

CLACKAMAS COUNTY NEWS

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Notes by the Wayside

By J. J. Inskip, County Agent
This is the second installment of the autobiography of James W. Offield presented as a Centennial feature.
"On April 7, 1850 we started from our home in Newton County, Missouri for Oregon driving ox teams. Chicago at this time was only a village, Iowa was just settling, Kansas and Nebraska were wholly unsettled. There were no roads, nor bridges or ferries across the streams. We had to move in trains because of hostile Indians. As we moved up the Platt River, cholera broke out among the travellers. People

died so fast that the trains did not stop to bury the dead, just a wagon would pull out of line, take out an end-gate, remove the dead and two men with shovels stop and dig a hole to bury them and then walk fast to overtake the advancing train. By this time perhaps another person would have died; thus most of the men were employed while the women would drive. At night the dead were buried in the road so when the train moved it would pass over the newly made graves, thus making it less likely that the wolves would dig them up, which was a common occurrence.
"My father and his mother died thus on the same night and were buried in one grave, just after we crossed the North Platt on Cottonwood Creek in what is now

Wyoming.
"Soon after a party of men who were discouraged, and were turning back, told Mother if she wished to return, they would see her home again. Mother said to them: "I started for Oregon and I have now lost the one who was so dear to me. I shall go on if I, too, perish on the way." So we moved on.
"Soon after our oxen died and we left our heavy wagon behind and picked up a light one (there were all kinds standing by the road.) We put our cows in harness and worked them. Not long after we got out of provisions, except for a little buffalo meat. One day we were very hungry, a lieutenant of the U. S. Army rode up with a squad of soldiers and asked Mother how she was getting along, and she said 'Slowly.' He asked her, "Have you anything to eat?" Mother said 'No.' He asked her to look where a cloud of dust was rising on the road and told her it was the Commissary Train and when it gets here 'You will have something to eat.' When the train came up, two men lifted out a huge sack of hardtack and about ten pounds of brown sugar. The brown sugar was in lumps, so we had a feast. Often after this I cried with joy as this same Lieutenant would ride up, for I knew we would get something to eat. We often suffered for want of water. I have known a horseman, while riding off to the hills to find water, to take off his boots and fill them with it and then ride swiftly to the train where the people were eager to drink the water he brought.
"At the start we traveled, as I previously said, in large trains for fear of the Indians, but because of the cholera, trains were broken up and each one went alone. The Indians soon became afraid of the cholera and kept away. The only dead Indian I saw was on Burnt River. He had been shot through the breast by a white man.
"I saw crossing Wyoming, vast herds of buffaloes—perhaps fifty thousand in one band. They raised a great dust and fairly shook the earth. When the dust from a herd was seen, men on horseback would go out and ride alongside the front and shoot, and thus slowly turn the band else they would run over the trains, upset the wagons and kill the women and children.
"Late in the fall of 1850, we reached the Dalles in Oregon. Many people sold their wagons and teams and hired flat boats to make their way down the Columbia River. Even this was attended with much hardship and danger as there were six miles of portage to be made around the falls, where the locks are now located.
"As speculators paid very little for what emigrants had, my Mother determined to cross the mountains, via the Barlow and Tygh Valley Route. There were no roads graded so we pulled to one hill and ran straight down on the other side. It was snowing and raining most of the time, it being late in October. As our weakened cows could not pull the wagons up these long hills, Mother would take off the wheels and roll them up, take our goods and carry them up, and take the wagon apart and carry it up sometimes a mile or more. There was little help from the children as Brother Asbury, the eldest was only twelve years old and the youngest, brother John, was about seven months old."
This Centennial feature will be continued next week.

MUST PAY SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES FOR DOMESTIC HELP

Do you know that you are required by law to pay social security taxes for employees who work in your private household?
This requirement and other helpful information about social security are explained in a handy, four page leaflet "Do You Have A Maid?" according to James E. Peebles, manager of the Portland social security office. The leaflet was published jointly by the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration.
It contains a clip-out registration card for employers of household workers to mail to Internal Revenue Service for tax reporting forms.
"Employers paying their maids, cooks, chauffeurs, and other domestic help \$50 or more in a calendar quarter of the year must make quarterly reports to Internal Revenue" Mr. Peebles said.
"The report must be accompanied by the payment of 5 percent social security tax on wages paid. This tax is shared equally by employee and employer."
Free copies of the booklet are available upon request. You may get your copy by visiting or writing to the social security office located at 925 S. W. Fourth Ave. Ask for leaflet 21.

