

Twenty Governors of Oregon During Her Seventy Five Years of Statehood



John Whiteaker (Dem.) 1859-1862 A. C. Gibbs (Rep.) 1862-1866 George L. Woods (Rep.) 1866-1870 Lafayette Grover (Dem.) 1870-1877 Stephen Chadwick (Dem.) 1877-1878 W. W. Thayer (Dem.) 1878-1882 Z. F. Moody (Rep.) 1882-1887 Sylvester Penney (Dem.) 1887-1895 W. P. Lord (Rep.) 1895-1899 T. T. Geer (Rep.) 1899-1903



G. E. Chamberlain (Dem.) 1903-1909 Frank W. Benson (Rep.) 1909-1910 Jay Bowerman (Rep.) 1910-1911 Oswald West (Dem.) 1911-1915 James Withycombe (Rep.) 1915-1919 Ben W. Olcott (Rep.) 1919-1923 Walter M. Pierce (Dem.) 1923-1927 I. L. Patterson (Rep.) 1927-1929 A. W. Norblad (Rep.) 1929-1931 Julius L. Meier (Ind.) 1931-

The Sunday Journal acknowledges the courtesy of the Oregon Historical society in providing some of these photographs.

Proceedings of Congress Record Oregon's Admission To the Union During President Buchanan's Administration

By CARL SMITH

Courtesy Oregon Journal.

In the proceedings of congress of February 14, 1859, it is reported that: President James Buchanan approved a bill admitting Oregon to the union.

General Joseph Lane and Delazon Smith were sworn in as the first United States senators from the new state.

The budget and the tariff, foremost questions of the day, were debated at length.

Republicans backed a resolution limiting the government's expenditures to \$50,000,000, except payments on the public debt. (Recent budgets have run about 80 times that amount.)

A proposal for tri-weekly mail service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Placerville, Calif., was adversely reported.

A petition was received from New York citizens praying that the public lands be laid out "in farms and lots" for actual settlers.

Senators complained of the heat in the senate chamber, which through some maladjustment of the hot air heating system registered 94 degrees.

Official record of the admission of Oregon and the seating of her first senators is contained in the Congressional Globe, predecessor of the present Congressional Record, in the following paragraphs in the issue of February 14, 1859:

"A message from the house of representatives by Mr. Allen, its clerk, announced that the house had passed the bill of the senate (S. 239) for the admission of Oregon into the union.

"A subsequent message from the house announced that the speaker had signed an enrolled bill (S. 239) for the admission of Oregon; and it was signed by the vice president.

"A message at a later hour from the president of the United States by Mr. Henry, his secretary, announced that the President had this day approved and signed an act for the admission of Oregon into the union.

"Mr. Pugh (Senator George E. Pugh of Ohio) presented the credentials of Hon. Joseph Lane, elected a senator by the legislature of the state of Oregon, which were read.

"Mr. Gwin (Senator William M. Gwin of California), presented the credentials of Hon. Delazon Smith, elected a senator by the legislature of the state of Oregon, which were read.

"The Vice-President: The chair begs leave to state to the senate that by an error the Oregon bill, after having been signed by the chair, was taken to the President of the United States without the signature of the chair having been announced here. It was a mistake. It will be properly entered in the journal, if there be no objection. The chair hears no objection.

"The affirmation prescribed by law having been administered by Messrs. Lane and Smith, they took their seats in the senate."

Immediately after this Senator Gwin submitted a resolution providing that Lane and Smith should decide by lot the length of their respective terms. Lane drew a slip of paper numbered "two," which gave him the term ending March 3, 1861. Smith drew a slip numbered "one," which meant that he had only 17 days to serve.

Lafayette Grover, later governor and senator, had been elected to the house, also with only 17 days to go, but he did not appear to take the oath of office until the following day, February 15. His credentials were presented by Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, who became vice president of the Confederacy in 1861.

On the day that Oregon attained the dignity of statehood, Senator James S. Green of Missouri asked that a bill of his to organize the territories of Arizona and "Dacotah" be taken up later in the week. Senator Jacob Collamer of Vermont objected.

A homestead bill was being agitated. Senator Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, later President Johnson, presented a petition from New York which pleaded that "the public lands may be laid out in farms and lots for the free and exclusive use of actual settlers."

Speed enthusiasts were trying to have mail dispatched between the Missouri river and California every three weeks. The wise old senators considered this impractical, as the following entry shows:

"Senator David L. Youlief of Florida, from the committee on post-offices and postroads, to whom was referred petitions of citizens of Jackson, Calif., praying establishment of a tri-weekly mail route between St. Joseph, Mo., and Placerville, Calif., submitted an adverse report, which was ordered printed."

Senator Robert M. T. Hunter of Virginia made a long speech on expenditures, economy and the tariff. Resemblance of the perplexities of 1859 to those of 1934 may be found in several respects, as by quotation of a resolution by Senator William Bigler of Pennsylvania, Democrat, which was the unfinished business:

"Resolved, as the opinion of the senate, that the creation of a large public debt in time of peace is inconsistent with the true policy of the United States; and as the present revenues are insufficient to meet the unavoidable expenses of the government, congress should proceed without delay to so readjust the revenue laws as not only to meet the deficit in the current expenses, but to pay off the present debt, so far as it may be liable to immediate cancellation."

