

The Hood River Glacier.

SECOND SECTION

HOOD RIVER, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 7, 1905

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MOSIER, A VALLEY OF FINE FRUITS



MOSIER FALLS

The Mosier Valley is situated in the eastern slope of the Cascade mountains, 72 miles east of Portland, and is reached by the Columbia river or the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Co. being on the main line of railroad. It extends from the river south about 20 miles, varying in width from two to eight miles. Its western boundary is the range of mountains that separate it from the Hood River valley, rising at an elevation of 2,000 to 4,000 feet. Its eastern limits are in the foothills of the mountains that gradually decrease to the eastward.

It is among the valleys that border Mosier and Hook creeks, and along the south bank of the Columbia river where are located the wonderfully fertile lands, now being cleared of the virgin forests and set out to fruit. Here are grown to perfection the Clark's seedling strawberry, grapes, plums, cherries, and small fruits,

orchards are becoming more profitable each year. Peaches attain a size and flavor in the Mosier valley that are surpassed by no other locality and equalled by few. The Spitzenburg, Yellow Newtown Baldwin Jonathan, and all the highest priced apples are here grown to perfection. Protected by the mountain ranges from severe changes in temperature a failure of crop is unknown. The acreage in apples is being rapidly increased and while the number of acres of bearing orchards are not large yet in a few years the Mosier apple crop will be the principal source of wealth of the valley.

The large tracts of standing timber in the valley afford material for a number of sawmills, furnishing the finest lumber for building purposes, fruit boxes, etc., while the sale of the logs pay back to the farmer a large proportion of the expense of clearing

CROSSED PLAINS TO OREGON, 1847

Mrs. A. C. Warren of Mosier is one of the earliest pioneers in the state. Mrs. Warren is the mother of Mrs. Alexander Stewart, wife of the leading merchant of the town. She left her home in the East and crossed the plains to Oregon in 1847. The trip across the continent was not made then as now in a comfortable Pullman coach in three days, but required months of time and a hard long journey with an ox team. The dangers of Indian warfare added their hazard to the trip.

Mrs. Warren left St. Joe, Mo., the starting point and outfitting place for the thousands of early emigrants, on the 10th day of May, reaching Linnnton, a few miles below the mouth of the Willamette river on November 17, 1847. Portland was an unknown village in those days. The party had heard nothing of the town until their arrival at Linnnton, where there were advised that Portland would be the best place for them to locate.

They took the advice, and continu-

ids, the goods and wagons were loaded onto large flat boats which had come up from the settlements where Portland now is. It was smoother sailing on the lower river, and in a short time the immigrant train had reached its destination.

The following spring, in 1848, the ship Jeanette reached port from the Sandwich islands, bringing provisions and supplies for the Oregon settlement, and the first news of the gold excitement in the Sacramento valley. Immediately on receipt of this news, times in Oregon began to liven up, says Mrs. Warren. Immigrants began arriving from the East in large numbers, and many of them leaving at once for the gold diggings in California.

One of the thrilling incidents of her trip across the plains as related by Mrs. Warren, occurred on the banks of the Snake river in Idaho. Mrs. Warren and few of her girl friends were riding in advance of the emigrant train, and coming in sight of some ripe wild currants on the bank of the river, they tied their ponies and clambered down a steep bluff to the water's edge. After filling their aprons with the fresh fruit, and when

GOOD ROADS LEAD FROM MOSIER TOWN

The town of Mosier is situated on the main line of the O. R. & N. rail road, on the banks of the Columbia, and is making a steady growth. The view of the river and the mountains from the town is grand, while the roads leading out into the valley in several directions are among the finest drives in Oregon. Several new buildings have been erected during the past year, and a number of others are being planned, a new school house being now under consideration. The water supply is secured by piping a spring into the town, giving an abundance of fine cold water.

The east road out of town leads to The Dalles, 14 miles distant, the county seat, and is well kept and of moderate grades. The west road winds around Rock creek, up the canyon, and over the pass of the range of mountains dividing Mosier from Hood River, and the ever changing scene of farm and mountains in the distance is an inspiring one. From the summit can be seen the snow-capped mountains of Hood, Adams, St. Helens and Rainier, distant from 25 to 80 miles, together with the beautiful valleys of Hood River and White Salmon, the Columbia river and the wild and rugged mountains to the westward.



JOHN WELLBERG'S CAFE

H. M. ABBOTT HAS FINE FRUIT FARM

H. M. Abbott, of the Hood River Real Estate and Exchange Co., is owner of 40 acres of fine fruit land at Mosier. Mr. Abbott purchased the tract from a portion of the original Dan Sturges homestead, situated one and a quarter miles from the town of Mosier, southeast and adjacent to the new wagon road, which gives an eight per cent grade from town.

