

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe" From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

History of Salem 1-35-40 botched badly by The Oregonian, which should be above that sort of thing

(Concluding from yesterday.) Well, what was the fifth house on the site of Salem when Mr. Nesmith saw it in the fall of 1843?

It was the house which stood at about the middle of what became the block surrounded by Commercial, Court, Liberty and Commercial streets. It had been started, or at least planned, by Rev. James Olley, who, December 8, 1842, was drowned in the Willamette river at a point a little above present West Salem, while he was floating cedar logs down to the mission saw mill, to be made into finishing lumber for his house.

It is possible that work had not gone forward sufficiently for Mr. Nesmith to recognize the structure as a house in the late summer of 1843. The house was finished, however, and became the home of several different families, and the publishing place of the Pacific Christian Advocate.

Later, much later, it was moved up next to the alley on Court street and became a prominent old time saloon. It was the place, of especially unvarying reputation. The location is now occupied by the Dairy Lunch.

Well, how fast did the village that became Salem grow? It gained 11 houses in the next six years, not quite two a year. How do you know? This is how: This column, on Sept. 9, 1939, printed a statement from Joseph A. Baker, then the oldest continuous resident of Salem. He told of the 16 houses which made up the Salem of 1843. They were:

1. J. D. Bohn house, present 960 Broadway. That was the mission house, in which Jason Lee lived and had his headquarters. In 1843 it was owned by J. D. Bohn, last Oregon territorial and first state treasurer. That house, still standing, has a long history.

2. A small building or shed on the west side of Liberty on the north bank of North Mill creek. Is not the same shed there yet? 3. Residence in course of construction at the northeast corner of Liberty and Union streets, unoccupied.

4. Samuel Parker and family, in the house started by Rev. James Olley, mentioned above (which was either the second or third residence for whites on the site of Salem, depending whether "the parsonage" was second or third). The parsonage was completed in 1842.

5. Residence of Turner Crump, southeast of and near to the corner now occupied by the Ladd & Bush United States National bank building.

6. House of Mrs. Brown and family, west of the present Masonic temple, northwest corner State and High streets. She was the mother of J. Henry Brown, city day historian.

7. Two story residence of David Carter, on the corner of Commercial and Church streets west of the present First Methodist church building.

8. Small house of Wiley Chapman, on the northwest corner of Church and First streets. Mr. Chapman had charge of the construction of Marion county's first court house in 1851, a wooden building that was moved across the street when the present court house was commenced in 1872 by W. F. Boothby, builder. The first court house became a livery stable, etc. etc.

9. Oregon Institute building. (Burned Dec. 27, 1872.)

10. The "parsonage," present 1235 Ferry street. It was completed in 1843. A peculiar feature of that second or third residence for whites on the site of Salem is the unfinished room on the second floor, east side. That was for dried venison and other meats. Also, it was for the sleeping quarters of travelers who came with their blankets rolled on their riding horses. That was the common thing. For such travelers bedroom furniture and furnishings were superfluous. And, of course, no traveler was ever alone. There was always a real parsonage, for First Methodist church pastors while the Oregon Institute chapel was the church and Sunday School. But the house accommodated two or three families-four, when the unfinished spare room was in full use.

11. The Rev. J. W. Parrish donation land claim home, across Mill creek, left side, on extension of present North Capitol street. But there was only a footbridge here for a long time, and no other house, was near.

12. Home of Rev. ("Father") A. F. Waller, east side of State opposite present 16th street.

13. Thomas Cox home over his store, first in Salem, northeast corner of Ferry and Commercial. While another building was under way, another building was joined onto the rear, that became the leading hotel of the town, for a long time, the historic Union House.

14. W. H. Wilson house, Commercial and Trade, where the paper mill stands. Now Parrish donation land claim home, across Mill creek, left side, on extension of present North Capitol street. But there was only a footbridge here for a long time, and no other house, was near.

15. Rev. David Leslie house, on his donation land claim, near where the present (Salle) Bush house stands.

16. The old mission saw and first mill under one roof, first building of whites on the site of Salem, where is now the south Larmer warehouse, where Broadway becomes North Liberty street. Mr. Baker said that then (1843) Salem had 10 families, probably averaging over five to the family, besides some workmen in the logging and milling operations and in other work. The total population was around 75.

(The Oregonian, on its editorial page in the issue of Tuesday last, commits a great blunder

Scene of Naval Battle for British Life Line



Map shows scene of clashes between British and Italian naval units and of French battleship surrender. British squadron sweeping eastward from Gibraltar (1) fought with Italian planes, claiming four cruisers and destroyers. In the third clash near (2) Crete, the Duce's bombing planes claimed to have inflicted heavy damage on British naval units, sinking a cruiser and damaging a battleship and aircraft carrier. At Alexandria (4) remnants of French fleet surrendered to British without fight and were to be interned.—U.N. photo.

