

SEVENTY-FIFTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 17, 1925

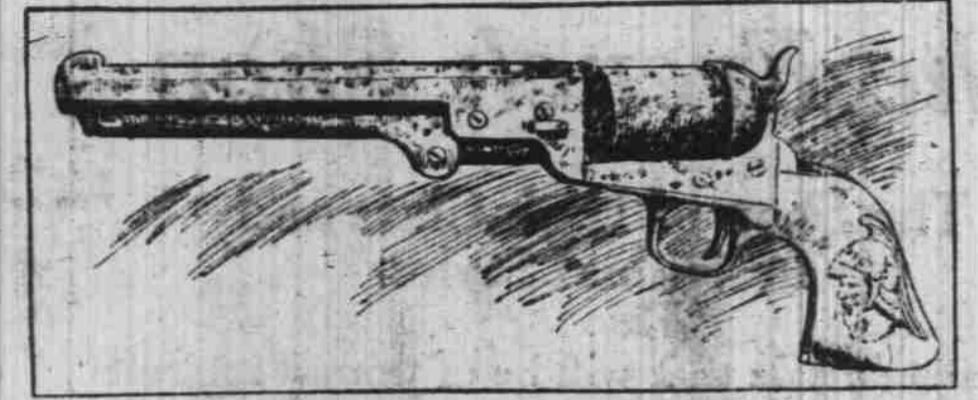
DID JOHN WILKES BOOTH LIVE ON NESTUCCA BAY, IN TILLAMOOK COUNTY?

There is a Story There to the Effect That He Did, and That He Lost the Pistol With Which He Shot Abraham Lincoln Near His Secluded Cabin There

Editor Statesman: Will you please put in your paper the following facts and information that I have gathered about John Wilkes Booth, who once was a resident on the banks of Nestucca bay in Tillamook county, Oregon.

Identified by the number on the steel plate on the handle, which I can't remember. But all of the Colt's pistols had a number on them. So if you wish to write to Washington, D. C., you may be able to get the number of that gun. I value this picture very highly, also yours, and thank you. I shall tag it and carefully lay it away with many mementos of the war of '61 and '65, and will finish this letter on another sheet.

OLD FASHIONED PISTOL DISCOVERED ON NESTUCCA BAY BY CLOVERDALE MAN



Weapon dug up by H. H. Brooten, previous history of which is subject to speculation. It had evidently been lost for years.

hill. To my notion, it was cheaper and easier to get grass to grow on this fern ridge than it was to slash vine maple. I fixed up a drag drawn by two horses. One day while dragging this drag over the fern, I heard a raking noise on a drag tooth. I stopped the horses, and, looking under the drag, uncovered this pistol. I did not think much about it then and kept it as a piece of scrap iron, until a friend of mine, Dr. Fawcett of Portland, Oregon, came to see me. I showed him this pistol and said this must be a gun that the Hudson's bay fur trading company left here or lost. The doctor said it was not and had never belonged to that company.

With your consent, will report this matter to the secretary of war at Washington. Yours faithfully, Daniel Shaner.

The Natural Question

Now the question is, "was this John Wilkes Booth?" Twenty-six years ago, I used to do my trading at Ocean Park, (now Pacific City,) about one and one-half miles from my home. One day while there, Mr. Maloney asked me if I were living in the log house on the bank of Nestucca bay. I replied that I was not and knew nothing of any log-house. He then told me there was a log house about four steps from the bank near a creek. A man and an elderly lady were living there when he came to Ocean Park in the latter part of the sixties—I believe 1863. Mr. Maloney also said the woman died in the seventies and the man disappeared.

Well, I can say I found the log house. In the year 1899, the roof was down and siders were growing inside and outside of it: it could not be seen within ten feet distance. I found the pistol about five hundred feet from this house. What a Southern Soldier Has to Say

In the year 1922, a man from Prineville, Oregon, by the name of J. W. Ribelin (age 82 years) came to my mineral baths for treatment. He told me that in 1866 he came across the prairie with teams. A bad spell of weather came upon them as they arrived in Butte, Montana, so they were obliged to stop for a week. Train after train came and were likewise detained.

There were hundreds of emigrants gathered at this camping ground.

