



THE BRASS POLE is the quick way downstairs when the alarm rings. Here Jim Brown, hoseman with the Klamath Falls Fire Department, demonstrates the technique of grabbing the pole and letting go. There are two poles in the main dormitory.

Oregon Territorial Days Pictured In Collection Now Turned Over To OHS

A candid Astorian, reporting how the news of the 1856 election of James Buchanan was celebrated, declared, "we kept the old gun howling 'till we all got so tight we couldn't see to load it."

This and other intimate reports on life in Oregon during territorial days are contained in the letters and papers of Robert Shortess, one of the "Men of Champoeg."

The valuable Shortess collection has been given to the archives of the Oregon Historical Society from Abel Olsen of Astoria and is now being catalogued.

Shortess was a sub-Indian agent, a county judge and school clerk at various times in Astoria. Some historians think he did more to "mold the destiny of Oregon" than any other man of his time.

He was an Ohio schoolteacher who started to Oregon with the Peoria party, arriving alone in 1840, determined to "protect American rights" to the region dominated by the British Hudson Bay Company.

Shortess is best remembered for his efforts to prevent the theft of Indian lands by greedy white settlers, bent on corrupting the native Clatsops and Chinooks with liquor.

In a letter from the collection, he told Gen. Joseph Lane the Indians "are treated as aliens and intruders in their own country." He charged that Astoria was crawling with "persons of the most abandon and lawless character."

He informed Lane that settlers were telling the Indians to give up lands and fishing stations or the soldiers will soon come and kill or drive them off.

Meanwhile, back at Fort George in Astoria—Shortess in a later report noted that liquor sales to the Indians had been stopped and they were now sober, but that the soldiers were now drunk most of the time.

Juvenile delinquency was also a problem, and not surprising, considering that according to a school report only half the children were attending school.

A letter to Shortess from his friend A. Van Dusen of Astoria reported how the news of the 1856

election of President James Buchanan and Vice President John C. Breckinridge was received.

"We got tight as a brick" on "a few bumpers of old Bourbon" celebrating the election of Buc and Breck," Van Dusen wrote, adding, "we kept the old gun howling till we all got so tight we couldn't see to load it."

In the same letter, Van Dusen reports on the bitter winter of 1857, when in early January a foot of snow covered Astoria and the bark Desdemona was wrecked New Year's Day on Middle Sands, a spot in the Columbia River since called Desdemona Sands.

Van Dusen said the vessel entered the river "without a pilot (as is necessary these days if they come in at all) and had about 25 thousand dollars worth of goods on board."

The Shortess school reports tell about an inter-district school fight in Clatsop County over the apportionment of legislative funds. A school superintendent complained, "This is among the oldest counties in the territory and has within its boundaries the oldest settled town (Astoria) and has not a school house in it belonging to the district." Schools were rented in those days.

In 1853, "The proportion of children in schools this year is one-half more than last year, and less than one-half of the whole number reported" between the ages of 4 and 21 years, the papers showed.

Shortess married a beautiful Nez Perce girl, had one daughter with whom he lived in the John Day section near Astoria when he died in 1878 at the age of 81.

COLD AIR SETS FIRE

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. (UPI)—Cold air was partly to blame for a fire at a home while it was being remodeled here. Firemen said a dismantled sink had been set atop a furnace register. When the temperature dropped one night, the furnace went on automatically. The heat deflected off the sink and set fire to the upholstered furniture standing nearby.



SHOWN HERE ARE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MEN constructing two concrete block buildings to house the Wild Horse Rim radio repeater set and a diesel powered generator at the 9,300 foot level on Steens Mountain. The summit of Steens Mountain is the highest point in southeastern Oregon. The Alvord Desert lies 3,000 feet below the station near the foot of the sheer east face of the mountain. Three states, Idaho, Nevada and California, in addition to most of southeast Oregon can be seen from the point. The repeater station has tied together, communication-wise, all five of the BLM Oregon grazing districts within which approximately 20 million acres of land is protected against fire.

OSC To Be Major Center For Training

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Oregon State College will be one of the nation's leading centers again this year for special summer training institutes for high school and college teachers.

Four grants totaling \$241,900 have been received by the college from National Science Foundation to conduct the institutes that will be attended by 200 selected teachers from across the country.

The institutes are part of a vast nationwide program sponsored by National Science Foundation to improve science and mathematics teaching, to increase the U.S. supply of top-flight scientists and teachers, and to stimulate greater interest among young people in science careers.

Institutes scheduled at OSC include:

An eight-week biology institute for 50 college professors, under a \$67,000 grant. Dr. Howard H. Hillemann, professor of zoology, will be director.

A six-week summer institute for 50 chemistry professors, \$48,300. Dr. A. V. Logan, professor of chemistry, director.

An eight-week institute for 50 high school science and mathematics teachers, \$64,000. Dr. Fred Fox, assistant professor of science education, director.

An eight-week institute for 50 high school and junior college

mathematics teachers, \$61,500. Dr. A. R. Poole, professor of mathematics, director.

Teachers picked to attend the institutes will receive \$75 a week stipends, plus tuition and fees and some travel and dependent allowances. All U.S. high school and college teachers will receive information about the institutes, scheduled at various key spots across the country, and will then have an opportunity to apply at the school of their choice.

Four summer institutes also were held last year at OSC. Teachers came from nearly every state for the special training.

Bud Kennedy is in his 12th season as basketball coach at Florida State.

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