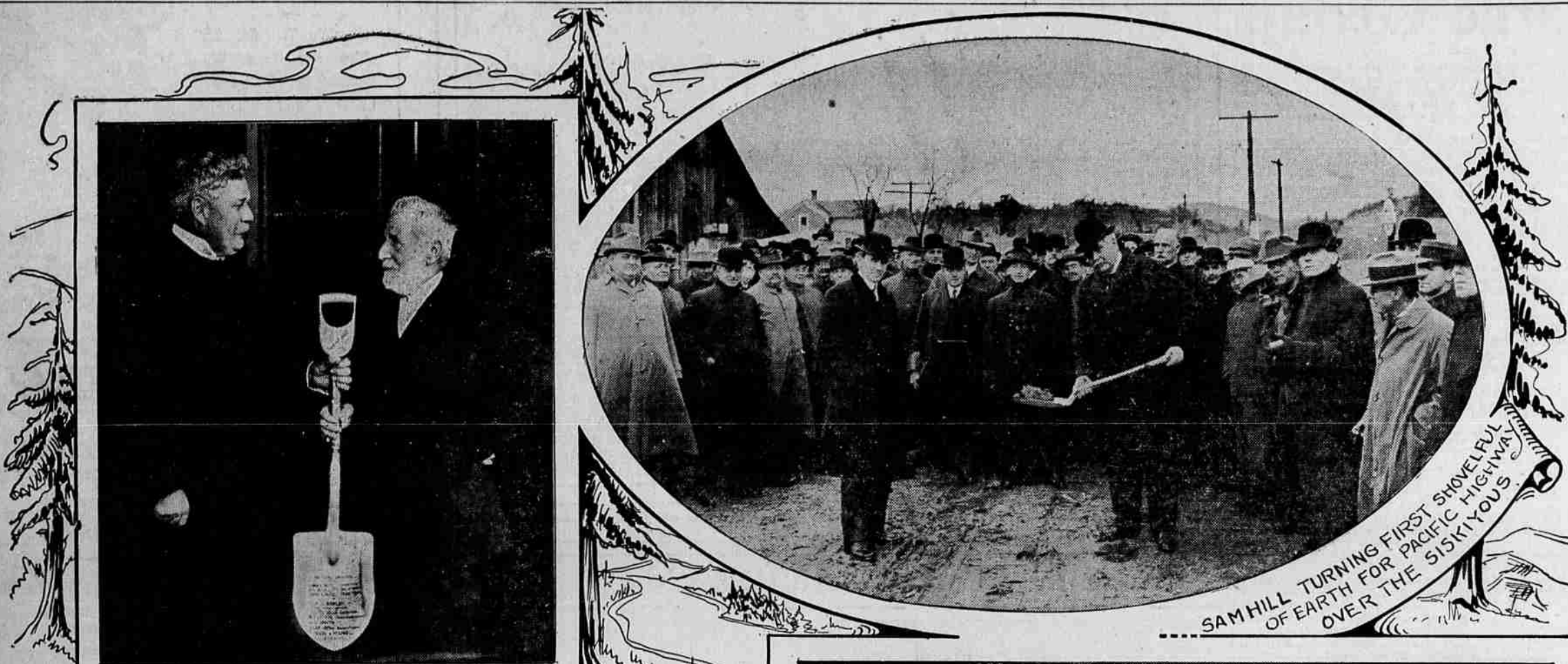


Jackson Among State's Leading Counties in Good Roads Move

Old Pictures Show Incidents in Connection With Inauguration of Pacific Highway Improvement Program



SAM HILL TURNING FIRST SHOVELFUL OF EARTH FOR PACIFIC HIGHWAY OVER THE SISKIYOU

J.S. HOWARD, PIONEER ROAD BUILDER, PRESENTING SAM HILL WITH SHOVEL USED TO BREAK GROUND FOR HIGHWAY

STRUGGLES WITH INDIANS DURING EARLY DAYS TOLD

With Redmen in Decade Prior to State's Admission to Union—Government Troops Are Used

By Ernest RAE
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In 1859, the date of Oregon's admission to the union, the Diamond Jubilee of which is being celebrated at Medford this week, the isolated settlers of the Willamette valley were at last in a condition of relief from worry. They were once again free, they hoped, from all the fears that had attended the trying Indian wars of the past decade. No longer must the cabins in the clearings be barricaded strongly through sleepless, anxious nights, and no longer must the settler hesitate on his doorstep, feeling his nerves against the possibility of finding the horribly mutilated bodies of his loved ones inside.

The placing of the tribes of western Oregon on reservations had removed this danger. Until this was done there could be no peace; for the reds and whites would not mix. It was the inevitable conflict between civilization and savagery and the survival of the strongest.

