

# Rogue River Courier.

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF GRANTS PASS

Interesting Facts of Early Days as  
Told by a Former Editor  
of the Courier.

In 1888 the O. & C. R. R. Co. began to build rapidly from Roseburg to Ashland, and late in that year or very early in '84 it arrived at Grants Pass and located the present townsite, which is one mile south of the old overland stage station of that name kept so long by the late Eb Dimick and where J. C. Campbell conducted a stock of general merchandise.

The first glimpse I got of the town was in May, '84, on my way from Portland in the company of a young lady cousin. We got off there at 10 a. m. for breakfast, the train having been delayed several hours in the Cow creek canyon by a caved-in tunnel. There was an apology for a hotel where the old Commercial afterward stood. At that time the block bounded by Fifth and Sixth, Front and H streets was covered with houses, cheaply built, tents and tall swinging bull pine trees. The landlady had bread on the table which no human being could eat if he was where he could run from it. We were fearfully hungry but we could not eat this petrified mummy. So after eating a dollars worth of other food I asked the waiter if she wouldn't please take that bread away and get some that was better; she blushed and said she would do her best. She went out the back door, which was in plain sight, and went among those tents and trees to borrow bread. In 15 minutes she came back with the same bread saying it was impossible to do better, but that as soon as they could bake she would have some good bread.

The rickety railroad from Roseburg to Grants Pass was built upon stilts and was a sight to look upon. I imagined that the little engines and cars looked tired and was half tempted to suggest that we let them rest while the landlady baked the promised bread. There being no conveyance from Grants Pass to Waldo we were compelled to go to Waldo via Medford and Jacksonville.

Soon the town began to grow and among the pioneers were Campbell & Tuffs, George W. Riddle and J. W. Howard, general merchandise, Mr. Howard being first. Mrs. C. M. Stone, druggist, came early also. Mrs. McKnight millinery; Pigney & Cook, blacksmiths; G. Davis, shoe and boot repairing; Geo. Glessman, bakery; James Jordan, Commercial hotel; J. R. Jennings, Pioneer hotel; C. L. Gray and M. V. Loving, jewelers; J. M. Chiles and J. B. Marshall & Son, grocers; Edwin Smith, A. J. Sedgwick and G. O. Farr, house builders; Geo. W. Merrill, real estate; Robert Przybarber; Green & Son, gunsmiths; J. B. Huteh and L. L. Jennings, saloons; Spears & Freasure, J. S. Flannery and J. B. Schaffer, painters; Volney Colvig and C. E. Chanslor, notaries; Solomon & Ahlf, butchers; Sam White, S. U. Mitchell and Davis Brower, attorneys at law; D. W. Keith, ferry; O. H. Starr, tinner; C. W. Beacom, dentist; Hott & Hardin, brick burners; Drs. W. F. Kremer and F. W. Van Dyke, whose card in the Courier says "German and English spoken." Dr. W. H. Flanagan was also here early. L. S. Smith, livery stable; C. F. Messerve, meat market.

For the year ending December 31, '86, the Courier summary shows the erection of 60 residences and four improvements; 33 business structures, which includes Rogue River bridge costing complete \$9750; S. P. D. & L. Co.'s factory, \$32,500; County jail,

\$1000; Courier's first building \$400; it was on Front street, three doors from Palace hotel, west; M. E. church, \$1200; Bagley Hotel, (now Western, built where the First National Bank now is) \$4000 and court house, \$2800.

Prof. Benson was principal of the school and was assisted by Miss Gertie Pollock. The Courier of April 23, '86, says of the schools: "Whole number of organized districts, 23; number of male school children, 558, females, 536; total of pupils enrolled during year ending March 1, '86, 727; Average wages paid teachers, males \$39.75; females \$24.50. (The county tax rolls that year showed \$14,000.) Annual apportionment, April 6, '86, Grants Pass had 135 school children and drew \$142.50. Total amount of school money distributed during the year in the county, \$1647. A. J. Chapman superintendent.

