

## TO THE PIONEERS OF KLAMATH BASIN

Greeting: The editor and publisher of the Klamath "Republican" and "Evening Herald" consented to give two columns of his papers each week to the members of the Klamath Pioneer society in which they are invited to describe their individual experiences, incidents and anecdotes relating to early days and facts concerning the early settlement of the country that are not generally known.

It is true that a brief history of early settlement and progress of this country is given in a large volume entitled "History of Central Oregon" and so far as it goes that history is quite accurate; but as it necessarily concerns itself largely with public records and dates, it lacks the interest that attaches to a narration of facts and incidents by the actors themselves. The personal and human element is lacking. While the crude outlines of the true history are there, there are many blank pages that can only be filled by those who were the real actors in the making of history.

This is what is wanted of you. You may say that you cannot write a newspaper article; but you can write a letter to a relative or friend and tell what you wish very plainly and interestingly. And such is the essence of what we want—a straightforward narrative of experiences, of facts and incidents as you knew them, straight from the heart, or shoulder. If you cannot write them yourselves, tell them to a son, a daughter, or a friend who will write them down for you, and send them on. They will be very welcome, and if lacking in proper form, can be put in form.

We want them, for it is of such individual knowledge and experience that true history is made up. Tell us how you came to the country; how you lived; what your intentions were as to making it your home; what were your surroundings, your pastimes, your experiences; who, and how far away were your neighbors, your schools; how you got your supplies—and all the incidents and experiences of your pioneer life. If you came here before the Modoc war, we want your opinion of the conduct of that war and of the causes leading up to it.

If these individual experiences are given as they can be given, there will be a mass of interesting material out of which an interesting and truthful history of this country can later be compiled; and while to you these things may have seemed trivial and commonplace when they occurred, they will not be so regarded by coming generations whose lives will have been cast in more pleasant places and less strenuous times.

We take to ourselves much credit for the upbuilding of this country; we are equally as entitled to the credit of building our neighboring city of Ashland; for that town owes its growth and prosperity very largely to the pioneers of this side of the mountain. When the first settlers came over this side of the mountain Ashland was a very small village of less than a hundred people. There was but one small store—that of R. H. Hargadine—a grist mill, sawmill, marble mill, hotel (Emery's), and a blacksmith and wagon shop. It was the trade from this side of the mountain that made Ashland the best town in Rogue River valley. Let those dispute that fact who may.

Those who have traveled across the mountain between Ashland and the Klamath Basin at any time during the past twenty years are wont to declare that it was no wonder this country did not settle up—the roads were so atrocious that no one would willingly go over them the second time; and yet, compared with what they once were, they are now equal to a turnpike.

The old road, as formerly traveled, was the old emigrant road first traveled by the Applegate party in 1845 when they came out from the Willamette valley, through the Umpqua and Rogue River valleys and through this and the Goose lake countries to meet a train of friends and neighbors destined to the white settlements in the northern part of the state. It was thought by them to be a shorter and safer route than the northern trail by way of Ft. Hall and down Snake river.

As the objective point of these emigrants was westward, and they never anticipated any attempt to return over the road, their only concern in crossing a mountain range was to find a practicable way up; the going down was easy. Their usual mode of descent was to remove all their teams except the wheel oxen (generally a pair well broken to steer and hold back), chain or tie the hind wheels, and fasten a good sized tree by rope or chain to serve as drag, and down they went. Now between Ashland, or rather between the Soda Springs, and the Klamath there were three or four such wagon slides. One of them, at Jenny creek, over one-

fourth mile long; the Keen creek not quite so long, but steeper; as the teamsters used to say, it "hung over a little"; the Green Spring summit and Strychnine hill, just below Tyler's. At these places it was necessary to unload all wagons and pack on animals or carry on the backs of individuals the entire load, as it took four good horses to pull the empty wagons up these places. When pack animals were used, as was frequently the case, no trouble was experienced.

When the weather was good the task of hauling supplies, though tedious and slow, was not dangerous, but sometimes the early rains or snows would come and catch the settler on the wrong side of the mountain, when trouble of a serious and often dangerous character ensued, as many can testify to their sorrow.

The first attempt to better the road, was made in the fall of 1868, when the writer circulated a petition among the settlers this side of the mountain asking the County Court of the county (Jackson) to have viewed and surveyed a wagon road from a point on the stage road near the Songer place by Soda Springs across the mountains to Brown's ranch on the Klamath, thence up the Klamath valley to and across Link river, thence down Lost river and around Tule lake to the state line. Considerable opposition to the measure was found on the west side of the mountain, partly caused by a local feud among the settlers on Emigrant creek and partly by Ashland citizens who were contemplating the asking of congress to authorize a military road to the Klamath Basin by way of Dead Indian and Buck lake, with a land grant of six or ten sections per mile. However, the urgent needs of the people out here caused the court to consent to the survey, upon the condition that a bond of \$1,000 be first furnished to secure the cost in event of survey being rejected. The bond, with F. B. Sprague and the writer, was given, and in the spring of 1869 W. F. Songer, O. T. Brown and Samuel Culver were appointed as viewers, and I think J. S. Howard as surveyor, and the road was surveyed and accepted.

