

Pioneer Gives Early History of County

W. W. Fidler Starts Series of Articles Dealing With Early Life in Southern Oregon Country — Many Murders Recorded.

By W. W. Fidler

To write up Oregon history with any reference to General Joseph Lane, the Marion of the Mexican war would be like recounting the experiences of Hamlet with the Prince of Denmark left out. Hence early in my assortment of chronicles I run across his name in many ranges of activity. My first excerpt, however, has to do with mining rather than military affairs. The latter will soon follow.

"Early in February, 1851," says Sutton, "General Joseph Lane, assisted by Elijah Steele, Esq., raised a company of prospectors to go to the new diggings on Scotts river, at which place they arrived about the last of February of that year. Upon their arrival on the upper waters of Scotts river the Indians who heard of General Lane through the Rogue River Indians, learning that he was the leader of the company, came into the camp and expressed a desire that all hostilities between them and the whites should close and that General Lane should be the chief over both parties. This proposition was a great relief to the miners, for up to this time they had to keep a strict guard over their horses and camps, day and night. It was, therefore, agreed that their head men should come in and have a talk. Among the Indians that came according to agreement was the chief of the Scott Rivers, whom they christened "John," and his three brothers, "Tolo," afterwards "Old Man," chief of the band that occupied the country where Yreka is located, and the chief of the Canyon Indians. The last mentioned chief was afterwards known as "Charley." A general treaty of amity was agreed to and both parties expressed themselves highly gratified with the result.

"On the discovery of gold on the Yreka flat in March of that year General Lane and Mr. Steele left Scott river and located at the new diggings. This transferred the impromptu Indian department to that point."

"When Gen. Lane arrived in Yreka the Indians who were congregated on the flat, received him in a most friendly manner. These Indians spoke a language in common with the Rogue River and Scotts River tribe, and were formerly under the control of one chief. This head chief, who was the father of John of Scotts valley, had accidentally been killed some years previously and John, being young, a strife for the supremacy had been carried on for some time between him and "Old Joe," and "Sam" of Rogue River, and "Scar Face" of Shasta. When the whites came among them their strife ceased, each assuming supreme control over his own people. At this time the Indians had no stock and knew no use for horses and mules except for food, only as they had seen them used by the whites, as they passed through the country, on when war parties of "strange people" (Modocs) came among them. These Indians (The Shastas) were naked during the warm season and lived an indolent life, living on roots and fish, which were abundant and easily obtained. As a consequence of the inattention of the miners to their animals they frequently strayed off a long distance, and when wanted, could not be found by their owners, and had it not been for General Lane much trouble might have resulted. While the general commanded the highest respect from the miners he had won the most implicit confidence of the Indians, and at a word from him, "Old Tolo" would send his young men to look up any lost animals desired. This duty, which by common consent was awarded to him, was a heavy draw, both upon his time and his means, but he performed it with a cheerfulness which endeared the name of General Joe Lane to all the miners.

After General Lane left his home in Oregon, the Indians having so frequently seen Mr. E. Steele in the general's company, "Tise Joe Lane's codawa," meaning Chief Joe Lane's brother, and would go to him for advice and to relate their troubles.

Since then to the present time Mr. Steele has been an important actor in the Indian affairs in this part of the country."

The Mr. Steele mentioned above is, no doubt, the same Elijah Steele who figured so conspicuously in the Modoc troubles many years afterwards. What is here related deals about as much with northern California as with southern Oregon, but as has been suggested by Sutton, the two sections are so intimately interlocked historically that it is difficult to treat of either section without including the other. Our next lengthy extract has to deal with Steele's continued services as Indian pacifier, but brings us back nearer home, which means Table Rock.

Table Rock has often been the scene of Indian troubles as well as of Indian treaties. Indian treaties, however, have been like pie crusts, primarily to be broken.

