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BY SILVER

CITY TRAIL.

Military Road Uniting Idaho with Oregon.

LAKEVIEW IN MIDST OF GRANT.

An Historic Land Grant in a Country of Wonderful Riches.

In the years immediately following the Civil war men looked toward the west. The call of the frontier fell on many listening ear and willing heart. The prairie country from the great lakes to the Missouri river, had been taken by homesteaders. Beyond the Missouri was the great American desert. The Union Pacific was binding its bands of steel to the sandy waste from Omaha to Cheyenne, and there was talk of other transcontinental railroad building to the northward. Where men with transit and level were leaving a trail of grade stakes across the bleak Dakota plains. All roads seemed to lead toward the great, unknown Oregon country, where a new state had been carved out, after a quarter of a century of struggle between the American settler and the Hudson Bay Company's factor over possession of the rich Columbia river territory and its natural resources.

Adventurous men of the Middle West, looking longingly toward the Pacific Slope, pointed their prairie schooners toward Oregon. Their destination was Western Oregon, or the Willamette valley, then the only known habitable portion of the new state.

To and over the Rockies it was a hazy trail. But beyond, it was mystery. There were few with hardihood enough to undertake to cross Central or Southern Oregon. The way down Snake river to the Columbia and thence to Astoria or Portland was a long traverse, fraught with heart breaking toil by land, and danger by boat or raft. The demand went out, and reached Washington, for a direct wagon road across Oregon to the head waters of the Willamette river.

The government and state responded by making a deal with the Oregon Military Road Land Grant Company, which undertook to construct a trail from Silver City, Idaho, to Lakeview, thence northwesterly to the summit of the Cascade mountains, near Odell lake, and down into the Willamette valley, with Eugene as the western terminal. The distance was upwards of four hundred miles. For building this trail the company received every alternate section of land in a strip twelve miles wide following the route selected. This was the first of the great historic land grants given as the price of admission of the early immigrants into the Oregon country, and since that time these grants have held hundreds of thousands of acres segregated and unused, owing to the dilatory policy of the holders, and the lack of colonization irrigation and transportation. For many years they were regarded as so many incubuses upon the state, retarding its development. But today, when good lands are becoming more difficult to secure at low cost, the opening of these grant lands to settlement will prove to be a great boon.

The early argonaut, Oregon bound, passed unseeing over a country in Nebraska or perhaps Kansas, or the Dakotas, that has since taken rank among the highly productive areas of the Union. He saw it not. Prodding his oxen onward, his gaze toward the Pacific, he passed many times over lands that held wealth incalculable for the seeker, had he but known. Then he crossed the Snake river, and at Silver City, Idaho, hit the trail of the Oregon Military Road Company and followed it for four hundred miles westward, across one of the greatest plateaus known to civilization a series of high valleys and nearly level plains extending from the Owyhee mountains to the Cascades. The man who would follow this trail even today must have a tireless stride and a strong heart, and be equipped with horses or a good team and well provisioned outfit. Much of the way is through a country as virgin as the prehistoric and denuded hills when the glacial ice cap has passed. There are stretches of grass grown valleys miles of silent bench lands, and other

miles of well watered basins where no human sound ever broke the solitude of centuries.

That the whole of Interior Oregon has been proved beyond question by the investigations of Professor Thomas Condon, Dr. Diller and other noted geologists. That the region was later a tropical country, has been equally established. Numerous discoveries of the bones of these animals, and rocks containing the perfect imprint of the plants of the tropics, have been made, and it is no longer an occasion for surprise when well diggers or irrigation excavators unearth the fossil remains of a camel or a broad-footed ox. Within recent years many fossil beds of beautiful palm leaves have been found in eastern Oregon. The Cascade hills, Blue mountains and Owyhees, once islands surrounded by tropical lakes, were covered with luxuriant growth, forest and flowering shrubs, for Knowlton tells us the magnolia and cinnamon and fig trees were there, and before the Eocene age had passed there came the seven species of oak. Professor Diller, who has made a careful study of the field, says the large basins were lake beds in the Miocene and Eocene ages, and thus explains why one may find Eocene leaves exposed by a fresh land slide in some ravine, and within a few miles come upon a rhinoceros skull protruding from a hillside that was at one time the sediment of at Miocene lake. The region now Malheur, Harney and Lake counties was in that ancient period a country of beautiful lakes, with moist, warm climate, luxuriant vegetation, vast forests and many strange animals.

