

Lines of Travel.

The O. & C. stages leave Ashland as follows: Going north, at 7 A. M.; going south, at 6 P. M.

LOCAL BRIEFITIES.

Haying about over. Blackberries blackening. Peas and early apples are ripening.

John McConary came in from Lake county last Sunday.

The youth of Yreka have organized an anti-tobacco society.

Mr. A. J. Daley, of Butte creek, was in Ashland this week.

Sheriff Bybee's deputies are busy collecting delinquent taxes.

W. A. Wilshire came in from Kean creek Wednesday evening.

J. S. Eubanks now has one of the prettiest homes in Ashland.

G. B. Van Riper has charge of Handy & Roberts' store at Bonanza.

Mr. L. B. Low brought us the big turning of the season the other day.

R. Buckmaster, of Bonanza, is building a barn which will cost \$1,000.

The hills are looking better under the warm caresses of the scorching sun.

Mr. H. Ammerman, of Bear creek, made us a pleasant call Saturday.

L. Haseman has just brought one hundred hooded sheep into Siskiyou county.

Rev. W. T. Chapman is expected to return from Lake county by next Sunday.

Livery business is lively on Sunday. Phillips' rigs are all on the road on that day.

McCabe, Fox & Guerin are about ready to apply the match to their first kiln of brick.

Miss Mary Layton, of Applegate, is visiting Ashland as the guest of Mrs. J. R. Tozer.

The planking of the sidewalk where the mill race crosses Main street is badly out of repair.

J. Wimer has taken charge of the Waldo hotel, and is greatly improving it by repairs.

In the San Francisco market choice Oregon wool is quoted at 29 to 25 cents per pound.

Holt's new hotel building in Jacksonville will be ready for the roof sometime next month.

The rain storm at Linkville last Saturday week was one of the heaviest ever known there.

C. Stow came in from Lake county last Wednesday. He is working for Mr. Phillips on the stage line.

Read under "Special Notices" the call for bids upon the contract for building the hall for the Old Fellows.

S. A. Scott has removed with his family from Yreka to Lakewick, where he will teach the public school.

Rev. M. A. Williams will preach in the Presbyterian church next Sunday morning at the usual hour.

C. Sperry has gone to Linkville again; to attend to the brick and stone masonry work of that neighborhood.

C. W. Savage will give the supper at the Old Fellow's celebration in Jacksonville on the 19th of August.

A good skin dresser is wanted at the Ashland glove factory. Apply to J. B. R. Hutchings, Ashland, Ogn.

Wm. Porell is again clerking at McColl & Barnis'. L. E. Willis is helping them take an invoice of stock.

Al. Penock has started across the country to The Dalles with a band of horses collected in Siskiyou county.

The Democratic convention of Siskiyou county will be held on the 1st of August; the Republican convention, on the 4th.

In Douglas county M. E. Pogue, E. E. Labrie and Miss Inez Hamilton have been awarded scholarships in the State University.

Dr. J. M. Taylor has left for the Umpqua valley, with the intention of making a trip to Eastern Oregon before his return to Ashland.

French & Glenn sold recently 12,000 head of cattle which had been ranging in the Stein mountain country. The cattle will be driven to Nevada.

Major J. B. Keefe, from Fort Walla Walla, passed through Ashland last week with the last quarter's pay for the boys in blue at Fort Klammath.

At the recent teachers' examination in Malheur county, all the applicants for certificates, five in number, gave up the contest on the first day's trial.

Those of our Ashland subscribers who have not yet paid up on volume fourth of the Tidings can have a receipt at any time upon presenting \$2.50.

The U. S. board of engineers were expected to reach Crescent City the first of this week on their tour of inspection for the location of the harbor of refuge.

The Malheur Independent comes to hand with a new heading and otherwise very much improved in appearance, under the new management of W. F. Edwards.

Hunters and sportsmen would do well to examine the stock of fine repeating rifles at C. K. Klum's before making purchases. Mr. Klum keeps a full line of cartridges of all sizes and descriptions.

G. W. Wilshire is laying an iron water pipe from the ditch to his dwelling house. H. Fox also has replaced the wooden pipe leading to his house with an iron pipe.

