

FIRST LA GRANDE STORE IN DUGOUT IN 1862 IN OLD TOWN

That La Grande's first store was nothing more than a dugout in the side of the mountain is revealed by pioneers, who now look back over the 65 years of existence of the city and note the progress made in that length of time.

The lack of a building to put them in the first general store provisions which consisted of brown Manila sugar, coffee, large quantities of syrup in five gallon kegs and other staple things—brought to La Grande in the fall of 1862 by a man named Edward B. Patterson, were stored in a dugout in the side of the hill at the head of what was later called A avenue, close to where the Grand place now stands in Old Town.

The provisions were kept in the dugout during the entire winter and in the spring Mr. Patterson put up the first store building in the city of La Grande. The store was built on C avenue, block 2, in Old Town, which was located along the trail and was the only store in town, there being nothing at all where the main city of La Grande now stands.

Patterson sold his store to Moss Enrich and went back to Vermont, returning a few years later to California. A short time ago he was still living in Pasadena with his daughter.

The very earliest settlers here did not make their homes where La Grande now stands, but instead lived in little groups in the vicinity where Mr. Glen is now located, where an old log fort had been constructed for protection against the Indians. During the winter of '61 and '62 there were 32 men, seven children and two women at the fort.

When Mr. Patterson came here two men—Green Arnold and Don Chaplin—were surveying and staking out the town of La Grande, the two main streets of which were B and C avenues. B being right on the old Oregon Trail and the route which all emigrants took when passing through this way. The trail went almost directly west from La Grande, leading up over the hill, rather than following the canyon.

Other Business Places

As more people began to settle here in the spring of 1862 other business places were opened, among them being the first saw mill, which was built by a man named Fox on the hill which was later named for him. This mill was afterwards moved to Oradell where it operated for some time, and furnished lumber for many of the pioneer buildings in La Grande.

Ben Brown's Inn

Ben Brown put up a log house in the fall of 1861, which was used as an inn or hotel for travelers passing along the trail, but the very first log building here was built in 1852, according to Henry Dray, who tells of passing through here in that year with his father and seeing a small log shack along the creek in Old Town, which was probably built by early traders for protection against the Indians. The building had no windows, indicating that it was constructed for protection.

Mr. Patterson had been here in the fall of 1861 and had made all arrangements for bringing his family here in '62 and sending his team on through to The Dalles for the provisions. Two trips were made between here and The Dalles after the provisions, which were sold to miners and early settlers, who passed through La Grande, which served as a halfway place and stopping place between the mines in Idaho and Walla Walla, Wash.

In the year 1864 Mr. Patterson constructed the first two-story plank house here, which still stands on C avenue just west of Fourth street.

In the year 1867 or '68, Mr.

THE ATTRACTIVE SIEGRIST HOME ON SPRING AND FIRST STREETS



The William Siegrist residence, pictured above, is probably the most beautiful brick and wood structure in the entire city and has graced the corner of Spring avenue and First street for several years. The raised lawn, flanked with tasteful rock walls, partly covered with vines, is an effective setting for the structure. Particular attention in every detail has been given to the shrubbery and flowers lending the whole a very pleasing appearance.

buildings on the south side of C avenue were wiped out by fire, and were never rebuilt.

For several years La Grande was at a standstill and going down hill rather than progressing. Even Island City was more thriving a town than La Grande, and several of the business places originally located here were moved there.

Then came the moving of the county seat from La Grande to Union. Two elections were necessary before the change was finally made. The vote was first taken in 1872 to decide whether La Grande, Union, Oro Dell, Summerville or Cove would be county seat at Union county, and none of the five received a majority vote. At the November election in 1874 it was again voted whether La Grande or Union—the two towns receiving the highest vote in the first election—would be the county seat and Union received the largest vote.

The county court house was first built here in 1854 or '55, when Union county was cut off from Baker county. The court house stood where the L. H. Russell home now stands in Old Town, and a part of the Russell home is a part of the old building.

When it came to moving the county seat to Union from La Grande a Union delegation came to La Grande and loaded the old log on wheels cut from a log and moved the entire thing to Union, forcing Catherine creek to get there.

Then the Railroad

For a few years it seemed that

La Grande would die a natural death, then came the advent of the railroad, which saved it.

As soon as the first surveys for the road were made and the place selected for the location of the railroad depot, what little business that remained in Old Town was moved near to the railroad and it was around this that the present city of La Grande was built.