Today the soil presents a finely ground mixture of basalt and volcanic ash, containing the elements of most fertile soil, and when properly watered producing enormous crops of vegetables, fruits and grains common to temperate zones. The climate has been changed, says Professor Condon, by the upfelling of Casca's range, shutting from the interior the softening influence of the Japan current and the drift of ocean fogs and clouds.

The traveler across this wonderful country finds but one scene of great violence in the topography, in Harney county, where the backbone of the Steins mountains extends across the California boundary to Boone lake, and gives off from its summit the marvelous drainage system of the Donneraud Blitzen rivers flowing to the northwest into Malheur lake. The historic wagon trail with its twelve mile strip of grant lands crosses this range at Andrews, between two big lakes limpid crystals in the foot hills, supplying water that doubtless will be utilized to irrigate the lower plains and increase the value of thousands of acres from their present nominal price to \$200 and \$300 per acre.

Through the Jordan valley and out across the Malheur plains the route across the Owyhee river and two of its tributaries, seeking the water levels that embrace the southerly foot hills of the Steins mountains. The elevation of the Malheur county, generally, is about 2200 feet higher than the valleys of the Snake, Owyhee and Malheur rivers. In these valleys the tomato, water melon and other succulent vegetables grow with singular abundance and flavor, as they do in the particularly favored Catlow, Warner and Goose Lake valley further west.

This region traversed by the grant, while largely lacking surface water, has artesian capabilities that constantly surprise the investigator. Artesian wells are struck at a minimum depth of fifty-four feet. Malheur county has many warm springs. Indications of oil, natural gas and coal have recently attracted much attention, and companies are now being formed to carry on investigations.

Descending the west slope of the Steins mountains the traveler passes through a beautiful region known locally as the Catlow valley, in Harney county. On alternate sections of land not embraced in the wagon trail grant, settlers have for years demonstrated this region's great productivity. It is seldom visited by snowfall that covers the ground any considerable number of days. The altitude is great, the air pure and invigorating, the summer months bright and warm and the nights cool. No throat or lung troubles are known, and there is an entire absence of miasmatic conditions. All kinds of Oregon's famous fruits are grown, and never failing crops of vegetables, and grains, but only for home consumption until the railroads now projected through Central Oregon are completed.

The principal industry at present is stock raising which is highly profitable. While most of the forage is wild hay, many ranches have seeded alfalfa fields that yield two or three crops annually. The wild meadow grasses are blue joint, red top, clover and sugar grass. The foot hill ranges are covered with bunch grass, sheep fescue and wild rye.

Harney is one of the most interesting regions in Oregon. The products include wheat, oats, barley, rye, sugar beets, alfalfa, potatoes, apples, pears, plums, peaches, grapes, berries and vegetables. On much of the so called sage brush lands wheat is grown profitably.

Winding between lakes and gently sloping hills, and over sage brush-plains, and steering their course by most convenient water levels, the surveyors of the land grant road crossed the southern part of Lake county, skirting within a few miles of the California line and embracing within the grant a large area of the great Goose Lake valley. Here the town of Lakeview later sprang up, and became the metropolis of that region and county seat of Lake county. It is located about the middle of the twelve mile strip. To the east and north, at the boundary of the strip, lie the Windy Hollow hills, where recently prospectors uncovered wonderful dykes of ore that yield from \$12 to \$800 gold, per ton.

Goose Lake valley, one of the largest of the strictly agricultural or rather fruit areas in the grant, surrounds the town of Lakeview in a radius of twenty miles. It produces all the fruits, vegetables and grain that first made Lake county known through exhibition by private citizens, of a few county products at the recent exposition at Portland. The apples, pears, peaches, potatoes and other vegetables were pronounced equal to the fruits that are exported to Europe and the Orient. There is over \$1000 on deposit in the banks in Lakeview for every voter in the county.

From Lake county the grant penetrates Klamath county to the east line of the Klamath Indian Reservation. An abundance of water makes this region readily capable of irrigation. The government is at present constructing in Klamath county the largest irrigation system in the Northwest, to cost \$4,000,000 and reclaim three hundred thousand acres. Beyond the Indian Reservation, from its west line to the summit of the Cascades, the grant lands are heavily timbered, and valuable for their fir, hemlock, sugar pine and larch. At the summit the old Military road crosses the range, through a pass south of Crescent lake, and drops into the Willamette valley, where at Eugene the travelers end one of the most interesting journeys on the continent.

