



**WALLY NOAKES, center, and Canadian Coast Guard demolition men are shown with a mine discovered recently on the beach on San Juan Island by Mr. and Mrs. Noakes and Mr. and Mrs. Morry Barstad and son of Bonneville while they were rabbit hunting there on their vacation. After the discovery, they notified authorities who had it picked up by the Coast Guard. The mine proved to be a dud.**

## Pages From Our Past

By Kenneth L. Holmes, writer historian

### CHIMNEY ROCK, LANDMARK ON THE OREGON TRAIL

In 1842 there was published in an obscure little paper, the Western Literary Messenger, in Buffalo, New York, a series of articles entitled, "Life in the Rocky Mountains," by a trapper, Warren Angus Ferris. Since that time the story by Ferris of his experiences in the fur trade has gained a reputation as one of the most accurate and interesting delineations of the trapper's life. Among other things Ferris described many of the scenic wonders of the American West. In travelling over the Oregon Trail in May 1830 he observed what has been called the number one attraction along that great road to the Pacific Northwest: Chimney Rock.

Here is Ferris' description: "We reached on the following day the 'Nose Mountain,' as it is more commonly called, the 'Chimney,' a singular mound, which has the form of an inverted funnel, is half a mile in circumference at the base, and rises to the height of three hundred feet. It is situated on the southern margin of the North Fork of the Platte, in the vicinity of several high bluffs, to which it was evidently once attached; is on all sides inaccessible, and appears at the distance of fifty miles shooting up from the prairie in solitary grandeur, like the limberless trunk of a gigantic tree."

Chimney Rock was noted and described from then on by virtually everyone who kept a chronicle of the Oregon trail journey. The pioneers wrote pages and pages about the scenic wonder. Chimney Rock is still there, near Bayard, Nebraska, but it has deteriorated somewhat due to the process of erosion.

A story in the New York Times for Sunday, July 15, from Bayard, tells about erosion problems at the old landmark in some detail. Chimney Rock now has been made a National Historic Site and has come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. When it was set aside in 1956, according to the Times article, a requirement was set up to "reduce livestock grazing around the base," and to help in other ways to prevent erosion.

There were days when U. S. cavalry used the rock for target practice while on the way to Fort Laramie. All kinds of natural forces have been at work tearing at the rocky basin. The materials of its composition are clay, sandstone and volcanic ash, and it is the clay that strips away and exposes to disintegration the other components. Freezing caused a huge mass, 25 feet high, to crash down in 1954. In 1958 further disintegration left two spires where there has been one before. Then, not long afterward, lightning knocked off part of one of these.

Merrill Mattes, regional historian for the National Park Service, has examined and tabulated 100 reports down through pioneer times of descriptions of Chimney Rock by travelers. He says that it would be a mistake to expect the rock to go to pieces with great speed, and he suggests that we must not "overlook the fact that the Chimney is still quite massive and solidly based. . . . It will not last forever, but on the basis of past performance it seems safe to predict it will preserve its unique contours for a good many centuries."

Some summer we plan to take a leisurely and thorough trip over the Old Oregon trail and to see each of the scenic wonders noted by the pioneers. When that time comes, we want to be sure to see Chimney Rock, that "inverted funnel" described so vividly by Warren Ferris long ago.

### WATCH FOR THE SPOTTED HORSE

On every side in the West of today we see a reminder of the days long past when there sounded the spine-tingling cry of the war-whoop and when there was often seen the brightly painted Indians warrior and his horse. This reminder is the spotted war mount of the upland Indians, the Appaloosa. It was among the Nez Perces of what is now northern Idaho and eastern Washington and Oregon that the great spotted horses were bred.

You will usually recognize the Appaloose by his spots, anywhere from tiny flecks of dark on light to great egg-shaped black or roan blotches as big as a man's fist. Sometimes the entire animal is white and covered with stark spots; occasionally he is a solid dark all over with a white "blanket" over his hips, and in the white patch a constellation of dark spots.

Today the Appaloosa is primarily a stock horse and one of the best in the business. The foreman of the mammoth San Simeon ranch in California once remarked, "You can notice the difference when you come in at night. Here the terrain is unusually rough and the Appaloosa's easy riding qualities and good disposition don't tire you out. We can compare because we've tried everything."

The Indian buffalo horse needed stamina beyond anything imagined today. The brave rode bareback close into the roaring herd, alongside the flank of one of the great shaggy beasts. Here he gave over complete control to his horse, except for knee-pressure; for he needed both hands to shoot his bow and arrow. When the bow twanged and the arrow flew, often with such force as to go right through the buffalo, the horse had to veer away at exactly the right moment to avoid the wounded animal.

The Appaloosa's feet are unlike those of any other horse: They are laminated up and down with dull black and white layers of different texture, making them the toughest hoof on any horse. This was of great value to the Indian horseman, who did not use horseshoes.

The Appaloosa is not typical of the usual idea of an Indian pony, small and wiry, but is a large horse, standing fifteen hands. Evidently the Nez Perces got them from tribes farther south, who stole or traded them in turn from the Spaniards, who had a stable of the spotted horses in Chihuahua in old Mexico.

