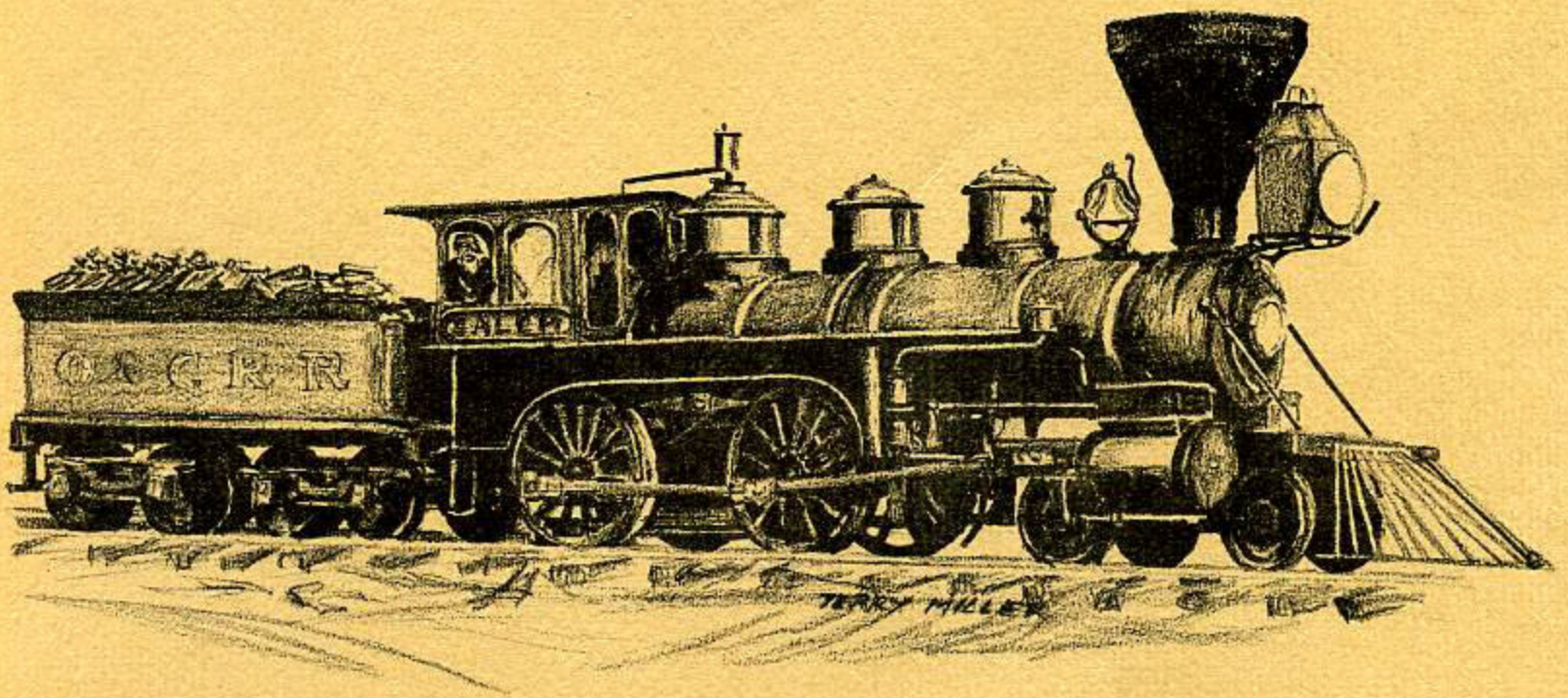


JUNCTION CITY



Lane County Historian

LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Oregon & California Railroad Engine No. 5 named Salem. The O & C reached Junction City in 1869. This engine was built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1870 and is typical of early motive power used for passenger and freight service. Drawn by Terry Miller.

"Nobody truly appreciates the present who does not know something of the past. Junction City's early days make a fascinating chapter in the history of Lane County." These are the words of Josephine Evans Harpham, author of **Doorways into History**, to whom the Lane County Historical Society is grateful for her ideas and efforts on behalf of this issue of the **Historian**. It was our intention to publish this issue to coincide with this year's Scandinavian Festival. We hope the enjoyment of each will compliment each other.

The Scandinavian Festival

By G. F. Fletchall, M.D.

Why does a small town whose growth has been relatively static for years decide to have a Festival? What prompts a community of 1,680 people to attempt to promote an event of such magnitude and scope that it could have been destined for defeat in its initial planning phase? Why has this community been able to initiate and develop an event which could not have succeeded in other communities with greater populations and material resources to draw from?

The answer to these questions is the basis for the success of the Scandinavian Festival in Junction City, Oregon. This small community, thirteen miles north of Eugene, the second largest city in Oregon, is one of the older communities in the state whose history begins with the first migrations across the plains in the mid-1800's. In the early days of the town, a railroad junction was proposed, and its instigator predicted "a second Chicago." The junction of the railroads did not materialize and the name "Junction City" is all that remains to remind one of the vision and aspirations of this early promoter. Following the settlement of this valley community, many Danish, Norwegian and Swedish people moved into the area. The Danish people bought up farms and engaged in intensive agriculture and dairying. The Swedish and Norwegian people drew from their experience in lumbering, and were instrumental in developing and managing the lumber industry in the area. The economy of Junction City and its environs has been stable, even through the Depression.

By 1960, however, Junction City

found itself faced with a problem imposed by the progress of our modern age. New and better roads had been built, a freeway bypassed the city, and most of the heavy traffic which formerly coursed through main street, was routed several miles to the east. Morale reached a low ebb, properties were allowed to deteriorate, business after business closed, and main street began to present a discouraging and depressing picture of empty store fronts.

Faced with this picture and the prospect of greater decline, Dr. G. F. Fletchall searched for an idea which might help the situation. The idea had to be different and unique. It had to be something which the community was capable of, would accept and support. It must be something which would appeal to those outside the community, and long hours of reading, research and thought were spent before the obvious answer evolved.

The history and background of the city and the ability inherent in its population lent credence to several ideas which could have been developed. Its pioneer history and the colorful anecdotes and tales of its role in Civil War history, early river-boat traffic and railroad history all could have been utilized around which a yearly celebration could have been staged. But these ideas were not novel, other communities had even greater claim to this heritage and had already developed them. If Junction City had chosen to compete in these areas, it would have been another fair, carnival or rodeo to add to the already plentiful celebrations in the Northwest. It appeared that the one thing that



was unique in the city's history was its Scandinavian heritage, and it seemed that this was the one thing which could be developed into a colorful annual celebration. With this thought, the next step was to attempt to get community reaction or support for the idea.

Initially it was casually mentioned to a few key individuals, especially at times when the conversation led to the discouraging prospects for growth of the community. The thought of the Festival was presented as a possibility of developing a better community spirit. It was to afford a common ground on which all groups could lend support in the common goal of making Junction City a better place in which to live. From this slow beginning, many individuals

began to ask for more concrete plans and suggested that it be proposed to the Chamber of Commerce. By January of 1961 the undercurrent of thought appeared to be favorable, the time right, and most people receptive, and the entire draft of a proposed Scandinavian Festival was printed and presented to the Chamber. There was immediate acceptance of the idea, and the Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to work with Dr. Fletchall. It was the job of this committee to establish a budget for the first year's celebration. This was later presented to the Chamber who accepted their report agreeing to underwrite the first Festival. Dr. Fletchall was asked to act as chairman and to organize the first Fes-

tival which was to be held in August of that year.

The next job was to sell the community on the idea. The first question asked by most people was "what could we do for entertainment in such a Festival?" To give some idea of the scope of such a program, a special meeting was announced at one of the schools, and everyone in the city who was interested was invited to attend. A Scandinavian Advisory Board was organized of influential people who gave their moral support and advice. The one thing which was emphasized from the beginning was authenticity. There was little material to draw from for this first town meeting. We had no folk dancers, no Scandinavian musicians, no costumes or flags. A large department store in Portland loaned us a set of Scandinavian flags for decoration. A folk dance group from Eugene consented to come and dance for us. We utilized our own community chorus and during the evening interspersed the program with thoughts and suggestions relative to the Festival which was scheduled the early part of August. The first community meeting was held in May; we had only two and a half months to prepare for the first event.