As a counter move Senator Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, Republican, offered an amendment hitting the "extravagance" of the Buchanan administration. It requested the president to submit estimates upon a basis "not exceeding \$50,000,000 per annum, exclusive of the public debt and the interest thereon," and directed the finance committee to report a bill to reform abuses and reduce

expenditures to "an honest, rigid, economical administration of the government."

Imbedded in the record is evidence that the senate chamber that February day was hot, whatever the temperature may have been outside. The senate met in what is now the supreme court chamber in the old part of the capitol. The more modern senate and house wings were under construction. The hot air vents were poorly controlled. The senators fumed and roared.

Senator Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, who in less than two years withdrew from the senate to follow the banner of secession and become president of the Southern Confederacy, proposed that the officer in charge of construction be allowed the privilege of the floor while the senator appears.

ate was in session, "to regulate the draught" and observe the workings of the superheating system.

Senator John Slidell of Louisiana, who afterward was sent by Davis as one of the Confederate commissioners to negotiate with England and France and figured with Senator James M. Mason of Virginia in the famous "affair of the Trent," gave a boost to the Davis motion.

"I thought it was unusually warm just now," he observed, "and I had the curiosity to consult the thermometer. My seat stands at 89 degrees and the seat of the senator from Rhode Island, Mr. Allen, at 94. If we have any regard for our health we should do this. I confess this is hotter than I am accustomed to and I should like to retreat if I could."

Pioneer Heroines Battle With Indians Episode Of Cow Creek Canyon

Many thrilling stories of pioneer fights with the Indians have been handed down as a rich heritage from the past, but to John E. Ross, of Central Point, one story stands out above the others.

It is a true story and was told to Ross' mother by Mrs. Harris Chamberlain, a pioneer heroine, according to Ross. "Of all the stories to which I listened in my childhood, this one remains the most thrilling," he said.

"An early settler, Mr. Harris, built his log cabin in a small clearing in the Cow Creek Canyon near the old trail north of the present site of

Grant's Pass," Ross relates. "The cabin became the home of his family, consisting of his wife and their two children."

"One morning the son was sent on horseback to buy supplies. Early in the evening of the same day a volley of shots was heard and Mr. Harris staggered and fell inside the door, mortally wounded."

"The daughter, who was playing near by, was badly shot in the arm. Somehow in the agonizing moments that followed, the door was closed and Mr. Harris, dying, gave to his wife the following directions:

"Get a shotgun and put in the powder first. Use wadding of rags or paper, be careful that the wadding is not too dry, or you will set the house on fire. Don't use shot, place the percussion cap upon the tube

and go to the opening in the logs and fire every few minutes!"

Ross, "was very familiar to me in my childhood."

"This shotgun, incidentally," says Ross, "was very familiar to me in my childhood."

"The wadding took fire! The courageous woman knew that something must be done; opening the door slightly, she crawled to the spot of the flame, beating out the fire with her hands, and crawled back to her house of death."

"The firing was resumed at intervals throughout the dreary night, just before the break of day, she

heard, in excited jargon, the word 'Boston man' which meant 'white man'."

"By the commotion in the thick brush, she knew that the Indians were running away. A little later, she heard the sound of galloping horses. A rescue party was at hand and Mrs. Harris and her daughter were taken to safety. The daughter, in later years, became Mrs. Love. What happened to the son on his fateful journey for supplies was never known, for he was never seen or heard of after that time."

"Mr. Harris had brought with him across the plains, a lady's beautiful riding saddle. The saddle was lying on the floor near where Mr. Harris had fallen. His wife had placed it under his shoulders to raise his head, and the blood running on the new

leather made a dark stain recognizable ever after. The saddle was given by Mrs. Harris to my sister, Abigail, and was around the home ranch for many years."

"As I looked over the display of pioneer relics at the Oregon Jubilee headquarters, I noticed several old saddles, and I thought of the grave in the Jacksonville cemetery and of the stone inscribed, 'George W. Harris, Killed by the Indians.'"

Boy Scouts Seek Garden Tools KEARNEY, Neb. (UP) — Garden implements, needed to aid in development of federal relief garden projects, proved scarce in Kearney, Boy Scouts who spent an entire day soliciting gifts of implements secured but two hoes to reward them for their efforts.

WELCOME to YOU

Medford is known as
the Little City of
HOSPITALITY

THIS week we celebrate in honor of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Oregon's statehood. . . . Guests from everywhere will be within our gates. . . . That friendly spirit always in evidence in Southern Oregon will extend itself into a royal welcome to our visitors on this gala occasion, further demonstrating the fact that Medford is the little city of Hospitality. We hope this event will be so filled with pleasure that you will come again.

Home Telephone and Telegraph Company
of Southern Oregon

R. B. HAMMOND, Manager

WELCOME VISITORS!

It is the sincere wish of the J. C. Penney Company that your stay in Southern Oregon during Jubilee Week be most happy and enjoyable.

The facilities of this store are at your service at all times. It will be a pleasure to be of service.

Again—our most cordial greetings.

J. C. Penney Co.

Daughter First State Governor



ANNE WHITAKER, of Eugene, daughter of the first governor of Oregon, has been named the Queen Mother for Oregon's Diamond Jubilee celebration in Medford this week. Elaborate coronation ceremonies will be held for her this evening, and will include a children's pageant having over 400 participants. The Queen Mother was selected on the basis of being one of the most outstanding pioneer women in the state. Her father, John Whiteaker, served as governor from 1859 to 1862.