

Wilbur--¹ndians..Cattle.

Father Wilbur recommended to the commissioner of Indian affairs in 1872 that if the remaining installments of money due the Yakima nation under treaty could be invested in cattle a herd could in a short time be accumulated that would yield an annual revenue greater by far than all the money paid by the government. He reported that the cost of raising a cow or steer three years old on the range is not as much as to feed domestic animals a year, on settlement and near the reservation and that cattle, could not fail to make the whole nation financially independent in a few years.

Wilbur wrote Snipes at The Dalles in 1882 that Indians called all head of Snipes cattle for beef and credited the Indians to Snipes \$206 to Snipes grazing account. Snipes grazing bill to the reservation in June, 1882 was \$989 and called on Snipes for he was allowed \$30 for steers, five years old and \$25 for three year old steers.

"hen R.H. Milroy took over the superintendency of the agency in 1883 and the Indian cattle herds were increasing, he notified Snipes that his grazing contract with the agency expired June 30, 1883 and there was much opposition to renewing it.

The Indians met in council in 1884 and agreed to renew the contract provided it was paid quarterly or semi-annually in advance .

Other cattle of settlers were ranging on reservation land and the government ordered the Indians to drive them from the reservation and charge the cattlemen \$1 a head. Some cattlemen were not only using the reservation, free, but were abiding taxes by from the counties. By 1887 the Indians decided that all stock owned by white settlers should be moved from the reserve because they never received any benefit from money paid to the department for the pasturage, money they believed they were entitled to.

The Ya ima Indians went into the cattle business in increasing numbers, they started as ca cooperate in 1931 with 500 head and built up to 4,200 in five years. Cooperative sales were started in 1934, 600 to 1,000 head being sold annually. When drought conditions hit the Indian ranges in North and South "zkota they took stop ~~down~~ 1,525 head of stock and started returning it, 500 head a year when the ranges improved.

Indians..

Tom McKay ran ca~~000~~ as high as 1,700 head of cattle on the reservation with Meyer and Bounds under the TK brand and they were so wild that the cowboys had to build a high log corral~~s~~ to hold them when roundup time came Frank Hartman, who operated a butcher shop at K^oslyn was also a partner and got a fourth of the cattle. They were fattened at Easton after the roundup and then taken on over ~~Snoqualmie~~ Snoqualmie to Seattle.

raising cattle without fences and without growing feed for them, was well suited to the Northwest and its limitless land, ~~where there was~~ good bunchgrass and water. ~~When the first cattle were introduced~~ The ~~first~~ miners who overran the country just before the sixties created a demand for red beef. The demand for stock after the ~~the~~ Civil War added another impetus to cattlemen.

The first stragglers of the hooves that were to beat down the grass land and help trod the Indian underfoot appeared in the Northwest long before the miners and the days of the homesteader. When the Spaniards ~~who~~ occupied Nootka Sound they introduced black stock from California and Fidalgo brought cattle and other livestock to Neah Bay before Lewis and Clark came down the ~~Colville~~ Chia-Wana. Other stock came in from the Sandwich islands, ~~and~~ California and Mexico. The Hudson's Bay company had stock at Vancouver a quarter of a century later and cattle also ~~had~~ made their appearance in the Colville country.

The Yakima Indians obtained their first stock a quarter of a century before the first cattlemen migrated north ~~where they had~~ to the open range with bands of stock and the early mission ~~and~~ settlements were also stock minded but none of this was for the Wanapums. The salmon that crowded up the ~~the~~ Big River past ~~to~~ Priest Rapids, wild game, roots and berries provided their natural food, given by Naim-Paip, the creator and they asked nothing more.

By the time of the Yakima ~~war~~ Indian war, 1855-56, there were 100,000 head of cattle in the Walla Walla country and that was 15 years after the Yakima war chief, Kamiakin had gone to Vancouver to trade for cattle to range in the Yakima valley, west of the River ~~People~~ People.

~~0. The~~

The bluecoated soldiers rounded up many Indian cattle during the war and slaughtered them for food and the warriors, constantly on the move and frequently feasting and dancing, killed much of their stock.

But Smo-Wha-La and his followers were people of peace as well as strict adherents to nature, and war dancing and feasting were not for them. When the pum-pum drums drubbed at Priest Rapids, White Bluffs or Wadood down by the Snake river, they thumped out a religious dance.