The idea was enthusiastically accepted and committee heads were appointed and interested persons were assigned to committees to begin work. The first task was the building of over a hundred planter-boxes to hold the petunias which were to decorate the mall. Patterns were taken from the borrowed flags and a local women's group made us several dozen flags. Since there was no local folk dance group, one was quickly organized and began weekly practices. The Community Chorus began rehearsing numbers, some in Scandina-

vian vernacular, to present during the Festival. Many organizations began planning and working on the construction of Scandinavian buildings which could be dismantled and erected quickly which would be placed on the mall. Publicity brochures were printed, and a small Scandinavian Band was organized in the school. These activities were the nuclei of the first Scandinavian Festival which was held in August, 1961.

A few days before the first Festival, the flower boxes in full bloom were transported downtown, the streets were closed, a dance platform was erected in the center of the mall, and the Scandinavian buildings were erected on both sides of the street. Colored lights draped the streets at night, and the flags made a colorful canopy over the streets in the daytime. During that first four-day Festival, over 25,000 people visited the city. Representatives from 28 states and many foreign countries registered. At the registration booth, each person was allowed to choose the Scandinavian nationality he desired, and he was given souvenir citizenship papers. Various groups, churches, lodges, service clubs and individuals prepared and sold Scandinavian food and souvenirs. These items were kept at a very nominal fee and there was no charge made for entertainment. In a true Festival atmosphere, everyone entered the spirit of the thing, dressed in Scandinavian costumes and participated in games and folk dancing. It was apparent that our desire to avoid a formal show was successful for young and old came to participate and many expressed their appreciation for something so spontaneous, non-commercial, and different.

Many interesting guests appear at each Festival. One year, a young

foreign exchange student had just arrived from Norway. The atmosphere of the Festival was reminiscent of her home country causing her to feel welcome. Her adjustment that year was easy. Another, a lady from Latvia wore her national costume which she had fashioned from articles collected during her internment in a Nazi prison camp. Her story and the explanation of her costume brought to mind the sacrifices these countries have paid for freedom.

Prior to the first Festival, few individuals had costumes of any sort. It was necessary to spend much time in research collecting data, pictures and descriptions, fashioning patterns and sewing costumes to be worn at Festival time. By opening day fully a third of the townspeople had their own costumes which added to the color and pageantry of the occasion.

Many mistakes were made in the first Festival. Perhaps the greatest mistake was the underestimation of the crowd which would attend. A Smorgasbord had been scheduled for Saturday evening at which three thousand were served and at least another thousand turned away. Other groups, too, failed to have enough food prepared and spent nights preparing Danish pastries to supply their shops during the daytime.

Succeeding Festivals have grown in numbers attending and a sincere attempt has been made to incorporate more and more authenticity in the programs, the food, and the atmosphere. It has evolved into more than a local event; it is becoming a Northwest community event. Various folk dance groups, choruses and instrumental groups have travelled to the Festival and have been featured on the program. Radio stations, television stations, newspapers and maga-

zines have cooperated with this community in making the celebration known.

During the past two celebrations, approximately 30 to 40 thousand have attended each celebration. The Festival is familiar to most of the Northwest and is gaining in national recognition.

A few simple principles have been adopted by the Scandinavian Festival Association which were incorporated in the first venture and have held to the present time. The Festivals are supported by the membership fees of those joining the Association, by gifts from local merchants, and by a percentage revenue from the shops erected on the mall for the four-day celebration. The Festival is always held on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the second week-end in August. The first day is always Swedish Day followed by Norwegian Day, Finnish Day and finally by Danish Day and homecoming. The Association refuses to make any charge for parking, entrance or registration, attending programs or community dancing. Gaudy advertising and competitive pricing are forbidden, and visitors are charged only for the food or gifts they purchase. There are no beauty contests, ruling queens, competitive parades, carnivals or commercialization allowed. The program, though loosely planned, is variable and spontaneous. Friendliness, color and authenticity are the guiding principles of those who plan the event. Every attempt is made to make it a cultural presentation, and in the true connotation of the word "festival" the program is formulated with the thought of encouraging everyone to participate.

The program, for the most part, follows the same format each year beginning in the morning and last-

ing until late evening. On opening day the Mayor, dressed in traditional tails and top hat, rides to the mall to officially begin the Festival. His duty is also to open Little Scandinavia and to preside at the initial flag-raising ceremonies. On the mall, the shops are open all day and evening. The children have much to occupy them all during the day. Borne Haven is a children's garden supervised by adults. Here the children are given opportunity to create objects of art. Each morning there is a program for children giving them demonstrations in costumes, foods and customs of the Scandinavian countries and affording them an opportunity to learn simple folk dances and songs. Guided bus tours are conducted several times each day and are furnished free-of-charge to visitors who wish to see the city, its industry, homes, schools and churches. This tour also includes the nearby agricultural area where one may observe first-hand the intensive agriculture and dairying of the region. By late afternoon the young folk present a program of folk dancing. The "Scandinavian Fine Arts" presentation is also scheduled in the afternoon, and in this hour many cultural items are presented. In conjunction with the Festival there are special exhibitions of Scandinavian crafts and wares, an Arts and Crafts show, a Rock and Hobby Show, and a Flower Show. These have been expanded from year to year, and at times there are special demonstrations in handwork, making of lefse, spinning and weaving. While one can find good food all during the day, each evening features a different meal. These might consist of a Swedish pancake supper, a Swedish meat-ball dinner, a Smorgasbord or chicken barbecue. The evenings begin with a

formal program consisting mainly of community singing, vocal and instrumental groups, folk dancing by local dancers and visitors from other places. Each evening the children have their part in the program and usually dramatize one of the tales of Hans Christian Andersen. At the close of the evening program, the Vikings stage their torch parade, and outstanding guests are presented to the audience. Following the evening program, the rest of the evening is spent in community dancing. Each day of the four-day Festival has been set aside honoring one of the Scandinavian countries. Saturday and Sunday afternoons have added features such as Ring-riding and other sports included in Scandinavian Field events.

Preparations for the Festival usually begin approximately ten months preceding the event. These preparations include weekly practices by the Community Chorus, weekly meetings by the various folk dance groups, a Danish language class and the Vikings and the Viking Auxiliary. (The Vikings were organized for the purpose of promoting the Festival at home and abroad, and for doing the actual work necessary to produce the Festival). At Christmas, there is the traditional Christmas party with the community tree, singing and folk dancing. Through the winter, various groups work on projects such as making dolls, handwork, costumes and other items to be sold during the Festival. By late spring, preparations for food begin. At this time, approximately 35,000 meat balls are made, several hundred pies, and thousands of coffee-cakes and rolls. At the smorgasbord, the single item of potato salad includes 500 pounds of potatoes, 7 gallons of mayonnaise, 5 gallons of pickles, 1½ cases of

eggs and 100 pounds onions. At this meal, 200 gallons of pickled herring and 200 pounds of smoked salmon as well as 400 pounds of roast beef and 400 pounds of boiled tongue find their way to the heavy laden serving table. At this single meal, from four to five thousand persons are fed. Many hundreds of people are involved in Festival preparations, and many thousands of man-hours go into the preparation.

What has the Festival done for Junction City? First and foremost, it has furnished a broad base on which people from various groups and organizations can meet in friendship while they work or have fun. It has helped the people of Junction City take new pride in their town. Prior to the first Festival there was a spontaneous city clean-up and many business firms downtown redecorated the fronts of their stores. Before the first Festival, at least half of the stores on the main street were vacant. Today, three years later, every store is occupied, business is thriving, and several new office spaces are being built and rented as quickly as they are available. A

new Dairy Queen store, built in Scandinavian motif can be seen on the highway. A drug store, likewise has remodelled the outside of its building in a rustic manner to help carry out the Scandinavian theme we hope to see promoted in the town. A restaurateur from Copenhagen, Denmark has opened Scandia House featuring Danish foods. A new shopping center is being built in the heart of the city and another professional building is now under construction in the down-town area. A new bank is scheduled to be built soon. The city has a new Post Office, Skandia Hall has been redecorated inside and out offering a meeting-place for various Festival groups. The Festival Association with the help of businessmen has purchased three lots in the center of the city to develop them for Festival purposes. Two of our automobile dealers are expanding their businesses and plan to build larger quarters soon. The city's business climate has improved and several people who have visited Junction City at Festival time have moved here and established their homes and businesses here.



