

WILLAMETTE FARMER.

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REMINISCENCES.

BUTTEVILLE, July 26th, 1875.

ED. FARMER: The beginning of August, 1848, found the pioneer settlers of Oregon in comparative repose. The first great excitement which had so thoroughly agitated the people of the sparsely settled Territory, and taxed the meager resources of the Provisional Government to its utmost capacity in devising means for prosecuting the Cayuse war, had well nigh subsided. The time for which the troops forming the first regiment of mounted volunteers placed in the field under command of Col. Nell Gilliam, expired early in July. Although the principal part of the hostile Cayuses had been driven from the home of their fathers in the beautiful valleys lying to the westward of the Blue mountains, and were now hundreds of miles away amid the luxuriant pastures of the buffalo, there were still left numerous small bands of predatory Indians in the valleys between the Cascade and Blue mountains. Though not immediately implicated in the inhuman massacre at Wallatpu Mission, they were, nevertheless, on all occasions when circumstances favored success, dangerous enemies of the Americans. Under this condition of affairs, it became the duty of those in authority, if possible, to keep Fort Dalles and Wallatpu strongly garrisoned, the Provisional Government being without the necessary means of paying the troops in the field who had experienced a rough campaign during the six months just passed, having left the Willamette Valley, as most of them did, in mid winter, and so far as pertained to the comforts of camp life, were illly equipped.

The volunteers had erected at Wallatpu an adobe fort, where a considerable quantity of military stores had been collected. The hostile Indians were alike enemies of all persons belonging to the several missionary establishments located east of the Cascade mountains, with the exception of one under charge of Father Breuillet, Vicar General of the Walla Walla Catholic Mission, then located on the Umatilla river, at a place known at a later day as Fort Henrietta. Fourteen valuable lives, including the Dr. and Mrs. Whitman, had been most inhumanly sacrificed in an earnest attempt to administer to the spiritual and temporal wants of those blood thirsty savages of the plains. But, luckily, all the remaining missionaries in the upper country had been timely escorted beyond danger from the savage foe. The time of service for which the troops had enlisted was now about to expire, and the question arose, who among Oregon's pioneer soldiers would again volunteer to remain at Fort Wallatpu, to keep the Indians in subjection, and guard the public property? As many of them had families in the infant settlements, whose pinching circumstances truly needed their presence at home. First among the officers whose disinterested patriotism rose above self and the comforts of home, were, Capt. Wm. Martin, of Waldie Hills, and Lieut. David Weston, of Champoug, followed by sixty-three brave volunteers from the different companies, all of whom remained faithfully guarding the furthest outlying post in the enemy's country (the next being Fort Dalles), until the 15th of October following.

At the time of which I write, perhaps a more united, hospitable, and contented people were no where between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to be found, than were the pioneer settlers of the Willamette Valley. But before the close of August, 1848, this fell from the exciting times through which the people of the new born Government of the North Pacific had just passed, were again to be aroused by a strange kind of monetary commotion from a more distant field, and which was this time destined to sweep round the circumference of the globe. Capt. Newell, of the brig Houdouin, from Boston, via San Francisco Bay, arrived at Portland, bringing the first intelligence of the discovery of gold in California. And as unmistakable evidence of the fact after having just purchased all the mining implements he could readily procure, he exhibited to the gaze of the astonished villagers a buckskin purse well filled with the virgin metal. The astounding reports of the seemingly fabulous riches of the newly found Eldorado of the Pacific was conveyed with alacrity by means of the ethnook canoe and cayuse pony to the remotest settlements of the Territory, in what would appear to most Oregonians of that day, through the means of transients employed, as inevitably must be.

At the time the exciting news reached the light, and began to make a convincing hold upon the minds of the people in Chenango county, New York, the exact date next to the following year, the first of the gold seekers

campground now included within the limits of Salem, which was attended by persons from nearly every settlement in the valley. Among the clergy present on the occasion may be named Revs. Leslie, Waller, Parrish, Garrison, Hosford, Helm, Fackler, Wilbur, Roberts, and others. It was upon the outskirts of this ancient campground that the writer beheld for the first time men fully equipped in their then primitive style, en route for the "gold diggings."

