

Historical Review Gives Story of Early Day Life in Morrow County

How some of the community names along Willow creek became established, and some of the early day history of the area is told in the following story which has been prepared by Bert Mason who for many years was a resident of Ione but who now lives in Portland. Mason's family was among the early settlers of this section of Morrow county, and he has prepared several articles on the history of the area.)

By Bert Mason
John H. Jordan was born in Ohio in 1820. His first adventure was when he went in to the South West, he was at Fort Yuma, Arizona, where he met and became a friend and admirer of Kit Carson, famous guide and Indian scout and was present when Kit Carson brought in a girl whom he had rescued from the Indians, who had massacred her family and kept her a prisoner for 7 years, and he had many interesting tales to tell of Carson's adventures.

He returned to Ohio, but had a desire for more adventure into the uninhabited country and crossed the plains to Oregon in 1849 and followed the Gold Rush to California, where he spent several years, then came to Salem Oregon. In 1852, he operated a farm for Lute Savage, where the Oregon State Prison now stands. He was looking for more adventure and went into Eastern Oregon and Idaho while the gold mines were being opened up. The demand for beef was great and he decided upon setting up a cattle ranch. He located a place which suited his desire to become a real pioneer, that was at the forks of Willow Creek, and in 1859 he erected a Cottonwood log house, that was two miles above where Ione is now, just where the railroad and highway pass through the rock point. He returned to Salem where he secured the nucleus of a cattle herd and returned to his claim. His earliest neighbors were T. W. Ayers, who had a claim at the forks of Butter Creek and John Woodward, who had a claim on Rock Creek, near Leonards Bridge, on the John Day river.

Mr. Jordan's Post Office and

trading point was The Dalles until about 1872.

These pioneers had an eye to business and they blazed an alternate Oregon Trail which afforded frequent camping sites with water and grass and was two days shorter than the old Oregon Trail from Pendleton to Leonards bridge, via Echo, Tub Springs, Wells Spring, Cecil and Shuttler.

The short cut was from where McKay Reservoir located across the country, along the north rim of Butter Creek to Ayers place at the forks, then to South Springs and to the Jordan claim on Willow Creek, then west near where the Ione to Olex road now passes, to a point south of Shuttler Flat, then along the Rock Creek ridge and down to Woodlands claim. Possibly there isn't three men in Morrow county who can tell where a spring and camp site was west of Ione, that was called Jordan Waters, and is just 10 miles west of Ione, in the Eight Mile canyon.

These men opened taverns, raised hay and sold refreshments, not "Coke".

Many interesting stories were common among the early pioneers, and John Jordan was the man whom most of them were told of. Since these men were the only settlers, they used to have to exchange work during the harvest season. Mr. Jordan would do his morning chores and then ride 20 miles to put in the day helping Mr. Ayers put up hay, then return to do his own chores. When it came time to help neighbor Woodward, he would ride 25 miles to do a days work in the field. Mr. Jordan had the help of both his neighbors when it came time to gather his crops.

The story which showed the real test of a mans staminy was one of where Mr. Jordan had taken a weary traveler and kept him thru the winter and the man learned that Mr. Jordan was just a squatter on the land and the man left, but did hint to some one that he was going to The Dalles to file claim on Mr. Jordans land. A friend informed Mr. Jordan of the man's intention and he mounted his best

horse and raced to The Dalles, he learned that his claim was in the La Grande district and that the man had boarded a stage for that point. Mr. Jordan rode home, secured another horse and beat the stage to La Grande and made his filing. That was without a stop nor rest.

Mr. Jordan was ever ready to welcome new settlers and to help any who needed assistance.

As the country became settled with cattle raisers the matter of selling the surplus animals was a real problem.

Mr. Jordan and neighbors drove steers across the Rocky Mountains to Wyoming, or Lang, a cattle buyer came into the country and bought large herds of beef and trailed them East.

Mr. Jordan married Missouria Haney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Haney who settled at The Pines on Rhea Creek. The children of this union were four sons and a daughter, Orlean, who married Volney Ray of Ione.

Luther Jordan was born Nov. 21, 1877; he is now living in Portland and is the last to carry the name Jordan.

When the stock range became overcrowded he sold his part of ranch which was below the forks of the creek to Fred Geinger, George Geinger and Andrew Geinger, and retained that which was on Rhea Creek. He later bought Fred Geinger out, that is where G. Herman now lives.

The first school house on the creek was built on Mr. Jordan's place, that was where the Rhea Creek road crosses Willow Creek. Being the first man to do things for the community was John Jordan, he brought in the first McCormick mower, this had a reaping attachment, and he went out among his neighbors to cut hay and grain, the former method was to cut with a sythe, or a cradel. The grain was bound by hand and then tramped out by leading horses around over where it was piled on the ground, then it was cleaned by tossing it into the wind. A hand powered fanning mill was another first.

He was the first man to build a hotel in Alkali, that is now Arlington. This was built in 1881,

they operated the hotel until 1891 when they moved to Monmouth, Oregon where he built and operated another hotel. Two small sons died while the family were at Alkali; these were buried in Penlands cemetery, where Lexington now is.

They had gone to Monmouth to educate the children and when the eldest son died at Monmouth, they were broken up and returned to the ranch. Again Mr. Jordan became another first. He set out a 7 acre field of Hops, and erected a dryer; he harvested 2 crops of hops and as the price was only .07 1/2 per pound, he pulled the vines.

They tore down the Arlington hotel and used the material to build a large ranch home, that has been remodeled and is now owned by Mr. Herman.

John Jordan died at his pioneer home in 1900 and was buried besides his three sons, in the new Lexington cemetery.

Missouria Haney Jordan was married at a very early age and learned all the duties of a pioneer wife and was a natural born nurse and helper and in her later years was the most sought woman when sickness occurred in the neighborhood. After Mr. Jordan's death she spent a few years on the old ranch, then moved into Ione, where she operated a rest home.

She was a very poor customer with drug stores, as she used simple remedies and depended mostly upon good care in nursing. In spring time when wild tansy came into bloom she would gather large sacks of it, and it was dried, and when a patient needed medicine she used her judgment, whether they needed a pulice or a stomach liquid; either could be made from tansy. Doctors sometimes became alarmed, about the condition of their patients, but Mrs. Jordan took them into her keeping and they came through and lived for a long time.

Ione Legion Auxiliary Names Contest Winners

By Echo Palmateer

Winners in the Americanism contest sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary in the school were: Gerry White, first in the senior division and Judy Howton first in the junior division. Jean Ann Swanson received second in the senior division and Mardine Baker second in the junior division. The seniors consisted of the 10th, 11th and 12th grades and the juniors are the 7th, 8th and 9th grades.

Mrs. John Eubanks is Americanism chairman of the Ione unit. She wishes to thank the judges superintendent Chester L. Ward, Miss Jean Knighten, James Malion and the students that took part in the contest. The judges were Rev. Alfred Shirley, Mrs.

Orlean Jordan Ray is in a rest home in Hood River.

Luther Jordan lives at 5025 S. E. Ellis street, Portland, Oregon.

Roland Bergstrom, Mrs. Norman Nelson. The first prize was \$5 and the second \$2.50. The essay was not over 500 words and the names were not revealed until after the judges made their decision. The senior division wrote on the subject "What It Means to Me to be an American", and the juniors on the subject, "Why the U. S. A. is Called the Cradle of Democracy."
Mrs. Bryce Keen was re-elected as president of the Ione Extension Unit at a meeting Thursday April (Continued on Page 2)

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