I am of the opinion that an artesian flow of water can be got by boring for it in the Grants Pass basin; if this could be realized, Grants Pass would experience a growth utterly impossible without it. The Courier of Jan. 21, '87, says: "Messrs. Stricker & Newrath informs us they have bored a well at their brewery on Gilbert creek 30 feet deep which when the driving cap is removed throws a stream of soft, sparkling water the size of the pipe. I went to examine for myself and witnessed the fact that the flow was good and strong on the basement floor, but the water pipe was extended to the upper floor when the flow of water ceased. The Herald-Disseminator commenting on this said: "This water is said to be of a very superior quality, cold, pure and sparkling like newly opened champagne. The water is quite strongly impregnated with carbonic acid and therefore is to be highly valued for its medicinal and curative properties." I know also that Mr. Hardin dug a well at his brick yard on the north side and that he dug as deep as possible in the evening before quitting. During the night the hardpan he was in gave way and in the morning his well was full of water. When I went to California in '88 I carefully looked up the artesian flow of water in that state. I bought a book and sent it to George B. Curry, then the editor of the Courier, requesting him to take up and discuss the book's contents in the Courier, which showed that the conditions in Grants Pass were identical. He not only ignored the subject but kept the book, making no reply to me personally when I met him. In California they have artesian. Now where the elevation is surrounded by mountains or hill ranges and underlain with strata of hardpan which confines the water that follows the bedrock down from the hills and gives pressure. These are the conditions at Grants Pass. W. J. WIMER.

**Best Spray for General Use.**  
In a letter replying to a question as to the best spray to use at this time, Prof. A. B. Cordley of the State Agricultural College, says:  
The best general cleaning up spray which can be applied to fruit trees at the present time, is the lime-sulphur salt mixture. This not only destroys San Jose scale but also the eggs of the green aphid, the woolly aphid, moss, and is one of the best preventives for the apple scab, being nearly equal to the Bordeaux for this purpose.  
As to the cost per acre of spraying an orchard, it is almost impossible to give accurate figures since it depends so much on the size of trees and the appliances used. The cost for the material, however, is not excessive. Ordinarily two to three gallons per tree would be the average amount used in orchard work, and in preparing the lime-sulphur salt mixture 50 pounds of lime, 50 pounds of sulphur and 25 to 50 pounds of salt are used to each 150 gallons of water. With this formula in mind you can, knowing the cost of the ingredients, very readily get an approximate estimate of the cost of the materials.

The edition of my bulletin 75 on Insecticides and Fungicides is completely exhausted but a second one is going through the press and will soon be ready for distribution.

## FARMERS INSTITUTES DESPITE FLOODS

Dr. Withycombe and Staff Hold  
Sessions With Good Attendance  
at Eight Places.

With the farmers institute at Merlin this Thursday closed the series of eight institutes held in Rogue River Valley under the auspices of the State Agricultural College institute staff made up of Dr. James Withycombe, Prof. A. L. Knisely, E. T. Judd and William Schulmerich. Dr. Withycombe is head of the Agricultural College experiment station and as an institute worker he has no equal in Oregon, and his reputation in the work of advancing the standard of agriculture in this state has gained for him commendation from the Department of Agriculture at Washington and of the leading farmers and business men of Oregon. His addresses are always given in plain words, clear and concise, and his statements are so told as to be readily comprehended by his hearers. So well rounded is his fund of information on every phase of agricultural activity in Oregon that no topic is brought up in an institute but what he is able to speak on in a manner that carries the impress of a perfect knowledge of the subject. And he is equally broad in his attainments in other lines of thought. His genial, optimistic presence is the life of the institutes and his helpful words of encouragement has given many a farmer new hope and new courage and a tangible plan of bringing success out of his previous failures in making his farm work profitable.