Messrs. Farlow & DePeatt brought in the carcasses of three deer from Butte creek last Saturday. They claim to have found the best soda spring in the United States.

Houck is making improvements about the Ashland House which greatly improve the appearance of the hotel. The fences are whitened and the sidewalks and gutters repaired.

Harry Crandall, who was in Ashland two or three years ago, took part in a three mile pedestrian contest for a diamond belt in San Francisco recently, and was beaten only a short distance.

The Yreka Journal says: "The work of framing the new flour mill at Little Shaasta, is now progressing rapidly, under the supervision of an experienced millwright from Ashland, named Wells."

There will be preaching in the grove near Tozer & Daley's mill next Sunday morning by Rev. Geo. Nutley. Theme, "The Model Resolve." Services begin at 11 o'clock. All are invited to attend.

The Sentinel reports that a horse fell through the Wagner creek bridge last Saturday, but luckily escaped without injury. The county may be saved a bill of costs by a little attention at this point.

On one of the bushes in Dr. Royal's yard is a dahlia which is perfectly double—not merely very full, but having two calyxes joined together, back to back, and making a flower with a double face.

The place to find bargains in dry goods, fancy goods, groceries, and everything else, is at Butler & Rockfellow's. They will sell you one of the best sewing machines in the market at an astonishingly low price.

Allford & Bell are now threshing in this neighborhood. They run two headers with their threshers, and will clean about a thousand bushels of grain per day. They began on Jas. Woodson's oats field last Monday.

Mr. Turner, editor of the Jacksonville Sentinel, has gone to San Francisco to undergo an operation for the removal of a cataract from the eye, which now makes him almost blind. He will be gone from home about a month.

Mr. Waldron, whom we mentioned a few weeks since as very ill and in destitute circumstances, has almost entirely recovered his health, and expresses himself as very grateful for care and assistance given by the people of Ashland.

The Dotten Brothers, of Siskiyou county, have sold their entire herd of cattle, 4,000 head, at \$13 per head, all round. The cattle will be taken to this head of American river, where the parties who bought them have an extensive range.

Says the Reading Independent: As Jimmy Smithson, driver on the C. & O. Stage line, was going up the Sacramento River hill, last Friday, three California lions appeared in the road. Six shots were fired at them by the passengers, without effect.

W. W. Kentnor has received a lot of new stock at his wagon shop, and has more on the way from San Francisco. He has also received a set of patent iron planes, which are a great improvement over the wooden plane and much more convenient in use.

Jas. Helms, of Wagner creek, one day last week took upon trial a new mowing machine from McColl & Barnis'. He had not quite reached home with it when his horses took fright at something in the road, and managed to break both driving wheels of the machine.

C. B. Watson, Esq., of the Lakewick Herald, made us a pleasant call last Friday. He was on his way from Lakewick to Portland to finish up the business of his surveying contract. After spending a day or two with his family at Dr. Chitwood's, he departed for the Willamette.

Morrell's minstrel troupe gave a performance in Houck's Hall last Thursday evening. The attendance was not large, owing to a public lecture being delivered the same evening. After the performance the hall was cleared for dancing, by which a number of Ashland young people participated.

The Jacksonville boys have sent a challenge to the Ashland boys to play a match game of base ball at Jacksonville on the 18th of August, the day of the Old Fellow's celebration. The challenge will not be accepted, we understand, our boys wishing to let base ball cool for awhile.

Mr. O. Olney came in from Lake county and spent a day or two in Ashland last week. His ranch, which is high in the hills, was not missed by the heavy frost of the 5th, and his crops were severely handled, but may amount to something yet, if the remainder of the season be not too capricious.

A Bonanza correspondent of the Herald says: "The Bald Mountain saw mill is a failure. The proprietors of said property contemplate moving it up to the head waters of the Columbia. Lewis & Co's saw mill, also, is a failure. It will probably be removed to the Sacramento river to supply the San Francisco market."

The wooden factory was stopped for a day or two, while the flame back of the Mason's lot was being moved to give room for work on the building. As the mill hands were loafing about town it was thought they were on a strike, but they indignantly protested against any such evil design being ascribed to them.

