

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



SEIGE ON PORT—In late May, 1863, a Federal Army clamped a siege on Port Hudson, La., which, with Vicksburg, was the only foothold the Confederacy retained on the Mississippi river. The job of reducing Port Hudson was given to National Prentiss Banks, a political general. One of the ways that President Lincoln used to unify the Democrats was to appoint members of their

ranks to high military positions and identify them with the war. Banks made an attempt to take the port, but was repulsed. He was forced to settle down to a siege. This composite photo, from the Library of Congress collection, shows Banks, inset, over a sketch of an earlier bombardment of Port Hudson by the Union fleet. (UPI)

Leaves OK'd To Enter Peace Corps

Salem — The Oregon State Legislature has passed a law providing leaves of absence for public employees who join the Peace Corps as volunteers. It is the first such legislation by a state.

The Governors of Illinois and Oregon have made such provision for Peace Corps volunteers by proclamation. The Oregon AFL-CIO, with assistance from Prof. Charles Dailey of Oregon State University, was instrumental in leading the Peace Corps legislation through committees of the House and Senate.

In a letter informing Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver of the success of their efforts, Richard House, legislative representative of Oregon's AFL-CIO, said:

"We were pleased to have a part in furthering President Kennedy's program, which we think is one of the most outstanding programs in the field of foreign relations ever developed in our national government."

A number of public employees already are serving in Peace Corps programs overseas.

to help in the defense of Vicksburg.)

The assault started early on May 27. Much of the fighting occurred in "a dense forest of magnolias, mostly amid a thick undergrowth and among ravines choked with felled or fallen timber, so that it was difficult not only to move but even to see; in short, in the phrase of the day, the affair was a 'gigantic bush-wack.'" Lt. Col. Richard B. Irwin, Banks' adjutant general, wrote later.

The right wing under Brig. Gen. Godfrey Weitzel led the attack and drove the Confederates back into their works. "... The Confederate artillery opened with grape and canister, but our batteries, following the infantry closely as possible, soon took commanding positions within 200 and 300 yards of the works that enabled them to keep down the enemy's fire," Irwin wrote.

To Weitzel's left other Federal troops advanced about the same distance. On the left Banks ordered another assault. The troops "moved forward with great gallantry but soon (were) caught and cruelly punished in the impassable abatis (sharpened timbers)," Irwin wrote.

Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Sherman led this assault on horseback, was wounded and lost his right leg.

Gained Positions

"No (more) progress was possible," Irwin wrote, "and when night fell the result was that we had gained commanding positions, yet at a fearful cost." Irwin said. Banks lost 293 killed, 1,545 wounded, 157 captured and missing; total 1,995. The Confederate loss was 235.

Confederate Lt. Howard Wright of the 30th Louisiana described the fighting in the True Delta, a New Orleans newspaper.

The fighting, Wright wrote, "was of desperate and bloody character as has been seen during the present war, and full credit was accorded by the garrison to the courage and determination evinced by the enemy, particularly as shown in reforming their lines of battle under fire, and renewing attacks which had failed before, charging again and again over ground which was swept by a tornado of leaden hail..."

With the repulse Banks settled down to a siege.

Former Minister Here Receives Master's Degree

The Rev. James W. Neely, minister of First Baptist church in Medford for five years, received the degree of master of religious education from the Conservative Baptist Theological seminary, Denver, Colo., this month.

Mr. Neely was president of the Medford Ministerial association and was active in a number of valley groups while in Medford.

While attending the seminary, Mr. Neely also pastored the Berean Baptist church in Denver and for the past three years he and Mrs. Neely have served as dormitory parents for single theological male students.

The former local minister is a graduate of Philadelphia School of the Bible, Gordon College of Theology and Mission in Beverly Farms, Mass., and has done graduate work at Moody Bible Institute and Northern Baptist Seminary, both in Chicago, Ill.

He plans to continue his pastorate at Berean Baptist church, which plans to dedicate its new sanctuary in September, and as dormitory parent. He was recently elected president of the Woodbine Camping association which consists of the Conservative Baptist Churches in Colorado.

Illinois Valley Fire

Cave Junction — The Illinois Valley Volunteer Fire department and auxiliary held a regular business meeting May 21 at the fire hall. The Auxiliary held a work hour preparing clothing and household articles for a family whose home burned recently.

The men held a practice fire drill during the evening. The two departments shared the social hour and enjoyed coffee prepared and served by the women.

A—Too Late To Classify

FOR SALE—Iris for Decoration day. Katherine's Iris. Gardens. 2563 Jacksonville Hwy. Phone 772-2318 in the evenings.

