

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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A Century Ago Today

On Christmas day, at 2 p. m. I entered the house of a Methodist minister, the first house I had set my feet in for nine months. So years later, did Mrs. Tabitha Brown relate her arrival in the settlement of Salem, 100 years ago today. The house was the Methodist parsonage, the second house to be erected in Salem, which stood about where the water tower of the Kay Woolen mill stands now, and later was moved to a location on Ferry street east of 14th where it still stands.

This was the end of the journey for Mrs. Brown and others of the party who had made the crossing of the plains in 1846 and had left the old route at Fort Hall in Idaho to follow the new road located by Capt. Levi Scott, Jesse and Lindsay Applegate and others—the south emigrant road across the Klamath basin, which has been much in the news this year.

One December 23 of that same year Samuel K. Barlow and others who had blazed a new road around the south side of Mt. Hood straggled into the settlements east of Oregon City, having left their wagons at the summit of the divide. Thus we are passing the centennial of the first crossing westward of two routes that came into common use for the later years of immigrant travel.

Mrs. Tabitha Brown who arrived at the parsonage on Christmas day a century ago is one of the great women of Oregon pioneer history. She was 66 when she made this crossing, and had been left a widow in 1820. After enduring almost incredible hardships along this untried route she launched a boarding school at Forest Grove, which with the help of the Rev. Harvey Clark matured into Pacific university.

Accompanying Mrs. Brown on the journey from Missouri were her son, Orus Brown, and family, her daughter, Mrs. Phineas Pringle, and husband, Virgil K., and children and John Brown, an aged brother of her late husband. Orus Brown, who had visited Oregon before, stayed on the old road and came through to the settlements in the valley without difficulty. The others suffered severely in crossing the Nevada desert and in the winter storms in the mountains of southern Oregon. Their food virtually gave out. They had to abandon their wagons. People and cattle died of fatigue and starvation. Reaching the Umpqua valley the Pringles insisted that Tabitha and Uncle John go ahead to try to reach the settlements while they remained to recruit the cattle. Mrs. Brown's own account of the journey on horseback with the enfeebled Uncle John is one of the classics of pioneer literature. In a delirium he fell from his horse, with difficulty recruited. At night Mrs. Brown used the wagon sheet she had carried under her saddle for a tent, got the old man under it—

His senses were gone. Covering him as well as I could with blankets I opened myself upon my feet behind him, suspecting he would be a corpse before morning.

What a lonely vigil. "Worse than alone, in a savage wilderness, without food, without fire, cold and shivering, wolves fighting and howling all around me." But the Providence in which she had implicit faith stayed with her. In the morning the uncle was able to stand. One of the emigrants found them and brought them to camp where they had some fresh venison. The Pringles caught up with them at the foot of the Callipooya mountains. Again food gave out and Mr. Pringle set off for the settlements to procure relief.

Meantime, Orus Brown had reached the settlements in September. Hearing of the distress of the party on the south route, he started south with four packhorses loaded with provisions. He met Pringle who led him to the famished travelers. Orus Brown encouraged them to renew their effort to reach the settlements. Coming onto a company of French and Indians with packhorses, they hired six horses and pressed on to the village of Salem, headquarters of the Lee mission. "There our hardest struggles were ended."

Mrs. Brown stayed at the parsonage through the winter, but soon found an outlet for her thrift and energy. She wrote:

For two or three weeks of my journey down the Willamette I had felt something in the end of my glove finger which I supposed to be a button; on examination at my new home in Salem I found it to be a 6 1/2 cent piece (called a picayune). This was the whole of my cash capital to commence business with in Oregon. With it I purchased three needles. I traded off some of my old clothes to the squaws for buckskin, worked them into gloves for the Oregon ladies and gentlemen which cleared me upwards of \$30.

In 1854 she reported her means:

I own a nicely furnished white frame house on a lot in town, within a short distance of the public buildings. That I rent for \$100 per year. I have eight other lots, without buildings, worth \$150 each. I have eight cows and a number of young cattle. The cows I rent for their milk and one-half of their butter. I have raised \$1,100 cash due me. \$400 of it I have donated to the University, besides \$100 I gave to the Academy three years ago. This much I have been able to accumulate by my own industry, independent of my children, since I drew 6 1/2 cents from the finger of my glove.

