

Cattlemen Named In Western Shrine

By JACK HEWINS

Associated Press Writer

Tall in the historical saddle, two cowboys rode back from the almost forgotten past this month when trustees of the new National Cowboy Hall of Fame named Benjamin Elam Snipes and Andrew Jackson Splawn to the Western shrine at Oklahoma City.

Calling them cowboys is slightly understating the facts.

Seventy-five years ago Snipes owned so many cattle and horses he literally couldn't count them. Friends estimated his livestock holdings at 125,000 cattle and 20,000 horses, but Ben Snipes bothered to keep track only of those that went to market.

His range was big as England. It ran from Central Oregon to the Canadian boundary and from the Cascade Mountains across the Columbia River. His family home was at The Dalles and his ranch headquarters near the present site of Sunnyside, Wash., where the tiny cabin he built in 1859 stands now in the city park.

Andrew Jackson Splawn, keen-eyed and bearded like a Civil War general, was trader, scout, freighter, Indian fighter, cattle buyer, drover and breeder, and state senator and cowboy. He set up a trading post in the Kittitas Valley in 1870 which a practical joker named "Robbers' Roost." You know it today as Ellensburg.

Splawn's widowed mother brought her children West by covered wagon in 1852 and they settled on the Willamette River above Portland. When he was just 16 Splawn joined a cattle drive to the Cariboo mining country of British Columbia.

Once he was captured by Indians when he sneaked close to a village to watch a scalp dance. Possibly because of his youth, the Indians set him free. Again on the same drive he wounded an Indian when he surprised a group of tribesmen stealing cattle. The chief — Tonasket — rode around the next day to tell Splawn he had done the right thing — to the great relief of the camp.

The "Robbers' Roost" incident was one of Splawn's favorite later-day stories. A friend rode up to his trading post and offered to make a sign for the establishment. Next morning it was hanging over Splawn's door and his sense of humor prompted him to keep it there.

Later he sold the business and 100 acres to John A. Shondy, who platted a town and named it Ellensburg in honor of Mrs. Shondy.

Making his home in North Yakima, Splawn continued to buy and sell cattle for many years. He raised purebred Herefords, too, on a 3,000-acre ranch in the Coquille Valley. He was elected to the State Senate in 1902 and died

in 1917 at the age of 72.

Snipes also rode the ox trains west. He left his Iowa home in 1853 when just 17 years old, working his way as driver and herder. After riding through the lush grass valleys of Central Washington he knew his destiny. He bought his first cattle — "several hundred head" — from an Army captain at The Dalles on credit at steep interest.

The Fraser River gold rush gave him a market and Snipes blazed the Cariboo Trail, an 800-mile route from his ranges to the mines. Once when that market sagged he started with 1,200 steers toward the mines in Montana.

The worst part of the trip was crossing the "desert" between the Columbia and Sprague Lake. It took three waterless nights and left the route strewn with cattle dead of thirst. He sold what was left for \$40,000 in gold dust when he finally reached Deer Lodge, Mont.

Snipes did not own the land where his cattle grazed. The portion on the Yakima Reservation he leased from the Indians. Fierce winters often threatened to wipe out his herds but they always rallied. Ben Snipes grew rich.

He bought 100 acres of real estate and other property in Seattle. In 1886 he built the Ben Snipes & Co. bank in Ellensburg and the whole town — stone bank included — burned four months later. Snipes built again, and even opened a branch bank at Roslyn. His Ellensburg bank later became the Washington State Bank, now the Washington National.

The panic of 1893 destroyed the Snipes empire. Its downfall was completed in 1903 when his banks went into receivership. Attempting a new start, Snipes owned a small ranch and a few hundred head of cattle near The Dalles at his death in 1906. He was 71.

The two Northwest pioneers are among 41 prominent Westerners who will be honored in the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Useful Chemical Found In Trees

Though loggers in the Pacific Northwest's Douglas fir region may not have been aware of it, those trees they're felling are full of quercetin.

Scientists at Weyerhaeuser Timber Company have succeeded in deriving the new chemical from the bark of Douglas fir trees and processing it to a high degree of purity in pilot plant quantities.

