

RAILROAD CAUSE OF DESERTION OF OLD 'LA GRANDE'

When O.-W. Came Here in 1884 It Resulted in Change of Location

152 HOMES WERE ERECTED IN 1890

Construction of the Elgin Branch Started Same Year—Extended to Joseph in 1908.

Not 20 years after the Old Oregon trail was blazed through a steady plume by the name of Benjamin Brown crossed overland and settled at Unadilla. Reflecting on the trip, he decided that a more attractive spot had not been seen on the journey westward than the Grande Ronde valley.

He returned in 1882 and erected the first buildings in the original town of La Grande, with his wife making this their home. Mr. Finkle in the eastern end of the county was named after Mrs. Brown.

In the same year Providence M. Carey, whose grandson George H. Carey, is now in business in this city, taught the first school in a log cabin in Old Town. The Rev. H. K. Hines, a Methodist minister prominent in the early history of the state, was the first man to preach the gospel to the pioneers of the Grande Ronde valley. James McArthur, who only recently passed on, and Jake Nixler, now machinist in the La Grande shops, were before the railroad came, freighters driving teams from Unadilla through this valley to the Baker and Idaho mines. Mr. McArthur being of that time 14 and Mr. Nixler 15 years of age. These boys were with a party of freighters who were attacked by Indians west of the Blue Mountains in 1878, when a number of white men were killed. The two boys and several men escaped by hiding in the brush and timber, and later made their way back to La Grande. Mr. Nixler entered the railroad company's employ in 1885, and is now one of the oldest employes in point of service.

Railroad Comes

The railroad, when it came in 1884, took a log line across the valley from the gap at Oro to the Elgin canyon on the eastern border.

And La Grande, finding itself a mile off the line, reestablished itself and created a "new town" beside the railroad, though the Old Town, as it is still known locally, is an integral and populous part of

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF A RESIDENTIAL AREA



A part of La Grande's beautiful residential section with the partly wooded hills in the background is afforded by this photograph, taken from the top of the new La Grande six-story hotel. In the distance numerous fine homes are seen on the hill section and the picture also gives one an idea of the beautiful foliage that lends charm to the residential section.

the city of La Grande at present. The old H. W. Grandy, Joseph Palmer, and C. V. Harding homesteaded the present town site and the old Grandy homestead which was recently raised to permit the building of the La Grande hotel, a six-story structure, not under construction, was the first residence in the new city. Mrs. Lydia Grandy, widow of the late H. W. Grandy, is the mother of Mrs. Sherwood Williams, the first white child born in La Grande.

W. J. Snodgrass, the first mercantile and millman at La Grande, transferred his business from the old town to the new site as soon as the railroad came and the rest of the inhabitants quickly followed. One of his sons, Joe Snodgrass, is employed as a locomotive engineer and another, J. G. Snodgrass, is in the employ of the La Grande Grocery company of this city.

First Passenger Train

The first passenger train pulled into La Grande July 20, 1884, with Engineer Dick Knight at the throttle and Conductor Robinson taking the tickets. Both of these men are now dead.

La Grande became at once a division point, and through the generosity of its business men, who donated land for the purpose, it became the location of the present railroad shops.

The dispatchers' office for the line from Unadilla to Huntington was established here, with C. W. Taylor as chief dispatcher. In this office at one time or another with

in 20 years were J. B. Oliver, recently retired as agent at Portland, A. A. Whitney, now with the Electric interests in Oregon, C. H. Elliott (not deceased), brother of the editor of The Union Pacific Magazine, and M. J. Buckley, retired general superintendent. Here Tom Walsh, afterwards superintendent of the Washington or third division, spent several years before going to Spokane.

In 1899 La Grande's office was given an assistant superintendent, D. W. C. Perry being the first incumbent, and J. P. O'Brien, now general manager of this unit, the next. A. J. Burke, the third, was made superintendent, but under the reversion of 1914 the office was removed to Pendleton. In 1909 M. J. Buckley, who was in 1887 a freight brakeman running out of La Grande, was made assistant superintendent with headquarters here and the office thus restored, was continued until on Aug. 3, 1912, the second division of the unit was created with W. Hollins, who was superintendent until succeeded some months ago by W. H. Guild, in charge.

