

WHEN SANTA CLAUS VISITED PORTLAND 50 YEARS AGO

THOSE WHO KEPT THE TOY SHOPS AND OTHER PLACES OF BUSINESS

WUNDER if Santa Claus remembers his visit at Portland 50 years ago?

To be sure he does. It is his natural force is not abated, for isn't that far-away Christmas given in the memory of other living witnesses?

Dear old Santa saw a village prouder than a city. Its merchants had made ready for his coming. They displayed the best goods that the broad empire of the West could furnish.

And a vigorous lot were the 70 inhabitants of Portland. They had made a hard fight in the past three years to pull their town out ahead of Milwaukie, St. Helens and Oregon City. The fight cost them money, but they didn't flinch. It cost them toll, but they didn't waver. They boasted of their victory, and painted their houses a neat white, while the other dingy towns turned greener with envy every day.

Luckily Santa did not get mired in Front street, the single avenue of the metropolis, else there might never have been another Christmas. Front street is counted narrow in these modern times. But 50 years ago it was too wide; since its depths were past finding out.

Yet maybe the founders didn't dream of so big a city as today. Didn't they establish a cemetery far beyond the city, on Washington street, between Eleventh and Twelfth, where Pfunders' floral gardens are? And didn't they lay out another cemetery in the vicinity of Second and Ankeny, and still another at about Front and Gibbs? But let's cut out cemeteries and return to Santa.

Portland's Early Independences.

Luckily, the dear old fellow didn't need a train of cars to bring him here, or he would not have come until 30 years later. Fortunately, also, he was independent of steamships, else proud Portland might have

ALLEN & LEWIS, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, CLOTHING, HARDWARE, &c., &c., at the Old Stand of Allen, DeWitt & Co., near Pfunders' Wharf.

FALLING & CO., OFFER FOR SALE the following articles at the lowest market prices: DRY GOODS: Consisting of alpaca, w's lais, pelis, sheetings, shirts, etc.

W. S. LADD & CO., IMPORTERS OF AND DEALERS IN WINES AND LIQUORS, 62 FRONT STREET, PORTLAND, OREGON.

GRAND NEW YEAR RAFFLE! REED & BLOREN'S CHINESE SALES ROOM, 100 PRIZES, VALUE, \$10,000, TICKETS ONE DOLLAR.

Hardly a penny did they bring, and the proprietors even gave them away. What was a lot worth when a man could get 60 acres free from the government, and of just as good trees as ever whispered in the breeze.

table heart of the village, the social pivot, the commercial axis. There came the gossip and the debater to discuss Joe Lane's treaty with the Rogue River Indians; the Legislature then in session; and whether the lawmakers would adjourn over Christmas; the burning of the city jail six weeks before; the wearisome delay of the Democrats in building the territorial penitentiary at Portland; and Pillow & Drew's grand New Year's raffle of jewelry.

Yet these were not all the live topics on the parade ground of that "single house." The man of yams was there, sitting on this box of sugar or that box of coffee, or that barrel of whisky. So was the artist who whittles events and thoughts. Why had "Mordcaai" P. Deady

brick building on Front street, south of Stark, would build it higher. If any of those conferees are alive today, they see that building still standing, and two floors higher. They also remember how trade with California had given an impetus to Portland in the past three years. They can tell how Lussling & Meek sold 100 pounds of Milwaukee apples at San Francisco for 50¢ in that same year.

North of the "shingle store," and on the northwest corner of Washington and Front, stood another imposing edifice, the Columbian Hotel. Little shafts of light feeted from its windows on that Christmas eve. N. J. Owen, proprietor, made his hasty a temple for the fastidious, and if the town saved a throne of fashion there it was. But "fashion was a term

"the states," while serving posthumous agitation in Oregon. The steamship Columbia came from San Francisco with "Latest by Mail" every two weeks. Her arrival was a tremendous fortnightly event. An ancient culverin stood sentinel on the dock, and the Columbia hove in sight, boomed the news through the town. Sometimes the culverin spoke out in the middle of the night and citizens turned out to chew the better end of a boyish joke. This made the conscript fathers very angry. Indeed, and they called to Marshal William Grooms and Recorder A. C. Bonnell to inflict condign punishment.