As the new road, as surveyed, made some very material changes in the old emigrant road to overcome the steep grades, it was necessary to secure funds in some way to open it up, as there was then no county road fund for such work. A subscription was started and \$600 pledged for the work. The settlers in the Klamath Basin in Oregon then numbered not more than a dozen families, with a large number of bachelors. The poll books of the election in 1870 showed but thirty-two voters. Yet of the \$600 subscribed over \$400 was by residents of this county. O. T. Brown and George Meese each subscribing \$100 and others from \$5 to \$50. On the other side of the mountain but one person below Ashland contributed (D. E. Stearns on Wagon creek). Sam Colver took charge of the work, and for the amount of money expended did the largest and best work ever accomplished at one time on that road.

In 1872 a bill granting \$25,000 towards surveying and constructing the Southern Oregon wagon road was passed by the Oregon legislature. The funds, however, were to come from the sale of swamp and overflowed lands, and as they depended upon a very unpopular and questionable source, it was difficult to get money on the warrants. The governor appointed as a commissioner to construct, or supervise the construction of the work, Silas J. Day of Jacksonville, George Morse of Linkville and Judge Mason of Goose lake. George Morse at that time was the owner of a toll bridge across Link river, built in 1869 at a cost of \$1,500; this he sold to the commission for \$2,500. Judge Mason did the survey work and kept a team of mules and wagon at an expense of six dollars per day for the team, while other exorbitant expenses ran the preliminary survey and other costs up to such a sum that it is generally believed there was not to exceed \$10,000 in money actually expended in work. Several changes have since been made by this county and much money spent out of private as well as public funds, so that the road is much improved over former conditions. No one here regrets that they are no longer obliged to pull their teams over that mountain to obtain their supplies.

In those early days the keepers of road houses were important citizens, and at times of the year their accommodations were taxed to the utmost.

No early pioneer but remembers the hearty cheer and hospitable board of Mrs. O. T. Brown on the Klamath, of Mrs. Henry Duncan at Johnson Prairie, of Mrs. Jas. Purvis at Jenny creek, and of Mrs. Zenus Howard or Mrs. Will Breddings on Green Spring mountain. Others have come since, but theirs were the pioneer houses of the road, and the thoughts of their bountiful tables and excellent cooking heartened up

many a storm-bound and weary traveler and are cherished as among the pleasant recollections of those days. O. A. S.

## A BOUQUET FOR MOTHER

We applaud the soldier, but we do not give to the mother the honor and respect that she is entitled to. "Unless the strong, intelligent woman bears a sufficient number of children, so that the race may increase, and not decrease, unless she brings up these children sound in body, soul and mind, unless this is true, no brilliancy of genius, no material prosperity, no triumphs of science and industry will avail to save the race from ruin and death." So that society should look upon the woman about to become a mother with admiration and envy rather than with scorn and pity. The woman who deserts her home and neglects her children for the hollow pleasures of the social world is unworthy the name of mother. I like the diagnosis the old family doctor made of a society woman's sick baby. She had been away from home all day, neglecting her baby, and she sent for the old doctor to come and see what was the matter with it. It was crying feebly and looked pale and sick. The old doctor took it up in his arms. It immediately began to root around in his bosom with open mouth, and the old doctor solemnly handed it back to its mother and said: "I am sorry to tell you, madame, I can do nothing for the child; it is hungry."

Blessed is the home where the good mother and wife is found. She is the richest jewel ever won by man. Without her nations would fall and civilizations crumble; without her charity would lose its sweetness, mercy its tenderness, and the Christian religion itself would perish. With duty well performed, she reflects the wealth, the power and the glory of the state and nation. She, with her little ones prattling at her knee, is the culmination of man's highest ideals of peace, love and perfect happiness.—Medical Sentinel.

## THE MEANEST MAN

Bill Nye had truth well told when he said: "A man may use a wart on the back of his neck for a collar-button; ride on the back coach of a railroad train to save interest on his money till the conductor gets around; stop his watch at night to save wear and tear; leave his 'i' or 't' without a dot or cross to save ink; but a man of this sort is a gentleman and a scholar compared to the fellow who will take a newspaper two or three years and when asked to pay for it puts it into the office and has it marked "Refused."

