

UP and DOWN the MOUNTAIN

By JOE KIEFER



Mount Big Snow, "Mt. Rainer," answered the idea of God to the simple, imaginative mind of the Indians who hunted in the forests on its slopes or fished in the waters that ebbed and flowed at its base.

Primitive peoples in every land have defied superative manifestations of nature — the sun, the wind, the great rivers and waterfalls, the high mountains.

By all the tribes within sight of its summit this peak called by them Tacoma, Tahoma or Tacob — "The Great Snow" — was deemed a power to be feared and conciliated.

Even when the missionaries taught them the faith of the white man they continued to hold the mountain in reverence.

To the great Snow mountain the Indians made frequent pilgrimages, for they thought this King of the primeval wild a divinity to be reckoned with.

Anger Dreaded

They dreaded its anger seen

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in the storms about its head, the thunder of its avalanches and the volcanic flashes of which their traditions told.

They courted its favor, symbolized in the wild flowers that bloomed on its slope and the tall grass that fed the mowich, or deer.

As they ascended the vast ridges, the grandeur about them spoke of the mountain god.

There were groves of trees he must of planted, so orderly were they set out.

The lakes of the lofty valleys seemed calmer than those of the prairies below, the foliage brighter.

The song of the water falls here was sweeter than the music of tamahawwas men, their Indian sorcerers.

The many small meadows close to the snow-line carpeted in deepest green and spread with flowers were the gardens of the divinity.

Countless snows had fallen since the mountain god created and beautified this home of his.

Here was the same bar to violence which religion has erected in many lands.

The Hebrews had their "Cities of Refuge." The pagan ancients made every altar an

asylum. Medieval Christianity constituted all its churches sanctuaries.

Vengeance Stayed

Thus in lawless ages, the hand of vengeance was stayed, and the weak were protected.

So too, the Indian tradition ordained this home of rest and refuge.

Indian custom, was an eye for an eye, but on gaining this mountain haven the pursued was safe from his pursuer, the slayer might not be touched by his victims kindred. When he crossed its border the warrior laid down his arms.

Criminals and cowards, too, were often sent there to do penance.

The mountain divinity figures in much of the Indians' folklore.

There is an old legend of the "Greedy Higua Hunter." The hero of this myth is the Indian Rip Van Winkle.

Crazy for hiqua, or shell money, and persuaded by moosmoos, the elk divinity, his own totem, that on top of the mountain he would find great stores of it, he climbed to the summit.

Here he found three big rocks, one of which looked like his friendly moosmoos. Overturning this after long digging he uncovered many strings of hiqua — enough to make him the richest of men.

Earth Convolves

But he meanly seized it all, leaving no thank — offering to the Tamahawwas powers.

Thereupon the whole earth shook with a mighty convulsion and the mountain shot forth terrible fires and poured streams of water — "lava" — down its sides.

Panic-stricken at the results of his greed, the man threw down his load of treasure to popitate the angry deity and then fell on the ground and entered the land of sleep.

Long, long after, he awoke to find himself far from the summit in a pleasant country of beautiful meadows, carpeted with flowers, and musical with the song of birds.

He had grown very old, with snow-white hair falling to his shoulders.

Recognizing the scene about him as Saghalie Illahe, the "Land of Peace" Heaven —

our name Paradise Valley — he sought his old tent.

It was where he had left it and there, too, was his "Klootchman" or wife, grown old like himself.

Back they went to their home where they spent the rest of their days in great honor.

For his tribesmen recognized that the aged Indian's heart had been marvelously softened and his mind enriched by his experience upon the mountains.

Thus he became the most respected of all the Tamaknawwas men of his time.

Legend Explains Fear

This legend or myth explains why an Indian would never be persuaded to make the ascent farther than the snow-line.

Even so shrewd, and intelligent a Siwash as Sluisin with all his keenness for "Boston Chikamin," the white man's money, refused to accompany Stevens, and Van Trump in 1870; and indeed gave them up as doomed when they defied the mountain god's wrath and started for the summit in spite of his warning.

Things I like to remember—The Mt. Hood Lions club picnic at Toll Gate and meeting my kind of people.

The Hood-Land chamber of Commerce potluck dinner at the lovely Mt. Hood Golf club and my chat with my boss lady Dorothy Gillard.

My trip with my buddy Skookum Bartley to the North fork reservoir on the Clackamas river for a ride in his new boat.

I like the location of Everett Darrs future service station at Government Camp.

Everett believes in that old saying, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

I welcome, and wish Dr. William Gulick good luck and continued success with his dental clinic in our village.

Closing this column with a reminder to you —

Smokey the bear, says, "Only you can help to prevent forest fires."

Let all of us use extreme care to "Keep Oregon Green."

