

Early History of Curry County

(Final installment.)
The present aspect (1884) of Ellensburg is moderately lively and flourishing. There is a very good weekly newspaper, edited and published by Walter Sutton, a journalist of discrimination and judgment. This is the Curry County Post, which was established at Port Orford in May, 1880, by J. H. Upton and son, but being purchased by the present proprietor (1884), was removed to Ellensburg in July, 1880. On the following sixteenth of September, the first number printed at this place appeared, and since that time it has continued to be published regularly (1884). The Post is an indispensable institution in the county, and fills an important position in the public estimation.

The Rogue river is noted for the quality and quantity of the salmon caught in these waters. There are two distinct runs of these fish, called the spring run and the fall run, the first taking place in April, May and June, the fall run occurring mainly in September and October. The latter is most abundant, but the fish taken in the spring run are the best in quality. A. F. Myers established a fishery at Ellensburg in 1857, for the purpose of taking, salting and barreling salmon. From this comparatively small beginning the business has increased until now there are ten thousand cases of canned salmon shipped yearly as an average product. This business is the most important and lucrative in the whole county, and is conducted at a single cannery, which is owned by R. D. Hume. The necessary buildings are built over the water, resting upon piles, and contain apparatus for cleaning, cutting up and packing the fish, as well as for the manufacture of cans and cases. Mr. Hume has, with rare foresight, taken great pains to keep up the quantity of living salmon, both by abstaining from catching too many and also by establishing a hatchery wherein the fertilized salmon eggs can be brought to maturity, and an immense number of small fry let loose to replace those annually caught. (Editor's note: The cannery and fishing operations described are now a part of the Macleay Estate company's holdings at Wedderburn.)

Ellensburg contains a courthouse, situated at the lower extremity of the town; a school house of excellent pretensions; the office and drug store of Dr. Von der Green, and only physician in the county; Miss Geisels millinery establishment, the post-office, three hotels, cooper shop, blacksmith shop, shoeshop, store, saloons, offices, etc. Gold Beach lodge No. 70 A. F. and A. M., and Rogue River Grange No. 190. Patrons of Husbandry, meet in Ellensburg. The steam saw-mill has been an important factor in the destinies of the place. About 1871 Hastings and Sanders built a small grist mill four miles above Ellensburg. They made the millstones from rock

which they themselves quarried out, and began to make flour to supply the local demand. Hastings was unfortunately drowned and the partner has since run the mill. He does not turn out sufficient flour for all the demand, and the remainder is brought by sea mostly from San Francisco by the steamer Mary D. Hume. The ruling prices of articles on the coast of Curry county, of course, vary with circumstances as elsewhere, but may in general be said to conform to this list, which exhibits them for the fall of 1883. Hay, \$12 per ton; salmon, 20c each; potatoes, cabbage, wheat, oats and barley, each, 2c per pound; fresh pork, retail, 8c to 10c; fresh beef, retail, 12c to 15c; butter 25c to 40c. Wheat, flour, horsefeed and even vegetables, are at times brought from San Francisco, while hundreds of acres of excellent myrtle bottom exist not far from Ellensburg, capable, if cleared and cultivated, of producing enormous crops of vegetables, clover, grain, etc., and supplying 10 times the demand of the small coast population. Were there cheap, speedy and regular means of transportation to and from San Francisco, Curry county ought to furnish that metropolis with many of the above articles, instead of receiving them from her.

The trail southward from Ellensburg crosses Hunter's creek, a small stream with a narrow valley, cultivated by a few settlers. The region all about is extremely wild and romantic, both ocean and mountainward. Grazing is much pursued, and upon the "prairies" many sheep may be seen. Between Hunter's creek and Pistol river the trail ascends a very high mountain, where a splendid view of the Pacific may be gained. Pistol river is larger than the first mentioned stream, and is 15 miles by the trail from Rogue river. Upon this stream also dwell settlers who have made valuable improvements. Near Whale's Head—a remarkable promontory bearing a resemblance to that animal—is a considerable tract of fertile land, upon which R. Scott is located and has an excellent establishment, devoted mainly to grazing.

Fourteen miles beyond is Chetco (so called from the name of an Indian tribe) where dwells quite a community of farmers, graziers, and dairymen, who make up a section ranking fourth in the county as to population. The soil is extremely fertile, and within the limited area of the section there are ample opportunities for a self-supporting population to thrive and prosper.

