

Over the Valley

(Continued from Page Nine)

Alaska. The Rev. Mr. Graham was accompanied by a large number of young people from the Cove church who entertained with songs, under the direction of A. A. Antevik. About 150 were present for the program.

Moving This Week. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hayes are busy this week moving from their present location to the James McKinnis farm northeast of Imbler. The McKinnis have remodeled the John McKinnis home north of Imbler and will make their home there.

Planting New Trees. A total of about 1200 fruit trees are being planted in Cove this spring, most of this number, however, being used to fill in where trees have been destroyed by the severe cold weather, and by gophers. A large proportion of these are cherry trees with some pines, apples, pears and apricots in the lot. Cherry orchardists are each planting from 50 to 100 trees to fill in their orchards.

Apple, cherry and plum trees have been pulled out in great numbers in the last few years, but most of these are in old orchards where they have been damaged by cold weather, the gophers only damaging the young trees. It is hoped that the demonstration which is to be held at the Chris Stackland orchard today will assist fruit men as well as others, in the destruction of these pests. A great deal of interest is being shown here in the demonstration which is sponsored by County Agriculturalist Wray Lawrence.

Very few new orchards are being planted this spring except some of an acre or more. T. L. Conklin is planting 275 pines to replace five acres of old trees pulled last winter.

Have Reunion. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson and daughter, Gladys, of Union, were called to Hot Lake last week by the illness of Jimmie Cappinger, who has spent most of three winters there. Other visitors were John Cappinger, Mrs. George Cappinger and Mrs. Hattie Hale, of Echo, all cousins of Mr. Cappinger. They had not met for 28 years and an enjoyable time was spent visiting.

Visits Mother. Mrs. Ellen Wilson and daughter, Mrs. Eva Grayson, of La Grande, were visiting with Mrs. Wilson's mother, Mrs. K. Murchison, last Friday at the John Murchison home in Pleasant Grove. Mrs. Murchison celebrated her 84th birthday anniversary last February and has been extremely well and active considering her advanced age, up until a few days ago being able to do considerable of the house work.

Has Operation. Miss Wilma Billings, of Imbler, underwent an appendicitis operation last week at the Grande Ronde hospital. She is recovering satisfactorily, it is reported.

Twin Calves Born. Twin calves were born to a Jersey cow on the Howard Gannett ranch near Cove last Tuesday. The pair will answer to the names of Jack and Jill.

Guests Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lund and Mr. and Mrs. Neil Kight and daughters, Betty and Marie, of Lower Cove, were dinner guests Sunday at the Thomas Towle home in Cove.

Club Meets. The Woman's club of Imbler met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Hazen. Ten members were present and one visitor, Mrs. Conrad, of La Grande. The subject for the afternoon was "The Old and the New Kitchen." The program was directed by Mrs. Harold Mangum. Refreshments were served at the close by Mrs. Hazen and Mrs. Wilford Westenskow. The next meeting of the club will be April 24 at the home of Mrs. Ray Wilson, when Mrs. C. C. Welch will be the discussion on the book of Esther.

Initiated in Auxiliary. Mrs. J. D. Hudson and Mabel Westenskow were initiated into the American Legion Auxiliary at Imbler when it met at the K. of P. on Monday evening. After spending a social hour, refreshments were served.

Enjoyable Meeting. The Pheasant club of Imbler met Tuesday at the home of Mrs. J. C. Wise with eight members present. The afternoon was spent sewing. Mrs. Stella Woodell assisted Mrs. Wise in serving a delicious two course luncheon at the close.

BIG BEN

A Horse Race of the Early Pioneer Days

(Note: This is the first of a series of stories depicting the home, social and industrial life of the pioneers of the Grande Ronde Valley. This article was written by Juanita Spencer Wilcock, granddaughter of Joseph Spencer, a pioneer of '64.) One day in the early 70s some immigrants from Iowa on their way to the Willamette valley stopped in La Grande. They were driving a horse and a mule. My grandfather, Joseph Spencer, happened to be in town that day and the driver, after some conversation, struck him for a horse trade. He wanted to trade the horse for a mule as he thought the mule could stand the rest of the journey better than the horse. The man called the horse Big Ben and claimed that he was a racer and that one need not be afraid to put him up against other race horses. Grandfather laughed and said, "He looks more of a work horse than a runner, nevertheless, I will trade."

At this time D. A. McAllister dealt in race horses. A few days after grandfather had made his trade, he hitched the horse up with a mule and drove to Mr. McAllister's farm.

"Well, had, what do you think of my team?" inquired grandfather.

"They will make a good logging team," was the reply.

"Well, you see that top-eared sorrel," grandfather went on, "is one I just traded for and the fellow I traded with claimed the horse to be a good racer."

