

DUG-OUT HOUSED FIRST BUSINESS HOUSE IN 1862

Edward B. Patterson Opened First Store in "Side of Hill."

A look at La Grande's modern, up-to-the-minute business section this year, 50 years after the coming of the railroad to this city, and not so far removed from the building of the first home here in 1861, and one would little think that the first store here was in a dug-out.

Yet, pioneers tell us that La Grande's original store, started by a man named Edward B. Patterson in the fall of 1862, was located in a dug-out in the side of the hill at the head of what was later called A avenue, close to the old Crandall place.

The provisions, consisting largely of brown Manila sugar, coffee, large quantities of syrup in five gallon kegs, and other staples, were kept in the dug-out all during the winter of 1862-63 and not until the following spring was Patterson able to erect a building—the first business house of its kind in La Grande. The first store was built on block 2, C avenue, Old Town, and was located along the original Old Oregon Trail highway. Patterson also built the first plank house in La Grande during the year 1863 on the north side of C avenue—Ben Brown's first house in 1861 was made of logs. In either 1867 or 1868 Patterson sold his store to Mese Enrich and left for Vermont, later going to California.

When Patterson came here two men—Green Arnold and Don Chaplin—were surveying and staking out the town of La Grande, the two main streets of which were B and C avenues. B avenue was directly on the Old Oregon Trail, which all emigrants took when passing this way. The trail went almost directly west from La Grande, leading up over the hill, rather than following the canyon.

The second general store was opened by S. M. Bloch about 1863, and was located in a log house on the south side of B avenue, just east of the creek which runs through Old Town, later he erected a new store building on B and Cedar, which was used for several years.

PIONEERS TO MEET HERE ON THURSDAY

According to President Ed Reynolds, the annual meeting of the pioneers of Union county, Thursday, July 19, arranged by the Sons and Daughters association promises to have unusual interest this year and its proponents are expecting a crowd two or three times the usual size on hand for the program. Some of the features are planned especially in connection with the opening day of the great railroad jubilee, others follow lines which the pioneers have been familiar with for years.

As is generally known the day starts off with the arrival of the replica of the original train from Island City. In the coach of the train which leaves the Island at 9:00 o'clock will be the oldest pioneers which can be found. A program will be offered at the station at 9:30 on the arrival of the train and there are some special numbers to be given here that the committee have secured but are not yet announcing. The parade to the park will form at 10:00 o'clock and will reach the park probably at 11:00. From that time on the pioneer meeting will have much the same outline as in previous years with business meeting program and opportunity for visiting, and a basket lunch at noon. It is stressed that each family is to bring its own lunch, the coffee and cream to be provided by the association.

One additional feature and one which promises to have great significance is the reunion of students of the old Blue Mountain academy. This is scheduled for 6:30 o'clock and will also be held at Riverside park.

THEY SKIPPED OUT

Myers Bros, late extensive wool dealers of Kamela, are now in some unknown locality. When last heard from they were at Walla Walla, having written a letter from that city stating that they could not settle their obligations, and had concluded to "skip"—La Grande Gazette, Sept. 23, 1892.

SEVERAL IN OLD FIDDLERS BIG CONTEST

Several contestants have already entered the Old Time Fiddlers contest to be conducted Wednesday night July 18, at Zuber hall. The contest is drawing entrants from all parts of the country. Suitable prizes are to be awarded winners.

The method of judging has not yet been definitely settled. Just prior to the Fiddlers contest there will be held an old time dance in the street on Adams between Depot and Elm.

GUARDSMEN HAVE PART IN JUBILEE

Company E, 186th Infantry, the La Grande unit of the national guard, will make two appearances during the Semi-Centennial U. P. celebration here next week.

The company will lead the parade on Friday morning, and will furnish an escort for the colors, and on Saturday it will take part in the pageant at the La Grande stadium, which is free to the public.

