

Mary Ramsay Woods, Age 120

The Oldest Woman in Oregon

Oregon has three remarkable centenarians. Of these Mrs. Mary Ramsay Woods is the most remarkable. Her 120 years seem to rest lightly on her, and one feels a sort of awe in talking to one who remembers the early history of the United States: who came into this world before the constitution and who was a young mother when the Oregon country was explored by Lewis and Clark.

Next in interest to Mrs. Woods in Oregon's gallery of remarkable centenarians is Jasper Force, who with nearly 106 years back of him, enjoys going to a circus as much as the youngest child. Not only does he enjoy the circus but is assisting even at this period in his life in

Tennessee was admitted as a state to the union; she was a blushing bride when the great Napoleon ceded Louisiana to the United States, and a proud young mother when Louis and Clark tramped over a continent "to where rolls the Oregon." And she well remembers her father taking down his old gun, shouldering his blankets and going out to fight the battles of his country in the war of 1812.

Though probably the oldest woman in the world, her intellect is still bright and keen, as is shown by the fact that this last summer her testimony decided a lawsuit and settled the title to property which was decided over forty years ago. Her answers were to the point and

He was a brick-maker and contractor, and burned the brick used and built the first brick house in Knoxville.

When Mary was 12 years old she joined the Methodist Episcopal church. For 106 years she has been a communicant, and is still a devoted Methodist. Her folks were well-to-do, were slave owners, and possessed considerable property. She was married at the age of 17 to Jacob Lemons, a prosperous farmer, and the couple lived happily together in their Tennessee home for many years. She was left a widow 73 years ago, about the time that Andrew Jackson was nearing the end of the first term as president. Four children were born to the couple, Mary J. Lemons, who died in Tennessee two years ago at the age of 98; Isaac Lemons, who died in Kansas City, Missouri, 40 years ago; Nancy E. Bullock, who died at Hillsboro 38 years ago, and Mrs. C. B. Reynolds, who is now living in Hillsboro, and who, though 77 years of age, is devoting her life to the care of her aged parent.

For the next 20 years Mrs. Lemons lived with her children, sometimes with one and sometimes with another. They were settled in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Missouri, and the widow lived with first one and then the other. In 1852 she accompanied her youngest daughter, Mrs. C. B. Southworth, across the plains to Oregon, arriving in Hillsboro in 1853. She was then 66 years old, and rode a bay mare the entire distance from Tennessee, while her daughter and husband rode in an oxcart. The party came leisurely, bringing a dozen slaves with

them, some of whom are still alive.

After her arrival in Oregon Mrs. Lemons built the first hotel in Hillsboro. Shortly after she married John Woods, with whom she lived until his death, a score of years later. The couple ran the hotel until 40 years ago, when they turned it over to their daughter, Mrs. C. B. Reynolds, formerly Mrs. Southworth, her only surviving child. For many years Mrs. Woods was postmistress of Hillsboro, until advancing old age compelled her to take life more easily. Since then she has done housework until the last few years, but now confines herself to the care of her person, sewing or knitting.

ONLY ILL ONCE.

Mrs. Woods talks in a quavering voice, but very distinctly, with a marked southern accent. In speaking of her life, she said:

"My memory of the past is very good. Sometimes things get a little clouded, but after I think a while they straighten out. I have lived a quiet life and never had much excitement. I never had but one serious illness, which was 36 years ago, when I had typhoid fever, and as a result lost the sight of my left eye. My third sight is well worn and though I can see out of but one eye, I can still thread a needle and read large type. Since my illness I have been hard of hearing, too, and you have to shout.

"I lost my teeth 41 years ago, and since then have worn false teeth. A most remarkable thing happened last spring; I cut a tooth. Would you believe it? It caused some irritation, and is considerable annoyance, interfering with the false teeth, but it is there all right. I haven't the least idea how it happened.

"My diet in recent years has been principally vegetables, though I have not dieted myself. I eat three times a day and have drunk strong coffee all through life, and plenty of it. I have always eaten meat, principally pork, and still eat it occasionally. I



MARY RAMSAY WOOD, AGE 120

playing the part of cowboy, looking daily after the feeding of a bunch of range cattle.

The third centenarian is Colbert P. Blair, who is still active and hopeful, although he passed the century mark with the ending of last year.

No state in the union can possibly boast of three such remarkable old persons, and while each of them lives in a different part of the state, they all attribute their longevity to the remarkable climate of Oregon.

About the time that the American colonies realized the necessity of federation, while the United States constitution was as yet unwritten and the nation still unborn, there came into the world on a farm near Knoxville, Tennessee, a girl baby who was destined to witness the marvelous changes that have since transformed the world and to survive out of the old time into ours. The child who learned to lisp when Washington was president in the eighteenth century, still lives to talk of President Roosevelt in the twentieth century, and eyes that 100 years ago looked lovingly upon her first-born, today smile with a fading light upon the "child of her old age" a woman of the now past 77.

