

# MANY RAILROAD OFFICIALS STARTED CAREERS HERE

## O'Brien, Buckley, Walsh And Others Worked First in La Grande.

Shortly after the railroad came through La Grande in July, 1884, the city was established as a division point, with shops erected on land donated by Daniel Chaplin.

The dispatcher's office for the line from Umatilla to Huntington was established here with C. W. Taylor as chief dispatcher. In this office at one time or another within 20 years were J. B. Glover, retired several years ago as agent at Portland; W. A. Whitney, later with the Eccles interests in Oregon; C. H. Elliott, 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 1890 La Grande's office was given an assistant superintendent, D. W. C. Perry being the first appointed, and J. P. O'Brien, for many years general manager of this unit, the second. A. J. Borie, the third, was made superintendent, but under the receivership of 1894-96, the office was moved to Pendleton. In 1900 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 was restored and continued until on Aug. 3, 1913, the second division was created with W. Bollons as superintendent.

Many others were employed in the early days of the railroad here, whose names today are familiar ones of this decade. J. F. Graham, for many years superintendent of motive power in Portland, was employed in La Grande first as machinist and afterwards as general foreman of the shops. A. Buckley, later to become superintendent of the first division, "grew up" in La Grande, and was assistant superintendent here between 1900 and 1917.

Jacob Gulling, conductor; A. J. Martin, storekeeper; George Hanson, engineer, were among the first railroad employes in the Grande Ronde valley. P. J. Theisen, retired engineer, began as a wiper shortly after the first train pulled into La Grande. He relates that within a few months after the railroad came, La Grande boasted of 25 saloons and one church.

Engineers F. G. Schilke, and Ed Jacobson who began as a fireman in October, 1884, and who was retired from active service this year, and Wesley Harrison, who started work in 1885, are other familiar names. Among other early employes were Engineer Frank Pike, Switch Engineer William T. Short, Blacksmith Foreman M. H. Allen and Engineer John Carlson, all of whom were employed in 1888. J. E. Foley was the original B & B pile driver foreman working out of this terminal. The first blacksmith foreman was A. Floyd and in the shop with him were Frank Brooker and Andrew Anderson.

Many of the above mentioned men, all true pioneers, have passed on to the Great Beyond, although many of them still are living and of that number, the majority will be here next week for the Semi-Centennial U. P. celebration.

## ENGINEERS' CAPS TO BE WORN HERE

Some cities when they stage old-time celebrations wear whiskers to advertise the event. Some adopt other similar plans. But in La Grande, engineer caps will be worn during the week before the opening of the Semi-Centennial U. P. celebration, which is to begin next Thursday, July 19. Of course, they also will be worn during the celebration, if the wearers desire.

The caps have been selected by the general committee as being much more typical of the celebration here than growing whiskers, etc., and 1,000 of the caps have been ordered and are expected here immediately, and will be offered for sale at 25 cents each. The celebration souvenir button is supposed to be worn on the caps, and those who have no buttons may obtain these for 25 cents also.

The caps will be cool, not unsightly, black in color and with a green visor.

## THE "OLD WHITE SCHOOL"



It was La Grande's first modern school building when this picture was taken in 1886.

## DOUBLE MAIN EVENT ON WRESTLING - BOXING CARD

The combination wrestling-boxing card to be staged here during the Semi-centennial U. P. celebration was completely lined up today, and committee members said it unquestionably would be the biggest attraction of its kind ever staged here for the money.

Bulldog Jackson will meet Dei Kunkel in one of the double main events, and two more famous grapplers will tangle in the other main event—Robin Reed and Mickey McGuire. Both matches will go best two out of three falls with a time limit of two hours.

Two six-round boxing bouts will precede the wrestling matches, with Harry Eagles, of Pendleton, to meet Gerald Butcher, of La Grande, in one, and Winnie Mires, of Union, to fight Ralph DePew, of Pendleton, in the other.

Harry Elliott, Portland referee and former University of Oregon coach, will referee all bouts.

All fighters and wrestlers are contracted for and judges will be furnished the night of the fight. The card will begin at 8 p. m., the night of Saturday, July 21, at the La Grande stadium.

## LA GRANDE GOLF COURSE TO BE OPEN TO VISITORS

Golfers who come to the Semi-centennial Union Pacific celebration here July 19, 20 and 21, or to the western union meeting of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers on July 17, 18 and 19, had better bring their sticks along. Tournaments will be held every day during these five days at the La Grande country club, which boasts one of the finest nine-hole layouts in the Pacific northwest. And the course will be in excellent condition, members of the greens committee of the club report.

The B. of L. E. tournaments are open to all visiting golfers at the convention, and prizes will be offered each day for both scratch and handicap events. Open sweepstakes tournaments

will be held each day of the jubilee proper, also with prizes offered the winners. This is open to either professionals or amateurs, but the committee insists that all participants must have certified handicaps to file with the club. Entry fee will be one dollar each day, which includes greens fee. Also any visiting golfer may play on the course at any time next week.

Cards announcing the tournaments have been posted in every golf club and hotel in the northwest, the publicity committee reports.

A fine carload of buggies and carriages was received by Knapp, Burrell & Co. Monday.—La Grande Chronicle, May 17, 1893.



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