The Conscription Fathers. A survey of this page will show the leading firms in business in 1853. The accompanying advertisements are reproduced from The Oregonian of that year. The names stand for men whose vigor still enlivens the city. They were the men who in 1850, when Portland had 100, gave \$200 for a "meeting-house," who in 1851, when the population was 400, built the "Canyon Road" to Tualatin plains and drew trade from Oregon City, Linn City, Multnomah City, Milwaukie, Linn-ton and St. Helens. They are the men who in that same year expended \$50,000 for a vessel, the Gold Hunter, to make Portland a port, and to offset the ambition of St. Helens.

went to Oregon City or Vancouver. Over-ton went somewhere else for he was hanged; at least that's the gruesome tale. Over-ton sold the townsite for an "out-fit" worth \$50, or rather that's all he got for it because he disposed of one-half to F. W. Pettygrove for the expense of recording the claim and the other half to A. L. Lovejoy for the "out-fit."

There wasn't much for a town then except latitude 46 degrees, 30 minutes and longitude 123 degrees, 30 minutes, and trees 'til you couldn't rest. The sun shone when the sky was clear and the rain fell in wet eather even as now. Oregon City was the metropolis, and a dozen villages were started on the river bank. It looked blue for Portland, for a fact.

the owners gave him the triangular district between the river and Stark and Ankeny streets. Couch, owner of the district north of Ankeny, gave a strip 30 feet wide for that street. Stark promised to do the same on his side, so as to widen the street to 90 feet. But he never did so. That's why Ankeny street is only 20 feet wide.

WHY WILL YOU DELAY? SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE! To Examine the New and Splendid Stock of Goods Just Received at the WHOLESALE AND RETAIL STORE OF T. B. FRANCIS.

MILLINER'S SHOP AND LADIES FURNISHING STORE, First st., nearly opposite the Oregonian office.

J. Blumauer & Co., WOULD inform the residents of Portland, and the public in general, that they have received fresh arrivals, all entire new styles, and summer goods, which they offer to sell, wholesale and retail, at the lowest market prices.

CLATSOP COUNTY FEMALE SEMINARY, BOARD OF TEACHERS: Mrs. E. D. SHATTUCK, Principal, Mrs. E. D. SHATTUCK, Preceptress, and Teacher of Music.

PORTLAND ACADEMY AND FEMALE SEMINARY, Rev. C. S. KINGSLEY, Principal, Mrs. C. S. KINGSLEY, Preceptress, Mrs. E. A. KINGSLEY, Teacher of Singing, Drawing and Piano.

DR. J. R. CARDWELL, DENTAL SURGEON, PORTLAND, OREGON, D. L. J. C. having permanently located in Portland, will perform all operations necessary to the health and beauty of the Teeth, in a manner not to be surpassed.

DR. MILLARD, PHYSICIAN, SURGEON AND ACCOUCHEUR, OFFICE ON THIRD STREET, PORTLAND, OREGON, May 11, 1893-4.

DR. R. B. WILSON, PHYSICIAN, OFFICE, REMOVED TO COFFIN'S BUILDING, No. 16, up stairs, Portland, O. T., April 16, 1893-4.

GEORGE H. FLANDERS, COMMISSION MERCHANT, AND DEALER IN MERCHANDISE, Portland, O. T. 604.

PEOPLE'S LINE, The Steamers Multnomah and Portland, After this date the Steamers Multnomah and Portland will run in connection to and from Oregon City.

Cowlitz River Transportation, THE subscriber has placed upon the Cowlitz a river line of boats and canoes for the transportation of passengers and freight, from Rainier to Cowlitz landing, in Lewis county.