Then came the overland march and thousands of cattle came into the country across the plains with the shepherds. The cattlemen needed land, and plenty of it and the slopes along the Columbia in the Wanapum country, the Moxee, and Yakima and Kittitas valleys and the hills and vales to the south had what they needed and what the stock thrived on.

The miners on the Fraser and in the Cariboo needed beef and the overland drives started, delivering meat on the hoof. Some men went into the business, determined to make a fortune while the grass held out and cattle ranged on a thousand hills until the worst winter in the Northwest history struck and stood held its hold while animals floundered in the snow, settled there and ate their tails in desperation until the snow and ice melted and left the ranges littered with skins stretched over bones.

The loss was devastating. Of 10,000 head on winter pasture in the Walla Walla country

less than 1,000 were left and the loss was extended all over Central and Eastern Washington, Oregon and the Deer lodge and Bitter Root valleys of Montana.

Before the icy blizzards, however, had struck and brought snow that had melted started to melt beneath a warm chinook wind when the cold returned to glaze the whole country and other snow fell there were three head of livestock to each person in Oregon and Washington--over nearly 110,000 cows and oxen. The mines around Boise and Owyhee mines were drawing on the range lands for cattle and everything looked rosy. After that only a few brave-hearted stockmen returned to the range the range. The others took up farming and built barns to protect their stock and grew feed to save against the rigors of winter. However, many of them, encouraged by the strength of the few brave ones and tempted by the wide open range that still existed and a chance for a big cleanup, returned to raising cattle.

Overland drives and steamboats took the stock through the bellowing herds through the heart of the Indian country. The Blackfoot country to the east was added as a market until 1867 when the stockmen suddenly found those areas were producing their own beef. Within two years, the drives to the mines were halted because they too were overstocked. Dan Drumheller of Walla Walla who went to the Fraser river with 500 head of steers, carrying them up the river found no market until he sold them for \$75 a head to Ed Harper, an old friend, with the promise he would bring no more north. Years before the Walla Walla cattleman had told Harper where he could procure a thousand head for \$6,000. Harper bought the stock, drove them to the mines in the north and sold them for \$100,000.

After the golden bubble had exploded, the stockmen found some relief by supplying markets in Western Washington and Ike Carson drove 200 head of stock over Snoqualmie pass to Puget Sound in 1868. A year later Joseph Borst drove a large herd across the Cascades to the coast and the way to the west side trade was opened. By 1875 the Western part of the state was purchasing \$200,000 worth of beef each season from cattlemen who ranged their herds on the Indian lands east of the Cascades and in the Columbia Basin.

Beef canning enterprises sprung up and flourished for a time, finding a good outlet in England for the Eastern Washington and Oregon beef but the industry failed when Chicago and Eastern points started supplying the British Isles with fresh beef. Then came the demand from Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska for stock range stock and cattle kings by the score suddenly were born overnight.

Another winter setback, more determination to carry on and the cattle industry headed into its last era before the open range was closed and the ranges were grazed off to the ground by the increasing herds of cattle, horses and sheep.

~~The cattle trade to Montana was~~

When the cattle were herded out to the Montana country ~~they went~~ ~~by the~~ there ~~was a choice of two routes.~~ was a choice of two routes. One was north from Walla Walla to the Snake river and over the old Mullan trail that crossed at the old Palouse home village, passed through the Spokane valley and across northern Idaho. The other ~~was~~ southern route over a part of the old Nez Perce trail led through Boise City. Fifteen thousand head of cattle from Oregon and 10,000 from Eastern and Central Washington ~~traveled~~ were moved over the trails in 1880.

Lang and Ryan assembled the greatest herds from the cow countries of the west to move eastward in the spring of the following year, ~~the year~~ ???

23 24,800 head that wintered in the Yellowstone in 1881 and then moved on east in two herds, driven by 120 men with a string of 800 horses. They went equipped with 40 wagons and plenty of loaded rifles. Many of the cattle were gathered north of the Snake in the Columbia basin for the start of the trip, others came from Idaho,

A few years later when the Northern Pacific came to the Northwest, traversed the Columbia basin and the Yakima country, it undoubtedly brought a new way of life for the cattlemen but didn't immediately end the overland drives. Train shipments to the east amounted to 35,000 head of cattle, 3,500 horses and 25,000 sheep when the stock cars started to roll over the new rails and a short time later the Yakima valley alone sent out close to 50,000 head of cattle to Montana and Middlewestern markets, bringing \$9 a head.

