

# W. H. Hobson Only Staytonite Living There From Days of '51

By MRS. G. F. KORINEK

Eighty years is a mighty long time ago, and there is only one person living here now who was in this community, who was here when The Statesman was established. That person is Hon. W. H. Hobson, pioneer merchant. Hobson came from Virginia with his parents, when but two years old. The family located two miles northeast of Stayton, where Charles Hottinger now lives. There was no town at Stayton,

between Turner and Stayton that he is of the opinion that the stream was a natural one?

In 1871 Hobson started the first store in Stayton and in 1874 took in as a partner, Uriah Whitney. Whitney had come from Maine to Marion county in 1854, landing at Aumsville on December 25. He had left home with \$150, but this was not sufficient to pay his way via the Isthmus of Panama and he was obliged to borrow another \$50. When he

When application was made in Washington for a postoffice word came back that there already was a Florence in Oregon. So the town was called Stayton. Mail was poured out in a tub in the Hobson-Whitney store and each helped himself. Whitney did a good bit of hauling for the store, the trip to Portland for supplies taking five days.

Mr. Whitney withdrew from the mill business in 1883. He died in October, 1928 at the age of 94 years. Mr. Whitney was a Mason for more than 50 years and secretary of the lodge for 35 years. Fifty years ago Stayton had the first water system. Water was pumped from the ditch near the grist mill with a ram and furnished water to the Hobson residence; Thomas brothers' livery stable and Jack Richardson, the hotel man.

### Lee Brown First Mayor in 1884

Stayton was incorporated in 1884 and Lee Brown, the saw mill man was its first mayor.

Besides Mr. Hobson there is only one other person living here now who was here when the town was laid out. That person is Mrs. Anna Stayton. An afternoon spent reminiscing with this estimable woman is indeed a treat. Anna Jeter came with her parents from Missouri, when but a small girl, in 1865. She was born in Virginia, later moving to Missouri. The family lived for a year near Salem. In 1866, her father, Rev. William Jeter, began to look for another location. He had several spans of fine oxen he wanted to trade in on a place. A (Continued on Page 20)

## STAYTON'S FIRST BAND



THE BAND LED BY E. D. ALEXANDER AS IT APPEARED JULY 4, 1905. READING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT THEY ARE: WILLIAM FITTON, JOE ZUBER, BEN KLECKER, JAKE SPANIEL, CHARLES STREFF, ALBERT ROY, HENRY SORENSON, GEORGE GEHLEN, NICK GEHLEN, FRANK SILHAVY, E. D. ALEXANDER, HENRY SIEGMUND AND FRANK SIEGMUND.

but Sublimity was quite a flourishing village.

Mr. Hobson told the writer that from his earliest recollections this country was all prairie land. When the family cattle would stray, Hobson, then a small boy, would mount his horse and ride to the hill where the cemetery is, the highest point around. Often the cattle could be seen grazing two or three miles distant, on the place where Harry Porter now lives. There were hundreds of white tail deer also to be seen. Also an abundance of other wild animals.

About 1857 the Salem ditch was dug. Is it any wonder when one crosses this stream, seven times

landed here he had but a few dollars. He worked for the McKinney's near Aumsville and in 1871 bought a farm northeast of town where Harry Porter now lives.

Whitney sold his interest in the store to Hobson and left for Maine. Here he married and again came to Oregon in 1876 and again formed a partnership with Hobson. This year they started the grist mills now owned by A. D. Gardner.

Drury Stayton, another pioneer, wished the town to be called Florence, after one of his daughters.

## SALEM IRON WORKS

One of the oldest business institutions in Salem is the Salem Iron Works. It occupies the same site in which it was founded in 1860 by B. F. Drake, and thus is the oldest business in the city continuously operated in the same location.

The first proprietors were B. F. Drake and John Nation. In 1862 the latter retired and Mr. Drake took in John H. Moore in partnership in 1863. After 1867 Mr. Drake was the sole proprietor for a long term of years.

September 22, 1869 the foundry and machine shop burned down, with the sash and door factory of Boothby and Stapleton adjoining on Front street. Immediately the place was rebuilt with the brick building which still stands.

