

OVER THE VALLEY

Mabel E. Morton, Valley News Editor
Phone: Residence, 826-J; Office, Main 47

SHIPPING ASS'N. IN WALLOWA CO. PROVES A SUCCESS

Two weeks ago on this page we published an advance report of the Wallowa County Stock Marketing Association with the promise that after the annual meeting of this organization a more detailed account of its operations would be given. This report has considerable local interest, because during the past few months, the initial steps towards the perfecting of such an organization in Union county have been taken. G. C. Meek, Observer correspondent at Wallowa, has given a detailed account of the work done, which is very illuminating and is given herewith in full.

The annual meeting of the organization was held at Enterprise, Saturday, Dec. 28, for the purpose of electing three new directors and formulating plans to be carried out by the association during the coming year. Those who were elected were: Ed Hook of Middle Valley section, Dave Kuhn of Paradise and Len Joking of Harlequin creek. These together with four other directors who were elected for more than one year will have charge of the business of the organization during the coming year. The three directors are: A. W. Johnson of Wallowa; Joe Miller of Enterprise and Walker Franklin and W. E. Honner of Joseph.

A complete statement of the business of the association since the start of the first trial shipments outside of county lines, following the formation of a temporary association on Oct. 9, 1928 and ending Dec. 27, 1929, has been issued as follows: The marketing of 126 cars of livestock with a total weight of 4,446,795 pounds having a value of \$495,214.95 and representing 167 individual shipments with 554 individual shippers engaged in the business; 18,376 hogs, 1901 sheep, 825 cattle and 61 head of old horses were shipped.

A financial statement of the association gives the following figures: Receipts: 100 per hundred association fee for handling of the stock shipped \$4,446.75; checks uncashed \$32.76; earnings \$41.40; hogs sold to butchers \$49.40; claims from railroad \$282.27; check from sale of horses \$226.22; refund \$14.32 making a total of \$5092.59. Disbursements: Freight \$791.09; trucking \$392.75; assembling and loading, 1929; telephone calls \$47.50; miscellaneous, lumber stationery and postage \$156.29; expenses to Portland \$176.49; funds \$157.37; losses \$226.22; total of \$4758.67; leaving a balance of \$335.52.

Much of the success of the work of the association can well be accounted for through the hard work and determined efforts of County Agent N. C. Donaldson and the board of directors, who have all donated so small amount of their time to work of assembling and loading on shipments, at many times working nearly all night in loading out mid-week shipments of hogs. While a few who have shipped with the association are reported to not be very well satisfied with results, the majority feel that a very worthwhile saving is being made in marketing their stock in this manner.

Every week during the year of 1929 has been at least one car of stock sent to market by the association from some point in the county and frequently during the season when a large number of hogs and cattle were going to the markets, several cars weekly were loaded out. On a number of occasions during the past few months hogs from Union county have been trucked to points in this county and shipped with the association. Irregularities in the shipping of the association no stock scales were available at the stockyards at either LaGrande or Wallowa and it was soon found that scales were needed. The association took the matter up with the railroad company and secured scale sites and the farmers of these communities got together and subscribed money for buying and installing the scales.

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Believes in Fruit—To the unusually warm winter weather, the Grande Ronde valley is experiencing, is due the opportunity for the farmers to carry on some of their spring work. K. F. Musick, of near Cove has just finished planting 50 cherry trees, mostly Royal Anne. Mr. Musick has a tract of 12 acres set to cherries, 555 trees, of which are six years old. These trees were also planted in December. He says he finished his planting on December 4, six years ago. These trees are just coming into bearing. There were a few scattered cherries in 1928, but the 1929 crop brought \$500 in money. There are some Lamberts in the orchard, but the majority are Royal Anne. Mr. Musick says he thinks Royal Anne bears earlier and more heavily and also that they are a surer crop than the black cherries. While the Anne go to the canneries and bring less money per pound, he thinks that in the long run, they pay better. Mr. Musick has 600 plum trees that are about the same age as the cherries. He is optimistic about prices though they have not brought much money of late years, but he thinks that this is an ideal location for plums and that there is not a crop loss one year in ten in this locality. He also thinks when the market becomes stabilized, the plum grower will come into his own. There is also something in not putting your eggs all in one basket.

Well Again—Miss Lillian Knautz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knautz of the Iowa district is quite well again from her recent illness with the chicken pox and is in school again this week. Lillian was not very sick at all but was obliged to remain at home.

