

BETHANY SPOT OF OLD CHURCH

80th Anniversary in April; Many of its Pastors Well-Known men

"The ashes of an oak in the chimney are no epitaph, to tell me how high or how large that oak was; it tells me not what flocks it sheltered while it stood, nor what men it hurt when it fell." And like Dr. John Donne's ashes of the oak, the pioneer churches standing along the highways do not tell the passing motorist of the days when they were prominent as "meetin' houses", in the lives of Oregon pioneers.

Such a church is Bethany, standing at the side of a cemetery near the Silverton-Salem upper highway, a little over a mile out of Silverton. Records tell that this is the oldest of the over 300 Christian churches on the Pacific coast.

Well-Known Pastors Served at Bethany

Bethany church will celebrate its 80th anniversary in April. Pioneers say it was organized in April, 1851, at the home of Elias Cpx. Rev. C. C. Chapman was its first pastor. Among other early pastors were such well-known pioneer men as J. E. Roberts of Turner, Glenn and Peter Burnett, the latter a nephew of Peter Hardman Burnett, first governor, of California.

Original membership of the church included Willburn and Marcella King, Margaret Miller, Frederick Mascher, Mary Ann Robinett, Josephine Shaw, Samuel and Sarah Tucker, Mary Davis, Isaac and Margaret Hedrick, Elias Cox, Ily Cox, Peter, Gideon, Susannah, Samuel, Harriet and Joseph Cox, George and Julian Woolen and Jane Shaw.

By 1858, the congregation had prospered sufficiently to build a church, the building which still stands. Bethany church is no longer used. When Silverton became better settled a Christian church was built within the city.

You Read 'em and Then Tell Large One You Recall!

"William Torrance, Esq., of Milwaukie, lately plucked a gooseberry at Astoria which measured six inches in circumference."—Statesman, June 27, 1851.

"Mammoth Radishes . . . Half a dozen radishes . . . one measured 13 inches in circumference and the others were not far behind. They were upwards of 18 inches long, and grew at Molalla settlement."—Statesman, July 4, 1851.

"Large Melons. Mr. Horace Baker last week placed upon our table a huge muskmelon. It was raised on the Clackamas and was the largest one we ever saw, measuring three feet and one-half in circumference one way and two and one-half the other."—Statesman, October 7, 1851.

Wedding Bells Chime at Cross Baskett Rites

From the Statesman of Apr. 15, 1886:

"Married: Cross-Baskett—At the family residence of the bride's mother, near Dixie, in Polk county, on Wednesday April 14, 1886, Miss Jessie N. Baskett to Edwin C. Cross of Salem."

The guest list included: Mr. and Mrs. John G. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rosenberg, Mr. and Mrs. J. O'Donald, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Cross, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Brislow, R. J. Hendricks, Harvey Jordan, Frank Cross, Ed N. Cross, Miss Ida Hendricks of Eugene City, Mr. Stutsman of East Portland.

Walnuts Trees in Valley Put Out By Mrs. Hutton

"Only God can make a tree," we hear in song, but it cannot be denied that Mrs. Leah Hutton did her bit when she carried seven black walnuts across the plains in her handbag. Mrs. Hutton was at one time known up and down the Willamette valley as "Grandma Hutton, who once killed a lion with an axe."

It was in 1852 that Mrs. Hutton brought her seven walnuts to the Silverton country. Five of these grew and are still growing where they were planted at the Hutton pioneer home in the Evans valley a few miles east of Silverton. The place is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Balch, and the huge walnut trees are not the least of their pride.

One tree is particularly large, and is often called "the father of the Oregon walnut industry." It measures 4 1/2 feet through and has a spread of 140 feet. The tree is still vigorous and each year adds to its tremendous size. A few years ago a Portland furniture company offered \$1,000 for this tree, but it was not sold.

Whitman Rescue Of Mare is Told

Milton Kester of Hubbard tells this one: "I well remember Jinny, a bay mare owned by my grandfather. The old mare was a pet of everyone. She had been stolen by an Indian in the Whitman massacre near the present city of Walla Walla, Wash. My Uncle William (Judge William Hubbard) was riding her and an Indian pulled him off, jumped on and rode away. Dr. Whitman rescued the pony and returned it to my grandfather after he came here. This happened while the Hubbards were crossing the plains."

German Bond Men Look Over State

"Recently a deputation of representation of the Germans, who are so fortunate as to hold \$18,000,000 of Oregon railroad bonds, have visited Oregon and have on their way investigated for themselves to form an opinion as to the propriety, financially considered, of building the rest of the road through to California."—S. A. Clarke correspondence in Sacramento Union, 1874.



