

# Salem Greeted a New Arrival in '91

Horse-Drawn Hacks Backed Up to 'Dinky' Station to Take Newcomer to \$1-a-Day Hotel; Many Chinamen Seen; Prominent Men Then Starting Careers of Business in City of 3000

BY EUGENE T. PRESCOTT

HOW do I remember Salem in 1891? Well, I remember it as a town of about 3000 inhabitants, scattered over nearly as much territory as today. I landed in Salem on the Fourth of July, 1891. I remember the little "dinkey" station. Oliver Darling was ticket agent and lived over the depot. He now lives on South Twelfth. I remember the horse car at the station and the driver hollering and several hotel runners doing the same. Horse driven hacks were backed up to the curb and several express wagons were on hand. Everyone seemed to be hollering about something. Above it all I heard "Oregon Hotel one dollar per day." That

was the size of my pile so I went with the runner.

He took me down Mill street to his hotel, which was located facing Mill street just north of the Stoltz vinegar works of today. It did a big business. After dinner I strolled downtown and came across the Salem hotel located where the Bligh theater building is now. In the block west I found Chinatown. The Chinese all wore their queues and were very interesting to me. Salem had quite a Chinese population at that time. In this block, I came across what was then known as the town pump. It was at the outer edge of the sidewalk in front of the Steiner tin shop which was located where the Central pharmacy is now. There was a watering trough there where the farmers watered their horses.

## Fire Department at State and Liberty

The building on the corner, which has been remodeled and several stories added to it, and is now known as the Salem Bank of Commerce building, housed the fire department.

Across the street, where the First National bank now stands, I found H. S. Gile in the grocery business. Mr. Gile is still with us and going strong. Farther west in this block, I found Walter Stoltz dishing up ice cream where the Spa is now located. Walter started the business the year before and later sold to Mr. Myers who still owns it. Walter is still with us, and making himself very much felt in a business and civic way. A little farther west I came across Hal Patton selling fountain pens. He was the fountain pen specialist. If you mentioned fountain pens to him, he always sold you one. Hal was a clerk then, under his father.

The Ladd & Bush bank was where it is today of course. Joe Baumgartner was teller in the bank and Oswald (Butch) West was messenger. Joe had just recently been promoted from this exalted position and now Os was more swelled up over it than when he was elected Governor some years later.

## Bob Hendricks Was Aid to Newcomer

Turning north from the bank, I crossed State street and found a livery stable where the Salem hardware store is now located. Further on, I came across the Statesman office. I was looking for a job as a printer's devil so I went in and tackled the editor for a job. It was our friend Bob Hendricks. He was busy chewing gum but took time to talk with me and through his help I later got a job at the State printing office. He offered me a job on his paper one time, but as there were internal troubles I very reluctantly passed up the offer. What Salem would be today, had it not been for the optimistic mind of Bob's which urged his pencil on, we never shall know; but there are a goodly number who have followed his writings, that give him credit for the development, of not only the Salem terri-

tory but the Willamette valley as a whole.

Crossing Court street, I came to the R. M. Wade & Co. hardware store, on the corner and now known as the Ray L. Farmer Hardware company. Mr. Farmer was rather a dudiah appearing fellow at that time, and was considered very busy around the place. While he is the big "it" there now, he is still busy. Lot Pierce was his side-kick. Lot was trying to make himself look older by coaxing along a mustache that just would not curl. He kept the ends frazzled out trying to curl it. Lot was a fine looking fellow in those days—for that matter he is today. Lot, today, is just a few doors north with the Allen Hardware store.

## Bishop Ready to Extend Him Credit

I went on north to Chemeketa street and crossed over to the west side of Commercial street and there I found the Salem Woolen Mills store. C. P. Bishop was the proprietor, and Carl Roberts was the lone clerk. I can see Mr. Bishop now, looking over the top of his glasses, as I asked him for credit. Did I get it? You bet I did, and I have been owing him something ever since. He may be sorry he gave me the credit, but I am glad Mr. Bishop started his store the year before I arrived in Salem.

