

MOUHPICE of the NEHALEM VALLEY

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Advertising Medium of a Big Pay Roll Community

A SPLENDID DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST COUNTRY

Observations On a Trip to and Throu Yakima Valley

(By One of Our Citizens)

I do not remember of having had a vacation since I commenced to work as a wage earner in 1897 in the city of Brooklyn, N. Y. During all these years I have never been idle except when traveling from place to place wherever duty called. But "an honest to goodness vacation" I never enjoyed until this year. The purpose was to regain lost ambition and promote the health of the body. The trip had not been pre-arranged. We simply had to get away and forget the everyday routine. We thought at first that we might go to the coast, but the rainy season having started we changed our minds after we had started.

Monday noon, October 20, we loaded our old "Henry" with bedding and food, etc., and started for Portland to see our relatives. On Wednesday we motored to Vader, Washington, a former field of labor, where we were very kindly received by the people. Vader is a small town with a population of about 500, located 75 miles north of Portland, three miles off the Pacific Highway, and on the main lines of the railroads operating between Portland and Seattle. In years gone by it was very industrious little town with a sawmill, a shingle mill, and a clay factory. All of these burned leaving the city without a payroll for several years. This was demoralizing in effect. Many of the people had to move away. But they maintain a full accredited high school, two churches, the fraternal orders are well represented, and the bank is in excellent condition. Within the last year a new railroad was constructed from Longview to Ridgewood which was an encouragement. There is also a rumor that the clay-works will be built in the not far off future. In the mean time considerable land is being cleared and the future of the town seems secure.

Monday, October 27, we returned to Portland. "Henry" was loaded with some more food and cooking devices and on Tuesday noon we started up the Columbia River Highway. The scenery changed as rapidly as "Henry" was inclined to travel. In the evening we came to The Dalles Oregon. At this place we camped over night and paid the enormous sum of fifty cents for a shack, water, fuel, light and use of some crude camp furniture. The first rain of the season had fallen the previous night, and the night we were there it sprinkled a few times. The scenery had now changed radically. The ever-green forests of the western slope had given way to the sage brush. The high mountains instead of being in the east, showed themselves in the west. The climate is much drier, but it seemed to have a good effect upon us. When the sun rose in the morning I must say that I was glad to get up. Our improvised bed was not real to my needs.

On Wednesday we continued our trip up the Columbia another 14 miles. Then we ferried across to the Washington side and ascended into the "Horse Heaven". It is a long upgrade, but if the machine is in good order it is not difficult to make the grade. The road is good.

At noon we lunched at Goldendale, a very beautiful city in the "Horse Heaven" country. Much wheat is being raised in this community. Of late these people however were pretty hard hit on account of low prices for the wheat they marketed and the high rates they paid for their commodities they had to buy. But in spite of it the town is in good repair and shows evidences of an indomitable spirit. While it is only a horse heaven a touch of the divine heaven has nestled down amongst those people. Everybody seemed so friendly and courteous that we were very favorably impressed. Our "Henry" had not behaved quite right and a mechanic in Portland decided that the valves needed grinding. I knew better and pulled out. At Goldendale the mechanic of the Ford Garage made an adjustment on one of the coils, charged 35c, and "Henry" was O. K. We do like to advertise an honest mechanic.

It took us several hours to travel through the "Horse Heaven" country. In general the road is good. But

an account of heavy rainfall the preceding night water was found in a few low places and some mud. There is but one dangerous stretch of road along here. A canyon has to be crossed which necessitates a descent on a narrow road a mile in length and an ascent on the other side on a similar road, so that the two-mile trip advances you only about one half of a mile or less. At about three-thirty this same afternoon we thought we came to end of the world, but it was only the end of the "Horse Heaven". Before us lay the vast and beautiful Yakima Valley dotted with small towns and beautiful farms. It is worth while to stop at this place awhile and take in the scenery; in grandeur this spot can hardly be excelled. We descended on the switchback road and came to Mabton. It happened to be a very windy day. Coming down the incline we were afraid that the wind would blow us over the precipice. It was now getting evening, but without any interruption we hurried on to the city of Yakima where we stayed over night. We decided not to make any attempt of camping this night and enjoyed ourselves among friends in the parsonage.

It rained all that night and the next morning. We could not stay any length of time to see the city. What we saw indicative of prosperity.

For the first time we had a taste of the real famous Yakima apple; they are delicious. This fruit is still raised in large quantities and of the finest qualities. Our local apple cannot compete with the Yakima fruit. On Thursday morning we intended to visit the Potato King at Toppenish. As fortune would have it we came there he and his wife were off on a trip. The city of Toppenish is close to the Indian reservation. Many potatoes are raised there; and some potatoes they are. There are very imposing homes in this little city.

