

MODERN LA GRANDE ONCE THE GRANDY HOMESTEAD

First Home on "The Flat" Erected Where La Grande Hotel Stands.

More than half a century ago, before the first steel rails stretched across this end of the Grande Ronde valley, what we know as the La Grande of today presented an entirely different picture. In fact, it was nothing more or less than a farm—of 160 well kept acres, and approximately 59 years ago a farmhouse was erected on that acreage—the first building in what later became modern La Grande.

The farm was the property of the late Ben Grandy, and was located at Fourth and Adams, on land now covered by the six-story La Grande hotel. Actually, the farmhouse stood for nearly half a century until 1927 when it was removed to make room for the new, modern structure.

Some of the lumber for that first home was hauled from the Snodgrass sawmill at Oro Dell. Some was brought from Union, and finally it was completed, a modest, substantial residence of that day, and one of which Mr. and Mrs. Grandy were proud of many, many years.

Today, Mrs. Lydia Grandy, who for many decades called that place home, looks at the La Grande hotel as being somewhat of a monument to the pioneering days. Intensely proud of La Grande, this woman who has the distinction of being the first female settler of this city as it stands today, watched the town grow from the first buildings that were quickly erected with the coming of the railroad back in '84, to its present development. She is one of the few remaining who watched the city develop year by year from its earliest day.

As a young girl in her teens Lydia Palmer came with her brothers and sisters and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Palmer and their family, from Pennsylvania across the great stretch of plains to Oregon. It was in 1864 and travel in those days was nothing like riding on the streamline train of today. It took 72 days of hard travel before the Grande Ronde valley was reached.

The Palmers, upon arrival, established a temporary home in a cabin situated near the present location of the Robert Eakin place on Walnut street. In a short time Lydia was to become the bride of Ben W. Grandy, who pre-empted 160 acres that lay to the north of the then settlement known as La Grande—now Old Town, a part of the city's residential district. It was in 1875 that the Grandys built their home.

Mr. Grandy for many years, besides his ranch duties, freighted across the mountains from La Grande to Umatilla Landing, going through dangers and hardships unheard of today. After the coming of the railroad, however, he devoted his time to business in the city, and to the disposing of his land interests, taking an ever increasing and important place in this city's history.

CORONATION OF QUEEN TO BE BIG EVENT

One of the most colorful and beautiful events of the Semi-Centennial U. P. celebration to be held here this month will be the queen coronation scheduled for the night of Thursday, July 19, at the La Grande stadium.

Rehearsals for the queen coronation will be held during the next week. Included in this pageant will be 250 to 300 school children in festive attire under the supervision of Miss Margerie Horton. The costuming of the children is in charge of Mrs. Geo. Williams, who also has the group of flower girls. This group has an excellent feature dance in addition to its assigned duties as the designated "Lans of Flowers."

The famous La Grande Triad choir under the direction of Mrs. A. L. Richardson, will perform an important part in the coronation services. Other musical attractions will be the Oregon state champion drum corps of La Grande post, American Legion, chairman, John Gerity; the renowned Union Pacific Old Timers band of Ogden, Utah, and the northwest's own band of La

Grande under the direction of Roy Mattoon.

The queen and attendants costumes are under the personal direction of Mrs. Don Rohan.

The coronation as well as other night features on the La Grande stadium will be enacted under an excellent flood light system under the supervision of F. L. Robinson and Miss T. Whaley. A colored light scheme will also be used. Of great assistance will be the loud speaker system handled entirely by H. E. Dixon.

Properties are in charge of Don Rohan, chairman. Harley Richardson is designing and building the queen's float.

The script covering the pageant was written by Miss Kate Houx and Mrs. C. C. Long and is being hailed as a masterpiece.

The general assembly of the coronation will be directed by Mrs. J. B. McLaughlin, while Mrs. J. P. Corbett, as general chairman of the entire queen's coronation, holds the distinction of supervision over one of the most outstanding features of the celebration.

All chairmen have their parts well under control, all participants are prepared and the public will witness an elaborate event in the history of the west, it was said.

