HISTORICAL SKETCH OF GRANTS PASS

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

Editor Courier: In the early days Grants Pass had some very beautiful trees in it and the Courier made a stand for their preservation. There were the oaks, both black and white, often full of large acorns and then there was the laurel or madrone. Some of those trees yet remain and one of the most beautiful oaks in the town is upon the property of Assessor W. H. Fallin, which I trimmed and saved when I had that piece of land cleared of brush and timber.

The Courier poet in those times was Louise B. Wade; she was not so far famed as Joaquin Miller nor was she as selfish as the poet of the Sierras. One of her poems had reference to the past, present and future, being also somewhat prophetic. I reproduce a few of the verses. It was enttiled, "Litttle Josephine," By Louise B. Wade.

They've named this county Josephine,
'Tis a pleasant place as may be seen,
Though many hills and mountains high,
Will quickly greet the travevler's eye.

Here 'mongst the pleasant vales and hills,
Are found cool springs and sparkling rills;
And quartz leads in the hills abound,
And here are mines where gold is found.

The red man fished and hunted here,
And killed full oft the frightened deer;
Here did he build his hut of bark
And left his squaw to do the work.

To cook his soup early and late,
And watch him, hungry, while he ate,
And that for which he had no use,
She ate, or gave to their papoose.

But they are gone, the white man came,
And then his quiet, gentle dame;
The warriors' whoop no more does sound,
And peace and plenty here abound.

Though years ago in large pack trains,
The weary traveler crossed the plains,
Now their rapidly growing need,
Is well supplied by the iron steed.

And now of churches we can boast,
And other blessings quite a host.
Throughout the county schools are taught,
And eagerly is learning sought.

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Its beauties and improvements grand,
Its handsome streams by bridges spanned,
Its factories and quartz mills, too,
And other things both old and new.
Of which I'd speak, had I the time,
And could I but command the rhyme.

Wherever in this world we stray,
As time shall bear us on our way,
Our hearts will fondly turn I ween,
To our own lovely Josephine.

An error crept into my last article in reference to the writings of J. C. B. Boyd in the Courier while A. A. Allworth was managing it. Those articles criticized some of Grants Pass most estimable ladies because they appeared in several dramas the proceeds of which went to the public good; they were written over the non de plume "Pilgrim," but proved to be a grim pit for their author. Two replies were published in defense of those worthy women one of which was signed "Sentiments of one of the old girls, as it were." An idea of the drift of these replies can be got from one sentence as follows: "We as a society in Grants Pass, dwelt together amicably and peacefllly until you cast your lot among us."

Announcement was made in the Courier of Aug. 6, 1886, of the organization of the first library with the following officers: Mrs. C. M. Stone, president; Mrs. J. K. Pigney, vice-president; Mrs. M. C. VanDyke, secretary; Mrs. K. M. Kinney, treasurer.

The Courier of September 24, 1886, speaking of the State Board of Immigration at Portland and the samples which its editor had forwarded for exhibit from Josephine county, says: "On Monday night we sent the second lot of samples to the State Board of Immigration as follows: Sample of corn, 12 feet high, large and fine with two ears to each stalk, and sample of Amber cane single stalk 12 feet, from Holman Peters; cane sample 11 feet high and a very choice sample of Pearl Millett, 8 feet high with heads 16 inches, long from Lewis Hayes of Applegate and last but not least a water melon weighing 48 pounds from Sandford and Christie. These samples were measured and weighed by us.—Ed."

On Friday, Nov. 25, 1886, the town was shocked by the news that "Joseph Moss had been caught in the machinery at the factory of the S. P. D. & L Co. and had been fearfully and probably fatally mangled."

The first successful harness shop was opened by A. J. Strohecker.

Some good horess were kept in Grants Pass in those days; a race track was built and speeding trotting stock was a common occurrence. H. B. Miller, F. W. Van Dyke, T. P. Judson and A. J. Strohecker owned the best horses, in fact Mr. VanDyke brought out from the East a fine Hamiltonian stallion. Before the race track was built there were some scrub races on Sixth street; at one time the Gipsies did quite a bit of business running their fastest horses against the horses of J. B. Hutch and others. It was not unusual to see Mr. Hutch, who was a man over 70 years old, dash up and down Sixth street on his race horse.

The Courier makes a plea for a bounty on coyote scalps of $5 each, saying that they had wiped out the sheep business in the county and would eventually, as the brush got thicker, clean out the hogs.

At the regular election, June, 1885, John Goodell and John Hannum made a bargain by which if Mr. Hannum voted for Goodell for justice of the peace and he should be elected he was to marry Hannum free at any time during his term of office if called upon to do so. Goodell regarded it as a joke, but on Sunday, Nov. 7, 1886, Mr. Hannum was married by Mr. Goodell as agreed.

The Courier of August 27, 1886, says that R. D. Sanford whose farm was on Rogue River about five miles bes low Grants Pass, snowed samples of onions raised on his farm that yielded 20,000 pounds per acre. He was at that time cuttiag his third crop of clover and without irrigation.

