

Indian Fight Proves Durability Of Ex-County Clerk

Man Lives Although Impaled By Arrows, Knife Shredded

By PAUL JENKINS

One of the most amazing White Man vs. Indian encounters I have ever read of or heard was participated in by two well-known citizens of Douglas County about midway in the past century, 1851 to be exact.

Locale of this story is the coast country from the mouth of the Rogue River to that of the Umpqua, while the men I allude to were L. L. Williams and Cyrus Hedden. Both, at this time, found themselves at Port Orford, where Hedden had arrived by sea just a few months before with a colonization party organized by Capt. William Tichenor in Port land.

Had Big Dreams

Even during his infancy Port Orford had dreams of becoming an important trading center. In order to realize these to the fullest extent, it needed to establish transportation facilities extending to the already well-populated mining communities in Southern Oregon and Northern California, the facility it had in mind being a pack animal trail.

Inasmuch as practically nothing was known about the intervening country, a group of 23 men under the direction of W. G. T. Vault were organized as an exploring expedition to discover the most feasible route. Williams and Hedden were members of this group.

Leaving Port Orford the middle of August, the party proceeded south to the Rogue, deciding there to continue upstream along the north bank. All were afoot, using a few horses as pack animals only. The going became exceedingly rugged (it is considered today to be one of the roughest areas in the United States) and provisions soon ran out. Only a meager 10 days supply had been taken along. It became necessary to depend entirely on wild game for food, and game was scarce. Not only that, but two men in the group, Williams and one other, were experienced woodsmen.

Decide To Return

The party had proceeded about 30 miles up the Rogue when, faced by a starvation diet and already so exhausted the men scarcely could travel, objective of the expedition was abandoned and the decision made to turn back. Thirteen men elected to retrace their steps while the remaining 10, including the leader, T. Vault, decided to turn north and try to make their way to the "Umpqua" settlements which they had heard were somewhere in that direction.

After long days of tortuous and difficult travel, weary and starved, they arrived on the banks of the Coquille, near where Norway is located today. However, they

thought they had headed the Coquille and had found the Coos River. Too bad for them they hadn't.

At this point the party discovered some Indians traveling in canoes and, after a bartering period which cost them practically all their possessions except their firearms, secured the services of these Indians to transport them by canoe to the coast, which the Indians did.

However, the Indians with considerable guile did something more—they sent a runner ahead to inform the down-river tribes of their coming. On the 14th of September, just a month after they had left Port Orford, the 10 men with their Indian escort arrived at a point about two miles above the river's mouth, opposite and above where Randon stands today. Here was a large Indian encampment. The Indians, hailing the travelers in friendly fashion and seductively waving food, in the form of venison quarters and slabs of fresh salmon, motioned to them to beach the canoes.

Canoes Beached

Four of the men, Williams, Hedden and two others, were dead set against doing this. They wanted to cross to the other shore and avoid the encampment; but the decision of T. Vault and the other five men, influenced probably by their desire to secure the food so temptingly offered, prevailed and the canoes were beached.

No sooner had this been done than the Indians, casting aside their pretenses of friendship and with blood-curdling yells, fell upon the white men with war clubs, knives and a hail of arrows.

In the wild melee which followed, Williams found himself alone in the midst of a press of Indians he estimated to number over 100. His rifle was seized, muzzle and stock and, endeavoring with all his might to retain possession of it, he surged forward and round and round as best he could, always struck at from every side by the encompassing horde, until the gun suddenly discharged into the ground. The Indians, momentarily disconcerted, stepped back a pace, loosing their holds and Williams began swinging his recovered piece as a club.

Soon the stock was smashed to bits, but the three-foot barrel became a deadly weapon. Pushing forward, whirling about each blow and each step in an impossible effort to face and strike in each direction at once, he gradually gained distance up the sloping bank from the river.

Strength Fails

His strength began to fail, and he gave up hope of living. The Indians were so many about him that he no sooner struck one down than another hideous face appeared in the dead man's place. He was being severely beaten all this time by clubs and cut by the knives and once he was struck to the ground by the blow of a club. But regaining his feet before the savages could pin him, he continued the pitifully unequal struggle.

Suddenly in the swirl of battle, and on the side of the throng away

from the river, the ranks of the encircling Indians in front of Williams momentarily thinned. Summoning his waning strength into a super-human effort galvanized by desperation, he quickly darted through the opening and, seeing a dense growth of trees in the distance, ran madly toward it.

About 25 Indians followed in instant pursuit, the remaining strong milling around near the shore where, apparently, other members of the whites still were fighting. A whining flight of arrows was launched at the fleeing man, followed by another. Suddenly all the Indians but two veered away, attracted to a white man seen crawling away through the grass. These two Indians speeded after Williams, one at each side of him and some 15 feet distant, reaching and firing arrows as they ran. One carried a gun as well in his bow hand, which evidently he had secured from one of Williams' fallen companions.