*Junction City's Yesterdays**

By Josephine Evans Harpham

This article is dedicated to the memory of the first pioneers and other early-day settlers who came to this area. With courage, fortitude, faith and farsightedness, they laid foundations in this part of Lane County, Oregon.—Josephine Evans Harpham

Junction City and its surrounding countryside is one of the loveliest and one of the richest farming areas in Oregon and most certainly in Lane County. It is also one of the most historical.

The area lies on the northern edge of Lane County which was created by an approved legislative act on January 24, 1851, and it is bordered on the east by the Willamette River and also the Linn County line for approximately a distance of four or five miles. The size of the Junction City School District No. 69—about 155 square miles—gives a perspective on the extent of the area.

For a time, step back in history into Junction City's yesterdays. First there were Indian trails; then, roads and routes blazed by intrepid trappers and early pioneers. Somewhat later came the ferries and the river boats to provide ingress into this area of Oregon.

A "Donation Land Law," introduced by Senator Linn, was passed to encourage immigration. It granted married couples 640 acres of public land and single men 320 acres, if they settled in Oregon by December 1850.

One of the very first settlers to arrive was Lester Hulin who in

December of 1847 took up a very early claim on the Long Tom River.

Hulin was born in Saratoga County at Malta, New York, March 22, 1823. There he received his education and grew to manhood.

In 1845 at St. Louis, Missouri, he met Fremont and Colonel Ebert with whom he participated in an exploring expedition through Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Northwestern Texas, the Indian Territories, and back to St. Louis.

About this time he moved to Iowa where he made his home until 1847. In this same year he left from St. Joe, Missouri, for the long trek westward to the Oregon Country. Upon his arrival he worked for a time in what is now Corvallis.

Although Hulin had established a claim, which he left to J. B. Fergerson to look after, he departed in 1848 to participate in the Cayuse War after which he went for a period to the gold mines in California (1849). In this same year he went to San Francisco to take passage on the schooner, *Hackstaff*, which was bound for Oregon. On board were C. J. Hills, C. Mulligan, James Chapin—all to become well-known pioneers of Lane County.

In the Rogue River area the

*I am deeply grateful to Clarence Pitney, Miss Gertrude Sanders, and Mrs. Max Strauss for their invaluable assistance. My very sincere thanks to the following: Chester Ayres, Mrs. Lewis Bryson, Mrs. Guy Gilmore, Miss Karen Gribskov, Viggo Gribskov, Ejner Hentze, Mrs. Glenda Kupper, Frank Milliorn, Vardell Nelson, Mrs. Anton Rasmussen, Mrs. Kenneth Rhodes, Mrs. Hanna Skovbo, Mrs. James St. Clair, Cary Strome, Mrs. Samuel Tadlock, Miss Adeline Volkstorf, Claude B. Washburne, Mr. and Mrs. James Washburne. Picture Credits: Miss Gertrude Sanders. I am also grateful to Clarence Pitney,

schooner became stranded on the bar. The voyagers had to proceed to their destination on foot and they arrived in the Willamette Valley nearly a month after their departure on what became an arduous and perilous trip.

Shortly after this rugged experience, Hulin returned to California, overland, and remained there until January, 1850, at which time he returned to settle down on land which was about three-and-one-half miles in a southeasterly direction from what is now Junction City. Here he resided until he established a home in Eugene in September, 1881, still, however, retaining his farm.

On December 1, 1853, he married Abbie J. Craig, a native of Jackson County, Michigan. Nine children were born to this couple. Only five survived until adulthood. They were: Anna, Charles S., Edgar M., Samuel Addison and Lester Gilbert.

All through the early '50's the Hulins began to acquire neighbors, some close and some a little farther away. Among these were: the Blachleys; the Allen Bonds; the W. H. Brices; the David Coffmans; the Samuel Craigs; the William Cummings; James Downes; the James Harpoles; the Lorenzo Hasbroucks; the Hylands; Dr. and Mrs. Gabriel Johnsons; the Hugh Lanes; the McClures; the A. Prattons and the C. W. Washburnes.

Another neighbor was John Milliorn, a native of Virginia and a wheelwright by trade. He married Mary W. Lee, also a Virginian, who was born near Lynchburg in 1811. She was the daughter of Shelly Lee who was a member of the famous Lee family of Virginia, connected with the Southern Confederacy.

Some time before crossing the plains by oxteam to Oregon, Milliorn had lived near Independence,

Missouri. In 1853 he took up a donation land claim near Junction City.

Thomas A. Milliorn was the oldest son and second child of John and Mary. At 18 he became a wheelwright in Kansas City, Missouri, and built the wagon which took him to the California mines in 1849. There he engaged in mining and also operated a packtrain from Colusa to Trinity. In 1852 he came on to Oregon where he located his father's claim, later becoming owner of the land upon which Junction City was eventually laid out.

During the Rogue River War Milliorn was with the Quartermaster Department, hauling supplies to the soldiers in the south. He got along very well with the Indians, so he encountered no difficulties in handling this assignment.

He was married to Eleza K. Awbrey near Eugene in 1863, she being a native of Daviess County, Missouri. The Awbrey family had crossed the plains to Oregon in 1850. Five children were born to the couple. Mrs. Milliorn died in 1877. Mr. Milliorn married a second time in 1878, Mary L. Hill of Iowa becoming his wife. Her family had come to Oregon in 1864. Two children were born to the union.

In 1864-65 he joined a brother-in-law with a packtrain to Boise Basin, Idaho, and in 1884 went with 18 men to the Coeur d'Alene mines in a skiff. He wanted to try his luck in the Klondike but was dissuaded on account of advancing years.

Over the years he donated land for the mills and for the main school block. He was a school director and was active in the Democratic Party. He was a member of Eugene Lodge No. 11, A.F. and

A.M., and the Royal Arch Chapter at Corvallis, Oregon.

As time passed all these early pioneers—Hulin, Milliorn and their neighbors—made in their respective ways fine and lasting contributions to Oregon. They became first families of their county and of their chosen state.

About 1853-54 a person by the name of Woody established a house of entertainment, wharves and storehouses on the Willamette River bank about two miles north of the present Junction City. Stores were opened by Wesley Briggs and Dr. Awbrey, and the place became known as Woodyville. This name was later changed to Lancaster by John Mulkey who bought out the property. Here he erected a sawmill which remained in operation until 1861 or later.

Mulkey was a colorful figure. A Democrat and a secessionist, his support of Jefferson Davis led to his arrest. Altercations took place between his friends and followers and Eugene City lawmen. Finally, soldiers were dispatched from Vancouver barracks to put an end to the local civil war.

Woodyville, now known as Lancaster, was chosen as a settlement because the river was navigable to this point which was the center of a prosperous agricultural district. Here was concentrated the trade of the whole area. The little village advanced and prospered until disastrous floods came and destroyed much of the settlement. In time the Willamette changed and shifted its course at least twice.

For a while the Long Tom River was navigable, too. The period of river transportation finally came to an end and the era of the railroad began.

In the 1850's, Palmer Ayres crossed the plains to Oregon. His son, Edward, left the Willakenzie

area in 1902 and bought a farm of 111 acres about one-half mile from the old site of Lancaster. The building, which had housed the river freight until distribution, was still standing at that time on the Ayres' newly-purchased farm. To-day there still remains on the Ayres place a huge fir tree which was used by the river boats for their tie-up in those days of over a century ago.

