

OVER THE VALLEY

Mabel E. Morton, Valley News Editor

Perfect Attendance—Most of the rural schools over the valley have closed or will close this week for the summer vacation.

Franklin Judge: Margaret Hug, Ruby Tamers, Kamele, Francis Brooks, Island City: Lucila Nelson, Barbara Wardell, Georgia Parker, Ruth Cooper, Rita Cooper, Beulah Hagey.

Improve Property—William Hill, whose farm is located south of Elgin a short way is just completing a course of repairs on the home which is greatly improving the appearance of the place.

Visit—Mrs. P. M. Snedeker, who makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Hawkins on the Cove-Lion highway, is making a visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vogel near Union. Mrs. Vogel is Mrs. Snedeker's granddaughter.

Has Guest—Mrs. C. H. Blidwell of Island City had Mrs. Helen Hulac as her guest for a few days before she left this valley for her home at Sheridan, Oregon.

Newcomers—Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Coulter are newcomers in the valley, having come here in February to occupy the farm on the Pleasant Grove road which they purchased this past winter. They came here from New Plymouth, Idaho, and are quite delighted with this valley, though the cold and stormy weather has not overly impressed them.

Organize Another Club—Another G. H. club, a girls sewing club was recently organized in the Stock Wall neighborhood near Elgin. Mrs. Floyd Galloway is the local leader and the officers of the group are: Marie Smith, president; Margaret Wilson, vice president; and Edna Erickson, secretary.

Improvement Slow—Mrs. Vern Niederer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Niederer of Dry Creek is making very slow improvement. The little chap has been confined to his bed for several months now.

Have Examinations—Final examinations for the eighth grade were held on Wednesday and Thursday of last week in the different school districts of the county. The teachers serving this year on the examining board are W. V. Connor and Mrs. Vaden of Union, Maurice Weber of Imbler and Mrs. Teresa Leslie of Summerville.

Guests From Colorado—Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Veatch of the Moss Chapel district have as their home guests Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Brookshire of Salda, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Brookshire have been in the valley for about two weeks and expect to leave another week or so before leaving. Mr. Brookshire and Mrs. Veatch are brother and sister.

Planning Reunion—Mrs. Hannah Henry of Imbler is looking forward with a great deal of anticipation to a reunion of her own family which is now being planned for some time in June. Mrs. Henry has seven of her children living in this valley. However, seven also live in Utah. These latter families are planning to drive to the valley this summer. Will camp under the trees in their mother's orchard for at least a week and during that time what good times there will be with the brothers and sisters, and nieces and nephews of this locality! In addition to her own children and the members of their families, Mrs. Henry may have some of her bro-

thers here also. It is to be hoped by all that all preliminary plans may work out satisfactorily.

At Elgin—Mrs. C. D. Huffman of Cove avenue has been visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Lynn Hill in Elgin.

Not So Well—Mrs. Press Pugh of north of Summerville, who has been ill at her home was reported as not being so well the first of this week. Mr. and Mrs. Pugh have recently filled out papers sent them by the proper officials granting their consent for the enlistment of their son, Marion, in the United States navy. Marion's friends will be interested in further news of this venture. He has been traveling around over Colorado, the last letter having been received from Florence, Colorado.

Coming For Visit—Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Woodell of the Lone Star neighborhood are expecting a visit next week from their daughter, Mrs. Glenn Howard and her two children, Jimmie and Jean who will come into the valley for an extended stay from their home at Marshfield.

School Picnic—The teacher, pupils and patrons of the Iowa school participated in a picnic last Friday afternoon at Riverside Park, marking the close of the school year. It was a very happy event according to all the enthusiastic reports. The teacher, Miss Jean McShane has gone to Portland for a visit with friends.

Gives Dinner—Mrs. Bart Oliver of Dry Creek gave a very lovely dinner Tuesday at her home, a baked chicken dinner with everything that she could think of to serve with it, even to home-made ice cream. The day her birthday anniversary and for the first time in three years she had succeeded in having Over The Valley there, as the day happens to be both of their birthdays. Besides the members of her own family, her mother, Mrs. E. Sanderson of Summerville was also a guest.

Banquet—A number of enthusiastic baseball fans from Imbler and vicinity gave a banquet Wednesday evening at the La Grande hotel in honor of the championship team of the Imbler High school. It was quite a party and one which the individual team members appreciated very much.

