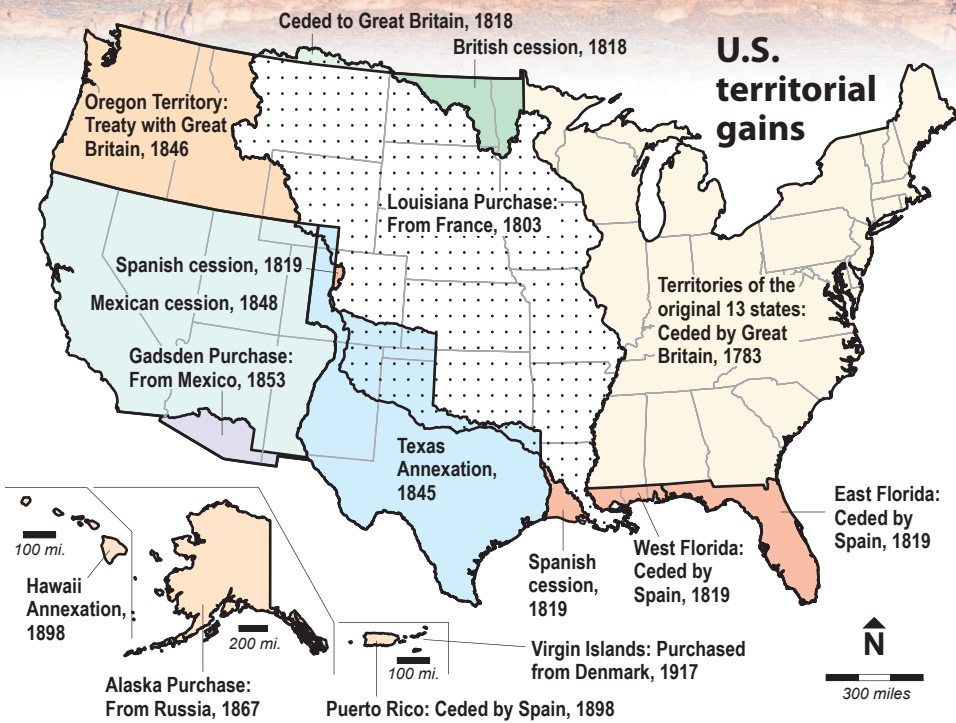


Second of a four-part series

OUR FEDERAL LANDS



Westward Expansion

1840s The great westward migration begins on the Oregon Trail.

1845 The Republic of Texas is annexed by the U.S.



1846 Oregon Compromise with Great Britain gives U.S. claim to Pacific Northwest lands south of the 49th parallel.

1848 Mexico cedes California, other western lands to the U.S.

1849 Department of the Interior is established. The General Land Office is transferred to the new department.

1853 Gadsden Purchase with Mexico adds 19 million acres in the Southwest.



1862 Homestead Act entitles settlers to 160 acres of public land, provided they reside on and cultivate the land for 5 years.

1867 Alaska Purchase from Russia adds 365 million acres of public land to the U.S.

1872 General Mining Law identifies mineral lands as a distinct category of land subject to exploration and occupation. Also, Yellowstone becomes the first national park in the U.S.

1877 Desert Land Act allows the dispersal of 640-acre tracts of arid public land to homesteaders upon proof they reclaim the land through irrigation.



1889 Oklahoma Land Rush begins.

Sources: Congressional Research Service; U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management; USDA Forest Service; The Forest History Society; EO Media Group research

Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

Next week: The Conservation Movement

SENIOR Outlook

Prairie City Seniors

Rose Coombs



PRAIRIE CITY – On Feb. 17, President Harold Preston handled the mic and then let his wife, Frances, remind us of the emergency forms that should be filled out and returned if you would need help evacuating

during an emergency. Then he asked her to lead the flag salute.

The set-up crew of Bruce, Buzz, Harold and Jim completed their tasks. We had the pleasure of seeing the red centerpieces again. I can't describe them, but they were really cute. Our volunteer servers were Linda Boyer and Marjean and Ken Koser. Harold helped out hither and thither. The takeouts were delivered by Jim and Buzz. There were 30 of them so Larry Wright and Ken Koser volunteered to help with this needful duty in the future. We want to thank those who have stepped up to the plate and increased their donation for the takeout meals.

Louise LaBaugh won the \$5 gift certificate from Prairie Hardware. Bob Meador asked the blessing. We had 81 names on the book.

We received a nice check for \$300 from the BMW Riders. Wow! Thanks so much! The food bank brought over some of their perishable produce, too. Thanks for the potatoes, onions and yams.

Lorna and Kendra brought Dorothy Blasing, Lois Hill, Marilyn Randall, Elmo Calkins and Ralph Wilson from Blue Mountain Care

Center.

Our meal started with orange juice, went to a green salad with strawberries on top, then continued with a cheesy rice/broccoli casserole, hamburger stuffed green pepper, rolls and "strawberry jam bars" for dessert. I had another helping of the casserole! Have to remember that one.

I finally got started on my latch hook project for son number one's 10th wedding anniversary. Got the border and their names so far. Have until November to finish, so I can take my time. Music is taking up a lot of my time. First is the Easter Ensemble which is coming along nicely. Then we were asked to sing for the Good Friday service - which is different music. After Easter we get started on the hit show tunes from film and stage for the Evening of Entertainment in April. And that's just the Ensemble. There will be all kinds of instrumental and vocal offerings besides that. Mark your calendar: Apr. 23 at the Prairie City Senior Center.

It's hard to say that, isn't it? After all, it had been the Grange Hall since 1926. I still catch myself saying, "I'm gonna run up to the drug store and get..." Sorry, no more drug store. So don't be sad about what has left, but be glad about what is still here! Banks, restaurants, a grocery store, a gas station, a post office, a school, churches, a community center, a quilt shop, an antique store, a hotel, clothing stores and various other businesses that keep us in goods and services. And every mail delivery brings an abundance of catalogs!

Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God every time I remember you."

John Day Seniors

Alma Joslin



JOHN DAY – Monday, Feb. 15, we had approximately 32 diners. We all enjoyed hot turkey sandwiches, mashed potatoes and gravy, peppered corn, and for dessert, we had homemade brownies. It was even real turkey! There were 17

regular lunches and 20 frozen, which were delivered to shut-ins. The delivery people today were Pastor Al Altnow, Rick Rhinehart and Rick's granddaughter, Brianna. Shay delivered to Mt. Vernon.

Margaret Glass and Susan Fowle greeted us and Billie Bullard sold raffle tickets. Our deliverers and servers were representing First Christian Church. Ron Dowse and Karen Barrieta set up tables. Karen and I wrapped silverware. Pastor Al and Cathy Altnow, Karen and Ron did the serving and cleanup.

I led the flag salute and Pastor Al asked the blessing. Ron did the announcing in the absence of Veanne. The only announcement he had was a reminder of the pie social to be held here on Thursday, Mar. 10. Be thinking what kind of pie you are going to share.

Roberta Dowse won the Len's Drug gift certificate and Linda Stoltz won the free meal.

Thursday, Feb. 18, we had a full house. There were approximately 84 diners in-house and 24 meals were delivered. Those delivering the meals were Ken and Sharmayne Boethin and Veanne. It was a wonderful lunch. Personally, I don't care for lasagna but this one was delicious. Anyway,

we had lasagna, Italian green salad, zucchini and bread sticks. For dessert Lisa cooked up a pineapple/cherry dump cake. The entree was furnished by the Methodist Thrift Shop.

David Pasko and Marianne Morris greeted us while Billie Bullard sold raffle tickets.

Our servers were from United Methodist Church. They were Jean Willey, Isa Larkin, Louise Nelson, Becky Carey, Marge Conlee and Sherry Feiger. Angela Binchus helped with keeping the empty serving dishes cleared off the tables. Thanks, Angie, volunteers are always appreciated. Jean led the flag salute and Sherry asked the blessing.

Veanne told us about the Emergency Management Levels and that the emergency network is now set up. If you would like more information contact Veanne at 541-575-2949 and she can give you the e-mail address.

Becky Carey was new to the center, so welcome and we hope you will come again. We had three of our local EMTs with us as well. They were Mary Vargas, Craig Maxwell and Rebecca Rand. You guys do a great job and we really appreciate you. Please join us again.

Nancy Elliott won the Chester's Thriftway gift certificate and Jean Willey won the Valley View lunch for two. There were five door prizes won by Gregg Starr, Shirley Dinsmore, Leone Meador, Deda Porter and Darlene Nodine.

Lunch on Thursday, Feb. 25, will be pork roast, mashed potatoes with gravy and the rest is a surprise but I promise it will all be good. Monday, Feb. 29, we will have tacos, refried beans and Spanish rice.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:11 "Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Rejoice. Change your ways. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you." (This was Paul's final greetings to the people at Corinth)

Monument Seniors

Soo Yukawa



MONUMENT – I'm sure that it will be printed all over the Blue Mountain Eagle but I still wanted to give a shout out to our Monument-Dayville Tigers on their win this past Saturday for District title. Wahoo!

They will now go on to State. This was a very big deal because this is a first for Monument School.

Before our lunch started, Rose Howe came to make an important announcement. She had asked the Blue Mountain Hospital to return as a Volunteer EMT but was turned down by Human Resources citing that there were no open positions at this present time. You may call and voice your questions and concerns to the CEO, Mr. Mee. Currently, we have only two First Responders and two Basic EMTs.

Our ever dedicated cooks, Terry Cade and Carrie Jewell, cooked up a Mexican casserole dish, fresh green salad and peach cobbler for our lunch on Feb. 17. Thumbs up for the dish ladies! Our greeters were Bob Blakeslee and Jimmy Cole. Bob led the flag salute and yours truly prayed the blessing over our meal. Bob Cockrell and Bob Yukawa won the free meal cards. We had 42 guests present and two takeouts.

Judy Harris has put together a whole new raffle basket. This basket is filled with over \$250 worth of garden stuff, like seeds and tools. The tickets are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. The drawing will be Tuesday,

Mar. 22. Some lucky winner will be all set for their garden come spring time.

Well, I can put on my list of "Been there, done that," the butchering and eating of rabbits. My oldest daughter had been researching raising rabbits and my hubby and I had both agreed that we should at least try rabbit before even considering it. What if we didn't like the taste? But where do we get a rabbit to try? Well, turns out, my great neighbor, Rose Howe, raises some! My daughter and I got our lesson on rabbit butchering this past week. Rose is a fabulous teacher. She was such a great "hands on" teacher and so very patient with us. She made it look so simple that my daughter and I wanted to get our hands dirty and try it too! Hmm, Rose only made it look so simple. I cut through one of the hind legs to hang on the hook so I ruined that. Sigh. It wasn't so easy as it looked skinning the rabbit either. I think I need to work out my arms. Ha. All in all, I'm so blessed to have such a knowledgeable neighbor living so close to me. It's very reassuring to know that she is just a hop, skip, and a jump away.

So, we took one of the rabbits home and I put it in the crock pot with some carrots, celery, onions, chicken broth, salt, and pepper. We had a delicious rabbit stew for supper that evening. All of us in the family agreed that we liked rabbit stew and thanked the good Lord for providing rabbits and the rabbit giving its life to feed us. Oh, and it tasted just like chicken, only much leaner and with teeny, tiny bones!

Isaiah 65:24 "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

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