E. W. Orey and J. W. Woodruff claim to have discovered an extensive and well defined ledge of quartz of marvelous richness in both gold and silver, in the mountains of Douglas county, south of Roseburg. They say: "We followed it for a mile or more and at all the croppings, which we carefully examined, we found it uniformly rich."

B. F. Reeser had two lawn sprinklers sent him last week, and sold them both as soon as they were unpacked. This sprinkler is an ingenious contrivance and very ornamental, as well as useful. It sends the spray of small jets in all directions, and can be moved about anywhere. There are three in town now, belonging to Messrs. Baum, Coolidge and Atkinson.

AT BONANZA.—Our Bonanza correspondent writes that the Fourth was celebrated in a satisfactory manner at Bonanza. There was music, reading of the Declaration of Independence, an oration by Rev. J. H. Mayfield, and a lively dance in the evening, at which forty-four tickets were sold.

No MEAT.—We have heard of a place somewhere in Southern Oregon where "a blamed fool would stumble on more game than he could shoot, while a good hunter would starve to death." This must be over in the Dead Indian country, for Messrs. Coolidge and Tozer were out in that region with their rifles two or three days last week and came quietly slipping into town without any meat.

COOL MEAT ROOM.—Harris & Neil have a meat room in their butcher shop in which the temperature is many degrees cooler during warm days than in the shop outside the room, although no artificial means of cooling the air in the room are used. It is simply enclosed by a double wall of boards filled in with saw dust, and the air, which is cool at night, is kept cool throughout the whole day by the non-conducting walls.

OLD BOOK.—Dr. W. B. Royal has a family bible which lacks but three years of being three hundred years old. It was printed in London, and at the time of its publication must have been a marvel of fine book work. Even now, although the leaves are yellow and worn and the orthography and typography are of a quaint and curious style, now obsolete, it may be easily read. It is highly prized by the doctor as a family relic.

SEWER COMPANIONSHIP.—At Trask's saw mill on the North Umpqua some time ago, says the Independent, two otters were captured. One of them in a short time made its escape and disappeared. The other was turned loose, but instead of running away as did its mate it made friends with the house cat, and now it cannot be driven from the place. When it pleases it goes to the river bank and disports in the water, and afterwards returns to the house, playing with the cat, for which it evinces much affection.

AT THE SPRINGS.—A jolly party of married and unmarried folks went up to the Courtney soda springs for supper last Monday. The spring proprietors for a time entertained fears that it would be drained, but it took a fresh start when the crowd left off drinking to eat supper, and after supper their drinking capacity was somewhat restricted. Whether or not they used an alibiic flavor for the drink, we do not know, but one of the gentlemen of the party was found upon examination to have his pocket full of chicken bones when he reached home.

SALE OF DESKS, ETC.—The desks, stools, stoves, bell, clock, etc., in the academy building, classed as personal property, are advertised for sale by the sheriff on the 2d of August at one o'clock P. M. The sale is to satisfy a judgment held by E. K. Anderson against J. H. Skidmore for the sum of \$539.48 and interest from May 12th, 1879. Whoever may purchase the property in question will certainly do so for the purpose of securing it for the academy, and it is to be hoped that it will be settled with the rest of the academy property so that it cannot be disturbed in the future.

IMPORTANT TO SETTLERS.—The Registers of the various land offices announce that in making final homestead proof, claimants must present their witnesses at the Land office, or if they desire to take advantage of March 3d, 1877, and make the required proof before the judge, or in his absence the clerk of the court, that witnesses, as well as the claimants, must appear before the judge or clerk. In other words, proof of witnesses in final homestead cases cannot be accepted where taken before a notary public or any other officer not authorized by law to take testimony in homestead cases.

MOTHER ROOSTER.—Rather a peculiar freak of the domestic fowl may be seen at the ranch of Joseph Magill in this Valley. Along in the spring a few turkey eggs were set on, for the purpose of hatching, by an old hen, and soon after the little turkeys appeared the mother, while in search of dainty insects to tickle the palates of her little ones, was pounced upon by a coyote and killed. The little turkeys were now left motherless and to the mercy of the wide world and an old rooster, evidently comprehending the situation, considered it his especial duty to mother the little brood, and to feed the little ones. "This he has done since that time, the turkeys feeding lovingly around him during the day and at night crawling under his wings and in every way apparently satisfied with the turn affairs had taken.—Scott Valley News.

