

The Life Story of Dick Price Boniface of Crater Lake

"Dick" Price, as his friends call him, is owner and manager of Crater Lake lodge. We sat down with him recently in his office overlooking Crater Lake, and in answer to questions, says Fred Lockley in the Portland Journal, he said:

"Yes, I am an Oregonian. I was born in Portland, July 9, 1889. My father, Richard Price, was a farmer. My mother, whose maiden name was Eunice Jane Quimby, came to Oregon with her parents when she was two years old. They took up a place on the Columbia river. My father was born in Wales and came to America when he was 19. He served in the Union army. He came to Oregon shortly after he was discharged. He settled at Portland in 1866. He bought a farm on the east side of the Willamette. The western boundary of the farm was what is now 39th street and the eastern boundary 52nd street. Hawthorne avenue goes through our farm. I live on East 40th and Hawthorne avenue, which is part of our old farm. Father bought this place from Dr. Prettyman. When they started to improve Hawthorne avenue, we put up a mail box so that we could get free delivery. They put up an arbitrary number on our place, 1209 Hawthorne avenue. I bought the two lots where our old gate was, on which this number 1209 was painted, and, by an odd coincidence, my house number is now 1209 Hawthorne avenue.

There were five of us children. Three of us are now living—my sister, Mrs. Margaret Simpson, who lives in Laed addition, and my sister, Mrs. Mary Roberts, at Oak Grove. As a boy I went to school at the Mount Taber schoolhouse. Del Morgan, who now lives in Laurelhurst, and myself were schoolmates. We were also fellow soldiers in the Philippine islands. I started to school when I was six and attended school until I was six.

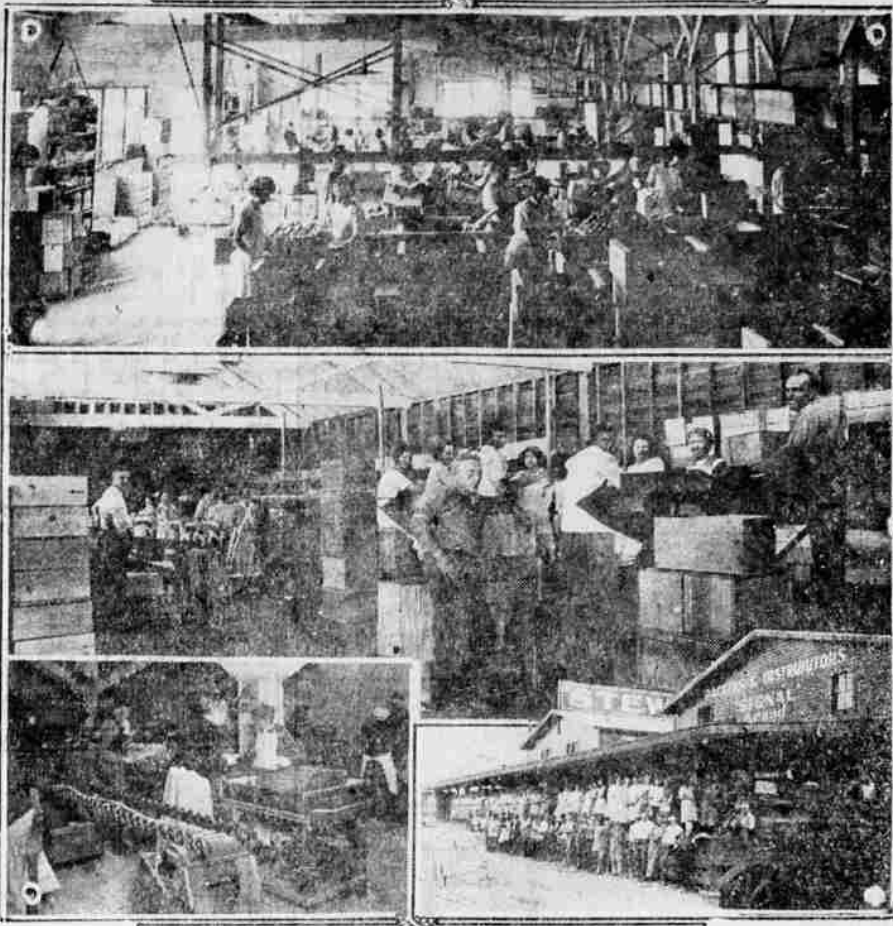
Mary Hathorn was my first teacher. I had to walk three miles from our home to the Mount Taber school. I usually took the trail through the timber, as it was a short cut. When I was 11 I went to the Central school.

