

"Pioneer Trails Of Coos and Curry"

Emil R. Peterson, Historian, Coos-Curry Pioneer Association, R. 1, Box 528, North Bend, Ore.

"To Commemorate Old Trail Coos Bay Waters To Coquille Waters 1850-1874 Erected By COOS BAY CHAPTER Daughters of the American Revolution 1930"

Ever see this Pioneer Trail marker? It's a bit off the trodden path now since the completion of the new section of Hwy 101, about midway between Coos Bay and Coquille. It stands off the east edge of the road just south of the old bridge over the railroad on the divide.

It is a worthy act on the part of any organization to indicate its interest in local history by marking points of historical significance.

However, I have been unable to find any evidence to justify the use of the date 1850.

That old trail from the head of Isthmus slough to the head of Beaver slough, a distance of a little more than a mile, was one of the best known, and quite

likely, the most-used of any trail within Coos County during the first 20 years of the settlement of this region.

Water transportation always has been and still is a leading factor in travel and the movement of freight.

Coos county consists mainly of two sub-divisions — the Coquille valley and the Coos Bay watershed. Travel and transportation of freight between the two sections today follow virtually over the same route that was followed by our earliest pioneers nearly a hundred years ago. At that early date, however, there were no roads here and trails were inadequate.

There was a close relationship between the two sections from the earliest settlements just as it is today. Coos Bay had the harbor for receiving freight and passengers from San Francisco; it had the county seat at Empire; it had the coal mines, the lumber mills, the salmon fishing. All these meant markets for beef, bacon, mutton, other farm products.

The rich bottom lands along the Coquille river soon attract-

ed settlers who were seeking homesteads and cattle ranges. Discovery of gold hastened the influx.

From Empire City, canoes, rafts, scows, rowboats, then steamers—all went with the tide to the head of navigation on Isthmus slough, approximately where Green Acres is located today.

From up and down the Coquille river, travelers entered Beaver slough and let the tide carry them till they could float no further.

Russell T. Dement, at the age of ten, had come with his folks to Empire City in 1853. Years afterwards he wrote: "About July 4, 1854, a man named Thos. Johnson discovered gold on Johnson Creek, a tributary of the south fork of the Coquille river. John Yoakam and my father took their blankets and some grub in a canoe and started for the mines. They were much taken up with the country, since there was plenty of grass and game—elk, deer, bear.

"Sometime about the middle of 1855 we packed our goods into two indian canoes. There were, among other things, a sow and six or eight pigs. We made the head of Isthmus slough the first day, the Indians helped us across the isthmus to the head of the Beaver slough, 1 1/4 miles."

No claim is made here nor elsewhere that Russell Dement's father (Samuel N. Dement) and John Yoakam were the first to use this Isthmus slough-Beaver slough trail. But I do not recall any published account indicating its earlier use. There is no question about others having used it along about that same period.

It is reported that Hudson Bay trappers entered the Coos Bay country as early as 1824. Since they were in search of fur-bearing animals, it is not unlikely that they went to the head of Isthmus slough. And it seems likely also that the Indians may have had a trail connecting with Beaver slough. The English botanist, David Douglas, for whom the Douglas fir was named, spent some time in the Umpqua country in 1824. He reports a conversation with Alexander Roderick McLeod of the Hudson Bay country, and about the "myrtaceous" trees along the river some 20 miles south of Coos Bay; and the grove of tress, "when shaken by the least breeze diffused a fragrance through the whole grove." No mention is made of crossing the isthmus from Isthmus slough to Beaver slough, though they may have gone by that path.

The well-remembered pioneer, Patrick Flanagan, is reported to have come down from the Umpqua and piloted a 'lost' ship from Coos Bay to the Umpqua in 1851. If he in any of this early travel crossed over the Isthmus-Beaver slough, he left no record of it anywhere.

