FORT KLAMATH

Fort Klamath history is the theme of this issue of the TRUMPETER. It is our hope that most of you will make an effort to visit the little museum and see the gazebo which has been constructed in the likeness of the one used in the early days of Fort Klamath. Patsy McMillan would love it if everyone brought their picnic lunch and stayed for the dedication of the gazebo at 2 pm, July 5, 1986.

The following information is from FORT KLAMATH - Frontier Post in Oregon 1863 - 1890...by Buena Cobb Stone.

Fort Klamath was established in 1863. The need for a military establishment in the area was unquestioned, but the location in the Wood River Valley was opposed by a number of people for various reasons, many of which were purely selfish ones. It was too far from the Southern Route to furnish help to immigrants and too far from the turbulent Modoc Indians (and others too).

The Fort was to be manned by a volunteer cavalry and it was difficult to recruit men willing to suffer the many hardships and dangers the area and times afforded. They were often required to lay down their arms to clear roads for the immigrant trains they escorted, as-well-as to pursue renegades who preyed on settlers. With the opening of new gold mines in Idaho there was plenty of work at fair wages so the inducement to enlist in the cavalry was small. Most who did so were inspired by patriotic duty and it is
reported that they had a far better record of performance of duties than most of the army regular regiments. Making enlistment even less attractive was the repeal by Congressional Act of 1861 repealing the forty cents per day for horse forage.

More than any other site considered, the Wood River Valley had plenty of lush grass for the livestock, multiple creeks of good water, a bountiful supply of lumber for buildings and fuel. It was near several trails—the Nez Perce, the Rogue Valley to eastern Oregon mines and the new Oregon Central Military Road.

Following is a copy of the recruiting poster that was issued during this time.

CAVALRY! CAVALRY!

RALLY VOLUNTEERS!

To the United States Service for Frontier Protection.

Term of service 3 years unless sooner discharged.

Each man will be required to furnish his own horse and horse equipment. The total amount of pay per month for man and horse will be——

1st Sgt. $39.
Other Sgts. $36.
Corporals $33.
Blacksmiths and farriers $34.
Buglers $32.
Privates $31.

Clothing and arms furnished the men same as in the regular army, and $100. bounty at the expiration of service.

AN ENROLLING OFFICE for enlistment of volunteers has been opened at Jacksonville and other offices will be established at points in Josephine and Douglas counties as soon as practicable.

R.F. MAURY
Lt. Col. O.C.R.

Jacksonville, November 21, 1861.
Most enlistees were sober young fellows from the farms of Oregon who came in singing this ditty:

I'm a raw recruit with a brand new suit,
One hundred dollars bounty,
And I've just come down to Ashland town,
To fight for Jackson County.

The First Oregon Cavalry patrolled the overland trail, and served as scouts and escorts. They covered thousands of miles. Besides the exceptional hardships they endured, the cavalrymen suffered by the repeal of the Act of 1861 by Congress which had allowed forty cents per day for horse forage.

One of the most serious incidents at Fort Klamath was brought about in November 1865 by poor rations and rationed bread for these hard working young men. Garrison supplies were "dessicated potatoes" resembling cornmeal; "mixed vegetables" which came in squares two inches thick, resembling leaf tobacco and packed in five gallon cans. A four inch square would swell to fill a five gallon kettle, when the cabbage, turnip and pumpkin vines became clearly visible. This was sometimes mixed with "sow-belly" to make soup which the men dubbed "nitro glycerin soup".

Many of the young men spent half their wages for dry bread. There were no commissionary purchases and the sutter carried only whiskey, cards and tobacco; no fruit or vegetables. The men could buy bread for twelve and a half cents per pound.

In 1890 two men from Poe Valley enlisted in B Company of Oregon National Guard Cavalry at Fort Klamath. Frank and C.H. Kester were among the names of the more than a few men whose names are linked in the development of Klamath County. Following is Glenn Kester's account of their family's coming to this area and his father and Uncle Frank's membership in the cavalry at Fort Klamath.

-------Madge Walker-------

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THE KESTERS
from PIONEER HISTORY WEEK, AUGUST 1985, by GLENN KESTER

My grandad, Levi Kester, came to California in 1853 from Buffalo, New York. He made two trips across the Isthmus of Panama by mule. He went back the third time to Buffalo, N.Y., and married Edith Willett.

