

Over The Valley

Mabel E. Morton, Valley News Editor

Will Teach in Lodi

Miss Edna Bell Myers, of Imbler, has been elected in a position in the schools at Lodi, having been assigned to the fifth and sixth grades. Miss Myers was graduated this spring from the Oregon State Normal school at Monmouth, having completed the two years course.

This is Some Travelling

Miss Woodell, the rural mail carrier out from Summerville, has been carrying the mail on one of the hardest routes in the county for 19 consecutive years. Including with the actual number of miles on the route, the distance from Mr. Woodell's home to the post office and back, he travels each day in just delivering mail, 22 miles. Including Sunday and legal holidays in the 19 years, Mr. Woodell, and his substitute, Mrs. Woodell, have covered the route 5,328 times. Your pencil and paper will show you that that means 136,240 miles covered bringing mail, cream checks, your reading material—in fact a large portion of your contact with the world. Now if Mr. Woodell had asked his substitute to go with him for a ride on that first day he covered the route 19 years ago, and had kept on mile for mile, Mr. and Mrs. Woodell would have gone around this old world seven and a half times. If they had good roads they would have worn out at least 16 sets of tires, but with roads such as he has had to travel over, his route it would have required perhaps twice as many. His little joy ride would have called for oh, anyway, 12,000 gallons of gas. However, his patrons all attest to the fact that Mr. Woodell is a good carrier, and gives universally good service.

Trying Red Alkali

J. A. Gaskill has a piece of 11 acres, river bottom land, which he has planted to red alkali both last year and this. So far he is greatly pleased with the results, he says, and if two years trial is any criterion, this may solve the pasture problem for many farmers who have otherwise been kept out of the dairy business whether on a large or small scale, he believes.

Returns to Hospital

Mrs. Avel Colt of Dry Creek, who not long since submitted to an operation in a Portland hospital, has returned to that city for further treatment.

Gathered at the Aid Picnic

Bert Oliver and sons, Harold and Emory, from Duff and son, Elmer, of Summerville, were on a fishing expedition up Catherine Creek last week. . . . Miss Catherine McKinnis of Imbler has gone to Huntington for a visit at the home of Mrs. C. M. Thatcher. . . . Mr. and Mrs. George Vance have been in the neighborhood, guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. Choate, Mr. and Mrs. M. Woodell, Mr. and Mrs. George Hardy and with other friends. . . . Mrs. Wayne Park has been at the home of Mrs. C. M. Thatcher. . . . Mrs. Mollie McDowell of Summerville, who went some time

ago to Hermiston to visit her son, has returned to her home. . . . Jim Wise who was recently injured when struck on the chin as he was cranking a caterpillar tractor, is getting along quite well, though his injuries are exceedingly painful. It required three stitches to close the wound in his tongue and five in his chin.

Entertain District Officers

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Murchison, of Pleasant Grove, had as their dinner guests Sunday, Arvid Willis and daughter, Miss Nona of Portland. Mr. Willis who is district deputy of the Woodmen of the World, is in this vicinity endeavoring to work up added interest and enthusiasm in this order and by securing its membership by securing a number of applications for membership while he is here.

Swimming Tank Popular

The heat of the past few days has made the swimming tank at the Pleasant Grove camp decidedly popular. Sunday afternoon there were about 250 people visited the camp and enjoyed a plunge.

Believe New Ditch Success

A move made last year by the county road commissioners as more or less of an experiment promises to be quite successful, members of the commission tell us. The work referred to is the ditch which was made on the farm of Frank McKinnis. At this place the Grande River makes one of its very decided turns, or series of turns, and every year overflows its banks quite considerably, causing no little trouble on the roads. The ditch was planned from one point in the river to another in such a way that 550 feet cut off about a mile in the actual course of the river. The final work was done by using explosives, secured from the government, this spring after the start made in the fall by using horses and fuses. In the spring the ditch was deepened approximately 4 1/2 feet, according to S. B. Morgan, the contractor. The bank was from 55 to 90 feet long, requiring about 350 worth of material, ten days work for three men—what the board feels to be a small expenditure of funds and labor for excavating a ditch 550 long, 4 feet wide and 4 1/2 feet deep. When the opening was made and passage-way allowed for the water from the river channel, it flowed through until the ditch was almost full. The commissioners feel that every-thing else considered they have a possible solution of one of their problems.

