

Rogue River Courier.

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GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 23 1903.

No. 17.

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SOUTHERN OREGON ANNALS

History Incident to the Settlement of Rogue River Valley.

The generation succeeding the pioneers of this valley and those who have migrated here from the old states, says the Ashland Tribune, will experience a natural interest in the story of the early settlement of the country. A. G. Wallings' history of Southern Oregon contains a narration of most of the important incidents, but there is much of the early history of the first settlements that ought to be collated before all the old pioneers have passed away. This would be a useful work that could be taken up by the societies of native sons and native daughters. The Oregon Historical Society has been accomplishing a good deal on this line.

The Rogue River valley pioneers have borne testimony of the delightful sensations which filled their hearts when they first set eyes upon this fair region. After the straits to which a six months trip across the plains and mountains had brought them, how welcome to their vision must have been the sight of the grassy plains, the wooded slopes, and the tree-fringed water courses of Southern Oregon. The country was one of primitive wildness, yet of obvious fertility and productivity. The wild grasses grew in profusion, covering everywhere the land as with a garment of most luxuriant verdure.

The rich soil, as yet unimpaired in fertility, sent up the stalks to the height of a man. Wild berries flourished; the beautiful mountain streams, clear as glass and of the most refreshing coolness, ran, unimpeded by the dirt from the mines. The wild deer and the elk grazed in the open meadow or rested lazily under the shade of the groves of the oak and the fir.

The hillsides were not then covered so densely by thickets of manzanita, and evergreen bushes because of the Indian habit of burning annually.

Some scattered villages of Indians formed the only fixed population of the valley of the Rogue, which were located near Table Rock, on Ashland Creek, Little Butte Creek, and at a few other points, where in after years, they fought against being displaced by the white settlers. Since 1843 the Willamette valley settlers had received small though steady accessions of population. The Cascade range was practically unexplored. To the south lay the Southern Oregon country known only to a few who had traversed it and who brought back reports of the troublesome character of the natives.

There had been expeditions of trappers through the region, but the most important one, since it promoted settlement, was that of the Applegate, in 1846, in search of a route by which the overland emigrants could reach the Willamette valley more easily than by the route over the Blue Mountains and through Eastern Oregon.

This journey resulted in opening a route by which great numbers entered Oregon and Northern California, it being known as the "southern route." It entered this valley near its head and Emigrant creek takes its name from the opening of this passage. It ran on the south side of Bear creek and Rogue river to a point near the present site of Grants Pass. The Applegate party acted as guides for the first emigrants who passed over the route. They had some trouble with the Indians, some of their stock being stolen, and one white man was killed at Lost river.

During the progress of the Cayuse war which followed the Whitman massacre, Governor Abernethy wished to send a message to the commander of the United States troops in California, soliciting aid. Jesse Applegate was chosen as messenger and was provided with an escort of 16 men. The party set out from Polk county and arrived at the Siskiyou mountains about the first of February 1848.

Instead of crossing over directly into California they attempted to travel Eastward for a distance, and were lost in snow. Half the party turned back taking all the horses, while Jesse Applegate with eight others, tried to go on with the aid of snow shoes. They, too, felt compelled to give up the journey, and turning northward overtook the others of the party on the South Umpqua.

The valley was traversed in 1841, 1849 and 1850 mainly by gold seekers en route to California or returning to the Willamette valley. Thus far there had been no settlements in Jackson county. In 1851 the first settlements were made, but they were merely stations on the road, these being at the three ferries on Rogue river, namely, Long's, Evan's and Perkins. Other than these there were no homes between the South Umpqua and Yreka. There were no white inhabitants within the limits of this country except the employees of these ferries.

In the Spring of 1851 the Indian depredations on the trail had become so bad that something to be done to keep it open, and Governor Gaines, after a short, but effective campaign against the Indians, made a treaty with them.

The leaders among the Indians then were Sam and Joe who later became prominent figures in the history of this region. Upon the close of the Indian hostilities, Judge A. A. Skinner came to the valley as Indian agent and took his residence southeast of Table Rock. His donation claim was the first located in the county and his house, which was a log cabin, was the first one built on Bear creek. On Christmas 1851, Moses Hopwood

with the oldest of his children filed their claims to what became known as the Hopwood farm. About the same time Kennedy and Dean settled at Willow Springs. Several other settlers came in at about the same time.

