

# Newsy Notes from Rogue River Valley Towns

## Butte Falls Items

Our people, especially the ladies, turned out in full to welcome the soldier boys and were ever ready to render whatever aid they could and which evident courteous treatment the officers and files greatly appreciated.

Engineer Beveridge and his crew of men were present at Butte Falls and kindly tendered whatever services he or his men could give in the work of subduing the fires.

It is said that Ben Fredenburg and his family are in great distress of mind owing to the fire set out by Mr. Fredenburg having escaped from him. He lost not only much timber, but also all of his rail fences were destroyed, and his crops threatened and his home and buildings in great danger.

The campers at "Recreation Retreat" are getting ready to return to the valley after a pleasant stay of several weeks amid the forests.

Dr. Bonar and brother were visiting Butte Falls on Thursday, the former intent on "eyes," the latter upon "fish." Both were successful.

Ote Hubbard and Del Hazel, who started on a trip for Blue Canyon, were compelled to turn back owing to the forest fires through which they were unable to pass. On their return Mr. Hubbard learned that the country around Olson mill was being burned by a terrific forest fire and that his premises were in immediate danger of destruction, so he started to his homestead with others to do what he could to extinguish the fires.

Vice-President Gerig is pushing the construction work on the P. & E. railway. He has already the steel laid to near "Vestal" and is now doing the bridge work ahead and it will be but a short time before the road will be completed to Butte Falls and then it will be for the Medford boosters to turn their attention to this section and make this point something more than a mere feeder for the valley. Medford people should assist this enterprise in every way and help to secure the right of way beyond the Falls on towards Klamath and get through the trunk line east and west, which will make a shortening of the distance about 600 miles. Mr. Gerig is to be congratulated on his work and the people will find that there has been only the very best work done on the road.

Will and Lew Warner have been camping in the hills and they succeeded in getting all the fish they needed, besides securing a fine buck. Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Anspizer and husband and Miss McKinney, the latter of Baker City, accompanied the gentlemen and were in camp with them. They all left on Thursday on their way to Crater Lake. They report having a most pleasant sojourn at Butte Falls.

Manager Mills has been making a detour of the burning sections and has his men out, day and night, waging war against the element which has done so much damage to his company's holdings.

It is creditably reported that C. E. Wolverton saw a man setting out fires in the Crater Lake company section, but that as he had no gun and the man was too far away to be recognized, he could do nothing but yell at the man.

Wana Parker and family have removed from Butte Falls to their ranch.

Several important real estate transactions have taken and will take place in Butte Falls before many moons wax and wane, and our town will be materially benefited. It is with the incoming of moneyed and business people of moral and financial credit that Butte Falls will grow and soon become an ideal locality.

There are some signs of rain and it is greatly hoped that we will have a soaking downpour, for it is only by a drenching rain that we may hope to see the fierce forest fires extinguished and the atmosphere washed of its present smoke impurities.

John Allee of Derby was here on Sunday and continued on to his ranch in the hills to look after his stock.

Uncle Ben Edmonson has been taking Manager Mills around throughout the fire zone that Mr. Mills might see what damages were being done and what was needed to impede the further advance of the flames. Mr. Mills has been indefatigable in his efforts to protect the company's large landed and timber interests and has been going day and night until he is about worn out with his labors.

For the past day or two Butte Falls has presented the appearance of a military encampment. On the south are encamped Captain Robert Offley with his companies E and M of the First regulars, with Lieuten-