Library Lists
New Books

New books on the shelves at the Sandy Public Library are: "Going Into Space" by Arthur C. Clarke, "The Doctor's Bride" by Elizabeth Seifert, "Sacajawea of the Shoshones" by Della Gould Emmons, "Shipwrecks of the Pacific Coast" by James A. Gibbs, "Mrs. Mike" by Benedict and Nancy Freedman, "Plants of the Pacific Northwest" by Leonard Enari and "My Life in Gold" by Louis Nizer.

"Gold and the Cattle Country" by Herman Oliver was presented to the library in memory of Justice Strowbridge by the Woman's Club of Sandy. Other recent additions are "Come to Our Salmon Feast" by Martha McKeown, "The Book of the West" by Charles Chilton, "Caravan to Oregon" by Herbert E. Arntson, "Tioga's Pigs" by F. A. Krewson, "A Golden Touch" by Anna and Edgar Johnson, "Singing Paddles" by Julia Butler, "In the Days of the Dinosaurs" by Roy Andrews, and "The Book of Indian Crafts and Indian Lore" by Salomon.

Library hours are 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and 12 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

Farmers Picnic
Draws Big Crowd

A big crowd attended the annual County Farmers Union picnic at the Armin Netter farm on Pudding river recently.

Besides all the good food and plentiful ice cream there were ball games, horse shoe throwing, swimming, boating and lots of good old fashioned visiting.

Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Brayton Weider, new Farmers Union editor, Oscar Kendall, state board member, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Hermance. Hermance is production manager of Farmers Union Insurance for Washington and Oregon.

The next meeting of the group is set for Sept. 14 in Molalla. Interested persons are invited to attend.

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These pretty hostesses for the Clackamas County Fair at Canby are Jean Monahan and Joan Todd. The girls, who are talented singers, are making personal appearances in advance of the fair's opening on Aug. 14. More than 150 amateur performers have been booked to appear at the big outdoor talent show Friday, Aug. 16, continuing through Sunday, Aug. 18.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY FAIR
Tentative Schedule Aug. 14-18
Wednesday, Aug. 14
Canby Day and Kids Day
7 — Grounds open.
9 — Judging all classes.
10 — Carnival opens.
11 — Kiddie Capers Parade; Exhibit Buildings open.
1 — Floral Building opens.
2 — Style Show, Janel's, Canby.
4 — Bike Drawing, 7-Up Bottling Co., Oregon City.
5 — Chicken Bar-B-Que, CC Brouler Assn.
6 — Square Dance Competition — 4-H.
7:15 — 4-H Queen Coronation.
8 — Free Rodeo; Style Show, Janel's, Canby.
Thursday, Aug. 15
Oregon City Day
7 — Grounds open.
9 — Judging.
10 — Carnival opens.
11 — Exhibit Buildings open.
5 — Chicken Bar-B-Que, O.C. VFW.
6 — Valley View Kennels Canine demonstration.
7 — North Clackamas Mothers Chorus.
7:30 — 4-H Style Revue.
8 — Free Rodeo.
Friday, Aug. 16
7 — Grounds open.
9 — Judging.
10 — Carnival opens.
11 — Exhibit Buildings open.
2 — Stage Show.
3:30 — WestLinn high school trampolines.
4:30 — Valley View Kennels, demonstration.
5 — Turkey Bar-B-Que, C.C. Turkey Growers.
6 — Helen Wickwalters Studio of Dance.
7 — Peasant Folk Dancers.
8 — Free Rodeo, Stage Show.
Saturday, Aug. 17
7 — Grounds open.
9 — Judging.
Sunday, Aug. 18
10 — Clackamas County Horseshoe Tourney; Carnival opens.
11 — Exhibit Buildings open.
12 — Mayor's Bar-B-Que Contest.
1:30 — Judging Mayors Bar-B-Que.
2 — Stage Show.
3 — Iola's Accordion Studio Show.
4 — Kelly Kadets.
5 — Chicken Bar-B-Que, Oregon City Elks.
6 — Marion County Citizens Band.
7 — Square Dance, Squaws and Paws.
8 — Free Rodeo; Stage Show.
Sunday, Aug. 19
7 — Grounds open.
9 — Church Services.
11 — Exhibit Buildings open.
1:15 — Forest Grove Glee-men.
2 — Free Rodeo.
2:30 — Stage Show.
4 — Hootenany.
6 — Fair and Exhibit Buildings close, all exhibits released.

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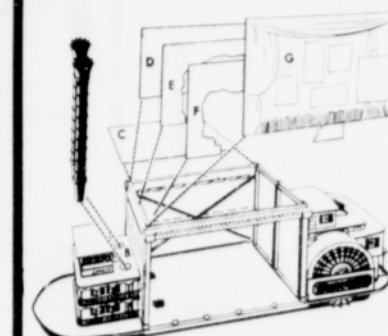
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