

SALEM'S FIRST PROMOTER



W. H. Willson, who held as a bonded agent the area of original Salem, has Willson park named in his honor. That he founded Salem, platted the town or named it is not established facts.

Willson Outstanding in Early History of Salem

By BEN MAXWELL

To those who inquire the casual answer is:

W. H. Willson founded Salem and named the place. He gave Willson park to the town.

None of these answers is precisely true. William Holden Willson did not found Salem. That was an accomplishment by many minds of Methodist missionaries who founded a settlement here in 1840-41. That W. H. Willson named Salem is a disputed statement. He did not give Willson park to Salem, he only gave it his name.

Who, then, was W. H. Willson? Caroline C. Dobbs in a thumbnail biography about "Men of Champoe" relates that he was New Hampshire born in 1801. In early life he followed the sea as a ship's carpenter and cooper on whaling ships. Presently he became religious and joined the first reinforcement for the Methodist mission in Oregon and arrived here, May 18, 1837, on the brig Diana.

Dr. Elijah White who was associated with Willson on that long passage around Cape Horn describes him as a man five feet ten inches in height, cheerful, sympathetic and fond of relating old sea stories. He had a strange, childish partiality for cats and, since there was none aboard the Diana, he made a pet of a beautiful kid whose head he combed and whose head he anointed at a time. To the distress of Willson this kid, named Tip, partook of paint left open and died before the brig reached port. Willson was an aelurophile.

While en route Willson had listened to Dr. White discourse upon the subject of medicine and thereby gained some knowledge of therapy. But, as W. H. Gray, the historian and contemporary, remarks about Willson: He was a cheerful, whole-souled; a good sort of fellow, with a greater abundance of interesting and funny yarns than profound medical skill, which always made him agreeable and served to gain friends and popularity in a community that, as a general thing, would prefer a tincture of humbuggery.

Since he was also licensed as a local preacher he did considerable ministerial work in conjunction with his medical practice.

A matter that reflects no credit either upon Willson or his wife, Chloe, may now be recalled in a somewhat oversimplified in a paragraph that required J. Quinn Thornton pages to elucidate with legal profundities in "Salem Land Titles," published in the city directory for 1874.

A board of trustees concerned with the welfare and progress of Oregon Institute, later Willamette University, resolved to found a city upon the site of Salem and devote the proceeds from land sales to Institute development. W. H. Willson was named agent for Institute sustenance and ultimately title in this benefac-

tion was vested in him in the capacity of a bonded agent responsible to the Institute board. Willson held title to this claim when the donation land act became effective in 1850. By terms of this act Willson's wife, Chloe, was legally entitled to half of the Institute's patrimony and since only Willson was bound by terms of the bond Mrs. Willson resolved to retain as "mine own oyster" that part of the Institute's heritage north of State street. Despite appeals and tears on the part of the board she did retain her legal rights and made her equity in the benefaction claim a cold, hard reality.

Willson's so-called plat of Salem, filed with I. N. Gilbert, clerk of public lands for Marion county, March 22, 1850, describes a townsite of 89 blocks. It is not unlikely that W. H. Willson as agent filed this plat.

That I. N. Gilbert, pioneer of 1847, surveyed the first plat of Salem is recorded in his biography. First plat of Salem covered North Salem, an area of 29 blocks, and was filed by L. H. Judson and J. B. McClane a month before the so-called Willson plat was entered. Another historical source accredits Rev. L. H. Judson, a missionary with a mathematical turn of mind, with the survey of the Willson plat. That any of these parties conceived the ultimate plan of Salem seems improbable. More than likely it was a consummation of many minds associated with the board of trustees for Oregon Institute.

One eminent historical authority states that Salem received its Hebrew name, meaning peace, from Willson. Another just as well informed says that Rev. David Leslie, native of Salem, Massachusetts, named it for his home town. Still another asserts that there is written authority to show the missionaries aboard the Laussane decided to name the new town "Salem," a derivative of ancient Jerusalem. J. Henry Brown, the local historian, heard from Dr. Willson's own lips the story about how he quit the tobacco habit. For years,

Divine Power Bailey's Theme

You can rely on God, divine Love, for the solving of problems not merely with "beautiful hope" but with expectation of "dynamic power." Arch Bailey, of Sacramento, California, told a large audience here Friday night.

