

Motorlog Leads to Jacksonville, Storehouse of Pioneer Memories

Old Courthouse In Mining Town Used as Museum

The following is a condensation of a motorlog appearing in Northwest retrospective magazine of The Sunday Oregonian. It is one of an annual series sponsored jointly by The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor association.

BY GWLADYS BOWEN
Society Editor, The Oregonian

In Jacksonville, Oregon has a potential rival for Nevada's famed tourist attraction, Virginia City. For the tree-shaded streets of this old southern Oregon mining town, a few miles west of Medford, are lined with the shells of pioneer buildings.

As we found on a motorlog for The Oregonian and the Oregon State Motor association, among many other attractions there are graceful old churches, one of them the first Protestant church built west of the Rocky mountains.

The old United States hotel, where President Rutherford B. Hayes was an overnight guest on his stage coach trip through the Rogue River valley, was in its heyday the finest to be found in a wide area.

There are other public buildings, and lovely old homes, most of them dating back to the 1850s, when Jacksonville was overcoming its growing pains as an early mining town, and becoming a well established community.

Old Homes Predominate

Some of these old homes are still in use; but for the most part, Jacksonville today is just another small community living among ghost buildings.

One of the old buildings that is playing a new role in present day Jacksonville is the stately red brick courthouse. This was built in 1884, on the site of the original wooden courthouse, which had been erected in the middle '50s and burned in the '80s.

It served as the court of justice until the late '20s when Medford succeeded Jacksonville as the county seat.

In 1950, historical material which had been collected by the Southern Oregon Historical society, Inc., and housed in the old hotel, was moved into the courthouse. Now it's the official



United States hotel, at right in this early-day Jacksonville street scene by pioneer cameraman Peter Britt, still stands.

museum, open week days from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. and from 2 to 5 p. m. on Sundays.

Most recent of its acquisitions are furnishings from the home of the late Peter Britt, early Swiss pioneer who settled in Jackson in 1852 and became the first photographer in southern Oregon.

By far the most interesting part of this collection is the assortment of early cameras Britt used, not only in his portrait studio, but also for his scenic work.

Nearly all of his cameras are Voigtlanders, ranging in size from the 4x5 box camera he brought with him from Switzerland to later models, which include a huge 11x14 job that more resembles a small cannon than a camera.

There is even a stereo camera, with a large viewing box, and hundreds and hundreds of plates that may take years to classify and identify.

As time permits, Miss Mary Hanley, curator of the Jacksonville museum, plans to reconstruct Peter Britt's portrait studio in one of the museum rooms, and have it set up with cameras, posing chairs and various backdrops.

Britt is reported to have been the first photographer to make a picture of Crater Lake, first discovered in 1853. He literally had to build the road to the lake in the early '70s. It was not until 1874 that he made his first photograph of the lake. According to the story, he spent nearly a week at the rim waiting for good weather and was finally forced to make an exposure of several hours.

Jacksonville is just five miles west of Medford, now a thriving



White motorlog car paused amid majesty of redwoods along Smith river to coast.

ing county seat of Jackson county, 289 miles south of Portland on U. S. highway 99.

A pleasant round trip from Portland that can comfortably be made in a long week end would be down 99 to Medford, then across to Jacksonville and on through the Applegate valley to join U. S. highway 199 south to Crescent City, Cal., and return north on scenic U. S. 101 to Portland. A suggested bypass over an old highway north of Crescent City through the Smith River cut-off to Brookings will save a few miles.

Another suggested stopover on U. S. 199 to the coast is the Oregon Caves, 20 miles east of Cave Junction.

The road from Medford to Crater Lake, some 81 miles, is kept open throughout the year, although there are no accommodations available at the lake until mid-June.

Mercury Hits 103 At Boardman Mon.

By Mary Lee Marlow

The temperature here Monday was 103 degrees, making it the warmest day so far this year. Although skies were cloudy from the thunder storms in the evening, only a few drops of rain fell.

Mr. and Mrs. William Garner and children Dick and Anita and Mr. and Mrs. Roland Black and daughter Diane have returned home from a vacation trip through several states. The Garners left here several weeks ago to go to Fort Morgan, Colo., to visit Mrs. Garner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Jones. While there they attended a reunion of the Pierson family at Wellington, Colo., at the home of Garner's uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pierson. Garner's mother, Mrs. Blanche Garner of Bend, also attended. There were 102 members of the family present. It was the first time the twelve brothers and sisters of the Pierson family had ever been together.