Returns Home—Mrs. E. A. Austin returned yesterday to her home west of Summerville after having been in La Grande for medical attention.

Prolongs Visit—Miss Amy Belle Markin of Hozeman, Mont., who came to the valley for a visit at the C. H. Robinson home in the hillside road has been visiting quite a serious time with a wading tooth. The tooth was quite deeply imbedded and some surgery necessary before it could be removed. She expects to start tomorrow to her Montana home.

Have Interesting Meeting—Sunday afternoon, the second of the series of meetings held in the interest of better reading and under the auspices of the Union County Library League was held at the LaGrande City Community church. The meetings were not largely attended but was full of interest. Mrs. Walter Merce had charge of the discussions of the afternoon and the large selection of books which she had received from the state library were all taken out by those present and covered a range suitable to children and up through the tastes of adult readers.

Have Guest—Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Zurbick and family of Ross Chapel had for their guests at a supper held on New Year's eve, Mr. and Mrs. John Schroeder and Alma and Harvey of Island City and Mr. and Mrs. John Dahlstrom and daughter, Della Jean of Moss Chapel.

Child Suffers—Little Arda Berry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Berry of Iowa district who was so severely burned Sunday evening at the Grande Ronde hospital suffering from the burns. Perhaps the worst feature of the accident was the severe burns inside the little girl's mouth.

Club Meets—The meeting of the Women's club of Imbler will be at the home of Mrs. Wilford Westenskow, Wednesday, the 8th instead of the home of Mrs. Irvin Westenskow as announced.

Is Called East—Mrs. Andrew Blokland, residing near Island City, left early Friday morning for Portland, Iowa, where she was called by the serious illness of her mother, who lives at that place. Mrs. Blokland had a letter from her mother which was written by her mother the day after Christmas, at least the greater part of it was written by her and finished by someone else. She had not been well for some months having suffered with hardening of the arteries and week before had suffered a second stroke. Mrs. Blokland expected to reach her destination some time Sunday.

Mrs. Perry Hostess—Mrs. Joe Perry of Island City will be hostess to the ladies' aid at that place at an all day work meeting with hot lunch dinner at noon. A large attendance is desired.

Choose Play—Members of the Hishback lodge at Summerville have chosen the play "Kenny" to be given in the near future, the cast to be announced later. "Kenny" is not an altogether new play hereabouts but it always goes over big.

Returns To School—Miss Oma Hudson who spent her Christmas vacation at the home of her parents at Imbler has returned to her teaching duties at Bend, Ore.

Aid Postponed—The regular meeting of the Allied aid society which was to have been held this Thursday has been postponed on account of the measles epidemic at Imbler. No arrangements for the meeting will be made until the epidemic has subsided.

Making Visit—Mrs. Walter Peterson and her young daughter, LeNita have been here from Portland and are making a visit at the parental J. A. Gaskill home in the valley and also with their many friends. Members of the Gaskill family enjoyed a family dinner on New Year's at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hutchinson in La Grande.

Returns to Work—Miss Ruth Johnson, who spent the holidays with her parents, midway between Imbler and Imbler has returned to her teaching duties in The Dalles.

Aid Elects—At the meeting of the Imbler Ladies Aid society held Thursday at the home of Mrs. Milo Pratt, the following officers were elected for the year: President, Mrs. J. A. Gaskill; vice president, Mrs. Hattie Wise; secretary, Mrs. Leona Bingham; and treasurer, Mrs. Etta Welch. There was a splendid attendance of members, a pleasant afternoon, be reported concluding with the serving of a nice tray lunch.

Drive New Car—The Nicholson sisters, Miss Margaret and Miss Amelia are driving a new Dodge six which is a great help to them in their work. Miss Margaret is teacher at the Moss Chapel school while Miss Amelia teaches at Island City. Their home is at May Park.

Have Measles—An epidemic of measles is abroad in the valley at present. Alice Bell, the son of the majority of cases. It is reported that several children broke out with the disease in school thus exposing all the children there. A number of pupils have since become ill and also the teacher, Mrs. Carmen Miller, who had never had them before. The school is closed as the authorities believed it unwise to secure a substitute teacher so long as all the children had been exposed.

Entertain—Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gaskill of near Imbler entertained at a wonderful turkey dinner Sunday week at their home. There were sixteen seated at the table including in addition to the host and hostess, Mrs. Walter Peterson and daughter of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hutchinson of La Grande, Miss Willing Gaskill Jack Hatt, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Juhl, daughter, Monica, and son Charles, and their guests, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jones and Grandma Gaskill.

