

Pioneers Build Farm Now Included in Camp

Sentry Interviews Local Farmers Whose Home Is Still Standing Here

By Cpt. Henry Beckett
This must be God's country. Otherwise the former residents of the camp area, the farm people who have had to make way for us soldiers, would not be taking it so hard.

To learn what it was like around here in the old days, the good old days of peace, I called on Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Blake. Now they reside at 408 North Seventh St., Corvallis, but until recently they were farmers living in a house across the highway from a military hospital now rambling all over the landscape at the southwest corner of the camp.

Then the present camp area was a quiet plain with two or three roads meandering past farm houses and a hamlet where life was tranquil and without much change from year to year. Today one of the nation's largest cantonments is being developed here, with thousands of men living together in long rows of barracks, and meeting in chapels, stores, warehouses and theatres of their own.

My call on the Blakes was a case of one old timer interviewing other

the courtesy that is usual in this region and seemed glad to talk of old times on the old place. Mr. Blake was one of the "boys of '76." True, it was only 1876, but out here that year seems to be as early, in history, as 1776 was in Philadelphia on the first Independence Day. The house where he was born was built in 1854 and was a real pioneer house and is the only one of the kind left in these parts.

"It was a box house," he said, "all hand-planed and built of lumber sawed at a mill not far away. What's left of that house is only 20 feet by 16 feet and we used it as a garage. The big locust tree in the back yard grew from a switch that my mother stuck into the ground. That was in 1851. My parents came from Indiana, only five years after Aunt Polly arrived, in 1845.

"Aunt Polly was really Mrs. Mary Stuart. Corvallis was first named Marysville, after her, and later the name was changed to Corvallis, made up of Latin words meaning 'heart of the valley,' because the mail for the Oregon town got mixed up with the mail for Marysville, California.

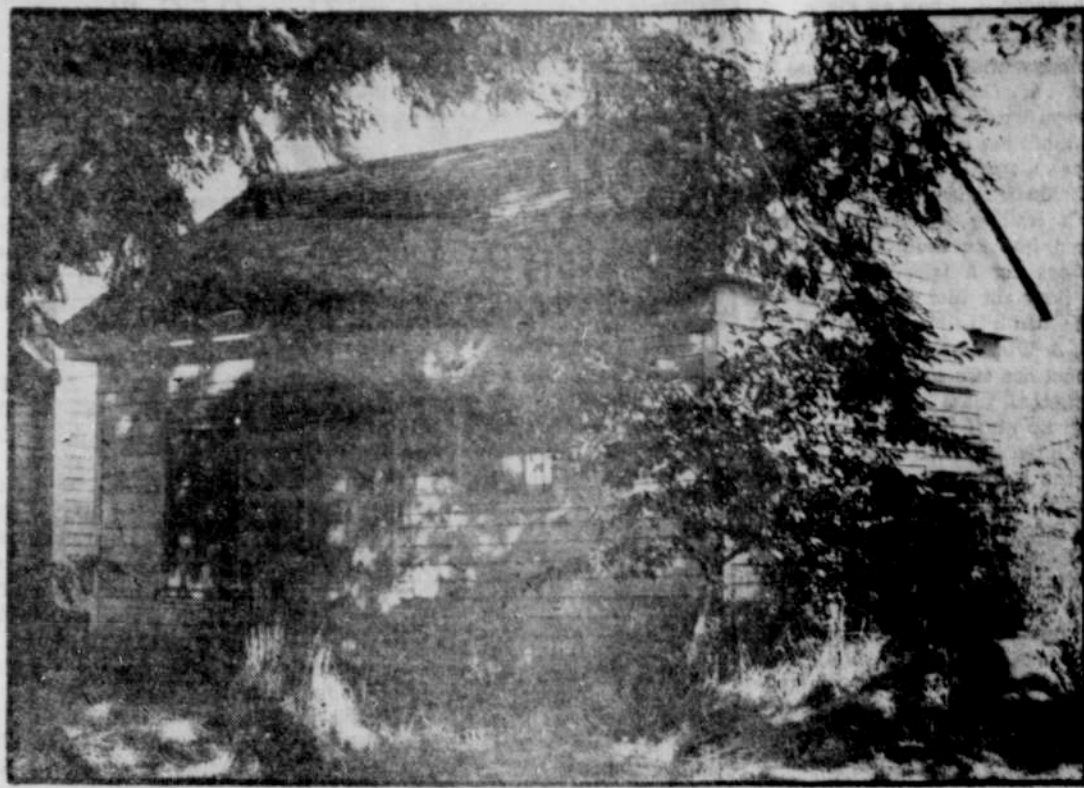
"Aunt Polly was the first white woman in the county. Mary's Peak, the highest peak in the coastal range, was named for her, too. She crossed the plains with an ox-team and I think she walked a good part of the way.