The progress of actual railroad construction in the Willamette Valley proceeded slowly. The work of grading for the East Side Railroad was begun by S. G. Elliot in East Portland, April 16, 1868. But it was not until Ben Holladay, a colorful railroad figure of his day, secured control that very much was accomplished. By November, 1869, track had been laid as far as Milwaukie. By September 25, 1870, the road was finished to Salem. By December of the same year it reached Albany and on to Harrisburg by June, 1871, when it stopped until the bridge across the Willamette River was completed in the month of October.

Junction City now stands on land purchased by Holladay from T. A. Milliorn in 1870-71 for the Oregon and California Railroad Company. The 90 acres were to be used for a town site and division point for his East Side Railroad. Additional tracts were purchased later. About 1873, Milliorn, in partnership with C. W. Washburne, laid out a second tract for the site of future farms, home and public buildings. This land became known as the Milliorn-Washburne Addition.

On October 9, 1871, the East Side Railroad line was extended as far as Eugene, the people of this city and its environs having raised \$42,290 to assist with its construction. In November, 1872, the line

reached Roseburg, where the railroad had its southern terminus.

By this time Holladay's resources were exhausted and Henry Villard secured control and renewed construction of the line south of Roseburg in December, 1881. The Southern Pacific Company finally took over the Oregon and California Railroad Company early in 1887. The first train from San Francisco arrived in Portland, December 19, 1887.

Some time after the railroad division was established, a number of Chinese were brought in and employed by the railroad company as repairmen. This colorful Oriental colony for a time enriched the life of the community with its special observances, festivals, holidays and traditions.

The first building and place of business in the area soon to be known as Junction City was a warehouse erected in 1871 and operated by W. H. Hoffman. About this time a number of buildings brought up from fading Lancaster and set down in the new little community. Louis Soloman, it is said, brought his store and all its stock from Lancaster and in so doing became another one of Junction City's first businessmen.

Isaac Senders and Joseph Sternberg came not long after and established a general mercantile firm known for years as "Joe's and Ike's." Senders became postmaster when the official post office was established in 1871. As another fact for record in 1871, the marriage of W. P. Lewis and a Miss Florence took place, the first in the new community.

Next came I. Newcomb who started a blacksmith shop and Eli and Elias Keeney who opened the Last Chance Saloon.

In 1872, a Mr. Berry opened a hotel which operated until its des-

truction by fire in the winter of 1881-82. Some time later W. H. Baber built a new hotel which was operated by M. G. Wilkins.

Another addition to the fledgling community was a two-story school building with J. C. Boland as teacher.

On October 29, 1872, by an approved act of the Oregon Legislative Assembly, Junction City became an incorporated town. It was to be provided with five trustees, a recorder, a marshal, and a treasurer. At an initial meeting, E. W. McKelly was appointed president of a committee to draft a constitution, bylaws and ordinances for the council.

One of the first contracts let was awarded in May, 1873 to Thomas Humphrey to build a city prison, which was completed at a cost of \$84.37.

Junction City's School District No. 69 had its official beginning on April 22, 1872. T. G. Hendricks of Eugene City was county superintendent at the time. On May 10 of that year a committee was selected to choose a suitable site for a schoolhouse and construction was begun on March 3, 1873, at 6th and Holly. In this same year the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was built and on June 22 was dedicated.

In 1874 J. A. Campbell of the Christian Church preached the first gospel sermon in the area.

Several citizens of about this period in Junction City's history should be mentioned here, for then and through the years they made real contributions to the life of the community.

George Belshaw, an early-day resident of the community, was an extensive breeder of fine horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. He also became known widely for his wheat culture. His products received first

prizes at the Centennial Exposition in 1876, at the Paris Exposition in 1878, and later at the Oregon State Fair.

In 1871, as young boys, John, Joseph, Christian and David Strome and a sister, Mollie, left Ohio with their parents Abraham and Catherine for San Francisco, California. From there the family went by boat to Portland, Oregon, and from there by train to the newly-formed settlement of Junction City. A number of years later the four boys bought a fine farm from Colonel Folsom, a well-known figure of his day, for 5,000 bushels of wheat, which were to be delivered to a warehouse in Monroe.

John became the father of Cary and Catherine. Catherine married Angus Gibson, who for many years served as a state senator and as a state representative. During his terms of office he was responsible for a wide variety of useful legislation for Oregon. Cary and his late cousin, Glen, and their families have taken a very active part in the life of Junction City more recently, just as their forebears did in earlier times.

Among those who likewise have made their contributions over the years are: the Maurice Allens; the George Baileys; the Isaac N. Edwards; the Malcolm J. Harpers; the James Harpoles; the M. Dallas Lingos; and John Wesley Moffett.

From the early 1870's on for a number of years the town built up rapidly and became prosperous. In the fall of 1877 (Sept. 2) the city council declared their willingness to contribute \$500 for a fire engine for the use of the town, should matching funds be subscribed by the citizens. This the citizens declined to do, so the governing body withdrew their offer and left the town without protection from fire.

In 1878 a series of disasters

overtook the thriving city and adjacent areas. Fires succeeded fires. On Saturday, October 5, 1878, a fire broke out in Solomon's store which spread to the hotel, several shops, many dwellings and four of the large warehouses, causing a tremendous loss.

On August 10, 1880, Howard's Warehouse, valued at \$17,000, was destroyed by fire. Again on March 23, 1882, the Kratz, Washburne and Howard Mill was burned to the ground, its original cost having been at least \$30,000. Just two nights later, Solomon's Warehouse and a goodly amount of wheat fell to the roaring flames. For some time insurance companies would take no risks with regard to insuring the town.

In June, 1879, a tax was ordered to be levied for the purpose of aiding the council to procure a fire engine, but the order was rescinded on a petition by the people.

In this same month an entirely new code of city laws was accepted by the council. With the new city government elected to serve in 1880-81, things took a decided turn for the better. The officers were: John Wortman, president; F. W. Folsom, George W. Crow, W. H. Hoffman, W. S. Lee, councilmen; and William M. Pitney, recorder.

Several years later some new people began to arrive. Among these were the Thomas Baileys who took up a 500-acre farm five miles southwest of the city in 1887. Mr. Bailey's father had come to the Bailey Hill area in 1850. Thomas and Anna (Flint) were the parents of Elsie L., Louise G., Mary Ellen and Edward. Edward married Helen Lee Rosenberg of Seattle, Washington. In 1921, he took up the practice of law in Junction City where he remained for ten years. During this period he served very constructively in

the Oregon Legislature, took an active part in politics and ran for governor in 1930. In 1931 he moved to Eugene and resumed his practice of law, where since that time he has become known as one of Oregon's most prominent attorneys.

From the middle of the '80's on, the town of Junction City developed in a wide variety of ways, but it still remained in essence a railroad and farming community. Shortly after the turn of the century, however, new cultural influences were brought to bear on this area of Lane County.

In the early 1900's A. C. Nielsen Sr., a former real estate dealer from Tyler, Minnesota, was one of the founders of the Danish colony in Junction City. He obtained 1600 acres by auction east of Junction City. This land was offered in tracts of 40 to 60 acres to Danes coming from the Middle West and other parts of the country to settle in the Lane County area. Many of these people had been born in the old country, but those who had not, had been raised in Danish communities where the language was spoken almost exclusively. Their interests were largely agrarian, though many of the Danes were fine craftsmen as well. Coming into the community about this time were: the Carl Andreasons; the Rasmus Andreasons; the A. Asboes; the Pete and Hans Bodtkers; the Anders Jensen Gribkos; the John Hentzes with sons, Ejner and Bue; the Mads Jensens; the Soren Jensens; the Troels Klinges; the H. P. Markusens; the Hans Petersens; the Chris Sands, and others.

Among the first needs felt by the new and growing Danish community was that of a church of their own; so in May, 1902, the first organization meeting took place.

The first pastor was J. Mylund who conducted services in a community hall until a new Danish Evangelical Church could be built. The church has played a large role in cementing the Danish colony together over the years. It has provided a place for baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals and for meetings of the brotherhoods, sisterhoods, auxiliaries and youth groups. For a while classes in Danish were held for the young people for the purpose of perpetuating the tongue. Worthwhile activities of all kinds have been encouraged, such as lectures, talks, Bible study and many festive celebrations.