Mr. McAllister laughingly said, "Well, you see, you are on a track with one of my horses and try him out." After a trial it was found that the immigrant had not misrepresented Big Ben. Mr. McAllister put his hand on grandfather's shoulder and said, "Joe, you have a real race horse. I want to take him to the fair grounds the Fourth of July. There are going to be some big races pulled off." When the time came they went.

In those days, horse racing, Fourth of July celebrations and county fairs were about the only recreations the people had and many of those were held at the county fair grounds which were located 3 1/2 miles east of La Grande, at the place now owned by A. J. Stange. At this particular celebration a string of race horses from Idaho and Montana were brought in.

The forenoon was passed in horse owners getting up their races and bets. They met Mr. McAllister and were bragging about their fast racers. He told them that he had an old work horse that could out run anything on the track and he took them out to see his steed.

Imagine their surprise when they saw a sleepy looking horse with his work shoes on, one ear lopped and head hanging unusually low. The men thought a joke was being

played on them and became quite angry and started to walk off. Mr. McAllister retorted, "If you want to win a thousand dollars, either put up or shut up." They thought "pickings" were good so they put up their \$1,000.

Mr. McAllister and grandfather then took Ben to the blacksmith shop where his shoes were pulled off and then some time spent in getting a rider. When approached the jockey said, "Huh, me ride that horse! Nothin' doin'! I don't want dirt throwed in my eyes. I want to ride something that can win." "Never mind the dirt in your eyes," interjected Mr. McAllister. "I will guarantee that all the dirt you get in your eyes from riding Big Ben will never blind you."

The jockey reluctantly consented. In the afternoon of the race the horsemen were making great sport of Ben. The jockey received many winks and jeers.

When the race was called the horses were all walked out on the track. Imagine the contrast between the sleek-coated, fleet-footed, high stepping and cantering horses with Big Ben who went moping along. But nevertheless, he seemed to know there was a race on.

The race was a half mile. When the horses were brought to the starting point, it was thought that the heavy sorrel would be scored down, but he stood there with his head hanging down.

Big Ben was trained to never move until a pistol was shot and he always stood with his head in the opposite direction from which he was to run. When the pistol was fired he whirled, took the track at a bound and the race was on. He was in the lead from the first jump. Excitement became intense and people who had been scoffing began to stare in wonder at the unusual sight. Ben won the race by the usual margin.

When the losers had to pay they felt very much mortified to think that sleepy Ben could outrun their horses. They thought the race was not fair and wanted to run it over. "All right," replied Mr. McAllister, "we will run the race over and bet all the money you care to pile up." But they decided to let well enough alone.

More than half the population is afflicted with defective vision, according to statistics. Either the man who compiled those figures never has seen a traffic jam or he is an incurable optimist.

Visitor Coolidge



Calvin Coolidge didn't take a spokesman along when he left Northampton, Mass., for a visit to New York, so nobody knew just what his business was. Here you see him alighting from his train on his first trip away from home after leaving the presidency.

THE GARDEN

GROWING BETTER PLANTS. Snapdragons, beautiful as they are, very often are not the glittering success in the garden that they might be. This plant has been so developed into a florist's flower and is so popular for greenhouse use that gardeners become discouraged because they do not accomplish the stately spikes that they see in the florists' show window. While these are not easily attainable in the garden nor even desirable for the one big spike is the life work of the plant and too short lived to be valuable for garden use, very fine effects can be obtained readily in the production of a great number of medium-sized spikes in a greater range of color even than seen in the greenhouse product. If snapdragons have not been given an early start from seed, it

is best to buy plants which are on sale at most seed houses in ample time to set them in the garden. There are three types, the tall, half dwarf and dwarf. The half dwarf type is usually recommended for garden use but a greater and finer display of bloom may be obtained by a simple method of growing the tall or majesty varieties.

Let the plant grow until it produces twelve leaves. Then pinch out the tip and stake it. The slender bamboo stakes sold cheaply by seed houses are the most convenient, the stake not being thick enough to be intrusive and about

the length of the pinched-off stem. The "snap" then will send out branches from the axils of leaves and make a fine pyramidal bush covered to the ground with bloom and furnishing many spikes for cutting.

A destructive rust often wrecks snapdragon plantings, attacking

the plants when they are in full bloom. As a preventive it is best to give the plants two or three sprayings of Bordeaux mixture during their growing period, the last just before the buds begin to show color. It cannot be applied when they are in bloom without hopelessly disfiguring the plant as

it coats with a bluish stain. Snapdragons like a rich soil but want good drainage for their best success. The half dwarf varieties are very satisfactory if one doesn't want to take the trouble to pinch and stake the taller ones, but the results well repay the work.

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the
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"Oh, I'm just the office boy around here; that's all," smiles Herbert Hoover Jr., who has taken over his new job as radio expert for the Western Air Express at Los Angeles. He is shown here trying out the radio apparatus at the airport, which he will use to direct a fleet of passenger planes and enable passengers to have direct telephonic communication with ground stations.

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