The Indian Wars

Just which race was to blame for the wars is hard to decide. The Indians claimed invasion of their lands, the driving off of all the game, ill usage of their women by the miners, treaties made but not ratified or ratified with objectionable amendments and all kept. The military authorities blamed the rough element among the whites entirely and regarded the slaughter of a few travelers now and then as of minor importance. The settlers wanted and desired only peace, but through their direct contacts with the redskins were almost unanimous in their belief that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian." They characterized the Indian as a treacherous, thieving lot of murderers, protected and even encouraged by the military.

There is much to be said on both sides. The Indians were a savage race who considered friendly overtures of the whites as evidences of weakness. On the other hand, the rougher element among the whites took special pains to treat the Indians as the dirt under their feet. It was not in the books for the two races to dwell side by side in harmony.

Decade of Trouble

There were three main wars between 1847 and 1857 and hundreds of smaller skirmishes, raids and counter raids between the Indians and pioneer settlers who volunteered for the service, the government troops playing only a minor part because of their small numbers.

In 1847 very few Americans had been killed in comparison with the following years which averaged about 160 deaths until 1852. It is impossible to estimate the Indian deaths because of the practice of the savages of carrying off and burning all bodies.

The fireworks had started with the

Whitman massacre in November, 1847, which began the Cayuse war lasting a year. The news of the slaughter was received at Willamette Falls, seat of the provisional government, on December 8, 1847, and Governor Abernethy put the matter before the legislature which was then in session and issued a call for volunteers. Excitement was high and a company who called themselves the Oregon Rifles organized immediately and proceeded to The Dalles, preparing the way for the larger body of volunteers to follow. Settlers were volunteering readily and with enthusiasm, many of them furnishing their entire equipment.

Whites Take Offensive

The main regiment was headed by Colonel Gilliam, who began by vigorously carrying the war into the enemy's territory. While marching to Wallatut, several raids by Indians on the cattle of immigrants were repelled by the troops. On catching up with the main body of the hostiles, Colonel Gilliam found them to be members of the Dea Chutes, John Day and Cayuse tribes. He engaged them and took much of their stock. He then marched on to engage the tribes of the Palouses and Cayuses to which the mission murders belonged. The scene at the mission presented a horrible spectacle where the wolves had dug up the graves of the victims.

The offending tribes were told they must deliver up the five Indian murderers, and on their refusing, Gilliam attacked and was attacked, using 185 men against 500 Palouses and Cayuses. In all only nine or ten volunteers were wounded, none mortally. Not so with the Indians, who went off to the hills glad enough to escape. By spring the futility of finding the murderers was apparent when the Indians could scatter and live off the country. In the autumn of 1849, the Cayuses gave up, covered, sick and weary of being fugitives. In the end five of the tribe were given up as the murderers and taken to Oregon City where they were tried, found guilty, and hanged.

Cayuse Tribe Disappears

This ended the Cayuse war which was fought only by volunteers who received \$1.50 a day for their services in scrip to be later redeemed by the government. All the lands of the Cayuses were forfeited and opened up to settlement. The Cayuses as a tribe fared miserably henceforth and by 1851 misfortune, mainly in the form of the white man's diseases, had reduced the tribe to a mere handful, numbering 36 warriors.

In 1851 Lane, governor and superintendent of Indian affairs, directed his attention to the south where the Indians were bothering the whites traveling to and from the gold fields of northern California. Many complaints of the rescues led Lane south to make a peace treaty with the southern Indians to put an end to their robberies and murders and make the country safe for travel.

Lane was a master at handling savages and proved it in this case. The Indians rebelled at the council of peace with the intention of murdering Lane's whole party. Lane had foreseen such a happening and had his men seize the hostile head chief at the first outbreak. Holding the chief as hostage for two days, he won the respect of the savages for his cool fearlessness and sagacity. The peace treaty was signed and the Indians forced to return all the stolen property, but the gold dust which they had ignorantly poured into the river. Peace was secured for a while, but it did not last.

In 1851 the immigrants suffered the most fiendish outrages at the hands of the Snakes, a very war-like tribe whose savages regarded neither



NEW MODOC BRIDGE OVER ROGUE RIVER



GUESTS BANQUETED BY ASHLAND ON COMMENCEMENT OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION



CULVERT, ON POSTAL HIGHWAY

age, sex, nor condition and managed to slaughter 34 and wound many others in that awful year besides stealing an estimated \$18,000 worth of property.

Also the road to California, travelled now continually, was becoming more and more unsafe due to the renewed depredations of the Shastas, Rogues, and their allies who roamed over the region. The miners, as they grew stronger, resented the annoyances more and more and were only too ready to find provocation. Finally a white man was treacherously murdered as he slept and the whites retaliated. One attack and counter attack led to another until a full fledged war was in progress: the Rogue river war of 1851-53.

Regulars Aid Volunteers

It so happened that the last divi-

sion of the mounted rifle regiment under Major Kearney was travelling south to California at this time and joined with the volunteers after the battle of Table Rock. The savages had been forced out of this strong hold by the volunteers. They fled, challenging the whites to further combat. The government troops just arrived had little stomach for this sort of fighting. Chasing naked savages up and down hills and through wooded ambushes held little that was alluring to the fighters of real battles.

