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**REMARKABLE AGE**

Rarest Of Rare Age Attainments Discovered Within La Grande's Borders

**JOHN PREDMORE'S AUTHENTIC AGE IS OVER 114**

WITH SHADOWS OF THREE CENTURIES ON HIS HEAD, WITH NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS VIVIDLY IMPRESSED ON HIS MEMORY, HALE AND HEARTY AT 114 YEARS, HE LIVES ALONE AS CONTENTED AS THE HAPPIEST—HIS BIRTH RECORDS SECURED FROM LONDON OFFICIALS.

(By Mrs. Calvin C. Thomason, Staff Correspondent.)

**PREDMORE FOR SAT. DAILY**

La Grande may justly number among her citizens the oldest man in the state, John Predmore, on whom the light of three centuries has fallen. This interesting old man is often seen on the streets of the city, or sitting about in the grocery stores hotly discussing some affair which he considers unjust. During his forty-seven years' residence here he has been engaged in many law suits, only this week telling visitors that he had walked a mile out to the Proebstel bridge to get a horse to ride to Oro Dell to see what could be done about the ditch crossing his land.

Although he, himself, does not know his age, a record received in reply to a letter of inquiry sent by a La Grande citizen to London states that he was born in 1795. At a time when all the countries of Europe and America were in a state of upheaval because of the ideas of political equality that were threatening the foundations of the strongest despotic governments, he was brought to Canada, when yet a small child. His father was an Englishman, and his mother, nee Marie De Rosa, a French woman. In the French settlement

where the Predmore home was made in Canada, the language of the mother was in common use, and the Predmore family rarely used the English. Mr. Predmore says, however, that he always liked the English language, and when a boy he was wont to make his way to a neighboring family where his father's tongue was in vogue. He has never succeeded in speaking the English without a strong French accent.

After the migration of the Predmore family to Canada, the father was at first light-house keeper on an island at the mouth of the St. Lawrence. Soon afterwards the family moved to Rimouski, where the survivors of the name now live, as Mr. Predmore supposes. Five children were born to John and Marie Predmore, two sons, and three daughters. It is the intention of Mr. Predmore to visit his old home next year, after an absence of fifty-four years. "I find all changed," he said, "but I think I go."

The incidents of his boyhood in New Brunswick seem to be dimly outlined in the mind of the man who has reached his one hundred and fourteenth year. A question from a visitor, however, suggests to him some long forgotten incident which he will relate in a voice that almost pipes in its French inflection. For instance, it was asked if he recalled anything regarding the Napoleonic wars, Waterloo or Austerlitz. "Napoleon," he queried. "My vater used to read to de children about Napoleon. He war with England." "Did he read from a book or from a newspaper," was asked. "He read de paper. Every eight days he get de paper from London."

Mr. Predmore tells of assisting in the construction of the first depot in Quebec, and shortly after going to New York. From New York he took ship for California, crossing the Isthmus of Panama in 1855. He spent a few years in California, and then came north to Vancouver, Washington, there selecting the spot on which the Catholic church constructed the convent. He is a member of the Catholic faith. It was in 1862 that Mr. Predmore came to the Grande Ronde valley. Since that time he has resided here continuously with a few short absences. Last year he was in Portland, but his journeys from home are very rare.

He was formerly the owner of a hundred acres of land on the north side of the track, and he still owns there a number of little unpainted houses that he rents. He also is owner of property in Oro Dell. Through the Scriber bank failure he lost \$5,000. The house in which he lives

was erected in the year that the railroad reached La Grande, 1882. Here he has lived for the past twenty-seven years, alone for the greater part of the time, for he has never been married. A few years ago a nephew of the old pioneer came to live with him. This man died after a short time here.

He received the Observer representatives at his door with warm hand shakes, and open cordiality. With haste he pushed aside a bed from before a door leading into an adjoining room from which he brought out a rocking chair for the lady of the party.

He seated himself on the bed where the fast approaching twilight fell upon his strangely wrinkled face, and showed to advantage his small form, clad in worn trousers, striped shirt, and cook apron, for he had just finished his evening meal. He said that he was in good health, ate well, and slept well. Sometimes he ate four meals a day, he said. He spoke of his excellent lung power, and it can well be seen that he has wonderful chest capacity. "Once I weigh 167 pounds, but I weigh about a hundred now," he said with a laugh.

He volunteered to show the party over his house, part of which he at times rents. His own rooms contain a number of carpenter's tools, such as saws, squares, etc., hanging about on the wall. On his small table he pointed to a bowl of plum butter which he made last year. In his store room he has a large can of paint which he expects to use on his houses soon.

Mr. Linus Ross, a La Grande pioneer, seventy-five year of age tell of his first meeting with John Predmore, some twenty-five years ago. Mr. Ross was driving from Meacham when he saw a little man coming on foot toward him. The sturdy pedestrian had for a staff a fir limb from the top of which the foliage was untrimmed. When opposite Mr. Ross the little man stopped. Mr. Ross did likewise. "What's your name?" asked the foot traveler of the driver. Upon receiving the desired knowledge the little man walked on without further conversation.

Story after story of the long, remarkable career of Mr. Predmore may be learned from the old settlers here. It is rarely in the course of a lifetime that one has the opportunity of talking with a man who has lived in the time of the French Revolution, the Napoleonic wars, the second war with Great Britain, the Mexican war, the Civil war, the Spanish American war, and who is likely to witness still many other history-making events of the world.

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Beginning Friday, October 1st, the Blue Mountain Creamery will sell as follows: 15 quart tickets, \$1.00. One quart of milk, 10c. Two quarts of milk 15c. It will pay you to buy tickets. The creamery will close at 5:30 p. m. beginning Oct. 1. (S30-6t)

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THE SUGAR MILL WILL BEGIN OPERATION ABOUT OCTOBER 4th, ALL OLD EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS ANY NEW ONES SHOULD MAKE APPLICATION BEFORE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, TO THE UNDERSIGNED AT THE SUGAR MILL.  
A. THOMAS.