

Malin Marks 50th Anniversary

(Continued from Page 2)
 the states of the Union were represented.

They traveled by train on the Southern Pacific north through California. They were regaled with stories of the possibilities of the country around Macdoel in Siskiyou County but southern Klamath County in Oregon was their goal.

By horse drawn hacks and led by J. Frank Adams, president of the Lakeside Land Company, they traveled 30 miles across the country from the railroad, stopping one night at Merrill.

From the low hill above the town, Bevan's Point, they looked out over the valley, visualized their future homes and handed over in most cases only small down payments on their land. The remainder was to be paid over a long period of time. Many bought land still under the receding waters of Tule Lake which all knew to be unusually rich. Land on the bank was light and sandy. The choice locations cost \$35 an acre.

Only the farmers from the Midwest hesitated. The sand was deep. They had been told that frosts came every month of the year and that spring winds ruined the grain. Those doubtful ones went back to the railroad with the four horse rigs. By the time that the sun went down, of the 66 who came, most were landowners.

The first night, many of the newcomers spent in an abandoned house near the lake. They had no household equipment, no livestock but they had land and the will to work.

The names of those men have been Anglicized so many years that the original pronunciation has been in many instances lost.

These were the first comers, Frank Adamek, John Brothanek, Ignac Cacka, Mathew Dobry, Vaclav Drazil, Bill Halousek, Frank Havlina, Vincent Havlina, John Honzik, Vincent Jelinek, Alois Kalina, Joseph Kamarad, Frank Klabzuba, Frank Klima, Rudolf Kos, Joe Kotera, Frank Kremerik, Joseph Krizo.

Anton Krupka, Joseph Ottoman, Frank Paygr, Karl Pechanec, Anton Petrusek, Anton Polvika, Joseph Pospisil, Joseph Potucek, Vaclav Rajnus, Joseph Smidl, James Spolek, John Spolek, Jacob Stejskel, John Toff, Karek Vavricka, Anton Victorin, F. W. Vondrejs, Vaclav Vostricil, Frank Zumpfe, Vincent Zumar.

There were no buildings on the new farms with one exception, the land bought by Frank Zumpfe. There were few fences, almost no roads. The families planned to make a livelihood, most of them on 40 acres which was an estate in comparison to land ownership in the old country.

Lumber to build modest cabins was hauled from Merrill and though fences were few, drivers opened 17 gates coming and going.

The sagebrush, higher than a man's head was grubbed by men and women by hand, was piled and burned after nightfall, the fires dotting the landscape.

They made beds of meadow hay, used boxes for furniture, bought a minimum of farm equipment and borrowed from the big landowners. Those who were here in those days recall the friendly helpfulness of W. C. Dalton and J. Frank Adams.

Funds for food were short and when the nippy fall days came the Adams butchered hogs, hams and sides of bacon found their way into the newly established homes where wives and children needed food.

There was no thought of a cash return. Adams was a good neighbor, those early Czechs say today, yet later, when crops survived the wind, the freezes, and the rabbits, each man paid his debt to Adams, who kept account of payments received on the inside of a barn door.

The two big ranches, established for many years, provided work for a few. Others went that first year to Klamath Falls. Some worked on the railroad. All stayed away weeks at a time while the women worked the land.

Sagebrush was used for fuel. Water was carried long distances. News from old homes in the east

was slow in coming. Sand drifted into every crevice in the inadequate shelters and wind whipped tents to shreds.

Grain crops the first year that were not taken by frost were eaten into the ground by jack rabbits. Hearing that a bounty of 5 cents per pair was to be paid by the county for rabbit ears, the settlers organized rabbit drives and killed the creatures by the thousands.

They ate rabbits with no thought of tularemia. They fed them to chickens and to dogs and cats.

With bounty money they bought more chicken wire to build pens for more drives and many a pair of shoes and overalls were paid for with bounty money.

Blackbirds came to eat the grain and children and women beat tin kettles to frighten them off.

But the Indians who still traveled from the reservation to Tulelake were not so easily frightened, recalls Mrs. Antonia Smidl who came with her three small boys and was promptly left alone while her husband worked.

She spoke not one syllable of English. The cupboard was bare except for flour and salt and leavening and a bit of rye bread. The children were hungry and a

pot of dumplings was the answer to hungry stomachs.

They were boiling and bubbling over a sagebrush fire when an Indian woman with full skirts, flanked by others of her tribe, came into the tiny cabin. She spotted the cooking dinner and while the terrified children crept under the bed and their equally terrified mother watched, the visitor gathered up her skirts, poured the boiling dumplings into its folds and dashed out the door to her waiting fellow travelers.

Wages were \$1.25 per day with board furnished, and when work was scarce, businessmen of Merrill and Klamath Falls with faith in the determination of the new

settlers, provided credit. When Walt Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Alois Kalina brought in their stocks of groceries, hardware and calico, they too took names signed on bits of paper in lieu of cash.

By 1911 crops were better and the following year better yet. Experimental plantings of potatoes, beets, wheat, oats, rye, hay and all garden crops were put in and despite frosts, grew and were harvested.

By the spring of 1910 a two-story building to be used as a post office, store and school had been built. Classes for the young Bohemians were held on the sec-

(Continued on Page 4)

CRATER LAKE MACHINERY CO.

OF KLAMATH FALLS

JOINS IN SAYING

HAPPY 50th

ANNIVERSARY

CITY OF MALIN

Good Luck in the Coming Years ahead!

THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF AT CRATER LAKE MACHINERY CO.