

Pioneer Miners In Coos Black Sands

By R. M. Harrison

(Continued from last week)

Among the relics found in the natives' possessions along the coast were some of the old Hudson Bay muskets, and carved on the stock of one of these old fowling pieces was the name, Dedakiah Smith, June 3, 1931. On inquiry of the natives, it was found that a party of whites had been through the territory with animals, travelling northward, and that they had remained for some days at the river, trying to effect a crossing, as the water was high, and after crossing had given one of the natives this old fire arm, to escort them beyond the tribe's hunting ground, which was a half days "slatawa" walk. It was later disclosed that the Smith party had passed through the region, evidently headed for the Hudson Bay's trading post at or near the mouth of what is now the Umpqua river, possibly at the site of Elkton, but before reaching that place, they were set upon by a posse of hostile braves, and only a few of them managed to escape with their lives. Among them was the captain, Smith. It is quite evident that the Hudson Bay Co. had operated, to some considerable extent, along the coast from the Rogue river, up the coast to the Umpqua, as this district was very rich, along the streams in beavers and mink while the mountain regions teemed with martin and fisher, as well as bear and cougar, which of course, were not desirable as the smaller and richer furs, and for this the Hudson Bay people deserve a great deal of credit for having blazed the first trails out through that vast domain, known to us as the northwest.

By the mid 50's the beach mining along the coast had got into full sway, and a labor shortage was quite evident from a letter received in San Francisco via steamer Republic, written at Port Orford O. T., April 23, 1855, which read as follows: "In two previous letters I desired you to look up and send laborers, that the miners at Cape Blanco were opening their beach claims and were very much in need of help, but the steamers come, and touch here without leaving any passengers. How is this? Are you all so busy in San Francisco that 20 or 30 men cannot be spared from your numbers? At Randolph, too, the same complaint is heard; almost every one of the old beach claims is being opened by the owners and they are sadly in need of help. Sixty dollars and board a month is offered as wages with sure and steady work insured for good men. If no persons can be found that are willing to leave San Francisco on these conditions, two of the principal miners at Blanco will return to your place by the next trip of the Republic, and engage Chinese to do the work."

Another item on mining, published in the "Umpqua Gazette," under date of August 24, 1855, read as follows: "A correspondent writing from Whalesburg, gives the following account of the mining operations at the mouth of Rogue river: This mining district is probably the best yet discovered on the coast, but one of the greatest obstacles is the lack of water to operate the claims. It is hoped that a water ditch, now being dug, that will bring water from Indian creek, will soon be completed and will furnish water for a full size operation. The scarcity of labor is another serious drawback and as we have only semi-monthly service from San Francisco, via Crescent City and Port Orford, it makes a problem in the way of getting supplies. Politically we exercise a decided influence in this county, casting 70 per cent of the 200 votes cast in the June election. No prevailing sickness, except beach fever, a disease quickly adjusted by the medical skill of Dr. McWhite."

In the late 50's there was a decided rush from the beach mines to that of the Johnson creek and Sixes river mines, as the coarse gold in those diggins was much more easy to separate from the sand than that of the beach mines, and, too, some of the nuggets were large enough to be worth as much as a month's wages. The beach mines directly north of the Coquille river, especially those along the beach from Cut creek, on up to the mouth of Whiskey Run, the distance of about two miles, were very rich, but owing to the lack of water to operate sluices, the miners were handicapped by having to take their sand to water which would be some distances away, and too, there was in some places considerable overburden, which was wont to shift about, on any rough weather or high tide, and as the rich sand ran well out into the sea, some of the low beaches could only be worked on the low tide; but for all these drawbacks, the early day beach miners took a great many thousand dollars from these beaches.

After the discovery of the Pioneer, or Lane mine, which is about two miles inland from the present beach, and about 170 feet above sea level,

the miners took to the streams that had cut through the ancient sea beach, and as a result, several other back beach mines were discovered, among which were the Eagle mine, the Rose mine, Chickamen mine, as well as a number of other smaller outcrops.