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Lockhart were out hunting in the foothills east of the city Sunday and brought back with them as the result of their sport a number of ducks and several cottontail rabbits.

## DAIRY DEVELOPMENTS

Miss Mary Smyth expects soon to attend the Dairy school before long. Not much "development" going on these rainy days, hence few happenings of public interest.

George Smyth got the roof on his new house just before the big rain began. Wasn't he lucky?

E. W. Nortridge and wife arrived today from Mayville, Ore., for a honeymoon visit with Rev. Nortridge and family.

Henry Stoehler expects to put in a telephone at his bachelor home near Dairy, as he has bought a share in the valley line, some time since.

Invitations are out to a Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Beck. 'It is also the birthday anniversary of their daughter, Rora.

W. P. Sedge, acting postmaster at Dairy, has received notice of his appointment as postmaster at this place. The pond, in blank sent to him was misdirected, and had to be sent back for correction.

Eddie Flackus, son of Wm. A. Flackus, who graduated in the eighth grade last year, is reviewing his studies under the tutelage of Mr. James G. Wight at the Hildebrand school.

The Smyth sisters, Misses Annie and Mary, are arranging to give a dancing party in their new house on Thanksgiving evening, to which all their friends are invited. No doubt it will be a joyous occasion.

F. M. Bennett, who belongs to Wm. A. Flackus' bridge gang, at work putting in a new bridge near Merrill, was called home Saturday last because of the illness of Mrs. Bennett, who is suffering from pleurisy.

Jack Rueck contemplates building a residence in Bonanza and removing to that place for the better education of his boys. He expects to rent his farm. Mr. Rueck has been an important factor in the progress of Yonna valley, and he will be very sadly missed by the community.

Citizens in the neighborhood of the Hildebrand school house are agitating the matter of building a hall for dancing and public meeting purposes. A meeting was called for Saturday last of those who are interested in the project. How much was subscribed to the fund I haven't heard.

Emil Flackus has returned from his tour of discovery, but I have no report as to the character of his discoveries. Pending his departure he sold his home place at the Four-Mile Spring to his brother, Theodore. If I were to guess, it would be that he is sorry he didn't find a new place that suited him better first.

The rain which has been falling by spells—long spells—for the past week has soaked the earth to a depth of fifteen inches and possibly further, but beyond that point I haven't investigated. In any event, it is damp

far enough down to insure the growth of next year's crop for the dry land farmer. There is a foot of water in the lake in the south part of the valley, which was dry all summer.

If the county commissioners could hear the cussings they are getting for not improving the roads out this way life would be a burden to them. In the spring it was announced that they were going to expend \$25,000 on the roads during the summer, but they didn't; or, if they did, it is a mystery where they put the work. Certain it is that very little in these parts was done, where it was most needed.

"Sandlapper," the correspondent of the Express, is of such an amiable disposition as to be very easily consoled. At least I conclude so by his observations respecting the defeat of the proposition to increase the par value of the shares of the Water Users' association at the recent meeting. He writes as if a majority had voted against the proposition, and says "the majority should rule." The fact was that of the shares voted only about one in seven voted against the proposition. If it is a consolation to be in as small a majority as that, let him not be discouraged. It really was the non-residents who did not vote who defeated the adoption of the proposition, as a majority of all the stock of the association was necessary to adopt it.

Some time since a prominent citizen and member of the legal fraternity regarding the good and bad features of Klamath county, with a view of coming here in the spring to make a home on a farm. The gentleman who answered the letter recently got one in reply, in which the writer expressed himself gratified at the vast deal of information given him, and because of its apparent fairness and reasonableness, and said he got a far better idea of what the country really was like than he had been able to gather from the pictures and pamphlets sent him by the real estate agents at the Falls—to whom he had written. This ought to be a pointer for the Klamath Falls boomers. A little candor and frankness goes a long ways, sometimes.

Washington.—Secretary Ballinger has withdrawn from all form of entry 3,262 acres of land along the upper Deschutes river in Oregon. The withdrawals, it is announced, were made contingent upon proposed legislation to conserve water power sites on public lands.

The land withdrawn is the waterway in connection with which charge has been made that in granting rights of way to the Hill and Harriman railroads through the Deschutes canyon Ballinger had rendered construction of a power plant in the canyon impossible.

Jack Berry came in on the stage from Bonanza Monday night.



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There is a story of an effort to bring out Roosevelt to be governor of New York. It is not likely that he will desire that office. But he would make a splendid supervisor of the road district around the village of Oyster Bay.—Oregonian.

TOPAZ is the birth stone for THIS MONTH.

EVERY BABY

BORN in the county during the month of November and brought to our store by its parents will be presented with a SOLID GOLD RING. This is a bona fide offer. Bring on the babies.

WINTERS

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