WEATHER REPORT.—The following is the weather report for the week ending July 22d, at 6 A. M. and 12 M., furnished us by Mr. H. C. Hill:

Table with columns: DATE, WEATHER, THERMETER. Rows for 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

ASHLAND COLLEGE.

PARTIAL LIST OF CLASSES FOR THE COMING SESSION.

President Rogers furnishes us with the following list of classes to be organized at the opening of the school year, September 15th:

Two divisions in reading and spelling, one in penmanship, two in English grammar and composition, three in written arithmetic—one in higher and two in practical, book-keeping, theoretical and practical, algebra, physiology, mental arithmetic, geography, geometry, ancient history, natural philosophy with experiments, beginning Latin and Caesar, French and German.

The above are selected from the first term studies of preparatory and business departments. Students in college courses will be provided with their regular classes as laid down in the curriculum. A graduating course in music will be arranged, and pupils admitted either as beginners or to advanced grades.

We are pleased to note that practical, yet fundamental, branches are selected. The faculty evidently understand and appreciate the wants of this region, as well as the requirements of the future.

Letter List.

The following is the list of letters remaining in the Ashland post-office, July 23d, 1879:

- Pease, Marshall; Cook, Henry; Cook, Miss Rosetta; Cary, Clinton; Davison, A.; Egan, John C.; Geller, Edward; Howard, Emma; Jackson, J. G.; Johnson, J. W.; Johnson, W. L.; Jones, Charles; Jones, Lydia; Long, Albert; Lowrey, C. P.; M. R. H. L. Milton; McMillin, M.; News, H. O. W.; Paul, J. J. News; Sheld, Joseph F.; Smith, Riley; Tully, Mary C.; Taylor, John and Tillia; Webb, W. A.; Wetlake, W. E.; Williams, A. G.; Wilson, Escher; Wood, John; Wood, Thomas; Brown, Joseph; Clark, Freeman; Cook, Miss Rosa; Davis, James; Hamlin, Miss Eliza; Jackson, L. Mrs.; Johnson, W. L.; Jones, Charles; Jones, O.; Love, Miss L.ura; Mills, Mrs. N.; Myers, Rev. A.; Ocheltree, Sarah; Springer, Mrs. Dec; Taylor, W.; Taylor, John M.; Wiggins, A. G.; Wilson, Escher; Wood, John; Wood, Thomas; A. D. HELMAN, P. M.

Rifle Match at Vancouver.

(From the Oregonian.)

The shooting contest at Vancouver ended Saturday noon. The following is the list of the eight making the highest score out of a possible 150, 15 shots at 200 yards, and 15 shots at 500 yards.

E. P. Wells, 1st sergt., Co H 2d inf., 112
C. A. Homan, corp., Co 1 2d inf., 110
John Wilson, corp., Co M 1st cav., 110
G. W. Dougherty, priv., Co M 1st cav., 108
W. H. Hickey, priv., Co D 2d inf., 106
Maurice Hamlin, priv., Co H 2d inf., 106
R. M. Hickey, 1st sergt., Co D 2d inf., 105
E. Francis, farrier, Co D 1st cav., 104
Average for the eight, 71 3/4 per cent.

Sergeant E. P. Wells receives the medal. The eight men whose names appear in the above list will leave Wednesday morning on the steamer Oregon to compete at Presidio, Cal., with "eights" from the department of Arizona and of California, for places for the international Creedmoor team.

On account of the necessity of returning, the various contestants (both officers and men) departed to their respective posts without delay. A change was made in the programme, and on Saturday evening at "retreat," the full garrison having been ordered out on dress parade, the department commander, Brig. Gen. Howard, presented the medal, with a few appropriate remarks, to the winner.