Have Watch Party—A New Year's eve watch party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Westenskow at Imbler. The following guests were present: Mr. and Mrs. Homs Westenskow, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Jensen and children, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Westenskow, Dorothy Redmond, Alford Westenskow and Herbert Fischer.

Letter of Interest—Along early last fall, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Anson and their family of near Cove avenue, left the valley for California for an indefinite stay. Mrs. Anson was an active member of the Countrywomen's club and at the last meeting the president, Mrs. R. A. Masterton read an interesting letter from Mrs. Anson. Believing it to be of interest to their wide circle of friends, the club has asked that the letter be published. It would seem from reading the letter, that the family is still quite loyal to this particular part of Oregon.

Dear Friends of the Country—Here's hoping these few lines will find each and every one of you enjoying good health and able to attend club on regular meeting days. Often I think of that last day together and of the many other enjoyable meetings. I am hoping that you will all strive to keep it going, even though you do not accomplish any big thing as some clubs do. These congenial, happy meetings mean more to me now in memory than they did when I was there. I have been very lucky in meeting the jolly and congenial folks here. I attended the parent-teacher association here the first month and then I met Auxiliary ladies. So between school, auxiliary and neighbors I do not have much spare time.

Sundays we spend driving to places we have not visited before. Last Sunday we drove to Palm Springs out in the desert. It is surely odd how Mother Nature spreads her beauty around. One drives for miles then desert, then all at once drops into palm trees growing thick in a narrow canyon. Some one has had brains enough to capitalize the scenery and has built a beautiful big hotel here where common folks could spend the winter at \$18 per day. People here go wild over some mud puddle on top of a mountain about 10,000 feet high, or some scrub trees on a steep mountain side that you need a rope to get to. I sure wish they could take a trip up north and see some real scenery. When you say you are from Oregon, they will invariably say, "Oh, my! I wouldn't live in that rainy country." I guess they think the coast is all there is in Oregon. Personally I like Oregon scenery and Southern California climate. It certainly cannot be beaten in the winter time at least. Just imagine eating Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner outside in the parks or elsewhere. Thanksgiving we and some tennis took our dinner and went to the park in Riverside. If it

isn't raining Christmas, it will be just as nice outside. But it does get real chilly here, especially nights. A few nights the temperature has been down around 25. When it gets around that the frost alarm goes out and the orange groves must be smoking beehive. They must hurry and get the sprudge pots going and get a smoke screen up between the trees and the frost. From what they say now the orange crop will be a little better than last year. The fruit will be larger the and will command a better market price. The orange crop is like the wheat crop up there. We think sometimes there will not be a third of a crop but by the time it is harvested we have a half or better crop.

Among some of the interesting things we have seen and heard since coming was the sensation of an air current that originated about five miles from us at the little town of Paterson. The sanatorium for the feeble minded is located there and that particular strip of ground is on the fault line for earthquakes. Anyway it was hard enough here at Redlands to rattle the dishes in the cupboard and set the bed to shimmying. There was another slight, quite felt here night before last. I expect we will be hunting the open spaces one of these times. I would like to experience a little heavier one, just so it doesn't do any damage outside of scare us dumb.

Today is another beautiful, warm day. I cannot realize yet that it can be so nice and warm this time of year. I sure wish every one of you could be here for the winter at least. I cannot say how the summer will be yet.

Haven't seen Mrs. George Groat for several days, but she wasn't a bit well the last time I saw her. You know I think it would do her a world of good if all of you would write her a few lines or send her a post card. She depends a lot on outside encouragement, and it is such a little effort for one who is well, yet does a sick person a lot of good. I am so sorry that we didn't do that for Mrs. Dickenson before she passed away. She wanted to come back here for a visit so much and her last thoughts were of "home" as she called the valley. We have visited once with Mr. Dickenson and Jennie. Jennie looks like the picture of health. She is keeping house for her father, she is intending to take him to Victorville where her son lives to spend the winter. It is on the edge of the desert and of course is higher and drier. It gets pretty damp and chilly at Santa Ana for a man as old as he.

Maybe you would like to know something about ourselves.