Photo Kennell-Elie

Alvin B. Stewart conducts Salem's leading novelty business. Mr. Stewart specializes in expert grinding and umbrella repairing. A nice line of high-grade cutlery is always in stock. Keys and locks fitted or repaired. Mr. Stewart has been in business in Salem for twelve years. Location, 251 Court St.

'53 SAW SURVEY FOR RAILROADS

Gov. Stevens, Capt. McClellan Survey Northern Route For Road

In the Statesman of June 21, 1853, there is an order signed by Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War, dated April 8, 1853, which was to carry out the act of Congress to survey routes for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific ocean. The survey for the route to Puget Sound was placed in charge of Isaac I. Stevens, newly appointed governor of the territory of Washington.

Brevet Captain, George B. McClellan, was assigned to duty for this survey. One of the officers assigned to the party was Brevet

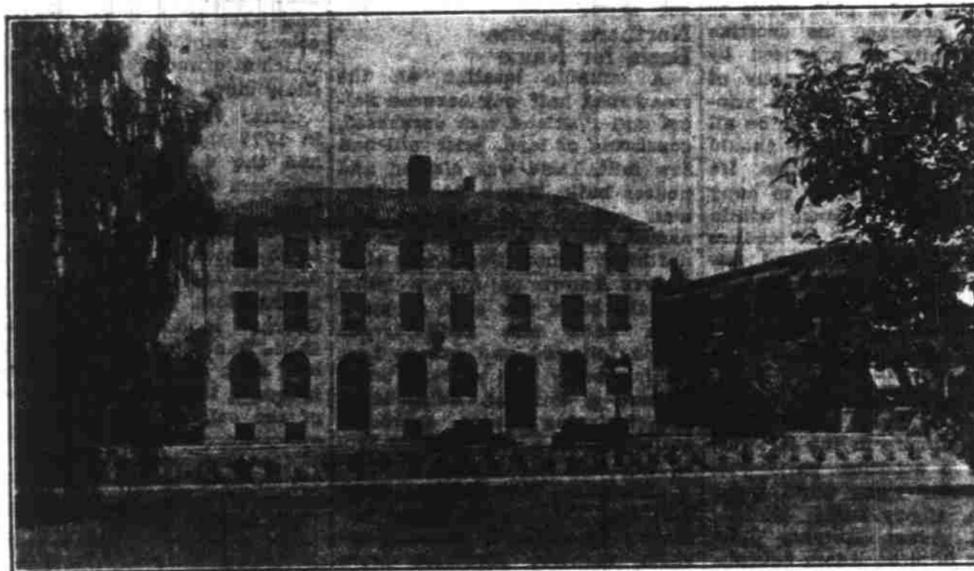
second lieutenant, John Mullan, Jr., Mullan later surveyed the old Mullan Military road from Walla Walla north across the Snake river to old Fort Colville.

"Pacific Railroad—northern route —We learn from Mr. Jeffrey who has lately arrived in the valley from the plains that Gov. Stevens who has had charge of the survey of the northern route of the Pacific railroad, came down the Columbia to Fort Vancouver last week—that Capt. McClellan and Lt. Donaldson with their parties would soon follow. Lieut. Grover and party are crossing the Cascade range direct to Puget Sound. Maj. Stevens gives assurance of the perfect feasibility of the whole route, and says that the ground has been found much more favorable than was anticipated."—Statesman, Nov. 29, 1853.

Dobbin Party is Ended by Treat At Gilbert Home

"Driving Party — Several Salem young people enjoyed a very exhilarating driving party last Wednesday night, and were afterwards entertained pleasantly at the residence of Mrs. A. N. Gilbert. On Friday evening after the band concert, the same party was invited to an ice cream festival by Mrs. J. W. Crawford, in the honor of the approaching departure of one of their number, Miss Laura Minto. They were Gussie Steiwer, Josie Brown, Ella Abergast, Laura Minto and Messers. Ed Crawford, Milton Myers, Ray Gilbert and Joe Farrar."—The Statesman, July 29, 1888.

SALEM Y. M. C. A.



The Salem Y. M. C. A. has had a consistent record of growth from its early beginning. It was started in Salem when the city was small and has grown with the increase of the population and business.

The inception of the Salem Y. M. C. A. runs back to 1890, when a little group met in the offices of the old State Insurance company, which later became the home of the association. The first gathering we are told by R. J. Hendricks, was in the nature of a prayer meeting. There were frequent meetings which resulted in the incorporation of the Salem Y. M. C. A. The incorporation took place on March 18, 1892. The incorporators were H. S. Gile, T. A. Van Eaton, Wylie A. Moores, and F. N. Gilbert.

