

Early History of Wallowa County Told by Pioneer

WALLOWA, Or. (Special)—Henry Shaffer, one of the first five men to settle in the Wallowa Valley, in a recent interview with this writer, when asked to tell of some of his early life and experiences, said: "I was born in Iowa, February 2, 1848. My father Samuel Shaffer was a farmer. With my parents I came across the plains to California by ox-team in 1859 coming from there to the Willamette valley the following year. We lived there about ten years, when I came to Umatilla, where I lived for two years, or until the summer of 1871 when in company with three or four others I came with three or four others to look over the Wallowa valley with view to settling, and, as we were favorably impressed with this section, in the next year moved here, five others coming at the time I came. They were J. P. Johnson, William Weber, E. C. Bramlett, and W. P. Powers. A number of others came during the same summer, including the Tully brothers and a few others.

"The five of us who came together all settled in the lower part of the valley, below where the town of Wallowa now stands. While the three Tullys settled some miles farther up the valley.

"The next year in 1873 I was married to Miss Viola Powers, daughter of W. P. Powers. This was at the time when the question of the rights of the valley was being hotly debated between the Indians and whites. Numerous Indian cases were caused by the bitterness which the Indians displayed at the settling of the whites. Chief Joseph and his band of followers claimed the valley, regardless of a former treaty in which old Chief Joseph father of the present chief had signed relinquishing his rights to the government, and contending this was not binding, because he himself had not signed it. He tried in many ways to induce the settlers to give up the valley and move out, telling them the country was only fit for hunting and fishing for the Indians, during the summer season, and that at many times the entire valley was filled with deep snows, which were so heavy that everything was killed.

"However the sturdy pioneers were not easily discouraged, and continued to stick to their holdings. In 1875 news reached the settlers to the effect that Chief Joseph and his band of warriors were on the warpath, the settlers realizing their helplessness due to their small number, made ready and hurried to the fort at Elgin, or where the present town of that name now stands, where two companies of soldiers were stationed. In relating the fear caused by a report of this kind one case is related a man coming down a steep canyon leading toward the mouth of the Wallowa canyon, which route was the only one leading to the fort, in Union county, in his haste to get out of the Indian country, had driven so fast over the rough road, that one of the tires on the rear wheel of the wagon was lost, and by continuing along on the wheel in this manner it was broken to pieces with the hub dragging. This did not delay his flight, until another wheel had come to the fate. He then hurriedly unhitched his team, and mounting one of them, and leading the other was on his way again as fast as the horse could carry him.

"When the few settlers reached the fort, all but about a half a dozen of the soldiers hurried to capture the Chief and his band, who were found to be no where near the Wallowa valley at this time. The chase and fight lasted about three months, and resulted in the capture of the Indians, who were sent to the Indian reservation, and the settlers were permitted to return to their homes in the valley. In a short time the Chief was permitted to return upon the promise of good behavior.

lowed to return to his beloved land where in his youth, he had been free to come and go when he pleased, and to enjoy the unlimited hunting and fishing. His request was granted, and he was allowed to return, and soon died. His remains were taken to Lapwai, Idaho where he was buried. Thus the Indian troubles were ended for the valley. The valley was settled very rapidly after the close of 1877.

"Chief Joseph must be given due credit for his noble qualities of manhood, though a savage he held strictly to the rules of square play, and did not make war on women and children, nor were his warriors ever accused of murdering any of the early settlers. The first white man murdered in the valley, was an old man named Wilson, who was found with his head cut off, and one bullet hole in his body, the party who committed the bloody deed was never discovered. Up until after this date the valley was a part of Union county so that all who had business to attend were compelled to make the long tedious trip out of the valley over the rough roads which were from over one bowlder onto another. The hill which led from the junction of the Wallowa and Minam rivers, was up a steep mountain side, which in a few years was slightly changed, and offered a much better road.

"An incident which took place while the Indians were still in the valley is related by Mr. Shaffer, thus: "Some of the Indians were noticed coming from the country northeast of where Wallowa now stands in what appeared to be an intoxicated condition. The settlers were greatly alarmed at this situation, and decided to investigate at once, a number of men volunteered to make a search of the territory in that direction, and try and find out the cause of the strange actions of the Indians. Going up the creek for some three miles they discovered what appeared to be a camp near the creek. Two men were seen to disappear into the brush nearby. The men upon riding up to the camp discovered a 10 gallon keg of whiskey, which was being sold and traded to the Indians and the keg containing the whiskey was taken to the bank of the stream and poured out. The two men making their escape, but the whiskey traffic was stopped.

"A laughable yarn told in connection with this incident was that some Indians were present when the whiskey was poured into the creek, and that they went below and lying down drank the water below where the whiskey was poured in.

"The first store to be established in the valley where a few necessities could be purchased by the settlers, was on Alder Slope some twenty-five miles east of this portion of the valley this was operated by a man named King. The next store to be put up were at Enterprise, by Mr. Church. The first school district established in the valley was in what is known as Lower valley between the town of Wallowa and the canyon, this was district No. 1. No crops to speak of were grown in the valley until some ten years after the

first settlers came, only small patches of grain and a few gardens were planted, these were often eaten off by the large herds of deer and elk which roamed the valley and hills. This abundance of wild game afforded the settlers plenty of meat. The streams were well supplied with fish.

