

The Road to Oregon



INDIAN ATTACK ON AN EMIGRANT TRAIL (From Yale University Press "Pageant of America")

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

OMING as it did near the Eightieth anniversary of the discovery of gold in California, the announcement of a project, sponsored by a Californian, Charles E. Davis of Sacramento, to take an immigrant train of 300 prairie schooners from Independence, Mo., along the overland trail of pioneer days as a means of aiding in marking historic places and awakening more interest in these places, brings to public attention again a route which has well been called the "road that won an empire." That is the historic Oregon Trail, once known to thousands because of the book by Parkman, the historian, but in modern times made a familiar word to millions through Emerson Hough's novel "The Covered Wagon" and the movie that was made from that book.

This latest project is only one of several of a similar nature which have been undertaken in recent years. Six years ago the Old Oregon Trail association was organized at Baker, Ore., "to perpetuate the name of the Old Oregon Trail by having that name designated by the states through which it passes and also designated by the congress of the United States as a national highway and, by so doing, do honor to the memory of the brave pioneer men and women who faced the perils of a savage land to carve out new homes for themselves in the 'Oregon Country,' and to make it American territory; to permanently mark the road with the design of the Ox Team and Covered Wagon so that its history may be preserved and be a constant reminder to the younger generation of the hardships endured by those who blazed the way and laid the foundation of our present day civilization."

In 1923 a pageant was staged at Meacham, Ore., and President Harding formally dedicated the Old Oregon Trail by unveiling a monument at Emigrant Springs, one of the most famous camping spots on the trail. Since that time the association, and an allied organization, the Oregon Trail Memorial association with headquarters in New York, has been engaged in an effort to get official recognition from congress of their project for marking the trail and perpetuating it as a broad motor highway. The president of the memorial association is Ezra Meeker, the ninety-seven-year-old pioneer who first went over the trail in 1852. He has gone over it five times in the last twenty years. His first two trips in that time, in 1907 and 1911, were made by ox team, as was his journey in 1922 when it took five months to cover the distance at an average speed of 10 miles an hour. In 1915 and

The Oregon Trail

Two hundred wagons, rolling out to Oregon
Breaking through the poplar holes,
lurching wide and free,
Crawling up the mountain pass, jolt-
ing, scrambling, rumbering on,
Two hundred wagons, rolling to the sea.

From East and South and North they
Rock to muster row on row,
A feet of ten-score prairie ships be-
side Missouri's flow.
The bullwhips crack, the oxen strain,
the canvas-hooded files,
Are off upon the long, long trail of
sixteen hundred miles.

The women hold the gullies-lines;
beside the rocking steers
and ready rider-walk, the
bearded pioneers
Through clouds of dust beneath the
sun, through floods of evening
rain
Across the Kansas prairie land,
across Nebraska's plain.

Two hundred wagons, rolling out to
Oregon
Curved around the camp fire flame
at half when day is done,
Rest awhile beneath the stars, yoke
again and lumber on,
Two hundred wagons, rolling with
the sun.

Among the barren buttes they wind
beneath the jealous view
Of Blackfoot, Pawnee, Omaha, Ara-
paho and Sioux.
No savage threat may check their
course, no river deep and wide
swim the Platte, they ford
the Snake, they cross the
Great Divide.
They march as once from India's
vales through Asia's mountain
door
With shield and spear on Europe's
plain their fathers marched
before.
They march where leap the an-
telope and storm the buffalo
Westward as their fathers
marched ten thousand years
ago.

eastern terminus, although the best known one was Independence, Mo. The other was at Council Bluffs, Iowa, (formerly Kanesville, Iowa) opposite Omaha, Neb. From Independence the route ran through what is now Kansas City (formerly Westport) to Gardner, Kan., where the two historic western trails, the Oregon and the Santa Fe, parted. From Gardner the road ran past what is now Topeka, thence northwest into Nebraska through the present town of Hebron and on until it reached the Platte river near the present city of Grand Island. It ran along the south bank of the Platte until it reached what is now the city of North Platte where it crossed over to the north side. It was here joined by the trail from Council Bluffs (Kanesville), and followed the north bank of the Platte to that point.

