

Jacksonville Couple Occupies Mid-Century Home

Oregon Real Estate Offers To Be Probed

Washington—UPI—The Federal Trade Commission has added Oregon to the states where it will investigate real estate offers.

The commission said it acted after a former Oregon resident said a ranch tract described as "paradise" actually is located in barren wilderness.

The commission already has said it will look into real estate ventures in Florida, the Southwest and California. It said three or four complaints may be filed by fall.

ALASKAN APPOINTED

Portland—UPI—The Forest Service has stated John E. Schwartz of Juneau, Alaska, would succeed Walter O. Hanson as head of wildlife management for the Pacific Northwest Region.

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EAGLE MARKET

Eagle Point

Portland Gypsies Request Jury Trial

Portland—UPI—Six gypsies arrested here during a wedding fracas Sunday has asked for a jury trial.

The gypsies were arrested on disorderly conduct charges. They in turn accused the police who arrested them of brutality.

The six are out on bail. The trial was tentatively set for Sept. 26.



WATERMASTER'S WIFE—Mrs. Clinton A. Smith, wife of one of Jacksonville's earliest watermasters, lives with her husband in one of Jacksonville's oldest homes. She is shown in the kitchen of the home, constructed by Herman Helms, a miner, in the early 1850's.

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Jacksonville—The story of Jacksonville's old Herman Helms house in which Mr. and Mrs. Clinton A. Smith reside is actually two stories in one.

It's the story of a home constructed by old Jacksonville miner Helms in the early 1850's. It's also the story of Clinton Smith, one of Jacksonville's earlier watermasters.

Smith was state watermaster for Jackson county from 1930 through 1951. He was the second watermaster appointed by the state engineer to be in charge of state district which included Jackson county and most of Josephine county.

Smith established the first snow survey courses here. The surveys continued for more than 15 years under his supervision. The information received from the first snow surveys and the water surveys of local stream systems are kept now by Smith's son, Marion, an hydrographer.

Engineers Used Information

The U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers used this information to determine if the valley had adequate water resources and needed dams for irrigation, flood control and related uses," Smith said. "The watermaster's duties are the diversion and distribution of available waters. Future developments now indicate the need for major expansion of the watermaster's office."

Helms, the builder of the house, ran the Table Rock saloon, in Jacksonville. This is now partially dismantled after an earlier fire. The Smiths have a small interior picture of the old saloon hanging in the entry hall of their home.

Original Furniture

The house nestles under a hill in Jacksonville's Pine St. It is still furnished with the original furniture, rugs and bric-a-brac. The old knotty pine paneling gives an air of warmth and friendliness as a background to the everyday hospitality of these two active senior citizens. Mounted deer and antelope heads decorate the wall above the family room door, comfortable furniture, corner cupboards and cabinets full of rare dishes and porcelains all add to the air of geniality and dignity.

A library-study door opens off the family room. Here on one side is the old watermaster's rolltop desk stuffed with letters and written mementoes of earlier years.

In the front parlor is an ancient Standard organ on which Mrs. Smith plays the old hymns. Here, too, is an old Boston horsehair-upholstered rocker with its stiff, straight back and hard, uncompromising seat. Other antiques in the lower floor of the house include an old French settee, Dresden lamp, marble top table, old murals and frescoes decorate the hall and stairway. The original carpets and pictures are still there.

Saloon Mirror

In the Smiths' bedroom on the first floor just off the front entrance hall a hand-crocheted spread, which has been in Mrs. Smith's family for 100 years, is on the bed. A mirror from the Table Rock saloon hangs on the entrance hall. According to Smith the saloon had the finest gold and mineral collection on the coast. Also in the hall hangs an old whale-oil lantern.

Upstairs in one bedroom is an old-fashioned sleigh bed, so named because of its shape. In the corner of the same bedroom is an old round card-table, probably from the Table Rock saloon. On the wall is a mural of Pike's peak showing a wagon train coming down the trail.

Not much is recorded about Herman Helms, original owner of the three-room cabin which forms the basis of the Smith's home. He did pack in all his furniture from Crescent City, Calif. Many of the Jacksonville residents of that time did. He bought gold here and grubstaked miners. His father was in the saloon business so it seemed only natural for Helms to enter it.

Smith's Experiences

Smith's experiences are as interesting as Helms' possible pioneer adventures might have been. He started his photographic career in Kansas when nine years old. He had to climb upon a cracker box to reach the big square box camera on a tripod. He used glass plates as did Peter Britt, pioneer Jacksonville photographer. The two families were good friends.

Later Smith made his own wet plates and gold solution papers for printing before manufactured materials were available.

Use of early day chemicals weakened Smith's health while he was yet a young man. He traveled from Kansas to Wyoming to recuperate. In Wyoming he worked on the A. B. Fowler ranch in the

spring and summer, and tended general store in the winter.

Range Wars

The Fowler ranch was some distance from the range wars around Cheyenne and west to Laramie, but groups of cattlemen would drop in to buy horses at the ranch and tell tales of the shootings between the sheep and cattlemen. The U.S. Cavalry was called in to settle the conflict.

Smith was working in a general store in Sunrise about 100 miles north of Cheyenne when it was held up for the iron mines' payroll.

"I grabbed a gun from a counter and started shooting. Don't know if I hit anybody. I ducked behind the counter scared to death!" Smith chuckled.

The Big Bend country is a labyrinth of canyons with caves. A wild horse from one of those canyons gave Smith a brief, but exciting adventure. A large black stallion with white stockings was one of a band of horses captured by the cowboys and penned up in the corral.