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT TO BE CELEBRATION EVENT

Details of the horseshoe tournament, one of the sports events of the Semi-Centennial U. P. celebration next week, have been announced by J. B. Smith, president of the La Grande Horseshoe club and chairman of the events for the celebration tournament.

Elimination contests will be held on the 19th and 20th, with an entrance fee of 50c charged for each person entering the contest. All contestants will pitch 100 shoes to qualify for the final tournament which will be held on Saturday, July 21. The entrance fee for the final contest will be \$1.00 per person and the 15 highest men in the elimination con-

test will pitch a round robin for the prize money which is being offered.

The only persons barred from this tournament are agents, salesmen, or any representative of any horseshoe company. All pitchers who qualify for the final tournament will receive prize money, the minimum prize being \$1.50 and this amount will reimburse entrants for their fees for both contests.

The fifteen prizes will be awarded as follows: 1st, \$30.00; 2nd, \$20.00; 3rd, \$15.00; 4th, \$4.75; 5th, \$4.00; 6th, \$3.75; 7th, \$3.50; 8th, \$3.25; 9th, \$3.00; 10th, \$2.75; 11th, \$2.50; 12th, \$2.25; 13th, \$2.00; 14th, \$1.75; 15th, \$1.50.

J. E. REYNOLDS HAS LIST OF PASSENGERS

Passengers wanted! President J. E. Reynolds of the Sons and Daughters of Union County Pioneers association is making up a passenger list for the special train which is to pull into La Grande from Island City on the morning of July 19 as the opening feature of the U. P. Semi-Centennial celebration. More names are to be put on the list, for the train will accommodate 38 passengers and the Hon. Dunham Wright, sage of Medical Springs, Union county's most outstanding pioneer and president of the county pioneer association, will be passenger No. 1. Reynolds is very anxious to complete the list which when finished, will have the name of one representative from each of the prominent pioneer families of Union county. The Observer is asking such representatives to get in touch with Mr. Reynolds at once if they have not done so already.

Also, Mr. Reynolds is asking for 100 per cent cooperation for the great pioneer parade which comes immediately after the speaking. He is asking that all the citizens of the county who will do so, come on the morning of the 19th attired in the prevailing fashions of the '80's—this is for the valley as well as for La Grande. Then valley families are wanted for the parade, families or representatives of families who will come in some horse-drawn vehicle to join the parade

and help make it one of the striking features of the three-day celebration.

The Pioneer train leaves Island City at 9 o'clock. All aboard!

FRIDAY MORN PARADE WILL BE BIG SHOW

Although the Semi-Centennial U. P. celebration committee has not yet divulged full details, it was stated today that the jubilee parade, to be held at 9:30 a. m. on July 20, would be beyond question the greatest and most colorful procession ever staged in La Grande.

Scores of floats, organizations,

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HOME BUILDING
Thirty-one residences were constructed in La Grande last year. A glance at the column of improvements during the last year will indicate how much advancement has been made in this class of improvement.—La Grande Gazette, Dec. 26, 1899.

Miss Maude Durbin, formerly residing in La Grande and a gifted elocutionist, has been engaged to appear with Madame Modjeska.—La Grande Gazette, Oct. 21, 1892.

Mrs. James Hendershott, of the Cove, is visiting with her daughter, Mrs. J. B. Eaton.—La Grande Chronicle, May 17, 1893.



Back in the Days When--

THE horse and buggy was still a popular means of "comin' to town" and the public square was naked without its hitching posts, the name J. C. Penney was already commencing on the tongues of folks and becoming a household word for value and economy in matters of apparel and home furnishing. Today, through the years, the J. C. Penney Co., has grown and expanded along that same strict adherence to the Golden Rule that made its early success so immediate and popular . . . a policy of square dealing and customer satisfaction always paramount.

Founded in 1902 at the Union Pacific coal mining town of Kemmerer, Wyo., there are 1487 J. C. Penney Co. stores over the United States today—the world's largest chain department store organization.

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