

Pioneer Miners In Coos Black Sands

By R. M. Harrison

(Continued from last week)

The long and hazardous journey of this, the Morrison train, was not without mishaps, which brought sorrow and tears to those who were spared to move on, for in two or more instances, the cold cruel hand of the Redman took its toll, while along the Platte river some little fresh mounds of earth were left behind, to mark the spot where the deadly breath of cholera had played its role.

That long and tedious summer of '49 was on the wane when the little caravan had topped the great Rocky Mountain range and was traveling down the streams that flowed into the great blue Pacific and which brought a new hope to the hearts of the brave men and women, for they felt that they were nearing their goal and that they had conquered the dangers that lay out on those broad plains which they had now left behind them.

In a pleasant little valley, down along the Truckee river, where the grass was still green, the caravan of covered wagons, about 30 in all, was circled around in the usual style, to form a corral for the stock, as well as to make a barrier against any attack or surprise by the Indians.

To the weary travelers this camp was a real haven of rest, for themselves, as well as for the weary and footsore herds and the faithful old bovine which had bent to the creaking yokes for these many, many long and blistering miles of barren soil and scanty browse.

There being plenty of green feed for the stock and a splendid place to rest up, it was decided to remain there for a week, while all hands could have a regular wash up, clean-up time, which was so badly needed.

While on the week's rest and vacation, some of the men had traveled about the locality and, by meeting a number of travelers and having heard their stories of the great opportunities in the different sections of the country, and from the fact that many of them were travel weary, they had decided to settle on the first favorable spot and in the evenings, at their camp fires, there would be considerable discussion of the matter. So as the train proceeded farther along it became less and less until when they came to where the Oregon trail branched off, there were but four wagons left in the train to finish the run into the wilds of Oregon.

On arriving at Phoenix, they found a rather smothered excitement and heard hints to the effect that a man the southwestern part of the Oregon territory could be reached and that, only by horse back, as there was no road over which they could take the wagons and it was here that the party stripped down to horseback and pack animals for their last lap on the long and tiresome journey. It was about mid-autumn when the little horseborne caravan, about a dozen animals, strung out over the trail over the Siskiyou mountains.

Reaching the Rogue river valley, about the present site of Jacksonville, they found a little settlement of whites—rendezvoused and stockaded against any attack from the Indians, who at that time were showing some dislike for the rapidly increasing paleface population.

This little settlement at that time was called Phoenix, in honor of the first settler there, whose name was Phoenix Coldiron, a member of some Hudson Bay outfit and a partner of the famous French explorer and trapper, Petro Rouge, for which the Rogue river was named.

On arriving at Phoenix, they found a rather smothered excitement and heard hints to the effect that a man by name of Emmett Jackson had found some yellow metal in a stream bed where he was digging a water hole, which was believed to be gold. Some of the wise ones had called it brass, as gold never comes in chunks, but in fine dust, and since Jimmie Morrison was captain and leader of the caravan, his council was sought in the matter and he turned it down, saying that there was no red sand with it.

There was considerable discussion on the matter among the members of the caravan during their night's stay at Phoenix, and two of its members, Malcom Eaton, and Hank Cantrell, believing that it was gold, decided to stay and try their luck at mining, and on the following day set their stakes on a gulch claim which still bears the name Cantrell's gulch, which later proved to be very rich in gold.

The remainder of the caravan pulled on over the old Indian trail and struck the coast at the mouth of Sequoachin river (now Elk river), a few miles north of Port Orford, where they found a few white settlers, and here, too, they had some little difficulty with some young Braves who sought to drive off some of the pack animals from their camp during the night, and several shots were fired at the Red-

skins as they ran away, with no telling of results; but one of the men, Lute Williams, received a very painful wound in his side, from an arrow which left the flint buried in the flesh. Williams' condition became very serious during the night, and the caravan took an early start the following morning, as they had heard that there was a military post at Randolph on the Coquille river, where they hoped to get medical aid for the wounded man, and after an all-day's forced march, with their tired-out animals, and very sick man, they reached the little post just about nightfall, and with the splendid luck found an army doctor, who extracted the "war head" and put the patient back on the road to recovery.

