

TALENT PIONEER SAW FIRST MAIL SACK DELIVERED

First School House, Built of Hewn Logs, Stood Near Present County Farm Says Mrs. Mary O. Carey

Mrs. Mary O. Carey, Mail Tribune correspondent from Eden Precinct, grew to womanhood in Talent, and has furnished the paper material for an early-day sketch of the south part of the county, which is of particular interest at this time.

Mrs. Carey lived in this section before Medford was established, and can well remember when the first mail sack was thrown off the old stage coach at the little box shanty which A. P. Talent had built to serve as a post office at Talent.

Talent First P. M. It was on March 17, 1881, according to Mrs. Carey, that Mr. Talent was made the first postmaster of the town named after him. The first school house, built of hewn logs, was erected on the property just south of the Jackson county farm.

Tyler's school now stands where the first church was built. The land, and most of the money for the building were given by Charles Root, the son of Harris Root. The donor died when but a young man, Mrs. Carey said, and left a large bequest to the church. He was an adopted brother of E. R. Oatman, now deceased.

"Later, Talent had the first commercial planing mill in this section, built by Rutherford and Freeman. Talent also had the first shipping and packing house in the valley, which was built by M. L. Pellett. Mr. Talent was responsible for the construction of a big meat curing and packing plant there.

Dug Artesian Well "Mr. Pellett had artesian wells on his place," she said, "which are still flowing. This property is now included in the Newberry orchard west of Talent.

"E. K. Anderson took up a donation land claim in the early forties, and did the first hydraulic mining in the county east of Jacksonville and Bellingham. The diggings of '40 are yet visible from the highway south of Phoenix, and many nuggets were taken from the property. The first wheat and corn for planting, was brought to Talent by Mr. Anderson. "Jackson county's first still," Mrs. Carey said, "was operated on the Wagner donation, which was part of the townsite. The place was sold to Jim Helms in 1854. He was well known in the county, for during the severe smallpox epidemic in Jacksonville during 1851 and 1852, he nursed many of the patients.

Joseph Rapp, father of Fred Rapp, raised the first commercial truck here, and took vegetables to Jacksonville and Ashland, for sale, peddling them from a wagon.

Rails Brought Boom The first real boom came in Talent with the construction of the railroad in 1884. With the railroad came a saloon, a restaurant, two stores besides a hardware, planing mill and wagon maker's shop.

Jeff Davis put up a sawmill at the head of Anderson creek in 1867, and furnished most of the lumber for building the town. When the railroad was being built, there were no graded or graveled roads, and the few miles from Talent to Phoenix and back, was a good half day's trip, Mrs. Carey recalled.

"In winter it was nothing for the axle of the wagon to touch the mud most of the time while driving," she said. "A lane of rail fence, made 'worm fashion,' zigzagged either side of the road and formed a lane the length of the valley."

A commercial orchard, the first in the valley, was put in by Helms and Anderson, and included fruits of all kinds, which Mrs. Carey said were "beyond all description."

Beeson Remembered Early characters whom Mrs. Carey remembered, included Welborn Beeson's grandfather who acted as interpreter for the Indians before the valley had many residents. He took up a donation where the Holdridge cherry and walnut grove is now growing.

G. P. Billings, for many years, was superintendent of the Talent Sunday school, held in the church there. Another of the early pioneers was Daniel Britain, who taught the Indians in the Talent section, and was with the two men that were killed in the Siskiyou by the redmen. They were buried near the place where another Talent man had hanged himself.

VETERAN SECRETARY TO GOVERNORS WILL LEAVE JOB, IS WORD

STATE HOUSE, Salem, Ore.—(UP)—Selection of a secretary by the incoming governor today was the subject of considerable state house comment.

It was generally understood that competent Beatrice Walton Sackett desires to retire at the conclusion of the Meier administration next January.

She has served under three governors. Editors have referred to Mrs. Sackett as "the governor." Such tributes are based on sound facts.

Governor Meier, just as Governors Norblad and Patterson did, depends on his secretary for advice on most subjects. He probably holds her judgment in higher esteem than that of any other person.

She was in Europe on a Christmas vacation when Governor Meier called asking her to return and become his secretary. She made a hurried trip with rush connections to

Oldest Brick Building Stands In Jacksonville



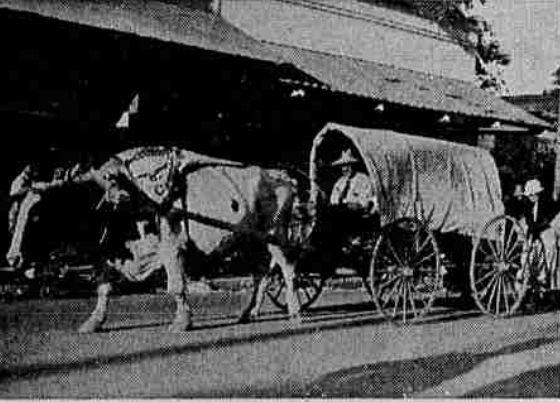
Constructed in 1854, the Brunner building in Jacksonville, historic gold mining town, is the oldest brick building in the state still in use. The structure sheltered women and children during Indian forays in 1856, three years before Oregon was admitted into the union, and today houses a museum, one of the attractions of Oregon's Diamond Jubilee celebration this week in Medford and Jacksonville.

Stories of yesterday tell of roaming bands of Indians spreading fear among early settlers. Frequently they threatened the struggling mining camp of Jacksonville and when danger came near, the women and children sought the safety of the building.

After Indian wars ceased and Oregon was ready to be admitted to the union, Jacksonville bore the reputation of being the richest town in the state and Jackson county was the wealthiest and most populous county in Oregon. However, the coming of the railroad, a new town, Medford, was established in 1884 five miles to the east and grew rapidly. Jacksonville, rich in pioneer lore, has continued as one of the most ideal residential spots of the west.

During the celebration, it will be the attraction for thousands of visitors who will be surrounded by pioneer atmosphere as of old. Personally conducted tours will lead them to points of historic interest, including the first bank in Oregon, the oldest protestant church building in the west, old gold diggings and present blacky mines yielding numerous ounces of gold daily. They will be in operation throughout jubilee week.

When Oregon Was Young



When Oregon was young and statehood was just becoming a fact, transportation was confined to oxen and covered wagons, now only dim memories in the minds of still surviving pioneers. One of the last covered wagon trips across the plains was made a few years ago from Connecticut to Phoenix. One of the animals making the trip is shown on the streets of Jacksonville.

Historic Church Still Standing



Built from funds collected from gambling tables in 1853, the Methodist church in Jacksonville is claimed to be one of the oldest buildings of its kind in the west. It is known to be the oldest Methodist church still standing west of the Rocky Mountains. It will be open during Oregon's Diamond Jubilee celebration and will be one of the points of interest to which personally guided tours will lead.

arrive back in Salem by the time the governor was inaugurated.

As private secretary, Mrs. Sackett is a member of the parole board. Persons in a position to pass competent judgment say she exhibited "characteristic poise and good judgment in all matters pertaining to the Portland longshoremen's strike."

The governor's office without the presence of Beatrice Walton Sackett will be a strange sight. Many persons will be sorry to see her leave, if she decides definitely to retire from public life.

SHOP WINDOW SERVES TAP DANCE STUDENT SPOKANE, Wash.—(UP)—Elmer Taylor, negro, astounded early morning pedestrians by his facial and physical gyrations before a downtown plate glass window. When questioned about his actions by police, he said he was learning to tap dance and that his dad used the only available mirror at home in the mornings for shaving.



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