Prof. Knisely is the chemist at the Agricultural College experiment station, where he conducts an extended research in the work of unlocking the secrets of Nature's laboratory that the farmer may learn the soil conditions that govern to such an extent the crops that they may grow successfully. The addresses of the Professor were one of the best appreciated features of the institutes. His statements were plain and readily understood and contained no mystifying, scientific terms that confused his hearers more than to instruct them. By the many questions asked it was evident that the farmers were realizing that planting and cultivating was not all that went to secure a crop but that certain soils were only good for certain grains, grasses and fruits.

Mr. Judd resides near Turner, where he has one of the finest farms in Willamette Valley. That he finds farming a profitable vocation is proven by the fine buildings, broad acres and splendid stock that are to be seen on Boulder Lodge farm. While Mr. Judd engages in diversified farming horses and cows are his specialty. As a breeder of heavy draft horses he has been highly successful and his sales each year of work horses at from \$200 to \$250 each and of breeding animals at from \$500 to \$2000 each proves that he makes money in the business. He gave figures that showed that his large band of dairy cows were also money makers. Mr. Judd's talks at the various institutes were along strictly practical lines and the attention that was given and the questions that were asked him at the close of his addresses was proof that the farmers of Rogue River Valley appreciated hearing the experience of a farmer in solving the problems that confront them.

William Schulmerich is a Washington county dairyman and his herd of Jerseys and fine farm near Hillsboro is a credit to Oregon. Mr. Schulmerich was raised in California and assisted his father in placer mining until he was 25 years of age. Having a miner's luck, that is the luck of 95 per cent of them, Mr. Schulmerich gave up that vocation and casting about for something that promised more tangible results he selected dairying. He and his young wife came to Oregon and he bought a small tract of land in Washington county on credit and a few cows. His previous dairy experience had been in milking the one family cow, but he bought books, subscribed for Hoard's Dairyman and sought the experience of successful dairymen, with the result that his little 40 acre ranch has expanded into a magnificent farm and his three scrub cows by breeding and by purchase have developed into a herd of high grade and pure bred Jerseys that now yield him an income of from \$300 to \$450 a month the year around. While Mr. Schulmerich is not so polished an orator as are some of the lawyers, who in flowery words essay to tell the

farmers how to farm, but more especially how to vote so that an Oregon legislature always looks more like a session of the State Bar Association than it does of men to represent the wealth producing interests of the state, yet his words were well chosen and his addresses were forceful and convincing and held the close attention of his hearers. That dairying as demonstrated by a successful dairyman interested the farmers was evinced by the many questions asked of Mr. Schulmerich when he was on the floor, and at each institute so soon as the sessions were closed the farmers would gather about him for more detailed information on the subject.

Dr. Withycombe and the other members of his staff arrived in Grants Pass last Friday morning on the 5:30 train from Talent, where they were compelled to arise at 3 a. m. in order to catch the train. The previous day they closed an institute at Talent, that had an attendance of 300, with an evening session so it was 11 p. m. before they could get to bed, so it can be seen that a farmers institute tour is not all a pleasure jaunt to the speakers. The sessions at Eagle Point and Central Point were quite as successful as was that at Talent. Friday forenoon was spent in Grants Pass by the gentlemen in recuperating for the strenuousness of the seven days trip in Josephine county. And that it was strenuous enough to suit even President Roosevelt was the unanimous opinion of the gentlemen when they had completed their engagements and boarded the cars at Merlin for their return home. It only rained once during the week, but this torrential downpour began the morning that the party left Grants Pass and continued with scarce a letup until the following Thursday when the Webfooters left the Italy of America for the land of sunless skies and rain. Every brook that was crossed was a raging torrent and every creek was a wild, rushing flood. The terrific rains, the unfordable streams and the bad roads prevented many from attending the institutes, yet with all this handicap they were all a success. Every appointment was kept and the speakers were on time at each, but it took all the endurance of the fine team from Dickson's stable, the skill of the driver, Johnnie Lance and the courage of Dr. Withycombe and associates to brave the dangers of the all but impassable fords and the hardships of the trip.