Far from impractical, prayer based on spiritual understanding of God as divine Love actually heals sickness, discord, fear, and moral problems, Mr. Bailey said. He added that many people are proving daily that this is true.

On nationwide tour as a member of The Christian Science Board of Lectureship, he spoke under the auspices of First Church of Christ, Scientist in Senior High School auditorium. His lecture was on "Christian Science: The Joyous Way of Love."

To regard love as only a mood of meditation is a mistake, Mr. Bailey said. Love transforms a person's whole experience, he declared.

"Jesus taught that there were no greater commandments than love for God and love for one's fellow men," he said.

Regardless of the problem, Mr. Bailey said, divine Love has "infinite resources with which to meet mankind's needs. These resources of Love are wholly spiritual and therefore necessarily come to each of us as ideas, and necessarily have to be understood and demonstrated by each human consciousness."

In Christian Science, he explained, "man reflects each one of God's spiritual qualities. Man as God's expression is perfect in form, function, and faculty. He is never distorted nor deformed, for he is Mind's outlined excellence. His functioning can never be impaired nor obstructed, for he expresses Mind's perfect activity. His faculties can never be dimmed nor lost, for they are eternally secure in Soul."

He added: "As human thought awakens to the eternal purpose of Love, the dream of materiality, including sin, disease, and death, vanishes, and the true nature of being becomes apparent."

CRASH TO BE PROBED

London (UP)—British Overseas Airways Corporation announced today it will open an investigation into "the possibility of sabotage" in the crash of its Comet jet airliner last Sunday with the loss of 35 lives.

CENTRAL HOWELL FU

Central Howell — The Central Howell local of the Farmers Union will meet at the school house on Monday, Jan. 18 at 8 p. m.

It appears, Willson was addicted to puffing and chewing. Then one day, out of consideration for health, he decided to stop the habit and adopted a novel method. He put a piece of first rate tobacco in his vest pocket, took it out and looked at it from time to time, praised it as being first rate tobacco, sniffed it and closed his mouth with this determination: "You can't come in here."

April 17, 1856, Willson rode horseback from his home at the northeast corner of Court and Capital streets to W. K. Smith's drug store near the steamboat landing. He told those there, that, though ailing for months, he now felt as good as ever. He seated himself and soon, without warning, collapsed. Within an hour he was dead at the age of 55. His grave is among the older in Salem's Pioneer Cemetery.

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East Salem

EAST SALEM—Four East Salem parent school organizations are scheduled for East Salem schools this week. Middle Grove Mothers club meets Monday, Jan. 18, in the school house at 7:30 p. m. Swegle Parents-Teachers association meets Tuesday night at the school.

A program was planned at an executive board meeting the past week, with the following officers present: David Bates, president; William Sample, vice president; Mrs. Zack Tipton, membership; Mrs. Ray Bernardy, hospitality; Mrs. Everett Morris, secretary; Mrs. Harold Foller, publicity; Mrs. Glenn DeLapp, program; and Mr. and Mrs. Julius Mikha, and Clarence Irving, principal.

Washington school Mothers club meets Thursday at one o'clock in the multi-purpose room at the school. The special guest speaker will be the assistant state school superintendent, Mrs. Gubser.

Auburn school Mother's club meets Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p. m. in the school.

The meeting of the Needle and Thread 4-H club of the past week was at the home of Charlene Wyatt. Needle cases were worked by the girls, with Mrs. Melvin Alt, leader. Attending were Linda Blankenship, Gaylene Van Cleave, Gargyle Gaggagher, Janice Reynolds, Sandra Alt, Sandra Everhart, and Charlene Wyatt. Refreshments were served the girls by Mrs. Wyatt.

The Jolly Dolly 4-H sewing club met for last week's meeting with their leader, Mrs. Albert Suran. The overcast seam was demonstrated by Janice Pahl. Garment bag protectors were made. Present were Marilyn Page, Janice Smalley, Eileen Smalley, Janice Volting, Janice Pahl, Darlene Clark, Marietta Pendergast, Sharon Mullins and Mrs. Suran. Marilyn Page supervised games.

Home from a 10 days trip south by auto into southern California are Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Brandt and

sons, James and Larry. They visited in the home of the Brandts' daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ames at Whittier, Calif., and with other relatives at Long Beach and in Los Angeles.

Guests Thursday at the Halbert Kemper home on Lansing Ave. were her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde May from Vernonia.

