

Historical Notes

By MAX BRAINARD

(Continued from last week)

The SHAS-TE-KOOS-TEES was the most easterly tribe of the Coast Indians. They had a large village on the north side of the river, opposite the confluence of the Illinois, at the place where Agness is now situated.

It is interesting to know the origin of some of the names given by the white settlers to various places in the county. In the northern part of the county, the stream which the Indians called QUA-TO-MA, is now known as Floras creek but in the early days it was always spelled Flores. The word "Floras" might lead us to believe that the early settlers gave it that name on account of the great display of flora in the spring and early summer; but early settlers say it was given in honor of a man by the name of Flores, and the early spelling seems to bear that out.

(Note: In the February 14, 1904 edition of Jonas H. Upton's Port Orford *Tribune*, the editor quotes a letter from Mrs. Fred Florey of Gaston, Washington county. "My husband was the man Floras creek was named for * * * Lieut. Fred Florey opened the trail up the banks of the stream as was noted in the testimony of the trial, Cox vs. Scott, and was present in the north part of the county in the Indian troubles of 1855-56." Apparently, Editor Upton knew Lt. Florey. MSB)

Sixes river, it is said, was named by a party of adventurous prospectors, who in the early times, worked their way along the coast and came to this stream at a point where there was a large number of natives on the opposite shore. The Indians cried out to them, "Klahowya Sikhs which means, "You are welcome, friends." Now, to us, it would seem there was nothing in that expression to cause them to name the river "Sixes," but when we remember that these men were travelling through a strange country, said to be infested with savages, and when they were ex-

pecting to be ambushed at any time and to have to fight for their lives, we can well see what a relief it was to be greeted with these words, "Klahowya Sikhs,"—"Welcome, friends!" So these men named the river, "Sixes," which means, "Friends," or "Friendly River."

(Note: Spelling in first Curry county records variously as Shix, Shixes, and Shikhs. MSB.)

South of the mouth of the river there is a great headland projecting into the ocean. In early times, when the ambition of the young men was to go west, he had only to walk out on this headland, and there he had reached a point as near the sun's setting as his feet could carry him. That is the most westerly point in the United States, the place where the west ends.

That is Cape Blanco, discovered and named by Martin D'Angular, on January 19, 1603. Port Orford, south of this headland, was named by Captain George Vancouver, on April 24, 1792, in honor of the Earl of Orford, his "much respected friend." The town of Port Orford was later named by Captain William Tichenor, who was one of the first navigators to sail a steam vessel north from San Francisco. In command of the Steamer, *Seagull*, he began to make trips from San Francisco to the Columbia river. He often called at Port Orford as he frequently found it necessary to seek shelter from the strong northwest winds. He thought it might be a good idea to locate here for the reason that previous to this time great gold discoveries had been made in what is now Josephine and Jackson counties, and Captain Tichenor was carrying large quantities of freight from San Francisco to Crescent City, from which place it was packed across the mountain trails to this new mining country. Of course, the country back of Port Orford was unexplored and no one knew how far back from the ocean it was to the mining districts.

Captain Tichenor thought that

Bond Sales Up Over Last Year

Oregon residents continued their "savings spree" last month by setting aside over \$2 million 333 thousand in series E and H savings bonds.

"This represents a 40 per cent increase over the corresponding period in 1952," according to C. M. Gray, county chairman, "and reflects one of the highest monthly increases since the end of World War II."

County sales during November in E and H series bonds amounted to \$1,397.

Mr. Gray pointed out that the healthy savings bonds pattern in Oregon was also reflected across the nation. Almost \$440 million

by locating at Port Orford, he could get a road across to the mines that would give him the key to a great deal of trade. So, in the year 1841 (?) he decided to locate there. He made his first settlement on the 9th day of June, 1851, when he landed nine men on the famous rock, which, because of this historic fight with the Indians that took place there has ever since been known as Battle Rock. Captain Tichenor filed on a donation land claim and afterwards founded the town which he named "Orford," after the name of the harbor.

(Continued next week)

in series E and H bonds were sold, an increase of 25 per cent over November of last year. "November redemptions of matured and unmatured savings bonds," Mr. Gray emphasized, "were \$26 million less than sales."

"Plans are now being made by the state chairman, state director, and state advisory committees for next year's savings bonds

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campaign," Mr. Gray said. "Later this month, or early in January, quotas will be assigned not only to counties, but also to individual communities. Sales during 1954 will have to increase at least 35 per cent to meet the state's quota of over 5 1/4 billion."

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