Indian Difficulty Settled, CASCADES AND DALLES, THE STEAMER ALLAN, Captain G. L. GARDNER, has commenced running regularly between the Cascades and Dalles.

Wines and Liquors, 160 BBL'S SUPERIOR OLD RYE WHISKY, 100 1/2 A. 1 and Key French brandy, 40 cases American brandy, 25 cases superior old port wine, 50 do do do brandy, 25 baskets champagne, choice, 10 cases lavender, Sultana, 2 pipes old Holland gin, 10 cases Noughton's brandy, 10 cases lemon, 20 cases claret, Julien, &c.

Notice, THE undersigned expecting to make a visit to the United States, leaving here about the 18th of December next, request all persons having unsettled accounts with him, to call and settle the same.

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have turned him out. Why? Well, the steamship about that time began to stop at St. Helens, and the people of this town felt their danger rising. But they didn't let the steamship line have its way; no, indeed. They threw their patronage to a rival vessel and brought the other to its senses right away. That's Portland.

Santa could stand up and away quickly. Back of Second street he hardly needed to venture, for thence westward was a dark continent and a shaggy forest. But if he did penetrate the forest perhaps he saw at Second and Jefferson streets the Congregational Church built two years before by Rev. Horace Lyman; at Third and Taylor, the Methodist Church erected three on Fifth, between Couch and Davis, the Catholic church founded by the effort of Rev. James Croke; on Seventh, between Columbia and Jefferson, the Portland Academy and Female Institute, established in 1850; on First, between Oak and Pine, the "meeting-house" built in 1849, and elsewhere dwellings that peered through the brush and trees.

been removed from the Territorial Supreme Bench and Obadiah E. McFadden put in his place by President Pender? Wasn't one as good a Democrat as the other? Why didn't other merchants than H. W. Corbett, Josiah Falling, Pillow & Drew and D. C. Coleman improve Front street for Santa Claus? Why was the Pacific Mail Steamship Company trying to build up St. Helens against Portland, and why were Lot Whitcomb and Captain Joseph Kellogg endeavoring to make Milwaukie the chief city? Had not Linn City "below the Falls," turned out a failure? Also Multnomah City, further down, and St. Johns and Linn-ton and Milton?

First Steam Sawmill. Through the dense tobacco smoke of the forest hall, the gentlemen wondered whether W. P. Abrams, who had just built the steam sawmill, would make a success of his venture, and whether W. S. Ladd, who had just put up the first

of contempt those days. "Society" there was none. The kid glove was a byword of disdain. "Caste" and "set" then were for the children of the town builders. On the northwest corner was the Canton House of General Stephen Coffin, one of the three proprietors of Portland. Part of that structure now supports its aged frame at the northeast corner of Front and Jefferson.

Such was the center of Portland half a century ago. Life was narrow, primitive, simple, humdrum, sequestered from the broad activities of the world. Today, news from New York and London is printed the same day it occurs; then it reached here six weeks and two months later. "Latest by the Mail" was the signal of The Oregonian to its readers. And a single page, once a week served for editorial opinion and for local and foreign news. Anxious days those were for the politicians; least national politics might take unknown swerves or national issues be buried in

But Lovejoy and Pettygrove read in the spars deposited on the river bank where vessels had discharged, the oracles of a city. So in 1845 they built a house and placed some 16 blocks. Lots weren't worth much even as a gift; they were hard to clear off and it was easier to be land and labor free.

