

CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

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Memories

By the Editor

Just for a change guess we will tell a few stories of some of our earlier-day experiences in this country when travel was not so easy as now. The other day the wife and myself took a short ride up above Ashland while looking into a news story for the paper. Our trip took us over a road we had not traveled for nearly two decades, and as we went we thought of the first time we had ever ridden over that road and what changes time had brought. Here's the tale:

Sometime about the first of August, 1920, the writer received a hurry-up call to come over to Klamath Falls to take a job on the Herald, at that time printed in a small wooden building on the alley across the street to the east of where the present courthouse now stands. We caught the stage, which started from the old Nash Hotel in Medford at about 8 a.m. Instead of the present-day luxurious bus our conveyance was a huge seven-passenger Studebaker touring car, (and we carried the full quota of seven passengers besides the driver, which didn't add to the comfort.)

As far as Ashland we followed the present highway with the exception that we followed the old route through Talent and at a point near Jackson Hot Springs we turned east and up a much steeper grade to the railroad than the new highway does now. Leaving Ashland we turned down the hill and crossed the Southern Pacific near the old depot and then turned up the tracks along Bear Creek, coming into the present highway at a point about half a mile east of the overhead crossing. From there our route followed exactly the present one as far as the foot of the Greensprings mountain grade.

The new Greensprings grade was just being built and the old road followed up the canyon of Emigrant creek. As we drove up the canyon we could see the new grade far above us on the mountain side and it didn't seem possible that they ever could build a road in such a place. Reaching the head of the canyon we climbed such a grade we never wish to see again. Over rocks as big as cookstoves; dodging fallen trees and squeezing between stumps, it seemed as if we never should reach the top. But the patience of Mr. Howard, our driver, prevailed and we at last reached the summit at exactly the same point as the present highway. From there we struck off into the big timber over the crookedest road ever devised by man. The trees were so tall and close to the road we seldom had even a glimpse of the sky and might have been in the heart of Patagonia for all we knew.

Finally, at about noon, we drew up at a ranch house where the driver announced we would stop for dinner. And that lady sure knew how well this writer liked stewed chicken with mashed potatoes, too. After sticking to that table until the driver (and no doubt the lady of the house, also) began to wonder if we were ever going to tear ourselves away, we again squeezed into the old buzz-buggy and proceeded (That ranch house, by the way, stood—and still does, so far as we know—up the creek a short distance above the present site of Pinehurst.)

Again we lost ourselves in the tall timber. Those of you who are familiar with the Klamath Falls highway will recall what beautiful vistas of giant trees one sees today between Pinehurst and the summit of Mount Hayden. But at the time we wrote of the road hadn't been cleared out as at present, but dodged its way between those forest giants as best it could. So after what seemed hours we at last reached the summit and began the descent to the Klamath river crossing which was very near its present location. From there to Keno the route was almost the same as now.

From Keno to Klamath Falls we plowed through dust and bounced in and out of chuck holes galore. With the exception of a few lonesome ranches we saw little signs of human habitation along that whole twelve-mile stretch. But you bet we heaved a sigh of relief and breathed a

EARLY DAYS OF TELEPHONE CO. TOLD BY PIONEER

The Central Point Telephone company put out a new directory last month—the second they have ever had. While soliciting for advertising to pay for the printing of the book we ran into so many people who did not know that Central Point had an independent line and who seemed so interested to learn about it that we decided that a story of the local system would be of interest. The following are a few of the questions we were asked by business men of our neighboring city: "How did Central Point manage to get its own line?" "How could Central Point get a franchise?" "Does Jacksonville and Phoenix have their own lines?" "How long has Central Point had its own line?" "How would we go about it to get a Central Point directory?" "How long has Central Point had its own directory?" "How does the Central Point telephone get its power?" Etc., etc.

After answering these questions as best we could and surprised that we really knew so little about our own company, we decided to do a little investigating. Being informed that Mr. Freeman had the old books of the company and so would be the logical person to ask for information, we contacted him and asked him to write a brief history of the early days of the company. We plan to follow this up later with the story of the present company and its plan of operation.

Following is Mr. Freeman's story:

By W. J. Freeman
Telephone service in Central Point first came into being in the year 1891 and later and at first was what was called a "Pay Station" and was operated by some merchant, generally a drug store, and when a call came in someone was sent out to call the party wanted and the party called would go to the station, where the call was completed. During the early period in Central Point the office was in the building now occupied by Long's Second Hand Store, then Mary Mee's drug store. However, after some time it was moved to what was known as Williams' Livery Stable, which stood where the Safeway store now stands, and Mr. Williams became agent and served in that capacity for some time. He had the habit of calling the party wanted by going to the middle of the street and calling for him—others taking up the call until the party was located, thus making a saving in effort on the part of Mr. Williams.

