

Supplement To Illinois Valley News

A LIVE WIRE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ILLINOIS VALLEY AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS

Volume I No. 31

Cave Junction, Oregon, Thursday, December 9, 1937

80th Anniversary of THE TRAIL BLAZER

Foreword

In 1857 a far seeing pioneer blazed a trail over the mountains that there might be a highway from Illinois Valley to the sea.

In 1937 the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsors a fitting observance of the 80th anniversary of that now historic event.

The purpose in the December 15th celebration is two fold: to memorialize the trail blazer and at the same time honor the highway builder.

Niether the trail blazer nor the highway builder is complete in himself. There must always be sight and insight for constructive building. And God has so made man that there is a bit of both in each one of us.

The man with mostly insight may become a dreamer while the man with sight alone tends to become a drudge.

Happy are the people in any community in which sight and insight are evenly matched. And blest beyond measure are we in Illinois Valley since the blazer of the trail in the last century has his counter part in the highway builder of this.

* * *

The urge in all pioneering spirits impelled many men to make their way over the high hills which encircle Illinois Valley. The paths and bypaths were numerous indeed.

Then came the doing dreamer, the man with both sight and insight. It was he who blazed the trail which brought about a road from Illinois Valley to the sea. For a road is simply a traveled trail.

This road of the long ago TRAIL BLAZER became the forerunner of the REDWOOD HIGHWAY, the far famed and monumental achievement of present day HIGHWAY BUILDERS.

The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce wishes to honor, to highly honor them all.

* * *

The General Committee in charge of this 80th Anniversary Jubilee is under a lasting debt of gratitude to a host of people who believe, with an unshakeable

faith in the intermountain area which reaches from the California line to Hayes Hill; and from the Oregon Caves to the coastal range: an area of some thousand square miles, well watered and wooded; an area with the rarest wild flowers, the rarest to be found anywhere: an area we know and love as Illinois Valley.

Among the many notable local and state leaders whose responsive interest makes possible the far reaching importance of the December 15th pageant or progressive development, the following men may be listed with the departments of government and the institutions they represent:

His Excellency, Hon. Charles H. Martin, Governor of Oregon to whom the Committee is greatly indebted for his unfailing kindness and appreciative interest, an interest not only in the plans for the Jubilee but an even greater interest in the high hope the Committee entertains for the ripened development of all Illinois Valley.

Judge N. G. Wallace, Public Utilities Commissioner of Oregon.

Mr. T. O. Russell, Chief Engineer, Public Utilities Commission of Oregon.

Mr. Rufus C. Holman, State Treasurer.

Mr. J. C. Boyle Vice-President, California Oregon Power Company.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, State Director Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Mr. G. E. Mitchell Forest Supervisor, Siskiyou National Forest, United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. M. M. Nelson, Redwood Highway Station, Forest Ranger, Siskiyou National Park.

Mr. A. C. Fleury, Chief, Bureau of Plant Quarantine, State of California, Sacramento.

Mr. E. A. Breech, Bureau of Plant Quarantine, Redwood Highway Station, State Line, California.

Dr. Geo. W. Peavy, President, Oregon State Agricultural College.

Professor Wm. L. Teutsch, Co-operative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Oregon State Agricultural College.

Mr. R. H. Baldock, State Highway Engineer.

Mr. K. D. Lytle, Division En-

gineer, State Highway Commission.

Mr. J. G. Bromley, Division Engineer, State Highway Commission.

Dr. Bruce Baxter, President, Willamette University.

Mr. George R. Riddle, President, Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. J. R. Harvey, Secretary, Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hugh C. Earle, State Fire Marshall.

The Committee desires to express again to Gov. Martin its sincere appreciation of the favor he conferred upon the Committee not only in his approval of all plans for the observance of this 80th Anniversary Jubilee but in his fulfilment of the Committee's eager desire to recognize one of the devoted projectors of the Redwood Highway system through his appointment of Mr. O. S. Blanchard as his official representative at the Jubilee.

LIGHTS!

The building of the Redwood Highway opened new areas in Illinois Valley. The survey could not follow the trail road. The wonder in the present traveling of the highway is the ease with which the climb over the Siskiyou is made. What required several days to cover in the orderly fashion of travel of the country folk in the highly treasured days of the stage coach, now can be made in a single hour.

And why?

There is with us still and we hope for all years to come the man who discovered the present pass and lowered the grade some eleven hundred feet. The Redwood Highway made possible the present improvement of altogether hitherto unused sections of Illinois Valley. And this new section lacked all modern conveniences.

That is why there is a beautiful story, one of those stories which once heard can never be forgotten. It is a story of the working together of the new settlers along the Redwood Highway and The California Oregon Power Company, which everybody in the Northwest knows as Copco.

During a period of more than five years permanent residents building just beyond the reach of the light line entreated Copco to extend their line. The Company was ever eager to meet this demand. But not until in the recent months has there been even a remote possibility of their being able to do so. The promised revenue could not be assured.

Another factor enters in to all public utility advances. By a sheer stroke of genius a wise bit of legislation has created the Public Utilities Commission of Oregon—a department which does two great things: Directs approvingly the activities of all public utilities and at the same time in assuring their orderly development safe guards the vital interests of the citizens of the state.

On September 15th a delegation from the then Cave City Chamber of Commerce called upon the Public Utilities Commissioner in his office in Salem, conferred with both Commissioner Wallace and Chief Engineer Russell; and out of that conference came the public hearing in Cave City at which time Mr. Russell and Mr. Boyle of Copco appeared. They practically assured the extension of the light line from Cave Junction to O'Brien—ultimately to be extended to the State Line.

And out of that conference on September 15th between the delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and the ranking officials in the Public Utilities Commission came also the present program for the 80th Anniversary Jubilee of the Trail Blazer for December 15th. In the meanwhile the power line is being constructed through to O'Brien and because of this truly significant improvement in the Valley and what it means, the chief speakers at the celebration in both the luncheon in Legion Hall, Cave City, and in the dinner at the Redwoods Hotel in Grants Pass, will be Hon. N. G. Wallace, Public Utilities Commissioner of Oregon, and Mr. J. C. Boyle, vice president in charge of operations of The California Oregon Power Company.

The following letter which was addressed to members of the delegation which met in the Commissioner's office on what is now a date to be remembered is of more

(Continued on Page Ten)