

PROMINENT PEOPLE OF MORROW COUNTY

Facts Forced From Familiar Faces

By E. G. H.

WILLIAM OSCAR MINOR

Some great man said, "Let me write the songs of a nation and I care not who makes the laws." And here let us add that you can generally get a pretty good idea of a man by noting the kind of literature he reads.

When the first article appeared in this paper about the pioneers, several people said, "Oscar Minor is the next man you want to see, he knows about as much as any one around here and he's a good man too."

About the first thing I asked Mr. Minor was, "Where were you born, Mr. Minor?" "I was born back in Iowa, not far from Cedar Rapids in 1864."

"How did you happen to come out here, Mr. Minor, and where did you stop first?" "Father thought that we could do better and we joined a party of forty families and started overland. We were just six months to a day when we stopped at what was called Waucondo, but now known as Gervais."

"In 1871 we started for Walla Walla. We shipped the cattle up the river from Portland and we came overland ourselves to The Dalles. We stopped at a place near Lone called Petteys Postoffice, named after G. A. Petteys who lived there. While there father heard of a place on Rhea Creek that was for sale for \$300. It was known as the Henry Gay place and was ten miles from what is now Heppner."

Notice of Sheriff's Sale. By virtue of an execution and order of sale issued by the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Morrow County, State of Oregon, dated the 15th day of June, 1914, in a certain suit in the Circuit Court for said County and State wherein George C. Burton, Trustee of the Estate of Thomas N. Wilson, deceased recovered judgement against J. M. Turner and Carrie S. Turner, defendants for the sum of \$500.00, with interest thereon from January 1st, 1912 at Eight per cent. per annum, \$60.00, Attorney fees; \$22.85, taxes paid with interest thereon at Ten per cent. per annum from February 13th, 1914, and the further sum of \$24.60, costs, which said judgement was so recovered on the 13th day of June, 1914.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that I will on Saturday the 18th day of July, 1914, at the hour of 2 o'clock, P. M. of said day at the front door of the Court house in the City of Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in hand the following described real property to-wit: 8 1/2 of NE 1/4 and NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 35, Tp. 1 N. R. 25 E. W. M., taken and levied upon as the property of said defendants, being the real property mortgaged by said defendants to plaintiff to secure payment of said sums and ordered sold by the court to satisfy same, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy said judgement, together with costs that have or may accrue.

Dated this 17th day of June, 1914. Marion Evans, Sheriff of Morrow County Oregon.

ATTENTION Threshermen

I make a business of repairing Combine Harvesters, Threshing Machines, Engines, etc., and guarantee all my work. Experience has shown that money can be saved by having machinery put in working order before harvest and you should not fail to have your repair work done early. Don't wait until harvest starts, as you did last year.

Ernest Sitsler,

Box 238, Heppner, Oregon.

ner. Father bought the place and there we located. In the fall of '73 I came to Heppner and took charge of the lively stable and butchershop we had here. Father moved over the next year. Soon after father went East and told me to run the store and make what I could. That was my first business venture alone. The first purchase I made was \$72's worth of canned goods. I gradually branched out and added different goods. I was in the store eighteen years and was selling about any thing you needed when I sold out. I sold mostly on a year's time. When a young fellow wanted to go into business, he got a few sheep and a few tons of hay to winter them on and then came in and made arrangements with me for his provisions. When he sold his wool he paid his bill. I lost very few accounts during those days.

"I bought by the car load. I bought sugar in two or three car lots and other things on the same scale. I loaded many a wagon that went 250 miles into the interior. I used to supply many outfits that drove sheep to Nebraska. The goods were piled halfway along the block and wagons were loading from sunrise till dark. I used to get most of my goods from The Dalles, eighty miles away. We didn't go to town very often in those days either."

"When were you married, Mr. Minor, and what were some of the old customs of the early days?" "I was married in 1888 to Miss Halie Stanley in Albany, Oregon. We have two children, a boy and a girl. I remember when the hotel here was built. The lumber was hauled from the mill and Charley Youngren and a man by the name of Clark planed the boards for \$100. The lots on the corner cost \$25 and the inside lots cost \$10. We never had what you would call a deed to the land. The land didn't belong to any one in particular and when you bought any you simply got a piece of paper saying that you bought it from some one.

