

Talbot Turned Away From River Banks For Homesite

PIONEER SETTLED ON COUNCIL CREST AND
CARVED OUT CLAIM ON HIGHEST SECTION

By Hervey S. Robinson

Any reader who has additional information on names, places or events covered by Mr. Robinson are invited to write the newspaper. In this way, a more complete historical series will be possible.

Address letters to Hervey S. Robinson, % Beaverton Enterprise, Beaverton, Oregon.

By Hervey S. Robinson

(Continued from last week)

"I wouldn't give three white beans for the whole Willamette Valley," said John Beal Talbot in 1850. "What I want is a place high enough to be healthy with timber enough to keep our fireplace going for the rest of our lives."

Early Oregon immigrants had generally taken their claims along the banks of the river, which afforded the only highways for travel in those days. As each claim included a full section of land, the desirable riverside sites were soon all preempted. The steep, rugged west hills between Portland and the Tualatin Plains were an almost unassailable barrier to the westward extension of settlement.

The first arrivals upon the Plains either came from Ft. Vancouver via Sauvie Island and Cornelius Pass, or crossed the Willamette above the present site of Milwaukie, where the hills were lower and not so rugged.

Later arrivals staked out their claims in the hills, more from necessity than from choice, in most cases, holding them long enough to obtain title, and then sold them to Portland residents for orchards and pasture.

A few, like James Terwilliger, D. H. Lowndale, John Slavin and the shrewd but eccentric Nathan Jones, foresaw the scenic, hygienic, industrial and strategic possibilities of the hills between the growing riverport at Portland and the source of food and raw materials in the Tualatin and Yamhill basins, and chose to endure temporary hardships and comparative isolation for the sake of future good.

To them is due the credit for the development of the West Hills and the eastern border of the Tualatin Plains. John Beal Talbot was one of them.

In March 1849, the Talbot family, John B. his wife and four small children, set out overland from Monmouth, Illinois, for the California gold fields, with two wagons, a team of horse and five yoke of oxen. When they came to the fork in the trail, where the road swung south toward California, they found that the Indians had burned off all the grass in that region, leaving no fodder for the cattle. So Mr. Talbot decided to come on to Oregon.

On the journey up the Platte, both Mr. and Mrs. Talbot were sick with the cholera and barely survived. The children, however, escaped the plague and the family resumed their journey to The Dalles, where they found the place deserted.

The Indians had burned the mission house and outbuildings and only masses of charred lumber re-

mained. Not a living soul or human habitation was in sight. They made camp and spent the night as best they could.

The next day they were joined by other emigrants and the men of the party, now seven in all, went to work building boats, in which to float their goods down the Columbia. They made frames from the running gear of the wagons, boarded up with scraps of lumber from the burned mission houses. Then the members of the party tore up all their old cotton clothes, dipped them in melted pitch, gathered from the fir trees and caulked the seams of their three boats.

Putting their effects on board the seven men floated away into the unknown, down the Columbia to old Ft. Vancouver, while their families followed the trail across the Cascades, and after much tribulation and some narrow escapes from burning forests, arrived safely in the valley, October 17, 1849.

The Talbots spent their first winter in Portland in a house that Finck Carruthers built on First street near what is now Salmon street. That three room house sheltered four families through the winter, the six Talbots had a single room. They were much annoyed by pigs getting under the floor, where they grunted, squealed and fought, sometimes almost lifting the boards off the floor. Finally the problem was met by pouring scalding hot water through the cracks, which persuaded the porkers to seek a less torrid situation.

In the summer of 1850, the family went to the Lewis river. Mr. Talbot wanted to see the whole country before settling down. He didn't like the country there, so left his family with a settler there and explored the Puget Sound country on horseback. That didn't suit him, either. Provisions were too scarce, so he went back to Portland and looked over the Willamette valley for a location with no better results.

Finally he chose a section of land on the highest point in the vicinity of Portland, about two miles southwest and 1,100 feet above the business section of the growing city. That hill, now called Council Crest, was known to all the old timers as Talbot Mountain. The whole hill was solid timber, except for a small area where some of the trees had been burned off by a big forest fire in 1847.

Where the fire had burned the timber, Mr. Talbot plowed the ground and planted wheat. Later he grubbed out the stumps and put in an orchard. He left four big trees, which had survived the fire, as a sort of shelter, where the cattle could stand in the shade and "stomp" the flies. That hill with the four big trees came to be called the "stomping ground", or more shortly, the "stomp".

On this claim, in 1851 he erected a little log cabin and here the family had their own way, while the little city was growing up at their feet. There was not, at first, a wagon road anywhere near it. For the first two years, as her daughter Miss Ella Talbot told Fred Lockley, some 37 year ago,

GRADUATES PRESENT PROGRAM AT COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

By Mrs. Edna Blithen
McKAY-PROGRESS - Diplomas were given to 16 eighth grade graduates at exercises Wednesday evening May 24.

The program consisted of an operetta by the graduating class, "Seven Old Ladies of Lavender Town"; a reading, "Zone of Quiet" by Jackie Brown; piano solos, by Linda Horney and Carolyn Wyttenberg; accordion solo, by Emogene Ferris, and a "Irish Jig" by Gwen Horney.

