

01-Corvallis Historic publications 1962 Winter

by Bill (from Harland Pratt collection)

Ray Babb
113 Whiteside Dr
Corvallis Ore

COLLECTOR'S ITEM

You will want to save your copies of "Corvallis," for in it you will find the most complete record, old and new, of this city and county. The anatomy of a hometown where you live or through which you are passing. Pictures galore, and we need more! Do you have a story to tell? What's in your attic, neighbor?

Do you remember? —

J. R. N. Bell
"Jake" Bloomberg
William Jasper Kerr
"Fatty" Knox
The year the Willamette froze over.
Tom Graham
"Jackie" Horner
And, incidentally, who are you?

Read the "Corvallis" magazine and you will better appreciate this town and the republic that is America.

"Corvallis"

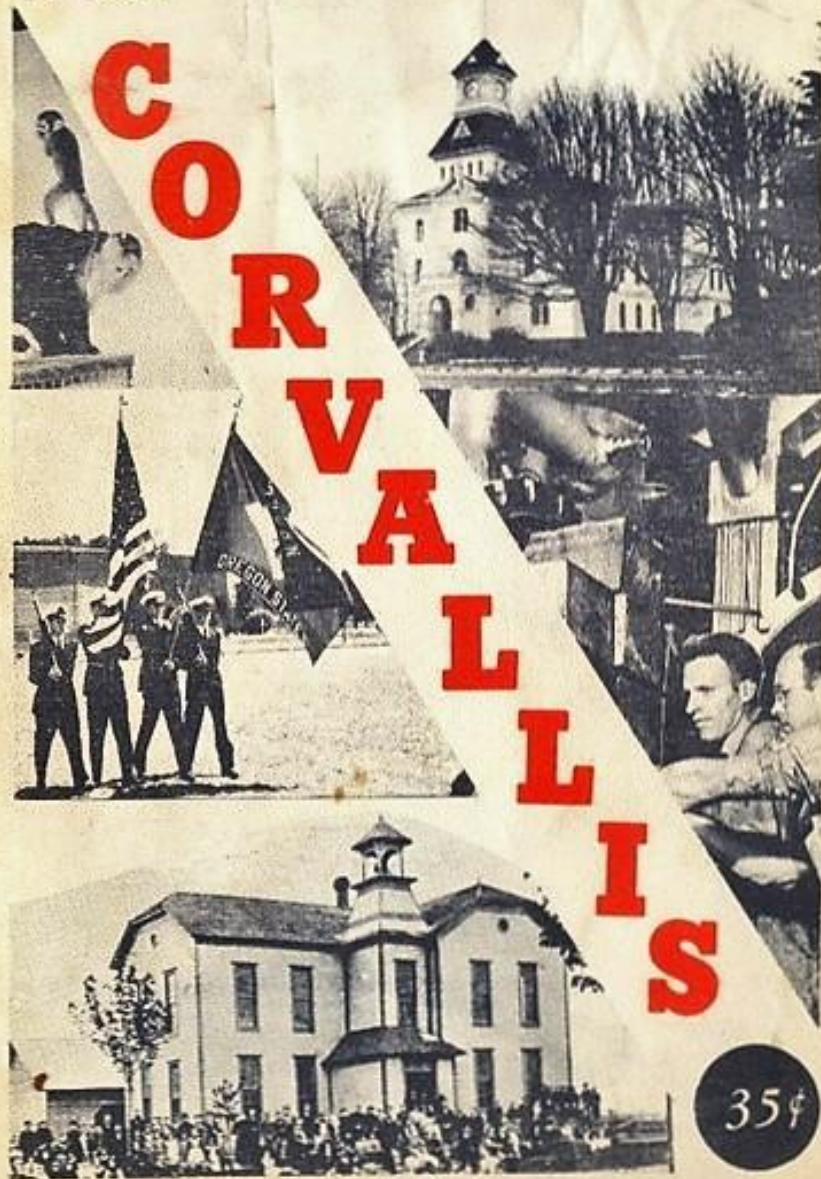
P. O. Box 122
CORVALLIS, OREGON



An American Town Named

SAMPLE COPY

No. 1 Winter 1962





MARK O. HATFIELD
Governor

WITH THIS EDITION, as we change our name from "Northwest Challenge" to "Corvallis," we salute our Governor, Mark O. Hatfield.

During the several years of our publication, we have received splendid cooperation from all of the various state departments which we have asked for advice and assistance.

