

Indian Wars And How Winston Got Its Name

By MRS. GEORGE BACHER
Winston Correspondent

How did Winston get its name, newcomers ask, and how did it grow into the thriving community it is today? Who foresaw the possibilities of the lush farmland? Who tilled the soil and made the knowledge of its possibilities our heritage?

Many interesting histories have been related by old-timers of the community, stories so full of hardship and red-blooded determination that they put our present day "thrillers" to shame. Ranking at the top of the list of pioneers who left their "footprints on the sands of time" is the late Mrs. W. C. Winston, known to all her friends as Gammie. Often called the "mother of the Umpqua valley," her name has practically become a legend.

A little caravan left Hennip, Ill. on March 17, 1853 and crossed the plains into the Oregon territory. Among its members was Mrs. Winston (Agnes Rice) who was then one year old.

She was married to William Chauncey Winston in 1869, and in 1887 they built a large colonial house six miles south of Roseburg in the district now known as Winston section. The big house, which once housed six daughters and two sons, still stands, and is occupied by one of the sons, Harry Winston.

On June 16, 1893 the first postoffice was established in the neighborhood and bore the name of the

first postmaster, Elijah Winston (brother-in-law to Gammie). Two years later Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Winston took over the postoffice and operated it until it was closed on July 14, 1903. This territory was then served by the Roseburg postoffice until 1948 when an office was established in Coos Junction, at which time the little town was combined with Winston section and the entire settlement became simply "Winston."

Mrs. Winston, who passed away in 1940, was loved by young and old alike. Even in her last days her high spirit and love for life and people did not desert her. Her eyes, undimmed by the fading twilight of her years, would sparkle as she tirelessly told stories of pioneer days to the younger generation. One story above all stood out—the story of the Indian attack on the Rice creek region when she was a girl. This story in its entirety is on file at the Douglas County courthouse under the name of "Reminiscences of Southern Oregon Pioneers," as gathered in a personal interview with Mrs. Winston on July 6, 1938. With the permission of her son, Harry Winston, it is being submitted in condensed form for the readers of the News-Review.

For several years after Gammie and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Rice, settled on what was later named Rice creek, the Indians let them live in comparative



THREE OF A KIND—Triplet calves—two bulls and a heifer—were born to this purebred Jersey cow in the herd of Charles Rose, Sr., near Oswosso, Mich. Herdsman Glen Van Wormer looks over the rare arrivals and their 3-year-old mother.

safety. In the fall of 1855, however, a great disturbance broke out among the tribes and they suddenly let their enmity against the white settlers be known. Men were called upon to form volunteer companies and build a stockade on the South Umpqua two miles from where Dillard is now located.

Rice moved his family into the temporary fort as a means of protecting them from the Indians, but living conditions were crowded and it was a difficult situation for the Rices with their family of six children. As winter approached they moved back into their home with a tall stockade of logs surrounding the house as their only protection.

Rice's mother and his brother, Austin, moved in with them for safety. Also, a young Indian, who was looking for his wife who had been stolen by enemy tribes, was visiting at the time the Indians attacked.

It was on December 1 as Rice went outside the stockade to see what was disturbing the horses, that the Indian boy pointed to the burning house of a neighbor. The stockade was closed and barred immediately and the men collected guns and ammunition.

The young Indian guest, knowing the ways of the attacking tribe, said that they must shoot as fast as possible to make them believe there were many men in the house. Women and children were advised to lie down as the Indians would shoot high.

Sylvester Rice, aged 13, begged that he might go to the fort on the river to tell the soldiers. The door was opened, and as he stepped out and ran across the opening, the Indians began firing. The first shot hit and broke the arm of Austin Rice, who had to be dragged inside and given first aid while the fort was quickly closed.

"The Indians would shoot very fast for awhile," related Mrs. Winston. "Then there would be a pause while they loaded their guns. During these pauses the Indians shouted to my mother, who understood their jargon, that if we would give them our food and blankets they

would go away and not kill us. They said they were only cold and hungry. The Indian who was with us said that this was only a trick to get into the fort."