"On the second day of June, 1852, Calvin Woodman was killed by Indians on what is now known as Indian creek. This raised a general alarm among the whites and a company of volunteers was immediately raised at Johnson's ranch, at the lower end of Scott valley. Three days after the murder a collision occurred between the volunteers and the Indians which resulted in killing several horses, wounding S. G. Whipple, acting as sheriff as Siskiyou county. Mr. Steele, learning of the trouble, hurried forward to Johnson's ranch. That night, June 7, a large party of citizens from Scott's bar came over under command of Major Rowe as captain, and proceeded to Yreka. On the next day, however, most of them returned. On Monday, the 10th, Mr. Steele had a talk with the Indians. He induced "Old Tolo," "Chief John" and the three brothers to come into the stockade, which had been erected around Johnson's house. They informed him that the murder had been committed by an Indian from Rogue River and one from Shasta Valley; that they had no desire for war. They proposed to go with him and deliver up the guilty parties if found in the camp of the Shastas, and if not to follow them as long as he would go with them, whereupon Mr. Steele obtained the services of a small company, consisting of John McNeal, James Bruce, (afterwards Major Bruce), James White, Peter Snellback, John Galvin, and a young man remembered as Harry. These men took with them "Old Tolo" and his son, whom they christened "Phillip," and one of John's brothers whom they called "Jim," and started for the canyon on Shasta river. When Mr. Steele and his party arrived at Yreka great excitement was prevailing on account of suspicious movements of the Indians of that vicinity, who had moved with their families into the mountains. Some of the more excitable of the citizens on learning that some Indians had been brought into town called a public meeting for the purpose of taking them away and hanging them. Mr. Steele addressed the meeting and explained his arrangement with the Indians. Judge William A. Robertson and Associate Judges Strowbridge and Patterson, officially authorized Steele to obtain and deliver up the murderers and agreed to pay the expenses out of the county treasury, supposing they would be found within the county. Steele's party was joined by Dr. Jo S. Thompson (late of Jackson county, Oregon), F. W. Merritt and Capt. Ben Wright, the latter being interpreter. The Indians having fled to the mountains, two days were spent in hunting them up and getting them together, when it was learned that the two they were in pursuit of had fled to Rogue river to join Lipsie Ti-ee, inhabiting the Siskiyou mountains and upper portion of the Rogue river valley, and the Rogue Rivers, whom they said were in arms and intended to kill all the whites if Dr. Ambrose would not give his little daughter to Sam's son for a wife. Before starting in pursuit for the fugitives "Old Tolo" and his son and "Jim" proposed to substitute two others in their stead—two active young war-

riors who were better acquainted with the country proffered to obtain and deliver the murderers or suffer punishment in their stead. Steele and cook returned and consulted with Judge Strowbridge. He advised pursuit and Steele set out to join the party. Upon arriving in camp he learned from the Indians that at the time the fugitives left they were undecided whether it would be best for them to flee to upper Klamath or to Rogue river. The Indians offered to raise a band of their own and go to the lake with Ben Wright. After consultation it was agreed to accept their services and for Steele to take his company, numbering nine white men, two Shasta Indians, and a Klickitat, called "Bill," who had come into the country with General Lane. They traveled much in the night through unfrequented routes led by their two young Indian guides whom they christened "Tom" and "Jack." In crossing the Siskiyou mountains they met a Rogue River Indian with his bow strung and arrows ready for immediate use, and surrounded him before he was aware of their presence. The guides talked to him awhile and learned that the Indians they were after had gone to Sam's band on Rogue river, and this Indian was a runner going over to induce the Shastas and Scotts Rivers to join "Sam" and "Topsie" against whites. Orders were given to disarm him and the Indians were instructed to explain to him the state of affairs and tell him he must go back with them to the agent of Rogue River valley, Judge Skinner. When they attempted to disarm him he snatched a Colt's six shooter from Mr. Galvin and commenced firing at the men in quick succession, but fortunately doing no damage. He then broke loose and fled up the mountains. He was pursued by the men but it was found he could travel faster than men on horseback. Therefore, Bill was ordered to dismount and follow him on foot, and if he could not overtake and detain him until the rest of the party came up, to shoot him. Bill followed him for about half a mile, and seeing he was about to make his escape, shot him.

