

"Pioneer Trails Of Coos and Curry"

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In telling about the Roland Prairie-Eckley trail from Coos into Curry last week, I failed to state, for the benefit of those who may not know, the Roland Creek flows into the Coquille from the southwest, several miles above Broadbent, having its source on the ridge which forms the watershed divide between Coquille river and the coast streams of northern Curry Co. This same divide also forms a good portion of the boundary between the two counties.

Persons who used this route passed over or around two mountains of the same name—Sugarloaf. There is one Sugarloaf Mountain on the north side of the middle fork of the Coquille, in Coos county, another by the same name in the Eckley country on the Curry side of the border.

Today, let us take a look at the second route from Coos into Curry. This one came later, perhaps in the '70s. Starting in Myrtle Point, the traveler went up the river bank for a mile or perhaps a little more, to Reed's ferry, crossing the river there to Catching Creek; then up Catching creek to the Coos-Curry line near Bennett Butte. (Was this named for Gus Bennett, who had hunted elk in that neighborhood when he was a boy, along with Bill Perkins? Or was it named for his father, George Bennett?)

From Bennett Butte, the trail wended its way down to Langlois, joining the coast trail or road to the south. This route was shorter than the one by way of Eckley, sometimes saving as much as a day in the trip to Gold Beach. But, during the winter months, the Sixes and Elk rivers and other coast streams were swollen and treacherous to cross; and so the Roland Prairie-Eckley trail retained its share of the travel for many years.

The Randolph trail, though wholly within Coos county, later became a part of one of the routes leading down the coast into Curry county. The earliest date that appears to be attached to this trail is 1853, when the gold rush was on to the rich gold mines at the mouth of Whiskey Run creek. The tent and

shack city that mushroomed to a reported population of some 5000 people took on the name of Randolph.

There had been travelers along the coast of what is now Coos county earlier than 1853, but there is nothing to indicate that they followed the course taken by gold seekers of the latter date. The Jedediah Smith party came up through what is now Curry and Coos in 1828, but they followed roughly what is now the Seven Devils road.

In the autobiography of Daniel Giles (Claude's father) we find one of the earliest references to this route, but he does not refer to it by the name of Randolph. In fact, he doesn't give it any name. It appears that the trail was not definitely established until later, if it ever did have a definite location. But it is interesting to quote from Mr. Giles' account. He had come from Jacksonville with a pack train to Scottsburg, then down the Umpqua to its mouth, down the ocean beach, camped on the north side of Coos bay, then swam his horse across to Empire City. This, he says, was in the latter part of October, 1853. Then he says:

"Here we had to stay for several days, waiting for the return of the cow, for we had to get our *frait* taken up *prety* near to the head of the south slew and take our horses through the woods the best way we could and then ferry them over the slew to the scow . . ."

Mr. Giles and his party required a full day to get from Empire City to and across South slough camping on the south side over night. "Had to tie our horses to trees all *knight* without feed and the next day we made our journeys end and pitched our tents on the bluff overlooking the Randolph beach and saw the fine gold aworking along with the sand in every little rivelet."

Referring to our Empire quadrangle map and continuing with the one from the Bandon section, we find a trail leading out of Empire, running in a southerly direction, around the head of South Slough, crossing several creeks (Elliott, Talbot, John B.,

Winchester) all flowing into the South Slough. After crossing iWinchester creek, the trail runs sometimes westerly, sometimes easterly, but always toward the south, apparently in an attempt to follow the ridges and avoid the deep canyons as much as possible. But it appears that it couldn't entirely escape crossing the headwaters of some of the Seven Devils. And finally it winds and twists and turns and wabbles like a drunken sailor (but these were miners) until the trail ends near the mouth of Whiskey Run, where the early "city" of Randolph was located.

From there a road is indicated on the map, running in a southeasterly direction to the Coquille river, the place where Randolph was finally located, and where the little hamlet of a few houses may be reached today by auto on the North Bank road.

Along Azalea Row

"The ideal conception of conservation asks us to consider this, our planet, as God's house—one of His "many mansions" We are His guests, His visitors passing through. Almighty God has had many guests in the past. There are many expected in the future. While we are here we are His house-keepers. He has set up this earth with adequate provisions for His plan but in allowing free will to man He has given him the power to waste, despoil and endanger the future occupancy of His succeeding generations, not only of mankind but of all life on this globe.

Conservation, as a study, seeks to bring practical knowledge of

the basic facts behind the great conservation movement that is engaging the most idealistic thought and the best scientific minds, not only of our own nation but of the entire world to the end that each generation of mankind become better "world house-keepers and nobler guests in this great house of God, our world."

Above is Mrs. Bradley Page's message, as president, to members of Azalea Garden Club. It is, however, of interest to the community as well, for as responsible citizens eager to improve and build a better world, and particularly, a better Brookings and Harbor, it is worth pondering over. We are building for the future. Let us do it well.

The next meeting of Azalea Garden Club will be Thursday, Dec. 8. This is the Christmas party, and please bring a small gift. Something home-made or grown, preferably. We've been saving up for a rainy day and it has come, at last!

Saving the work that takes us from our garden, fruit cakes to mix, and cookies to make, Christmas packages to wrap and the cards to address. Sunny days are garden days, of course! Getting down to earth with a garden boner given by a friend—did you hear of the city cousin who visited in the country and saw a manure spreader at work? "Quick," she said, "Country Cousin, go and tell him he's dropping his load."

Food sale and bazaar at The Town Shop, December 3. Baptist Missionary Circle. —adv.

Send the Pilot for Christmas!

A Correction

In the rush of things last week The Pilot erred in its account of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Grootendorst and the story of the agreement with Alfred O. Panzer.

Mr. and Mrs. Grootendorst arrived in America in 1946, instead of 1945, as was stated. The article continued that this was their first visit to Holland since before the war. They obtained permission to enter Holland in 1945, accompanying government figures.

Mr. Panzer will attend to the property of the Grootendorsts in the weeks they are gone.

A delightful Thanksgiving day was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. D. Fisher of Rivers End by Mr. and Mrs. George Funk and Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Jacobs of Brookings.

The Pilot for a present (?)



A MESSAGE

TO OUR CUSTOMERS

NOVEMBER 28, 1949

More than thirteen years ago we started in a very small way to sell groceries to the people of the Brookings-Harbor area. We have grown as the community grew. The people of this area have favored us with increasing patronage as time went on, and we are deeply grateful for their favor.

We most earnestly desire to deserve and to retain the confidence and the trade of our customers in the future as in the past. In order to do this, we must keep prices down. We have, hretofore, done a credit business. Dealing on credit increases our costs. It therefore increases the price we must charge for our merchandise. Credit dealing involves expense for bookkeeping and for collections. It also requires that the customer who pays his bill promptly must pay for the customer who does not pay.

By selling for cash only we can reduce our selling prices five per cent or more. Our good customers are entitled to this saving.

For these reasons, commencing the first of next year, our store will sell for cash only. At the same itme, we can and will reduce our prices throughout the entire store by an average amount of five per cent or more.

We sincerely hope that all of our customers will understand the reasons for this change of policy and that they will approve. We hope they will appreciate and enjoy the price reductions which result. We shall most sincerely strive to merit continuance of the patronage with which we have been favored over the past years.

Very sincerely yours,

WILSON FREEMAN AND SON
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