

PIONEER RELICS OF INTEREST

STORY OF THE FIND AT THE OCCIDENT HOTEL AND ALL IT SIGNIFIES TO THOSE WHO KNEW "WINSHIP CHOWDER CLUB."

In an old, dark store-place of rubbish, more secure from the ravages of curiosity hunters than if it had been buried deep under the sea, or carefully with the beloved bones of ancestors (for men dive deep under the sea for treasure), and nowadays, bones are safe nowhere from the touch of vandal hands, a relic of good old Astoria days in the form of a chowder-chest was brought forth yesterday into light, from within the walls of the Occident hotel. Somewhat massive, and built on the order of an ordinary tool-chest, it was thought by Charles Wright, the son of the aged and genial pioneer and proprietor of the famous old hostelry, to be, probably, the long deserted property of some delinquent boarder. On opening it, instead of the expected clothing, tools or personal accoutrement, there appeared a motley and divers array of cooking vessels and utensils, reposing in respective compartments. In a board full of holes, stood, ship-shape, a number of white mugs, partly filled with grog, which had been frozen during the late cold and perhaps in other colds that many do not even remember, for on the plates of the great iron pot and its lid also found, is this inscription.

WINSHIP CHOWDER CLUB.

1871.

ASTORIA, ORE.

A large tin coffee pot seemed little the worse for wear, still bright thought as was afterward learned through most unquestioned authority, these utensils served through many a merry-making. But perhaps they bought a new coffee pot occasionally. However that may be, there is a wonderful relic which, it is reasonable to think, could not be duplicated. This is unquestionably of Indian manufacture—the northern Indian, and no doubt, the

Clatsop, for the form and decoration shows it. Besides, bearing the name of James O. Swan, it was at his very door that this chowder outfit was used, and in fact, beneath his own roof. On the lid is inscribed, very delicately and in old-fashioned script: "Presented to the Winship Chowder Club, by

James O. Swan."

It is made of horn, and young Mr. Wright said the bowl was formed by the Indian bearing his heel down into the split piece and afterward this form was maintained by binding the bowl with leather thongs until well shaped.

There are also tin cups and spoons and a huge iron ladle, besides a rusty spider, in which, doubtless, many a fine strip of bacon was broiled to a turn, before its entrance to the ambrosial mess.

It seems this earliest club of bonvivants (and this is the point of chief interest, historically) was composed of the very best known, most prominent and important men of the time; all judges, pilots or captains, men of that ilk.

The constitution and by-laws of the club, a last copy of which is now in possession of "Uncle" Charlie Wright of this city, were signed by William F. Kibben, George Flavel, Thomas J. Winship, Gus M. Jensen, A. C. Farnsworth, Chas. Binder, A. Van Dusen, Julius Goodwin, John Hobson, A. J. Megler, J. K. Dunbar, J. G. Coe, Chas. S. Wright, and J. G. Hustler.

These were the charter members and nearly all engaged in the then most important business of piloting ships in and out of Astoria, then a trading post, and back and forth, from San Francisco, a much more arduous undertaking, then, than now. Captain Geo. Flavel, the father of our present capitalist, and Judge Callendar, who was the grandfather of Charles Callendar, were the first men who ever came down the river from Portland in a barge. This was in the forties.

Winship, the president of the club, piloted a line of steamers to Frisco, Bulger, chief engineer on a coast steamer, was a partner and promulgator of this unique institution. Messrs. Megler and Wright occupied the chief offices of the club, being the cook and steward, respectively. The club met quarter-annually and would

generally proceed to the old Clatsop beach. At the Goodwin place, halfway between Skipanon and the beach, the party would be fed and then carried by their host's team to their destination.

After the engrossing moment of the chowder feast, invariably came speech making on a "stump or a bunch of decayed Indians," as Mr. Wright expresses it. What flow of wit and eloquence came from those lips can be imagined, of men who, in those early, bleak times, and in spite of their arduous callings, still possessed the irrepressible spirit of social joy which originated the Chowder Club. There were tales of adventure that many of them had experienced in finding their ways to this, then, untried spot of the universe, Captain Kibben, a way-down-easterner, from Maine, had come "around the horn," and he told of his trials and tribulations. Captain Flavel was shipwrecked in the course of his voyage hither. Mr. Wright started from the old Kiekerbocker state and after stopping on the way at Aspinwall, came up from the Isthmus on the steamer "Uncle Sam." There were 500 in that party and he says they had a "gay old time."

