

# NICK SINNOTT HAS FUR BONNET

JACK RABBIT SKIN HAT IS O. K.

Representative From This District Appears With Fedora Made From Bunny Skins — Manufacturers Say The Material is Good.

(The Oregonian.)

WASHINGTON, July 1.—High-grade felt hats can be manufactured from the fur of Oregon jackrabbits. This is no longer a theory, but a demonstrated fact, and Representative N. J. Sinnott, of Oregon, is today proudly wearing the first and only fedora ever manufactured in the country from jack rabbit fur.

Last winter Mr. Sinnott discovered that felt hat manufacturers were embarrassed because their supply of German rabbit fur was cut off with the war. It occurred to him that jackrabbit fur might be substituted and he sent to Oregon for a consignment of skins. These he turned over to the largest and best known hat manufacturers in the east, with the request that they experiment with the rabbit fur and determine its suitability for hat manufacture.

Colleagues Praise Product.

A long strike occurred in the factory to which the rabbit fur was sent, delaying the experiment, but this morning Mr. Sinnott received by express a handsome pearl gray fedora made from the fur shipped to him from Eastern Oregon. He at once donned the new headgear and exhibited it to other Congressmen from the west, telling them that he had at last found a market for jackrabbits, or at least for their fur.

The jackrabbit hat seems to be the equal of any \$5 felt hat on the market. It is of fine, soft texture, smooth to the touch and clear in color and grain. Members who examined it pronounced it a first class headpiece and one that ought to command a good price in the market.

There was some jealousy on the part of other Western Congressmen, however, because Mr. Sinnott had "beat them to it," and found a market for what has been one of the great waste products of the west.

Experiment is Success

Mr. Sinnott was told by the manufacturers, who entered upon the experiment with some doubts, that the Oregon jackrabbit fur made a much better hat than they had anticipated. He also learned from them that jackrabbits to be valuable for hat manufacture must be killed in the winter months, when their fur is heaviest, and must come from the colder portions of the west. Fur or rabbits from the southwest has previously been tested and found unsuitable.

Next winter Mr. Sinnott will collect a large quantity of rabbit pelts from Eastern Oregon and submit samples to a number of other hat manufacturers in order to arouse a general interest in this new source of supply of the raw product and in the hope of creating a lively demand for jackrabbit fur. He is highly elated at the success of the first experiment, which he regards as a complete success, and believes that once a market for rabbit fur can be established, there will be a new incentive for ridding the west of one of its worst pests.

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## John C. Fremont Oregon Explorer

At the recent graduation exercises of the Silver Lake schools a paper entitled "Fremont in Oregon," written by Ralph Burton, was read by the young author, the ranking scholar of the eighth grade. Because of the local interest attached to the name of Fremont, who explored this section many years ago, portions of the paper are here reproduced.

Beginning with mention of other United States military figures who are connected with the early history of the state the paper proceeds concerning Fremont as follows:

"There is one man who stands out most prominently in our history; viz. John Charles Fremont. He is of special interest to us because of the fact that nearly all of his work was

in Central Oregon. At this time the United States and Great Britain were disputing as to who owned this Oregon region. The United States Government decided to send out parties to make reports on this region. Fremont was one of those chosen and he and his small party started on that perilous journey into that desolate and unknown region of the West, in the spring of 1842.

Fremont was at that time Chief of Engineers and because of the fact that he lived the life of exploration and adventure he was well qualified for such an undertaking. How well he did his work we shall soon see, although he did more exploring than anything else, his real mission was for a military purpose. Most of his military work was in California, but just the same, his work in Oregon was far ahead of any other man. It seemed to be his natural instinct to make friends. This does not mean that he was afraid to fight. Although his battles were few, they were decided, and whenever he did fight, his foe, the Indian, learned to fear and respect him as their superior. Making friends with the Indians of this part of the country was a difficult and dangerous undertaking and was very important to us, be-

cause it prevented many wars for our forefathers; a fact which we should be thankful for.

Fremont started on his western expedition from St. Louis, Mo. He crossed the Rocky Mountains and floated down the Snake and Columbia rivers to what is now The Dalles. Here he fitted out his expedition and started south. He traveled down the eastern side of the Deschutes river, being at all times in view of the beautiful snow covered summit of the Cascade Range. This was all in the dead of winter; the ground was covered with snow, and their progress was slow and their hardships numerous. The Indians told him of a great lake to the south. This he found after a very tiresome search. He named the lake Tiamath, but it was afterwards named Kingpath. After spending some time around Kingpath lake and fighting the Indians, Fremont started northeast. After a long journey they came upon a steep precipice, beneath which was a beautiful little valley, partly filled with a lake. What looked peculiar to Fremont was to see all the surrounding territory barren, and covered with snow while in this little valley the snow was all gone and everything was green. Fremont called this Sum-

mer lake, which name it still bears to this day. They found it very difficult to find a descending place, but this they did, and leaving the green timber behind they traveled on through a country of sagebrush and sand. They could not get to the shore of the lake because of the mud, and Fremont described the water as being 'very bad,' due of course, to the minerals which it contained. All this region is now called 'The Fremont Forest Reserve,' commemorating the explorations and work of this famous man. He made further explorations south and discovered other lakes. One he named Lake Abert, after Col. Abert, who was Fremont's chief engineer, and the other he named Goose lake."

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