

'OREGON ROAD' HISTORY GIVEN

R. C. Johnson's Narrative in the Oregon Journal Describes the Journey of Early Travelers.

Editor's Note.—The following article, one of a series published by the Oregon Journal, is of especial interest to local people and for that reason the Evening Observer is reprinting it. R. C. Johnson, the writer, is well known in this portion of the state and is exceedingly well versed in the history of the section whereof he writes. Anything that Mr. Johnson prepares is invariably worth while. Mr. Johnson entitles his narrative the "Road to Oregon."

Hunt Party Finally Arrives at Astoria After Much Suffering.
The situation of the main body of the expedition, composed mostly of voyagers, under Hunt at Calderon Inn was a desperate one. In three days Crooks returned and reported that he could not secure assistance on account of the stormy weather. Two men who had left Reed down the river also came back.
One thousand miles from its destination the party had no means of traveling other than on foot. Hereafter the journey had been comparatively pleasant

through the timber and beautiful meadows. Food, including berries, buffalo, elk, and other wild game had been plentiful. Ahead lay a desert country in which there was no game and but little water. The small food supply would soon be exhausted.
Henceforth the chief article of diet was to be either dried salmon or horse or dog meat, obtained from Indians met at rare and irregular intervals. To remain at Calderon Inn was to perish from hunger. It was now in the month of November and winter was on. Hunt and Crooks cached what supplies could not be carried and divided the party into two divisions of 18 persons each, Dorion and family accompanying Hunt.
The walk toward the Columbia river over the route which was to become the Road to Oregon was begun November 9, each man carrying in his pack 25 pounds of rye in addition to his personal effects. Hunt went along the north bank of the river, Crooks along the south bank. All suffered from thirst as it was impossible to get down the high lava bluffs to the river.
At a point near where the well known landmark, Cinder Cone, or Kuna Butte, came into view, Hunt left the river and followed an Indian trail across the waterless bench lands to the Boise valley reaching the Boise river a short distance below the site of the city of Boise. Fortunately the party had met a few Indians from whom he had been obtained occasionally a horse or a dog, or dried salmon to sustain life. Following the Boise river to its junction with the Snake, Hunt kept on the right bank of the Snake crossing the Payette and Weiser rivers near the sites of the existing towns of those

names. He and his party entered the canyon below Weiser 18 days after leaving Calderon Inn. Walking became difficult but the party pressed on through eight winter days, probably reaching the boundary line of Idaho and Washington.
Traveling Found Difficult.
The party under Crooks had a similar experience on the south bank of the Snake, traveling by Twin Falls and entering Oregon near Homedale. They passed by the sites of Vale and Ontario and descended into the canyon a short distance beyond Homestead. They, too, were unable to go on and like the Hunt party on the opposite side of the canyon retraced their steps. Both parties were suffering from hunger and exposure.
While slowly making his way up river December 6, Hunt saw men on the opposite bank. They were Crooks and his party, worn out and emaciated. Crooks was ill and Le Clerc was too weak to walk. Hunt killed a horse and with its skin made a rude ferry which was sent across the river to Crooks with meat. Before the improvised ferry could be used a second time to bring Crooks and Le Clerc to the right hand shore it was lost in the current of the river. Both parties then continued up the river on either side to a point near the mouth of the Weiser.
Here Hunt made another boat out of a horse's skin in which he and his party crossed over, joining Crooks and his companions. At an Indian camp a guide and five horses were secured. One of the horses was allotted to the Dorion family.
First Child Is Born.
The reunited expedition set out, with the exception of Crooks who was ill and John Day who had re-

