

OLD OREGON TRAIL HAS ROMANTIC HISTORY; IS ROUTE CHOSEN BY OX TEAM TOURISTS OF LONG AGO WHEN THEY SOUGHT HOMES IN WEST

(Continued from page 11.)

ter. The main party then kept on down the river, subsisting on fish and an occasional beaver. The party then divided, Mr. Hunt and eighteen men going on one side of the river and Mr. Crooks and eighteen men on the other side.

Some Snake Indians were encountered from whom some salmon and a dog were purchased. On November 17, several Indians were met, one of whom had a horse. Mr. Hunt finally purchased the animal in exchange for an old tin kettle, after having offered a gun, ammunition and beads in vain. Mr. Hunt here left the river and started over the desert. The party encountered great suffering and hardship on this journey and finally reached the Boise river and an Indian camp where fish and dogs were purchased for food. The Payette and Weiser rivers were forded and the Snake river finally reached again.

Country Described as Desert.
November 28th, a bag of meal and some fish was purchased from a party of Shoshones who informed Mr. Hunt that they had seen white men on both sides of the Snake river within the last few days.

Washington, in his account of the Hunt expedition, has this to say of the country west of the Snake: "A dreary desert of sand and gravel extends from the Snake river almost to the Columbia. Here and there is a thin and scanty herbage, insufficient for the pasturage of horse or buffalo. Indeed these trackless wastes between the Rocky mountains and the Pacific are even more desolate and barren than the naked, upper prairie on the Atlantic side; they present vast dreary and thirty miles between the habitations of man, in traversing which, the wanderer will often be in danger of perishing."

If the same party could go over this route now, what a different story they would have to tell for the magic hand of reclamation has made a garden out of the former desert and populous towns have sprung up in the Snake river valley where members of the Hunt expedition nearly perished of hunger and hardship.

Perils Faced in Snake River Canyon.
Mr. Hunt and his party continued on down the river canyon which was food was very scarce, the party subsisting on a black-tail deer, a beaver and some frozen berries. The horses were killed and eaten one by one until only that owned by Pierre Dorion remained.

On December 6th, 1811, Mr. Crooks and his party were seen on the other side of the river, returning after a vain attempt to get through the narrow precipitous canyon of the river and seeing nothing but mountain peaks upon mountain for miles ahead. Crooks and his men were almost starved, having subsisted on a few beaver and old moccasins. Hunt and his men then turned back and started up the river.

In their extremity, Mr. Hunt suggested that the horse of Pierre Dorion

be killed and eaten, but the owner doggedly refused to part with his animal. Continuing on, the party came unexpectedly upon a camp of Shoshone Indians who fled in great fright when the white men came in sight. The party immediately caught five horses and killed one for food. They made a boat of the skin and sent meat over to the starving men on the other side of the river. One of the Canadians, Jean Baptiste Provost returned in the boat and because of his hunger and enfeebled condition, became excited on beholding the meat roasting before the fire upset the canoe and was drowned in the cold, swift current of the river.

A station on the Homestead branch of railroad down the river is named after the unfortunate Canadian and one also in honor of Sarpelle, another Canadian boatman who forded the river across the treacherous stream for the relief of the men on the other side. Proceeding along the river banks the party met with some Shoshone Indians and the lure of an old tin kettle secured another horse for food.

Mr. Hunt now came to the Weiser river where a herd of Shoshones were camped. From them he traded for a couple of horses and some dried cherries. After considerable hickering, he procured an Indian to guide them over the mountains to the Columbia. On December 23, the party all crossed the Snake leaving it with no regret, the Canadians calling it the "Accursed Mad River."

Powder River Valley Reached.
The route now led up the Burnt river from the present site of Huntington to where Durkee now stands and on across the hills to the Powder river valley at the present site of Bailey on December 28. The party continued on across the valley, passing the present site of Haines and North Powder. Mount Hunt, one of the highest peaks in the Basely-Elkhorn range west of Haines, was named after Mr. Hunt.

It was in the vicinity of North Powder that the wife of Pierre Dorion gave birth to her baby. The main party kept on while Dorion remained with his wife and children in their crude camp and attended her in her sickness.

