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Theodore F. Miner Writes Interesting Letter To The Observer

And With It He Sends Clippings Which Tell of Early Newspaper History in La Grande—First Paper Published Here Was The Blue Mountain Times—It Was Succeeded By The Grande Ronde Sentinel—Then Came The Grande Ronde Gazette Which Was Succeeded by The Eastern Oregon Republican.

No. 30 North Weymouth Ave.
Atlantic City, N. J.,
May 20th, 1917.

Publishers The Observer,

La Grande, Oregon.

Dear Sirs:—It was a very agreeable surprise to me to receive a copy of your issue of May 5th, containing my letter to the Mayor of La Grande.

Accept assurances of my full appreciation of your attention.

I have delayed writing to you hoping to receive some information concerning the La Grande Volunteer Co. of 1878, but up to this writing, none has come to hand.

I should remember that 39 years have passed since that time, and that what were stirring events then have now become pages of history.

The babes, that were carried into the Blue Mountain University, when it was fortified and entrenched, as a place of refuge for women and chil-

dren, are now, in so far as their lives have been spared, the present Grande Ronde fathers and mothers, well along in middle life, their minds fully occupied, with the affairs of the second generation to come on the scene, since the Bannack War.

"Be sure our life away." With a view to showing you some tangible indication of my appreciation of your courtesy, I am enclosing herewith two leaves from my Grande Ronde Valley Scrap Book.

They contain a concise and authentic history of the newspapers that were published in La Grande, up to May 1st, 1880, when we transferred the La Grande Gazette to Mr. Shedden F. Wilson.

In the division of business cares between Will Snodgrass and myself the editorial mantle fell upon my shoulders and I can, therefore, vouch for the authenticity of this historical

sketch.

Possibly these details have never come to your observation, and if so they will, I know, be of considerable interest to you.

Should you receive any information concerning the La Grande Volunteer Co. I would be gratified to receive word of it. My present connection with the New Jersey Home Defense League, brings inquiries concerning my previous military experiences, and the La Grande Vol. Co. is the one missing link in the chain.

With best wishes for your success, I am,

Sincerely yours,
THEODORE F. MINER,
30 North Weymouth Ave.
Atlantic City, New Jersey.
Kindly return enclosures.

GAZETTE.
Published Every Saturday
Morning By
SNODGRASS & MINER.
La Grande, Or., March 13, 1880
To the Patrons of the Gazette.

We take pleasure in announcing to our readers that the entire property, business, and good will of the La Grande Gazette has been transferred to Mr. Shedden F. Wilson, at present residing in Union, who becomes the sole proprietor and manager of its publication. Owing to the impossibility of Mr. Wilson closing his business affairs at Union sooner, the Gazette will be published by us until May first, next, when Mr. Wilson will remove to La Grande to locate permanently, and will, from and after that date (May 1st) assume the entire management of this paper.

It is with great satisfaction that we assure our readers and patrons that this change of management places the publication of a first-class paper in La Grande on a sound basis, and all thoughts of the paper being discontinued (which have been in circulation in some quarters) may be dismissed at once. Mr. Wilson is a man of wide experience, has managed a newspaper in a large city, and is therefore eminently qualified to fill the position he is about to assume. His location at La Grande assures the permanency of a newspaper at this place, and we bespeak for him the cordial good will and support of the people of Union county and vicinity. As we now have no interest pecuniarily or otherwise in this paper, except our desire to see it prosper, and increase in usefulness under the management of Mr. Wilson, we can now say what we have not been at liberty to write while directly interested in its financial welfare:

A newspaper, properly conducted, is one of the most important factors for the increase, growth, and prosperity of the section of country in which it is published. It is a medium for the transmission of news from the four quarters of the world to its readers, thus keeping them thoroughly posted on the changes constantly going on in the panorama of life; and again, is the medium for the diffusion of news to the outside world, relative to the advantages offered to seekers of new homes in the State or county which it represents, thus encouraging a constant accession to the population by new arrivals.

This work cannot be carried on without entailing a large expense, and as the effects of the paper's work comes directly back to the public, it is but just and right that the public should show their appreciation of the work that is being done, by giving the paper their patronage. Merchants cannot afford to do without an advertisement in their local paper, as without that patronage a paper cannot exist, and without a newspaper a town or city of any magnitude cannot exist, except as a non-entity. We therefore urge upon the people of this county the importance of each one appropriating his mite towards the support of the local papers, as it is an investment which pays large dividends in information gained through the columns of the paper from week to week. Now a few words in connection with the Gazette.

At the time of assuming the management of its publication, one year ago, it was after a long deliberation in our minds as to whether we should assume the care and responsibility attendant upon its regular issue, or consent to the other alternative which at that time presented itself, i. e., the sale of the entire property and its removal from the county. We had no previous experience in the journalistic field; our time was already more than occupied by the multiplicity of cares attendant upon our general business, having two stores, a grist mill and saw mill on our hands, besides sundry minor accessories. At the earnest solicitation, however, of several of the foremost citizens of La Grande, combined with our own desire to see the paper maintained in La Grande, we assumed the additional care of the Gazette, simply as a "labor of love" in the interest of the community, without expectation of pecuniary profits—our sole object to hold the Gazette in La Grande until such time as a person familiar with, and adapted to the business, could be found to step into the management of the paper, and by devoting his time and energy to its cause, make it what it should be, a live, wide-awake, influential journal.

Such a person has been secured in the transfer of the paper to Mr. Shedden F. Wilson.