FOR SALE—Grand piano 6 ft. mahogany, fine tone, sacrifice if sold by Wed. 482-1067.

LOST—May 19 (Sun.) Canvas bucket containing fishing reels & Argus Camera. Reward offered 772-4025 after 5 P.M.

COMPLETELY equipped Pallet Mill. Write Box 3024 So. River Rd., Grants Pass, Ore. or phone 476-7070.

ALTERATIONS & sewing done, reasonable rates. 772-7610.

FOR RENT or Lease—Business lot with office space. In Central Point. 626-9093 or 664-3533.

FOR RENT—3-Rm. Furn. Apt. Newly decorated, upstairs, \$70. 772-5423 or 772-5333.

FOR SALE—View acreage, close in. Corner lot, city water, no sewer. 772-4130.

FOR RENT—Nice clean 3 bdrm. house in Central Point. Carpet. \$85 mo. Water pd. 772-6123 or 772-6822.

WANTED from Owner, 2 or 3 bdrm. 1100 or more Sq. ft. Town or country. 772-6694.

FOR RENT—Large 3 bdrm. house. Storage rm. Children welcome. \$109 mo. Refs. required. 772-0897.

PARTLY finished 2 or 3 bdrm. house on 1/2 acre. Between Jacksonville-Medford. Make offer. No trades. 772-6822.

STRAYED in S.W. Medford, 4 WF calves. 400-450 lbs. 772-4097.

FOR RENT—2 bdrm. redecorated, partly furn. apt. 827 Penn. 772-3231 or 772-4576.

CHILD CARE my home, fenced yard, 2 1/2 to 10. 772-7610.

DISHWASHER wanted, neat in appearance. Apply at Baby's.

FOR SALE—2 bdrm. house, good location. \$1,000. dn. \$60 mo. \$8,800. 888. Sunrise. 772-3452 after 5.

Montague Rotary Club Views Slides Of Historical Area

By CHARLOTTE DAVIS, Mail Tribune Correspondent

Montague — With the use of colored and black and white slides, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Meamber took the Montague Rotary club members on a historical tour of the northeastern section of Siskiyou county, following their Monday evening held in the club room of the Montague Auditorium.

The dinner was prepared and served by members of the Montague Women's Society of Christian Service, followed by a brief business session conducted by the president, Tom Dickinson.

Earl Flock as program chairman for the evening, had made the arrangements with the Meambers to show the pictures, which were augmented by an interesting commentary, wherein Mrs. Meamber described the many historical scenes shown.

Many of the slides were taken by the Meambers, while several others were old time pictures taken in Montague by Andrew Terwilliger, father of Theo Terwilliger of Hayward, who loaned them for the occasion.

Prior to showing the slides, musical selections by a talented trio from the Yreka High school set the theme for the pictures to follow. Brian Favero on the banjo, and Buckley Pendley and Greg Frank on the guitars, played a nd sang three lively American folk songs.

The Meambers opened the "visual historical tour" at the

Earl Flock ranch near Montague, and proceeded via Ager, Topsy grade, Butte valley, Grass lake and Sheep Rock gap into Little Shasta.

Present-day farm houses, as well as historical structures and sites of the past were shown of the valley. The old time slides provided by Terwilliger, revealed early-day views of Montague, old vicinities and many early families.

South Side of Union Creek Camp Closed

Prospect — The south side of Union Creek campground will be closed most of the summer because of clean-up work being done there as a result of the Oct. 12 storm, road construction and construction of a new bridge.

Roads in the area that lead up to the summer homes are open, however. Only the public campground is closed.

Illinois Valley — Mr. and Mrs. Louis Maurer are moving into their newly completed home near Bridgeview. They have been renting a home for the past six months while their new house was under construction.

Work Starting on Siskiyou Co. Fair

Yreka — Now is the time to begin preparing exhibits and ideas for the Siskiyou County fair to be held in Yreka Aug. 16-18, fair officials announced.

Premium books are now at the printers and should be ready for mailing this week. Premiums and prizes amounting to \$22,000 are available to be paid out to top exhibitors and contestants.

Newcomers who are interested in exhibiting and are not on the fair mailing list may call 842-2767 or send names to Box 338, Yreka, Calif.

The Battle of Port Hudson, La.

By MERTON T. AKERS, UPI Correspondent

Late in May 1863 a Federal army clamped a siege on Port Hudson, La., which with Vicksburg, Miss., was the only foothold the Confederacy retained on the Mississippi River.

Earlier that month, Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant had put a strangle hold on Vicksburg after a brilliant 20-day campaign.

