

RIGGS FOILED IN GREAT AIM

Bell-Fixer of Salem Can't Repair Old Liberty; Messenger in East

"From S. A. Clarke's scrap books" 1875: How many in Salem today know that in 1875 there lived a very fine old gentleman, Mr. D. L. Riggs, who was the very soul of patriotism, and was a machinist, and whose inventive genius had perfected a process for mending cracked bells, for in that day bells meant more to the people than they do now. He had this process patented and when tried here in Oregon had succeeded admirably.

This man's name was D. L. Riggs, who had been brought up near Philadelphia, where he had heard the Old Bell ring, and took it to heart that nothing had been done to restore the Old Bell to service for present generations. His whole heart was to invent a process that would restore the bell and set to ringing again for the centennial in 1876, the great day when it rang out the joyful peal, because the Declaration of Independence had been signed, and announced to be free.

Goes to Philadelphia To Offer Service

Having proved that his process was certain, he went to Philadelphia to offer his services for the repair of the remarkable messenger of liberty.

They received his offer with consideration, and promised to accept it. He was to built each side of the crack in the bell out of crucible clack, a furnace in which to make charcoal fires, and arrange to have sufficient power of wind to blow these charcoal fires to a white heat which would melt the bell metal to run together again and the bell would be as sound as ever.

But alas! Although they had faith in his work, the people in Philadelphia had so much sentiment about the bell, they finally refused to have it restored, and Mr. Riggs returned to Oregon a disappointed man, as it had been the pride of his life to hear its clear tones again. He had mended a bell in a church in Salem with perfect success. Mr. D. L. Riggs was the father-in-law of George H. Hines of the Historical society. —S.C.D.

PRE-NYE PERIOD

Senators Morton, Spaulsury and McMillan came to Oregon in June, 1877, to investigate the election of L. F. Grover to the senate.

Back in 1888—"J. H. McNary has been appointed deputy recorder, vice, L. F. Conn, resigned."

FIRST RAILROAD STATION



FIRST OREGON & CALIFORNIA RAILROAD STATION AT SALEM, ORE., IN 1870. THE RAILROAD WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC TO THIS STATION OCT. 11, 1870. THE DEPOT WAS IN THE SAME LOCATION AS THE PRESENT ONE.

\$5000 Required To Install Pipe To Water Plant

Water company installation costs were not so high in the '80's, one finds on examination of The Statesman's files. It was in 1886 that the suction pipe was put into the Willamette river across Minto's island at a cost of \$5000.

This iron pipe was 2157 feet in length and when installed was the longest suction pipe west of the Rockies.

"The company has in active operation between seven and eight miles of mains and distributing pipes," reads a paper of 1887. "During the past season repairs and improvements to them have cost over \$15,000. About three miles of wooden distributing mains have given place to pipes of cast and wrought iron."

EPIDEMIC AT LAFAYETTE

"An obliging correspondent at Lafayette writes us that the 'putrid sore throat' is prevailing there to a considerable extent. There have been five deaths from it in town in the last three weeks."—Statesman, Mar. 19, 1860.

DEATH OF COL. BAKER

"The first news dispatch transmitted across the continent entirely by telegraph, brings intelligence of the fall of Senator Baker in battle."—Statesman, Nov. 4, 1861.

SALEM WELL CHURCHED

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Indeed there was a strong sentiment against it. Whether conditions are better or worse I am not saying; it is a matter of individual opinion, but when I was a boy and young man, drinking among women was unknown.

Home Band Flourished On Ex-Circus Equipment

The Home Amusement Band was

an institution. The leader, Professor Coomer, was a piece of flotsam from the wreck of a circus that had stranded in Salem. He was an accomplished musician and a gentleman. Every year the band gave a minstrel show. Charlie Kelly and Billy Dougan were the end men; Professor Coomer's cornet solos were the principal feature.

The bar and the medical profession were ably represented. Ashael Bush was the town banker. The principal merchants were Breymen Brothers; M. Meyer, Levi, and J. J. Dalrymple. John G. Wright and Farrar Brothers did most of the grocery business. D. E. Howard was the big butcher of the town. R. M. Wade & Co. and Cunningham Brothers sold hardware and farm implements. Pete Emerson ran the best restaurant until he went to Port Townsend on the boom in the early '80's. Later Amos Strong and Charlie Hellenbrand were the leading restaurateurs.

When I went to Salem, Eph Olinger operated the only public conveyance, a closed hack, or carriage. Afterwards Bill Chambers and Henry Price were "opposition" in the business. Their turnouts were more elaborate. The tops of their carriages could be let down in pleasant weather. The fare to the depot was 25 cents for townspeople! "drummers" and strangers

paid 50 cents. A like discrimination was made at hotels and eating places. The only apparent difference between the "drummers" table and other tables in a dining

room, was a plate of oranges or apples set in the center of the table.

My offering to your special edition must necessarily be of little interest to the greater number of your readers, but it is possible that Margaret Cosper, the Breymen girls, Mrs. Patterson, Ben Taylor, Ed Weller, "Nez" Bush, Ed Croisan, the McNary boys, George Waters, Hal Patton, Rube Boise, Bob Hendricks, Doug Minto, Johnny Jones and a few others may be prompted to recall some of the happy times we boys and girls had in Salem. I am talking of times 33 years ago, but I do not feel old on that account. I have kept my health and vitality; my hair is not gray; I still have my teeth, my tonsils and my appendix, and am able to laugh at myself. If it be that "He laughs best who laughs last," it behooves us all to laugh last.

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Organized in 1913 by Harry Hawkins and Thomas Roberts, this business has grown with the community, expanding into one of the largest, first mortgage loan concerns, in the state. From meager quarters, the expansion has required more office-space through the years until today nearly all of the second floor of the Oregon Building is used by the firm.

Originally the firm engaged exclusively in first mortgage loans on farms and city property. Later different service departments were made available for clients. In 1927 the Dyer Insurance Agency was merged with the Hawkins and Roberts, Inc. Since 1927 a complete insurance service has been available.

Hawkins and Roberts, Inc., today is one of the most completely organized investment houses in Oregon, doing an extensive loan business, also dealing in bonds, stocks, short-time paper, collateral trust bonds.

A branch office is maintained in Eugene, with representatives in Medford, Klamath Falls, Corvallis, and all points of the valley.

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