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DOC. KIGER TELLS HIS EXPERIENCE WITH INDIANS

"Coon" Smith Prevented His Running Into Redskins; Companion "Shot."

While in town last week as a witness in a water suit involving the irrigation privileges on the Sylvester Smith ranch in Happy valley, Doc. Kiger, one of the earliest settlers in this section, told of incidents of the Indian war in the 70's. He remarked that "Coon" (Sylvester) Smith had saved his life on one occasion.

Doc. said they had received word the Indians were coming and had been instructed to move the families to Fort Harney. They had hastily gathered a few things together and taken the women and children to the Fort and he and a man by the name of Sam Miller had returned to Happy valley to gather up more household belongings and also get together their horses and drive them out for safety. At that time no signs of Indians had been seen in the vicinity.

Upon returning they had gone on over to Diamond after some things, leaving John Smyth, a brother to D. H. and Prestley Smyth, in Happy valley. Upon inquiry of Peter French they found that he had gone out on the range and brought in his horses and it so happened he also had Kiger's horses in the field at Diamond. Kiger and Miller were preparing to go over to Happy valley when "Coon" Smith, who had just arrived from Southern Oregon with his cattle, came in and said he had been over looking into Happy valley and had seen the Indians coming in from the east. Kiger told him he was surely mistaken as he had just seen the settlers gathering in their stock with a view of moving them to safety, but "Coon" said their evidently were a good many settlers then. As a precaution it was suggested that "Coon" ride on ahead of the teams and watch. They had barely gotten out of the Diamond when "Coon" rode back on his horse with the information that he had discovered Indians on the road a short distance ahead. Even then Kiger and his companions were not convinced but finally found three Indian ponies standing in the road just ahead and also discovered a lookout on a high ridge. They immediately unhitched their horses, Kiger being on a saddle horse driving the house stock and Miller on the wagon. They started to get back into the field at Diamond but before they could do so the Indians opened fire. "Coon" was ahead going down the mountain. Miller had unhitched his teams and gotten on one of the harnessed horses to make his escape. The Indians were trying to get between the fleeing men and the Diamond ranch but were unsuccessful. Finally "Coon" stopped to see how his companions were faring and Kiger came up to him and both waited for Miller, who was coming down the side of the mountain as rapidly as his horse could be urged. In his haste to get started Miller had not properly secured the tugs and one had fallen down. His mount stepped on one end of the tug and caused it to fly up, striking him on the back of the head. As he neared his companions Miller exclaimed "shot by god" and it was feared he had been wounded by the shots from the Indians. As they were comparatively safe Doc suggested that he make an examination of Miller but found no cut in the wound, merely a big lump.

Doc. Kiger says that had it not been for his friend "Coon" Smith he and his companion would have been surrounded by the Indians and no doubt killed.

Kiger took his stock out down the Blitzen and through the narrow, at that time the two lakes were separate, and got to Fort Harney and later was accused of having swam Malheur Lake in his successful elusion of the wily Indians.

John Smyth, who was one of those in Happy valley at that time, was killed by the Indians.

Doc. Kiger had many stories of those days, the conditions as they existed as a paradise for the stock man and the mildness of the Happy valley country as compared to conditions in this part of the country. The preceding winter, as an instance, and his companions had their

stock in Harney valley where late in the season a snow fall of some two feet made it necessary to get their stock out. The snow had crusted and it was difficult to move but they pushed on to Happy valley where they found the weather mild with no snow and the range good. This, no doubt, is responsible for the naming of Happy valley.

Doc. Kiger left here the spring of 1889 and last week was his first trip back.

EXPERIMENT STATION NOTES

(By Obil Shattuck, Supt.)

Most of the dryland is in excellent shape to plow or work down into a good seed bed. Delay in cultivation means loss of moisture.

Copper carbonate is effective for wheat smut only, do not make a mistake and use it for barley or oats. Formaldehyde or bluestone should be used for barley and oats.

Corrosive sublimate at the rate of 4 ounces to 30 gallons of water is the best treatment for potatoes. Soak the potatoes in this solution from one and one half to two hours before cutting. This solution is deadly poison, do not leave it settling around where any kind of life can reach it.

Mr. Fred Denstedt and his son Walter "listened in" on a radio program at the station, Saturday.

The sagerats are out in most sections. This is the most opportune time to get them. Poisoned oats are most effective. One formula is given below:

Mix one tablespoonful of laundry starch in one half cup of cold water and stir into one pint of boiling water to make a thin paste. Mix one ounce of powdered strychnine alkaloid with one ounce of baking soda, and stir the starch into a smooth creamy mass. Stir in two ounces of table salt. Apply to 15 quarts of clean, plump oats and mix until each kernel is thoroughly covered.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McPheters, accompanied by Mrs. Dan Vardien "listened in" on an excellent sermon by Mrs. Albee Semple McPherson, at the Angeles Temple, Los Angeles over the station radio Sunday night.

Red Cozad and his right hand man, Mr. Citman, were station visitors Monday. Red was climbing up some Federal wheat seed during the coming season.