Ropes Stallion

Each cowboy had been trying for days to rope the stallion in the corral. Smith had been trying just as diligently not to catch him. By accident, one day his loop settled over the stallion's forehead, slaming him on his shoulder. Then the other cowboys blind-

folded the horse and cinched on the saddle.

As soon as Smith hit saddle leather, someone yanked off the blindfold and horse and rider were off. The other cowboys gave chase. Finally, after circling the horse in an ever-tightening circle, managed to slow him down. Then, a somewhat weak and perspiring future county watermaster slid to the ground.

Came Here in 1918

Smith worked for the forest service when he first came to this area in 1918. He later became an assistant to the first watermaster for Jackson county, Fred N. Cummings. Then Smith worked as engineer for the Medford Irrigation district under MID Manager Ed Leach. While with MID he helped lay out the first siphon by Phoenix.

The Smiths have lived in their old home in Jacksonville since 1926. They still take an active interest in town affairs and the present historical renovation of the old gold and cattle town.

Pour 3... pay for 2

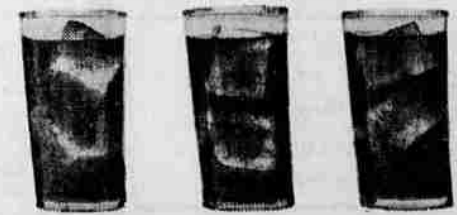
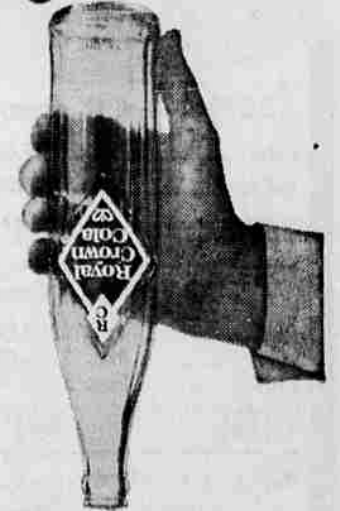
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Kennedy To Rest At Yosemite Park

Yosemite, Calif.—UPI—The majestic Yosemite Valley, carved from the Sierra Nevada granite ages ago by gigantic glaciers, will be a rest haven for President Kennedy this week end.

He was scheduled to arrive by helicopter from nearby Merced Friday evening and leave the following morning to dedicate central California's San Luis water project. The visit will be the first overnight stay in the park of a chief executive.

"FDR made a visit in 1934," reported Park Superintendent John C. Preston, "but it was a brief affair—into the park in the morning and out in the afternoon."

"It will be entirely up to President Kennedy whether to tour the area. However, I'm sure he will be afforded a spectacular view from the helicopter."



FURNISHINGS—The home of the Clinton A. Smiths, Jacksonville, is still furnished with the original furniture, brought from Crescent City by the builder of the house, Herman Helms. Rugs and bric-a-brac are original, as are pictures on the walls. Mirrors from the Table Rock saloon are in evidence, as Helms ran the saloon. A small interior picture of the establishment hangs on one wall.

Extensive Studies of Ocean Under Way

Corvallis—The first extensive studies on the nature of the earth's crust across Oregon and under the ocean off the Oregon coast have been started by the Oregon State university department of oceanography.

Ocean-floor gravity readings were made this month and last at 193 points in a 10 by 40-mile section of the ocean. The center of the area is about 7 miles off Newport. Readings show the gravitational force of the earth's field at each of the 193 points.

The research is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Joseph

W. Berg, Jr., department of oceanography geophysicist, is directing the studies. Other OSU scientists working on the project are W. A. Rinehart, James Whitcomb, and Arthur Albin.

The scientists are cooperating with other organizations interested in this work. The U.S. Geological survey, U.S. Coast and Geodetic survey, and University of Wisconsin assisted by making data available to the department of oceanography.

In 1900 all of the hard-surfaced roads in the U.S. would not have reached from New York to Boston.

Professor Receives Grant For Research

Eugene—A University of Oregon professor has received a three-year, \$59,325 grant from the U.S. Army research office to study simple chemical reactions.

Dr. Richard Noyes, professor of chemistry, will attempt to formulate a general theory which will make it possible to predict what the chemical reaction will be and how fast it will occur when simple two-atom molecules are combined.

Title of the research project is "Reactions Involving Three-Atom and Four-Atom Transition States." Dr. Noyes will study substances made up of two-atom molecules, which, when combined, result in either three or four-atom substances, depending upon the basic properties of the molecules.

In conducting the project, Dr. Noyes will review the work done in this field over the past 40 years and devise experiments which will "fill in the gaps in our knowledge of these reactions," the chemist said.

Traffic in Oregon Tops 1961 Figure

Salem—UPI—Traffic on Oregon freeways in June was more than 22 per cent above a year ago, the Oregon Traffic Safety Commission was told Wednesday.

State Highway Engineer Forrest Cooper said the big increase of tourists compared with a 10.1 per cent gain last year.

State Police Capt. Farley Morgan reported that 16.2 per cent of Oregon's traffic deaths last month were non-residents of the state.

Plans for curbing the highway death toll during the coming Labor Day holiday week end were told by Deputy State Police Supt. Holly Holcomb who said all available personnel will be patrolling the state's highways.

Seven persons died in Oregon during the 1961 Labor Day week end.



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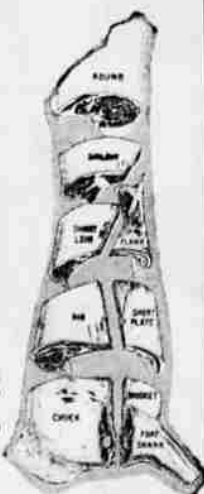
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