Twenty acres of the property is cleared, and ten acres are in bearing fruit trees; one acre in grapes; three acres in peaches and pears, and the balance in apples, peaches and pears. An abundance of water is supplied from three large springs. Mr. Abbott is planning the construction of a large reservoir this fall, when he will have plenty of free water for all irrigation purposes.

The soil of Mr. Abbott's farm is of volcanic ash, a substance especially well adapted to the culture of fruit, particularly cherries, apples and peaches. This has been an off fruit year, yet notwithstanding this, Mr. Abbott has shipped 500 cases of peaches which netted him over 40 cents a crate; 100 cases of peach plums, and will have 75 cases of peaches, which are selling now for over \$1 a crate. In addition to this he will have about five tons of grapes and large quantities of pears and apples. The apples are, however, not marketable this year, as the orchards were not sprayed sufficiently early in the season to destroy the codlin moth.

There is a four acre potato patch on the place which was planted the 10th day of June. The potatoes have not been touched by water, but indications are that there will be a large yield, notwithstanding the past season has been the driest in 20 years.

Cultivation rather than irrigation is what the Mosier lands require. In this manner the soil retains sufficient moisture, which is readily brought to the surface by stirring the ground with a spring-tooth harrow.

Nearly all the platted portion of the town site has been sold at good prices,

CONDUCTS GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORE

Alexander Stewart, the leading merchant of the town of Mosier, went there nine years ago, when he purchased the merchandising establishment conducted by R. A. Powers. Mr. Stewart is a successful business man in every sense of the word, and is popular in the community in which he lives. His store would be a credit to towns many times the size of Mosier. Therein can be found anything from drugs to hardware. He carries



ALEXANDER STEWART

everything in the machinery and implement line except threshers. He would carry these in stock if the Mosier valley produced grain instead of fruits.

Mrs. Stewart is postmistress of Mosier, and is giving eminent satisfaction to the patrons of the office. She succeeded her husband to this position, after he had served one term. A postoffice was first established at Mosier shortly after the completion of the O. R. & N. railroad in the early 80's. A. J. Lynch was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by J. H. Mosier, senior. The office remained in the Mosier family until 1899, when Mr. Stewart was appointed to the position.

The merchandising establishment conducted by Mr. Stewart was opened at Mosier a number of years ago by the Holmes Mercantile Co., which firm sold out to R. A. Powers, who in 1899, disposed of his stock to Mr. Stewart. Mr. Stewart was formerly a railroad man. He owns besides the large mercantile establishment 100 acres of land one and a half miles from the town. There is plenty of irrigating water on this ranch, making it one of the valuable farm properties in the valley.

Mr. Evans shipped 1843 cases of peaches this summer, for which he realized 47 1/2 cents a case. The crop was light this year, but the price very good.



Mrs. Depee Mrs. A. C. Warren Orin Depee Mrs. Alex Stewart
FOUR GENERATIONS REPRESENTED

ing on up the Willamette river a distance of seven miles from Linnnton, they came to Portland, which then consisted of a store and two dwelling houses. Frank Pettigrove kept the store. Here they remained until the fall of 1851, when Mrs. Warren's husband located on a donation land claim in Yamhill county, near the town of McMinnville.

Mrs. Warren can tell many interesting tales of her perilous trip across the continent. The hardest part of the whole trip she says was the journey from The Dalles to Portland. The party was without provisions, and after arriving at the Cascades, lived for a week on half a hog's jowl and some baked beans. There was no salt

just about to ascend the cliff, their blood curdled at hearing a loud Indian war whoop.

Glancing upward, they beheld several Indians decked with feathers and war paint standing by beside their ponies. Dropping their carefully gathered fruit, and fearful for their lives, they started to seek shelter among the rocks, when the shouts of neighbors of their emigrant train were heard, and the Indians were seen rapidly disappear. The horses were unmolested, and the girls made good their escape. Had it not been for the timely arrival of several of the men of the party who were herding cattle in front of the train, it is hardly likely Mrs. Warren would be in Mosier

MOSIER HOME IS FINEST IN TOWN

The handsome residence in the town of Mosier is the property of J. N. Mosier, a son of J. H. Mosier, from whom the little city takes its name. Mr. Mosier is a native of the place, and is now 45 years of age.

Mr. Mosier has foreseen the possibilities in store for the town and valley of Mosier and last summer made the first plat of the town site of which he was the original owner. Streets have been surveyed and the building boom which the little city enjoyed last fall and winter has given the town a real city-like appearance.



