

EARLY HISTORY MAKERS IN POLK

Water of Societies of Christian College Half Century Ago

Fred Lockley in Oregon Journal) Sixty years is a long time to live together. I visited T. B. Williams at his farm home in Polk county recently. He came to Oregon 77 years ago. He is one of 12 children. He and his wife have jogged along life's pathway together for more than 60 years. At Independence I visited Mrs. T. Claggett. She and her husband were also married more than 60 years ago. My husband, Jesse Claggett, will be 82 years old on his next birthday," said Mrs. Claggett. "He came across the plains to Oregon 70 years ago. We also have lived in Oregon three more years and ten. Both my husband and I were born in Missouri. My maiden name was Nancy Brown. I came to Oregon with my parents. Probably you have heard of my father, Robert Brown. He settled in the well valley. I was born on New Year's day 1839, and married on Christmas day, 1859. We lived for while in Powell valley, then on the Applegate river. We moved to Independence in 1867 and have lived here ever since. My husband was a wheat grower. We have had four children. We have seen great changes in Independence during the 55 years I have lived here."

From Mrs. Claggett's home I went to the home of Sarah E. Shelton. "I was born in Ohio, December 4, 1839. My father's name was Israel Hedges. My mother's maiden name was Mary J. Jaska. We came to Oregon in 1851. My father took up the claim which Independence was later located. What is now Independence was at first called South Independence. It was started by Henry Hill, who was married December 8, 1857, to A. Thorp. His brother, Theodore, laid out the original town of Independence. After the death of my first husband, I married J. W. Shelton, who had a family of 12 children. At Monmouth I visited Mrs. Campbell and Cassie Stump, pioneer residents of Monmouth. Mrs. Campbell's husband, Prince L. Campbell, is president

of the University of Oregon, and her husband, T. F. Campbell, was president of the Monmouth normal school. I also met at Monmouth Miss Butler, whose father was one of the founders of Monmouth. In the old days the college at Monmouth was called the Christian college. Fifty years is a large slice out of a person's life. Go back for a moment to 1872—just half a century ago—and meet some of the teachers and students of Christian college at Monmouth. Rev. T. F. Campbell was president and occupied the chair of ancient languages and biblical literature. J. C. Campbell was professor of mathematics, physics and astronomy. Oscar Knox was principal of the preparatory department. Mrs. M. J. Campbell and Miss Mattie Campbell had charge of the music department. Three other teachers were employed as assistants to the faculty. These were W. D. Fenton, George Burnett and Bruce Wolverton. Fifty years ago the entire alumni association was composed of the following eight graduates, all of whom had graduated the year before: A. F. Campbell, Mary Stump, Oscar Knox, Nancy Springer, Bruce Wolverton, Sarah L. Churchill, Horace Knox and Charles Wolverton. Students were there from Dixie and Damascus, Lafayette and Lebanon, Bethel and Buena Vista, Amity and Eola, Sheridan and Sublimity, and many other pioneer communities. There were 86 young men and 40 young women in the college department, 45 boys and 34 girls in the preparatory department, and 44 pupils in the music department. In an advertisement for the music department it was announced: "This course can be completed in 2 years." The probabilities are that they meant "this course" instead of "this course," but there were many who claimed, facetiously, of course, that no mistake had been made in the spelling. They were good boosters for Oregon 50 years ago. In speaking of the location of Christian college, the board of trustees says: "It is the Eden of the West, the granary of the Pacific coast. The salubrity of climate, fertility of soil and production of cereals and fruits make it by far the most interesting and delightful section west of the Rocky mountains. Christian college is located near the geographical center of this delightful valley. The rolling prairie on which the college is situated is lined with timber, bordered by a serrated fringe of towering firs marking the course of the Luckia-

mate four miles south, Willamette two miles east and the La Creola six miles north, while to the west the oak-clad hills with their dense foliage rise one above another in solemn grandeur to the Coast range, in full view 20 miles distant. The Cascade range, rising from the valley on the east stretches to the snow-clad summits of Mount Hood, Mount Jefferson and the Three Sisters, all in fair view from the college. The citizens in the vicinity of the college are distinguished for industry, temperance, intelligence and moral worth. Removed from the courses which divert from study, and the temptations and allurements of vice incident to a city or town, the surroundings are most favorable for health, application, virtue and proficiency in every department of study."

The list of students is too long to give here, so instead I will give the roster of the active members of the Philosopher, Hesperian and Independent literary societies. Check over these lists of members of 50 years ago and follow their history during the past half century.