"At 14 I struck out to make my own living. While walking along Union avenue, on the East side, I saw a sign in W. H. McMonte's harness shop, 'Boy Wanted.' I applied for the job and was put to work at \$2.50 a week. My first work was blacking leather. I worked three years and learned to make harness, packs, saddles and other leather goods. I was not quite 18 when Oregon was called on to send a regiment to the Philippines. I judged on my age and joined Company B, 24 Oregon, under Captain H. E. Davis. Our regiment took part in the capture of Manila. We landed on the Linao. As we started to march into the city, the captain said to me, 'Dick, drop out of line and direct the next course'

pany where to come.' I had not been there long when I saw the Spanish flag hoisted down and the Stars and Stripes hoisted up. Just as the Stars and Stripes went up our band came along. I pointed to our flag going up on the pole, and they struck up 'The Star-Spangled Banner.' As the band started to play, two Spanish officers approached me. If ever a boy felt patriotic, I did. I made these two Spanish officers leave their hands free, the flag, stand at attention and salute the flag, and to see them doing it gave me a thrill I will never forget. I was in the islands exactly one year to a day. I came home on the hospital ship Relief and was mustered out with my company at the Presidio.

"From my return to Portland I landed a job selling harness and saddle goods for the George Lawrence company. My territory covered Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. After traveling three years I started a harness store of my own at the corner of Broadway and Ankeny streets. I ran this till the automobile put me out of business. Harness shops, buggy whip factories, carriage factories all had to succumb to the inevitable, so in 1913 I sold out, took over the Mallory hotel and ran it till 1921. I associated myself with Eric Hansen and went down to the Mulholland hotel. I did this so that I would become more widely acquainted with the traveling public and also learn more about the hotel business. I arranged to take over the Crater Lake lodge in February, 1921, though I didn't see it till July 9 of that year. Yes, I bought it 'sight and unseen.' E. F. Packard built the first unit of the lodge. I paid \$40,000 for it. My present investment is \$200,000, for we have enlarged the lodge until it is four times as large as it was when I came here. We have 150 rooms and, with our rooms and tents, we can readily take care of 275 guests. The year I took over the lodge 29,000 people visited the park. Last year more than 87,000 came here. Our reservations from the eastern tourist agencies for this season are three times more than they ever were before, so I am sure we are going to have the biggest season we have ever had. We are building a cafeteria which will take care of 200 people at a meal. We are also putting in some house-keeping cabins and building a store just north of the community house to carry campers' supplies. One of the things that has helped very materially to add to the reputation of Crater Lake lodge is the type of my fellow workers. The girls in the dining room and kitchen and those who care for the rooms are university girls, most of them coming from the University of Oregon. The young men who work about the lodge, taking care of guests over to Wizard Island in

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the launch and doing other work. The university boys. They are not only loyal and capable but they are intelligent and can meet on an equal footing those who come here.

"During the past two years every member of the board of directors of the Southern Pacific company, from New York, has visited Crater Lake. They have appropriated \$250,000 for publicity, much of which will be spent in attracting attention to Crater Lake lodge and the other scenic beauty spots along their line. We have had some of the most distinguished people in the country as guests here. I saw you talking to May Robson, the actress a few minutes ago. We have many well known actors and actresses here, United States senators, and men of affairs, such as John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

"My daughter, Josephine is here with me. My wife and my daughter Catherine and Ruth are at Bend, Oregon, at the foot of Mount Hood. I was married January 7, 1902, to Minnie Stenble, the daughter of Walter Stenble. My wife was born here in Portland. Our daughter Jane, who graduated at the University of Oregon recently, married James McCook of Portland. Josephine, my helper here, is a student at the University of Oregon. Catherine is at Franklin High and Ruth will become a student at Franklin this fall."

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