Until 1937, the Danish tongue was used almost exclusively at all functions of the church. The pastor at this time, Holger O. Nielsen, instituted the use of English for his sermons and for general use in the church. Up until 1951, however, special morning services were still given in Danish for the older members of the congregation.

In 1962, the church affiliated itself with the Lutheran Church of America. From this time on the membership expanded along with ethnic background of its pastors.

Through the intervening years the Danes have affected the life of the community in a wide variety of ways. The farming, business, social, religious and cultural life of the area reflect the Scandinavian influences.

One of Junction City's prominent citizens, Dr. Gale Fletchall, perceived using the many talents, the arts and crafts, the racial and cultural heritage of the Danish population for the betterment of the community as a whole. In 1961, he initiated the Scandinavian Festival and became first president of the association, remaining in the office for a number of years there-

after. His efforts and those of other individuals and groups have been richly rewarded with local, national and international recognition. If only Hulin, the first settler, could see his wilderness home now!

Following are descriptions of several buildings in Junction City, whose history may interest the reader.

JAMES A. BUSHNELL HOUSE

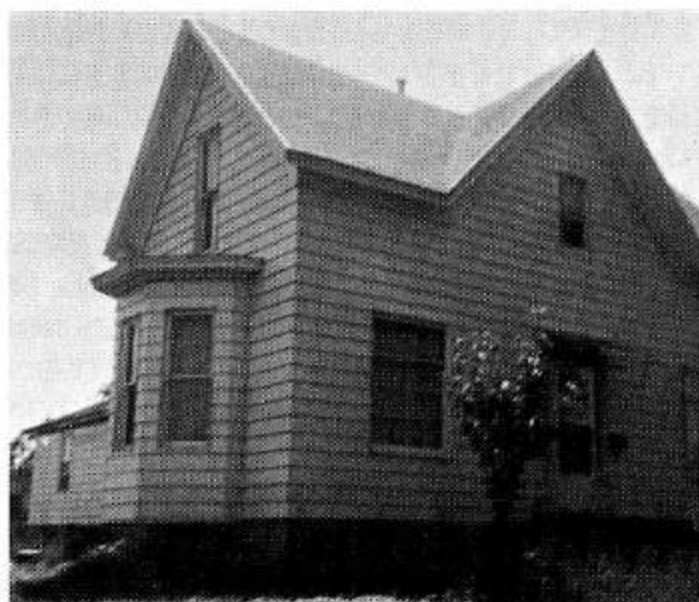
The Bushnell house, quite historic to the Junction City area, is located at 248 Holly. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Tadlock and family are the present residents and owners. The house now stands on three lots (100 feet deep and 50 feet across). It is two stories and of all-wood construction and was built in 1875.

J. A. Bushnell was born in the state of New York and crossed the continent in 1852 by oxteam and wagon. His wife, Elizabeth Adkins, came west a little later with his mother, the latter a native of Indiana.

By his first marriage he had two daughters, one being Lucy (Mrs. William Pitney) and the other Virginia (Mrs. Ehrman). Mr. Bushnell's second wife was Sarah E. Page. There were six children by this second marriage, one of whom is Gertrude Froom, who now lives at Milwaukie, Oregon, and a son, the late Henry C.

J. A. Bushnell first secured a donation land claim in Grand Prairie, Oregon, but in 1862 he purchased land near Junction City. Here for many years he operated a grain elevator and warehouse until his retirement. He also served for a time as president of the First National Bank of Junction City. He was one of Junction City's first citizens, being very active in all kinds of civic and fraternal affairs.

Henry C. Bushnell was born on



JAMES A. BUSHNELL HOUSE

a ranch in the Junction City area in 1871. He attended public schools and later enrolled in the Normal School at Monmouth, Oregon, from which he graduated in 1892. He then returned home and became a member of the firm of J. A. Bushnell & Son, owners of a large warehouse. He also became manager of the waterworks system which his father had established, operating the plant until 1910, when he became an orchardist on quite a large scale.

In 1896 he married Miss Liva Skaggs, who came to Junction City in 1890. Her father dedicated the Christian Church and was for a long time minister of that denomination.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bushnell were leading citizens, active in civic, fraternal, religious and educational circles of Junction City.

The original plan for the house consisted of a closed-off front hall with a door opening into the old-fashioned parlor and off of this a sitting room and a dining room with an adjacent fireplace. Off of this area was a large kitchen and old-fashioned utility porch. Close by was the brick fruit house so necessary to early-day homes.

Across the front upstairs were

two bedrooms. To the rear of these was a large store room which could be converted into bedroom space if necessary.

Remodeling has been done, as is so often the case with old homes, but a number of things remain as they were in early days. They include: dark woodwork; deep baseboards and wide moldings; old bay window and others 10 feet high; old staircase with its attractive newel post; wide board fir floors; old six-inch-thick walls upon a foundation of posts, lathing and plaster. Within these walls one owner found an old insurance policy which covered the Junction City gristmill against fire for the sum of \$3,000 and dated October 1876. And lastly some original hardware lends interest to the interior, including doorknobs and quaint locks.

The setting of this old house was very lovely when the Bushnells resided in the old home. Today an unusually large pear tree, a few maples and some golden daffodils remain of the original plantings.

The Tadlocks plan eventually to add some shrubs, vines, bushes and flowers characteristic of early gardens in order to give the old home which they love a more appropriate setting.

* * *

CAMPBELL SCHOOL FOR BOYS*

One of the earliest schools in the area was that taught by a Mr. Weatherwax in the Benjamin Richardson residence near Franklin in 1848. This home stood approximately where the west end of Fern Ridge Dam is now.

It was in 1849 that the territor-

ial legislature passed an act providing for a system of common or public schools. In succeeding years some changes were made in this law.

Reverend Robert Robe was county superintendent of schools from 1851 to 1855. He organized the first public school system in Lane County. One of his first tasks was to divide the county into districts; Junction City became No. 69.

It is said that J. H. Rogers was the first teacher in the new system. He taught in a log building at the corner of Eleventh and Olive in the Eugene area.

The idea of the public or district school grew slowly. The early settlers were very much accustomed to select or private schools, taught by local men and women, and they often preferred them. Parents paid the teacher and took turns boarding the schoolmaster or schoolmarm. Unfortunately some children could not attend these schools for their families could not afford to send them. In these early years there were a series of private schools, some of which were called Select, some listed as Academies. They came and went with great rapidity.

One of these academies, which was called the Campbell School for Boys, still stands in Junction City. It is located at Seventh Avenue East and Elm and is now converted into apartments for rental purposes. Although the building has been remodeled, there are many evidences of its early-day construction. The original siding can still be seen under the present cover of imitation brick. Around the foundation there is narrow vertical siding, with the rest of the building

*Records for this school have not been located; information was received from an early-day resident.

being constructed of the horizontal. Other reminders of the past are: several 8-paned windows with old frames; several old paneled doors, one showing evidence of where a horseshoe had been placed in bygone days; an original porch; old chimneys; and in the garden may still be seen a quaint honeysuckle vine, clinging ivy, red roses and a giant cherry tree.

* * *

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, REV. T. F. RAWLINS, PASTOR

From Junction City Times Jan. 4, 1908

Well over 100 years ago the Christian Church of Junction City was established in the area. The first congregation gathered together as early as 1855. The church organization took place several years later at the Grand Prairie schoolhouse south of Junction City on November 28, 1858.

In 1874 J. A. Campbell preached the first sermon in the locality in

a large shop standing in the middle of a George Bailey's field.

In 1880 the Church reorganized to include the Grand Prairie congregation at which time the merged group became the Christian Church of Junction City. J. A. Bushnell was one of the first elders.

A fine new church was dedicated in 1892 during the ministry of A. D. Skaggs. It stood on the corner of Sixth and Ivy. In 1940 the building was moved to Fifth and Juniper where it stood vacant for a time.

