

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be understood as indorsing the views or statements of correspondents. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Those who wish their letters returned when not used should inclose postage. Correspondents are notified that letters exceeding 300 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

Interesting Pioneer History.

Albany, Or., Aug. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—That was a splendidly written story in last Sunday's Journal by E. L. Jones of Albany about the "Blue Bucket" diggings in eastern Oregon, said to have been discovered in 1845.

It seems a pity to cast any doubt as to the fact that such gold deposits existed, but there are those who deny the story. Last fall while in Coos and Curry counties organizing granges I met William Cox of Sixes river, Curry county, who crossed the plains with his parents in 1845. His father's name was Isham Cox. William Cox, whose post-office is Port Orford, gave me the following brief statement which I wrote down:

"I crossed the plains in 1845. Was with those in Meek's cutoff. The Blue Bucket diggings, so called, are a myth. James B. Riggs and Thomas Crank started the story about finding gold. Alec Noble and Harvey Crumble, both died with cholera one evening and were buried the next morning. Teams were driven over their graves so as to obliterate all traces of graves, so the Indians could not find them. This was out in that country where the gold was said to be found. We crossed the Deschutes below what is now known as Sherar's bridge. A rope was stretched across the river. Two canoes were lashed together and the wagons were put in them, and thus ferried over. I will be 72 May 13, 1910."

From the foregoing it will be seen that Mr. Cox was past 8 years of age, certainly old enough to remember much of the trip across the plains, and especially the trying scenes and events attending that famous "cutoff" to Oregon. It may be of interest to add that several years ago The Dalles Historical society took steps to find out where the immigrants known as Captain Tetheroe's company crossed the Deschutes, and among others I was written to. From all I can find out the place was as given by Mr. Cox, though Mrs. Greenberry Smith of Corvallis says they crossed in wagon boxes, caulked tight.

After the crossing, the parts of the wagons and all their effects were carried up to Sherar's bridge, where a place was found by which to get out of the Deschutes canyon.

The Hildebrands of near Suver, Polk county, were with Captain Tetheroe, and might add valuable information. It is well to have events pertaining to Oregon pioneer history definitely settled in their details before the actors in that wonderful and realistic drama, "Crossing the Plains," have all passed from the stage.

In all the world's history there is no more thrilling story and future generations will see that it "shall not perish from the earth."

CYRUS H. WALKER.