Breaking the silence, a warrior would shout, "Well, I guess the Bostons want us to shoot them some more!"

Round after round of bullets rained on the floor like hail. Fire had been set to all the buildings outside the stockade and all valuable tools brought across the plains were destroyed.

Sylvester Rice had run from the fort with bullets whizzing past his head and crashing in the dirt before him. His shoes seemed to be holding him back, he said later, so he untied them and kicked them off as he ran. The soldiers were all gone to quell an outbreak at Camas Valley, so the boy hurried to an uncle's house when unable to reach them.

Back at the Rice's house ammunition was running low, so Mrs. Rice crawled to the fireside and moulded bullets as fast as possible. There seemed little chance of their being able to withstand the attack until the soldiers could come to their assistance.

About noon, by the sun, an Indian was seen coming toward the house with a handful of burning torches to throw over the weakening stockade. Rice fired through the loophole and the Indian pitched forward onto the ground. Three of his companions carried him back to the bank by the creek, and then for some strange reason the shooting ceased and the warlike band slipped silently away.

The soldiers arrived the next day. . . . And this, in part, is an answer to your questions.

DIST. ATTY. DIES
CANYON CITY, March 28—(AP)—E. P. Truesdell, prominent local resident and Grant county district attorney, died at his home Sunday from a heart attack.
The 69-year-old lawyer had lived here 38 years. He was elected D. A. in 1948.

Man Aims Car At Wife, Misses, Draws \$25 Fine

NORWALK, Conn., March 28—(AP)—Mrs. Helen Miller told city Court Judge John Keogh Jr. that her husband, from whom she is separated, tried to run her down with his automobile.
"I was only trying to scare her," countered William J. Miller, 21, who was in court on a charge of reckless driving. "I missed her by two feet."
"Guilty of reckless driving," ruled the court, imposing a fine of \$25.

New Probe Is Sought

WASHINGTON, March 28—(AP)—Rep Hoffman (R-Mich) wants Congress to investigate reports that there are homosexuals and alcoholics working in the State department.
Citing a newspaper columnist's story of alleged immorality in U. S. legations abroad, Hoffman Friday introduced a resolution calling for a probe by a five-man house committee.
"We can neither obtain nor retain the respect and good-will of other nations if such reports are permitted to go unchallenged," he said in a House speech. "Let us leave out the question of the loyalty of these people, who, if the stories are true, are dirty, nasty individuals."

ANTI-GOUGING VIGIL

MEXICO CITY, March 28—(AP)—Federal inspectors spread out over Mexico today to insure that holy week tourists will not be overcharged.
Holy week in Mexico is the major holiday season and hotels are always filled to capacity.

American Army Network Facing Blockade Abroad

FRANKFURT, Germany, March 28—(AP)—The voice of the American army in Europe is being shouted down.
The American Forces network (AFN), once heard in many parts of Europe, has been blocked out everywhere outside Germany by the reassignment of European radio frequencies. U. S. officials disclosed Saturday.
Americans and other listeners as far away as Turkey, Scandinavia, Southern France and Italy once listened to AFN.
Now even in Germany AFN has been crippled. It broadcasts primarily to U. S. troops and occupation personnel.

"AFN coverage is now very unsatisfactory," U. S. officials reported. "We are having considerable difficulty in serving American occupation personnel. We have very bad interference from other stations in both Eastern and Western Europe."
The officials said they have received numerous letters from outside Germany saying the network no longer can be heard.
"Some of these letters plead with us to get new frequencies," the officials said. "But finding these frequencies is a terrific problem. All

of the good frequencies were allocated in the Copenhagen radio agreement."
American officials rejected the agreement, saying it would ruin U. S. broadcasting in Europe. They ordered radio stations in the American zone to broadcast on frequencies now assigned to Russia and other countries. There were no other frequencies available.

AFN lost its best frequency when the Copenhagen agreement reshuffled all European radio frequencies. Although America is paying the bill for European recovery and rearmament, the European powers snatched away the best frequencies from American and German stations in the U. S. occupation zone.

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