S. O. L. Berth Due Pelicans For Year

Even though baseball for Brookings is two or three months away, there is at least one local man talking and dreaming baseball. This is none other than Pete Lesmeister, business manager of the Pelicans and co-sponsor, with Roy Sunderland and Virgil Goldsberry of the Chetco Home & Auto Supply and Jim Robinson of Big Jim's Tavern.

Pete has been pretty much dissatisfied with the Rogue Valley league and has had in mind getting into a faster league in order to give local fans a better brand of ball. He now reports that he attended a meeting of the Southern Oregon League, held at Grants Pass last Sunday. The result was encouraging.

Prospect, a member of that league last season, has dropped out, leaving one franchise available. Team represented at the meeting voted unanimously to give Brookings "first priority" as a new league member.

This should assure the Pelicans a definite spot in this faster league. Other clubs will be Ashland, Medford, Central Point, Grants Pass, Tri-City, Roseburg, and Crescent City.

It is expected that two more meetings will be scheduled before league play starts on Sunday, May 14.

Pete wound up his interview by stating "Now all we have to do is improve our ball club." The Pelicans overpowered the opposition last year but it goes without saying that the team must be strengthened for the new league. Pete already has lined up several players who intend to come to Brookings for the summer's play.

Historical Bits Of Coos, Curry Cos.

By Emil R. Peterson

Historian, Coos-Curry Historical Society, North Bend, Ore.

"Coose" county's first post-office was Port Orford, established March 27, 1855, with Reginald R. Smith as the first postmaster. Port Orford was located in Coos county until the territorial legislature created Curry county in December of that year. However, it was not until early in 1856 that the county organization became operative.

Coos county as we know it today did not have a post office of its own until April 30, 1858, when John J. Jackson became the first postmaster of Empire City. Randolph obtained a post-office the following year when George Wasson became its postmaster on August 18, 1859. Mar. 7, 1863, Amos C. Rogers became post master of Coos county's third post office, Coos River.

Returning to Port Orford, it is interesting to note that two of its early postmasters later became prominent among the business men of Marshfield. Andrew Nasburg served in that capacity for Port Orford from 1864 to 1866. In a story in Gaston's History of Oregon, Thomas Hirst says, "Andrew Nasburg was the first postmaster in Marshfield." If we turn to Walling's History of S. W. Oregon, we find a very good picture of the Nasburg & Hirst building in Marshfield. A sign on the front reads: "Nasburg & Hirst — merchandise — post office." That was published in 1884. If you walk down Front street now in 1950, you may see that same building in good repair and fully occupied.

Allen D. Wolcott's name may be found in the official records as having served Port Orford in the capacity of postmaster for more than ten years, 1862 to 1872. He later became well known among the merchants of Marshfield.

Older residents of 50 years ago recall his association with his son, Chester, in the Nasburg & Hirst building. Chester Wolcott continued in the grocery business in Marshfield for more than 30 years. He still resides in his old home town.

Curry county did not have another post office in addition to Port Orford until March 3, 1863, when two were added simulaneously. Chetco was essablished in the extreme southern end of the county with Augustus F. Miller as the first postmaster.

At the mouth of the Rogue, John Dewey was made first postmaster of Ellensberg." Notice the spelling, ending with 'berg,' not burg. Fourteen years later the spelling was changed to Ellensburgh—notice the "h" at the end. Historians have ignored the "h" but the official records have it. Walling in his History of S. W. Oregon, 1884, refers to Ellensburg. Lareall in the book, "The Doctor in Oregon," 1943, speaks of Dr. vonder Green, located at Ellensburg.

"Gold Beach" became the official name on March 28, 1890. There can be little if any doubt that the place was called Gold Beach long before the 90s. As early as April 14, 1856, Rodney Glisan recorded in his Journal of Army Life, "I left camp at the mouth of the Rogue river at 6 p. m. yesterday, in the schooner Gold Beach and reached here (Port Orford) about ten last night." It seems reasonable to assume that the schooner had been named for the place and that the place had been called Gold Beach even in the early 50s. But officially, it was not until 40 years later that it took the name.

New Castle, Tell Tale, Eckley, each of these, at different dates, officially designated a single community.

The first name, New Castle, sounds like a perfectly good cognomen. It would seem to infer, however, that a rich coal strike was anticipated. Perhaps it petered out, and the disappointment suggested a change of name. But why in heck would they call it Tell Tale? It must have proved unsatisfactory, for it lasted only 39 days, when it was changed to Eckley. The community is still known as Eckley, although there has been no postoffice for many years. Mrs. Charlotte W. Guerin served as postmistress, beginning with New Castle, December 19, 1879; again when it was changed to Tell Tale May 21, 1883; and next to Eckley, June 29, 1883, continuing until August 7 of that year. The name of the succeeding appointee appears to be the same as the first except for the middle initial, perhaps Charlotte N. Guerin. The last postmistress of the list for that office is Mrs. Cilla Guerin, date of appointment, January 15, 1890. No record is at hand as to the final closing of the postoffice at Eckley.