From 1883 to 1888 and 1890 to 1902 T. P. Graham, for many years superintendent of motive power in Portland and now deceased, was employed in La Grande, first as a machinist and afterward as general foreman of the shops. A. Buckley, now superintendent of the first division, "grew up" in La Grande, being successively dispatcher, chief machinist and assistant superintendent, between 1889 and 1917.

The first blacksmith foreman in La Grande's shops was A. Floyd, now dead, although his widow still lives here. In the blacksmith shop with him were Frank Brooker and Andrew Anderson, retired employees, the former living at Silverton, Ore., and the latter employed in the shops here. J. E. Foley, who has left his home attached to the first hotel and modern office building here, was the original

Jacob Gollner, conductor. A. J. Martin, stockman, George Hanson, engineer, all now retired, were among the first railroad employes in the Grande Ronde valley. P. J. Thelen, retired engineer, began as a helper shortly after the first train pulled into La Grande. He states that within a few months after the railroad came, La Grande boasted of 25 saloons and one church.

Still in the service are Engineers E. G. Schulte and Ed Jacobson, who began as freemen in October, 1884, and Wesley Harrison, stationary engineer at the La Grande power house, who entered the service in March, 1882. Mr. Harrison tells of many interesting experiences since the beginning of the present city and the railroad.

Among other employes, whose names should be mentioned are Engineer Frank Pike, Station Engineer William T. Short, Blacksmith Foreman M. H. Allen, and Engineer John Carson, all of whom were employed in 1888. Master Mechanic E. A. Lewis became chief as a machinist, approaching in 1889.

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FINE CARPENTRY WORK DONE HERE

Local Business Places Are Equipped to Turn Out First Class Products

A modern brick building occupying nearly one-half of a block is the site of the La Grande Construction and Supply company, one of the best equipped and stocked carpenter and carpentry supply shops in Eastern Oregon. Charles Harris has, for the last four years been sole owner and manager of concern, which was begun in 1920 by A. Heister, H. P. Nelson and Mr. Harris in a small frame shop on the location of the present building at the corner of Madison and Greenwood.

Increasingly heavy business led to the construction of the new structure in 1922. Since that time Mr. Harris has enlarged the range of the business until it includes not only cabinet and carpentry work, but screen manufacturing, hardware, glass work of all kinds, floor sanding, installing of built-in furniture, automobile repairing, picture framing on both retail and wholesale basis, as well.

Uniform sizes of doors, screens and windows, are kept in stock at all times, while odd sizes are quickly made to order in the shop and of the company which includes such modern equipment as a jointer, large molding machine, chisel mortise, shaper machine, electric drill, glass grinding machine, lathe and band saw. One especially fine machine included in the shop's equipment is the electric floor sander, one of the most modern models obtainable, which is used in the construction of many of the city's homes.

H. & H. pile driver foreman working out of this terminal.

Comparisons

Within two or three years after the completion of the railroad, La Grande had the appearance of a growing and prosperous town; in 1889 thirty-five residences were built, in 1890 a total of 152 and in 1891 the number of new residences completed was 152.

The construction in 1890 of the Elgin branch, running 20 miles north, opened up tributary territory and gave an impetus to the development of the valley.

In the year 1898 the extension of this branch as far as Joseph, 44 miles from La Grande by rail, opened up one of the most picturesque valleys in the state and the scenic wonderland, Walla Walla lake.

Editor's Note.—The above material is taken from a story entitled "La Grande in Early Days" which was printed in the Union Pacific Magazine, in December, 1925, and prepared by E. A. Smith, of the Old Timers' club, second division, O.-W. R. & N. company.

THE PENNINGTON HOME



Here is the home until recently occupied by the late Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pennington, who passed on earlier this year. It is located at the corner of Oak and Main and is one of the beautiful fine homes that dot the residential districts of this city. The attractive rock retaining wall and shrubbery, combined with the shade trees, make this place one of the most charming on the hill section.

city's homes. Picture framing has been an important part of the business in Mr. Harris' shop, while in direct line with this is a complete stock of mirrors. Cabinet work and built-in home furnishings are a specialty of the company.

New Building Planned

The building is a large one, occupying a lot 15 feet by 85 feet with an airy, well arranged work shop designed for time-saving and convenience. That the growth of the business has been speedy is shown by the fact that plans are already being completed for an addition to the building which will make its size 40 feet by 125 feet, an increase of 25 feet. Mr. Harris' business is a comprehensive well-rounded establishment equipped to handle nearly every demand in its line—and is one of Eastern Oregon's as well as La Grande's finest wood manufacturing plants.

