

Mountain Men Migrate

The great fur industry received its death blow in 1840. Prince Albert, Consort of Queen Victoria, introduced the tall silk hat in that year and the beaver was on its way out. Bad times had come upon the free and independent trappers who had made imperishable history for the west. The old care-free, hard-drinking, hard-riding, hard-fighting, free-loving, vagabond days were over for the Mountain Men.

What to do was the question. Robert Newell, a leader among the Mountain Men, supplied the answer. He suggested to his old trapper pals that they emigrate to the Willamette Valley. The idea stuck, so on August 5, 1840, Robert Newell, Joe Meek, William Craig, Caleb Wilkins and a few others set out from Fort Hell with three light wagons which had been abandoned by missionaries. With them were their Indian wives and half-breed children. It was not an impressive cavalcade by any means, not one you would associate with empire building, but it deceived its looks.

Newell led the way through sage and sand to Fort Boise, where they saw the cart Whitman had left there four years before. From Fort Boise no wheeled vehicle had ever gone. Newell and his men proceeded on their way, making wagon tracks and history across the Blue Mountains and on to the Whitman Mission, where Meek left his young daughter, Helen Bar Meek, to go to school and grow up to be a lady. After a short visit with the Whitmans, Newell and his party pushed on to Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia. There the wagon tracks ended, but the way had been blazed. Newell's party had added three hundred miles to the wagon trail and another chapter to western history.

CROSSING THE NORTH PLATTE

Crossing the North Platte was a dangerous task. It was not as wide as the South Platte, but was deeper and its current was more swift and treacherous, with considerable "swimming" water.

Some of the emigrants used their wagon boxes as boats. Others forded the stream by hooking a number of wagons together, hitching several yoke of oxen to them. A long rope was tied to a ring on the lead yoke, while 30 or more men on the opposite bank pulled on the rope to keep the cattle straight and help them ashore.

William Newby's wagon broke loose and floated off downstream, rolling over and over as the swift current played with it as a cat would a mouse. Newby, Lee and Williams swam after it, but almost lost their lives in the foolhardy attempt.

The next day it was found three miles below, on some riffles, but little worse for its rough experience. It was soon repaired and continued on the trek with the other wagons.

In 1847 the Mormons established a ferry at the ford. It was a skin boat and did a thriving business ferrying emigrants. Pay was accepted in provisions at Missouri prices. The ferry rate was high and the price for provisions was low, so the Mormons likened it to manna from heaven. The Mormons had been run out of Missouri several years before and took a keen delight in extracting a heavy toll from their erstwhile enemies. The ferrymen jokingly referred to their boat as the "Revenue Cutter." In 1852 a bridge was built across the river by Louis Guinard near the present Casper, Wyo., and the perilous ford was a thing of the past.

Ed. Note—This is one in a series of stories commemorating the Old Oregon Trail Centennial.

BELLVIEW PUPILS TO HAVE HOT LUNCHEONS NEXT WINTER

The Bellview School Board held their regular meeting last Thursday evening. A committee from the Parent Teacher Association met with them to work out plans for hot lunches for the pupils this next winter. Mrs. George Nichols is chairman of the board. Verne Boe and Ted Getslaugh are the other board members. Mrs. Claire Anderson is clerk.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruse Hays have returned to their home in Calif. after a few days visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hays.

The Miner for Quality Printing.

Mrs. E. J. Russell left Monday for Tacoma, Wash. after a weeks visit with her father and mother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Russell. Mrs. Russell had driven through from North Carolina, stopping in Wynoka, Oklahoma where she was joined by her husbands grandparents Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Dicks who made the trip on to Ashland with her and will spend several weeks with their daughter and family here.

Dallas Martin returned to his home in Tacoma, Washington last Friday, after spending a week with his uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Martin.

U. S. Treasury Department

George Nichols returned last week from Klamath County where he had been bailing hay for a few days.

Robert Dodge is among those appointed by Governor Earl Snell to take part in the anti-forest fire activities.

Wm. Hollingsworth had his tonsils removed yesterday at the Community Hospital.

WILL TRADE—.351 rifle shells or .25 automatic pistol shells for 30-30 rifle shells. Phone 7193, Ashland.

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Can We Have Peace?

By Ruth Taylor

What do we want after this war? We say we want an enduring peace, that we are fighting to destroy the ideologies of aggression and oppression that have forced war upon the world.

We can have peace—if we want it. The trouble is that up to now we have never wanted peace enough to put aside our own petty desires and prejudices and selfish wishes for ourselves to have it. Peace has never come first in our lives.

To have peace, we must see to it that ALL people have an opportunity to progress. As Mme. Chiang Kai Shek said: "Nations, like individuals, can only permanently enjoy privileges and rights if they are willing to share them with others. If they attempt to preserve them solely for themselves, they will lose them."

