

At 90, Wren Frain Looks With Contentment On Life, Recalls Many Days Of Years Ago

By RUTH KING

The fruit in the plum thickets along the river was showing promise of being heavy with juice and sweet, when Betty Frain presented her husband Martin Roderick Frain, a fur trader, with a son. It was June 11, 1873.

The last echo of musketry in the Modoc Indian War was heard that early summer, when Wren Frain of Klamath Falls, a lifetime resident of Klamath County, was born near Shovel Creek, close by the California line.

This year he celebrated his 90th birthday with old friends, those who had known him since his youth, who remembered the old ways with him and cherished the memories.

The open house on his birthday brought 40 guests to the home of his daughter, Vera Clemens, where Wren Frain lives happily.

The family record and old tin-tyes in a picture album, have kept fresh the story of his father and his mother and the events that have led up to Wren Frain's contentment in his later years.

The name of his father, Martin Frain, was first heard in York State, now New York, in December, 1833, and almost before he was out of short leather britches, he had cut family ties and turned westward, drawn by the lure of gold to the land of adventure, now California.

Although this is a bit of history about his son Wren Frain, the telling is needed of the travels of the elder, whose determination was passed from father to son.

It took the youth, Martin Frain from the east, six months by sailing vessel, to weather the tempests of Cape Horn, that precipitous headland that juts far out into the sea, at the crossroads of the Atlantic and the Pacific, and to sit out the calms, while he endured the waiting.

He landed at San Francisco and found there too many settlers. He thrust onward to Yreka to the north. He traded gold for five strong mules, packed them with colored beads and red blankets

and struck out for the Klamath. There was one kind of pelt, say country where the Klamaths and early historians, that Martin Frain, the Modocs, a band of the Snakes never traded for, the skin of the and the Cayuse had learned that white deer, which the Indians furs stripped from the muskrat sometimes displayed but rarely the and the beaver, the bear and the porcupine.

On Martin Frain's first trip into the hunting grounds of the Indian,



WREN FRAIN

Occupancy Of Salt Cave Goes Back 6,000 Years

A sequence of Indian occupancy, stretching back some 6,000 years and ending shortly after the first contacts with the white man, has been established at Salt Caves on the Klamath River near the Oregon-California border.

Details on the finds are contained in an interim report from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Oregon to the Copco Division of the Pacific Power and Light Company.

The report has just been submitted by Dr. Luther S. Cressman, head of the anthropology department, and Michael D. Olsen, research fellow. PP&L is supporting the archaeological salvage work which has been underway for the past two years.

Another research team has recently left for this area to conduct a final summer's excavations before flood waters from

PP&L's Salt Caves Dam inundate the dig sites on the south bank of the river.

The site is near the old Wren Frain Ranch, one of the first in this country, which will also be inundated by the water. Wren Frain still lives in Klamath Falls.

Carbon-14 dating has established a time of approximately 6,000 years ago for the lowest levels of the excavations, according to the report.

A group of 14 pit houses has been discovered, and several of these have been thoroughly explored. The houses, some of which were similar to those found in the Klamath Lake region, were roughly oval-shaped with a central fire pit and an entrance-way through the top of a wooden superstructure.

The people who lived there received cultural influences from the Great Basin Area in the beginning, but later developed their own local technology in weapons-making.

The Indians remained primarily hunters and gatherers throughout their history, and although they may have done some fishing, they never appeared to develop a fishing economy like that which grew up around Klamath Lake.

Various types of points, scrapers, drills, mortars, and other artifacts, made chiefly of chert and obsidian, have been found. In addition, two decorated objects, a bird bone whistle and what is believed to be a head scratcher made from a large mammal bone, have been uncovered.

Cardinal May Get Freedom

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (UPI)—Secretary General Thant leaves Sunday on a trip to Hungary and the Vatican that could lead to freedom for Jozsef Cardinal Mindszenty and ease the tense relations between Budapest and the United States.

Thant would not discuss the possibility of his bringing up the case of Mindszenty, who was tried by the Hungarian Communists for treason in 1949. He has been in refuge in the U.S. legation in Budapest since the Russian suppression of Hungary's freedom revolt in 1956.