The first passenger train pulled into La Grande July 4, 1884, which was a big day in the history of the city, and was one which is still vivid in the minds of the old pioneers, who were here at that time. It meant much to them—and equally as much to La Grande as a city.

Store Buildings Moved

Many of the old buildings which had been constructed in Old Town were moved to the new town, among them being the lower story of the Grande Rendie valley house, which is still standing at the corner of Adams avenue and First street, also the building adjoining it on First street.

Although the population immediately began to grow and La Grande again took the aspect of a thriving town, there was still other hazards to overcome.

The 1886 Fire

During the year 1886 much of the business section of the town was wiped out by fire, half of a block of buildings between Depot and Elm streets on the south side of Adams avenue and on Jefferson avenue being totally destroyed, including two hotels, a livery stable

and other places.

The section was all rebuilt and again in 1891 another fire broke out and destroyed all of the buildings on the west side of Depot street between Adams avenue and Jefferson avenue, including the first brick building in the city, which was constructed by A. Sommer, father of the Allen Sommer, who now make their home here.

J. D. Slater had his law office in this building and was the last person to leave the building after it had started to burn. Judge J. W. Knapp, who was then justice of the peace, also had an office in the building.

In July of the same year fire, which started in the old Blue Mountain hotel, which was located on the corner where the Ellis building now stands, destroyed all of the buildings on that street as far east as the Presbyterian church, also a one-story building where the Sommer hotel now stands and two buildings on the corner of Washington and Depot, where the Modern Laundry is now located.

The first hotel built in La Grande—the Stultz hotel—was destroyed in the first fire. Another hotel built about the same time as the Stultz hotel was owned by Joe Palmer and L. E. Egan. After the fire the building in which the La Grande Investment company and the Equitable Savings bank is located was built at the corner of Adams avenue and Depot street, which up until that time was a bare lot.

The Island City Mercantile and Milling company, which started operating at Island city in 1899 under the ownership of John Caviness and M. Sterling—one of the first flouring mills in the country—was soon moved to La Grande by Fred Holmes and other business men moved here. When moved to La Grande the business was owned by the M. and M. company.

County Seat Returned

Then in 1902 the county seat was moved back to La Grande. Several men of the city going to Union on Sunday and bringing the books and court records to La Grande. The present county court house, built as a city hall and rented to the county at the rate of one dollar a year, was built that year. The county rented the building on the one-dollar-a-year basis for 15 years, at the end of which time it was purchased from the city by the county.

Since the return of the county seat to La Grande the growth of the city has been steady, both in population and in the size of the city itself. New additions have been made from year to year and new buildings are constructed, until today the city ranks among the leading cities in the state of Oregon and is the metropolis of the large Eastern Oregon country.

Culinary Expert Gives Some Hints

LIVERPOOL, (AP)—Hints "fool" is one of the many dishes British culinary experts are recommending to housewives who want to make rhubarb "interesting."

This dish is made by serving steamed rhubarb with custard or by putting rhubarb into a serving dish and pouring the steamed rhubarb over them.

The English domestic science experts say that rhubarb should not be cut into small bits and stewed in a lot of water. It should be left in pieces just as long as will fit in a stew pan, and only enough water should be poured in to the pan to cover the bottom, they advise. Sugar should be added. Then the stewpan should be covered and rhubarb allowed to cook slowly. By this method the stalks can be kept whole and cook evenly in their own juice.

Turk Heavyweight Club Admits Women

CONSTANTINOPLE (AP)—Such is the progress of feminism in the new Turkey that women have demanded and gained admission to the famous "Pat Men's club" of Istanbul.

Twenty of women have shown willingness to acknowledge a weight of 200 pounds—the only requirement for admission—for obesity still ranks high as an attribute of oriental beauty, despite introduction of European styles and other phases of European culture.

The club's aim, as stated in its constitution, is to obtain for its members the privilege of standing on trolley car platforms instead of having to wedge their weight into seats inside the car, and to acquire the "round legs" for all 200-pounders.

American Women Give to Veterans

PAID (AP)—French veterans whose lives were sacrificed during the war are to be made into respect orchards by means of a scheme aided by Mrs. Henry Allen Strong of Rochester, N. Y.

Mrs. Strong gave approximately \$25,000 to the purchase and development of an orchard at Mouton-Vieux, 28 miles from Paris. She is the chief patroness of the project to make the veterans financially independent through farming. There are already 2,000 carefully selected apple trees planted on the estate.