J. N. MOSIER

and Mr. Mosier is planning already to place another addition on the market. Mr. Mosier's residence is an imposing structure of pleasing architectural design, and the furnishings within are complete and comfortable. To the north, there is obtained from the residence a magnificent view of the Columbia river and the rolling hills on the Washington bank.

A large tract of river bottom just below the depot is a portion of the Mosier farm, which yields abundantly in crops and money to the renter.

Prunes Bring Good Money. Mosier fruit growers have been real-



HUSBANDS & ROOT'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

to be had, and none came until the arrival of a ship the next spring with supplies from the Sandwich islands.

On arriving at Fort Dalles, canoes were constructed by hewing out logs. A number of these roughly constructed boats were lashed together, the few household supplies and provisions placed aboard and the start made for the rapids at the Cascade. It was early in November, and cold winds fell constantly. Sealed to the skin, and with nothing to eat but a few baked beans and pickled pork, life and a real condition was a trial. When reaching the rapids, the party became unmanageable for a while in the strong current, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the whole party was saved by the quick death of being swept to pieces in the mad waters on the falls of the Columbia.

A landing was finally made, 24 days when was secured from the Indians and taken with a fire under the shelter of the rocks and by the help of the river. There was such in the camp, but Mrs. Warren says she never tasted a meal so delicious in all her life. A little deer was secured from the settlers of the Cascades, but provisions with them were also low, and it was a scant menu the hardy immigrants subsisted on.

After transferring around the rap-

today to tell the wonderful tales of her trip across the continent 58 years ago.



MOSIER BOX FACTORY

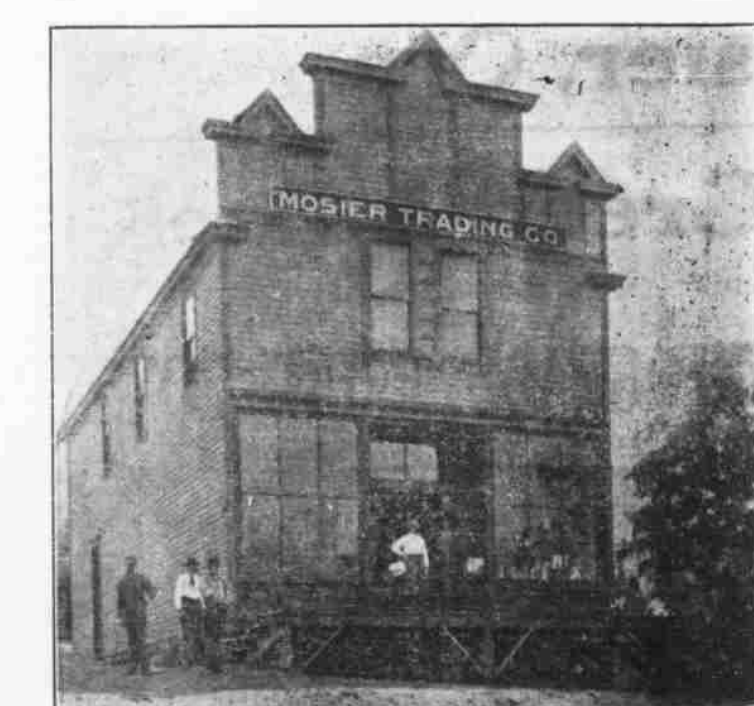
and the best varieties of apples attain a size and flavor that command the highest market prices in New York and Europe. Very few of the orchards are irrigated, the depth of the heavy clay furnishing sufficient irrigation to the trees through the dry season that is sufficient to mature the fruit.

The early strawberry land is located along the river, and Mosier strawberries are among the earliest to be marketed from this section of the country. This means very high prices and consequently large profits to the grower.

Mosier prunes cannot be surpassed in size and quality anywhere on the Pacific coast and on account of the diminished production of this fruit in other parts, the old Mosier prune

the land. The climate is all that can be desired. Protected by the mountains from the hot and cold blasts that sometimes sweep over the plains of eastern Oregon, sudden changes of temperature are unknown. The winters are pleasant, there being many more clear days, with absence of rain, than are found on the coast, while the summers are delightful, the thermometer rarely reaching 100 degrees in the summer, or to zero in the winter.

Cherries are known to do remarkably well in the Mosier valley. H. M. Abbott of Hood River states that this year 36 trees on the Ginger ranch yielded over 5 tons of cherries, which sold for from 4 to 7 cents a pound, returning the grower the neat sum of \$500.



MOSIER TRADING COMPANY



A SCENE IN THE STRAWBERRY FIELDS