

Early Settlement of Tillamook County

By Warren N. Vaughn

(Continued from last issue)

We arrived in Astoria about 12 o'clock noon, and here we were the observed of all observers, just about everybody in Astoria knew we were building a vessel in Tillamook and was on the lookout for our appearance. The general verdict was in our favor, and they all said she was of very fine shape, and swam like a duck. They gave us great credit for work under so many disadvantages.

The day after our arrival we beached her at low tide, put on two coats of tar from her keel up to her water line. We next went to work and scratched her seams clean of surplus pitch, and painted her outside and inside thoroughly. This so changed her appearance scarcely anybody could recognize her as the same craft, said everyone who saw her. We then went to work and made a new main boom, and also made our mainsail larger. Then we set sail for Portland, for we were compelled to go there for supplies, during our trip out, the Kilchis and Hoquarton settlers had sent out by mail and bargained for their supplies, and had everything ready by the time we would arrive in Portland. We also expected to meet a number of intending settlers there with their families about the first of February, but we met with our usual ill luck, for a strong south wind began to blow, and it rained so heavy that we could not sail against the current, (the south wind always blows down the Columbia river). Once in a while we would get a puff of wind, then we would up anchor and set sail, perhaps in less than an hour we would be in a dead calm, or the wind would come whooping down the river. The steamer "Multnomah" at that time was running between Portland and Astoria, and she came to us a number of times and offered to tow us up for \$100 but we could not give the price for we wanted all the money we had to purchase supplies, and so we were compelled to wait for a north west wind, which at this time of year is very uncertain. However, after three weeks of hard work, in hoisting up anchor and letting go again, and hoisting sail and lowering it again, the number of times I cannot

tell; we finally made our port, but only to find that the families intending to come in, were tired of waiting and had returned home, and most of them came in via Grand Round trail.

We got a full cargo, but had to wait one week in Portland for Mr. Thomas, who brought a quantity of flour with him. As soon as we got his supplies aboard we set sail for Tillamook. We made Astoria in one day and a half, and here we had to wait a north west wind. We had to make room here for a little more freight for Tillamook. On the Monday morning we weighed anchor, spread our sail and started again for Tillamook as we had a nor'western and a good tide. We made Tillamook bay before dark, and dropped anchor inside the bay, all very glad to see old Tillamook again. Immediately on our anchoring, a number of Indians started off in canoes for Hoquarton to inform the settlers there of our arrival, for they knew that the whites were just about out of everything eatable, owing to our own delay in making Portland.

Early next morning we sailed for Hoquarton landing and dropped anchor there about 10 a. m. I guess that just about every settler in Tillamook was at the landing to greet us, which they did with a will, for cheer after cheer rent the air, and we of course, fired off a return salute from the schooners deck. We had no wharves in those days, so had to unload our freight into small skiffs, and land it all in that way. It took us all a good hard days work and at night we all met at Mr. Trask's house and had supper, which was followed by a customary dance. There was a great crowd and everybody enjoyed themselves.

Early next morning we left for Kilchis point and discharged the rest of our cargo. We had to make preparations right away for another trip to Portland for settlers had come overland and had freight to come, and owing to the fact that just about all the potatoes in the county had been used in place of bread, we required a large quantity for use and for planting. In three days we had everything ready. Our crew consisted of Cap. Hendrickson, Sam Howard was mate, a Mr. Buchanan and myself acting as deck hands and cook. I may state right here that Sam Howard had just sold his claim to Peter Morgan. This was the first claim sold in Tillamook. Mr. Morgan was to build him a vessel of fifteen tons burthen and as Sam to give possession on completion of building of vessel, that is the carpentering and iron work and launch it.

The vessel was commenced on the first of May, Morgan and Charles West doing all the work themselves. They had to whipsaw and prepare all the lumber required precisely the same way as for our schooner. Bishop Clark did the blacksmithing. Mr. Morgan had the spikes and iron for fastenings shipped in, the size required, the vessel was to be ready by the first of September and was building on the same spot as the Morning Star. We will leave them working on the new vessel for the present.