In the valley are many descendants of this remarkable woman who started a new career at the age of 66. Judge L. H. McMahan is a great-grandson (Orus Brown was his grandfather). Roy Ohmart and John Hughes are great-great-grandsons (Mrs. Pringle was their great-grandmother).

What a transformation has come in the century since Mrs. Brown arrived at the Methodist parsonage. The valley has been populated. Salem has become the capital of the state, a thriving city. Broad and smooth highways now bind Oregon with the rest of the nation. The churches and universities founded by the pioneers have grown in strength and influence.

Veerily at 2 p. m. today citizens of Salem might well stand in silent salute to Mrs. Tabitha Brown, the pioneer woman, the teacher, whose faith and courage led her through hardships to success in service.

Some people have brains like sponges, able to absorb a lot. But squeeze them and it still comes out water.

Editorial Comment

From Our Contemporaries

PREFABRICATION ON THE FARM

One of the interesting angles emerging from the jack-straw tangle of contemporary housing problems is the fact that lumber dealers, material suppliers, and farm cooperatives have been quietly making progress in the prefabrication manufacture of many types of farm buildings. Farmers can now buy an amazing range of buildings, all the way from a small hen coop for a few dollars to a sectional steel barn that runs into the thousands.

Behind this sudden blossoming of competition for farm trade are a number of sound reasons. Some seventy-five larger companies have investigated the opportunity and decided there is a potential market for ready-made buildings on hundreds of thousands of farms. Farmers have learned that it is economical and efficient to buy buildings already cut to measure.

There is another reason which has encouraged the larger companies and mills to enter the rural housing fields. The engineering departments of state colleges and universities have been studying the matter of work efficiency in barns. On the average farm perhaps a couple of hours night and morning are devoted to what is commonly called chores, making, feeding and cleaning the barns. The great majority of barns are not efficiently planned. Most of them are wooden structures, with the ever-present danger of fire. Steel buildings, fireproofed and scientifically constructed to save time and energy will undoubtedly find a ready market among progressive farmers. With a big backlog of capital accumulated in recent years, farmers are ready to invest in modern equipment. It seems logical that prefabricated buildings will play a major role as American agriculture adjusts for the more competitive years ahead.—New York Times.



The Christmas Story

IN THOSE days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.—Luke 2, 1-20.

—From the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament (copyrighted 1954 by the International Council of Religious Education) and used by permission.



Excerpts from Brand's Talk In Pamphlet

Excerpts from an address delivered to members of the Trust Companies' association of Oregon by James T. Brand, associate justice of the Oregon State Supreme Court, comprise the contents of a booklet released this week by the association. The booklet is entitled: "An Eminent Oregon Judge Speaks of Trusts and Trustees" and, according to R. A. Welch, trust association president, will be distributed to the public through the facilities of member organizations.

Quotations from Justice Brand's address emphasize the advantages of corporate trusts and highlight the role played by the trust idea in the development of society. "The trust, and especially the testamentary trust," Brand points out, "ranks with the corporation and the contract as one of the three great instrumentalities by which people can accomplish their business and financial desires in the modern world."

Idanha Guests Are Reported

IDANHA — Visitors here for the weekend were Willis Grafe, student at OSC, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor (Louise Grafe) and Marion Pattelo of Portland. Mr. and Mrs. James Healy and Timothy are in Portland for the Christmas holiday. The shingle mill is closed until after Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Haseman are

Shortage of Teachers Now More Serious

The teacher situation in Oregon gradually is becoming more serious instead of better. D. A. Emerson of the state educational department, declared here Tuesday following a trip to southern Oregon.

Emerson said nearly 1500 teachers are now operating under so-called emergency certificates and that many of these have not taken summer school work for several years. Emerson said the teacher situation would become far worse before it is improved because private industry is seeking trained workers at higher salaries, and also because many teachers, now fully qualified under the Oregon laws, would soon leave the classroom under the state public employes retirement act. Enrollments in education are now increasing, Emerson said, "but it will be two or three years before new students will graduate."

