

HERRIN'S RISE AS LAWYER IS RAPID

Highest Salaried Man on Coast
Tells of Career From Time
He Left Oregon Farm.

LUCK PLAYED SMALL PART

Chief Counsel of Southern Pacific
Got Start in Profession as Re-
sult of Chance Acquaintance
Made in Public Library.

BY LIONEL A. JOHNSON.
How William F. Herrin, vice-president and chief counsel for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, worked his way from the farm, on which he was born in Southern Oregon, to become the highest salaried man on the Pacific Coast is a story that has just been obtained, for the first time in all its details. Mr. Herrin's visit a few days ago to the Oregon Agricultural College, where he had not previously been since he graduated from that institution in 1873, and his later visit to the place of his birth, the old farm near Jacksonville, which revived much local interest in him and his early life.

From Mr. Herrin's most intimate friends and partially from himself have been collected many of the details of his younger life that have never before been printed. Among these is the fact that Mr. Herrin has the reputation of maintaining the silence of a sphinx when being appealed to for information about himself, and thus it will be with some difficulty that he was induced to talk about his life in a modest and conservative way, of his boyhood days and the sentiments that were given life when he returned last week to his old school.

William F. Herrin is the eldest son of John Herrin, Oregon lawyer who immigrated from Clinton, Missouri, in 1853, settling on a farm near Jacksonville. William was born the following year, and his easier years were spent on the farm.

Goes to Corvallis College.

At an early age William came to realize that he would not be contented on the farm, and when still quite young he arranged to become a student at Corvallis College, now the Oregon Agricultural College.

In those days free scholarships to the institution could be obtained through legislative representatives. Thus it was that James D. Fay, one of the best lawyers ever to practice at times in this state, secured for young Herrin his appointment to Corvallis College, which he entered in the Fall of 1888.

Although William's father was a well-to-do farmer, the boy felt a certain independence regarding his schooling, and he earned the greater part of the funds necessary to take him through college.

As a minor economy William Herrin and J. K. Weatherford, now an attorney of Albany, "kept bachelors' hall," cooking their own food and caring for their own household duties and managing to learn their lessons while at work. It proved to be a rather hard life, with but little recreation, but both young men were serious and earnest in their work, and kept up with their studies.

During vacation time, young Herrin worked as a farm hand wherever he could obtain employment, and thus earned a large part of the money necessary for his next year's expenses. One year he went to the Wiscarber farm near McMinnville to work during his vacation.

After graduating from the college, Herrin returned to his home in Southern Oregon and taught school for a year until he completed his ambitions to become a lawyer to Judge P. P. Prins, who had taken a special interest in the young man. Judge Prins had graduated at the Cumberland Law School at Lebanon, Penn., and he induced young Herrin to take a course at the same institution.

Began Law Study Early.

Mr. Herrin was but 20 years old when he went to the Cumberland law school from which he graduated with honors. From the law school he went to San Francisco, where he determined to enter upon the practice of law, in case he could find a way to earn a living while working at his law office.

The meeting of the local chapter of the organization was held last Tuesday in honor of the day at the home of Mrs. A. E. Rockey on Flanders street. The rooms were particularly beautiful with a profusion of cut flowers and greens intermingled with a lavish number of flags and banners. In the music room several large flags were prominently displayed, crossed above the piano, with masses of flowers on either side.

The programme was most fittingly opened with a reading by Mrs. Warren E. Thomas of an official proclamation from Governor Benson, in which, for the first time in Oregon, Flag Day was recognized by the state.

Following this, by request, Mrs. Rose Bloch Bauer, of the "Star Spangled Banner," sang with patriotic fervor and richness of tone that the audience applauded most heartily. She was accompanied by Mrs. Warren E. Thomas.

At the conclusion of this beautiful programme Mrs. Bauer stepped forward and presented Mrs. Bauer with an American flag of silk, saying: "This is but a small token of our appreciation of your wonderful rendition of the 'Star Spangled Banner.' Our hope is that it may live many years to favor us with the song."