We started on our trip to Portland in high spirits which were very soon dampened for we came very near having a serious mishap in crossing over the bar. The vessel was not rigged with all the necessary appliances for instead of having a jib trawler to hold the jib into its place, we had, in beating out, to hold the jib to windward and she mis-staid or in other words would not come about, and we had to cross out over the South spit. We had shipped three pretty heavy seas, had our jib carried away, and our foresail split, and we fully expected at one time we would surely go ashore, but by great efforts we did manage to get through, and upon getting outside we managed to keep off shore, and went to work at once and mended our jib and foresail. It happened very lucky for us that we had a lot of seamless sacks about which we were taking to be filled with potatoes. We unlet the jib first and mended it with these sacks and replaced it then. We did the same with the foresail. This delayed one whole day but on the following day we were in Astoria and went on up to Portland. Here we shipped considerable freight including about two tons of flour which O. S. Thomas took for a debt owing him. Altogether we had about six tons of freight aboard at Portland. We then dropped down to Astoria and there found Mr. Raymond and his family with their effects. This gentleman had been appointed sub agent for the Tillamook Indians with the power to treat for their land as the county had not been bought of them. Here we were living on their land and claiming it as ours. We bought about 200 bushels of potatoes at 25 cents per bushel and next day we were in Tillamook bay.

I must here state that the first claim on this side of Carney mountain was taken up by two young men, one was, H. F. Holden, and the other Charles Harnie. If my memory serves me right they were the first settlers in the Nehalem country, built the first house and drove the first cattle in there. Mr. Holden brought in the first full breed from Salem, that came to this county. These young men stayed about two years or a little over and being the only settlers there, they got kind of lonesome. They parted with their claim to a man just coming into the county. I do not just now remember his name.

This spring Joe Champion left the place known as the Collum claim on the Trask river and moved on what is the Hughley claim. Mr. Purvine the former owner, having left the place. Mr. Raymond moved onto Mr. Champion's old place and it was Mr. Raymond that put out that fine orchard, a part of the trees he brought with him and a part he bought of Bishop Clark and moved them on the place they now occupy and did considerable improvements on the place. He obtained quite a number of cows, and he made the first cheese in Tillamook county and made quite a quantity of cheese.

In speaking of Mr. Clark I have to say that his family had already gone back to Buttsville on the Willamette river and as he finished the blacksmith work on the schooner for Morgan, he was going away.

This spring several left and a few fresh arrivals took their places. I think that nearly all the old settlers will admit the fact that if it had not been for the Batches turning in and helping to open up the road into this county it could not have been settled up so early as it was for the simple reason that they had no families to look after and could therefore devote a great deal of their time to outdoor work. They also helped many poor families and always made it a point to help support schools by donating money.

Having mentioned the arrival of Mr. Raymond, I may state right now a few facts concerning the matter in which he carried out his work. In the middle of June Mr. Raymond went to Portland and was furnished

by General Palmer, superintendent of Indian affairs, with \$30,000 worth of goods for present to Tillamook Indians before making a treaty with them. The articles consisted of a quantity of flour, sugar, and coffee, blankets, hickory shirts, and calicoes, also a lot of trinkets and two large cast iron plows, but they did not get a single article unless they earned them, for Raymond would have them work on his claim and pay them with some article out of this supply, and as regards a treaty, he never called a meeting of chiefs for the purpose, and I believe they never signed away their rights to their land at any time. The Tillamook Indians have had their lands taken from them without a shadow of a right, and had they been of a warlike disposition instead of being peaceable they would have been paid for their lands long since. Mr. Raymond reported to General Palmer that he had bought all the land of the Tillamook Indians, so General Palmer said and so reported to the government. General Palmer stated that Raymond did not receipt for the goods in Portland, and that he himself had to pay for it out of his own private money, and thus it stands at the present time between the government officials and the Tillamook Indians the latter being swindled out of their lands. True they have not been driven out of the county, but a few of them went down to the Siletz reservation on their own accord, but the greater portion lived and died here at their old home. In the fall of 1856 General Palmer was at the Grand Round reservation when O. S. Thomas, John Tripp, H. F. Holden, Charles Harnie and myself were working there and gave me these facts. He, General Palmer, was going out of office and would be succeeded by a Mr. Hughes of Lui City, Oregon. General Palmer died a few years after the events here related.

