

JACKSONVILLE IS REAL RELIC OF THE HARDY PIONEER DAYS

Old Upbuilders of Southern Oregon in Reunion There Recall Woes and Pleasures, Prosperity and Poverty of Town's Early History—Railroad Blamed for Decline—Fighting Spirit Still Shown.

THE Southern Oregon pioneers held their annual reunion this year at Jacksonville in mid-September. No more harmonious surroundings could have been chosen for this patriarchal assembly than the historic old town around which the early life of Southern Oregon was centered. The remaining flagstone walks, the antiquated but solid old buildings, the rocky dry bed of Jackson Creek, the graveyard on the hill and numerous other landmarks served as apt reminders of the days, back in the time when the town and neighboring gulches were scenes of the blood-red battle of the survival of the fittest.

The sight of that venerable procession which on a perfect Autumn day in September last wended its way from the court house beneath the giant maples was one most impressive to those of a younger generation. In this procession there were 50 or 60 silvery-headed men and women, weak and bent by years but grand in their achievements.

Jacksonville recalled vividly to the old pioneers the memories of days when they were young together in the wilds of Southern Oregon. It was in Jacksonville that the first settlement in Southern Oregon was made. It was there that the first gold in the state was discovered. Jacksonville was the metropolis of the southern part of Oregon from the rustling gold-mining days of the 50s until 1884, when it was passed up and its growth checked by the Oregon & California Railroad. Since 1884 Jacksonville has declined, while Medford, which was not in existence until the railroad was built, has prospered and taken the lead as the metropolis of Southern Oregon. It seems hard to state that a town in the growing West has actually declined, but such is the case. In 1883, just before the railroad had been built across the border of Josephine and Jackson counties, the population of Jacksonville was 1200; today it is 400; the assessed valuation then was \$100,000, last year it was \$250,000. The newest of the numerous brick business blocks was built in 1884 and not a brick has been laid since.

Old Town Revives.
A new era of prosperity, however, appears to be in store for "Jacktown." The valuation of property this year will be in the neighborhood of \$450,000, showing an increase in property values of \$30,000 in the last year. Jacksonville has issued bonds for the construction of a city water system and is busy putting in cement sidewalks, preparing itself for the new role of a residence district of Medford.

The history of Jacksonville falls naturally into three periods. Called into existence by the discovery of gold on Jackson Creek in 1851, its prosperity waxed as the gold pockets were cleaned out and the miners left. But with gold gone the town entered upon a more wholesome growth as the trade center of a nature-blessed farming region. In 1854 came the blighting railroad, which robbed the town of its commercial prestige and left it in an out-of-the-way spot to slumber in tranquillity. Forsaken by its young bloods for more stirring scenes, Jacksonville has slumbered on as the home of the pioneers who built and made the town back in the 50s. If the Van Winkle had slept 30 years instead of 20, and today awoke to walk the streets of Jacksonville, he would see wizen but familiar faces. These whom he missed would be found in the graveyard on the hill, which each year is reaping a greater harvest of gray-haired pioneers. Nine died last winter.

Between the time of its fall as a commercial center and the present time, Jacksonville has had no history worth recounting. But today Jacksonville is recognized as a healthy, beautiful, sheltered village in the hills, with substantial schools, and is an ideal place for a home.

Valley Then Dangerous.
In the Spring of 1851, Halsted and Yarny had the only two cabins in the Rogue River Valley, and these were at the forks where the trail between Oregon City and California crossed the Rogue. The Rogue River Valley was considered a dangerous portion of the trip between the gold fields of California and the lower Willamette Valley, on account of the treacherous Rogue River Indians, who inhabited the region. Although the mountains were fertile, the climate of the wilderness had been heralded broadcast by travelers through the region, the homesteaders preferred to settle in the safer precincts of the Willamette Valley.

