

Scraps of Oregon History

By Dan L. Green

In May, 1855, southern Oregon was visited by a host of Oregon's best speakers, all of them coming on horseback, some coming from as far north as Portland. Horse or mule back was the only mode of travel in those days, on account of the almost impassible condition of the roads.

Giving an idea of the actual condition of the roads, the only road leading from Roseburg to Jacksonville passed through the Cow creek canyon a distance of ten miles, the road being actually in the bed of the creek for a distance of one-half mile. The creek was very rapid and rocky for the entire distance. The creek, being situated in a narrow gorge, was forded a great many times. During the rainy season this spot was often impassible, from high water. On such occasions, of course the traffic accumulated at Canyonville on the north and at Hardy Ellif road station on the south.

Among this party of political speakers was George Williams, noted lawyer of Portland, Oregon. Mr. Williams was regarded as one of Oregon's best speakers as well as being the best lawyer in the territory.

He received the appointment of attorney general during President Grant's administration, and filled the place with all due honors.

Asael Bush, another of this party, was territorial printer of Oregon and filled this position for many years after Oregon was admitted to the Union as a state.

D. F. Grover, also a member of the party was a prominent man in the early days of Oregon history. He was a prominent member of the delegation which framed the constitution of Oregon. In the year of 1874 he was elected governor of Oregon, then to the U. S. Senate in 1876.

Another member of the party was Colonel Joseph Nesmith, a noted person in early days of Oregon. He took an active part in the building up of the state of Oregon from its territorial infancy, until his death. He was also Oregon's first U. S. senator.

The principal speaker of the party was Dellegan Smith, who, it was said, was a prominent preacher of the gospel as well as a great political speaker. It was claimed that his equal as an orator and public speaker could not be found in the west.

In this party was also a very live and wide awake Irish newspaper man by the name of O'Merar, a writer of interesting articles for the different papers in Oregon and California.

This campaign party spoke at Kerby, Sailor Diggins, now the town of Waldo, and Althouse. The talks were principally confined to the pending election and its different measures, two of which the writer well remembers. One was the state constitution for its ratification or rejection. This measure was carried by a large majority. The other was a question of slavery which was defeated by a large majority. The next day being Sunday, the whole party stayed at Kerby for the day, a number of the party putting in a good portion of the day running over the hills back of town cutting manzanita walking sticks to take back to their different homes in northern Oregon.

It transpired a short time after this delegation returned home, that there were provisions made to repair the road from Roseburg, Oregon, to the California line. In a short time a large force of men and teams were strung along the road with Colonel Joseph Hooker, as superintendent of the work. The entire summer of 1858 was put in on this job and resulted in a vast improvement over the old road, particularly between Myrtle creek and Cow creek canyon. Colonel Hooker put an end to traveling in the bed of the creek.

At the breaking out of the Civil war, Colonel Hooker and Lieutenant Phil Sheridan returned east and later, as it is well known, were ranked high as generals in the Union army.

The writer of this article has heard it remarked by a few that the rank and file of the old pioneers who came to Oregon and Washington were just a restless and discontented class of people, who were satisfied only when they were hooked up to a covered wagon and on the move. Such was not the case. A large percent of these old sturdy people were professional men and people who were high in the usual walks of life.

Among the early settlers of Jackson and Josephine counties are to be named the following list of physicians: Dr. Thompson, Overbeck, Chapin, Akin, Brooks, Davis, and Colvig, most of whom made their homes in the old historic town of Jacksonville. They all bore the name of being well skilled in their profes-

sion. I will mention one instance which certainly called for skillful work on the part of the surgeon. Two rough characters, Furd Patterson and George Wells fell out over a game of cards. Both went at each other with their guns. By the time their five shooters were empty the men were lying on the floor. Dr. Brooks who was near by went to work on them. It was said that he took from Patterson's lungs a number of slivers of bone from his ribs. This happened at Sailor Diggins. Patterson was said to be the most desperate character in all that country, having already killed several men before this tragedy. Wells was not considered a bad man but was one of those gritty little men that would stand his ground and shoot it to a finish with the worst of them. The writer met both of these men a number of times, but like many others always gave Patterson a wide berth. Dr. Brooks put both of them on their feet again. Patterson lived to kill two or three more men, but finally came to his end, one of his enemies met him at Umatilla Landing, in eastern Oregon and shot him while he was setting in a barber's chair being shaved. At the breaking out of the Civil war Dr. Brooks went back and was soon in the front ranks in the Union army as one of the leading surgeons.

