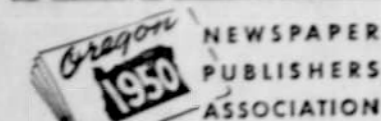


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Founder Of Sylvan Argued For State Capitol Site

ORIGINALLY NAMED ZION TOWN SETTLEMENT
POST OFFICE LASTED ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS

By Hervey S. Robinson

(Continued from last week)

Some of our older readers doubtless remember Nathan B. Jones, founder of the settlement at Zion Town, now called Sylvan. Jones was a Yankee, by birth, a native of Salem, New Hampshire, who had spent his early years in Illinois.

He was one of the 3,000 or more emigrants who came to Oregon the year after the settlement of the boundary question gave assurance that Oregon would become United States territory, to seek fame and fortune in the new northwest.

While Nathan did not class with such captains of industry as W. W. Chapman, Stephen Coffin and others who came that year, he possessed enough Yankee shrewdness to do pretty well speculating in real estate.

After roaming about the Willamette valley for about a year, he settled at Portland, then a little river village about three years old. There he made the acquaintance of D. H. Lowndale, a real community builder.

Lowndale had come in 1845 and taken a claim in the hills beside Canyon Creek, a mile west of the new town, on the ground now occupied by the Multnomah Golf Course, where he started a tannery, which was the first important private manufacturing enterprise in Oregon.

When Jones made his acquaintance, Lowndale had recently bought the Portland townsite from F. W. Pettygrove for \$5,000 worth of untanned leather, and Jones purchased two town lots from him, situated on the river front just below Main street, for \$100 each, and began a successful career trading in land.

A road had been opened up Tan-

ner's Creek Canyon, over which Tualatin Valley farmers were hauling their grain and produce to trade for supplies with the ships which were tied up at the little dock. It was this Canyon Road which gave to Portland her commercial supremacy and made her, later, the metropolis of Oregon.

From the pass at the head of Canyon Creek crude roads radiated into the Tualatin Plains and, branching in various directions extended to important points in western and southwestern Oregon. In that pass, Nathan B. Jones built a cabin, about 1850, which he called the "Hermitage." He adorned the outside walls with weird paintings, anticipating the modern fad for fantastic mural decorations.

When John B. Preston began the Federal Land Survey in June 1851, he drove the cedar stake, marking the starting point of the system, about three quarters of a mile north and slightly west of the "Hermitage", and Nathan Jones staked out a donation land claim of 320 acres with the marker for its northwest corner.

This claim comprised the "West 1/2 of Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian, and the "Hermitage" was located near its southwest corner. The Canyon Road passed its door and the old Barnes Road, another route to the Plains crossed the claim near its north line.

Because his claim was the gateway from Portland to the country west and south and the center of the land system, Jones believed that it was the logical location for the center of Oregon government.

He planned to build here a new town, which he would call Zion Town, probably not for religious reasons, but because he expected it to become the community and trading center for settlers at Mount Zion, about a mile to the southeast.

At first his neighbors were John Slavin and Amos King to the east, on the road to Portland, and William Painter, a quarter of a mile west, on the road to Hillsboro. A mile beyond Painter's claim was Anthony W. Hart and beyond him, Samuel Stott, where Beaverton is now. Farther on, at Wathen Robinson's home and school house (later Reedville Farm) the road forked, one branch going to Hillsboro and the other to Lafayette.

In succeeding years, a little village grew up. Nathan called it Zion Town and wanted it to have a post-office, with himself as postmaster, but he was a rock-ribbed Democrat and would not ask favors of a Republican administration. So he waited for the Democrats to come into power.

In the late 50s, the settlers petitioned for a post-office, but the postal authorities refused to use the name Zion. There had been at least two Zions in Oregon, and the names had been changed because of confusion in the mails.

T. H. Price, a resident of Zion Town, suggested the name Sylvan, and a post-office with that name was established June 6, 1890, with Charlotte Price as postmaster. The office was closed September 11, 1906.

Jones continued to live in his "Hermitage" until it was burned down in 1893. Meantime, he platted lots in Zion Town, as he insisted on calling it, and waited for the state capital and the postmaster's ship which never came.