THE PEACH CURD FUNGUS.—Many of the peach trees in this vicinity were attacked early in the season by a disease of the leaf which injured the foliage greatly. Some were inclined to the opinion that this was caused by aphides, or plant lice, but this is a mistake. We find in the American Agriculturist for July an article upon the subject, from which the following is taken: "The peach curd is caused by a minute fungus, known to science as Taphrina deformans. This parasitic plant makes its appearance in early spring, as soon as the leaves begin to unfold, and causes them to roll and twist until they would scarcely be recognized as leaves. The fungus grows within the tissue of the leaf, the affected portions lose the normal green color, and soon become spongy, and are frequently variegated with red and otherwise highly colored. Often the young stems become enlarged and of a sickly whiteness. All parts affected soon wither, turn black and die. Without going in to the microscopic structure of the fungus, we will say that it is not a distant relative of the Black Knot, and should be treated in the same way. Remove all the affected parts as soon as the fungus appears. To pick off the leaves is not enough; the young branches should be cut away, as they will otherwise produce diseased leaves and serve to propagate the fungus. The work of removing the "curd" is not a difficult one, as it can be easily seen, and is reached in most cases from the ground. The portions cut off should be burned, to prevent the spread of the trouble."

County Court.

The following business has been transacted in this court since our last report: Estate of Jas. A. Stewart, deceased.—Semi-annual exhibit of administratrix filed and approved.

Estate of Jos. Wetterer, deceased.—H. W. Helms, one of the appraisers appointed, resigned, and E. D. Footway was appointed in his stead. Other appraisers were Max Muller and F. Kullb. Fredrick Wetterer appointed executor.

Estate of Thos. G. Dewes, deceased.—John Bolt appointed administrator and Wm. Ray, John O'Brien and C. B. Matney, appraisers.

Estate of Jos. Cox, deceased.—Final statement of M. A. Huston received, and administrator discharged.

In the matter of the guardianship of minor heirs of Minus Walker, deceased, order granted H. F. Barron, guardian, to sell certain personal property of heirs.

Scraps of Southern Oregon History.

Continuation of the Story of the Massacre at the Mouth of Rogue River in the Early Part of the Year 1855.

It is due to the readers of the Tidings that the writer apologize for the break in the narrative which was so abruptly interrupted about three months ago. Circumstances beyond his control prevented the continuance of the story; but hereafter the running narrative of the events and incidents of the Indian hostilities in this section will be published as fast as the available space in the Tidings will allow, without a break, until the end of war is reached.

I shall take you from the camp at the mouth of Applegate down to the Big Meadows; thence to the Big Bend, further down Rogue river, where we shall see the closing scenes of the war. A war that thrust aside forever the last and most formidable barrier that stood in the path of the pioneers who opened the door of the fertile valleys of Rogue river and its tributaries, which to-day are flourishing, rising, teeming with all the progressive improvements and enlightened ideas of the Anglo-Saxon race. Where to-day stand the telegraph poles, and stretch the singing wires—where to-day winds in and out among the foot-hills, or stretches away off yonder over the fertile fields of the valleys, the smooth, hard road—where to-day can be seen the extensive fields of grain, the orchards of fruit trees laden with their annual tributes of healthful food, holding out their full hands and nodding a polite and cheerful welcome to the passer by—where to-day the Truss bridges span the wildly rushing torrents, and near by stands the stately church with its tall spire pointing heavenward—where to-day is reared the school house, the academy, the college, in which is trained the youthful mind in all that ennobles the nature and elevates to a sphere of greatness and prosperity each successive generation, and where stands the showy mansion with all its artificial surroundings, and the beautiful lowly cottage, perched on the brow of a commanding hill, or nestled at the base of a wooded mountain—then (but a quarter of a century ago) lay waste, unexplored, unknown and unappreciated. News was carried in and out by the slow express on muleback. Trails only were known; flour and fruit were packed in to the mines on horses and mules. Rivers and creeks were forded over rocky bottoms and through swift, foaming water. There were no houses of worship and no schools for children. Log cabins on the open plains or on river bars were all the dwellings in use, save now and then a tent or canvas house. Mining was the ultimate object of all; but now and then a feeble attempt was made to cultivate the ground with success far in the future.

