

Alonzo P. Turner’s record of activity in the Oregon Gold Rush:

by Greg Walter

Part 3 of 7
Turner Ranch, Feb 27, 1853

I had the pleasure of meeting my old friend Nelson Brobant from Beaver Dam [Wisconsin]. He has taken a claim within a mile of Winchester on the North fork of the Umpqua River. I stopped with him 4 days. He said he is going back to (Wis.) for a wiffe. I then left his place, went to Table Rock on Rogues River. Here I wrote you & sent 50\$ more in specimens of gold which I took out of my first mining claim; however I only took out 300\$ when the claim failed. Then I started over to Jacksonville prospecting. I hunted for another claim about . Unfortunately I found nothing. My 250\$ nearly spent I concluded to start for new diggings. A party

of us numbering 3 started into the mountains westwards towards the coast. We climbed mountains almost to the heavens & descended, crossed streams till we struck what is called the fork of the Illinois River. Then we came to a halt to digging. We went coyotelike. Found gold all through this section of the country. We prospected for 2 weeks faithfully to find the richest diggings. Finally we settled ourselves each upon a gulch (deep ravine with a stream running through it) apiece separate. And a part we went to throwing up dirt for washing. When the rainy season set in the dirt which I threw up paid from 3c to 25c from the top dirt to the bed rock which dirt was from 2 to 3 feet deep. I threw up 200 yds of dirt for washing. About this time the people began to flock

in by hundreds almost and took up claims wherever they could raise the gold regardless of water. Pretty soon we found ourselves short of provisions. What to do we did not know. We had gotta do something, that was very evident. Our little party had invested every dollar in provisions when we started from. I which was but 2 mules a peace one to ride and carry our blankets the other our flour and bacon, sugar, coffee, salt, saleratus [bicarbonate of soda], cream of tartar amounting in all to each animal 2001b. We ran out of meat. We had about 50 of flour. Next morning we packed our animals. It had snowed all night and still snowed like the devil. We started down the Illinois River. We made 4 miles. We brought up to cap [set up camp] in a beautiful little grove of

sugar pine on the banks of a silver stream with a little beautiful round Prairie spread before us of about 360 acres. I spoke to my pardner. Do you see what a beautiful farm I have here? Yes said he. It has a nice white carpet spread over it. Snow about 2 feet deep. However, we unpacked our animals, stuck up our tent. My pardner was to build a fire and bake a pancake. I took my gun and started for some meet. I went about 200 yds and fell in with a band of deer of some 15. I stood & shot 4 down and it did not step out of my track. That was making meet enough for us about 4 weeks. The next morning we brought it all in and hung it up to dry. The next morning I took my ax and went to chopping some house logs. Pardner asked me what I was a doing. I told him I was a going to

build me a house. He was surprised very much. He wanted to know if I had ever seen the place before & without snow. I told him I had & the grass was 8 inches high under snow, green as if in the month of June. The snow lay on about a week. The rain began to fall and continued to fall for 3 weeks. Every stream was so high that it was impossible to move. I got my house logs cut however. (I got up to get dinner. I was obliged to churn. We had pancakes made of sour milk. Light and nice. Tell Ann I beat her making Butter & Cakes. Lord how I wish you was here to enjoy it with me.) As soon as the water was low enough I got another hand and put it up. A good log house 14 by 20 inside all inside with upstairs.

Trump’s newsprint tariffs hasten local newspapers’ demise

By Catie Edmondson and Jaclyn Peiser

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration’s decision to impose tariffs on Canadian newsprint is hastening the demise of local news-

papers across the country, forcing already-struggling publications to cut staff, reduce the number of days they print and, in at least one case, shutter entirely. Surging newsprint costs are beginning to hurt publications like *The Gazette* in Janesville,

Wis., the hometown paper of the House speaker, Paul D. Ryan, which has long felt a mandate to punch above its weight. The paper, with a newsroom staff of 22, was the first to publish the news in 2016 that Mr. Ryan would support the presidential can-

didacy of Donald J. Trump. And while its editorial board has endorsed Mr. Ryan countless times, the paper made national news when it chided him for refusing to hold town halls with his constituents. Now, with newsprint tariffs increasing annual printing costs by \$740,000, *The Gazette* has made several cuts to its staff and is using narrower paper, reducing the number of stories published every day. “We’re all paying a huge price,” Skip Bliss, the publisher of *The Gazette*, said of the tariffs’ effect on the industry. “I fear it’s going to be a very difficult time. I think there’s probably going to be some casualties.” The newsprint tariffs are just one of several trade measures President Trump has rolled out as part of his administration’s effort to protect American manufacturers by stopping what he calls unfair trade practices. Tariffs were implemented in January, after the Commerce Department sided with North Pacific Paper Company, a paper mill based in Washington State, in a complaint alleging that Canadian manufacturers were selling newsprint at artificially low prices. Last week, publishers won a small reprieve when the department issued final tariffs of 3.38 to 16.88 percent, slightly lower than what it had initially imposed.

