

SQUINTS AND GLANCES

A look back on news from Grant County over the past 100 years this week, pulled from past issues

The Blue Mountain Eagle

LONG CREEK BRINGS ON THE BRASS

Mar. 18, 1915

Grant County Journal

Mr. Henry Hall has a bound volume of the "Illustrated London News," printed in 1855, and another volume for the year 1862. A look at these papers of many years ago with their curious illustrations of the things which at that time were the wonder of the age, is forceful a reminder of the progress that the world has made in the last 50 years as could be found. We hope later to have an opportunity to read these papers.

Mar. 25, 1915

Grant County Journal

Free in Prairie

We once heard a story of a man trying to buy land in California. After listening to able real estate agents dilate at great length on the grand climatic advantages of their country and talk very little else, the prospective purchaser finally remarked: "It appears to me that you fellows are selling climate instead of land." The real estate man's answer was to the point: "Certainly; our climate is our greatest asset."

The climate of the John Day Valley is of value to the man who is looking for a healthy and prosperous country in which to make a home, and it is not sold here—on the contrary, the climate goes with the land. And it is a climate that is worth boasting about. During the winter just past the roads were dry and dusty at least four-fifths of the time; there was a tennis game in



Contributed photo/Grant County Historical Museum

Long Creek Comets (Brass Band), circa 1910.

Prairie City on Christmas day; and at the present time the boys have been playing baseball nearly every day for a month.

And still land prices are reasonable, climate thrown in, and the homeseeker has an excellent chance to make money in this valley. The state immigration agent informs us that at the present time 35,000 acres of land are under cultivation in Grant County, and that 500,000 acres are susceptible to ultimate cultivation. Most assuredly there is room for a number of people looking for homes where they are not charged extra for the climate and land values are reasonable.

Feb. 6, 1948

John Day Valley Ranger Grant County's Income From National Forests Increased in 1947

Over a million and a half dollars of fiscal year 1947 national forest receipts are being distributed to counties in Oregon and Washington, say H. J. Andrews regional forester, U.S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. This represents 25 per cent of national forest gross receipts from sale of timber, and other forest uses. In accordance with existing law, such payments in lieu of taxes are made each year by the federal government to counties having national forests within their borders. The

law states that the money is for roads and schools. An additional ten per cent of the receipts is made available for forest service use on forest roads.

Oregon receives \$938,870.56 and Washington gets \$737,852.43 making a total for the two states of \$1,676,722.99. This is an increase over fiscal year 1946, which showed \$559,280 for Oregon and \$398,089 for Washington, total of \$957,369. The expending cut of national forest timber, to meet current demand for lumber, accounts for the increase, says Andrews.

"We are placing national forest timber on the market as rapidly as we can make it ac-

INDEPENDENCE DAY IN CANYON CITY



Contributed photo/Grant County Historical Museum

Canyon City's Fourth of July parade, circa 1895. "Miss Liberty" is Ida Johnson. Third and fourth to her right are Gladys Record and Helen Blackwell.

cessible, and arrange for orderly harvesting of the crop under sustained yield principles," said Andrews. "Since this great public resource is being managed and harvested for the long time public welfare, cash returns to local counties should continue or even increase in the future. Thus the national forest pay their way, as well as contribute to community welfare and stability."

Grant County will receive approximately \$80,000 as its share of the 25 percent of gross receipts from the Malheur, Whitman, Umatilla and Ochoco National forests.

Mar. 6, 1953

Blue Mountain Eagle Girl Is Sweetheart Of College Dance

Reigning over festivities at the annual sweetheart ball, "Dancing in the Dark," a Dorin girls' dormitory on the campus at Eastern Oregon College of Education Friday evening was Miss Dorothy McKrola of John Day.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.A. McKrola of this city, she is a freshman at the La Grande school. Miss Betty Down, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Down, John Day, was a member of the court. The sweetheart was selected at the formal dance by escorts of the girls in the campus living unit. Five sweetheart candidates, including Miss Down, had been named earlier by Dorin girls and composed the royal court. Other members of the attending party were Miss Holly Isaac, Miss Betty Johnson and Miss June Walker.

As announcement of the 1953 sweetheart was made, Miss McKrola stepped through a heart shaped entrance. She wore a crown of 14 carnations and was presented a bouquet of red roses. Pictures were taken of the court and their escorts and the sweetheart-elect danced the first dance with her escort, Richard Houston. Formerly of John Day, Houston's home is now in Ukiah.

Miss McKrola entered the La Grande college last fall after graduation from Grant Union high school in the spring of 1952.

Oct. 18, 1956

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County will soon have a new library. As a matter of fact, the result will be almost that of each community in the county having a library, since in addition to the building in John Day, there will be a mobile unit which will visit every school in the county.

Announcement of plans for construction, equipping and maintenance of a fine new library was made last night by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Oliver, who are donating the institution to the people of Grant County. On hand to hear the announcement at a meeting in the courthouse were about 50 citizens, including several representatives from many school districts and members of the John Day Women's Civic Club. The latter organization has for many years operated the John Day Library, the only library in the county.

Mrs. Estella Boyer, county school superintendent, acted as mistress of ceremonies for the meeting, which was called for the purpose of making the announcement. Through Mrs. Boyer's efforts, a delegation from the Women's Civic Club was present to review the history of the library and explain some of the problems. Telling of the founding of the library and the struggles involved in keeping it going were Mrs. Pearl Brent, Mrs. Rosella Prophet and Mrs. Sally Scott. Mrs. Brent was president of the Lady Lions, predecessor of the Women's Civic Club, when the library was started in 1929 or 1930, and Mrs. Prophet was one of the first (and continuing) library workers. Mrs. Scott has more recently been chairman of a committee working to obtain a better library.

Mrs. Brent related the early efforts to make a library function. She said that the books were donated by many John Day residents and a library was opened in the basement of the Brent building, with the many members of the Lady Lions taking turns being unpaid librarians and serving dinners to the Lions Club to raise funds to keep the venture solvent - or nearly so. Later, the library moved to slightly larger quarters in the Prophet building, but the rent was beyond the means of the ladies and they were forced to move to a small room at the city jail, which they got rent-free.

About the time the ladies outgrew the jail, Herman Oliver got into the picture and rented them space in the old mortuary building on Dayton Street opposite the John Day Hotel for \$15 per month. Oliver admits that the space, like the rent, was inadequate and was soon outgrown. Consequently, a few years back the city of John Day assumed the rent payments, and last year Oliver remodeled the building


See HISTORY, Page A13


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