Judge J. C. Reed engaged quite extensively in mining as well as in the practice of law. He was the person who procured the water right and mine patents to the Old Channel mine at Galice creek in Josephine County, Oregon.

Judge Prim was one of Jackson creek's earliest gold miners. The same is to be said of Judge Harman at Waldo. Going back to the old town of Kerby with its gold mine of historical events to refer to, I will mention that in the year of 1858 or 1859 Barnum's circus came to Kerby, putting up the tent just a short distance from, and in front of the old Pioneer school house. The impression of the tent ring, I am told, is still visible. The elephants walked over Hays hill by the old, old road.

I sometimes think that there should have been more pains taken to preserve the old landmarks of Kerby or other parts of the country, for instance the old jail, for many years the only solid structure Josephine county possessed. Many hard characters have been locked up in the old wooden jail and no one ever escaped. One murderer who was sentenced to prison for life, managed to tear up his bedding and hang himself the night before the sheriff was to start with him for the penitentiary. This structure was built of hewn logs and constructed very high with two cells in the upper story. It was said that after working all night a bunch of tough characters told the sheriff next morning that the old Kerby jail was the hardest end nut to crack that they had ever been in. During my stay in the sheriff's office I often used one of the cells as a safe place to keep large sums of money, for a short time. This old landmark like many others has long ago been wrecked and taken down without even taking a picture of it.

The very oldest cemeteries in the county were made up principally by men who lost their lives by defending themselves and their families against savage Indians. There are two such places in Josephine county. One at the old fort or stage station on Grave creek. The other at old Fort Hays, south of Hays hill. Both places are at this time almost obliterated.

Among the old pioneer lawyers of Jackson and Josephine counties, were Judge P. P. Prim, J. C. Reed, James D. Fay, Tom Rent, Ed Wattson, Wm. Colvig, Judge H. R. Hannant, and Judge Webster. Judges Prim, Hannant and Webster each occupied the circuit judge's bench for many years, Prim being the senior judge of the three. These people were all highly respected and beloved by all who knew them. Reed visited Crater Lake shortly after its discovery, and it is claimed by many that he wrote the finest description of that wonderful spot that has ever been penned. The most of this list of sturdy pioneers have crossed the river of death many years ago.

Odd Form of Punishment

In the days when it was customary to bestow the title "Mrs." on all women of mature years, whether married or unmarried, deprivation of the prefixes Mr. and Mrs. was among the punishments enforced in the American colonies, says the Detroit News. The records of Massachusetts show that in 1680 Josias Plinestowe was condemned "for stealing four baskets of corn from the Indians, to return them eight baskets again, to be fined five pounds and hereafter to be called Josias, not Mr., as he used to be."

Though the penal code also provided for depriving women of the prefix, there is no record of this clause having been enforced.

Tennis Stars at Forest Hills, L. I.



Some of the entrants in the championship tennis games held at Forest Hills, L. I. Left to right, are—Miss Jessup, Miss Goss, Miss Helen Wills and Mrs. Wightman.

Grigsby Is No Slouch



Denver Grigsby patrols the left garden for the Chicago National league team. He became prominent this year. All flies look alike to him, and he's no slouch with the stick.

BASEBALL SQUIBS

John Dowell, manager of the Cairo team of the Kitty league, has resigned.

Leo (Red) Page, rookie shortstop, has been sent to Hartford of the Eastern league, by Toledo.

Jacob Ruppert was re-elected president of the New York American Baseball club at a special meeting of the board.

When Louisville defeated St. Paul 25 to 0 in the game of August 15 a new record was hung up for the American association.

Claude Freeman, pitching for Laurel in the Cotton States league, held Brookhaven to no hits and no runs, winning his game, 1 to 0.

Bob McMenemy, St. Paul, formerly a member of the St. Paul club of the American association, has been signed by the Milwaukee club of the American association.

With Lu Blue laid up, Ty Cobb has started negotiations with St. Paul in an effort to recall Johnny Neun. Neun has been leading the American association in hitting most of the season.

A deal whereby Rochester was to get Second Baseman Arlie Butler from Bridgeport of the Eastern league, has been called off because of the refusal of the veteran player to join the Tribe.