One day, while Mr. Ribelin was alone, a young man came up to him and said, "Good-by, Southern friend, when you see John Wilkes Booth you will know him."

In reply, Mr. Ribelin said, "How can I know John Wilkes Booth? I have never seen him and he is supposed to be shot and buried."

This young man said, "that's all right," and tapped Mr. Ribelin on the shoulder, then said "Good-by." This same young man got on a wagon drawn by mules and drove off on the Pacific trail—out west.

Now if you see fit to put my statements in your Sunday paper it will take a burden off me, and it will also be of interest to the public in general.

These facts I am writing about can be proved. Thanking you very kindly, I am, Yours truly, H. H. BROOTEN.

P.S. I am sending you a picture of the gun. Please return these papers all back to me.

In the Sunday Journal of a recent date, I saw the story of John Wilkes Booth being in the West, so I thought this would also be interesting.

The Oregonian Story (The news item printed by the Oregonian in running the cut of the pistol was as follows:) Efforts recently have been made to shed light on the history of an old-fashioned pistol discovered some time ago on Nestucca bay by H. H. Brooten of Cloverdale, Ore. The weapon was unusual in size and type, according to Larry Sullivan, 312 Broadway. Mr. Brooten discovered the gun when he was cutting a partly buried log with a crosscut saw. He thought at the time, he said, that it had been lost by a trader for the Hudson's Bay company in the early days. It was a Colt revolver, nickel plated with an ivory holder.

Because his farm, on which he operates mineral baths, is the site of an old cabin about which many legends were told, Mr. Brooten thought the gun might have some connection with the stories.

The erroneous assumption, now classed as a forgotten theory, that John Wilkes Booth once lived in Oregon and might have lost the gun, was mentioned by Mr. Brooten. It was probably lost, however, by a settler from the east or a trader who visited Nestucca bay in the early days.

The Lost Pistol

(The following letter appeared in the Oregonian of May 7:)

PORTLAND, May 6.—(To the Editor.)—The pistol found by H. H. Brooten on Nestucca bay, of which an account is given in the Oregonian May 3, was manufactured by Colonel Samuel Colt, and is of a type, subsequent to the Mexican war and prior to the civil war, probably during the early '50s.

It was known as a "Colt revolving pistol" and probably had a stock which could be attached so as to be used as a carbine, as was then customary. If of .36 caliber it was a naval revolver, if of .45 caliber an army model, but the trigger guard indicates that it was subsequent to the "old" army model.

The Colt revolving pistol of that period usually has an etching on the cylinder which depicts a naval engagement between the Mexicans and Texans before Texas came into the Union.

The evidence that John Wilkes Booth was killed shortly after the assassination of President Lincoln is so overwhelming as to refute the claims of all 20 impostors who subsequently pretended to have been the assassin.

J. NEISON BARRY.

Another Letter

(The following letter appeared in the Oregonian of May 11:)

TOLEDO, Ore., May 8.—(To the Editor.)—In response to request for history of the H. H. Brooten pistol mentioned in The Oregonian on May 3, I offer this bit. In the early days when the hills in the Nestucca country were almost inaccessible, bear deer and panthers were plentiful there, and to climb one of those hills, through the dense undergrowth, including "devils club," was a real frontiersman's job. The Gage family owned a band of hogs and kept them on the north side of Nestucca bay on their homestead, and the eldest son, Arden, now five hundred feet from this house, lived there in a log cabin, cared for hogs, hunted, etc. I spent the summer of 1881 there. We were the only ones living on the north side of the bay. Park Ward, living on the south side of the bay, had a pistol, Colt's, nickel-plated and ivory handle, of which he was overly proud. Park Ward was a brother-in-law to Ed Shaw, chief of police of Oregon City.

Some nimrods came in from Oregon City to hunt a few days; it then took three days hard driving to make in. Mr. Ward joined them and they went to Bells mountain (now Brootens) for a two days' hunt, and the pistol went with them, but slipped its holster and did not return. Searching parties spent days trying to find the treasured piece to no avail.

I visited Mr. Brooten in 1915 and he showed me his find, an old Colt's pistol, which I recognized as Park Ward's pride.

—JOHN Q. GAGE.

Provoking Elsie!

Little Elsie, five years old, was planning a party for her playmates.