Our many readers in other states will recall that it was Governor Hatfield who was chosen to nominate Richard Nixon for president and that he made it one of the shortest and snappiest nominating speeches ever.

We hope that "Corvallis" will always be a credit to Oregon and to the town that is our namesake.

Corvallis, Oregon, has a "sister city," Antofagasta, Chile. We send our greetings and well-wishes to the Mayor and people of Antofagasta!

"Corvallis"

Volume I Winter, 1962 Number 1

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MEMBER

Benton County Pioneer-Historical Society
Oregon Historical Society

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WANTED - Short articles, old photos, drawings and other appropriate material. No payment except in extra copies.

Acknowledgments - p. 4, photo of 2nd St., 1903, loaned by Helen Gilkey; p. 20, poem by Anne Mousse reprinted from Gazette-Times; p. 7, photo of football squad loaned by Earl Harris.



"Corvallis" printing plant

NOTICE TO READERS

We would like to hear from you. Corrections, additions, criticism, and suggestions will be welcomed. However, please do not expect a quick reply, because for lack of time our personal correspondence often is delayed. In next issue we shall include a page for "Letters From Our Readers."

Looking Forward

with TOM WILSON

TO STUDY the entire universe scientists now look into the smallest atoms. Where chemistry once was the touchstone to knowledge of matter, now it is particle physics that enables us to communicate with and to manipulate the secrets of nature.

Similarly to know intimately a town such as Corvallis is also to know about towns and cities everywhere. For people are about the same everywhere. Some are rich and happy, others sane or confused, black, yellow, or white, industrious or lazy, and so forth.

The fact is, considering the physical density of matter, people are practically a vacuum—just a cloud of electric sparks in a stream of nucleoplasm, which is the substance that prevents us from being born cockroaches or angleworms. People are the means that germ cells use to create more germ cells.

But on the way, something called "spirit" oozes out of man's vacuum-filled hide to manifest itself in towns such as this one.

So that's what this is all about—a little publication to reveal the germ, the maturity, and the spirit of an American town called Corvallis. ☞



Drawing by Baz Ingalls, Newport, Oregon



Second Street looking south from Monroe, about 1871-73. The tall, square building in center at left was the old Occidental hotel. The Corvallis hotel is now located on that corner.



This photograph was made about 1903 looking south from the same place as the picture shown above. Julian hotel is at left. This is the location of the present State hotel. The street was lighted with carbon arcs.



Second Street, about 1907, looking north from the old water tower which was located southeast of the present postoffice building. Steamboat landing was at foot of Jefferson Street, shown in foreground.



Second Street, Christmas 1961, looking north from Jefferson. Second still has more businesses than any other street in town.

Corvallis Politics

THE ONLY law-making bodies in Oregon are the legislature and the various city councils. The people themselves can make laws through the Initiative and Referendum process, which was first established in Oregon but which many consider to be an unwise law because it could conceivably result in a kind of "mob rule."

As far as our individual lives are concerned, the city council is the most important law-making body in the world. Your councilman can help you to live in tranquility or can dig up your street, tear down your house, cause you to pay more taxes, put your dog in jail, or force you out of business. Do you know who your councilman is?

Elected Corvallis city officers:

Mayor: Gordon Harris.

Councilmen: Cecil Barker, Floyd DuBois, Robert Blackledge, Grant Pyatt, Glen Holcomb, C. P. Irvine, Ken McGregor, Robert Nelson, C. W. Ralls.

City Manager, appointed by the council, is John F. Porter.

Your county officials administer our state laws. Head man is the county judge, Emile E. Larkin. He has been in the courthouse 31 years, having been previously in the surveyor's office and in the assessor's office.



Corvallis City Hall

State Representative State Senator



HOYT, C. E.—E
Dist. 11—Benton
h. Portland, Oregon 1/1907
1959
Drycleaning

INGLER, FRANCIS W.—E
Dist. 13—Benton
h. Moore, Nebraska 3/1899
1949/1951/1952/
1955/1957/1959
Auto-Land Creamery



Old Episcopal church building at Seventh and Jefferson streets.

CORVALLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOTBALL SQUAD, 1908



1. Roy Bier, Coach. 2. Gay (Zip) Creson. 3. Harry Sprague.
4. Ralph Morgan. 5. Earl Harris. 6. Clyde Starr. 7. Simon Kehl.
8. Ralph Fegley. 9. Kenneth Colbert. 10. Alex Hayes.
11. Ferd Cate. 12. Wilbur Birrell. 13. Emmons Knox.



