

OVER THE VALLEY

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Visitors From Washington—

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Lee and their daughter, Gladys, of Lind, Washington, have been visiting at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hag at Elgin and with their other relatives, members of the McKinnis family around Imbler and Summerville. The Lees were guests yesterday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McKinnis near Summerville.

Aged Lady Very Ill—

"Grandma" Slack who lives on the flat above Elgin, have been the last months watching the progress of their fine new home. The residence, which is of the bungalow type is very nearly completed. It is quite a commodious and very modern structure.

Complete New Residence—

Mr. and Mrs. A. Busaw, who live on the flat above Elgin, have been busy the last months watching the progress of their fine new home. The residence, which is of the bungalow type is very nearly completed. It is quite a commodious and very modern structure.

Occupy New Home—

Mr. and Mrs. Edell Lay, living up Catherine creek road toward Medical Springs have moved into their new four-room home, just completed.

Give Lovely Dinner—

The teachers of the school at Elgin and two guests were guests at a lovely dinner party given last evening by Mr. and Mrs. John Schroeder, son Harvey and daughter, Alma, at their home in the Country Club district. The dinner was served by the hostess at seven o'clock, her table having been beautifully decorated with flowers and a color arrangement of red, green and white, and places having been arranged for Miss Amelia Michaelson, Miss Dorothy Smith, Miss Ethel Hansen, Miss Margaret Michaelson, Mr. Wortman and Mrs. Arthur Hamann. The evening was spent socially and with music by Miss Alma Schroeder. Miss Ethel Hansen together with group singing. Harvey Schroeder gave a splendid reading.

Return From Seattle—

Lloyd and Miss Ava Woodell returned Sunday afternoon from their ten days' trip to Seattle and Portland, reporting a fine time. Miss Ava resumed her duties as

teacher at the Lone Star school yesterday.

Return From Portland—

C. E. Merrill of the Elgin Grain and Storage Co. has returned from Portland where he spent several days undergoing a very thorough physical examination. The specialists whom he consulted prescribed a complete rest of six months, his trouble being with his heart.

Grange to Meet—

The Elgin Flat grange will meet in regular session this coming Saturday evening at their hall. This will be the time for the installation of the recently elected officers.

Have Fine School—

The Sunday school which is being held each Sunday at the Lower Cove school house is attracting considerable attention and interest and the enrollment is growing quite steadily. Mrs. G. M. Gray of Lower Cove, is the superintendent, and she has assisting her a corps of splendid teachers.

More Sports Out—

Bonnie McKennon, of near Alford loaded on another car of his fine potatoes last week, the price received having been a slight advance over earlier shipments.

Entertainers Class—

Miss Genevieve Adler, living near La Grande, on Portland avenue was the hostess Friday evening to the members of the Sunday school class at the Methodist church to which she belongs and which is taught by Miss Klippel. There were 17 girls present for the evening and they had a great time with games and contests and with a two-course lunch served late in the evening. The members of the class are all girls from the La Grande high school.

Sale Tomorrow—

The closing out sale of Nip Conley is to be held tomorrow beginning at ten in the morning at the Conley farm this side of Cove. Mr. Conley's farm has recently been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fisher of the Valeria district, possession to be given in the very near future.

Goes to Portland—

Sam Thompson of Cricket Flat has gone recently to Portland and will make an extended stay in that section of the state. Mr. Thompson has recently disposed of his interests in the Cricket Flat country.

Have Weekend Visit—

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Merrifield, who are working in Elgin spent the weekend at their home at Miltoia. Mr. Merrifield is superintendent at the Weatherproof packing shed, while Mrs. Merrifield is assisting there also.

Poultry Meeting Tuesday—

Prof. Ben Stewart of the Imbler Smith-Ag department states that he has met with splendid cooperation on the series of poultry meetings which opens tomorrow evening at the Imbler high school. Poultry men and women from a considerable distance have expressed their interest in the project and their intention of being present. The meeting is guaranteed to be snappy and to last but an hour and a half and will follow the round table plan.

Entertainers Club—

Members of the V. I. M. club of Pumpkin Ridge were guests on Thursday of the Women's Improvement club of Elgin, a very large company of women, members of the two organizations, being present. The affair was held at the home of Mrs. E. W. Keller. The major part of the program was given over to an explanation of the federation plan, speakers from the hostess group having been Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Denham and Mrs. Earl Chandler.

Shipping Hogs—

Among the shipments of livestock going from this valley during the past week was a carload of hogs shipped to the Portland market from Imbler by Frank Graham. The load was made up of animals purchased in the Imbler and Summerville sections of the county.

Visiting In Country—

Mrs. Grant Wilson of La Grande, is spending two weeks in the country, in the Pleasant Grove district, looking after things at Earl Park's while they are away.