At this time, there was a company of Oregon Mounted Volunteers from the 2nd Regiment, under command of Adjutant C. S. Drew, which was ready to take care of any irregularity that might spring up in that region, which was naturally expected from the natives, as the rapidly increasing influx of the pale face, was giving the Indians some concern, and Randolph was selected for the army post, the site being at the lower end of the river island, which afforded an abundant of feed for the stock, and was also a barrier against the animals scattering out, or of being driven off by the Indians.

So tense was the situation, at that time, between the whites and the reds, that a resolution from the citizens of Randolph, in the late 40's caused the 36th Congress in Senate Miscellaneous Document No. 59, to pass the following resolution: "Resolved: That if any person or persons shall sell, give, barter or in any manner dispose of any gun, rifle, pistol, carbine or other firearms or any powder, lead, caps or other ammunition, to any Indian or Indians, such person or persons so offending shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor and shall receive for the first offense thirty-nine lashes upon the bare back, and for the second offense, shall suffer death."

Jimmie's several years absence from that region, was quite noticeable to him, as there was a semblance of civilization taking form, and while he had met a few natives, he had noticed that the friendliness toward him was greatly lacking, and only one of his old time friends would talk to him in any friendly way, and then it would be only in a complaining way, about the pale face taking away his hunting ground, and too many "calapene poc-mowich," but Jimmie was more interested in the matter of the Moore home on Little Waters, and on the first night's arrival at Randolph he chanced to meet an old friend, sub-chief Jumping Crab, from whom he got the full story of affairs around the Little Waters region. Especially, the former home of the Moore's, about which, by the old Indian's story, a great mystery had developed in the old cabin, and for several moons the Indians had been terror stricken and had abandoned that neck of the woods.

It appeared that after the death of Moore and his Mahala, after Jimmie had gone, a great white bird had taken up its abode in the deserted home, and when anyone entered the place this bird would make grimaces at him, and show no signs of trying to get away, but would sit there throughout the entire day, as if on duty. Owing to the condition of Williams, with his arrow wound, it was necessary to keep him quiet for a time, and it was decided to set up a camp at Randolph and keep him there until he was able to travel again, and while it was only the matter of about five miles to their final goal, they could ride the distance to and from the camp, until they could arrange better living facilities at the new camp.

(Continued next week)

Townsend Club No. 2

Townsend Club, No. 2, met with the president, Mrs. Alma Halter last Thursday and opened with the Lord's prayer and salute to the flag. At the business session ten renewals of membership were reported and the total new and reinstated the past few meetings has reached 50.

A visitor from southern California was Edith Brummett, who is a Townsend member of long standing. Another visitor was Bertha Wilson, of Coquille, and others present were: Maude Brockman, Alma Halter, Mary Keck, Lillian Roth, Elsie Hickam, Mildred Miller, Florence BeNoma, Dorothy Waterman, Emma Lou Roth, Margaret Ann Roth and David Miller.

The club is making Christmas plans and all members are requested to bring what they can for the Christmas sale at the next meeting which will be at the home of Mary Keck on Thursday, Nov. 18. Meeting starts at two o'clock.—Club Secretary.

Hand-carved Myrtlewood for collectors at Harbison's.

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., November 6, 1943—Very shortly there will be considerable discussion of the proposed revision of the existing soldier voting bill (Public Law 712 approved September 16, 1942). To date these bills, companion bills in House and Senate, have only been under heavy discussion in the legislative committee to which they were assigned. Very shortly there will be plenty of discussion of them.

In spite of the fact that nearly every member of the Congress would gladly make it more easily possible for the men in the armed forces to cast a ballot in the 1944 elections, the bills mentioned are highly controversial—more than that, they are highly political.

Prepared by the administration, and with the heat from "down town" obviously on them, they will doubtless be reported out soon. The administration wants such a bill passed.

Here are some of the provisions of H. R. 3438:

An all powerful War Ballot Commission appointed by the President and consisting of three Democrats and two Republicans would administer the law.

