

# HISTORY OF MILLING GIVEN

### Fred Kiddle of Island City Outlines Industry's Past in Union County.

The following is the text of the address given by Fred Kiddle of the Pioneer Flouring mills at Island City before the Ad club at its meeting last Tuesday.

The first flour mill that we have any record of being built in the Grande Ronde valley was built by John Wilkinson in 1863; this was a water power stone mill, using steam to supply the power and was located in Mill Creek canyon above La Grande. This mill could grind out about ten barrels of flour a day. John Caviness, the first crop of wheat he raised in the valley to this mill received \$1.50 a bushel. The mill was later sold to Mr. Crum of Old Town, who operated it for several years.

In 1864 the father of the late W. T. Wright built a small stone burr mill at Union which he operated for several years, it finally being destroyed by fire. About the same time Jas. Rinehart built a water power stone burr mill at Summerville, which was operated until about 1884, when it was remodelled and converted into a roller process mill. This mill burned down a few years later. A few later the Rinehart mill was built. Ruhl and Martin built another stone mill at Summerville and they later disposed of it to George and Robert Rockman, who remodelled it into a roller mill.

About 1865 Olds and Harker built a small water power mill at Prudell which they sold a few years later to Roodness and Minor who operated the mill for several years until it was swept by a high water flood of the Grande Ronde river and washed away.

In 1870 Henry and George built a water power mill in the Cove, which they operated for several years and later sold it to Mr. Jaycox, who remodelled it into a roller mill.

In 1871 John Caviness and Mr. Stealing built a water power mill at Island City on the same site that the present mill stands. At that time wheat was selling from 50 to 55c a bushel and flour at about \$3.00 a barrel. Mr. Caviness sold this mill to the Island City Mezzanine Milling Co. This company operated the mill until 1879, when it was sold to the Pioneer Flouring Co. as the managing agent, when it was disposed of to the Pioneer

Flouring Mill Co., with Ed E. Kiddle as president and manager, W. G. Hunter vice president and C. H. Bidwell, secretary. This was the present company from which the present system of Kiddle mills and warehouses was established. This mill was burned to the ground in 1892 and while it was being rebuilt they purchased the Union Flouring Mill which was built by the Davis Brothers about 1854 and soon after that the Old Alliance mill which was built about 1826 by the Farmers Alliance. In 1905 the Grande Ronde Grain Co. was organized and warehouses purchased at Conley and Allied. In 1908 the Pioneer Mill at Island City was again burned down and while it was being rebuilt the Inhaber Flouring Mill was purchased; this mill having been built in 1902 by McKinnis and Hindman. Shortly after that the Elgin Flouring Mill, which was built about 1907 by Halpin and McKinnis was purchased; all the mills in the valley now being under the same control with the exception of the mill at Cove. In 1917 the Inhaber mill burned down and the mill was not rebuilt but warehouses were built to handle the crops.

As nearly as can be estimated the wheat crop for the 1931 season in Union county, including the North Powder area, was about 1,200,000 bushels, the oat crop about 150,000 bushels and barley crop about 125,000 bushels. This was a normal wheat crop for the valley but the oat and barley crop were only about one-third of a normal crop. The biggest wheat crop ever recorded in the county was in 1916, when it is estimated that the crop totalled about 1,500,000 bushels. The smallest crop was in 1917 when we only produced 850,000 bushels.

The chief varieties of wheat grown in the county are the Forty Gold and Hybrid 128 for fall sowing and Club, Farty, Bant and Lincoln for spring sowing. Bulk handling of wheat has become quite popular with the farmers of this valley during the last few years and at the present time about one-half of our crop is received in bulk. The wheat is received in run over coarse screens to remove the straw, dirt and foreign materials and is then cleaned and run into the storage bins, where it is stored until ready to be ground into flour; it is then drawn out, cleaned and run out before being fed into the mill.