"There wasn't any jail at the time, so the first murderer around here was put in her keeping. He killed a man for jumping his claim. The murderer was chained up in her back yard. But he wanted exercise, so Aunt Polly would unchain him and when he had enough he would come back and she would chain him up again. Aunt Polly wasn't afraid. She had to fight Indians to get this far."

Speaking of Indians, it seems that renegade Indians, off the reservation, sometimes would steal from farm houses in this section. One when Mr. Blake's mother was at the spring, neighbors came running to say that Indians were prowling about the place.

"When I was a boy," said Mr. Blake, "all of the hills around the present camp were bare or at least not as much timbered as they are today. It was said that the Indians had burned over the land to make the hunting easier, although there was some old scrub oak and hazelbrush. They used Coffin Butte, that hill east of the camp where stone is now being taken out, as an observation point and even now there may be the remains of Indian fortifications on the east side of Wrightstown Butte.

"The Indians always went along the ridges, when they traveled, so that they could see their enemies. They had a burial ground on the banks of Soap Creek and just north of our house was an Indian



This box house, built in 1854 of hand-planed lumber sawed at nearby mill, was birthplace of Mr. Blake, whose former farmhouse is now across highway from Camp Adair station hospital. In later years this house, last pioneer house in area, was used by the Blakes as a garage.

shop for the making of arrows. There the Indians brought their obsidian—volcanic glass—and shaped it.

"The early white settlers in this section were sometimes wilder than the Indians. On the road to Sulphur Springs, east of your camp, there was a stage station in the Fifties, a tavern where horse races and foot races and fighting were all common, especially fighting. Two men, Jim Wheeler and Henry Flickinger, fought with bare fists one time and almost killed one another.

white cones into the sky. Behind the house and all about were the hills that I had hunted over as a boy. Right below, on your camp grounds, I had played ball and gone to school. The old trees about the house were our friends and both houses, the old and the new, were full of things to remember."



Moved, like other farmers in camp area, off "the old barn place" to make way for army. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Blake now live in Corvallis. They hated to leave the old homestead.

"The pack trail from Vancouver to California ran through the hills behind our house and perhaps you can still find traces of it. Also the first telegraph line through Oregon ran along there, but outlaws kept cutting it down and it wasn't used after the Sixties. The line was attached to oak trees and a few iron staples still may be seen."

The old homestead of the Blakes was an early center for social affairs and on the piano in their Corvallis home lay the violin that Mr. Blake played for the racing of reels. They've been married 40 years and for a long time they have lived in a white house that stands beside the old original house. That was built in 1889. As a boy he walked four miles daily, to and from a school that stood near the present Post Headquarters, and later Mrs. Blake taught school at Wellsdale, a ghost town since the camp area was established.

"It was the first school district in the county," she remembered. "The school was in that small maple grove by the railroad tracks and the community consisted of the church, school, dry goods store, blacksmith shop, artisans' hall and several houses. About 40 persons lived there."

Mr. and Mrs. Blake attended Oregon State College at Corvallis and sold their milk to the college creamery where many of us soldiers now buy the world's best ice cream and milk shakes at such low prices that we feel like objects of charity.

Ten of Mrs. Blake's near relatives went to O.S.C. and Mr. Blake is a member of the college land-use committee.

"It was at a meeting of the committee that I learned we would have to move," he said, "and it sure gave me a shock. The county agent called us in and told us the government was building a big camp out there and then he turned to me and said, in a sympathetic way, 'Ed, that's going to take your farm.'"

"Of course it hit us hard. It was a wonderful place to live. On a clear day we could look out from our front porch and see Mount Jefferson, straight ahead, and the Three Sisters, and far off to the east Mount Hood, all rising their

Easley Expects War To Revivify America

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down as a war-monger and as a jingo who wished to see the youth of the land slaughtered in battle.

"Also the people were fat, prosperous and lazy and did not want to fight, particularly because Macedonia seemed so far away. A like situation prevailed in Rome when the citizens failed to meet with equal vigor the advance of the barbarians from the north. They put their trust in money, relying on hired fighters rather than on the fighting spirit that the citizens should have inherited and should have exemplified.