Feast of Horse Meat New Year's Day.
On December 30, the party arrived in the Grand Ronde valley and found six lodges of Shoshones camped in the vicinity of the present town of Union. On December 31st, Dorion and his family caught up with the main party. It is fitting at this time to pay a tribute to the Indian wife of Dorion, who had shared the hardships of the dreary march with as great fortitude as the men, though she was far advanced in her pregnancy. She exhibited a force of character in many of the trying situations faced by the party, worthy of one in a much higher walk of life.

The praises of Sacajawea, the Indian woman, who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their journey across the continent are heralded in song and

story while the patient little Indian woman with the Hunt expedition is unnamed and unsung, while the privations she underwent were ten times greater than those of Sacajawea. The party spent New Year's day with the Indians, feasting on horse and deer meat and celebrating the day in the best manner possible under the circumstances.

The following day the party struck out to cross the Blue mountains, passing near the present location of La Grande. The journey across the mountains was very difficult and tedious, the snow being waist deep and the weather very cold.

Umatilla River Reached.
The child of Pierre Dorion died on the trip across the mountains. On January 8 the camp of Selatons on the Eu-O-tah-la or Umatilla was reached, which was near the present site of Pendleton.

These Indians had brass kettles, axes, tin kettles and other implements showing that they had communication with white traders. Here horses and dogs were bought for food. A blanket, a knife or a half pound of blue beads bought a horse. These Indians did not eat horse flesh but feasted on elk and deer meat, but they asked such a high price for it that the white men were forced to content themselves with a bit of horse and dog meat.

The Umatilla abounded with beaver and the Indians were induced to trap this animal, as its fur could be easily sold to the white traders.

The Columbia River.
The party passed on and reached the Columbia on January 21, at a point between the mouth of the Umatilla and the mouth of the Wallah-Wallah river.

Here fish and dogs were secured from the Indians found there. Story bits of information from the Indians gave the party hopes that McClellan and McLennan and party had passed down the river some time before, proceeding down the river, the party arrived at the Indian village of Wiamiam on January 31st.

Wiamiam was located near what is now the town of Spedis, Washington, a few miles up the river from The Dalles.

This village must have been near what we now call Celilo Falls as it is spoken of as the fishing mart of the Indians and where the salmon were speared as they tried to leap the rapids.

This tribe was called the Tink-Lait and are described as being very shy and thievish. Continuing on down the river, Mr. Hunt and his party reached what is now called Cascade Locks where a thieving band of Indians were encountered and the utmost vigilance was needed to protect the property of the party. After considerable dickering, Mr. Hunt procured the necessary number of boats with which to make the trip down the river to Astoria.

Astoria, the Destination Reached.
The trip from here down the river was uneventful and finally on the 15th day of February, 1812, the party swept down the stream and came in sight of Astoria.

The feelings of the party can be imagined when we stop to consider that it had been over a year on the way from St. Louis, most of the time in a trackless wilderness and among savage tribes.

Among the first to greet them was Reed, McLennan and McKennin, from whom they had been separated at the Calderon Linn, near what is now Twin Falls. These men had started out from the Calderon Linn to find a route and had come together at what they called the Devil's Scuttle Hole and is now what we call the Seven Devils country. They followed the Snake on down to the Columbia and thence down to Astoria where they arrived a month ahead of Mr. Hunt. The distance travelled by the Hunt party was about 3500 miles, though the actual distance from St. Louis to Astoria is only 1500 miles.

The following day was given over to rejoicing over the safe arrival of the party. The colors were hoisted, guns were fired, and there was a feast of beaver, fish and venison which was a welcome diversion from horse and dog flesh which the party had subsisted on for so long. The festivities ended up with a grand dance at night, led by the Canadian voyageurs.

The Return Journey.
On March 22, 1812, John Reed, Ben Jones, McLennan and two Canadians started back to St. Louis with dispatches for Mr. Astor telling of the progress of Astoria and the safe arrival of Mr. Hunt and most of his party. Mr. Reed had the dispatches in a tin box which he strapped securely on his back.

