

RAINIER PIONEERS

By KATHERINE K. TOLLESHAUG

THE TIMONEY FAMILY

Two stout Scotch brothers came and took up land claims just east of Rainier. The Jim Timoney family came to Rainier country around 1880 and made their home about where the Kelley Trailer Court is located above Lindberg. They had a daughter, Adna, who later married Guy Thayer, and a son, Wilmer, who drowned in Alaskan waters. They sold out in 1909 and moved to Kent, Wash.

A brother, Thomas Charles Timoney, and his wife Mathildā and three small daughters, Hilda, Bertha and Mary, came from the state of Maine, spending one year in Minnesota. They came down the Columbia to Portland the year the first train connections were made to Portland. In 1884 they took the homestead just south of the Jim Timoney holdings and made their home at the top of the hill where Lester Robert's family live (1970). Mr. Timoney made his living cutting wood and when logs were in demand he became a logger. There more children were born to this family, Tom, Julia and John. Because of poor road conditions, the family moved into town whenever expecting the stork and back home again when travel conditions permitted. The children went to school down the hill to the little school house by Little Jack Falls. Tom relates coming into Rainier to finish his schooling and having Grace Moeck Reid for his teacher. The mother of this family passed away in 1901 and it was Mary (Mamie) who took charge of the household.

As Tom related, a boy of 13 or 14 could get a job at the Plue Sash and Door factory in Rainier at a dollar a day and a grown man two dollars and a bit more if they operated a machine. He

Rainier to haul the wood and logs, and this was the route of travel to Goble before the Columbia River Highway was built.

The Timoney men were gun enthusiasts and one day while hunting on their place, John broke all safety rules and climbed through a fence dragging his loaded gun after him with his hand over the muzzle . . . the trigger caught and John's right hand was riddled. Tom climbed down over the hill to where workmen were slashing brush in preparation for the building of the highway, and with their help John was brought into Rainier where Dr. Schmidt had no choice but to amputate the hand. His family thought now John was through with guns but three weeks after they found him out trying to hit a target with his left hand. His attitude was not to be considered a cripple, that he could do things, and he did.

The Timoney children in due course married and made homes of their own and John remained with his father on the farm, later marrying Mrs. Sally Dickerson, a neighbor, who had three daughters, Mae, Nellie and Rose, who had homes of their own. Mr. Timoney and John and Sally maintained the farm until John established a milk route and the farm was sold and they moved to the Holsapple place near town. Grandfather Timoney's white head was a familiar presence at the Methodist Church on Sundays and greatly missed when he passed away in 1927. John proved that he could do things and kept busy at a number of things, sawmill, logging. He had a filling station and served a term as Mayor of Rainier. John passed away in 1949.

Bertha married Joe Carnahan, an engineer on the river boats, and they made their home in Portland. There were three girls and two boys in that family, Mathilda, Ruth, Frances, Frank and Joe.

Hilda married Milton Lenhart and they made their home at the top of Cemetery Hill. There were ten children in that family that attended Rainier school, eight boys and two girls, Charles, Otis, Urie, Tom, Alonza, Milton, Jim, Ina and Jean. It was a long walk from their home into school and back and one day three of the little boys were late and as Professor J. B. Wilkerson had a ruling that late comers must spend their recess or noon play time walking around a stump in the school yard, the little boys speeded up, taking a short cut over the hill south of the bridge through Fox Creek bottom. They slid down the side of the creek at its narrow part onto some logs and up the other bank, scampering across the flat and up the steep hillside onto the school ground, each so intent on making time they didn't look back. Little Milton did not come out to play at recess and he did not appear at lunch time. An inquiry was made and an alarm given. As Milton was last in line to cross the creek that morning, Mr. Wilkerson and some of the older boys went down to the creek crossing and found

Milton there. The Lenharts later moved to Portland to be near their children.

Mary (Mamie) married William (Bill) Thompson and there were three boys from that family that went through the Rainier schools, Everett, Walter and Bill. The Thompsons also moved to Portland to be near their children in later years.

