

Salem 'Sourdough' to Revisit Scene of 1898 Alaska Gold Rush

By Lester F. Cour
Valley Editor, The Statesman

A. L. Lamb, 85-year-old Salem resident and veteran of the 1898 Alaska gold rush, will leave Saturday with a group of his sourdough friends to visit the territory where millions were dug and lost a half century ago.

Lamb, accompanied by his wife and Mrs. Robert Coe of Salem, will carry greetings from Gov. Douglas McKay to Gov. Ernest Gruening of Alaska when he disembarks at Juneau on the first leg of his journey.

The Salem group will join other members of the Oregon Alaska-Yukon society for the trip. They will leave Vancouver, B. C., on the liner Prince George. From Juneau they will take the Yukon railroad to Carcross, Yukon territory, and will also visit in Sitka, the old Russian capital, before returning home.

Lured by Gold Strike
Lamb, a retired contractor, was lured to Alaska by the 1898 gold strike and remained there 10 years, working his own claims and acting as engineer on several large mining projects. He admits "doing all right" in his search for wealth in the frozen wastes.

He recalls the famous strike on Cheechaka hill, located high above Bonanza creek near Dawson. The strike was made by a big, raw-boned Swede, name unknown, who pestered miners working along Bonanza creek when he arrived in '98.

"The Swede was a Cheekhaka—an Indian nickname for a rooky in Alaska at that time," Lamb said. "Just to get rid of him, the boys who were hitting it rich on the creek sent him up the hill. The joke was on them when he hit it rich a few days later."

Crated Like Apples
Lamb related how his 11-man crew mined \$23,000 in gold ore from a claim near Dawson in 3 1/2 days. He saw gold crated like apples in boxes for shipment to the coast. One day, 16 miles from Dawson, he was passed by 23 mules loaded to capacity with pay dirt.

"But out of the 66,000 men who trudged through zero weather, few came home with the fortunes they sought," Lamb reminisced. "I worked for Alec McDonald, the 'king of the Klondike.' He was the richest man in Alaska then, but died broke. They made it fast and lost it the same way."

Lamb just missed making another Alaskan strike recently. He was off only 21 minutes in guessing when the ice would break in the Tanana river. Twenty-nine guessers divided the \$175,000 pot this year.

Salem Teacher Association Committees Set

At Salem Teachers association meeting Thursday, Maxine Herlinger, new president, announced standing committees for the coming year.

Committees appointed are as follows: Professional advancement—Audrey Athes, chairman, Mrs. Genevieve Currey, Mrs. Lucille Bern, Clarence Irving and Quentin Aibel; legislative—Robert Voigt, chairman, Mrs. Carolyn Blake, Mrs. Helen Philippi, Mrs. Leah Hogue and Henry Landis.

Public relations—Del Ramsdell, chairman, William Bender, Mrs. Mary Swegart; courtesy—Mrs. Angeline Self, chairman, Erma Hanna and Alleyne Spencer.

FIRE HITS MUSEUM

PORTLAND, May 18—(AP)—The Log "Forestry" building used as a city museum caught fire from chimney sparks Wednesday and a 15-foot hole was burned in the roof. The building is a relic of the 1905 Lewis & Clark exposition.

Grass Silage Demonstration Slated at Canby

Since no grass silage demonstration is scheduled in Marion county this spring, Ben A. Newell, extension agent, is urging Marion county farmers to attend that set for Clackamas county at the Roy Zimmer farm at Canby today.

The farm is located just north of Canby on the right after passing the overhead crossing. Field work will start at 10 a.m. and lunch will be available on the farm.

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