseburg with Diamond lake. Camp Steamboat is working on the western end of this same project.

Capt. Chauncey Pierce, assistant district inspector, Modford district CCC, visited camp this week.

Due to the large number of enrollees desiring entrance in wood-working and metal arts work in this camp, enlarged quarters are to be constructed and additional machines added to the workshop. Useful articles of all natures are being made in this department. An invitation is extended to the public, when passing the camp, to come in and inspect the work being done by the members of the "Handimans Club."

Camp Bradford baseball season gets under way April 24th. The first game of the season will be with Bridge. Project Superintendent Leo Gardolph is having the field placed in condition.

AZALEA

AZALEA, April 22.—Ed Barstow of upper Cow creek attended to business in Azalea and Glendale Wednesday.

George Jackson, former Glendale resident, now residing at Grants Pass, spent Wednesday here on business.

Mr. Ora Condray Jr., and Mrs. R. D. McCarty shopped and attended to business in Roseburg Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Jantzer and sons, Billie and Jackie, shopped and visited friends in Grants Pass Thursday.

Mrs. Cora Chadwick, who has been visiting at the Leland Johns home for the past ten days, returned to her home at Dixonville Wednesday.

Frank Jantzer Sr. and son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Uhly, and Ed Barstow transacted business in Roseburg Wednesday.

Mrs. Chas. Austin and Mrs. David Blythe visited at the Ed Barstow home Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Johns shopped and attended to business in Roseburg Wednesday and Thursday.

William Kelling of Los Angeles moved in the Blythe house this week.

Sunday dinner guests at the Garrison and White home were: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Reek of Wolf Creek, Mr. and Mrs. John Feldmiller, and Ed Barstow.

Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Jenks returned to their home this week after spending the past week in Portland. They were accompanied there by their daughter, Mrs. Francis Johnson and daughter, Barbara and granddaughter, Mrs. Naomi LaFayette, who have been visiting at the Jenks home for the past month.

SUTHERLIN

SUTHERLIN, April 23.—Ralph Purser returned to his home here last Saturday after spending more than six months in the veterans' hospital in Roseburg, where he received treatment for a broken leg and underwent an operation for appendicitis.

The many friends of Miss Betty Price of Umpqua, a student in Sutherlin high school, will regret to learn that she was obliged to enter Mercy hospital for medical treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Robertson and young son, Donald, of the local drug store, are visiting relatives and friends at Freewater. E. H. Rothwell is in charge of the drug store during their absence.

Mrs. Josephine T. Stark, local postmistress, returned here Monday morning from a week-end visit at Grants Pass, where she accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Schroder of Myrtle Point. Mr. Schroder, who is postmaster of Myrtle Point, is also president of the Oregon League of District Postmasters, of which Mrs. Stark is secretary. Officers of the league met at Grants Pass Saturday with members of the chamber of commerce and arranged plans for the annual convention of the League of District Postmasters, which is to be held at Grants Pass in June.

Mr. and Mrs. N. K. Eby of Sutherlin were dinner guests at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Goff, Sunday.

Mrs. Harry Chenoweth and son, Tommy, and Mrs. James Duncan spent Wednesday in Roseburg on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Copenhaver left this week for Shadron, Neb., where they will make their home. Mr. and Mrs. Copenhaver have

been residents of Sutherlin for several years. Their son, Carl Allen, arrived here last week to drive their car through to Nebraska for them. He is employed in that state as a fireman for a railway company.

Mrs. Copenhaver is a sister of Walter Hedden of the Dutch Lunch cafe in Sutherlin.

Miss Louise Murphy of Umpqua spent Easter in Sutherlin visiting with Miss Dale Gree and Miss Marguerite Chapman.

Miss Margaret Oederkirk of Roseburg spent the week-end in Sutherlin visiting relatives and friends.

J. B. Keezer of Roseburg, president of the Young Democratic club, was a visitor in Sutherlin Saturday. He reports that the club already has a large membership, which is increasing every day.

An official of the Oregon state liquor commission, who visited Sutherlin last Monday, stated that no additional licenses to sell beer or wines would be granted in Sutherlin; that the two beer taverns now operating here together with the state liquor store, were sufficient for any community of 500 population.

Mrs. Myrtle Sutherlin of Portland spent Friday here visiting at the DeMuth and Ottiger homes.

Mrs. Juanita Gale spent last week-end in Eugene visiting her husband and friends.

Miss Helen Correll, a student at the state university, spent several days in Sutherlin last week visiting with relatives and friends.

The Sutherlin cheese plant was wired the first of cheese plant for electric current and the plant expects to begin manufacturing the famous Kraft cheese right away.

Mrs. Margaret Austen and family were Sunday guests at dinner at the home of Mrs. Anna Hankenson.

Miss Louise Murphy of Umpqua spent Sunday with her sister, Miss Irene, and friends in Sutherlin.

Bill Hughes has been seriously ill in the hospital at Roseburg of vegetable poisoning and pneumonia. He is reported as improving.

Ernest Archambeau is in the veteran facility at Roseburg under medical observation.

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Mrs. Emma Currier was an Easter Sunday dinner guest at the Copenberger home on State street.

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Mrs. Stearns Cushing took a carload of Sutherlin girls to Roseburg Saturday to attend the annual playday at the Roseburg high school.

Mrs. J. C. Campbell had a heavy window drop on two of her fingers last Tuesday at her home, crushing them so that several stitches had to be taken by Dr. Dunlap.

Mrs. Thornton Gale, who recently resigned her position in the local school, departed Friday evening with her husband for Lakeview, Ore., where they will make their home in the future. Mrs. Gale has taught the third, fourth and fifth grades in the Sutherlin school for several years, and her many friends and pupils deeply regret her departure. Miss Lillian Lindlie will begin teaching in Mrs. Gale's place Monday morning.

Here's good news for thrifty housewives! Four big days of "two for the price of one, plus only one cent" bargains. Over 250 bargains. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 23, 24 and May 1 and 2 at Fullerton's, the Rexall Drug Store.

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