Herschell Bennett, young St. Louis outfielder, who is suffering from a broken arm may have to undergo the knife to have fragments of the bone removed. The wound has not knitted properly.

Rochester has purchased T. P. Osborne, a second baseman from Mt. Pleasant of the East Texas league. The records of the league show him hitting .433 for 100 games. Forty-four of his hits have been doubles and 29 home runs.

President Robertson of the Buffalo International league club is making an effort to obtain Hughie Jennings, assistant manager of the Giants, and former Detroit pilot, to take charge of the Bisons in 1925.

Reading has signed Pitcher Reynolds J. Kelly, a right-hander, who was given a trial with the Athletics. He is a brother of George Kelly of the Giants, and was with Gastonia of the Sally league last season.

Joe Dawson, Kansas City pitcher, has been claimed by Louisville at the winter price of \$3,000. Dawson recently was given a 30-day trial by Cleveland, but failed to make good and was returned to Kansas City.

Walter Johnson Far Better Hurler Today

"Walter Johnson is a far better pitcher today than when I broke into the American league," says Babe Ruth, champion slugger of the universe. "When I first faced Johnson he was a speed ball pitcher," continued Ruth. "Now, no pitcher in the American league mixes them up better. In the old days against Johnson I used to get set for a healthy swing, as I felt pretty certain I would have nothing but fast ones served me. Now it is entirely different. Johnson has a mighty good curve that he breaks in on the bat handle of the left handers. His slow ball upsets entirely the batter who is looking for speed."

Walter Hagen Preferred Baseball to Golf Game

Walter Hagen, whose recent victory in the British open golf championship crowned him again as the world's leading golfer, started out to be a baseball player. In a chat with Christy Mathewson, president of the Boston Nationals, Hagen confessed an ambition never realized.

"My great ambition," he said, "was to be a big league pitcher like you. Golf was a far away part of thing then and I practiced that drop curve ball until it got my elbow. Then I put in a lot of time practicing batting and tried to see how far I could follow through the course of the ball. That's what I try to do now in golf."

Matty observed that until his illness some years ago, he was a passably good golfer.

Yanks Get Atlanta Star



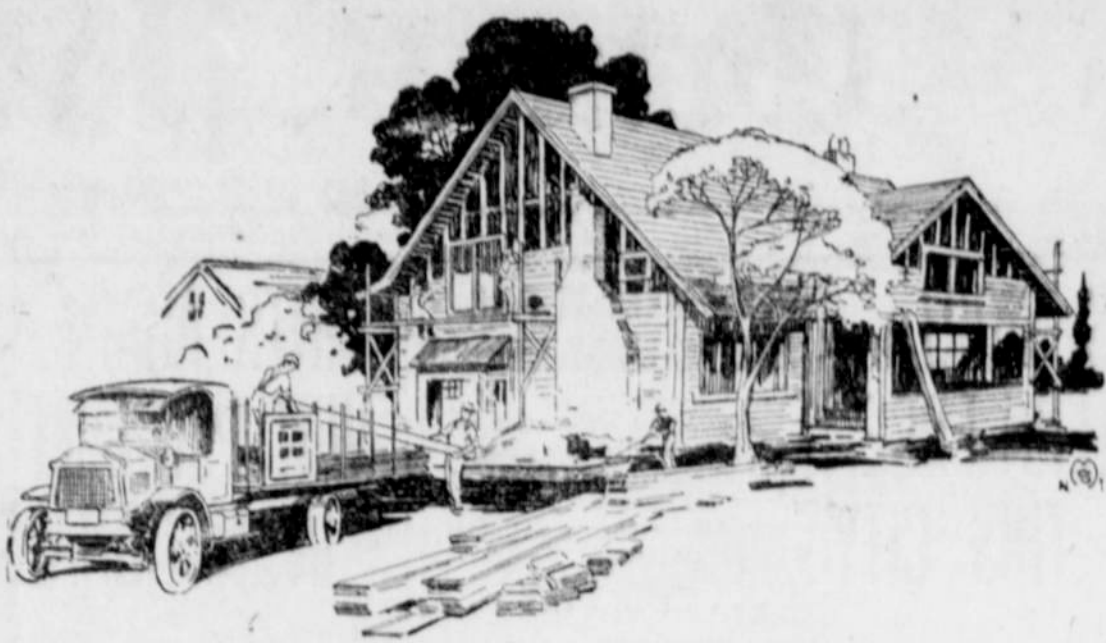
Ben Paschal, left fielder on the Atlanta (Ga.) club, who has been sold to the New York Yankees for a sum said to be \$20,000. Paschal is regarded as a second Babe Ruth, hits either right or left handed and is regarded as one of the best all-around ball players in the Southern leagues.