Our motives in taking the helm of the Gazette have been misconstrued and misrepresented by some parties, and circumstances have been such

that we were not at liberty to justify ourselves by any explanation; but now that we are free to define our position, we will simply say that having accomplished the object we had in view when taking the Gazette we are satisfied; and while earning nothing for the criticisms of those whose littleness of soul prevented them from appreciating our motives, we desire to return our thanks for the kindly words of encouragement we have received from those having the true interests of La Grande, Union county and Eastern Oregon in general at heart.

Snodgrass & Miner.
GAZETTE.
Published Every Saturday
Morning By
SNODGRASS & MINER.
La Grande, Or., May 1, 1880.
GOOD-BYE.

With this issue, which will be the last number of the La Grande weekly paper issued under the title of the LA GRANDE GAZETTE, we make our farewell bow to its readers and patrons in the capacity of editors and proprietors. On the 8th of May, our successor Mr. Shedden F. Wilson, will issue the first number of his paper under the title of the

EASTERN OREGON REPUBLICAN which paper will succeed the Gazette, and its subscribers will be furnished with their paper regularly without any interruption in consequence of the change of proprietorship. As we stated a few weeks since in these columns, we assumed the management of the Gazette fourteen months ago; not from any desire within us to immortalize ourselves in the journalistic arena having had no previous similar experience, nor from any expectation of pecuniary reward, but simply as a labor of love in the interest of our growing city and beautiful valley. Added to the daily routine of cares in our own legitimate business, the publication of the Gazette has been a tax upon our personal exertions. The relations of a country editor with his patrons must necessarily be friendly and familiar, and entirely unlike the carefully concealed individuality of the city press. Whatever appears in a city daily to praise or censure, goes to the paper itself, as the writers are unknown to the general public. But in a country weekly if the editor is independent—as he must be to succeed—and gives vent to positive opinions, he naturally gives offence to those who think differently, and the censure is all heaped upon his devoted head. Thus have we given offence, probably, to some during our connection with the Gazette, but while none could regret the necessity more sincerely, it was a duty we could not escape, and we have always endeavored to perform it as best we could, and now as we sever the ties that have bound us to the paper, we trust there are no rankling resentments to outlast the hour of these parting words.

But few realize the necessarily constant motion of the mechanism of journalism. Its working wheels—brains and heart—are not allowed to lag for sickness, or stop for calamity or sorrow. The judge may adjourn his court; the school and workshops may close their shutters; the mourner may veil his features and turn friend or stranger from the door; but the journalist must forget before tomorrow the sorrow of the day; must write gaily and freshly, as a newsman, of the trifles of the hour, not only in the "hours that shine" with the joys of life, but as well in the gloom of despondency where sickness or sorrow have placed a burden upon the heart.

While we have looked forward with pleasure to the hour that would emancipate us from the inexorable demands of an editorial experience in connection with our already widely spread business affairs, now that the hour has come we must confess to a feeling of regret that we can scarcely express and would not conceal. Through constant association and contact with our exchanges and correspondents, and the magnetic and stimulating occupation of culling the various journals and letters of correspondence for the latest and best news to furnish to our readers, we have unconsciously formed an attachment to the business that we only fully realize when that attachment is to be broken—but these changes from a part of the vicissitudes of every life, and ours is no exception to the general rule. As a matter of historical interest we give here a concise history of the newspapers that have been published in La Grande.

The first paper published in La Grande was the BLUE MOUNTAIN TIMES, the first number of which was issued in April, 1868, under the management of Messrs. M. Baker, George Cogran and Dan'l Chaplin, the editorial department being conducted by H. M. Judson, now residing in Omaha, Neb. The Times was Republican in politics, and was conducted until after the Presidential election of 1868 and its publication was suspended about the close of the year.

THE GRANDE RONDE SENTINEL was first issued in June, 1868, by E. S. McComas and J. E. Jeffery, who published it eighteen months, under the editorial management of E. S. McComas, who sold his interest to Jeffery. The Grande Ronde Sentinel was continued, repeatedly changing hands, and was conducted at differ-

fourth of July excursions

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ent times by S. A. Mahaffey, La Grande Publishing Co., M. H. Abbott, J. W. Kelley and J. L. Curtis, Kelley & Harding, and was taken charge of in 1871, by M. P. Bull and name changed to the MOUNTAIN SENTINEL, which passed into the hands of McComas & Stevens in July 1874, and moved to Union February, 1876. THE LA GRANDE GAZETTE was published by the La Grande Publishing Co., the first number appearing in September, 1877, under the editorial management of M. H. Abbott, who occupied the editorial chair about four months, after which the Gazette was published under the editorial care of Micajah Baker and H. K. Hines until it was transferred to Snodgrass & Miner, March 1st, 1879, who have published it up to the present date. Some weeks ago the presses, material and good will of the Gazette were sold to Mr. Shedden F. Wilson, who decided to change the name of the paper, as before stated, to the Eastern Oregon Republican. Such is the history of newspapers in La Grande. We are under many obligations to Messrs. E. S. McComas and Micajah Baker for data that enabled us to give dates and names in the foregoing article. We would not be doing justice were we to close this article without making mention of the prompt, efficient and faithful manner in which the mechanical work of the Gazette

(Continued on Page 8.)

Annie Therese Davault In "Polly of the Circus"

Gifted Dramatic Reader Presents Charming Interpretation at Chautauqua



ANNIE THERESE DAVULT, one of the most gifted dramatic readers in America, is to be featured on the Ellison-White Chautauquas, in an interpretation of "Polly of the Circus." With astonishing success under the grilling eyes of the best critics, Miss Davault has scored repeated triumphs in the reading of "The Melting Pot," "Music Master," "Peg O' My Heart" and Dickens' "Christmas Carol." In "Polly of the Circus" Miss Davault completely mirrors all the tender charm of the incomparable little play.

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