On our way home, situated at the lower end of French Prairie, we met single individuals and small parties hurrying rushing for some point up the valley they knew not where, to await the collection of a sufficient force to enable them to pass with some degree of safety the country of hostile Indian tribes that infested the route for several hundred miles between the Willamette Valley and their colossal fortunes, which all were now so sanguine lay awaiting them in the golden sands beyond. No profession, age, or condition among men seemed to be exempt from attack of this new and all pervading type of yellow fever.

On reaching home I found several persons from Oregon City awaiting my return, all desirous of making an outfit for that land, the beds of whose rivers were said to be paved with glittering gold, among whom was a Mr. Barnard, an old neighbor, who had sold his farm the previous fall to Wm. Whitney, and gone to California, but now just returned by the Honolulu, ready to confirm the hitherto almost incredible reports of the abounding wealth of our sister Territory. All doubts were now dispelled. Those who could make an outfit, or procure assistance in doing so, went to work with a will. It was now early in September, and on the 15th our party, composed of the following persons, bid adieu to friends and homes: Doctor Newell, David Crawford, W. H. Kees, O. S. Thomas, B. F. Hall, Wm. Whitney, J. W. Grim, A. K. Post, A. J. Vaughan, and Mr. Tevis.

In accordance with previous arrangement, Spring Valley, Polk county, had been selected as the place of rendezvous by several parties, where they assembled on the 15th of September to the number of 39 men and 48 pack animals. Geo. Gay, who was familiar with the route, was selected as pilot and conductor of the train. His bands of horses and herds of fat cattle in the immediate vicinity were many, and he had a fine stock slaughtered upon which a camp feast was given, and on the following morning we took up the miners' march. As long as we were passing through the settlements, which were left after crossing Long Tom, no accessions were daily made to our numbers. But to give a detailed narrative of the many events worthy of mention would swell this border reminiscence far beyond the limits usually assigned to an ordinary newspaper article.

After passing through Umpqua Valley, so great had been the rush of those who preceded us, that many of their horses had died from over fatigue, and from the same cause many others were abandoned. On reaching the tributaries of Trinity river, which take their rise in the vicinity of Mt. Shasta, we found grass abundant. Here Mr. Gay concluded to lay over the following morning, and our pack and half-starved animals, and, while doing so, J. W. Grim, who was an expert in the use of the rifle, succeeded in killing the largest and fattest deer of the black tail species, that any of our party had ever beheld, and which would have weighed when dressed fully 200 pounds. The delicious venison of this one majestic stag of the Sierras was the cause of great joy in camp. The venison feast of Shasta plains was continued with undiminished interest until a late hour in the evening. The camp was "broken up" early on the following morning, and the attack vigorously renewed in force. Our party had overtaken and passed the first wagon train that had ever attempted the extremely difficult passage of the overland route from Willamette to Sacramento Valley. The wagons were drawn by oxen, and the train conducted through the many difficult mountain ledges by Thos. McKay, son of Mrs. Dr. McLaughlin by a former husband. The wagon train passed to the eastward of Mt. Shasta, while our pack train passed this snow clad peak of the Sierras on the west. McKay's train increased the wagon road then in course of construction by Peter Lawson, a German, who was an early settler in upper Sacramento Valley, and now returning from the States with a train of German immigrants. This unexpected good fortune proved a priceless boon to our way-worn Oregonians, who with little difficulty now descended into the already far famed golden valley of the west. The overland journey upon the whole proved rather a pleasant and successful one. Many of the boys fresh from their recent battle scenes, would alternately relieve the monotony of the evening camp, by recounting their exploits in the Cayuse war, mock trials, followed by the imposition of fines for the slightest disregard of camp discipline. The grotesque war dance, in full Indian costume, in which David Crawford and S. H. Goodhue always played the part of renowned chiefs, and upon many a pleasant evening did we have fellows relate the camp with them story of their songs, which were not unfrequently re-echoed from the neighboring mountains, and whose pines and cedars were nightly to be seen the grand fires of the resplendent Rogue river, Clackamas, and Shasta Indians.

WILLIAM H. REES.
[To be continued.]

AT YAQUINA.

ED. FARMER: It is hard for me to know where to begin, or what to say first. Well, we are all first-rate, and very well situated. Have been enjoying the pleasures of sea bathing, and in consequence feel greatly invigorated.