We made most everything that we used. We made our boots, brooms, and pitchforks out of forked branches. We made our own fences by taking hides and tying poles together with them. The hides we also cut in small strands by fastening a peg in the center of the hide and driving a knife in the edge of the hide at its smallest diameter and pulled the hide against the blade, making a circle which gave us a round piece of hide. We extracted the peg in the center and pulled the hide against the knife which cut the hide in a long narrow strip, sometimes fifty feet long. We braided these and made ropes. Sometimes when we would tie our horses the coyotes would steal up in the night and eat the ropes. We saved hair, also, and made ropes.

"We had a little Indian scare in 1878. The Snake River Indians got on a rampage and band of them under "Indian Jim" were found in the hills by Tex Craft who brought them in and searched them. They were held here until the excitement was over and then released. One squaw escaped and went down the river and told of the soldiers at Heppner and I guess that it was a good thing for us that she did get away for the Indians never came in this direction.

"There were never many wild animals here. The coyotes used to be pretty numerous. Occasionally we saw antelopes and a few deer. My wife shot that bear you see on the floor, the man I had working for me shot the other one just a short time afterwards.

"How did you get into the fancy stock business, Mr. Minor?" "Well, when I was in the store I frequently took in exchange for goods anything the farmers had. I soon found that I had quite a band of cattle. When it came time to sell them I found that they didn't weigh as much as other cattle, although they looked as large as any of them. I soon found that height and length of leg didn't count as much as did thickness. In 1893 I went to the Oregon state fair and purchased some thoroughbred shorthorns. I have been in the business ever since and I guess I have owned about as many of the good ones as any one else."

That Mr. Minor has been successful in the fancy cattle business, one needs but to ask any stock raiser of good cattle in this state or in any other. Better yet, take a look at his prizes. One man once said that he collects these as do some people souvenir spoons. He has one whole quilt made of ribbons. Silver and gold cups adorn every room in the house. Some of the greatest shorthorn cattle in the world have at one time been on the Mountain Valley Stock Farm. Lovely of the Valey, a cow for which he paid \$1100 at auction was a famous animal. In 1899 the two greatest herds of shorthorns in the country were owned by Charles E. Ladd and Mr. Minor. In a consignment sale that spring Mr. Minor offered for sale, Sale Girl, and three of the wealthiest and leading Shorthorn men of the country were on their way here to buy her but were delayed. Mr. Minor

bought in the animal for \$1700 and reports have it that it was a lucky day for him for she would have brought not less than \$3000 and might have sold for \$5000. This cow was known on both sides of the Atlantic and brought Mr. Minor into worldwide fame.

Viscountess of Fairview was a heifer that won the international honors at Chicago in 1906. About the same time Mr. Minor surprised many of his friends by paying \$5500 for a yearling heifer and a two-year old bull.

Mr. Minor has a fine herd of cattle now and delights in showing them at his farm which is known as the Mountain Valley Stock Farm. Mr. Minor knows about all that is worth knowing about cattle. To make any stock show complete and insure success needs but the announcement that Mr. Minor will show there. His name is a household word where good cattle are up for discussion.

Mr. Minor has been a councilman for years and is a Republican. He has been here for a long time and knows what this country will do. When asked if young man who is willing to work, can make good, he replied, "The early settlers who came here brought practically nothing with them. I know many wealthy men who were ordinary cow punchers a few years ago. There is no better climate in the United States. There is no land that I know of that will produce what land here will that you can buy for the price. I believe that the large ranches will be broken up and a more diversified farming come in. Woven wire will be used more, we are going to raise more hogs, chickens, and we are going to make this a great dairying country. Mr. Minor is an example of what a

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person who is not handicapped by wealth can accomplish. He graduated from the University of Give and Take and knows everything that won't work. His success has been the result of fair dealing. In his struggles he has evolved a kind, generous and indulgent nature which regards no man too low to receive his help and sympathy. Style, show, snobbishness never entered into the makeup of Mr. Minor. His fads are fresh air, good food, sensible clothes and any thing that will make people happier, freer, and enjoy life more. He is a man who carries off heavy burdens and never complains when his friends do well. Men like Mr. Minor make the rest of us think that life is worth while, that only as we give do we retain, and that prominence, position and power comes to those who accept conditions as they meet them and prove their mastery.

