

ATTEND THE OREGON TRAIL PAGEANT

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON

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UNION COUNTY IS NATURE'S FERTILE SPOT

Profitable Crops Grow and
Flowers Bloom Without
Aid of Irrigation.

IS CENTER OF PURE
BRED LIVE STOCK

Smaller Holdings and In-
creased Population Looms
In the Near Future.

It is the first spot on the western journey from Nebraska that nature caused the grass and other vegetation to grow without irrigation. "Union County, Oregon" — how many times have these words been uttered by train conductors as the Union Pacific's transcontinental train headed westward turned the hillside coming out of Pyle's canyon and there before the eyes of the passengers lay that panoramic view of good homes, well tilled fields, orchards and pasture lands surrounding the town of Union.

Old J. D. Gilliland, the trail blazing Methodist preacher, who rode this circuit for a decade never failed to bow his head in profound thanks to Almighty God when he beheld that beautiful sight.

"To me it is a sermon: to me it is the great work of God and man brought together in symmetrical comparison," he often remarked, and everyone who knows that old circuit rider realizes what a wealth of vision he possessed as well as a soul that responded to the works of his Maker.

An Up-to-Date County. The pioneer features of Union county have been elsewhere in this issue very properly portrayed. The up-to-date, modern county work and the work of Union county people are certainly worth while and are entitled to consideration.

When the fact is impressed upon the reader that Union county is the home of purebred livestock it is not an idle statement, for this county is far ahead of any county of the entire northwest in raising and breeding animals. The valley seems especially adapted to this industry and as a result some of the best strains of cattle, sheep and horses are permanent products.

An exposition of this livestock is held in Union every year and it has grown to be not merely a moving place for friends, but merely a time of year for a festival, but it is the place where men seeking choice breeding animals gather and the merits of livestock from coast to coast is here discussed.

Agriculture Keeps Pace. Of course, tilling of the land was the foremost occupation of the forefathers who came to the Grande Ronde valley, and it is the foremost occupation today. The large wheat fields respond to the work of man with remarkable productivity. The orchard lands give up their harvest of fruit with as little work here as any place in the nation.

These taken in connection with the livestock industry makes the county possessed of solid anchors for the future.

Timber Is Good. Added to these resources is the standing timber which during its life will net big returns not only to those who operate the saw mills but

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Live Stock in Union County

County Ranks High in the
Growing of Pure Bred
Horses and Cattle; Many
Are Prize Winners.

(By H. G. Avery)
When the number of livestock existing in the various counties of Oregon is considered many counties rank ahead of Union county. The census of numbers, however, does not tell the whole story. A seeker of knowledge regarding livestock of this section could better spend a day or more at the Union Stock Show, held in June of each year. If he were not sufficiently informed regarding our livestock at that time he could visit the State Fair in September, at Salem, or the Pacific International, in November, at Portland. Here he could see many of the same individual livestock and, a summary of the judges' decisions would undoubtedly complete his information. Though we do not rank high in number of livestock among the counties, we rank foremost in quality and foremost in numbers of purebred livestock owned.

The geography of the county is such that livestock will always be an important part of the agriculture. A large portion of the land is mountainous or rough and suited only to grazing. On this type of land sheep and cattle will always be the only means of harvesting the grass crop each year. Even though much of the grazing land is classed as timber land, grazing is a distinct advantage, in that it reduces the covering of grass and small shrubs, which make the danger to the timber from fire greater.

Stock Purchased. In considering the livestock of the county we naturally turn to the consideration of purebred or registered livestock. Union county is well supplied in this respect. A. R. Hunter, and Willis Moss, of La Grande, rank high in the northwest as Percheron breeders. Leebetter's Shires and J. E. Reynolds' Clydesdales are good enough to show anywhere. Besides these there are a number of small breeders including Davis & Son, of North Powder, H. McGoldrick, of Imbler, and N. K. West, of La Grande.

Light horse breeders include G. S. Levy, of La Grande, who breeds saddle horses, and M. S. Levy, of Union, who owns the largest herd of Shetland ponies in the northwest.

First in Beef Cattle. Union county ranks foremost as a breeder of purebred beef cattle including the Shorthorn class, the herds of W. W. Green & Sons, John Green, W. J. Townley of Hot Lake, Hutchinson and Sherman, of Union, and Davis & Son, of North Powder. These men are well known at the Pacific International where they are accustomed to take their share of the ribbons, when exhibiting. Other Shorthorn breeders include Garrett Taal, of La Grande, W. E. Fickler, of Union, H. N. Prather, of Union and Ralph Butler, of La Grande.

One of the best herds of Hereford cattle in the state is owned by Andrew Blokland, of Island City. W. A. Zurbick and Willis Phillips are also important breeders.

