

# BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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## OREGON PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

### Walker Family Important

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was mayor of Portland at one time; only recently his son, supervising the location of a Portland pipe line decreed that the rack was in the way and would have to come out. He didn't know the place, didn't know the history.

"That's a relic, that post is. Some very prominent men have tied up their horses there," said Mrs. Olds. That set the young man thinking. "Well, maybe my father has been here, he said when he told him something of the history. 'What was his name,' Mrs. Olds wanted to know. 'Bill Story,' he answered. 'Well many's the time his horse has been tied to that old rack,' she informed him. Young Story made different arrangements. The rack is still there. Such men as Doctor Linklater, Doctor Bailey, John Shute and W. D. Hare have hitched their horses to it. Bailey and Linklater were well known early day physicians of the county, Shute a county banker. Hare was the father-of-at-orney Bill Hare of Hillsboro.

Grandfather Walker taught school in a small log house on his place. There were no roads and in order that his pupils might have something better than hewed logs for seats, he made frequent trips across the hill to Portland, bringing back chairs, two at a time, as he trudged patiently along the trail. Mrs. Olds—she's the last surviving member of the third Oregon generation of Walkers—still has some of those sturdy chairs in her collection of early day articles. This collection, incidentally, is by far the finest individual assortment of pioneer relics and antiques that your writer has ever been privileged to see.

In '62 Grandfather Walker was appointed Postmaster of a small office on the place, called Oceola. It was the only postoffice between Hillsboro and Portland. By '71, son Robert, grown to young manhood, suddenly became restless and began talking of returning to Missouri. The reason was a boyhood sweetheart, Rachael Coffee, descendant of a fine Revolutionary family. He made the long trip, married and returned with his

bride to live upon the Walker farm. Both his parents passed away in the early eighties.

Robert and Rachael Walker had five children, and Lauretta Walker Olds, the youngest and only one still living, was born in a smallish room of the old house. She has spent her entire life, thus far, right on the old farm where she was born. "I do not want to live anywhere else—couldn't live anywhere else. It's always been my home. I wouldn't feel natural any other place," she says. And most any day when the weather's good you'll find her industriously digging among her flowers and plants, with two ever faithful small dogs Muggens and Gussie always nearby. Her greatest delight is entertaining her numerous friends, talking and explaining all about the pioneer articles of which she has so many. And doing many favors for these friends and neighbors. While your writer was at the Old Meadow Farm, she not only cooked and served a fine dinner, but also spent much time showing and talking of the relics, dug just oodles of flowering plants and a young tree or two for some neighbors, newcomers to the community. And when a neighbor lady came for rhubarb to make a pie for supper, Mrs. Olds could not send her away disappointed. She was clear out of rhubarb—had given the last away the day before. "Would a jar of berries do? I have some berries that make good pies," and when the lady assented, away went Mrs. Olds and got the berries.

Tragedy struck twice about a year apart at the little Oregon Electric station nearby. In 1915, it was Dr. Linklater, the physician who had called at the Walker home. Her father, Robert, took the doctor to the station to catch the Hillsboro bound train. In his rush to flag the oncoming cars, the doctor might have been blinded by the headlights, maybe he was struck down and fatally injured, dying the following morning. Little did Robert Walker know that a like fate waited him only a year hence. But about 8:30 one morning he went to the station to take the train and was struck in an almost similar manner, being instantly killed. The mother Rachael Walker passed away about eight years ago.

Brief mention must be made of the relics, though a book might be written of them and the lore that rightly belongs to them and the house. An old coal oil lamp with marble base, was much the thing in its day—it shone on special occasions only, for coal oil was \$2.50 per gallon, much too expensive to use regularly. The gilded frame mirror, still flawless in the reflections it gives, was a surprise gift from Grandfather. He rode horseback this time, carrying the large mirror carefully under his arm all the way from Portland. And then, when at last he reached the farmyard and dismounted, the horse, unfortunately saw his image in the mirror. This was something new—another horse appearing from nowhere—so he did what most other horses would have done, fired a broadside with a pair of flashing heels. The expensive glass was

shattered into a thousand or more pieces. But the frame went back, next time to town, and Grandfather Walker this time was careful not to show the horse his image in the new mirror.