But the case of the Roman Catholic primate of Hungary seemed certain to be on the agenda of Thant's talks with officials in Budapest next week and of his audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican on July 11. Thant's trip, at the invitation of Hungary, marks the first visit to Budapest of an official of the world organization since the 1956 revolt.

4 Sentenced

VIENNA (UPI)—Four Czechs were sentenced Friday to terms ranging from 12 to 20 months for fighting with African and Middle Eastern students in Prague last May, the Communist Czech Radio announced.

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the Klamath country, his son Wren has recalled many times, he camped overnight beneath a rocky ledge near Link River.

An Indian woman, eager to glimpse his wares, crossed the slow-moving stream in a tule raft to meet him. Her feet, that dropped through an opening in the woven craft's center portion, provided the power for locomotion.

She paddled the waiting Frain, his beads and blankets and his saddle, back across the river, leaving his mules to graze along the far bank.

His camp made, Frain kindled "two smokes" which meant friendship and the promise that beads and blankets could be bought with furs. The Indians came and bartered, and some, before the next sun rose above the hills, had lost to others in a gambling game their new possessions.

On one of his trips through the Shasta Indian country, Martin Frain took a wife, Betsy, the Betsy who mothered his five sons and a daughter, the Betsy from Shasta Valley, California, who could trace her ancestry to Rising Sun and Sitting Bull, the Betsy who died before her family was grown.

With a wife, Martin Frain settled on a piece of land and the family grew. He built a home nearby on the river at the foot of the present Topsy Grade, continued his trade with the Indians, and sold fish and furs to settlements away from this valley. He bought flour and meal and the growing children learned from their mother the foods that the earth provided.

Betsy died when her son Wren was six. One son and her daughter were younger.

Martin Frain worked far afield from the one-room cabin where the older brothers stayed "close by" to keep the younger ones from harm.

The memory of Wren Frain is sharp and clear of the time when they were once alone in an old house that had known the roistering life of men before a bar.

A wooden porch clung to the front of the shake-roofed building and a single door, swelled from a recent rain could not be held shut by the latch and bar.

Steps outside sent the six children cringing into a corner, before they remembered, the older ones, that small Nettie with hair braided to her waist, was to be protected.

They threw their weight against the stubborn planks but the crack between door and the jamb was still wide enough to permit the passage of a man's brown hand, palm up. The newcomer made no further effort to enter but asked for matches. The children filled his hand from a meager store and the Indian visitor went away. The time came when the boy

Wren, small for his age at 17, sought work with Robert Emmett, Klamath pioneer, who built the Topsy Grade above the Klamath River. It was over this road that merchandise and men and women came to the valley and the town of Linkville.

Young Wren applied for a job, and in the telling of that happening so many years ago, his voice filled with pride. "He looked me over and he said that I was pretty small, and that he doubted some if I could stand the work, but he put me on. I worked as hard as I could and he told me later that I was the best darn little Indian on the job."

In 1896 on a creek bank in Jackson County, Wren Frain married Gussie Way. She too had been born in the Klamath country, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Way who ran an overnight station for the comfort of travelers passing through or those who came to stay.

Wren and Gussie Frain saw hard times and enjoyed the more lucrative years. He worked as a buckaroo and broke horses, often far from home. Once, coming home to his family after a serious illness, they didn't know him. There were no telephones to relay a message that he had nearly died and Gussie Frain was too far away to send a neighbor to seek him.

His thought go back to the "year of the high water," when every bridge that crossed the river had been washed away. His horses were across on "yonder bank." The time came for putting seeds into the ground to raise a garden. The plot was still unplowed, the waters were wild and unsafe for a crossing.

Wren Frain latched himself to the singletree of a footboard plow Gussie Frain held the share deep in the soft loam, and together they plowed the land and planted it.

For 35 years they stayed on the old home ranch settled by fur trader Frain. They had one daughter, Vera.

Wren Frain and a brother, Rod, and a friend of the two by the name of Frank Woods, worked the log drives down the Klamath River from Klamath Hot Springs to Klamath, year after year.

