



TRAILER TRACKS

VOL 4 ISSUE 11

March, 2020

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MONTHLY MEETING

Chapter 9 members meet the second Wednesday of each month at 9 am, during breakfast, at Abby's Legendary Pizza, 1011 W. Central Avenue in Sutherlin, Oregon.

A signup sheet is located in the Timber Valley SKP clubhouse, as we need to know by Tuesday how many are planning to be there.

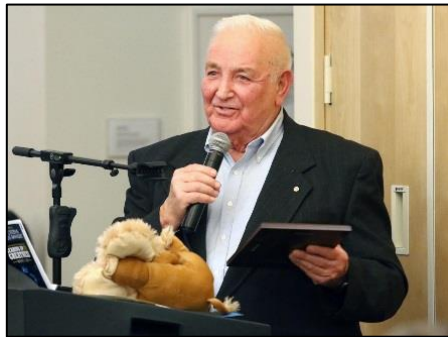
**All Escapees
are welcome!**

Other Chapter 9 events will be announced in [Trailer Tracks](#) or on the Chapter 9 page of our website, www.timbervalleyskp.com

The Future Is Lookin' Good For Chapter 9

By Betty Bush with help from Rick De Young

Welcome
March,
February flew
by. Sorry we
missed
February
breakfast but
we were
enjoying
Mexico's 80
degree



weather. Trip was good except Don was under the weather most of the time, came home with bronchitis. Thankfully he is on the mend now. My thanks to Rick for handling things while I was gone.

Sounds like February outing was a success. Although it was a small turnout (9), our day trip to UCC to watch the live performance of the play, PROOF, on February 23 was very enjoyable. We arrived early and our group had front row seats and sat within feet of the four actors involved in the mystery. Following the play, we went as a group to the Applebee's in Roseburg, arriving in time for happy hour drinks and menu items. It was a fun afternoon and evening and we were all home by 8 p.m. Thanks to Terry Hilty and Chuck Williams for planning this event and attending it with us. On another note, Kudos go out to Rick DeYoung for being nominated for 1st citizen of Sutherlin. So proud that he does so much for our community. Make sure to congratulate him when you see him.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the March breakfast on the Mar 11 at 9 am. Remember, we want your suggestions for activities and rally's.

Congratulations are in order for our Vice President, Rick De Young, for being honored by a nomination, and then winning, Sutherlin's Man of the Year for 2019. That honor is part of the Sutherlin Area Chamber of Commerce's annual First Citizens award program. Since arriving in Sutherlin in 2006, Rick has been actively volunteering in the Sutherlin Community, including working at the Sutherlin Visitor Center and the Chamber of Commerce.

Rick has been our SKP Park of Oregon representative to the Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations. He always tells people about Chapter 9's role in building Timber Valley and leads in recruiting Chapter 9 members. Rick's daughter Deborah, also a Chapter 9 member, has been visiting Rick for the week before the banquet and was in attendance at the banquet. She helped us celebrate Rick's 82nd birthday on March 4.

Since returning to Sutherlin in 2016, Rick has been an active member of the Sutherlin Lions Club. He recruits other Timber Valley residents to help the Lions Club place flags in downtown Sutherlin, and makes sure they are placed on State Street on each holiday. Rick is First Vice President this year and he will be President of the Sutherlin Lions Club for 2020-2021. .

Becky's Corner

I started a new job. I work 10 – 12 hour days.

Sometimes, Rick comes and helps me.

I have little extra time. I don't get to see my grandson NEARLY enough.

I have a new house (ok, so I closed on it Jan 9. I was able to move in February 6-ish...

If you need flooring, please contact me first... I know who NOT to use.

The bottom line is, I really like my job. I get to solve problems. I am the boss (and I sorta like that!). I have made a difference in a short time.

Now, since there isn't anything more from the "higher ups..." I'm going to run a column from John Finn. I used to publish his columns when I had the Douglas County News...it was grand fun!

Offbeat Oregon History No. 578 Asahel Bush crossed swords with Oregon's first woman doctor, and lost

By Finn J.D. John
December 15, 2019

On any list of Oregon "firsts," there's one name that almost never pops up: Dr. Adaline M. Weed.