J. S. McFadden of Applegate wrote the Courier, September 17, 1886, saying, "Two years ago this Spring I planted an orchard of plums and peaches and the growth of the same is simply marvelous. Plum trees 12 inches in circumference with shoots of this year's growth of 10 feet in length and plums that measured seven inches in circumference. Peach trees 11½ inches in circumference and peaches 11 inches in circumference. I have two grape vines planted, eight years ago from cuttings, that cover a trellis 80 feet square and have this year at least 7000 bunches of grapes. The largest vine as near as I can measure is 80 feet. One new growth last year was 35 feet long. In the orchard there is a cherry tree seven feet in circumference, apple trees 4 feet, 8 inches, pears 3 feet, 8 inches, plums 3 feet, 1 inch. I have raised five tons of oat hay to the acre; I have samples of rye 9½ feet long, oats 8½ feet long. Some years ago I had two potatoes that weighed 15 pounds, three squashes that weighed respectively 124, 111 and 108 pounds; a mustard stock 14 feet high and corn 18 feet high but it did not ripen."

In the hope that some old timer more capable than myself will continue and complete the past history of Grants Pass and Josephine county,

I am yours truly,
W. J. WIMER,

Waldo, Ore.

ROGUE RIVER VALLEY PURE SORGHUM SYRUP

Applegate Farmers Find Cane a Profitable Crop and Will Increase Acreage.

K. J. Kubli, postmaster and merchant and farmer at Kubli, was in Grants Pass Monday accompanied by James Cook, who has an adjoining farm. Both these farmers raised sorghum last year and found it so profitable that they will plant a larger acreage this season. Each expects to plant three acres and Isaac Vincent, an adjoining farmer, will plant three acres to cane. Their land is on rich Applegate bottom in the Missouri Flat district which is famous as one of the best corn growing sections of Rogue River Valley.

By going into sorghum raising on a large scale these Missouri Flat farmers plan to be able to put a better article of syrup on the market and in a more attractive shape. With improvements in their mill and the process of treating the juice they expect to make syrup that will be of a beautiful golden color and to be of smooth flavor and no injurious chemicals will be used in clarifying the syrup, as is the case of so much of the syrup on the market. Last year both Mr. Kubli and Mr. Cook sold their syrup in five gallon cans, but this year they plan to also have gallon and half gallon cans so that customers can take a small quantity if they wish.

On the warm, sandy soil of the streams in Rogue River Valley, sorghum cane grows very thriftily and produces a large quantity of juice that is quite sweet. It is neither difficult nor expensive to manufacture the syrup and at the price that the glucose and sugar refinery syrup sells for in the local market it can be made a profitable product to the Rogue River Valley farmers. Mr. Kubli states that he has found sorghum syrup to be a more profitable product than hay, grain, or hops at the prices ruling the past year for these commodities.

NEW LAW TO ENFORCE KILLING OF FRUIT PESTS

Compels Farmers and Town People to Spray Their Trees or Cut Them Down.

In order to let those who are not familiar with the laws in regard to the sale of and handling wormy fruit and trees know what they are in regard to this matter, we publish the following:

Section 1. It shall hereafter be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation owning or operating any nursery, fruit orchard of any kind, hop yards, flower gardens or ornamental trees, to throw any cuttings or runnings from any fruit trees, nursery, stock, ornamental trees or hop vines into any public road, highway, lane or other inclosure, or into any water course of any kind; but shall destroy such cuttings or prunings with fire within 30 days from the time such cuttings or prunings are made.

Section 2 requires that any nursery, fruit orchard, hop yard, or garden or ornamental trees infected with any kind of insects, pests or disease, must be immediately sprayed or destroyed in such manner as the fruit commissioner of the district may direct.

Section 5. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to import, or sell any infected or diseased fruit of any kind in the state of Oregon.

Section 7. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $25 nor more than $100.

County Inspector.

Section 1 of the law of 1905 provides for the appointment of a county inspector, whose duty it shall be to inspect the apple or other fruit orchards in this county and to enforce all laws applicable to the growing, handling, and selling of fruit.

Section 7 provides that the county inspector may cause an inspection of any orchard, tree or vine, or fruit packing house, store room or sales room, at any time, and if found infested with any pests or disease of an injurious nature, sahll notify the owner or person in charge to eradicate or destroy said insects or petss, or to treat said diseaase within a certain specified time. Such places or fruit thus infected shall be deemed a public nuisance, and if not abated by the owner within the specified time, shall be abated by the inspector, the expense of such abatement shall become a lien on the property from which said nuisance shall have been removed, and may be recovered in the circuit court.

Settle Up.

The Garmen-Hemenway accounts have been placed in my hands for collection. All persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the above firm are notified to call at the Grants Pass Banking and Trust Co., and make immediate settlement.

2-30 4t E. S. VEATCH.

Rural Mails and Good Roads.

The rural free mail delivery is becoming a strong power in pushing the cause of good roads for the postoffice department will only grant rural routes in sections where the roads are in such condition at all seasons of the year that the mail vehicle can readily make the required speed of four miles an hour.

On this ruling of the posoffice department the St. Louis Globe-Democrat has the following to say:

"In the last report of the postmaster general is this strong incidental argument for good roads: 'The requirement precedent to the establishment of rural delivery shall be a possible patronage of 100 families on a standard route of 24 miles; that the roads be kept in good condition, unobstructed by gates and with all streams fordable at all seasons of the year.' The world is getting to be a poor place for neighborhoods with mudhole roads."