

Steamboating on Klamath Basin Was Big Business During Early Part of Century

By J. O. McKINNEY
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Talk of steamboat navigation on the waters of Klamath Basin today would sound like science fiction.

It has not always been true. During early days of the present century steamboating there was big business.

Mrs. Dolly Nixon, of Yreka, a native of Klamath Falls, recalls that as a young lady she cooked on a steamer there. Trips on the lakes by moonlight, or on Sunday excursions were high point in the Basin's social life.

What now sounds like a Rube Goldberg puzzle was the route taken by travelers going from Klamath Falls to San Francisco.

First Section
The first section of this trip was a boat ride of 55 miles from Klamath Falls to Laird's Landing at the south end of Lower Klamath lake. The next section was by stage to Bartle, 45 miles to the south.

There the journeyman boarded the McCloud River Railway for a 53-mile ride to Upton, a town now gone, that stood north of present Mt. Shasta on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway. Here a transfer to the SP and the trip to San Francisco was now a simple train ride.

What is puzzling to visitors to the Klamath Basin today are the sights of a huge grain elevator, and thousands of acres of grain where steamboats once paddle-wheeled their way loaded with freight or passengers, or perhaps both.

Reclamation Project
Little do strangers realize that a reclamation project once drained Lower Klamath lake. Part of it has since been reflooded. But Laird's Landing, where boats once tied up, was miles from water when it was destroyed by fire in 1960.

Early day steamboats on the waters adjacent to Klamath Falls were crude affairs. One of the first was built by John Glen during the Modoc War. It ran from Fairchild's to Linkville. A Captain Dustin built a sternwheeler in 1889 called the Mayflower. On its maiden voyage it ran aground on a mud flat in Lost river. It survived that mishap, but little else has been recorded about it.

Two boats, each named Canby were built by a man named McCormick. The first Canby was soon wrecked, and parts of it were built into the second McCormick boat.

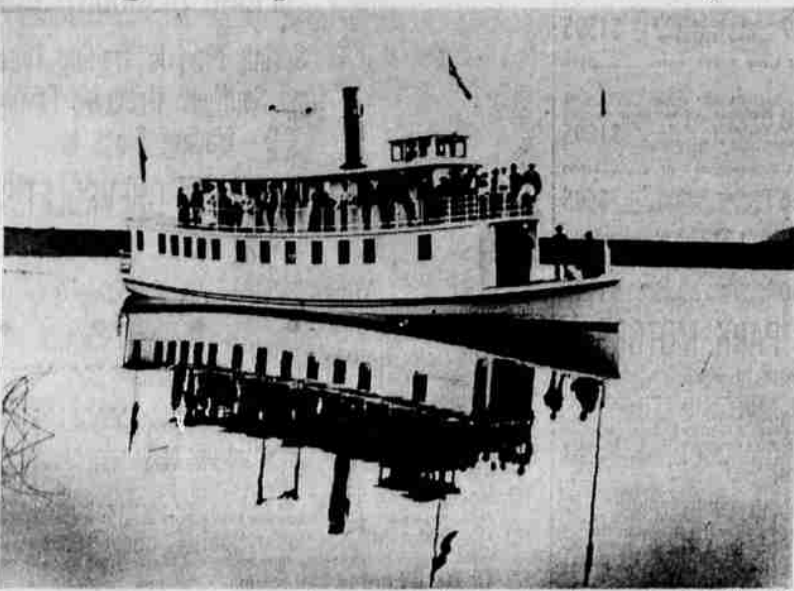
Proved To Be Queen
In 1905 what proved to be the queen of these inland waters, the Klamath, came onto the scene. It was a wood burner that wrote nautical history until 1909. Its remains are said to still be grounded in the channel leading to Pelican Bay Lumber Mill. Most of the lumber with which early Merrill was built is said to have been carried by this boat.

With the passing of steamboating, the terminals of Laird's Landing, Bartle, and Upton, too, went into a decline. Today Laird's has been eliminated after years of abandonment.

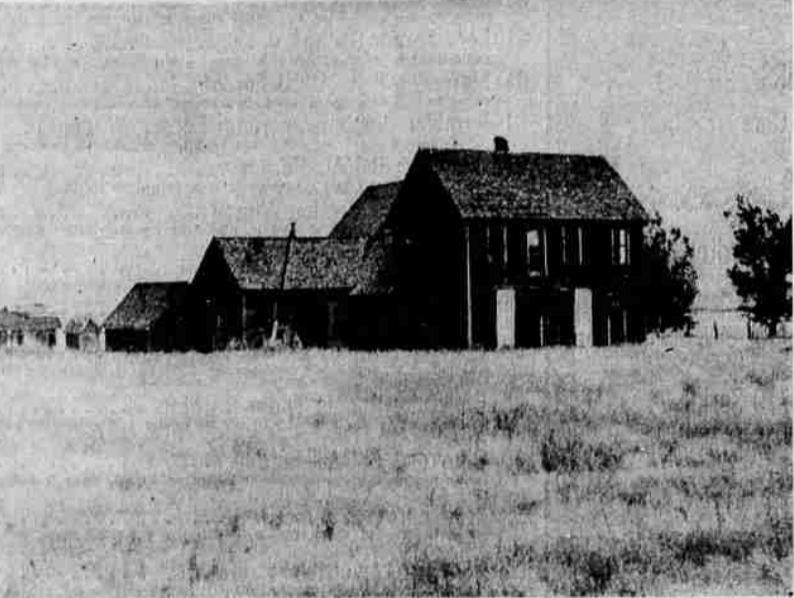
A fire in 1960 swept the old buildings into oblivion. Bartle now is a section hand terminal on McCloud River Railway; while about all one can find of Upton are a few concrete piers that once were part of a bustling village of 3,000 persons.