Aberdeen-Angus cattle are bred by W. H. Hutchinson of Union, who fields a ready sale for all surplus breeding stock. Dairy cattle are not usually considered so important in Union county, but some very fine herds are to be found here. Leon Levy, of Union, has been breeding Jerseys for years. Starting with two cows of imported stock he has now a herd of over eighty head, all of very fine type. Cattle from this herd are shipped to many sections of Eastern Oregon and South Idaho, as

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Union County Exhibit at O. A. C.



OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 26.—The booth put up by Waldo Stoddard, sophomore in commerce, and the Union County Chamber of Commerce at the O. A. C. Business show won first place among the seventeen booths entered, and brought much favorable comment and attention from the thousands of visitors present, who paused to admire the wheat products and power display exhibited by Stoddard.

Representing the Union County Chamber of Commerce in the state commercial council sponsored by the O. A. C. Chamber of Commerce, Stoddard planned and built the booth, using materials sent him by the business men of Union County.

Independence won second place in the prize awards, Hillsboro, third; Coquille, fourth, and North Bend, fifth.

A Tribute to the Pioneer and the Oregon Highways

MANY DREAMS OF THE EARLY SETTLER HAVE COME TRUE;
OPPORTUNITY IS GREATER TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE

(By Ray Wilson, of Imbler.)

Billy Sunday delivering a Fourth of July address in La Grande a few years ago, said "If I were an angel and seeking the most beautiful spot on earth to alight, I would choose the Grande Ronde valley." The skeptic will probably say this is a stock phrase of commercialized orators; that even so, those who heard the eminent "Billy" give us this graceful compliment will no doubt remember that his rendition was not immediately accompanied by wildly waving arms, nor did he leap on chairs or tables. These antics too are held by the skeptic to be evidence of a guilty conscience and a physical effort of the offender to put as much

space as possible between himself and that subterranean region the Good Book says awaits those who deviate from the way of truth. As the great general of the saw diast trail stepped upon the platform that morning he cast only a casual glance at his audience. For no doubt it suggested to him merely a repetition on a long line of gathering men, he had faced through the years. But as he turned and gazed northward towards the sun-bathed valley nestled between lofty mountains of deepest blue, no one could doubt that he was facing the pioneer, and as his face lit up with a holy look of inspiration at the sight before him, even the most hardhearted unbeliever was surely convinced that "Billy" was telling the truth.

The people who settled our valley were not seeking, primarily, for beauty. Their chief concern was to find a place where land was plentiful and fertile. Where conscientious endeavor could coax from Nature's bounty a more generous reward than seemed longer possible east of the great divide.

Those Unfaltering Pioneers. It is a far cry from our populous highly cultivated valley of today to that virgin one nearly eighty years ago when the first pioneers blazed the way through seemingly impassable barriers on westward, enduring heart-rending bereavements and sweating hardships that defy human comprehension. The old ox team was crude and slow, perhaps, but its master's hand was unfaltering and his staunch faith never wavered. No doubt the trail seemed, sometimes, too long. And when he tenderly laid a rough rock to mark the fresh mound where he had laid to rest the little woman whom he had sworn to love, honor and protect; or the child whose little feet had pattered beside him on the trail and allured him into the uncertain recesses of his heart, I wonder at such moments, did not the cent sign too high? Thus was made the initial payment on The Old Oregon Trail. Consecrated in sacred American blood and dedicated to the Knights of Adventure who seek their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow in the land of the setting sun.

How Do We Like the Grande Ronde Valley.

Let us visualize, if we can, the arrival of the pioneer in our valley, as he looked over that vast body of level land, untrammeled and unclaimed. Was this the promised

land? What would the years bring to him and his children if he cast his fortune here? He had paid so dearly would this country prove worthy of the price?

Only the years could tell. The answer has come in finely improved farms that produce wheat, hay, potatoes and other crops to perfection. With some of the finest horses and cattle in the world. With highly flavored apples that carry in good condition to the far corners of the earth. With a great lumber industry in the nearby forests of pine and fir. But our greatest asset of all is that priceless gift of health that our valley bestows impartially on all who come.

Opportunities Are Greater Today

Many of the pioneers are still with us and their faith in our valley has not dimmed with the years. They told us that opportunities are greater here today than ever to the man with brains and vision and the ambition and grit to carry off. Take the fruit industry alone; at the northern end of the valley is a hilly rolling land known as Pumpkin Ridge. This seems a natural home for the large sweet cherries, such as Bing, Lambert and Royal Ann. Here the few small cherry orchards have borne full crops year after year. The sloping character of the soil makes an air drainage that proves effective against early frosts that destroy the bloom in low favored places. Land can still be bought here on the ridge for one hundred to two hundred dollars an acre. These cherries, particularly the Royal Ann, can be contracted over a long term of years at a price that will make the owner of a few acres of mature trees independent financially from the returns of only a few crops. This land is situated only a few miles from Imbler on a good road. No doubt the time is not far distant when this will be a famous fruit section as many other fruits do equally well.