At another time I want to tell you about a woman who has served as postmistress continuously for 32 years in one location. If you know of a cast that can exceed or even equal this record, please send it to this newspaper or to me.

Walter Buchanan left Tuesday morning for Portland for a checkup at the veterans hospital.

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Coos-Curry To Be Subject Of History Society Now Plans

COQUILLE—The Semi-annual meeting of Coos-Curry Pioneer and Historical association was held at the Junior Auditorium in the community building here last Saturday. Many members and friends in both counties were present.

Alfred Powers, of Portland, dean of the division of writers and publishers of Oregon State system of higher learning, was principal speaker. He will collaborate with Emil R. Peterson, local historian, in publishing a new history of Coos and Curry counities.

Mr. Powers told of many interesting stories related by former historians and spoke highly of the material Mr. Peterson is collecting and submitting to him for editing. Recording facts is not enough, the little things, the trials and romance must be inclcuded to make an impact upon the imagination. He believes the new history will be full of anecdotes of adventure and of achievement and with the physical combination of the rivers, mountains and the sea, it will be remembered forever.

Mr. Powers paid tribute to Mrs. Inez R. Chase, secretary-treasurer, who keeps records of the local association, which has almost as many members as the Oregon Historical Society.

Mr. Gould, president, called the roll of past-presidents of the association, with the following present:

S. M. Nosler—1934-1935.
Clyde Gage—1938-1939.
J. E. Norton—1940-1941.
Walter Laird—1941-1942.
Mary Randleman—1942-1943.
J. P. Beyers—1945-1946.
Albert Matson—19146-1948.

Mr. Matson is also secretary of Oregon Historical Society.

Mrs. Leona G. Bryant sank "Galway Bay" and "The Oregon Trail." Mrs. M. O. Hawkins accompanied at the piano.

The meeting followed a noon luncheon served by the women of the Pioneer Methodist church, with Mrs. James Richmond as general chairman. Mrs. A. N. Gould was in charge of decorations which carried out the Valentine motif in clever pots of pussy willows, decorated with tiny vari-colored glistening paper hearts. Eighty were seated at the tables.

J. E. Norton, finance secretary of the history project, stated he hopes to obtain more sponsors for the history. Sponsors have contributed $100 toward the cost of the history.

The next meeting will be on the second Saturday of March, in the Boy Scout room of the community building.

Gene Gould Makes U. of O. Honor Roll

Gene Gould, junior in the University of Oregon school of journalism, and son of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Gould of this place, placed on the university honor roll, according to word received by his parents earlier this week.

Gene, in his majors, received all "A" grades, and "B" in his minors, with a grade point average of 3.06.

To be placed on the honor roll a student must obtain what is called accumulated hours. An "A" grade in any course gives the student the same number of "accumulated hours." An 'A' grade in all subjects entitled the student to a grade point average of 4.00. The average for colleges all over the country is slightly less than 2.5.

Six County Ofices To Be Fill, Election

GOLD BEACH—Although the primaries will not come until May 19, the political pot may get a little warm as six county offices will be open for the coming election.

To appear on the ballot will be: District Attorney (with a yearly salary of $2600), sheriff, ($3,000.00), Treasurer, ($2,500), and county commissioner from the north end; surveyor and the county coroner.

Open too will be the office of Justice of the Peace for District No. 3, north end. Arthur Niemann, of Port Orford, has filed for this position.

Representative for Coos-Curry counties, a two-year term, is open, according to reports.

Port commissioners for the port at Port Orford will be named.

Last date for filing will be March 10.

March Of Dimes Count May Equal Last Year

While final count of the 1950 "March of Dimes" campaign, locally, has not been made, present indications point to a good contribution from this area, Mrs. Verna Mendenhall told the Pilot Wednesday.

"While the cans placed about town did not have much in them an appeal to organizations did bring response. I look for this area to about match last year's contribution," she said.

Too late for publication last week, came a communication from John Porisch, county drive chairman, stating that Harbor had gone over the top.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. John Arlandson and daughter, Nina Joan, of Coos Bay, were overnight visitors the first of the week. They brought Mrs. Arlandson's mother. Mrs. Herbert Payne, home after she had visited the Arlandson home for the past two weeks.

Mrs. Ida Hubbell returned to her home the latter part of the week from Berkeley where she had spent the last few months visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wilber and son, Cecil, returned from Yamhill where they had spent several months. They plan to remain here.

"Boys Night" at Chetco Rod & Gun club, Tuesday night, attracted 34 members, one guest and 41 "small fry" who enjoyed the picture shown by Gordon Goetz, with help of Jimmy Vincent, after which all had numerous and generous helpings of hot dogs and cokes. The boys assert that these occasions are too infrequent.

"Classified Ads"

For Sale: Tappan gas range, practically new, cost $189.50; to sell for $100. Call at Ole Ask, Brookings Market. 51-2*

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