It was later purchased by the Masonic Lodge AF and AM and O.E.S. in 1939. The Masons remodeled the historic structure to suit their needs for a lodge hall. They retained the setting of the old front windows but replaced them with new ones. The pulpit was moved to the far end of the main room. Outside, the old construction gave way to new and attractive stained siding.

* * *

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Later Junction City Hotel

This historic church was built in 1871 by a group of preachers who had broken away from the original organization whose location had been along the Cumberland River in Kentucky. They were sympathetic to slavery and to the Southern Cause.

In 1907-08 the old building was used as a fifth and sixth grade school with Maud Mickey as teacher. In 1910 A. K. Mickey bought the church and converted it into a hotel and family living quarters. Remodeling was begun by lowering the floor. This made it possible to construct a second story to accommodate a larger number of



**CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

guests. Twelve rooms were made available to the public. It was then known as Hotel Junction.

The old bell, one of the first in the community purchased for the considerable sum of \$140, was sold to the Danish Evangelical Church where it still remains.

In 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Watrous of Portland purchased the hotel from A. K. Mickey. The next spring they built an addition to the structure and every night the hotel was filled to capacity.

The charming old-fashioned sitting room was available to all, where a warm fire, good reading material, a piano and other musical instruments were available to the guests.

Mr. Watrous had been a railroad man in earlier years, and he and Mrs. Watrous had traveled widely. For these reasons they made excellent owners and operators of Hotel Junction.

The third owner of the old hotel was Carl Belrup, a native of Denmark, who had come to Junction City about 1909. He operated meat markets and a grocery store, farmed and handled real estate. He was also interested in politics and was elected as recorder in 1932 and again in 1936. He was also ap-

pointed deputy sheriff under Harry Brown. He continued to operate the hostelry until his death in 1937.

The hotel is still in operation today.

* * *

THE SOREN JENSEN HOUSE

The beautiful old Jensen house at 155 Dane Lane is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rhodes and family. It was built in 1904 by Soren Jensen, who was born in Denmark, later making his home as a young man in Lexington, Nebraska. From there he came to Oregon around the turn of the century and settled in Junction City.

By profession he was an architect and builder, having received his training in the old country. In addition to constructing this fine home, he also built a number of early-day Junction City buildings.

The house stands on an acre of land which was originally part of the Jensen farm. It is of all-wood construction, siding and shakes being used on the exterior. There are three stories with attractive bay windows on the parlor side downstairs and with the same just above the location on the second floor. Fishscale shakes lend interesting trim to areas around some of the bays. There is great charm also in the scrollwork trim which is said to have been a copy of some made in the old country.

As always, through the years changes have been made in the interior. For the most part, however, the plan of this house remains as the Jensens built it. Where there was once a hallway; now one enters directly into the parlor. An old-fashioned staircase with attractive newel post leads



THE SOREN JENSEN HOUSE

from the parlor to the four spacious bedrooms and bath upstairs. To the right of the parlor is a sizeable bedroom with an adjoining bath, and adjacent to this area is the kitchen. To the left of the parlor is the living room and off of this, the dining area. Some time ago when remodeling was being done on the fireplace, which was located between the parlor and front room, some interesting items were found. These consisted of some old letters and papers written in Danish which were penned nearly seventy years ago.

The 8-foot walls remain upstairs as do the 9-foot ones downstairs. Likewise the 36-inch windows and one measuring 28 by 68 inches, the original dark-stained woodwork, the paneled doors, all take one back to the turn of the century.

Outside, the magnificent old maple, the fine early cherries and the five firs make a lovely setting for the old home. Part of the original porch with its graceful supporting pillars remains, lending added charm to the front of the house.

Through the years, many a Dan-

ish family gathering took place at the Jensen home. There were also get-togethers of neighbors and other friends, and numerous parties and holiday celebrations, the latter often perpetuating old country customs and traditions.

* * *

OLD JUNCTION CITY TIMES BUILDING

The old *Junction City Times* building is another historical landmark of the area. It is still situated on its original site about one block north of the former Duckey Lee Hotel on Front Street in Junction City.

The *Times* was founded by S. L. Moorhead in 1891. Several local papers had preceded it but their lives had been of short duration. Mr. Moorhead, a colorful figure of his day, was owner and publisher. He was interested in politics as well, serving in the Oregon Legislature for a time. His wife ran the paper in his absence and by all reports she did an excellent job.



JUNCTION CITY TIMES BUILDING

About 1915 the *Times* was bought by Don Carlos Boyd. In 1918-19, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson became the owners. The Nelsons purchased a linotype which necessitated more space so they moved the *Times* to the Wilhelm building on Front Street. The *Times* was never returned to its former location. Just after World War II (1946), C. L. McKinley purchased the newspaper, publishing it himself, and today the same family owns and publishes the weekly *Times*.

The quaint little building remains very much as it was back in the '90's. Of wood construction and of saltbox design, one may observe panels across the facade with old narrow-width siding at the top and with wide panels, one on each side of the main door below.

The old paneled door, threshold and stone step-down remain. The original chimneys and roof are visible but the latter is now covered with tar paper. The number 567, placed there so long ago, still may be seen clearly by anyone passing by.

* * *

N. L. LEE HOUSE

The lovely Lee home at 655 Holly was until recently the home of Mrs. Christine Rasmussen. It was purchased in 1935 by the Rasmussens from Dr. J. P. Love, then owner of the fine residence.

The Lee family, early pioneers of Lane County, lived for a time at Portland, Salem and Lebanon and at the old town of Lancaster.

Philester Lee came across the plains to Oregon in 1847, locating first at Portland, then at Salem, and eventually took up a donation land claim at Lebanon.

His son, N. L., studied in the



N. L. LEE HOUSE

public schools and then enlisted for service in the Civil War as a member of Company F, First Regiment, Oregon Infantry. He was later stationed at Ft. Lapwai, Idaho, (1865-66) to put down Indian uprisings. While at this post he studied medicine and surgery under Dr. George K. Smith, post surgeon, U.S. Army. After the war he matriculated at Willamette University at Salem, graduating March 3, 1871, being one of the first graduates. He engaged in practice at Lancaster, Lebanon and Junction City, being the first physician to locate in this area.

He died a highly respected member of his community at the age of 85 in 1919 at Junction City. He was survived by his wife, Amanda Griggs Lee, and several children.

In the early seventies, not long after Junction City had become an incorporated town, the Lees decided to leave Lancaster. This community was gradually fading as a settlement because the Oregon and California Railroad Company had designated the new city a refueling junction for its East and West side railroads.

They brought to their new loca-

tion in Junction City a small house from Lancaster in which they lived until the beautiful new house was ready for occupancy.

The home is of all-wood construction and of two stories. It is built of fine structural timbers put together with square hand-forged nails. Remodeling has, of course, taken place over the years, but the plan of the house remains generally the same.

The front door opens into an attractive long entry hall with colonial stairway and newel post. This area opens into a combined living room and doctor's office to the right and off of this a double French door leads to an old-fashioned parlor. Back of this living room was the dining room with a side porch to the north and just adjacent the kitchen and bathroom, the latter replete with old-fashioned high tub on legs.

There were four bedrooms, one of which was used for a billiard room.

This charming early-day doctor's home and office still contains many original windows; old wide baseboards, 12-foot-high ceilings and old handmade shutters. Many of the original plantings were replaced by the Rasmussens with lovely shrubs, beautiful flowers and old-fashioned ivy.

* * *

WILLIAM S. LEE'S DRUGSTORE later Zula M. Lee's Hotel

This interesting old building, located on Front Street now as it was originally, is the present home of the Welfare Organization of Junction City.

William S. Lee, a druggist, was born in Perry County, Missouri. He came to Oregon during the Civil War years and to Lane County in



From Junction City Times Jan. 4, 1908

1872. In March, 1874, he married Azula M. Kirk and to this couple were born Ona and Ira L. Lee.

About 1890 the Lees had constructed a very substantial brick building of characteristic design of the period for their drugstore. There were three long windows across the facade upstairs. Downstairs, double glass doors were used for the entrance, flanked on either side by large windows.

