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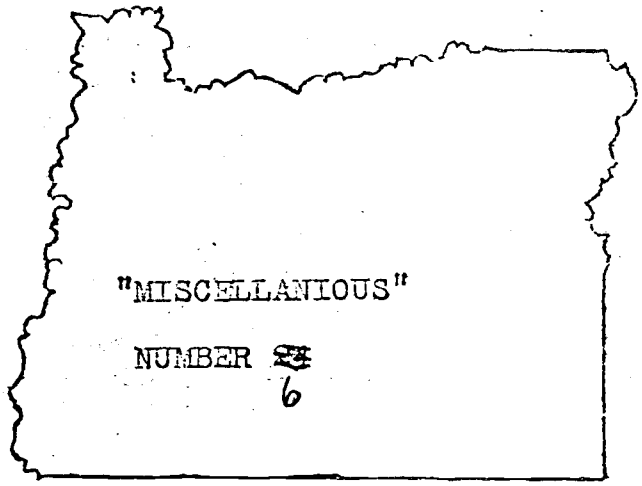

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The items in this bulletin, selected from the material compiled by the Federal Writers' Project and the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration, are representative of the significant collections being made by these nation-wide programs.

The Historical Records Survey is inventorying all sources of early Oregon history, including county and state records, church archives, historic cemeteries, old manuscripts and imprints, old printing presses, monuments and relics, private diaries, letters, and memoirs, historic buildings, and Indian records and lore.

The chief undertaking of the Federal Writers' Project has been the American Guide Series of books. In Oregon as in all other states the work includes the state Guide, designed to acquaint Americans with America and to present to the visitor the history, industry, recreational advantages and scenic attractions of the state. The Oregon Guide, now in the final stages of editing will soon be added to the list of those already published which includes Idaho: A Guide in Word and Picture; Maine: A Guide "Down East"; Massachusetts: A Guide to its Places and People; New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State; Washington: City and Capital; Philadelphia: A Guide to the Birthplace of a Nation.

A poem by Joaquin Miller which does not appear, so far as is known, in any book of his verse, was found in a copy of The City Journal of Canyon City dated July 26, 1869.

The poem bears the signature of C. H. Miller, the real name of the author. Joaquin was a nom de plume.

"From Benoni

Two little girls, with brown feet bare,
And tangled, tossing, yellow hair,
Played on a long, thick coat of green
Around a great Newfoundland brute,
And with his red mouth opened wide,
Would make believe that he would bite,
As they assailed him left and right,
And then sprang to the other side,
And filled with shouts the willing air.
Oh sweeter far than lyre or lute
To my then parched and thirsty heart,
Were those sweet voices calling there.
Tho' some sweet scenes my life has seen--
Some melody my soul has heard--
No song of nymph, or maid, or bird,
Or gorgeous, melting, tropic scene,
Has imprisoned soul so stirred,
Or thrilled my every part--
Or filled me with such sweet delight,
As those young angels sporting there."

An undelivered letter, written eighty years ago, was recently placed in the hands of the rightful owner. It was part of the collection inherited by Mrs. Carl Engstrom of Dayton, from her grandfather, General Joel Palmer. The writing had become almost illegible. Mrs. Engstrom believed that the man to whom it had been addressed by the writer, who signed herself "Olive", had been killed by the Indians and therefore General Palmer had been unable to deliver it.

The letter made mention of the "darling babies" and "Martin" and "Ellen". Mrs. Beulah Hurst, field worker for the Federal Writers' Project, recalled that Ellen Chamberlain was an early day Oregon teacher and later learned that before Philip Sheridan left Fort Yamhill, he had presented Martin Chamberlain with an army chest. Since these names corresponded, Miss Chamberlain, who now lives at Salem, was questioned concerning her parents. She identified "Olive" as her mother, Olive Chamberlain, and determined that the letter had been written to her father, who came to Oregon in the early 1850's. He served with General Palmer in southern Oregon in 1855 at the battle of Big Meadows. In 1856 he returned to Michigan to get his family, and evidently missed the letter en route.

