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LEGEND OF THE PINTO PONY



S. C. Beach of this city is one of the best-posted men on the history of the Oregon horse in the state, says Paul De Laney in the Portland Journal. He has lived in the state the better portion of his life, has always been an admirer and dealer in horses and has made them a study in every detail. He says that the original Oregon range horse came from the so-called Spanish breed, transferred from Mexico to California and thence to Oregon. He says they were the best all-around horses of their size in the world, that they were small, round, stocky, wiry and hardy and never known to tire.

He says that as time moved on and Oregon settled up and developed, horses were brought from the East and crossed with the native horse. This, he claims, not only resulted in producing a larger animal but increased his "buckling" propensities, as well as his viciousness. This mixture of the native and the imported early-day horse, he claims, produced what is commonly known as the "cayuse," which is rapidly becoming extinct through his demand in the wars and at the horse canneries.

But his most beautiful story is the one giving the legend of the "pinto" or spotted horse. According to the standard dictionary the word "pinto" is defined as a paled animal, but Mr. Beach says that throughout the Pacific Coast country its meaning is accepted as a white or calico horse. He is different in most points from others of the equine species. While he has no authenticated ancestry, the Indians give a beautiful legend of his origin.

Mr. Beach says that the Pinto is different from the Spanish horse in many particulars; that while the Spanish species was short and stocky, the Pinto is long and trim built; his back is long and sharp while that of the Spanish animal was short and round. His ears, mane and tail are also longer. His legs are as clean and trim as a thoroughbred, while the Spanish horse's legs are stocks and hairy. The color, however, is the most striking feature—white with large black spots. The spots are often brown, sometimes almost red, and his eyes are invariably pink. Speaking farther of his origin, away from that given in the Indian legends, Mr. Beach says:

"History gives us something of the Pinto in England, bred and used for show purposes many years ago, but I take it that the Indian Pinto is an altogether different horse, and he evidently roamed the great ranges of the Pacific Slope many years before the spotted horse was heard of as a breed in civilized countries. He may be found in nearly all of the Pacific Coast, but he is more plentiful in the Indian reservations. When broken he not only becomes gentle and reliable, but also very lazy. He makes a good child's or family horse. Among the Indians he is prone to a sore back, which his owner has become to regard as a necessary consequence. He makes his own living on the range. He is a good feeder. In fact, he is very much like his Indian master; he takes

every move as a matter of course and feeds as though he never expected another meal.

"That he is of ancient origin in this country there is no question. He was here when the first explorers crossed the Rocky Mountains. Lewis and Clark found him in considerable numbers among the mountain Indians as well as among the Columbia River Basin natives.

"I have talked with many Indians of different tribes as to the origin of the Pinto. The stories or legends vary somewhat in detail, but to average them all, the general legend is about as follows.

"A long time ago, before any white man was here, the mountains got into a great fight. The combatants were Mount Hood and Mount Adams of the Cascade Range, which, as is well known, are situated on different sides of the Columbia River. The fight arose over the point as to which was the higher mountain. The peaks threw great rocks at each other, and this, the Indians claim, was the cause of the cascades in the river.

"This great battle naturally attracted the attention of a large number of Indians living within the surrounding country, who congregated at a respectful distance to witness the outcome of the contest between the two great volcanic giants. The contest became a draw. Neither mountain could reach the other with its rocks and the discharges all fell into the Columbia River, far short of the mark. So it was decided to call the fight off and leave it to the Indians to decide which was the taller of the two mountains.

"The Indians in the immediate vicinity congregated and held a big pow-wow lasting many days, and after considering the matter fully decided to call in all of the Indians of the Northwest country to join them in deciding the puzzling question. Then arose the point of sending word to the far-away Indians with dispatch. How could the invitation be conveyed to them quickly? The Indians, themselves, were in no particular hurry within themselves, but they feared that if the dispute was not settled quickly the mountains might conclude to renew the conflict, which would soon result, in filling the Columbia River with rocks, thus stopping the flow of water and leaving bare the lower Columbia, the natural highway of the Indians. The lower river Indians were the more anxious, as they subsisted on fish and feared that these would all be destroyed. Dire calamities stared them in the face should not the dispute be settled at once.