The "road to Oregon" continued up the North Platte to Fort Laramie in Wyoming, through the present city of Casper and on past Independence Rock, which was called the "Register of the Trail," because so many of the emigrants carved their names or initials on this great landmark. From there it angled south and west until it crossed the Continental divide at South Pass, where the town of Pacific is now located. From here led two routes, one making a bend to the south, past the present city of Kemmerer, the other going more nearly straight west over what was known as the Sublette Cut-Off and both coming together at what is now the town of Border.

Entering Idaho the trail passed through the present towns of Montpelier, and Soda Springs, on to where old Fort Hall stood at the junction of the Port Neuf and the Snake rivers. Following the south bank of the Snake, it went through what are now the towns of American Falls, Twin Falls, Filer and Buhi, where it went into the hills and emerged again at the river near the present town of Glenn's Ferry, where it crossed the Snake. From there it passed what are now Mountain Home, Boise, Nampa, Caldwell and Parma, near where old Fort Boise was located and where it crossed the Snake a second time. From there it entered the present state of Oregon, went past Vale and Ontario, through Huntington at the mouth of the Burnt River canyon, up the canyon into the Powder valley near the present city of Baker. From here it went through the Grande Ronde valley, over the Blue mountains past the town of Meacham and on past the present site of Pebbleton to the Umatilla. From there it followed along the south bank of the Columbia, although at the Dalles the emigrants usually took to boats and rafts or to the Barlow road on through to Oregon City and Portland. From there they spread out over the Willamette valley, the Clatsop plains and north into the present state of Washington. "And Oregon was theirs!"

1926 he retraced his path in an automobile and in 1924 he went over the trail in an airplane, continuing his flight to Washington where he was received by President Coolidge, after having spanned the continent in seventy-two hours.

The Oregon Trail in reality had two boards; plow with wood, mole board; 800 to 1,000 three-foot clap boards; 1,500 ten foot fence rails; 1 sixty gallon soap kettle; 35 sugar troughs, made of white ash timber; 10 gallons of maple syrup; 2 spinning wheels; 30 pounds of mutton tallow; 1 large loom, made by Jerry Wilson; 300 poles; 100 split hoops; 100 empty barrels; 1 thirty-two gallon barrel of Johnson Miller whiskey, seven years old; 20 gallons of apple brandy; 1 forty gallon copper still, of oak tanned leather; 1 dozen real books; 2 handle hooker; 2 scythes and cradles; 1 dozen wooden pitchforks; one-half interest in tanyard; 1 thirty-two caliber rifle, bullet mold and powder horns; made by Ben Miller; 50 gallons of

Good Plant Cover Prevents Erosion

Field With Growing Crop Does Not "Wash" as Seriously as Others.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
It is well known that a good plant cover checks erosion of the soil, that a pasture, meadow, or a field well covered with a growing crop does not "wash" as seriously as one planted, for example, to corn or cotton, in which the crop does not fully cover the ground. On the western ranges preservation of a good cover of herbaceous and shrubby plants on rough ground used for grazing is particularly necessary. The forest service of the United States Department of Agriculture has given particular attention to the effects of plant growth in checking erosion, and the present policy of issuing grazing permits is designed to insure the preservation of such a cover through prevention of overgrazing.

Value of Grasses.
Clarence L. Fogsling of the forest service, says, "The value of grasses and other low-growing plants for protecting watersheds may not be easily recognized because of the somewhat obscure manner in which such plants check surface run-off and erosion. The vegetation intercepts a small part of the falling rain before it reaches the ground. The decaying plant material adds to or at least maintains the humus content, and consequently the water-holding capacity, of the soil. The roots open up the soil to some extent, and thus help the water to penetrate into the ground. The stems and leaves near the ground form physical obstructions to water as it runs down hillsides, reducing its velocity and increasing the chances of its being absorbed by the soil. The reduction of velocity and volume of run-off and the binding power of the roots check erosion."