Later proprietors of the Salem Iron Works were Boothby and Hutton; then a Mr. Gill; and about 1902 Henry Edgar took over the property. In 1904 Shand and Marcus became the owners, then George Shand alone.

In September, 1925, the ownership passed to the Carl F. Gerlinger interests of Dallas, who have continued the plant and enlarged its operations. Affiliated plants are located at Dallas, and Klamath Falls. The Salem Steel and Supply is also affiliated, and does a wholesale and retail business in steel and iron products.

The Salem Iron works handles a variety of business including: manufacture of sawmill and logging equipment, paper mill machinery, grey iron and brass castings, Shand centrifugal pumps, Gerlinger carriers, Salem drag saws, Pacific spark consumers. In addition the plant does all kinds of boilerwork, pattern work and custom repairing and manufacturing.

The manager is Art McLaughlan.

# OREGON MUTUAL FIRE RELIEF COMPANY

Incorporated 1894

HOME OFFICE: McMinnville, OREGON

The Oregon Mutual Fire Insurance Company, formerly the Oregon Fire Relief Association of McMinnville, Oregon, was organized in 1894 by some of the citizens of McMinnville, who believed that it was possible to form a company that would be for the protection and not for profit which would eliminate a considerable part of the cost of their fire insurance. This company began writing insurance on January 1st, 1895.

	Insurance in Force	Assets
1895	147,709	209.28
1900	8,345,669	3,686.06
1905	22,130,573	104,214.30
1910	35,666,375	208,595.70
1915	42,564,185	268,278.56
1920	55,247,948	511,601.37
1925	91,208,613	558,728.26
1930	116,020,380	808,303.15

The company now has a net surplus over all liabilities of \$325,198.17, its surplus being 40% of its entire assets, a showing that can be made by but few insurance companies. When the company was first organized, it was intended to write insurance in Yamhill county only, but within a short time the territory was extended to the Willamette Valley. A few years later it was provided that they could write insurance anywhere in the State of Oregon. Their operations were confined to the State of Oregon until 1913 at which time they entered the State of California. Since that the operations have been extended to include the States of Idaho, Washington and Utah so that at the present time it operates in five States. The growth of the com-

pany has been consistent at all times, the management having been economical and conservative. The management of the company has been stable and it has been the policy of the company to make but few changes in their official family, the President, W. C. Hagerty, having been connected with the company since 1905, the Secretary, L. M. Waugaman since 1914, the Treasurer, E. C. Apperson, since 1901. But few changes have been made in the Board of Directors other than those caused by death.

It has paid in loss since organization, \$3,690,234.18 and has saved to the policyholders on the cost of their insurance from 20% to 25% of that which they would have paid in other companies. The Board of Directors at the present time consist of Thos. B. Kay, State Treasurer, Charles Cleveland, Capitalist of Gresham, Oregon, Frank W. Fenton, Attorney-at-law at McMinnville, E. C. Apperson, President of the United States National bank of McMinnville, W. C. Hagerty, President of the Company and J. H. Nelson, Assistant-Secretary of the company.

Among the first insurers were policies in Marion County. The company was represented for many years there by H. A. Johnson, Sr., afterwards by his son, H. A. Johnson, Jr., and later on by Standley & Foley with offices in the Bush Bank Building, Salem, Standley & Foley having taken over this agency in 1920 and now write a very large volume of business in that county. The company to-day writes more insurance than any other company in the State of Oregon, carrying insurance on about one-tenth of the insurable fire risks of the State.



Photo Kennell-Ellis

## W. W. Rosebraugh

Head of the W. W. Rosebraugh Company, oldest manufacturers of furnaces on the Pacific coast. This business specializes in the making of heating apparatus of various kinds, for a variety of needs. Mr. Rosebraugh arrived in Salem from Illinois in 1901. In 1912 he organized and headed the company bearing his name. This concern has been in continuous operation since its inception, and has not made even a temporary shut-down in fifteen years. The output of the company is consumed principally in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, with some export business to Central and South America. The annual payroll is in excess of \$20,000. Twelve to 20 men are steadily employed, and the plant covers 40,000 square feet of ground.



L. M. Waugaman, Secretary W. C. Hagerty, President

E. C. Apperson, Treasurer

—Photos Newton Studio, McMinnville.