Mary Ramsay Woods was born as Mary Ramsey on May 20, 1787, here their children were born and reared. There were five girls and quite active and maintains a lively interest in the world and its doings. Daily she walks about the garden or sits upon the porch in sunny weather to chat with neighbors, to sew, or to live over in memory scenes of long ago. And what a memory is hers! She was a tiny maid when the French revolution was dyeing the gutters of Paris red; she was a laughing schoolgirl of 7 when

efforts to confuse her were unavailing. She testified regarding minute details, showing that the years have not dulled her recollection.

One can scarcely realize the marvelous changes that have taken place in the world during Mrs. Woods' eventful life. When she was a child people literally lived the "simple life," none of the comforts and conveniences of today were in existence. Gentlemen still wore the fancy costume, knicker-bockers, frilled shirts and cocked hats, while the common people wore homespun. She was a babe of two years when the government began business. She was 20 years old when Robert Fulton first plowed the waters with his primitive steamboat, and 40 years old when the first railway was laid. In these old days the spinning jenny was not invented and the trust a thing undreamed of.

FROM ENGLISH STOCK

Mary Ramsay Woods comes of good old English stock. Her ancestors were all long lived people. Her parents came from England just after their marriage and pushed on through the Carolinas to Tennessee, where they had settled upon a farm that was afterwards the scene of the decisive battle of the Paducah Indian war. Here the couple settled and here their children were born and reared. There were five girls and three boys in the family, and Mary was the sixth child according to the old family bible.

Kate Ramsay, the mother, died after a few hours' illness, at the age of 110, 65 years ago. The day before her death she had walked a distance of five miles, knitting as was her usual custom. A few years before, the father, Richard Ramsay, had dropped dead from heart disease.

Santa Claus at LOWE'S

Drug Store.



Christmas Tide.

Brings a myriad of beautiful gifts to our store; expensive for those who prefer such; toys of every description and price; useful articles usually more appreciated by the recipient, as the toys are soon broken and gone. Our lines are complete and our selection is varied. Below we give you an idea of what can be found on our Christmas counters and in our showcases.

Dolls and Teddy Bears

The most popular doll nowadays is the Teddy Bear. The little ones dearly love these creatures, and in a way they are taking the place of the old doll. This fact considered we have a large line of them in all prices. Another innovation in this line is the Teddy Monkey. Little furry creatures with monkey faces. These are also in all sizes and prices.

There is nothing that will ever take the place of the doll altogether. We have a big assortment of dolls, both expensive and cheap; dolls that close their eyes, dolls that are dressed, dolls of china, kid, and cloth, dolls of every shape description and price.

Tree Decorations.

In this country where Christmas trees are easy to obtain, there should not be a home with little folks that does not have a Christmas tree, this greatest day of all the year. We have the colored candles and holders for lighting purposes, ornaments of all kinds and tinsel for trimming.

Useful Gifts.

Present your friends with gifts that are useful. Times are never so prosperous as to waste money on cheap trashy stuff that are of but short duration. Following is a list that an older person can readily appreciate: Albums, all kinds, Toilet and manicure sets, Fancy Stationery as high as \$4.00 a box; Smoking sets, trays meerscham pipes holders, Cutlery, Domestic and Imported perfumes especially for the Holiday trade, books by popular authors for young and old.

Toys Toys Toys

Toys of every kind, shape and description. Mechanical toys, steam engines, pianos, iron toys, horses, lambs, wagons, novelties, everything that could be ransacked from our Catalogues; a fairyland for the little ones.

Christmas Candies.

Our stock of candies has been considerably enlarged and we can well accommodate the Christmas trade. We have a large assortment of every kind, from cheap mixtures to high priced French bonbons.

Sheet Music.

Do not forget that your friends always appreciate sheet music. We have endeavored to carry all of the latest hits, and any piece not in stock will be sent for in time to reach here for Christmas. Some of the latest folios now on the market contain all of the late hits arranged for dance purposes. If you haven't the Star Folio, now is the time to secure one.

C. Y. Lowe,

Drug and Drug Sundries
Prescriptions a Specialty

The Bandon News Co.,

Varney & Tuttle, Props.



Carries a line of all the periodicals and dailies in Oregon and California. We receive each new issue as fast as they come from the press. Also a complete line of Confectionery, Cigars and Tobacco and their accessories, Stationery, Post Cards, Lunch Goods, Fruits of all kinds in season and soft drinks. We would be pleased to receive a call from you and assure you of courteous treatment and prompt attention.



The Bandon News Co.,

Varney & Tuttle, Props.