"Now, Elsie," said her mother, "go to Mrs. Brown and ask her if she'll let Alice come to your party. Tell her it's going to be just an informal little party."

Elsie soon was chatting with Mrs. Brown. "Can Alice come to my party tomorrow afternoon? Mamma says it's going to be just an informal little party."

—Mrs. J. W. Wyme.

INGROWN NAIL Turns Right Out Itself

A few drops of "Outgro" in the crevice of the ingrown nail reduces inflammation and pain and softens the tender, sensitive skin underneath the toe nail, that it cannot penetrate the flesh, and the nail turns naturally outward almost over night. "Outgro" is a harmless antiseptic manufactured for chiropractors. However, anyone can buy from the drug store a tiny bottle containing directions. Adv.

THE APOLLO FOUR



The Apollo Four, the male quartet composed of H. B. Glaisyer, first tenor; Richard Robertson, second tenor; Albert Gillette, first bass, and A. B. Hansen, second bass, which will add in a splendid manner to the program of the Apollo club on Wednesday.

For its final offering of the season the Apollo club will give a popular concert at the Armory next Wednesday evening. The program for this concert will be made up largely after the fashion of the club's popular concert of the previous season, pronounced a huge success by all who attended. All of the numbers to be sung ensemble will be of the semi-popular order not heretofore used by the club.

Genevieve Howard, dramatic soprano, a former Salem girl, will be a guest artist. Mrs. Howard's voice is big and flexible—capable of every requirement, whether aria or lullaby—and partakes of the quality and finish of those who claim the right to the title "prima donna." Her vocal accomplishments, with her charming personality, will prove a revelation to those who have not heard her voice since her days at Willamette university.

The Apollo four, a male quartet composed of H. B. Glaisyer, first tenor; Richard Robertson, second tenor; Albert Gillette, first bass, and A. B. Hansen, second bass, will have a part in the program. This quartet elicited much approval from the audience at the club's final concert last season.

Byron Arnold, the club's accompanist and a favorite pianist with Salem music lovers, will play solo numbers. Albert Gillette and Lyman McDonald, baritone, will have solo parts with numbers to be sung by the club.

All in all the program, as planned, gives promise of equalling, or even surpassing in merit, the club's excellent popular concert of last spring.

A club dinner was enjoyed on Wednesday evening by the members of the Merritt Thymers' club, with a progressive menu served at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Gillette and Mr. and Mrs. Allan J. Cleveland. Pastel shades of columbine and iris were effective throughout the rooms of the Gillette home where five hundred was enjoyed.

Participating in an enjoyable evening were Mr. and Mrs. Irwin W. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Mason Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Cleveland, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Gillette, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Haberman and Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Elger.

Mrs. William McGilchrist, Sr., is a guest for the week-end in Portland.

Mrs. Fletcher Linn, regent of Multnomah chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, returned from Washington, D. C., where she attended the continental congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which was the largest meeting in the history of the organization.

Mrs. Linn was entertained by friends both in Washington and Richmond, Va.

Mrs. Charles E. McNary were luncheon hostesses for the Multnomah chapter delegation, which included Mrs. Linn, Mrs. J. E. Montgomery, Mrs. Julia B. Comstock, Mrs. Octave J. Goffin, Mrs. Clyde E. Lewis and Mrs. E. J. Swindells.—Portland Telegram.

Miss Lucile Elrod, one of the charming bride-elects in whom Salem is interested, and the fiancé of Ralph Dickinson Moores, was the guest of honor at an attractive bridge luncheon on Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Forrest Littlefield the hostess.

On Friday evening Dr. and Mrs. Hicks Fenton also entertained in Portland, entertaining with a dinner party for Miss Elrod and Mr. Moores at the Campbell Court hotel.

Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Lee Steiner are spending the week-end at Neskeon.

Word received yesterday from Mrs. Martin Pereshetian tells of her arrival in Boston, Massachusetts. Louise will remain with her grandmother in Meadville, Pennsylvania, till the close of school. The little girl is attending the same school in which her mother was formerly the teacher, and very near the theological seminary which her father attended. Mrs. Pereshetian has many friends in the east whom she has not seen for six years. The length of her stay is undetermined.

social time will be enjoyed with the men as special guests of the occasion.

