

HISTORICAL NOTES OF CURRY COUNTY

By M. S. BRAINARD

(Continued from last week)

Louis Doucette appears to have been of mixed blood whose boat and industry was his investment in the ferry deal. His name appears as a juror in the first called by the J.P., court at Gold Beach, July 24, 1855.

On Jan. 1, 1858, the court granted a liquor license to Simon Rothenheim, at the mouth of the Rogue. Simon received for poll taxes, in 1860, was J.P., for some years after taking the job, July 9, 1862, and then, June 6, 1866,

he was naturalized in circuit court at Ellensburg!

Aug. 8, 1860, he sued Jim McCormick and Dennis Cuniff for "breaking windows in Rothenheim's store and damaging goods." The jury found for the plaintiff and assessed the culprits \$40, but, with two juries called to enjoy the case, Jim and Dennis had to pungle up a total of \$107.75.

November 2, of that same year, there was recorded a deed and bill of sale from Charles L. Strong, of Virginia City, Territory of Utah, to William F. Walton, of San Francisco, for \$15,000, taking in all the land beginning from a point on the south shore "where the mouth of the Rogue River is narrowest," east one half mile, following the meander line of the river, then a square one half mile on a side, back to the point of beginning, "together with fishing rights, buildings, etc.," and a later inventory mentions a considerable stock of merchandise. How Strong got original possession of the plat is probably to be found in the records of "Coose"

county or the Territorial archives.

One of Walton's employees was George M. Scudder and somehow he later got hold of the property as he recorded disposing of it Sept. 5, 1868. Scudder was one time county judge, dying Nov. 17, 1870, at the age of 50, and is buried in the old Gold Beach cemetery.

Riley, and his son-in-law, Frank Stewart, were partners in a saw-mill, fisheries and merchandise store from 1870 to 1876 when they sold out all their interests to R. D. Hume. Micheal Riley arrived in Port Orford during the Indian troubles, Sept. 1, 1853, with a blanket and an eight dollar gold piece. The 1873 tax appraisal of Riley and Stewart valued their holdings at 12,350, on which they paid a tax of \$308.75, the largest in the county for that year.

It is probable that at the time Riley and Stewart had their store it was grouped with other mercantile establishments on the flat just north of where the Sunset Inn now stands.

From other sources, viewed with today's eyes, their stock must have been what could be called primitive for there was extant a story concerning a long awaited and needed consignment of felt hats, all of which, according to an old timer, must have been, "blocked for a six point buck."

The tax rolls of 1878 show but three stores in the county — A. D. Wolcott, at Port Orford, and D. Woodruff and R. D. Hume, at Ellensburg although it is more than possible the assessor overlooked Fred Blake's (son of "Harry") where the Pedrol Ranch house now stands, just north of the Winchuck.

And in '98, at Gold Beach, there was also Billie Kirk's and John R. Browning's, with the R. D. Hume emporium moved across the river to Wedderburn.

This William Kirk later had a store on the Chetco, which he moved when the highway was realigned, later selling to Mark Wood, who disposed of the business to Elmer Hanscam. Part of Hanscam's present building used to be on the other side of 101, and was moved across.

Considering the fact that only 393 folks were tallied in the 1860 census, store business then could not have been very brisk and people did not come into the county very fast.

It is interesting to note that one Hans Houstma renewed his liquor license for Mountain House (Carpenterville, now) on June 6, 1859, and later posted a notice that he no longer kept a public house. Possibly the creek heading under Colgrove's, now named, "Houst-enader", could be a corruption of the name of this early hostler.

In culling county and other records, a similar thesis could be prepared for almost every settlement in the county. Places, people, and dates here-in listed came from the records of Curry County or from authentic sources. It required a long time to assemble and co-ordinate them.

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THURSDAY, NOV. 26
THANKSGIVING.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27
Sidney Croft Lodge, A.F.&A.M.
at IOOF Hall, 8 p.m.
FOE at Jaklewicz Anchorage,
8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28
Eagles Barbecue, Jaklewicz An-
chorage, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 30
Chetco Choral Club, Baptist
Church, 8 p.m.
Scout Building Committee at
Jaklewicz Anchorage, 8 p.m.

Brookings Harbor Pilot **5**
THURSDAY, NOV. 26, 1953

Barbershoppers, VFW Hall at
8 p.m.

PTA Executive Committee at
Arrell Home, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1
OES at IOOF Hall.
Lions Auxiliary, Chetco Inn, 8
p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2
Home Ext. Unit, Textile Paint-
ing, Grange Hall, 10:30 a.m.
VFW and Auxiliary, VFW Hall
at 8 p.m.
Nayborhill Club.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3
PTA at High School, 8 p.m.

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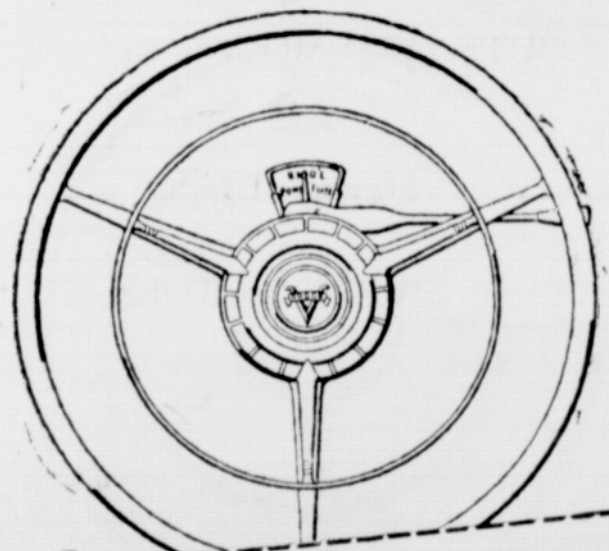
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