On their return to the west, they came by boat around the "Horn" to San Francisco, and settled in the Napa Valley, where he and his partner, McNicklas had a business as manufacturers and dealers in syrups, cordials and bitters, on Front Street near Broadway in San Francisco.

My father was born in Napa. In my early years, I was fortunate to see the house he was born in. They then moved to Oakland, California where my Uncle Frank and Aunt Emma were born; five others were deceased (died in infancy). They later moved to Red Bluff and Vina where he, Levi and brother John, farmed the Stanford Ranch for around twelve years in the late 60's and 70's. Stanford was the Governor of California at the time. The farming was done with mules and the laborers were mostly Chinese.

In 1883 my grandfather and father went north to Washington looking for new land to farm and raise stock. They went through Poe Valley on their way up and on their way back decided to make their home in this part of Oregon. My grandfather spent two winters here before moving the rest of the family. They built their home, which still stands, also the large barn, which is close to 100 years old.

My father married Myrtle Butin. The Butins came to California from Iowa, where my mother was born in Galesberg. In 1870 they came to Oregon with their five children and settled in Poe Valley on the place Willie Rajnus now owns.

There were five children in our family; twins, Earl and Ellis, born February 14, 1894. Ellis passed away in 1906, Earl in 1977. Anita, my sister and also Ramona, my other sister, are very much alive and enjoying life with frequent trips to Reno.

My folks went to California in the fall of 1907. While there I was born in the Napa Valley. In the spring they returned home to
the ranch with me, the new addition.

My father passed away in 1922 and my mother passed away in 1952.

I have lived in Poe Valley most of my life except three years (I spent) in Klamath Falls. My wife, Ruby, and I were married in 1939 and bought a place in lower Poe Valley, where we raised three sons.

Several years ago we sold our ranch and settled on part of my grandfather's original place—forty-acres.

Uncle Frank lived in Poe Valley on the forty acres where we now reside, in the cabin that his father lived in the two winters before the family came. He was born in 1870 and passed away in 1953. We still have the cabin and I'm sure many of you have seen it.

In 1890 my Uncle Frank and father were in the calvary and stationed at Fort Klamath. My wife and I have donated to the museum, discharge papers and a picture of each, also the bugle and an old pair of bars that was out of the jail where Captain Jack was held. There is also a little book that shows all the names that were in the Troup B Cavalry and a picture of the last surviving ones of Troop B. (They were John Uerlings, Early Arant and Frank Kester.)

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Why do we use "posthaste" to mean as fast as possible?

Because back in the days when all travel was by horse, traveling by post—that is, by public coach—was faster than traveling by private carriage. The owner of a private vehicle had to stop to rest his horses, but "post horses" were used in relays and the coach kept rolling.

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The beauty of the old-fashioned blacksmith was that when you brought him your horse to be shod he didn't think of 40 other things that ought to be done to it.

(Quote from Reader's Digest.)
MEMORIES OF FORT KLAMATH

When I was a child and the snows were deep, my father, Charles A. Smith, worked for the State Highway Department. One winter he was stationed at Fort Klamath to keep the highway between there and the top of Sun Mountain plowed, out.

In those days the Snow Plows were a little different. The carbon monoxide from the exhaust filled his cab on several occasions but just before passing out he always managed to open the door and drop out into the snow banks. That very fresh air and the snow soon revived him and he was able to climb back into the cab, drink a little coffee and continue his midnight journey.

Dad boarded and roomed at the old Fort Klamath Hotel. Mother and I drove up to visit one Saturday and stayed over for the "big dance". It was held in the lobby and the music was supplied by a fiddler or two and a banjo as I remember. The music was lively and the couples danced into the early morning hours. Refreshments were served before people departed for a bit of sleep before dawn. I managed to evade the sandman until time to climb the stairs to our room for the night.

The next morning a real old time breakfast was served in the dining room after which we drove around the Wood River Valley before returning to Klamath Falls, leaving Dad behind to continue his job.

-----Mae L. Smith-Smith

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SETTLING OREGON TERRITORY

From the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast the emigrants coming to the Oregon Territory either to explore, trap or later to receive free land had to traverse two thousand miles of desert, mountains and plains.

The first real settlement of Oregon started in the late 1830's. Before that trappers, missionaries and explorers came but most
moved on.

The Hudson Bay Company of the British Empire with many French Canadians had trappers such as McLeod, Ogden and others leading companies who trapped the rivers. They of course did a lot of exploring because the British planned to add the area to their holdings.

