

HE HELPED TO BUILD VANCOUVER BARRACKS IN 1849

Philip Christ, Sole Survivor of the First Command Sent to the Pacific Coast; Hale and Hearty at the Age of 87.



BY GORDON STUART.
VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 4.—(Special correspondent of The Sunday Oregonian.)—The last survivor of the first company of artillery, of New York, sent here by Uncle Sam in 1849, still lives a few blocks from the post in which he served as a soldier in 1849, after having helped to build it. Philip Christ, senior, is his name and he has lived a most eventful and adventurous career of 87 years and is yet strong and hearty. And he never married.

He has lived since before the telegraph was invented to see wireless messages sent and received; he has twice beheld Halley's comet, once in Germany, 75 years ago, and last May in this city; he has lived from the time of the primitive stagecoach to the flying machine and has seen every advance made in transportation from the slow-moving ox team to the swift and speedy aeroplane; he has lived to see months reduced to days in the matter of transportation of mail, and he has been through all of the various hardships of wars, Indian wars and wilderness to the present civilization; he has been shipwrecked when enlisted as a soldier for the Mexican war, and has lived through it all and is now a retired capitalist and farmer.

Philip Christ was born in Nassau, Germany, May 21, 1824. He was apprenticed and learned to be an expert shoemaker. In 1847, when 22 years old, Philip sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, for New York. The voyage took 32 days. After working at his trade a short time, he enlisted in the United States Army, being a recruit in Company I, First Artillery, for service in the Mexican war.



For many months the President of the United States had been receiving requests for troops to be stationed in the far Northwest at Fort Vancouver, Oregon Territory. Little was known of the country then, except that it was overrun with Indians, and that the Hudson's Bay Company had established trading posts in several places. A few settlers had crossed the mountains, while others had sailed around the Horn, and settled in this vicinity. They needed protection from the Indians, and possibly from the English.

Accordingly an order was issued for Companies L and M, First Artillery, of New York, to sail for Fort Vancouver, going by way of the Straits of Magellan, the Massachusetts, a vessel fitted out with crude steam-propelling apparatus, in addition to her sails, was put on board in New York, and supplies enough to last for two years were stored away in her hold.

and potatoes were \$3 a bushel. All of the early commanders were what might be termed self-imposed agricultural teachers. They knew a great deal about farming so that they could, when stationed in remote regions, raise part of their provisions, and thus lessen the danger of the troops contracting scurvy, or other diseases caused from eating a straight salt pork diet without vegetables. The chaplain of the army then was designated as quartermaster, and schoolmaster, but there was no chaplain with the first soldiers sent here. The first one arrived February 15, 1849. Little garden truck was raised the first or second year, but in 1851 one company was sent to Astoria to clear land there for raising a garden, but they were called back before they reaped the benefit of their efforts.



himself a home. Henry Christ has a family. Henry owns and drives an automobile himself, and once in a while he can induce Philip to ride with him, but not often. When asked why he did not enjoy himself by taking long rides in the machine Philip, with a wise turn of his white head, said: "I am afraid of an automobile. I would rather feel the solid ground under my feet than to be flying along on the rubber tires. It's safer on the ground."

EQUAL SUFFRAGE WILL PROVE HEALING BALM

Mrs. Dunway Sees in "Votes for Women" Relief from Confusion.

PORTLAND, Dec. 2.—(To the Editor.)—The hopeless jeremiad of my friend, Colonel Hofer, over the present condition of the Republican party; the well-grounded anxiety of Margaret McKay over the unequal (possible) results of the single tax, and the astute logic of Governor Geer over almost everything, make up an interesting combination of letters on the Oregonian editorial page of today, which remind me of several suggestive bits of history, some of which I ask space to recall.

shirk its manifest duty at the next election, but must vote to make Oregon free. Already the Democratic party is sitting up to take notice. The Socialists are leading, and the Prohibitionists and Grangers, the labor unions and industrial brotherhoods are falling into line. Women offer this friendly warning because we are not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill. Please remember this, Republicans, men and brethren, before it is too late to save your party from disruption.