Wingfield Visits Old Home

George Wingfield, the Goldfield Millionaire, and C. A. Lundy, a Reno automobile dealer, arrived here from Reno last Friday night in George's big, white automobile. They came from Reno to Cedarville in ten hours' run, then leaving Cedarville at 2:30 P. M. Friday they came to Lakeview that night. Mr. Wingfield said had it not been for the muddy roads, caused by the rain the day before, they could have driven from Cedarville in three and one half hours. This would have covered the distance of 255 miles in thirteen and one-half hours, or nearly 20 miles an hour. His 60 horse power machine will carry him 60 miles an hour on good roads, but few people care to ride quite so fast.

George has been treating his old friends to automobile rides and having a general home visit in the town of his boyhood days. He will remain in this county a month, visiting his mother, Mrs. Wingfield and his sister Mrs. C. E. Campbell of Paisley and his brother, Morris of Warner. George looks like he always did, only he is heavier than he used to be. He is the same jolly, good fellow.

R. T. Striplin Back.

R. T. Striplin and family returned from San Francisco Sunday evening. Mrs. Striplin has entirely recovered, a fact which her many friends here are rejoiced to know.

Mr. Striplin says that San Francisco is about as near hobbled on account of the strife between labor and capital as a city can well be, and is getting no better fast. He has grave apprehensions concerning the future of that city unless conditions change, and neither side seem to be giving in. He says that any man with an old skate of a horse can make \$10 a day hauling people about the city in any kind of an old shack of a wagon or cart. He says wages are high, but it takes about all a man can scrape up to pay rent and buy the necessities of life.

Mine Explosion.

An explosion occurred at the Bald Mountain quicksilver mines 20 miles east of Bidwell one day last week which resulted in the death of Earl Rathburn, aged 21 years, who was working in the mine with another man. The two men were working in a shaft about 15 feet deep. Rathburn went out to prepare a charge of dynamite and shortly the explosion was heard by the man in the shaft, who went out, to find Rathburn horribly mangled. He died three hours later and the remains were shipped to Colusa county for burial. The young man's father and brother were at the mine, but not present when the explosion occurred. A dog was killed at the same time.

Death of Joe Harvey.

Mrs. Wm. Harvey, of this city received a telegram last Saturday giving her the sad news of the sudden death of her brother-in-law, Joseph Harvey, of San Francisco. But a few days before she had received a letter from him and he was apparently as well as usual, although his health has not been good since the death of his dearly loved brother, Wm. Harvey. Since his death, he has failed greatly. Mr. Joe Harvey had accumulated quite a fortune in the race horse business in San Francisco. He had been a trusted advisor for Mrs. Harvey in Lakeview since the death of her husband, Wm. Harvey, a little over a year ago. The shock was a terrible one to Mrs. Harvey, and she was quite ill for a couple of days. Joe was a general favorite with the family, just like an own brother, and he was shipped, and was greatly loved, by his nephews, Willie and Joseph Harvey, who feel his death keenly. Besides the loss of a kind brother-in-law, his death has taken from Mrs. Harvey an advisor in business dealings that will be difficult to replace.

Mrs. Harvey wired a request for the body to be held until she could reach the city, but as the funeral had been delayed until the latest possible date, for arrival, and a delay in the telegraphic service had occurred, she received an answer stating that conditions were such that it was impossible to wait longer, and on Monday the funeral took place in San Francisco, the remains being laid to rest in the cemetery at San Mateo, by the side of his brother, Wm. Harvey.

The San Francisco Chronicle says of the death:

Joe Harvey, the well known sporting man, died last evening of typhoid pneumonia. He had been ill for ten days, and at one time it was thought that he would pull through. Harvey had an adventurous career. He was born in Tyrone county, Ireland, but came to California as a boy. He started life as a dry goods clerk, but eventually drifted into gambling. He was a much shrewder man than generally credited, and soon amassed a fortune. In the early days he conducted a wheel of fortune at county fairs.

At one time he owned a few race horses, but he was never enamored with the game. He won some money during his connection with the turf, as he was especially fortunate in owning the good race mare Wheel of Fortune. In recent years he conducted the Sausalito pool rooms in connection with Frank Daroux. These rooms were a veritable mint for their owners. Joe Harvey enjoyed the reputation of being a square sport, and his word was as good as his bond. He was a great money maker, and leaves a fortune to his wife, Louise Harvey, whom he married five or six years ago. The deceased was 51 years and 8 months old, and had a wide acquaintance all over the Coast.

Joe Harvey befriended many a man in San Francisco. He helped out Charley Fair on many an occasion, especially before he came into his wealth. Harvey was also a staunch friend of the late Chief Lees.