When Perry B. Marple led the Coos Bay Company from Jacksonville into the Coos Bay country, they came down the

Odd Fellows Name Officers For Year

Dave Crockett was named Noble Grand of the Odd Fellow lodge last Thursday at the annual election. With him will also serve:

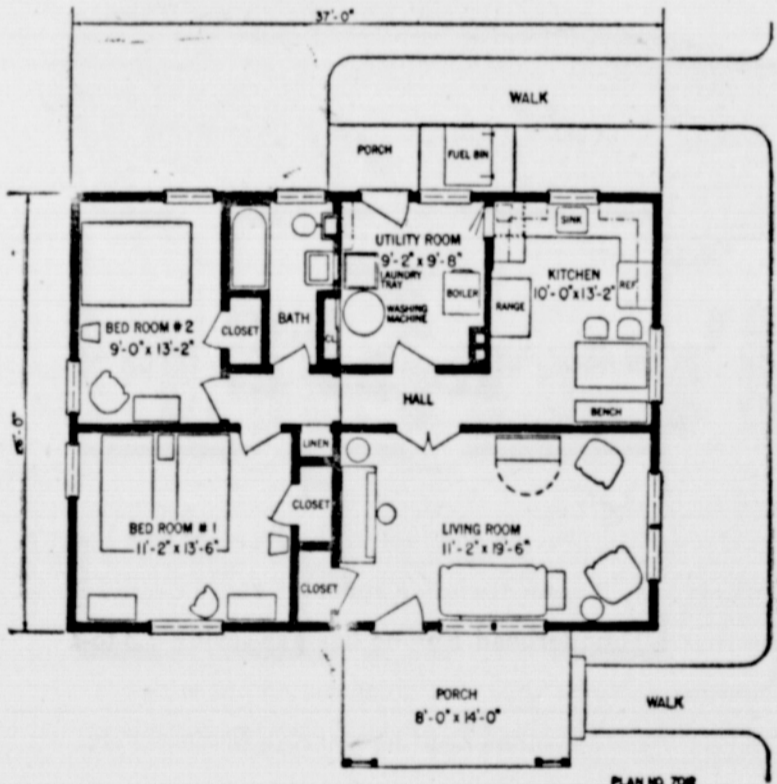
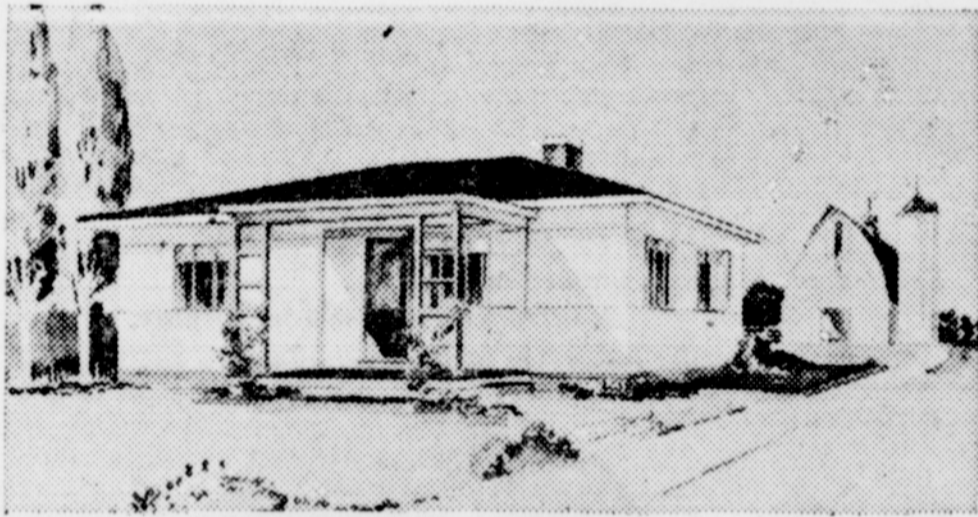
Vice-Grand—Glen Zirbel.
Secretary—George Hassett.
Treasurer—Ed Hoar.