Reward Popular Player

A committee of Brooklyn fans has been organized for the purpose of expressing in concrete form the popularity of James Harle Johnson, versatile member of the Brooklyn Dodgers. This committee intends to present to Johnson a high-class automobile as a reward for his services in the cause of the Dodgers. A popular subscription has been started heartily endorsed by President Elberts and the McKeever brothers, owners of the Brooklyn club.

Ohio Awards Golf Letters

On the Ohio State golf team, the four members of which have been recommended for varsity "O's," are Clifford and Gifford King of Coahuaton, twin brothers and considered two of the best college golfers in the Midwest. The other members of the team who have been recommended for their letters by Coach George Eckelberry are Robert S. Rogers of Toledo and Gino Patrizio of Oakwood, Pa.



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Pearls Gathered in Many Parts of World

The pearl is a globular concretion found in the shells of certain bivalve mollusks, highly valued for ornamental purposes, and classed among gems. The principal sources of pearls are the pearl oyster, found throughout the Pacific ocean; the pearl mussel; and the freshwater mussel. The chief pearl fisheries are those of Ceylon, carried on principally in the Gulf of Mannar. Those of the Persian gulf were known to the ancients. Pearls are also obtained from the Sulu archipelago, northeastern Borneo; New Guinea, Gulf of Mexico, and Australia. Native divers descend 90 or 70 feet, weighted by a stone and lowered from a boat by a rope. They carry a net and gather the pearl oysters in it. They remain below for 30 or 40 seconds at a time, and are hoisted to the surface after signaling with a rope. The oysters are allowed to rot on the bench in the sun's rays. Then in seven or ten days the decayed oysters are searched for pearls.

Artificial pearls are largely made in France, Germany, and Italy, by blowing a thin globe of glass and filling it with a solution of ammonia and fish scales.

Prometheus

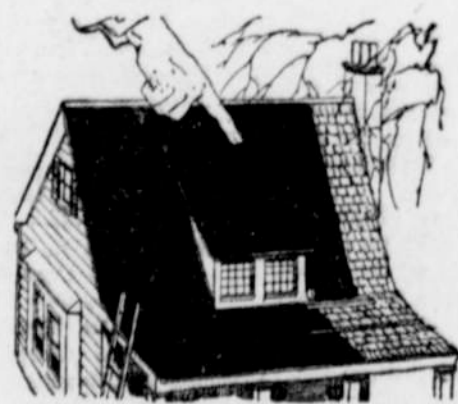
The word Prometheus, the name of a character in Grecian mythology, means forethought, and forethought is the father of invention. According to the Grecian tradition, Prometheus taught man the use of fire, and instructed him in architecture, astronomy, mathematics, writing, rearing cattle, navigation, medicine, the art of prophecy, working metal, and indeed, every art known to man. The tale is that he made man of clay, and in order to endow his clay with life, stole fire from heaven and brought it to earth in a hollow tube. Zeus, who in Grecian mythology corresponds to Jupiter in the Roman mythology, in punishing Prometheus, chained him to a rock, and sent an eagle to consume his liver daily. During the night it grew again, and thus the torment of Prometheus was ceaseless, until Hercules shot the eagle, and unchained the captive.

Shakespeare or Bacon?

A heated discussion arose in the Nineteenth century from an attempt, on the part of Miss Della Bacon, to prove that Lord Francis Bacon was the author of the plays commonly attributed to Shakespeare. William H. Smith, an English scholar; Nathaniel Holmes, in his "Authorship of Shakespeare," and Mrs. Henry Holmes have also followed in the same direction. In 1888 Ignatius Donnelly produced his work entitled "The Great Cryptogram," wherein he endeavored to show "that Bacon's authorship is avowed under a cypher in the text of the plays in the folio of 1623." Shakespearean scholars do not accept the Baconian theory of authorship.

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