

Early Settlement of Tillamook County

By Warren N. Vaughn

(Continued from last issue)

About the first of September O. S. Thomas and James Quick came to look at the country, via the Nestucca route. They each took claims. Mr. Quick still lives on his, and Mr. Thomas took one, now known as Bay City. Each took up 320 acres, and then returned to the valley to arrange moving in their families. Mr. Quick's came in on horseback by the way of Grand Round and went into Mr. Trask's house until he could build for himself. Mr. Truman Harris came in about this time with his family and took his claim on South Prairie. Mr. Thomas did not build in his claim until the following spring. Our company took him into partnership about September 20th and he together with Sam Howard went out to Astoria to try and get a vessel of some kind to come here and take our fish to market. In the meantime Mr. I. Alderman went to Portland and entered into a contract there with a responsible party to take all of our fish at \$17 per barrel. Mr. Thomas purchased the sloop, Rogers, took her to Portland and loaded her with provisions and necessities for the settlers here, also Mr. James Quick's goods, and arrived here safe and sound about the middle of October. After discharging her cargo, Mr. Thomas thought she was not large enough to carry all the freight we had to send out on her, and as she belonged to the company, we laid her on the beach at my landing and removed her deck. We then raised it a little over a foot, split out planks, planed both sides to make them of even thickness, put on the



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deck again and planked her up. After she was finished it would be hard to have distinguished our work from sawed planking. The nearest mill to get sawed lumber was at Clatsop. Our job was slow work, but necessity is often the mother of invention, and we made it answer our purpose.

November 15th, 1853 the bark "General Warren," was wrecked on the coast somewhere between Yaquina and Naslats Bay, (she was on her way to the Columbia for lumber, and had on board considerable merchandise) she was dismantled at sea, and drifted ashore, about half the crew reached shore all right, the balance were drowned. The survivors was discovered by the Indians, by whom they were piloted to the Tillamook river; the Indians then came down and informed us of the affair, a party was soon on their way, and you may be quite sure we soon had the poor fellows in comfortable quarters. For ten days they had not tasted anything to eat, excepting that supplied them by the Indians after their discovery; the poor fellows thought they had escaped a watery grave, only to be served as the cannibals serve good fat missionaries, they felt their flesh creep nearly as bad as when (to their fancy) a fellows would on being untried from the tree preparatory to being butchered, to find the Indians friendly to them was a great surprise. They of course, could not imagine where the Indians were conducting them, and their joy on seeing white fellow men was unbounded. The captain was so sick and weak that he could scarcely walk. We got all safely here and soon prepared a meal for them and we were only afraid the men would eat too much for their good, after their fast. We kept the men with us for about 10 days and got them fairly well again, there were eight men altogether. Two of them concluded to stay with us, and run the sloop for us, the other six elected to leave so we furnished them with two blankets and some clothing and they started for Astoria.

The following week we loaded our sloop with salmon and on the 1st of December she left this bay for the Columbia river, in charge of the two sailors; the same night a heavy gale came up and our vessel was wrecked on Clatsop beach. The vessel and cargo was a total loss. The two men got ashore all right, and continued their journey to Astoria, where they shipped on board a vessel sailing for Liverpool, England. Now I have to relate a strange occurrence. The night after the sloop left this bay the Indian "Yes-yes-no" came to my house and said to me "your little sloop is wrecked on Clatsop beach, I saw her last night." We laughed at him, but he added "Bimeby you find out" (he seen her in a dream) and it proved to be true, but we did not hear of it until the first of January 1854, the sailors sent us no word of our great loss. It brought very hard times on us again, and quite a number left the country upon the sad news reaching the settlement. We had to economize with what few provisions we had, as we knew we had no means of getting any more in until the spring which was about four months.

We had about 75 barrels of salmon on hand, so we sent word for every one who wanted any to come and get all they wanted, without money and without price, as we knew we had no way to get them to market, and that our company was busted up, as flat as pancake. We had paid out \$1500 and had not realized a penny, more than we had brought in a few provisions and we saw the inevitable staring up in the face. There was now stopping with me this winter, O. S. Thomas and his brother, Edie and old man Cochran, also I. W. Alderman part of the time. On the first of January 1854 there were five or six families and eleven or twelve batches which numbered in all about fifty souls, big and little.

