

THE FRANKLIN PIERCE RICE FAMILY

Franklin Pierce Rice and his wife Martha and family came to Rainier from Carter County, Kentucky, on May 4, 1884.

The Nicolai mill in Apiary employed men with bull teams to haul logs at \$100 per month and board, which was a fine wage. Shared Rice, a relative, had sent for the Franklin Rice family to come and take advantage of such a fine job, but when they got here there was a slump in the market for cedar logs and they were only paying \$60 net, there being only one mill operating at the time. The logs were hauled to Cedar Landing, cedar shakes being the only wood product then in demand.

The family moved to what was known as the Adkins place at the top of Rainier hill. Mr. Rice bought up land, four yoke of bulls and some cattle and was in business. At one time their land included what is now known as the Stennick property.

The family had four children, John, Herb, Watt and Elvida. John was ten years old when they came to Rainier and he was 85 years old when he related this bit of family history.

The Rice family gave one-quarter acre and the Hudson family gave a quarter-acre to start the Hudson school, and they were also instrumental in starting the cemetery.

John said that as a small boy he must care for and harness the bull team and take it to where his father was logging before getting to school, and after school he must go get the team and drive

it home and care for it. There was so much driving hard work to be done. John relates his mother was so often perturbed because the home woodpile was neglected.

The most wonderful thing he said was when a cousin from the valley came to visit and brought a friend, Beulah Baughman, with her. He remembers a most happy time and then at Thanksgiving time he returned the visit and met Beulah again. This time he won her heart and, quoting: "She was the most wonderful person and watched over my welfare. No matter what hour I went to work, she always had a good breakfast ready. She was an angel."

John stayed and worked with his father until he was 36 years old and quoting again: "I often wondered how things would have turned out if I had left to work on the railroad as many young men did."

The Hudsons gave one-half acre and the Rices one-half acre to use as a burial ground and the first grave was a 19 year old relative of the Parchers who had accidentally shot himself, Rodney Parcher, who was buried in 1879. The next grave was a member of the Hudson family. This plot became the Woodbine cemetery, and although not filled, the lots were all sold and more place was needed. So adjoining land was purchased to form the Green Mountain Cemetery. Herb Rice died in 1906 and was buried on the Rice property just over the fence of the Woodbine Cemetery and as this was land purchased as the Geen Mountain Cemetery it then became the first grave in the Green Mountain Cemetery

Franklin Rice fell from a ladder and was seriously injured and he died in 1924. Watt had been in the service and he helped at home but he contracted a malady and passed away and his mother Martha lived with John and Beulah in Rainier until her death.

(Elvida was an invalid and passed away in a nursing home in 1970).

John and Beulah had two children, Irma, who became Irma Ryan and lives in Portland, and a son, Irvin, who married Irene Lackey, who is the great granddaughter of the first Felix DeBast, who took a land claim and for whom the DeBast road is named. A daughter, Renee Lackey, is at this writing in government service in Munich, Germany. The Irvin Rices maintain a home on DeBast road where a number of the DeBast family have moved back.

John and Beulah were kind and helpful neighbors and Beulah was called affectionately "Aunt B" by both neighbors and friends. When Beulah died January 3, 1958, John felt lost and restless and kept busy as possible. He had been a faithful Odd Fellow member and he had a feeling he would like to spend his last days in the Odd Fellows Home and he put in his application. There is naturally a waiting list at the home and these things take time. When interviewed in 1962 he had been tending a large vegetable garden in Roxy Park in Rainier and cutting cordwood besides

helping Blaine Harr, who had broken a leg. When asked if he didn't think he was doing too much for a man of 85 years he replied that hard work was no stranger to him and he had the urge to keep busy. In January of 1963 he came to say goodbye for there was an opening coming up at the home and he was sure there would be a garden there for him to work in. He went to Portland to visit his daughter and January 28th, 1963, John passed away suddenly. There are people who just pass from this world and there are others whose passing leaves a void . . . such were John and Beulah Rice.