The old windows, walls and front with its evidence of Victorian design and trim still remain, as do several old shrubs and trees which lend added charm to the setting.

After Mr. Lee's death, his wife, Zula (as she was called), remodeled the drugstore into a hotel. It became known as the Duckey Lee Hotel. Here railroad men and visitors passing through Junction City could find comfortable ac-

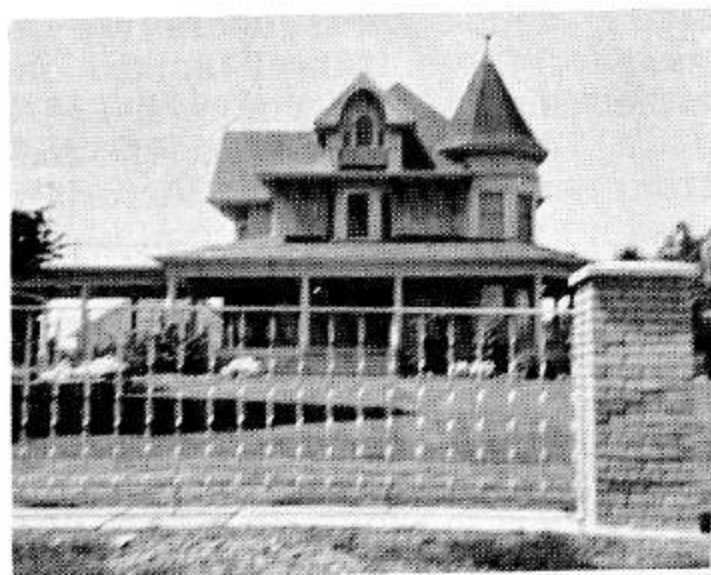
commodations, homelike atmosphere and good home-cooked meals served to the patron for the considerable sum of 25 cents. If space permitted, many interesting stories could be told of this old hotel in its heyday.

* * *

GIDEON C. MILLETT HOUSE

The Millett house at 50 Prairie Road was until very recently the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Rash and their three children. This family loved the old place which had fallen into great disrepair, but in their eyes it had endless possibilities for renovation and rehabilitation. During their occupancy, the house and grounds were restored to their former beauty, once again becoming a showplace as the home had been a little past the turn of the century.

The house was built in 1905 by Mads Jensen, a very fine carpenter and builder of his day, for Gideon Millett, one of Junction City's early-day residents. Millett was a successful stockman of the Junction City area. He operated a large farm which stocked Poland China hogs, Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep and was the largest breeder of thoroughbreds in Lane



GIDEON C. MILLETT HOUSE

County. The farm in time comprised 1600 acres of land. In the early 1900's he sold the acreage to A. C. Nielsen for resale to Danish newcomers to Junction City.

Millett was born in Waterloo, Iowa, March 9, 1868. When he was only two years old, after the death of his parents, he was adopted by a Mr. R. Millett. When Gideon was five, his foster family brought him to Benton County, Oregon, where they remained until 1875 when they moved to Junction City. Here they purchased a sizeable farm which came into Gideon's possession at the age of 23.

He married Hattie Emma Darrow in 1904 in Eugene. He was very active in the promotion of education, good roads and other general improvements in Lane County. He was a member of the Republican Party, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

The Millett home is of all-wood construction and of three stories. At the time of building it cost about \$13,000, this figure including the barn. In the early 1900's, carpenters received about \$3.00 to \$3.50 for a very full day's work.

One enters a charming hall with a graceful Colonial-type winding staircase leading up to the second floor. To the right of this hall is the parlor with its grouping of three large windows through which one may see old trees, shrubs and bright flowers. In the ceiling of this room can still be seen an original sculptured ornate design characteristic of the period.

Off of this area is the dining room which also has a grouping of three sizeable windows. Just adjacent to this room is a large kitchen with its old-fashioned pantry. To the left of the dining room there are sliding doors into the gracious

living room. A cozy sitting room, large bath and an old-fashioned porch complete the downstairs area of the house.

Upstairs there are three spacious bedrooms and one smaller one. The master bedroom had its own private bath. At the end of the hall there is a rather steep winding staircase which leads down to the kitchen.

The third story has been used for storage purposes in more recent years.

Beautiful woodwork, fine floors, plastered walls approximately 5 or 6 inches thick and probably 8 or 9 feet high and large windows interestingly grouped, are some of the features of this handsome house.

Over the years there have been gatherings of friends, lovely holiday celebrations and old-fashioned birthday parties for which the Millett home made a most appropriate setting.

* * *

A. C. NIELSEN HOUSE

The interesting old Nielsen house at 85 Dane Lane is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bryson and their four children. The Brysons love the old home and fully appreciate the early-day charm of this residence and its setting.

It was built around the turn of the century by A. C. Nielsen, Sr., a former real estate dealer from Tyler, Minnesota, and one of the founders of the Danish Colony in Junction City. He was instrumental in bringing many Danish families to the area in the early 1900's to whom he offered large tracts of land for home sites. In addition to his real estate interests, he was a skilled orchardist, dairyman and poultryman.

Situated now on seven and a half acres of land, the house is nestled against a background of beautiful walnut trees, lilac bushes and trailing ivy, all original plantings.

The home is of all-wood construction and of two stories. The upper part is of shakes, the lower, siding, and the whole house is put together with old-fashioned square-headed nails.

The walls measure about nine and a half feet. They were constructed of shiplap boards covered with cheesecloth, thin paper and a quaint dark wallpaper.

There has been remodeling over the years, but the general plan remains. One enters the hall where there are French doors into the living room on one side and what was formerly the parlor on the other, and just adjacent the spacious dining room and off of this area the kitchen. A door from the kitchen leads into what is now a family room. From the front hall a Colonial type stairway leads up to four large bedrooms above.

Among interesting original features of the old home are: a leaded-pane glass front door; square bay-type windows; old-fashioned door-



A. C. NIELSEN HOUSE

knobs and other hardware of fancy design; old dark stained woodwork; three-inch fir boards on the floor; and the old hitching post at the end of the front walk. In one square of the walk can still be seen the name, "A. C. Nielsen."

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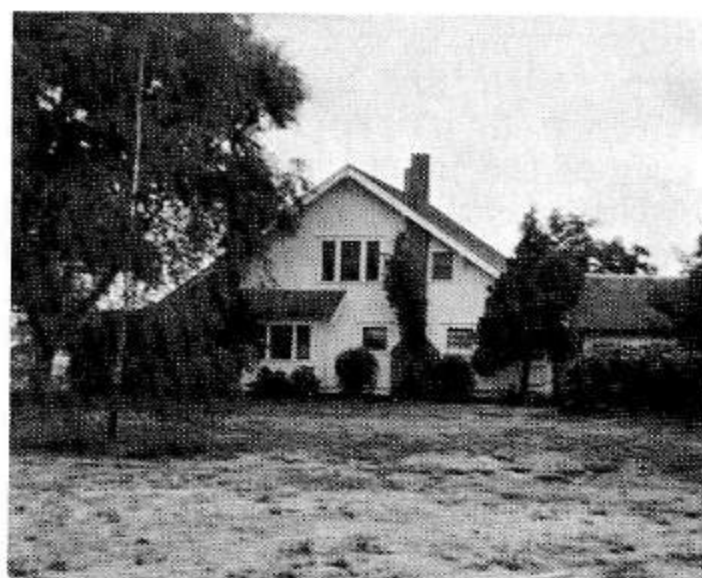
OLE PETERSEN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

What could hold more fascinating memories than a blacksmith's shop for those who like to step back into yesterday?

Ole Petersen, born in Denmark where he was trained in blacksmithing, brought his family to Junction City in 1910 or 1911 from Kent, Washington. The children were Harold, Otto, Else (Mrs. James St. Clair), Ellen (Mrs. Guy Gilmore) and Eva (Mrs. Robert Reiling).