DICK HAYMES ILL

Miami, Fla. (UP)—Red-haired actress Rita Hayworth said today her husband, crooner Dick Haymes has been confined to bed with a bronchial condition and would be out of his night club show for the next few days.

Ralph G. Desart Rites Tuesday

FLORENCE (Special)—Funeral services for Ralph G. Desart, 77, who passed away Jan. 16, at his coastal home 18 miles north of Florence, Jan. 16, will be held at 2 p. m., Tuesday, Jan. 19, at Rigdon's Mortuary with interment in the Pioneer cemetery.

Born in Silverton, Jan. 19, 1877, he was one of the 15 children of George and Melissa Desart, who

had earlier crossed the plains by wagon train and settled in Howell Prairie. Fifty-seven years ago he married Miss Mabel Swartz, also of an early pioneer family, and until four years ago they made their home on Garden road, farming and operating a large hop yard on part of her family's original homestead. He was a member of Salem Elks lodge and the Salem Presbyterian church.

Surviving are his wife, Mabel; son, Roland Desart; Florence; granddaughter, Miss Yvonne Desart, Portland; sisters, Mrs. Anna Brooks, Everett, Wash.; Mrs. Echo Bowen, Salem, and Mrs. Maude Pooler, Pratum.

Brooks

BROOKS — Immunization shots were given to 21 students at Brooks school by Mrs. Edith Haulman, county health nurse. She was assisted by Mrs. William Pfau and Mrs. Robert Pirtle. Feb. 11, is the date set for the next clinic at the school.

Norton Wood, Orville Wymore and George Ramp have been selected to serve on the budget committee.

The Brooks annual fireman's ball will be held Jan. 22 in the school gym. The PTA will serve the refreshments.

Advertisement for Oregon Physicians' Service featuring a Blue Shield plan. Text includes: "2000 OREGON GROUPS LIKE THIS PLAN OF SERVICE BENEFITS", "The employees in more than 2000 Oregon firms have Medical and Hospital protection through Oregon Physicians' Service.", "This plan provides professional services in case of sickness or accident—not just allowances which may, or may not, cover doctors' bills.", "This same SERVICE PLAN—so widely used among Oregon businesses—is available for individuals and for families. Please use the coupon for more information." Includes a coupon form with fields for Name, Company, and Address.



Fine-car Styling An outstanding example of fine-car beauty in the low-price field... the new Crestline Ford is the fashion car for the American Road.



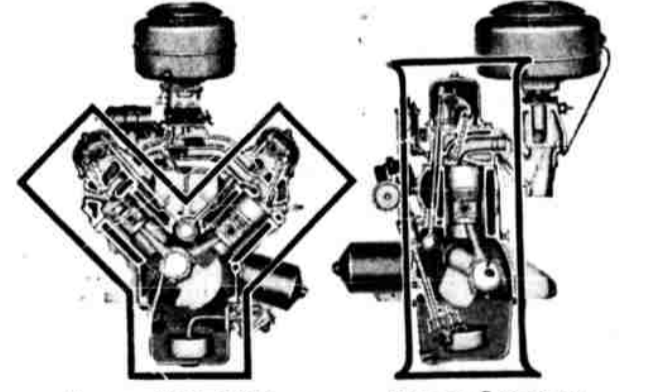
New Astra-Dial Instrument Panel is a safety dividend with speedometer placed high on the panel for easier reading. Warning lights tell when generator is discharging or oil pressure falls too low.



Style-Setting Interiors in Ford give you beauty from the inside out! Colorful new upholstery fabrics and smart trim are another '54 Ford dividend... help make Ford the style leader of the industry.

Extra Dividends at no extra cost!

The '54 Ford gives you extra Dividends in style, in performance, in ride, with fine-car features you would normally expect to find only in highest-priced cars.



The new Y-block V-8

with the new extra-deep crankcase, has 130-h.p. for a dividend of 18% more power. And you can enjoy V-8 advantages on less gas! Free-turning overhead valves and shorter piston stroke help give longer engine life!

The new I-block Six

has 115-h.p. for a dividend of 18% more power. Like the V-8, it has Ford's High-Turbulence Combustion Chamber for more complete and economical combustion of fuel. It's the latest word on high-compression, low-friction Six design.



Ball-Joint Front Suspension

It allows greater up and down wheel travel for a smoother ride... helps keep wheels in true alignment for consistently easy handling. Wheels move on ball joints, whether up or down... right or left.

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