As word filtered back to the States of the many opportunities in the Oregon Territory, people who felt the east was becoming too crowded headed west. In 1839 small parties began to arrive. Even men alone came and stayed. In 1840 and 1841 the parties were still small but in 1842 the emigration numbered 111. The settling of Oregon had begun in earnest. In 1843 the emigration increased to 800 persons coming principally by ox drawn covered wagons bringing with them approximately 1,500 head of cattle. In 1844 about the same number as 1843 arrived in Oregon. In 1845 the westward movement to Oregon increased to nearly 3,000. These brought with them two or three thousand head of cattle. Most of the very early emigrants went to the Whitman Mission then made their way down the Columbia River. Later they went to The Dalles where a Methodist Mission had been established. From there they floated down the river on rafts which they built and with their possessions piled on them. Men of the party drove the cattle over the mountains. In 1846 the Barlow Trail was opened about the same time that the Applegate Trail was opened in southern Oregon, giving later emigrants a choice of routes.

In 1846 many people arrived and from then on each year the numbers increased for several years. One writer said these came mostly from the Western States meaning those bordering the Missouri River. He further stated that some came from the Eastern States and even Maine. This seemed to be a source of amazement to Missionary, Gustavus Hines the author of "Wild Life In Oregon".

The population in Oregon in 1846, including the Hudson Bay people, was said to be about 12,000 souls. From this humble beginning the area grew over the years to the flourishing State of Oregon.

Many of the first people in the early and middle 1830's were Missionaries. They braved the elements and hostile Indians to
preach the Gospel and bring Christianity to the people they considered to be "Savage Heathens". The Missionaire's life was a hard one. Fording and swimming rivers, sleeping on the ground and in the rain with no cover and going without food were some of the hardships they endured.

Ships brought provision from the east around the Horn and many were lost in storms. It seems the main route was to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and then the west coast. In returning to the east coast the fare for a family was $150. to the Sandwich Islands and $520. from there to the east coast.

A party made of Gustavus and Mrs. Hines and two others weighed anchor in the Columbia River near Portland on September 8, 1845 and arrived in Hong Kong Bay in China on November 18, 1845 where they stayed a few days. After leaving China the ship visited along the coast and several Islands. The morning of February 3, 1845 they weighed anchor off the coast of Sumatra and were soon out of sight of land. They stopped at Cape Town for a look at the city and the surrounding area. Leaving there it took 26 days to the equinoctial line. April 25, 1846 they had a fine view of a solar eclipse. May 4, 1846 they reached New York after a long journey of eight months with many stops along the way where Gustavus Hines preached sermons.

Gustavus Hines did not reveal the year that his book "Wild Life In Oregon" was published but it was probably in the 1850's or '60's. He did a great service in leaving a detailed description of those early days in Oregon.

Researched and written by Helen Helfrich.

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KLAMATH RECORD---July 2, 1921
KLAMATH FALLS EVENING TRIPS

It's many an evening the tired business man can forget his troubles at the wheel of his favorite car. The man living in Klamath Falls is especially fortunate in being able to take many
little drives on good roads. The scenery is elegant--the air is cool. Let's go!!

OLENE: Pass down Main Street and turn south on Sixth following Sixth until the first railroad track is passed. Slow down your car to an idle for the roughest road in Klamath Falls lies between the Union Oil Co. and the Standard Oil Co. on Sixth.

Pass down Sixth and continue on your way to the end of the pavement; pass Judge Bunnel's beautiful country home. Pass the farm experimental station and straight ahead over the Altamont Bridge (temporarily closed for repairs) continue on this new highway for 3 miles. You now approach a fork. Take the road to the left and 3 more miles will find you in Olene. The river straight ahead is Lost River.

If you wish, turn to the right at the cross roads and go straight (follow on) for several miles, returning via the same route. This road is now in excellent condition.

ALGOMA: Turn north at 8th Street from Main and change over to 9th and out 9th following the pavement until The Viking Store is past.

Turn to the right at the first fork and continue on this highway. The first yard is Pelican Bay lumber and Box. Further ahead is the Klamath Pine Manufacturing Co.

Continue on the highway for 7 more miles. The road is good for 3 more. Return the same route.

Let's all stay in Klamath and dig into this July 4th celebration.

If we have to go somewhere--let's go to Bly or Ft. Klamath. Independence Day....should bring thrills up the spine of every red-blooded American. And say--as the flag goes by--take off your hat and hold it over your hear. Don't blow your horn. The flag can't hear it!!!
1909.....EVENING HERALD.....July 7, 1909
Headlines...HOW BEST TO GET TO THE FAIRGROUND

The city council was dealing with the problem of how to encourage townspeople to travel out to the Fair at Fair Time. Quote by one..."If they have to drive, they won't go to the fair".

