

Veteran Tells About State's Early Editors

Editor's Note: On Feb. 8 and 9 the annual Oregon Press conference will be held on the University campus. It will mark the centennial of journalism in Oregon. In the article below a veteran newspaperman, Fred Lockley, sketches the highlights of Oregon newspaper history.

By FRED LOCKLEY
Eugene newspaperman and
historian

The first issue of The Oregonian was published at Oregon City and dated Feb. 5, 1846, was the first paper published in the Oregon country. Its motto read "Westward the Star of Empire Takes Its Way." This motto was prophetic, for the Oregon country has proven to be the birthplace and cradle of a high type of civilization.

This little four-column, four-page 11½ by 17 inches published 100 years ago was the precursor, the forerunner of a vast number of publications that have brought fame and prestige to the Oregon country.

It has been my good fortune to know rather intimately many of the early-day editors and owners of Oregon newspapers. Among the ablest of them was Asahel Bush, the early-day and long-time editor and owner of The Statesman, first published at Oregon City in the early fifties. It was moved in June 1853 to Salem, and when Corvallis became the capital of Oregon Territory the Statesman moved to Corvallis in April 1855. When Salem finally won its long fight

and became the capital, the Statesman, in December 1855 moved back to Salem. For many years, under the able leadership of Asahel Bush, it was a potent force in politics and in the upbuilding of the Oregon country.

Early Oregonian Editor

Of the scores of newspapermen I have interviewed during the past 50 years I have vivid memories of Harvey W. Scott, for two score years or more managing editor of The Oregonian, and of his equally talented sister, Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, the founder, editor and owner of the New Northwest, which made a vigorous and successful fight for woman suffrage. I also knew well S. A. Clarke of Salem, author of a two-volume history of Oregon, who in 1889 purchased The Unionist at Salem and renamed it The Statesman and Unionist.

One evening at Salem in 1895 I talked far into the night with Joaquin Miller, one of Oregon's most picturesque editors and authors. He told me of his hectic experiences while serving as editor of the democratic Register at Eugene in 1862 when it incurred the displeasure of the authorities for upholding the cause of the south and was suppressed in September, 1862.

At Salem I had many a talk with E. M. Waite who, with C. P. Crandall, leased The Oregon Statesman from Asahel Bush and J. W. Nesmith in 1863. A few years later Joseph Gaston became editor of The Statesman prior to its purchase by Ben Simpson, author of "The Beautiful Willamette" and hundreds of poems that will live as long as men admire beauty of thought and expression, became its editor.

Forty years ago when I was general manager of The Pacific Monthly, whose most forceful contributor was Col. C. E. S. Wood, I ate lunch at the Commercial club with a group, one of whose members was L. Samuel, founder and editor of The West Shore, an illustrated magazine started in 1875. About 15 years later Samuel converted his magazine into a weekly with colored lithographs. Scores of young writers had their first work appear in The West Shore.

Chats in Eugene

For many years it was my habit to drop in for a chat with Harrison R. Kincaid whenever I visited Eugene. With Joel Ware and William Thompson he started The Oregon State Journal at Eugene in 1864, and a year later Kincaid became the sole owner and published the paper for the next 45 years. His partner, William Thompson, founder of The Plaindealer at Roseburg, had a picturesque career in journalism, and on one occasion he gave me the lowdown on his fight in June, 1871, with Henry and Tom Gale, owners of the rival paper at Roseburg, The Ensign, in which he was shot through the neck. He wounded H. E. Gale, and though both of them were seriously wounded, both recovered. He also gave me the inside facts of the lynchings at Prineville.

When I lived at Pendleton, where I owned a quarter interest in The East Oregonian, Ex-Governor T. T. Geer was editor of the Pendleton Tribune. As we were old-time Salem friends we visited at each other's homes. He had an inexhaustible fund of historical and political information, and it was a liberal education to visit with or be visited by him.

For more than a score of years I have worked with or for Sam Jackson, one of Oregon's outstanding journalists, founder of The Oregon Journal and promoter of innumerable campaigns for the betterment of the Oregon country. The limitation of space prevents discussion of scores of other newspaper men of the Pacific northwest whom I have interviewed and who have invested their time and ability toward helping to make Oregon what it is—a forward-looking state which has made it a leader in good citizenship and loyalty.

Veneta Folks

"Eat Up" Piano Bill

VENETA—The P-T-A dinner was well attended and the food was all sold before everyone was served. The proceeds which amounted to \$108 will be used to finish paying for the piano.

Mrs. Vern Caldwell took the jars and dishes that were not called for to her home where the owners may get them.

The executive committee wishes to thank all who donated food for the dinner and also thank those who contributed to the cook stove fund.

Baptist mission circle meets with Mrs. W. J. Keith Thursday at 10 p. m. with potluck dinner at noon. There will be sewing to do. The program will be on Africa.

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Lane Schools Increase 1259 In Population

Yearly net population gain of Lane county school children has been tabulated at 1259, Superintendent Lucille L. Kennedy announced Wednesday on completion of the official count for the year ending October, 1945.

During the past year the figure was found to be 21,531, compared to 20,273 for the 12-month period ending October 25, 1944.

Boys outnumbered girls in both periods, 11,179 to 9,806 in 1945, and 10,467 to 9,706 in 1944.

Gain in Eugene, district No. 4, was from 5,455 to 7,591, an increase of 2,136 though the upward climb can be partly attributed to the merging of several smaller districts with Eugene.

