

JACKSONVILLE POST

Official Paper of the City of Jacksonville Oregon

A weekly newspaper published every Saturday at the county seat of Jackson County, Oregon.

Tom Fulton, Editor.

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"A wise man sometimes changes his opinion; the fool never." The same can be said of newspapers, and, as is shown by the accompanying "deadly parallel," the Medford Mail-Tribune is not averse to changing its opinion upon occasion. Having thus qualified as a "wise one," it is up to the Tribune to condemn as egregious folly the plan of erecting a new court house at a time when the cost of building material and labor is from three hundred to four hundred per cent above normal. Note how beautifully the two following paragraphs fail to agree:

There is no bond issue involved. There is no immediate expenditure of a penny involved. The petition merely calls for an election to allow the people of the county to vote on whether they want the county seat to remain at Jacksonville or to be moved to Medford.—Medford Mail-Tribune, of September 23rd.

The securing of a building site (for a court house) and temporary quarters will require money. There is force to the argument that this expense should be borne by the county, but it is an argument which, under the circumstances, can't be expected to get very far.—Medford Mail-Tribune of October 7th.

In the editorial of October 7th the writer continues: "Medford must arrange the financing, on an equitable basis, and Medford must bear the major portion of the obligation." The editorial quoted is proof in itself that there is no popular demand for the removal of the county seat. When the petition to place the measure on the ballot was being circulated and there was a shortage in the requisite number of signatures to be made up at a stated time, the glad news was circulated that there was no present expenditure of money involved; that the petition merely called for an election to have the question of county seat removal voted on. The taxpayers are now told that, while the removal of the court house will cost money, "Medford must bear the major portion of the obligation" if the measure carries. Any movement that requires such constant nursing and bolstering up by its promoters cannot correctly be called a demand made by the taxpayers as a whole. And it is more than possible that even Medford property owners will view with disfavor the proposition to saddle upon themselves the bulk of the expense of providing temporary quarters for county offices.

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Pioneers Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

Most of you are familiar with the story of the discovery of gold in the Rogue River valley, but for the benefit of the younger generation I will tell the story to you as it was told to me by the pioneer banker, C. C. Beckman, shortly before his death.

Two men, Cluggage and Pool by name, had equipped a pack train at the mining town of Yreka, California, and carried supplies between that place and Salem, Oregon. It was their custom when in this valley to stop to rest and recuperate their animals. Cluggage had had some experience in mining, and one day when they were in camp in the valley about where Medford now is, came up into these foothills. He followed up a narrow gulch or ravine until he came to a place where the heavy rains had washed the soil entirely away leaving a ledge of rock exposed. Taking his bowie knife from his belt he dug around in the rocks and sand and found nuggets of gold. He hurried back to camp and told Pool of his discovery, and together they came back and staked out their claims. They then went back to Yreka and bought mining and camp outfits and came back to work their claims. They said nothing of their discovery, but in some way it became known, and in two months from the time Cluggage found the nuggets here in the ravine a thousand men were on the spot. Fortunes were taken out that winter and in the spring and summer of 1852 many who had families in the east and elsewhere went back and brought them to Jacksonville. This was the beginning of the settlement in the Rogue River valley. Ashland was founded in 1852 by Able O. Helman and Charles Hargadine.

Jacksonville, besides being the first town founded in the valley, was at one time the richest and most flourishing. Jackson County in 1855 was the richest and most populous county in Oregon.

The Indians had given much trouble. October 9th 1855 has been called the most eventful day in the history of the Rogue River valley, for on that day nearly twenty people were murdered by the Indians and their homes burned. Stockades were built at various places in the valley for the protection of the settlers, and in 1853-54 Fort Lane was built and occupied by troops of the regular army for three years. It was named for General Joseph Lane, the first territorial governor of Oregon. The site is on a hill west of the old building at Tolo and south of Gold Ray dam. When I was there about four years ago the foundations of the buildings could easily be traced, and there were piles of rock where the chimneys had been.

I will tell you an incident in connection with old Fort Lane, which I think rather interesting:

Some time ago, while looking up data in regard to Fort Lane, I found the names of three officers, who had been ordered direct from West Point to Fort Lane, young second lieutenants. They were Switzer, Augur and Kautz. I happened to know that these men made fine records in the Army and had all eventually become Brigadier Generals. My second station in the Army was Fort Walla Walla, Washington. When we went there the officer commanding my husband's regiment, the Second United States Cavalry, was Colonel Switzer, the same Switzer who as a young second lieutenant had been stationed at Fort Lane, and who had begun his active Army service fighting Indians in the Rogue River Valley.

The officer in command of C Troop, Second United States Cavalry, was Captain Colon Augur, a son of the Augur who had been stationed at Fort Lane so long ago, and when I sailed on my second voyage to the Philippine Islands I went over in the company of the widow of General Kautz, he who had begun his career at Fort Lane.

The first newspaper printed in southern Oregon was called "The Table Rock Sentinel", printed in 1855. The editor was G. W. T. Vault.

The first school in the valley was taught by Mrs. Jane McCully in Jacksonville.

The first flouring mill in the valley was built in Ashland in 1854.

The first apples grown in the valley were Gloria Mundis, grown on the Skinner place on Bear Creek, and sold to a wealthy miner of Gold Hill for \$2.50 each.

The first photographer in Southern Oregon was Peter Britt, and the first photograph of our great scenic wonder, Crater Lake, was made by Mr. Britt in 1874.

Medford was founded in 1855. The stream which runs through Medford, which we know as Bear Creek, was named originally Stewart river, from Captain Stewart, an officer of the army, who was killed in a fight with the Indians on the bank of the stream on the 17th of June, 1851. The stream should still be Stewart river.

An effort has been made to change the name of Mt. Pitt to Mt. McLoughlin. Mt. Pitt was not named for the Pitt River Indians as some suppose, but for Sir William Pitt, that grand man who stood the staunch friend of the American colonies, just as John Mc-

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Weather Report

Following is the report of U. S. Volunteer Cooperative Observer E. Britt; Jacksonville, for month of August. Latitude 42 deg. 18. min. north; longitude 123 deg. 5 min. west.

Date	maximum	Minimum	Precip.
1	94	54	T.
2	89	58	
3	91	52	10.
4	94	54	
5	88	79	
6	90	56	
7	99	58	
8	93	44	.25
9	91	56	
10	93	55	
11	99	58	
12	99	59	
13	105	60	.01
14	104	65	.20
15	101	62	
16	96	62	
17	81	49	
18	83	43	
19	93	44	
20	95	51	
21	95	55	
22	94	60	
23	95	58	
24	86	58	
25	76	58	
26	79	42	
27	72	45	
28	72	46	
29	75	56	
30	86	43	
31	95	45	

Temperature—mean max. 91.3; mean min. 54.3; mean 72.8; Max 105 on 13. minimum 42 on 26. Greatest daily range, 45. Total precipitation .44 in. Number of days with .01 inch or more precipitation 3; clear, 24; partly cloudy, 5; cloudy, 2.

E. BRITT, Cooperative Observer