During the Douth and a hard winter and overstocked range swept Montana ranges nearly clear of cattle at the height of the movement but they recovered their losses and within five years the movement from Washington into Montana and Dakota was climbing to another high, 100,000 head.

The railroads, which hauled cattle, horses and sheep one way brought settlers the other and settlers brought fences to the ranges where the stockmen were driven to a last refuge with the Indians. The stockraisers turned to the purchase of railroad lands to fence for pasture and alfalfa came into use on the sage brush lands and the stockmen fought for before the arrival of the '90s, as the stockmen fought for their lives. Many turned to wheat and fruit farming and fruit growing and some to dairying. Another cold winter that snowed no mercy to cattle or horses was a crowning blow when coupled with the hard times of 1892. The cowboy was relegated to the doom of the bison and the blanket Indian and it was a double blow, because, many Indians were top riders

for the cattleman who took over their lands. The cattle industry reached its peak by 1890 and declined swiftly although not permanently because there was still land and feed and wide open spaces in the West. Remodeled to a modern pattern, it took its place among the big industries of the West that developed with settlement, agriculture and horticulture.

The cowboys of the Northwest used single rigs in contrast to the double rig outfits of those in Montana and Wyoming and while they adopted some of the words from the Southwest like bronco, loco, rodeo, corral, lariat, ranch, dogy and horse wrangler, they gave some them a different pronunciation than the Spanish.

They wore leather boots in the summer without the high heels.

~~One came and ready up the leg~~

In the winter they had buffalo-skin boots with the hair side that came half way up the calf of the leg and the hair was turned inside to kept them warm. The hats were just plain hats, not the 10-gallon variety and in the winter time the Eastern Washington riders used a ~~hede~~ hunter-style hat with flaps that kept their necks and ears warm.

~~Chaps came into used later~~ Chaps were worn only by the far-traveling cowboy who came into the Northwest ~~because~~ because the sage brush didn't tear and rip like the chaparral in California and ~~on~~ the Southwest. Guns were seldom carried because it was easier to kill a beef than one of the plentiful deer and the Indians were peaceable.

When the snow trapped a band of cattle the cowmen put leggins on their ~~hede~~ ~~gunny~~ horses, using gunnysacking and leather so they could break trail ~~on~~ without cutting the animals on the snow crust.

John Bishop's stock ranged around Steptoe Butte until Cashup Davis came along, bought all the land and fenced it in.

Peter Proff was running stock around Rosalia and James McCoy who founded Oakesdale was another horns and hoof operator. James

43L. Flint, who had his range in Parker bottom below the Gap
at Yakima City branded with ~~an~~ ^{joined} an A ~~drop down~~ L, representing his
initials. Purdy Flint, his brother, used a 7-6 ~~iron~~, ^{read} joined and
the cattle king, Snipes, used an S brand. *plain S.*

Calves were marked by notching their ears in a special place,
Purdy Flint ~~would~~ clipping a ~~poor~~ piece from ~~the ear of the calf~~
~~at the top of the~~ ^{the} calf's left ear and another piece
from the bottom of the right ear. ~~Sometimes~~ Sometimes ~~the~~
~~and~~ a dewlap was cut from the flesh hanging down in front of the
cow's neck. The ear and neck jarks were easier to see when the
animal ~~faced~~ faced the rider or the brand was dim or hidden by
~~long winter hair.~~ long winter hair.

When the herds grazing along the Yakima river bottom cropped the forage close they ranged out from the river until they had to trail back to the river in a day or two for water.

Cattle drifted by instinct from summer to winter range and they worked up the hills and valleys north of the Yakima river into the Kittitas valley ~~where~~ for the summer and it was there that the choice 3-year old steers were separated and trailed over Snoqualmie pass to Puget Sound for butchering in the fall. The move to the early grass in the Kittitas was led by the older, wiser cows and a ~~two-week~~ two-week roundup ~~he~~ headed the others toward the ~~sound~~ spring and summer range. The cowboys, many of them Indians ~~who~~ would spread out in the hills two or three miles apart and drive toward the river ranches where they were corralled and branded.

