

River Traffic Is Coming Back as Factor

Oregon Libraries Rich in Antiquity

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Navigation of Stream Began In Early Days

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eight months per annum, this ship was followed by other ventures that brought river traffic down as far as Springfield.

The average freight charge in 1866 was 17 1/2 cents per ton per mile. When Ben Holladay took over the People's Transportation company in 1871, the list of fares included: Portland to Salem, \$1.50, to Albany \$2, to Eugene \$3.50. In one month of that year, 5000 tons moved through to Oregon City.

"The river business in the valley," says Historian R. C. Clark, "fluctuated with the discoveries of gold. The business slumped in 1869 when placer mining stopped. Many small boat owners failed. Attention was soon given to salmon canning which made business for river boats.

Tributaries Frequent

Many tributaries of the Willamette also found river navigation useful. These included the Clackamas, Tualatin, Pudding, Luckiamute, Santiam, Booneville channel and Long Tom.

Luckiamute river was navigated by Captain J. L. Smith in the "Luckiamute Chief" in 1878. He went as far as Lewisville, a distance of 18 miles by river. He never made a success of the venture, however. Boats have penetrated the Santiam river for 22 miles, and in pioneer days trips were often made as far as Jefferson by large carriers. Steamers loaded at Jefferson mills, and in 1871 the "Calliope," reached Lebanon. Smaller steamers went as far as the forks of the Santiam.

For several years, steamboats called at Monroe on the Long Tom. A side-product of the early river navigation "boom" was the establishment of a connection between Eugene and San Francisco via Yaquina Bay in the 1850's.

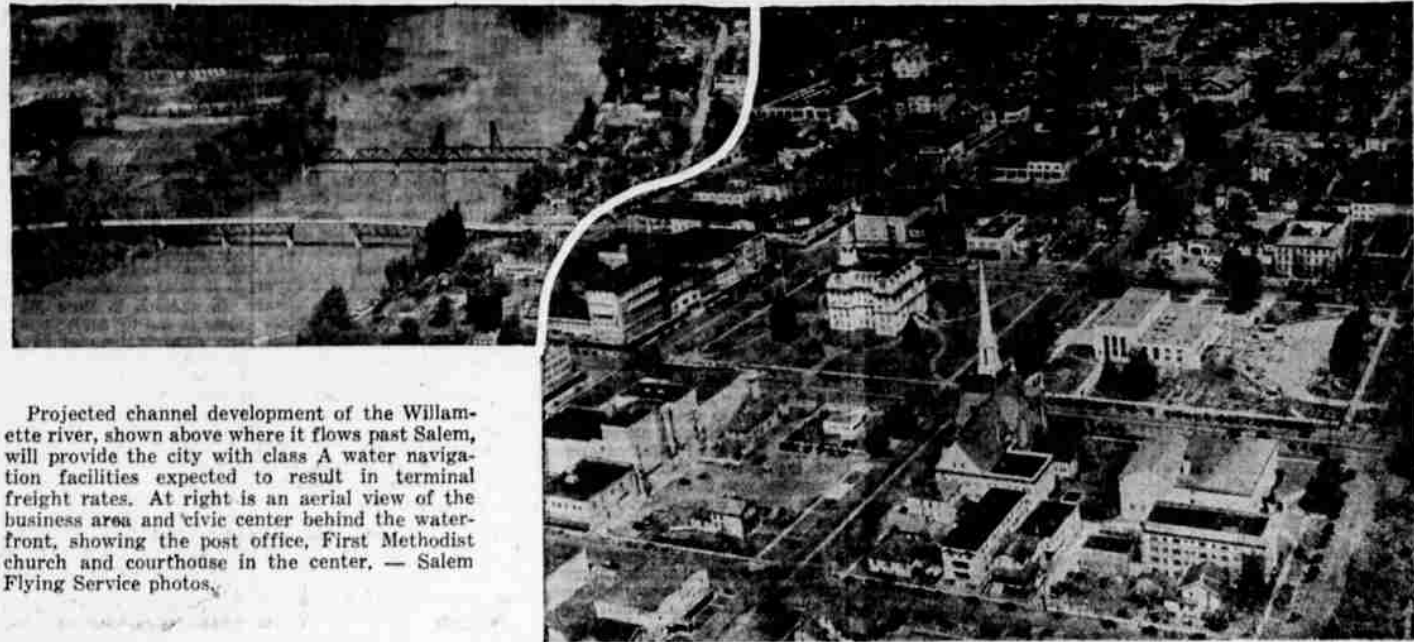
These early undertakings were important to the commercial intercourse of the first settlers. The flow of agricultural commodities was greatly facilitated at a time when roads were still primitive. Too, as Dr. Clark points out, steamboats were a source of pleasure. Many excursions were made on week-ends of a summer—in fact until the turn of the century.

