

ATTEND THE OREGON TRAIL PAGEANT

LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON

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## TO PRESERVE HISTORY OF OREGON TRAIL

Association Formed to Preserve History and Advertise Famous Highway

### TO PERPETUATE HISTORY OF OLD OREGON TRAIL

Every Member Is Asked to Aid the Association in Its Many Endeavors.

(The following article covering the Old Oregon Trail association, and in which is vividly pictured some interesting incidents connected with famous roads, is from the pen of W. E. Meacham, secretary of the Baker Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Oregon Trail association. It appears in the Wallowa-Baker county section for the reason that Meacham is a product of Baker county. No man is more enamored with love for the historical sentiment associated with the Oregon Trail than Walter Meacham, nor is there a man who is devoting more of his life to perpetuating the memory of the famous trail to posterity.—Editor's Note.)

"The Old Oregon Trail is the world's most historic highway, the road leading to Nature's Scenic Wonderland. The Indians called it the 'Big Medicine Road.' It is the road over which the Oregon Country, consisting of the present states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Western Montana and Northwestern Wyoming, was saved to the United States. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction, and the events of the past hundred years pass in review before us with a rapidity and a wonder which is startling and impressive. And when we consider by what a narrow margin this 'Oregon Country' was saved to the United States, we marvel and wonder and cannot help but feel that the Almighty willed it so.

#### Columbia Discovered.

"The explorers of many lands sailed along the northwest coast in search of the 'Oregon, the Great River of the West,' but it remained for an American captain in an American ship, Captain Gray in the Columbia, to have the vision and courage to sail across the treacherous bar of the river and for many miles up the stream, and he named it the 'Columbia' in honor of his ship, and the name has remained.

"I would that the name 'Oregon' had remained for that mighty stream for the very name is shrouded in mystery and legend in his Thana-topia speaks of 'Where rolls the Oregon and hours no sound have that of its own rushing.' And then, comes on the scene, another man with a vision, John Jacob Astor, who conceived the establishment of a fur trading post at the mouth of the Columbia and other posts along the Columbia and Snake rivers, and so he sent out expeditions by land and sea to establish such posts.

"Captain Thorne on the ship Tonquin reached the Columbia in April of 1811 and built the post and named it Astoria and flew the Stars and Stripes over it and proclaimed the territory drained by the Columbia as American territory.

#### Hunt Party.

"Wilson Price Hunt left St. Louis with a small party of intrepid men in 1811 and reached the post in February 1812, after one of the most (Continued on Page Four)

## SUMMER CALLS TO HEAD OF LAKE

Much Is Being Done to Care for Expected Increase in Visitors; Amusement Companies Are Active.

(Enterprise Record-Chiefstain) Developments on a large scale will be under way this year in the great natural playground at the head of Wallowa lake. There will be much doing in the four major ventures, and private campers and cottage owners probably will do their part also in the general activity which will be stimulated by completion of the valley highway.

Wallowa Lake park will construct several permanent cottages and will add many public conveniences. A beginning on the summer assembly plans will be made by the Methodists, who will conduct important meetings there next month. The Elks will continue work on their large clubhouse, hoping to finish it this season.

Chief Joseph resort, the new amusement park and recreation center, is just getting detailed plans worked out and will record progress.

Wallowa Lake park, W. B. McInturf is following definite lines of development, in the light of his years of experience. He will erect seven new cottages this year, and more next season, as he intends to do away with tents altogether in the future. Last year he erected several cottages as a trial and they gave great satisfaction to patrons. The new buildings will be larger, more convenient. Each one will be 12 by 12 feet, all inclosed, with good shingle roof, and three ample windows. Each will have a front porch, 8 by 12 feet, which will serve as kitchen and dining room. The buildings will be provided with electric lights, with current from the Enterprise Electric company's lines. Individual meters will be provided, so that patrons can use their own electric grills if they wish. There will be a heating stove in each cottage and a cook stove on each porch. Visitors will be protected from storm and still can enjoy the beauties of the surroundings.

The water system at the park is being enlarged, with the supply coming from a snow-fed brook high on the mountain side. Sanitary drinking fountains will care for visitors, and campers can get their water from convenient faucets.

In addition, a bath house is being erected, with both tubs and showers. In the same structure will be a sanitary toilet.

#### Methodist Assembly Plans.

The extensive grounds of the Methodist people lie north of the park, through which runs the road to the place. All winter the leaders of the church in the west have been telling the east as well as the west about the Wallowa lake project and a large attendance is expected. Meetings will be held in tents this summer, but permanent structures are to be erected as the project develops, it is expected.

First will come three weeks of camp meeting, beginning June 3 and concluding June 24. Three meetings will be held daily and the speakers will include some of the most widely known men of the denomination, headed by Dr. T. M. McKinney of Philadelphia. Two other speakers will be Bishop Charles Wesley Burnie of Helena, Mont., and Dr. W. E. J. Gratz, head of the Epworth League institute movement.

Following the camp meetings will be the regular summer session of the Epworth league. After that the grounds will be available for any other forward-looking meeting, or for camps or gatherings of all kinds.