ant Hatle as second in command, and the regimental physician in a tent close by, while all around are the men who have not been detailed. The first thing Captain Offley did upon his arrival was to make strict inquiries as to the civil authorities upon the ground, and Judge Pentz being close to hand, a confidential conference took place and an understanding reached. The captain then detailed a squad of picked volunteers who were carried in all the vehicles that could be secured to the fires near Butte Falls, these men being under charge of a most efficient sergeant, and they were out all night long fighting the fierce flames which were rapidly spreading and eating up the valuable timber of Butte Falls and Crater Lake Lumber companies. Captain Offley then having received a personal account of the fires, some distant, through Ranger Holst dispatched another squad of 25 selected soldiers to this point and about this time it being late at night, a courier arrived from Dudley and the unsurvived lands and reported that very destructive fires had broken out in that direction and that already three families had been rendered homeless and that Dr. Emerson and family were threatened and that unless immediate aid was rendered the doctor would lose all of his effects and his family stand in imminent danger of being burned to death. Immediately Captain Offley, assisted by his energetic lieutenant, Hatle, secured Wana Parker and his team and detailed another squad of 15 to go at once to the aid of the Dudley people and the doctor's family and at a late hour they started out in a hurry and fought the flames all night. All being done that could be done at this time, the captain sought needed rest with his men and in the early morning broke camp and started, after leaving a few soldiers to guard the baggage that was left behind, for Cedar swamp and Four-Bit creek, where the fiercest of fires had been raging and were still burning, having destroyed the home of Mr. Trefren and thousands of acres of fine timber. In addition to these forces, Manager Mills of Butte Falls Lumber company impressed all the men and vehicle, obtainable and with J. I. Patton as guide and all being armed with shovels, picks and other fire fighting implements, started for the Fredenburg section and there these men and at other points fought the livelong night until they were exhausted. In other directions forces were out and not for a moment did the brave men desist in their exhausting labors and it is thought that at some points the flames have been brought under control, but as fast as one fire is extinguished another broke out a mile or more distant and clearly proving that some miscreant whose hellish heart is intent upon destruction has started to burn out the whole country. Strict orders have been given to shoot down any person caught setting fires and it is hoped that one or more of these fiendish scoundrels will be caught and a speedy end made of him. It is creditably reported that several more companies of soldiers are on their way to this point and no effort will be spared to check the ravages of the most destructive fires which have ever visited this section, resulting in damage and loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the government, timber corporations and to private owners. Too much cannot be said in praise of Captain Offley, Lieutenant Hatle, Ranger Holst, Manager Mills and Superintendent Netherland and Cruiser Patton, with their hands and companies of noble men, for the valiant services they have rendered, and also to the people of Butte Falls who rendered every assistance to the fire fighters.

Duff Karnes' youngest child was taken suddenly sick Friday and the camp physician was called and administered successfully to the little one, who is now much better.

Messrs. Platt, Johnson and Clark, who have been camping hereabouts, have gone out to the valley.

Professor Johnson of Crater Lake school district was visiting friends in the Falls on Saturday.

There are several theories as to the origin of the forest fires, that they are set out by persons who are opposed to the conservation and the reserve policy of the government; that they are started by vindictive feelings against the rangers and as a positive protest against the policy which has deprived so many of homesteads and made them lose all their time, labor and means in trying to secure a home; that stockmen have set out the fires that they may have grass for their roaming stock; that it

is a case of the "Haves" and "Have Nots," that a strong prejudice exists against syndicates who have acquired large holdings, and that the obstructive policy of "Pinchotism" retards and prevents the settlement and development of the country, and the fires are one way of expressing the western opposition. Ugly rumors are current that men have been seen setting out fires, but it is hard to get any accurate information as to who they were, and the people are afraid to tell lest they suffer themselves, and that the fire makes work for all.

Mr. Vradenburg has bought out the ice cream business of Wheeler & Claspill.

Mrs. Beveridge wife of Engineer Beveridge of the P. & E. road, came in on the stage on Saturday on a visit to her husband and sons.

We are glad to note that Grandma Fredenburg has not been burnt as was reported and that she was greatly relieved by the presence of the soldiers in her vicinity.

Miss Beatrice Spencer came in from the neighborhood of Dudley Thursday on her way to Jacksonville to take the examination for a license to teach school. She reports that the fire in that neighborhood was doing a great deal of damage and this (Friday) morning we received a message over the phone from Martin Spencer, the mail carrier from Dudley to Butte Falls, in which he said that the fire was past control and that all that they were trying to do was to save the homes; that there were 50 troops at the Dudley post-office trying to save the buildings. This is at Jess Spencer's. That the fire was in many places leaving nothing but the charred stumps of the great forest; that there had been up to date no homes burned in that section, although I learned through another source that Benjamin Fredenburg had lost one of his large barns and hay; that is near Butte Falls and not on the unsurvived.

Miss Clara Zimmerman has a new typewriter and is learning to use it.

