

Pioneer Recalls Year's Journey From Colorado

Mrs. Laura Kennedy, a 75 year resident of Tillamook county, is back in town after spending a few months in the valley. She gave up her home on Main avenue some time ago and has been staying with the Neals at 1103 Elm avenue.

While Mrs. Kennedy's eyesight is poor, her hearing is keen and she is quite well. Always a friendly person and good company, she enjoys visiting with old friends and making new acquaintances. She will be 82 on her next birthday, October 25th, and well remembers the early days in the county and the trip across country from Colorado with her parents when she was six years old.

Her story of the early days shared by other members of her family is an interesting one. Still living in the county are her sisters, Mrs. Joanna Farmer and Mrs. Alice Kellow Hagerman of Beaver.

The family, including her grandparents, and a number of relatives, as well as her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rhodes and their family came across country by wagon team and horseback, driving a large stock of cattle and horses from Colorado. Food for the stock could be purchased along the way, but it took the party a year to get to Baker City, Oregon. They stayed there for a time and then came on to Tillamook county settling in the Cloverdale area, packing in by way of Dolph. The family was not short of funds, Mrs. Kennedy recalls, and they purchased four farms, and as she remembers paid \$300 for the four. There was a house on the farm where they were to live but the original owners remained for a time and the family lived in the tents as they had all the way from Colorado. One of the happenings, she remembers, was the shooting by her father of a 9-foot panther in a tree just above their camp fire. The animal crashed to the ground right beside the fire.

The stock they brought with them from Colorado did not prove very successful as there was no way to secure grain and feed for them after they got them into the Cloverdale valley, which was a big task in itself. All groceries and feed had to be packed in. However, they were able to improve their dairy stock and like others in the area first made butter and then cheese. Mrs. Kennedy's grandfather was a Methodist minister and her grandmother a doctor. Her grandparents brought money with them and as a little girl Mrs. Kennedy recalls that her grandmother carried gold pieces in a long slit pocket in her skirt. One of the members of the family migrated to Spokane soon after coming out west and there was some visiting back and forth.

School was in session in those early days only a few months in the summertime and it was necessary for the Rhodes children to wade several streams to get to school. Laura Rhodes was sent to

Spokane to school part of the time, and when she came home helped to form a Sunday school at Hebo. First there had to be funds and a promise to back the Sunday school and she remembers wading creeks and walking trails to the scattered homes to collect usually about 10 cents per family. She recalls Judge Condor gave the first four bits.

Laura Rhodes and Jess Kennedy were married 61 years ago. Jess owned a 97 acre farm and the couple made their home near Cloverdale until about 30 years ago when they moved to Tillamook. They have two sons, one son, Charles, now living at Pacific City, and Dr. William Kennedy, a dentist at Olympia, Washington. Their son William is a veteran of World War I and II. For many years, his mother was active in the work of the Tillamook chapter of the American Legion Post 47. She is also a member of the Tillamook Methodist church and County Pioneer Association. An excellent cook, she enjoyed helping with big dinners until her eyesight began to fail.

Laura Kennedy's life-time spans years of great change for this county. She is one of a number of early pioneers still living in the county who can recall the days when the only access to the "outside" was by trail over mountain passes or occasional boat that came in over the bar.