"When the river boats emptied the warehouses of wheat," Dr. Clark writes, "then boatmen and settlers would use the empty floor for the country dance. The arrival and departure of boats was always a gala occasion in the river towns. Excitement ran high during the rate wars. The Active and Reliance were two of the finest boats of rival companies and both carried bands to entertain passengers and townsmen."

Many Accidents

There was a darker side to tragedy. Many of these early boats suffered from explosions, some of them of major proportions in which more than a score were killed. Many engines were not strong enough to stand steam pressure. The treacherous Oregon City falls was a hazard; in 1856, the "Portland" was swept over the falls, and the safe containing \$200 lost. It was never found.

Some of the early pioneer concepts of a proper Fourth of July celebration on a steamboat were ingenious if startling. In 1876, for example, the Willamette Falls Canal and Locks company drilled holes 26 feet deep in the falls bed, and placed 120 blasts of pow-



Projected channel development of the Willamette river, shown above where it flows past Salem, will provide the city with class A water navigation facilities expected to result in terminal freight rates. At right is an aerial view of the business area and civic center behind the waterfront, showing the post office, First Methodist church and courthouse in the center. — Salem Flying Service photos.

Canned Output Shows Variety Of Activities

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strawberries are frozen and the frozen condition is maintained until they are put into consumption. These, too, are shipped all over the country under refrigeration and put to a multitude of uses.

Another phase of the cold pack which has been gaining ground here is frozen vegetables. These include sweet corn, beans and experiments have been made with other types of vegetables. A newly created process of quick freezing has materially added to the value of both fruits and vegetables in the frozen condition and keep them in virtually the fresh shape that they were in when originally packed.

Put into a canned pack are also tomatoes, both in solid pack and juice; beets, asparagus, rhubarb, pumpkin and peas. A considerable pack of carrots is made annually and a small pack of apples. This used to be a large item but has been cut down materially of late years.

Many Purposes

Into barrels beside the Royal Anne cherries, which are the big barreled item, are also some cherries for pie purposes. Such fruits as loganberries, blackberries, black and red raspberries, are also barreled in varying quantities.

Another offshoot of the large fruit production here which has been gaining rapidly in favor is the production of natural fruit juices. A number of plants in Salem now go

der in them—to be exploded simultaneously! The People's Transportation company ran a special excursion on the "Senator" from Portland, for 50 cents.

"The big blasts will be worth going to see," announced an advertisement. The blasts went off and everybody was thrilled.

Steamboats continued to run for several years. But the twilight of 30 some years which settled down after 1900 has only recently started to lift. Steamboats are on the way back, in a different but vitally important role.

Indian Problem Reservation for Native Tribes Sought by Settlers

Early statesmen of Oregon were bothered by the Indian problem—so much so that at one time they considered the feasibility of placing the noble redman permanently in the Tillamook forests.

To investigate the possibilities, General Palmer was sent on an exploring expedition into the Oregon coast regions. It was believed that the area was unfit for white settlement, but that the fishing and hunting advantages would furnish a natural abode for Indians.

their plants when and where they please and their objective has been to establish their various packing plants in the localities where the raw product is best suited to their needs.

And String Beans

Among the vegetables not mentioned in the foregoing but saved for special reference are string beans. These have been rapidly growing in importance as a vegetable pack. In the irrigated area of West Stayton a few miles from Salem but distinctly in this area.

One of the best testimonials ever paid to the Salem district as a fruit producing center was paid when Reid, Murdoch & company decided to make this the center for their fruit producing operations, especially as a center of production for their small berry product. This huge Chicago firm which furnishes thousands of independent food dealers all over the world with their products has canneries and packing plants of every description in numerous sections of the country. They are equipped and able to establish

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Traveler Tells Of Early Farms

A description of typical early farms in the Willamette valley, as furnished by a traveler in the 40's, gives an interesting picture of the conditions under which pioneer farmers worked.

Houses were said to be 18 by 24 feet, made of square-hewed logs. One early home was two floors in height, the floors being laid with long planks or puncheons.

The roof used poles for rafters, and shingling consisted of laid strips or sheets of ash bark, held together by buckskin thongs covered with a stiff plaster.

All Doctor's Wedding Held

Melbourne (O.P.) — Miss Patricia Wellington of this city had an "all Doctor" wedding. On the day she received the degree of Doctor from the University of Melbourne she was married to Dr. Medwyn Hudson. The bride was Dr. Howard Williams; the bridesmaid, Dr. Ethel Roberts, and the groomsmen, Drs. Vernon Collins and Michael Woodruff.