There are Indian relics, mortars, pestles, for grinding; arrowheads and baskets. Many of the stone articles were gathered right on the Walker place where the Indians used to congregate and pick huckleberries. There are early paintings of an aunt, Maria Louisa Walker, also feather flowers of an earlier day. Two spinning wheels, one dating to 1808, a larger one that came around the Horn, on which Lauretta Walker's mother took wool raised on the Old Meadow Farm, carded and spun it, then made underwear for her husband and stockings for the children. There are tables, dressers, many pieces of furniture. A small child's desk, made by her father for Rachael Coffee when she was but six years old. Powder horns, bullet molds, an old cap and ball rifle which Robert Walker used to kill game, which not only supplied the family table but found a market in Portland before anyone thought of a game law. Just highlights, these, but perhaps they will give a vague idea.

Out in the yard, even the trees have significance, for some of them, notably some old pears, were wagon pioneers themselves. An enormous black walnut owes its origin to a nut brought all the way from Tennessee. "A black walnut is just like an old bear—never comes out in the spring until it's safe," Mrs. Olds said, speaking of frost damage. She was digging plants for the neighbors, having as much fun giving as they were, receiving.

So it goes—she with her house, relics and plants. Sam with his farm and fine Jersey cattle. Both of them with their pioneer traditions back of them. Oregon pioneers, their sons and daughters and grandchildren are a modest sort for the most part. Always telling you, "Now be careful what you put in the paper!"

So there are lots of things that might be said—interesting things too. But since, they're not looking for publicity, you'll just have to read between the lines. And we hope you're good at it!

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### Babson Says---

Continued from Page 1  
will get 40%; materials will cost another 40%; and 20% will go for management, interest, and overhead.

Why Not Cut Crime?

I have told readers of this column that I would try to warn them when the inflation situation becomes dangerous. That time is not yet at hand. The heavy taxes already assessed should postpone the evils of inflation. When taxes are raised above a certain amount, however, concerns fold up and new concerns dare not start in business. As a result, the nations total income falls off and the government does not collect as much real tax money with the higher rates as it did from the lower rates. In cases where the government has taken over factories or public utilities, all the tax money is lost. This appears in those cities where new government housing schemes are under way. Therefore every reader is justified in fighting taxes and working to keep them down.

Besides, there is a way to raise these billions needed to defeat Hitler besides resorting to taxation, borrowing, or inflation. We can cut down our crime bill. By doing this, we can keep from increasing either our taxes or our debt. Moreover, we can enjoy an even better standard of living. The annual crime bill for the United States is \$15,000,000,000 per year. This staggering cost does not include the billions spent on commercialized vice, illegal gambling, narcotics, etc. It includes only goods destroyed, buildings burned by criminals, and the cost of operating police systems, prisons, and insane hospitals, plus the loss of production by those involved. Let Mr. Morgenthau get some of his needed money

by reducing the crime bill.

Don't Worry Yet

In spite of our carrying much of the financial burden of other democracies, as well as the defense and civil expenses of our own country, our resources are enormous. Against our borrowing must be set the public and private wealth. We can go a long way before this is exhausted. No one, however, can afford to stand idly by as our government gets deeper into debt without helping in some way. We can at least reduce our private debts. I do not expect the time will ever come in this country when one will be penalized for saving money I still believe in our dollar. Certainly, many people outside our borders believe in it too!

Savings, however, should be invested judiciously. What was safe in your father's day may not be safe today. New rules are in the making; but those who recognize them should have nothing to fear. Truly, these are wonderful times in which to live. As Thomas A. Kempis said, "It is good for us now and then to have some troubles and adversities." Until they can be solved, we should have faith in our leaders. Confidence, not fear, should rule our hearts and our heads.

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