"Flying Blind" by VERA BROWN

THE national air races are about to start. In the stand, Judith Aimes reviles herself for having quarreled with her husband, Tex, one of the contestants, that morning. What if something happens to him? Her nerves are on edge. The fears of her companion, Elsie Stone, for her own flyer husband, Marvin, further aggravate Judith. So it is with relief that she accepts Lee Holt's invitation to join him in a cup of coffee before he enters "The Grays," the event before Tex's. It is no secret that Lee is fond of Judith. She inquires about Tex. Lee tells her everything in fine, but his evident uneasiness distracts her.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

IT COULD BE DONE The centennial celebration to be held in Salem starting July 31 and ending August 4 will be quite an affair and will appropriately do honor to Jason Lee and others who established what has become Oregon's capital city. It is commendable but it does not go far enough and it provides no lasting memorial to the gallant people who caused the Oregon country to be settled and to have three new stars upon the American flag—representing Oregon, Washington and Idaho. What we would like to see is a wonderful public garden, located at a favorable site in the Willamette valley. A garden is a living thing and it is of fascinating interest because it is never quite the same as it was when you last saw it. Flowers shrubs and trees differ with changing seasons and new plantings excite interest. Where great gardens exist there are always throngs of visitors. It would be quite feasible to establish an Oregon memorial garden because the state highway department is authorized to acquire park sites and improve them. A logical location would be near the new highway being constructed from Portland to Salem with the Willamette river crossing near Willamette. That will become the fast, direct route of travel south from Portland and such a location would insure accessibility. No large expenditure would be required and the added gas tax paid by visitors would reimburse the state. Such a public garden would provide a fitting, never dying memorial to Jason Lee, the pioneers who voted at Champeo, to Captain Gray, to Lewis and Clark and to all others who had a part in the early days of the Oregon country. If we could do so we would dedicate it especially to the women of the covered wagon days. They did not vote at Champeo, they did not sail into the Columbia with Gray nor did they eat dog meat with the Lewis and Clark party, but the unobtrusive, modest role the women played was decisive with reference to settlement. Judith would have been no colonization agent for those who brought their thimbles, their needles, their books and flower seeds with them. The women brought civilization. They wanted gardens and schools. A memorial garden established in their honor should be bravely planned because there was no limit to their devotion and courage. If we are to have a state owned public garden it should be in the Willamette valley because of the climate and for the further reason that the pioneers had that country as their goal. We once asked Amos Pond, aged Umatilla Indian, what the first white man said and he replied, "He said, how far Willamette?" Perhaps the Oregon roadside council, headed by Mrs. Jessie M. Honeyman, Mrs. A. E. Rockey, honorary president, and Mrs. M. Donald Spencer, president, could aid the cause by discussing plans with the state highway department. The highway department has experts who are good at planning and they might devise something that would eventually become of greater interest than the Taj Mahal.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

China's Youth Answers the Call

These latest pictures to arrive from China show some of the millions of Chinese youths who are bringing a new meaning to China's army. Trained in modern warfare and equipped with the best they can get, they were receiving their materials over the Burma road, now closed. Top troops line up for inspection. Bottom, are members of the new air corps.

News Behind Today's News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The money changers are supposed to have been permanently driven from the temple for these past seven years, and their sins along with the public utilities practices of the Insull era, are supposed to have been wholly decided and corrected by law. The government has announced it. But the preliminary skirmishes of this political campaign so far indicate the democrats who corrected the abuses irrevocably are reaching for these old fishes to recast them for the current re-education of the public or otherwise.

Senator Norris has sarcastically called Mr. Willkie, the republican nominee, "a second Insull" and the democratic national convention has taken steps to further that impression, or at least to bring up the question of what kind of utilities man Mr. Willkie was. A reportorial effort to collect and contribute non-partisan evidence on the subject develops the following results:

Mr. Willkie bared his theories on practically all phases of utility practice in testifying before the House Interstate Commerce committee five years ago, March 14, 1935, long before he considered entering a political career. Strangely he was against most of them, that is the old practices that prevailed before 1929. He referred to that era as "a crazy period." He was especially in favor of abolition of intermediate holding companies, that is those beyond the second degree (his own Commonwealth and Southern had no intermediate holding companies then except a small one, he testified), which is about 99 per cent against what Insull stood for. In fact, he had not far from the line of the new dealers that the straight operation of a legitimate holding company made for efficiency in operation and development. This is practically the same thing the reforming TVA director, David Lilienthal, said when a public utility commissioner of Wisconsin, attributing "the spread of rural electrification, the amazing advances of telephony, the rise of super-power systems—these and many other technological developments so intimately related to the public welfare" to the holding company. Willkie cited that evidence.