Orland Bell of Brownsboro is putting up the poles for a telephone line between here and that place. He says that he has taken the contract to put the line up for the Multnomah Telephone company of Portland; that they intend to run the line through here direct to Medford; that the company intends to put up heavy poles from Eagle Point to Medford, but the business men of our town seem to know but little about the move; that so far as the Butte Falls and Eagle Point line is concerned, they have made no arrangements to connect with the line here, but perhaps that will be done later.

A gentleman by the name of Hicks and five others came through here Wednesday on their way from Crater Lake. They had been out by the Pelican Bay route via Fort Klamath and came in by the crater. From their looks they had their share of the dust on the road.

Mr. Northrup and his mother, who live on his farm about two and a half miles from Medford, came out last Wednesday and engaged rooms at the Sunnyside and the next day went to visit some of their old time friends, Mr. Palouze and family, spending the night with them, and Friday morning secured a rig and went to Happy Camp on Rogue River to spend the day fishing.

## Eagle Point Eaglets

—By—  
A. C. Howlett.

meeting to be called to authorize the board to contract for the finishing of the upper rooms and furnish them for use. I tell you the people of Eagle Point are waking up and the old mossbacks are relegated to the background.

Thursday C. E. Carpenter and his sister, Miss Anna Carpenter, W. H. Crandell and sister, Mrs. Harris of Iowa, called for dinner. Mr. Carpenter is out from his home in Wyoming to look after his interests here which he bought about a year ago, an 80-acre tract off of the west side of the Green Mathews place, and had 40 acres set to trees. Mr. Crandell expects to come out and take charge of the place in the near future.

John Higinbotham and Lee Sutton of the Big Butte country were here Thursday and reported that in their neighborhood they have the fire under control.

Frank F. Anderson of St. Paul, Minn., passed through here the other day. He is taking in the country as he goes on Walker's line. He said that he had walked over a great portion of Montana and the country between there and here, and was going to Crater Lake, Fort Klamath, Pelican Bay, etc. He appears to be an intelligent young man and is simply enjoying his life in that way.

R. Hapoeck, one of the civil engineers on the P. & E. railway, took supper here Wednesday night and went on up to F. J. Ayers'.

There have been quite a number of strangers come in, eaten a meal or stayed all night, and pass on whose names I did not learn, and among them was two gangs of bridge carpenters on their way to the front, where they are putting in the bridges along the railroad.

Von der Hellen Brothers have added to their stock of goods a line of furniture.

Arthur M. Geary of Portland, son of our old family physician, Dr. E. P. Geary, was a pleasant caller Wednesday on his way from the fire belt, where he has been taking photos of the fire and the means the people put the fire for the Oregonians. While here he met Mrs. Lottie Van Scoy (nee Lottie Brown), one of his old schoolmates of former days.

Ed Western of Medford came out last Thursday evening on the P. & E., spent the night here and this (Friday) morning started on horseback to the fire belt to take photos of the different scenes for the general government. He expects to be gone several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robertson and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ulrich of Jacksonville drove in last night on their way from Crater Lake. They went out by the Lake of the Woods, Pelican Bay, etc., and came in the Rogue river route. They report that the roads are very rough on account of the ground being hotted out in holes.

Arthur Anderson and family also came in last night over the same route traveled by Ulrich and Robertson, and while they think that the road is rough, they all say that the trip is worth taking and that Crater Lake is among the wonders of the world.

B. L. Jewell and Henry O'Mally of Grants Pass called this (Friday) morning and while here Mr. Jewell gave me an ad for the Mail Tribune to let the people know that he had some fine pups for sale.

Mr. Sharp, one of the Medford real estate men, came out with his father and Mr. Reed in an auto. They were going to the Bradshaw drop and took the wrong road on the desert in the smoke, but were started right after they got here.

There are some signs of rain and it is greatly hoped that we will have a soaking downpour, for it is only by a drenching rain that we may hope to see the fierce forest fires extinguished and the atmosphere washed of its present smoke impurities.

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## Central Point Items

Henry Farnum has commenced the false work for the walls of the Cowley block.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kahler and S. A. Pattison, wife and son Everett, visited the Applegate valley Friday in quest of wild blackberries, which are said to be found in abundance in that locality.

The dense smoke from the forest fires practically obscured the sun at this point during the entire day Friday.