Gun Misfires

Williams stumbled on the uneven ground and before he could rise the Indian with the gun ran to him and, placing the muzzle against his breast, pulled the trigger. The gun misfired and instantly Williams struck him down. The second Indian, seeing Williams' fall, also had rushed in. Grasping the first Indian's gun, Williams hastily thrust it against the Indian's heart and in his turn pulled the trigger—and this time the charge fired. Leaping forward wildly once again, Williams made the line of brush and trees and, glancing behind him, saw no signs of further pursuit. (The Indians were busy with the other white men, six of whom they killed and mutilated. Only two, T. Vault and one other, escaped early in the fight, in a canoe. And, of course, Hedden, whom I am about to bring into the story.)

Williams was in sorry plight. He could stand only with difficulty. One arrow had entered his body, from his back, passed through his stomach and lodged there; this no pulled at until the shaft broke free, his body retaining the arrowhead and a remaining piece of the shaft; another arrow had struck a rib, breaking it and tearing a ghastly gash in his side; a third had opened his scalp to the bone; a fourth dangled through a shoulder while each arm was transfixed. His body, from crown to feet, was a bloodied mass of flesh pounded almost to pulp, with a cross-cross of slashing knife wounds.

COWBOY BREAKFAST

CORVALLIS — The Benton County Sheriff's posse will serve a "cowboy" breakfast to early arrivals at the annual Mary's Peak trek Sunday. The trek is sponsored by the Shrine clubs of Benton, Lincoln, Linn and Polk counties, with proceeds donated to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Portland. Mary's Peak is 27 miles west of here.

LICENSES 3297

SALEM — The state labor bureau has licensed 3,297 persons to work in the electrical trade started July 1.

That is a slight increase over a year ago, although 8 per cent of last year's licensees haven't applied for renewals yet.



L. L. WILLIAMS
... sturdy stock

Voice Heard

Standing there, becoming frighteningly aware of his condition and suddenly realizing his utter loneliness from companionship, he was

electrified to hear a voice calling softly to him. "Williams, Williams! Are you there?" It was that of Cyrus Hedden who, at the initial attack, had been completely disabled but, miraculously, had escaped the Indians' attention and had run speedily to the sheltering timber where, helpless to aid, he had watched in wonder Williams' spectacular struggle and eventual escape.

The rest of the story, while filled to overflowing with overtones of Williams' excruciating agony, sleepless nights, the horror of starvation waited only by means of a nauseating diet of snails, is, after Williams' heroic battle with the Indians, anti-climax. After seven days of crawling torture when Williams was never very far from death, saved only by the truly Herculean efforts and devoted care of Cy Hedden, the two finally reached the mouth of the Umpqua River, a white settlement there and received what medical attention a new frontier community, sans doctor, could give them.

Recovers Health

That Williams survived is a miracle. He was bed-ridden much of the time for seven years, cared for by friends in Gardiner and by the

Heddens and others at Scottsburg. Finally the arrowhead worked its way out of his body, followed a few months later by the remaining piece of arrow shaft. He then rapidly recovered normal health.

Later, Williams twice became treasurer and twice clerk of Umpqua County, from which giant political division Douglas now forms a part. Then, in Roseburg, he became county clerk of Douglas County three times by election and twice by appointment. Shrewd in the handling of his personal affairs as well as those of the county which he served, he became a wealthy man. He died April 22, 1880, at the age of 50 years. His body lies in the IOOF cemetery here.

Cyrus Hedden established a store in Scottsburg after his harrowing rescue of Williams, as has been told in a sketch of Scottsburg appearing in The News-Review, July 25. His granddaughter, Emma Hedden, still conducts the business there which he started.

The material furnishing the foundation for this story was gleaned from old newspaper clippings in her possession, mostly taken from the Coast Mail, an early day but long-defunct weekly newspaper published in Marshfield.



MENTAL HEALTH INTERESTS got together in Roseburg recently to discuss a possible mental health clinic. From left they are: Dr. John Waterman, director of the mental health section of the State Department of Health; Mrs. Waterman, psychiatric social work consultant for the department; Dr. Mary Soules, Douglas County health officer; Marjorie Young, mental health nurse consultant for the state department; and Marlen Yoder of Glendale, chairman of the Douglas County Mental Health Advisory Committee.

County Group On Mental Health To Seek Speakers

By MRS. G. B. FOX

The Douglas County Mental Health Advisory Committee has decided to request health, welfare and judicial agencies of the county to furnish panels for discussions for subsequent meetings to determine what the agencies are doing in the area of mental health.

The decision was made at the last meeting of the new advisory agency after hearing a report from Dr. John Waterman, Salem, director of the mental health section of the State Department of Health.

Members voted to request the panels for the monthly meetings of the committee so that a program could be better evaluated and planned.

Discusses Clinics
Waterman discussed mental health clinic work now being carried out in five counties of the state where pilot programs were launched earlier. He emphasized the need for a mental health guidance clinic in Douglas County. He said the work of such a clinic can be carried out more economically in cooperation with health, welfare and school agencies.

He said correlation of the work of the agencies can allow an "effective program" without a prohibitive cost. He pointed out that a psychiatric consultant and a psychologist from the state department could be employed for two days each month. It was also pointed out that existing agencies in the county could furnish part time help which would channel youngsters with mental problems. This help could also do the follow-up work necessary for the greatest effectiveness, he said.

