

Gold Brought Boom to Jacksonville Area

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By February, '52 'Rich Gulch' Was Lined With Miners

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles reprinted from material compiled by the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. The series concerns historical notes of Jacksonville, Medford, and the fruit industry in the Rogue valley, and Indian wars of the Rogue valley.

The folders were published by the chamber to be distributed during Oregon's Centennial year. Material in the folders was obtained from "A History of Southern Oregon," by A. G. Walling, published in 1884; "A Brief History of Jacksonville," by the Rev. E. M. Mallory, published in 1893; and "Historical Jacksonville," published by the Southern Oregon Historical Society, Inc., in 1950.)

Late in 1851 gold was first discovered on Daisy creek by two packers passing through the Rogue valley. They gave the information to James Clugge and J. R. Poole who filed a joint claim with James Skinner and a Mr. Wilson on 400 feet of "Rich Gulch" near the crossing on Oregon st.

By February of 1852 word had leaked out and every foot of the gulch was staked and claimed. By March the surrounding hills and gulches were likewise claimed and miners swarmed into the area despite the evident hostility of the Indians.

Things happened fast. In February, a trading post was opened in a tent operated by two packers from Yreka, Calif. Others followed. In March, the first log cabin was erected near the head of Main st.

Lumber was whipsawed and sold for \$250 per thousand. Clapboard houses with real sawed doors and frame windows began to appear in the tent city. By the end of summer in 1852, Jacksonville began to emerge as a substantial community.



Growth to Community

The gold attracted gamblers, courtesans and sharpers of every kind. Saloons multiplied rapidly with monte and faro games going full blast to the strains of lively music luring both the miner and his gold.

Crime during this early period was surprisingly rare. There was no organized law or enforcement. Pioneer justice was administered by the people's court, prompted on the spot to fit specific cases.

Findings were amazingly correct; punishment was severe, swift and certain. A gambler named Brown was sentenced and hanged for murder by the first of such courts in 1852.

The winter of 1852 began with a heavy snowfall in November, blocking all trails. Demands outweighed the slim supplies. Flour rose to one dollar a pound and tobacco to one dollar an ounce. Salt, worth its weight in gold, was measured in small amounts on scales and balanced by an equal amount of gold dust as payment—rated at \$16 an ounce.

Handsome profits were

REDS ADMIT FAILURE

Budapest, Hungary—(UPI)—Attempts to achieve domestic production of refrigerators in Hungary have failed miserably, the Communist Party newspaper Nepszabadsag said yesterday. It said Hungary's one refrigerator factory, at Jaszberenyi, has completed only 11 per cent of its quota so far because most of the finished products were defective.

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made by adventurers who crossed the mountains on snowshoes and returned with limited supplies.



Indian Wars

The year 1853 brought trouble to Jacksonville. Indians had attacked settlers in the outlying districts. Tom Willis was shot by Indians near the edge of town. Soon after, a man named Nolan was shot dead in the streets of Jacksonville.

The townspeople were poorly armed and there was scarcely a bulletproof building in town. Pickets were thrown out nightly to guard against surprise.

Shortly after the death of Nolan, two Indian boys wandered into town and were lynched by a crowd whose emotions overcame good judgment. The action was later regretted.

This marked the last session of the people's court. It may have prompted the series of reprisals by the Indians against white families in the valley and counter actions by whites against Indians which were to follow spasmodically until peace was finally realized in 1856.

Social Growth

As more families moved in, society began to crystallize, forming its caste system and establishing social limits. The ladies embarked upon a course of refinement and succeeded in bringing about more conventional dress and manners.

The full-bearded gold seeker attired in red shirt and galuses found the "boiled shirt" and white vest essential for competition in ladies' society with the young bloods of that day.

With the increase of family groups, a school became necessary. Early in the winter of 1853 one was organized by Miss Emma Royal who secured generous contributions from the miners. The single room cabin located on the Old Stage rd. served the community's needs until 1867.

