

Founding, Development Of Otter Rock Form Interesting Chapter in History of Oregon

An abundance of sea otter brought about the naming of Otter Rock, a picturesque spot on the Oregon coast north of Newport, according to an interesting historical account compiled by Mrs. Wyn Sherwood, a resident of the Otter Rock community.

"Otter Rock got its name from the group of small rocks just south of the Devil's Punch Bowl," Mrs. Sherwood reports. "These rocks are under water at high tide, but at low tide were used as a resting place by sea otter and fur seal. The early settlers made many dollars shooting the seals, which were then quite plentiful."

The present townsite of Otter Rock was secured in 1894 by John and Mahala Spencer as an Indian land grant, Mrs. Sherwood says.

"Dope" Spencer, as he was familiarly known, was an interesting character, the historian reports.

"He was a cripple and rode horseback whenever he had far to go.

Like most Indians he was very superstitious and firmly believed in the 'little men' which he said were around in the woods. Later, when Mr. and Mrs. Bates owned the place, they called it 'Little Men Cove' and had an iron nameplate over the gate with that inscription on it.

"When 'Dope' Spencer died his body was taken out through the window and the cabin was burned. Just what the significance of this was no one seems to know, except that it had something to do with evading the evil spirits in which Indians believed so firmly.

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"In those early days, there were many more Indians than white people in the community. Even before the Siletz reservation was established, there must have been hundreds of Indians camping on the beaches. The piles of shells which are known as 'shell mounds' proves that. On our South Beach they built rows and rows of racks where they dried and smoked salmon, clams, mussels, etc., for their winter provisions."

Development of the beach started with the construction of three cabins above North Beach, Mrs. Sherwood reports. These have since gone into the ocean as the bank was cut away from beneath them.

Hotel Proves Magnet

"It was about 1907 when Ben Jones acquired the property, had it surveyed and platted and gave it the official name of Otter Rock," Mrs. Sherwood says. "The next year he persuaded his brother-in-law, Tom Horning, and his wife to come and build a hotel. Uncle Tom and Aunt Mary Horning, as they were known, ran this hotel for about 18 or 20 years. Aunt Mary was a wonderful cook and Uncle Tom provided clams and fish for the boarders. Many of the prominent families of Portland were regular visitors and teachers from the state college at Corvallis spent their vacations with the Hornings."

"In 1909 other buildings were erected from lumber salvaged when two lumber schooners, the Marhoffer and the Minnie Skelton, went on the rocks. The boats broke up and the lumber floated ashore."

"The Marhoffer broke up near Depoe Bay and a little girl, whose father had a horsehead there, rode a horse over a trail through the woods to Newport to get help from the coast guard. Five of the crewmen tried to swim ashore and were drowned, but those who remained on the boat were saved. In the southwest corner of the Newport cemetery are five white wooden crosses marking the graves of the five men lost off the boat."

Post Office Obtained
"The nearest post office was at Agate Beach. When the Otter Rock people asked for a post office they were put on probation, being given an office conditioned upon securing volunteers to carry the mail from Agate Beach. Men took turns as mail carriers until at the end of three months the post office was regularly established. Mr. Horning was first postmaster."

"All this time Ben Jones was trying to develop Otter Rock. He built bath houses on the beach, a slide from the bluff to South Beach, and put in a water



FIREMEN, RESCUE WORKERS IN SHATTERED PLANT—A German fire brigade and rescue workers probe the shattered I. G. Farben chemical plant at Ludwigshafen, Germany, after blast which destroyed or damaged an estimated 18 buildings. Casualties are high with estimates of hundreds dead and thousands injured. Disaster was worst in Germany since end of war. (AP Wirephoto via radio from Frankfurt.)



ASSAILS SOVIET BLOCKADE—Frau Luise Schroeder (center), oberburgermeister of Berlin, speaking to 8,000 Germans in protest against the Russian blockade, said "Berlin fights for Germany, Germany for Democracy, and Democracy for all the world." Photo by Al Cocking. (Acme Telephoto)



WALKING AGAIN—Jeannie Rockwell, who plunged 40 feet from a circus trapeze to the floor of Madison Square Garden while 15,000 spectators screamed, walks again for the first time since the accident. She spent the greater part of three months in a New York hospital. (AP Wirephoto)

system. He began working for construction of a road, making several trips to the State Legislature and once going to Washington, D. C. His efforts finally were successful, but he died before his dream was fulfilled. The road was built in 1927-28."

The highest peak in the Philippines is Mount Apo, in southern Mindanao, with an elevation of 9610 feet.

Pumice Blocks, Watches Loot of Baker Thieves

BAKER, Aug. 3.—(AP)—Thieves went in for the heavy stuff here over the weekend, stealing 400 pumice blocks from the Bilt Rite Block Company some time Sunday night. Each block weighed 20 pounds, with a combined weight of four tons.

Thieves also Sunday night tossed a rock through the plate glass window of the Franco Jewelers, escaping with several watches snatched from the window display.

Meanwhile police were still working on the narcotics burglary which occurred here Friday night when the St. Elizabeth Hospital Pharmacy window was pried open and a large quantity of morphine and dilaudid taken.

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CIO-PAC Ousts Seven, Opposes Wallace Party

MADISON, Wis., Aug. 3.—(AP)—The Wisconsin CIO Political Action Committee has ousted from membership seven labor leaders for "misinforming CIO members" about the Wallace party. The state group also voted to back the national CIO-PAC in its opposition to Henry Wallace's Progressive party.

John M. Sorenson, secretary-treasurer of the state CIO-PAC, announced the expulsion at a conference of 232 delegates.

Those named, all from Milwaukee, included: Phil H. Smith, international representative of the United Electrical Workers; James De Witt, field representative of the Farm Equipment Workers; Gus Tomlinson of the Fur and Leather Workers.

Wife Gets \$3,500,000 In Record Reno Divorce

RENO, Nev., Aug. 3.—(AP)—Mrs. Evelyn Lehman yesterday obtained a divorce from Allan S. Lehman, New York banker, in proceedings reported to involve the largest settlement in Reno divorce history. Reliable reports placed the settlement at \$3,500,000. Mrs.

Lehman refused to deny or confirm the figure, and the complaint said simply that it was fair, just and equitable. Mrs. Lehman divorced her husband, nephew of former Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York, on grounds of separation. They were wed in 1912 and have been separated 17 years. Lehman did not contest the suit.



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