His neighbors believed him to be immensely wealthy, and as he had frequently expressed a lack of confidence in banks, it was generally believed that he kept his money concealed in his house. Some were so convinced that when the "Hermitage" burned they searched the ruins for gold. They turned over every brick in the ancient fireplace and every char-

red timber in a vain search for money.

It was said that a number of adventurers, at different times, had tried to get his wealth away from him. It was estimated at about \$100,000. At one time, the story went, there had been a plot to poison the old man, and, on another occasion, an eastern woman had tried to get his property.

After the destruction of the "Hermitage", Jones moved into a house which he had built some years before, but which he had not intended to occupy until he got married.

(Next week—A Brutal Murder)

Big Meet Coming

You first hear of Billy Graham in Los Angeles where thousands could not get into the big tent. Next came slow-moving Boston with the public auditorium all too small. Then followed Columbia, S. Carolina with 10,000 visiting cars parked all about on one of the Sundays of the meet. And this July Portland, Ore., is to have the man—Billy Graham.

Billy is only 31 years old and yet he has the ear of the masses. Listen to him and you get two parts. First—That God lifted your sins off of you and put them on Christ who then became the sinner and died under your sins for you that He might bring you to God. See 1st Peter 3:18—Bible. Your Part—Believe God, that the blood of Christ washed your page clean. Believe God and he gives you new and eternal life, with new ways and days. And you then have Christ as your Elder Brother for cheer, wisdom and comfort.

So which? To go lost or to have eternal life and Christ? Which for you?

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Cordially Invites You

YOUR RURAL NEIGHBORS

Tentatively listed for May will be a two day visit to farming communities, sponsored by the county extension agent, which aims to bring closer emphasis on the agricultural character of Washington county.

This is an ambitious project, one which will require a great deal of coordination and cooperation by farming and city organizations. Many details must still be worked out and everyone in the county is encouraged to take an interest in the event.

One day will be devoted to the eastern end of the county and the other will be concerned with the western end of the county. Buses will be chartered and the tour will include a wide variety of agricultural activities.

The industrial character of Washington county is predominantly agricultural, either directly or indirectly. Many residents seem unaware of this fact. And they seem further uninformed of the problems that their rural neighbors face.

Farming is more than a way of life, as it has been traditionally classified. Farming is industry, requiring vital attention to problems of management and improvement as well as labor relations and investment.

The importance of agriculture to county development is great. Not only in the supply of foodstuffs but in the business volume the process effects do farms contribute to the growth of the county.

The full picture of the county farming is not one that might be gained without some effort. Beyond the more dramatic events that find expression in your weekly newspaper, there is a background of less startling fact. But it is this background which clarifies the agricultural picture.

In a county such as ours, we are—or should be—close to our rural neighbors. We should therefore take advantage of the tour in May to become closer acquainted and to be more aware of each other's problems.

By closer contact and the direct approach of a personal visit, we shall know our rural neighbors much better.

ZONING AND PLANNING

Well aware of the county wide rate of growth and development, city officials at the recent League of Oregon Cities dinner meeting spoke favorably of a county planning commission, to bring some measure of control on the many subdivisions and housing projects that are springing up.

As it is now, there are some city planning commissions that operate for as far as 6 miles beyond their borders, but the opinion was voiced that there is not the interest in development of fringe areas that there is within the boundaries of a city.

The boom in the Pacific Northwest is real and evident, even without "door-step surveys" to present the situation in neat figures and percentages. From Portland, there has been two tendencies which emphasize the population pressure that can only influence the Tualatin valley, particularly, during the next ten years.

One, of course, is the swelling migration of workers in Big Town who by increasing numbers are moving into one of the various, excellent homelike communities of the valley. Development is rapid and a sign of even greater migration to come.

Then there is the unofficial reaching out and the plainly covetous glances of Portland toward the high valuation areas close to its borders. The annexation urge is rampant in the Multnomah-Vernon Hills area and whatever its opponents will accomplish before the election of joining Portland, it seems it will not be quite enough to stem the advancing tide.

True, the areas not pondering whether to continue being without municipal identity or to become part of the Greater Portland are not incorporated entities of themselves. Perhaps for this reason alone, annexation might offer a more direct avenue for progress.