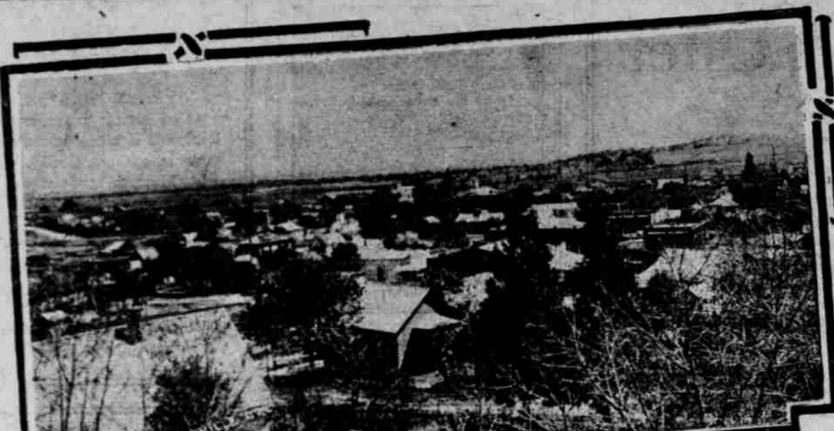
It was left to the lure of gold to start the rush of settlers into the Rogue River Valley. In December, 1850, James Clugage and J. Poole discovered gold on Jackson Creek. Almost immediately gold was discovered, as well in Rich Gulch and in the mountains to the north. The news of El Dorado where a pint of gold could be washed out in a day spread like wildfire to the gold fields of Northern California, and from there throughout the world.

Saloons Follow Miners.
From a spot in the wilderness in 1851, Jacksonville sprang into a bustling mining town with nine stores, three blacksmith shops, a carpenter shop and saloons galore. In the Spring of 1852, Henry Klippel and Smith made a partial survey of the settlement, forming Oregon and California streets, around which the town was built.

The privations of the first winter after the gold was discovered were intense. A prolonged snow storm delayed bringing in supplies. Prices paid for supplies that winter seem preposterous even when compared with those of this day of high cost of living. Flour sold at \$1 a pound and salt was not to be had for money, although one pioneer living today, Vint Bell, tells of buying it with an equal weight of gold. Game and bears were plentiful, however, and these were the main sources of nourishment through the winter.

Crimes Not Numerous.
Queer to relate, crime was infrequent during the first few years of the camp's existence, despite the fact that the throng of many nations had been attracted to the district and gambling and drunkenness were the main order of the day and night when the weather kept the miners from their mines and cradles. Although there was no legal court until the Fall of 1853, there was a rough sense of justice among the miners, which would brook no crime. One man named Brown shot a man named Potts in the Summer of 1852. The guilty one was tried by a jury of his nation, his name being Fletcher Lin, of Portland, was a member. The slayer was hanged at the present site of an old Presbyterian church. The settlers, to meet this emergency, adopted the Iowa code, which they used thereafter until the meeting of the first regular Federal court September 5, 1853. The court was presided over by Matthew P. Deady as United States District Judge of the Territory of Oregon.

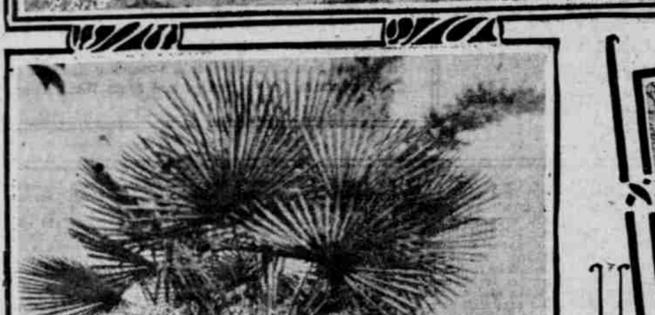
L. F. Grover, later Governor and



JACKSONVILLE AS IT APPEARED IN 1850.



JACKSONVILLE AS A MINING TOWN IN 1850.



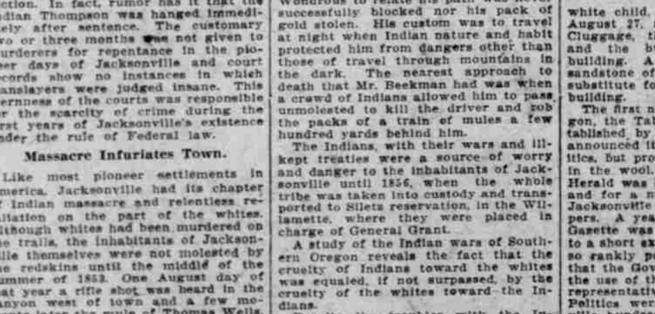
A PIONEER IN HIS GARDEN AT JACKSONVILLE.



