

# DUNHAM WRIGHT TELLS OF FIRST FLAG RAISING

Old Glory Made in 1863  
By Mrs. Hendershott  
And Mrs. Lewis.

The story of the making and raising of the first flag in Union county is one of the stories the oldest pioneers like to repeat. It was a long time ago, July 4th, 1863, and Dunham Wright interestingly tells the history of this particular banner:

These photographs are the pictures of the two pioneer women who made the first American flag which was unfurled to the breeze on the Fourth of July, 1863, at the town of Union. Our country at that time was in the throes of the Civil war, when father was armed against son and brother against brother. These two patriotic women were loyal to the preservation of our Union and felt that the flag of our country should be unfurled on Liberty's day in the sparsely settled county of Baker, the county having derived its name from the gallant officer who fell in the battle at Ball's Bluffs while leading his army in deadly conflict. The county of Baker then embraced all that territory in Oregon lying east of the Blue mountains, and which now includes Malheur, Baker, Union and Wallowa counties.

There was no material in the little stores of our country in that day, suitable for making an American flag. So what were these two patriotic women to do to gratify their ambition? True to the unyielding spirit of the pioneer, Mrs. Hendershott remembered that she had carefully laid away as a very dear keepsake, a beautiful red dress which had belonged to a deceased daughter. She wisely decided that it could be used to no better purpose than to form the red stripes of the flag of our country. So this mother cut up this precious treasure into strips and pieced them by hand to take their place in the contemplated flag.

Mrs. Lewis contributed a beautiful white linen sheet for the white stripes and the 13 stars. Whence was the blue field to come? That was the great worry. Here is where more real pioneer headwork was used. Mrs. Hendershott remembered having seen the 16-year-old daughter of the local minister pass her home at different times, riding horseback with a long, flowing riding habit, the real pride of a girl's life of that age. Could it be possible that she might be persuaded to part with enough of that beautiful skirt to make the blue field? She was told of the sacrifice that Mrs. Hendershott had made in cutting up the red dress that had been laid away as a keepsake in remembrance of her daughter and how necessary it was to the government for the preservation of the Union by unfurling the Stars and Stripes on Liberty's day in this far-off, isolated country at that particular time. To the appeals of this argument, the loyalty of that 16-year-old girl proved equal. The big undertaking of obtaining the cloth from which to make the first flag was completed.

The flag was made, and made by hand just as Betsy Ross made the first flag of our country. The stars were placed on the blue field in Betsy Ross fashion, with all the meaning they conveyed. These women were just as brave and loyal as the men. Their love of country was just as great.

The two women were Mrs. Hendershott, the wife of the Hon. James Hendershott, who lived at Hendershott's Point near the Cove. Mrs. Lewis was the wife of E. H. Lewis, of Union. The Lewis homestead is a part of the town plot of Union, the fine Union hotel being built on the site of the little homestead log cabin. The 16-year-old girl was Miss Martha Koger, daughter of Uncle Billy Koger, of Cove, later marrying David Clark and moving to Eagle Valley. They were all real early settlers of the Grande Ronde valley of the year, 1862. They have all now answered the final summons.

**O. R. & N. SHOPS BUSY**

Two engines on this division of the U. P. were sent to Albina last week to be completely overhauled. On account of the rush of work at the shops in La Grande these engines could not be repaired.—La Grande Chronicle, May 17, 1893.

**FROM UNION**

Dr. Deering, of Union, visited La Grande Monday.—La Grande Chronicle, May 18, 1893.

**MAKERS OF FIRST FLAG HERE**



Mrs. Harriet Hendershott, early pioneer of Union county, who with Mrs. Harriett Lewis (insert) made the first flag to be unfurled to the breeze in Union county. The flag was made for Fourth of July, 1863, just 71 years ago.

**FIRST BANK  
HERE FORMED  
IN YEAR 1887**

The La Grande National bank, in existence until a few years ago when its assets were used in the formation of the present First National Bank of La Grande, was the pioneer bank of La Grande, being organized in the year 1887. Seven directors were elected to the first board, including M. Baker, M. F. Honan, H. Anson, R.

J. Rogers, J. Steel, J. Lowenberg and W. H. McDonald. The bank had 32 stockholders to start with, among them Sam Williamson, W. G. Snodgrass, A. C. Huntington, P. A. Mahaffey, Dan Sommer, James D. Slater, J. K. Romig, Charles Goodnough, Aaron Sommer, H. W. Corbett, Henry Failing and Ben Selling.

The La Grande National, however, was not the oldest in the county as W. T. Wright organized the First National Bank of Union one year previous.



**All Hail to The  
Pioneers Who  
Built La Grande -**

Those of the Early  
Wagon Days, and—  
Those of the Early  
Railroad Days.

They were a hardy lot — folks of great faith and vision. And we are proud to say that our family was among them, coming to the Grande Ronde valley in 1876. This town and valley has always been our home—we want no other — and we appreciate the patronage that allows us to remain here and progress as the community advances.

**CHAS. H. REYNOLDS**

INSURANCE and LOANS  
Sommer Hotel Bldg.

**THIS VALLEY'S SOIL IDEAL FOR  
APPLES, CHERRIES, PRUNES**

As a fruit center, La Grande and Union county rank among the leading districts in the state, especially in regard to apples, cherries, and prunes. Other fruits also are raised in appreciable quantities, but these three are the biggest money makers for the orchardists, and their quality is always high.

Cove and Union are the centers of the cherry industry, annually shipping scores of carloads of both Royal Annes and black varieties to coast and interior markets. Present indications are that this year's crop brought nearly \$50,000 to the growers, and during times of high prices, the cherry industry is one of the most valuable in the county.

Apples, of quality that demand high prices in Europe, are raised

throughout the valley, with the bulk of them produced in the Elgin and Imbler territories, where 300 to 400 carloads are shipped annually. Winter Bananas, Rome Beauties and Delicious perhaps form the chief crop, and a crop failure in apples is simply unknown in the Grande Ronde valley. Year after year bumper or near bumper crops are harvested.

Hundreds of acres of prune orchards dot the valley, particularly in the Cove and Union sections, and an excellent quality fruit is produced here, of which a large part is shipped to outside points, much of it for drying.

In addition to these fruits, Union county produces many varieties of peaches, pears, apricots, besides a sprinkling of other fruits,



At First — A Luxurious  
Convenience — Now

**A Modern Day  
Necessity--**

In Every Home

WHEN telephone exchanges were first installed — crude in equipment and limited in service facilities—a telephone was looked upon as a luxurious convenience available only to a few. Progress to modern ways of living have changed it from a convenience to a necessity. Business today would be dwarfed without the modern telephone; homes would be isolated and inconvenience would be multiplied. To be deprived of it would mean stepping backward a complete generation.

THROUGHOUT Union and Wallowa counties from a modest beginning in the early days, the West Coast Telephone company has built an enviable system and service unexcelled anywhere in the Northwest. All old equipment has long since been discarded. Improvements are being made constantly. No development in the direction of better service for our patrons has been overlooked. Service and technical staffs are constantly schooled in the newest efficiency practices.

OUR system and our organization is pledged wholeheartedly to a service for and in perfect keeping with the growth and progress of Union and Wallowa counties in which we operate.

**WEST COAST  
TELEPHONE  
COMPANY**

FRED HENNING, Mgr.