The beach is covered with visitors on both sides of the bay, and many more coming every day. T. H. Crawford and family, E. N. Cooke and family, and others besides ourselves, are on South Beach. That is certainly the most pleasant place on the Bay for camping purposes.

There are plenty of nice little spruce trees, for shade and shelter, and some of the coolest little nooks where the wind cannot find a tent. Mr. L. Davis lives on that side of the Bay and he and his wife are very fine and accommodating people. There is no stock on this side of the Bay to trouble camps, and the drive nine miles to Seal Rocks is "perfectly splendid." The second night we struck our camp at the bridge crossing the Yaquina River, leading to Elk City. Here is a good place to camp. Plenty of feed for teams, and a fine chance for fishing. We caught some beautiful trout at this place, one of which, taken by Mr. Lockhart, measured above fifteen inches in length. What do you think of that for a mountain trout? On the road over we had game every meal, grouse, pheasants, ducks, and rabbits. Fishing on the Bay is very good; "shrimps" for bait, caught in the sand flats at very low tide. Take a boat, and anchor in the Bay, and catch at leisure.

Newport is rather a dull looking place—not so lively now as it was seven years ago. When the Ocean House was built times were very lively, and prospects good. The railroad failed to come and the town failed to prosper as it was wont to do. Yesterday the surveyor was laying off the city in good shape. You can now buy a lot and build a house upon it "square with the world." Everybody here, of course, is looking for a railroad, and certainly think it will be in here before long. I hope the road will be made soon, because it will make this country something—be a godsend to many a poor man here between Corvallis and the Bay, besides a lasting benefit to the upper and central parts of Willamette Valley and to the traveling public of the coast.

There is a chance in this country for many a home where the best health on earth can be had; and goats, sheep, and cattle, furnishing the hair, wool, and meat, would live in these hills, if there were only a rapid and easy means of transportation. The road should certainly be built. We have not been to the lighthouse yet. Are going day after tomorrow. Going to Seal Rocks tomorrow.

Some of the boys had a rick on the Bay yesterday. The wind was blowing a strong gale, and they had all their sails set. The boat did not cry, but it is hardly worth while to state that they got decidedly soaked with the spray which dashed in over the boat's side in a shower, from the time the boat started until it landed.

Oh it was fun; you'll hear more about it. We shall start home on Monday the 25th. I almost forgot to state that we know of an individual, a resident of Salem, who has very lately made the quickest time on record, between that city and Yaquina. The round trip was made in an incredibly short space of time, and the business here was performed in a very brief, and no doubt very satisfactory manner.

Politics are running high. Great excitement. Everybody going in a mass for McDowell.

YONIA, SALEMITE.

DOUGLAS COUNTY.—A correspondent of the Statesman, writing from Roseburg under date of the 22d, gives the following items:

Yesterday we were visited by a thunder and lightning storm accompanied by some rain. The lightning struck and set on fire, and entirely consumed a barn belonging to Jas. Kosnickie, who lives seven miles south of town.

The residence of John Jones, situated five miles north of town, was entirely destroyed yesterday afternoon by fire. The fire originated in the kitchen from a defective flue. Nothing but a few clothes were saved. Loss, about three thousand dollars. No insurance.

The farmers now are busily engaged harvesting. The crops look fine and will yield heavily. The wheat crop in particular will be much larger than usual.

In the way of improvements, this place is progressing finely. Several residences and a Presbyterian Church will be commenced soon. Work for carpenters is plenty.

Arrangements are about completed to have four days' races at this place next fall, for purses from two hundred up to one thousand dollars.

FINISHED.—The Mountaineer learns from John Marden, Superintendent of the Dalles and Sandy Wagon Road, that the road over the Portage—a distance of six miles—is now finished and ready for use. He has moved his camp to one mile below Mader's, intending to open the road between The Dalles and Hood river, or as far as the Cayuse on one will carry it.

STATE NEWS.

A fire company has been organized in East Portland.

Mr. Habersham and his assistant surveyors are at work on the Willamette River, for the purpose of ascertaining what can be done to improve navigation at Eugene City.

Hon. S. Ellsworth, of La Grande, with his daughter Mattie, has gone on a visit to the Atlantic States.

The bark Portland which sailed from Astoria for San Francisco on the 21st inst., was heavily loaded with salmon. She took away, besides, a small quantity of lumber from Knappa.