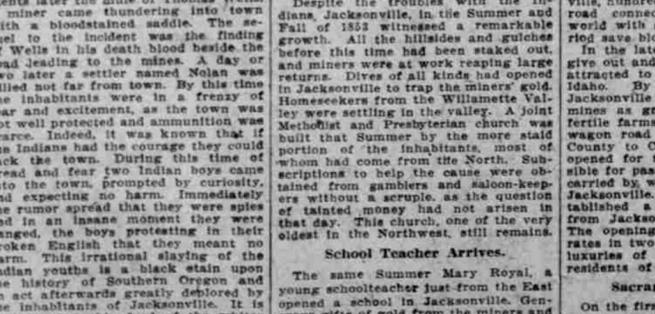
A PINE TREE IN BRITT PARK, JACKSONVILLE.



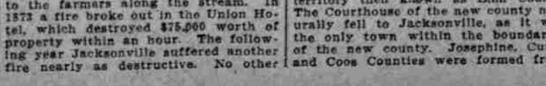
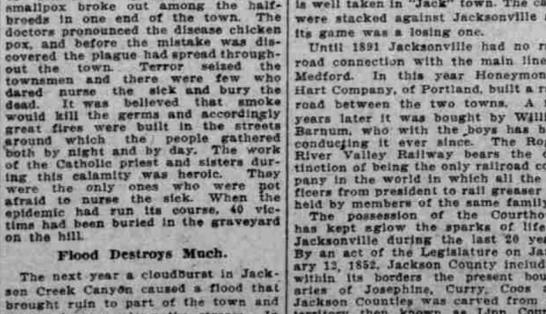
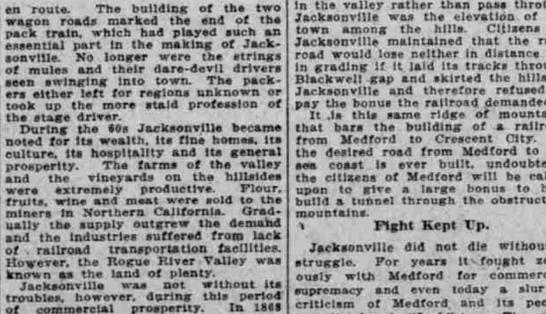
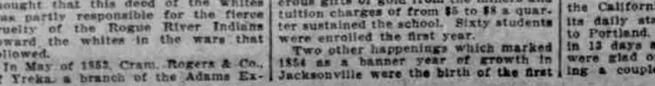
A TYPICAL MINERS' CASIN OF 1850, ON JACKSON CREEK.



THE WORK OF THE RAILROAD DECEASED THE PIONEER WHOSE CASIN HE BUILT IN 1850.



A TYPICAL MINERS' CASIN OF 1850, ON JACKSON CREEK.



Jackson as soon as they became settled. The Jackson County Courthouse, built in 1884, is antiquated and outgrown. Better transportation facilities in the shape of trolley lines are being planned in the Rogue River Valley and it is extremely doubtful if any serious attempts will be made in the future to change the county seat from Jacksonville. The latter shade trees and luxuriant foliage around the homes in Jacksonville, with the town's sheltered position in the foothills make it a truly fine home, and no protests are made by the county officials for being obliged to live in such a quiet town. The park around the home of Peter Burt, deceased, who is perhaps the pioneer photographer in Oregon, settling in Jacksonville in 1852 is almost tropical in its nature. Its luxuriant shrubbery includes large palm, banana, Symrna fig, English walnut and almond trees. Nowhere could be found a spot more beautiful, and there are the homes that have nearly as charming environments.