Friday noon the institute staff accompanied by Charles Messerve, of the Courier, drove to Provolet, where a most hospitable welcome was given them and they were entertained at the homes of E. N. Provolet, Rev. E. Badger and G. A. Dunlap. The only embarrassing feature to the guests was that there was not enough of them to go around, for every home in the neighborhood was open to them, the three homes selected being quite near the place of meeting. And these generous people would have no pay not even for the feed for the team. Saturday morning in a rain that would put Willamette Valley to shame the farmers and their wives from about Provolet and from the more distant sections of Williams, Murphy, Kabli, Davidson and Applegate, some even coming from Homburg creek three miles beyond Applegate, came in such numbers that by 10:30 when the morning session opened the church building, in which the institute was held, and which is owned by Rev. E. Badger and its use generously donated by him, there was a fine audience gathered. All said that if the weather had been favorable there would have been gathered the largest crowd ever seen in Applegate Valley. The institute was ably presided over by E. N. Provolet and it was opened by an invocation by Rev. E. Badger, after which he gave a very appropriate address of welcome, to which Dr. Withycombe responded.

The various speakers of the staff occupied the time of the forenoon and afternoon sessions. At the evening session Dr. Withycombe gave the principal address, with illustrations by stereopticon views given by Prof. Knisely. Under the direction of the local committee some pleasing features had been prepared for the evening session. These consisted of musical selections, recitations by school children and a laughable farce entitled "Organizing a Farmers Club," and all were given in a most creditable manner. When it comes to fine dinners the one at Provolet could not be excelled and was only equaled by the fine dinners that were enjoyed by the speakers at the other places where institutes were held. The committee of ladies having the dinner in charge

had prepared additional food and a supper was served to the crowd, so that all were able to stay for the three sessions. The proposition of organizing a co-operative telephone company was presented by Charles Messerve at the afternoon session. Mr. Judd strongly endorsed the movement and told of the successful working of the independent telephone lines in Willamette Valley. A committee consisting of Rev. E. Badger, Provolet, C. O. Biglow, Williams and K. J. Kabli, was appointed to get prices on installing the system and the methods under which co-operative telephone companies worked. Some 40 members were secured that day and it is expected to raise the number to over 100 in that part of Applegate Valley. A committee on membership was appointed consisting of E. N. Provolet, Provolet, Samuel Tetherow, Williams, W. S. Bailey, Davidson, John Pernoll, Applegate and L. M. Mitchell, Murphy.

With a 38-mile drive to make and roads next to impassable by reason of floods and mud the institute staff were forced to arise soon after 5 o'clock Sunday morning and in a driving rain the party were early on the road for Kerby. In order to avoid driving 23 miles to the distance and making it impossible to reach Kerby in time for the institute the next morning the party took the old and little used and still less repaired road down the west bank of Applegate river to Wilderville. Arriving at noon on the opposite side of Slate creek from Wilderville it was found that the Slate creek bridge was gone and that stream a raging flood nearly 100 feet wide and running like a millrace. The swimming of the horses across Slate creek and the towing of the hack over with one chance of landing it safely to two that it could be carried into the nearby Applegate river, as well as the remainder of the narrative of this strenuous institute trip, that Dr. Withycombe in all his Oregon experience had not had the like, will be given in the Courier of next week, as the editor in keeping his promise to help make the institute a success stayed with the staff until the last session closed and thus was not able to reach the office until publication day.

## GROWER TELLS OF WANLUT GROWING

Thomas Prince, of Dundee, has  
3500 Trees in His Orchard—  
1500 Bearing.

That walnuts are a profitable crop to grow in Southern Oregon has been proven by several who have planted orchards in this section. The late Peter Britt, of Jacksonville, originated a nut which when planted bears fruit true to itself. The shell is a trifle thicker than the soft shell English walnut, but the nut is fully as good for marketing as the best California walnut. C. H. Sampson, of Grants Pass, has 30 trees each of Franquette, Moyette, Parisienne, Chaberte and Proeparturians, on his place just north of town. The trees are 9 years old and this year he had a gunny sack full of nuts. There was about the same amount on the trees last year, but the boys got ahead of Mr. Sampson so he did not get any. One of these trees produced a growth of nine feet and two inches last year a branch that length having been cut from the tree this week.