Her donation was made, she said, as a thank offering that her own son returned to her safely from the war.

TIRES REjuvenation

REDAFEST (AP)—At the age of 63 Countess Kinsey, known on the stage 25 years ago as Ika Palmer, is going to try to "come back" following a reported operation by the famous Dr. Newman. She played in the United States a quarter of a century ago.

Since the war the Countess has been making a living by conducting a small tobacco shop in Budapest.

THE NEW L. C. SMITH BUILDING



One of the latest blocks to be built up in La Grande is the above brick business block, which represents a part of the ever expanding business section. The building was erected last year by L. C. Smith, proprietor of Dodge Brothers garage which is adjoining the new Smith building. Scrivens Grocers No. 80 occupies the first store room in the building and the next is the Grist, Marshall beauty shop. The third store room is occupied by Green's Repair shop. The fourth store room is used by Mr. Smith as a show room for his Dodge cars.

EACH BABY WORTH \$1,000

LONDON (AP)—Every baby, whether male or female, is worth \$1,000 to the community, says Lieutenant Colonel F. E. Freymantle. He informed the Maternity and Child Welfare Conference here, that 50,000 babies are lost each year who might have been saved through proper care. These represent a value of \$50,000,000 to the community.

TWO THOUSAND ARE EMPLOYED IN BUSINESS HOUSES

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greater than \$125 a month—due to the large number of part-time employees on one hand and the number of executives on the other hand, the former receiving a comparatively low wage while the latter

firms is itself of surprising proportions.

The total number of business places in La Grande, not counting public utilities and industries, is well above 300—a recent check shows. The average number of persons employed by each such year is five, which would probably be three to four regulars and one to two part-time employees. The number of smaller business places, employing only one or two persons, is large but on the other hand a large number of stores, garages, etc., employ from 15 to 25.

These are facts that are not often made public and of which few in La Grande are aware—except in a hazy, off-hand way. One man compares the business firms to the boomers of a football team, plunging away and opening holes for the backfield men—natural resources and large industries—to take advantage of, with the boomers getting only a minimum of publicity.

The large number of firms operating in La Grande is needed as an important factor in the city's general prosperity by another man. He points out that employment of probably a sixth of a city's population with fair wages makes for an extremely healthy financial situation—this in addition to the hundreds that work for public utilities and industrial plants.

The Observer arrived at its figures on employment and payroll of wholesale, retail and professional business places in the following manner. Approximately one-eighth of the firms were determined as to the business places included in this eighth represented also more than 12 per cent of the reaching a total value of \$1,256,000 were sold in Union and Walla Walla counties and dealers declare that a great majority of these were disposed of in La Grande and the immediate vicinity. The payroll of the garages, which is included in the total of wholesale and retail

Confidence

FOR fourteen years our customers have had confidence in our goods. The accuracy and reliability of our service and the advantage of choosing from a complete high quality stock, is the explanation of satisfaction.

BIRNIE'S

At The Sign Of The Clock

"What ho!"

—quoth the king, "Have my kingdom and my fair daughter to the man who brings me a riddle I cannot answer."

"Sire," spoke a courtier, "with in your realm there is a fairyland where creations of a rare good quality are made by a magic hand. And these creations, though they are of beauty, are yet marvelous pleasing to the palate."

"Ho, ho," roared the king, "that is no riddle—what else could the fairyland be but the Lavender?"

Karther's Lavender Lunch

Sommer Hotel Bldg.

When Interiors Are to be Decorated

It Is Worthy of Note That the Most Particular Jobs Are Done by Bugg Paint Co.

Interest in and appreciation for better homes is one of the outstanding characteristics of La Grande's progress in recent years—and it is a characteristic that the city can well be proud of.

Decorating interiors—the careful and artistic application of paint and wallpaper—is work that calls for expert workmanship as nothing else does. It is particularly worthy of note, therefore, that the most discriminating and particular jobs in La Grande are done by Bugg Paint Co.

Good Painting Costs No More Than Ordinary Work

It is easy to do a cheap job cheaply, but to do a good job economically and insure permanent satisfaction and lasting value is not an easy matter. Because we know the ultimate advantage to be gained for you in good materials, in the best available workmanship, we have gained an enviable reputation for superior decoration of interiors.

We will be glad to submit an estimate on the work you plan—to show you in various homes and business buildings the high quality work we do. In our store we carry a big stock of paints, wallpaper and decorating accessories.

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