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McMinnville, Or. - - Jan. 10, 1887

PIONEER DAYS.

Recollections of a Pioneer---Founding of McMinnville.

Editors Reporter.

Some friend has kindly sent me a copy of your very excellent paper, and I have perused it, advertisements and all, with peculiar and deep interest.

As my eye fell upon many of the familiar names, connected with the early days of "Old Yamhill," and the founding of McMinnville, memory was crowded with many fond recollections of the days of "ancatta" and of the beginning days and events of your young and prosperous city.

In reading over the ads, in the Reporter, which indicates the business, the prosperity, and the interest now centering in McMinnville and clustering around it, I involuntarily fell into the reflection mood when, like Ossian "Thought of former years, glide o'er my soul, like swift shooting meteors o'er Ardvens gloomy vale."

And memory is busy with the interesting review of the kaleidescopic scenes and incidents of the long distant past, which is variegated with dark and sugny spots, so common to this everchanging life.

There are few persons living perhaps, who are as familiar with the incidents connected with the founding, and early days of your thriving town, as the man who strove the first stake of the town survey, built the first house on the first block surveyed, and was the first resident of the new town.

The race from Bakers creek to "Cozines creek" dug by W. T. Newby and E. G. Edson, and the mill, with its "23 foot overshot wheel" in 1851 and 2, if memory serves me correctly, and while Mr. Newby lived on the eastern side of his claim near the timber, Mr. Edson lived in a small white house on the bank not far from the mill, of which he was the chief miller.

A beautiful grove of oaks just east of the mill, while a large expanse of virgin prairie stretched away to the eastward and northward.

I remember very distinctly the first suggestion that was made, of starting a town in connection with the mill upon that prairie, so "beautiful for situation," which happened in this wise.

Soon after harvest in 1854, I think, I took a load of wheat to the mill, to exchange for flour at the rate of 40 lbs of flour for 60 lbs of good wheat.

While making the exchange I remarked to Mr. Newby that the vacant prairie stretching away to the east of the mill, offered many inducements and advantages for a new town. A town that would be more central for the county and easier of access than either Dayton or Lafayette.

I also urged that he ought to lay out and start a town at once, as in my judgment it was very possible to make it the focal point of interest and of business in the county.

I well remember the incredulous smile with which my suggestion was received, although he stated that if I was disposed to start the town and endeavor to build it up, that he would donate me with a half block of land.

I immediately accepted his offer, and began to prepare the material for a small dwelling, at my ranch on Panther creek, above and adjoining the claim of Doc. Sutton.

With some assistance from Wilson Carl, I completed my house and moved into it in the spring of 1855, if I remember correctly.

E. G. Edson was then living in the "Millers house" on the mill lot, with whom I boarded, while erecting my house. His house was subsequently owned and occupied by Wm. Campbell.

My house was located near a large and grand oak, and before any survey had been made, or the points of compass correctly determined: so that with the best "guessing" I could do, the east end of my house was some two or three feet south of a due east line. It was a "one story" affair 16x26, with a "lean-to" or shed on the back side, some eight feet in width.

In the spring of 1855, my wife made a visit on horseback to some one of our neighbors (Mrs. Newby, perhaps) and her cuitain being constitutionally tired she broke a good sized "gad" from a silver tree at the neighbors house in order to stimulate the movements of her weary animal towards home. On her arrival home, the "gad" was thrown down upon the ground, but the next day, well knowing that Oregon soil and moisture could make most any thing grow, she stuck the crooked limb down deep into the moist ground beside our front door, and that is the origin of the large silver tree now standing in front of the first house built in the original town plat of your young city.

That same summer or fall A. S. Watts, Esq.; was employed to survey off a few blocks, and when he came over with his compass and chain, Mr. Newby informed me that I could drive a stake wherever I pleased, for the N. E. corner of my block, and he would begin the survey from that stake. I then had an incipient purpose of erecting a "store" at some future time, on the corner of my block, so I went out far enough for that purpose, and drove the first stake exactly where the N. E. corner of my store was afterwards erected.