Mr. I. W. Alderman had sold his claim in the valley, and had sent east for his family, who were expected in early spring or summer. As the winter wore away, flour, groceries etc, went away as well, and by the first of February there was very little if any flour in the county, and we had to resort to salmon and potatoes again. Peoples shoes were nearly worn out, and the children never thought of wearing shoes on Sundays. The winter was good and mild, we had about two inches of snow at Christmas, which was all gone before New Years day. We also had a very fine February, and everyone who could spare a few potatoes, planted them, a few also sowed wheat. Mr. Trask sowed 4 bushels, Lyman 2 bushels, and Dougherty 2 bushels, they said, they had better sow it before it was eaten, for they wanted to provide for

another winter if possible. March was a wet month, but it was warm rain, and the crops came on in fine shape. About the 1st of April, Mr. Trask received a letter from Main, informing him that Captain Meanes was dead, he died from lung fever. Before his death he formed a company to come to Tillamook, they had built a small steamer in such a way that it could be shipped here in sections. It was put together here and run between this bay and Astoria. They also bought a vessel of 200 tons burthen to come to this bay and engage in salmon fishing, but his death stopped the whole business. Captain Meanes had informed Mr. Trask of his intentions, and on losing our little craft Trask remarked, "Well, when Meanes' boats arrive we will be well set up." The news of his death was sad news to all of us. There was very little immigration this spring for our deplorable situation was well known to all outside. We now had to adopt some means of getting a supply of provisions in. We called an urgent meeting, to be held at Trask's house, near all of the settlers were there and it was agreed to send O. S. Thomas, and Sam Howard to Astoria to see if they could make arrangements to obtain a craft of some kind to bring in supplies. In the mean time we all agreed to endeavor to locate a road if possible, a nearer route than the lower Nestucca, to the Willamette valley.

We concluded to go by south prairie and Nestucca leaving Mount Hebo to the east, thence to Grand Round. Hiram Smith had commenced to cut

a road toward Tillamook from this point the fall before. The people in that vicinity had started a subscription to help Mr. Smith along with his enterprise but, in the spring a majority of subscribers went back on him, causing him to abandon his project. Smith and a few others had pushed through on this route and found the plan feasible. Messrs. Truman Harris, I. W. Alderman, Trask, James Quick, and a few others went through to the other side and made an agreement with the people there to start in on their side of the mountain, and work toward the Nestucca river. H. Smith, T. Harris, I. W. Alderman, Mr. Cadiler, and others were viewers and locators of the road and on reaching the base of Mount Hebo they decided to ascend the mountain thinking that by so doing they would gain some knowledge of the surrounding country, they started that way up they discovered a large spring, or small lake. Cadiler in looking over the tops of the other hills towards the ocean remarked, "We are up very high, so I will call this mountain Hevo. These were the first white men upon this mountain, therefore, Hevo is the original name

of the advancing party. All was excitement, each tried to outwork the other. "Halloing" was now the order of the day, and then, when the parties met there went up such shout that the mountains and valleys re-echoed it again and again, for we were now assured that we had a nearer route to the valley. Right following the completion of the road eight or ten horsemen from the valley arrived, and before we reached Trask house, more horsemen came up. The distance by this route was considered to be about 30 miles from Hoquartons prairie there were about two hundred logs across for horses to jump. We had no time to use crosscut, but a man with a fair horse could make the trip to Grand Round in one day, this was shortening the distance to the valley by about 20 miles. As the news spread that we had a new route open, a large number of men flocked into this county amongst them being Mr. S. Rayburn (a carpenter) and family. (He took the claim now owned by the advancing party.)

(Continued on page 3)

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Chicago Tribune August 9, 1924

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N. Y. Eagle August 18, 1924

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N. Y. American July 31, 1924

Any newspaper could get a full weeks run on disasters by writing on "The Fire Patrol." Those who complain of dull movies and lack of action, have never seen The Fire Patrol.

Motion Picture News

May 31, 1924

Here is a vigorous well told photo play of the briny deep and sailor folk. It carries tense action, a large quota of thrills, a fine vein of suspense, and is acted convincingly.

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