Always Busy—Grandma Greiner, who makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Jim Woodell of the Lone Star district always has some handwork around to keep her out of mischief. Of late she has been making the pretty rag rugs and has just finished her sixth. Two quilts have also been on the winter's program. Grandma Greiner does splendid work and the finished products are very pretty.

Have Guests—Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Oliver in Dry Creek were Mrs. Anna Oliver and Miss Margaret Anson of La Grande.

Here For Commencement—The Misses Eva and Edna Ledbetter, accompanied by Mrs. G. A. Brace of Weston was in the valley Thursday evening to attend the commencement exercises at Imbler. They came to see their brother, Lyle Ledbetter graduate.

School Closed—Lone Star school, near Alicel, closed yesterday, after a very successful year's work. Miss Ava Woodell, the teacher expects to attend the Eastern Oregon Normal school during the summer session.

Return Home—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kulis and Mr. and Mrs. Traebel, who have been visiting at the home of their mother and grandmother, Mrs. Nothnagel near Alicel concluded their visit and returned yesterday to their home in Portland.

Home For Sunday—Miss Florence Robinson spent Sunday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Robinson. She was accompanied by her friend, Miss Florence Everett, a

student at the Eastern Oregon normal.

Making Alterations—In addition to the improvements mentioned a few weeks ago, which Kenneth Gekeler is making on the farm he purchased last year—the old C. C. Welch farm near Imbler—Mr. Gekeler is remodeling the house, making additions, changing the old parts. It will be a very attractive farm home when the work is all completed.

Make Fine Record—Relatives in the valley are greatly pleased over the record made by a nephew who together with other students represented the Quincy, Illinois high school in a state high school conference held at Champaign, Illinois. Young people present from high school orchestras were tried out in the various classes and placed according to proficiency. In the violin section for which there were 12 entrants from all over Illinois, Wilbert Her-

mann was given the first chair in the all state orchestra. The young man is a relative of the Arthur, Henry and other Hermann families in the valley.

Visit Sunday—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Robinson of near La Grande drove to west of Summerville Sunday and were guests during the day of their former neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Austin.

To Try New Method—Jim Dobbins of near La Grande who stands high among the progressive farmers in the valley is one of those who expects to try out the strip border irrigation this season. He makes one of several who are trying this plan which seems very promising here and which has succeeded elsewhere. Mr. Dobbins has purchased, within the last few weeks a land leveler

PASTURE AWAY THE NURSE CROP SAYS SPECIALIST

One of the most prominent dairy farmers in the valley hands us the following article from the pen of the specialist, G. R. Harrison, which has to do with the successful securing of a good stand of alfalfa. The dairyman asks that the article be reprinted, inasmuch as it suggests a method which he thoroughly believes in, and which he is satisfied would be beneficial to others in this locality.

Sowing the precious alfalfa crop only to have the cattle tramping over it a few weeks after it comes up may seem like frightful business to some farmers. If these men will look around them, somewhere in the neighborhood, they are apt to find a colleague who is following that very practice. And the chances are that the man who follows it never fails to get the good strong stand that he set about to procure from the beginning. But he is not the farmer, mind you, who will continue the race run of the cattle on that new seedling. He definitely. He would no more think of pasturing the fully developed meadow than he would the cornfield, for he knows what a menace that would be to the field.

Years ago, when the first corn belt farmer explained to me that his fine success with stands of alfalfa were due to pasturing away the nurse crop, I took it with the proverbial grain of salt. I had come to him for information on the subject of pasturing for a long time and I believe that he actually pastured new and struggling alfalfa. It seems to me that must surely mean death to many of the tender plants. The crushing beneath the hoofs of the herd they could never survive. So the notes I set down that day on the farm of that alfalfa specialist didn't include his pasturing alfalfa in the first season of its existence.

Some time afterward I came in contact with another farmer especially successful with his seedlings who told me again of the pasture idea. Then I returned to the first farmer in the case and jotted down that part of his story that I had previously omitted.