CONFIDENTIAL CHARTS

Farmers and Farm Facts

Mr. O. J. Cox was in to see Jim Huddleston last Saturday. Mr. Cox is one of our leading dairymen and Jim says that he is one of his best customers.

Mr. R. B. Wilcox attended the Farmers Union meeting Saturday and told us that he had started heading and expects to harvest a bumper crop.

Mr. Jack Hynd came in town last Friday and left Sunday for Cecil. Jack says that he expects to deposit a few dollars after harvest.

Bill Trace who lives on Willow Creek was up town last Saturday. He says that his wheat will go 40 bushels to the acre. Bill is in the dairy business and has educated a few cows to keep him in spending money.

Ed. Brown, the corn raiser over in the Black Horse district, was in town Saturday. Ed. says that his corn is as good as they raise anywhere and if nothing happens he is going to get that automobile this fall. Get busy you automobile men.

Mr. J. H. Frad, the man who has over five miles of woven wire fence on his place, was in town also. Mr. Frad believes in woven wire and wants his neighbors to play fair and fence their share of the field.

"Buster" Keithley just came in from herding Indians in the Umatilla Nat'l forest. He says that the Indians have gathered a good supply of Kouse Camis, or Indian bread, for the winter "Buster" will be remembered as the man who was nearly devoured by a bear last winter. It seems as if he shot the animal but didn't kill it, he lost his gun in the brush in trying to escape.

Mr. C. W. Larson, who lives on the Heppner Flats, dropped in town Saturday to see his friends and also to tell us that his crops are in fine shape. He has three hundred acres of wheat that looks about as good as any one's.

Mr. Henry Wagner is harvesting about three hundred tons of hay this year. He says that he has several hundred acres of first class grain. Henry says that there is no secret about his wanting a wife. Get busy girls.

Mr. Joe Campbell says that he has three acres of fine spuds. Last spring he planted some of Jim Huddleston's railroad corn and it's doing fine.

Mr. J. L. Kirk says that he has some turkeys. He raises wheat, chickens and hogs as a side issue. Mr. Kirk says that prosperity is coming his way this year.

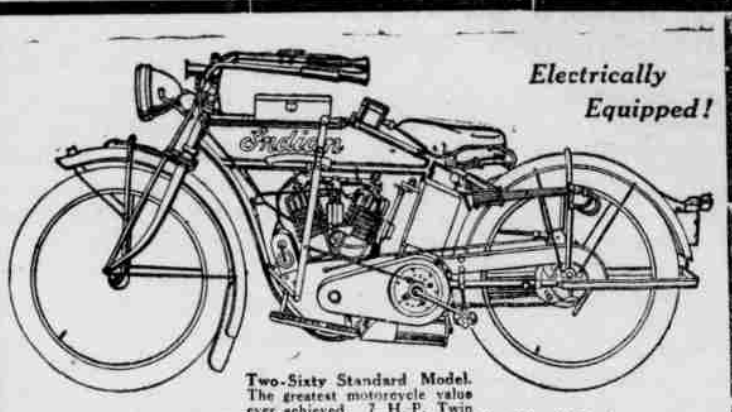
Mr. C. L. Ashbaugh who lives over in Lost Valley was in town Saturday. Mr. Ashbaugh is one of our diversified farmers and raises everything, including chickens.

Mr. C. W. Valentine was in Heppner Saturday and says that he is harvesting one of the best crops he ever raised. Mr. Valentine says that his neighbors have fine crops also.

Mr. B. F. Swaggart, probably the largest mule raiser in the country, says that crops look better now than they have at any time in the last thirty years. Mr. Swaggart had the misfortune to lose by accident his famous jack, "Black Tom," the sire of "Baby", the largest mule that ever lived. As a yearling, Mr. Swaggart offered \$1000 for a mate but could never find one. He is one of our best diversified farmers and has all kinds of grain and fruits on his place that are not excelled anywhere.

Mr. William Soukup says that his ten acres of Murpheys will feed all of the Irish in the county for the next twelve months. Besides these he has over a hundred chickens and seventy acres of good grain.

Mr. H. B. Gates and sons, owners of the local light and water company, left for Portland Saturday. Mr. Gates was State Senator from Washington County for four years. Mrs. Irving and two sons left for Portland last Saturday.



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