

MRS. WILLIAMS FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN NEW TOWN

Her Birth Same Day As Arrival of First Railroad Pay Car.

Mrs. Nell Grandy Williams was born on the day that the first "pay car" came into La Grande after the railroad had come through more than two months before. She was the daughter of Ben Grandy and Lydia Palmer Grandy and was born on Sept. 16, 1884. Mrs. Williams has the distinction of being the first child born after the railroad arrived, in other words, the first child to be born in the new town of La Grande. "Don't let anyone get the impression that I claim to be the first white child born in La Grande, for I wasn't," emphatically states Mrs. Williams. "I was the first child born in the new town."

The "pay car" which arrived on that day was the car on which the money was brought to pay the men, in cash, for their work from the time the railroad began its runs through the Grande Ronde valley. This was, of course, vastly different from the method of paying by check that is used today, as all the men in those days were paid in cash and had to be at the car in order to get their money. Of course that was a big day, and the men all gathered at the station when the "pay car" arrived and all the tracks were cleared for this train on its regular trips through this section.

Mrs. Williams mother, Mrs. Lydia Grandy, who still makes her home here, ran a boarding house for the railroaders for a short time before the hotel could be built to take care of the needs of the many men who came into La Grande immediately after the coming of the railroad. This house was located, as has been stated before, on the present site of the La Grande hotel, where Mrs. Grandy resided for 50 years. Many of the first railroaders on the early trains still call to visit Mrs. Grandy, remembering the times when they would have had to go up on the hill, a mile from the railroad station for their meals, had it not been for the fact that Mrs. Grandy had opened her home to them, until

such a time as a hotel could be built to house the workers.

"The town, of course, grew rapidly after the coming of the train," said Mrs. Williams, "and many of the stories which are now told by the early settlers I can remember as having happened when I was a small girl."

"I think the most thrilling of all my experiences was to have seen, in print, upon a visit to the Smithsonian Institute several years ago, the names of my grandfather and grandmother, Robert H. Palmer and Hannah Palmer, in the list of the passengers who made the first trip on the very first train which ever made a run in the United States. This was at Philadelphia and I had always heard that it was so, but until I saw their names in print in a newspaper which is preserved under a glass case at the institute, I did not realize the full significance of the fact that it was my grandparents who were on that trip."

Other "firsts" in the Grandy family (of which there are many if they could all be brought to light) was the fact that Ben Grandy, father of Mrs. Williams, was the first mayor of the city of La Grande.

Much more could be written regarding the Palmer, Grandy, Harding, Williams and other families, if space permitted going into sufficient details, but some of these things give us who are living today, an idea of the importance of these sturdy pioneers having "carried on," as they did, in spite of hardships.

BEAUTIFUL BUILDING

The Eastern Oregon Normal school, erected here in 1920, is one of the most beautiful of state-owned structures. It is of Italian Renaissance architecture and leading to the building, which is located 42 feet above the street, is a grand stairway 150 feet in length.

A customer left a wrapped stick of dynamite with a box of macaroni in a New York store and failed to return for it.

MONUMENT TO PIONEERS



The above pictured monument to the memory of Eastern Oregon pioneers was dedicated at Emigrant Springs, high in the Blue Mountains, in the summer of 1923 when President Warren G. Harding attended the Old Oregon Trail celebration at the Top-o-the-Blue Mountains.

EAST OREGON NET TOURNAMENT IS SCHEDULED

Tennis enthusiasts will have an opportunity to see some high class playing here during the Semi-centennial U. P. celebration here, when a number of outstanding racketeers will engage in an Eastern Oregon tournament, to be held from Thursday to Sunday, inclusive. It is open to all who wish to enter, and already players are signed up from The Dalles, Portland, Walla Walla, North Powder and Boise, besides La Grande players. Staff competition is expected throughout.

Drawings for places are to be held next Tuesday evening.

The tournament will include men's and women's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles, and an entrance fee will be charged. Application should be made with Roy Nelson or Shrimp Reynolds.

Players already entered include Elwood Cooke, Mr. Stevens, and Mrs. Leella Starr, of Portland; Dick Crane, The Dalles; Jack Ahearn, Walla Walla; Lyle Wilson, Imbler, and others. Entrants also are expected from Salt Lake, Ogden and possibly other cities along the U.P. mainline.

POPULATION HERE 8050

La Grande is the largest city in Eastern Oregon east of Bend, with a population within the city limits of 8050, according to the 1930 government census. Counting in territory immediately adjacent to the limits but actually a part of La Grande, the population runs well over 9000.

22 MILES OF PAVEMENT

La Grande has approximately 22 miles of paved streets, much of which were put in during the period from 1923 to 1930.

EARLY HARVESTING OF WHEAT TOOK MUCH WORK

Pioneers tell of the early days of wheat harvesting in Union county, fifth largest producer of the golden grain in Oregon, and which is to reap a crop of 1,000,000 bushels this year, and it is difficult to reconcile the early stories with the modern methods in use today.

In historical files here are an account of George Gray, one of the earliest pioneers, which tells how he and his brother took two plough shares, had them sharpened at an expenditure of 50 cents all told, used them to pre-

pare the soil into which they planted their wheat by hand; later to cut it by hand, threshed it by hand on the cleaned corral floor, and realized a crop amounting to 1000 bushels with no more actual outgo of money than the 50 cents. That was in the early 60s.

That was the beginning, but as the decades passed, modern and more modern developments occurred, until today wheat growing and harvesting in this county—as in other wheat countries—is a precise science, with machinery playing an all important part in the process of sowing-to-milling.



"Oh, Tell Me Pretty Maiden"

... sang Steve as he cocked his pasteboard derby at a 45 degree angle and leaned into his standard size collar to give the gals who bustled by an "eyeful and a once over."

... But if Steve were standing on our corner at Elm and Adams today, he'd get an eyeful of something in our windows that would soon take the thoughts of the gals right out of his mind... Fishing rods and tackle... guns... sporting goods and what nots for hours of real fun and pleasure... he'd be off to the hills and streams and far away.

ROY FARNAM

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1302 Adams Ave.



The Pioneers Knew a Good Place When They Picked La Grande —

THE MELVILLES FIRST CAME HERE 44 YEARS AGO AND WE HAVE NEVER HAD CAUSE TO REGRET THAT WE DID — WE ARE PROUD OF LA GRANDE

WE entered into business a short time later and we are proud too, that our firm today is one of the oldest operating under the same management since its inception in the city of La Grande. From a small beginning, we have progressed with the community and now, in our own large building, we offer for our successful continued patronage, the finest stocks of...

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