Since those days I have talked with a good many farmers in the alfalfa districts who use what I shall call the pasture method of seeding. Never once has one of them reported a failure with it. The plan merely consists of sowing the oats and the alfalfa together as usual, the oats not intended for a nurse crop in the usual sense of the word, but for pasturing which is nurse indeed. Nurse crops for alfalfa are, as a rule, misnomers if they are allowed to run unmolested to their ripened maturity. The result is a weakening of the young alfalfa through shading, thus forming a tenderness that when suddenly exposed to the full light of the sun at grain harvest time, can endure none but the most favorable conditions of weather and soil. Unless the weather is comparatively cool and the soil sufficiently charged with moisture, the alfalfa thus treated will curl up and die. Some farmers have noted this as they gradually pasture away the nurse crops, while the alfalfa seedling duly grows more resistant to heat and drought as the process continues to the end, which comes along in late June or early July when the animals are driven out of the field to leave the alfalfa entirely alone forever thereafter.

As a matter of fact, the alfalfa has not been pastured at all. The cattle could have any of it they would, but unless a pasture crop has some height they cannot whip it into their mouths with their tongues in the only manner that cattle know how to eat. Unlike horses and sheep they cannot shear close to the ground. So it is the oats that receive the pasturing. Turn the cattle in when this is coming around about a foot high and it is sufficient to their satisfaction. And all the time they are packing the soil around the roots of the little alfalfa that flourishes from the benefit. What little crushing of the tops there is, doesn't matter. In fact this also should be

ing has known its advantage for years and years. It has even been handed down by some of the grandfathers and yet how slowly it takes hold of the agricultural world generally. Men high in agricultural authority, when the plan is mentioned to them, often turn to ridiculing it. "The animals could tramp the little plants to death in short order," is the usual hasty conclusion. But nevertheless the plan is much more in accord with nature's great scheme than is that of putting alfalfa where it must battle the whole season through with such coarse, rapid growing, and quick maturing things as nurse crops generally are. A good many men who pasture away the nurse crop maintain that oats are more valuable in that capacity than they are when threshed for the grain and straw. Oats is generally conceded to be a los-

ing proposition. So, then, it would naturally follow that the farther they are carried along, the more would be the loss. At least there would be added that expense of the threshing bill. But none of the already hard earned cash goes out when the oats are pastured away. The cattle do their work free of charge. No doubt they make it pay some profit, and besides they are giving the assurance that the alfalfa will not die before winter comes. One of the most successful farmers I have ever known is a man who says he has never failed to get his stand of alfalfa. His meadows are as nearly perfect as it is possible to be. Never is there a hoof on them after they are established, except where the horses have to go at hay time. But all of this man's alfalfa, through all the years he has been farming in a highly successful way, was started by the pasture plan. The oats and alfalfa were sown, the oats became pasture as soon as it could furnish a bite, and then by July the alfalfa was left to go it alone and to make, by the following year, one of his perfect meadows. The only pasture this man has other than what has just been mentioned is oats and sweet clover in combination. But in that case the cattle remain on the field all year, for the sweet clover is not for permanence. By the time the oats are exhausted by the herd, the sweet clover is sufficient in itself to graze the herd and with considerable abundance. Alfalfa becomes just as rugged in the same length of time, but the aim with it is a tall growth by fall for its own winter protection, and for the permanence that is expected and desired.

A SEASONABLE RECIPE

Toasted Sardine Sandwiches—One-half cup sardines. One hard cooked egg. Three ripe olives. Three stuffed olives. Two tablespoons sliced celery. Two tablespoons nut meats. One tablespoon mayonnaise. One-fourth teaspoon salt. Six slices whole wheat bread. Chop first six ingredients very fine. Moisten with mayonnaise and season well. Spread between buttered slices of bread and toast. Serve piping hot, with slices of sweet pickle or sliced green tomato pickle. They are surprisingly good. Baker—Ninety business men have signed a petition for daylight saving time in Baker.

Advertisement for FRESH produce. Features an illustration of a truck and the text: 'TRUE APPETIZING FLAVOR FOUND ONLY IN FOODS THAT ARE FRESH'. Below the illustration, it says: 'Whether it is fruits and vegetables still sparkling with the dew of orchard and garden or those hundreds of other fine quality foods that stock our shelves, freshness is an important part of every item we offer you. A ceaseless procession of trucks, trains and ships bring these foods to you daily in which true appetizing flavor is found because they are FRESH!'

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