Kearney pursued the savages down the river where they again fled, leaving 30 women and children behind who were seized and used as the hostages by which the Indians were forced to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States. Thus ended

the first military campaign in the Rogue river valley.

Warfare on Coast

While these affairs occupied the few white people in the interior those on the coast were getting their introduction to Indian hostilities. Port Orford had been picked as the logical port south of the Columbia river where mail and miner's supplies might be landed for transportation to the valleys of western Oregon. The apparently friendly Indians attacked the first nine men to settle there two days after their steamer left, causing them to flee for their lives to the settlement at the mouth of the Umpqua river. Later 40 more settled at Port Orford followed closely by 30, making 70 settlers in all. Twenty of this group set out to find a route to the mines. Ten of these

turned back and the remaining 10 became hopelessly lost. They finally abandoned their horses and trusted to the natives in canoes to take them to the fort. The treacherous natives landed the party at the Coquille village where the inhabitants attacked them. Five escaped and the other five were slaughtered. Within two months troops had avenged the massacre by killing 15 and wounding many more Indians.

The Rogue river Indians in their depredations of the summer of 1851 had murdered but 38 whites in all and taken much property. In 1852 they had murdered but half this number, say 18, but it must be remembered that the white population was very scarce at that time and the loss of every white man was a big loss to the pioneer state.

Killed at Conference

The peace with the Shasta and Rogue river Indians who were one race divided under different chiefs was not lasting and before long they were resorting to their murderous tactics again, killing travellers and settlers while they slept. The first attempted peace conference ended in an open clash. Reports vary of from four to 18 Indians killed with one white wounded. That evening news was received that during the peace conference a small group of miners had been murdered. The offenders were immediately intercepted and forced to give up the murderers who were hanged. A treaty of peace was then signed.

According to the report of the secretary of war, the disturbance in southern Oregon in 1853 cost the lives of over 100 white persons and several hundred Indians.

The Modoc Indians by Tule Lake caused the most trouble of any of the Indians and in 1852 accomplished wholesale massacres. At the massacre of immigrants at Bloody Point, Klamath county, in 1852, they murdered 38 men, women and children. Captain Ben Wright with 27 men from Yreka and Colonel J. E. Ross with a party of Oregonians punished the murderers. No quarter was given and about 40 men, women and children were dispatched by the avengers. For many years afterwards volunteer squads coming alternately from Oregon and California escorted the immigrants through the Modoc country.

The Indians on the coast were again causing trouble with the miners on the beaches between Port Orford and Coos Bay. The trouble ceased when the Indians were surprised in an attack by the white, who killed 16, wounded four, and captured 20, with all their provisions, etc., forcing them to sue for peace.

There were few murders in the Rogue river valley in 1854 than in the previous three years.

Tribes Die Off

One by one the Rogue rivers, Shastas, Coquilles, and other bands of Indians in the south were gathered up and placed on reservations. Cooped in narrow confines they dwindled rapidly from venereal infection, change of climate, indolence and over-eating of the putrid food furnished them. Whatever the causes,

out of the 600 Rogue river and Cow Creek Indians taken to the Siletz reservation in 1856, there remained in 1857 but 385.

In 1858 the last roving band of Indians in southwestern Oregon was "cleaned out," thus ending the Indian wars in southern Oregon. They were unavoidable and laid waste the homes of white and red men alike.

The Rogue river war was by no means a local disturbance but part of a widespread effort of the Indians of Oregon and Washington to rid themselves of the invading whites. From the Siskiyou mountains to British Columbia and from the Pacific ocean to the springs feeding the Columbia river, the redmen had snarled defiance and fought with the desperation of a dying race. The Yakimas in the north staged a general uprising and war in 1855-56 that was fought mainly in Washington with Oregon volunteers supplementing government troops.

The Oregonian of 1859 might sit by his fire and tell his children of his experiences as a volunteer fighter, but he still kept a wary eye on the activities of the Indians on the reservation and in eastern Oregon with the thought still going through his mind, "the only good Indian is a dead Indian." Further happenings proved this, but the Indian wars of the future involved but a few volunteers, government troops carrying on the wars almost entirely.

Tractor Co. Saved Old Elm

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (UP)—Rather than destroy the George Washington elm tree that has stood on Old Mill Green for more than a century, a local traction company laid a single track for two blocks when installing a two-way trolley line.

Keys Held in Tree

TRUMBULL, Conn. (UP)—Last fall Stephen Gutowski lost a bunch of keys when he was thrown from his automobile in an accident. Nearly eight months later they were found dangling high up in a tree at the scene of the collision.

Tenth Child at 30

SALEM, N. J. (UP)—Mrs. Mary Catania, wife of a laborer, is only 30, but she recently gave birth to her tenth child. All ten children are living.