The present capacity of the Kiddle mills is about 500 barrels a day. The mills have been running steadily since about the new year. There is usually a shut down period of a couple of months during June and July when the mills are usually gone and new ones are put into operation on the new run. The total output of the mills for

the past year was 112,575 barrels of flour. There was shipped out of the valley to other markets during this period 344 carloads of flour and 125 carloads of millfeed.

In order that our flour standards may be maintained, laboratory tests are taken of the days' run of each of the mills in order to see that the color is good and that the flour is rich in gluten.

The payroll of the mills totalled \$71,500,000 for the past year, and between forty and fifty men are employed.

The flour is shipped to all parts of the world. At the present time the mills are working on a 5000 barrel order for shipment to Europe. Considerable of our flour, in fact last year about 60 per cent of it, was shipped to the southwest foreign markets, namely, St. Louis, Nashville, New Orleans, and Memphis, California markets, San Francisco and Los Angeles use many carloads of Grande Ronde valley flour each year. Exports to the war the mills on the Pacific coast enjoyed a nice business in the Orient but since the war it has been hard to get into that market in competition with the lower wheat values and shipping rates of the Australian mills.

# RICHARD KELLY CALLED BY DEATH

### Resided in La Grande Many Years and Well Known Throughout Eastern Oregon.

After a residence of over thirty years in La Grande Richard Kelly, a well known citizen, passed on last evening at his home on Washington avenue at 7 o'clock. Physically Mr. Kelly had been a remarkable man, never knowing a sick day until several months ago when he began to fail in health, gradually sinking under a combination of ailments which would not respond to medical treatment.

His many friends looked anxiously for a change for the better, but such a change was not to come for he continued to fail and his strength grew less each day.

Richard Kelly was born in New York state 55 years ago, coming west when a young man. He resided in La Grande more than thirty years ago and has made this city his home ever since.

The deceased leaves a son, Charles, and a daughter, Miss Adelaide, both of whom were with their father when the end came.

Funeral services will be held Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock from the Catholic church, Our Lady of the Valley and the funeral sermon will be preached by Father Losier.

# Organizes Store In Enterprise

### San Harris returned to La Grande Friday from Enterprise, where he has been the past several days assisting in taking inventory and organizing the Hooverized Grocery of Enterprise. Dan McPherson, formerly of the Local Co-operative Store, becomes one of the new owners and has taken charge of the management of the Enterprise Grocery.

# KEELEY LOSES SUIT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—The supreme court yesterday dismissed upon motion of LeRoy E. Keeley proceedings brought by Keeley against the chief justice and associate justices of the supreme court of Oregon, Walter Evans, district attorney of Multnomah county, and Alfred S. Bennett as the result of the state supreme court to make permanent his temporary admission to the bar.

# OBSERVER WANT ADS BRING RESULTS

See our advertisement in this issue for results of our want ads.

# CALIFORNIA DESERT BLOOMS

### (By Associated Press) EL CENTRO, Calif., Jan. 14.—A desert marvelously ablaze is a sight which greets travellers along the Imperial highway as the unique result of the recent storm over Southern California, that of giving some rainfall to the Imperial valley. The vast stretches are literally carpeted with strange and beautiful foliage and blossoms.

# State-Wide Chamber Of Commerce Has Been Formed In East

(By Associated Press) CHICAGO, Jan. 14.—The Illinois Chamber of Commerce has undertaken to do on a state-wide scale what local chambers of commerce have been attempting to do for

each individual locality, that of supplying facts and figures to prospective new business contemplating location within the state, according to an announcement made here today by Harvey T. Hill, secretary of the state organization.

Mr. Hill says that the State Chamber of Commerce also hopes through this movement to keep cities from becoming lapsed from a business standpoint and to assist in bringing out of the cities that are already in this condition back to normal. He cites as a good illustration of this the coal fields of southern Illinois, where cities of 20,000 can be found with coal mining as the only industry.