The boys go to school every day and are getting on very well. I expected to put Howard in kindergarten but he is in the first grade. It was rather uphill business for some time but he has made the grade now and doing fine. Elbert is in the fourth grade and is holding it down. We live about one-half mile from school and a stone's throw from where Joe works. He has had fairly steady work and is lucky to have that. Business has been very slow here for a year. The fruit fly that did so much damage in Florida has affected this section of California rather heavily because a number of men here have large groves of oranges in Florida. This year they have broadcast a short crop of oranges and people are not thinking in here for work as before and that is hard on the town because it depends on tourists and fruit tramps for its business. The long-hoped-for rain the people hoped might hit Northern California has taken a notion to hit in around San Francisco and move north so I guess we will wait a while longer for cooler weather.

Well, girls, I would like to hear from all of you and would like to know what you are doing in the club for Christmas. You know any little thing from old acquaintances would be a lot when one is so far away. I haven't been the best bit homesick so far but I do think of all of you up there a lot and wish you could enjoy the winter as we are.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain,

Your sincere friend,
(MRS.) EDITH ANSON.

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Accounting—Much of the success of the work of the association can well be accounted for through the hard work and determined efforts of County Agent N. C. Donaldson and the board of directors, who have all donated so small amount of their time to work of assembling and loading on shipments, at many times working nearly all night in loading out mid-week shipments of hogs. While a few who have shipped with the association are reported to not be very well satisfied with results, the majority feel that a very worthwhile saving is being made in marketing their stock in this manner.

Every Week—Every week during the year of 1929 has been at least one car of stock sent to market by the association from some point in the county and frequently during the season when a large number of hogs and cattle were going to the markets, several cars weekly were loaded out. On a number of occasions during the past few months hogs from Union county have been trucked to points in this county and shipped with the association.

Irregularities—Irregularities in the shipping of the association no stock scales were available at the stockyards at either LaGrande or Wallowa and it was soon found that scales were needed. The association took the matter up with the railroad company and secured scale sites and the farmers of these communities got together and subscribed money for buying and installing the scales.

Better Yarding—Better yarding facilities are coming about through the efforts of the association and according to those in charge the railroad company is showing a good spirit in doing everything they possibly can to

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Volley Ball League Series On Tonight—Volley ball teams in four towns in the valley start a series of games this evening, a county league organization having been perfected last week. The games will last through Feb. 11 and will be played by the teams from Imbler, Union, Elgin and La Grande. Games

Wheat Farmer In Fine Shape Now—"Up until taking Sargon my stomach troubled me for five years without a let-up. After a meal I'd have a burning in my stomach that often felt as hot as fire. My liver

Valley Couple Wed 55 Years On New Years—Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, who live on the Cove highway and who are among the prominent pioneer families in the valley, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary New Year's day, being a guest at a small dinner party given at the home of their son, Frank Miller and wife who live on the lower Cove road.

As members of a family whose name is closely linked with almost every pioneer story in this valley, Mr. and Mrs. Miller have a very interesting story in connection with the years of their married life. Mrs. Miller was Matilda Conley, the only daughter in the family of the

at Imbler will be played in Wade Hall, at Union in the high school gymnasium, at Elgin in the high school gym and at the La Grande hotel in La Grande.

The complete schedule is as follows: La Grande vs. Union at La Grande, Jan. 7. Imbler vs. Imbler at Imbler, Jan. 8. Elgin vs. La Grande at Elgin, Jan. 15. Union vs. Imbler at Union, Jan. 16. Union vs. Elgin at Elgin, Jan. 20. Imbler vs. La Grande at Imbler, Jan. 22. Elgin vs. Imbler at Elgin, Jan. 27. La Grande vs. Union at Union, Jan. 29. Elgin vs. La Grande at La Grande, Feb. 4. Union vs. Imbler at Imbler, Feb. 5. Union vs. Elgin at Union, Feb. 6. Imbler vs. La Grande at La Grande, Feb. 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were married in this valley, Jan. 1, 1875, both having come to this valley in the same wagon train from the middle west where Mrs. Miller as Matilda Conley was born Dec. 28, 1858 and Mr. Miller in Hancock, Ill., Sept. 19, 1849.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller were the parents of nine children, all of whom are living and all of whom live in this valley with the exception of one son, Ben who lives in California, where Mr. and Mrs. Miller also have a home and where they have been spending the winters the last few years, this winter being an exception. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Miller are: Will who lives on the Sand Ridge, Mrs. Kille Smith of the Iowa district, Mrs. Mary Gray, lower Cove, Earle Miller, of near Cove; Mrs. Joseph Clark, Alford; Frank Miller, lower Cove, Ben Miller, California; Mrs. Georgianna Chadwick, lower Cove and John Miller, who lives on the old home place.

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