

Historical Notes

By MAX BRAINARD

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You will notice that the settlements of the Indians were principally close to the ocean, near the mouths of the streams emptying into the ocean. This was because the Indians acquired a greater part of their living, their principal diet being mussels, clams, crabs, and shellfish. In season, they were able to catch salmon and other fish, out of the streams. These coast Indians were a very indolent class of people for the season had provided generously for their needs. They did not have to work; they did not even have to look one day ahead for their food. When the tide was out, the table was set. This illustrates to us the necessity for activity, the need for us to exercise our bodies and our minds. If we do not do so, we cannot develop. These Indians did not have to work and for that reason they were dwarfed both in body and in mind. (Note: exploration of these "kitchen middens," have been made, from time to time, by both amateur and professional folks, especially by folks from California universities, in the Winchuck-Whaleshead area, to their apparent profit. This writer has found several items in the shell mounds—hairpins, needles, ornaments, arrow points, sinkers, and pestles. The search requires much patience, time, and care, especially if bone objects are encountered. It is significant that no known burial place has ever been reported as having been found in the area. MSB.)

The QUA-TO-MA tribe of Indians had an important village at or near the mouth of the stream, Qua-toma, known to us as Floras Creek. They had another very large village near the mouth of the Sa-Quami River—to us, Sixes River, and a third at what is now Port Orford village. Of course, there were other camps and settlements all along the coast, but we are mentioning only the principal ones.

The next tribe south was the COSUTT-HENTEN tribe. They owned the country from the southern boundary of the line of the Quo-ta-mas, south to a point on the coast where there are three large rocks in the edge of the ocean, known to early settlers as Three Sisters Rocks. They had a village at the mouth of the stream that bore their name—Cosutt-Henten—later named Mussel Creek. The village was on the low flat, close to the ocean. The Arizona Inn now stands opposite this location.

The EUQUACHEES claimed the country from the south of the Cosutt-Hentens to a point where the early mining town of Elizabeth was located and where the Giesel cemetery now is. The Equachees had a village on the north side and near the mouth of the stream that bore their name, Euquachees, now called Euchre Creek.

The next tribe, the YAHSHUTES, claimed the land south to a promontory, Cape Sebastian, which is locally known as Hunters Head. The tribe had two large villages, one on the North side of the TO-TO-TU-Na, (Rogue River), and the other on a low flat opposite the present site of the Sunset Inn. The Yahshutes claimed only a short distance up the Rogue, probably three miles.

South of the Yahshutes was the CHETL-ESSENTAN tribe whose territory extended south to Arch Rock, the south boundary of the Will Crook ranch. The Chetl-Essentans had a village near the mouth of the stream known by their tribe name but which we named Pistol River. The course of this river is greatly changed now.

You who are familiar with that vicinity know that the river runs straight out, almost directly into the ocean, now. In early days and up to the year 1890—the great flood year—the river swung around a high point north of its present mouth, then ran for a half mile along the foot of the bluff, and emptied into the ocean near a large rock, opposite the home of George Henry. The Chetl-Essentan village was located on the bluff directly in front of the Henry Home.

The WISHTENATAN tribe, south of the Chetl-Essentans, owned the country to a point known as Whales Head. A small village at the mouth of a stream that bore their name is shown on the map.

The CHETCO tribe had two large villages at the mouth of the Chetco River, one on the bluff, on the north side, close to the present site of Brookings, the other on the low flats on the south side of the river. Another village, six miles up the river, was located on the site which is now known as the Johnson Gardner place.

The Chetco's southern neighbors, the tribe of HASONTA, had two villages, both near the mouth of the Hasonta River. The white man later named this stream, Winchuck.

Going back to the TO-TO-TU-NA, or Rogue River, we find other tribes located along its course. The TO-TO-TU-NA tribe claimed six or seven miles of the river and had a village on the north side of it at the present Bagnell Ferry landing. Farther up the river was the MAC-AN-O-TIN tribe whose villages was located on the place now known as the Claude Walker Ranch.

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Jan. 8, 1954

KINDERGARTEN

Second semester classes will begin for pre-school children January 4. Register your child any time this month at the home of Mrs. William G. Thompson, located three houses west of the Community Baptist Church. Pd Adv.

Scene From Cub Scout Frolic



Cub Scouts sit entranced as Frenchy Arrell winds up to the climax of a ghost story. The picture was taken in the dark with a flash camera.

