

Welcome Was Great In Curry County

By EMIL PETERSON, HISTORIAN

Coos-Curry Pioneer Association, North Bend, Oregon

Since coming to Wedderburn and Gold Beach, I have met several local people. All have extended a cordial hand of welcome, making me feel very much at home. Several calls came to me at Mack's Motel, where I had comfortable quarters with all modern conveniences. Some came in person; others telephoned. I was glad to receive calls from anyone who was interested in our history, past and present. I am anxious to meet people of pioneer families.

One man asked whether we were really including Curry Co. in our coming book, or would it be devoted to Coos Co. with a mere mention of Curry? In answer to that question, I want to state emphatically that we are striving honestly to do full justice to Curry county as well as to Coos. It has been my aim from the beginning to give Curry Co. as creditable a showing as may be possible, even if its people failed to show active interest. However, we have known from the start that we could do a better job if we could have the active and enthusiastic interest and co-operation from all people.

Since I went to Wedderburn, I find that our people are showing real interest. The Gold Beach chamber of commerce has provided me many conveniences, to receive people who cared to call and tell their stories or to talk over matters pertaining to the new history of the two counties. Certain individuals have given wonderful help during the past months. Louis Knapp has been a consistent helper from the start—both financially and in supplying historical data.

Mrs. Hedgpeth, granddaughter of Capt. Wm. Tichenor, has been wonderful in her untiring efforts at collecting and sending me a lot of Curry Co. history—old letters, old newspapers, clippings, original manuscripts of stories and articles written by pioneers. She has sent me reams of her own collections, written from time to time in her own handwriting in the form of letters. Perhaps you may know that Mrs. Hedgpeth is one of the nine daughters of Ellen Tichenor McGraw—Ellen for whom Ellensburg was named—Ellen, referred to by some old writers as the "Belle of Curry Co.," who loved to run on the beach, letting the wind blow through her hair, or to ride horesback over the mountain trails; who grew up to be a school teacher, teaching at Eckley and other rural districts, then married and became the mother of eleven children. Ellen Tichenor was always a part of the history of Curry county.

Hardy T. Stewart, who was born and grew up in Curry Co., has been and is one of my best sources of information. A newspaper publisher, a school teacher, a business man, a holder of several public offices, he has been one of the builders of the county. His father, Frank A. Stewart, was one of the early county school superintendents and conducted the first teachers institute ever held in Curry county, at Gold Beach, in 1888. I have a complete report of that institute, including Supt. Stewart's opening address, as well as the program for the occasion. Hardy Stewart's grandfather, Judge Michael Riley, came to Port Orford in 1853 and was one of the early leaders of the county; was county judge for many years and is well remembered by many present-day residents. These reports and many others enter into the history of the community—your community and mine. I feel fortunate in having the full co-operation of a man like Hardy T. Stewart.

Numerous people have written to me, giving stories of pioneer days. There is Lennie Snodgrass Moore. She has told me how her father made a "Lizzard" from the crotch of a tree, for hauling poles down the hillside trails for their log house, facing the ocean in the neighborhood of Carpenerville—they had no roads; how he made squares of soft sand-

stone for their fireplace; how he made lime for mortar by burning mussel shells, then pounding them to a powder. Years later when the house burned down, the old fireplace and chimney remained standing. And they made lye by leaching oak ashes, using this with bear fat and elk tallow to make soap. And when the whole family went to visit neighbors, there was room for only half a dozen kids besides their mother, on the two horses; so some of the children, including Lennie, had to run behind, holding to a horse's tail for a tow up the hills.

Many people have given me bits of Curry Curry Co. history—Tom Billings, his two sisters, Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Dilley; Marial Billings Paddock; Walter Frye, Arthur Dorn and Walter Scherbarth of Agness; George Meserve and his granddaughters, of Illahe; Bill Wridge, Dave Gilmore and John VanPelt of Harbor and Brookings. Well, the list is too long. But I must add our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Adams, who entertained me for three days and nights at their home up the river, with plenty of acorn-fattened bear meat. And their 14-year-old granddaughter, Pat Adams, who took us for a ride in a Chevy pickup, over a steep, narrow, winding and slippery road, three and a half miles from the river to her grandfather's old mill.

Much of the information received is from somebody's memory and may have been passed on through three or four generations. It must be checked if it is to be given out as historical facts. Checking for accuracy often is difficult and sometimes impossible.

Dodge's Pioneer History of Coos and Curry counties, published in 1898, is helpful and is used for some of our data.

Walling's History of Southwest Oregon, 1884, is quite helpful.

Glisan's Journal of Army Life, 1874, devoted 125 pages to Curry County in 1855 and 1856. It gives a delightful and interesting account of Curry county of that period.

In "running down" leads, perhaps there is no better source of information than that our own state library. The Oregon Historical Society at Portland is a helpful place, also.

For a record of our post offices and postmasters, the National Archives, Washington, D. C. can supply the required data.

Then there are our various state commissions: highway department for information about our highways, ferries, bridges, the parks, etc. The fish commission and the game commission are valuable sources to draw on. For information on coal mining in southwest Oregon, I have found the best report issued by the state department of geology and mineral industries. From this source also I received the story of the Lost Port Orford Meteorite. These and many other sources of information are available to the historian.

Notice To Creditors

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Curry County. IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES A. WARNOCK, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Charles A. Warnock, Deceased, by the County Court of Curry County, Oregon, and has qualified. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same, duly verified as by law required, to the undersigned at Room 5, Hendricks Building, Brookings, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof.

Dated February 21, 1951.
First Published February 22, 1951
Last Publication March 22, 1951.
EDITH V. WARNOCK,
Administratrix.
Ed F. Ackley, attorney for administratrix, Brookings, Ore.

So you see, we can get a lot of information from your backyard without ever knocking at your front door. But I prefer to greet you face to face, to have a friendly chat, and to hear your story as you have seen it or received it from your old granddad or grandmother.

O. B. A. Contribute \$3,665 To "4-H"

GOLD BEACH—Oregon Bankers Association is contributing \$3665 toward the support of special 4-H club activities according to Clifford Jenkins, county agent. A coup of the 1951 budget has just been received at the office, states that this sum will be used for the state style revue at the state fair, 4-H contests at the Pacific International, and 4-H

demonstration contests, etc.

Some of this money is paid out in the form of cash awards. The remainder of it is in the form of educational trips and scholarships. The association has done this for a number of years. The association has done much to further interest of 4-H work.

Realty Transfers

Mr. and Mrs. Ben W. Harroun have purchased the former C. P. McCulloch home near the Odd Fellows hall and have already taken possession.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Swearingen have sold a portion of their acreage on Easy Street to Dill Sanders of McMinnville. Sanders who is an electrician, expects to start construction of a new home almost immediately. He will be employed by Brookings Plywood

Corporation.

Ellwood "Bill" Stotenburg, father of Bob Stotenburg, Texaco station operator, and an old-time resident of Brookings, has just returned from Coos Bay and purchased a small tract of land and cottage on Arnold Lane of Mr. and Mrs. Abel of Medford. The Pete J. Lesmeister Agency handled these transactions.

LOCAL NEWS

Sisters of Mrs. George Funk, Mrs. Irma Hansen of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Mrs. Blanche Winegart, of Fort Wayne, Ind., accompanied the Funks home on their return from an automobile trip to the midwest. Another sister, Mrs. Firthmiller, lives in this area. This is the first time in 27 years that the four sisters have been together at one time.

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