We then followed the Yellowstone Trail and came to Sunnyside. This is a most beautiful inland city with a population of approximately 2000, located near the center of the valley. The climate is delightful. There are several churches, schools, and the fraternal orders are well represented. A good, wholesome social life prevails. Diversified farming is the chief occupation of the people and the main support of the town. We were attracted by a pile of potatoes in the window of the Sunnyside Land and Investment company, which were of such a size, that unless we had seen them with our own eyes, a subsequent conversation would have been considered as a fairy tale. All the land is irrigated. Wonderful stories of fabulous crops and good prices were told. These hardly seemed creditable. But out in the fields were the cornstalks, the potatoes and melons, and the livestock on the farms, then we were persuaded that there was something doing. There is still some unimproved land that can be had for \$100.00 per acre. But then the water right will have to be added which costs \$120.00 per acre I believe; this however, is a perpetual right. Improved land is valued from \$250.00 per acre to several thousands.

From Sunnyside we went to Mabton. This is a smaller town and not as well developed as Sunnyside. There is still much land waiting for the hand of man to transform it into a garden. The prices of land are similar to those at Sunnyside.

Grandview is the next city we visited. It is with pride that the people may speak of their town and community. It is a grand view indeed to be allowed to see the city and associate with its people for one night and part of a day. The rainfall is about eight inches. While the temperature is higher in the summer than on this western slope, heat prostrations are unknown. All kinds of grain, fruits, vegetables, cattle, poultry, etc., are raised here. There are even a few of the semi-tropical fruits and vegetables raised here. It was here where we saw the tallest cornstalk we had ever seen in our lives. Total failures are impossible, because the farmer does not depend upon the rain. There are many small farms with an acreage from five to forty. A Mr. Haaze had his son

(Continued on an Inside Page)



LET US BE THANKFUL

Time is turning back the pages of memory at this season, and once more we are brought into an atmosphere such as surrounded our Pilgrim fathers when they saw the wiseness of returning to a Kindly Providence their manifold thanks for the blessings that had been showered upon them.

As they came through storm and stress, even so have many of our own people passed through trying times within the year now drawing to a close. But just as they were safely landed and the riches of the land laid out before them, for their benefit if they would but labor and bring forth crops, even so we find ourselves surrounded by opportunities behind which are hidden rich blessings if we will but strive for them.

We speak for all America in general, and for the people of Vernonia in particular, when we assert that is living today none but who can lay some honest claim to happiness at some time during the year. And so long as there remains even one ray of happiness, there remains one thing to be thankful for. Sorrows have come to many of us, just as sorrows will come to others in the years ahead. But always they were tempered with sunshine, or with a promise that keeps us looking happily ahead. As a whole no nation has been more blessed, no people have lived their lives more unselfishly and, by reason of so living, more happily. We have been blessed as a nation and as a people. We have harvested well, and no dark shadow of disease or epidemic has hovered above our homes. We have grown stronger in our love of our friends and our neighbors, we have passed, each of us, another milestone of a road rich with experience.

The season of Thanksgiving is here, and each and every heart must upon reflection feel that surely there has been much within the year for which to be thankful. We have but to glimpse the dark picture of pioneer days, we have but to lend an ear to the cries which come from across the seas to assure us that as a people we have been blessed far beyond our own feeble ability to repay.

Mindful of the one who made these blessings possible, let us be thankful not alone for that which has been bestowed upon us, but for the bright promise we face as we start again through the winter months. Let us be hopeful that the same hand that has blessed us through the year departing will guide us through the years to come; and that each year will find us meriting the blessing bestowed upon us, that each year will find us justifying the hope placed in us by our fellowmen.



EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Saturday evening, Nov. 22, the third quarterly conference will be held. C. L. Schuster, Presiding Elder will preside. He will also preach at the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, at which time communion will be administered. The Sunday school will be in session from 9:45 to 10:55 a. m., and the Christian Endeavor Society will meet at 6:30 p. m. At the 7:30 p. m. service the pastor will speak on the subject "Catholicism, Protestantism, or Christ?"

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, the W. M. S. will hold their annual bazaar at the Gilby Motor company's sales room. Lunch will be served also.

Thursday, Nov. 27, the Thanksgiving service will be held in the church. The hour will be announced later.

The Christmas program committee has the program well under way. The entertainment will be held in the church on Christmas Eve, December 24.

H. G. H.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Morning and evening services of the Christian church Sunday in the high school auditorium. Following the Bible school session at 10:00 a. m. will be preaching services at 11, subject of sermon: "The Making of a Great Church."

In the evening, Christian Endeavor meeting at 6:30, followed by preaching at 7:30, the theme being: "Thanksgiving—in Fact and Significance."

A cordial welcome to everybody. W. A. Gressman, minister.

ALL READY—CONNECT

Vernonia Sewer System is finished in District 1 and 2. Every lot that is occupied must connect. Get a permit from Recorder, and connect with the sewer as soon as possible if you are interested in the town's health, safety, convenience and progress. It is important to note that every plumber or every man, digging in the street for sewer pipe, must leave the street in as good condition as before digging.