Mrs. Lawless was the first white woman settler, coming in the early part of 1852. Hopwood began farming and he was the pioneer farmer of the Rogue river valley.

In December, 1851, two men named Stone and Poynts took land claims at the crossing of Wagner creek. They returned east for their families in 1852.

Jacob Wagner, for whom Wagner creek and Wagner Butte were named, settled on the creek in the spring of 1852 where he resided as an esteemed citizen and was closely identified with the growth of the town for more than 35 years. He died in 1900 at his home in this city.

In January 1852 there were some 28 persons in all residing in the Rogue river valley, among them being Major Barron, Russell, Patrick Dunn, John Gibbs, R. H. Hargadine, E. K. Anderson and brother who came to Wagner creek in that month.

It was in that month also that the placers were discovered on Jackson creek, according to Walling, and a large influx of miners immediately followed. In March 100 to 150 men were working in the vicinity of Jacksonville, mainly on Rich gulch and the right branch of Jackson creek. The diggings were very rich. A man known as "old man Shively," accumulated \$30,000.

Gold was early discovered at the Cameron place on the Applegate and also on Forest creek where good pay was found. On account of the scarcity of water, most of the mining was done with a rocker. Foote creek soon became a good mining district.

By the middle of the summer of 1852, it is said fully a thousand miners were busy on the creeks of this county, most of them in the Jacksonville district.

Among those who mined on Jackson creek that year was Oscar O. Ganiard, who built the Opera house in this city. Another was Orlando Coolidge whose widow resides on the beautiful residence site on Knob Hill in Ashland, established by Mr. Coolidge and where he died a few years ago.

With the opening of the mines there arose a strong demand for food supplies and merchants and packers did a large business with Salem where most of the provisions were bought.

The high prices started farming, but the first experiments in '52 were not successful, mainly because of the drought. The potato crop was almost a complete failure. Breadstuffs became very high. Late in the year flour sold for \$1.25 a pound where previously it had been 20 to 30 cents per pound.

Farm claims along Bear creek were taken up rapidly, mostly by persons from the Willamette valley. Those who went to farming were largely Oregonians while the miners were mostly from the California placers.

The valley became populated within one year. In 1853, 159 wagons came to this valley by the southern route, from the east, opened by Jesse Applegate. With them were 400 men, 130 women and 170 children. They brought 2000 head of cattle, 1500 head of sheep and 140 extra horses and mules.

THE DEADLY TOY PISTOL

Gold Hill Man in Serious Condition From Blood Poison.

While playing with a toy pistol here on the Fourth of July, Lem Groninger accidentally shot himself with a blank cartridge, the felt wad penetrating his left hand. At the time nothing serious was thought of it, but the next day it became painful and a physician was summoned. For several days his condition was considered serious, but the latter part of the week his hand was opened and the wad removed, when it was thought that he would soon recover, but on Monday last blood poison set in and the unfortunate young man was removed from the Ray dam, where he has been working, to the hospital at Medford. Grave fears are now entertained for his recovery, with at least a strong probability of the loss of his left arm.—Gold Hill News.

C. E. SOCIETY PICNIC

Young People Have a Pleasant Outing.

The Presbyterian C. E. society held a camp fire picnic last Wednesday evening in a grove on Rogue river about a mile above the bridge. The party started from town about 6 o'clock in the evening and rode out to the picnic grounds in hay wagons. Just before dark the picnicers enjoyed a delicious lunch in the grove. Games, songs, stories and jollifications of all sorts made the evening pass quickly and joyfully and a brilliant camp fire lighted the grove with weird and fantastic effect. The party came home late in the evening after the moon had risen to light the way.

Eph Masick returned Saturday from an extended trip throughout Oregon, Washington and Northern California. Mr. Masick has been employed to teach the Ocean District School and will commence the term sometime during the present month.—Del Norte Record.

If you want to see a fine line of trout flies and leaders go to Cramer Bros.

A GOLD SAVING MACHINE

New Appliance Just Completed by Portland Men.