Once Mr. Wright was blamed for making poor chowder. They arrested him and kept him prisoner over night. But he had "been there before," so he says, and knew what to do. On the next day they commanded him to make better chowder. He cooked it until it was so tough, no tooth could have made an impression. They were to strike a new camp before partaking, so it was loaded behind the old horse, Dolly, and as the road was being covered chowder "scouted" in every direction. On arriving, there was hardly a pint of it left.

It was decided to hold a trial and Judge Callendar's ranch home was appointed as the court house. Captain Geo. Flavel was attorney for the defense, and a very good pleader he was, according to the "defense." Farnsworth was attorney for the club and Judge Callendar the judge. The plea of the defense was that "no prisoner ever works." As an outcome, the persecuted chef was exonerated, and reinstated in his old position.

Often the club were entertained at the "summer house" of the Indian, Latti, and his wife, on Clatsop beach. The old chest which held so well the secret of these many memories now recalled—memories in which the telling brings weird visions of these frolicsome makers of history, hobnobbing with the natives and making after-dinner speeches on the graves of their ancestors; this on the very brink of the Pacific, and this old chest of pots and pans is destined to become a supremely interesting relic of history.

The Hon. John Minto, one of the old pathfinders of Oregon, was down from Salem on Monday last, to endeavor to separate Uncle Charlie from his treasure, for a price, but was unsuccessful. Mr. Minto promised to send down Mr. Geo. H. Himes, the secretary of the Oregon Historical Association, for the purpose of concluding the negotiations, but Mr. Wright is the only living survivor of the Winship Chowder Club; and Mr. Megler, his partner for twenty-one years in the hotel business and he, were the youngest of the old group, and he is now nearly eighty years old and the chowder chest is dear to him for old memory's sake. His son also prizes it, so he will decline all proffers from whomsoever they may come and however alluring they may be.

LOS ANGELES GIANTS.

Base Ball Team Will Make An Extended Tour.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—President J. T. Brush and Secretary F. K. Knowles had an extended conference yesterday regarding the coming trip of the Giants and the contracts of players. Twenty four men will be asked to accept terms and all except three have been seen in a New York National League uniform before. The new ones are Mullen, an infielder; "Tommy" Corcoran and "Danny" Shay.

The Giants will make Los Angeles their headquarters, where they will remain until the latter part of March. According to Secretary Knowles the men will travel more than 8000 miles during the trip.

POLICE SYSTEM WRONG.

BUTTE, Mont., Jan. 23.—The present police system of Butte is condemned by the report of the grand jury presented yesterday to District Judge M. Bourquin. The dismissal of certain police officers is recommended, while in the case of several suspensions of patrolmen it is urged that the men be reinstated. According to their report, the grand jurors differ diametrically from the councilmen conducting the police investigation.



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THOUSANDS STRIKE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Before the end of the week 1,500 men and women employed in making trousers and knee pants, it is stated, will be involved in the East Side Strike. At present there are 6000 out. President Lickerman, in charge of the strike, said yesterday: "The men were forced to strike because they cannot make a living under present conditions. They earn only \$12 a week."

AN INSIDIOUS DANGER.

One of the worst features of kidney trouble is that it is an insidious disease and before the victim realizes his danger he may have a fatal malady. Take Foley's Kidney Cure at the first sign of trouble, as it corrects irregularities and prevents Bright's disease and diabetes.

T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

DAVID GOUDIE DEAD.

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—David R. Goudie, conspicuous as an advocate of international peace, and for many years a public character, died last night at his residence here.

How to Avoid Appendicitis.

Most victims of appendicitis are those who are habitually constipated. Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup cures chronic constipation by stimulating the liver and bowels and restores the natural action of the bowels. Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup does not nauseate or gripe and is mild and pleasant to take. Refuse substitutes. T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

Its wonderful power goes to the seat of your trouble, vitalizes, strengthens every part of your body. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea does. 25 cents, Tea or Tablets. For sale by Frank Hart.

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Liquid Veneer will improve even the most beautiful furniture. It will take that smoky look from the Piano and other Mahogany, and is highly beneficial to Golden Oak, White Enamel, Gilt, Silver and other finishes.

Liquid Veneer sells at 50 cents a bottle, and a bottle is enough to renovate the ordinary home. Try it and you will always buy it.

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