

Arrival of Joe Meek on Tualatin Valley Scene Described in Survey

(Editor's Note: Following is the third installment in a serial presentation of early Washington county history. Compiled as a writer's project of the Oregon Historical Society, the survey is a study of the county's early history as well as many little-known facts about the county.)

Part III—Joe Meek

With the arrival of Joseph Meek and his associates still another element of conflict was added to Oregon pioneer settlement. When the Meek party established itself in the Tualatin valley, the number of settlers totaled about 100, of whom about 30 were associated with missions. Meek's settlement was a direct outgrowth of the decline of the fur-trading activity. The American Fur company, for whom Meek and his party had worked, had collapsed, leaving the trappers stranded at Fort Hall at the mouth of the Fort Neuf river, near the present site of Pocatello, Idaho.

Destitute, hungry, and resentful of their experiences with the fur-trading company, a group of these "mountain men" held a council and decided to travel to Oregon in search of some kind of livelihood. The group originally consisted of Joseph Meek, Robert Newell, C. M. Walker, William Craig, Caleb Wilkins, William Doughty, and John Larson. Craig remained in the upper country, but the others moved on across the mountains toward the settlements in the Willamette valley. Their equipment consisted of three wagons and a few cows, the property of Newell. The prospects of the group were uncertain.

The general character and personalities of these mountain men, whose entry into the settled sections of Oregon amounted almost to an invasion, had a significant bearing upon events in the years following their coming. That they had an enervating influence on the mission-dominated settlements is an understatement.

Throughout the journey from Fort Hall to the Willamette valley, the mission settlements had been bluntly inhospitable to the former trappers. Partly because of the conflict of divergent temperaments, and partly because of the resistance of the established settlers to the newcomer, the attitude of the missions was one of hostility. However, when spring came, Newell, Doughty, Wilkins, and Walker secured from the Hudson's Bay company seed and the loan of implements, oxen, and cattle in order to begin farming.

Meek, who was good-natured, humorous, and intelligent, had routine responsibility, had capabilities more suitable to other pursuits. He helped Newell break and seed his land, then found employment as a servant and guide with the Wilkins family. Upon the termination of the latter employment, Meek returned to his own farm which his wife had cultivated. There is no doubt that the characteristics which permeated Meek's personality, his farming and home-building made Meek a colorful and forceful figure in the shaping of the first normal government in Oregon.

Robert Newell, who had married a sister of Meek's wife, was of a calmer and more dignified temperament than his brother-in-law. In the course of his wanderings as a trapper, he had acquired the title "Doctor" because of his readiness to perform impromptu minor surgical operations and his knowledge of medicinal herbs and roots. Respected by white men and Indians alike, Newell's qualities of leadership were such as to create later a prominent place for him in the first effort to form a government in the Oregon country. He and Joseph Meek were lifelong friends, their careers as trappers, settlers, and politicians moving in the same directions, in spite of their dissimilarity of temperaments.

Newell and Meek shared the leadership of this migration of mountain men to the Willamette valley in 1840. Theirs was the first wagon train to enter the Oregon country west of Fort Hall. In fact, the accomplishment of piloting "horse canoes" west of Fort Hall ranks as one of the significant pioneering achievements of the northwest and one that marked the beginnings of a wagon road for settlement of the Oregon country. Having reached the Tualatin valley, Newell, with Meek as a neighbor, settled near the site of Hillsboro.

Neither Meek nor Newell, however, was temperamentally adapted to the restricting routine of farming. Those qualities of leadership which were to fit the two men for prominent roles in the early government, made them restless and indifferent farmers. In 1844 Newell

Be-Whiskered Giant



Meet Pierre Radisson, the man who saved a new world for the ruler who had ordered him hanged! Paul Muni in a starring role unlike any he's ever had, brings this colorful, adventurous character to life on the screen in "Hudson's Bay," at the Venetian Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Local Highlights Of Legislature

C. Earl Stretcher, A. B. Flint and L. A. Flint of Scholls were at Salem Wednesday in regard to dairy legislation.

For information of the public, all bills, calendars, memorials and resolutions, both senate and house, may be read at C. J. Stevens Barber Shop and George Thyn's confectionery in Beaverton, also Anna Kruger's home, one mile northeast of Beaverton.

C. G. Reiter, city manager of Bend and formerly at Hillsboro, called Thursday and inquired about Washington county.

Anna Kruger, president of the Washington County Taxpayers' League, Inc., was at Salem Monday, attending the 41st session, and also attended a meeting of the state tax federation as secretary. She sang in a big chorus at the capitol city during her stay.

Ex-Senator Lyman Ross and wife of Aloha were present Monday and received the courtesies of the senate by motion of Senator Fisher.

At Hillsboro all senate and house bills, resolutions and memorials may be seen at law office of Thos. H. Tongue, Judge Kerkman, or E. A. Griffith's office, Justice of Peace Havens' office and the Argus. At

Forest Grove, John A. Thornburgh, and at First Bank of Tigard.

Oscar Hagg, prominent dairyman residing at Reedville, was at the legislature Friday looking after the dairy interests.

R. N. Torbet of Hillsboro was at the capitol last of the week on business.

Senator Fisher has received the following letter from the secretary of the state highway commission:

"Dear Senator Fisher: This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 30, transmitting a petition signed by numerous citizens and residents of Washington county and a resolution adopted by the Hillsboro chamber of commerce in which communications request is made for the early widening and reconstruction of the Tualatin Valley highway for four lanes of traffic between the Multnomah county line and the Yamhill county line.

I shall be pleased to see that your letter and enclosures are brought to the attention of the state highway commission at the earliest possible time. In the meantime I am forwarding a copy of the same to each of the individual commissioners for their advance information. More resolutions and petitions are arriving.

