

YE OLDE ROSEBURG GROWTH

Organization Of Two Fire Units, Coming Of Railroad, Telegraph Are Recounted

(Ed. Note: This is the second in a series of articles on early Roseburg history by City Manager M. W. Standard.)

By M. W. SLANKARD

In presenting facts pertaining to past activities of Roseburg we must remember that some of the information may seem rather unbecoming of past town trustees who governed the city, but we must realize that the same procedures were followed in practically every city of these western United States, during these years. Oregon and Roseburg have grown up in actions comparable with other neighboring states and, in my humble opinion, is far advanced over many cities.

In the year 1882 a major issue to come before the town trustees was the removal of garbage and refuse. A contract was entered into to keep the city clean and to rid the dumps of rats. This problem never has been fully solved as garbage disposal is always a problem.

The first part of 1883 saw the completion of a water reservoir to supply water to the city and for fire purposes. A meeting was called on April 26, for the purpose of organizing a fire company. The company was formed and was known as Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. Three ladders and six axes were ordered with an order to further secure a pump rig.

A petition was presented at about this time for the removal of the jail at the court house square. Considerable talk was held on the purchase of a parcel of land and the construction of a larger city hall and jail.

Fire Dept. Organized

On April 30 Rescue Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was officially organized. A fire pump was bought some weeks before, the city giving \$300 and the rest up to \$500 being subscribed by the Hook and Ladder company. Considerable interest was shown in securing a meeting place and uniforms, red shirts and hard fire hats. The organization of the fire department was one of the major improvements to the city.

Due to the rapid growth of the town of Roseburg, consideration was given to the construction of a bridge across the South Umpqua river to provide access to the development of the area west of the city. A deed was granted to the county of Douglas for the lower end of Lane street for a bridge to be constructed and maintained by the county.

Ordinance No. 62, passed June 9, 1894, provided that, "no child under the age of 16 shall in no way use or carry tobacco in any shape or form. It will also be unlawful for any boy to carry firearms or pistols or to have them on their person in a public place."

Telegraph, Railroad Came

After due consideration and many meetings an ordinance was drawn up and presented for adoption granting an easement to the Pacific Postal Telegraph and Cable company, to erect and maintain telegraph poles and lines in the city.

A reception was held by the city officials Dec. 2, 1878, to welcome a delegation of the Oregon-California railroad. The reception was to be given at the court house square, the celebration being in regards to the completion of the new railroad through Roseburg.

Numerous cases of diphtheria were causing alarm to the officials of the city. At a special meeting held Dec. 31, 1888 at 2 p. m. a committee was formed to inspect all alleys and out-houses of the city and to use disinfectants wherever it was thought diphtheria germs might breed. All streets and alleys were also ordered cleaned.

A delegation appeared before the town trustees in regards to the advisability of organizing a company to furnish electricity for the city. "As other cities are using electricity for street lighting and in the home." The matter was referred to a committee for a report.

An ordinance was passed to create the office of street superintendent on March 7, 1889. However this ordinance was repealed at the next meeting. The reason was not stated.

A special meeting of the trustees was held to consider the formation of a Roseburg Water Works company; the granting of a franchise and other matters pertaining thereto. The agreement was for a reservoir to be constructed not less than 240 feet above the intersection elevation of Washington and Jackson streets. The supply to be not less



DAVIDSON MODELS TITO—Jo Davidson, bearded American sculptor, finishes a clay bust of Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia at a retreat in the hills overlooking Belgrade.

than 1,000,000 gallons capacity. It is noted that during the year 1889, consideration was given to adoption of a permanent charter.

The matter was referred to a committee and copies were sent to the state legislature. It is assumed from meager details and information in the minutes of these meetings that a charter was adopted.

Another Fire Company

Contracts were let for furnishing a large fire bell in the amount of \$175 and the erection of a tower for \$320. At about this time October 1890 another hose company was formed, known as Rose Hose Company No. 2. The fire station was built to house a hand cart near the railroad depot.

A special committee appointed to study a new sewage system and charter, with the consideration of a bond issue of \$40,000, was appointed to report as soon

as possible. A public meeting was held and a citizens committee appointed to help in the studies.

Correspondence from L. L. Hurd of Corvallis was presented and details were worked out pertaining to the awarding of a franchise for furnishing electric lights and electricity to the citizens of Roseburg, also to construct lines, poles and furnish arc lights for the streets of Roseburg where the city requested them. The generating plant was to be within the limits of the city. Up until this date - 1891 - the city had kerosene lamps that were lit each night by hand.

Shirred eggs make an excellent dish for Sunday breakfast. To prepare them break 2 eggs into each individual greased baking dish and bake in a slow oven until as firm as desired. Serve with crisp bacon.

Supreme Court Spurns Row Over Property Wall

SALEM, Oct. 13.—(AP)—A Coos Bay argument over a few inches of property isn't any business of the courts, so the three families involved will have to settle the four-year argument themselves.

The State Supreme court ruled Tuesday that Circuit Judge Dal M. King, Coquille, did the right thing when he tossed the whole mess out of court.

The feud was "extremely embittered; so much so that, on one occasion, they resorted to a mutual display of firearms," Justice Arthur D. Hay wrote in today's opinion.

The case involved a strip of property varying in width from 18 of an inch to 4 3/4 inches. It all started when Mr. and Mrs. Pryne Fields built a concrete wall at the edge of their property. It was on their own property, all right, but it wasn't a very good wall. It leaned over toward the adjoining property.

The adjoining property was owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. F. McKee and Mr. and Mrs. Pete McGowan. They sued Mr. and Mrs. Fields to force them to remove the wall.

But Mr. and Mrs. Fields wouldn't remove the wall. They said it was undermined by the McKees and the McGowans trespassing on the Fields' property.

So now, with no court to settle their case, they are back where they started.

Counterfeit \$10 Bills Appear In Northwest

SEATTLE, Oct. 12.—(AP)—An influx of phony \$10 bills is reported in Seattle and Portland by Leo A. Smugal, secret service supervising agent in Seattle.

So excellent is the engraving that only a careful scrutiny of the bill will disclose it as a counterfeit, the agent said. Principal difference is the lack of detail in Alexander Hamilton's hair, giving it a white appearance.

The bills are on the Federal Reserve bank of Minneapolis and bear the serial number "167759115E" and check and plate numbers "F-11".

Fourteen such bills have been turned in here while nine are known to have been passed in Portland.

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