Here are the members of the Philosopher society in 1872: Robert Bean, Mary Bidwell, James M. Burford, Francis Boon, A. P. Butler, Martha Burford, A. P. Campbell, Dilla Butler, T. J. Chesher, Maggie Butler, Alonzo Cleaver, Sarah Churchill, Wells Drury, Mary Churchill, F. R. Grounds, Mary Hendricson, Charley Huffman, Lon Holman, James B. Hutchison, Mary Jackson, George W. McBride, Laura Lindsay, James M. Powell, Emma Lidsay, P. A. Richardson, Mary Rohrer, N. T. Shirley, Martha Shelton, J. S. Stump, Flora Shirley, John B. Stump, Nancy Springer, R. C. Warriner, Mary A. Stump, Charles E. Wolverton, Cassie Stump, Bruce Wolverton, Florence Warriner, Albert Wolverton.

Albert Burnett was president of the Independent literary society, and the members scorned fluffly ruffles and feminine beguilements. The following is the list of members—all men: Frank Adkins, William Basket, Robert Bean, T. J. Chesher, W. Clark, William Fletcher, Tom Graves, Harry Graves, O. Hendricson, Charley Huffman, Will Huffman, James E. Ireland, Jerome Knox, Sam McMurry, Isaac Patterson, Albert Tanner, Jimmy Tatom, Amos Wilkins, Chris Whitman.


Horace Knox, and Nancy Springer, were the editors of the Hesperian Banner, and the roster of the Hesperian society bore the following names:

Will H. Adams, Martha Burford, J. A. Adkins, Dilla Butler, Frank Adkins, Laura Catron, Albert Burnett, Lu Holman, Joseph Bradshaw, Mary Hendricson, Ben Childers, Emma Lindsay, Henry Churchill, Marie Lame, A. P. Campbell, Mary Rohrer, Al Cleaver, Flora Shirley, T. J. Chesher, Nancy Springer, Wells Drury, Florence Warriner, T. Davidson, May Warriner, W. D. Fenton, Josie Wolverton, E. P. Elliott, Charles Ely, E. B. Goodman, Tom Graves, Henry Graves, J. B. Harris, Charles Huffman, N. S. Hubbard, J. S. Ireland, S. S. Johnson, Jerome Knox, James Jones, Horace Knox, J. B. Lucas, G. W. McBride, Z. S. McMurray, J. S. McMurray, S. McElmurray, A. E. Murphy, F. M. Oeborn, P. Owen, P. H. Richardson, N. Richardson, J. B. Richardson, William Rawlings, T. N. Shirley, W. Simmons, Albert Tanner, R. C. Warriner, John Warriner, Jasper Wilkins, Amos Wilkins, M. S. Wallace.

AIR MAIL SERVICE GAINS IN EFFICIENCY
Washington—During the year just closed the air mail service of the postoffice department carried a million and a quarter pounds of mail, aggregating forty-nine million letters, on the various laps between New York and San Francisco. This body of mail was carried with no grave accident, with no loss of life, and with an increase over the previous year of "trips completed" of almost 10 percent; 92.5 percent this year against 83 percent last year.

The flying time between New York and San Francisco is at present three days. When a sufficient number of lighthouses are erected to guide night fliers, this time may be cut in half; in other words, mail, via airplane, between New York and San Francisco, is now predicted to be as rapid as our present Chicago-New York mail, which averages a day and a half between posting and delivery.

Congress has "starved" the air mail service to a large extent by a failure to provide money enough to permit the extension of the service. It is being freely predicted in official Washington circles that with the showing the air-mail service has just made, it will be impossible for even the most rabid economists in the capitol to continue much longer the "do-nothing" policy which prevents air mail routes from being extended, and its quick-service blessings given to the other great commercial centers of the nation.



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PROF. HORNER TO HUNT OREGON HISTORY

J. B. Horner, professor of history at O. A. C., has been made director of historical research in Oregon. Professor Horner has uncovered many incidents of rare historical value, some of which have been published in his history of Oregon, and others in the public press. One item of historical interest was locating old Fort Hoskins, built by Phil Sheridan of civil war fame, near the present town of Hoskins and not, as government records report, on the Siletz 20 miles west of there. Professor Horner hopes to enlist the aid of old settlers and others in digging up and recording items likely otherwise to be permanently lost.

Wonder what has become of the vacant lot gardeners?

FEDERAL FARM MAN IS INSPECTING OREGON

C. W. Pugsley, assistant secretary of agriculture for the United States, is visiting some agricultural districts of Oregon this week in company with Paul V. Maris, director of O. A. C., service, and C. J. McIntosh, agricultural writer for the college. The diversified districts of Clackamas, Marion, Linn, Benton and Lane counties, the McKenzie timber belt, Bend lumber region, great central Oregon livestock zone, and the dry wheat farm lands of the Columbia basin, are being studied by the federal officers and college men.

The End of a Perfect Day
Here lies the body of Simon Shinn, who would persist in "cutting in." The day he met a five-ton truck Poor Simon sure was out of luck.

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