Third Street, 1961, looking north from Adams Street.

The Benton County Pioneer-Historical Society

STARTED in the fall of 1951 as a non-profit organization, the Benton County Pioneer-Historical Society was incorporated as such six years later. 1957 was a jubilee year and the group had a float in the parade at the Centennial celebration.

Collecting material of historical value and taking care of it, providing instructive programs, gathering and disseminating historical information, conducting investigation and research in this field and related history, supervising tours to places of early-day lore and encouraging others to do so are among the major interests of the association.

One result of this work to date is shown in its exhibit in the Horner museum at OSU in which are seen pictures of and books from Corvallis college, old newspapers including the "Philomath Crucible," 1879, utensils that came across the plains, remnants of the first telegraph line from Portland to Corvallis, 1856, and various other things of equal age and interest. More items from the early days would be gladly received as gifts.

At present a dollar a year would admit to membership anyone interested in the history of Benton county. Open to the public, regular meetings are held on the first Monday in November, February and May. Additional ones and picnics assemble at the call of the president. Mrs. Aura Roscoe is membership secretary.



Succeeding A. K. Berman as president is C. R. "Dick" Hoyt. Among the others who have been president of the society are Edgar A. Blake, deceased, Virgil Avery, Mrs. R. M. Peffer, Mrs. Bessie Murphy, and Miss Lena Belle Tartar. Among the vice-presidents before the incumbent, Mrs. H. N. Whitelaw, were Mrs. H. L. Mack, Clyde E. Starr, and Rev. Frank Jasper. Mrs. Harriet L. Moore, secretary, was preceded in that office by Mrs. Gladys Schloeman, Mrs. Grace Cooper, Katherine Hughes (Osborn), and Bertha King. As treasurer Arthur K. Berman follows the late Wm. A. Baker, and Harold Woodcock. Claude Buchanan, deceased, the first registered agent or legal representative of the society, was succeeded by John E. Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

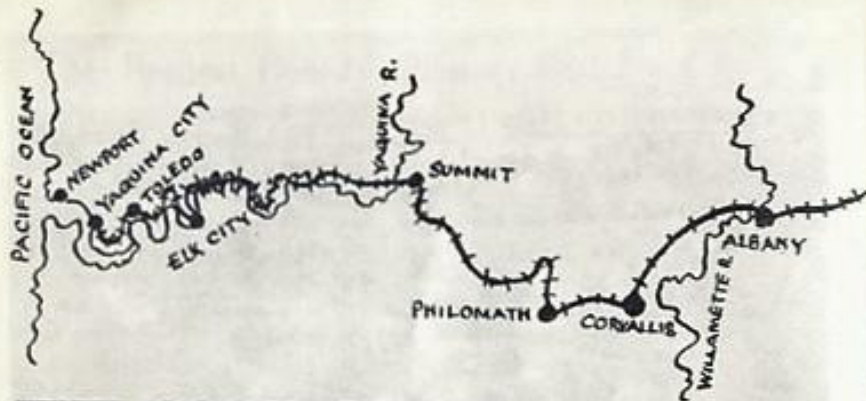
Next Meeting: Feb. 5, 1962.
(Meetings usually are held in the parlor of the Federated church.)



This air view shows the lovely farmlands across the Willamette from Corvallis. This is in Linn county, looking southeast. The road running diagonally in foreground leads to Albany, also to the Lebanon cut-off. Road in center distance leads to Peoria which is located on the Willamette nine miles above here.



Madison Street, 1961, looking east from Fifth



THE CORVALLIS & FRUSTRATION RAILROAD

By Tom Wilson

PART ONE - The Man From Alcatraz

IN 1871 a toll road for wagons was operating between Corvallis and Elk City, at tidewater on the Yaquina river. Lincoln county was at that time still a part of Benton. Many people around Corvallis and in the Willamette Valley wished to ship their produce to San Francisco and other places through Yaquina Bay, thereby saving the long and expensive haul to Portland and Astoria for shipment.

Optimism reigned in 1871 and from then on, until 1894, the most substantial and practical-minded men in the county, as well as some of the most astute financiers of the east, poured \$15,000,000.00 into an enterprise that was sold at foreclosure for \$100,000.00.

It was a magnificent pipe-dream. The story of the railroad to the coast is unequalled anywhere in complexity and misfortune.

But the rails were laid and the trains ran.



Corvallis & Eastern Number 4. The former Oregon Pacific 12 here wears a new number and a new stack.