George Thornton, 91-year-old veteran of northern California, states that while living in the region under conditions that existed was tough, it was also toughening. Those that survived had to be good.

He recalls riding a boat from Keno to Klamath Falls, to Laird's Landing, and making all the changes that brought him to Upton. He lived through building most of the houses there; and today looks forward to see what other changes may come.



QUEEN OF BOATS—This is a picture of boats were built for use in the Klamath basin prior to a reclamation project which drained much of the land.



LAIRD'S LANDING — This is the way it looked 50 years after boats stopped operating on the Klamath basin.

A Golden Moment

Citizen Arrives in Capital With 700 Dozen Double Yolk Hen Fruit

By DICK WEST
United Press International
Washington — (UPI) — We all have our golden moments.

Harold Weisberg's golden moment came this week when he arrived at the U.S. Capitol with 700 dozen double yolk eggs in a tractor-drawn wagon with a banner reading "double yolk energy for Congress."

The vice chairman and his fellow coordinators arranged to haul the eggs up Capitol Hill on a tractor-drawn wagon with a banner reading "double yolk energy for Congress."

Well, I am here to tell you that gathering 700 dozen double yolk eggs is an impressive feat. You can't just walk out to the henhouse and pick up a double yolk egg anytime you want one.

Couple of Omelets
A double yolk is a thousand-to-one shot. In order to find 700 dozen, members of the Northeast Poultry Council Neppco had to inspect something on the magnitude of 270 million eggs, give or take a couple of omelets.

That figure represents a full week's production by 73 million hens. If all of those eggs were laid end-to-end, it would be rather unusual because hens don't ordinarily lay eggs that way.

It was Weisberg, a Hyattstown, Md., egg farmer, who dreamed up the idea of collecting the double yolkers and taking them to the Capitol for presentation to members of Congress.

In gratitude, the council appointed him vice chairman of the coordinating committee for congressional double yolk egg promotion in support of egg month, which is March.

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Also reversed by the high court was a post-conviction proceeding before Marion County Circuit Judge George A. Jones.

The circuit court had ruled that the habitual criminal act under which John Tuel was sentenced in 1929 was unconstitutional. The supreme court reversed the lower court judgment and ruled against Tuel.

The supreme court upheld a decision from the Deschutes County Circuit Court of Judge Robert H. Foley which denied the motion of a divorced father who sought to obtain custody of two minor children.

Pete Sturza had appealed the circuit court ruling which awarded custody of the children to Faye Sturza.

The high court ruled "A fit parent needs no court to authorize him to rear his own children," and ordered the custody of the boys returned to their natural mother.

Try Sesame Seeds in Salads

Ford Foundation Tells of New Grants
New York — (UPI) — The Ford Foundation Wednesday announced grants totaling \$372,000 to help intensify basic and applied research in American economic growth.

The grants were made to the Brookings Institution, Carnegie Institute of Technology, University of Chicago, National Institute of Economic and Social Research (Britain) and Princeton University.

COMEDIAN HOSPITALIZED
Canoga Park, Calif. — (UPI) — Famed deadpan comedian Buster Keaton, 66, remained in a hospital today, but doctors said they expected him to be released in "another day or two."

Keaton was admitted to West Hills Doctors hospital last Sunday suffering from a minor respiratory ailment.

New Exams Announced For Civil Service Job

New examinations have been announced by the federal civil service to fill the positions of equipment operator and chemist.

Persons wishing additional information may contact L. E. Nelson, examiner in the civil service office in the Medford post office.

HALF MILLION BURNS

Birmingham, Ala. — (UPI) — An armored truck which a guard said contained a half million dollars caught fire and burned on a highway near here Wednesday. Authorities said they were unable to determine immediately the cause of the fire.

Veterans' Benefits Not Considered As Taxable

Salem — Payments received for veterans' benefits are not counted as taxable income on either state or federal government returns, veterans and their families have been reminded by Vere A. McCarty, service division manager for the state department of veterans' affairs.

Tax exempt income includes such items as GI insurance dividends, GI insurance proceeds, education and training allowances, rehabilitation subsistence payments, VA disability compensation, VA pension, grants to seriously disabled veterans for homes and motor vehicles, death benefits to families of

deceased veterans, state bonuses, mustering-out pay, burial allowances and World War I emergency officers' retirement pay. Interest earnings from GI dividends left on deposit are taxable, he said.

Armed Forces disability retirement pay is exempt from federal taxation, while Oregon taxes any amount in excess of \$3,000. Military retirement pay for length of service is taxed both by the federal government and the state of Oregon.

Oregon servicemen on active duty enjoy a state income tax exclusion on the first \$3,000 of their annual mil-

itary pay. This includes pay earned during annual National Guard summer camp or Reserve cruises or maneuvers of two weeks or more, but it does not include inactive duty or weekly drill pay. Servicemen pay federal taxes on their military income by withholding, the same as civilians.

Local Student to Help in Clean-Up

Corvallis-James Stever of Medford is a member of the student committee at Oregon State university which is planning a giant Fraternity and Sorority Community Help Day March 30.

About 1,000 members of campus fraternities and sororities are scheduled to spend

the day in cleaning up a Corvallis city park that was badly damaged by winter wind and cold.

The city, in return, will provide a picnic supper for the workers.

Stever is a sophomore at OSU, majoring in the school of engineering. His home address is 150 Mace rd.

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SAGITTARIUS	9	18	27	
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