Here, too, are opportunities in other lines of agriculture and also in business and industry. Here the business man is not harassed by intervals of hard times but where agricultural and industrial enterprises are steady and dependable.

Proud of La Grande.

The City of La Grande serves our larger needs in an admirable fashion. Here, too, is an insight into the character of our people. Pretty houses existing in some counties, between the metropolis and the smaller towns is noticeably absent here. We are all proud of La Grande of her thriving industries and business houses that are metropolitan in appointment and service. We are proud of her beautiful homes, her park and country club. We rejoice with her in her growth and prosperity, for it is our town. And in turn La Grande is justly proud of the county's smaller towns and the great agricultural resources that help to feed her and promise her growth. Our hopes, our fortunes are bound up together and facing one future in

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Make Cement Products Here

La Grande Concrete Pipe
Company One of Chain of
Factories in Northwest.

(By S. D. Clinton.)

To what an extent concrete has come to supplement and supplant other building and structural materials is seen in the fact that the cement manufactured in the U. S. in 1922 was in excess of 450,000,000 sacks, or approximately 114,000,000 barrels. This output, compared with the 9,000 barrels in 1872, shows very clearly the growth of this product. In 1872 there were but two plants producing Portland cement in the U. S., while today we have 117 scattered throughout the U. S. A significant fact in the development is the recognized establishment of cement today as a most vital element in building construction and cement products through its wide range of usefulness.

No Substitute Ever Found. With the advancement of the art of modern science, cement has become increasingly prominent as a necessary factor for which no substitute as enduring or economical is found. For in proportion to weight, the price per pound of cement is generally less than that of any other manufactured commodity.

Previous to 1872, all of the cement used in the U. S. was of the imported variety and it was not until 1900 that domestic sales of our own products exceeded imports by a wide margin.

Portland cement as perfected today, is composed of lime, silica and aluminum, mixed in analytically fixed proportions, fused to clinker with intense heat, and ground to a texture finer than flour; its process of making is precise, intricate and expensive, and requires the knowledge, skill and experience of technicians and trained experts. This, together with the fact that the article has been standardized throughout the U. S. has had much to do with the success and growth of its many uses.

A still more interesting fact regarding the strength of modern concrete products, is that scientific research in the past ten years has shown that strength does not depend alone on the quantity of the cement, but on the materials called "aggregates"—the sand, gravel or broken stones and the water. It has recently been proved beyond doubt that the amount of water used has more to do with the strength of concrete than any other factor, as too much water weakens the concrete.

Pipe Is Large Cement Product.

One of the principal concrete products manufactured today is concrete pipe, as manufactured by the La Grande Concrete Pipe company. This company was established in 1920 and is one of the associated plants of the Concrete Pipe company of Portland.

The parent company was founded in 1909 and since that time has grown from one small plant to six, and now has a capacity of one million pipe per year and was the pioneer manufacturer of this concrete product for the Pacific Northwest. While in 1922 the sixteen plants manufactured and sold over 229 miles of concrete pipe.

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UNION STOCK SHOW TO BE BEST EFFORT

Each Year the Undertaking
Has Grown—Growth Is
Seen for This Show.

HIGHWAYS ADD MUCH
TO ANNUAL EVENT

Everything Is Being Put In
Readiness for the Largest
Crowd Yet Entertained
By City of Union.

(By Geo. Schirb, Editor Union Republican.)

The little city of Union has so many things to be thankful for this spring that it is really difficult to decide just which of her bits of good fortune is the most desirable. Union is fortunate in being located in the Grande Ronde valley, in the good state of Oregon, in the heart of a country such as one would make it made to order and endowed with nature's choicest blessings. Another thing—Union is located on the Old Oregon Trail highway and the town has taken a strong hold on life and has shown greater vim, energy and determination to "get on the map" since the announcement was made that the highway would pass down the main street of the town.

Highway Brought Hotel. The highway brought a big hotel—counted the best between Portland and Boise—and that in turn has attracted the traveling public and the people of La Grande, Oregon to an extent that our little city is recognized as a meeting-place and a part of the consolidated working force including the cities of La Grande, Baker and Pendleton.

With the construction of The Oregon Trail highway came the shortening of distance and the increase of travel until the section from Baker to Pendleton via Union and La Grande joined together as one commercial organization, striving to better conditions in Eastern Oregon, and the effect of this organization has been felt west of the Cascades as well as on this side of the recognized dividing line between Eastern and Western Oregon.