John E. Mayo, Professor M. L. Pratt, Professor Waddle and C. C. Pratt are completing a mining machine at No. 385 East Washington street, which they are confident will revolutionize quartz mining as well as mining for flour gold. There are three distinct parts of this mining apparatus—the vanner, grinder, or crusher, and the separator. The crusher, of which a small model has been completed, resembles a coffee grinder in a grocery store, although built very differently. Two men can grind up three tons of ore in a day in this machine. It is claimed for it that it will reduce the hardest kind of ore to the consistency of sulphur. The tests that have been made of the machine show that it will crush ore this fine. By building a larger machine a much greater quantity of ore can be crushed.

The separator consists of a series of sluices constructed with rifles that resemble the course of a natural stream of water. The experimental separator has 80 feet of sluices, with the head in a large water tank near the ceiling of the room. This of course is merely for experimental purposes. The vanner, or concentrator, is said to be an improvement on anything yet invented, for the reason that it has a reverse motion, and it is claimed that it will save 90 per cent of flour gold.

The ore is first ground up in the crusher then run through the separator and lastly through the concentrator. The owners of the machine think that they have a good thing, and say that mining men are much interested in the ore come of their experiments. They have been working on the machine for about a year. Judge Mayo, who is a carpenter by trade, has done all the woodwork.—Oregonian.

INDIAN WAR VETERANS

Who Have Not Filed Claims Will Have to Wait for Money.

The present outlook is that the \$100,000 appropriated by the last legislature for the payment of Indian war veterans will lack \$50,000 of being sufficient. According to an opinion rendered Thursday by the Attorney General to the secretary of state, those whose claims are not reached before the \$100,000 has been expended will be compelled to wait until another legislature makes an appropriation before their claims can be audited. This is a modification of the opinion rendered some time ago when the attorney-general advised Mr. Dunbar that he should audit all claims presented even though the appropriation had been exhausted.

The secretary of state has audited and paid claims to the amount of \$90,325.57. This leaves \$9,674.43 in the fund. There are on file claims aggregating \$12,180.50, so that it is apparent that those who have not filed their claims in the office of the secretary of state will have to wait until 1905 or later before the secretary of state can act upon their claims. The secretary will receive and file all claims presented, but will not audit any in excess of the amount of the appropriation. Those not audited will be reported to the next legislature for such action that body may deem advisable.

A LIVELY RUNAWAY

Sugar Pine Delivery Team Take a Spin.

The delivery team of the Sugar Pine store indulged in a runaway on Thursday, apparently for the sole purpose of infusing a little excitement into its otherwise humdrum career. The horses started from a point near up F street, their tendency to revolve in a circle, caused by one line being tied shorter than the other, greatly impeding their forward progress. Over the ditch and desiccated cow tracks of East F street, the vehicle labored like a ship in distress. For variety the team raced over a few piles of railroad wood, ran over a few railroad tracks and came racing back to town over the side track. It was fortunate that no trains were on the track or they might have been derailed. The team made its way back to the store where the driver, Frank Mowers, who had been close after the wagon during the whole chase, succeeded in catching the end gate and climbing into the wagon. The team was stopped only a few feet from where it started. There were only a few minor injuries as a result of the runaway, the wrecking of the awning over the seat being the principal calamity. A sack of flour and sundry groceries were strewn along the course of the runaway.

The Oregon Fire Association of McMinnville insures "B" class or brick structures, in which general merchandise, banks, drug stores, public halls, etc., are run at just one-half the expense of stock companies. The McMinnville Co. pay their losses promptly.

For sale, cheap—Second hand road wagon. Apply at Trimble and Cook's blacksmith shop.

Midsummer Discount Sale

on the following
SEASONABLE GOODS

Refrigerators while they last.
Ice Cream Freezers " " "
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More New Goods this week.

Beautiful engraved water sets, \$1.50
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JUST RECEIVED—

Beautiful new Dining Tables, round or square.
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Thomas HOUSEFURNISHER

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Glassware
Lamps
Cutlery
Woodenware

RUSSIA IN MANCHURIA

Her Occupation There no New or Unauthorized Proceeding.