Aged Pioneers Argue.
In the last meeting of the Southern Oregon pioneers in Jacksonville, where so many of them live, strange arguments were heard. The question arose as to who is the oldest living pioneer of Southern Oregon. The dispute for first honors between E. K. Anderson and Mrs. Kinney, daughter of T. Vauit, the pioneer editor, was carried on under considerable difficulty on account of the deafness of the members of the organization. Finally it was decided that E. K. Anderson had arrived a few months earlier in the Spring of 1852 than Mrs. Kinney. This left to Mrs. Kinney the honor of being the oldest living woman pioneer.

Mrs. Kinney, now a great-grandmother, possesses a clear memory, which seems not to have been weakened by her years. Her recollection of pioneer days is one of the sources of information concerning the early history of Southern Oregon. When Mrs. Kinney came south from the lower Willamette Valley in 1852 Jacksonville was the only town south of Albany. Eugene Skinner had settled on his homestead at the present site of Eugene and Aaron Rice had built his home where Roseburg now stands, but there were at that time no settlements at those places. Jacksonville may never fully awake from her slumbers, and one of the valley towns may rob her of the Courthouse, but the town will always remain as a monument of pioneer days. As General T. G. Ream, one of the pioneers who died a few years ago, said:

"They may rob Jacksonville of everything else, but they cannot rob her of the cemetery on the hill, where lie so many of the men and women who helped carve a civilization out of the wilderness." ARTHUR M. GEARY.

LIQUOR TAX HITS HEAVILY

Increase of Price Results in Less Drinking in Ireland.

DUBLIN, Nov. 5.—(Special).—Another searching light is cast on the working of England's famous budget in Ireland by the appearance of some striking statistics issued by the official Customs and Excise Commissioners. These figures place the Conservative campaign prophecy that Lloyd-George would lose money by raising liquor taxes in Ireland on the firm ground of assured fact.

Despite the fact that whisky costs 2 cents more a glass this year than last, the government has collected in spirit duties over \$15,000,000 less than when liquor was lower.

Thus, instead of making anything on the tax, the Liberals are confronted with a big loss of revenue. It is evident that a "limit of taxation" has been reached, and further increase only drives down consumption.

It has also driven down actual production, for the report shows that the amount of whisky distilling therefrom has fallen off 12 per cent. The recent semi-annual meetings of stockholders in the various whisky firms all faced big drops in dividends, so that, as regards the general loss all round, But the Liberals stoutly maintain that the effective boom to temperance is not to be ignored.

For a decreased consumption of whisky, while it may cut in on the frequently cited "widows and orphans" who have their money so hardy distillers, raises mechanically, nevertheless, on the credit side of the nation's balance sheet. Apart from the improved moral state of the country, reduced, there are statistics of decrease in crime, petty disorder and drunkenness, a big drop in infant mortality rates and a general uplift of the standard of living. It is a round-up of all these results the decreased consumption of whisky counts inevitably as a contributing cause, and any campaign against the liquor tax will be opposed by hardy arguments based on these achievements.

PHYSICIAN ENTIRELY CURED OF ECZEMA

By the Use of Cuticura Remedies. Prescribes Them and Says They Have Cured when Other Formulas Failed. They Always Bring Results.

"My face was afflicted with eczema in the year 1897. I used the Cuticura Remedies and was entirely cured. I am a practicing physician and very often prescribe Cuticura Resolvent and Cuticura Soap in cases of eczema, and they have cured where other formulas have failed. I am not in the habit of endorsing patent medicines, but when I find remedies possessing true merit, such as the Cuticura Remedies do, I am inclined to give them the credit they deserve to the world. I have been practicing medicine for twenty years, and must say I find you Cuticura Remedies as good as ever. They always bring results. G. M. Fisher, M.D., Big Pool, Md., Dec. 4, 1909."

DOCTOR RECOMMENDED THE CUTICURA REMEDIES.

"When I was ten or twelve years old I had a scalp disease, something like scald-head, though it wasn't that. I suffered for several months and most of my hair came out. Finally they had a doctor to see me and he recommended the Cuticura Remedies. They cured me in a few weeks. I have used the Cuticura Remedies also, for a breaking-out on my hands and was benefited a great deal. I haven't had any more trouble with the scalp disease. Miss Jessie F. Buchanan, R. F. D. 3, Hamilton, Ga., Jan. 7, 1909."

