

## WEBFOOT FOR SIXTY YEARS

Augustus C. Wirt, of Clatsop Plains, One of Oregon's Oldest Settlers.

WILL BE NINETY TOMORROW

Hale and Hearty Pioneer Still Cares for His Farm and Is Enjoying the Best of Health.

Augustus C. Wirt, of Clatsop Plains, who will celebrate his 90th birthday tomorrow, arose very early yesterday morning, milked his cow, attended to his poultry and did his other chores, including the grinding of a few bushels of apples for cider, and walked a mile to Warrenton to take the train for Astoria, where he attended to business as alertly and appearing as hale and hearty as the average man of 50 years.

Mr. Wirt disputes with Robert MacEwen the honor of being the oldest resident of Clatsop county. He came here in 1845, having arrived in Oregon City the year before, and claims also to have been the first tailor in Oregon. At the time of his arrival in Astoria with Mr. Welch and some others, Mr. McClure and Mr. Shively were the only white settlers here.

This worthy old pioneer is a living testimonial to the healthfulness of Clatsop county, as he says he has never been sick since he came here. Following is a sketch of his career:

Augustus C. Wirt was born in Columbia City, Lancaster county, Penn., October 22, 1814. While an infant, his parents moved to Wrightville, York county, Pennsylvania, where his boyhood days were spent. At the age of seventeen he decided to strike out for himself, going to Hollidaysburg and from there to Pickerington, Ohio. Here he learned tailoring, which he followed for a livelihood until coming to Oregon, when he learned the art of farming, and today at ninety years of age his garden is the envy and admiration of all who see it. During his stay in Ohio he cast his first vote for Harrison, in 1834. A barbecue was held in honor of Harrison's election, which Mr. Wirt remembers distinctly. The ox, weighing about one thousand pounds, was paraded through the streets of Columbus at 10 a. m., and by 2 p. m. was roasted and ready to eat. Some of the beef sold at fifty cents per pound, the head alone bringing five dollars.

In 1837 Mr. Wirt returned to Wrightville, Pennsylvania, and remained two years, when he again decided to go west, this time going as far as Bloomington, Iowa. Here he met and married Miss Jerushy Brannan in 1840.

In 1843, in company with Cline, Welch and others, he started for Oregon, but owing to the leader of the party taking the wrong route they only traveled as far as Council Bluffs. As it was then too late in the season, they returned to Savannah, Missouri, and in the spring of the following year started again for Oregon, reaching Portland Nov. 10, 1844. Portland's sole inhabitant at that time was a man by the name of William Overton, who afterwards sold his claim to Couch and Pettigrove for \$300, and

started for Texas. One day while Overton was travelling along a lonely road he was pursued by Indians. In order to escape them he drove his pony over a steep precipice and both rider and pony were dashed to death.

The winter of 1844-1845 was spent in Oregon City. At that time the one store was owned by the Hudson's Bay Co. Gov. Abernethy owned a flour mill the capacity of which was rather limited. That winter Mr. Wirt wanted to get an extra sack of flour, and upon his request for it Gov. Abernethy replied, "Your neighbor must have flour as well as yourself."

In the spring of the same year (1845) Mr. Wirt moved to Clatsop Plains and took up a donation land claim. Upon the discovery of gold in California he went in a small sailing vessel, with several other men, the trip lasting sixteen days, to the mines and remained several months, making a considerable sum in mining, running a ferry boat and in other ways. A short time after his return home his wife died, leaving him with the care of five small children in a new and sparsely settled country. In 1850 he married Lusa Kimball, who is now 74 years of age and in feeble health.

Mr. and Mrs. Wirt still live at their home, which was built at Skipanon in 1850 at great expense of time, labor and money. The house, a two story frame structure, required one whole year to build. Mr. Wirt and a man by the name of Walker being employed all the time. The lumber which was used in its construction was brought from a mill at Seaside and was then dressed by hand, and cost \$75 per thousand feet. The bricks used to build the chimney were brought around the Horn and cost \$50 per thousand. The lime was brought from Oregon City in a sailboat and cost \$9 per barrel, and the man who built the chimney was paid \$75 for his labor.

Beef in 1845 brought seven cents per pound on foot. Two years later dressed beef brought 25 cents per pound. The hides were tanned and each farmer was his own shoe maker. While crossing the plains the party which Mr. Wirt was with was twice surrounded by Indians in the most dangerous places along the route. In order to escape them they formed a barricade with their wagons and as they possessed rifles the Indians, having only bows and arrows, concluded that the white men were too smart for them and so left in disgust.

Another interesting incident of the trip was an immense herd of buffaloes which required an hour's time to pass in front of the emigrant train. Three of the members of the party hunted buffaloes, killing seven. The meat was hung on the wagons to dry and was used for food for the remainder of the trip. Antelope were also very plentiful along the route. Mr. Wirt being a fine shot was always able to get his full share of whatever game was to be had. One night in rounding up the cattle it was found that an immense buffalo had become separated from the herd and had made himself at home with the cattle. After considerable effort his lordship was finally killed, and later was eaten.

Mr. Wirt has five sons and three daughters living, with several grandchildren and great grand children. The sons are Andrew Wirt of Oyster-ville, Norse Wirt of San Francisco, John Wirt of Astoria, O. B. Wirt of Portland, and Phillip Wirt, now in

Southern Oregon for his health. The daughters are Mrs. Hattie Reames, of Portland, Mrs. Ollie McGuire and Mrs. Annie Stephens of this county. Mr. Wirt uses neither spirits nor tobacco and thinks there is no reason why, with care, he may not round out a century.

## CONTESTS AROUSE INTEREST

Friends of Aspirants for Prizes at the Catholic Fair Are Hustling for Those of Their Choice.