Maintain Grazing Capacity.
"Under average conditions, where the cover has not already been reduced, grazing practice that will maintain the highest grazing capacity will also maintain the plant cover in a condition for satisfactory protection of the watershed."

Weed Worse Than Quack

Combated by Plowing
Leafy spurge is slowly invading South Dakota and it is worse than quack grass or sow thistle. This is the statement made recently by Dr. Arthur T. Evans, head of the botany and plant pathology department at South Dakota State college, when a farmer brought a sample of the weed to his office. The weed may be combated by plowing it up three or four times each summer for at least three summers. Leafy spurge is a yellowish-green weed and grows in patches about three feet high.
The farmer said his neighbor had a 35-acre field taken by the weed and that the township board was going to force him to exterminate the plant. Doctor Evans warned the farmer that if the patch was not killed the whole farm and adjoining ones would soon be worthless.

Up-to-Date Information on Planting Soy Beans

Bulletin 310 of the Illinois station at Urbana contains the best up-to-date information on soy beans. It tells all about planting soy beans, the varieties to use, and how to harvest. A map of Illinois is printed in the bulletin indicating that soy beans are most extensively grown in eastern and southern Illinois. For the state as a whole the acreage is only over 700,000. In other words soy beans are grown as extensively in Illinois as wheat is grown in Iowa. Because of the fact that soy beans are so popular in Illinois the Illinois bulletin should be especially worth while.

Farm Notes

Half the sugar is lost from corn during the first 24 hours after the ears are pulled.

The food value of eggs has no relation to the color of the shells. Browns or whites are the same inside.

Loafing hens in the farm flock eat up the profits the busy biddies make. Good poultrymen soon send them to the butcher.

It costs a great deal less to produce 100 pounds of milk from heavy yielding cows than from cows producing smaller amounts.

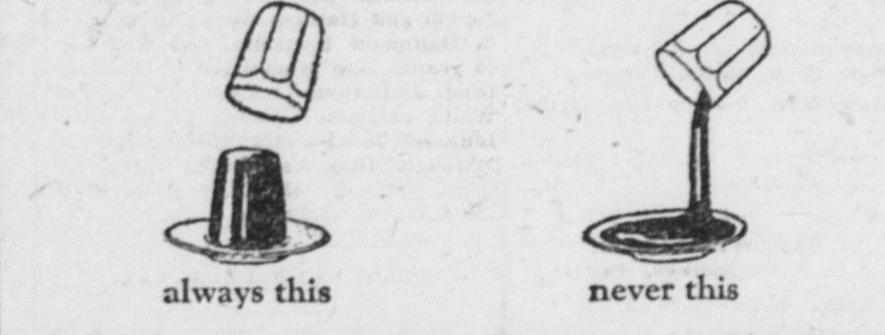
Ants may be exterminated in lawn or garden by driving a rod down into the nest and pouring boiling water. In which potatoes have been boiled, down into the hole. Lye water also is effective.

The Jersey Black Giant probably is the largest of the American breeds. The standard weights are 13 pounds for the cock, 10 pounds for the hen, 11 pounds for cockerel and 8 pounds for the pullet.

Chiggers are sometimes serious pests on little chicks. They cannot, however, tolerate flowers of sulphur. Sprinkling it in the down or feathers and an application in the grass where the chicks run will soon check them.



Forget last year's jelly failures
This year you have PEXEL



PEXEL jells all fruits. Requires less boiling. Obtains more jelly. Does not change the most delicate flavor or color of any fruit

EVEN if you've had a dozen failures—or if you never made jelly before—you can make jellies successfully with PEXEL. Just add it to fruit juice and bring to full boil. Then add sugar. Bring to vigorous boil once more. Take kettle from range. Skim. Pour into glasses. That's all—it will be jelled as soon as it is cool.