The Salem Y. M. C. A. began its activities, on May 4, 1892 and was housed in rooms on the second floor of the Patton building, so it is now nearly 39 years old. The first equipment of the Y. M. C. A. was purchased by John Albert, from the Watoldia Athletic club which had just discontinued activities, this gave the Y a good start and it soon outgrew its quarters. The next home was in the Gray building, that soon proved too small and again the quarters were moved.

The third home of the Y. M. C. A. was on the second floor of the building now occupied by the Salem Hardware company, up to this time the work had been done by volunteers but it had grown so rapidly that it was necessary to employ a secretary. The man chosen for this position was J. R. Wetherbee, now a physician in Portland, he proved to be a capable and successful leader.

Mention should be made of some of the devoted women of the Women's Auxiliary whose faith and courage helped when the work was new and not well understood.

Among those who should be mentioned are Mrs. R. S. Wallace, Mrs. C. P. Bishop, Miss Nina McNary, Mrs. Anna McNary, Mrs. R. P. Boise, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. Mildred Brooks and Mrs. S. R. Jessup.

The fourth home of the Y. M. C. A. was opened on July 1, 1898 in the Hughes building, over Johnson's store. This was a larger place, than had been previously occupied, but like the others it

soon became too small. About this time, William Ladd of Portland became the owner of the State Insurance company building and the Y. M. C. A. bought it for the sum of \$10,000. On December 24th, 1901, the Y. M. C. A. moved into the building where it had been born eleven years before. It occupied that building for 25 years and did a marvelous service to the city of Salem and surrounding country. Many outstanding men grew up in the old Y and some measure of their success is due to the training received there.

A campaign for funds was started in October 1924 with T. A. Livesley, as chairman, to build a new modern home for the Y. M. C. A. The effort was successful and \$201,000 was subscribed with which to erect a building, fully equipped and furnished. The actual investment in the present plant is \$175,000. The building was opened for use July 1, 1926.

The Y. M. C. A. cost the citizens of Salem a large sum of money. Is it worth the investment?

About one of every ten people in Salem have membership privileges in the Y. M. C. A. The oldest members is A. T. Yeaton about 92 years of age and there are about 100 boys and girls nine years or under.

One of the most popular things in the Y is the physical activities. These are enjoyed by all ages and with the cooperation of the Y. W. C. A. even large numbers of women and girls use the physical privileges in the Y. Some of the features are gym classes, swimming, volleyball, basketball, boxing, wrestling, baseball, tennis, and many others. Our representative teams always make a good showing in competition with other teams in the northwest, the wrestling team recently got first place in the northwest championship meet.

The boys work in the Salem Y is very important, more than 1,000 different boys actually use the privileges in the Salem Y every year. Among the activities of the boys is the use of the lobby, and game room, participation in athletic activities, swimming, weekly clubs centered around Bible study, personal interest clubs, Christian Citizenship clubs, and two older boys conferences each year

An outstanding feature of the boys work is the summer camp which the Y has conducted for nine successive years. Recently the association received a gift of about 20 acres of land at Ocean-side near Tillamook. This will now be the permanent home of the boys camps. About 125 boys camped there last year.

Music plays an important part in the program of the Y. Every Friday evening we feature programs in the lobby, which are well attended. Also the Salem Y has sponsored the Salem Symphony orchestra which holds weekly rehearsals.

The Y is endeavoring to secure an endowment fund and already has a small amount invested. In many states every Y. M. C. A. in the entire state has a working endowment and our local association is trying to get an amount, the interest of which would help in times of depression and special needs. In many instances people take out life insurance policies in favor of the Y, make estate pledges or put the Y in their wills. An endowment fund would be of very great value in helping the Salem Y. M. C. A. increase its field of usefulness.

The Y. M. C. A. has a resident hall to accommodate 40 men. These rooms are rented almost entirely to members and usually to young men who are just getting started. They form a very valuable part of the association program in that they provide a clean, wholesome place for young men to live at a moderate rate.

The Salem Y. M. C. A. has had but four presidents during its existence of 39 years, H. S. Gile, J. B. T. Tuttle, F. A. Wiggins and W. I. Staley, Mr. Staley has been president for 23 years. The management is made of a board of directors of 21 men: Carle Abrams, Paul Acton, Joseph H. Albert, Dr. F. E. Brown, O. P. Coshow, R. C. Davis, D. W. Eyre, Dr. M. C. Findley, John Farrar, R. J. Hendricks, George Hug, T. M. Hicks, Roy R. Hewitt, W. T. Jenks, T. B. Kay, T. A. Livesley, B. E. Slisson, C. A. Sprague, W. I. Staley, Paul B. Wallace, Dr. R. Lee Wood. These men have rendered outstanding service, several of them have served for 25 years, some have served from the very beginning. This long period of time has been without one cent of remuneration.

(Space donated by a friend of the Y.)