In 1911, Mr. Petersen purchased the shop which was located on Fifth and Greenwood, as it still is today. Here he operated a general blacksmithing business. Some time later, Pete Skovbo bought into the shop and worked with him for some years. In time, Mr. Petersen sold his part of the property and business to Albert Jacobsen. Pete Skovbo remained as a partner until 1920 when he bought out the business. Eventually he sold the shop and secured another location where he went into a new line of work. After the sale of the blacksmith shop, Ole Petersen moved next door where he went into the farm equipment business.

In 1963, the shop and adjoining building were sold by Tex Lee, owner of the business at the time, to the Junction City Festival Association for art displays during festival time.



CLARENCE PITNEY HOUSE

The attractive farmhouse at 725 Highway 36 is the home of Clarence A. Pitney. The house was built in 1915 by Clarence A. and his brother, Cecil E., on land just adjacent to the original John and Elizabeth Pitney donation land claim of 342 acres. Nearby formerly stood the early home which was constructed of wideboard siding and put together with square-headed nails and old wooden pegs. This pioneer home burned to the ground about 75 years ago.

William M. Pitney was a pioneer agriculturist of Lane County who was born Dec. 19, 1848, in Howard County, Missouri. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Wayland Pitney, the latter a native of Virginia.

He was only between five and six years old when his parents started for the Oregon Country by oxteam and wagon in 1853. At the end of the long trek westward, they took up a donation land claim in what is now the Junction City area. For a time they made their home in Salem, returning after about a two-year period to the initial site to make a permanent home. Here the Pitneys transformed the land into a fertile farm upon which they raised cattle and sheep.

To John and Elizabeth Pitney

were born seven children. They were: Joel, Mrs. Melvin Hayes, Mrs. Mary Maunder, Mrs. Sarah Wright, William McClure, Marcellus and Mrs. Rosie Payton.

Some time after John Pitney's death in 1865, William M., a son, became the owner of the property (1879). He was a scientific farmer and he applied himself to raising the standards of agriculture in his area and in the state.

Mr. Pitney's first wife was Josie Goldtra, whom he married in 1875. She died in 1876, leaving a son, Royal W. On January 1, 1879, William M. married Miss Lucy J. Bushnell, who was the daughter of J. A. and Elizabeth Adkins Bushnell. She was born in Meadowview, attending later the public schools of the locality and completing her studies in Monmouth, Oregon. To this couple were born six children. They were: Nellie, James Otis, Cecil, Mildred Edith, Francis Alva and Clarence.

William M. Pitney died in an accident on April 18, 1924. He was a man who gave generously of his time to public office, serving on the school board and as city recorder, and as a very active member of the Presbyterian Church and Ancient Order of United Workmen. He also was at one time president of the Lane County Pioneer Association.

Cecil and Clarence practiced diversified farming, kept livestock and were among the first to raise turkeys in the area. Clarence made his home with his brother and sister-in-law. Some time later the farm was divided and Cecil moved to another location nearby, but the brothers continued to make their home together.

In 1919, Clarence married Ellen Van Valkinburg at which time the house became the home of the Clarence Pitneys. Their sons, James

and Elvan, grew up here. Elvan is now superintendent of schools at Sherwood, Oregon, and James operates the farm which includes a 70-cow dairy. His daughter, Alice, became Oregon's Dairy Princess in 1966.

The museum part of the home may be viewed by appointment only.

* * *

CHARLES WESLEY WASHBURNE HOUSE

This house has been the home of the James W. Washburnes for many years and is located at 920 First Avenue West.

Charles Wesley Washburne, a very early pioneer of the area, first ventured to the far west during the gold rush of 1849. Later he returned to his home in Iowa, where in November, 1851, he married Miss Catherine Stansbury. In 1853 they joined a caravan destined for the Oregon Country. They came over the Barlow Route, which crossed the Cascades south of Mt. Hood, and finally arrived in the Junction City area in November, 1853.

In 1873, he bought from T. A. Milliorn 160 acres adjacent to Junction City, with the house which had been built six years earlier, to which he moved though still retaining the home place. Here he engaged in farming and stock raising and as an operator of flour mills. He also became director of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Junction City which later became a branch of the U.S. National Bank of Portland and some years later a branch of the First National Bank of Portland. In time he became a large landowner and one of the heaviest taxpayers in Lane County.

The Methodist Church was founded by Mrs. Washburne, and through the years, the Washburnes were among its most generous patrons. The Junction City High School was later named in his honor, as he had generously given land upon which the building stood.

He died in 1919 at the age of 95 years, after an effective and active life in business, fraternal, educational, legislative and religious activities.

To this couple were born thirteen children, one of whom was William Colfax (seventh child of C. W. Washburnes). William C. attended public schools and the University of Oregon after which he engaged in flour mills for a time, later becoming cashier of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Junction City, which had been established early in 1893. The bank was first located in a small one-story brick building but in 1912 it moved into a modern two-story structure. At this time Claude B. Washburne joined his uncle in the management and operation of the bank until he left Junction City in 1940 to enter the U.S. Army.

On May 14, 1893, William C. Washburne married Miss Julia Hamilton of Roseburg, Oregon. To this couple was born a son, James W. James attended Oregon State College for a time and later he engaged in general farming and poultry raising and was affiliated with the Oregon Cooperative Egg Growers Association.

On November 6, 1917, he married Miss Julia Johnson of Junction City. They came to reside in the old home in 1919, where their family of four children were born and raised.

The house is of all-wood construction and two stories high. Rustic siding, a steep quarter-

pitched roof and scroll trim, so characteristic of the period, all lend great charm to the home.

Originally, there were two front porches across the front of the house. One led into the living room, the other into the parlor. These porches supported graceful balconies above, each with its own attractive colored glass panels in the upper part of the door. Some changes were made over the years to accommodate a growing family, but the original plan remains very much the same.

The home still contains some reminders of early days when C. W. Washburne lived there. There are: many old paneled doors and a number of large four-paned windows. On the grounds, five original cedars remain.

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A Ballad of Junction City

By C. A. Pitney

The railroad's a'comin',
Saws and hammers fly
The town's in excitement.
The story tells you why.

Junction had a birth
In eighteen seventy-one.
A city born full-grown
And how it all was done.

Bought a piece of ground.
Gonna build a town.
Look for the choo-choo.
Listen for the sound.

Gotta cross the river.
Gotta build a grade.
Gonna be a railroad
When all the tracks are laid.

Steamboats on the river.
A stage road to the west.
In between, the city,
Your fortunes to invest.

It takes a lot o' people.
There is a lot o' need
To build a town completely
From neither sprouts nor seed.

There must be mills for lumber,
And saws for winter wood,
Schools for your learning,
And churches for your good.

Blacksmith shops with anvils
To fit the horses' feet.
It will take a lot o' lumber
For sidewalks on the street.

There must be a lot o' Chinamen
With their queues hanging down,
To keep the tracks in order
And race about the town.

You hav'ta have a water tank
And piles of wood along the track.
You hav'ta have a roundhouse
To turn the engines back.

House to move to Lancaster
By many means and modes
Takes rollers, skids, and windlass
To move these heavy loads.

Hotels built in splendor
To match the Opera House,
With noted men in number
To ride livery rigs about.

There must be medicine shows
With dancing Kick-a-Poos.
You gotta have a paper
To tell you of the news.

There must be bands for music
Playing in the park,
With street lamps a'hanging
To warn you of the dark.

Houses must have fences.
Pigs and chickens run about.
Gates must be strong enough
To keep the cattle out.

You gotta have some firemen
When fires black the town,
Hook and ladder with buckets
To pour the water on.

You gotta have saloons
For cards and rolling dice,
And a lot o' fist fights
To black each other's eyes.

You'll need a Justice of the Peace
And a Jail to put 'em in,
Shops for everything
For harness, shoes, and tin.

You gotta have a drug store,
And a doctor for your health,
An office for your letters,
And a lawyer for your wealth.

There must be a little stream,
Gurgling through the town,
Ducks to shoot in winter
And fishing all around.

Build not for spreading borders,
Or for other towns to envy.
May its youth be noble,
Its people kind and friendly.

And when the town's complete,
And the mayor deems it so,
Forget not the founders,
Who built this town so long ago.

LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
740 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon

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