Outlines Functions
Waterman also outlined what he considered the immediate functions of the advisory committee: (1) To furnish information on work being carried on and (2) to interpret needs of the communities to the professional workers.

He advised that the clinic not attempt the remedial side of child guidance because it is presently too time consuming and expensive. He said it should be devoted to preventive guidance.

He estimated the cost of the latter with part-time professional help and correlation of existing agencies would be \$12,000 per year.

Dr. Waterman related, however, that some of this cost might be taken up in budgets of health, school and welfare agencies. In addition, he said, the state could furnish, from federal funds allocated for that purpose, 50 per cent of the budget in cash or services for the first year. The following year, the federal assistance would drop to 45 per cent. It would continue to decrease until the sixth year when the state would furnish a regular part of the budget amounting to from 17 to 20 per cent of the budget.

Participating in the discussion also were Dr. Waterman's wife, psychiatric social consultant and Marjorie Young, mental health nurse consultant, both of the state department.

Sugarless Berry Preserving Plan

CORVALLIS — A new and more economical method of packing fruits for use in commercial jams and preserves has been developed by food technologists at Oregon State College.

Tests with sugarless frozen fruit have shown that little or no sugar is required to preserve strawberries, peaches and cherries frozen for commercial use. Usual method of packing fruits commercially is to mix fruit and sugar in the ratio of four pounds of berries with one pound of sugar, freeze the mixture and then send it to Eastern processors. New technologists concluded the new freezing method would save packer space by eliminating sugar storage and processors could ship more fruit for their money.

The research also indicated that whole berries, frozen with little or no sugar, hold their shape better than berries frozen with too much sugar.

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Communists Telling People To Beware American Spies; Hint At Internal Strife

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

Throughout the Communist orbit, people are being told to beware of American spies.

Such concerted campaigns often have foreshadowed internal convulsions. This one may mean the loose ends of the latest Kremlin purge have not been tucked into place, and more jolts are due.

The Soviet press and radio lead the chorus. Soviet propaganda organs have been telling the public regularly that American agents are trying to get political, economic and military information from "talkative people."

In Indochina, the Communists in North Viet Nam gave big publicity to the arrest of a group of alleged saboteurs in the American service.

In Czechoslovakia, several groups accused of being spies for the Americans have been arrested with attendant publicity. The Czechoslovak Communists have a mobile exhibit supposedly illustrating the activities and equipment of foreign spies.

East Germany has announced the arrest and trials of persons plotting sabotage against the Communist regime and of students accused of spying for U.S. intelligence.

Hungary, with a wave of arrests linked to last fall's revolution, claims to have uncovered 40 groups working as agents for Western powers.

Poland has arrested a German on charges of being an agent of the U.S. Intelligence Service, seeking information on Poland's defenses.

Bulgaria has lodged spy charges coincident with a purge in its armed forces, and Albania frequently announced the discovery of spy nests.

In Red China, a Shantung court imprisoned a group accused of seeking economic, political and military information for the United States. The Red Chinese made a display of pistols, signal apparatus and forged documents.

The Soviet campaign, warns of "agents in the guise of diplomats."

Statements like these are significant. The major ferment inside the U.S.S.R. is among young people and intellectuals. No doubt the Soviet Union is alive with rumors of what will happen next in the wake of Khrushchev's purge in the Kremlin and in view of growing unrest in Communist countries.

Similar spy charges preceded purges in Stalin's day. After Stalin,

Later his wife, Evelyn, 27, was charged with addiction.

a massive vigilance campaign foreshadowed the purge of police boss Beria. In November, 1954, a campaign began against "loud-mouths," extending through January, 1955, a week or two before Georgi Malenkov was toppled as premier. Another such drive preceded the 20th Party congress at which Khrushchev denounced Stalin's record.

Holmes Opposes Re-appointment Of Kuykendall

SALEM — Gov. Holmes Tuesday opposed the re-appointment of Jerome Kuykendall to the Federal Power Commission as "not in the best interest of all the people of the Northwest."

In a telegram to Sen. Magnuson (D-Wash.), Gov. Holmes said: "His past position with respect to the granting of the fast tax writoff to the Idaho Power Co. plus his bitter opposition to Heils Canyon in spite of his own examiner's report favoring the building of this multipurpose dam in my opinion disqualifies him for this important post."

"In the interest of full comprehensive development of the Columbia River, I feel that it is not in the best interest of all the people of the Northwest to have him in this post."

Kuykendall was re-appointed by President Eisenhower, and the appointment now is up for Senate confirmation. Magnuson is chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Magnuson and Oregon's two senators, Morse and Neuberger, oppose the re-appointment.

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NARCOTICS CHARGE

PORTLAND — Police arrested Yee Gay Lee, 46, Portland, Tuesday and accused him of illegal possession of narcotics. Patrolman Noel Eck said 12 bundles of heroin valued at \$500 were seized.

Later his wife, Evelyn, 27, was charged with addiction.

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