mained with four Canadians to care for Crooks, passed the site of Huntington and entered Burnt river canyon through which was made a tedious headway, crossing and recrossing the icy stream in rain and snow. The food ration had dwindled to one meal per day. Near North Powder the wife of Dorion grew ill. Dorion insisted that the party should not halt and remained behind to care for his wife who on December 23 gave birth to a child, the first child with white blood to be born on the road to Oregon.
Hunt and party followed the North Powder river to where it enters the canyon above Thiel valley where La Pointe, one of the eight men of the expedition to become permanent residents of Oregon gave out. He was placed on a horse, Hunt taking his pack. As the party reached the Grande Ronde valley through Tolocasset canyon the winter sun shown on a number of Indian tents where a hospitable reception awaited. That night there was a banquet of roast dog, roast horse and camas root.
The following morning Dorion came into camp leading his scrawny horse on which rode his wife and children and new born babe. As the party crossed the summit of the Blue mountains January 7, the Dorion infant died. Going down Thorn hollow, Hunt and his party reached the Umatilla river where Carriere, a Canadian, wandered away and was lost. The party followed the Umatilla past Pendleton and then crossed the rolling hills to the Columbia river between Umatilla and Wallula.
Columbia Is Crossed.
Crossing the Columbia the Hunt party walked along the north bank to Wishram, the important trading post of the native tribes, where the Indians of the coast met and bartered with those of the mountains. At Wishram, a few miles above The Dalles, Hunt procured canoe and floated down the river to Astoria, where arrival was made February 15, 1812, nearly one month after McKenzie and McLellan had arrived.
Crooks and Day who had been left to recuperate on the bank of the Snake river with four Canadians started in January to follow the tracks of the Hunt party through the snow. In Powder River valley three of the Canadians turned back as provisions were growing scarce. Crooks, Day and Dubreuil, the remaining Canadian, went on to the Grande Ronde valley where Dubreuil gave out and was left with the Indians. Crooks and Day crossed the Blue mountains and followed the Umatilla river to its mouth where they were cared for by Chief Yeekatum of the Umatillas.
Resuming their journey, they continued down the south bank of the Columbia to the mouth of the John Day river where they were seized and robbed of their clothes by Indians. Naked and suffering severely from exposure they made their way back to the hospitable camp of Yeekatum where they were found and taken to Astoria, arriving there May 11, 1812, having been on the road over one year.

FARTHEST NORTH SCHOOL LAUDED BY F. A. ALDRICH
KETCHIKAN, Alaska, (AP)—The Alaska Agricultural college and School of Mines at Fairbanks is an institution "in which every Alaskan may take pride, not only for the reason that it is the farthest north institution of higher learning in the world, but because it is doing a work that is in itself, of vast benefit to the territory," declared Territorial Senator Frank A. Aldrich after a visit to the school.
"The spirit of the institution's president, Charles E. Bunnell, who frequently puts in 16-hour days to get the college functioning properly, permeates the entire faculty and is to be found prevalent among the student body," said Senator Aldrich. "The deepest desire expressed by President Bunnell was the wish that students from every high school in the territory might enroll in the college, instead of seeking similar institutions in the States. There are 53 students enrolled."
The building for the mining department was completed last fall. It is well equipped and the course of instruction includes actual mining operations on the college grounds. A mill has been provided to treat the ore and make chemical assays.
Honey Output Much Increased.
By Electrically Heated Apiary.
GLOUCESTER, Eng. (AP)—Electricity has assisted bees in producing an increased output of honey, according to an announcement of the Gloucestershire chamber of agriculture.
A number of beehives were erected in an apiary both lighted and heated by electricity during the winter months, with the result that strong broods of bees started to collect honey much earlier than usual and so obtained supplies from the early blossoms of fruit trees. The output of each hive was thus greatly increased.
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KERR OATS, Per Package.....	.25

Nigerian Natives Are Happy Under British
LONDON, (AP)—An example of the benefits of rule by a larger power over an indigent people is found in the case of the British domination in Nigeria, says Sir Hugh Clifford, the Nigerian governor, who is in England on leave.
The natives of Nigeria, for the most part are peaceful and contented and living on a scale of life they have never known before, Sir Hugh says. The British rule has destroyed the slave trade and stopped tribal warfare, with the result that the people are expending their energies in other and more beneficial directions. They have become good farmers or industrial workmen and are capable of operating farms without governmental supervision.
The most noticeable effect of British rule, however, has been in the commerce of the colony. The exports now average nearly \$50,000,000 annually, which is ten times the estimated value for 1912. The British government has built thousands of houses in the colony, introduced sanitation, taught the natives handicraft and made them into an industrious and progressive people.

CHILD, 4, SWALLOWS COIN
MARSHFIELD, Ore.—Agnie Scott, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Scott of North Bend, played with a shiny and palatable nickel and swallowed it. The child at the Ketchikan hospital was X-rayed, the coin located and extracted.
The child was no worse for the experience, except a soreness in the esophagus.

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