Leave for Marshfield

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Woodell, of Pleasant Grove, started yesterday morning in their car for Marshfield, Oregon, where they will make a visit at the home of their daughter, Mrs. G. A. Howard.

Haying Outing Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Huron and daughter, Miss Elizabeth and son, Hobble, Miss Anna Brooks and Miss Lydia Cleaver of Imbler and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Avery and daughter, Catherine, spent Sunday near Lodi, having chosen a pretty

camping spot on the Sam Wade place for their day's outing.

Reelect Teacher

Miss Portia Westenskow, has been reelected as teacher for next year at the Lone Star school north-west of La Grande. Miss Westenskow, whose home is at Imbler, visited Sunday among her friends in that neighborhood.

Pioneers Plan for Thursday

Pioneers over the valley and their families are making extensive plans for the annual pioneer picnic to be held at Riverside Park in La Grande this Thursday.

Spend Sunday at Wallawa

Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Johnson and children and Mr. and Mrs. Oren Lake and family of Pleasant Grove spent Sunday at Lake Wallawa. Things are very busy on the Johnson farm of 284 acres these days. Mr. Johnson is still busy with his hay, alfalfa and timothy, which is proving to be an excellent crop. As the Johnson farm is principally a dairy farm, the greater part of his hay crop is retained for feed, as well as the oats and barley which he raises. From present indications the latter also will make a good yield. They are milking 14 head of Holsteins at the present time and believe this line of farming to be quite a profitable one in this valley.

Have Scarlet Fever

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Woodell in Pleasant Grove has recently been quarantined for scarlet fever, one of the children being ill.

Taking an Extensive Trip

Mrs. C. M. Riddle of May Park has gone east on an extensive trip. She will visit in New York and New Hampshire and contemplates being gone the greater part of the summer. During her absence, Mrs. Mollie Hickman of Tacoma is caring for the Riddle home.

Has Cut Pine Wood

J. J. Murchison has cut out some fine cut wood from his place of timber at Pleasant Grove. This 120 acres is a part of the 250-acre farm which Mr. Murchison owns, the balance being in grain and hay.

Other Pleasant Grove Items

Toy Baker has been making some improvements about his place, including the painting of his house. . . . Miss Elizabeth Huron of Imbler is very successful with her music class of 14 little folks in this community. . . . Merton Children of the Melville plumbing shop and Howard Glenn of the Blue Mt. garage were guests recently of the former's mother, Mrs. P. S. Johnson. . . . Miss Park of Elgin has been elected as principal of the Pleasant Grove school for next year and Miss Eva Lamman of Imbler, primary teacher. . . . Some in the neighborhood are finding a few hickberries, but they are few in number and rather small in size. . . . Grandma Patrick who has been ill for several months is very much better and is able to be out working at times in her garden.

COME JOSEPHINE, ETC.

CHICAGO—To get away from the heat try an airplane ride, C. A. Donnell, weather forecaster, suggests. For every 100 feet of ascent he notes, the temperature drops one degree.

107,000 TROUT IN PRATT FISH FARM NEAR SUMMERVILLE

Some time or other E. M. Pratt, now living in the Mill Creek neighborhood beyond Summerville, must have had to go home from a fishing trip with an empty basket. He must have had to face his family and friends and attempted to answer their question, "Where are your fish?" Or it may just have been his sympathy for his fishermen friends, whose patience exceeded their luck, which prompted him to commence the commercial enterprise which he has recently launched and which offers no little fascination for the visitor at his "Fish Farm."

The Pratt "Fish Farm" is located on the D. L. Sanderson place a part of which has been leased for the enterprise which is now in flourishing operation, although Mr. Pratt has little more than commenced the plant which he intends to have before he is through. At present Mr. Pratt's plant consists of one large artificial lake, located among a sufficient number of trees to provide ample shade over the water. In the complete plan there will be two more, and these much larger lakes.

