



*History of*  
**KLAMATH COUNTY**  
**O R E G O N**



**ITS RESOURCES AND ITS PEOPLE**  
**I L L U S T R A T E D**

---

**LINSY SISEMORE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**RACHEL APPEGATE GOOD**  
*Historian*

**HARRY B. SCHULTZ**  
*Managing Director*

**HOWARD I. SCHUYLER**  
*Managing Editor*

O  
L  
979.5  
Go

**KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON**  
**1941**

71 2053

**JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
MEDFORD, OREGON 97501

## CHAPTER VII

### THE RED MAN AS HE WAS

At this point it will probably be worth while to pause in the narrative and take a look at the original occupant of the country, as it is apparent that the white settler will soon come in conflict with him, unless it is possible for the two races to work out a system of peaceable co-occupation. Victor L. Jepsen has this to say about the pre-historic and early inhabitants:

"From a standpoint of geology and anthropology, this area is one of the most interesting in the United States. According to some authorities, there lived here about 5,000 years ago a race far surpassing any up to the whites of the present day. Their art was of a high order, their inscriptions well written, and their pottery so superior that its like cannot be found today. These vestiges of an ancient race have been found in caves along the shores of Tule Lake and have caused endless speculation, resulting in little knowledge, however, because no Rosetta stone has ever been found with which to read the inscriptions, and the secret of the race died with them. It is believed that one of the periods of flood in the basin wiped out the whole race or caused them to migrate to regions unknown. Someday, perhaps, the inscriptions will be read; until then our original inhabitants remain a mystery.

"Mysterious also are the next inhabitants of the region. Between four and five hundred years ago another group lived here for a while and carved Roman numerals and inscriptions on the walls and cliffs. There are many theories for this, but the most acceptable is that some Spanish explorers of the central United States and California region lingered here a while and added their inscriptions to those ancient cuneiforms already carved. History has established these later writings as at least four hundred years old. The Indians know nothing except that they have 'always been there.'

"The two tribes that now inhabit the region, the Klamaths and the Modocs, are really members of the same family and speak the same language. In the historic period the Klamaths numbered around twelve hundred and the Modocs eight hundred, making two thousand Indians in the area. The Northern or Klamath Indians appear to have been a peaceful and unwarlike tribe as, according to some sources, were the Modocs until repeated troubles with immigrating whites stirred them up. John C. Fremont, however, when exploring this land in 1843, speaks of the extreme caution exercised upon approaching this region of warlike tribes. He later expresses surprise at the peaceful tendencies of the Klamath Indians, so that it is obvious that the 'accounts of warlike tribes' must have arisen from the southern branch and that they were indeed not as peaceful as their tribesman historian, Jeff Riddle, would have us believe. Doubtless, the repeated emigrations of the whites over the 'South Road,' directly through their territory, did provoke a more warlike feeling and encouraged them to do acts of violence not possible to their northern neighbors, who had no contact with the whites. These Indians were a well-fed and well-cared-for race despite the arid and barren country in which they lived. The northern Indian settlements clustered around the Sprague and Williamson Rivers, thirty miles north of Klamath Falls, a veritable paradise of lush pasture, bird-filled marsh lands, and streams swarming with trout. The southern Indians were similarly situated on Lost River about fifteen miles to the southeast. The largest village of all, named Eulalona, on the banks of Link River immediately below the Upper Klamath Lake, was the central point of the tribe

and the scene of winter fishing grounds, unexcelled for salmon. The wide plain south of Klamath Falls seems to have been unoccupied. The Modocs ranged throughout the Lost River, Tule Lake, and Lower Klamath area, and the Klamaths from Keno north to Chiloquin and Yainax. During the summer months the tribes roamed at will through this area and only in winter did their villages present an inhabited appearance."

The appended article is taken from the History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry, and Coos Counties, published by A. J. Walling in 1884, whose information on this subject seems to come largely from Bancroft's History of the Pacific Coast :

"As for clothing, the men of the Klamath family anciently wore only a belt, sometimes a breech-clout, and the women an apron or skirt of deer skin or braided grass. In colder weather they threw over their shoulders a cloak or robe of marten or rabbit skins sewed together, deer skin, or, among the coast tribes, sea-otter or seal skin. The men of the tribes were usually practiced hunters. A portion of their food during a great part of the year was wild game of the forest which they approached and captured with considerable adroitness. The elk, too large and powerful to be taken by bows and arrows, was sometimes snared; and the same fate befell the deer and antelope. The bear was far beyond the power of the natives when their only weapons were the bow and arrow, but after their acquisition of the white man's rifle, they have hunted bruin with success. The last grizzly bear ever seen west of the Cascades was killed in 1877, by Don Pedro, a Klamath, near White Rock Butte, east of Roseburg. Fishing was a more congenial and more productive occupation than hunting. Its results were more certain, and, in the prolific waters of Klamath and Rogue, more abundant as well. Several methods were in vogue for taking fish. Sometimes a dam of interwoven twigs was placed across a rapid so as to intercept the salmon in their periodical visits to deposit their spawn. Within niches suitably contrived the fish collected and were speared. These dams often required an immense amount of work in their construction, especially if upon a large stream. Many trout were taken from small streams by beating the water with brush, whereby the fish were driven into confined spans and dipped out. Bancroft says: 'When preserved for winter use, the fish were split open on the back, the bones taken out, and then dried or smoked. Both meat and fish, when eaten fresh, are either broiled on hot stones or boiled in water-tight baskets into which hot stones are thrown to make the water boil. Bread is made of acorns ground to flour in a stone mortar with a heavy stone pestle and baked in the ashes. Acorn flour is the principal ingredient, but berries of various kinds are usually mixed in, and frequently seasoned with some high-flavored herb. A sort of pudding is also made in the same manner, but it is broiled instead of baked.

"The Indians gathered a great variety of roots, berries, and seeds which they made use of for food. The principal root used was camas, great quantities of which were collected and dried during summer and stored for the coming winter's provisions. This is a bulbous root much like an onion, and is familiar to nearly every old resident of Oregon. Another root called kice or kace was held in high esteem; it was bulbous, about an inch long, of a bitterish taste like ginseng. The ip-ar, e-pua, or e-par root was a prominent article of diet and grew abundantly upon the banks of the Rogue and other rivers. There were several varieties of grass seeds, the huckle-berry, black-berry, salmon-berry, squaw-berry, manzanita-berry, and perhaps others, which entered into the diet of the Indian generally, or as governed by the locality in which they grew. At Klamath Lake the pond lily grows in profusion, and its seeds, called wocus by the savages, formed an article of diet of which they were very fond. The women, as is invariably the case among the North American Indians, performed all the work of gathering these comestibles and of preparing them likewise. The men were not in any degree an exception to the general rule of laziness and worthlessness. Their only