BEAVER HOMES AND SHILOH BASIN

This story is mainly of the Archibald family who came here in 1879. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Archibald and their seven children. They landed at what was then known as Enterprise Landing, which was near where Goble is now. The father had built a cabin on a place he had bought, and the family moved into it. This was the family home through the years.

Two years earlier, April 23, 1877, the family had come to Oregon from Iowa by rail to Sacramento, then from San Francisco by the boat Ajax to Portland. The father had some paper money which was of no use on the coast, since only gold and silver coins were known here. He had fifty cents only, but borrowed $5.00 to hunt for a job, and, landing on the lower Columbia, he went to work shearing sheep. Later he worked on Sauvies Island and also at a dairy ranch on Deer Island, until 1879.

After moving to their new home, the nearest postoffice was across the river at Kalama, Washington. It was in 1884 that a postoffice was established at Hunter's Point two miles up the river from Goble. This postoffice came with the railroad. Three or four years later a postoffice was established at Neer City, with R. D. Link postmaster. It was named for Abe Neer, who had laid out a town there, expecting a boom with the coming of the railroad.

Goble was established when the railroad was extended to this point, with trains being ferried across to Kalama. The townsite was laid out by George Foster in 1891, and named for a trapper, Daniel Goble, who had a Donation Land Claim here. A postoffice called Reuben near here earlier was named for Reuben Foster.

When the Archibald family came, several families were already here, among them the Stehmans, Reuben and George Foster, Pete Hunter, William Link and the Makinster families.

The elder Archibald later became the locater of claims for settlers who wished to settle there as well as for those who wished to move away. He soon knew the ground in the whole area well, and his son, also, became well informed on local conditions. The work of locater consisted in knowing who wanted to move in as well as leave, so all parties would be satisfied. The transaction of placing someone on a homestead that had been relinquished by another cost $16, and the land might be as much as 160 acres in area. This sounds cheap, but the odds were against anyone who didn't have a strong back and will to succeed as well as some money or employment to make money for expenses.

Timber at that time wasn't a commodity to be saved and protected. It was something to clear out of the way so he might have fields for farming. Work in the logging camps or sawmills was important for these settlers, and many moved to the camps to be near their work.

With the coming of the Columbia River Lumber & Fuel Co., the population around Goble began to grow. This company put in a mill and 12 miles of flume and employed about 200 men in the woods. They produced lumber and piling, operating with 12 spans of horses and three six-yoke teams of oxen.

After operating as far out as was profitable, the company sold to the Goble, Nehalem, Pacific Co., about 1902. This company comprised H. B. Borthwick, Walter Frame and D. J.

Moore. The new company salvaged the old buildings that were worth saving, built new ones and painted all of them red. Then the place became known as "Redtown." Mooresville was the real name but the other name is still remembered, much to the chagrin of the settlers. This place is now called Beaver Homes.

Mr. J. P. Archibald some years ago told of the social life of the community. The Goble, Nehalem, Pacific Co. built a store building with a dance hall upstairs, and this, too, was painted red. It provided a dance hall 36x70 feet, which was large for that time. At the opening of the hall, an excursion boat was run down from Portland. On it was a piano and a full orchestra, horses and hacks to supplement the company's rigs, and a crowd of celebrators bent on dedicating the hall to dancing.

There were eats for all who came. A man and all his family ate and danced to their hearts' content for a $1.00 ticket. The mess hall seated 110 men, and here the dancers ate to renew their strength for more dancing.

Incidentally there were rules against drinking, which were rigidly enforced. Those drinking had to stay away from the dance when drunk, on pain of losing their jobs. Those who disobeyed the rule were expelled from the hall and fired next day.

The dances lasted all night, partly because it was easier to go home by daylight than in the dark, over the hills and through the woods.

During the week, the dance hall served as a gymnasium, where they exercised by boxing, etc. They had no rounds, but stayed until one got knocked out.

The big hall burned after the company had left off operations and had sold to the Clark, Wilson Co.

School terms lasted three months, June, July and August. The pupils attended barefoot. The teacher, Miss Archibald, received $20 for three months work. The original school board for Dist. 20 consisted of J. M. Archibald, Charles Makinster, F. M. Fowler, Sr., and Wm. Link. The first little school lasted until 1886 or 1887, when another school house was built at the forks of the Reuben-St. Helens road. This was outgrown in time, and later school was built at the site of the present Goble school. Now it has been consolidated with the Beaver Homes school.

School started in Beaver Homes in 1891 after logging operations began. There was no compulsory attendance law then, and a story tells of the pupils striking when the teacher, a Miss Burk, was too strict for them.

SHILOH BASIN

As the logging continued to spread farther and farther out, the settlements pushed out into the hills, following the clearing of the timber. Out in the southern recesses was a community in which lived several veterans of the Civil War, and some had been present at the battle of Shiloh. It is said that Mr. Archibald first applied the name to this community, then someone repeated it, and the name stuck, with the result that it still is called by that name.

Early settlers here were C. C. Clark 1885, Ned Cushman 1882, Frank Bishop and John Jakes. Now farms may be found dotting the hillsides with pleasant homes and fertile fields.