Mr. A. A. Traugott brought Messrs Kunz and Watt of Tillamook, who were in the Valley after a few loads of stock, out to the Station March 3rd to secure some agricultural information. Both of these gentlemen stated that they were coming back.

Mr. Herman Ruh who has purchased the Gray farm near Crane, and developed a fine bunch of artesian wells thereon, was a station visitor Monday. He has decided to put in 50 or 60 acres of alfalfa and 30 acres of Hard Federation wheat.

Mr. Ruh has a splendid prospect and is to be commended for his faith in the development of artesian water.

Mr. August Counin, who is located on the Wm. Stewart ranch was a station visitor Wednesday. He was in search of agricultural information.

One of the best paying dryland crops for Harney Valley is Grimm alfalfa seeded in rows 36 inches apart for seed production. There is a ready market for several tons of Grimm alfalfa seed each year that cannot be supplied.

The man who buys cheap, common alfalfa seed, generally finds out in the long run that he has made an expensive investment. Grimm alfalfa has demonstrated beyond a question of a doubt that it is the hardest, highest yielding variety to be had for either hay or seed production on dry or irrigated land. The best is none too good for Harney County Farmers. Moral, Sow Grimm Alfalfa.

Cliff Duhaime and Paul Howes were station visitors last Wednesday. Mr. Duhaime was looking for a start of clean seed oats.

The precipitation for January was .43 of an inch, for February, 1.29 inches.

The monthly and annual precipitation at the station for the past ten years will be given in the Experiment Station Notes for next week.

Mr. Randal, who is farming the Brown place, was a station visitor during the week.

The wind yesterday indicated it had come over Snow mountain on its way to this place and had caught a breath of winter, as it was very cold. The sweet peas already in the ground ready to come up for early blossoms will not thrive on that kind of wind.

OBSERVE WATER EFFECT ON GRADE FIRST

Engineer Girard Will Finish Surfacing Road Bed and Rail Laying Follow.

Engineer Girard of the Fred Herick Lumber Co., who is in charge of railroad construction work, announced to a representative of this paper this week that he was watching water conditions along the route between Burns and Crane before proceeding further with that part of the route. Since the grade is constructed through the irrigated section of this valley it is his desire to see how the present system of using the water is going to conform to the work already done, besides the surfacing that is now necessary before the rails are put on will require a character of material that cannot be handled to an advantage with water standing along the excavated sides of the grade.

Mr. Girard did not state any definite time for the laying of steel but it was implied from his conversation that this work would be done as soon as it is practical after the observance he is giving the ground at this time. The office force is preparing the records and necessary data in connection with the right of way and general expense incident to completing the work up to this time to facilitate matters when finally turned over to the U. P.

BURNS MCGOWAN BOOSTS HIS HOME COUNTY

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, March 4—The advantages of Harney county were stressed by Burns McGowan, Burns high school student, at the "Sell Oregon" extemporaneous speaking contest held in connection with the O. A. C. educational exposition.

The delegates at the exposition voted to make the public speaking contest an annual feature of the exposition. Twentyseven communities were represented in this year's contest.

"The timber of Harney county is the best in the United States. Nine billion board feet of the finest virgin white timber is included in the timber resources of Harney county."

"Stock raising is the chief occupation of the rolling prairie land of Harney county, with thousands of head of cattle scattered over a million acres of this grazing land."

"Harney county is a paradise for the sportsman, with the timber to the north of Burns, where the game is abundant, and the lakes to the south, where the fishing and duck hunting can't be beat. You are always welcome in Harney county."

COMMERCIAL CLUB RATIFY CITIZENS' ACTIONS

Data Covering Information Prepared for Mailing to Inquirers by Secretary.

At a meeting of the Burns and Harney County Commercial Club held at the court house Tuesday evening matters of interest in the development of this county were taken up and discussed. The club went on record as ratifying the actions of the citizens at the two mass meetings held last week and also took up the proposition of issuing some pamphlets descriptive of the country to aid the secretary in answering inquiries about Harney county. The subject is now in the hands of the committee to finish and will be at once placed in the hands of the printer to assemble and put into right form for distribution.

There were several good talks made at the meeting along the lines of progress and the advantages of working together. It was a very successful meeting and further bound the people together to work for the advancement of the entire country.

CONCERT APPRECIATED BY AUDIENCES

The benefit concert given at the Liberty Theatre last Monday evening, sponsored by members of the Presbyterian church choir, was well attended and those present showed their appreciation by generous applause. There were fourteen numbers on the program and every one was good. It could not be said that any one number was superior to another, as the solo work of the participants were of a high class and well rendered. The vocal soloists selections included Mrs. Lee Clark, Mrs. Nollie Reed, Chas. B. Foley, Mrs. Poleman Skien, Miss Annette Leonard, Mrs. Alfred Welcome, Mrs. Wm. Farre, Mrs. C. C. Griffith, Mrs. Farre and Mrs. Griffith rendered a duet that was one of the particular features of the program. Darrell Williams gave a song and folk dance in costume and Little Norma Smith sang a sweet selection. Mrs. Samuel Harris showed her wonderful skill as an artist in her piano selection and the blackface quartet offered a diversion from the other numbers on the program by makeup, action and character of selections. The "coons" were a very good filler for the intermission.