It is lay before the rising youth of Southern Oregon a view of the events as they occurred which signified the departure of the Indian inhabitants and the triumph of the whites, which these sketches are written.

When the narrative broke off last, the Southern Oregon volunteers were in camp, and Con. Hillman was telling the boys about the massacre at the mouth of Rogue river and the siege which followed. A crowd had gathered again in front of the tent, and Hillman continued: "I believe I left off where a party of our men with an old horse and cart started up to Big Flat after a load of potatoes. With the person in the lead they struck off up the river, keeping a sharp lookout in every direction, for every thicket was the possible hiding place of the lurking foe. They were unmolested, however, on the way, and soon found themselves at the old cabin where the potatoes were stored. Tying the old horse to one corner of the house some of the men disposed themselves around a hundred yards or so from the building as sentinels, while others went into the cabin and began to load up the cart with the potatoes which were in a small cellar under the house, the opening to which was through the cabin floor. They had as yet seen no Indians, although their tracks were to be seen in all directions. The person stationed himself on an eminence back of, and considerably up the hill above the house, that he might obtain a better and more extended view of the surrounding country. Everything was quiet, too quiet for safety. The silence was depressing, a little stir, a noise, anything—an attack even—would be better than this depressing silence. Where there is noise of shouting, of firing, of rushing to and fro, a continued motion, danger is forgotten, the spirit, the courage rises, suddenly a line of smoke was seen to issue from brush and timber skirting the flat about a hundred and fifty yards distant from the house. All hands rushed to the house for protection behind its walls, while the bullets came flying after and around them. The person stood his ground, or rather sat his ground, for he was ensconced in and behind a ledge of rocks, but at last when he saw that all of his companions had safely arrived at the house, and were calling to him to join them, he darted from his hiding place and strode with hasty strides—

"Bah! We don't want any of that style of sensational nonsense. Straddle! You've been reading Cooper's Leatherstockings, or Deerslayer, or the Prairie Flower, or—"

"No," broke in some one else, "he's been reading the Pirates of the Gulf."

"Nothing of the kind lately," continued Hillman. "I've been reading Blackstone's Commentaries on Common Law and Parsons on Pleading, but I couldn't compare it to anything else but that he strode, etc.; but I'll say he ran like fury towards the house when a spent ball hit him in the back, just as he was raising

one foot from the ground, and sent him forward with his hands and coat tails extended after the fashion of a flying squirrel, which he imitated admirably as he went sailing down the hill to the house, where he was welcomed with a shout and a hurrah.

Shots were exchanged at random between the hostile parties without doing any damage, until it became apparent to the men that they must start for the mouth of the river and fight their way through if necessary, for it would not do to be cooped up in the old house all night, or for any length of time, as the Indians might be only keeping them there with the object of attacking them at the fort below, and after killing them, come back and finish the little party in short order.

Regardless of the Indians' scattering fire, they started back down the river driving the old horse along, with as many potatoes in the cart as the old broken-down animal could pull. Pushing the cart from the rear, and lifting on the wheels whenever the horse stalled, they entered the friendly palisades of the fort a little before sun down without the loss of a man, and with a good supply of potatoes."

Platinum and Iridosmine.

W. D. Walsh writes to the Oregonian: Mr. Edison sent me recently a quantity of carls, on which were pasted specimens of platinum and iridosmine for distribution among the miners of Oregon. He says he will need for his new electric light a large supply of either or both of these metals, and has taken this method of bringing the matter to the attention of the mining public. He also requests me to say that where deposits of these ores are discovered by parties unable to work them, he stands ready to furnish the working capital on liberal terms.

Mr. E. is of the opinion that our mountains contain enough rich deposits of these metals, and should his convictions be verified, with the stimulus he proposes, it may be the means of calling forth a new and lucrative industry to our population of the mining districts. Specimens of these metals, as received from him, can now be seen at some of the most conspicuous mining offices in Portland, where all who are engaged in mining are cordially invited to call and inspect for themselves. Should any such discovery be made in either this or the adjoining territories, or if any miner knows of such places, or has any on hand, he is requested to communicate with Mr. E. or myself on the subject. The miner may rest assured of finding a ready sale and constant market for his ores.

