

Glory of Racing Days in Earlier Time Recounted

With the passing of the Washington County Agricultural society some time in 1890 on thereabouts, the glory of Washington county racing stables began to wane according to Thomas H. Tongue, whose father, the late Congressman Thomas H. Tongue, was owner of one of the famous stables of that day.

The affairs of the agricultural society were brought to attention with a stock certificate brought into the office by Mr. Tongue and formerly owned by his father. The certificate bears the certification of A. Luelling, secretary, and Robert Imrie, president, with incorporation May 4, 1888.

In recounting the days of the fairs, Tongue described them as the biggest in the state outside of the state fair. "These fairs," he said, "attracted crowds from all points in the valley and the folks came in wagons, hacks, and by train. Those who drove their horses, usually camped until the week of events was completed."

The chief attractions, according to Tongue, were the horse races and livestock exhibits, though there were exhibits of farm produce and other things of interest.

Location of the fair grounds was just west of Hillsboro on the left hand side of the road where a mile track with grandstands and buildings for exhibits had been constructed. The last fair, he said, was about 1890. The failure of the fair to continue was due mostly, he pointed out, to the hard times which came about then.

More famous horses were produced in the county and many exciting races were held at the old fair grounds participated in by horse breeders, not only from this county but from other counties nearby, where racing stock was produced. One of these counties was Yamhill, which Tongue places second to Washington county in the amount of racing stock raised.

Among the famous horses produced in this county, and raced on the local track, was James L., who held the northwest trotting record for years owned by Ladd & Reed of Reedville. Another famous horse was Fred Hamilton, owned by Tongue's father. This horse also held the northwest trotting record for a number of years. Kitty Ham was another of the Tongue horses taken to the northwest meets and a popular favorite.

Other horse breeders were George V. James, who had his stock farm on what is now the Krause ranch southeast of Cornelius. J. L. Hallett was another with his farm southeast of Dilley on what is now known as the Spring Hills farm.

Van E. DeLashmutt was owner of the Witch Hazel stock farm at Witch Hazel, where harness horses were raised.

J. E. Reeves was one of the smaller horse breeders of a later day, but comes in for a share of the glory by virtue of a horse which he sold and which was exported to Russia, where it became one of the big winners.

During those days, Mr. Tongue says, the races were divided equally between running races and harness races with the latter race being the most popular. The harness race, he believes, had been relegated to second place in more recent years because of the fact that the running race makes a better betting opportunity.

Pickup Shown in Use Electricity

Factories in northwest Oregon are busier and consumers have more money to spend, it is indicated by a Portland General Electric representative.

Industrial power sales are up sharply, and electric power consumption is considered one of the most accurate indicators of the trend of business.

The firm sold 10.5 per cent more power in August than in the same month last year. O. B. Coldwell, vice-president, stated that increases in domestic and industrial power sales were about equal.

Consumers also bought 30 per cent more electrical appliances from Pepco and co-operating dealers during the month.

With speed-up of production schedules in the pulp and paper, cement, metal-working, wood-working and other industries made possible the improvement in industrial power sales," stated A. D. McMick-

en, sales manager.

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