

Journeyed Across Plains Thrice In Covered Wagon Says Mrs. Luanna Denton

Three times across the plains in a covered wagon is the record of Mrs. Luanna Denton of this city, one of many southern Oregon pioneers, who have registered at the



Mrs. Luanna Denton

Mail Tribune office for tickets for "The Big Trail" which will be shown at the Fox Craterian theater Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Many men and women have announced they are eligible to attend the Mail Tribune party because of one trip across the plains but Mrs. Denton is the first to make the long journey three times before the advent of railroads.

She made the first trip as a very little girl in a wagon drawn by oxen from Arkansas to California in '57. The second trip was from west to east a few years later and the third a wedding journey.

"When we came west the first time mother decided California was far too wild a place for her so we turned our wagons back toward Texas, arriving there just in time for four of my brothers to enter the Civil war. Three of them

were killed in battle and one died from disease contracted in the army," Mrs. Denton stated as her eyes clouded with tears.

"We stayed in the south until I married and then, young and happy, I started west again. "The trip back south was the worst one. We were often forced to carry water two days from one water hole to the next one. I got thirsty many times. I cried for a drink and cried hard. Finally the Mexicans gave us some stuff that quenched our thirst and we got along better after that.

"On my third trip in '75 things were quite different; most of our trouble was caused by high water. The rivers were just booming along and I got a real thrill out of that," Mrs. Denton stopped to laugh. "I'll never forget some of the camps we made. People traveled with pretty small supplies then. One night we were getting supper ready and a man called from across the river for help. His horse had been forced to swim the stream. He took off his pants and strapped them on his shoulder and they lost off. We didn't have many britches in our camp but we fixed him up."

Mr. and Mrs. Denton found the end of their trail in Washington in an Indian settlement eight miles from any whites.

"All I could see was lurch grass and Indian ponies when I looked down in that little valley and when my husband said "That's going to be our home, Anna," I just cried," Mrs. Denton admitted.

"We lived in camps for so long that when the log cabin was completed I thought it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. The Indians would come in every day and sit on the edge of the porch. I learned their language and told them Bible stories. I taught them to sing hymns too and they would crowd closer and closer to me as they listened to stories and songs of the Christ child. And as I look back to those days," Mrs. Denton hesitated and her eyes clouded over again. "I remember them as the happiest days of my life. Some of the people were Catholics, some of them Methodists, but we all sang in Chinook. They almost pushed me off the porch. But there's a something that always makes you happy if you please someone else. I've tried to remember that all through my life," Mrs. Denton concluded.

He's the last living member of the old scouting party of '74, composed of 13 scouts who followed

General Miles on his expedition into the panhandle of Texas—L. T. Wilson of Jacksonville. And the first "ex-bull whacker" to register at the Mail Tribune for tickets for "The Big Trail."

"Just one of the boys who drove the bulls for pay," he said as he discussed the days when as chief bull whacker for old Alexander Majors he drove eight yoke of oxen and two wagons from east to west in the emigrant trains of '67.

He worked for the Union Pacific railroad when the company's first railroad entered the western country and was in Utah to celebrate the driving of the golden spike which connected the railroad lines, eliminating the need for oxen freight lines.

Mr. Wilson was 15 when he joined Major's freight line. He spent six months on his first journey across. He left bull whacking to take up buffalo hunting. He brought down 45 one day without changing location. It was while he was engaged in buffalo hunting that he met General Miles. The hunters were corralled by Indians for three months at Dobie Walls when General Miles and his scouts came to their rescue. Mr. Wilson then joined the scouting party.

He chased Sitting Bull and camped with Chief Big Roads and ran 1999 Indians from the Dobie Walls to the head of the Washita river.

"But it was no fault of mine," he said. "I ran first and they came after me. I was carrying a dispatch and I almost didn't get there."

When Mr. Wilson followed Chief Big Roads he was the only white man in his camp and often felt his hair taking a perpendicular stand on his head as he watched Sitting Bull's tribe gather before the wigwams in war bonnets.