Last night's attendance at the Catholic fair was even larger than that of the previous evening, and until nearly midnight the spacious hall was crowded. Interest centers in the various contests. Two new contests—for the most popular young lady and the most popular school teacher—were instituted. The Finnish Brotherhood is now leading in the contest for the silk flag offered by the ladies. The vote last evening was as follows: Finnish Brotherhood, 59; Red Men, 54; Elks, 40; Eagles, 32; Masons, 21; Foresters, 17. County Clerk Clinton is still leading in the most-popular-official contest, but Judge Anderson is trotting him a rapid heat, with Sheriff Linville a close third. The vote is as follows: Mr. Clinton, 52; Judge Anderson, 44; Sheriff Linville, 34; Chief Hallock, 19. The chief's supporters are said to be withholding their votes for the last night, but this has not frightened the friends of the other candidates, who say they are prepared for any political emergency which may arise. The young ladies' contest shows the following result to date: Miss Mary Gramms, 31; Miss Hilda Brunold, 29; Miss Bessie O'Connor, 23; Miss Madge Sovey, 16; Miss Lee, 5. This contest is being conducted at Miss Rahles' booth. The teachers' contest bids fair to be one of the most interesting of all. The vote thus far is as follows: Mrs. Josie McCormack, 29; Miss Sinnott, 23; Miss O'Neil, 3; Miss Shively, 3; Miss Blim, 5; Mrs. Fulton, 2; Miss Morgan, 1. The teachers' contest is on at Miss Laws' booth. The vote in the most-popular-boy contest is as follows: John Belan, 100; James Kearney, 20; R. Kinkella, 10. Last evening another pillow contest was held, the participants being John Kearney and Joseph Kinkella. The contest resulted in a draw, which will be settled this evening. Last night the Helm children, through the kindness of Manager Gevurtz, of the Star, put on an excellent turn. Tonight Manager Hager, of the Unique, will provide the illustrations for a pictured melody. Last evening Mr. Scott, of the Star, added to the excellence of the program with a delightful rendition of "Good-night, Beloved, Good-night." Dinner will again be served between 5 and 7 this afternoon, and tonight the program at the fair will be of more than usual interest.

**Notice to Water Consumers.**  
The water will be shut in all mains east of Thirty-first street from 11 a. m. to 2 p. m. on Friday, October 21, 1904.  
J. H. MANSELL,  
Superintendent.

**Removal Notice.**  
Dr. J. A. Fulton has moved from his old office to rooms 4, 5 and 6 in the Star theater building, corner Eleventh and Commercial streets, on the second floor.

Orders taken for Brown Bros.' nursery stock at Kallunki's candy store.

## ONCE AGAIN IN TROUBLE

Louis I. Herz, Formerly of This City, Arrested for Embezzlement at Idaho Town.

REFUSED TO OPEN THE SAFE

Experts Report Shows Shortage of \$800, Which Was \$300 More Than His Defalcation in This City.

Louis I. Herz, who left Astoria two years ago after acknowledging that he had embezzled several hundred dollars from his employers, Elmore & Co., has again gone wrong, this time in Idaho. Herz left Astoria to accept the position in Idaho, his local employers having consented to not prosecute him upon receiving his note for the amount of the defalcation, about \$500. A few payments have been made on this note, but the balance remaining unpaid is not regarded as a valuable asset.

When Herz left Astoria he went to Mountain Home to take a position and soon became secretary, treasurer and manager for the Charles R. Kelsey Company, of that place. Recently Mr. Kelsey died and a new president was chosen to succeed him. When he assumed charge of the affairs of the company Herz declined to furnish him with the combination of the safe and give him access to the accounts of the company. When the safe was opened by an expert and the books examined it was found that Herz was \$500 short. His arrest for embezzlement followed.

Whether or not \$800 covers the real amount of the shortage has not been learned. This is the third time Herz has been in similar trouble, and the company will, it is understood, press the case against him. Herz's home is in Portland.

White Star and Cunard line tickets for Europe sold at Kallunki's candy store.

## "Best by Test"

A trans continental traveler says: "I've tried them all and I prefer the

## North-Western Limited

It's the best to be found from coast to coast."

It's "The Train for Comfort" every night in the year between Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago.

Before starting on a trip—no matter where—write for interesting information about comfortable traveling.

H. L. SISLER, General Agent,  
132 Third St. Portland, Oregon.

T. W. TEASDALE,  
General Passenger Agent,  
St. Paul, Minn.

ALL CLOTHES BOUGHT AT WISE'S KEPT PRESSED FREE OF CHARGE. : : :

Fine Entertainment at the ST. MARY'S FAIR Good Clothes at HERMAN WISE'S

## Try the New Size LA IMPERIAL CIGAR

Made from the cream of Havana crop

We sold 20,000 in September; the largest sale of any Cigar on the market.

Manufactured by JOHN V. BURNS ASTORIA, OREGON

## There is no use

Taking chances by paying \$5.00 for a pair of shoes of some other kind, when you can get the same quality by paying only \$3.50 and \$3.00 for fine Brown Shoe Co. Shoes. Other prices \$1.40, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$2.75, \$3.00.

## For School Wear

There is nothing like "Good for Bad Boys Shoes" and "District 76." They save you money.

# THE BEE HIVE



## American Lady CORSETS

Approved by fashionable women. We have in stock all the latest styles and shapes. Prices from

\$1.00 to \$2.25

The Place to Save Money,

# THE BEE HIVE



## FURS! FURS!

Just Arrived

An elegant assortment of new fall Furs.

Sable, Canadian Fox, Bear, Martin, Chinese Fox, Mink, Etc.

High in quality but low in price.