The Chetco river or creek is crossed by two ferries, Miller's, nearest the mouth, and Smith's, two miles above. At the latter the stream is about 120 yards wide and is fordable in summer. For a dozen miles or so along the stream, settlers possess and are clearing the rich soil, and so making pleasant homes for themselves and their posterity. South of the creek a bench of level rich soil begins, a mile in width, fronting on the ocean and backed by low, fern-covered hills which lie toward the east. Here are some very fine farms, mainly devoted to wheat raising, but possessing orchards and other improvements. Some prominent settlers are the Cooleys, Blake and McVay. William Kirk keeps a store at a point a fourth of a mile south of the Blake ranch. The port of Chetco hardly deserves the name of harbor, being only a landing where the steamer Hume and schooner Ester Coombs occasionally call, to bring merchandise and carry away wool, hides and dairy products.

The Chetco country has often been called Egypt, since at one time it supplied nearly all of Del Norte county with wheat. In this region are to be found good roads—very rare in the remainder of the county (1884). There

are no mills, either for lumber or flour making in Chetco, but wheat is hauled to Smith River, six miles beyond the state line, and there ground into flour. Lumber is also purchased in Del Norte county. There are two small fisheries on Chetco creek but the catch is transferred to Del Norte county for canning and shipment. Dairying is quite an industry hereabouts, and an excellent article of butter is made on various ranches, particularly J. A. Cooley's "Fountain ranch," which is well fitted up, having a stream of running water to propel the churn, and also to keep the temperature of the dairy house at the right point.

Winchuck, an Indian name, is the name of a small river, the southernmost stream in Curry county, and almost upon the state line. Salmon swarm in the Winchuck and J. B. Wilson has the beginning of a fishery, where he puts up a hundred barrels a year. Upon and about the lower portion of the river there are settlers, mostly recent ones, who are carving out homes for themselves in a promising locality, though a very isolated one.

Although the Winchuck is looked upon as the dividing line between California and Oregon, its mouth is a half mile north of the true boundary, which is the forty-second parallel. Upon the beach can be seen a stone post which marks the line accurately. A farm house nearby stands upon the line, and its distinguished owner enjoys the felicity of eating in the one state and sleeping in the other. Upon the north side of the river, and consequently in Oregon, is a grove of redwood trees, the sequoia sempervirens, supposed to be the only living representatives of this species in the state.

The End.

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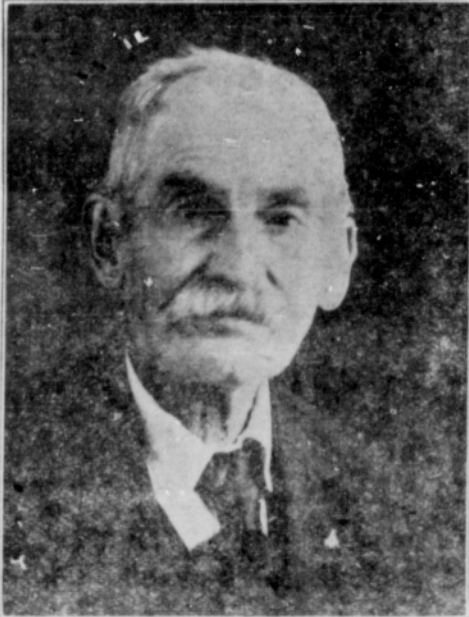
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Former Newspaperman Corrects Article
Port Orford, Ore., Dec. 16, 1926.
Editor News: In your kindly mention of myself in your last issue a few errors occur as to dates, no doubt through a misunderstanding, which I ask space to correct, the said errors occurring in the following, which I

quote:
"He launched the Port Orford Tribune in 1876, which he conducted until 1882, when he started the Gold Beach Gazette, later selling the Gazette to R. D. Hume, taking hold of the Tribune again in 1892."
The facts as regard the two publications are as follows:
The first newspaper published in Curry county was the Port Orford Post, launched by J. H. Upton & Son, in May, 1880, a five-column, four-page paper, printed on a "Novelty" press. I was elected county clerk in 1876, served in that capacity until

ing to Davidson. The boys expect to remain in Portland during the winter.
A public telephone has been in-

stalled on the summit of Fuji Yama, the sacred mountain of Japan, 12,367 feet high. There is also a joint police station and post office. The personnel of the service consists of one very busy man, who is, in addition, a mine of ready information to travelers about the history of Fuji.



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