Another question raised..."If they take the steamer Klamath to the Upper Lake, what will be used to get the people back and forth to the fair grounds?"

Suggestion..."Make a dike...using Adam's dredge...between the city and the fair grounds and form a type of boulevard this way".

......"Make it a beautiful drive."
(At that time the Fairground was near Kesterson Mill site.)

1909..R.A.Good....lists of "firsts"
The first road maintenance outfit purchased was in this year.
(no details given)

---researched by Janis Kafaton---

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Ideas are funny little things. They won't work unless you do.
(Quote from Reader's Digest)
THE BALDWIN HOTEL MUSEUM
75th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Plans began to form in August 1985 for the celebration. In January '86 the dates were finalized, orders placed for printed balloons, publicity arranged, volunteers scheduled, cakes promised, punch ordered and a whole total of 300 plates and forks purchased. Then the house-cleaning began in order to prepare the Baldwin for the guests. The best table cloths and silver were laid out.

The first day of the party arrived... Friday 11 April 1986. The sun shone early but later we had all kinds of weather.

We had no idea how many guests would come although 700 invitations had been sent. The cakes arrived as planned. The Baldwin Hotel Birthday Cake, a replica of the hotel, decorated by Deborah Runnels, Helen Helfrich's grand-daughter-in-law, was in place on the main table in the cafe. The tour guides were dressed in their long turn-of-the-century dresses and all others were dressed appropriately for the occasion.

Before 11 o'clock people started arriving. The doors were unlocked and the guests were invited to sign the register. In no time at all a group larger than usual had gathered for the first tour. More came and while waiting their turn, looked at the books concerning the Baldwin family and the old Hotel. Many enjoyed reading the "House Rules". Others looked at the picture albums. Dorothy Anderson was a great attraction as she showed the guests how to spin yarn from wool with her spinning wheel.

Photos of the interior of the Hotel Museum had been run on the copy machine. The cover shows the outside of the Hotel and says "75th Birthday Baldwin Hotel... 31 Main, Klamath Fall" and below that an insert saying "Thank you for attending and for your support. April 11, 12, 1986". The sheets were put into booklet form and tied with yarn woven by Dorothy Anderson. Many wanted a booklet as a souvenir of the event so they sold quickly and more had to be made up.

Vic Murdock had made frames from some of the old, unused wood from inside the Baldwin and Vera had framed samples of the old lace curtains on blue or rose backgrounds. They are beautiful
relics of the past.

Bob Elliott was in charge of filling the specially marked balloons with helium, to give to the children as they were leaving after their tour.

The tours were constant and by the end of the first day, 302 had signed the register. We know there were quite a few who went on tour first intending to sign when they came back downstairs but then forgot to do so.

When the day ended it was discovered we were out of plates, forks, cakes and coffee. More were purchased and that night 12 more cakes were baked and frosted to be brought in for the next day.

On Saturday the weather turned cold with many snow squalls and yet the people came. Mart and Vera Jones, previous owners, joined us for awhile to greet and visit with old and new friends.

Some Brownie Scouts came to help greet the guests and direct them to the desk to sign the guest register. Bob Elliott's grandson, Casey, a scout, came to assist with filling the balloons. Bill Kafton and Oscar Anderson also helped with the balloons as well as numerous other things. All this while Red Smith was doing his famous balancing act with the cake trays while helping with the serving. The ladies in the kitchen cutting cake, seeing that coffee and tea were made and all the numerous other things were unseen by the guests but they were certainly doing their part.

Because of the noise level in the lobby on Friday it was decided to station the tour guides at different points along the route to tell the visitors about that particular area and answer questions instead of touring the visitors in groups.

We were very grateful to those Friends of the Museum and members of the Historical Society who came to assist us on Saturday. There was a constant stream of people coming and going, asking questions and enjoying themselves. 462 registered that day.

Before the doors were closed the tour guides had almost lost their voices. Everyone was ready to sit down and put their feet up when the last of the guests departed. By then there was nothing left of the refreshments but some coffee. Quite a few people wanted to come in after the doors were locked but we were
ready to go home and call the Birthday celebration a success.

-------Mae L. Smith-------

Baldwin Hotel Birthday Cake
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