

in opinion of OREGON by an early day pioneer: ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~

Estevillo, Marion Co. - Oregon Tr. Nov. 7th 1851.

Mr. McCulloch Sir: As I do not enjoy the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, yet by representation I know you as easy as a boy knows his Daddy -- this then is the only apology I need offer in assisting Amanda in the completion of this correspondence. Your letter to Mr. Hall of last May is before me -- from which I learn that you entertain some idea of emigrating to this western clime this ensuing season & if such should be the case be assured Sir of having my best wishes for your speedy and safe arrival in our midsts. As to the merits of Oregon I will briefly give you my humble opinion as they come to mind *** no country within the bounds of our Republic offers greater inducements than Oregon at this time -- we have a very mild and extremely healthy climate, a productive soil with the whole western world for a market to insure the husbandman a liberal compensation for his toils -- at the same time does not require but little more than half the labor to carry on a farm that is necessary for yours there ** no portion of the civilized world will beat Oregon ** Farmers here raising large herds of stock which require but little of your attention ** keep in good condition on pasture the year round -- you see the date of this letter yet we have no frost yet to kill the vegetation -- orchards and meadows look as green as in May ** vegetables which in your state may be found in July and August may be found here at this time of the year, in most cases second or volunteer crop *** CROSSING THE PLAINS *** Secret in trip across the plains is in early start, good team light but substantial wagon ** no other loading but your bed & bedding, clothing sufficient for one year and such cooking utensils as you will need on the road ** you will find goods, tools & merchandises of all kinds in Oregon plenty and very cheap ** travel in companies only sufficiently

OPINION 2 /

large for self protection ** be near the foremost train ** never lay by an entire day unless absolutely necessary ** drive steady and moderate and you will reach our neighborhood in from 80 to 90 days.

VALUES * PRICES: ***Good medium American horses and mares are worth \$150.00 ** Oxen \$100.00 to \$150.00 ** Wagon in good repair \$100.00 to \$125.00 ** Wheat \$1.00 to \$1.50 ** Potatoes 75 cents a bushel ** Emmigrants for this year are all in by now, some arriving first week in August ** it is reported that there was some trouble with the Indians on the road ** Emmigrants this year is set at 8000, yet it seems to make but little change as they scatter out over so large a district ** day will soon pass when there will be any more vacant land to be taken, yet there is plenty but it generally lays back from the rivers ** let me know when you start.

I am Sir, yours ** (W. H. Rees)