In the next block, near State, I came across the Capital National bank. I have brought \$50.00 from North Dakota with me, and decided to bank it with this bank as Joe Albert was cashier. I have had a continuous account there ever since. The First National bank of today is the successor of the old Capital National bank. On the second floor, over the present Buster Brown shoe store, August Huckestein was running a cigar factory and employed several workers. He was very much in demand those

days as a political campaign speaker.

## Alice Steiner Was Lone "Hello" Girl

Going on south, I came across Dr. Steiner's drug store on the corner where the United States National bank building now stands. That was Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner. The central telephone office was in the back end of the store, and Alice Steiner, now Mrs. Milton Myers, was the lone "hello" girl. She had a book to read to pass away the time.

I crossed State street and came to Dan Fry's drug store. Kitty Hargrove, now Mrs. Graver, was making pills and fixing up doses of quinine to combat malaria fever so common here at that time.

A little farther south I saw a sign over a stairway that read "Ross E. Moores & Co. Printers." I never stopped to size up the place but went right up. Yes, they were wanting a "printer's devil" and I got the job. The shop is still doing business but is now located on State street. Ross retired from active service several years ago.

## Fred Lockley Was Mail Carrier Then

Down at the corner of Commercial and Ferry, where the W. C. T. U. headquarters are now, I found the postoffice. Molly Creighton, now Mrs. W. H. Dancy, was handing out mail. Ben Taylor and Fred Lockley were carrying mail. There were but five carriers. Both Ben and Fred are still alive to tell the story.

The Marion hotel was there. It was called the Chemekete, and later on the Willamette.

Across Ferry street from the hotel was a little old building that housed the most fashionable cigar store in town. That building looked old enough to have been the building that housed the first store opened in Salem by Mr. Cox. I do not know its history. A livery stable stood where the armory now stands. The Capital Journal was located where The Statesman is now. I worked on that paper a few years later. Just south of this location was another Chinese center. The bridge across the creek on South Commercial was covered.

## Gile Then Planning for Y.M.C.A. Here

The Y. M. C. A. was being incubated in the fertile brain of H. S. Gile. It came into life in 1892. I was present at its birth.

The state house had not at that

## HOW DID THEY MOUNT THEM?

### TRAFFIC LAW 1885

A law passed by the legislature in 1885 required bicycles to stop within 100 yards of any person going in the opposite direction with a team and remain stationary until the team had passed. This must have been about the first traffic code.

J. M. Craven shown in picture on high wheeled bicycle, 1887.



—Photo Cronise Studio

time developed its dome. It had sort of a wart on top. Waller Hall was all there was to the Willamette university.

Paul Wallace's father operated the only cannery, which was on the present site of the Oregon Packing Co. on 12th street. Had it not been for the large acreage of apples and pears of the Wallace farm, at that time, its operation would not have been possible. Debris was still in the tree tops from the flood of a short time before which took out the bridge across the Willamette river.

There were only board walks in Salem at that time, and the slush in the business district was so deep during the winter that one had to wade in crossing the street.

### TRAFFIC TROUBLE

"Broke a Spring—Just as the Chemekete omnibus was turning the corner at Bush's bank last night, on its way back from the Albany express, a snap was heard and the northeast corner of the machine took a lurch to leeward. Examination revealed a busted spring, but no other damage. The passengers felt fortunate at not having but a block to walk."—Statesman, Jan. 9, 1886.

### "SWEET, WHOLESOME"

"The waterworks were put in operation on the 29th day of Sept. (1871) at 11:30 a.m. They have since continued in operation successfully, conveying the sweet and wholesome waters of the Willamette through our streets. . . ."—Salem city directory, 1872.

## Needlework, and Drawing, Given At Institute Here

The issue of April 20, 1852, had an ad by Allen P. Miller for Prince and Company's Improved Patent Melodeons.

Among other advertisers in 1852 were The Oregon Institute, F. S. Hoyt, Principal, which said "Drawing and needlework will be taught the ensuing quarter and a teacher of instrumental music is expected shortly to arrive from New York. The tuition in primary division was \$4 per quarter. In the academic division \$6 per quarter. Board per week \$3.50 to \$4.