The trees do not need the care given to other kinds of fruit. Although they do not come into full bearing until they are 12 years of age, yet will

pay good interest on the money invested. In this connection the following address, delivered by Thomas Prince of Dundee, Yamhill county, at the horticultural meeting held in Forest Grove last Saturday, will no doubt prove of interest:

Mr. Prince said that he was induced to plant walnuts through the advice of Felix Gillett, of Nevada City, Cal., and because he had learned that our climate was similar to that of England, where walnuts have long been successfully grown. He took his chances on the outcome and has planted 3500 trees, 1500 of which are 9 years old and averaged last season eight to 10 pounds a tree. His nuts had uniformly brought higher prices than the California nut.

Some of his 9-year-old trees are a foot in diameter and have a top spread of 30 feet, but there is considerable lack of uniformity in size. The trees are very hardy and Mr. Prince has not lost a dozen trees in all his plantings.

Mr. Prince did not recommend the grafted trees on account of its cost, scarcity, lack of vigor and tardiness about coming into bearing. He advised planting nothing but second generation trees, that is, seedlings raised from nuts from grafted trees. All such nuts had to be imported from France. He was now importing nuts from that country for his own plantings.

The story that he planted nuts from his own trees was a pure fabrication. He had not done so and would not do so, nor had he ever knowingly sold a nut for planting—such nuts would make third-generation trees, whose product would be inferior in every respect.

The speaker feared that the use of the black walnut as a stock might result in a dark-colored nut, and advised planting none but the late-blooming French varieties, such as Franquette, Moyette, Parisienne, Chaberte and Proeparturians. These varieties had proved frost-proof here, while the contrary was known as to the varieties originating in Southern California, such as Ford's and Santa Barbara.

He did not fear over-production in view of the large importation, rapid development of a taste for nuts and the limited area suited to their production.

I would plant 40 to 50 feet apart, in a deep, rich, well-drained soil. Don't be afraid to trim the top root, or any of the roots, when they are broken, in transplanting. Start the top not less than six feet from the ground.

In this I have followed Mr. Gillett's advice, and I am convinced of its soundness.

The walnut requires little pruning, is an annual bearer, producing a crop easy to harvest and is a tree of great longevity.

Mr. Prince ridiculed the claims made by unscrupulous tree peddlers that walnuts would yield a revenue of \$500 to \$1000 an acre. He would be satisfied with \$50 to \$100, and that was all he expected.

He said many worthless seedlings were being sold and nuts offered for planting which had been bought in Southern California, or in some grocery store, the planting of which could not but prove disastrous. He admonished his hearers to plant only the right varieties and to be certain they were getting them when they bought.

**An Industrial Number.**

The coming week the Courier will present to its readers and the public at large a special Industrial Review edition in which all the interesting features of Grants Pass and surrounding territory will be fully described in articles of great moment to all people interested in the development of this territory. Attention will be given to description of our resources and the possibilities of this locality will be dwelt upon at length. The industrial, professional, educational and social interests of Grants Pass will be given particular attention, special articles having been compiled on the individual interests which go to make up the business fabric of our city.

## A Downpour of Bargains

We are getting ready for the  
Spring Goods now on the way.

Wall Papers—Handsome Ingrain Paper, Heavy Gilt Ceiling and Borders, very rich and decorative. A room 12x15x9 will only cost you \$2.50.

Mattings—17 new patterns just arrived, 20 to 35¢ per yard.

One-Third of Your Life is spent in bed; our Mattresses will make that ¼ easy; let us show you some of the best mattresses on earth at reasonable prices.

Blue Porcelain Baking Dishes—Special this week, 10c.

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