

TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO ON FIDDLE CREEK

1891

Perhaps a comparison of Fiddle creek twenty-two years ago and Fiddle creek now might be interesting reading to some of the readers of the Pilot, and it certainly tells the story of improvement and advance which has been going on in many of the isolated communities along this strip of coast country.

Twenty-two years ago last fall one evening just before dark we entered the mouth of Fiddle creek from Tsiltcoos lake in a row boat. This was my first sight of the creek. I spent five weeks hunting and fishing along the creek and on the lake, and a royal time of it we boys had to. Ducks were so plentiful that our greatest trouble was to find people enough to eat our kill. We caught what fish we could use or give away then had to stop fishing as we did not wish to waste the speckled beauties. Bear and deer were every where and elk meat was not at all uncommon as part of the bill-of-fare among the settlers. The bottom land was covered with a dense jungle of vine maple, crabapple, willow alder, salmon brush etc, so dense that a man had hard work to force his way through it.

Numerous broad leaved Oregon Maple towered above the dense underbrush. There were no roads except game trails, and the tracks of bear and cougar were far more common than those of human beings. The settlement contained about a baker's dozen of hardy enterprising people such as you always find on the frontier. Two families and a few bachelors all sanguine of the great future of this country. I did not see a rod of wagon road after leaving Mapleton. The settlers got their supplies to the creek by packing them on their backs to Clear lake, across the lake by boat, then another carry across the portage to Tsiltcoos lake and on home by boat. It took all day and part of the night to make a trip to the Bay.

The houses were built of shakes and roofed with clapboards a puncheon floor and the windows glazed with flour sacks, not a stick of sawed lumber in sight. Less than an acre of cleared land surrounded each cabin then brush and jungle for miles in every direction. There was not a horse on the creek and only a few cattle and with acres of wild parsnip and larkspur on every hand I do not think they could have taken out a life insurance policy.

Truly there was much to discourage the early settlers, even their dogs died from eating salmon and bruin carried off their hogs.

This part of my story is dedicated to Uncle Jasper Gibson under whose hospitable roof I spent those days in 1891.

Fiddle creek now has six miles of good wagon road connecting with the road between Glenada and Gardiner at Ada post office, so we can hitch up our teams and drive to either the Umpqua or Siuslaw bay at our pleasure. A branch of the Tsiltcoos telephone extends up the creek so we can sit at home and talk with the people of either bay and the surrounding country.

Nearly all of the bottom land in the valley has been cleared off and is in a good state of cultivation and considerable hill land is being cleared and used as sheep pasture. The

cedar shacks of early days have been replaced by twenty-four comfortable dwellings some of them quite pretentious residences of modern construction with water piped from mountain springs and equipped with gravity water systems, hot and cold water for house use and hydrants in the yards to use in irrigating lawns and gardens. Let me mention right here that there are few if any dwellings in our community but what are so situated that they can pipe the pure mountain water to them with plenty of pressure, to use in house plumbing and the expense would be but slight either. Comfortable barns house our dairy cows and stock.

A saw mill near the mouth of the creek is now busy cutting lumber for further buildings and improvements in the near future. Over one hundred dairy cows furnish their quota of cream to the cooperative creamery at Acme. The cream wagon delivers goods to people along the road every four or five days, so all we have to do is to step to the phone and ask the merchants of the bay to supply our wants.

We have a population of about ninety people. Our territory is divided into two school districts whose valuation as shown by last assessment roll was \$185,000. The lower Fiddle creek district has just completed a new school house at a cost of near thirteen hundred dollars (\$1300). The last enumeration shows thirty-two school children in these two districts.

I will not place a valuation on our bottom land, but will give you a few hints as to what it will produce per acre and leave you to judge of its value.

This land is most of it beaver dam land the soil formed by the sediment settling above the dams built by these industrious little first residents of our valley.

I have seen three or four tons of clover hay per acre put up on land that had been pastured eight months in the year. I have seen thirty tons of kale, ruta bagas or mangel wurtzels grown on an acre. Have sold four dollars (\$4) worth of onions per square rod from my garden. Four hundred bu. of potatoes is no uncommon yield per acre. All root crops and such garden crops as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and celery grow to perfection. Berries of all kind yield immense crops. What fruit we have planted such as apples, pears, prunes etc. are doing well. When, as will be the case within two years we are within a few hours by rail of the Valley and Portland markets. What is our land worth per acre.