The problems of Washington county cities and communities, however, are not identical to those in Multnomah county. Surely the county line will not deter expansion westward from Portland. But it is a mental obstacle which will require a campaign of persuasion to overcome.

But meanwhile the problems of county planning multiply. Whether the eastern end of Washington county will become part of a metropolitan Portland gathers together and incorporates as a new city or annexes to already existing cities, the matter of laying roads deserves immediate attention.

At present, the county court has designated a representative committee to serve as a "planning commission for county roads". Loosely drawn, the group is charged, at present, with the making of a road survey and a recommendation toward a special levy

or bond issue for rehabilitation of roads.

City officials point out that this present commission might well be used as a starting point for a specifically defined county planning body to deal with an over-all program. There is a great deal of shying away from the concept of county zoning, at the present time. Perhaps the fear of protest that zoning implies causes believers in planning to shrink from the storm of angry arguments it might encourage.

To face the issue squarely, however, without zoning, the benefits of county-wide planning will be sharply restricted, particularly in fringe areas which are liable to shape up for future annexation to incorporated cities.

Some control might well be administered in the matter of business zoning. Rules need not be as stringent as within a city. But problems of fire and location to residential areas deserve some regulation for the protection of everyone concerned.

Whatever the views of the county court, they might well recognize that the problem of growth and development will be more satisfactorily channeled with zoning and planning.

END TRAGIC DEADLOCK

"Let each ponder in his conscience, be he statesman or scientist or ordinary citizen, how far his own action or attitude contributes to the danger of world suicide, and what he must do to prevent it, and to bring the nations to understand and serve one another. The governments of the nations have an inescapable responsibility at this hour.

"The world is divided into hostile camps through suspicion and distrust, and through the failure of nations to bring their mutual relations within an agreed system of justice and order. As representative of Christian churches we appeal for a gigantic new effort for peace. We know how strenuously the governments have discussed peace in the past. But sharp political conflicts continue and the atomic danger develops uncontrolled.

"We urge the governments to enter into negotiations at once again, and to do everything in their power to bring the present tragic deadlock to an end."

—Dr. O. Frederick Nolde and Charles P. Taft, World Council of Churches

DAYLIGHT CONTROVERSY

Due for referendum vote in the fall election is one of the hottest issues yet to be referred to the people.

This statement does not concern reappointment of the legislature, which is important. This deals with Daylight Saving Time, which is hot and controversial.

Large sums of money may be expended in the wink of an eye. And approval of such expenditure raises only the most casual of interest among those taxpayers who will be called upon to pay for it.

But when it comes to monkeying with such a fundamental value as time, then's when the hullabaloo starts.

During the war, according to all reports, Daylight Saving was accepted without too much hardship. Adopted nationally, it occasioned very little "orientation" and was surprisingly effective.

After the war, however, the people awoke with great clamor at the mere sound of the words. Cows stopped giving milk at the idea and eggs stopped flowing from the otherwise faithful hens, to judge some of the outbursts. And everyone took a look around himself to try and discover who engineered such a diabolical infringement upon a man's basic right to regulate his time in accordance with the tides and seasons.

Daylight Saving Time is man-made, a device which seeks to re-arrange waking hours to give full advantage to the hours of daylight that summer season occasions.

Adoption of the save-an-hour standard requires some getting use to but the handicap and burden it imposes grows less important as it goes along.

Surely, a vote on God's time or Man's time brings personal interests into sharp focus. Ruralites, among themselves, do not entirely agree nor do city folk.

Taking into consideration all angles of the matter, one thing is certain. The daylight controversy will soon be upon us and we may expect wide participation in the vote upon which hinges the final decision.

END OF BORROWED TIME

Aloha and Tualatin made the news last week-end, all to the sorrow of a man well and favorably known in both communities.

Listed dramatically as "one of the ten most dangerous criminals" on the FBI wanted list," Orba Elman Jackson was apprehended without incident and the careful effort he had made during two and a half years following escape from Leavenworth to live as a decent, law-abiding citizen came to an end.

He made friends during his time of freedom and proved himself as a basic good citizen, barring earlier misadventure.

But like all loans, there came the end to his borrowed time.

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