A Methodist church was founded in 1853 by the Rev. Joseph F. Smith. Funds were solicited among the miners by a Miss Overbeck, Miss Royal

and the pastor's wife. The church, completed in 1854, was built of hewn logs with a roof of handmade shakes and is said to be the first Protestant church in southern Oregon.

Also in 1853, the Rev. James Croke, a missionary of the archdiocese of Oregon, visited Jacksonville and celebrated the first mass. By 1855 a steadfast Catholic group was organized. Early in 1858 a church building was under construction. The first service were conducted in November of that year.

Although a Presbyterian church was organized in Jacksonville as early as 1857, the building was not erected until 1880. Considered the finest in southern Oregon, it was built of sugar pine hauled by wagon from Roseburg. Its stained glass windows were brought around the horn.

Law and Order

It seems the earlier people's court was more effective than that organized later under the territorial laws with judicial appointments granted in Washington, D. C. Records of 1854 show an alarming increase of murder, rape and larceny.

The Honorable Matthew Deady, known for his excellent judicial record, was replaced by O. B. McFadden, a citizen of Pennsylvania, who opened court in a building next to the "New State Saloon."

Establishment of a formal court seems not to have made an immediate impression upon the criminal element. Deady was later reinstated and McFadden was transferred to Washington Territory.

Jacksonville was incorporated in 1860 and the town council found it necessary to adopt regulatory ordinances for the common good of the entire community.

Ordinance No. 2 passed by the town council prohibited "the furious riding or driving of horses through the streets with any more speed than an ordinary trot."

Ordinance No. 3 prohibited livestock from "loitering" on the sidewalk.

The seventh ordinance, also passed in 1860, prevented Southbourne, England—(UPI)—The Royal Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals announced that a black cat named Micky escaped from from a dog and cat hospital a few hours before the will of his late owner, Mrs. Susan Thompson, was read. The will left Micky \$1,400.

dians from camping within the city limits. An ordinance passed in 1868 provides for the compulsory vaccination against smallpox and fines of \$100 or 20 days in jail for failure to comply.



Commerce and Industry

At the close of 1853, Jacksonville was the trade center and distribution point for a large, rich agricultural area.

A brick kiln was set up and the first store of Morford and Davis was started. A hotel, The Robinson House, stood on the site of the present United States Hotel. The community had a flourishing carpenter shop, bakery, furniture shop, and blacksmith shop.

C. C. Beekman served the communications firm of Cram, Rogers and Company as dispatch messenger, regularly carrying letters and gold dust at night across danger ridden Siskiyou trails to Crescent City. From 1857 to 1912 he owned and operated a prosperous bank which handled \$31 million in gold dust.

Jacksonville became the main route for freight wagons from Crescent City and a main stop for the Overland Stage from Sacramento to Portland—a 13-day trip.

The Table Rock Sentinel, established in 1855 by T. Vault, Taylor and Blakely, was the first of 12 newspapers in the southern Oregon community between 1855 and 1872.

Disasters

Late in the fall of 1868, physicians diagnosed a case of chickenpox among half-breed Indians near town. Their error was soon apparent when the case turned out to be smallpox of the most virulent form.

Alarm spread! The town was quarantined, public gatherings forbidden. A pest house was established but the disease spread rapidly. Day and night anxious people grouped around pitch pine fires built in the streets. The smoke was thought to ward off the disease.

Forty deaths occurred before the epidemic wore itself out.

In 1869 a cloudburst about a mile and a half west of town suddenly turned Jacksonville streets into flowing rivers,

GRANGE NEWS

Pomona Grange

The second quarterly meeting of 1959 was held by Jackson County Pomona Grange in the Gold Hill Grange hall April 25. It was well attended, with all officers present except Executive Committee member Delmar Smith.

Visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock of Humboldt County Pomona, Mr. and Mrs. Densmore, former members now living in Roseburg, and Nora Cracroft, HEC chairman of district 6.