The S. P. R. R. crosses the creek where it flows into the lake and when completed will put us in touch with the outside world and place us within a few hours ride of the cities of Oregon. Now isn't it high time that this stream graduated from its humble name (Fiddle creek) and assume the name which rightfully belongs to it, Tsiltcoos river, flowing into Tsiltcoos lake, one of the most beautiful and picturesque little lakes along the Oregon coast.

M. D. SCOTT

MASONIC LODGE IN NEW HOME

The masons of Florence should feel proud of their new home.

The building is 30x60 feet, two stories high. The upper story is devoted entirely to the Masons and Eastern Star. The main hall is 30x50 feet and the floor is covered with a beautiful Brussels carpet furnished by Lowe & Baldwin of Florence. The balance of the space is used for reception and anti rooms, with appropriate lockers for the safe keeping of the jewels and other fixtures of the two societies. It is lighted by electricity of 350 candle power, so arranged that it can be regulated to suit whatever condition arises.

The lower room is 30x60 feet and is now used by Mr. H. L. McKee to display his stock of clothing.

On the front of the building is displayed the compass and square finished in gold leaf, reminding all visiting brethren that they are welcome home.

MINERVA SCHOOLS ARE STANDARDIZED

Minerva, May 3. Our schools are now standardized. This event was celebrated Monday evening, April 28, at which time the following program was rendered:

- Song—America, school.
- Welcome.
- Recitation—Crystal Meadows.
- Recitation—Rube Akerly.
- Song—The glad May morn.
- Recitation—Ralph Peterson.
- Recitation—May Akerly.
- Dialogue—The whipping Johnny did not get.
- Song—Kind words.
- Recitation—Thelma Meadows.
- Recitation—Geneva Akerly.
- Music—Juanita Dick.
- Recitation—Marlin Peterson.
- Recitation—Albert Peterson.
- Dialogue—Bertha as teacher.
- Song—Spring is coming soon.
- Dialogue—Harry's pockels.
- Song—Far away school.
- Recitation—Norman Dick.
- Recitation—Lee Meadows.
- Song—Farmer boy.
- Recitation—Gilbert Houghton.
- Instrumental music—Bessie Akerly.
- Dialogue—Sue's beau to dinner.
- History of District No. 158, its growth and development, L. C. Akerly.
- Remarks—A. Meadows.
- The school closed on Friday, April 25, after a very successful eight months term with Mabel E. Wilson as teacher. This was Miss Wilson's first school on the Siuslaw and she says it has been very pleasant work.

Gene McCormack reports that the milk depot is patronized quite satisfactorily. The bottle system is proving to be a great help in keeping the milk. Some milk that was brought in on Monday of last week was found to be sweet and in good condition the next Friday. This is made possible by the bottles being sterilized, and the milk kept in a refrigerator at the depot at Percy Cox's place of business.

