

TIMOTHY H. BISBEE'S DIARY

Tim Bisbee married Julie Wright, daughter of Albert Wright, and they came to settle near her parents on upper Rhea Creek in March of 1875, when he began his almost daily writings. Early entries tell that he had gone into partnership with his father-in-law; had built a house; that Julie gave birth to their second child on Jan. 15, 1876. (This daughter, Lillian, became Mrs. Charles Wentworth, and died at 82 in Pasadena, Ca. The Bisbee's son Albert S. was born in Aug. 1874 before they came east from Clackamas County.) Tim farmed and also, he writes, "I went up to the mountains to work in the saw mill owned by Coffin, Parker and Gleason on Board Creek 15 miles from our home and worked there until the last of Oct, running the saw, attending the lumber yard and keeping the books. On June 30, 1876, he does a bit of catching up with his diary: "On May 25, after finishing shearing (32 1/2 sacks), I came to the saw mill to work for the summer, Julie came with me. Worked until the 29th. On June 30th the Indian War

excitement got so warm, I thought it best to take Julie and the children down home on the creek. People have been flocking out of the north fork of the John Day River and camping at the mill for the past week--waiting for further news. Today we got news that the Indians were moving north, and might fight or could be leaving the country.

"July 1--Last night I went home for a team and today took Julie and the children down to the creek. The "North Forkers", nearly all rolled this morning. Some for The Dalles; some for Heppner, and so on. We got home before dark and found the folks more frightened than we were. Things were packed up and ready for a trip to The Dalles as soon as our team, which was gone to the river with a load of wool, got back.

"July 2--This morning news was brought that the Indians were within five miles of the mill--700 strong and coming this way. The women could be held no longer. Mother Wright was nearly frantic. Mr. W. Adkins, being at our place with a two horse team and an old wagon, the women chartered it for The Dalles. Mr. Adkins was captain and



Charlie Saplsh or Wairwind

helmsman. Three women and seven or eight children piled in with their blankets and what wraps they could take and sailed out at a two-forty gate. Adkins was about as badly frightened as the women. He didn't know which

way his hat was on.

"July 3--Our team got home last night and today father Wright loaded in trunks and bedding, etc. to make the women as comfortable as possible and started for The Dalles. The news of the Indians assumed a different aspect. They are learned to be on or about Long Creek and turning more to the right with the prospect of not coming this way. The house looks pretty naked with what hasn't gone to The Dalles with the women being buried in the alkali bank across the creek--mostly buried.

"July 4, 5, 6-- Sproules, Hayman and I hauled hay.

"July 7--I went to the mountains to brand the sheep--still considerable Indian excitement. I rode ahead of the team to be on the lookout for Indians. Silas and George were with the sheep on range.

"July 8-- Branded the sheep with coal tar this morning.

"July 9-- I counted sheep this morning -- smothered quite a number -- 20. Got back to the mill about noon. Hayman went home and I stopped at the mill--thinking to start up again tomorrow.

"July 10--This morning Indian news was pretty warm and instead of starting the mill, B. Parker, Silas Wright and I went to Heppner, then home.

"July 11-12--Worked at home

haying. The Indian excitement is high one day and down the next. They've killed some shearers in the mountains along their line of march, and some men on Butter Creek.

"July 13--During the scare Mr. Humphrey's sheep destroyed a considerable portion of the hay in Crook's field. I had Farrens, Myers and Hayman look at the field today and notified him that something must be done. Went to Heppner in p.m. and stopped at Mallory over night.

"July 14--Came home in p.m. and went to the sawmill. Excitement going down and many of the people that flocked to Heppner are starting out for home again.

"July 15--We started up the old sawmill this morning and during the week cut 30 M., a very good run. I continued to work at the mill until the 3rd of Nov. when we moved back to the creek. Our folks got back from The Dalles July 29 pretty well tired out and badly disgusted with the Indians and Indian raids."

DOWN AT THE DALLES

Mark V. Weatherford in his book The Bannack-Plute War relates the story of the exodus of women and children and of their stay at The Dalles. (Pg. 84) "The men

Continued

Cal's Arco Station
"For all your automotive needs."



Tires Accessories Repairs
Propane and White Gas U-Haul Dealer

S & H Green Stamps

Calvin and Beverly Sherman