Upon his return to Oregon with his family he became a teacher at the first mission school at Grand Ronde. In 1859 he appeared before President Buchanan and his cabinet to make suggestions which were later carried out by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

His daughter, Miss Ellen Chamberlain, is still bright and active. She was one of Oregon's early day educators, having taught at The Dalles, and for many years was associated with Willamette University and the University of Washington.

Miss Chamberlain recalled that an old album containing a picture of herself and two sisters was taken from the cornerstone of the old state capitol building, where it had been placed by her brother, Martin.

As the result of a wager in early day Linkville, later renamed Klamath Falls, a rusty iron stove was dumped into Link river and one of the contestants departed from the scene five dollars richer. The account of the incident appeared in the Ashland Tidings, December 9, 1881.

"A most ludicrous incident occurred at Linkville some time ago, as reported to us it seems too amusing to keep. One citizen of the place sold another a cook stove, but had not been paid for it. They met in a saloon, one or both of them somewhat 'corned'. 1st Cit. says: 'When are you going to pay me for that cook stove?'

2nd Cit.: 'The ---- old stove is not worth paying for, and I'll never give you a cent; its all burnt up and cracked.'

1st Cit.: 'Well, I'll have the money or the stove.'

2nd Cit.: 'No you won't either. You cheated me with the old iron, and before I'll let you have it, I'll heave it into link river.'

1st Cit.: 'I'll bet you five dollars you don't dare do it.'

2nd Cit.: 'I've got no cash, but here's a five dollar hat and I'll put

this up against five dollars that I dare do it.'

1st Cit.: 'Done.'

The stakes were put up. And the hatless man hitched up his team, drove to his house, put out the fire in the stove, loaded it into the wagon, drove to the bridge, and in the presence of a large number of amused spectators picked up the stove in his arms (he is a large strong man) and heaved it over into the turgid waters of Link river. This is a fact."

A five and ten cent store would have had a struggle for existence in Astoria during the eighties, according to this item published in the Weekly Astorian of January 18, 1884:

"There is a present scarcity of small change. Ten and twenty dollar pieces are plenty enough but silver is scarce. Nothing so disconcerts a sensitive man as to be obliged to fumble over a handful of gold, trying to find a ten cent or two bit piece."

In the first football game OSC ever played at Corvallis, November 1893, they won 62 - 0 over Albany College, according to a news story in the Corvallis Gazette of November 17, 1893.

The scoring was different in those days, and OSC had to make 13 touchdowns to pile up their score. A touchdown was good for only 4 points, but a goal kick was worth 2 points.

At the beginning of the second half, three Albany players were unable to go on and three OSC subs were loaned. At the request of Albany, the second half was shortened to 10 minutes, which cut the actual playing time to forty minutes.

The news clipping and a photograph of the team was found in a file in a basement closet of the publications department of the college at Corvallis.

The Oregon Statesman of Salem, in the issue for March 30, 1852, complained bitterly in describing a "shocking new dance called the waltz". Despite the disapproval of certain elements, dancing continued. Formally worded invitations have been found reading: "The pleasure of your company is respectfully solicited to attend a Cotillion Party at the Metropolis Hotel, Friday, December 25, 1857." The cost of tickets for this Portland function was not recorded, but that for a similar party held in Canyon City at Christmas time during the gold rush was $7.50.

A ball was described in the Oregon City Spectator dated February 19, 1846:

"Captain Baillie and the gun room officers of H.B.M.S. Modeste, entertain a numerous circle at a ball there upon Wednesday evening. There was a brilliant assemblage of the 'fair sex' of Oregon; and although in the far west, y from the gay display that night, we are proud to state that the infant colony c boast of as pretty faces and handsome 'figures' as the mother country. Dancing commenced at 8 o'clock and it was pleasing to see 'tripping on the light fantastic toe' kept up with such spirit The dresses of the ladies was a theme c universal admiration, combining neatnes elegance and ease.

"Reels, country dances, figures eight, and jigs was the order of the evening; and if we do not yet come to that fashionable dance, the Polka, stil we live in hopes of seeing it soon intr duced at our own balls, a gentleman wh knows and dances it well, and who late visited the Falantine Plains, having volunteered to instruct the Oregonian beauties in its intricacies."