"Some there were," said Wren Frain, "who couldn't take the river's beating, the canyon's roughness, the threat of death, and they left the river." Some, unafraid, lost footing, and died in the rapid waters.

But Wren Frain and his brother Rod and their partner, Frank Woods, rode the logs to mill until progress left the rapids uncrowned by logs of fir and pine and the swoosh of logs into the streams was drowned out by the sound of

donkey engines.
The old Frain ranch was sold to the California Oregon Power Company and the Frain family

moved to a ranch on the Ashland Highway. That, too, went to new owners after Wren Frain had

tended his Hereford cattle until he was well past 80.
Ninety years have passed since

that June in 1873 when he was born, and he is content to remember them.

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Judge Walker Takes Post

County Court Judge Robert Walker has been appointed as an Oregon representative to the advisory committee of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, Wash., D.C., the Klamath County Court announced.

Judge Walker had been recommended to the post sometime ago by Congressman Al Ullman of the Second Congressional District. The appointment was officially announced in a letter received by the Judge Friday from William H. Webb, executive vice president of the Congress.

Webb stated in his letter dated June 24, "We are happy to have you serve with us for the advancement of a sound and orderly development of our national land and water resources."

The Congress is composed of 7,361 individuals located throughout the United States and was established in 1901 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and development of the nation's natural resources.

The membership is made up of representatives of chambers of commerce, waterway and shipping associations, business firms, municipalities, and individuals in every state of the union.

All members of the Senate and House of Representatives are honorary members and many of them are active in the organization.

Father Kills 4 In Family

DENVER (UPI)—A 45-year-old father ran amok Saturday and stabbed and bludgeoned his wife and three of their ten children to death in their beds, police reported.

Denver police detective Stan Griffith said the father, Luis J. Monge, of Denver, admitted the slayings in a signed statement. Patrolman Clinton Lombard said the four victims apparently were sleeping in their beds at the time they were slain.

Griffith said Monge told him he had intended to kill his whole family but "couldn't go through with it." Monge telephoned police himself.

The victims were Leonarda Monge, 41, Alan Monge, 6, Vincent Monge, 4, and Teresa Monge, 11 months old.

Israel Buys U.S. Missiles

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The Defense Department announced Friday that Israel will purchase \$25 million worth of U.S. Hawk anti-aircraft missiles.

The Hawk is designed to knock down attacking airplanes at low and medium altitudes over a battlefield.

The Pentagon said Israel would buy enough missiles to supply one battalion. It did not specify how many that would be.

Rebel Leader Seeks Support

ALGIERIA (UPI)—Premier Ahmed Ben Bella told an Algerian cabinet meeting Friday that former rebel leader Mohammed Boudiaf and three other "seditionary persons" were seeking support from abroad. He did not give details.

A communique published after the meeting charged the four men, all of whom are under arrest, with seeking "the division and poisoning" of Algeria.

Medical Aid Liberalized

SALEM (UPI)—The medical aid to the aged and public assistance programs were liberalized, and increased fees for nursing home care were approved Friday at a lengthy meeting of the State Public Welfare Commission.

Nursing home rates were increased \$5 monthly, effective July 1, for three types of care. The present rates are \$145 per month for moderate care, \$169 a month for maximum care, and \$192 a month for exceptional care.

A 10 per cent increase in doctors' fees was approved for medical care under the public assistance program.

Benefits and eligibility requirements under the medical aid to the aged program were liberalized.

The annual income ceiling for eligibility was upped from \$1,500 to \$1,750 for a single person, and from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for a couple.

A single person can have liquid assets of up to \$1,500, and a couple \$2,000 and still be eligible.

The \$100 deductible feature has been removed, and persons enrolled in the program have medical benefits paid with their first cost.

As a policy matter, people out of work because of current labor disputes will be placed under the general assistance program, rather than being enrolled in the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program.

The commission decided to extend the food stamp program for several more months on a trial basis.

The commission also agreed to sign a contract to have the secretary of state do statistical work on data processing equipment to be purchased by the secretary of state's office.

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