T. G. Worms Collection

Ships were wrecked and sabotaged, tunnels and bridges bombed, Chinese laborers starved, and towns built to die in infancy.

But the dream lingers on and, today, whenever a few million dollars are spent to improve the harbor at Yaquina Bay, the fires of hope are rekindled in many who never knew the original delusion. Then, the big plan was for shipping wheat from our great producing areas and timber products to China. Today, the scheme is to bring oil from elsewhere to somewhere else.

The great delusion was already here before 1871, but it was then that Colonel T. Egerton Hogg arrived to expand the dream and bring the "frustration route" to fruition.

Smarter than Al Capone, Colonel (a doubtful title) Hogg was released from Alcatraz Island, where he had been given lodging because of alleged military activities against the United States during the recent unpleasantness of civil war. He came to Corvallis, saw the beautiful valley, saw the grain fields of eastern Washington, saw a lovely bay at Yaquina, and saw dollar signs in the sky.

In October, 1872, Colonel Hogg incorporated the Corvallis and Yaquina Bay Railroad Company. Two years later, he formed the Willamette Valley and Coast Railroad Company, and received some subsidy from the state in tax exemption for 20 years and grants of "all the tide and marsh lands situated in said county of Benton."

These terms were filed with the state by B. W. Wilson, president (the author's grandfather), and R. S. Strahan, secretary. The completion of the road was to be within five years, but the Legislature, in 1878, granted a six-year extension of time.¹

Other local people serving as directors or contributing money at this time included Green B. Smith, Dr. J. R. Bayley, W. B. Hamilton, Ashby Pierce, I. B. Henkle, M. Jacobs, Sol King, J. M. Currier, T. E. Cauthorn, and J. Harris.

Ground was "broken" May 17, 1877, at Corvallis, and the railroad began its hopeful journey to disaster.

To be continued in next issue

¹ Leslie M. Scott, p. 231, Oregon Historical Society Quarterly, Sept., 1915.



Corvallis girls dressed for rain

THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Passed by Congress, September 25, 1789;

ratified by the States, December 15, 1791.

FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

SECOND AMENDMENT

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

THIRD AMENDMENT

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

FOURTH AMENDMENT

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

FIFTH AMENDMENT

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall he be compelled in any criminal case to be a wit-

ness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

SIXTH AMENDMENT

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of counsel for his defence.

SEVENTH AMENDMENT

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

EIGHTH AMENDMENT

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

NINTH AMENDMENT

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

TENTH AMENDMENT

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

LATER AMENDMENTS AFFECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

THIRTEENTH AMENDMENT

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE I IN THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION AFFECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

THE STORY OF CORVALLIS

By David D. Fagan, 1885

Editor's Note: Fagan's HISTORY OF BENTON COUNTY was published in 1885 and remains today a prime source of information on this county and its towns. Copies are very rare, so we are beginning herewith a verbatim transcript of his report which starts on page 422 in his book. This transcript will be continued in each issue of "Corvallis." Readers are cautioned to remember that Mr. Fagan wrote this many years ago.

DURING the month of October, 1846, the late Hon. J. C. Avery arrived in Oregon and that winter coming to what is now Benton county took up the claim, on a part of which the southern portion of the city of Corvallis stands, and in the month of June, 1846, he took up his abode on it in a log cabin which he erected at once. This, the first residence, or house of any kind, indeed, within what are now the corporate limits, stood a few yards from where Mrs. Avery now resides, near the northern bank of Mary's river. It was a long building comprising one room, which was partitioned off by curtains on the arrival of his wife in 1847, and stood until the year 1853 when it was torn down, its uses having departed with the erection of a large frame dwelling in 1852.

With the immigration of 1845, there came to Oregon, William F. Dixon, who, in September, 1846,



THE FOUNDER OF THE CITY OF MARYSVILLE, who later became Corvallis, was J. C. Avery who became the 10th master of Corvallis Lodge no. 14, A.F. & A.M. Avery was master of the lodge in 1862 and also in 1863.

took up the six hundred and forty acre tract to the north of Mr. Avery, and on which is situated the northern half of the city of Corvallis. Mr. Dixon erected too a log cabin without delay, placing it on a site immediately in front of the present location of Mr. Friendly's steam saw mill, but on what is now the line of Second street. This was the second house within the present corporation limits.