ITS THIS COMING MONDAY

The Luncheon at 12:30 of the Chamber of Commerce. Some important business coming up, reports of committees and particulars of mid-winter carnival, Indoor circus home coming social, jazz jubilee, high jinks or "what-you-may-call-it".

HANDSOME NEW STORE

The new Skaggs Store is completed and occupied and the store opening announced for Saturday. It is no doubt one of the prettiest and best arranged stores for its size in the state. Mr. H. O. Dissmore, recently of Corvallis, who has moved to this place is the local manager in charge of the handsome Vernonia Skaggs Store and Market, next door to the new bank building.

AN APPEAL TO HOME PRIDE

Several people living or having stores on streets where the new cement curb is in, now contemplate planting roses, flowers, grass and shrubbery in the space between curb and sidewalk. Right now is the time to plant roses. Let everyone get in the game. It certainly will help appearances and by noticing the curb lines in a few months it will be seen who among us love beauty.

RED CROSS CHAIRMAN

E. E. Hayes has been appointed chairman of the membership drive for the Oregon-American section of the Vernonia district. Mr. Hayes seems to have an easy faculty for heading Red Cross drives, having been a leader in Red Cross work in Louisiana and a member of the county executive committee before coming west. The members of the drive committee who will work in putting over the membership drive at the O.-A. are the following: D. L. Smith, A. J. Hughes, R. A. Simmons, T. J. Waltman, J. W. Graham, A. J. Soule, R. L. Tarleton, C. W. Gould, J. A. Campbell, J. L. Will, and McBaron.

THANKSGIVING NIGHT

Bills announcing a big Thanksgiving Ball at Coyle's Hall on Thanksgiving night, with extra special music and good time assured.

SPECIAL BUDGET ELECTION TO BE HELD

About December 4, Vernonia Will Vote On City Budget

About December 4 Vernonia will hold a special Budget election. Probably it won't amount to much as far as "attendance" is concerned, still it is of vital importance to the city. According to law and the ways of local government, we vote for or against the Budget for 1925; as recently published, and as prepared by a Budget committee of business men of our town. At the last meeting of the City Council this recommended Budget was sliced about \$4,000 less than the estimate. With the new slice—\$2500 of the water bond fund and \$1500 off the sewer bond fund—the taxes for the city for 1925 will be considerable less than at first suggested. They will be about 34 per cent lower than the original Budget called for. We hardly believe any one could vote against the acceptance of the budget as it certainly would be a calamity to the town and to the pocket book of the property owner. We have a little experience from not getting a budget through last year. The city Budget as now stands will be up on Dec. 4. Only one polling place will be provided, but don't forget to go out and vote for the acceptance of the Budget, that Vernonia may have, at least, some money to do with next spring.

THANKS TO EDITOR McSHANE

The Vernonia Eagle, Paul Robinson editor and owner, who formerly owned the Aurora Observer indicates that Vernonia is going right ahead in its development in all lines. The Eagle is a mighty good paper and reflects the efforts made to give that thriving metropolis a paper to be proud of—it boosts, commends, admonishes on occasion and without overstepping. The Eagle is entitled to Vernonia's best support.—Hubbard Enterprise.

AT MRS. DAVIDSON'S

The "Millview 500 Club" was delightfully entertained by Mrs. Davidson on Thursday afternoon. First prize was won by Mrs. Hayes and consolation by Mrs. Waltman. The following enjoyed Mrs. Davidson's hospitality: Mesdames Alexander, Anderson, Close, Campbell, Hayes, Hughes, Kennedy, Waltman, Marshall, Schroeder and Will.

TURKEY SHOOT

The Vernonia Rifle Club will hold a Turkey shoot Sunday at the Seward farm joining town. Begin shooting at 9:30 a. m. An opportunity to get that turkey.

Miss Little, county Red Cross nurse, was at work in the Vernonia Grade School Monday and Tuesday. Three hundred-ninety-three pupils were weighed and measured. Of this number over 7 per cent were seriously underweight. Several special cases received were given individual attention as well as several children visited in the homes at the request of parents.

Miss Little is doing a splendid work in the schools of the county and we should all help support the Red Cross in its work.

The John Bucher Womens Relief Corps, No. 49, wishes to say to the Legion Boys and all ex-soldiers that we were so thankful they could be with us on that day. The dinner was a very small thing considering what they did for us, also the sound of the bugal and beat of the drum never disturbs the Relief Corps. We could rise any time of night or day to cheer them on their way. We wish to thank the stores for their liberal donations of groceries for the dinner. Sarah A. Spencer, President.

A. W. Petersen was a business visitor in Portland Monday.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass and Sermon on the third Sunday of each month, at 11:30 a. m. Week day communion Mass to be announced. Jos. P. Clancy, Pastor.