

Historical Notes

By MAX BRAINARD

(Continued from Last Week)
 Shortly after the founding of this town, Captain Tichenor brought in a party of men to help him view out the trail to the mining districts. As he observed the coast line, in sailing back and forth, it appeared to him that south of Port Orford was the westerly terminus of a high range of mountain ridges, extending far back to the interior, so he instructed his men to climb to the summit of that mountain, which terminated in steep cliffs, at the ocean's edge, and to follow the dividing ridges in an easterly direction. They followed his advice, as far as going to the top of the mountain, but after starting in an easterly direction, not being mountaineers, they soon got into the canyons and became lost. After wandering around for seven days, they came back into Port Orford from the north. So disgusted were the men with the advice given them by Captain Tichenor, that they called the mountain, "Tichenor's Humbug," and it has been known as "Humbug Mountain," ever since and is an unmistakable landmark to travellers along the Roosevelt highway.

There is a stream, known as "Brushes Creek," which makes a semi-circle around the base of Humbug mountain. Although history is silent in regard to the

origin of this name, I feel and know that every old-timer who travelled up and down the coast never questioned its right to be so named. I carried the mail between Gold Beach and Port Orford, about 45 years ago. At that time there was not a bridge in Curry county. The trails along the coast were narrow and unimproved, following the ridges and often dropping down into creek beds. Many of these trails were old elk trails, for in early times, elk ran in bands of hundreds and, in travelling, always followed each other in single file. The result was deep trails where they had trod and, of course, they broke out some of the brush as they went through. Indians, and the pioneers who came afterward, naturally followed these trails. The coast trail dropped down to the creek, south of Humbug mountain, and one was met with such a dense growth of brush that, in places, it was necessary to dismount and lead the horse. So, we old timers never questioned the origin of the name, "Brushes Creek," although it was first called "Brushy Creek."

(Note: Regarding the above story about seeking a trail eastward from Port Orford, via Humbug, this party was led by G. T. Vault, a prominent adventurer of early Oregon, who later founded a newspaper at Jacksonville. He and a party of nine others had been hired by Tichenor. This party was Gilbert Brush. Five men were massacred by a party of Coquilles, September 14, 1851, and the five who survived were T. Vault, Brush, T. J. Davenport, of Massachusetts, L. L. Williams, of Vermont, and Cyrus Seddon, of New Jersey. Brush was badly beaten with a paddle. He returned to Port Orford. Dr. Glisan, army surgeon, stationed with troops at Port Orford, returning trips to the south, in '53 and '54, tells in two or three

Carbon Monoxide Is Winter Danger

Carbon monoxide may be the cause of more traffic trouble than the few cases of asphyxiation that occur each winter, the secretary of state's traffic safety division said this week.

Carbon monoxide in a closed car can sharply reduce a driver's alertness and coordination even though the concentration is not strong enough to cause unconsciousness or death, safety officials point out. A driver so affected may not respond to an emergency situation quickly enough to avoid an accident.

Safety men suspect that the gas, which is colorless and odorless in its pure form, may be responsible for many winter-season smash-ups that normally are charged to driver inattention and carelessness.

Drivers were urged to make certain mufflers and exhaust pipes are in good condition and that at least one window is partially open even in cold weather. Research studies have shown that strong concentrations can exist in heavy downtown traffic and that exhaust fumes from other vehicles can enter a car through the air ducts of its ventilation system.

CLAUDIA SHRADER HEADS SEWING BEES

New officers were elected last week by the 4-H Sewing Bees. The new president is Claudia Shrader. Vice president is Carol Ann Cross. Other officers are: Secretary, Karen Barker; song-leader, Patricia McGinniss and reporter, Deanna Bivin. Time and place for club meetings was discussed, as well as the amount of dues. At the next meeting, the club plans to start on their needle cases.

places of meeting "Mr. Brush" on the trail between Port Orford and "Half-broed's House." Somewhere in my notes I have a record of Asa H. Crook clearing the land at the mouth of Brush creek, present site of the Humbug Park picnic grounds. MSB)

The next stream south of Humbug mountain, named by the Indians, "COSUTT-HENTON," is Mussel creek. It is not known just how it happened to be so named, but in the early times the trail crossed the stream at its mouth, near the site of the old Cosett-Henton Indian Village, at which place there were great beds of mussel shells, the deposit being, possibly, hundreds of years old. Nobody knows how long the Indians operated there, but there is no doubt that the early pioneers named the stream "Mussel creek," on account of these great deposits of shells at its mouth.

The origin of the name, "Euchre creek," is not definitely known. But when the white settlers questioned the Indians regarding the name of the stream and were told, "Euquaches," it probably sounded, the way the Indians pronounced it, enough like "euchre" to remind them of the word.

The Geisel cemetery is a most familiar landmark to Curry county residents. The old mining town of Elizabeth, at that place, was so called by a merchant there, in honor of his daughter. The Geisel family was living in this settlement when the Indian war broke out on the night of February 22, 1856. On that memorable night the Indians rushed in on the family of John Geisel, killing him and his three sons and taking his wife and two daughters prisoners. They were carried away in the light of the fire that destroyed the home of their loved ones.

Historical Group Plans Museum; To Meet Saturday

The monthly luncheon meeting of the Coos Curry Pioneer and Historical association will be held at the Coquille Hotel Saturday, Jan. 9, at noon.

This is to be a very important meeting and it is hoped that there will be present a good representation from all parts of Coos and Curry. The building committee, which was authorized to measure the space near the Coquille Community building available for a permanent museum, will report. This committee may also have more information as to the proposed site located near Coaledo.

This question of a site upon which to erect a fire-proof museum for Coos and Curry is one of

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the most important questions which members of the association have been obliged to consider. The officers of the association sincerely feel that all those who desire in every way to try to preserve our pioneer heritage should be interested enough to attend and hear these discussions.

Municipal Records

MUNICIPAL COURT

Donald La Bonte, violation of the basic rule, expired license plates, fined \$15.

C. H. Jennings, no driver's license, no vehicle license, fined \$10.

Walter I. Watson, drunk in a public place, fined \$10.

Robert C. Long, drunk in public place, fined \$15.

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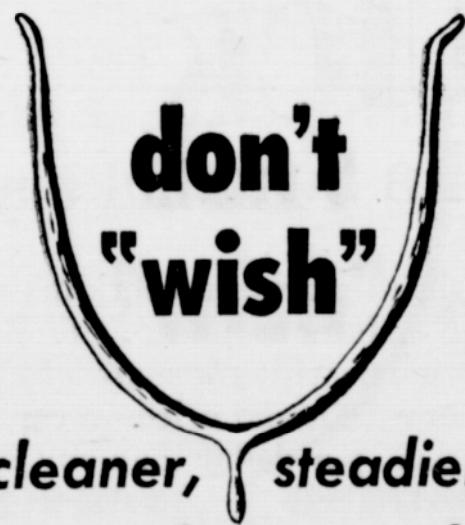
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