Dodge-Finley.

Married, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Finley, about three miles from Bly, on Thursday evening at 9:30, Mr. Frank E. Dodge, of Glendale, Oregon, and Miss Cora Finley, Rev. Geo. T. Pratt officiating. Miss Finley is quite well known in Klamath Falls, having spent some time here. Mr. Dodge, whose people live in Ashland, is a telegraph operator in the employ of the Southern Pacific company at Glendale. Mr. and Mrs. Dodge are in Klamath Falls this evening on their way out to Glendale, where they will reside.—Klamath Falls Herald.

Miss Finley is well and favorably known in Lakeview, having conducted a photograph gallery here for a year or so. While here she gained the friendship of all she met and everyone who had the pleasure of getting acquainted with her have reasons for congratulating the happy groom.

The fact that Mr. Stradley, head engineer of the railroad surveying crew located here, is investing in real estate near Lakeview looks somewhat encouraging for railroad building. We understand that Mr. Stradley is a part purchaser in the section recently purchased by Mr. H. A. Hunter from F. M. Miller and F. P. Lane west of town on the slash road.

STOCK AND LAND SALES THIS WEEK.

Activity in Land Transaction Active.

SHEEP AND CATTLE MOVING.

Fields Property Sold. Sherlock Residence and Many Other Properties.

C. H. McKendree bought the Manning residence, in the mouth of Bul-lard canyon, one of the most beautiful residences in Lakeview, for \$2500.

A. L. Thornton purchased the Boyd residence, just south of the Opera House, on Water street, for \$1000.

G. L. Holbrook bought the Mrs. Blair residence on Water street, for \$2350, the property consists of three lots and one house.

The Fields property was sold last Saturday. L. F. Conn bought the residence for \$2000 we understand, turning it over to Geo. Chandler and wife.

H. W. Drenkel bought the north west corner of the block, on which is a barn, for \$350.

W. H. Shirk and H. A. Hunter bought the southwest corner and warehouse for \$1025.

The Public Reading Room and Library Association bought the J. M. Handley property adjoining the Associations property on Bear street, next to the City Hall, paying \$250 for it.

Albert Dent and O. T. McKendree bought the Walter Sherlock residence property on Water street, one of the finest residence properties in Lakeview. The price paid was \$3000.

H. A. Hunter, Phil Lynch and C. E. Sherlock bought the two Fisher ranches on the west side, consisting of about 500 acres, Tuesday.

O. T. McKendree bought the Conley and McCall sheep at Silver Lake, 2000 in number. Ewes and lambs, at \$4.25 for ewes and \$2.75 for lambs, to be delivered at Horseshy, in Klamath county.

Edson L. Foulke, the Gazzelle cattle buyer bought the XL beef farm F. M. Green. The bunch will number in the neighborhood of 800 head.

A. H. McInnis bought 4000 lambs from O. T. McKendree, paying \$3.05 a head, the highest price yet paid for lambs. The lambs are to be delivered in Modoc county the 8th of October.

McInnis went to the lava beds Tuesday to buy one or two other bunches, and will then pull out for Red Bluff. He will have then bought about 20,000 head of sheep in this section of country. The lambs will be kept over till next spring when they will be muttoned.

Pine Creek to Celebrate.

Arrangements have been completed, dates set and the program arranged for the grand celebration to be held at Pine Creek in September. The program, published in The Examiner this week, is a neatly arranged one, affording the greatest amount of pleasure and an opportunity for the visitors to see what the State Line City can do in the way of entertaining the public, also the best exhibit of the resources of the surrounding country. The event will be little short of a county fair, conducted in like manner and the benefits to be derived similar. This is an undertaking difficult to carry out, but our neighbor city is equal to the occasion. They should, and doubtless will, receive the patronage of the entire country adjacent to that community, and some will come from a considerable distance.

This affair is coming off at a time when farmers can make a good exhibit, and the matter of the county's resources being at this time most interesting, when thousands of people are inquiring about the country with a view to coming here to locate will make the event one of especial interest. With other features of the celebration, attractive as they are, Pine Creek is assured now of an excellent meeting and the people who attend a first class time. Read the program. The committee announces that in addition to the various features advertised in the program, if a sufficient number of competitors are available, a rock drilling contest will be held for which liberal purses will be provided.

PREPARING THE CONVICT FOR EXECUTION.



PHOTO BY L. L. HOPKINS, SHANGHAI.