Mrs. Bauer's little speech of acceptance was all the more effective because of the nature and surprise of the gift. "I never told you," she said, "but I appreciate more than I can express your beautiful gift. I shall always be glad to sing for the cause and can only add 'long may it wave!'"

The programme concluded with a solo by W. H. Armstrong who gave most beautifully "The Song of the Flag." Mrs. Warren E. Thomas read one of the most interesting papers ever presented before the chapter, her subject being "History of the Flag." Mrs. G. H. Pettinger gave several delightful readings from Riley.

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With his mouth terribly burned by carbolic acid, Jack Hill, a fireman attached to the Portland Heights Company, rushed to the Jefferson Pharmacy, Third and Jefferson streets, yesterday afternoon, to find that the proprietor, Mr. Helford, the proprietor, immediately administered an emetic and applied a stomach pump, and after working for over an hour, brought the man to a condition such that he could be removed to St. Vincent's Hospital. He may recover.

Hill said, when he was partially recovered, that he had been visiting a woman, at 11th and Jefferson streets, and was attacked by a party of hoodlums. The woman told him to go to the pantry and get a certain bottle, which contained medicine to fit the case. By mistake, he says, he got the wrong bottle and drank the quantity of the carbolic acid before he realized his mistake.

Famous Case Won.

Mr. Herrin gained his first distinction as a lawyer when he was selected to become an attorney in the famous case involving the Sharon millions. Older and better known, however, was his chief counsel. He won the case, and also the lasting confidence of the moneyed men of the city. He was at once made the attorney for the Bank of California, and about 1888, accepted the invitation of Collis P. Huntington to become the chief counsel of the Southern Pacific Company, a position he has since retained.

Several years ago Mr. Herrin was asked to abandon his private law practice and give his entire time to the company's affairs. His salary at that time was \$35,000 a year, and according to reports published in the newspapers of that date, Mr. Herrin was given twice that salary, or \$60,000 a year, to turn his

HIGHEST SALARIED MAN ON PACIFIC COAST, WHO BEGAN CAREER ON OREGON FARM.



WILLIAM F. HERRIN, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

entire attention to the work of the railroad.

An effort to gain from Mr. Herrin and his most intimate friends recently his exact salary, proved vain, but there is reason to believe that his present salary is even in excess of the amount said to have been agreed upon when the change in his work was made.

At present Mr. Herrin is the active member of the Southern Pacific Company on the Pacific Coast. Like other railroad officials, he talks but little for publication concerning the advance plans of his company, and he has even less to say concerning himself.

Although a man of much energetic action and large business responsibilities, Mr. Herrin finds time to enjoy himself according to his own peculiar likes.

According to those who are with him most, he enjoys, probably more than anything else, to retire to his Summer resort that is near Shasta Springs, and enjoy nature.

At his home at Broadway and Scott streets, San Francisco, Mr. Herrin has a large collection of the best paintings, artists who have gained their reputations while working on this coast find him a good patron.

Next to his liking for the study of books, which takes up almost daily while in San Francisco, going into Golden Gate Park for the purpose, Mr. Herrin enjoys most, it is said, the study of political philosophy, concerning which he reads extensively.

Mr. Herrin has three children, all unmarried. One is a son 15 years of age, who is at school at Groton, Mass., and the other two are daughters, Katherine and Alice, who are at present in Europe.

Mr. Herrin is scientifically inclined,

too, and makes a study of the various plants and trees at his Summer home.

The visitors he readily names and describes the various forms of vegetable life about his mountain resort.

One of the more noticeable characteristics of Mr. Herrin is his loyalty to his old-time friends. It is asserted by those who know him that he never goes for a long journey without first writing and sending to accompany him.

Among his most intimate friends are some who have gained recognition in art and science.

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