

## Applegate's Great-Grandson Recalls Story of Hardships

Editor's note: On Sunday, April 19 a group of seven covered wagons will leave Independence, Mo., for Oregon on a 130-day trip over the Old Oregon trail. The following interview, recalling some of the hardships that befell the pioneers of 1843, was written by the great-grandson of Charles Applegate, who took part in that migration.

By HOWARD APPLIGATE  
UPI Correspondent

Yoncola, Ore. — (UPI) — Not all the wagon trains which came to Oregon more than 100 years ago experienced trouble with the Indians.

Mrs. Annie Applegate Kruse, whose "grandmammy" crossed the plains in the great migration of 1843, said today not a single shot was fired in anger between white men and Indians on the covered wagon train which was among the first to bring women and children to the Oregon country.

She referred to the "Cow Column" train, captained by her uncle, Jesse Applegate, then 32 years old. Jesse and two of his brothers, Charles and Lindsay, traveled with their families on that train, which left Independence, Mo., in May of 1843 and arrived in what is now western Oregon about six months later.

Mrs. Kruse, a spry 83 years, holds in her mind a vivid picture of the trip as it was told to her by her grandmother, Mrs. Melinda (Charles) Applegate. She was 12 years old when Melinda died in 1888 and as a girl spent many hours listening to accounts of the migration.

### Friction Recalled

The "Cow Column" train had separated from other wagons after leaving Independence because of friction among those who had cows to herd on the trail and those who did not.

"There were about 1000 persons in the cow column," she said, "including 280 men." Four oxen pulled each of the wagons.

"They took along an extra wagon loaded with flour and bacon," Mrs. Kruse said. "At Fort Hall they paid tribute to Indian chiefs who allowed them to cross their land."

At night, as her grandmother related to her, the wagon train would form in the familiar circle and Indian campfires could be seen in the distance. "They often came to the train seeking food."

### Dr. Whitman Offers Praise

But the food still was among the biggest problems confronting the 1843 pioneers. "The single men would ride ahead on horseback during the day and hunt food and camping sites. My grandmammy and her daughters gathered greens along the trail and cooked them at night. Dr. Whitman told her she had done more for the health of the train than anyone else."

The Dr. Whitman to whom she referred was Dr. Marcus Whitman, famed missionary who had settled near Walla Walla seven years earlier. He had been back to Washington, D. C., and joined the 1843 pioneers at the Platte river. Mrs. Kruse said.

The trip had plenty of hardships despite lack of Indian fighting. Charles lost a wagon full of supplies when it overturned in a fast river. Tragedy struck the families of Jesse and Lindsay Applegate after the party reached The Dalles on the Columbia. It was decided to build barges and float the wagons downstream. Then, before the present-day dams, the river was full of rapids. One of the barges capsized. Jesse and Lindsay each lost a nine-year-old son by drowning.

### Thrown Apples Missed

Mrs. Kruse recalled a pathetic moment after the party reached Fort Vancouver, across from Portland. Food supplies by then had run short and a sailor on an anchored British ship threw down apples to a boat carrying members of the party across the Columbia. "Aunt Lucy (a daughter of Charles) was 13 at the time and missed catching the apples. There were hungry children in that boat. She never forgot that moment."

Mrs. Kruse's grandmother told her that at the end of each day Jesse would dictate

### Stanley Jones at Salt Lake Conference

Stanley C. Jones Jr., Medford attorney, is attending a regional medical-legal conference in Salt Lake City this week and expects to return April 22, according to his office.

The regional conference is sponsored by the American Medical Association. The primary purpose is discussion of problems common to both medical and legal professions regarding litigation, it was explained. The association sponsors three such regional meetings a year.



to her an account of the day's trip across the plains. "But those notes were later lost," she said.

**Settled Near Dallas**  
The Applegates spent that winter with Dr. John McLoughlin in Oregon City and later settled near Dallas. Charles and Jesse came here after the latter had helped locate the Applegate trail which went south from Fort Hall, Idaho, and crossed northwest Utah, northern Ne-

veda and the Klamath Basin into southern Oregon.

Mrs. Kruse, who said she'd like to go on this year's wagon train "if I felt a little better," recalled a humorous incident after her ancestors moved here.

"There was an Indian called 'Jossysides,' she said, 'who visited the log cabin. He had never seen a stove. When he came into the cabin he sat down on the stove. He never came back.'"

## House Concurs in Sanitary Standards For Labor Camps

Salem — (UPI) — The House Wednesday concurred in Senate amendments to House bill 159 which sets up sanitary standards in farm labor camps. The bill now goes to the governor.

Vote on the measure was 41-18.

Senate amendments to the bill put the Bureau of Labor and the State Employment Service back into the bill as agencies to help the State Board of Health administer the act.

Rep. Grace Peck (D-Portland) said that many farm camps had adequate standards but the bad ones made this legislation necessary.

**Mrs. Musa Objects**  
Rep. Katherine Musa (D-The Dalles) objected to the bill on grounds that farmers would carry the entire cost. She felt that migrants should share in the costs.

Vote on the measure took place after extensive parliamentary maneuvering in which two motions to send the bill back to the Judiciary Committee and to not concur in the amendments, failed.

Rep. Ben Evick (D-Madras) thought the Board of Health could handle inspections alone and that farmers were doing a good job improving sanitary standards without control.

A bill regulating sale of reject incubator eggs for possible use in human food went to the Senate.

**Frozen For Future Sale**  
Rep. William Gallagher (R-Portland) said there had been a practice of selling eggs which failed to hatch in incubators to egg breakers who inspected them, by sight and smell and then froze them for future sale.

Rep. Peck called the bill the

"frustrated egg" bill. "If you want to eat frustrated eggs, that's all right, but you should know what you are eating," Rep. Peck said.

The incubator eggs would have to be labeled under the bill.

Gallagher said the Federal Food and Drug Administration has defined reject incubator eggs as adulterated.

Rep. Musa said eastern Oregon should continue to have a tuberculosis hospital.

Mrs. Musa testified at a Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on a bill to convert the present TB hospital at The Dalles to a home for care of some patients now in state institutions 50 years of age or older.

She offered amendments calling for continuation of treatment of TB patients at The Dalles and that the state TB hospital in Salem be used for program for retarded children. TB patients here would be sent to The Dalles under her proposal.

Jack Howe, mayor of The Dalles, said the proposed mid-Columbia home would be located near a city park.

### GP Publisher Named

#### Life Member of Group

Cave Junction — Amos E. Voorhees, publisher of the Grants Pass Courier, was elected life-time honorary president of the Josephine County Historical Society this week when the group met in the proposed museum building Kerby.

Officers elected are Dr. A. N. Collman, president; Don Barnes, vice president; Mrs. Ken Hamilton, secretary; and Mrs. Edward Gohrke, treasurer.

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