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Wood and Posts

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## HEPPNER MEN TAKE TRIP

(Continued from First Page)

obtained its name from the long narrow neck of water connecting Malheur lake with Harney lake. It is bridged across and is the natural pass for the public highway leading to the south. The railroad now being built from Riverside will pass that way. We spent our second night at Narrows, arriving there late at night. We might have exceeded the speed limit the last few miles, but that can all be charged up to the mosquitoes, as our only salvation was to outrun them.

From Narrows to Beckley in Catlow valley is 53 miles. The road leading south from Narrows follows the elevated land along the Blitzen Valley, finally coming down in the valley and following the levy on the edge of a canal for miles and miles, which was dug by the Hanley Land Company from one end of the valley to the other, a distance of 40 miles. The valley is about three miles wide and was originally a swamp but is now pretty well drained. Thousands of acres are covered with bullrushes and cattails from six to eight feet high. The whole valley is fenced in by this company with a four- and five-wire fence with stays about four feet apart. It contains thousands of head of the fattest cattle I ever saw. The Blitzen river, flowing down from Steins mountains, upon entering the valley formerly spread out the full width of it but now follows the canal. It is thought by some that the railroad, after reaching Narrows, will come up along the canal and pass over into Catlow Valley, and it is further stated that the Hill line is one of the companies which gives support to the belief that Catlow Valley will have a railroad in the near future. At the head of the canal near where the Blitzen comes down from the mountains, I told Fred to shut off the gasoline and we would try our luck at fishing. After driving the ducks away so we could cast our lines, and Fred had succeeded in running down a grasshopper, following a prolonged chase through the grass, we cast our hook out into the deep, sparkling water. It was no sooner done than it was grabbed by a big trout which was landed to the water's edge and there snapped off the hook. Then there began a scramble by Fred to get possession of his prize, and also a great scramble by the big trout which was fully sixteen inches long, to regain the water. The fish finally proved to be the better of the two and regained its watery abode. Fred was unable to hunt another hopper so that job fell to me. After the hook was rebaited with a fat, juicy hopper and Fred had regained his composure, he cast out the line again only to break his line and pole all to smithereens. Fred, unable to stand the strain any longer, told me to cut a willow and try my luck, which I did, and after landing several large ones, one of them measuring at least 16 inches, we proceeded up the long grade and over the divide, and there obtained the first gaze over the large and level valley of the Catlow; the valley which we had started out to see and which I have racked your nerves in an endeavor to lead you up to a description of the same. The valley, which is about fifty miles long and twenty-five miles wide, is covered with large sagebrush and dotted all over with new homestead cabins and tents. The eastern edge of the valley on the foothills is lined with scattering junipers, while far to the south and west tower the Steins mountains. These are the things we saw while going over the divide and down into the valley. We glided over the smooth roads about ten miles down the valley to the Beckley post-office and store. The little building also contains a living room and kitchen for the Beckley family. The little Ford was run up in front of the door and stopped. Mr. Beckley came out to greet us. I thought by his actions that he knew us but I found out later that it is characteristic of most of the inhabitants of the valley to be thus friendly and affable to strangers. They know everybody as soon as they come in sight. I asked him if this was Beckley and he said it was, and if this was Mr. Beckley and he said it was. Then commenced the string of questions which he had answered hundreds of times before, but which he seemed pleased to have the opportunity of repeating. The only difficulty he had was to keep track of Fred's questions which too often he would ask before Mr. Beckley had thoroughly answered mine. We were invited in to supper but kindly refused as we had just stopped a few miles up the road and with a little of the big sagebrush that covers the valley had fried our fish and other wild game.

There has been but little attempt to farm so far, as the homesteaders are all poor and it will take some time for them to do much developing. Spring plowing and sowing does not seem to be good. There were a few fields which were plowed and sown in the fall which we would call a fairly good crop. They have not attempted to summerfallow yet. I am thoroughly convinced that by plowing early in the spring and cultivating the summerfallow that one can obtain large yields of grain there. We saw a great many fine gardens growing without irrigation. Hay sells from \$15 to \$20 per ton in the stack. There has been a threshing machine or two purchased lately, and all the

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN HEPPNER

The Heppner Gazette, Aug. 14, 1890.

E. S. Saling was in town Saturday and reports good crops for Sand Hollow. This is very encouraging.

Jake Johnson, one of the dignitaries of Gooseberry city, was in Monday. Crops are good with him and Jacob smileth very audibly.

The price of hay in Grant county stands at \$10 per ton, although we hear of Harney where that article is a drug on the market at \$2 per ton. So much for a good crop.

So far as our county is concerned we have received as careful and accurate an enumeration as could be taken under the circumstances, the county showing a population of 4200. In other districts there appeared to be many inaccuracies.

