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Reminiscences by John Minto.

Editor Sentinel: It has occurred to me that in connection with your kindly notice of my being in Rogue river prior to any white settlement, the Sentinel being the pioneer paper of the pioneer portion of Southern Oregon, where the fiercest race contest was fought to a finish against the most spirited tribe of the wild race west of the Rocky Mountains; a few words as to why, with whom and for what I was in your valley in February, 1848, would not be out of place.

I was one of a detail of 16 men of whom that nature's nobleman, Hon. Jesse Applegate, was guide, and the other 15 his escort as bearer of messages from Gov. Abernathy to the acting governor of California and Commodore Schurbrick, in control of the U. S. war ships then on the California coast. The purpose was to get such assistance from the commandant of the U. S. forces then in California as could be spared us in our war against the Cayuses for the Whitman massacre, even if it were no more than a supply of ammunition. We followed the California trail successfully to some distance above the present site of Ashland and on a slope north of the Ashland depot one of our company got a fine buck antelope from a flock resting like well fed sheep. We were visited by natives evidently from a desire to learn, if possible, our purpose in being there at that unusual season. As an excuse for their visit one party of three men showed us a small buckskin sack filled with pemmican made of charred grasshoppers. They took our amusement over their offer of trade in good part, showing it was only pretense.

The story of our being defeated by the snow encountered on the mountain near the line of the Ashland-Linkville road, has been published as written by Mr. Applegate and myself. Of course that of Applegate is far the best in literature. It was written in answer to a request of the late Mrs. F. F. Victor and published in the State History of the early Indian Wars of Oregon, p p 151-52, compiled by Mr. and Mrs. Victor, twenty-five years after the event. It is not an agreeable business to correct the writing of the dead, and I am so far as I know, the last living member of that party of sixteen, and I feel it due to the sacred truth to say that in that letter to Mrs. Victor, Mr. Applegate, whether from failing memory or a desire not to place himself as leader of the party, which he was, makes Mr. Fields, a born gentleman, say: "Before I joined this expedition in the Willamette Valley, I fully understood the gravity of the undertaking. Against the performance of such an undertaking I weighed my own life as nothing; in fact if only one of the party should reach the end of the journey and the rest fell by the way, the object of the expedition would be cheaply obtained." The last high sentiments were Mr. Jesse Applegate's own spoken to me at least fifty hours before James Fields, sick in mind and body, told, in the words used by Mr. Applegate that he would take his chances to get to the Willamette settlements afoot and alone rather than delay us of the snow shoe party another hour. This was spoken as Mr. Applegate says by Fields after he had got into camp and had his supper after the first days effort on the snow shoes. We were camped where the Applegate road to or from Ft. Hall left Jenny Creek. The snow was six to seven feet deep and very light and fluffy. We were, we guessed, four miles beyond where we had penetrated with our horses, from which point we retreated at the command of our captain, Levi Scott, to our camp we had left that morning.

Mr. Applegate on our arrival left the care of his horses to one of the captains sons and went off to one side and sat down on a log evidently in mental trouble I was nearest to him and quickly stripping and tying my horses I went to him and said, "Mr. Applegate you seem much cast down at this result." He replied, "yes I am John," I replied "well the people of the Willamette do not expect what is impossible of us and certainly, it is impossible for us to cross these mountains with our horses under present conditions." He replied, "that is so John, but they do not see our condition; people judge of these things by their success or failure. I proposed this expedition and feel this failure so keenly, that if I could have the company of but one man, I would try to get through on snowshoes and not feel the sacrifice if one of us got through." Before one minute had passed Mr. Applegate had three volunteers and before our supper-dinner was cooked the party was equally divided eight to try to get through on snow shoes; and eight to get back with the 32 horses under the leader of Capt. Scott. Mr. Fields was a thoroughbred gentleman, a member of the society of

friends, and his object in being with was to get to California and from there back to New York. The snow shoe party as Mr. Applegate letter correctly says were loaded with eight days provisions gun, blanket and ammunition each, but carrying that handicap, they over took their horses in five days and four nights marching at the present site of Canyonville, then a beautiful natural game park. With one exception those 16 were a fine body of men. All now passed to the other side but one and he is trying to give the truth of history to the credit of one of the noblest of Oregon pioneers against his own written statement. Salem, Oregon. JOHN MINTO.

