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THUNDEREGG CAPITAL

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A Story Of An Owyhee Pioneer Continued From Earlier Issue

In the Feb. 9, 1967 issue, the Journal carried a picture of Mrs. Laura Smith of Adrian, together with a notice of an open house event in celebration of her 91st birthday anniversary.

Then in the March 9 issue there was a story about Mrs. Smith entitled, "Owyhee Pioneer Comes To Oregon In 1884 by Way of Covered Wagon." That item covered the Pinkston family's trip west up to their arrival in Oregon.

This story tells the trials and tribulations faced by the settlers, as well as some history of the Owyhee area.

The long trail to Oregon had ended. Mr. Pinkston was forty and his wife was thirty-four. They had just twenty dollars, no house and no work. Mr. Pinkston went to the willows along the river and cut poles and willow forks. He put the forks in the ground, laid poles across, and covered it over the top and west side with sagebrush and weeds to make a shelter. They had their tent for sleeping. Then he gave his wife some of the money and he set out up Sucker Creek to look for work.

The first place he came to was the Smith place and he worked with young Willie Smith, then seventeen years of age. Mr. Pinkston and everyone else who knew him spoke very highly of Willie Smith.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Pinkston was living alone caring for her little family of three -- Miranda twelve, Laura eight, and Oscar three. The girls would walk up to the Mahaffy place to buy potatoes for one cent a pound. Not knowing if her husband would be back before her money ran out, Mrs. Pinkston began to cut down on the amount of food. Miranda was older and seemed to realize the situation more. Laura couldn't see it and began to complain about not getting enough to eat. She told her mother that she was going to tell her father on her when he came home. Her mother looked at her calmly and said, "You do that." When Mr.

Pinkston came home in three or four weeks, true to her word Laura did tell her father. He sat there for a while thinking. Finally he thought of a fifty dollar watch that had been given to him and which he carried. He told his wife he would pawn that watch to buy lumber for a house, and flour. She hated to have him give up his watch but he said to her, "keep a fifty dollar watch while my children starve?"

In old Middleton was a flour mill run by a man named Foot. Here Mr. Pinkston bought flour and bought enough lumber for a small house. By using peeled willow poles for studding inside the house, he had enough to build a house fourteen by twenty-eight. They battened the cracks with willows and with willows made a bunk bed across the whole end of the bedroom. They filled straw ticks with rye grass and put feather ticks on top of that, to make a bed at each end of the bunk. The bedroom was on the west end and in the east end a fireplace was built. Before the gable ends were in, little Maud was born on September 4, 1884.

There were many hardships yet to go through. Mrs. Pinkston had no wash tub or wash board. She had packed some things in a half bushel with which they measured grain from a threshing machine. It held water so it was used as a tub and she rubbed the clothes between her hands. Ever resourceful, Mrs. Pinkston ripped up a wagon sheet and made dresses for herself, Miranda and Laura, making them by hand and using thread that she ripped from four sacks. She made little Maud a petticoat from a bed blanket. It was coarse, and as the baby rubbed her heels against it, it made great blisters. Her mother would sit and hold the little heels and cry. She lined the petticoat with flour sacks to protect the little feet. Talcum powder wasn't known, so soot was used in its place. If one were fortunate enough to have

enough...flour sacks were used for diapers. For some time, Mrs. Pinkston had no stove. Finally Mr. Pinkston traded his chaps for a second hand stove. These things didn't seem like hardships to the children. Home was a heaven to them, where love reigned. Their parents taught them to read from books and also from the Bible.

In the early fall, Mr. Pinkston went deer hunting. While he was gone, a surprise storm came, dumping three foot of snow on them. Mrs. Pinkston and Miranda put on overalls and went out to scrape snow off the sagebrush to burn. Mrs. Pinkston hung up dried deer hides around the stove to form a little enclosure for the children to huddle in to keep them warm. When Mr. Pinkston came to the brow of the hill he shouted, "Are you all there?" Mrs. Pinkston answered, "All's well." That snow crusted until the horses could walk on it. It settled down to about two feet. Mr. Pinkston cut willows from along the river to burn.

In the Spring, the last of February, the ice on the river began to break up and formed an ice gorge on both the Owyhee and Boise rivers. The water began to back up. Mrs. Pinkston wanted to move out but her husband kept saying "Wait", hoping it would break loose. When it finally looked like they were going to be surrounded, the ice broke loose and went on down the river.