They were accompanied by a party of twelve men carrying supplies to the post on the Columbia. At Wiamiam, they halting portage their supplies around the rapids and were set upon by the Indians and Mr. Reed badly wounded and all the bag of dispatches stolen, the Indians thinking it contained "Big Medicine." One Indian was killed and one wounded. The Indians demanded that Mr. Reed be given up as a sacrifice to the dead warrior and the demand was refused and the matter settled by the white men giving the Indians a blanket to cover the dead warrior and tobacco for the living.

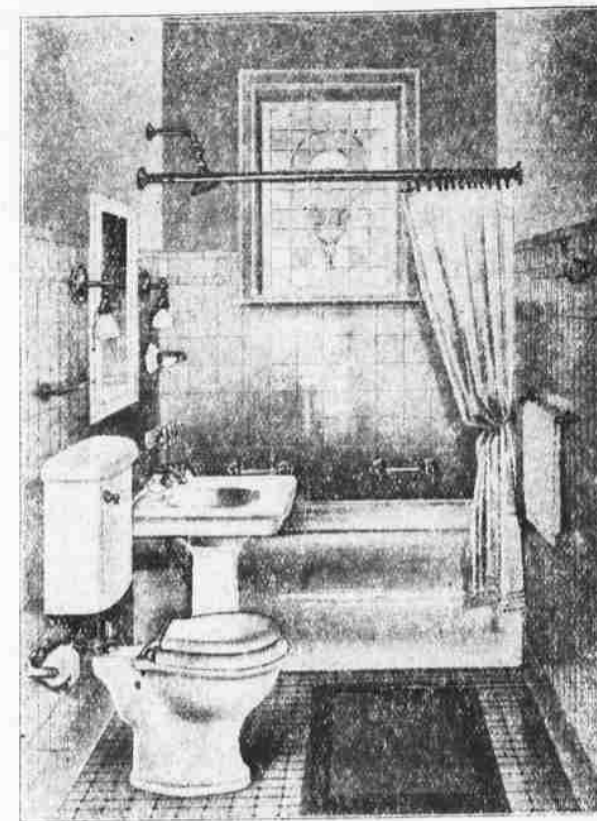
The object of the 1812 journey now being defeated by the loss of the tin box, the white party returned with Robert Stuart to the establishment at the Oukinagan. After a few days stay there, they started back for Astoria and in the course of their journey were upon Mr. Crooks and John Day, both naked and almost famished. They reported that they had been stripped of their clothing by the inhabitants of Wiamiam and were on their way to the Wallah-Wallahs. The whole party now continued down the river and reached Astoria on May 11. A second land expedition to receive dispatches to Mr. Astor was sent out June 29th under the command of Robert Stuart. A party of sixty journeyed together as far as the Wallah-

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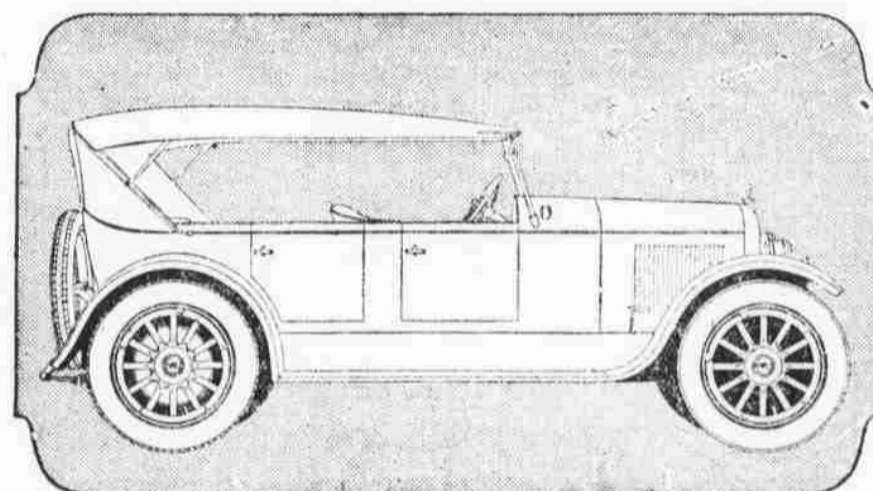
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