

Crook County Journal.

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NO. 1

WALLOWA LAKE.

One of the Most Remarkable Bodies of Waters.

Its Peculiar Red Fish,

Now Vanished With the Coming of Civilization—Their Great Wisdom.

T. L. Brophy, who was one of the first mining experts to go into Wallowa county, relates many interesting incidents of that marvelous valley, nestled in the arms of snow-capped mountains.

"The Wallowa Lake," said Colonel Brophy, "is the most remarkable body of water I ever saw. It is not large—only one and a half by five miles in extent—and from all appearances, is as deep as it is long in places.

The water is clear as crystal. Dead trees can be seen at a distance of 20 feet beneath the surface and the mountains seem to run down, to the bottom of the lake, at the same incline that it towers thousands of feet above its bosom.

"At the foot of the lake, bursting through the rocky wall that forms the barrier against the gathering waters of the mountain streams, the Wallowa river dashes down into the canyons that prepared a way for it. Clear as its mother lake, rapid and typical in every way of the rugged surroundings that gave it birth, it is the most beautiful stream in the west. The Indians that roamed this country before the settlers came, held Wallowa Lake and river in idolatrous reverence. Legends of the sequestered mountain gem are many and beautiful.

The most curious feature connected with the early history of Wallowa river is the "run" of red fish that came up this stream in the month of August. So far as is known no other stream in the west had a fish so peculiar in color. They were the old chinook salmon painted a bright scarlet. Actually they were so numerous in the early days during the period the "run," that the river was discolored at times with their scarlet tinge. They were the principal food of the Indians, who caught them in large numbers and dried them for winter use. The Indians enjoyed the sport of catching them, immensely. The bucks would ride into the shallow water on their choice ponies, spear in hand. The sportive fish would hesitate, dart here and there, wheel and rush down stream to a secluded place and then timidly steal out and rush for the rapids. The pony of the savage was almost as quick as the game, and it was an exciting sport to spear the Wallowa red fish.

"I have stood on the bank of the Wallowa river, where the dashing torrent of the Minam comes in just above the old wagon bridge, on the Wallowa road, leading in from Elgin, and watched for hours the almost human knowledge of this wonderful fish. The great scarlet "school," thousands in number, would halt at the confluence of the Minam, with the precision of an army. Four or five monstrous old fellows would then go in advance of the school, cautiously exploring the tumbling current of the Minam. They would dodge swiftly among the great boulders, like scouts behind trees in a forest, and explore every nook and corner of the stream. After a few moments of this exploration, they would dash back to the waiting host. Meanwhile the great school stood still as soldiers at rest. Not a fish moved up the Wallowa river, or showed

any signs of proceeding on the journey, until the scouts returned. Upon returning to the main body, the great fish held a hurried consultation and then the army moved. The leaders went in advance, as before, and not a stragler left the school.

"It was the most remarkable proceeding I ever saw, outside of human action. The Minam had no suitable spawning ground and the fish knew it. They were bound for the great sand beaches of the Wallowa lake, where the spawn was deposited, that the race might be perpetuated.

"But settlement has banished the red fish. For ten years there has not been one lone survivor of this pioneer fish in the Wallowa river. The dams in the river, the irrigation ditches and many other causes have united in his extermination. He has gone with the trapper, the pinto Indian cayuse and the old stage coach into the legend and tradition of the west."

Willow Creek Items.

A Christmas entertainment and tree enjoyment is expected here.

The community was made to mourn by the sudden death of Mr. James Keenan, Thursday, Dec. 4.

Mr. Woods was up from Hay creek visiting with the families of Robert and Cosper Newbill. He expects to return soon.

Visitors to the school this week were: Mrs. C. Montgomery, Mrs. H. Montgomery and son and Mrs. Wm. Joslin.

We have been informed that the Dee and Willey Lumber company has recently been changed to Dee's Lumber Co., the price paid was \$2000.

Mrs. Mary Pitzer, accompanied by Mrs. M. Wheeler, left Monday for an extended visit in Idaho and Washington.

Master George Hamilton who has been out of school for several weeks on account of sickness is said to be much improved. Good for you George we'll gladly welcome you back.

School is still in progress with 43 pupils enrolled and a daily attendance of 37. Willow creek, we are told by superintendent Boegli, is the largest country school in the county.

The following were absent at different times last week: Ethel and Stella Newbill, Earl Crain, Roy Chitwood, Albert Cubit, Willie Jamerson, Charley Auer and Warren Waurensky.

Union Sunday School has been organized, to be held in the school building. The following officers were elected: Superintendent, J. Everett Edwards; assistant superintendent, Mrs. J. Archibald; secretary, Miss Anna Quinn.

Rev. Clark delivered an interesting and profitable sermon, at the Willow creek school house Sunday, Dec. 7. Subject, "His gentleness made me great." We expect another feast and uplift spiritually presented by Rev. Childs on Sunday next, Dec. 14.

The school building caught on fire Thursday and would have, no doubt proved serious had it not been for the heroism of Joe Montgomery and Wm. Roberts who noticed the fire and informed the occupants of their danger. The flames were soon extinguished before much serious damage was done.

