

# Live-Wire Now Sorry He Left

D. H. Talmadge Recalls How Grass Grew High in Willson Park; Old Shacks Come Down for Lovely New Structures; Town Advances

By D. H. TALMADGE  
**C**ONGRATULATIONS to the Oregon Statesman on its 80th birthday!  
 It is a good deal with congratulations as Parson Winegar said: "I've been interested in a heap of doing first and last in which congratulations were in order, and I've heard folks a-plenty try to say the customary well-chosen words following the congratulations, but I never heard one who did himself much credit. For bees-wax' sake, if you've got congratulations to offer, offer 'em and shut up."

But —  
 Well, there was a man who came to the Willamette valley at about the time I came, which was 20 years and more ago. He was what is called a live wire, that man. We looked the valley over from Portland to Cottage Grove. I was not what is called a live wire, and the valley suited me first rate right from the start.

**Didn't Intend to Wait for Awakening**  
 But the man said he didn't aim to put in any of the best years of his life waiting for a section of country to wake up, even if it did come mighty near looking as he'd been taught in Sunday school the Garden of Eden looked.

And he returned to the east. That man came back the other day. And he said to me, among other things, "I've been looking around Salem again. Missed my guess on that town. Say," said he, "when I saw it last the grass in Willson Park was two feet high and there was a crop of oats on the Willamette campus, and there was an old yellow trolley car loose in every joint, that bounced and rolled in and out of Winter street every once in a while, and there was a little red trolley car that zipped out to the prison and back every now and then, and only State and Court streets were paved, and they only partially. Heaven only knows how many farm wagons are buried in the mud under those pavements."

Then he took a long breath and resumed.  
**New Structures Replace old Shacks**

"Where the Oregon building now stands was a ramshackle old wooden structure, filled with second-hand furniture, and where the Masonic building now it was a vacant lot, and where the First National Bank building now rears its 11 stories was a dingy two-story brick, and where the McGilchrist building and the Bligh hotel now are was a row of shacks, nothing less, covered with moss. The business section was pretty much all shacks, as a matter of fact."

I ventured to suggest that even then there were signs of promise. "Yes," he agreed, "the new United States National Bank building loomed up, and Buren & Hamilton were in a promising new building on Court street, and the federal building had been completed, and the Odd Fellows building was a feature, and the Marion county court house was one of the most beautiful buildings in America from an architectural viewpoint, just as it is now, and the city hall would have been a credit to any town, but"—and his voice took on a note of sorrow—"Chinatown is gone, and the old Salem hotel on the corner has gone, and Ferry street is no more what it used to be. Modern buildings everywhere. It has been pretty difficult for me to accustom myself to the stately and religious looking Elsinore, the like of which, it is fondly claimed, does not exist

## AN EARLY DAY PROGRAM

DRAMATIC,  
**Musical and Mitecary**  
 ENTERTAINMENT.  
 GIVEN BY THE GUILD OF  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
 AT  
**REED'S OPERA HOUSE,**  
 ON  
**FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 9TH, 1877.**  
**TICKETS 50 CENTS.**

E. W. WAITS, STEAM PRINTER.  
 —From S. A. Clarke scrapbook; courtesy Mrs. S. C. Dyer.  
 PRINTERS WOULD SAY THIS WAS A VERY GOOD PIECE OF PRINTING FOR THE PERIOD, NOT SO FLORID AS MOST OF THE WORK.

in another city of the size of Salem in the United States, when I recall the one-story shacks it replaced."

**Changes Show Steady Progress**  
 And thus he went on enumerating the changes worked by two score years. Dozens of them. Hundreds. All for civic betterment. The group of state buildings on Capital Hill trebled. Canneries. Mills. Hard surface streets everywhere. Modern hotels and passenger depots. A long, long list.

The official population of Salem in 1900 was 4254. In 1910, 14,094. In 1920, 17,679. In 1930, 26,266.

All of which is merely a leader to what I want to say about the Statesman, and in the saying of it there is absolutely no reflection on the merits of any other newspaper in the valley.

The old paper has come over a long trail. Up hill, much of it. Rough in spots. But it has come through. And the progressive city of Salem owes much to it as a vital influence in community development. I reckon Robert J. Hendricks is entitled, more than any other one person, to credit for the achievement. I think I have never

known a newspaper publisher who followed more persistently and under all conditions, adverse and otherwise, the beacon of faith in a town and state.

And so—well, congratulations. There are, I am sure, big days ahead for the Statesman.

## Temperance Talk 'Way Back in '87 For Labor's Day

The first Labor Day celebration in Salem was June 4, 1887, which was the day fixed as a holiday by the previous legislature. There was a procession of the Knights of Labor, the organization which preceded the A. F. of L. headed by Boys band, march to Marion square where exercises were held.

Frank C. Baker was president of the day and gave an address on the "labor question." A Rev. Mr. Weddell of Ohio followed with a talk on "temperance and labor." Col. George Woodford of Illinois talked on "prohibition" and the report says he "delivered himself in an admirable manner of the time-worn arguments of his class of temperance advocates."

## Jefferson Peak Reached in '88 By Cross, Farmer

Ed C. Cross and Ray Farmer of this city are entitled to the honor of being the first to scale the extreme heights of Mount Jefferson, which feat they accomplished last Sunday morning, thus doing away with the universal belief among those acquainted with the surroundings that the thing could not be done. Accompanied by George Pearce, they started from their camp at the foot of the mountain at six o'clock, arrived at what is termed the summit, the highest point ever reached before, at 10 o'clock, having traveled up the south slope. Here they found two bottles containing names of those

who had preceded them in the past, some of which could not be read, but those of Hon. John Minto, John Waldo, John Scriber, L. M. Yates, Don Smith and George A. Peebles were plainly legible.

"At this point began the real difficulties of the trip. They crawled around to the west side of the mountain and commenced the perilous ascent up an almost perpendicular height of fully 250 feet." —Statesman, Aug. 17, 1888.

## WHEAT MOVES BY BOAT

"The steamer Isabel yesterday took up to Corvallis for shipment over the Oregon Pacific and Yaquina steamers one thousand sacks of wheat, or about two thousand bushels. Every trip of the steamer, a quantity of wheat is taken. The price remains apparently fixed at 92 cents." —The Statesman, May 27, 1887.



## MR. C. S. HAMILTON C. S. HAMILTON Furniture Co.

One can hardly think of furniture without thinking of the C. S. Hamilton Furniture company, located at 340 Court street, Salem.

This firm is one of the oldest home furnishing establishments in Oregon, having been established for more than 37 years.

For a number of years Hamilton's made the greater part of the upholstered furniture sold by their store. Many of these early pieces are still in service in the community. Recently, Hamilton's completed a reconditioning job on a couch, made by their own shop twenty-seven years ago, and it was delivered to the owner, in shape to stand several years more of hard wear.

Quality has always been a hobby with Hamilton's store. The public appreciates the fact that they can buy quality and style at reasonable prices at this store.

Careful buying is the secret of successful merchandising. If quality goods are bought right, they can be sold right. This firm always give their customers the benefit of their knowledge in buying, hence you can obtain the best at comparatively low prices at Hamilton's Furniture Store.