E. G. Slocum has purchased the Heppner furniture store from C. M. Mallory and will continue business at the same stand, corner May and Chase streets. Mr. Slocum is a very diligent and otherwise worthy young man and deserves encouragement.

Some drunken Indians cornered up Vegetable Brown with a Bowie knife at his place on Black Horse Tuesday eve and it was only after much persuasion that they refrained from butchering him on the spot. Frank Gentry got over in time to intercede in his behalf, and the calamity heretofore mentioned was averted.

Ben Swaggart brought in some corn last Friday which measured over 9 1/2 feet in height. It was raised on bunchgrass without a particle of irrigation. The tassel is just out and the ears beginning to form. Truly bunchgrass is not behind other sections.

Grasshoppers are very plentiful about Anson Wright's place on Hay Canyon, but they are not hurting anything. Although bunchgrass is a very dry feed for grasshoppers, they seem to pass over green gardens to get it.

W. R. Casey was down from the mountains Tuesday and reports a big crowd huckleberrying near his ranch on Penland prairie, but no berries. Lanus Penland and George Sperry killed a large fat elk the other day to keep him from running over them. They were looking for elk but not at that time. The dog had routed this one out of the brush somewhere, and came tearing down on them, unconscious of anything but the dog. He furnished fun for the hunters and food for the camp for several days.

Wedding Bells.—On last Monday eve, at 8, occurred the marriage of two well known young people of Heppner, Mr. Chas. Nelson and Miss Belle Hooker, at the residence of Wm. Ruark, Recorder. A. A. Roberts performing the nuptial rites in the presence of a number of friends of the contracting parties. It was a merry, happy wedding, and the Gazette wishes the life journey of the young people to continue as it begun—bright and sunny with few dark clouds.

Church Dedication.—Dr. J. C. Morris, of Louisville, Ky., will dedicate the M. E. Church, South, in Heppner, on the evening of August 17th, 1890. Everybody cordially invited to attend.

grain threshed for the next few years can be sold to the new comers at good prices. The nearest railroad at present is 110 miles, but the road building from Riverside via Narrows will come within 55 miles. We learned that Hill has surveyed through the valley, coming in from the northwest from Bend, and the Harriman system has surveyed from the north. So the occupants of the valley feel confident that it is only a matter of a short time until the transportation problem will be solved. The elevation of the valley is 4400 feet, but late frosts have not been very dangerous yet. The soil is of two kinds; a small portion is black doxy that seems to have washed down from the distant hills, but the most of it is what is called a sagebrush loam. It does not blow, and its ability to conserve moisture is unequalled. The wells average about fifty feet in depth with the same kind of soil all the way down. There is no alkali and the water is the best I ever tasted. One woman told me that she would rather have it for washing purposes than rain water. So far there are three school-houses in the valley and they are something to be proud of, as they are very substantial buildings and painted.

One newly organized district has put up two buildings, one of them to be used for domestic science manual training, etc., and they are to hold an election this week to vote on putting up a building for a high school. Mr. Tulloch, the land commissioner, valley doctor and general legal advisor, is the head man of this little enthusiastic community. He would like to get someone to come and put up a store at this place. There is one other store in the valley besides the one at Beckley postoffice. At this place the store has selected a little plot of ground and will endeavor to give the settlers some information in regard to the best mode of farming that particular soil. Mr. Tulloch is the jack of all trades, and peculiar in that he never wears a hat. He went with us one day over a great portion of the valley. We found him with many other homesteaders,

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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED WE WILL BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU CALL AND GET PARTICULARS.

camped over in the eastern edge of the valley putting up wild hay on the shares for the Hanley company. I will say right here that a good many thousand acres in the eastern part of the valley owned by the Hanley company, is sub-irrigated. Mr. Tulloch's wife was running a mowing machine, and a party told me that she does more work than any man in camp. We took dinner there, of course, and the most interesting part of it was that I sat at the table beside Mr. Carroll, the man you have all read about falling into a well 85 feet deep, breaking both legs and staying there with his partner six days and nights before assistance arrived. This man's partner managed to climb the dirt wall to within twenty feet of the top and by his cries attracted the attention of a passer-by. There are many homesteads yet to be taken, and, of course there is al-

ways relinquishments to be bought in a new country. There is but very little deeded land, and that is held for \$10 to \$25 per acre. Of course you will find drawbacks in any new country. One of them there is the fuel proposition. They nearly all burn sagebrush, which is from three to six feet high. There is plenty of juniper on the foothills for posts, but some are using this scrub juniper for fire wood. The precipitation has only been kept for the last year and is about twelve inches. The settlers believe that by drilling a few hundred feet artesian water can be obtained. In the Wild Horse Valley to the east and another valley to the south artesian water has been obtained. With artesian water in Catlow it is destined to be the garden spot of Oregon, and without it, scientific dry-land farming will make it a great wheat producing country.