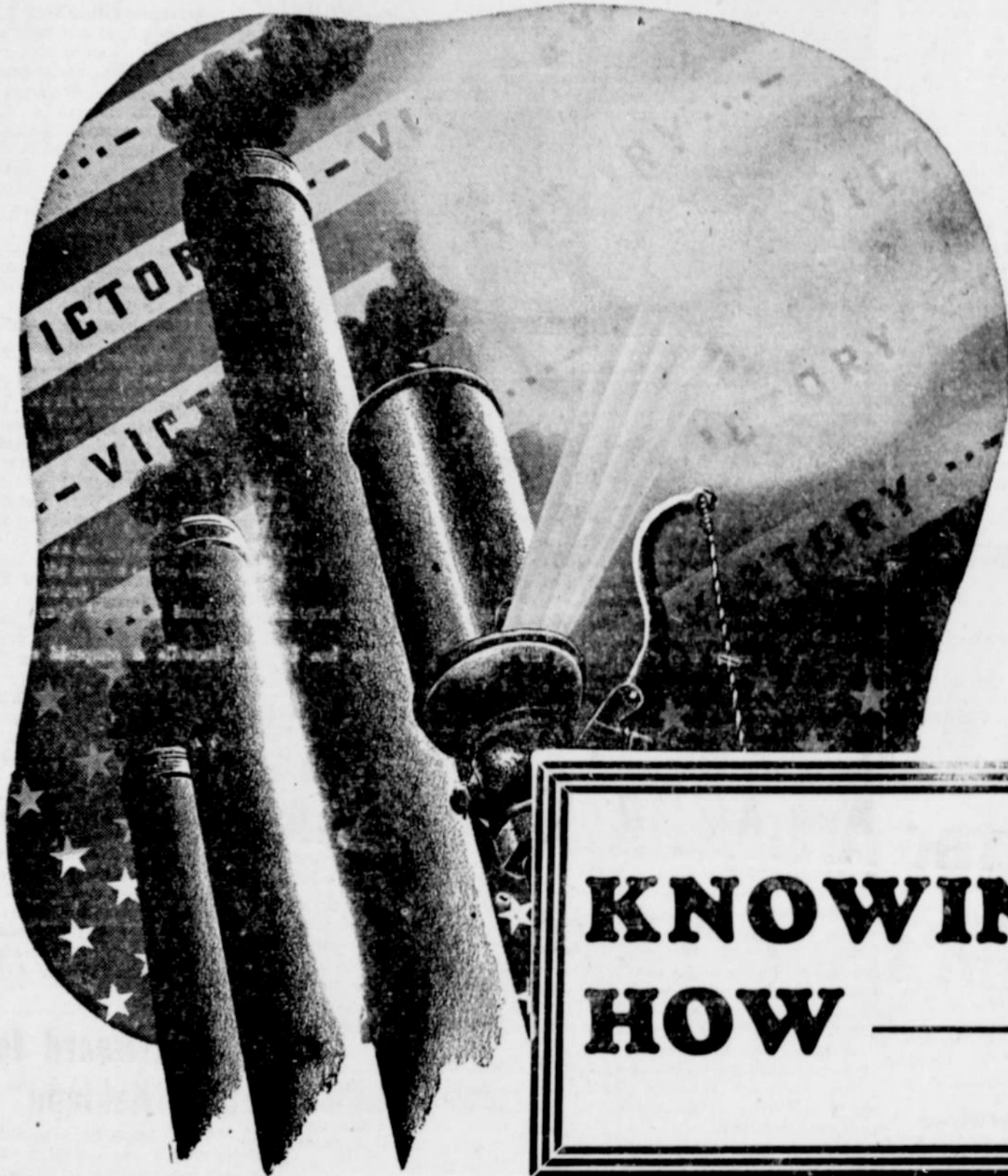
We can have peace if we eradicate the causes of war, if we stop troubles before they start. If we are law abiding, we will create faith in laws. We cannot expect those who are brought up to think it smart to evade the law, to keep the laws.

We can have peace if we will train for peace. If we so plan our educational system, we can eradicate in the next generation the hatreds, resentments, prejudices and distrusts which have bogged down all attempts at understanding in the past.

We can have peace if we will work at it as hard as we work at war. We cannot wipe out the causes of war by law, but we can wipe them out by understanding. Understanding is built upon knowledge, and knowledge means applied learning.

We state that we believe in the equality of all before God. Now we must prove our faith in that creed by affording to each the equal opportunity, the equality of rights to which they are correspondingly entitled.

We have the vision of peace expressed in the Four Freedoms and in the pact of the United Nations. We must also have the practical application of this vision in the terms of everyday living, in our economic and political structure. Only freedom which is strong can endure, and only a peace that is made by free men in a world free for all can survive. We can have peace—if we want it.



KNOWING HOW

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the great essayist and philosopher, tells about walking through the country one day, and coming on a boy trying to get a calf through a gate.

The calf was stubborn. He stood there with his legs stiffened while the boy tugged and pushed and threatened.

About this time a young girl came along and watched the boy's futile efforts with a good deal of amusement. Finally she said: "Here, let me show you how." And she stuck a finger in the calf's mouth and led him gently through the gate.

Well—when you know HOW to do a job, the job is half done before you start.

There was another good example of this after Pearl Harbor, when America's business-managed electric power companies were suddenly called upon to supply power for expanding industry in quantities unheard of before. But they did it, just like that. They knew how. They had the experience, the skill, and the resources.

The production of electric power in America has always been mainly in the hands of business men, and under a system of free business opportunity and reward for individual initiative, these men have built up a national service, dedicated to the convenience and necessity of millions of people.

Today, over 80% of all electric power in America is produced by business-managed, self-supporting, tax-paying companies whose first interest, like yours and mine, is winning the war.

FREEDOM to us in this country is our greatest heritage—its preservation is our gravest responsibility

THE CALIFORNIA OREGON POWER COMPANY

The DEBUNKER

By John Harvey Farbay, Ph.D.

FISH NEVER CLOSE THEIR EYES



A fish must live its entire life without ever closing its eyes, for it has no eyelids. Since a fish's life is spent under water, there is no need for an organ to bathe the eyeball, as our eyelids do. Fishes must also go through life without ever "winking." The shark is the only known exception to this.

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