

Jacksonville Gold Rush

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concerted attack on the town was expected, women and children were sheltered in Jacksonville's only brick building, then one of the first in the state. Time as time will, eventually brought peace to the Rogue River valley.

In the peaceful cemetery on the hill among the laurels, here and there tombstones carry the line, "killed by Indians," recalling sanguine happenings of long ago.

Even as production from the gold claims lagged, Jacksonville continued to grow. After gold mines passed their heyday, Jacksonville became a business center for a wide area and seemingly destined for greater things in southern Oregon progress. However, when the railroad came in 1884, it went directly across the valley, bypassing Jacksonville by several miles.

A station was established, first known as Chapparral City, and later officially named Medford. Medford developed into a trading center for the valley and Jacksonville lagged. The county seat remained at Jacksonville until 1927 when voters, after several elections, moved it to Medford.

To a visitor it seemed Jacksonville began brooding with the past. Windows of the empty courthouse stared into the lamented yesterdays. Boys began breaking glass out of the courthouse and out of the county jail. The nearby weeping willows appeared to be forever in sorrow.

But Jacksonville is no more a brooding city. It is alive and alert to its opportunities. Its population since the war has shown steady growth and citizens take pride in its golden yesterdays.

It is thus that Jacksonville's colorful past greets visitors with the spirit of today. Riggings around the town

are much as they were left long ago. The buildings retain their pioneer charm.

Still in place is the studio of Peter Britt who set us the first portrait shop in 1852. The upstairs studio in the home place built in 1862 is of never

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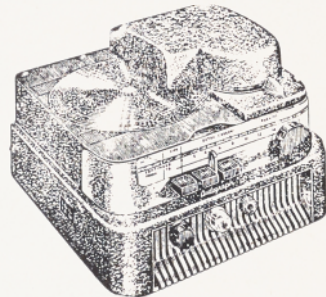
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