The Big Stock Show.

Just at present the big thing occupying the attention of the people of Union is the 15th Annual Union Livestock Show, June 5, 7 and 8—preceded by the Annual Convention of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, which will be held here June 4 and 5, in the big auditorium erected last fall and winter.

In this auditorium will be held the business sessions, banquets, dances and entertainments in general arranged for the cattle and horse raisers who are expected here 500 to 600 strong, from all parts of the state.

For this event, Union will do her prettiest and will endeavor to give the stockmen all that is coming to them and more, if possible.

After that comes the Stock Show June 6, 7 and 8. It is not necessary to recount the events leading

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Union County Is Rich In Agricultural Resources

COUNTY STANDS IN FOURTH POSITION IN STATE IN VALUE OF
THE CROPS PRODUCED.

(By H. G. Avery, Union County
Agriculturist.)

The most important agricultural resource of Union county is the adaptation of the land to growing legumes, and especially alfalfa, yet apparently undiscovered by the majority of farmers. Alfalfa of times called "the king of forage crops" is a good substitute for the manure secured under livestock farming and almost as effective in renewing soil fertility. The soils throughout Union county are well suited to the production of alfalfa. It can be found growing luxuriantly in the worst alkali land in the Hot Lake section, on some of the highest elevations in the county, and on some of the shallowest soils of the lower foot-hills.

Yields of this crop since the adoption of the use of sulphur or gypsum, as a fertilizer, have increased over a large part of the acreage as much as 50 per cent, and two and one-half tons of cured hay per acre, from the first cutting, is no longer an extraordinary yield from the better fields, crops of dry land alfalfa grown here cannot be excelled anywhere according to the writer's observations.

While the livestock of this county itself do not offer a large market for a hay crop produced here, an increased crop from a larger acreage of this legume could well be used by our farmers here in feeding dairy cows and producing dairy products,

for which there is a good market at the present time.

Fourth in Wheat.

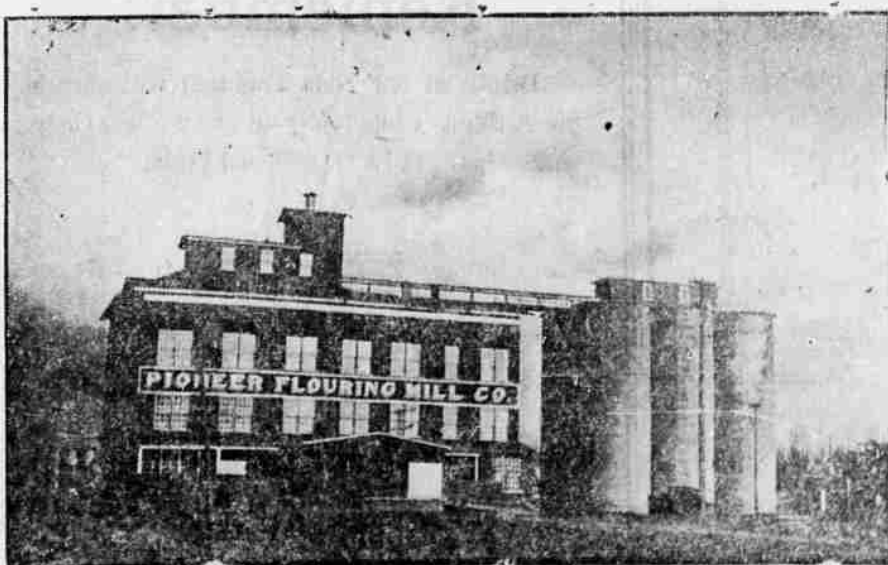
Union county ranks fourth in the state of Oregon in the amount of wheat produced. From the upper farms of Wolf creek in the North Powder section, to the last farm beyond Elgin, the principal crop is and always has been wheat. In such sections as the upland country around Elgin, it is likely that this will always be the condition.

Wheat is a crop which adapts itself to a smaller amount of available moisture than many other crops and also is constituted so it is able to survive the seasonal temperatures, which many crops could not undergo. It is also a product which has a ready demand because of its food value and will continue to be of large importance as one of our farm crops. Much of the land in Union county will always be devoted to growing wheat or other similar grains and this is as it should be.

Authorities at the More Experiment station began work there with the expectation of finding that a continuation of summer fallow methods would wear out the land and eventually destroy it. They still hold to this view but have decided that such injury will be a long time deferred in most cases, as witness the

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Union County Flouring Mill



The above shows the plant and elevators of the Pioneer Flouring Mill Co., located at Island City. There are four other flour mills in the county, one each at Elgin, La Grande, Union, and North Powder. The manufacturing of wheat into flour is one of the leading industries of the county.