#### Elks Clubhouse Progressing.

With the members of the B. P. O. E. all over the northwest interested, the new clubhouse and park origin- (Continued on Page Four)

## A Source of Wallowa County Wealth



Wallowa county is one of the principal sheep and wool producing districts of the Northwest. With the return of higher prices for wool and mutton this year the woolgrowers of the county are looking for another wave of prosperity.

## Wallowa County--the Switzerland of America

A VAST SECTION OF AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, COMBINED WITH GREAT RESOURCES CONFINED WITHIN ITS BORDERS

(By W. S. Burleigh, of Enterprise.)

"The slogan adopted and applied to Switzerland of America," is an apt and appropriate phrase which contains all the virtues and depicts of that renowned country, which has been the Mecca of tourists for more than a century. The similarity of the two great wonder spots of the earth's creation are marked and brought out by such dominant features as the precipitous and lofty glacial mountain peaks; myriad cascades and water falls leaping over precipices of great heights; cold emerald lakes of transcendent beauty; and deep canyons and canyons, amidst which are situated peaceful and fertile valleys; that yield the magic touch of good husbandry; fruitful crops of various kind.

#### Much Like Switzerland.

The topography of Switzerland and Wallowa county are almost identical. Each are surrounded by mountains. Each have altitudes ranging from low lands a few hundred feet above sea level, where tropical fruits are grown, to elevations of mountain peaks thousands of feet high, where no vegetation exists and nothing abounds but fields of eternal snow and glaciers.

Switzerland has her Matterhorn piercing the sky for more than 15,000 feet. Wallowa county has Eagle Cap towering more than 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, being the second highest mountain found in the state of Oregon.

Switzerland boasts of the pellucid lakes Geneva and Constance. Wallowa county boasts her fifty-fifty with the incomparable Wallowa and Ice lakes, while within their court of

majesty lie fifty other serene and fair sisters that are fed by the drippings from the snow banks of eternity.

Switzerland is depicted as a country of mountains, lakes and waterfalls, and as many believe, is wholly supported from revenue obtained from tourist travel, yet she has two large valleys lying amidst her impenetrable mountain crags, that by reason of the alluvial soil washed down from the heights above, renders those valleys among the most productive to be found anywhere. So while Switzerland is rich in scenic beauty, her greatest riches lie in her fertile soil.

#### Same Conditions Exist.

The same conditions exist as to Wallowa County. The uninformed, who have per chance heard something of our great mountain region, only think of it in terms of no man's land; a place unsuitable for habitation, except for a short period in mid-summer a section of the earth that the Center could not find in the proverbial six days and which lie left in the rough. But like Switzerland Wallowa county is not only rich in scenery, but she is rich in valley and plateau lands that yield abundantly. In 1912 was rated the wealthiest county in Oregon, according to her population.

#### Snake River Canyon a Wonder.

While Wallowa county affords the tourist everything that Switzerland can offer, by way of rugged mountains, waterfalls, lakes and landscape beauty, she offers more. In Wallowa county is found the deepest and most picturesque canyon in the known world--the Grand Canyon of the Snake river. This wonderful canyon is briefly spoken of by G. E. Goodspeed, Department of Geology, of Oregon Agricultural College, as found in John H. Horner's History of Oregon, as follows:

"Oregon and Idaho share the possession of the deepest canyon in the world. It is called the Snake River Canyon. In some respects it is more remarkable than the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, which it far surpasses in depth. Yet little is known of Snake River Canyon, because few have explored it. This most rugged portion of Snake River Canyon lies between the Seven Devils Range in Idaho and the Wallowa Mountains in Oregon. This section of the canyon is from 5,000 to 7,000 feet deep and about seven miles wide on top. At one place there is a sheer slope from a snow-capped peak of the Seven Devils Range, having an elevation of 9,000 feet to the river, which itself has an elevation of 1,800 feet. In that section of the gorge which is locally called 'Box Canyon,' a vertical wall rises directly from the river on both sides to an elevation of 2,000 to 2,500 feet. To the student of geology Snake River Canyon presents another feature of interest in the cross section of 7,000 feet of the earth's crust. The uppermost layers of the section are composed of lava rock known as basalt, which but a comparatively recent geologic time ago poured out over this northwestern country in enormous fiery floods, filling the valleys that existed at that time, and here and there covered mountain peaks.

"When the first white men came to Oregon, Indians cautioned them against descending this portion of the Snake River by raft or boat.

In this the Indians proved to be the friends of the white men; for as was afterwards learned the route was too rugged for travel. No craft has ever passed up through the gorge, although sturdy mountaineers by creeping beneath overhanging walls, crossing a dangerous crevasse, pursuing narrow trails along steep ledges, and surmounting countless other obstacles, accomplish the journey. Such has been the lot of the explorers of the gorge royal of the Snake River. But when Oregon and Idaho increase sufficiently in wealth and population they doubtless will unite in providing some practical route of travel to and through Snake River Canyon which will be extensively patronized by American and foreign wonder seekers."