Many box nailers are busy in this city getting boxes ready for pears and apples. The number of boxes demanded is much larger than last year.

It is believed that according to the great number of families that are securing winter quarters here, the capacity of the public school building will prove inadequate to the demand for room. The school census will be greatly increased this year and many of the teachers will have crowded departments.

Fred N. Cummings of the Rogue River Canal company was transacting business in this vicinity Friday.

Mr. Cummings looks forward to great development in the Rogue River valley during the next 18 months.

O. Bert Howard of Cape Girardeau, Mo., was among the new arrivals at Central Point Friday.

The first semblance of a lawsuit to occur in our town in many months took place in Judge Jacobs' court Friday afternoon. It seems that Dr. E. Kirchgessler, an eccentric son of Esculapear, who resides in the upper river country, came into town a few days ago and left his horse at the barn of Ferguson & Murray while he indulged in business and "billed elder." When he returned to the barn for his horse there was no one present at the moment to wait upon him, and the good doctor's anger went up to 110 in the smoke. Just at this time Mr. William Ferguson returned to the barn and received a broadside from the Katzenjammer batteries and the "foight" began, resulting in the doctor swearing out a warrant for Ferguson for assault and for calling the doctor a "cabbage-eating tutamaruse," or words to that effect. The trial was to have taken place at 2:30 Friday afternoon, but just before the appointed hour the doctor appeared and informed the court that there was no use in trying to get "nutting fer something" and the case was called off, the doctor paying the freight.

J. C. Shelley was in from his Table Rock farm Friday delivering wood to his many customers.

Sam Baxter is painting the A. E. LePonte marble works building. Mr. LePonte is making much improvement about the place.

William A. Cowley is having a

large barn erected on the alley near his palatial residence. It will be one of the largest structures of the kind in the city and will have in connection a garage and woodshed.

W. E. Whiteside is just completing a number of improvements at his residence grounds, such as woodsheds, barn and lawn. He will have the "home beautiful" in a few more months.

A. W. Clemmens has sold his household goods and will start in a few days for Los Angeles where he will reside.

Carpenters and masons are busy on 15 new buildings at the present time and many others are on the taps. Central Point is growing larger with astonishing regularity.

Secretary Kahler of the Commercial club has succeeded in disposing of 10,000 booklets and half as many folders and pamphlets during the past five months and expects to continue the good work indefinitely.

Many traveling men who have visited Central Point this week report the sale of large bills of goods to our merchants, by far larger than in August, 1909.

Ben G. Larkin of Cherryvale, Kan., accompanied by J. J. Kinkaid and family of near that place, was showing his party this part of the valley Friday afternoon.

Aaron Kivitt and family of Cincinnati, O., got off at Central Point Friday afternoon, being met here by parties from near Jacksonville, who took them by wagon to their destination.

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## NORTH MEDFORD ITEMS

Mrs. Nettie Glass of 624, was made the recipient of a most delightful and pleasant surprise dinner Thursday by a score or more of her intimate relatives and friends of the Antioch district. Although sick and help-

less, her 29th birthday anniversary day with its dull, monotonous surroundings, was made bright and cheerful by the greeting of her three small children and the happy familiar talk and joyous laughter from her many friends that hold her in such high esteem as a true friend, a true mother and a lady, with all that the word implies. Among those present that were so fortunate in being present were Mrs. Mary Morris Case, Mrs. William Jones, Sr., Miss Alberta Stacey, Miss Grace Jones, Miss Adonias and Flora Stacey, Mr. T. A. Glass, Mr. Orin Glass, Misses May and Ellen Jones, Mrs. Mary Martin.

Mrs. C. C. Taylor and son Herman of North Beatty have moved to their new home-bungalow residences on North Hamilton.

William Martin of Martin brothers, grain and stock raisers of Beagle, was shopping and enjoying a few hours of city life Wednesday.

J. W. Anderson, contractor and builder of North Oak street accompanied E. D. Wilhite to his fruit farm Wednesday.

School board will entertain bids for 200 cords of wood or any part thereof up to August 30.

ORIS CRAWFORD, Clerk Dist. No. 49.

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MR. AND MRS. A. DUPRAY, Prop. and Mgr. Respectively.

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BUTTE FALLS, Or.

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