Which is understandable, because although Dr. Weed was the first female physician in the Oregon Territory, she was not a "regular" doctor – she was a hydropathist, a practitioner of "water cure"; and although she was Oregon's first female public intellectual on the lecture circuit advocating for women's issues, she didn't start seriously talking about women's suffrage until much later. Also, in reviewing the exchanges of letters-to-the-editor she had with newspaper editors, it's clear that she was a little too smart and articulate for her own good. Editors would, with a paternalistic and self-indulgent chuckle that one can almost hear while reading their words, poke a little fun at "madame the doctress"; she would reply in a letter rebutting every point with perfect professionalism but absolute mercilessness; and, shocked and stung at being called out for intellectual dishonesty by someone he never dreamed would be smart enough to recognize it, the editor would write something truly nasty before slamming the door shut on any further correspondence. This happened at least twice, in different Northwest communities: once in Salem, and again several decades later in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. It probably happened in other places, too, because newspaper coverage of the Weeds was always thin and sparse.

It's hard to be remembered when one is shut out of the "rough draft of history" for being too smart to cross swords with.

Ada Weed and her husband, Gideon, were both hydropathic physicians — graduates of Dr. Russell Trall's Hygeio-Therapeutic College in New York City. Trall's institute had, at that time, just started up. It taught a blend of hydropathy and hygienic medicine not too dissimilar from the preferred lifestyle of Seventh-Day Adventists today: whole unmixed foods, processed as minimally as possible; fresh, smoke-free air; absolutely no alcohol or tobacco; loose-fitting clothing; regular exercise; and proper rest.

Like other "alt-medicine" trends in the 1800s, Trall's school was a bitter foe of what he called "allopathic medicine" — the practice of attacking disease by giving patients drugs. This, of course, was the school that eventually won; but that happened primarily because of the drugs that became available after 1880 or so, which quickly made allopathy the most effective approach. But in 1856, when the Weeds graduated from Trall's school, that was hardly the case. Almost everyone knew someone who'd gone to a traditional doctor and died after a week or two of enduring copious bleeding, blistering chest poultices, "heroic" purgatives, and other unpleasant therapies.

(By the way, "Allopath" is a loaded term today — when it's used, it's usually intended as an insult, like "quack doctor" — but for convenience, I'm going to use it in this article to refer to pre-Germ-Theory mainstream physicians.)

Water-cure doctors like Ada and Gideon did as well as or better than the allopaths. The allopaths, who were much more numerous, had noticed this, and it sharpened their antipathy.

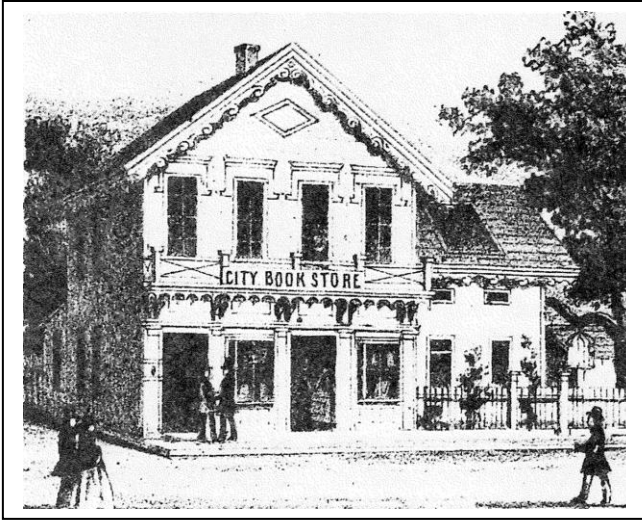
Upon graduation, Ada and Gideon set out for San Francisco to set up their practice there. When they got there, though, they found an established practitioner whose business they didn't want to horn in on; so they headed north to Oregon.

When they arrived, the two of them settled into Salem — then Oregon's second-largest city — and hung out their shingle. That was in 1858.

They also immediately started giving public lectures, and it was in the course of those that Ada ended up in her first fight with a newspaper editor: the redoubtable Asahel Bush, editor of the Salem Statesman and leader of the "Salem Clique" of Democrats.

Bush attended one of Ada's first lectures, and covered it in a breezy, lazy editorial headlined "A Woman's Sphere." It basically pats Ada on the pretty little head, complimenting her on her "generally correct intonation" and "tolerable manner," before remarking that "the whole lecture was leavened with 'women's rights' and other modern 'reform' humbugs" and going on to opine that such things were fine so long as Woman was not led to think she could forsake the kitchen and nursery to contend with the "sterner sex" in the courthouse or on the quarterdeck.

