

# Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON

OCTOBER 13, 1949

## MORE PIONEER HISTORY NOTES

### ?? First Pioneer Grist Mill In Coos Or Curry Counties?? Who Knows?

By EMIL R. PETERSON

Who built, owned and operated the first grist mill in Coos or Curry county? The lack of definite information on this one subject is quite in keeping with the general lack of recorded and dependable sources of our pioneer history. A great deal of it must depend on memory passed from person to person and from one generation to another.

The earliest recorded mention that I have found regarding a grist mill in Coos county appear on page 395 in Dodge's Pioneer History of Coos and Curry counties: "Among the goods was . . . a 54-inch page portable saw mill belonging to Henry Schroeder, Sr., and an 8-horse-power portable boiler and engine and a pair of 24-inch mill burrs belonging to William Volkmar. The mill was put up on the south fork of the Coquille river, on the Schroeder place, and was operated for several years, William Volkmar filling the position of engineer and J. Henry Schroeder that of miller."

From page 408 of the same book I quote:

"We have a little mill hard by, a little creek which doth supply us all with flour, as fine and good as any needs for wholesome food."

However, there seems to be some doubt concerning the first mill mentioned above. William Schroeder, now in his 80's, a grandson of

Henry Schroeder, Sr., and son of J. Henry Schroeder, is of the opinion that no grist mill was ever put up or operated by his father or his grandfather. Other members of the family are of the same opinion. William Schroeder appears to have kept himself very well informed on our pioneer history, and especially of the Baltimore Colony story.

But there can be little doubt that a pair of stone burrs did come along with other equipment in the Dr. Henry Hermann Baltimore Colony. I believe that we have the answer. It reached us through the never-tiring efforts of our good friend, Steve Reed, of Myrtle Point. Steve has shown a great deal of active interest in this subject ever since the matter was first brought up several weeks ago. A paper titled, CHRISTIAN LEHNHERR, PIONEER, by Fannie Lehnherr Dixon, has been obtained by Mr. Reed and loaned to us.

The next time you go to Myrtle Point, I suggest, that you go into the city park and notice the stone monument there erected to the memory of Christian Lehnherr. Steve Reed, now past 80, is a grandson of Mr. Lehnherr.

I quote from page 13, of the Lehnherr story: "Settlers were filling the country, and flour was still conveyed on horseback from the adjoining county (Douglas.) Father had learned the art of grinding grain from an uncle in Switzerland. The splendid creek running through the farm afforded a suitable site for the grist mill. For Christian Lehnherr to conceive an idea was to put that idea into immediate operation.

"A large overshot water wheel furnished the motive power. A pair of burrs (burstone or millstone) CAME WITH THE BALTIMORE COLONY AND WERE NOT USED. (Caps are mine—E. R. P.)

Father the burrs, and then the problem of moving them to the mill site confronted him. The large stones could not be packed on the backs of the mules. There were no roads, only Indian trails, many places barely possible for single animals. A tree was felled, shaped into a canoe, and when the rain raised the river sufficiently, two men paddled the rude boat against the stream for twelve miles to within two miles of the mill site. These two miles presented another problem. Again the trusty oxen came to the rescue. The trail was widened to allow a sled, or lizard, as it was called to pass over it.

"The lizard was made from the forks of a tree. The main trunk served as a means to fasten a strong chain to a ring. The forked end was cut to a length of four foot, heavy timbers bolted across to form a solid base, and the burrs were loaded onto that, hauled by the oxen to the mill building and properly installed. Bolting cloth brought from Roseburg, at a cost of twenty dollars per yard, was stretched over a wooden frame, and the crushed wheat conducted from the burrs soon emerges as a fine quality of flour. . . ."

There is much more to this story, but let us skip ten pages now and jump to page 23, quoting:

"Late in 1866 a young man from Douglas county, by the name of Reed, brought a band of horses to our place to sell to the farmers. Previous to that time all the plowing and hauling had been done by oxen. In May, 1867, Oscar Reed and Mary Catherine (Lehnherr) were married. For several months they lived in the old home (Roland Prairie.) Oscar was a competent blacksmith, and soon had a flourishing blacksmith shop in operation. He made the horseshoes and also the nails."

Now, let us interject a bit of our own into the story. In due time the Reeds had a little son. He is named him Stephen. He is the same Steve Reed, now in his 80's, who dug up this Lehnherr story,



COLORFUL TALE—Robert Ryan listens as Miss M. Stockwell in RKO's "The Boy With Green Hair," explains how in their locks suddenly changed color. They co-star with Pat O'Brien, Barbara Hale in the Dore Schary presentation in color by Technicolor. At the Liberty Theatre Fri., Sat., Sun., Oct. 14-16.

the story of his grandfather.

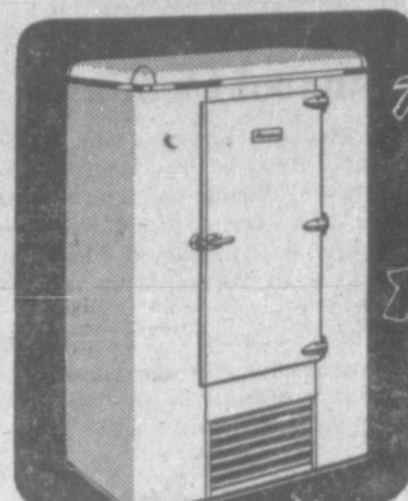
Steve Reed distinctly remembers the grist mill that his father, Oscar Reed, built on the middle fork of the Coquille river.