About this time Mr. Williams built a couple of lines—one from the territory west of town where he had a ranch at that time, and also he built Line 24, or what afterwards became that.

Harvey Richardson (Jesse's father) built one line to Trail and another out between the Table Rocks, the Trail line having over 20 subscribers, while the other had ten or more. Other lines were built soon and a small second-hand switchboard was purchased by Mr. Williams and placed in a small building which stood directly across the street from the present telephone building.

This brought us down to our first management of the company as a mutual concern and shortly after this a meeting of telephone subscribers was called and those interested met in the Freeman & Wiley store, with some eight or ten joining in the discussion. I recall that T. J. O'Hara offered to loan the concern enough to permit the buying of enough poles to set in the alleys, from which service lines were later extended. A note was drawn for \$50.00 and when the note was passed about everyone attending signed. When it came to Mr. O'Hara he gravely took the pen and signed the note himself, saying that that way he would know when it was paid.

William Ferguson hauled the poles from Medford and the work of (Continued on Page Four)

prayer of thankfulness that our faith in the luck of printers had been rewarded when we suddenly topped that last hill and feasted our delighted eyes on that view of Euwana Lake with the city in the background!

Think of it! From 8 in the morning until 5:30 in the evening we had sat with our legs tied in a double bow knot in that bouncing vehicle to cover a distance now made with ease in a little over a couple of hours! Thank goodness "Them Days Are Gone Forever!"

Interesting Tales of Early Day Work Mrs. A. T. Lathrop



Mrs. A. T. Lathrop

When we first heard that Mrs. A. T. Lathrop had been chosen to represent the Jackson County Extension Service at the conference of Associated Country Women of the World, we were pleased to think that she would be able to visit her birthplace and renew old acquaintances. Later we were glad that she had brought this honor to Central Point and at last we begin to appreciate the opportunity that Mrs. Lathrop will have to carry many new ideas of our country and its works, especially along the Oregon Extension Service work to many other women and bring back many helpful ideas from them.

While Mrs. Lathrop was visiting at her home, Restormel, about one mile north east of Central Point during the Spring vacation, we called on her and were very graciously

Civic Club Luncheon Tomorrow Noon

Remember the Civic Club luncheon tomorrow March 24, at the Library from 11:30 to 1:00 o'clock. Creamed ham, peas, mashed potatoes, vegetables, rolls, pie and coffee will be served. What more could you ask for a quarter and then have the quarter used to benefit your town. Every one welcome. These meetings are really a social get-together.

'Mildred Carlton Day' In County Schools

Today is Mildred Carlton Day, being her birthday. Miss Carlton's work is too well known in this community to need to be told. Up to the time of her death she worked in every way possible to promote health. Every child will bring a penny to school to help to buy new films for the projector which Miss Carlton bought with her birthday fund last year.

Teaching Ladies To Make Slip Covers

Miss Joan Patterson of Corvallis is holding a slip cover school of instruction at the Jackson Co. Extension Service department in the courthouse. Sixteen people are assisting in this work. Medford, Howard district, Jacksonville, Evans Valley and Talent are represented. It is very interesting to see the enthusiasm they have for the work and the good workmanship shown. It is a real benefit to the house wife to be able to do this work in her home and contrary to what most people think it is not impossible to make slip covers at home.

A Tale of a Lost Gravestone

Last week we printed a tale of an old gravestone which was found in the office of the Grants Pass Bulletin. On it was the name of "Margaret", wife of Samuel H. Holt, and the information that she died in December, 1883, (which, by the way, is 55 years ago last December.) The Bulletin asked for information as to who this lady was.

Then the Gold Hill News took the matter up—printing the story and also asking for information. Just for the fun of the thing this paper also printed the story—but, unlike the others, we got immediate results. At least, so far as we know, ours is the only paper to receive the desired information. And, "So the People May Know" as the feller said, here's the story:

Way back in the dim past there were two brothers in old Tennessee. One joined the Union army in the War between the States, and the other was a "Johnny Reb." After the war these brothers buried the

received. She told us that her appointment came out of a clear sky, when they called her up and told her that she had been elected to go to London as a delegate, as she did not expect the appointment to be made till later in the year. Mrs. Lathrop's country home is named after her English home Restormel. A large colored picture of Restormel in England, hangs on the living room wall. It shows the home where she lived beside the ruins of an old castle built in 1066. Mrs. Lathrop plans to be gone at least two months and will visit her brother and sister who were not married when she last saw them and their families.

