

Built In 1864—And Still Standing



The day of the Indian raids are over, but this old blockhouse, located on the Willow Creek ranch, still stands as a memento to the courage of the early day settlers. E. M. and W. E. Hammond, owners of the ranch, have donated the building, at the request of Alfred Collier, to the Klamath Historical Society.

Creek-Spanning Blockhouse Was Built To Foil Indian Attacks By Homesteaders

By MARY CASE
Present Klamath Historical Society
It was the year 1864 that Dan, Clinton and Ben Van Brimmer defied the dangers of frontier life and took a homestead in the Siskiyou country in Northern California, just below the Oregon line. They came in a spring wagon which held their worldly possessions and built their log cabin and barn on Willow creek, in order to have water for themselves and their stock.

This was Modoc Indian territory and there had been a great deal of trouble with the Indians who had attacked the emigrant trains as they came through. In turn the white men had reciprocated.

Settlers were few and the homesteaders were great distances from each other. Help could not have reached them if the Indians had attacked. As the Indian trouble grew more serious and it seemed to the Van Brimmers that war was inevitable, they decided to be prepared to take care of themselves.

With axes, pine logs were hewn and shakes were split, and with the spring wagon were hauled to the homestead. Over the creek they built a fort, with port holes cut on all sides of the building and a door fashioned from juniper trunks, which assured the brothers that no hail from a muzzle-loader could penetrate the wood. A hole was left in the floor in order to draw water from the creek, which never froze, assuring a year-round water supply.

that the Indians could not divert. The Van Brimmers were of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry and they built well.

When the Modoc was started in 1872 the brothers kept provisions in the fort and were prepared to protect themselves from an Indian attack. Many settlers lost their lives, but fortunately the Van Brimmer homestead was not raided and their stronghold was never besieged.

There today, over 75 years later, the little fort still spans the creek. The hole that was cut in the floor in order that water could be drawn from the creek is still there. The shake roof is weather-worn and the juniper door has been replaced by one made of boards.

In 1883 the Van Brimmers sold to William Davis their homestead, cattle, horses and their brand, a "V." A biographical sketch of the Van Brimmers appears in "Western Oregon History," published in 1905.

The blockhouse and the old homestead have since become the property of E. M. and W. E. Hammond, and called the Willow Creek ranch.

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Navy Officer Visits Here

J. H. Batcheller, LCDR, USN, officer in charge of navy recruiting for Oregon, visited Klamath Falls Monday and Tuesday to inspect the local recruiting office.

All recruiters of sub-stations have been ordered to report to the main recruiting office in Portland Saturday for a conference, where a new program will be outlined to go in effect April 2.

The navy's new high school graduate training program has an unlimited quota for enlistment in such technical trade schools as cooks and bakers, electrician, radio yeoman, storekeeper, sonar and radar. Batcheller announced.

High school graduates may also choose other trade schools prior to enlistment, including machinist, diesel, metalsmith, fire control, electronics, submarines and aviation, under a limited quota, he said.

Wealthiest Woman Passes At 55

KANSAS CITY, March 18 (AP) — Mrs. Margaret Sawyer Hill Davis, 55, reputedly one of the wealthiest women in the country, died here Thursday from a heart attack.

Mrs. Davis, the widow of the late James Norman Hill, son of the railroad tycoon, James J. (Jim) Hill, and himself founder of the Texas company, was married to Blevins Davis in Washington in 1946 at a ceremony attended by Mrs. Harry S. Truman.

Mrs. Davis was left a fortune estimated at \$80,000,000 upon James N. Hill's death in 1932.

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Honor Slandered—But No Pay

PARIS, March 18 (AP) — Henri Verdoux lost Thursday his 5,000,000 franc (\$16,000) damage suit over the film, Monsieur Verdoux.

Verdoux is a young bank clerk with a small family. So is the murderous Henri Verdoux, as played by Charlie Chaplin in the film.

The real Verdoux sued French distributors of the film and two Paris movie houses. The court ruled he would have to pay costs.

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"The Alamo," by John Myers.
"Milk Route," by Martha Ostenso.
"The Great Hope," by Marguerita Rudolph.
"A Certain Rich Man," by Vincent Sheean.
"The Strong Room," by Jere Wheelwright.
"House Divided," by Ben Ames Williams.
"Golden Book of Dog Stories," by Ezra Zistel.
"Good Housekeeping Needlecraft Encyclopedia," edited by Alice Carroll.
"Father on the Farm," by Kenneth Cragg.
"Fun With Your Camera," by Jacob Deschin.
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