La Grande Evening Observer

Published Daily Except Sunday.

CURREY BROTHERS,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

United Press Telegraph Service.

Daily, per month..... .65
Daily, single copy..... .05
Daily, one year in advance.....$6.50
Daily, six months, in advance...$3.50
Weekly, one year, in advance...$1.00
Weekly, six months, in advance.. .75

Entered at the postoffice at La Grande as second-class matter.

This paper will not publish any article appearing over a nom de plume. Signed articles will be received subject to the discretion of the editors. Please sign your articles and save disappointment.

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Display ad. rates furnished upon application.

Local reading notices 10c per line first insertion; 5c per line for each subsequent insertion.

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OUR WONDERFUL SOIL.

This has been one of the dryest seasons in Grande Ronde valley for a great many years, and the hottest weather that has been recorded for at least 32 years. Notwithstanding this fact we were permitted to visit the 320-acre fruit farm known as the Thronson fruit tract, Saturday, and found moisture beneath what looked like three inches of dust. That is, this entire tract is under the highest possible state of cultivation, and the ground between the rows are free from weeds and grass, with the exception of a fine growth of potatoes.

Just across the county road a crew of men were hauling to the stacks the second cutting of alfalfa hay. This, like the orchard tract, it without irrigation. This all goes to show how the practical farmer is doing away with old-time theories. In the first place, this Sandridge was the last body of land in this valley to be taken. For years, while all of the foothill land was farmed and improved, the so-called Sandridge was public domain. After it was found out that it would grow wheat, it was in time all occupied, but after that, little if anything in the vegetable line was attempted, because it was feared the frost would kill it. After a while this proved to be a fallacy and today as nice gardens grow there as anywhere. It required another period of doubt and experimenting before any one had the nerve to set out fruit trees. Now, some of the best commercial orchards in the county occupy this once despised and rejected soil. After the fruit tree became a reality, one by one, small patches of alfalfa was tried, expecting, at first, only one crop. Now two large yields is the result, in additional to several months of pasture. This, mind you, without irrigation. It has only been within the last few years that the cause of these results have been fully solved. Since the digging of deep wells, which developed the fact that this large body of land in our valley had a depth of soil that was never conceived possible. Gravel is not found at a less depth than 80 feet, and often twice that distance.

Cultivation on such land brings the moisture to the surface and this is the reason why this land today is the highest priced land in the county, with the exception of land that is capable of irrigation or is sub-irrigated. Very little of the Sandridge land today can be purchased for less than $50 and the great body of it is held from $60 to $75 per acre.

The time is not far distant when the waste waters of our rivers and streams will be stored and conducted over our valley lands. Then the values will raise as if by magic, and the big holdings will be divided and sub-divided, and there will be happy homes and school houses much thicker than at present. This is what the future has in store for us, but we do not have to wait for this to be brought about. There should be hundreds of acres of this Sandridge land set out to winter apples. By cultivation, thorough cultivation as is the case with the 320-acre fruit orchard above mentioned, and the 240-acre orchard near Limber and other sections of the county, this land that today some seem high at $65 per acre, would soon be paying interest on $500 and $600 acre land.

This has been the year of years to test. Little rain and exceedingly hot weather. But the crops in this valley speak for themselves and every business man and property owner in this city and other cities of the valley should make an unusual effort to inform themselves of our actual conditions. One and all will return from their tour of inspection better impressed than ever with old Grande Ronde.

MOST BEAUTIFUL POEM.

Former Resident of Valley Sings Her Praise.

Bert Huffman, editor of the Pendleton East Oregonian, and formerly a resident of the Grande Ronde valley, pays the following beautiful tribute to this prosperous vale, in his book of poems, "Song of the Oregon Pine":

FAIR GRANDE RONDE.

'Neath a mountain of the West,
Like a jewel on its breast,
Smiles a valley that it sweet beyond compare;
Not among Ionian Isles
Where eternal Summer smiles
Is found a spot unto my heart so fair.

Set around its purple rim,
In the twilight faint and dim,
Glows the splendor of its sunset frame of gold;
Keeping vigil from afar,
Steadfast as the Northern Star,
Stand the mountains, grim as armored knights of old.

Rich as Anadlusian wine
Boasting of its royal line.—
Are the treasured trophies of her hill and plain;
Lo, Aladdin's fabled store
Of the wondrous days of yore,
In her priceless gifts are raised to life again.

In her tints of blending light,
Fairer than Elysian night,
The touch of matchless master hand is seen;
Flames that flash from sunset skies,
While beneath their glory lies
The constant beauty of the living green.

Mine, yon purple heights afar;
Mine, this light of sun and star,
Which for me a path of gold has ever beamed;
Mine, yon cliffs and crystal creeks,
Playmates mine, yon sentinel peaks,
In whose shadows I have lived and loved and dreamed.

'Tis my own, my native land;
Mine, those patron saints who stand,
Keeping watch and ward upon the vale below;
Like a gleaming stair of light,
Fading in the starlit height,
Are her templed hills and mountains crowned in snow.

