

Pickin' Pears News, Gossip, Comment From Camp White

By SID HOLLINGSWORTH

"Antiquarians still argue about who was the first true settler in the Willamette valley," the historian Winther tells us.

The Parker family does not claim to be the first but they have records showing that they were among the first 10,000 in the entire territory.

The pioneers, John, Allen and Moses Parker crossed the plains in a covered wagon in 1852, headed for the famed Willamette valley in the Oregon country where an American settler would receive 320 acres of land and (double that if married). This was provided by the Donation Land act of 1850.

A centennial reunion of the descendants of these three was held this month at Fairmount Grange hall in North Albany, Ore., and 187 of them sat down to the table at dinner. They came to the gathering from far and near. One member of this clan who was there was Rowland Parker, a wheel chair veteran domiciled at Camp White.

Until recently, due to further surgery, he has been unable to continue the popcorn vending concession he started a year ago. But he was able to attend this notable meeting, as he does others at the camp as well as outside, when transportation is provided. He is an ardent fisherman.

Roland Parker's grandfather was Moses Parker, one of these three pioneer settlers. "A majority of the land claims taken up by the Parkers is still owned by the descendants," he states. "My grandfather was a breeder of Clydesdale horses which came from blooded stock imported from England. He also brought the first steam threshing machine engine into Linn county, and with Allen established the first flour mill."

Rowland brought back some of the literature published about the Parker family. A leaflet called "The Plainsman" has this statement: "We dedicate the Plainsman to these pioneer ancestors whose conquering of the many hardships of those days has brought us the good life we now enjoy in the Willamette valley."

The account of crossing the continent over the Oregon Trail is worth reading. Here is a part of the story:

"They crossed the plains without any extraordinary happening, except once there was almost an Indian attack when, so the story goes, the Indians wanted to buy Julia. She wore long earrings and a chief offered 17 ponies for her. The wagons formed a circle and the Indians were ordered to leave, which they finally did without attacking, since they saw it was no use.

"The worst danger of the trail was cholera, which broke out twice. Mrs. Fronk was stricken, as was her baby, and she said she knew she was going to die. Forty-eight hours later both were dead. Captain Settle went ahead to find a camping spot and when the rest caught up they found him twisting with cholera. A dead animal was discovered upstream. Worst cholera attack came near the Snake river.

"One man in the wagon train caused serious trouble. He swore he was going to 'kill him an Indian.' He shot a squaw and the Indians demanded that he be given up or they would massacre the whole train; so he had to be turned over. The Indians skinned him alive. An aunt of the three Parker brothers, Mary Bryant, who later married Mr. Cottle and became the mother of Mrs. J. K. Weatherford, was with them in the wagon train." (J. K. Weatherford was a regent of Oregon State College.)

They settled near Tallman in the Lebanon vicinity near the Santiam river and took up donation land claims on the prairie "where the grass was growing up to a man's shoulders and in some places over his head," the account continues.

"Moses, who had learned the carpenter's trade starting at the age of 17, was a journeyman carpenter and was much in demand. The men cut logs for cabins, split rails for stakes and rider fences and sold them to people.

"In those days they used tallow dips and they used parched wheat for coffee. Wheat was \$4 a bushel. Wild strawberries were enjoyed in season. Wolves and cougars would come near and have to be frightened off, but the Indians were not unfriendly. They would come to the cabin and want things. Sometimes when Allen was gone to town Julia had to deal with them herself and usually had trouble getting them to leave."



DENYING accusation she appeared "practically nude" in recent movie, Gila Lollobrigida, Italian actress, wins damages for slander from Milan newspaper which made the charge. (International Soundphoto)

10 Per Cent of State Population Under 5 Years Old

Washington—(U.P.)—More than 10 per cent of Oregon's population on April 1, 1950, was under five years of age, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday, reflecting a higher birth rate during the years just after World War II.

In the 1940 census, this group was only seven per cent of the population.

The bureau reported a total of 163,915 children under five years of age in 1950, or 10.8 per cent of the state's 1,521,341 persons. In 1940 this group numbered 76,109.

The five to nine age group numbered 131,596, or 8.7 per cent of the 1950 population. In 1940 this was only 6.7 per cent. The 10 to 14 year group was 7.1 per cent in 1950 and 7.5 per cent in 1940. The 15 to 19 group was 6.4 per cent in 1950 and 8.5 in 1940.

Persons 75 years old or over in Oregon numbered 41,471 in 1950 and 28,993 in 1940, the percentage being the same, 2.7 per cent of the total population.

Health Service To Aid Older Citizens

Washington—(U.P.)—The Public Health Service said Monday it is going to help the states make the lives of their older citizens "happier and more productive."

The number of persons above 66 years of age has increased by 10,000,000 during the 20th century, Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele said, and more health services will be needed to head off and to cure their ills.

Scheele has assigned Dr. Cleatus L. Krag, former research assistant at Washington University medical school, to head a program that will advise state health departments how to meet the health needs of older people to help them "play a more active role in the community."

American Legion Sets Joint Installations

Central Point—A joint installation of all American Legion Posts of District 4, west of the Cascade mountains, will be held in the Legion Memorial building, in Central Point, Thursday, June 26, starting at 8 p.m. Jack Peters, Commander of District 4, will be installing officer, assisted by Lester P. Mathes, sergeant-at-arms.

The five posts will be represented by the new officers of Ashland Post 14, Medford Post 15, Grants Pass Post 28, Glen Worsham Post 70, Cave Junction and Myers-Holland Post 129, Central Point.

Posting of the colors will be held preceding the installation, with the Camp White orchestra furnishing the music. The orchestra will also furnish entertainment after the installation.

All veterans in the valley are invited to attend this ceremony, whether members of the Legion or not. The public is also invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting, by the joint ladies auxiliaries.

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Buyers of Whisky Shop for Bargains as Control Ends

Washington—(U.P.)—Thrifty and wine prices rise to within 20 per cent of the old ceilings, whisky rummaged for bargains Tuesday on the strength of a tip from the office of Price Stabilization.

The OPS removed price ceilings from all bottled liquor and wine. It explained that nearly all types are selling far below ceiling prices anyway.

Whisky Market Weak

In fact, the OPS added with a bland official smile, the whisky market is so weak that many distilleries are quietly putting out some of their best stuff under low-priced labels.

These unadvertised bargains, OPS said, can be found in the traditionally lower-priced brands, old brands newly-revived, and private brands put out by wholesalers and retailers.

Bar Markups Controlled

The suspension of ceilings applies to all sales except those in bars and restaurants, where markups still will be controlled. OPS said it would reconrol package sales of wine and whisky if and when bulk whisky

The Grange

Shady Cove Grange will meet Wednesday, June 25, for pot-luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Those unable to be there promptly at 6:30 may come later, and they will be welcome.

Those having birthdays during the quarter will be honored. Regular grange session will be called to order at 8:30 p.m.

Grants Pass Sets Up Medford Plan Program

Grants Pass—An organized plan of donating to charities and annual welfare has been set up here. Tentatively named the Donors club, the plan is based on the Medford Plan, which has been in effect there since last year.

At a meeting last week, representatives of business and labor organizations prepared a program for putting their proposal into effect. Under the plan, businessmen would make one annual contribution to their organization at least equal to the total of the prior year's contributions. Individual members would pledge one day's pay each year.

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