Ceremonial of a Name. How Pettygrove named the place Portland after the metropolis of Maine, on the tons of a copper cent, and how Lovejoy wished to call it Boston is a familiar story. Suffice it that the baptismal ceremony was performed with due solemnity in 1845. Soon thereafter Lovejoy sold his half interest to Benjamin Stark and went to Oregon City. But desolate stumps and lonesome trees had no charms for Stark and not long afterward he left the country, supposedly for good. But he returned about 1850 and disputed the ownership of the townsite. To pacify him

William King rushed to the gold fields. It seemed all off with Portland. Would the town go the way of all the earth? The town had always been the butt of jokes and jeers. It was spoken of as "a place 13 miles below Oregon City" and 12 miles above the mouth of the Willamette, convenient as a resting place on the route between Vancouver and Oregon City, nothing more. On the bank were hospitable maple and oak trees. The survivors of those trees still thrive above "Pennoyer's mill." Many a youngster sees them still in swimming time. Indians who swept by the town meditated profoundly on the ways of the peculiar white man, who preferred this solitude to the firewater and gamsomeness of Oregon City. They thrust their paddles deeper into the water as if to pass by the quicker. Likewise blooming young farmers asked scornfully why their fellows were liking to raise their in the woods. Dear, dear, how slowly the lots went.

Bolls, Bark Mills, Medicines, JUST RECEIVED, direct from New York, per bark Dr. Jayne's medicine, Batesman's drops, Epsom salts, Cap. cod. cods, Sal. soda, Sulphur, Castor oil, British oil, Pain extractor, Quinine, Ink. GEO. ABERNETHY & CO., Oregon City, Oct. 16, 1894.

a stamp out of the street at First and Morrison." Next year the town took long strides. It got a charter, a mayor, a water system, a free school, an academy, a large hotel, a Congregation Church and many other improvements. But it didn't have regular steamship connections. St. Helens held the allegiance of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and Milwaukie controlled the river steamboat. So Portland bought control of a steamship. She was the Gold Hunter.

She steamed into Portland harbor. What was the price? About \$60,000. Could Portland with its 400 people raise the money? To be sure, and raise the money it did on the spot. The Gold Hunter made several trips. But California owners got control. Far away went the Gold Hunter, and nevermore came back. An extravagant and dissipated hulk she was. She sank into debt and had to be sold. The vessel made a pile of money in the gold hunt at Portland. And the city was long in making good the loss. Captain Trevalliot, a Gaul, arrived about this time, much tossed about on land and sea, by the cruel wrath of Juno, or some other evil genius. The captain was a high roller. He had discharged cargo and one night was sitting in a saloon behind one of the best seven-up hands that had ever happened. A sailor rushed in excitedly. What had happened? The captain's ship, Duc Deleorge, had sunk. Alas, too true. Anchored at the foot of Davis street, plying for her master, she had turned over and sunk. Captain Trevalliot forced to return to France; he stayed at Portland and spent the money collected for his cargo. "He used to get territorial drunk," says the record, "and then, ascending the hurricane deck of a cayuse would career down Front street, a mounted simoon of alcoholic odor and broken English." This brings the Chronicle back to Christmas, 1853. The Chronicle will be continued in subsequent articles.

STEAMBOATS, SUMMER ARRANGEMENTS, STEAMER LOT WHITCOMB, J. C. ABERNETHY, WAGONER, WILL leave Portland every Monday and Thursday at 10 A. M., for Astoria, touching at all the intermediate points going down and returning.

DR. J. R. CARDWELL, DENTAL SURGEON, PORTLAND, OREGON, D. L. J. C. having permanently located in Portland, will perform all operations necessary to the health and beauty of the Teeth, in a manner not to be surpassed.

WAKEFIELD & CO., Wholesale and Retail Dealers in DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, HARDWARE, Provision, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, ALBANY, LINN CO., OREGON.

JONES, COOK & CO., 87 Corner Main and State streets, Salem Oregon, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, Glassware, Paints, Oils, Turpentine, PAPER HANGING AND YANKEE NOTIONS, Provisions, Grain, &c., &c.

Wheat, Oats, Onions, Butter and Eggs, THE Highest Cash Price paid for the above, NORTHRUP & SIMONDS, Corner of Front and Yamhill sts., Portland, Sept. 25, '93-4.