Appointive officers will be designated before time of installation, early in January, which is being planned jointly with the Rebekahs.

Sell your goods through Pilot classified ads—it pays!

The Pilot for Christmas gift!

Planned For Low Cost Comfort



This small one-story farmhouse of modern design is just right for a small family. Or it would make an excellent tenant house on a large farm. Despite its size, it has most good features of larger houses, yet the rectangular design spells low cost construction.

The house pictured in the artist's drawing shows plywood siding; however, masonry may be substituted for wood. Specifying either wood or masonry, you may order the four sheets of working drawings for plan number 7012 for \$1.35 by writing to the Oregon Farmhouse Plan Service, Oregon State college.

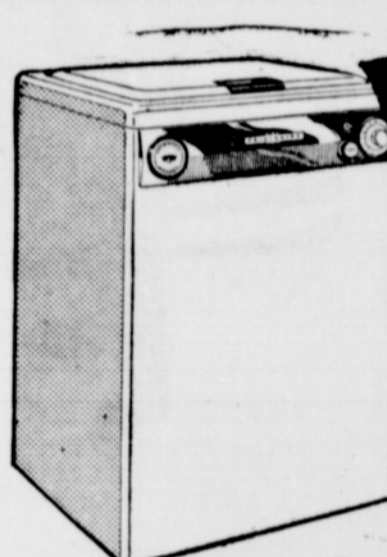
Like all good farmhouses, notice the back door of this house is located near the farm drive and barns. Yet to save space, entrance at the back is through the utility room. This room houses a forced air or hot water furnace, as well as the laundry equipment, and also serves as storage space for work clothing.

Omitting a basement has saved just that much building expense. For a farmhouse with 936 square feet of floor area, there are no

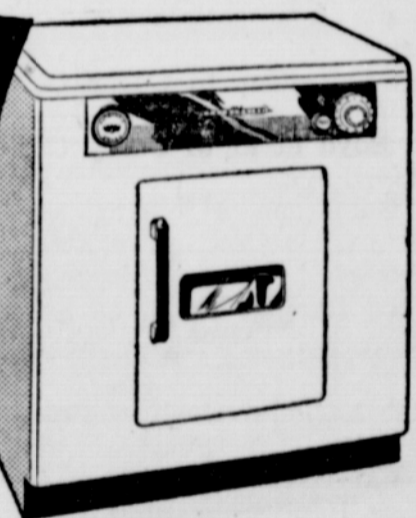
cramped quarters and tiny rooms as there are in so many small homes. The bathroom, centrally located, opens from a hall which leads to all other rooms. Plumbing economy has been stressed by having the bathroom, utility room, and kitchen in line.

The unbroken "U" arrangement of the kitchen routes traffic away from work areas. The dining table by low windows is handy to the stove and refrigerator. For company dinners, the house is designed to have a drop-leaf table at the back of the living room. Although the living room measures just 11 by 19 feet, it is well arranged for a small family. In this room, as in the others, doors are located at corners in order to waste the least possible amount of space.

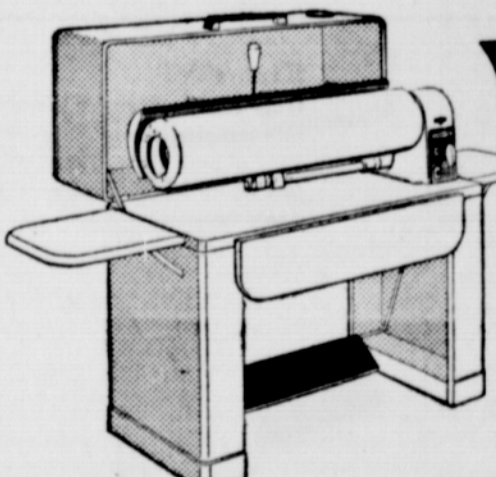
The front porch and covering over the back door give protected entrances.



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