The job of reducing Port Hudson was given to National Prentiss Banks, a political general, one of many appointed at the start of the Civil War to command the mushrooming Union armies.

Political generals, however, much confusion and blundering they are credited with, solved two problems for President Lincoln. He needed more general officers than there were West Pointers in and out of the military service, to command the brigade and divisions which flocked to the colors after the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter.

Lincoln headed a divided North. The new Republican party was a sectional organization, victorious in the 1860 election because the dominant Democratic party split into northern and southern wings over the vital issues of the extension of slavery and secession.

The northern wing of the Democratic party split again to War and Peace Democrats. The War wing favored vigorous prosecution of the war, the Peace wing wanted to end the war at almost any price.

To unify the country and to win the war Lincoln felt he must keep as many Democrats on his side as possible. One way, he felt, was to appoint Democrats to high army posts and identify them with the war.

Banks was one of the first

of these politicians named as major generals of volunteers. He was a self-made man in nearly every sense of the word.

Born in Waltham, Mass., in 1816, Banks, like Lincoln, received virtually no formal schooling. He went to work in a textile mill while only a boy for \$2 a week of six 12-hour days. There he earned the name of the "Bobbin Boy."

He made himself a skilled mechanic, read Shakespeare, went in for stump speaking and eventually landed head over heels in Democratic politics. From the Massachusetts legislature, where he was speaker of the House, he went on to Congress and there, too, was elected speaker.

Banks in his long political career reaching from the 1840s to the 1890s was a maverick, being in turn Democrat, Free Soiler, Know Nothing, Republican, Democrat again and Republican again.

In 1861 he was a Democrat and governor of Massachusetts. In May of that year Lincoln made him a major general of volunteers, although Banks had no military experience.

Banks' first taste of war came in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in 1862 where Stonewall Jackson soundly thrashed his army and those of two other political generals. Jackson defeated him again at Cedar Mountain in the Second Manassas campaign.

From there Banks went to New Orleans where he succeeded a fellow Massachusetts political general, Benjamin F. Butler.

Must Double in Brass

As commander of the Department of the Gulf, Banks eventually discovered he must double in brass. Not only was he expected to win battles—and especially to capture Port Hudson—but Lincoln also expected him to pacify that

part of Louisiana which had been occupied, organize and in time bring it back into the Union as a pattern of reconstruction once all the South was subdued.

Port Hudson, Banks' primary target, stood about 25 miles above Baton Rouge, Miss. It was perched on a bend in the river where its guns could rake the channel. The fort mounted 21 heavy guns, numerous smaller ones and was garrisoned by 12,000 to 16,000 troops in the spring of 1863. (Port Hudson exists no more. The river obliterated it.)

Rather than approach Port Hudson from Baton Rouge to the south, Banks chose to flank it by ascending the Atchafalaya River and Bayou Teche which parallel the Mississippi on the west. His expedition was contested by a small Confederate force of about 5,000 commanded by Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, son of President Zachary Taylor.

Taylor was able to do little more than harass Banks' army which penetrated as far as Alexandria, La.

Then Banks swung his army east, crossed the Atchafalaya at Simmesport, La., and on May 23, 1863, crossed the Mississippi by transports at Bayou Sara, a few miles above Port Hudson.

The investment of the stronghold was completed on May 26 with some extra troops coming up the river from New Orleans. Banks deployed about 14,000 troops around a seven-mile perimeter enclosing the fort.

Decided To Assault

Encouraged by the feeble preliminary fighting of the Confederates as the investment was proceeding, Banks decided to assault the works. (By this time the garrison had been reduced by three brigades which had been sent



ROSE FESTIVAL PRINCESSES—These girls, representing Portland High schools, will compete June 10 for the title of Queen of Roseria, to reign over Portland's Rose Festival. They are, front row from left, Kristine Schray, Independent; Gwendolyn Leicht, Jefferson; Linda Jean Jackson, Grant; Roxanne Pierr, Marshall. Middle row, Char-

lotte Anderson, Girls Polytechnic; Suzanne Baldwin, Wilson; Gail Weyand, Franklin; Julie Ann Levin, Lincoln. Back row, Sandra Ross, Madison; Linda Mae Anderson, Washington; Mary Pamela Galloway, Cleveland, and Vicki Keranen, Roosevelt. (UPI)



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It's good news to know that many of our schools are stepping up their physical education programs. But the so-called "muscle gap" is still too big. Far too many of our children still aren't getting the daily, vigorous exercise needed to put and keep them in good physical condition. You owe it to yourself—and your children—to support a vigorous school activity program. Make your interest known where it will count. With your local school officials. For more information, write to The President's Council on Physical Fitness, Washington 25, D.C.

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