Committee reports showed that cattlemen are the only farmers still enjoying good prices. Poultrymen are experiencing the lowest prices in 15 years, on both eggs and poultry. Carloads of pears being shipped in from Argentine have depressed returns on our local pears.

Support Fund

Best District HEC Chairman Nora Cracroft and Edith Poe spoke urging the subordinate Granges, as well as the HEC's, to support the Spence Memorial Scholarship fund, to make certain a scholarship is available from this district.

Officer Reports to Forest Service

Merlin C. Shipley reported last week to Medford as administrative officer on the Rogue River National forest, Supervisor Carroll E. Brown, has announced.

The Shipley's have four children, two daughters, Jeanne and Ann, who are married and living in Salt Lake City, Utah, and College Station, Tex., and two sons, Lewis and Stephen. Lewis is attending National Guard Training camp at Ft. Ord, Calif., and will move to Medford in August. Stephen is finishing the eighth grade in Corvallis where he and Mrs. Shipley will stay until school is out in June.

Shipley has had considerable experience in the business management activities of the forest service. His first appointment was on the Targhee National Forest at St. Anthony, Idaho, the old Powell Forest (now Dixie) at Panguitch, Utah, the Teton Forest at Jackson, Wyo., the Uinta Forest at Provo, Utah, and recently on the Siuslaw National Forest at Corvallis.

From 1935 until 1941 he worked on the Shelterbelt project with headquarters at Brookings, So. Dak., and Jamestown, N. Dak.

Shipley attended Utah State university at Logan, Utah, where he graduated in 1930 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He was a member of the Alpha

Two Accidents Are Reported Friday

Two non-injury automobile accidents occurred Friday afternoon, state police reported. No citations were issued at the time of the accident investigation, but may be issued later pending further investigation, state police said.

Cars driven by Wilburn Edson Gillespie, 69, Fardee Auto Court, Table Rock rd., and Gladys Ann Belt, 30, of 4047 South Pacific highway, Medford, collided on Crater Lake highway about three miles north of Medford, Friday afternoon, state police said.

The Gillespie car was making a left turn onto an access road leading from the highway to Crater Lake ave. The car driven by Gladys Belt was attempting to pass at the time and collided with the rear end of the Gillespie car, police said.

A car driven by Gary Humphrey Skaggs, 16, route 2, box 204A, Central Point collided with a car driven by John Lucas Smock, 35, of 98 Bigham lane, Central Point, at the junction of Beal lane and Merriman rd. Friday afternoon.

Skaggs' car apparently had crossed over into the north-bound lane and skidded 60 feet into the Smock car, state police said. Smock was treated by a Central Point physician for a small cut on his forehead.

Articles Filed for Evergreen Bus Lines

Articles of incorporation were filed recently by the Evergreen Bus lines, according to records in the county clerk's office.

At the same time, owner Henry J. Huber, Oak Grove rd., Medford, formed a partnership with L. R. and Martha A. Pilcher, Midway rd.

The company hopes to start a charter service with a recently purchased 33-passenger diesel bus. The company also plans to expand its transit service to include points within Medford, Pilcher said. Volkswagen buses would be used, he explained.

Fuscias & African Violets

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(West End Beal Lane)

Asland Fire Causes Damage to Home

Asland - A defective flue was blamed for a house fire at 153 Granite st., Ashland, firemen said.

Damage to the home of Dewey Sackett was unestimated, Ashland firemen said. Some water and fire damage occurred. Roof and walls were reported burned.

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Mrs. Jack Gillespie.....Medford
Mrs. Kendal Dufur.....Gold Hill
Miss Phyl Ann Floyd.....Medford

FIRST PRIZE WINNER

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Grigsby, 824 Summit, Medford, examine the Magnavox Hi-Fi AM-FM Radio-phonograph awarded to her for the most interesting letter of criticism on K-BOY'S SPOTLIGHT THE SPONSOR Contest. She commented on the UNION OIL transcribed commercial.

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