The welcome was given by Marjorie Altenhofen. Class will be read by Juanita Canida; class prophecy by Julia Ghiglietti and Jacqueline Brown. The American Legion Award was presented to Jimmy Prouty and Sharon Dietrich by Mr. Locke. Diplomas were presented by Ernest Rabe. Graduates were: Marjorie Altenhofen, Frances Arena, Jacqueline Brown, Juanita Canida, Sharon Dietrich, Julia Ghiglietti, Kay Harms, John Harms, Ronald Koenig, Leonard McKee Jr., Jimmy Prouty, Bobby Rabe, Elsie Sanders, David Simkins, Harvey Mrs. Talbot did not see a woman's face.

The roads down to Portland, when at length some were built, were bad and, said Miss Ella "Mother had her housework to attend to and her family of small children to look after." She could not let her children wander far away from the house, and she did not like to go far away herself alone on account of the panthers. This used to be a great place for cougars and panthers. You could hear them crying on all sides.

In 1856, a new frame house replaced the little log cabin. From time to time the Talbots, for the sake of having neighbors, sold a portion of their land, at first for \$10 an acre, and later as high as \$200 an acre. Now it is valued at many times that price. Mr. Talbot died in 1874, but his widow and her children continued to reside upon the old claim for many years. Mrs. Talbot died in 1900.

(Continued next week)

Noted In File Of County Sheriff

PLATES DIDN'T FIT

About 9 p. m., May 16, a cruising deputy discovered a 1936 Lafayette coupe abandoned on Gassner road, two miles south of Hazelale and a checkup showed a switch in plates. Some consternation reigned in official circles for a few hours. Next day, however, Arthur Higgs, Route 1, Box 845, Beaverton, stating he is the assistant attorney-general of Oregon, related the car had been sold to him by Gordon J. Phillips, of Portland but that he knew nothing about the reported plates switch.

Phillips, when contacted, declared he had taken the plates from another car in order to make delivery. He admitted full responsibility in the matter.

The sheriff's office assessed \$76 for towing charges, which was paid. Higgs, who is said to have wanted the car for his son's use, passed up the purchase following the escape but reports are a junk dealer ended up buying it.

CAUGHT AND CONFESES

William Boyd Delepine, charged with stealing between \$70 and \$80 from the Herbert Frank residence at 900 Ellman Lane, Tigard, was apprehended May 16 at Oregon City and is said to have admitted the act in question, upon return to the Washington county jail.

He had been employed at the home in question.

BEGONIA EXHIBIT

Anyone interested in begonias would enjoy a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith begonia garden on the old Scholls Ferry near golf course.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many thoughtful friends for their kind expressions of sympathy during our bereavement.

Mrs. Emma Bluhm
Mr. and Mrs. George Bluhm
Mr. and Mrs. Willard King
Mrs. Mae Bluhm

WANT ADS

PARMENTER PULLETS for sale \$1.25-\$1.50 each, 3 to 4 months old. Rt. 1, Box 590, Beaverton, out Watson to Sorrento to Davies, 1 mile to sign. 19p

ANYONE wishing to pick berries with a school platoon please call Tigard 2622 or Tigard 6031. 19

FOR SALE One Youngstown 54" Deluxe sink, plus 15 cabinets to match, also 2 20x6-8 and 1 36" doors, 1 DH streamline window complete with frame and venetian blind, also 1 large 72" venetian blind. Make offer for all or part. 881 NE Canyon Road. Phone Beaverton 4855. 20

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THANKS FOR SKIP

Dear Editor:

Parents teachers and students of St. Cecilia's grade school will miss Skip Weigel, Beaverton Police officer, who directs traffic on Canyon Road at the school corner.

"Skip" has been most courteous to everyone and especially patient with the children.

Often during his spare time he has shown movies and instructed the children regarding safety rules.

Students and faculty alike all hope to see Skip at the same corner when school starts next fall. He has well earned the appreciation and good wishes St. Cecilia School has for him.

St. Cecilia Mothers Club
By Mrs. J. E. St. Clair

June 1 Deadline For Certifying Fescue Planting

Farmers who have fescue plantings from which they intend to harvest certified seed must file an application for certification at the County Agent's office by June 1st. Wilbur W. Burkhardt County Extension Agent emphasized that the application must be made so that the crop can be inspected in the field. Any planting not inspected cannot be certified.

Other crops that must be inspected at the same time as fescue include abuzzi rye, cascade flax, lotus and red clover.

Seed standards and specific requirements for all crops may be obtained by requesting them from the County Extension Office in Hillsboro.

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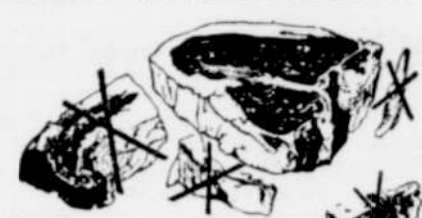
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Niblets Corn Whole Kernel 12-oz. can 17c
Fancy Peas Sugar Belle No. 2 can 15c
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Shortening Royal Satin 3-lb. can 79c
Flour Kitchen Craft 10-lb. sack 93c
Flour Kitchen Craft 25-lb. sack \$1.98
Tea Timer Crackers 1-lb. pkg. 29c
White Bread Mrs. Wright 1-lb. loaf 13c
Fresh Milk qt. 19 1/2¢

Rockwood Wafers

For Starlight mint surprise cookies 9-oz. Pkg. 29¢

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Fudge Mix 12-oz. Pkg. 29¢

Cinch Cake Mix

For White Cake 17-oz. Pkg. 39¢

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