Mrs. Lathrop, whose maiden name was Jennings, came to America on account of her health and also to see the country. Her first impression of Western America was that it was very unfinished in comparison to England. Going first to Montana her health improved until the altitude seemed too high, when she came to Oregon in 1911 where she has made her home and raised her family near Central Point and Medford. At her present home Restormel she and her family have lived for the past 16 years. Many of the local boys and girls got their start in the 4H Club under her leadership and will lead a fuller, better life as a result of her work. Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop were married in Medford.

Mrs. Lathrop got her passport before returning to Corvallis last Saturday. She will sail on the Queen Mary, the largest boat in the world, and return on the Georgic. She is a delegate from Jackson County and the only delegate from Oregon. The United States delegates will converge at New York for embarkation and will visit the New York world fair before going aboard.

(Continued on Page Three)

Covered Dish Dinner At Clark Home

Covered dish dinner with a St. Patrick's theme was held on March 13, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Clark by the King's Messengers Class of the Federated Church. Since this month closes our church year, new officers for the coming year were elected. Mrs. Wallace Freeland was reinstated as president; Mrs. Charles Smith, vice-president; Mrs. John Clark, Secretary; Mr. Floyd Lefler, Treasurer; and Mrs. Stanley Parrish, Assistant teacher.

William D. Lewis Dies In Calif.

William D. Lewis, a resident of Central Point since 1906, passed away in Los Angeles, Cal., Friday evening. He was about 80 years of age. For many years he was associated in the meat market with his son Irsel Lewis, who still lives in Central Point.

Besides his son Irsel, he is survived by two daughters and one son, Nema Catho and Nettie Mander of Los Angeles, and Armine Lewis of Yreka, Cal., also three grandchildren, two and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Lewis' remains arrived in Medford Wednesday morning and the service were held at Los Angeles but a short service was held at the Central Point Cemetery under the direction of Conger's at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Many friends gathered at the graveside.

Mrs. Jack Tharp and Vivian and Vestal visited Mrs. Tharp's father and sister at Talent Sunday.

Sarah Isabelle Fry Passes to Reward

Sarah Isabelle Fry, well known pioneer lady and long a resident of this city, passed away at her home Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 from infirmities of old age. She was 84 years, 4 months and 15 days of age at the time of her death.

Sarah Isabelle Stayton was born in a mining camp about 65 miles east of Sacramento, Calif., November 7, 1854. Later her family moved to Kansas and she was united in marriage to John T. Fry in Cass county, Missouri, on April 15, 1877. Mr. and Mrs. Fry came to Oregon in January, 1891, where they purchased a home on Griffin Creek, about six miles from Medford. After residing there for about ten years they moved to the Trail district, where they lived until moving to Central Point in 1924.

Mr. and Mrs. Fry celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary last year, when a reception was given in their honor at the parsonage of the Free Methodist church in Medford, of which church they had long been members.

Besides her husband, deceased leaves to mourn her passing two daughters, Mrs. Susie Long of Salem, and Mrs. Ada Campbell of Portland; 20 grandchildren, (five of whom are here for the funeral) and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow, (Friday, March 24,) from the Conger Funeral Parlors with Rev. C. B. Starkey, officiating. Interment will be in the I. O. O. F. cemetery in Medford.

Governor To Be Honored at Dinner

All men and women of Jackson County are invited to attend the dinner-forum to be given in honor of Gov. Charles A. Sprague in the Hotel Medford at 6:30 Friday. While the event is sponsored by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, it is not necessary to be a member to attend, it was emphasized. The number of attendants, however, will be limited by accommodations at the hotel and there are asked to make reservations as soon as possible. Reservations may be made at the chamber of commerce. Governor Sprague has not announced the topic of his address. He is to address an educational and vocational guidance conference of all high school seniors of the county at the Medford senior high school auditorium at 10:30 Friday morning.

Long Lost Ring Found in Garden

Many years ago when Mrs. W. J. Freeman was a small girl, her mother Mrs. Julia Owens was visiting at a friend's home and lost a diamond out of her wedding ring. In spite of all the searching, the diamond could not be found.

Years later when Mrs. Freeman had been married and lived in what is now the Freeman home and Lola Kincaid was a small girl and living with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Freeman. Mrs. Owens also lived with her daughter Mrs. Freeman and family. One day Mrs. Owen called her little granddaughter Lola to her and asked if she would like to have her wedding ring and told her while she couldn't have a diamond put in the ring, she would have it fixed in any way she liked. Lola and mother decided to have a gold plate with Lola's initials engraved on it, over the place where the diamond was. A few years later Lola, while playing around the grounds on the Freeman place, lost the ring. That was about 22 years ago.