After passing the summit of the Siskiyou they fell in with a son of Topsie's, who was out reconnoitering, and took him prisoner. After descending into Rogue river valley they were met by Dr. C. Hillman and another gentleman who informed them that large numbers of Old Joe's tribe were gathered in arms on Big Bar, near Table Rock, and that the citizens under Captain Lamerick were also under arms on the opposite side of the river, and wished to hasten to render their assistance. Dr. Hillman and companion proceeded to Yreka to procure ammunition, and Steele and party pushed on with all possible speed for the scene of the trouble.

"About one mile from the bar they met Judge A. A. Skinner, who urged them forward, as he said "matters looked desperate." Mr. Steele made known the object of his visit, and asked him in case an arrangement were made with the Indians, that provision be made for the return of the murderers of which they were in pursuit. The agent agreed and they arrived at sundown and camped for the night. On the following morning Judge Skinner arrived, and after a short consultation, they sent Tom across the river, who, after a short time succeeded in inducing Sam, Joe, and a number of their warriors to come over and have a talk. While over there Tom saw and talked with the fugitives. After these Indians had been with them a short time, others began to come over, all well armed, many having guns and revolvers, until there were nearly 200 mixed with the men. Sam then demanded that the two prisoners captured on the mountain be set at liberty as a preliminary step to the "talk." Whereupon Judge Skinner ordered Mr. Steele to restore their guns and pistols and let them go. Steele, knowing full well the bad policy of such a course, and advantage the retention of the prisoners would be to him, refused to comply with the demand, unless the murderers be given up in their stead."

Location of Bushes. It makes a great deal of difference where the currant or gooseberry bushes are to be located when one considers their treatment.

Tops of Bushes. The tops of the gooseberry bushes or currants should be cut back so that they extend only about eight or ten inches above the soil when set.

Dust for Strawberry Weevil. Dusting with powdered sulphur is suggested for the strawberry weevil.

GOOD LUMBER

Shingles

Roofing Paper

Find out OUR price

The Valley Lumber Company

West F Street

Phone 47

RURAL NEWS NOTES

ROGUE RIVER

A committee representing the Ladies Civic Improvement Club met with the executive committee of the Community Club at the home of A. R. Brashear last Tuesday evening and decided to hold a Harvest Home Festival sometime during the last two weeks in October. A day and evening will be taken up by this festival, and it is expected that a large exhibit from the different communities around Rogue River will be displayed. The Ladies of the Civic Improvement Club were given sole charge of the refreshments, the Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian Church is to have charge of the evening entertainment, the School Faculty to conduct the sports and athletic program for the afternoon and the Executive Committee of the Community Club to have charge of the exhibits, speaking and discussion of local topics interesting to the people of the community. It is expected that a large crowd will be present and the proceeds will be used in the furnishing up of the Community Hall building.

Miss Magtha Brown, Vice Principal and Dean of Girls of the Union High School of Thermo, Coachella Valley, California, accompanied by Rev. David P. Martin, Miss Isabel Martin and her chauffeur, Jack Brobach, left here Wednesday morning of last week destined for the Santa Clara Valley, California. These persons had a very pleasant visit with relatives and friends in this vicinity for about three weeks. On the 23rd of this month Rev. David Martin left San Francisco on the Pacific Mail Steamer "President Lincoln" for Tokyo, Japan, where he will take up work as a missionary.

The City Council, at its last regular meeting, accepted the bid of Sam Sandry for the sinking of a shaft and the running of a tunnel, the purpose being to increase the water supply for the city. This work, when completed, will cost in the neighborhood of \$1500, but it is hoped sufficient water will be available to care for all the present needs and make extension of the water system.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Freed left here last week for Oregon City, at which place they will make their home. Mr. Freed has bought a mercantile business in that place and reports are that he is doing well and they like their new location. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Freed were prominent in all the city activities and we are sorry that they found it necessary to leave, and their many friends wish them success in the new field.