At a meeting of the bar in attendance at the supreme court, resolutions were adopted in memory of the late Hon. Geo. A. LaDow, member of Congress elect, and member of the bar of the supreme court.

Junction City has a new warehouse with capacity for 90,000 bushels of grain.

Buyers are offering 75 cents for wheat at Eugene, but no one seems inclined to sell.

Mr. John Graf and family, from Wisconsin, have leased the Railroad House at Eugene.

Good trout fishing is reported at Moose Lake, about 8 miles from Sofia Springs, Linn county.

Over 300 wagons and bugles have passed through Sheridan this season going to the coast.

Says the Yamhill county Courier: Harvest hands are in demand and scarce at from \$1.50 to \$2 per day.

Wm. Quinn, of Amella, Baker county, was seriously injured by a bank caving on him several days ago.

The Salem Mill and the Farmer's Warehouse Company advanced, on Friday, wheat to \$1 a bushel.

John Owen has sold his farm of 193 acres in Lane county, to Mr. M. Miller, of Iowa. The price paid was \$24 per acre.

On the 17th inst., Mr. Woods Jackson, living near Corvallis, came near being poisoned to death by inhaling strychnine from wheat prepared for destroying squirrels. His recovery is thought to be doubtful.

A man went to Kilburn's livery stable, Baker City, and hired a horse to go to Auburn. He was seen near Parkersville, on his way to Canyon City, last week. It cost about \$50 to recover the horse and the rascal escaped.

The body of an unknown man was found floating in the Columbia river, near Cathlamet, last week. Decomposition was too far advanced for recognition. The flesh of the face and hair of the head were gone. He was apparently about 5 feet 4 1/2 inches in height; wore dark pants, with white stripes; coarse knit undershirt, blue overalls, leather belt, and No. 6 boots. The body was evidently buried where it was found. Deceased had the appearance of being a laboring man.

A steam ferry is to be placed on the Columbia river at Vancouver, to facilitate communication with Portland. The distance by land between the two points is only six miles, while by water it is eighteen.

The *Journal* says that A. D. Bibeck, of Polk county, had a leg broken just below the ankle, one day last week, by its team running away, causing him to be thrown from the buggy.

Seventeen hundred dollars have been raised at Eugene City toward building a bridge across the river at that place.

D. R. Scheldahl, of Baker City, Oregon, has been awarded a patent for a carpet cleaner.

A number of persons from the Eastern States are looking for homes in the Rogue river valley.

The Germans that purchased the Black farm near Hillsboro, intend building a fine church on the place. They are of the Catholic faith.

The Eastport Coos Bay Coal Mining Company have resumed the payment of dividends and declared one of one per cent, on the 19th inst., payable immediately.

Gale's creek, Washington county, has an unusually good hay crop this season. The timothy hay was never better before. The grain crops on the creek are likewise very good, and the Gale creek farmers are in consequence in "tail out."

The residence of John Jones, of Douglas county, was entirely destroyed by fire on Tuesday last. It seems the flames started from a defective flue in the kitchen. Hardly anything was saved on account of the occupants being sick. We understand that Mrs. Jones and two of the children were under the doctor's care at the time. Loss about \$3,000.

STEAMER WRECKED.—A dispatch from Point Arena, Cal., reports the loss of the steamer Eastport at 2 o'clock on the morning of July 23d. She ran on a reef north of the Lighthouse. Passengers and crew all saved with the exception of Mrs. Armstrong and two children, who were drowned. No further particulars of disaster yet received. The Eastport was commanded by Capt. Whitney, and was owned by parties connected with the Coos Bay Coal Company. At the time of the disaster, she was on her way from Coos Bay to San Francisco. She was loaded with coal—was a wooden screw steamer of about six hundred tons.

FINE.—John Goss was captured by Eugene John last Monday, on a charge of assault upon a man named DeLons, and was fined ten dollars and costs—in all thirty dollars. Both men were docked last night on the steamer Ohio.

To the Friends of Temperance.

By instruction of the State Temperance Union and the Temperance Alliance, the undersigned, Chairman of the respective Central Committees, issue a call for the State Temperance Convention, to nominate a candidate for Congress, to meet in Salem on Friday, August 13, 1875, at 2 o'clock p. m.