THE WILLOW CREEK SCHOOL.

The Oregon Semi-Weekly Journal, a Democratic newspaper, ever fair and always free; 154 copies in one year for only \$1.50 to any address. The Journal, P. O. Box 123, Portland, Or.

RUMORS ARE RIFE.

Is Corvallis and Eastern In the Scheme?

Some Say That It Is.

Work is Now Being Done in The Malheur Country on The C. & E. Survey.

A dispatch from Vale in eastern Oregon, where the eastern terminus of the C. & E. would hit the Oregon Short Line, gives some railroad building rumors as follows.

The Vale people have awakened to the realization that a quiet little piece of railroad building is about to be done right here at home. A number of surveyors have been running out lines and setting grade stakes between here and Nyssa. Nyssa is a little town on the Short Line, 15 miles east of Vale. No one seems to be able to tell just what is going to be done. The surveyors are going ahead with their work and saying nothing. The bridge foundation has been surveyed and grade stakes are being set. The five acre lot given to some one by the city is prominent in the evidence that we are to have a road, but to whom it has been given or just when work is to done on it is as yet unknown.

Vale is on the survey for the famous through line of eastern Oregon, of which so much has been said of late years, and the people here are reluctant now to believe that at last they are to be connected with the world at large. The through line would cross at Nyssa and thence pass out through the canyon in the direction of Butte, leaving Boise to the south. That this line is to be builded before many years is doubtless true, and Vale is now waging on its early materialization. Hope Bros., who are taking a strong part in the present maneuvers, state that their plans are not public property, and that Vale is to have a road in the very early spring.

Some are of the opinion that this Vale road is in fact a part of the Hammond scheme for the extension of the C. & E. to an eastern terminus. The reason given for the commencing the work at Vale instead of at Detroit is the fact that several other roads are now looking over eastern Oregon with a view of entering that field and to head these off it is necessary to start operations at once and get a firm hold on that country. What there is in these rumors is hard to tell. These do not come from the railroad people, however.

Is a Railroad Essential to the Prosperity and Permanence of Prineville?

Mr. Editor:—

In your last weeks Journal, I pointed out some things that I deem quite essential to the prosperity and permanence of our city. May I not mention one other matter in this connection that seems within easy reach of our people and which I am sure your neighbors and mine will agree with us in desiring and perhaps its advent is not far hence?

How would it strike you to have a central institution or building in which we shall have parlors fitted up with reading material, books, stationery, games of an innocent nature, with bath rooms and athletic sports in the basement for young men and boys to resort to at certain hours? Then let there be parlors for women young and old, and other rooms where a kindergarten can be maintained certain

hours in the week. Let there be a room where people coming from the country can resort to and make their toilet, warm the baby etc. Let there be a generously appointed auditorium and a pastor's study and let this institutional church run seven days in the week, and let each of these features be a part of its business to maintain and promote. I have always had it in my heart to build and maintain just such a church and I wish that we might see it made possible here in Prineville.

It seems to me that such an institution would commend itself to all from a business, as well as from a practically religious standpoint.

It would from the start be an advertisement that would go out into the earth in favor of the place and people who would provide such a practical religion for their town. I am confident that it would draw and retain an opulent and desirable class of people who in turn would produce a wealth and conditions for our city, that would make it both permanent and prosperous. Such an institution will yield a hundred per cent on the investment, for the town, each year.

Friends and neighbors, give me such a church and help me to maintain it on a basis of primitive Christianity and I will promise you that it shall be like a powerful magnet to draw the best things to Prineville. Even the R'y's. will come and nothing that is desirable will be wanting.

A few thousand dollars will build it and there are people right in our city who doubtless will be willing to make it their monument—at least to bear certain departments in their own, or departed friends names. Could we put money in a more laudable or more useful or safe investment? If so, I do not know where or how. I am here in behalf of a practical and a unifying christianity, one that is no less than the Kingdom of God, established by our common Lord who said; "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." May we not give it a practical test in our town at this time? Anyone desirous of talking further on this proposition will find me at their service.

E. A. CHILDS.

Paulina Pointers.

Cold and frosty nights and stockmen are complaining about poor stock.

Uncle Tommy Powell has bought up a lot of fine cattle.

The Prineville-Burns stages make good time now and it makes the post master get a ten cent move on to take care of the mail.

There will be a dance at Paulina in the hall on the evening of the 25th. Be sure and bring your lunch basket well filled.

Miss Bessie Anderson left here a few days ago to visit with friends and relatives in the county seat.

A number of our inhabitants are wishing for a spell of good weather so they can go to town.

Mark Hanna was thought to be lost the other day, but he turned up all right in his usual good humor.

The French still keep coming to Crook county. The eastern part of the county will soon be a French colony.

Messrs. Clark and Miller have moved into their new residences and are settled for the winter.

ROSE LEAF.

Subscribe for the JOURNAL.

NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

Items of Interest Gathered Here and There

Some Stolen, Others Not

Cullings From Our Exchanges—News Notes of the Week—Timely Topics.

