

APIARY

Perhaps one of the strangest names in Oregon history is Apiary, which settlement is about eight miles southwest of Rainier. It was so named by Mr. David M. Dorsey who was an early settler. He had a bee ranch, accounting for the name, and he was the first postmaster, the office being es-

tablished in 1889. Among the settlers who came in the late 1880's were several families who still live in the area, among them the Brown, King, Kirby, Dippold, Gallion, Alley, Grindle, Wilson and Lowman families.

Mrs. Jared Wilson was born in Webster, County, Iowa, in 1846 or

1847, eighty miles north of Fort Des Moines, where soldiers were stationed to protect early settlers from the Indians. She married a Civil War veteran Jared Wilson in 1865, and lived there until she had four children, then moved to Cloud county, Kansas, where she lived two years. They then moved to Dayton, Yamhill county, Oregon, and then to Beaver Valley, living on the same farm for 55 years. She next moved to Fern Hill. She left many descendants.

William L. Brown and Miss Irene Lowman were married at Olive Hill, Kentucky, in 1885. They came to Portland by train, then to Rainier by boat in 1887, with two small children, the youngest of whom passed away within a month of their arrival. The following summer they took up a homestead at what was later known as Apiary. This property is still owned by the heirs, and a bachelor son is now living in the original house.

Mr. Brown became postmaster at Apiary in 1894 and held that office until a rural route was established in December, 1923. Mr. Brown passed away at the home in December, 1932, and Mrs. Brown at St. Vincent's hospital in December, 1937. They with several of their children are buried in the Apiary cemetery, about one mile from the home place.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brown were born 15 children, ten sons and five daughters, three of whom died in infancy. There are 25 grand children and 53 great grand children.

The oldest son was killed in a mill explosion near the home in December, 1911, leaving a wife

and a 15 month old daughter. The first son born on the homestead is now living in Portland. Another son was killed while working for Clark and Wilson Co. in September, 1931, leaving a wife and four small children. Another son was killed in a traffic accident near Vancouver in 1938. The youngest daughter passed away at Vancouver in 1936, leaving a husband and three small children.

Three sons, Joseph, Allen and Wilder, and two daughters, Alma Burnham and Grace Achibald, now live near Rainier, and one daughter, Lucille Haarstad, is now living at Eatonville, Washington. Always interested in local affairs, both Mr. and Mrs. Brown served on the school board for many years, he as director and she as clerk of the board. (This material was submitted by Mrs. Loyal Brown, a daughter in law, of Portland. Loyal Brown died on May 26, 1962 after this story was written. Mrs. Brown was the former Elva Orr of Long Beach, Washington.)

Recently Mrs. Dorothy King Miller of Tualatin, Washington county, wrote to inquire if we knew of her grandfather, William C. King, and his brother, Samuel E. King, who came to Apiary as homesteaders in 1887. By inquiry through the local papers it was established that William C. King was killed in a logging accident in 1898, leaving two small sons. His wife, Nettie Jones King, taught school locally, and soon married Charles Boisvert. It was learned that the King brothers had come from the east, and a letter brought the news that a sister, now 85 years old, was still

alive and happy to get news from her brother's grand daughter. The old school census records and teacher certificate records tell many facts about this family and others. It has been most gratifying to be able to piece this history together after so many years.

Like other early settlements, the picture has changed, and there are now productive farms where the pioneers carved out homes

from the dense forest. Some land which is too rough to be profitably farmed is being reforested at this time, and one can only surmise the future development. The little postoffices along the country roads are gone, and mail is delivered by carrier, each route being many miles in length, and everyone receiving mail each day. Modern conveniences have come to all, and pioneering as formerly known is a thing of the past.