Very soon thereafter, Dr. McBride, Wm. Dawson, Mr. Newby and myself formed the project of founding a "college" in McMinnville, and the idea becoming contagious, it was not long until every "city" of two or three houses in the territory, began the erection of its "own college" which in due course of time was to rival either Hartford or Yale.

Mr. Newby, with his usual public spirit, offered to donate five acres of land for the college site and grounds, to be selected and located wherever the others desired to have it.

The above named persons having by agreement met one day at my house to locate the grounds for the contemplated "college" and with an ax and stake in my hands, we all started out in an easterly direction, as the high ground in that direction appeared most desirable. But Mr. Newby hung back a little and seemed quite reluctant to preceeding in that direction and smilingly and rather blushingly said: "Well gentleman, if you all say you want it out there and must have it out there, its all right, and you shall have it just where you say. But if the town should ever amount to anything it might interfere with the future growth of the place. And if the town never amounts to anything, the five acres out yonder, would almost spoil my future wheat field. Now it would suit me much better if you would locate the lot on the south boundary of my claim down towards Mr. Cozines place." Fully appreciating his view of the matter, and not wishing to examine a gift horse too closely, I persuaded the others to turn to the south and locate the site where it interfered the least, either with the future town or Mr. Newby's wheat field.

When we arrived at the place which is now the north line of the old "college lot," I stepped off 60 feet from a line running south on the east line of my block, and drove a stake for the N. W. corner of the college grounds. That stake was driven without any reference to the two or three blocks already surveyed, except for the 60 feet roadway referred to.

The college building was erected that summer, by the contributions of its founders which were mostly confined to the persons above named; when I became its "president," its corps of "professors" and "Faculty" for about one year. The college fever having measurably died away, I was authorized to negotiate a transfer of the grounds, building and institution to the Baptist church, upon the condition that that body would guarantee to keep up the school with at least one competent professor, and with a corps of teachers, commensurate with the demands of the institution. This, so far as I now remember, they have faithfully done.

How well I remember the horse back ride, and the interesting incidents connected with it, which I made to the Soda springs near Lebanon, on the Santiam, where the Baptist association was being held, and the conference and arrangements made with the staunch and representative men of that body, through the assistance of my old-time and beloved friend, Henry Warren.

I can still see in vivid memory the bright and rosy countenances of the many boys and girls, as they came from the scattered and distant cabins near the timber, across the virgin and unobstructed prairie to the new "college." Their names are still engraven on the tablets of memory. I could give the names of those who stood at my knee, and obtained their knowledge of the alphabet, and who now are perhaps husbands and mothers, and pillars in society, and perhaps

Continued on 4th page.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. J. APPERSON,

Headquarters for

PAPE AND FANCY

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—AND—

General Merchandise.

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Broadhead * *

* * Dress Goods

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WHAT WE GUARANTEE

FOR THE DRESS GOODS OF OUR
MANUFACTURE.

To be made from the very best material, by skillful workmen, with the latest and most approved machinery, and to be the cheapest goods in the market when service is considered.

Are so thoroughly finished that they can be worn in damp weather, or in a shower, without fear of being ruined by curling or shrinking.

The manufacturing, dyeing and finishing is done in such a manner, that the goods can be washed if desired without the least injury to fabric.

Our goods are wool dyed, and colors as fast as the purest dyes and greatest care and skill can make them.

Goods show just what they are and will be until worn out, as there is no weighting, stiffening, or artificial lustre used to increase the weight or finish; as is the case with a large class of goods in the market, but which disappears after a few days' service.

As manufacturers we have taken great pains to supply an article in every way reliable, and unsurpassed by similar goods, either foreign or domestic, and would respectfully ask an examination of the various styles and shades to be found on sale by merchants who are agents for the goods.

All goods of our manufacture should bear the name and trade mark of

BROADHEAD WORSTED MILLS,

Jamestown, N. Y.