Immediately upon his building his cabin Mr. Avery fenced off about twelve acres of land which is still known as the "little field;" which, in the winter of 1847-48 he staked off a few town lots, the first measured off in the future town of Marysville and present city of Corvallis. These occupy a position at the top of the high

ground that rises from Mary's river, at the southern extremity of Second street.

In the fall of 1848 Mr. Avery went to the California gold mines, returning in January following, but went back that same year, 1849, coming home again that fall. During his absence he entered into partnership with a Mr. Grigsby, purchased a small stock of merchandise at San Francisco and Portland, conveyed them to his house, his associate following a month later, and opened a store in a small granary that stood a little to the front of the site now occupied by Mrs. Avery's residence. This building had been erected in 1848 for Mr. Avery by J. C. Alexander, and in it he stored, before leaving for California, seven hundred bushels of wheat, the produce of his first and only attempt at personal farming in the county. With the augmentation of population the space in the first store in the city soon proved inadequate, Mr. Avery, therefore, in 1850, erected a new building, on what is now the southwest corner of Second and Washington streets, but after three or four years the accommodation proved insufficient, so he then constructed a larger structure, the first house in Benton county built of sawed lumber.

The fourth house to be erected in the city was the store of Hartless and St. Clair. It stood on the claim of William F. Dixon, a little to the south of the west landing of the ferry across the Willamette river. The fifth house was erected



Blumhart's ferry



The J. C. Avery store at Second and Washington streets. Picture taken Christmas, 1961. Now the Spurlin and Robnett hardware store, descendants of J. C. Avery are engaged in its operation.

on the ground now occupied by the southeast corner of Second and Washington streets, being built for a hotel by Alfred Rinehart, and stood until the year 1882, when it was torn down.

During the summer of 1848 a school-house, the first in the town, was built in the vicinity of the grounds now occupied by the cluster of houses of which the Vincent House is the center, but it was not until 1850 that it was put to its proper uses, the first teacher being A. G. Hovey, now a banker of Eugene City, Lane county. Here a congregation under the Baptist church was organized in 1850 by Dr. R. C. Hill, of Albany, the first denomination to commence the good work of the redemption of souls in the town.

To be continued in next issue

BEAUTIFUL WILLAMETTE

From the Cascades' frozen gorges,
Leaping like a child at play,
Winding, widening through the valley,
Bright Willamette glides away;
Onward ever,
Lovely river,
Softly calling to the sea,
Time, that scars us,
Maims and mars us,
Leaves no track or trench on thee.

Spring's green witchery is weaving
Braid and border for thy side;
Grace forever haunts thy journey,
Beauty dimples on thy tide;
Through the purple gates of morning
Now thy roseate ripples dance,
Golden then, when day, departing,
On thy waters trails his lance.
Waltzing, flashing,
Tinkling, splashing,
Limpid, volatile, and free—
Always hurried
To be buried
In the bitter, moon-mad sea.

In thy crystal deeps inverted
Swings a picture of the sky,
Like those wavering hopes of Aëdon,
Dimly in our dreams that lie;
Clouded often, drowned in turmoil,
Faint and lovely, far away—
Wreathing sunshine on the morrow
Breathing fragrance round today.
Love would wander
Here and ponder,
Hither poetry would dream;
Life's old questions—
Sad suggestions,
"Whence and whither?" through thy stream.

On the roaring waste of ocean
Shall thy scattered waves be tossed,
'Mid the surge's rhythmic thunder
Shall thy silver tongues be lost.
O, thy glimmering rush of gladness
Mocks this turbid life of mine,
Racing to the wild Forever
Down the sloping paths of Time!
Onward ever,
Lovely river,
Softly calling to the sea;
Time that scars us,
Maims and mars us,
Leaves no track or trench on thee!

Corvallis Literature

SAMUEL L. SIMPSON, sometimes called the "Robert Burns of Oregon," was editor of the Corvallis "Gazette" in 1870. Formerly a strong temperance paper, the policy of the "Gazette" changed with Simpson's statement regarding the liquor question:

"Temperance ceases to be the specialty of this paper, as, in fact, it is not the forte of the present editor. Right here the bright habiliments of neutrality are laid aside forever, and wheeling into line the good champion of prohibition goes down in the smoke and fury of political war."

Simpson came across the plains with his parents in 1846, learned the alphabet from his mother when he was four, had very little formal schooling, but graduated from Willamette University and became a lawyer. He gave up the law for journalism, was editor of several Oregon newspapers, and wrote many beautiful poems. Joaquin Miller said the "Beautiful Willamette" was the most musical poem written on the Pacific Coast.