Cuticura Soap (25c), Cuticura Ointment (50c), Cuticura Resolvent (50c) and Cuticura Pills (25c) are sold throughout the world. Foster Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., 135 Columbia Ave., Boston, Mass. 25¢-50¢ bottles. 25¢-50¢ bottles. Sold on Treatment of Skin and Scalp Diseases.

Senator of Oregon, was United States District Attorney, and other men who later became prominent also participated in this, the first legal court held south of Albany. The sentences of the Judge in this early court were carried out without delay. At a meeting of the court in October of the same year three Indians called Thompson, George and Tom, convicted of the murder of two white men, James C. Kyle and Edwards, were hanged the day after their conviction. In fact, rumor has it that the Indian Thompson was hanged immediately after sentence. The customary two or three months was not given to murderers for repentance in the pioneer days of Jacksonville, and court records show no instances in which maniacs were judged insane. This sternness of the courts was responsible for the scarcity of crime during the first years of Jacksonville's existence under the rule of Federal law.

Massacre Infuriates Town.
Like most pioneer settlements in America, Jacksonville had its chapter of Indian massacre and relentless retaliation on the part of the whites. Although whites had been murdered on the trail, the inhabitants of Jacksonville themselves were not molested by the Indians until the middle of the Summer of 1853. One August day of that year a rifle shot was heard in the canyon west of town, and a few minutes later the mule of Thomas Wells, a miner came thundering into town with a bloodstained saddle. The request to the incident was the finding of Wells in his death bed beside the road leading to the mines. A day or two later a settler named Nolan was killed not far from town. By this time the inhabitants were in a frenzy of fear and excitement, as the town was not well protected and ammunition was scarce. Indeed, it was known that the Indians had the courage they could sack the town. During this time of dread and fear two Indian boys came into the town, prompted by curiosity, and expecting no harm. Immediately the rumor spread that they were spies and in an insane moment they were hanged, the boys protesting in their broken English that they meant no harm. This irrational slaying of the Indian youths is a black stain upon the history of Southern Oregon and an act afterwards greatly deplored by the inhabitants of Jacksonville. It is thought that this deed of the whites was partly responsible for the fierce cruelty of the Rogue River Indians toward the whites in the wars that followed.

In May of 1852, Cram, Rogers & Co., of Yreka, a branch of the Adams Ex-

press Company, opened an express office in Jacksonville and employed C. C. Beekman, the pioneer banker of Southern Oregon, and once gubernatorial candidate, at that time a fearless youth, as a messenger. It was the duty of C. C. Beekman, the father of B. B. Beekman, a Portland attorney, to carry the precious gold from the mines of Jacksonville over the Siakiyou Mountains to Yreka during these stirring times of nefarious warfare with the Indians. Wondrous to relate his pack of gold was successfully blocked and he was unable to travel at night when Indian nature and habit protected him from dangers other than those of travel through mountains in the dark. The nearest approach to death that Mr. Beekman had was when a crowd of Indians allowed him to pass unharmed to the westward, and the packs of a train of mules a few hundred yards behind him.

The Indians, with their wars and ill-kept treaties were a source of worry to the inhabitants of Jacksonville until 1855, when the whole tribe was taken into custody and transported to Silette reservation, in the Willamette, where they were placed in charge of General Grant.

A study of the Indian wars of Southern Oregon reveals the fact that the cruelty of Indians toward the whites was equalled, if not surpassed, by the cruelty of the whites toward the Indians. Despite the troubles with the Indians, Jacksonville, in the Summer and Fall of 1853 witnessed a remarkable growth. All the hillsides and gulches before this time had been staked out, and miners were at work reaping large returns. Dives of all kinds had opened in Jacksonville to trap the miners' gold. Home-seekers from the Willamette Valley were settling in the valley. A joint Methodist and Presbyterian church was built that Summer by the more staid portion of the inhabitants of the town. Subscriptions to help the cause were carried by passengers and baggage to be carried by wagon from the seacoast to Jacksonville. Clugage and Pool established a semi-weekly stage line from Jacksonville to Crescent City. The opening of the road cut freight rates in two and brought many of the luxuries of the outside world to the residents of Jacksonville.