Tide Tables—Corrected to read for the Siuslaw bar—One hour later for Florence

HIGH TIDES				LOW TIDES					
	a.m.	p.m.	Ht.		a.m.	p.m.	Ht.		
Thu., May 1	9:16	6:5	9:52	7.7	Thu., May 1	3:59	2.7	3:53	1.8
Fri., May 2	10:09	6.7	10:24	8.1	Fri., May 2	4:43	2.9	4:35	2.0
Sat., May 3	10:56	6.9	10:54	8.4	Sat., May 3	5:22	3.1	5:18	2.3
Sun., May 4	11:40	7.0	11:23	8.3	Sun., May 4	5:59	3.6	5:47	2.6
Mon., May 5	12:22	7.1	11:59	8.2	Mon., May 5	6:35	4.0	6:19	2.9
Tue., May 6	1:02	6.9	1:04	7.1	Tue., May 6	7:11	4.4	6:50	3.2
Wed., May 7	1:42	6.2	1:49	7.0	Wed., May 7	7:49	4.8	7:24	3.5
Thu., May 8	2:21	5.3	2:25	6.8	Thu., May 8	8:29	5.0	8:01	3.8
Fri., May 9	3:00	4.2	3:06	6.7	Fri., May 9	9:14	4.9	8:47	4.0
Sat., May 10	3:39	3.0	3:42	6.6	Sat., May 10	10:02	4.7	9:34	4.2
Sun., May 11	4:18	1.8	4:22	6.6	Sun., May 11	10:54	4.3	10:26	4.1
Mon., May 12	4:57	0.6	5:02	6.6	Mon., May 12	11:52	0.1	11:52	4.1
Tue., May 13	5:36	0.9	5:42	6.8	Tue., May 13	0:18	3.9	12:53	0.3
Wed., May 14	6:15	1.4	6:23	7.2	Wed., May 14	1:06	3.3	1:54	0.9
Thu., May 15	6:54	2.1	7:04	7.7	Thu., May 15	2:05	2.4	2:50	1.3
Fri., May 16	7:33	2.9	7:45	8.2	Fri., May 16	3:04	1.5	3:44	1.1
Sat., May 17	8:12	3.7	8:26	8.7	Sat., May 17	4:03	0.6	4:33	1.0
Sun., May 18	8:51	4.5	9:07	9.2	Sun., May 18	5:02	0.2	5:29	2.3
Mon., May 19	9:30	5.3	9:48	9.7	Mon., May 19	6:01	0.8	6:03	2.6
Tue., May 20	10:09	6.1	10:29	10.1	Tue., May 20	7:00	1.1	6:46	3.0
Wed., May 21	10:48	6.9	11:10	10.5	Wed., May 21	7:59	1.2	7:30	3.3
Thu., May 22	11:27	7.7	11:51	10.9	Thu., May 22	8:58	1.1	8:16	3.6
Fri., May 23	12:06	8.5	12:32	11.3	Fri., May 23	9:57	0.8	9:05	3.8
Sat., May 24	12:45	9.3	13:13	11.7	Sat., May 24	10:56	0.3	9:59	4.0
Sun., May 25	1:24	10.1	13:54	12.1	Sun., May 25	11:55	0.2	11:01	4.1
Mon., May 26	2:03	10.9	14:35	12.5	Mon., May 26	12:54	0.1	12:00	4.1
Tue., May 27	2:42	11.7	15:16	12.9	Tue., May 27	0:07	4.0	12:17	1.3
Wed., May 28	3:21	12.5	15:57	13.3	Wed., May 28	1:14	3.6	1:04	1.7
Thu., May 29	4:00	13.3	16:38	13.7	Thu., May 29	2:13	3.1	1:52	2.1
Fri., May 30	4:39	14.1	17:19	14.1	Fri., May 30	3:11	2.4	2:40	2.5
Sat., May 31	5:18	14.9	18:00	14.5	Sat., May 31	4:02	1.7	3:28	2.9

BIG CHIEFS WILL ATTEND CARNIVAL

Among the chiefs that the Great Chief Black Hawk has summoned to appear at the grand council to be held in Florence on May 28-29, the following have responded and will be present accompanied by the Princess and other members of the tribe; Black Dog, Grey Eagle, Sleepy Eye, Red Cloud, Drifting Goose, Otter Tail, White Beaver, Big Bear, Minnetonka, Rain in the Face and Shabena. The Princesses are, Minnehaha, Rainbow, Minneota, Witoka, Winona, Eyota, Shawana, Juanita, Blue Feather Leola, and Manawa.

Each Princess will shoot three arrows at a mark placed on the stage in plain sight of the audience, and the one having the highest score will be declared Queen Rhododendra by the Great Chief and she will be presented with the jewels of her station, which are a solid gold string of graduated beads, solid gold pendant with a cross of brilliants on one side, the other side plain, but which will be engraved with the name of the Queen and the date; there is also a band of six strings of pearls connected with four bars of brilliants. This the Queen will keep. These jewels can be seen in the window of Mr. Carson, the jeweler.

The committee in charge have appointed the following persons to represent the different tribes, who will have charge of the election of a princess of that tribe and escort his band to Florence May 28-29.

Big Chief, Roscoe Hurd. Sub Chiefs, Dave Beers, Indian creek; Jim Furnish, Fiddle creek; Shedon Dowell, Mercer and Heceta; Edwin Hartley, Mapleton; Will Wilber, Deadwood creek; Gilbert Watkins, Portage, Geo. Colter, Glenada; Arthur Hinds, Rockport, Geo. Carle, Maple creek; Carl Stevens, Acme; R. C. Wycant, Florence.

The platform for the Rhododendron carnival exercises is being remodeled so as to face the west, or the bank. Seats will be placed on the bank so that all may see the exercises without standing.

Attorney Wycant has purchased the north half of block 1, Miller's Addition to the Town of Florence, has a well down about twenty-four feet, has quite a little garden ready to plant and is now setting cedar posts for a wire fence around the place. The grounds will be laid out in a system of landscape. A residence will be constructed on the California bungalow completed this place will resemble the bungalows and grounds of Pacedena, and will be one of the scenic places of the Rhododendron city.