Voting would not be done by name of candidate but either by straight ticket or by writing in the names.

All citizens overseas whether in the armed forces or not would come under the provisions of the bill, including Merchant Mariner.

State voting laws would be completely disregarded.

Since the name of only one Presidential candidate is really well known, it is pretty easy to guess how the ballot mentioned above would work.

The argument is made that the present soldier voting law is not adequate, that state absentee ballot provisions are not practical for permitting service men to vote and that the soldier voting law passed last session did not work.

Most Secretaries of State believe that recent legislative action in the various states has fixed up state absentee voting laws so that they will permit service men to vote.

It is true that only a few ballots were cast by soldiers using the war ballots provided under the soldier voting law passed late in 1942. That law never had a chance to work. It was approved September 16—just 47 days before the election. The paper administrative work had to be done and the ballots and everything else had to be printed and distributed all over the world AND BACK in time for the election. It just could not be done—but it is now pointed out by the administration forces that the law did not work and therefore this new proposal must be enacted.

Politically the proposed voting bills are dynamite—or at least may be so regarded by many members of Congress. Nearly every member wants to have the service men vote and he knows the people at home and the service men themselves feel the same way. But members on both sides of the aisle will certainly balk at the proposed change in the law if it is reported to the floor in its present form.

The alumina-from-clay plants, discussed at much length in my recent weekly letters, were approved—or were they? I understand that two, the one in Wyoming and the one in South Carolina, are going ahead. But the one for the Northwest is not yet located. The location of the plant in the Northwest has been referred to

state War Urgency Committees in Oregon and in Washington. It is expected by the Washington, D. C., authorities that the two states will agree on a plant location in one of the states. Maybe they will—but it looks like a long delaying battle to me.

Then, too, we must not overlook the fact that when the WPB approved construction of these three plants it did so with the proviso that essential or critical materials and labor would not be used.

In other words, WPB has not yet come completely "clean" on these alumina-from-clay projects, but has, it seems to me, rather grudgingly approved them.

Republicans were elated over the recent eastern elections. The state that gave G. O. P. members the greatest cheer was Kentucky which not even the Republican optimists really expected would elect a Republican governor. In spite of the claims of the Fourth Term advocates that the elections were purely local and did not indicate any national trend, it is a fact that the question of approving or disapproving the New Deal administration was injected into all three state elections—New York, New Jersey and Kentucky.

Only two major bills will be considered between now and the adjournment of this session—the new tax bill and the Commodity Credit bill—the latter involves the highly controversial subsidy issue.

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STARTS SUNDAY — ROXY

DIXIE
IS COMING FROM
PARAMOUNT

Power Drill For Coal Testing

The County-State Coal Survey, which during the last four months has drilled over 6000 feet of hole in its exploration for stripping coal deposits, and has proven some 150,000 tons of shallow coal available on two properties located near Riverton and

near Marshfield, has now received a new power drill which will supplement and accelerate the drilling work that up to the present has been done entirely by hand.

The new drill, which was manufactured at St. Helens, was brought onto the job last week at Riverton, where it will drill several deep holes to complete the exploration at that project. It will then be moved to the old Englewood property near Marshfield to drill holes varying from 50 to 150 feet in depth. The drill will be in charge of J. E. Cleaver, engineer who has had many years of drilling experience in the California oil fields, according to John Elliot Allen, in charge of the Survey.

Preliminary exploration is also going on in the South Slough area south of Charleston, in the Alder Creek area south of Riverton, in the Fishtrap Creek region south of Coquille, and in the Catching Slough region.

Word has been received that the U. S. Bureau of Mines engineers and the U. S. Geological Survey geologists, who are to supervise a separate \$100,000 drilling of deep coal in the Coos Bay area, are due to arrive within the next few days.

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This is a
**GENUINE
Clearance**

(It Conforms in Every
Way with the Rules
and Regulations of the
WPB and the OPA)

Even in these days of
merchandise shortages,
every store is occasionally
apt to find itself with
too much merchandise on
hand in some depart-
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hands of those who can
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