Quercetin — pronounced kwur-sec-tin — may be used to protect rubber, plastics, petroleum, insecticides, animal feeds, hydraulic fluids and vegetable and animal

Rats Serve Science at OSC



OREGON STATE COLLEGE — White rats being fed irradiated foods at Oregon State College go on the scale each week to see whether the special diet is affecting growth. Rats are also checked to see whether length of life, number of offspring, or body tissues are changed. No differences have been found. Since trials were started in 1954, the college has received \$128,000 in research grants. Dr. Edward C. Buhl, agricultural chemist, shown here, is in charge. Foods are irradiated at the atomic energy reactor, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and shipped to OSC in cans. Pork, peaches, carrots, and jam are test foods. Irradiated foods can be stored at room temperature for long periods. They are not "radioactive" and may soon be on American tables.

OSC Irradiated Food Study May Uncover New Processes

A roomful of 1,200 white rats at Oregon State College is helping to answer questions about the wholesomeness and safety of irradiated foods that some day soon may be on tables in homes across America.

The irradiated foods — promising new product of the atomic age — are being fed to the rats to see whether they affect length of life, gains, or number of offspring.

To date, no differences have been found between rats on irradiated and non-irradiated foods,

oils from spoiling and deteriorating when in contact with air.

And if you take it internally, it is useful in preventing and curing scurvy.

according to Dr. Edward C. Buhl, leader of the project started in September 1954. Foods under test are pork, peaches, carrots and jam.

The foods are irradiated for preservation at the Idaho Falls, Idaho, atomic energy installation and then shipped to OSC in cans. They are stored for at least six months at room temperature as part of the test of the effectiveness of the food treatment.

Ten other U.S. research centers are also working on other phases of the research that is sponsored by the surgeon general's office, department of Army.

Since OSC started its diet studies with rats in 1954, it has been awarded some \$128,000 by the surgeon general's office. A new grant of \$33,600 was received this month to continue the work through the fall of 1958.

The white rats that are the test animals are carefully picked and observed, Buhl pointed out. Brothers and sisters are used in comparisons with one third receiving untreated foods, one third receiving

Playful Beaver Roms In Culvert

Beavers are thought of traditionally as being hardworking fellows, but they also have their lighthearted moments.

Hans Milius, chief forester for Brooks-Scanlon, Inc., Bend, tells us about sighting a beaver swimming into a culvert under a company logging road. The current swept him through the pipe and plunked him into a pool on the other side. Gravelly the beaver swam to the bank, ambled back across the road and took another ride through the culvert.

He enjoyed it so much he did it several times.

ing normal-dose level irradiated foods, and one third receiving a double-dose irradiated food diet.

When the rats die, body tissues are examined by Dr. Jesse F. Bone, agricultural experiment station veterinarian, to see if they have been changed by the irradiated diet. No differences in body tissue have been noted in tests to date. Some of the rats have been on test two years, long past the usual life span of ordinary rats.

Buhl and other agricultural chemists at OSC are also studying problems of flavor changes that develop in irradiated foods. Still other studies on irradiated foods are underway at OSC in the food technology and bacteriology departments. Special grants have been received for all of the various projects.

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Wheat:



Year saw all-time high export of wheat and flour equivalent—550 million bushels valued at \$958 million.

Cotton:



Highest volume of exports in 25 years. 7.6 million bales valued at \$1.11 billion. Equals three-fifths U.S. production.

Soybeans:



New record level of 77 million bushels, valued at \$196 million. That's 17 per cent of U.S. crop, 80 per cent of world trade.

Soybean and Cottonseed Oils:



Record exports of 1,386 million pounds, valued at \$213 million. Equals 27 per cent U.S. production, half of world trade.

Rice:



Record exports of over 26 million bags, valued at \$190 million. Equals 85 per cent of U.S. production.

Poultry:



\$46 million worth of poultry and products. Includes 47 million dozen eggs; 48 million pounds poultry meat.

FARM EXPORTS AT RECORD HIGH. Exportation of farm products is big business and in fiscal 1957 the value of U.S. exports set a new high of 4.7 billion dollars. This represents the output of 60 million acres, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Exporting required financing, inland transportation, storage and ocean transportation for 36 million tons of cargo. The newschart above shows typical agricultural commodities and the vast amounts of them exported.

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