These back beach mines in the Whiskey run district, were covered with a very heavy overburden of gray, wind-blown sand, which ran from about 25 feet to 75 feet or more in depth, which, in turn, supported a vigorous stand of old growth timber, owing to this great mass of material to move, in a stripping process, they found it better to open the mines by drifting into the lenses of black sand, which in some places was as much as 12 feet to 16 feet in thickness. It was found, by the miners, that these thick lenses of sand were rather oxidized and cemented, and rather low in the gold content, and that the thinner lenses were much richer and freer, and easier to recover the gold from. South of the Coquille river, in the China creek, and Two-mile creek districts, the beaches were being vigorously worked, and a great many men were employed at the Dwyer mine, while a number of Chinese were strung along up China creek, doing well with the "rocker" and pan.

Some very good lenses of sand were found on the head waters of China creek, but owing to their having been oxidized and cemented, they were never worked very extensively for the gold content. By the mid 60's the Coos Bay region, as well as the Coquille valley, had begun to show some signs of civilization, and was rapidly filling up, with little settlements scattered about over the vast area, which at that time, was a great wilderness of timber, the river bottom land being covered by a dense growth of myrtle, ash, alder, willow, and maple, all of which had to be cleared away by hand in order to make the fields for agricultural pursuits.

It was found that coal existed in the Coos Bay, as also in the Coquille valley region, and in the early 70's, coal mining began, at some of the outcrops, which are still in operation at the present time.

Finding that the valleys throughout this region were very productive, the newcomers into the country, began to settle up the land, and turn to agricultural pursuits which expanded very rapidly, especially along the Coquille river, which at that time was the principle mode of transportation to connect the Coos Bay and Coquille settlements, by the way of the Beaver and Isthmus Slough route. Sawmilling, and logging began in earnest about this time, as well as the fishing industry, which flourished for a number of years, as all the streams in this region were abundantly supplied with a variety of fish, including Chinook, Silverside and Steelhead salmon, with Sturgeon, and many other fish, of the white meat variety.

(To be continued next week)

Farmers Must File Before Dec. 15

On or before December 15, 1943, persons who derive 80 per cent or more of gross income from farming will be required to file Declaration of Estimated Income and Victory Tax for 1943.

J. W. Maloney, Collector of Internal Revenue, Portland, announces that those farmers who filed Declarations in September will not be required again to file in December. Farmers are defined as persons who derive 80 per cent or more of gross income from farming. In general, Declarations must be filed by farmers whose gross incomes required the filing of income tax returns for 1942, or will require filing for 1943.

The Collector points out that the Declarations are substantially different from income tax returns, in that the Declarations call only for an estimate of Income and Victory Tax for 1943, whereas the income tax returns for that year, required to be filed on or before March 15, 1944, must as heretofore be a detailed account of income and deductions prepared in accordance with the books or other records.

The Declarations of farmers, due on or before the December 15 deadline, are a part of the Current Tax Payment Act of 1943, designed to place taxpayers on a pay-as-you-go basis. This is accomplished by treating the payments of 1942 income tax made in 1943, plus the amount paid on the Declaration of Estimated Income and Victory Tax for 1943, as credits against the income tax disclosed in the 1943 income tax return due to be filed in 1944. These credits will in whole or in large part discharge the 1943 income tax, with provision for payment of any shortage

Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

Two years ago the sportsmen of Coos county, the different game protective clubs and the chambers of commerce in different cities lodged a protest against the opening of the elk season in this district. But no heed was given the protests and the season was opened. The result was that many of the old monarchs were killed. Animals that were doing no damage whatsoever—animals that had actually been fed by the hand of man—such as the herd on Blue Ridge, in the Fairview district where the animals were twice as tame as ordinary range cattle.

This season, as we have noted before, Curry county elk were put on "the death list" by the State Game Commission. All residents, sportsmen, stockmen of Curry county protested the opening of the season there, but the Game Commission went ahead and opened it regardless.

When certain species of game animals or birds are scarce and a season is finally declared open on them in any state or county in the Union, with the exception of Oregon, it is a brief season—two, three, or five days. But what did our state game commission do this season? They opened the season on the poor old elk for thirty days! And they opened it during the period of the season when the elk had finished rutting ("running") and the animals were in poor shape. They showed downright ignorance in doing this and they showed that they wanted the sportsmen to know that they, the sportsmen couldn't dictate to them, that they would open the elk season in spite of protests.