Julia had married a young neighbor lad, Simon Van Selfden, and they too had three sons, John, Cornelius and Wesley. This family also moved to Portland.

Tom, as most boys did then, went to work at the age of fourteen in the mills, logging camps, on the steamboats, in the soap factory and various jobs in his time. In 1909 while working at the Western Cedar sawmill his foot became caught in a rope that released a big log that fell on his right leg, crushing it. With the quick service we have today it could possibly have been saved, but by the time it took to get him to a Portland hospital it was too late and the leg had to be amputated. Tom, like his brother John, took his mishap in stride and adjusted to his wooden leg, and in 1911 he was married to Selma Brown of Skamakawa, Washington. Tom and Selma lost twin infants when the whooping cough epidemic swept over the vicinity and later two grown sons, Thomas Edward (Bud) in an accident and Lloyd, who was an aviator in World War II and was lost on a flight out of Alaska. Lloyd's wife died shortly after and a little granddaughter, Judy, came to make her home with Tom and Selma. They took great delight in her but when Tom's health began to fail, the little girl went to live with her mother's family in Texas. They have one older daughter, Edith, living near by Longview. Tom and Selma lived in their comfortable home on E street until one day Tom suffered a heart attack while picking apples in their yard and passed away in 1963.

There are many descendants of this Timoney family, but as fate would have it, there are none to bear the Timoney name.

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THE JOSEPH SILVA FAMILY

Julio Xavier Silva, better known as Joseph Silva, came to Rainier sometime during the Civil War. There are several recordings of his rowing out in those early days with the mail to the sailing vessels and also rowing up the river and up the Cowlitz to Monticello with both mail and passengers. He worked at fish packing when fish was really plentiful, and worked also for Dean Blanchard. Mr. Silva acquired property at different places about Rainier. He purchased what is now the postoffice block from Chas. Fox and there was an old log house at the south corner, and there he planted an orchard. He also purchased from Mr. Fox the river-

front property between what is now East Third and Fourth streets. There is a family record of his deeding about 80 acres of land to the City Water Department. Mr. Silva was one of the several business men who were responsible for the creamery being built in Rainier in 1896.

In 1872 Joseph Silva was married to Catherine Wilson in Rainier. Her parents had a ranch in Salmon Creek near Vancouver. They made their home in one of the waterfront houses on his property. These buildings were built up high to street level, so as to avoid the high water that came each year. The yard around this home was plank decking and a ramp ran from the house down to the water where Mr. Silva had row boats and sail boats.

The Silvas had fourteen children. They lost their second child, Mary Francis, at the age of six years. Thirteen Silva children went through the Rainier schools to become substantial citizens. In such a large family some of the older children could help out, and the work was well organized.

Mr. Silva had, so to speak, the first drug store in Rainier. He established a saloon in one of the waterfront buildings, where business was discussed, along with politics and the state of working conditions, by the travelers and townsmen who came in. In this place of business Mr. Silva had a cabinet wherein he kept the patent medicines of the day, and herbs of which he knew the value. Old timers tell the story of loggers and others coming up from Cathlamet and elsewhere to seek a doctor and in the waiting time they told Mr. Silva their trouble and he would go to his cabinet drug store and find the remedy, and the old timers swore it always worked, and the men would return to their jobs relieved and happy.

Mr. Silva was of Portuguese descent and spoke with an accent. He was not a tall man, light on his feet and had a habit of neatness and order, everything must be ship shape. His hair was curly and he wore gold earrings. Always busy doing some chore. Another story is told by an old timer of the time his young man, Arthur, came to him as he was talking to a group of men. Arthur asked his father if he could have a nickle. Mr. Silva gave him a number of chores to do and told him to come back when he had finished. Arthur came back and he got his nickel. One of the men asked Mr. Silva if he didn't think he had been too hard on the boy, and he replied: "Money has value and he has to learn the value of money."