When the Garners left Colorado they went to Las Vegas, Nev., where they were joined by the Blacks, who had been visiting relatives in Tooele and Ferron, Utah. From there they went to Los Angeles and Tia Juana, returning home by way of San Francisco. The Blacks arrived home Tuesday, and the Garners Wednesday, they having stayed all night Tuesday in Bend at the home of Mrs. Blanche Garner.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson are the parents of a son born July 4 at Good Shepherd hospital in Hermiston. He has been named Michael James. Grandparents are Mrs. Charles Childress, Portland, James Wilson, Ashland, Mrs. Arthur Graham, Hermiston, and Conrad Wyss, Reith. The baby weighed seven pounds, ten ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Carpenter went to Maupin the 4th to visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Gustin, former residents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hicks, Kinzua, visited at the home of Mrs. Hicks' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Robinson, on the 4th. LeRoy Hicks remained here to visit his grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Flock were hosts for a picnic dinner at their home on the fourth. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kunze and children Eddie and Elaine, Kennebec, Wash.; Cora Deulen, St. John, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. James McKenna and children Linda, Donna and James Jr., Doty, Wash.; Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thorpe and family; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kunze and granddaughter, Rosemary Deulen, and Ralph Wasmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Mallery, Seattle, Wash., arrived at the home of Mrs. Mallery's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Coats, Thursday, from San Diego, Calif., where they have been the past three weeks for Mallery to attend naval reserve school. Their sons Gerry and Jimmy have been visiting their grandparents while they were gone.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Tannehill, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thorpe, Mrs. Ed Kunze and Mrs. Earl Briggs attended Morrow county Pomona grange at lone last Saturday.

Mrs. Adaline Baker, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baker attended the funeral of Mrs. Adaline Baker's brother, William Gent, at Milton-Freewater last Saturday. Burial was at Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ball and daughters Janice and Janet, and Mrs. Crystal Barlow, of Taft, visited relatives and friends here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Baker and daughters Connie and Carolyn were at Wallowa Lake from Tuesday till Saturday of last week.

Jim Newman, Corvallis, visited at the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marlow, Sunday, on his way home from Weiser, Idaho.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Miller took their daughter Patty, and Eliene Ely and Irene Potts to the Trout Creek Bible camp near Corbett Monday for a weeks stay. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Skoubo took their son Dick and Leonard Bejord to the camp also.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yusekat and two children, Portland, visited at the homes of Mrs. Zoe Billings

and Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Ely over the weekend. They went to La Grande Monday to visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Lilly.

Jim Thorpe has returned home from Baker where he visited at the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Smith, for two weeks.

The Home Economics club of Greenfield grange will hold an ice cream social at the grange hall Saturday, July 14, at 7:30 p. m. The public is invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hamilton and daughter Lorelei and Delbert have arrived home from Bellingham, Wash. Carol Hamilton, who is a student nurse at Providence hospital in Portland came with them for a weeks vacation. Hamilton and Carpenter will return to Bellingham this week to their jobs there.

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Sturm, of Yamhill, former residents here, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thorpe Tuesday.

Mrs. Vernon Partlow was called to Bellingham, Wash., recently by the death of her father, Thomas Donald, 53 years of age.

Pat Petys, Pendleton, is visiting at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Nate Macomber.

Patty Beall, Eugene, is visiting at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hayes.

FAIR-MINDED

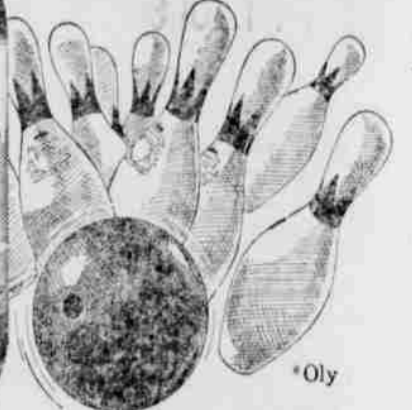
Believe every one was well pleased with the Amateur Rodeo last year and know you can look forward to as good or better show this year. Your Rodeo Committee is working hard and doing a fine job. Perhaps this is true because they like what they are doing and hope that you will too.