"I was safe though," he explained, "as long as I was with Chief Big Roads. He protected me from the enemy Indians."

Mrs. R. L. Vish is another one of the 46 pioneers who have registered at the Mail Tribune who remember the Indian tribes who haunted "The Big Trail."

"They never hurt us but I was always afraid of them. I had red hair and they liked to get their fingers in it," she said yesterday. "They used to hang round our wagons for days."

Mrs. Vish made the journey from Missouri to Oregon in 1260. There were 100 wagons in the train. It was often so difficult to find water the emigrants would travel all night to reach the next water hole and often stamped for drink. She lists the saddest event of the journey as the death of the captain's wife.

"It was halting terribly that day," Mrs. Vish said. "I never shall forget it. We buried her on the plains at Sweetwater, covered the grave with stones and left her there in the storm."

Death also visited the train in which Mrs. Anna Simpson of this

city made the trip from Madison county, Iowa, to Clackamas county, Oregon, and later to the Rogue River valley.

"There were 18 in our train and we had a guard of soldiers protecting us from the Indians. That was in '65," she told the group gathered at the Mail Tribune office Saturday. "I celebrated my fifth birthday on the plains."

"I can't remember who the lady was who died, but I never shall forget the funeral. The men went back several miles to get an old wagon bed to make a box to bury her in. We piled rocks high on the grave to keep the coyotes from digging her out."

"I also remember the journey through the Rocky mountains. The road was so rough we had to leave one of the wagons behind and another sat on the running gears of the others with ice on her lap."

Other pioneers whose stories will be told by the Mail Tribune are Mrs. W. D. Lewis of Central Point, Mrs. J. H. Tyrrell, John Walters, Aaron Scholjars, Mrs. Anna Disney, Mrs. Lavina Walters, Dr. D. A. Forbes of Jacksonville, W. M. Howard and W. H. Williams.

NO REDUCTION IN NEWS PRINT PRICE FOR 1931

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—(AP)—International Paper company today announced to its newspaper contract customers that there would be no change in the price of news print for 1931, which in New York and Chicago figure \$62 a ton.

Units of Roosevelt Coast highway between Newport and Waldport graded and rock-surfaced.

Over Six Summits in One Day



A. H. Patterson of Stockton, driving this Oakland Eight sedan, drove over six Sierra summits, 774 miles of mountain traveling, in 25 hours and 15 minutes elapsed time. He climbed 38,135 feet, was in high gear except for 4.9 miles, and in low gear for 10 feet. The car is shown here at Donner Summit in the Sierra.

COCHRAN RESIGNS INSURANCE POST

For more than 27 years J. H. Cochran has had offices and been writing insurance in southern Oregon and northern California during which time he and his agents have placed more than seven and one-half millions. Approximately \$327,500 has been paid for matured policies and death claims and \$23,750 on sickness and accident claims.

Mr. Cochran's resignation became effective Monday and hereafter premiums will be collected from the Portland office. He says he will continue to give the same personal service to policy holders as in the past as he wants his 3196 policy holders to know that he deeply appreciates their friendship and business and will be at all times at their service.

Mr. Cochran will continue his association with the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance company, writing insurance, but paying special attention to corporation and estate insurance upon which he is considered an expert, having written the largest policies in southern Oregon.

DEER HUNTER KILLED BY FRIEND'S MISTAKE

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 2.—(AP)—Mistaken for a deer, Elmer Paxton, 19, was shot and killed yesterday by his friend, two-legged Crouch, 17, while hunting on a mountain.

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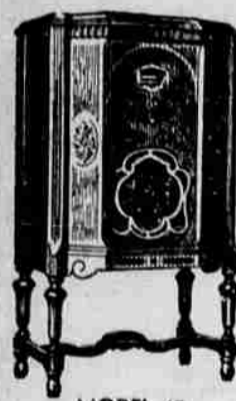
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