At Buck Horn Springs, 30 miles east of Enterprise, along a good auto road, one can view the wonderful panorama of the Snake River Canyon with the naked eye for more than 20 miles, can also see the confluence of the great Salmon River flowing from the Saw Tooth Range in Idaho on the north, as well as that of the Imnaha River flowing from the south, with their numerous tributaries, all of which makes a picture that can not be found or duplicated in any other country.

#### River 4,000 Feet Below.

By standing out on a jutting promontory one can view the winding Snake River, deriving its name by reason of being so crooked, four thousand feet below winding its way through a gorge of solid rock, the walls of which by dash of wind and wave, by forces of snow slides, frost, glaciers and mountain torrents throughout the ages, have been carved into fantastic shapes. From this point looking to the northwest the grain fields of Astoria flat in Washington are plainly visible. Turning to the northeast the eye beholds the grain fields of Grangeville in Idaho. The east can be seen the grain fields around Walla Walla, while in all directions high mountains are clearly discernible extending through portions of three states.

Were it possible to portray to the world the least conception of the wonders of the Grand Canyon of the Snake, as can be seen from points in Wallowa County, (which can never be portrayed by pen or picture), the Old Oregon Trail would become congested with tourists, not only from the American continent but from all civilized countries on earth. When it is learned that "The Switzerland of America" can be reached, as at present, by good highways, no visitor of the Great Northwest will ever pass up seeing this America's greatest of nature's parks.

"Where the ceaseless erosions of measureless time. Have chiseled the grotto and canyon sublime."

#### The Great Wallowa Lake.

Wallowa, the largest and deepest lake found in Wallowa county, lies at the extreme south end of the valley, and is four miles long by one mile wide with a depth of 230 feet. The lake is situated at the base of the

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#### COURTESY ABOUNDS IN WALLOWA COUNTY TOWNS

Strangers who visit Wallowa county towns will find courtesy extended from Wallowa, the "Gate City," through the entire valley to Joseph and Wallowa Lake. Those who visit the county in the future need have no hesitancy in asking for information relative to the various points of interest. The people there take a pride in their heritage and gladly share its scenic beauty, excellent fishing, and hunting. Strangers will do well to ask questions and obtain information as they pass through the various towns.

## Growth of Enterprise Remarkable

The wisdom of J. M. Church and his associates who saw a number of years ago that Wallowa county would be an empire within herself, and laid off the township of Enterprise, has been abundantly proven.

Enterprise today is one of the healthiest cities of the northwest. Not old in years, to be sure, but possessed of all the modern things of present day cities, and with a future that is hard to duplicate, this county seat grows steadily each year.

It has often been said with much truth that Enterprise for her size is the most cosmopolitan city in the entire interior country. When her gates were opened to settler business people came from many states and cast their lot in the new town. Professional men and merchants joined in

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## BETTER TIMES IN STORE FOR SHEEP MEN

Terrific Reverses of Sheep and Wool Industry Will Soon Be Overcome

### DECREASE IN FLOCKS IS CAUSED BY CATTLE

Oregon Has Great Possibilities As a Lamb and Wool Producing State.

(By J. H. Dobbin) The growing of sheep and wool was one of the primary industries of Oregon, and is today one of the most essential of any in the state, though it has suffered terrific reverses as have many other livestock and agricultural industries.

The war caused an inflation that possibly no other agency could have done. Drought throughout the western portion of the United States, from the Canadian to the Mexican line, made it necessary to reduce sheep holding in many localities. Where they were held, the cost was so great that in many instances to have sacrificed the stock at the beginning of the drought period would have been an economy.

On the heels of the disastrous weather conditions came the unprecedented fall in price. On May 1st, 1920, the remainder of the 1919 clip was selling at from sixty to seventy cents a pound, while the 1920 clip netted many growers less than fifteen cents per pound.

It is under this unusual condition that the wool industry of Oregon must again start to build itself up to its former place among other lines of industry in the state.

#### Sheep Decrease.

Twenty years ago Oregon had approximately three million sheep, today she has probably less than two million. The pastures and feed lots formerly used by this vast number of sheep are now being consumed and used, to a large extent, by cattle.

#### Promiscuous Feeding.

Some eight or ten years ago Wild West shows became popular all over the West. The spectators and enthusiasts drew large and enthusiastic crowds of both young and old men, including sheep men, who wanted to wear the big hat and the high leaved boots.

Whether or not this same entertainment degraded the sheep calculations, to some extent, it is hard to say. We do know, however, that they became willing to loan large sums of money to those who wished to go into

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## Routes to Wallowa County



The above indicates different routes by which Wallowa county can be reached over highways. From Spokane the tourist can go via Lewiston, thence to Flora and on to Enterprise. Another route from the Spokane district is by way of Pasco and Walla Walla, thence to Pendleton, and over the Old Oregon Trail to La Grande, where an intersection is made with the highway leading to Wallowa county points. The route from the east via Baker over the Oregon Trail to La Grande. The roads indicated by the heavy lines are paved or macadam. The lighter lines indicate dirt roads.

## Scenery---Wallowa County Asset



High up in the mountains of Wallowa are numerous lakes, the beauty of them being unsurpassed. Most of the lakes are well stocked with trout and afford excellent fishing. Good trails lead to the lakes and can be traveled with ease during the summer months.