Mr. Shaffer not only enjoys the distinction of being one of the very first settlers to settle in the valley, but also was the first man married here and has raised a family of six children, three boys and three girls, all living. For many years he lived on his ranch in the lower valley, and in later years with his wife moved to Wallowa where he is comfortable situated, with a nice residence and garden plot, where he can find work to take up his time when he feels like taking the exercise. Having been a constant resident for over fifty years he has seen the country change from the wilderness where no white man had dared live before, to and to see the country develop into a thriving community.

year just ended.

"Sighs With Relief."

"At the end of the 'Mad Year 1923' the German nation heaves a sigh of relief and views the future with some slight hope of better days," said Ebert. "The year just passed was more replete with misfortunes and stunning blows than even the blackest war-year. None of the hopes with which it was ushered in, has been fulfilled—all were trampled into oblivion by the iron heel of the Franco-Belgian troops marching into the Ruhr last January. The bitter consequences of that occupation surpassed every thing that even the blackest pessimists feared on New Year's Day, 1922.

"We have seen the richest economic reservoir of our country taken away and its population subjected to terrible suffering. We have seen our formerly so stable and respected money—unit, the mark, sink into a bottomless pit of inflation and insolvency, while misery and rebellion grow by leaps and bounds, and, to cap the climax, separatists in the west and mad adventurers in the south tried to deal the deathblow to the Republic and the Reich.

"People Suffering."

"Today we witness in impotent grief the starving to death of untold numbers of our children—a catastrophe that can be checked only by the quick intervention of a charitable outside world, at whose head, as usual, stands America.

"However, all the terrible events of the last twelve months have not crushed us. The spirit of our people is bent, but not broken. Indeed, there are concrete signs that the depth of our misery has been reached and that we may dare hope that at least the first steps on the road to recovery are near at hand.

"It is a rocky road! It will require the last bit of our strength and will-power and the exertion of all the moral forces of our nation. Many of us will remain on the road, starved or frozen to death. We have to defy all these dangers, because we want to see the light of life after years and years of privation in the Valley of Death!

"Our great sister Republic, by starting a gigantic relief work and by dispatching prominent experts

to investigate the German famine, has taken the lead on the road to salvation. If other nations follow our crossing of the threshold into the new year will be the beginning of a change from misery to prosperity and happiness."

Condition Terrible

DENVER, (INS)—A pitiable plight of the residents of Germany, particularly in the congested district of the Ruhr, was painted here by James H. Caussey, Denver banker and philanthropist,

who returned recently from an investigation of conditions in that country.

"The situation cannot be exaggerated," Caussey declared, pointing out that:

"Men, women and children drop on the streets from hunger weakness.

"Disease is rampant, because medicine cannot be procured.

"Forty-seven out of every 100 babies die between the ages of two and six years of tuberculosis as

the result of undernourishment.

"The Ruhr is the most highly congested spot in Europe," Caussey said, "five and one-half million people living in an area not larger than the city of Chicago. Rail lines are demoralized and wasting away from rust; car-repair shops where formerly 1,000 cars were repaired daily, are now idle; great industries are in ruin, hunger and disease rage, and the people are facing a Winter without coal or food stores for their needs."

BERLIN SEES A 'HOPE RAY'

Maximum Despair Last Year Indicates an Improvement This Year.

BERLIN, (INS)—Since Germany apparently suffered maximum misfortune in 1923, a simple process of elimination indicates some improvement this year, Fritz Ebert, Jr., son of the president of the German republic appeared to believe when interviewed here recently.

"Indeed there are concrete signs that the depth of our misery has been reached and we may dare to hope that at least the first steps on the road to recovery are near at hand," Ebert said following his receipt of the 11th which have beleaguered the Fatherland in the

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Drink Water If Kidneys Bother

Take a Tablespoonful of Salts If Back Pains or Bladder is Irritated

Flush your kidneys by drinking a quart of water each day, also take salts occasionally, says a noted authority, who tells us that too much rich food forms acids which almost paralyze the kidneys in their efforts to expel it from the blood. They become sluggish and weaker; then you may suffer with a dull misery in the waist region, sharp pains in the back, sick headache, dizziness, your stomach sour, tongue is coated, and when the weather is bad you have rheumatic twinges. The uric acids are cloudy, full of sediment, the channels often get sore and irritated, obliging you to seek relief two or three times during the night.

To help neutralize these irritating acids; to help cleanse the kidneys and flush off the body's urinous waste, get four ounces of Jad Salts from any pharmacy here. Take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days, and your kidneys may then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for years to help flush and stimulate sluggish kidneys; also to neutralize the acids in the system so they no longer irritate, thus often relieving bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive; cannot injure and makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink. By all means have your physician examine your kidneys at least twice a year.

Good Lighting Brings More Business

- You pay one-half of your rent, Mr. Merchant, for your window space. Make it of more value with the right amount of light.
- Forty-two per cent more people stopped to look at a display in a store window after better window lighting was installed.
- It is human to go where the lights are bright. People flock to a store that is light, cheery and attractive. Both clerk and customer are better satisfied. A 20 per cent increase in sales per customer has been known to result from increased illumination.
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