It is expected that as a rule man will stand up for woman, but he won't always do so in the street-cars.

Sir Thomas Lipton thinks Shamrock III is sure to win. So he thought with numbers I and II; but the third time might be a winner for him.

John L. Sullivan has filed a petition in bankruptcy in which he gives his liabilities at \$2568 and his assets at \$60 worth of wearing apparel. How did he get the clothes?

John W. Gates says he has smoked almost continually ever since he came into the world. If some people could have their wish gratified, he would smoke a long time after leaving it.

If Germany sends over a few more war vessels she will surely be able to do up the Venezuela Navy, which consists of a converted ferry-boat, or something of that sort.

A woman who just died was 123 years old. At least so she said. Of course she was a negress, and besides she lived in Kansas. She might as well have made it three years more and claimed to be a twin to Uncle Sam.

A Montana Justice of the Peace has sent three County Commissioners and their clerk to jail and fined them \$50 each. Now if some higher authority would serve him likewise, and the good work can be carried on, clear to the top, Montana might become quite a respectable state.

A fellow-servant law is to be introduced at the coming session of the Legislature. This will be of especial interest to the members of labor unions. Efforts have been made in the past for such a law, with but indifferent success. The proposed bill is to be presented by a member of the Multnomah delegation.

The Oregon Daily Journal published at Portland, has certainly come to stay, since the management has arranged to put in, within the next 60 days, one of the latest pattern Hoe perfecting presses, with a capacity of 24,000 twelve-page papers an hour.

The Indian hunter is proud of his belt of scalps, the German General with the thought of his stars or medals, the Chinaman is delighted with great length of pig tail, but even these are out-done by most of our fashion girls who endure a world of torture to resemble a peg top with a head on it.

In a certain town in Indiana a big factory is running night and day grinding corncocks and shipping the meal—somewhere. In another Indiana town another industrial concern is manufacturing and sending out over the country great quantities of a "health breakfast food." But who knows but ground corncocks is healthful as a morning filler?

A pretty good story comes to us about a Burns lady, who being "all alone" in this world and presumably troubled with cold feet, one night last week took an incandescent light to bed with her to keep her feet warm. To demonstrate that it was not so cold, it burned a large hole in the bed

clothes and may possibly have done further damage if it had not been discovered in time.—Burns Items.

The city election Monday passed off very quietly. There was no scramble for office and but little strife among candidates. The vote resulted as follows: Mayor, L. N. Liggett, 55; W. R. McFarland, 66; Councilmen, C. M. Elkins 75, Fred Lehman 118, F. W. Wilson 119, A. H. Lippman 47; Recorder, M. R. Biggs 98; Marshal, Harrington 98, Chors 16; Treas., J. L. McCulloch 96.

The Appellate Court of Kentucky has granted a new trial in the case of Caleb Powers, one of the men convicted of the murder of Governor Goebel, on the ground that the trial Judge was prejudiced against the defendant. This is certainly an act of justice, for the prejudice of the trial Judge against the accused was manifest to any impartial reader of the proceedings. It is probable that Powers was in the conspiracy to kill Goebel, but that was no excuse for the Judge's prejudice.—Telegram.

The Lake country in Oregon, embracing Klamath and Lake counties, is one of the few remaining spots on earth where rapid growth and quick rise in values will make fortunes for investors in a short time. To its present condition it has developed slowly, but the introduction of railroads, now coming, places the country on the eve of a gigantic growth, says the Klamath Republican. A few more cities will yet be built in the United States and those who have reason to express themselves declare that Klamath Falls will be among the few.

Last week at Baker city Frank Wallace, of Grant county, was on trial for stealing sheep from Frank Durbin, of Antelope, and was acquitted. About three months ago Mr. Durbin was holding a lot of thoroughbred rams in the O. R. & N. stock yards at Baker City for sale. One night a number of them were spirited away. A few days later the sheep were found in possession of Wallace and it was thought he was the thief. On trial he was able to prove that he bought the sheep giving a check in payment therefor.

Sheriff B. B. Colbath has served papers on George W. Hays, who is a prisoner in the State Penitentiary, citing him to appear before the Supreme Court of the state on January 5th, and show cause why he should not be disbarred as an attorney of the state. Hays was received at the State Penitentiary from Harney county a few weeks ago under a sentence of one year, having been convicted of the crime of adultery. At the time of his conviction Hays was a practicing attorney of Harney county.

Recently an individual appeared in Sumpter who desired to purchase anything from a recently located wild cat to the North Pole, which is valued at \$10,000,000. After looking around for a time he was induced to go out and look at a group of claims which were for sale. A pair of German socks and overshoes were necessary to make the trip with comfort in the deep snow. The party decided not to take the claims and was ready to move on to the next camp so he began to make inquiries about a second hand store where he could, for a consideration, unload his recently purchased foot gear. After canvassing the town in search of a buyer he left for Baker City. Some of the boys made up a purse and telegraphed his representative of millions that they would make up his loss on the shoes and socks if he would kindly wire them how much he was out.—Miner.