"Another big pow-wow was held. The oldest medicine men of the different tribes were requested to get together and devise ways and means to get out of the dilemma. The medicine men quickly decided to send canoes up and down the river to notify such Indians as lived along the river and the larger streams which flow into it. But a vast number of Indians lived in the interior country and they were at a loss

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SECRETARY ELIHU ROOT, MEMBER OF THE ALASKAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

One of the prominent members of the Alaskan boundary commission is Elihu Root, secretary of war. The commission is to meet the British commissioners in London as soon as practicable, but it will probably be many months before an agreement is reached.

LORD OF THE DESERT

It will be remembered that only a few months ago a great many papers ran the serial story, "Lord of the Desert," written by Paul De Laney, who has been in Lakeview the past week gathering material for a number of stories of Lake County happenings. Mr. De Laney is well known here, as he spent several years in Lakeview in the newspaper business, and his stories are all read with interest.

A great many people have asked us why the "Lord of the Desert" was not published in The Examiner since the scene of the story was laid in Lake county and most of the characters are amongst the citizens of this county and of the present day. The story not only pictures vividly the topography of the country, but weaves about it a romance with dramatic climaxes rarely ever equalled. The days of General Crook and the Snake Indian War are recalled and some historic episodes are given that are more interesting than fiction. One critic has already announced it the "Leather Stocking story of the Pacific Northwest." It is claimed for the work that although it deals with early days and frontier life, there is not one line of "blood and thunder" in it. It is written in a new form that ought to bring the author, who has heretofore confined his principal work to shorter stories, into prominence as a story teller.

The story is being published in book form, but to accommodate Examiner readers, it has been decided to publish it in supplement form in three installments, beginning with our next issue. Look out for it and tell your friends. The story is worth the price of one year's subscription to The Examiner, and old subscribers will be given the story free. New subscribers can get the full benefit if they send in their names immediately. Don't delay or the papers will be gone.

The latest press dispatches state that Pope Leo still has a lease on life. He may yet live longer than the horde of probable successors who are patiently awaiting the end and are hoping that lightning will strike their way.

A petition is being circulated asking the department to increase the mail service between Silver Lake and Prineville to six times a week. This is a good move and the petition should be signed by every one.—Silver Lake Bulletin.

EXTENSION ADVOCATED

Presidents Mohler and Lytle Make Report to President Harriman on Columbia Southern.

An interesting bundle of reports has just been sent to President Harriman of the Southern Pacific, which will probably cause him to decide to build the contemplated extension of the Columbia Southern of the O. R. & N. in Oregon, says a dispatch to the Portland Telegram from San Francisco. This is the road which it is prophesied will one day meet the San Francisco & Eureka, now building north from the California Northwestern terminus, and to the construction of which it is said Harriman will devote the purchase price paid by Clark for the Oregon Short Line.

The reports are based on investigations made by a party of railroad men, headed by President Mohler, of the O. R. & N., including President Lytle of the Columbia Southern, and the chief engineers of the two roads, who carefully looked over the country for routes for feasible surveys. The trip was undertaken on the suggestion of Harriman, made at a conference with Mohler in Portland. At that time Harriman reserved his final decision to build the road until full reports of the conditions of the Northern country could be made to him.

Accompanying the report of the railroad officials is one of Professor French, of the Agricultural Department of Idaho University, who at Harriman's request investigated the soil and climatic conditions in the Southern Oregon country soon to be traversed by the proposed road. His report on the possible development of the country from which for a time the road would draw its traffic, will have much weight with Harriman. It included a number of statistics in regard to timber and farming resources, as well as the possibilities of future development, and it is said to be favorable to railroad construction through Southern Oregon.

Should Harriman give his final decision for the road at once, surveys will be sent into the field without delay, and the Columbia Southern will push its way south toward the northern boundary of California, which it is said to be Harriman's intention to reach in the future, and connect with the northern terminus of his Eureka road.

Remarkable Instinct.

The annual migration of toads from Lake Ewauna to Upper Klamath Lake began this week says the Klamath Republican. There are millions of them. They cover the walks and streets in the vicinity of the river and it is not easy to avoid stepping on them. Their natural home is upper Klamath Lake and they are instinctively drawn thither. This is the explanation: The spawn is deposited in the upper lake and floats down the river and lodges in the lower lake. The moment they are hatched they note the strange surroundings and their little pericardiums flap and flutter for the hallowed precincts of home. Thus, simultaneously inspired, all start for the upper lake as fast as their diminutive legs will carry them. These millions of toads are highly beneficial in destroying atomic impurities and so contribute to the health of the climate.