It is the sportsmen who pay their good money into the coffers of the Game Commission and should have a voice in the matter of game affairs, but bankers, doctors and city dwellers, who are appointed on the game commission board, show their authority by making laws to suit themselves, regardless of what the sportsmen think concerning them.

The fatal error was when the State Game Commission was given the power to frame our game laws. Before that, sportsmen at large had an opportunity to discuss and frame laws through their representatives at the state legislature from their respective counties. But as the case now stands the game commission is "IT," and has the framing of the laws in their own hands and the seasons to "play ball" with as they desire. And it is our personal opinion that of all the game commissions that have been in power that the present one is by far the worst of any to date so far as favoring the sportsmen of Coos and Curry counties is concerned and we are certain that no tears would be shed by sportsmen of this district if the entire present game commission were ousted from their positions.

in the account, or refund in due course of any overpayment.

During the first part of December, deputy collectors will be stationed at or will visit the principal cities throughout the state, to assist in filing the Declarations. This service is without charge and advance notice of their visit will be given.

Can Vitamins Change GRAY HAIR?

Impartial investigators have found vitamin Calcium Pantothenate of some value in changing gray hair, where a deficiency of this vitamin may have caused gray or graying hair.

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Norway News Items

Dr. and Mrs. E. F. Beber and daughter, Carol Ann, were Sunday afternoon callers at the J. H. McCloskey home.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Jones, of Myrtle Point, were Sunday evening callers at the A. R. Bennett's. The Jones have bought a small acreage about a mile out of town on the Gravelford road and as they are contemplating building a fireplace, they came down to see how and by whom the Bennett fireplace was constructed.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Grant were business callers at the C. M. Bonniksen's one day last week.

Jack Holland, of Seattle, a brother of Carl Holland, is here visiting relatives and friends and called to see the Harold Pribbles Sunday.

Dinner guests Sunday at the Ed Detlefsen home were Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schmidt, Herman Tedsen, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Detlefsen and children, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Detlefsen and Mrs. Herman Detlefsen and daughter, Irene, of Myrtle Point.

Mrs. Harry Druliner called one day last week on Mrs. Bert Claver.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Rylander were Sunday dinner guests of her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Trigg.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. C. Strang were last week-end visitors with her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. J. I. McCloskey.

Mrs. Martin Schmidt has received word that her son, Charles, has arrived in Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fox, of Langlois, called Saturday to see Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Gant.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Bender called on Mr. and Mrs. Ramond Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Houghton Saturday afternoon and spent the evening visiting with Mrs. Julia Leep and Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Bennett.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Druliner were in Marshfield Saturday of last week on business.

Last Thursday evening the ladies of the Pleasant Point Needle Club entertained their husbands at a potluck dinner in the Myrtle Grange Hall. There were over thirty-five present. After dinner some visited with one another while others played games and all agreed they had spent a very pleasant evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Gant enjoyed a turkey dinner Sunday with her niece and family, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Jones, at Fairview.

Mr. and Mrs. Reese Daniels, of Gaylord, have invited the Luther Daniels, of West Myrtle Point, and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Daniels, of Norway, to have Thanksgiving dinner with them.

Last Thursday Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Schroeder and their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Yarbrough, drove to Marshfield and spent the evening with Mrs. Yarbrough's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hugh. The occasion was Mrs. Yarbrough's birthday. They all enjoyed a delicious birthday dinner together. Albert Schroeder was also present at the party.

Saturday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Stutch were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Michels, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Leatherman and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Axe.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brodie spent the evening at the home of their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Brodie, in Myrtle Point.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Schroeder and family were last Sunday after-church dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Grant.

Howard Leatherman is doing some plowing for Walter Schroeder for fall seeding.

Herman Tedsen was a Wednesday evening dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schmidt.

E. F. Brodie has just built a spillway for his log pond at the shingle mill.

It seems there was a mistake made in the printing of the items in last week's Sentinel in regard to the amount made at the pie social sponsored by the Three Links Club of Myrtle Point, Nov. 13. The news item stated the sum was \$10.00 but it was given out as \$60.00.

Norton's have wonderful new children's books in this week. Some only one of a kind. Shop early for Christmas.

See "Spike" Leslie for the best in Liability, or other Insurance. Office, next door to Coquille Hospital, phone 5; residence phone 95L.

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