The Times-Mountaineer in describin a Fourth of July celebration at Canyon City in the 1860's reported that when John C. Luce arose to read the Declaration of Independence in a "rich, dark brown voice" he read almost half the Co stitution of the United States before the Honorable W. Lair Hill pulled the tail of his coat and found the right page for him.

The most amazing incident, howeve was reported by the Times-Mountaineer September 27, 1893: "Up on Meacham Creek a 15 year old boy stopped a passe ger train to get a chew of tobacco and was considerably aggravated because he secured none. 'Got any tebacker?' he inquired. Receiving a negative reply from the astounded newsboy he left the car in disgust, and disappeared in the

darkness with a parting shot that it must be a 'hell of a train that had no tebacker on board.'"

The Prineville News carried this tidbit: "Gentlemen, when you spit at the stove in our Office please do not make a target of the stew pan of dried apricots that are cooking on the top of it. The liquid extract of the fruit that feeds this paper and of your narcotic lunch are first cousins in color, but they don't fuse at all in the matter of taste. Please spit in the cuspidor; it was formerly a water bucket, and most likely will hold it all."

The Heppner Gazette issued an ultimatum January 22, 1894: "Hereafter boys will not be allowed to smoke cigarettes and chew tobacco and spit on the floor in the churches here."

A sawmill at Empire, on Coos Bay, was kept in running order for more than forty years, yet never turned out a day's work during that period.

The mill was first owned by Robert Moore in 1854, sold to H. H. Luse in 1855, then sold to the Southern Oregon Improvement Company in 1883. This concern, a Boston corporation, rebuilt the mill, using white cedar, an especially wear-resisting wood native to Coos county, and began operations. Subsequently the mill closed. The owners kept it in running order, however, and some of its employees oiled and greased the machinery in readiness for cutting. Forty years passed. Some of those engaged in maintenance died. Then the Empire mill whistle sounded again. The wheels turned, the saws buzzed again. The mill itself, made of Port Orford or white cedar, was as sound as the day it was built. At present with a few minor interior improvements it operates steadily, cutting 150,000 feet of lumber daily.

Few people know that Congress once appropriated $1,000,000 for a mint in Oregon, that the mint was constructed at The Dalles in 1868 but never coined a dime.

The building, made of native sandstone, was equipped to take care of the heavy output of the mines in Idaho and the John Day country. At one time the annual output of these mines was estimated at twelve million dollars.

When the mint was built, a superintendent and a disbursing officer were named. These were empty titles. The placer mines were exhausted and the mint building became a wheat warehouse. Today the old sandstone building is used for a boiler room by a flouring mill company.

Incidents relative to the former use of gold seem strange at present when gold is not available for similar purposes. In 1849 when the contract was let for the construction of the first Marion county courthouse, it was discovered that Marion county had no seal to affix upon the document. Not at all dismayed the officers and contractor in the deal took a twenty dollar gold piece, made its impression upon a piece of paper, cut out the impression and affixed it to the contract.

Captain James D. Miller, early navigator on the Yamhill river, reported that he paid his Indian canoe men sixteen dollars for each round trip from Canemah to Lafayette, but that the natives refused to accept gold dust as pay, believing it of no value.

When the Clackamas county courthouse was razed in 1935, two faded copies of the Indian Citizen, published in 1884 by the Indian School at Forest Grove, were found in the corner-stone.

The editors were "Kalama and Lear". The paper was issued monthly, subscription 50 cents a year. An editorial on the school follows in part:

"Our school is the only large school west of the Rocky Mountains....Some of the children work hard, some do not. So we see plainly that God never made a mistake when He created the Indian. Of one blood He created us all alike. So much we ought to be thankful to God for giving us what we need. Let us all try and do the very best we know to make our school a successful school.....Great many white people say 'The Indian must go dorm in the end'. Let us show ourselves worthy of using the priveledges that we now have.....Although the way seems dark to us sometimes but press forward the bright side is coming if our trust is in God. So God be our shield and guide in this School."