Sea Sking Introduced

San Francisco (O.P.) — Sea sking has just made its debut here, having been imported from the French Riviera. It consists of remaining erect on skis attached to motor boats.

were subscription libraries, the Library Association of Portland, Multnomah Law Library and the YMCA library. Salem had two society libraries maintained by subscription and Albany and Ashland each had a subscription library. In Forest Grove there was a free library operated by the Free Thought society.

Libraries Since 1900

The first public library law, adopted in 1901, authorized the city council of every incorporated city to establish and maintain a public library or to contract with an existing library for library service. The community was to be permitted to levy a tax not exceeding one-fifth of a mill. In the same year, Portland took advantage of the new law to make a contract with the Library Association of Portland.

Two years later a county library law was adopted, but due to a population restriction, it applied only to Multnomah county, enabling that county to contribute to the support of the Library Association of Portland.

In 1905, the Oregon Library commission, later named the Board of Trustees of the State Library, was established. One of its functions was to assist communities desiring to establish public libraries. At the time of the organization of the commission in 1905, only two cities outside of Portland, Eugene and Salem, had free public libraries in operation. Both were under private management. There were subscription libraries in Baker City, Astoria, Ashland, Grants Pass and Troutdale. In 1906 the Baker City and Dallas libraries became free and tax supported, and the first library building outside of Portland was erected in Eugene.

16 Public Libraries

At the end of the first decade, there were 24 free public libraries and seven public subscription libraries. Of the former, 16 received public funds, of the latter only one, Klamath Falls. The total amount received from public funds was \$67,248, of which amount \$52,974 was received by Portland, leaving \$14,274 for the remaining libraries. The total number of volumes was about 130,000.

A new county library law was adopted by the state legislature in 1911, authorizing any county to establish a county library and to levy a tax not exceeding one-half a mill. This limitation was omitted in a revised law adopted in 1919. By 1920 there were ten county libraries and 37 city libraries. The number of volumes had increased almost 400 percent, to a total of 568,000.

The amount of money raised by taxation for the support of these libraries was \$378,741, over \$300,000 more than was received in 1910. Of this amount, Multnomah alone received \$278,000. In the next ten years, the public library system continued to expand, although Union and Polk counties discontinued their county library

systems. However, Josephine and Gilliam counties began county library branches, and 76 independent city libraries. These libraries owned a total of 1,010,000 volumes, and received in public funds about \$470,000.

The most recent figures on library statistics (1936) indicate that there are eleven county libraries with 17 public library branches, two of these county libraries being such in name only and 101 independent city libraries, making a total of 129 libraries. The libraries own about 1,200,000 volumes, and received in 1936 about \$450,000 in public funds, of which \$275,355 was received by the Multnomah county library.

State Library

The Oregon state library, which is governed by a board of trustees consisting of the governor, the state superintendent of public instruction, the chancellor of the Oregon state system of higher education, the librarian of the Library Association of Portland, and three persons appointed by the governor, dates back to 1848, when it was established as a territorial library at the seat of government. It is administered by a state librarian appointed by the board of trustees.

The first state library was a depository for law books and state documents. Although the librarian was elected by the legislature, the library was under the direct supervision of the governor. In 1864, the secretary of state was designated superintendent of the library, but the librarian was still elected by the legislature. This continued until 1905, when the legislature placed the state library in charge of the justices of the supreme court. At the same session, the Oregon library commission was created to develop public and school library service throughout the state, and to lend books.

Realignment Ordered

In 1913, the functions of the two libraries were realigned. The library commission became the state library, continuing its former functions, but adding to them the custody of federal and state documents. (The Supreme Court library was created to care for the books and publications of a legal nature which were formerly a part of the state library.)

Today the state library is the depository for government and state documents, serves as a reference library for members of the legislature and officers and employees of the state, maintains a general mail order reference and loan service, conducts traveling libraries, and aids in the development of public and school libraries.

Driver Sleeps, Truck Biffed

New Philadelphia, O. (O.P.)—A thief jacked up the trailer of a truck and stole a wheel and tire while the truck driver and his helper were asleep in the cab.

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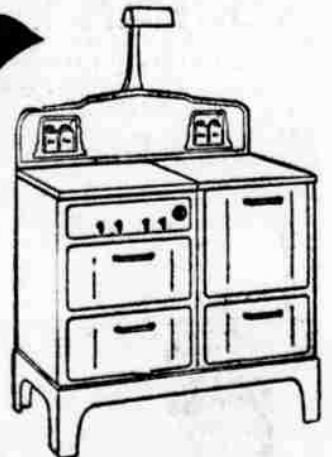
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