On Wednesday evening the same program with slight changes, was given at Crane for the benefit of the Ladies Aid of the church there. A good audience greeted the singers and the generous encores testified to the appreciation of the efforts of the

singers. Crane people were most kind in their hospitality to the visitors, each hotel making no charges for the occupying of rooms placing them at the disposal of the visitors in order that they might prepare their costumes and toilets for the performance.

Such entertainments should receive the encouragement of our home people as they deserve it. Local talent is capable of rendering some fine programs and they are worth hearing.

The Presbyterian choir will prepare a cantata for Easter Sunday that will be one of the high features of musical entertainments of this city.

CON LIEBIG TO BUILD SERVICE STATION AND SHOP

Con Liebig has purchased half of the Henry Vulgamore block situated next to the Voegtly field on the highway and is making preparations to build a neat service station and work shop on the premises. Workingmen are now moving the residence which he purchased with the half block to another location on the same block to make room for the building he will erect. This is a good corner for the purpose Mr. Liebig intends, as it is favorably situated close to the depot. At present he will confine the building to what he requires but has sufficient ground upon which to erect a modern and spacious garage that will be necessary later in conducting his business. The first unit of the building will be of iron with glass front and gas pump arranged under roof on the corner with ample room for cars to come for service from each way. It will be nicely furnished with gravel driveways.

Mr. Liebig is representing the Willis-Knight-Overland cars in this territory and has just ordered a car load for immediate shipment consisting of two Champions, two touring cars and one roadster.

FORMER HARNEY COUNTY MAN DEAD

Melvin Fenwick died at his home in Springfield, Oregon, on the evening of February 27. The Eugene Register gives the cause of his death as typhoid fever, but letters from friends at Eugene announce that Mr. Fenwick suffered a stroke of paralysis. He was 69 years old and is survived by his wife.

Mr. Fenwick was a resident of this vicinity for years and had one of the finest farms in this section which was passed to Henry Vulgamore several years ago when Mr. Fenwick and his wife left here and took up their residence at Springfield. After leaving Burns he was elected to the legislature from Lane county for one term. He was highly esteemed by his associates and a good citizen.

Mrs. Nollie Reed is visiting with friends in Canyon City.

RANGE LEASING BILL IS BEFORE CONGRESS

Proposed Regulation Similar to National Forest; Fees Spent Where Created.

William Hanley is taking an active interest in the bill now before congress to place all the grazing land under government supervision on the same plan as governs grazing in the national forests. The bill has been introduced and will surely pass. Just in what manner it finally come before the president to sign is an important feature, as the method of distributing the fees over and above administration is one that has effect upon the public land sections such as Harney county.

Mr. Hanley is using his efforts to have the grazing fees divert directly to the community in which they are raised. This country has a big area of public domain where it will be one of the chief assets to the development of the country. The area covered by irrigation is small in comparison. The man who comes to such a community must have something in addition to his irrigated farm, according to Mr. Hanley; he must have access to the big range and with such safeguards as to make it attractive to him. If he is to be taxed to maintain the roads, schools and general governmental departments and then is taxed an additional sum for grazing purposes that must be classed as "overhead" from which little or no returns are used to offset his general tax, he's going to be hard hit, for at best the tax situation is almost prohibitive. With the funds derived from grazing fees going into the community where it is created and thus adding in this "overhead" the situation is improved and will not only aid the man who is pioneering but the entire community. The development of any country takes taxes for improvement. The roads, schools, irrigation construction, all require an outlay and the individual who will undertake this work should be given encouragement and not taxed in addition for funds that will go out and bring in no general or immediate good to that community.

Mr. Hanley is finding many advocates of his plan to have the revenue derived from grazing fees on the public lands divert to the particular district where it is created. It is a sound proposition that should have weight in congress.

This is a matter that should be given immediate attention in order that the suggestions be embodied in the bill before it is passed.

AN ODE TO CHIP G. SMITH

Here's to the man who carves the bull,

From dawn till after dark,
Who hopes to get his coffers full,
Before he rides the Ark,
But his hopes are vain,
And his aches and pains,
Increase at an alarming rate,
As he wearily hews the steaks and stew,
From the bones of a '78'.

Why the public patronize this man,
Is a question for a Sage,
For the youngest beef that is ever killed,
Is well past the legal age.
It must be the man, and his jolly way,
Or the wicked 'line' he throws,
That holds the Public like a spell,
Till he can extract their 'dough'!

We sincerely hope when he's reached the age,
Of about 104,
That the good St. Peter will welcome him inside the Golden Door,
And methinks I hear St. Peter say,
As they're seated by the hearth,
You've certainly earned your place up here,
By the way you worked on Earth.

—Obil Shattuck
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George Shaw has written his wife that his hand is improving rapidly with the soreness disappearing. His doctor announces that he will soon be able to leave the hospital and in that case the patient will soon be coming home.

THE "STOVE LEAGUE" UP-TO-DATE