Last Monday Mr. Freeman was working in the garden and something stuck on the tines of the rake, thinking it was a stone he shook the rake but could not dislodge it. On taking the object off he discovered it was a ring and took it into the house and Mrs. Freeman told him what ring it was. Mrs. Lola Kincaid said that the ring will be treasured in their family from now on.

DOG LICENSE ENFORCEMENT
Cyruscomb, enforcement officer for the Dog Control Board, will make a complete coverage of the County, starting March 20th, to collect license on all dogs not already licensed. In accordance with Section 20-2369, Oregon Code 1930, the enforcement officer is required to collect the license or get the dog.
G. R. CARTER, Co. Clerk.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Shaw and family returned from a visit with Mr. Shaw's relatives. He has been an employee at the Gett's Lumber Mill for some time and will continue to work there as before. They say the old dust bowl looked better than it did when they were there two years ago, as the people were able to raise some grain and hay this last year. However the valley looked pretty good to them, and they were glad to be back.

SENIORS TO GIVE ANNUAL PLAY TOMORROW EVE.

Creepy noises, eerie lights, women's screams and clutching claws that snatch unsuspecting characters off the stage right before your very eyes, are only a FEW of the thrills you will experience when you see that famous mystery comedy play, "TIGER HOUSE", to be presented Friday, March 24, by the Senior class at the high school auditorium. But don't be afraid! Of course you will be excited. You might even scream! But just when you expect the worst you will start laughing at some of the rib-tickling comedy which always comes along just at the right moment. It is this variety which makes the play so amusing. Thrills one moment, comedy the next, romance the next. And it all leads to an unexpected conclusion that will leave you gasping and maybe a bit chagrined to find that after all you have guessed wrongly as to the guilty party!

Much time, work and careful planning have all resulted in what is hoped to be one of the most ambitious productions the Seniors have ever attempted. Many mechanical and electrical effects had to be worked out. The play itself needed careful rehearsing as the action is rapid, characterizations all vastly different and well written. We can positively guarantee that all those who see "TIGER HOUSE" will feel better for an evening well spent amidst thrills, chills, shudders, laughter and—love!

Play Repeated To Raise Funds for Lathrop Fund

Jackson County Recreation leaders are sponsoring a dramatic festival at the Medford High school auditorium next Monday evening March 27 at 8:00 p.m. for the benefit of the Lathrop fund, which will be used in defraying the expenses of Mrs. A. T. Lathrop, delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World conference at London next May. It is hoped that every one in Central Point will attend and help do their part. A play "Mother Was Right", directed by Mrs. C. E. Rose and produced by Roxy Ann Extension service will be given and "One Hundred Dollars" by Central Point Grange will also be given.

Those who did not see "One Hundred Dollars" when it was given at the Grange hall this spring, will want to see it Monday evening, and all who did see it, enjoyed it so much they will wish to see it again. Following is the cast which are all Central Point folks and well known here:

Leonard Preston—J. E. Vincent; Lucy Preston, his wife—Emma Dunn; Ann, Lucy's sister—Ethel Freeman; Dora Reese, Lucy's friend—Dorothea Hedsoph; Mary, the maid—June Furry.
Director, Eudora Bohmert; prompter, Thora Ward; stage manager, Paul Smith.
Produced by special arrangement with Samuel Frence of New York.

On March 15, the Mt. Pitt Rebekah Lodge entertained the I. O. O. F. in a house warming for the new kitchen. A nice crowd was out and an enjoyable evening spent.

The Churches

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Clifton A. Phillips, Minister
Bible School 10:00 A.M. Roland Hoyer, Supt. Miss Lyle Gregory, Primary Supt.
Communion and Preaching 11:00 A.M. Mr. Phillips will not be in Central Point Sunday and Dick Fraley, President of Myrtle-Union will fill the pulpit, both morning and evening. Special chorus by choir.
Christian Endeavor 6:30 P.M.
Evangelistic Service 7:30 P.M. Dick Fraley speaking. Sermon subject "God's Stop-signs." Special music, Ladies trio.
Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Mrs. Phillips will give a general review of all the past winter's work. The choir will hear the Easter Music.
Come! Work! Worship! Help us reach our goal for Easter.

THE FEDERATED CHURCH
Phone 51
Stanley G. Parish, Pastor.
Bible School—9:45 a. m.
Morning Worship—11:00 a. m.
Christian Endeavor—6:30 p. m.
Evening Service—7:30 p. m.
Ladies' Bible Class—Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting—Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.
Choir Practice—Wednesday at 8:30 p. m.