The prayerful defiance of Lord Halifax shows that Oliver Cromwell still lives.

Lincoln Observance Set by Republicans

Washington county republicans will assemble here Saturday, February 15, at 6:45 p. m. at a pot-luck dinner in the chamber of commerce rooms for a Lincoln day observance, according to E. A. Griffith, county committee chairman.

William G. Hare will be the principal speaker. Professor Lorraine Dossett will sing and there will be other numbers.

All precinct workers and republicans are invited.

Club Sets Benefit Party February 18

MOUNTAINDALE—Mrs. James Mathiesen was hostess Thursday afternoon for the Past Chiefs' club. It plans to give a benefit "500" card party Tuesday afternoon, February 18, at the James Mathiesen home. After the meeting "500" was played with high scores being made by Mrs. Ernest Nelson and Mrs. A. K. Reynolds. Guests were Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Thor Gronbeck and Mrs. Nicola Mathiesen. Mrs. Floyd Rafferty will entertain the club in February.

Mrs. C. I. Williams left Friday for Sweet Home to visit several days with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Layton, and daughter Carol.

Mrs. Mabel Dodson of Banks is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jensen.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hartwick of Banks, accompanied by Alma and Velda Rafferty, are home from a week's visit with relatives at Nampa, Idaho. Mrs. Charles Schamburg, Mrs. J. H. Hartwick and aunt of the Rafferty family, returned home with them to visit relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Murphy, Patrick Murphy, and Thomas Murphy, attended the funeral of Henry Smith in Portland last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hollenbeck attended the birthday celebration of Mrs. Walter Kirkwood in Dayton.

Mrs. D. A. Keen, Mrs. Hollenbeck's mother, came home with her for a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Reynolds were hosts for the "500" club Monday night. Earl Hollenbeck and Mrs. Henry Cypher had high scores.

James Mathiesen and Mrs. Loel Hollenbeck were second high.

Five tables in "500" and two of Chinese checkers were in play Friday night at the benefit card party sponsored by the Progressive club at the schoolhouse. High scores were made by Mrs. W. Van Dornen and Art Appleton, second high by Mrs. Deborah Fowles and Ed Schlegel, consolation by Mrs. Marion Baeh and Alton Warnick. The prize in Chinese checkers was won by Patty Baeh.

Food Stamp Plan To Start Monday

(Continued from page 1)

It is estimated by Belangie that in a year's operation of the food stamp plan in Oregon, approximately 62,000 public assistance persons will be benefited.

Improved Home Life Stressed In Economic Conference Report

"To do better our present job" was the major recommendation of Washington county homemakers who composed the Home and Rural Life committee in their report at the recent economic conference here. The value of convenient, healthful homes kept in good repair was stressed by the committee.

Adequate lighting to conserve eyesight in both schools and homes was considered of great importance and in need of current action. Sanitation measures—clean indoor toilets, and a pure water supply also need attention. Fire protection for rural communities should be provided; usually this can be arranged by cooperation with the city or protected unit, in the opinion of the committee.

Pay Cash, Advice

Purchase only those major items for which the family is able to pay fully, but any cash on hand should be used in making needed home improvements, the committee advised.

In regard to nutrition of the family, emphasis should be placed on the consumption of an adequate diet by each member of the family. The daily dietary standards suggested by the committee were:

Milk—1 quart for children; 1 pint for adults. Potatoes—1 serving. Meat, poultry or fish—1 serving. Eggs—1. Cereals—2 or more whole

grain. Vegetables—2 servings, emphasis on green leafy and yellow. Fruit—2 servings, emphasis on tomatoes and citrus fruit. Water—6 to 8 glasses.

To fulfill these standards, Washington county citizens particularly need to increase the use of milk, butter, eggs, meat, green leafy and yellow vegetables, tomatoes, and whole grain cereals. Expanding home gardens, extra care to the family poultry flock, and meat production on the farm were stressed by the committee.

Reading Approved

Reading as a satisfying recreation was recognized by the committee as an aid in strengthening morale. Fun in the family and fun in organizational activity were stressed.

Other recommendations made by the committee were that the farm labor problem be aided by withdrawing governmental aid during the agricultural production period without fear of permanent ineffectuality, that medical care be made available to the average tax-paying farm family, that small business be recognized as a desirable factor in community life, that a larger percentage of rural youth be encouraged to attend high school, that character building youth activities, such as 4-H clubs, Campfire Girls, and Boy Scouts be encouraged, and that school buildings be utilized as active community social centers.

Members of the Home and Rural Life committee are Mrs. Della Cypher, North Plains, chairman; Mrs. N. P. Johnson, Cedar Mill; Mrs. Lloyd Anderson, Hillsdale; Mrs. Hulda Connell, Helvetia; Mrs. Elsie Leming, Mountaineer; Mrs. Peter Yunker, Rock Creek; and Mrs. Ruby Meyers, Laurel.

The Italian soldier boys will consume a lot of Camels before they reach the Pyramids.

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Card of Thanks

WE WISH to express our sincere thanks for the sympathy and aid rendered us during the illness and death of Katherine Stroeder; also the beautiful floral tributes are deeply appreciated.—The Stroeder Family.

2 HOGS for sale.—I. E. Anderson, 3 1/2 miles southwest Beaverton, Beaverton road. 46p

2 SINGLE EMPIRE MILKER units, \$15 each; also No. 20 McCormick Deering combine, \$175.—M. E. Toller, Gaston, Patton Valley road. 46-47p

PAIR BLACK PERCHERON colts, coming 2, for sale or trade for cows or anything I can use.—Grant C. Dodge, near Farmington. 46

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