

WHAT A PORTLAND LADY DID

Thirty-two Years Ago Last Month at
Mt. Shasta, Cal.

Mrs. Mary A. White Has the Credit of Being
the First Woman to Reach the Summit of
the Great Siskiyou Mountain.

Apròpos of the recent exploits of ladies in ascending Mount Hood, it is interesting to note that the first lady to reach the summit of Mount Shasta is an Oregon lady and now a resident of East Portland—Mrs. Mary A. White. At the request of a reporter Mrs. White yesterday detailed the account of her trip for the readers of THE OREGONIAN.

"That was a great many years ago," said Mrs. White, "and I was then a young wife of 21 and the mother of two children, both boys, who still are spared to me, though their father has been dead these twenty-five years.

"There were sixteen of us in the party, gathered out of Yreka, Shasta valley and Scott's valley, by Capt. E. D. Pierce, who worked for months to get the company together and ensure the success of the enterprise. The matter excited as much interest and speculation at that time there as a presidential election, and considerable money was wagered that I would not reach the summit of the mountain. Among those who started with us, I remember Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. McCloud, Mrs. Gage, Mrs. Harriet Eddy, John M. Silcott, R. H. Reigart, a Mr. Peck and my husband, J. W. White, who had taken the bets offered against my reaching the summit. He had therefore taken advantage of his experience in such expeditions, and given such care to the preparations of my saddle and other equipments, that I was able to remain mounted after the other ladies or the party had been obliged to abandon their animals.

"We started on the morning of the 6th of September, 1856, from the Big Spring ranch in Shasta valley. The next day was Sunday, and as the religious tenets of one or two of the party would not allow them to travel on that day, some of us made a visit to Soda springs, and resumed our trip Monday morning.

"That night we camped on the timber line, and about 3 o'clock the next morning, Tuesday, September 9, we rose and renewed the toilsome ascent by the light of a full moon. Messrs. Reigart, Peck, Silcott, with Mr. White and myself, were considerably in advance of the remainder of the party, and at 11 o'clock in the forenoon we reached the summit. Then my husband, to make it fully true that I had been on the summit, lifted me up and placed me on the highest point of the peak, and there I sat on the snow. Upon the way down we met the rest of the party, who reached the summit also at 4 o'clock that afternoon.

Mrs. White says that all the ladies of the expedition are now dead, except herself and Mrs. Eddy, who is still living in Shasta valley, and is a sister of the Edson brothers of the famous Edson ranch. Of the men, the only living one, so far as she knows, is Silcott, who is now a resident of Lewiston, Idaho.

Of the two children she possessed at that time, one of them, William H., was only six months old, and is now engineer on the passenger run from Roseburg to Junction. The older brother, George H., runs a freight engine between Ashland and Roseburg.