So little is really known of these rare metals that, with your intelligence, I will proceed to describe them and how to search for them: Platinum is never found in any considerable quantity above the eocene tertiary of the earth's crust; but from thence is diffused more or less through all the intervening strata, downwards to the remote Laurentian rocks. Its presence in lodes, whether with other metals or ores, is due to a synchronous origin with the fluid mass, with which the vein or fracture became injected; and hence, or in the cooled detritus of the vein, the miner should make search for it, since it seldom occurs alone in sufficient quantity to justify working exclusively. It is generally found in small, irregular shaped granules, or in small, thick flakes, or scales, presenting under the glass a dim iron lustre, and low reflecting power.

The nearest resemblance to any metal, as means of comparison, with which the miner is familiar, is black sand, or more technically, magnetic iron ore. They look so near alike in the pan or sluice box, that the miner is often deceived; and this is one, and the principal reason, why so little ever comes to light. Hardly a miner but will recollect, while prospecting or cleaning up, a portion of black sand that lingers behind its troublesome to get rid of,—"is heavier than gold," as the saying is. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred this is platinum, and far more valuable than the gold he is in quest of. As a matter of fact platinum is far more plentiful than gold; the readiest means of detection, within the ordinary reach of a miner, is that of a good glass. Let him take a portion of the black sand, and after drying, spread evenly on a piece of white paper, then by inspecting with his glass he will perceive the black sand to be quite even in substance, with sharp, well defined edges. It is in crystalline form and has a black, shining lustre,—points of comparison quite in contrast to the platinum above described. Its specific gravity is much greater; and its point of fusion many times higher than gold.

Iridosmine, an extremely rare metal, occurs in small, irregular shaped lumps, has a bright lead lustre and high reflecting power. It is found in similar situations to the other, and mined for the same. But as probably a small quantity will be found in mining operations an extended description of it here may be omitted.

Big Butte Items.

Torrid weather. Mountain trout very plentiful in Big Butte creek.

C. M. Snider is dangerously ill with that "fell destroyer," consumption.

Our district school will close on August 1st, after a four months' term. The school has been well attended.

Jack Frost visited our locality on the night of the Fourth, and did considerable damage to beans and "cucumbers."

Mr. John Foster, the sawyer at the Severance saw mill, came near being drowned in Big Butte one day last week.

Chas. Cary, who taught school for us last winter, and who has been attending W. H. Parker's school this year, will enter the Ashland college at its opening. He is a studious, intellectual young gentleman.

Mrs. Harvey, of San Francisco, who has been visiting her mother and sister of this place for a few months, will return home in a few days, and will be accompanied by her brother, Willie Short, who will go to learn the machinists trade. July 21st. JOHNNY SMOOKER.

It is reported that Secretary McCray will resign the war portfolio of the President's cabinet, and that his successor will be ex-Senator Ramsey, of Minnesota.

General News Items.

The corn crop of Iowa is said to be the best in many years.

Since July 1st \$4,810,000 has been for arrears of pensions.

A large number of Lancashire cotton operatives are emigrating to America.

Cardinal Manning preached the funeral sermon of the Prince Imperial at Chislehurst.

A number of vessels are quarantined in New York harbor, also below Philadelphia, with yellow fever on board.

Reynolds, the convicted bigamist, has been removed from the Nebraska Penitentiary to the Utah Territorial Prison.

The wheelbarrow fanatic, who left San Francisco for New York last December, has thrust his barrow into the latter city.

The steamer State of Virginia went ashore recently at Sable Island, Nova Scotia, causing the death of three women and five children.

One of the severest storms ever experienced there swept over Boston on Wednesday last week, doing much damage to shipping and other property, and causing some loss of life.

West Chatham county farmers, says the McMinnville Reporter, are very much at a loss to account for the appearance of something resembling blight in the early wheat. Fields of wheat have the appearance of ripening, but upon examination it is found to be entirely dead and the grains in the head shriveled and in some instances wholly without any kernel whatever.

DIED.

LEWIS.—At her residence in Lakewick, Wednesday, July 9th, Mrs. Mary E. Lewis, aged 75 years.