Modern historians have traced the Appaloosa as a breed back to ancient Persia and China, where they were called "heavenly horses." So it is that the newly-re-discovered warhorse of the upland Indians of our Northwest is really one of the oldest breeds known to man, older than the Arabian.

The Appaloosa is named after the Palouse branch of the Nez Perce tribe, a little group of Indians that has lived along the Pa-



By Frank J. Lahoney

**QUESTION:** I am a nurse and will be 74 years of age in a few days. I receive a social security check of \$78.00 each month. About two years ago, I was offered a case and have been on it all this time. I earn about \$9,000 in a year. I have been told that I am entitled to more social security than I am receiving now. If this is correct, what procedures do I take?

**ANSWER:** Yes, you may be entitled to have the amount of your social security benefit raised. Contact the social security office nearest your home. All social security benefit amounts are based on the worker's average monthly wage. Whenever a beneficiary goes to work and earns yearly amounts that would raise this average, it is possible to file for a recomputation and have the benefit amount raised. However, with the exception of a few cases, it is usually necessary for the beneficiary to earn more than \$1,200 in a year before this recomputation application can be filed.

### Thumb Injured In Saw At Mill

**BIRKENFELD** — Douglas Bellingham had the misfortune to cut his thumb quite badly while at work in the mill at Warrenton. He was running the trim saw. A stick became lodged in the works and when he reached to remove it, the stick moved and threw his hand into the saw. It is hoped that his thumb will be saved. He is in the St. Mary's hospital in Astoria. Friday, his mother, Mrs. Art Bellingham and Jim and Mrs. George Richardson went to see him.

Wm. Bridgers of Vernonia called on the Francis Larsons Wednesday evening. Debra Larson is staying with her grandmother, Mrs. Willard Garlock at Warrenton, assisting her with the household duties while she is recuperating from an injured knee which she received while picking berries. She has a broken bone and her leg is in a cast.

### State Auxiliary President Busy

Mrs. T. M. Hobart, state president for the auxiliary of the Osteopathic Society has been assisting with arrangements for the meeting in Portland of the auxiliary to the American Academy of Osteopathic Surgeons whose national convention extended from Monday through Thursday of this week.

Recently, Dr. and Mrs. Hobart and Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Buell entertained about 30 doctors, their wives and families, for a total of about 70, here for a day of golf, swimming and picnicking. Weather failed to interrupt golf, but rain sprinkles just as the picnic lunch at the golf club was about ready forced them to move it quickly to the Hobart home.

louse river, which flows from the Idaho panhandle into eastern Washington. Sam Fisher, the last of the great Indian horse breeders, died a few years ago at the age of 97. When asked just before his death how the Indians valued their spotted horses, he replied, "One Appaloosa; truck-load other horses."

Necessity is not only mother of invention—it is also the reason a great many people have to do their own odd jobs.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR . . .

Editor,  
The Spotlight,  
Scappoose, Oregon.  
To The Editor:

By both mail and telephone, I have invited Republican Congressman Walter Norblad to debate the major issues of the campaign with

me in the 10 counties of the first district.

The republican Congressman has refused to publicly discuss any issues with me. I feel this is an unfortunate decision on his part. Apparently the Republican National Committee also feels it an unfortunate decision. In their June meeting in Seattle, the National Republican leadership passed a resolution encouraging political debates in the forthcoming campaign.

If the Republican Congressman is proud of his Congressional record and proud of the Party's stand on major issues, he should welcome an opportunity to fully explain them before the voters of the district.

In the interest of a more enlightened electorate, I hope my Republican friend changes his mind and accepts my challenge to debate. If your readers agree that debating issues is a proper and desirable campaign technique, I hope they will take it upon themselves to write Congressman Norblad in Washington, D.C. urging him to do so.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Blaine Whipple  
Democratic Candidate for Congress  
First District

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Visitor: "Which one?"

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## Vernonia Eagle

THURSDAY, AUG. 16, 1962 5

### Fourth Granddaughter Visited by Falconers

**TIMBER ROUTE** — Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Falconer and Mrs. Nell Thacker motored to Hillsboro Sunday to pay a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Falconer's new granddaughter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marlyn Eide. The baby was born at the Tuality hospital Saturday afternoon and weighed in at 8 pounds and 9 ounces. She joins three sisters who are at present being cared for by Mrs. Claude Gibson Jr. on Timber Rt.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Beal over the week end were their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Ridderbush and children from Seattle, Wash. and friends Mr. and Mrs. Reed from Central, Calif.

Mrs. Vera Miller was hostess for a Stanley party last Thursday afternoon. Among those attending were Mrs. Mae Wienecke, Mrs. Buddy Jones and two sons and Mrs. Billy Jenkins and daughter. The demonstrator was Laverne Mastel from Beaverton.

Calling on Mrs. Linwood Reynolds last week were: Mrs. Los Horsley and her sister, Mrs. Woodrow Stanley, Mrs. Lester Shafer, Mrs. Wayne Akers and daughter, Mrs. Lyle Wilkins, Mrs. Keith Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Mark J. Miller and Rev. Wm. Armstrong.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Snyder motored to Portland Monday to visit her sister's family, the Bert Wards, and other relatives from Iowa who were visiting the Wards.

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