In this lake already constructed and filled, Mr. Pratt has 107,000 eastern brook trout, which were placed in the water about two months ago. At that time they ranged from 3/4 to 1 inch in length. Previous to stocking the lake with these fish which Mr. Pratt secured from a private hatchery at Washougal, Washington, he operated a small hatchery of his own but he met poor luck after the fish had hatched, many of them getting away when a screen was out of place, and he was obliged to secure these other small fish. The fish are now up to perhaps six inches in length and growing at the rate of an inch a month.

Meals are served three times a day to the 107,000 guests at the Pratt farm—breakfast, lunch and dinner. The menu at present consists of but one article, raw meat. This meat is ground very fine, is slightly salted and mixed with water until it is of rather a thin consistency. It is tossed into the water by spoonfuls and no other announcement of meal time is necessary. In fact when Mr. Pratt comes near the water and begins stirring the food the fish are attracted and come in great groups. The fish were first fed liver immediately prepared, but they have gradually learned that diet. When market time draws near, the diet will be changed again, and Mr. Pratt will have corn-fed fish for his customers, that is, their fish will be corn meal and oatmeal

meal.

Mr. Pratt believes that the loss of fish, so far, since the lake was stocked has been of an almost unnoticeable per cent. But at present it requires very careful attention to keep out various fish-lovers. For instance, the kingfishers have their eye on the pond and while most of them have, so far, paid the extreme penalty, it takes continual vigilance. Another enemy is the snake and for these, as well as the kingfishers, Mr. Pratt has enlisted the help of the younger members of his family and all keep a weather out for these fish thieves. Some mud fish have also been caught, prowling around. Another item requiring attention is the keeping of all decaying vegetation or material out of the water as this will cause the death of the little fish.

In speaking of the feeding of the fish, it should have been added that Mr. Pratt is a generous provider and he feeds the fish as much as they will take at these three feeding times. The amount they will take varies, but it runs in the neighborhood of 15 gallons per day. Mr. Pratt says that it is unwise to change the food given, as the fish do not feed well right after any change is made.

Mr. Pratt is carefully working out his plans for putting his fish on the market. In the rough, his plan is something like this: when the fish are ready for market, which will be in all probability, he will transfer them in certain quantities to a larger pond which he will soon commence constructing. As he operates under a special license and is not affected by closed seasons, he will open this pond to any and all anglers and they can fish to their hearts content. The cost of such sport is paid in the amount of fish caught. Provision will also be made for those who had no luck. Mr. Pratt says, also, that there is an albino fish in the lot, and that he intends offering a special prize for the angler landing the white fish.

In enlarging his plant, Mr. Pratt plans to raise the water one foot at a time in his present pond, until it has been raised a total of three feet. He is purposely keeping it shallow at the present time to facilitate feeding. Besides the two ponds mentioned above, he plans also to build a hatchery, hatching the eggs in troughs. This will be in operation, according to present plans about January first. He will, at that time, have a capacity for 1,000,000 fish. Let's all go fishing!

Bernal Hug Farm Is of More Than Usual Interest

On the 500-acre farm of Mr. and Mrs. Bernal Hug, a few miles north of Elgin, there are to be found a number of quite interesting things outside of the usual crops or side things found on a farm. There are, to be found there some hobbies, may be, which Mr. Hug is spending some considerable time upon, or some different lines he is trying out when his time can be spared from his main crops—his orchard, his wheat, hay etc.

Not certainly coming under the head of hobby but, rather, under the head of something which he is starting and in a measure trying out is the fine orchard which he, with the assistance of his father, set out this spring. The orchard covers 25 acres and contains 1100 trees. Half of these are cherries, mainly Lamberts with a very few of the Blings and Royal Annes, and the other half are Italian prunes. The prunes were planted as fillers for the cherries. Believing that in most orchards a serious mistake has been made in planting the trees too closely together, Mr. Hug has placed his young trees 40 feet apart. Determined to follow these methods which will keep his young orchard in the best of condition and bring them to maturity with the least loss of trees possible, Mr. Hug believes that within the few years necessary, he will have an orchard of bearing trees which will be a source of an adequate revenue, inasmuch as he will have cherries which will be on the last market, a variety much in demand and which has always marketed well.