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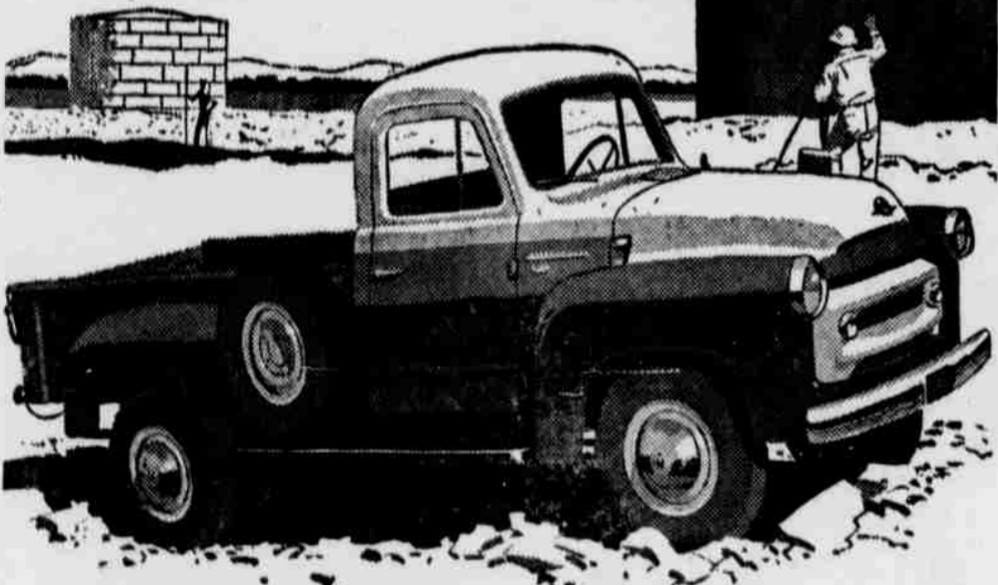
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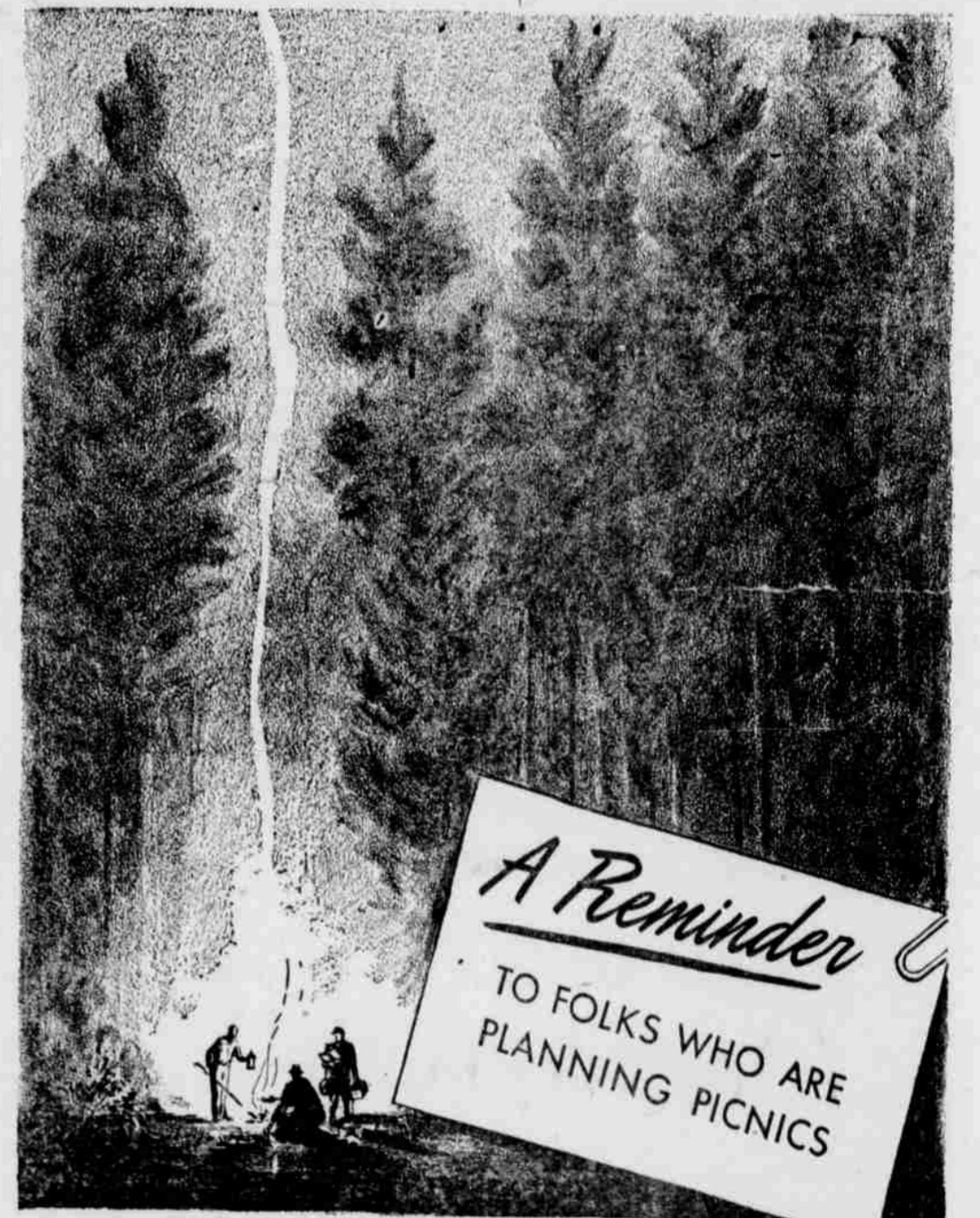
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