"In history war has been the normal recourse of covetous nations and it will continue so unless restraint by force prevents it, as the police prevent brawls and street fighting in civilian communities. In this country we are especially blessed, having so large a space of earth, the most fertile and most richly endowed land in all the world. It is in the temperate zone, conducive to human endeavor at its best and what we have is due to the courage and sacrifice of those who have left us this heritage.

"Therefore it seems a crime that we have ever been so weak-kneed as to give aggressor nations any advantage in preparedness and to jeopardize our good fortune. We have not appreciated our happy situation and have not understood that other nations, having less, would grow dissatisfied and be willing to use force in order to secure what they wanted.

"Also we listened overmuch to false prophets of peace, because they appealed to our wish bone rather than to our back bone. Such movements as that one begun at Oxford, England, where young men took an oath never to fight for any cause, not even in defense of their country, could not have gained adherents as they did unless a kind of moral blindness had set in and confused all concepts of right and wrong. In a sense our university people became over-civilized, out of touch with reality and the laws of human survival.

"Now the trend is the other way and still it has not gone far enough. There should be war courses in our colleges, courses to teach young men skills of use in this war and courses to clarify their thinking, in the light of history and of human nature as it remains today."

General Easley is in charge of rifle training in his division and expects accurate shooting to play an important part in this war despite some military opinion that the rifle does not count for so much nowadays. For 30 years he has been in rifle competition and was in the Infantry Rifle Team of the Regular Army, being on four winning teams and captain of two of them. In 1909 he joined the Texas National Guard as a private. He has risen steadily in the years since, serving with U. S. Army infantry in Texas, Michigan, Manila, California and elsewhere, as well as a member of the General Staff of the War Department.

Assignments to key positions are: DIVISION 1—Executive Officer, Col. George C. Fereh; Assistant Executive Officer, Capt. Carl F. Forsman; Control, Maj. Arthur Dwyer; Public Relations,

2nd Lt. George H. Godfrey, DIVISION 2—Director Lt. Col. Lee K. Woods; Adjutant, Maj. Victor N. Miller; Judge Advocate, Capt. John F. O'Shea; Fiscal, Lt. Col. Lee R. Woods. DIVISION 3—Director and Military and Civilian Personnel, Capt. Thomas B. Carson; Special Service, Capt. Alex F. Ruth; Chaplain, Capt. Lloyd V. Harmon. DIVISION 4—Director and Operations, 1st Lt. T. R. Westfall; Training, 2nd Lt. Edwin S. McAllister. DIVISION 5—Director, Col. T. A. Baumeister; Procurement, Storage and Issue, Capt. Fisher J. Smith; Transportation, 1st Lt. Collins L. Carter; Maintenance, Capt. Tony C. Frank; Post Exchange, Maj. Rudolph Ayers; DIVISION 6—Director, Capt. Ernest A. Shafer; Utilities, 1st Lt. Joseph O. Craig; Maintenance and Repair, Capt. Carleton L. Burgess; Engineering and Real Estate, Capt. Otto H. Meyer. DIVISION 7—Director and Intelligence, Maj. Ralph E. Riorahan; Internal Security, 2nd Lt. George H. Godfrey; Provost Marshall, Capt. Julius Hale. DIVISION 8—Director and Medical Service, Col. William B. Lewis; Sanitation, 1st Lt. Joseph K. Ellsworth; Hospitalization and Evacuation, Maj. Charles H. Manlove, Jr.

Promote 2 Chaplains In Timberwolf Div.

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Major Jenks has no horse, but has a substantial record as a chaplain. Although identified with the Church of the Disciples of Christ, he attended Coe College, a Presbyterian school, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, did post graduate work at the University of Iowa, and studied for the ministry at Drake university. He has been pastor of the Lake Harriett Christian Church of Minneapolis and of other churches in Minnesota and Iowa.

Major Jenks was in the final class of the chaplains' school at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, before the school moved to Harvard University. He was in the Infantry Reserve Corps, in the Infantry Replacement Center at Camp Croft, S. C., and then entered the Regular Army and was post ordination officer at Camp Horne, where he made much use of enlisted men for lecturing.

GRIFFIN, Ga. — Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Elliott are puzzled as to exactly where their marine son, Clarence, is stationed. A letter from him described a dance "given by the marines by the natives." Imagine our surprise," he wrote, "when the girls showed up barefooted. But that didn't stump us. We took off our shoes, too, and enjoyed the dance."

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By order of the camp commandant, Col. Gordon H. McCoy, four sergeants, three corporals, 16 privates first class and 39 privates from HQ, QM and Medics, were attached to the Detached Corps of the SCU 1011 Military Police, for rations, quarters and duty, last Saturday.