It's worth looking the whole passage up (there's not room to reproduce it here, but you can find it in the Nov. 23,



1858, issue.) That's especially true for old newspaper editors, who will immediately recognize it as the kind of fluffy, unimportant fill one bangs out on deadline when there's a hole in the paper and nothing to plug it with. Old newspaper editors will also know, from bitter experience, that those are the most dangerous parts of the paper, because the attack, when it comes, is completely unexpected and usually rock-solid. One doesn't usually make a bad mistake when one's full attention is being paid to the job at hand; it's the casual nobody-could-possibly-object-to-this puff piece that, dashed off halfheartedly and quickly forgotten about, will contain the poison pill of error that will ruin your day.

This appears to have been exactly what happened here. Bush found himself completely "owned," as modern gamers say, in the pages of his own newspaper. Ada pointed out that "women's rights" had not been part of her talk at all, and that the cherry-picked example he'd cited had been an obvious sarcastic remark that he had chosen to pretend she had meant seriously.

Bush's response was positively petulant. Accusing her of trying to gin up a newspaper controversy for publicity, he addressed a couple of her points very unconvincingly and then, declaring he had no interest in wasting any more time debating with such an obvious simpleton, declared that no further correspondence from her would be printed.

It was a bad mistake, really, for both of them. Bush, who would grow into his job and become one of the best journalists in Oregon history, surely didn't come out of this smelling like a rose (although it's hard to say, since he cut off the topic so curtly in his letters-to-the-editor section). And for the Weeds, who had in Salem's allopaths and homeopaths a pre-existing and well-connected army of enemies, Bush was maybe the one person in town they could least afford to antagonize.

But the bigger problem was, as hydropathy practitioners, the Weeds needed a fairly expensive facility — they basically needed what we'd recognize today as a luxury spa, with hot tub, cold pool, showers, and steam room, in addition to residential rooms for long-term patients. They just never managed to connect with an investor who saw enough value to justify the outlay; and their own attempts to raise the money on the lecture circuit weren't panning out — their free lectures were well attended, but the paid

ones weren't. The pointed silence from the city's newspaper made it hard to get the word out about what they were doing, and their well-connected professional enemies kept the local "coconut telegraph" buzzing with rumors that they were killing patients and going bankrupt. It was all too much, and in 1860 the couple pulled up stakes and left Salem, embarking on a long lecture tour that ended with them opening their practice in Sacramento.

In Sacramento, things went OK; they went better when the couple followed one of the gold rushes into Nevada. But they never really "arrived" until 1869, when Gideon went back to medical school and earned an allopathic degree, and, armed with that, the two of them traveled to Seattle to set up shop.

There, they billed themselves as basically a "Dr. and Mrs." couple. The combination of the two medical proficiencies made Gideon a powerful package, and gave Ada cover to give hygienic-medicine advice and lectures without making powerful enemies. They quickly rose in social prominence, and Gideon ended up serving two terms as mayor of Seattle.

Ada's advocacy of temperance, of course, made her a cornerstone of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union. On women's suffrage she didn't have much to say until after other activists persuaded the Washington Territory's legislature to extend the vote to women in 1883, when she suddenly realized that women, once enfranchised, voted overwhelmingly for prohibition. So when the territorial Supreme Court struck the law down in 1887, she rallied with other progressive women to oppose the decision. But she was always a prohibitionist first, and a suffragist second.

Eventually the couple moved back to Sacramento, where Gideon practiced medicine until he suffered a paralytic stroke in the early nineteen-oughts; Ada cared for him and kept busy doing things for the community and working for Prohibition.

And the two of them at last enjoyed the full respect and admiration of their community. "She has always been foremost in religious, philanthropic, and moral reform work," wrote Frederick James Grant in his 1891 book, *History of Seattle, Washington*. "She is a lady of culture and possesses literary taste and ability of a high order." She died of cancer in 1910, an esteemed and respected member of society. And it's entirely possible that her smooth re-integration into the upper echelons of West Coast society is why, today, when asked who the Oregon Territory's first female physician was, most people who think they know the answer (including, until just last week, me!) will say, "Bethenia Owens-Adair, in 1874" — and be wrong.

(Sources: "Dr. Ada M. Weed, Social Reformer," an article by G. Thomas Edwards published in the March 1977 issue of *Oregon Historical Quarterly*; archives of *Salem Statesman*, November 1858)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. His book, *Heroes and Rascals of Old Oregon*, was recently published by Ouragan House Publishers. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.