I will now go back to May 1855. It was about the 15th of this month that a cruel murder was committed

by Indians on a small prairie this side of Grand Round. On the Neatucca wagon road lived an old man named White with his wife and son, the latter a young man, a doctor by profession. They had just moved on the place and had not finished their cabin they had no door up nor any floor excepting the earth. Their fire place was of wood as was usual in those days, the old gentleman was a preacher and had gone out to the valley to preach it being Saturday, when two Indians squaws one his wife a girl about 12 years of age the other a rather old woman one of chief Kilchis wives. She is now with Indian Scott, she was formerly known as turnip late or, turnip head, explanation of this term further on. These four started to go over to Yamhill by the Grand Round trail to trade with the Indians there. They would go every year and trade trinkets for horses. When they arrived at Whites cabin it was just before dark and called, asking for food, the old lady gave them some bread and meat, and they sat down and ate. The Indian in looking around the room which was always characteristic of the Indians, saw in one corner of the house a keg containing alcohol, but he thought it was whiskey and asked the son for some. The doctor told him that the keg contained vinegar and was not fit to drink. The Indian and squaws went a little distance from the cabin by the side of a small creek to camp. Mr. Indian was not satisfied with the explanation of the contents of the keg and was determined to find out for himself. You know Indians are lovers of whiskey and will go to almost any extreme to obtain it. In this case he made up his mind to steal it, so about midnight he went to the cabin and as there was no door only a blanket hanging in the opening he had no trouble to gain admission. The old lady slept in one corner of the cabin and her son in the other. Mr. Indian upon entering the cabin fell over a bench which aroused the in-

mates. There was just a little fire and by it light the son saw the Indian get hold of the keg of liquor, and start to get out with it. Getting a poking stick from the fire place he struck the Indian on the shoulder such a blow that it turned him away around causing the Indian to drop the keg, and as he stooped to pick it up again, the man struck him again on the shoulder and half bringing him to the ground, he quickly picked himself up and knife in hand attacked the doctor stabbing him to the heart, he fell dead. The old lady had got out of bed and taking hold of the fire shovel struck the Indian over the head, he thereupon turned upon her and stabbed her twice, either of the blows killed her. Mr. Indian then went and told the squaws what he had done, they then agreed to take what they could carry and set out to the hut, then return to Tillamook.

They carried their plan into execution only too well. On their arrival here nothing was said to them of the murder and they accounted for the possession of certain articles by having bought them of the Yamhill Indians. When poor old White returned home, or where his home formerly stood and found nothing but a heap of ashes. He was greatly perplexed but when he found the bones of what were his wife and son his grief was terrible. He conjectured all kinds of things, in fact, everything but murder and finally came to the conclusion that during the night the wooden chimney caught fire, and the smoke must have suffocated both and were burnt up with the cabin, and this was the version given by the newspapers nobody, excepting the murder knowing anything to the contrary.

Fun is ever on the wing and the Fourth of July came around and this was our first real celebration of the 4th in Tillamook county. We all assembled at the house of Mr. Ed. Stridger Trask. Mr. Hiram Smith (Pat Smith's father) delivered the

(Continued on page 3)

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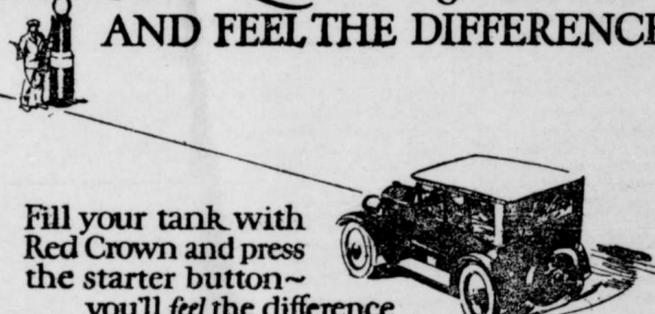
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