When you use PEXEL, its price—30c—is repaid from one to three times. Time and fuel are saved. You make more jelly because fruit juice, sugar and flavor are not wasted by prolonged boiling. PEXEL is a 100% pure-fruit product. It is absolutely colorless,

tasteless, odorless. It is a powder, not a liquid. Keeps indefinitely. Just as effective in any season with bottled juices or unsweetened canned fruits.

Get PEXEL at your grocer's. Only 30c. Recipe booklet with easy-to-follow directions in every package. The PEXEL Company, Chicago, Ill.

Here are a few examples of how much jelly PEXEL makes:

- 4 1/2 cups strawberry juice, PEXEL, 8 cups sugar make 11 glasses of jelly.
- 4 1/2 cups raspberry juice, PEXEL, 8 cups sugar make 11 glasses of jelly.
- 6 cups currant juice, PEXEL, 10 cups sugar make 14 glasses of jelly.
- 4 1/2 cups grape juice, PEXEL, 7 cups sugar make 10 glasses of jelly.

Average Californian
The average Californian probably isn't a Californian at all, but hails from Illinois, Missouri or New York, according to figures of L. E. Ross, chief of the state's bureau of vital statistics. Only one-third of the present population of the state is native. Illinois leads all other states in populating the Golden State, having contributed 137,000 residents. Missouri has contributed 104,000 inhabitants; New York, 102,000; Ohio, 88,880; Iowa, 86,500, and Kansas, 62,850.

The women of Lapland are among the smallest in the world, averaging only four feet nine inches in height.

Why is it that neighborly feeling is so often one of envy and curiosity?

One Soap is all you need for TOILET BATH SHAMPOO

Keep your complexion free of blemishes, your skin clear, soft, smooth and white, your hair silky and glowing, your entire body refreshed, by using

Glenn's Sulphur Soap

Contains 33 1/2% Pure Sulphur. At druggists. **Rehland's Styptic Cotton, 25c**

W. H. FORST, Mfg. - Scottsdale, Penna.

Bee Brand INSECT POWDER or LIQUID

It Kills Them!

Non-poisonous. Won't spot or stain. The Bee on every package—is your guarantee. Send for free insect booklet. If dealer cannot supply—write McCormick & Co., Baltimore, Md.

A Sale Bill of 1849

When the California gold fever spread over the country many persons sold their property and hurried West to get rich. Here is a sale bill of those days:

SALE
Having sold my farm and I am leaving for Oregon Territory by ox team, will offer, March 1, 1849, all of my personal property, to-wit:
All ox teams except two teams, Buck and Ben and Tom and Jerry; 2 milk cows; 1 gray mare and colt; 1 pair of oxen and yoke; 1 baby yoke; 2 ox carts; 1 iron foot of poplar weather

boards; plow with wood, mole board; 800 to 1,000 three-foot clap boards; 1,500 ten foot fence rails; 1 sixty gallon soap kettle; 35 sugar troughs, made of white ash timber; 10 gallons of maple syrup; 2 spinning wheels; 30 pounds of mutton tallow; 1 large loom, made by Jerry Wilson; 300 poles; 100 split hoops; 100 empty barrels; 1 thirty-two gallon barrel of Johnson Miller whiskey, seven years old; 20 gallons of apple brandy; 1 forty gallon copper still, of oak tanned leather; 1 dozen real books; 2 handle hooker; 2 scythes and cradles; 1 dozen wooden pitchforks; one-half interest in tanyard; 1 thirty-two caliber rifle, bullet mold and powder horns; made by Ben Miller; 50 gallons of

soft soap; hams, bacon and lard; 40 gallons of sorghum molasses; 6 head of fox hounds, all soft mouthed except one.
At the same time I will sell my six negro slaves—2 men, 25 and 50 years old; 2 boys, 12 and 18 years old; 2 mulatto wenchies, 40 and 30 years old. Will sell all together to same party, as will not separate them.
Terms of sale, cash in hand, or note to draw 4 per cent interest with Bob McConnell as surety.
My home is 2 miles south of Versailles, Kentucky, on the McCouns ferry pike. Sale begins at 2 o'clock A. M. Plenty to drink and eat.
J. L. MOSS.