Mr. Hug's hobby is his flowers and up near his old orchard is a large plot of ground which has been set aside for their production. In following this hobby, the cultivation of beautiful flowers he has proven himself quite a wizard. Last week the plinks the snapdragons, in gorgeous colors, sweet william and others were in full bloom, ascending hills were just coming on as were the gladiolus. There was a rather new people bed, with sturdy bushes, that even this year had yielded well. A large space in the garden is devoted to tulips and iris, and it was said that this year, while in bloom, this section was a wonderful sight. The hardy chrysanthemums promise pleasure to the visitor at the garden later in the year. It is to be doubted whether, for size, for variety, of flowers and for choice varieties, Mr. Hug's garden can be equalled in the country. While he does not raise the flowers particularly for commercial purposes, yet he has finished this season, blossoms by the hundreds to florists.

Another interesting place on the farm is the rabbitry. The Hugs have 15 pens of Chinchillas and New Zealand Reds. The youngsters in the Hug family have rather assumed the care of these rabbits and give no small portion of the large amount of care and attention

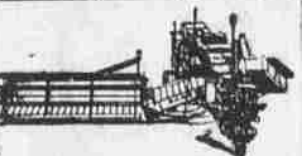
which they demand. The rabbits are raised for home consumption only and Mr. and Mrs. Hug were in no ways backward in acknowledging that they made very good eating.

Mr. Hug has a flock of about 75 head of sheep and goats, the latter being the angoras. They are quite an item of profit, the mohair always commanding quite a good price.

These are the things that are "different"—the visitor finds also the customary wheat and hay and cows and chickens, an old orchard which has born good crops for 11 consecutive years, up to last year and this.

GOES TO LAW

SCARSDALE, N. Y.—Stands for the sale of hot dogs and peanuts are taboo by order of the village trustees because they near scenic beauty and endanger health, but Charles Kikabakides, war veteran, who did quite a business before the order was passed is going to law about it.



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IMBLER PERSONALS

IMBLER (Special)—Dr. Arthur Martin arrived here last Friday from Idaho Falls. He with his wife and children, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin, and other relatives for an indefinite period. Dr. Martin has been practicing in the hospital of Idaho Falls for the past year.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Martin and children were here visiting relatives last Saturday. Their home is at Cove.

Raymond Keown, of the Grande Ronde grocery company, of La Grande, spent Sunday with his mother.

Billy Hindman was here last Monday.

Mrs. Lucy Allen spent the week-end at her home visiting her sister, Emma Fisher.

Mrs. J. L. Andrews visited her son, Haskell Andrews and family, in La Grande last Sunday. Mrs. Andrews was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Cap Tuttle.

Mr. and Mrs. John Birchfield drove over to Hat Lake and Union last Sunday. They reported Ray Norval was getting along nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hartie, of La Grande, were here Sunday visiting friends and relatives. Miss Lela Kaskinger, a niece, accompanied them home.

Ernest Woodell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Woodell, is ill of scarlet fever.

Mr. and Mrs. Arvid Known and daughter and Ella M. Walker were at Elgin last Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Alice Gordon, of Walla Walla, came over last Saturday. She visited friends here over Sunday. Mrs. Gordon will visit her son, George and family, at Elgin this week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Watson moved to La Grande Monday afternoon.

Lamar Westenskow and Herbert Rossy were in La Grande Saturday on business.

Mrs. Sarah Tuttle was here last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Knight and W. L. Knight, of Elgin, visited at the home of Mrs. Emma Fisher last Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Knight and son, Oscar, visited relatives here Friday. Their home is at Elgin.

EDISON PAYS FOR FORD

PAYETTEVILLE, Ark.—Lucy McCullough student of Farming at the University of Arkansas, bought a Ford and charged it to Thomas A. Edison. A doubtful dealer wired Edison and back came payment by wire. McCullough had been picked up by an Edison in his efforts to cross rubbers.

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