In 1908 the Silva home was moved up from the waterfront to the south side of the new postoffice block. After Mr. Silva passed away in 1919 and Mrs. Silva in 1920, it was eventually torn down.

In those early days before a resident doctor and after, someone had to be of help and Mrs. Silva was called upon to officiate when children were born. Dr. Welch later asked her to work with him. Mrs. Silva had remarked to her family later that she must have

helped deliver five hundred babies for townspeople and transients. She was a good manager and a truly remarkable woman.

Julia, the first Silva child, was born in 1873. She was married to Martin Both, a buyer of fish for Altoona Packing Company. They built a large beautifully landscaped home at the top of the hill at what is now East Second and D Streets. They had four children, Martin, Adolph, Julius and Marthilde. Mr. Both died in 1906 at the age of 46 and Mrs. Both passed away in 1919. Mrs. Both was the first Worthy Matron of Wisteria Chapter, O. E. S., of Rainier. This home is painted white and is used now as the Calvary Temple.

Charley married Stella Steele and operated a livery stable in Portland in the early days and then automotive work. They had no children.

Daisy was one of the five girls that comprised the first eighth grade graduating class in the Rainier school. She married C. P. Archer and they moved to Portland. There were two children in this family, Clifford and Carol.

Bertha married Robert Yount, an engineer on the steamer Iralda, and they built their home on the hillside at what is now Third and C streets. They had one adopted daughter, Deane. This home is now occupied by the Haakenson Funeral Home.

William Silva (Bill) married Christine Wonsold and he had worked on the river boats many years and then went into garage work at Clatskanie and Rainier. He established the Chevrolet garage in Rainier. There were no children.

Dean Silva married Etta Brunner and they made their home in Portland. He was a conductor on the Southern Pacific. They had one child, Dean Charles.

Esther Silva married Frank Sherwood, who was the mortician in Rainier. He later operated a furniture store, Sherwood & Clark, of Rainier. They had one child, Barton. When Mrs. Sherwood passed away Mr. Sherwood and Barton went to California where Barton operates a clothing store at San Jucinto today.

Georgia married George Doll, a musician. They had one child, George Arthur. They moved to Kent, Washington.

Earl married Hazel Flippin of Rainier and they moved to Portland. Earl was a mail clerk. They had two children, Earl Jackson and Jeanne.

Arthur married Helen Kratz of Clatskanie and there were two children in their family, Arthur Jr. and Allegra. Arthur has been a dentist in Clatskanie for years.

Catherine married Harry Patterson and they also moved to Portland. Mr. Patterson was an engineer on the trains. They had two daughters, Silva B. and Mercile D.

Leona married Russell Beck, a schoolmate, and they moved down to New Mexico where Mr. Beck was a dentist over many years. There were two children, Shirley and Charles.

Julio married Elisabeth McDonnell and they lived at Clatskanie

and later at Eugene where Julio was in the garage business. There was one child in this family, Carolyn.

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CARL AND MATILDA HALLBERG

Mr. and Mrs. Hallberg came to Rainier in the year 1908, and Mr. Hallberg operated a meat market in partnership with a brother on A street. Later the market was combined with a grocery store on B and First Sts., increasing in size and modern service. Mr. Hallberg retired in 1943, selling the business to Floyd Stehman and Roland Curteman, who had worked for him for a long time, the store to retain the name "Hallberg's Market."

After retiring Mr. Hallberg became president of the State Bank of Rainier, a position he held until his death in 1960. Mr. Hallberg was an active Republican and a loyal Mason, and gave much time, local and county-wide, to these interests. There were many who remember aid he gave them in their times of need.

Mrs. Hallberg helped organize the Rainier Woman's Club in 1922, of which she was president for five years, and was its guardian angel until her death. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile, Rainier Chamber of Commerce and Peace Lutheran Church.

The Hallbergs had no children, so gave much time to public service. Hallberg passed away very suddenly while walking home one day on July 10, 1964.

The several churches, Masonic organizations, library and such received bequests from the Hallberg estate, attesting their love for their home town.