Also an ad from the Tuallatin Academy at Forest Grove, J. N. Keeler, Principal, G. H. Atkinson, Secretary.

Adams & Company Express and Banking House, shipped gold dust and every variety of freight.

McClaine and Company and T'Vault and Company, ran the Oregon and Shasta Express between Portland and Shasta Butte City.

## Open River Not New Dream; '87 Saw Plan Tried

A newspaper file revealed not only the origins of great institutions but the birth of projects that die in early infancy. Back in 1887 Senator John H. Mitchell wired John C. Carson, president of the senate, that he had secured a favorable report on a bill appropriating \$500,000 for a "boat railway" at The Dalles. The news item accompanying it, said "the passage of this bill insures a free river, and the means of cheap transportation of the commerce of eastern Oregon."

The money was appropriated and spent, the railway used a few times for hauling boats past the rapids and then abandoned. Later Celilo canal was built, the river made open; and still river navigation is not used.

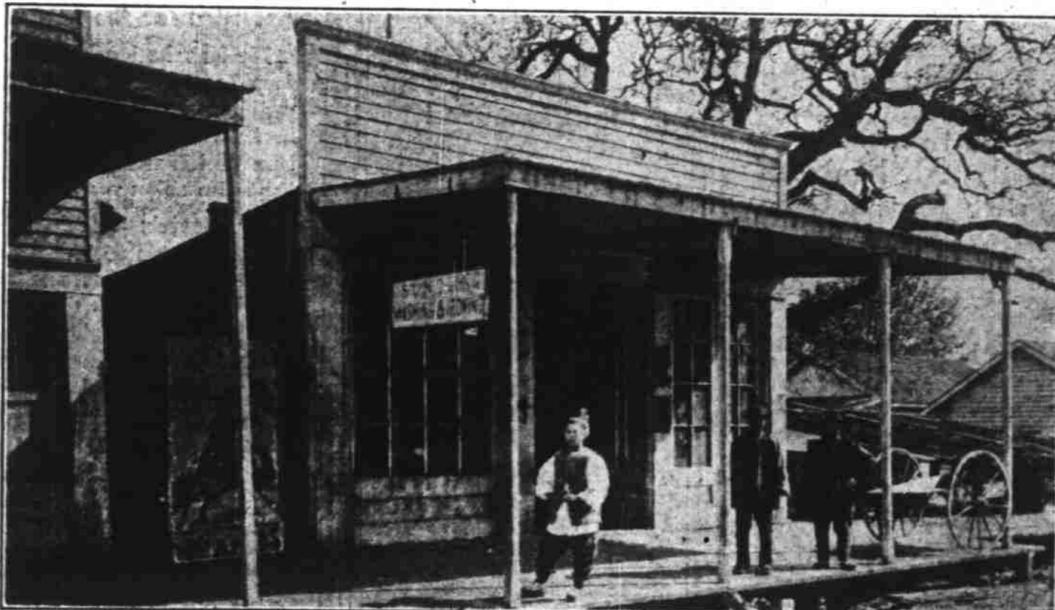
### PORTAGE RAILROAD

"Railroad around the Cascades. F. A. Chenoweth, Esq., is constructing a railroad around the Cascades. It is already more than half completed and will be finished in the course of a few weeks. It will be of great service to emigrants, and all others who may have occasion to transport freight up or down the river."—Statesman, June 6, 1851.

### FIRST CANNERY

Sponsored by R. S. Wallace in 1890. \$20,000 subscribed, Mr. Wallace subscribing \$5,500 and the Oregon Land Co. the same amount.

## BEFORE STEAM LAUNDRIES



CHINESE LAUNDRY ON NORTH SIDE OF COURT BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND LIBERTY. THE LOW BUILDING WHOSE REAR MAY BE SEEN AT THE LEFT WAS THE STEUSLOFF MARKET BUILDING.

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