Dog Killer Busy—

A wholesale poisoning of dogs has been reported at Enterprise. 20 canines have been the victims within the course of a few days. A report from that locality says: "In the neighborhood of 20 dogs have met their death by poisoning in Enterprise during the past few days, and a few have died in like manner at Joseph. The wholesale poisoning began in Enterprise and 16 or 12 dogs were killed there before any deaths were reported in

Joseph, according to Deputy Sheriff John Hineswright. "Although no one has been gained by authorities as to who is doing the poisoning, dog owners seem to be under the impression that it is stock owners, who have had stock injured or destroyed by dogs, are acting out to kill all dogs possible."

"Several dogs which were shut up for the night in basements or outbuildings in Enterprise, died within a half hour after they were released in the morning. The poison which is being used seems to be very deadly."

To Give Social—

The Island City P. T. A. and the children of the school are planning a program and pie supper which they will give at the school Friday evening, Nov. 22. There will be a small charge for the adults but the little folks are all invited to come gratis. Everyone is cordially invited.

Return From Idaho—

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Constock returned to the valley yesterday from Nampa, Idaho, where they had been since last Wednesday visiting Mr. Constock's parents and attending their wedding anniversary.

Go on Vacation Trip—

With the heavy fall and early winter farm work all done, two car loads of farmer folks from three directions out from Summerville started yesterday morning early on a two weeks vacation trip which took them first to western Oregon and then will lead them over various prominent highways in Northern California. They expect to lay along, see everything

they can see and have all the fun they possibly can. In the company were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Park of Pleasant Grove, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Park of end of Summerville and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodell living between Summerville and Imbler.

Visit Bakers—

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. West of Pumpkin Ridge and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sanderson and Lorraine of Dry Creek drove to Baker last week and visited their daughter and sister, Miss Vera West, who is taking nurse training there.

Move to County Seat—

Mrs. Susan McVine, formerly of Elgin has moved to La Grande where she will make her home in the future.

Father and Son Banquet—

Next Friday evening at the Imbler high school a father and son banquet will be held under the direction of the P. T. A. which being interpreted by Future Farmers of America, one of the strongest departments in the entire school. Each boy is privileged to bring his dad, or if not his own, some other dad, and Virgil Choate, the president of the organization is announcing that he expects very nearly a hundred percent turnout. The P. T. A. of Imbler will serve the banquet.

Turkeys are Stolen—

Some 20 turkeys were stolen Monday night from the J. H. Lindley farm a mile and a half north of Enterprise on the Flora highway. For some time before this, the poultry flock had been dwindling

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ACROSS THE PLAINS IN 1862 - A STORY FULL OF INTEREST

There are no more thrilling tales than the stories told by the pioneers, many of them still living within the confines of this county. If all the stories could be gathered together and put in some permanent and durable shape, what a volume of history it would make. Sam Williamson, who lives near La Grande on Cove avenue, is among the prominent pioneers of this valley. Today we have his story—"A Trip Across The Plains in 1862."

A Trip Across The Plains in 1862 Sixty seven years ago in Sullivan county, Missouri, on the fifth of May, 1862, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Goodman and family of seven children, also Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williamson and family of five children, and others gathered at Harvey McAllister's farm near Terre Haute, Mo., and were there two days making arrangements to start for the Pacific coast.

We made the start on the seventh of May, driving up to town where we traded supplies we had in such things as eggs, lard, bacon and hams. We stopped at Corydon and sold eggs for three cents per

dozen, and lard, hams and bacon at five cents per pound in trade. Among other things the women got a bolt of calico.

We made our way westward and across the Missouri river at Plattsmouth. Here we stopped part of a day to buy supplies that we needed for the journey, such as powder, lead and caps. We had no breech-loading guns and had to mold our bullets. Each man had a pouch to swing over his shoulder. It consisted of powder horn, bullets, caps and patchen.

We were held up at Twin Springs east of Fort Kearney by a company of United States cavalry as our train was too small and they would not allow us to take the risk as there was only about twenty wagons in the train. As luck would have it, that evening there was a train of about the same size drove up, called the Kansas and Missouri train. Here we held a council. The train now consisted of 42 wagons and Joe Yount was elected as captain. The train was known as the Yount train on the plains. Joe Yount was a veteran of the

Mexican war and had crossed the Santa Fe trail. He had the experience and knew the habits of the Indians and his maneuvers, undoubtedly, kept us out of trouble. It was against the rules of anyone on the train to trade or sell to the Indians any ammunition, guns or butcher knives. It was also agreed in council that the wagon that drove in the rear today took the lead in the morning. There was no partiality shown, consequently, we got along without any trouble.

We made our way by the old Denver Freight road to the South Platte, then followed up the Platte river to the old California crossing. Here we crossed the South Platte which was about one mile wide. We crossed the North Platte to near Chimney Rock and followed this stream to above Fort Laramie.

The government had built a bridge across the North Platte and we made our way to above Independence Rock, where a company of United States cavalry was stationed. Here we met Kit Carson, who advised us to take the Lander Cut Off which proved to be badly washed out owing to the heavy snow and high water.