Even if the tariffs seem to align with Mr. Trump’s well-known disdain for the news media, the administration’s ruling in favor of the company that filed the complaint was not unusual as the president carries out his trade fight. The administration has encouraged companies to bring cases when they have complaints against foreign parties, and the “countervailing duty” process under which North Pacific Paper’s case was initiated is set up to defend American companies against foreign competitors. As of mid-July, companies had brought 120 new antidumping and countervailing duty investigations under the Trump administration — about a third more than in a similar time frame at the end of the Obama administration, according to Commerce Department statistics. As with Mr. Trump’s other tariffs on steel, aluminum, solar panels and washing machines, the newsprint duties will help some American manufacturers but hurt many other domestic companies. A study undertaken on behalf of a coalition of printers, publishers and paper suppliers projects that American newsprint prices will increase more than 30 percent in the next one to two years, and that newspapers and printers will face an increased cost of roughly

half a billion dollars from the remaining five American mills producing newsprint. The study was filed with the United States International Trade Commission, an independent federal agency that governs trade and could ultimately overturn or change the Commerce Department’s decision in a ruling expected next month. Papers throughout the country are already feeling the effects of the tariffs. At least a dozen newspapers across the country have cut publication days, and one newspaper, *The Jackson County Times-Journal* in Ohio, shut down, citing declining print readership and the tariffs. Larger publications, like *The Tampa Bay Times*, which won two Pulitzer Prizes in 2016 for local and investigative reporting, are also on the list of affected papers. Paul Tash, the chairman and chief executive of *The Tampa Bay Times*, said the price per ton of paper had increased \$200, creating an additional \$3.5 million in printing expenses annually. Mr. Tash said that as a direct result of the tariffs, he had to lay off 50 employees, combine sections in the Sunday paper and reduce the frequency of a free tabloid from five days to once a week. “Anything that contributes to the pressure on this paper has to be a concern,” Mr. Tash said. But he asserted that the paper had not lost its mission of producing quality journalism. “We’re still doing great work. We’re still doing great stories. We’re still holding people to account. I don’t want to leave the impression that all that’s left are crossword puzzles.” In some rural towns, the local weekly newspaper serves as the area’s only media outlet, said Crystal Dupre, the publisher of *The Bryan-College Station Eagle* in Bryan, Tex. “There is no question that without a local newspaper, no one is holding officials accountable and serving as the local archives,” Ms. Dupre said. In response to printing cost increases of 30 percent, she said, *The Eagle* has reduced the number of pages it prints daily, and avoided filling vacant positions in “every single department,” from editorial to accounting. Ms. Dupre said she has tried to avoid cutting reporting positions, instead asking other departments to take on more work. “The readers suffer when you cut a reporter position. It’s probably the easiest place to cut because you just run an A.P. story,” she said. “But it affects your local content. We won’t survive if we don’t have local content.” At *The Blackshear Times*, a paper in rural South Georgia, the tariffs have prompted a

hiring freeze, and about 25 percent of its open positions remain unfilled. The paper serves a community of about 19,000 people with a weekly print circulation of about 3,700 and a total readership of 7,000. “The team is working harder for less money,” said Robert M. Williams Jr., the publisher and co-owner of *The Blackshear Times* and several other Georgia papers. “And not many people are happy about it.” The paper has seen a stark rise in printing costs of 20 to 25 percent — a “whopping increase particularly for a small business that is already trying to combat decreased revenues and increased costs,” Mr. Williams said. The paper has also cut down its page count — something readers have noticed and complained about. The circulation numbers have remained steady over the past several years — an anomaly given the sweeping national trend of falling circulations. On average, Mr. Williams said, only about a dozen subscribers sign into the website weekly to read the news online. “In rural communities, print newspapers are still very important,” Mr. Williams said.

Blackshear is in what Mr. Williams called a “news desert,” where there is no local news station and the closest big city is Jacksonville, Fla. Residents rely on the paper to stay informed on Georgia politics and connected with their community, Mr. Williams said. “There are no alternatives for *The Blackshear Times* in Blackshear, Ga.” Newspaper publishers are optimistic that congressional pressure could ease the tariffs. Legislation introduced in May by Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, would suspend the tariffs while Wilbur Ross, the commerce secretary, conducts a study of their effects on the industry. It has 31 bipartisan co-sponsors, and Representative Kristi Noem, Republican of South Dakota, introduced a companion bill in the House. Mr. Ryan has expressed his concerns about the tariffs to Mr. Ross, his office said on Wednesday. Mr. Bliss said relief from the tariffs is crucial to ensuring the survival of small, local newspapers. “When they’re gone, they’re gone. They’re not coming back,” he said. “That means those communities — everything we do to hold governments and schools and law enforcement in check — there’s not going to be anyone to do that.” Catie Edmondson reported from Washington, and Jaclyn Peiser from New York.

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