He wrote the "Beautiful Willamette" in 1868, at Albany, where he was working as a reporter on the "Democrat." As a legend has it, Simpson, remorseful over a recent drinking episode, went to the river to commit suicide but was so inspired by the stream that he sat on the river bank and wrote this poem. He died in Portland in 1900.



SAM L. SIMPSON.



Corvallis Postoffice



Willamette River at Corvallis, Oregon
Photograph by Joan Besse

UNHOLY TRINITY

"Why me?" the leveret screams,
pierced by eagle talons.
"Why me?" the cricket moans,
torn by a mischievous boy.
"Why this cancerous death?"
the stricken invalid groans.

"Gods are evil spirits,"
mutter cowed barbarians.
"HIS ways are past finding out,"
complaisant churchmen declaim.
"The universe is impersonal,"
men of science explain.

No other answer speaks
to pain that shrieks.

By Laurence Pratt, Portland, Oregon



Editor Wilson and Koko the Apprentice

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY



James H. Jensen
President, OSU



Memorial Union, OSU, before remodeling



OAC Photographic Club,
about 1895 (?)

MY

"MY" is a little pronoun,
Possession is its game.
And what a thrill it gives to me,
When it modifies your name.

By Anne Mousse, Corvallis, Oregon

THAT CERTAIN DAY

That certain day the ocean wore a veil
Of brilliants caught in saffron mist;
That precious day the sands gleamed white as pearl,
Because we kissed.

The wheel of strife has lost its somber power
To hold my heart in full command;
And I have known no fear since that bright day
You touched my hand.

By Dolores Bradbury, Salem, Oregon

MIDNIGHT TEARS

Midnight's tears are of loneliness,
of anguish, and of pain;
Their warmth falls slowly down my cheek
To hands that reach in vain
Toward the emptiness of heartache
Where once your head had lain.

By Sylvia E. Nelson, Portland, Oregon

Classified

10 cents per word, minimum order \$2.00.
Payment in advance.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Large corner lot on ocean at Yachats.
City water on lot. Power and phone lines
nearby. Good streets. \$1,500. Write to Box
122, Corvallis, Oregon.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. B. Dick Mimeograph, model 92, electric
with cabinet and slipsheet. Cost around
\$800. Perfect condition, \$150 cash. Wilson,
225 So. 2nd St., Corvallis, Oregon.

Multilith offset press. Model 1327, prints
11x17. Good operating condition, \$500 cash.
"Corvallis," Box 122, Corvallis, Oregon.

IDEAS WANTED to make "Corvallis" a
better magazine. Write, Box 122, Corvallis,
or drop in at 225 So. 2nd St., Corvallis.



Conrad in the Denver Post
The epic of man

THE OLDTIMER SAYS —

If you can keep a cool head in
the middle of this confusion, you
just don't understand the situ-
ation.

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FOUL ANCHOR, RYE 8, N. Y.
(R. I. Nesmith, Curator)



PARITY

It is easier
To rid a garden
Of weeds
Than to free
Some minds
Of their prejudice.

By Leah Sherman, Portland, Oregon

COMMENDATION



MSgt. Charles J. Bennett was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal at the November Commander's Call by Major Murrell F. Neblett, left, Adair Air Force Station Commander. Sgt. Bennett is NCOIC of the Information Office and Editor of the DATA-LINK newspaper at Adair AFS.



Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) cadets in unmilitary formation, about 1912? View looks east. Jefferson Street is at right.



Local Man Is Featured In Sports Afield

For the second year in a row a Corvallis man has been featured in the "Sports Afield" Gun Annual in an article by E. Milton Grassell of Corvallis.

The 1962 edition, just now on the newstands, describes A. J. Patapoff's idea of a multiple charge to increase the velocity of a bullet from a .22 rifle.

Patapoff designed a supercharger or velocity intensifier that, when he loaded it with 4.8 grains of Bull's Eye Pistol powder, he was able to increase the velocity of a .22 LR Hi-Speed bullet from 1,300 fps to 2,150 fps.

Although only a few metal-working tools are necessary to build the supercharger, the author cautions that the mechanism is a precision instrument and a good deal of "know-how" in the field of guns is required.

Ed Riesland, professor of industrial engineering at Oregon State University, says that a good gunsmith or machinist can make the supercharging mechanism in three hours plus two hours more for heat treatment.

Wilson's Pet Shop



225 South Second
CORVALLIS, OREGON