

## "Schools Must Be Kept Standard," Rotarians Are Told

Accusations made against the school board and people of the area, through the columns of the Curry County Reporter last week by M. L. DeMartin, in an effort to block a passage vote in Dist. No. 17, were explained by Warren Smith to Rotary Wednesday noon, when he told of a party consisting of C. A. MacKenzie, Elmer Parker, as president of the Chamber of Commerce, and himself, representing the school board, called on Mr. DeMartin Wednesday morning, asking Mr. DeMartin to name the people accused.

Mr. DeMartin refused, and in the same breath, told the three the "they had better be going." It was ascertained, Tuesday, Mr. Smith stated, that M. L. DeMartin had caused to be published his slanderous remarks in the Curry County Reporter of last week.

"Brookings schools are barely standard now," Mr. Smith told the club, "and if we want these schools to remain so, we must pay for the conduct of them. Such men as Virgil Goldsberry, Homer Kessler and Earl Carson, as members of the budget board, did not 'pad' any budget for the coming year. Every figure was based upon the cost of previous

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### Card of Thanks

I wish to thank both Democrats and Republicans, voters of Brookings and Curry county for their generous write-in support, for coroner in the recent primary election.

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years, plus the fluctuation of any costs in the meantime.

"The district's books have been audited by the state department and not once have they ever been found to be out of line in any manner. In fact, the district has been complimented upon its business-like manner.

"Conduct of the schools during my regime, and I am certain it has been so before, have been as economically as possible. We are educating our children at a per-pupil cost much less than any other school in this section of Oregon. We are paying our teachers less than the standard of southwestern Oregon.

"And, mind you, the Southern Curry County Taxpayers League wishes to cut off the entire budget for water," said Mr. Smith in closing.

## Port Orford History More Spectacular Than Other Places

By Emil R. Peterson  
Historian, Coos-Curry  
Pioneer Association

In all this Land of Coos and Curry, perhaps no other point is surrounded with so much history as is Port Orford.

It was in 1851 that Captain William Tichenor landed his party there, hoping and looking for a shorter route to the rich gold fields a hundred miles inland, to the east of the coast ranges, in southern Oregon, and northern California.

Tichenor failed in his main purpose but his men and others who followed did find rich deposits of gold on the beaches and in creek and river beds up and down the coast from Port Orford. There followed that mad rush that always comes with reports of gold strikes. Many, no doubt most, of those who came were people of high moral character, with good intentions. But among them were the usual renegades, the riffraff of humanity, always bent on making trouble among those who otherwise would be peaceful, progressive citizens.

Following the rich gold discoveries in 1853, Port Orford mushroomed to a community—shall we call it a city? Anyway, it is reported to have had six or eight hotels, as many saloons and nearly as many stores. Gold seekers were setting up their claims and their shacks up and down the coast. Trouble by the few renegades was stirred up with the Indians. The natives retaliated. Soon the Indian wars were on.

Federal troops were sent in to re-enforce the local volunteers. An army post was established and was given the name of Fort Orford. During this period the Indians were robbed of their lands, their hunting and fishing grounds, and their homes were destroyed. They were rounded up and shipped away to far-off reservations, under promise that never was fulfilled and still is pending down through the third, fourth and even to the fifth generation. But that's another story.

By 1856 the gold rush was losing its momentum and was beginning to decline; the Indians had been shipped out; the troops were removed and Port Orford was approaching the status of A DESERTED CITY

Someone Wrote—  
"In the year 1859, Port Orford was no longer the live place with its many people and places of amusement. Every year since 1856 saw its decline and soon it was deserted, only three families remaining: Mr. Larnap and family; Mrs. Knapp, known all over the country as Grandma Knapp, and one of the dearest and kindest old ladies that ever was, and her son, Louis; and Capt. Tichenor and family.