Willkie then charged his utility predecessors with having taken too much profit on engineering and supervision. (He said no profit was justified on supervision. He said their old write-up policy was likewise not justified. These he mentioned as "some practices that they engaged in that were wrong, but these practices were common to all business prior to 1929.") He thought the indictment that had been made against the utilities was really "the indictment of a period and a general system of doing business." The present republican nominee even advocated "some national commission" to prevent abuses such as the acquisition of common stock by a holding company in companies in which it had no operating interest. He also recommended publication of the costs of advertising and similar expenses by local public utility companies. He was against upstream loans (that is loans from operating companies up holding companies for no utility reason, but only a financial purpose). "If that had been the law ten years ago, it would have saved us a lot of trouble," he said.

Attributing the bad name of the utilities to their failure to answer political charges for fear of punitive persecution by politicians, he concluded: "I ask with all the earnestness I know how, whatever you gentlemen decide to do with us, establish the rules; do not leave wide discretion in such matters with the federal commission, because there is nothing so tyrannical as a commission with wide discretion about such matters. If you determine it should be done, why establish the rules for us?" This evidence, which is wholly in keeping with the business practices which Willkie put into operation in his own company, drew for him a reputation among his colleagues in the utilities business as being something of a new dealer, a fact which the new dealers are not likely to forget. He is a great deal more like the Insull type of utility executive than Mr. Roosevelt was like his predecessor, Mr. Hoover.

A TVA attorney of sternest reform inclinations was talking among a group of friendly congressmen about the experience of his organization in dealing with Willkie. He said the ex-Hoover attorney was the smartest man with whom the TVA had come in contact, and complained that Willkie had run up the price of Common wealth and Southern properties which he sold to the government. Lilienthal had worked out what he thought was the bargain rate at which he intended to take the property, but Willkie forced him up \$20,000,000 by public addresses and protests which developed strong popular reaction against TVA. Lilienthal finally gave in, the attorney said, just to keep Willkie from going any higher. (Distributed by King Features Syndicate. In whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

Today's Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

G.S.—Commercially prepared sprays are mixed by chemists. They contain materials which work beneficially and which will not mix your sulphur with Bordeaux. It can be mixed with arsenate of lead, nicotine sulphate, rotenone and soaps. Your Bordeaux can be mixed with arsenate of lead, nicotine sulphate. If you do not want to buy them, you can prepare all-purpose sprays, and want to, as you say, use sulphur Bordeaux and arsenate of lead. Then combine your arsenate of lead with the other two separately and use separately. In the case of the aphids you can, you know, combine the sulphur with the nicotine sulphate. M.M.—A leaf blotch will cause the edges of your chestnut tree to turn brown and eventually drop off. Sometimes this can completely defoliate trees. Keep all old leaves raked up from the ground and burned. During the winter spray the tree well with dormant strength bordeaux. Continue spraying as new leaves appear until late in July. There is also a chemical called Hymex which the Hymex dealer says is sure to cut off that limb and burn. There seems to be very little definite control for this other than removing dead wood. A.R.—You can control the bacterial leaf spot which causes your geranium foliage to turn yellow and drop off, by spraying a couple of times with Bordeaux. The soil in which your geraniums grow must be very well drained and must not be acid. Sometimes a little liming into the soil will help geraniums which are rather "sick" looking. The farm bulletin "prescription" for brown spot cure on lawns which you request is two ounces of calomel and one ounce of corrosive sublimate mixed with dry sand and spread over 1000 square feet. Water well. If you wish the bulletin write for "Plant" (Continued on Page 16.)

Radio Programs

- 12:00—U.S. Department of Agriculture, 12:05—Market Reports, 12:10—The Quiet Hour, 1:00—The Wabash and Arch, 2:00—Curtain Time, 2:15—Associated Press News, 2:30—Charles Chase, 3:45—Sports Outlook, 4:00—European News, 4:00—Bad Haste, 4:15—Portland on Review, 4:30—The World, 4:45—Malcolm Clair, 5:00—Harold Dan's Music, 5:00—European News, 5:00—Hotel McAlpin Orchestra, 5:00—News, 5:05—Diamond Dust, 5:30—Baseball, 5:30—The Van Dyke Orchestra, 10:00—The Francis Drake Orchestra, 10:10—Man With a Pipe, 11:15—The Sabrancky organist, 11:30—Midnight Waltz