

Mary Prince said one of the pleasures for the Slaves in driving to the Grove was to see and hear the meadow larks. Slaves lived in timbered country - no larks there.

Not so much color and song in my day, the 80's & 70's

Aunt Theresa said the Orus family in Missouri received (I think) only one letter from him in Oregon. He wrote that he had "found Paradise"; Praised the climate (mild winter that year) The green plains, The oaks and the wild flowers. The meadows larks and blue birds.

That year the family saved up many garden-seeds and flower seeds to bring to Oregon. Theresa's job mostly.

When Theresa saw her father coming across the field - on his return - she ran to meet him. He kissed her and ^{said} she was beautiful. That was the only time he ever kissed her. That she could remember. New Englanders were not much for kissing were they?

at the end of their journey in '46 they made their last camp at the David Hill place - Hillsboro. Next day they arrived at the Geiger cabin. (Hillsboro was named for David Hill.)

Theresa planted French pink seed (batchelor buttons) on the Geiger place and the next year on the Orus claim north of Forest Grove. They became a great nuisance in the wheat fields - so you'd better not tell that. Honour she was not the only one. Up and down the valley other pioneer girls did the same thing.

Did you know that dandelions were not native here? They were planted here first by a doctor - He used them for medicinal purposes. And now what a pest!

Certain men in each company were hunters whose job was get fresh meat. I think you know that most of the fuel was buffalo chips.

Theresa also said that at home in Mo. when her father was telling about the wild flowers in Oregon she asked if there were any sweet williams. He laughed and said "yes there are sweet williams and sweet jokers too".

That reminds me that when Papa and I used to walk up to the cemetery he always picked a few wild flowers - usually wild iris (flags we called them) and placed them on grandpa's grave. said his father always loved the wild flowers.

I remember a letter grandpa once wrote to papa and mama from Salem. He told about the marriage of Lucien. He married a Miss Bunch (can't recall her first name) Grandpa said he had not met her so did not know what kind of a Bunch she was. Maybe a bunch of catsup. But when ^{or if} she goes to seed we can find out what kind of a bunch she really is. Papa laughed over it and read the letter to different relatives who dropped in.

Orus liked to talk to mamma. she was witty wasnt she? Could make apt replies. He enjoyed this - often laughed heartily while talking with her. But to us children he would say "girl, bring me a drink of water" or "Boy, get my horse". didnt bother about remembering our names.

Ollie De Bord once said that she could not remember that he was so irritable - said he used to put her and Lola in his buggy and pull it up and down the roads - back and forth - for a block or two. till he was out of breath. a buggy ride was a treat. Most people then had only farm wagons.

Wither said their company crossed the Snake river 5 times. Mr. Hall, an in-law of some of the Beabys was drowned getting the cattle across.

I suppose the first house on his claim was of logs - no lumber near at that early date - but while Lavina was still living he built a nice colonial style house - painted white. Looked like the old Reed house - still standing just west of Reedville, It stood back from the road under oak trees like the Curtis place. Maybe you remember it. If he hadn't married Mrs Haydon maybe he would have stayed there at The Grove. She had relatives at Salem. Of course he had a lot of people there too. One old clipping states that Orus died at Salem, another that he died at his Forest-grove farm. Both are wrong. He passed away at the home of one of the Haydons - son of the old lady - north of Forest-grove. Uncle Davis (brother-in-law of Orus) was at our place then. He and Popa went to see grandpa shortly ^{before} his death. Uncle seemed to grieve much about the passing of Orus. The breaking of a tie of long standing.

When Uncle put on his best clothes for the funeral. he made a mistake. got his pants on backwards - didn't know it till he got home. Was so humiliated about it that maama felt sorry for him.

I wonder if Lenord Mc - could tell you things about grandpa. Things his mother may have told him - they lived together so long.

aunt Rosa & Aunt Eliza both said that Alvin had
 to work too hard on the trail - walked all the way by
 the side of his team - got up so early to take the stock out on
 the range for the morning meal - was that to be an
 extra good swimmer to so took the lead in getting
 stock across the rivers - sometimes animals would
 get away and swim back again - took his turn
 with the men in standing guard at night.
 I heard him say he had more trouble at
 White river (think he meant the White river east of
 Mt Hood) than at any other river. I asked him
 what happened there. He said "I don't like to talk
 about it" and didn't tell me.

When they found that Indians were not hostile -
 only thieving - their large company broke up
 into smaller groups - some wanted to travel
 faster - at the camping places sometimes there
 wasn't enough feed for so many cattle so
 some would have to go too far from camp.
 A large group of people was harder to handle.
 They were in the smaller groups before they reached
 Fort Hall. Think I have read how many
 wagons were in the Applegate group. Can't say now.

At an earlier date the Walker & Eells company
 found that they could not stop every "Sabbath" for
 worship and rest. Sunday night - did not always
 bring them to a good feeding place - or good
 watering place - food for the people was often scarce.
 Season was advancing - winter would be coming on.
 Uncle Ed said they stopped for a day most every week
 to rest the cattle - mend the wagons - women did their
 washing and cooked up. This was sometimes Sunday.
 This old Webster's spelling book - sang - played games - some groups danced
 around the campfire evenings.

Mitchell family had a cook-stove. Most people used Dutch ovens
 and reflectors on the trail. Iron pots and long handled frying pans.