About the third day after passing Fort Laramie we celebrated the Fourth of July. We flew the flag from a tall cotton wood tree. One of the members of the train gave a speech and I had a fiddle, which several of us played, furnished music for the dancing and merry making.

As each musician knew only one or two tunes, the music became monotonous to the women of the train and before reaching the end of the journey some of them placed the fiddle in front of a rear wheel of the wagon and when I started the wagon next morning I heard a crash and looking back saw that the wheel had smashed the fiddle. As each one had to take his place in the train I could not even stop to get the splinters of it.

In the spring of '62 Green river was so high we had to chalk two wagon boxes and ferry the train over by taking the wagons apart and taking things across in these wagon-box ferry boats. Thomas Williamson and wife had a bad cold in the front of their wagon. This was made of eight inch boards about seven and one-half feet long. These were used for ours. It took about two days to get everything across the river.

We traveled the road across the Bear mountains and struck the Lewis or Snake river at Americana Falls. We followed the river down on the south side to Escalwell Bend. Here we left the Snake and crossed the summit over the Burnt river to where Huntington is today. We left three or four oxen on the camp ground dead from eating larkspur. At the last camp on the Snake river one or two children were stung by scorpions. By applying some antidiotes they got over it.

We followed the Burnt river to the west of where a town has since sprung up called Durkee, to a creek called Trail creek. We crossed the summit between Burnt river and Powder river and along the foot of the mountains past where the Virtue mine was discovered afterwards and down Hadcock creek to Powder River valley. We kept our westerly course and crossed the North Powder where the town of North Powder stands today. We went on to Clover creek and on to the summit where we looked down on the Grande Ronde valley.

This train of 42 wagons came winding down the mountain side west of Hot Lake into the valley. We kept to the foot of the mountain to the old town of La Grande, which consisted of three or four log cabins. Here we left the train and made for the camp ground on the Grande Ronde river east of where the city park is now located and corralled on the evening of Sept. 12, 1862.

This ended the Yount train as the train broke up next morning, some heading for the Willamette valley, some to Walla Walla and others bound to the Puget Sound. This valley looked good to some of the members of the train. They held a council and concluded they would stay together. The parties who remained were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey McAllister and family of six children, Sol Gerkin, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williamson and family of five children, George Gekler, wife and baby under a year old, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yount and family of five children, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ellodge and one child, Mr. and Mrs. George Goodman and family of seven children, George Horsepool, Arthur Hemings, D. A. McAllister and James Ellodge.

As the valley was not surveyed, nearly all took up squatter's claims, built log cabins, covered them with dirt. There was no floor nor stove but each had a fire place where they did their cooking. Harvey McAllister and Thomas Williamson sent two ox teams to The Dalles for provisions by Joe Williamson and Bud McAllister. They had two plows made, one 21 inch and the other a 22 inch, some scythes, and grind stones. It took 30 days to make the trip.

We also sent two teams to Dry Creek near Fort Walla Walla for seed grain, potatoes, etc. The road was dry and dusty across the Blue mountains and on the day of Dec. 12, we reached home. Our stock wintered without feeding them all winter and came out fat in the spring. We commenced to break prairie the eighth day of February, 1863 and plowed throughout the month.

There were three Indian villages in the valley in the fall of 1862, one on the Walter Pierce farm, one below the city park and one on the E. E. Hughes farm. The Indians were busy fishing as there was a large run of dog salmon. The squaws were busy digging camas and making preparations for winter. They cooked the camas by putting it in a shallow pit with red hot rocks, covering the rocks with eye grass. They then closed the pit air tight with dirt and let the roots cook several days.

They packed this and their dried fish on horses and took it to their winter quarters which is

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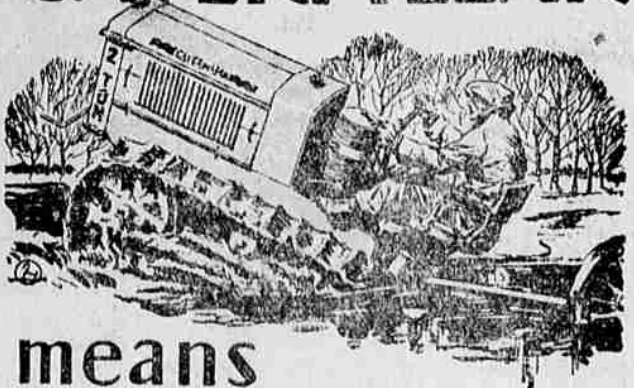
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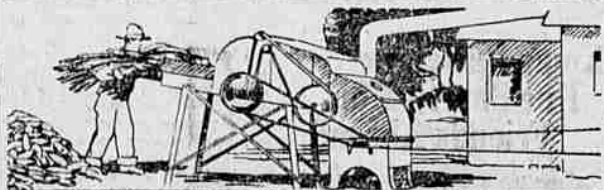
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