

"Pioneer Trails Of Coos and Curry"

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

Men have always been known to go far and undergo extreme hardships and hazards to reach gold and women. For some 20 or 30 years, beginning in the early '50s, gold mining was in its heyday, along the Rogue.

Game was plentiful in the forests and the streams were alive with fish. Wild Berries also could be obtained in season. But men must have flour, salt, sugar, bacon, plenty of plug tobacco, bedding, clothing, tools to work with.

As men went farther inland from the seaports, or from the old-established routes of travel, the supplies had to be packed in over many miles of mountain trails, from distributing centers. Roseburg was one such place from which trails radiated out in different directions. Before the coming of the railroad in the

early '80s, the supplies reached Roseburg from Scottsburg, where they had been brought by ships from San Francisco.

From Roseburg, one trail led southwesterly through Looking Glass, Camas valley, then into the forests, over ridges, and across creeks, by way of Cold Springs Camp, Big Meadows and on down to the place where Mule Creek flows into the Rogue river. This is the present site of Marial, some 55 or 60 miles upstream from Gold Beach.

John Billings was one of the early pack-train operators. His son, Tom, when old enough, sometimes went with his father, and later, Tom took an active part in the packing. Now, past 80 years of age, Tom still resides at Marial, where he was instrumental in getting a post office established 46 years ago.

It was named for his daughter, Marial. Marial Billings Paddock now has her residence at the place where she spent her childhood days. Susan Billings Dilley, now in her 86th year, told me that her father, John Billings, had as many as 35 pack animals in his operations.

After the S. P. railroad came up from Portland, headed south through Douglas county, Roseburg ceased to be the distributing point for the Mule Creek portion of the Rogue River miners. A station was established West Fork in Cow Creek canyon, between Riddle and Glendale. The distance from West Fork to Mule Creek was only about a third as far as it was to Roseburg. Naturally, West Fork became the shipping point, both in and out for the Mule Creek territory, and the pack teams transferred to the new route.

If you are interested in getting a better picture of this old pack trail, I suggest that you pick up a map (free) recently published by the Oregon Coast Association. (It bears no date). This is one of the best road maps of Western Oregon that has come to my attention. You should be able to find one at any service station, auto court, hotel or chamber of commerce. If you don't find one otherwise, write to me and I'll see that you get one of them.

Lay down the map before you. Run your finger down the coast to Gold Beach; then up the Rogue River about an inch

on the map, to a point showing the end of the road that comes in from Coquille by way of Powers. This point, not named on the map, is where Agness is located. Now take a straight-edge and run a line east from Agness, about three quarters of an inch on the map. This will bring you to the river, upstream, in the vicinity of Marial. From this point, turn your straight-edge in a northeasterly direction to Roseburg, draw a line, and you will have, roughly, the route of the old Roseburg-Mule Creek trail.

Now, returning to Marial on the map, extend your first line from Agness, through Marial, on east to its intersection with the road between Roseburg and Grants Pass. This will bring you somewhere in the vicinity of

West Fork. You will see that West Fork is only about third as far from Marial as the distance to Roseburg. (I'll be glad to hear from anyone who can give more detailed and accurate information of these old pioneer trails.—ERP.).

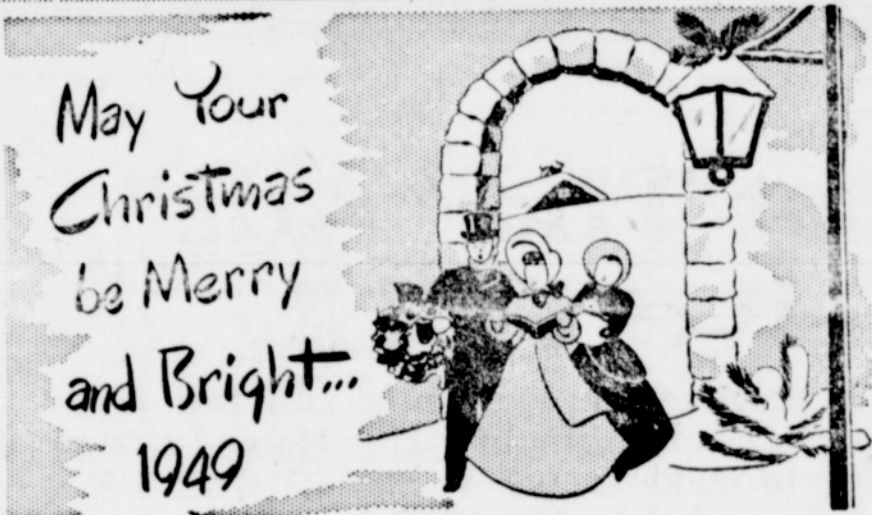
Pilot Class Ads Get Results!

NORINE HARVEY

accredited teacher
of

PIANO

Studio Building
Brookings, Ore.



May Your
Christmas
be Merry
and Bright...
1949

HAPPY HOLIDAY

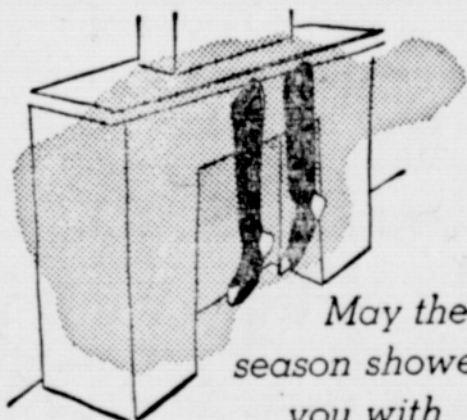
to all of you.
May no cloud
appear to disturb
its serenity.

**BEST WISHES
1949**

Coast Freight Lines & Geo. Shipley



1949



May the
season shower
you with
excellent gifts of gladness.

From
Peggy
and
Mickey

GOULD'S SHOE STORE

Dr. Silvia Challoner
Osteopathic Physician

On Hwy 101
At State Line
Hours 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Mail Address
Smith River California



Merry
Christmas



The divinity
of the season
is surpassed only
in the joy it brings
to the hearts
of men.
Merry Christmas.

**Baptist
Community
Church**

Merry Christmas

May
the blessings of
Christmas
descend
upon your homes
in
abundance.



Hendricks Furniture

Complete Home Furnishers

Brookings