The Central Committee have authorized a representation in that Convention from the different counties as follows:

Baker.....	3	Lane.....	6
Benton.....	3	Linn.....	8
Coos.....	3	Marion.....	9
Curry.....	1	Multnomah.....	10
Columbia.....	1	Polk.....	1
Clatsop.....	1	Tillamook.....	1
Clackamas.....	5	Umatilla.....	3
Douglas.....	5	Union.....	4
Grant.....	2	Wasco.....	3
Jackson.....	5	Washington.....	3
Josephine.....	1	Yamhill.....	4

We recommend that Mass County Conventions to select Delegates to the State Conventions to be held at the County seat of each county on Saturday, August 7, 1875, at 10 o'clock a. m., in which all friends of temperance are expected to participate.

As per resolution of State Committee, the County Committee can call the Convention in a different manner and at a different time, if desirable.

In these Conventions let there be a full representation. J. W. WATTS, Ch. Com. from State Temp. Union.

ENOCH TURNER, Ch. Com. from State Temp. Alliance.

Fire at Weston, Umatilla County.

A very destructive fire broke out in the town of Weston, Umatilla county, in the afternoon of July 23d, and nothing but the utmost exertions of the people prevented the entire town from burning up. The fire started in an old shed, where there was some loose hay, and was the work of some little boys playing with matches. The following is a list of the losses, as near as can be ascertained:

C. Saling, warehouse, etc., \$2,000; S. S. Watson, 3 buildings, \$1,000; R. H. Baskett, \$250; Dr. M. Vossman, 1 building, \$500; J. H. Stahl, insured \$900, loss, \$1,000; Wm. Goodbrook, \$300; L. Toal, 1 building, \$500; S. E. Bankson, \$250; P. Graham, sheep, \$500; etc., \$2,500; H. S. Bushby, 1 house, \$500; H. Sudaan, \$150; H. McArthur, 1 house, \$500; R. L. Curran, blacksmith shop, \$500; McMorris Bros' store and post-office building, \$1,200; E. M. Parfitt, \$1,000—total, \$12,000.

In Memoriam.

RUCK POINT GRANGE, July 17th, 1875.

Sister Mary Riehes was a worthy member of our Order, faithful to the best advantage of her duty as an officer, and we miss her smiling countenance and her pleasant company very much. She was much esteemed by all who knew her. She was a noble in manner and her daily life such as caused her to be an honor to the Grange to which she belonged. We tender to the family our sympathies in their sad bereavement, and as she has passed G. d. in his providence to take her from our midst we feel that our loss is her gain.

It was resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the WILLAMETTE FARMER for publication, and a copy be sent to the family of our deceased sister, and one to be spread on the minutes of our Grange. MRS. U. L. BROSIG, MES. MARY DOWNING, MR. JAS. D. DARR, Committee.

Picnic Near Silverton.

SILVERTON, July 25, 1875.

ED. FARMER: The picnic formerly announced through your columns, given by our genial friend W. H. H. Sams on the 24th inst., near the Hartman school house, was decidedly a success. The program was very nicely arranged, and the little folk declared their pieces in a manner that did credit to their teacher. The exercises were interspersed with vocal and instrumental music and well-timed speeches, besides a sumptuous feast of pies, cakes, chicken, roast beef, etc. Taking the whole affair, we considered it as happy and as enjoyable a picnic as we have attended anywhere. G. J. McURAW.

Appointments by Master of the State Grange.

On Friday, July 24th, 1875, I will have a meeting at Mill Plain Grange Hall in Clarke county, Washington Territory. I will remain in that county two days.

On Monday, August 2d, I go to Olympia, and will spend the remainder of that week in Western Washington Territory. Appointments are yet to be made by Hon. E. L. Smith, of Olympia. I hope all good Patrons (including ladies) who can reasonably do so, will attend these meetings. DANIEL CLARK, Master Oregon State Grange, P. of H.

DROWNED.—A Mr. Aldrich was drowned near St. Helen, last week, whilst trying to cross a slough on horseback. In doing so the horse had to swim, and Mr. Aldrich fell off, and being unable to swim, was drowned. He was a young man, about 25 years of age, of the name of Edward Aldrich, and a native of Massachusetts.

John W. White has been appointed Deputy U. S. Marshal at Silverton.