

Oregon Trail cont. from pg.2

liticians' aspirations, and other factors pressed Oregon steadily toward statehood. After three times voting against the proposal, each time by a smaller margin, the people of the territory in 1857 approved the calling of a convention to frame a state constitution. The constitution was ratified, Oregonians voting to exclude both slavery and free negroes from the state. Without waiting for congressional action, a state government was elected in 1858, with John Whitaker as first state governor.

"In Congress, meanwhile, Oregon hung in the balance between northern and southern factions, and was not admitted as the 33rd state until Feb. 14, 1859. The news, anxiously awaited, left St. Louis by overland express for San Francisco, and from there traveled on the steamer Brother Jonathan, arriving in Portland early on March 15.

No boat was scheduled to

leave Oregon City that day, so the message went by horseback to Salem, where it relieved the uncertainty of state officers elected nearly a year before."



OREGON GROWS

The population of Oregon grew rapidly, in 1841 it was 253 with only 35 classed as settlers. The Bidwell-Bartleson party was 70 strong when it left Independence, Mo. that year, and about half came on to the Willamette Valley. The emigration of '42, led by Elijah White numbered more than 100. Almost 900 came across in 1843 with about 1300 head of cattle. Estimates of arrivals numbered 1,200 in 1844; 3,000 in 1845; 1,350 in 1846; and about 700 in 1848. In 1849 most of the emigrants turned toward California and the gold rush and many Oregonians left their farms to try their luck. Between 1850's census count of 13,294 and 1855, there was an increase of 30,000 people, many of them attract-

ed by the Donation Land Law. By 1860 the new state's population was 52,465. (Blue book)

MORROW TRAIL CAMPS

The Oregon Trail was a real highway for about 30 years, from 1840 until after the Civil War. Trains heading for the Willamette Valley crossed Morrow as they traveled between Pendleton and The Dalles. The wagons stopped at various places but some camps were outstanding. West of Pendleton many stopped at Echo (in 1855, Fort Henrietta) where they forded the Umatilla. They moved west to cross Butter Creek just a little north and west of the present Echo Junction and just east of the present county line. They



HENRY and DICK KREBS WHOSE RANCH IS WHERE the Old Oregon Trail crosses Willow Creek at Cecil.

25 Years of Progress and Growth with Polled Herefords!



LBCR Lamplighter T7: 1600 lbs. at 20 months. Purchased from Little Beaver Creek Ranch, Belnap, Montana. Don Robinson is in the middle of the picture.

Our breeding program is planned for the needs of the commercial cattleman by stressing weight per day of age, length, height and trimness, plus the ability to convert feed economically in the feed lot. This goal is attained by using large, long, trim herd bulls with a bred-in continuous growth factor crossed with large cows that are easy keepers and have good milking ability.

Steers fed out as projects have weighed an average weight of 1030 lbs. at an average age of 14 mos., much earlier than the usual feed-lot steer, which attains this weight at 20 mos. Steers sold as projects have at numerous times been champion and reserve champion.

Kirk and Robinson

struggled westward across Sand Hollow and across Juniper Canyon sometimes under the hot sun, and often exposed to strong winds. How they welcomed the water of historic Wells Springs just east of Ella which some of them reached the night after leaving Echo! Aiming almost due west they went on to cross Willow Creek at Cecil, another favored stop. From Cecil they climbed into Gilliam and continued toward The Dalles.

In 1848, during the reaction to the 1847 Whitman Massacre, the Cayuse under Chiefs War Eagle and Five Crows were met by a small territorial force under Colonel Cornelius Gilliam in the Battle of Sand Hollow near Wells Spring, where there remains some graves and a marker dedicated to Colonel Gilliam.

IN THE SIXTIES

In the early 1860's white men sought gold in Eastern Oregon and some drove horses and cattle in to pasture. There were few white women in the area. In fact, until after statehood there were no permanent settlers in Morrow.

In 1860 Wasco County census lists Henry Heppner as an itinerant packer.

Among the early recorded settlers (1863) was one who is said to have settled by accident, William Y. Cecil, a wheelwright. It seems he stopped on Willow Creek to repair a wheel on his own wagon and soon had so many needing his help that he settled there beside the trail. Others must have settled nearby because the first postoffice was established there in 1867.

Thomas and William Ayers settled early on Butter Creek near Lena, where a postoffice was authorized in 1873. The B.C. Atwoods (parents of Phoebe Bartholomew's mother) were farther north on Butter Creek near the emi-

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