October 10, 1903.

Two Sisters of Mercy from Portland were in Jacksonville over Sunday and Monday soliciting funds in aid for their Home for the aged in Portland. The Sisters are visiting all towns in Oregon and from here they went to Ashland.

Charles Oglesby and Aaron Clark who have been working in a saw mill at Saguaw, Lane county, for the past three months arrived home Monday. The young men will stop here for a few weeks when they will go to Northern California to work in a saw mill.

T. C. Norris was laid up for several days during the early part of the week with a severe attack of tonsillitis. Mr. Norris is one of those irrepressible hustlers and Tuesday he was back in his store, though muffled up to keep from taking cold, and at work with his usual vigor.

40 inch mount vernon draper duck, wagon cover duck, 50 inch black enamel carriage duck for sale at Nunan-Taylor Co., Jacksonville.

Rogue River valley has long been conceded to be one of the best grape districts in all Oregon and one of the best in the United States, for here can be successfully grown all the fine table and wine grapes that are known in America as well as many of the best European varieties. The time is not far distant when Rogue River grapes and wine will be known in all the markets and command top prices. As to prolificness and early bearing the vines of this section are hard to beat. T. C. Norris has on exhibition at his store a four inch section of a twig from a Tokay vine, two years old from the cutting that contains two bunches of grapes that weigh above four pounds. These grapes are from a 15 acre vineyard near Jacksonville of assorted varieties all of which are equally as fine. This vineyard together with 25 additional acres of land, containing good buildings will be sold by Mr. Norris for \$1000. The reason for this bargain is that the owner has business to look after and has put his vineyard and land at a price that will make it sell at once.

The board of trade met Monday evening at the Town hall. There was a fairly good attendance considering that a number of the members were out of town and others were kept away by lodge and other duties. There was no special business brought up before the board and after an informal discussion of several matters relating to the interests of the board of trade and of Jacksonville election of officers was had for the ensuing term which resulted in the old office being unanimously re-elected. The persons re-elected were Charles Meserve president, Dr. J. W. Robinson, vice president, T. J. Williamson, secretary and Charles J. Nunan, treasurer. The bills of Chas. Dunford of \$2.00 for hauling seats to court house park and thence to the school house and of Geo. Lewis of \$4.00 for carriage used in showing Profs. Cordley and Lake about the Valley were ordered paid. The bill of the Iowa Lumber Company of \$25.00 for lumber used in building seats was referred to the finance committee with instructions to pay it when approved by the committee.

Orchard for Lease.

The Bybee orchard a mile from Jacksonville consisting of 30 acres, 11 acres of prunes, balance in apples with a few peaches, will be leased for a term of years to a responsible person. House, barn and outbuildings. Spring water piped to house. For terms call on or address William Bybee, Jacksonville, Ore.

Confessions of a Priest.

Rev. Jno. S. Cox of Wake, Ark., writes, "For 12 years I suffered from Yellow Jaundice. I consulted a number of physicians and tried all sorts of medicines, but got no relief. Then I began the use of Electric Bitters and feel that I am now cured of a disease that had me in its grasp for twelve years." If you want a reliable medicine for Liver and Kidney trouble, stomach disorder or general debility, get Electric Bitters. It's guaranteed by City Drug Store. Only 50c.

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Would not interest you if you're looking for a guaranteed Salve for Sores, Burns or Piles. Otto Dodd, of Ponder, Mo. writes; "I suffered with an ugly sore for a year, but a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me. It's the best Salve on earth. 25c at City Drug Store.