

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Thursday, June 26

Chance of Rain

High -- 75 Low -- 50

Friday, June 27

Chance of Rain

High -- 74 Low -- 53

Saturday, June 28

Partly Cloudy

High -- 81 Low -- 51

Sunday, June 29

Clear

High -- 86 Low -- 53

Monday, June 30

Warm & Sunny

High -- 90 Low -- 53

Tuesday, June 1

Clear

High -- 88 Low -- 53

Wednesday, June 2

Sunshine

High -- 88 Low -- 52

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson:

June	High	Low
13	72.1	41.5
14	73.8	43.3
15	75.9	43.9
16	70.5	48.7
17	69.4	42.4
18	84.2	40.6
19	84.4	44.1

June Rain: 0.04" YTD Rain: 47.79"

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SATURDAYS AT GRANTS PASS GROWERS MARKET

Winding Trails:

by Al Hobart

Thursday, June 25, 1964 – Illinois Valley News, Cave Junction,

Al Hobart Autobiography: Al Hobart and “Little Toot”, His Faithful Steed

In answer to a rapidly diminishing number of requests, (I think we received one or two) for more information about the “Young Man of the Mountains,” Al Hobart, the Illinois Valley News proudly brings you this refreshing autobiography of our own man from the Winding Trails. While Al states he lives in California (which he does) we think it should be explained that the Illinois Valley, in its rambling layout, accidentally slopped over into our neighboring state a time or two. This is no reflection on Al for settling there, however, he probably didn’t realize where he was, either. And to help explain it further, the only way out of Packer’s Gulch, barring helicopter or Al’s feet, is through Oregon and the Illinois Valley. He belongs to the Valley, make no mistake about that.

Al Hobart

In 1898, on February 13, an event took place in the little village of Fairchild, Wisconsin, that was to have an important bearing on my entire life, and to play fantastic tricks over the years with the thinking of my friends and relations. On that date I made my first and most important debut. I had arrived.

At the age of seven, having spent my first school year in Fairchild, I moved with my parents and three brothers to Willapa Harbor in the state of Washington. We made our home in the old town of Willapa, and there I spent my early youth and school years, graduating from

high school and into the U.S. Navy at the age of seventeen.

The years following my navy experience were devoted in large part to a mixture of various occupations and mild adventure, the latter always managing to interfere with the former at just the right time to prevent permanent entanglement with profession or homemaking. I celebrated my completion of a three-year course in electrical engineering by traveling around the rim of the United States. On several occasions, when I was young and of possible, if questionable, matrimonial material, I almost made the serious mistake of staying too long in one place. Once I had even bought a marriage license, but luckily, just at the last moment, the moon and Jupiter slipped out of phase, and the deal was off. Outside of that, my life has been relatively smooth and beset with few hazards.

In June 1930 I made a mistake that proved to be the happiest and most important event in my life – I went prospecting up the wrong river! For several years prior to that time I had been working in the meat packing industry in Washington. On our vacation my closest friend and co-worker, John Dingman, and I decided to go down and pan gold in Smith River, where John had been once long before. When we crossed the east fork of the Illinois River, Fate whispered (and John echoed) “This is it, this is Smith River.” So I drove up the wrong river, and here in Illinois Valley, in Packer’s Gulch, just inside California, I found not gold but the place I knew at last was home, and here I happily put down deep and permanent roots.

For a number of years, I worked in the lumber industry here in the Valley as an edger operator, after which, for ten years, I was an inspector at the Redwood

Plant Quarantine Station. Now I am retired and devote almost all my time to wildplant studies. My principal hobbies and greatest joy are studying, hiking and mountain climbing, all of which fit in as important adjuncts to my botany work.

Although my formal education ended with high school, except for occasional intermissions, I have never stopped studying, the acquisition of knowledge of the world we live in having always been of the deepest satisfaction to me. And so the study of wildplant botany came as a natural to me when I found myself settled here among the forested mountains of the botanically rich Siskiyou, the sort of environment that I have always loved above all others.

Always interested in natural history, in the past twelve or fourteen years I have made a determined and intensive effort to catalog the wildplant life of my home region, the Siskiyou Mountains. In that period I have found, identified and written the descriptions of more than 1,200 wildplants. The healthful exercise and deep satisfaction involved in this occupation to me is incalculable. One of the greatest thrills I have known was being given official recognition for having first discovered two new plants for California, the little water club rush (*Scirpus subterminalis*) and the snow dwarf bramble (*Rubus nivalis*). My greatest ambition is, of course, to find one new to Science.

More than once I have been told that if I fell into a swill-barrel, I’d come out smelling like a rose; and when I think of the strange quirk of chance that led me to mistake one river for another, and the many happy and profitable years that have followed that lucky mischance, I can’t help but agree.

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For more information-

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