Springfield, district No. 19, jumped from 2058 to 2626 and Cottage Grove noted an increase from 1030 to 1122.

Other district totals numerically for both 1944 and 1945, respectively, follow:

Pleasant Hill, 77, 80; Cloverdale, 33, 35; Trent, 82, 89; Upper Camp Creek, 19, 26; Willakenzie, 225, 231; Bailey Hill, 134, 178; Oak Hill, 45, 52; Scharen, 13, 11; Franklin, 31, 32; Stafford, 35, 43; Goshen, 130, 153; Oak Grove, 34-31; Lancaster, 81, 86; Twin Oaks, 22, 40; Union, 20, 20; Mt. Vernon, 128, 177; Meadowview, 55, 50; Clear Lake, 27, 30; Walden, 70, 92; Latham, 186, 209.

Saginaw, 68, 61; Liberty, 30, 25; Veneta, 263, 296; Edenville, 54, 50; Harpole, 20, 26; Blue Mountain, 51, 49; Mapleton, 356, 428; Crow, 48, 52; Lorane, 208, 191; Riverview, 62, 54; Creswell, 371, 484; Walker, 25, 30; Coburg, 302, 332; Central, 32, 29; Lower Fern Ridge, 9, 6; Silk Creek, 53, 51; Deadwood, 16, 17; Bethel, 303, 356; Harmony, 47, 52; Ward, 40, 28; Waltham, 42, 61; Hadleyville, 26, 37; Jasper, 86, 85; Deerhorn, 44, 53; Vaughn, 84, 86.

Fall Creek, 71, 70; McKenzie, 347, 372; Junction City, 510, 436; Lower Camp Creek, 37, 34; Lowell, 287, 326; London, 118, 122; Oakridge, 349, 364; Goldson, 29, 36; Pine Grove, 23, 35; Marcola, 188, 238; Lynx Hollow, 53, 45; Culp Creek, 127, 123; Irving, 93, 123; Noti, 156, 145; Globe, 41, 28; Blachly, 275, 250.

Dorena, 80, 96; Fairview, 35, 36; Cedar Flat, 42, 46; Florence, 307, 505; Linslaw, 36, 51; Coast Fork, 38, 24; Wolf Creek, 55, 55; Thurston, 79, 83; Swamp, 46-50; Crown Point, 19, 20; Laurel Home, 20, 19; Deadwood, 17, 16; Alsea, 14, 23; Westfir, 175, 178; Lyons, 64, 73; Leaburg, 76, 87; Mt. View, 66, 76; Danebo, 109, 109; Mt. Carmel, 25, 51; Malabon, 27, 29; Elmira, 155, 160; Enterprise, 26, 20; Ten Mile, 11, 11; Mohawk, 70, 76; Glenwood, 384, 421; Monroe, 6, 5; Noraton, 33, 42; Lone Pine, 31, 34.

Bear Creek, 14, 12; Wendling, 222, 151; Ryan, 16, 14; Fiddle Creek, 13, 12; Disston, 77, 77; Alvadore, 98, 117; Delight Valley, 37, 40.

Prior to the tabulation of the 1945 census, several districts were combined with others. The list of merged districts includes Santa Clara, Cedars, Portage, Dunn, Mable, Maple, Cushman, Spencer Butte, Alma, LeBlond, Willagillespie, Gardenway, Hayden Bridge, Stella Maglady, River Road and Idleywild.

Chamber Awaits Talk By National Official

Paul H. Good, director of education for the United States chamber of commerce, will make his only speaking stop between San Francisco and Seattle when he addresses an open meeting of the Eugene chamber of commerce forum Wednesday noon, Eugene hotel.

Members of Kiwanis and Rotary clubs have been issued special invitations.

Good will speak on "Education—an Investment in People." The public is invited.

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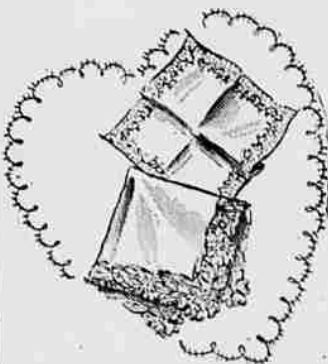
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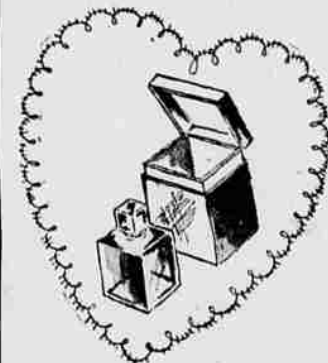
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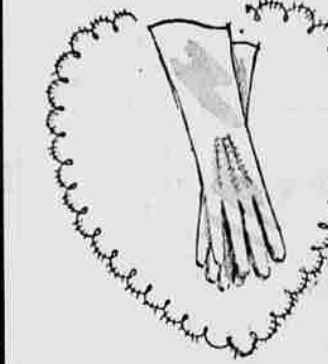
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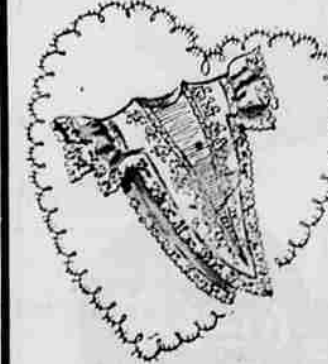
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