Obituary.

Felix Johnson an aged veteran and highly respected pioneer citizen of Morrow county died at his residence on Little Butter Creek, Morrow county, Oregon, on the night of January 7th, 1902. Deceased was born in the town of Grondhoug, Leightrom county, Ireland, about the year 1826, and was 77 years old at the time of his death. Felix Johnson was a man of remarkable career. Being born of poor parentage the facilities for education at that early period were very limited and being left an orphan at an early age he simply learned the rudiments of the English language at school. Having no one to depend on in the old country and having a sister who had previously come over to New York, he resolved to leave Ireland and by the utmost exertions he was enabled to procure money to pay the cheapest transportation and fare at that time possible, which amounted to $15, and came over to New York in 1843 when he was seventeen years old. When he landed in the United States he was without money and friends (except his sister who lived somewhere in New York, just where he did not know) and all the worldly effects he had were tied up in a red cotton handkerchief. With a brave heart he set out to find his sister and after much inquiry he found where she lived but for reasons best known to himself and wishing to see more of the world he soon left New York and wandered South working wherever he could get employment until just preceding the Mexican War when he fell in with the United States forces and was for a time teamster and afterwards hostler for an army officer, Colonel Sidgreaves, under General Taylor and while the rest of the command was at the battle of Buena Vista, February 22, 1847, when Santa Anna laid down his arms. From Mexico he went to California and in the winter of '48 and '49 in the great struggle for gold there fell in with Hugh Currin and Hugh Fields (a pioneer stockman of Morrow county) and came with them back to Oregon in the fall of 1849. Deceased lived in Clackamas county, Oregon, engaged in farming and stock raising until the spring of 1862, when with the great body of the Willamette Valley people came East of the Cascades and went on to Florence in Idaho for gold. These mines were rich but not extensive and deceased went to Boise City, Idaho, in the fall 1862 and located on a farm and stock ranch in nine miles of the place, where he continued to live a batchelor until the fall of 1873 when he sold his place and went back to Ireland having been away 30 years. He visited in the vicinity of his old home until the spring of 1874. He was married to Miss Kate Gafney and they came over to the United States and arrived again in Clackamas county, Oregon, in June. He and his wife visited there until October of the same year when they came to the Field Ranch at the mouth of Butter Creek in Umatilla county, afterward lived with the old man Morris until they located on their place some two years later where they continued to live until the time of his death. He was laid to rest three miles above his home in the cemetery on Little Butter Creek under the auspices of the Catholic church, of which he was a life long member. There is scarcely a man in Morrow county who experienced so wonderful a career. This sketch can only touch on the events of his most varied and eventful life and he goes down to the grave respected and mourned by a great concourse of friends. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Kate Johnson and two sons James L. and Felix A. Johnson 15 and 17 years old respectively. The Johnson family is known far and near and ranks among the very best element of the progressive, trustworthy and prosperous citizens of Morrow county, Oregon. G. C.

Work on the Klamath Lake railroad is progressing fast. Already 18 miles have been built. The end of the grade is now at

DISCOVER NEW SHAD

Inhabits the Ohio River and Firs Caught by Accident.

Given a Scientific Name by the Government Fish Commission and May Become Valuable as an Article of Food.

A new species of shad has been discovered in this country. It inhabits the Ohio river, and has been named by the authorities of the United States fish commission at Washington "Alosoa Ohiensis."

From time to time the fish commission had heard of the catching of shad in the Mississippi basin, and as long ago as 1872 Prof Baird called attention to the occurrence of shad in the Ouachita river in Arkansas. But it was not until recently that the members of the fish commission procured specimens of the fish, which when examined was found to be a new species of shad, differing in many important particulars from shad as taken from the North river and from other waters on the Atlantic seaboard, says a Washington report.

These new shad have been caught by means of seines light-leaded so that they would fish the upper few feet of water rather than the bottom. This method of fishing was first adopted in order to get the "spoonbill cat," which, when running, swims close to the surface. When the nets were hauled in it was found that the shad had been captured at the same time. The two species of fish appear to run together. The principal seining ground has been near Louisville, below the falls of the Ohio and between Rock island and the Indiana shore.

All the known facts regarding the distribution and habits of the Ohio shad indicate that it has regular runs, like the common shad.

It appears in the Missisippi on the borders of Coahoma County, Miss., about the middle of March; in the lower Ohio about a month later (April 20), at Louisville still a little later (April 28 to May 20), and in the Kanawha river at Montgomery, West Va., in the latter part of May.

The Ouachita, river, Arkansas, from which shad have been reported, has its mouth in the Red river, near the confluence of the latter with the Mississippi, more than 200 miles below Coahoma, and only about 200 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Although it has not been proved that these shad come up from the Gulf of Mexico, it is regarded as certain that they do, and that they are as truly anadromous as is the Atlantic shad.

Whether important fisheries for the Ohio shad can be established remains to be determined. In the first place, it is not yet known whether the fish is commercially abundant. It is considered not at all improbable that its apparent scarcity may be due merely to the fact that the methods of fishing in vogue in the Mississippi basin have not been such as would prove effective in the capture of shad. Gill nets and trap nets are scarcely known, and where seines are used they are usually leaded so as to fish the bottom, and are hauled mostly during the daytime. Shad might very well be present in abundance and remain forever unknown so long as the present fishing methods are continued.

Many plants of Atlantic shad have been made by the United States fish commission in the waters of the Mississippi basin—the first in 1874 and the last in 1893—and although none of the planted shad has since been received by the fish commission for identification, and the capture of none has been fully authenticated, it does not follow by any means that none has survived. It is regarded as by no means improbable that the Atlantic shad may now be abundant in the gulf and its tributary streams, and that a thorough investigation may establish the fact.

The spawning time of the shad in the Ohio river is not earlier than the 10th of June. The numerous examples seen at Louisville May 16 to 19 were far from ripe, and it is regarded as doubtful if any of them would have spawned much before the middle of June.

As an article of food the Ohio shad does not yet seem to have appealed to the citizens of the Mississippi valley. At Louisville they sold at a low price, the price received by the fisherman being but two cents a pound, the same that was paid for carp, "buffalo," and toothed herring. Those who are familiar with the delicious Atlantic shad and who know how to prepare it find the Ohio species not at all inferior.

If the shad should be found to be present in the Mississisippi and its tributaries in sufficient numbers to justify the establishment of permanent fisheries each spring, there is, it is believed, little doubt but that it would soon become quite as highly prized as its near relative in the Atlantic coastal streams.

The annual meeting of the Inland Empire Horticultural Association closed its work Saturday at Spokane, and adjourned for another 12 months.

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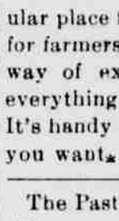

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