The Goodnough Shop

Twenty-two years as a carpenter and contractor have been the experience of C. E. Goodnough, a La Grande resident since 1877, and owner of the Goodnough-Carpenter and Repair shop, on Depot street next to Homan hall, in the same building where Mr. Goodnough opened his business in 1905. Only the location has not changed, however, for modern times and growth of the business has wrought advances in the carpenter shop. The building itself is about three times as large as it originally was, while the equipment includes modern machines that had yet to be brought forth in those days of hand-operated tools.

The equipment equals any carpenter machinery in the city, and includes a drill, mortiser, a combination woodworker, a planer, an emery machine, a band saw, and a lathe. Mr. Goodnough is especially proud of his combination woodworker which is equipped with a large variety of removable blades which as he expresses it, "can do anything that can be done to a piece of wood." The second story of the building is especially devoted to the manufacturing of screens, in which the shop does an extensive business.

Long Experience

More than 70 years in the carpenter and violin repair business is the remarkable experience of C. L. Fisk, owner of the La Grande Cabinet and Repair shop, located opposite the Donahue Furniture Exchange, which has been in existence here for the past 11 years. Mr. Fisk, at 90, is still apparently in the prime of life and abetted by the years of practice in his trade is able to turn out fine work. Mr. Fisk's equipment includes the finest modern machines, all of which have come into existence when Mr. Fisk was well past middle age.

Violin repairing is almost as large a part of his business as the cabinet and repair work, and is an art in which Mr. Fisk is probably as well educated as any one in the state. Decades of experience with violins and their makers, together with an understanding of the music of the instrument have given Mr. Fisk skill amounting almost to genius in the mending and rebuilding of the delicate instruments.

There is no deceiving Mr. Fisk as the authenticity of a violin. To the old music lover, it needs but a glance at the instrument to ascertain its maker or its age.

Mr. Fisk also possesses an unusual knowledge of the history of violins and their makers which relates with more clarity and color than is heard from many professional musical authorities.

Misfortune has followed him more or less in his business experience, for three times, once, 11 years ago in La Grande, he has been burned completely out and been compelled to being anew in his work.

The La Grande Cabinet and Repair and Novelty shop, however, has met with huge success and Mr. Fisk is kept busy looking after his business which includes repair work of all varieties as well as the construction of doors, windows, and cabinet work of all sorts.

Green's Repair shop, located on Depot street, next to the L. E. Smith garage, is the youngest business of its kind in the city, having been opened in June, 1925 by C. G. Green. Mr. Green's shop is in the new Smith building and is modern in every respect, including machinery equipment. Repair work of furniture, stoves and other household goods is part of the business while construction of kitchen supplies and cabinet work are also included in the business. In the short time Mr. Green has been established here he has built up a heavy trade and, he declares, is more than satisfied with the progress which his business has made.

Various Names For Huckleberry

LONDON, (AP)—Huckleberry Finn would have been Whittierberry Finn if he had been born in Devon or Somerset. In Surrey he would have been Rurta Finn. Huckleberry Finn would have been his name in Hampshire. Up in Scotland he would have been Whistberry Finn.

The little blue berry, which is so much relished in pies the world over, changes its name with its geography.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS CLOSED

LONDON (AP)—Buckingham Palace gardens are almost unknown to the general public. This is because of the difficulty of getting permits to view the famous shrubbery.

In Queen Victoria's time it was comparatively easy to gain access to the grounds surrounding the palace. But King Edward took the view that the palace was his "town house" and therefore a place of personal privacy. Windsor Castle, on the other hand, is considered to be state apartments and is more or less open to the public. King George has made the privacy rule at Buckingham Palace even more strict.



Belief In A Greater City and Valley

Confidence builds a man's own business, and confidence builds a community. It was the pioneers of two generations ago who laid the foundation for the fine city and productive valley that we have today—their confidence in what it could grow to be.

La Grande will become a greater city in years to come. We are firm believers in its future and in the

prosperous future of the Grande Ronde valley.

The La Grande of forty years ago, with only one brick building and with board sidewalks or dirt paths in front of business houses, has changed considerably. We are proud to have helped build the modern city and thus show tangible evidence of our faith in it and its future progress.

ULRICH LOTTES

Lunches and Soft Drinks La Grande, Ore. 1118 Jefferson Ave.