"What happens when the mines shut down?" Mr. Hill asks. "The entire population is idle," he answers.

"We will attempt to give out information to business enterprises and cities so that the industries may be diversified through the analyzing of conditions that exist or give prospect of existing at some future time," he said.

READ THE WANT ADS!

# HARMONY ACHIEVED

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Senate republicans today agreed on a legislative program for the present session and have under consideration a new proposal for combining the soldier bonus and allied debt refunding bills to enable cash payments to former service men by the sale of bonds received from the allies.

The allied debt refunding bill, the bonus measure, the tariff revision bill, the treaties growing out of the armament limitation conference, the farmers' co-operative marketing bill and reclamation legislation were said to be the major items in the republican program.

# Hays Will Quit His Job in Cabinet and Take Movie Job

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—Postmaster General Hays said no date for his retirement has been decided upon. His date has been left open awaiting negotiations with motion picture producers.

## STOVES and RANGES

at Greatly Reduced Prices



See Our Assortment—We Offer Prices

### OREGON HARDWARE AND IMPLEMENT CO.

## Blankets Made Like New

We have installed a new machine that excels anything ever used in Eastern Oregon. We will make your blankets, wool or cotton, look like new.

Have us send our driver tomorrow for your family bundle. We'll have everything back again all clean and sweet in just a little while.

Main 77

### THE MODERN LAUNDRY

## Lower Than Pre-War Prices and Better Batteries Too!

Prest-O-Lite's Latest Price Cut Brings Battery Prices to Lowest Point in Years

6 Volt Type for Ford and Other Light Cars \$20.90 (Trade In)	6 Volt Type for Buick, Chalmers, Chandler, Essex and Others \$25.00 (Trade In)
--	--

12 VOLT TYPE FOR OGDGE, MAXWELL AND FRANKLIN, \$25.00

All Guaranteed And Our Service Backs Them Up Repairs And Recharging On All Makes

### HUG'S GARAGE

## Carr's Carr's

Where Your Credit Is Good Use It COMPLETE HOME FURNISHER

This monument, erected to the memory of Joseph Bradford Carr, in Oakwood Cemetery, New York, is a combination of classic and modern ideas in monument work.



Gen. Carr's Memorial Troy N.Y.

—We have made a profound study of monument building, and an order placed in our hands is sure to receive faithful, intelligent execution.

We Will Gladly Furnish Estimates

### Blue Mountain Marble & Granite Company

1502 S Ave., La Grande, Or.

## SHERRY'S

SUNDAY AND MONDAY

WILLIAM D. TAYLOR'S Production

### "The Witching Hour"

WITH ELLIOTT DEXTER

The test of his power had come! At the witching hour that ruled his fate and the lives of those he loved.

And here, with a gun of his, he was the man who had plunged those lives into ruin.

The test had come. You can't pull the trigger! You can't see the end of the tunnel! And then—?

One of the greatest stage successes ever played in America, now sizzling over the screen!

ALSO A COMEDY

## Look at This!

A good two-story seven room house with bath. Stone construction. The size of lot is 60x100, located on good street. The price is \$2,000.00. You will have to pay \$250.00 as first payment. Balance at \$25.00 per month. Interest at 8 per cent on unpaid balances deducted from each \$25.00 payment and the balance applied on the principal. All to become due in 3 years from date.

### LA GRANDE INVESTMENT COMPANY

Reliable Agents for Reliable Insurance Companies  
1113 Adams Ave. Phone Main 753

## Want to Look Your Best?

ONE OF OUR MADE TO MEASURE SUITS OR OVERCOATS IS THE ANSWER

Quality that gives you the most satisfactory service makes a man who buys OUR friend of every man who custom tailored clothes wears OUR Clothes. Their quality. Never Tailored clothes. Disappoints.

10% off on all suits and overcoats

### The Wardrobe

WOOD W. BERRY  
—Dry Cleaning a Specialty—