Capt. Walter A. Bean is commander of the company of 60 men, one of the best rifle units in Oregon.

FOUR MAJOR FIRES IN EARLY LOCAL HISTORY

Like most other cities which can look back into the 19th century for their early history, La Grande had several major fires in its first forty years of growth.

The first fire of size of which there is record came in the early seventies when many of the buildings on the south side of C avenue were wiped out, and never rebuilt. At this time most of La Grande was in the neighborhood of B and C avenues. For several years after this La Grande was at a standstill, rather it was going down instead of progressing.

The next big fire was in 1886 when much of the business section of the new town was destroyed, half of a block of buildings between Depot and Elm streets on the south side of Adams avenue, and on Jefferson avenue were completely razed. Burned down were two hotels, a livery stable and several other business places.

This section was rebuilt, but again in 1891 a third fire destroyed all the buildings on the west side of Depot between Adams and Jefferson, including the first brick building in the city constructed by A. Sommer. J. D. Slater and Circuit Judge J. W. Knowles had law offices in that building.

In July of the same year, 1891, the fourth large fire occurred, starting in the old Blue Mountain

hotel, located on the corner where the Elks temple now stands, and burning all the buildings on that street as far east as the Presbyterian church, also a one-story building where the Sommer hotel now stands, and two buildings on the corner of Washington and Depot where the Modern Laundry is now located.

Since then there have been many fires, but none as disastrous to the business section as a whole as those early blazes.

BACK TO THE OIL BURNERS

Something is radically wrong at the power house of the electric light company. It is not an occasional occurrence but almost every night the lights become so dim as to necessitate the lighting of lamps in the business houses where electric lights are used.—La Grande Gazette, Oct. 21, 1892.

CHESTNUT SOCIAL

The ladies of the Episcopal church will give a chestnut social at the residence of J. H. Stevens Friday, Sept. 30.—La Grande Gazette, Sept. 23, 1892.

VISITS MOTHER

Mrs. Laura Childs, of San Francisco, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Zuber. She will remain in La Grande during the winter.—La Grande Gazette, Oct. 21, 1892.

OGDEN BAND HAS 4 SETS OF UNIFORMS

The Union Pacific Ogden band, which is an outstanding organization of its kind in the west, will be sent to La Grande and spend four days here during the U. P. jubilee.

This band consists entirely of railroad men and for several years has led the grand entry at the Cheyenne Frontier Days. Among other honors it has also won first place at the Salt Lake Covered Wagon days celebration among 20 bands from Colorado, California and Wyoming.

Uniforms in which the band appear include the West Point full dress uniforms, Elks lodge uniforms and the Union Pacific Old Timers uniforms, all of which will be brought with them to La Grande's celebration this month. They will appear at frequent intervals during the days of the celebration.

With the bands, which will come by special train, will be four Pullman loads of people from Ogden, according to word received from the Ogden headquarters, making between 200 and 250 persons who will be present from that city alone.

ABOUT DUSTY STREETS

Editorial in La Grande Chronicle, May 17, 1893. The business men should get together on some plan for sprinkling the streets.



When the Railroad Was Young--

In 1886 the Kiddle family came to
La Grande and the Valley and—

There Was Established the PIONEER FLOURING MILL

With Mills and Warehouses Now Throughout Union County

The Pioneer Flouring Mill company has been buying grain from Grande Ronde valley growers and manufacturing flour for half a century. And as Union county has gone forward, new methods in milling, new knowledge of food values, new tests for baking qualities have permitted us to match the progress of the community and the industry.

The choicest grain of the entire valley is selected from the thousands of bushels bought by us each year for our milling. Expert millers, with years of experience and the advantage of the most modern laboratory tests and milling equipment, supervise the making of our products and the prime product of the valley — "Federation" Flour.

BUY "FEDERATION" FLOUR

Not only because it is a Grande Ronde valley product and a means to greater valley progress — but buy it for Federation quality that insures success in all your baking needs.