But the burrs for that Oscar Reed mill? Where did Oscar get them? He was living on his father-in-law's place at Roland Prairie. The Lehnherr family has moved to Myrtle Point, where Mr. Lehnherr built a grist mill operated by steam power. We are not told where the burrs came from for the Myrtle Point mill. But it is assumed that they were cast burrs shipped from San Francisco. The Roland Prairie mills was no longer being used, so Oscar Reed obtained those former Baltimore millstones from Mr. Lehnherr and put them into his new mill on the middle fork.

When Mr. . . . used to operate that mill, . . . the burrs to Michael Breuer . . . a mill on Indian creek. . . . We understand that Mike Breuer still owns those burrs or mill stones. Are they the same mill stones that William Volkmar brought from Baltimore in 1859, around the Horn, to San Francisco, then by sailing ship to Empire City on Coos Bay, again transferred and moved up Isthmus slough, over the divide, down Beaver slough, up the Coquille river to Roland Prairie and back down to the middle fork. Finally to Indian creek, having served in three different mills through a period of thirty-odd years. Are they the same burrs now owned by our good friend, the Old Sage of Bandon by the Sea? If they are the same old pioneer burrs, I

feel quite sure that Mike Breuer will want to have them preserved in our Pioneer Museum. Leaves for Eugene—Ivan Smalley, accountant, is in Eugene and Portland on business this week.

## McClary Appliance Co.



ANNOUNCES  
NEWEST, FINEST FREEZER FOR YOUR HOME  
**Amana**  
MODEL 18 UPRIGHT FREEZER

See it today! The greatest new Freezer in history—Amana Model 18. Designed for better living; holds 630 pounds frozen foods; takes less floor space. 5 year insurance against food spoilage included and 5 year free replacement warranty on sealed-in mechanism.

- EASY ON HOMEMAKER Reach-in for all foods without stooping, groping.
- EASY ON BUDGET Learn why families say food savings pay for Amana Freezer.
- EASY ON THE EYES Gleaming, glistening, all white DuPont Dulux finish!

ASK ABOUT OUR CONVENIENT PAYMENT PLAN

We Have Our Own Refrigeration Service Department

### McClary Appliance Co.

340 W. Front St. Coquille Phone 10

COINED BY  
MGM'S MIGHTY TECHNICOLOR  
MUSICAL SHOW OF SHOWS!!  
**THE WIZARD OF OZ**  
With JUVENILE GARLAND  
A NEW! REVOLVING-BUILD MULTISCREEN SPECTACLE . . .

Coming Roxy  
OCT. 20-22

**WE'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BUILD OR REMODEL**

If you're planning to add a new room, convert your attic into useful living space, or do any kind of building at all, we can help with materials or advice... or both. We're specialists in helping people remodel an out-of-date house into their ideal home. Let us show you how we can help you with your plans.

**Flower-fresh COLORS make your BATHROOM new!**

Dash a coat of these sunny paint colors on walls and woodwork—you're sure to have a sparkling "new" bathroom—clean as a whistle—fresh as a daisy! FULLERGLO costs so little—in 12 "go-together" colors—

**FULLERGLO** Washable semi-gloss finish

MORE COLORS—MORE DECORATING HELP

Plenty of FREE Parking Space at

**Riverside Builders Supplies**  
"The Place to shop with but one stop"

Everything for the Builder  
E. 6th St. off Taylor Coquille Phone 352

**95% of all hauling jobs can be done with Chevrolet Advance-Design trucks**

Buyer preference shows that in 95% of all hauling jobs, there's a Chevrolet Advance-Design truck that will serve you more satisfactorily . . . for more years . . . at less cost. The wide range of the Chevrolet truck line—from smart panel delivery models up through specially equipped heavy-duty carriers—means you get a truck specifically designed to carry the load, all the way up to 16,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight. See us today—buy the Chevrolet truck that's just right for your job.

**ADVANCE-DESIGN TRUCKS**

**CHEVROLET**

FEATURING VALVE-IN-HEAD ENGINES—Greater power per gallon, lower cost per load • DIAPHRAGM SPRING CLUTCH—Smooth engagement • SYNCHRO-MESH TRANSMISSIONS—Quick, smooth shifting • HYPOID REAR AXLES—5 times stronger than spiral bevel type • DOUBLE-ARTICULATED BRAKES—Complete driver control • WIDE-BASE WHEELS—Increased tire mileage • ADVANCE-DESIGN STYLING—With the Cab that "Breathes" • BALL-TYPE STEERING—Easier handling • UNIT-DESIGN BODIES—Precision built

PREFERRED BY MORE USERS THAN THE NEXT TWO MAKES COMBINED!

**SOUTHWESTERN MOTORS**

Corner 2nd & Hall Coquille Phone 328 or 321