Snipes had one bunch of over-grown steers, too wild for the cowboys. They'd break through the horsemen and head back into the hills and kept their freedom during the 70s because they were long horns and too tough for beef. They were ~~who~~ wiped out by gunners when the railway came into the country.

The old trail from the Yakima to the Kittitas led through Squaw creek and was well beaten by the packtrains that carried supplies ~~from the Dalles~~ from the Dalles to the Kamloops mines in British Columbia in earlier days.

~~The cattle were paid 20 cents a pound~~ Two cents a pound, on the hoof, was the usual price paid for Yakima cattle by the Sound butchers and it was paid in \$20 gold pieces.

When the cattle were paid 20 cents a pound

The Snoqualmie pass trail was a wagon road cut through the woods but few wagons used it.

Herds were split at Easton and the cattle were accustomed to the wide open places, were docile along the trail but were hemmed in by the dark woods. They strung out behind the lead packhorses. Whenever any of them did bolt into the woods they became terrified and it was necessary to drive in older, gentler cattle and lead them out.

The riders cooked and slept in the open but the cattle had to go without feed for three or four days during the Cascade crossing. When they reached Snoqualmie prairie on the west side they were pastured to put on a little weight. The horses had handouts of grain carried on the packhorses.

The cattle were weighed in, five or six at a time on scales and the cowmen would spend a few days and some of their money in Seattle before starting home. Seattle was a waterfront town then.

Even as early as 1865 the feeling was that the placer mines were washed out and that the fields would support a greater population than the mines ever could. Drivers were finding good prices in California in 1866 for their cattle, selling them from \$35 to \$66d \$50 a head. The prices were bolstered because many Oregon men were selling out and sheep were taking over

- Cowboys

Cowboys found their recreation at cross-roads dances and villages where it took the entire population to make a crowd. They took whisky to the dances in matten jugs that bounched when accidentally dropped.

They wore bandanas to keep off the sun and dirt, hats and buckskin pants. The chaps came in later. In the 70s cattle were herded across the passes with 12-foot long whips that would split a hide but they made the cattle too wild because they would pop like a six shooters. Yakima City had three saloons patronized by the cowboy in the early days/ and two race tracks where the horsemen raced.

Bounds and Meyer , Yakima valley cattlemen, bought up the Ben E. Snipes
property 1,400 1,700 acre ranch on parker bottom and Zillah
at the receiver's sale at Ellensburg in 1900, paying \$11,800 for it.

End of cattle era.

Range land ~~used to~~ cost 35 cents an ~~ad~~ acre when cattle were going strong. later it sold for \$10 and the e was none to be had.

The cattlemen who turned to sheep in the Ephrata country and on other parts of the Columbia Basin face loss of their grazing land. Sheep didn't care much for bunch grass, only in the fall and winter when the snow was on the ground. They'd eat the tops off where the ~~best~~ best part, the seed, was. They eat cheat grass, sun flowers and sheep grass that is two or three inches high

By 1872 the increase in cattle far ~~exceeded~~ exceeded the demand and prices dropped to \$18 a head and the low ~~ed~~ held on until 1875 when ~~eastern~~ ~~buyers~~ ~~and~~ Wyoming and Montana ranges were stocked with animals purchased in the Yakima. Two hundred thousand cattle were ranging in the Yakima valley just before the 80s.

big time operators.

One of the biggest operations in the Northwest was in the Oregon country where the Double O operated on the edge of a desert, the brand looked like a bridle bit . The ranch was 40 miles long. Lots of Washington men got cattle from them to start in business. Ray Garrison, who later was a banker at Twisp, was the foreman. The Sisks brought the last of their cattle, 1,100 head. They kept in business during the hard winters by cutting wild hay and stacking it in the meadows, a practice that didn't start in the Yakima valley until a couple of bad winters took a deadly toll.

Joseph Dorst, a member of the firm of Booth, Foss & Burst ,
Seattle butchers, bought steers in the Yakima valley and drove them
over Snoqualmie pass in 1869, opening the business with the Sound.

There were no stock corrals on the range in the early days.

The cattlemen built them later on at Cold creek and Selah springs
and all the roping was done in the open.

end of cattle era.

Some of the cattlemen were wiped out when they tried to branch out, buying stock in the Okanogan country and bringing it south to sell at \$5 or \$10 a head profit, then they'd expand and buy more stock and then suddenly the market would collapse and they'd have to kill the calves and sell the stock for low beef prices.

