

DEAN BLANCHARD

In looking over the early county records, one sees several names which have been important in the history of the area, among them, Dean Blanchard. Fred Locksley tells something of his life after he came to Oregon in 1854.

Mr. Blanchard came to Rainier from Maine, and planned to return later and marry his sweetheart, but she did not wait for him, so he never married. His sister was married to John Dibblee, and they became the parents of H. R. Dibblee, who in turn became the father of Mrs. Lois Kent, former County School Superintendent; Mrs. I-zelle Conlon who is a teacher; and two sons who have homes in Portland.

Dean was born Dec. 20, 1832, and came to Oregon by way of Nicaragua. He took passage aboard the Steamer "Northern Light." In the early '50's he worked for the government and was assistant wagon master of a

government expedition to Boise. In 1857 he became auditor of Columbia county, and his signature is found on records of that year. The following year he became county clerk.

He started a sawmill in Rainier in 1863 and became post master in 1864. He was elected county judge in 1878 and served until 1882. He later served from 1892 to 1896. He also ran a piledriver and a general merchandising store, owned a steamboat and did towing.

When a Grange was organized at Rainier, Mr. Blanchard joined the order, and took the fifth degree on Feb. 6, 1904 at Rainier. At that time, the main problem was getting better roads. A resolution at this time commended the county court for the purchase of a rock crusher, which they had asked for at the previous meeting, and urged the necessity of making permanent roads.

From the earliest records it is

learned that Mr. Blanchard was Worshipful Master of the Rainier Masonic Lodge, paid for most of the lodge furnishings, and presented them with his library. The story is also told of the trip of Mr.

Blanchard and Mr. Conyers of Clatskanie, to Astoria, to get the charter for the Masonic Lodge of Rainier when it was organized in 1858.