The Fairmount Hill club met for the last meeting of the season on Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. J. Huffman. Spring flowers in shades of yellow were placed about the room. Honors at bridge were won by Mrs. H. K. Stockwell and Mrs. L. Lunsford. Mrs. W. R. Speck was an additional guest. At the ten o'clock hour Mrs. Huffman was assisted by Mrs. Lester Laws and Mrs. H. K. Stockwell.

In the group were Mrs. W. R. Speck, Mrs. P. M. Gregory, Mrs. Eugene Grabenhorst, Mrs. Earl Percy, Mrs. H. K. Stockwell, Mrs. Edwin Hoffnell, Mrs. Lester Laws, Mrs. J. V. Schur, Mrs. L. Lunsford, Mrs. Lawrence Oberer and the hostess, Mrs. E. J. Huffman.

The advanced chorus of Salem high school will give the "Mikado," a comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan, on June 5 at the high school auditorium. The advanced chorus numbers 47. The characters will be: Nanki Pooch... Ronald Craven Pooh-Bah... Arlie Anderson Pish-tush... Earl Riggs Ko Ko... Gerald Mero Mikado... Paul Lee Yum Yum... Esther Burch Pitti Sing... Thelma Davis Peep Bo... Helen Pemberton Katisha... Helen Marcus Lena-Belle Tartar, director.

Mrs. Louise King Beatty left this morning for an extended trip through the middle west. She will go first to Ashland and other southern points. Mrs. Beatty expects to return about November 1.

Forty members of the Mizpah and men's Bible classes of the Jason Lee church met on Friday evening for an enjoyable gathering with the guests responding in giving an interesting program of music and readings.

The hostesses for the evening included Mrs. S. W. Drake, Mrs. W. A. Bond, Mrs. F. M. Jasper, and Mrs. Melvin Johnson.

Mrs. Margaret Montgomery and

son, Mr. Arthur Montgomery, are home from a week's absence on Puget sound.

Mrs. E. I. Doan is entertaining as her house-guest over the week-end Mrs. G. C. Doan of Toledo.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scott motored to Medford for the Lions' club charter night banquet on Saturday, leaving Salem on Friday. Some time was spent at Springfield visiting with relatives. Mrs. Scott plans to remain in Medford as the guest of cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Scott, for a week, while Mr. Scott will return Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Neer were also in attendance at the Medford banquet.

USED CARS MOVING FAST HEAD OF USED CAR CORNER DECLARES STOCK IS LOW

There is at least one business man in Salem who is not complaining about times being slow. Verne Anderson, of the Used Car Corner, states that his supply of used cars was never so low as before he received his last shipment. He only had two in stock. In his former location he sold 33 cars within the radius of one block and since moving to his new location he has sold four at one place to employees of one firm.

"Never before has our buyer been able to buy as late model cars as he included in this last shipment," added Mr. Anderson. The Used Car Corner have fixed up a lot in the rear of their place of business at 246 State, which will store about 25 cars. The older cars will be kept here allowing more room for the newer cars in the building.

King George Decides Against Any More Royal Residences

LONDON—Disregarding ancient precedent set down by Roman emperors, King George recently declined to accept a legacy of Gwyreth castle in Wales and \$250,000 for its upkeep, bequeathed to

him in trust by the Countess of Dundaonald who died last year leaving an estate valued at more than \$1,000,000. Hope was expressed in the countess' will that the castle would become a permanent residence for the kings of Wales, but as the bequest has been disclaimed by the ruler the property will pass, according to directions, to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. The castle will be used by the order as a priory for residential and administrative purposes.

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Persian Scene [An episode in "Rosaria"] From the vase, rise clear, sweet notes of song. Below, with bizarre, Oriental splendor, lissom Persian girls dance. TUESDAY, June 16, is Oregon Night, when every community in Oregon is expected to be represented in the audience.

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This mail order system has been adopted so that every community may secure its seats on the same basis as the citizens of Portland.

You will secure the best seats ROSARIA—the stupendous pageant of the rose

The greatest outdoor performance ever staged, with a cast of 5,000 singers and dancers, all superbly costumed and perfectly trained.

Just indicate the seats you want and the best tickets unsold will be sent you at once. It will be safer to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for reply.

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