School Teacher Arrives.
The same Summer Mary Royal, a young schoolteacher just from the East opened a school in Jacksonville. Generous gifts of gold from the miners and tuition charges of from \$5 to \$8 a quarter sustained the school. Sixty students were enrolled the first year. Two other happenings which marked 1854 as a banner year of growth in Jacksonville were the birth of the first

white child, James Clugage McCully, August 27, named in honor of James Clugage, the founder of the town; and the building of the first brick building. A combination of clay and sandstone of the desert was used as a substitute for lime in constructing the building.

The first newspaper of Southern Oregon, the Table Rock Sentinel, was established by U. G. T'Vault in 1855. It announced itself as independent in politics, but proved to be Democratic, dried in the wool. In 1857 the Jacksonville Herald was started by Beggs & Burns, and for a number of years thereafter Jacksonville boasted of two newspapers. A year or two later the Oregon Gazette was founded, but was doomed to a short existence. The paper became so rankly populistic and anarchistic that the government in 1861 refused it the use of the mails. The papers were representative of the Civil War times.

Politics were fought out in Jacksonville, hundreds of miles away from railroad connections with the civilized world with all the ferocity of the period. The first of the mines began to give out and many of the miners were attracted to Eldorado, newly found in Idaho. By 1860 the prosperity of Jacksonville did not depend upon its mines as greatly as it did upon the fertile farms of the valley. In 1860 a wagon road from Waikie in Josephine County to Crescent City, Cal., was opened for travel. This made it possible for passengers and baggage to be carried by wagon from the seacoast to Jacksonville. Clugage and Pool established a semi-weekly stage line from Jacksonville to Crescent City. The opening of the road cut freight rates in two and brought many of the luxuries of the outside world to the residents of Jacksonville.

Sacramento Stage Starts.
On the first of July of the same year the California Stage Company opened its daily stage line from Sacramento to Portland. The stage made the trip in 13 days and many of the travelers were glad of the opportunity of resting a couple of days at Jacksonville

calamities of moment struck Jacksonville until 1883 when the California & Oregon Railroad passed it by. In fact in 1883 Jacksonville was in a most prosperous condition with glowing prospects.

The August number of the West Shore Magazine in 1883 speaks of Jacksonville as follows: "The county seat of Jackson County is Jacksonville, once the liveliest mining camp of this region and is still the most important trade center. The conditions of its existence have gradually changed from that of a rudely constructed and transient mining camp to that of a thriving trade center for a large expanse of mining and agricultural country. Its business is firmly established, its business buildings large and substantial, and its private residences neat and often elegant. It has always held the position of the leading town of Southern Oregon, which its enterprising business men are determined to maintain."

The fundamental reason why the railroad decided to build a new town in the valley rather than pass through Jacksonville was the elevation of the town among the hills. Citizens of Jacksonville maintained that the railroad would lose neither in distance nor in grading if it laid its tracks through Blackwell gap and skirted the hills to Jacksonville and therefore refused to pay the bonus the railroad demanded.

It is this same ridge of mountains that bars the building of a railroad from Medford to Crescent City. If the desired road from Medford to the sea coast is ever built, undoubtedly the citizens of Medford will be called upon to finance the project. The railroad connection with the main line at Medford. In this year Honeyman & Hart Company, of Portland, built a railroad between the two towns. A few years later it was bought by William Barnum who with the boy has been conducting it ever since. The Rogue River Valley bears the distinction of being the only railroad company in the world in which all the officers from president to rail greaser are held by members of the same family.

The possession of the Courthouse has kept aglow the sparks of life in Jacksonville during the last 20 years. By an act of the Legislature on January 13, 1882, Jackson County including within its borders the present boundaries of Josephine, Curry, Coos and Jackson Counties was carved from the territory then known as Linn County. The Courthouse of the new county naturally fell to Jacksonville, as it was the only town within the boundaries of the new county. Josephine, Curry and Coos Counties were formed from

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