"Wierd, silent, ghost-like, remained the hotels, the saloons, the stores; homes for the birds, storehouses for the wood-rats, sport for the north wind that played hide-and-seek through all the broken windows and open doorways; broken fences, deserted farmyards, roofless buildings—all were melancholy evidence of former life.

But now the sounds of population fail,

No cheerful movement fluctuates the gale,

No busy steps the grass-grown footway tread,

For all the bloomy flush of life has fled." —UNKNOWN.

It was about this same time—in fact it was near the end of May, 1859, that the steamer Columbia, making one of its usual stops at Port Orford, as it had done before on its regular run from San Francisco to Portland, landed a group of some sixty or seventy people, including several families, and a number of single men. They were on their way to the Coquille Valley in Coos Co., destined to take an important part in the agricultural, business and political development of their adopted homeland. The group came to be known as the Baltimore colony, for they had come from Baltimore, Maryland.

Their leader was Mr. Henry Hermann, with his family. The oldest son, Binger, was then 16 years of age. Binger grew up to become an outstanding leader, not only in southwestern Oregon, but throughout the state. He taught the first school in the Coquille valley; he studied law and became a member of the state legislature; he was elected to the United States Congress at a time when Oregon had only one congressional district, and so

he represented the entire state of Oregon in Congress. There is much more to the story of the Baltimore colony, and its members. But let us return to Port Orford.

Sixty-five years, two months, two weeks and a day or so after the Baltimore colony had landed at Port Orford, Binger Hermann returned. It was mid-August, in 1924. Port Orford was holding a celebration, honoring the pioneers of southwestern Oregon. It was reported that some 3000 people attended that three-day jubilee.

History records that "the celebration opened on the beach near Battle Rock with the arrival of the Grand Old Pioneer and the Statesman, Binger Hermann, now 81 years old. He was escorted by the Bandon Beachmen, the Bandon band and the Boy Scouts of Coos County. Mr. Hermann spoke on the spot where he had first touched Oregon soil, in 1859.

This was Mr. Hermann's farewell address. More than 2000 people were furnished with a sea-food dinner. The tables at which they ate, stretched a quarter of a mile from Battle Rock southward."

This was merely the beginning of the three-day event, but the story is too long for a single run. It will be continued another time. But I want to tell you

briefly about another gathering that is to meet in Port Orford soon. It will be much smaller and much less spectacular. It will start from North Bend in the morning of June 4, will pass through Coos Bay, through Coquille and Bandon and then on to Port Orford.

The party will be made up of six couples to be followed by two more couples at Port Orford, at Castaway, by the Sea, where dinner will be served by Pres. and Cherry Rohner.

The occasion will be the termination of a contest based on the census of Coos and Curry counties. Editor J. W. Forester Jr., of the Coos Bay Harbor, and Editor H. P. Hornish of the Coos Bay Times, will be judges of the contest. The party will be made up of the two judges and their wives; Hal Shade, manager of KOOS, with his wife; Emil R. Peterson of "Meet the Pioneers," with his wife; and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Norton of Coquille, who are invited to represent the Coos Curry Pioneer and Historical Association. At Port Orford the party will be joined by Mayor and Mrs. Douglas Johnson, and will be received by Pres. and Cherry Rohner, at beautiful Castaway by the Sea. Somewhere along the line one more couple will be added, consisting of the contest winner and his or her companion.

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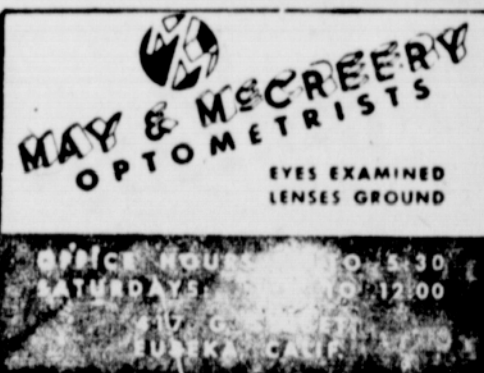
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