

Eyes of Entire World Now Focused On Development In Brookings and Harbor

By M. S. Brainard

Possibly no other big, little town in Oregon is being subjected to such a vigorous working over as is now going on in this area. From that day when the sprawling huge sawmill, miles of railroads, steamers, and woods camps of the giant California and Oregon Lumber Company collapsed, and workmen walked away without even stopping the engines or pulling the fires from under the banks of boilers, to this date when almost every vestige of that layout has disappeared, or an occasional surviving remnant reconverted to other use, has been, and is an accomplishment rarely met with in the attempted resurrection of the west's many ghost towns. We have our ghosts but, they too, are busy.

To enumerate all of the sundry interwoven projects would be to catalog all the elements necessary to transpose utter desertion into a thriving city.

Most prominent is the noisiest of equipment, consisting of two bulldozers, a power shovel, air hammers, a tricycle loading rig, a ditcher, and sundry heavy dirt trucks. New streets are reaching out through the brush where new building sites have been pegged off and many already bargained for. Fills are being made and levelled for warehouse construction needed to shelter equipment and shops. Several miles of new sewer and water service mains are being moved underground from stockpiles of surplus war materials. Poles, crossarms, wire, and pole line furniture sufficient for 300 miles of new and renewed electric service construction northward from the California state line are accumulating by

the Coos Electric Co-operative. Many thousands of acres of new and old growth fir are now being taken up by sundry operators. One small mill and one planer are in operation and more will be supplying the market as soon as necessary equipment is available.

The postmaster reports a current shortage of about 250 boxes in her layout. A full-grown newspaper, linotype and general printing shop is running, with the first edition of the Brookings-Harbor Pilot. Deeper than fraternal sentiment is the fact that it will succeed—substantial community support is assured.

Desirable business property on the main street and the by-ways is rapidly changing hands at figures indicating that even experienced business people are convinced they will get at least fair returns on their ventures. There's a dentist here, and another reportedly signed up for office space as well as a second doctor of medicine, hanging out his shingle. Mercantile and service institutions are in the ascendancy.

A large addition to the consolidated school is being imperatively mulled over; a rural fire district is well along, new fraternal organizations incubating and established ones enlarging. Progress is being made toward a new veterans memorial hall. A large bank of food lockers is being installed and considerable improvement in navigation facilities by the federal government is in sight, the latter being watched by representatives of the ocean fishing companies.

As in other communities, domestic shelters are lacking, but possibly the area is in a happier situation than less favorably located towns when one considers the lumber prospects, to which of course, folks now on the ground shall have preference after veteran priorities.

Nurturing this community development is, fundamentally, climatic conditions agreeable to the more comfortable living than in most other areas and also uniquely adaptable to highly profitable out-of-door pursuits particularly concentrated agriculture. Continued stability seems assured. Beef, sheep dairy, pork, and lumber are reliable, negotiable substances.

Added to these are the highly specialized and extremely lucrative products sold to the floral trade throughout the country. Anticipated is a heavy tourist cavalcade along the coast highway. The prospects of an all-Oregon route through the hills toward Grants Pass is a factor to consider. Time certainly is seeing rough-shod riding, these days, over the brushland that used to be leased, twenty-odd years ago, at a half dollar per ewe the year.

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Local News Items

S/Sgt. Melvin Hanscam arrived home Thursday afternoon for the first time in about two years, which time he spent in training in the eastern part of the United States, and later in Europe. Melvin, who is the youngest of four sons to serve in the armed forces, plans to return to the University of Oregon the first of April, as the war interrupted his studies.

Mrs. Curt Waldien is in Los Angeles visiting her children for a few weeks.

Mrs. Mary Van Pelt returned Sunday from a few weeks visit with relatives in California, most of which time was spent at San Diego.

Herbert Payne and Mr. and Mrs. John Wilbur and children spent the past week at Cave City on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bush arrived from Parker, Ariz., Monday for a few months at their home here.

Mrs. Clifford Wilson is in the Knapp hospital where she is receiving medical treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. James and son, Tommy, returned Sunday from a week's trip to San Francisco where they combined business and pleasure.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Struebing are visiting relatives at Los Angeles for a couple of weeks. While they are away, their niece, Miss Paula Applegate, of Elkton, is with their daughter, Marilyn.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Welch of Grants Pass were house guests of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Hanscam this week.

Miss France Reekman arrived from Portland Friday to spend four weeks vacation at her home here. She is a cadet nurse and is in training at St. Vincent's hospital, there.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Anderson and children and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anderson and children of Lakeview arrived the first of the week for a stay at their homes here.

William Tolman returned from a trip to the state of Washington where he visited his son, Milton, who is in a veterans hospital receiving treatment.

Miss Lois Christenson who is attending Walla Walla College in Washington, and her sister, Miss Virginia Christenson, who attends Laurelwood Academy at Gaston, Ore., are enjoying a visit here with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Christenson.

Johnny Robertson, who is associated with the Lester and Iris Orton in running a logging truck, had the misfortune of cutting off the end of one finger while at work. While unable to work he is spending a week at Portland.

Ralph Wallace is visiting his uncle, Milton Foster, and other relatives for a week, following which he will return to San Francisco where he is employed. He was a navy machinist mate, being discharged the first of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Olson have as their house guest, Mrs. Blanche Hamann of Portland.

Dale and Melvin Smith are now on their place on Jack's Creek. Dale, who served in the navy, and Melvin, who was in the army engineers, both received their discharges. Their mother, Mrs. Anabel Smith, who is now employed at Salem, may move back soon.

The daffodil shippers have concluded their shipments of the early spring blooms to Portland and Seattle as the market became flooded. They report an unusually good year for sale of daffodils, with plice remaining up until the season was almost over.

Virgil Wolfe has returned to Brookings after a five-day trip which took him to San Jose and points south.

Mrs. Dorothy Templar left for Portland, Wednesday. She was

selected by Gov. Earl Snell as one of the committee to choose the "Oregon Mother" of 1946.

Robert Perkins returned from his business trip to San Francisco last Thursday.

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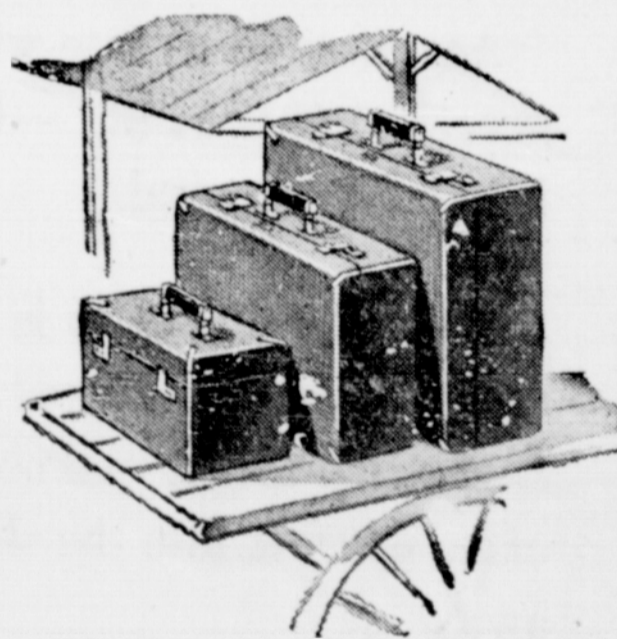
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