The English assumption that the United States must necessarily join Great Britain and Japan in coercive measures against Russia in Manchuria is ridiculous. It is unwarranted by existing conditions or by anything that is likely to occur in Manchuria. It is unwarranted by anything that occurred in the intervention of the allied powers in China or by the negotiations that followed the rescue of the legations and the capture and occupation of Peking.

Russia was in Manchuria before there was a Boxer rebellion. Her occupation of Port Arthur had been acquiesced in by Europe long before the United States was called into the coalition against China. Russian railway building in Manchuria had been encouraged by our government and our manufacturers. The opening of Siberia and Manchuria was clearly to our advantage.

At that time Manchuria was regarded within the Russian sphere of influence. When all the allies joined in hurrying troops to Peking, Russia alone restored order in Manchuria. Other European powers lost considerable property in China proper, but Russia lost more than all the others combined, and was compelled to fight her own battles against the Boxers destroying railways, storehouses and supplies.

The negotiations at Peking covered the situation in Manchuria only in an incidental way. Russia was in control, and Russian troops, having restored order was protecting property. At that time the European powers filed no protest against Russian occupation, and the United States recognized it as a military necessity.

Later, Japan and Great Britain formed an alliance hostile to the Russian program in the East. The United States had no concern in this arrangement and was not consulted. On the other hand, we had the assurance from Russia that American rights and interests in Manchuria would be safeguarded. Now we are told by the London newspapers that if the United States is as great a power as she pretends to be she will take the initiative and by threatening war, compel Russia to accept the terms of Great Britain and Japan.

In other words, the United States should pull the chestnuts out of the fire for those who do not care to burn their own fingers. If there are chestnuts in the fire they are not ours. We have no cause for war with Russia, and there is no reason why we should be associated in any way with powers seeking war with Russia.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

WIMER MINE AT WALDO

Will be Equipped With a New Elevator.

W. J. Wimer of Waldo visited several days in Grants Pass during the week. The preparations for the installation of the new hydraulic elevator at the Deep Gravel placer are now nearly completed and the work of constructing the elevator will begin immediately.

This mine has been among the largest producers of Southern Oregon for a great many years and the new appliances will make it possible to do much more effective work. Operations at the mine have been somewhat hampered by insufficient dam and the new elevator will remedy this deficiency. The elevator will be of the tubular pattern and will be constructed under the supervision of W. H. Hampton.

Welch's Closing-out sale.

OREGON-PACIFIC RAILWAY

Company Is Actively Operating in Del Norte County.

Col. T. Wain Draper was over from Takilma, Wednesday on a tour of inspection of the work of the railroad surveyors in this county. In conversation with a Record reporter, Col. Draper spoke encouragingly of the prospects for the building of the Oregon & Pacific line, the company right of way man having met with success in securing rights of way through Josephine county and in Del Norte, as far as work in that line has progressed. His company is desirous that the citizens take up the portion of work assumed last fall in getting rights of way into this city for them.

DID NOT BREAK GAME LAW

Wonderful Story Which Comes From Shelly Creek Region.

The Shelly creek correspondent of the Crescent City News says that Jim Hill came near being killed by a spike butt while out hunting in the bad mountains near that station. Jim been at work looking for a lost pony and had sat down near a bluff to rest when the deer rushed from the glen and attacked him. Fearing the consequences of a broken game law, Jim had no alternative but to allow the deer to butt him from the precipice. The deer followed him up closely and would have finished the job had Jim's dog not appeared on the scene. Jim was taken to Clarno's hotel where his many bruises are being carefully looked after by Mr. Clarno.

WILL CONTEST FISH LAW

Fisherman Pankey Will See the Finish of the Matter.

J. J. Pankey, who was convicted in Justice Jacob's court at Central Point, charged with catching fish in Rogue river unlawfully, and fined \$50, through his attorney, E. B. Dufur, will appeal to the Circuit court. He claims that Brown and Williams, the state's witnesses, perjured themselves when they swore they saw him using a net; besides, he will test the constitutionality of the statute. Pankey declined to pay the fine, and was held to answer at the September term of the Circuit court, giving the required bond. Much interest is taken in the matter, as it involves an important point.—Southern Oregonian.

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