

# BROOKINGS And Vicinity . . . .

By Emil R. Peterson

Historian, Coos-Curry Pioneer  
and Pioneer Association

1. The Brookings Lumber Co. I have been told by different persons that a very good story about this institution was published in one of the leading timber magazines of Oregon during the heyday of Brookings' youth. I have never been able to locate the story. Everyone asked refers me to someone else. Even our state library has failed in locating it. That institution seldom fails to locate anything that has ever been published. I would like to see the story.

2. We would like a "good" story about some old-time merchant of Southern Curry county. I have heard about Blake and I believe he would be a good subject to write up. But I lack information. I believe he was located some distance south of the Chetco, perhaps at Cetco post office in 1888, and a Fredrick H. Blake in '89. In 1874 there was a man listed as H. Blake, joint senator in the Oregon legislature from Coos and Curry. Were these Blakes of the same family as the Blake who had the store?

3. On another sheet I have listed several post offices that at one time or another were located down that way, with names of postmasters. Any little story of any one of those old post offices and/or post masters might be helpful.

4. We plan to have a section of Twenty Pioneer Merchants of Coos and Curry. It occurs to me that Blake the merchants would be a good subject for the extreme end of Curry county. I understand that he bought and shipped farm produce, such as butter, bacon and hams, wool, possibly potatoes, perhaps other things; that the products were taken in lighters by the Van Pelts out over the Chetco bar and loaded on schooners outside. Salmon was shipped in the same way.

5. The Chetco River—how it was navigated for a distance of some 18 miles upstream—by a boat in winter, by wagon teams in summer. One of the Payne brothers told me something about it. I'd like to know more about it.

6. Old-time salmon fishing on the Chetco; how the salmon were caught, prepared by salting, then packed in barrels and shipped, down the river in lighters to the schooners anchored outside. Was there a cooperage in the community? Subject for a good story.

7. Story of the Van Pelts with their lighters.

8. The Swiss Family Payne—how they traversed up the Chetco by boat and horse teams—their dairy cows—how they moved to the ranges in summer, setting up camp on the range miles from their winter home—how they packed and shipped their butter, 10c, lb.

9. Myrtle Grove, Azalea Lane, Lilies and other bulbs—present status—population—incorporation—schools—library—what next?

The history will contain a few lengthy biographies of families who were prominent in leading the settlements, the development—the progress and the general advancement of Coos and Curry counties.

We plan to have several medium biographies. We hope to find room for several hundred very brief biographical sketches, giving merely the vital information about each character—place and year of birth; when and how they

came to Coos and Curry counties—kind of work followed—marriage—date and name of spouse—children's names; political and church affiliation, etc.

The following sample sketches are not offered as perfect models but they may serve to help in guiding writers. We need the help of individuals in the various localities:

1. Albrecht, Carl L., b. Germany May 29, 1872, son of Carl H. and Hermania Albrecht; came with parents to Marshfield, 1883; attended public schools; followed steam-boating, surveying, railroad construction work; Republican; served three years on the Marshfield city council; 1891 he married Fannie E. Warner, the daughter of Wm. and Laura Warner. One daughter, Vera L. Albrecht. (57 words).

2. Benham, George R., b. in Missouri Nov. 29, 1862. Son of Wm. and Susan (Miller) Benham. Came with parents to Oregon in 1863. Father farmed and did blacksmithing in Willamette valley; later moved to California and followed same work for seven years. George helped his father with farm work during his school years. About 1874 or or 1875 the family came to Coos county, the father buying land in the Fairview district, settled there. After some years with his parents, George bought land for himself, which he cleared and improved; erected buildings, and bought and raised dairy cows; did general farming. (About 100 words).

3. Bennett, John D., b. Illinois 1848, son of Thomas and Sarah (Baker) Bennett, farmer, sawmill operator, general contractor. 1871 married Belle Bunch. Children: William, Edna M., Charles R., Arthur R., Eva N., Lois N., Republican, Seventh-day Adventist. Resided in Gravel Ford vicinity since 1871. (About 50 words).

4. Crowley, John D., b. Missouri Nov. 1, 1847; came to Curry county 1886; married Adeline Cox, daughter of Wm. Cox. The Crowleys had six children: Elizabeth, Charles, Rebecca, David, and Sarah. (About 30 words).

5. Fitzhugh, George, b. Missouri Dec. 7, 1844; came to Oregon, 1950 and to Curry county 1888, residing on Floras Creek and on Sixes River. Married in 1870 before coming to Curry county. Nine Children: Francis, Charles, John (Jack) A., Robert, Mary, Nancy, Phoebe (Nancy), and Lester S. George Fitzhugh was a surveyor and laid out the first road from Floras Creek to Port Orford.

(Send your sketch to your community leader or to Emil R. Peterson, Rt. 1, box 542, North Bend, Oregon).

To Be Continued Later

Elder and Mrs. Shepherd and family of Coos Bay who leave for missionary fields in Africa soon, led the Sabbath meeting of the Seventh-Day Adventists at the Grange hall, Saturday. They go to Rhodesia. Mrs. Shepherd is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, new owners of the Barton W. Marsh ranch up the Chetco.

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Where the Produce  
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# Market

Where the Money  
Goes Farther—  
Where the Variety  
Is Larger—

THURS., FRI., And SAT., APRIL 19, 20 & 21st

TEA GARDEN, 19-oz Jar  
**APPLE BUTTER . . . . 17c**

SWANSDOWN, (2 3-4-lb. box)  
**CAKE FLOUR . . . . 39c**

WONDER FOOD (12-oz Cello Bag)  
**MARSHMALLOWS . . . . 13c**

## MEATS AND FISH

Picnic (5-6-lb. Average)  
**HAMS, lb. . . . . 53c**

Drawn—Pan-Ready  
Fresh Frying (2-2½-lb)  
**CHICKENS, lb. . . . 73c**

Lean and Meaty  
Short Ribs of  
**BEEF, lb. . . . . 55c**

## - PRODUCE -

Fancy Solid  
**CABBAGE, lb. . . . 7c**

Snow White  
**CAULIFLOWER, lb. . . 7c**

Pippin  
**APPLES, 2 lbs. . . . 21c**

Hubbard and Banana  
**SQUASH, lb. . . . . 5c**

ZEE (200 size)  
**FACIAL TISSUE . . . . 12c**

Solid Pack  
**BUTTER, lb. . . . . 75c**

Mission Brand  
**PEAS, 303 can . . . 15c**

FISHER'S (2½-lb. Package)  
**BISCUIT MIX . . . . 43c**

**WHITE KING SOAP POWDER LG . . . 29c**  
**WHITE NAVY SOAP POWDER, Pk. . . 29c**

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