Thyssen Likely To Escape Trial

FRANKFURT, Germany, Dec. 24.—(AP)—A reliable source here said tonight it was likely that Fritz Thyssen, German industrialist, would not be tried by the American tribunal at Nuernberg because of lack of evidence. If

Thyssen is not tried he will be released from custody, it was understood.

Baldock Chosen Vice President of Highways Group

R. H. Baldock, Oregon state highway engineer, was elected first vice president of the American Association of State highway officials at the convention in Los Angeles last week. Baldock attended the convention during most of last week. Former State Highway Commissioner Henry F. Cabell was association president in 1937.

More Awards Claimed by Polite Drivers

The pile of prizes donated by merchants in The Oregon Statesman-Warner Brothers Courtesy Driving campaign had all but disappeared today.

Only the owners or drivers of these winning car license numbers had failed to claim their awards: 33-324, 256-420, 6-189, 263-784, 23-781, 15-550, 262-258, 256-540, 382-390, 174-506, 331-353, 379-052, 212-959 (47).

Among those who Tuesday claimed their prizes or will receive them via mail are: Mrs. Carl Hultenberg, Jr., 1745 S. Summer, Salem (3 pair nylon).

Leonard Faust, Sicks Brewing Co., Salem (umbrella).

C. W. Hyatt, Sheridan (flashlight).

Mrs. Helen Aspinwall, 645 Market, Salem (car vacuum).

Carl Armprist, 554 Ferry, Salem (flashlight).

Loyal M. Jory, 1120 Lee st., Salem (half gallon ice cream).

Clyde Kunze, route 2, box 388, Salem (half gallon ice cream).

Theron Hoover, 270 Main, Independence, (half gallon ice cream).

Alfred Hudson, Saddle Mt. Hamlet route, Seaside (half gallon ice cream).

P. O. Taylor, route 1, Halsey, (2 theatre tickets).

Thos. S. H. Chambers, YMCA, Salem (2 theatre tickets).

C. W. Whitfield, 25 Roberts, Salem (2 theatre tickets).

Ernest F. Turner, route 1, box 209, Brooks (2 theatre tickets).

As of last night, 87 of the 100 daily prizes had been given out through The Statesman office, where those still unclaimed will be available the rest of this week.

Several Score Children Guests Of Kiwanis Club

Bags of fruit, candy and nuts, and an additional present for every child present, were distributed by Santa Claus at the annual Kiwanis club Children's party at the chamber of commerce Monday night.

Nearly 80 children were brought

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to the party from the farm labor camp, and half that many from other areas also were guests. Motion pictures, provided and shown by Dr. David Hill, preceded the presentation of gifts. Robert White and Herman Jochimsen were co-chairman of the event.

Several Roads Still Blocked Or Restricted

Lower temperatures in eastern and central Oregon, with no material change in road conditions in the western part of the state, were reported Tuesday by R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. The Alsea highway was still closed by washouts while one-way traffic was reported on several other roads.

Baldock's report included: Government Camp — Clear, four inches of roadside snow, some packed snow and ice throughout entire section, well sanded and salted.

Santiam Junction — Clear, strong east wind, roads normal.

Odell Lake — Clear, spots of frost, well sanded.

Siskiyou Summit — Normal road conditions.

Portland — Clear. Several spots of icy pavement. Well sanded.

Cascade highway — Now open

to two way traffic at east city limits of Oregon City.

Oregon coast highway — One way traffic over temporary bridge 12 miles north of Florence. Also one way traffic 5 miles and 9 miles south of Yachats and at three places between Gardiner and five miles north, due to slides.

Columbia river highway — One way traffic at Tongue Point because of slide.

Siletz highway — One way traffic at Euchre mountain due to road settlement. Dangerous to traffic. Several short sections of one way traffic.

Three Rivers highway — One way traffic two miles east of Dolph because of sunken grade.

Corvallis — Newport highway — One way traffic near east city limits of Toledo because of fill settlement.

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