On October 1, 1886, Walter was born, the last of the Pinkston children. About two years later the Pinkstons built a house on the hill and carried water up the hill. They had squatter's rights on the South side of the river and homesteaded on the North side. They moved a small house on their homestead and lived there. Mr. Pinkston bought weather boarding for eighteen dollars a thousand and built a house. They crossed the river in a small skiff used by both them and their neighbors

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Recently installed into office are these women of Emblem club No. 192. They are (front row - 1 to r) Bea Brown, financial secretary; Esther Wulff, recording secretary; Arlene Allison, first assistant marshal; Mary Jensen, marshal; Helen Warrington, junior past president; Evelyn Shaw, president; Annabelle Herndon, first vice president; June Smith, second vice president; Verna Coffinberry, first trustee; Kathleen Schoessler, second trustee; Louise Claybaugh, third trustee. In the back row are Marilyn Ridener, treasurer;

Zena Fritts, first guard; Velma Frazier, press correspondent; Corrine Smit, corresponding secretary; Mary Danilson, historian; Grace Felix, organist; Nellie McDaniels, second assistant marshal; Evelyn Simon, chaplain. Emily Mutch, second guard was not on hand when the photo was taken. The officers were installed by Mrs. Leo Sears, past president and Nyssa Mrs. Jay Bybee, assistant state marshal and past president of the local Emblem club. Photo by Schoen.

Two-Day Junior Rodeo Slated At Vale Arena

It's rodeo time in Vale, Oregon, and to start things off for this season, the Vale Little Britches Rodeo will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21 at the Vale Rodeo Arena. Events for this year's rodeo include: senior boys (ages 14-18), bareback riding, bull riding and calf roping; junior boys (ages 8-13), bareback riding, steer riding and calf roping; senior girls (ages 14-18), barrel racing, pole bending and goat tying; and junior girls

(ages 8-13), barrel racing, pole bending and goat tail tying.

The Vale Little Britches Rodeo is sanctioned by the National Little Britches Rodeo Association. Contestants must participate in three such Little Britches shows to qualify for the national finals.

Prizes for contestants will amount to over \$1,000 and include day prizes of saddle blankets and halters. All round and cowboy prizes for junior and senior boys will be a silver

mounted bit, and for junior and senior girls, silver mounted spurs. A belt buckle will be given to all event winners.

A queen and two princesses will be selected to reign over the big Vale Fourth of July Rodeo and this selection will be made at the Little Britches Rodeo, Saturday, May 20. Judging will start at 10 a.m. in the Vale Rodeo arena, according to Deane Zeller, Rodeo Board Queen Chairman.

The queen and her princesses will be available for publicity appearances in neighboring towns and to participate whenever possible, in rodeo events of the surrounding area.

Juan Ceniga is president and Billy Evans, secretary of the

CARD OF THANKS

I want to thank all of my relatives, friends and neighbors who visited me; sent flowers, cards and letters during my recent illness. I also want to thank Drs. K. E. Kerby and K. A. Danford, as well as the staff of nurses for their care during my stay in Malheur Memorial hospital. I truly appreciate all of the kindnesses shown me.

Edward Brandt.

Vale Rodeo Board. Gail Bateman is rodeo secretary for the Vale Little Britches Rodeo. Entries should be addressed to her at 388 Glenn St., Vale, Oregon or phone 473-2914.

DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMINER

A Drivers License Examiner will be on duty in Nyssa, Friday, May 19 at the City Hall between the hours of 9 a.m., and 2 p.m., according to an announcement received from the Department of Motor Vehicles of Oregon.

Persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license test.

Mrs. Edith Tulleton of Vale visited last week with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kingrey.

THUNDEREGG MALL

1st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SECOND AND MAIN STS. - NYSSA - SAT. MAY 13

RULES

- * Need Not Be Present to Win
- * Age Restricted to 18 Years Or Older.

\$
WIN 500

WORTH
OF
FREE
Merchandise

RULES

- * Drawing May 13th 2 P.M.
- * Winner To Shop Sat., May 20 IN Thunderegg Mall

EMPLOYEES AND OWNERS OF SPONSORING FIRMS NOT ELIGIBLE

Register As Often As You Wish At The Stores Listed

[WE HOPE YOU HAVE FOUND SHOPPING IN DOWN TOWN NYSSA EASIER WITH
THE ONE AND ONE- HALF BLOCK LONG FREE]

Bracken's Dept. Store-Coast-To-Coast-Michael's Pharmacy
Paulus Jewelry- Wilson's Dept. Store - Wilson's Mkt., Inc.
First National Bank[Nyssa]- Nyssa Rexall Pharmacy