LUMBER PRICES CONTINUE UPWARD TREND

Crow's Lumber Price Index soared in the past two weeks. Green Douglas Fir dimension, plank and timbers provided much of the "rocket fuel" but Western Pine items, along with dimension of other woods in that region, also gave a big lift to the index.
Green Fir mills are still able to pick and choose the orders they will accept, and much the same is true for dry White Fir dimension and green Fir and Larch dimension from the Pine region. Kiln-dried Douglas Fir dimension and bundled uppers gave the Crow index a slight upward nudge, but this business is nowhere near as active as the green Fir. Fir and Hemlock dimension for water shipment have continued their upward price push.
Plywood mills are continuing to quote \$90 for quarter inch AD grade while certified grade stamped 5-8 inch CD (sheathing) is solid at \$110 and mills have strong order files.

WINNIE & GILBERT NAMED ON HONOR ROLL

Lewis and Clark College—Winnie and Gilbert Shibley of Estacada have been named to the fall honor roll of 82 students. Requirements are a study load of 15 or more hours and a grade point average of 3.50 or better.
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By d'Alessio

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RESULTS OF FIRST T. B. TEST IN COUNTY SCHOOLS

The first tuberculin testing of elementary school children this year produced six who were positive reactors to the test, reports Dr. Hollister M. Stolte, county health officer.
A total of 645 first and eighth grade students, out of a possible 800, of the schools in the Milwaukie system were given the tuberculin test by Dr. Stolte. The six positive reactors were: one each from the junior high, Hector Campbell and St. Johns parochial school. Three were from the Arnold school.
Tuberculin for the tests and health education literature for the parents who must sign consent slips for the children were furnished by the Clackamas County TB and Health association.
The follow up of chest X-rays for the six students and tuberculin testing of the various members of their families will be conducted by Mrs. Elizabeth McPherson, school nurse, in an effort to locate any active tuberculosis among the group.
"It is a real possibility that other schools will follow" Dr. Stolte said, "but no dates have been set as yet for tuberculin testing their students."

YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

By Elizabeth Wiley

Question: I have been an ordained minister for a number of years but did not wish social security coverage when it was first available. Is it too late to obtain coverage now?
Answer: Recent changes in the law give ministers until April 15, 1959 to obtain social security coverage. Such coverage will be compulsorily effective for 1956 and all succeeding years.
Question: In May, 1957, I filed a waiver certificate to request social security coverage earlier. Can I obtain credit for any earlier years?
Answer: You can obtain coverage for the year 1956 if you act without delay. You must file a new waiver certificate before April 15, 1959 and mark it "Supplemental."
Question: I am a Christian Science practitioner, and I filed self-employment social security reports for each year starting with my tax return for 1955. I did not know about filing a waiver certificate. Will I lose my social security for those years?
Answer: You should file a waiver certificate with the Director of Internal Revenue immediately. Because you filed a timely return for 1955, you will probably be able to obtain credit for that year. The waiver certificate will cover you on a compulsory basis for 1956 and all following years in which you have net earnings of \$400 or more, any part of which is derived from the exercise of your ministry.

From my front porch

By CARL HELM

Who says women are not good drivers?
Before you answer, here's someone who says they ARE, if given a chance. It's a man — a man among men, at that!
He's Paul O'Shea, for three years national sports car racing champion of the U.S., who knows good driving when he sees it.
Women are naturally careful and cautious, Mr. O'Shea contends, and good safe and sane drivers if they have a car they can handle easily.
"They've been frustrated, given an inferior complex, trying to handle and park the long, heavy cars of the last several years," racing champion says.
"They have difficulty judging distance, essential to driving and parking. They can barely see over the front end of the long cars, let alone check distance via the rear view mirror, with all those high, jutting fins in their way."
"They've got a chance now to prove they can be good drivers," O'Shea says. "That new Studebaker Lark, being smaller, easily handled and parked, is ideal for them."
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