MR. BUSHMAN MAKES CHANGE IN BUSINESS

A change in the management of the Yamhill Milling-Power and Light Co., was made last week in the transfer of the lighting plant to a newly organized corporation to be known as the Yamhill Power & Light Co. The sale price was \$32,000 and a large part of the stock was taken over by J. F. Thompson, an electrical expert of Portland. The officers of the new company are I. N. Welk, president; G. G. Bushman, vice president; J. T. Thompson, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Bushman, as manager of the old company took the old plant when it was in a very unsatisfactory condition, and by the expenditure of much time, money and patience, has built it up to a quality of service and efficiency surpassed by none in the state. Sheridan Sun.

The retirement of Mr. Bushman from active management in the Sheridan company, is to give him an opportunity to get in personal touch with the electric light plant owned by the Florence Electric Company, of which he is president.

The Florence Electric Company has a large amount of improvement work planned. They have let the contract for constructing a cement structure at the power and light plant to D. W. Reesman, and work is to commence soon. Glenada is to be furnished with light, a franchise having been granted a short time ago.

Among other things contemplated is the giving of an all-day service this fall.

Making the changes now outline and installing the new features that is to keep the plant always ahead of the demand will necessitate the presence of Mr. Bushman in Florence, and as the company expects to leave nothing undone to accomplish this, its president will no doubt have to move here and make his home in Florence.

ELMORE TO GIVE BOAT SERVICE TO SIUSLAW

Mr. Archie Knowles of the firm of Rice-Knowles-Rice made a trip to Portland and Astoria in answer to a telegram from the Elmore people the first of the week and took the agency for the Patsy. The Tillamook will be put on run if the Patsy cannot handle all the freight.

Mr. Knowles came in on the Patsy, which had 209 tons of freight for the Siuslaw. It was his maiden trip, but he says he enjoyed every meal.

The firm have also taken the agency for the Rustler and will use the Wm. Brynd warehouse until they can enlarge their own to meet the increasing business.

MARVELOUS CURE.—It is Dr. Thomas Katell now, and he earned the title too. This is the way it happened. A very useful man seemed in poor health, and complained so much it looked as if one of the saws would be laid up. This was something that Tom didn't want to happen. Among his supplies for a "cure-all" he found one of his old reliable remedies, this and a few little sugar coated pills that a friend gave him was handed out with instructions to take before and after each meal. They were carried out faithfully and a cure effected. It is wonderful what a little oakum and sugar coated peanuts will do in some cases.

REGULAR MEETING OF TRUSTEES

The town trustees met in their first regular session with all the officers of the town present. President Geo. P. Edwards, started the ball rolling, when he called them to order, and from that time until eleven o'clock they struggled with municipal question in many phases.

The question of the marshals salary was brought up and a motion made and carried that the incumbent act as street commissioner and be given a salary of \$60, per month, one of the councilmen offering if necessary to be able to do this that he would give \$5 a month toward it. The trustees then elected J. W. Ford as city surveyor.

Improving of Jefferson street was considered and Trustee Knowles appointed to correspond with Geo. Melvin Miller about widening and straightening where it joins Garginer Avenue. The object is to settle this before ordering a survey.

It was ordered that Hamlin street be surveyed and estimation made for grading.

The matter of improving several streets by planing was then considered and it was to give notice that the board intended to improve by planing the following streets.

On Main street from the west line of Hamlin to the west end of Lincoln street.

On Lincoln street from the south line of Main to the south line of Front street.

On Front street from the west line of Lincoln street to the west line of Jefferson street.

On Washington from the north line of First street to the Siuslaw river.

The committees of streets and alleys, sanitation, finance, and fire and water made reports. A motion was made and carried that an ordinance be drawn and presented to the board for approval, to govern the running of stock at large in the streets of Florence.

Several license tax were brought up and measures taken to investigate their imposing and collection.

City Recorder Severy's salary was raised from \$10 to \$20 per month.

The bill of G. C. Cumpton, as marshal last year, was investigated and the trustees decided they could not pay it.

The members of the board certainly put in a few hours of hard work last Monday night and if their courage and spirit keeps up will earn their salaries.

SCHOOL PICNIC CLOSES TERM

The Glenada schools closed on Thursday, May 1, with a May day picnic. The scholars and teacher, accompanied by several young people and a number of mothers of the children went to Clear Lake and spent the most of the day. Everybody enjoyed the outing.

During this term the teacher, Miss Viva Canniff, endeavored to standardize the school and succeeded in getting the scholars very much interested in the matter, in fact so much that they even worked making window boards for the school house, and with a little more assistance no doubt would have been successful as they made ten out of the twelve necessary points, and in so doing earned a prize picture. Better success next time Glenada.