Rev. William Lee Gray and family returned last Friday from their vacation which they spent in the Willamette Valley, principally around Carlton and Yamhill. Mrs. Gray's mother owns a walnut grove in that vicinity. They all report having a good time on their vacation and saw some nice places, but say they are glad to get back to Rogue River again. Mr. Gray will occupy his pulpit at Hope Presbyterian Church next Sunday morning and services will be held as usual.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin C. Browne will leave here for Yreka where Mr. Browne will take up his school work for the year. Browne in addition to his other achievements, has proven that he is a real bear hunter. This last week he made two trips to town and each time brought with him a

DEER CREEK

The friends of Mrs. A. Hanseth will regret to hear that they have said their big ranch on Deer Creek and will be leaving the neighborhood about October first. They will probably make their home in Crescent City for the winter. Mr. Frank Lima and family have purchased the Hanseth place and will take possession October 1. They will be gladly received into this community.

Cecil Harmon returned to Grants Pass Saturday night after a visit to his grand parents at Deer Park Ranch.

Mrs. C. Messenger and sons Harold Messenger and Clarence Scherer and Mrs. Mae Hutchins visited the Oregon Caves Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harmon and little son, Clifford, spent Sunday with Carlos Harmon at his attractive ranch home near Murphy.

Mrs. A. Hanseth, Mrs. H. N. Parker and Marion Crooks were shopping in Grants Pass Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Baird spent Tuesday in Grants Pass.

Martin Williams and daughter, Lillian and R. L. Tolin returned on Tuesday from a visit to Crater Lake, Klamath Falls, Medford and Grants Pass.

John Harmon returned to his home in town Saturday night, after having spent several weeks in Deer Creek in the employ of the Herman Krauss lumber company.

Fernand Larimore spent Sunday with his mother in Grants Pass.

Leo Banks has been visiting friends near Dryden.

Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Parker have returned from a trip to the coast.

Allegria Ausland has been visiting Miss Flora Tolin.

The Herman Krauss lumber mill is shutting down this week after a fairly successful season. Difficulty in drying lumber is the cause of the early closing.

V. C. Brown of Sucker creek visited Dryden Monday.

Mrs. Will Mastin and children Robert and Joyce spent Tuesday in Grants Pass.

Charles Walton is expected out soon for a visit to relatives, before leaving for Oakland, California, where she will make her home.

The Modern Housewife

knows the value of a bank account.

She has a checking account at this bank and pays her bills at her own desk by a scratch of the pen.

The checks she writes are her receipts, which the bank returns to her at the end of the month. The stubs which she retains in her check book are her record of the transactions. She never has to pay a bill twice.

She always finds this a real banking home.

Grants Pass & Josephine Bank

are guests of their brother Marion Crooks. Mrs. C. Messenger and family were shopping in town Monday.

FERRYDALE

Mrs. Howard, of Denver, Colo., who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Dan Falvey, for some time, left last week to visit a daughter at Los Angeles.

Mr. Van Dolah has friends visiting him from Columbia City, Ore. M. E. Hunt was calling on Will Anderson Wednesday evening.

Clarence Emrie, of Aberdeen, Wash., is visiting relatives here at the present.

Chas. Whitteff sold his pears to a Medford man and is busy harvesting them now.

Jack Beards, of Grants Pass, is visiting the Hussey boys.

Delbert McClure, of Medford, is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Helm.

TOURIST GROCERY

(Also Cigars and Confections)

HOME OF THE

"MILK SHIMMIE" 10c

510 South Sixth St. L. A. Ringette Phone 121-R

THE BUSINESS END OF THE TOWN

WELDING

MACHINE WORK

Guaranteed auto repairing by expert mechanics

AMENT'S AUTO REPAIR SHOP

ELECTRICAL WORK

REBORING

Night and Day Towing

DAY PHONE 113-J

NIGHT PHONE 252-R