Be forever, Fair Grande Ronde,
In thy lavish fullness found;
Be the Queen of Plenty on unshaken throne;
Be a refuge evermore
For the stranger at your door.—
Be the haven, ever, for the tempest-blown!

Taft Has a Religion.

Cincinnati, O., Aug. 3.—Rev. G. A. Thayer, of the First Unitarian church, today denied that W. H. Taft had no particular religion. He said: "Taft's mother and Judge Alphonso Taft and his wife were members of the Unitarian church, also members of the Congregational church, of which I was once a pastor. Will Taft attended my church regularly. He became a member when he was a boy. I remember he once took part in a fairy play given by the Unity church when he wieghed 175 pounds. Taft is in good company."

Germans Celebrate.

Syracuse, N. Y., Aug. 3.—Germans from all over the state are here today to take part in the Deutsche Tag festivities, opened this morning with a big parade. This afternoon there will be an elaborate musical program and addresses by Theodore Sutro of New York, president of the State Alliance of German societies, and other prominent Germans.

American Priests Visit Vatican.

Rome, Aug. 3.—Archbishop Farley heading a delegation of 21 American priests and 180 American pilgrims, arrived at the Vatican today, carrying the Peter's pence.

UNION COUNTY IS NINTH IN STATE

(Continued from page 1.)

The other eight counties that have a higher population, range from 36,587 to approximately 5,634.

Union County Figures.

Though The Observer has published a general review of the school population during the past year, before, a summary is, however, so interesting, that it is published herewith:

The number of persons between the ages of 4 and 20 years in Union county is 5492; the amount appropriated in April, 1908, was $4000; the amount appropriated last Saturday, $4787.20, bringing the appropriations for the year to this county up to $8,787.20.

Record Speaks Well.

Union county and the state as a whole have reasons to feel proud of its showing in school population. It reflects the growth of the state and figures of this kind are always watched by outsiders who are interested in the welfare of Oregon, and the 34 counties in it.

BIG LAND SALE TODAY

L. A. Lewis, of Portland, of the firm of the old pioneer wholesale grocery house of Allen & Lewis, who spent several days in this city and valley recently, was so favorably impressed with our future, that he purchased 320 acres of land of J. D. McKennon, four miles east of this city, paying $9,600, or $30 per acre. When business men like Mr. Lewis invest in Grande Ronde valley wheat land, it speaks well for our future.

Bert Huffman's Poems on Sale.

"Song of the Oregon Pine," a book of poems by Bert Huffman, is now on sale at Leavitt's cigar store and Newlin's drug store. Price 60 cents. d&w

Ice Water Dangerous.

The ice water habit is about as dangerous as any other habit that is worked to excess this warm weather. When passenger train No. 5 pulled in last night it had several on board who were ill, and one man who had loaded his hide full of the company's iced beverage until he took cramps. The fellow was suffering all kinds of pain, according to trainmen, and when reaching Ontario a doctor was taken aboard to look after him and care for people traveling who do not have enough judgment to keep away from the ice tank on a very warm day. After all, there is not one man in a thousand who knows anything about himself. Too many people study their neighbors when they should be finding out something of their own nature.—Baker City Herald.

In Terrible Suffering.

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—With his body almost covered with a seething mass of boiling asphaltum, thrown upon him by the explosion of a pot in which he was heating the material, Peter Com, a street laborer, was carried to the hospital in terrible agony today. He is expected to live but a few hours. His flesh was burned to the shoulders to the bone.

Harvest Begun in Wallowa.

John McDonald started a binder on his fall wheat south of town Monday. He has a good crop, much better than was expected a few weeks ago. Timothy haying is in full blast and on irrigated lands the yield of hay is much better than was predicted, being almost a full crop. On the hill lands the crops are far short of being a failure, but the lack of rain and the lateness of the season have cut the results far short of the average yield. Both haying and harvest are later than usual this year, owing to the late season.—Wallowa Sun.

Would Divide Expense.

The county court of Baker county is going to confer with Judge Henry of this county, relative to building a joint bridge at North Powder. The one now there is decaying and needs extensive repairs.

Sunday Baseball Scores.

San Francisco, 6; Portland, 5 (20 innings.

Oakland, 7-0; Los Angeles, 1-6.

Found Body in Bay.

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—Mystery surrounds the finding ogf a well dressed man in the bay near Golden Gate. It has probably been in the water only an hour. There is no clue to the identity of the man. In a small leather bag he carried $35.

SHERWOODS ELECTRIC THEATRE

The Stolen Sausage.
Pretty Dairy Maid.
Song—
"Roses Bring Dreams of You."

Tracked by Police Dogs.
Joyous Surprise.

Song—
"Bunker Hill."

Victim of His Honesty.
Double Suicide.

Program changes each Monday and Thursday. Doors open promptly at 7 o'clock p. m.
Matinee on Wednesday and Saturday.
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CIRCUS LA GRANDE TUESDAY AUGUST 11

Reserved Seats and Admission Tickets on sale on show day at Silverthorn & Mack's Drug Store, corner Depot Street and Adams Avenue, at exactly the same price charged on the show grounds.