

Thorp and learnin what a splendid country they were in, they then remained in Yakima. After that year settlers began to arrive in numbers.

Yakima county was organized by a special act of the territorial legislature approved January 21, 1865. The first appointments to county offices by the governor were as follows:

Commissioners F.M. Thorp, C.P. Cook and Alfred Henson; sheriff, Charles A. Splawn; auditor, J.W. Grant; treasurer, E.W. Lyons. The new county being too poor to erect a court house, all county business was transacted in the home of Commissioner Thorp. The first session of court was held in the small log school house erected by the same pioneer who was regarded as the patriarch of the little community.

Yakima county, by its original boundaries, included all the territory from the apex of the Cascade mountains on the west to the majestic Columbia on the east; and from the border of Klickitat county on the south to the sixth standard parallel on the north, embracing all of the present county, Kittitas and Benton counties and what is now a portion of Chelan county, almost an empire in itself. Yakima was attached to Stevens county, judicially.

June 3, 1867 was the date of the first election held in Yakima county, the polling place being fixed at the home of J.H. Henderson on the Antanum, the total vote cast being 44. At this election the following officers were chosen: Alfred Henson, G.W.L. Allen and Thomas Goodwin, commissioners; Charles A. Splawn, sheriff; John Lindsey, assessor; J.W. Grant, auditor; F.W. Lyons, treasurer; S.C. Taylor, school superintendent; Henry Davis, coroner.

In the spring of 1868 the court house was removed from the Thorp home to a house owned by C.P. ~~soon~~ Cook in the Moxee, where it remained until the summer of 1870. In the latter ~~year~~ year the people voted as to the location of the county seat. Of the four



candidates for that honor, Yakima City received 89 votes, ~~Elmer~~ Flint's store ~~2000~~ 20 , Selah 18 and a point named in Kittitas valley 3. Shortly after this verdict from the people the county seat was removed to Yakima City where it remained for 16 years .

The first court house in Yakima City was a small frame building which was destroyed by fire March 31, 1882 on which occasion nearly all of the county records were lost.

On April 4 of that year the board of county commissioners, consisting of ~~Ed~~ David Longmire , J.P. Sharp and Andrew McDonald issued a order for the construction of a new court house which was completed that summer. This building was removed to its present site in North Yakima in the spring of 1887 after the people had voted affirmatively on the proposal to move the county seat to New Yakima, as it was then called, at the election of 1886.

This court house, the remains of which still afford a shelter for a portion of our county officials after being partially destroyed by fire, May 5, 1906, at the hour of noon, at which time fortunately all public records were saved.

In such a brief sketch as this it is possible only to refer to leading events in Yakima county's history such as the murder of the Perkins

family by Indians in 1878 and the subsequent capture, trial and execution of the murderers; the secession of Kittitas county in 1883; ~~and~~ the coming of the Northern Pacific railroad in 1883 and the contention caused by its establishment of North Yakima, since grown into a splendid city; the inauguration of irrigation, development on a large scale, the campaigns made for the state capital in 1889 and 1890; the long war over county division resulting in the formation of Benton county in 1905 and the inauguration of a system of federal irrigation in 1906, all of which are highly important.

The records of the auditor show that on August 11, 1905, our honorable board of commissioners ~~consistently~~ issued instructions to advertise



for bids for the construction of our new court house which was done and the contract accordingly let to our new court house, ~~and the contract was accordingly let to our new court house~~ which was done, and the contract let accordingly; but owing to technicalities the question of building was not submitted to a vote of the people until December 12, 1905, when the proposal was ratified by an overwhelming majority....

Following the reading of this paper the cornerstone was laid, the county commissioners taking turns at wielding the trowel. Short speeches were then made by Mayor Reed, Colonel L.S. Howeltt, E.B. Preble and W.H. Thompson. These were in the main retrospective or of a prophetic nature and all were of the most optimistic character..

One of the most important things placed in the box was a letter received ten years ago from President Palma of Cuba by Dr. George E. Fell, now a resident of this city but at that time living in New York city and interesting himself in the cause of the Cubans. The letter reads:

Partido "Revolucionario Cubano Delgacion New York June 24, 1896

Dr. George E. Fell, Buffalo, New York. Dear Sir:

By the newspapers sent me from your city I have been gratified at the success of your mass meeting and only hope that this will be the beginning of material ~~and~~ help to our cause. I was very sorry that for reasons which I have already given to Mr. Smith it was impossible for me to accept your very kind invitation and visit the city of Buffalo.

Kindly thank the Cuban-American junta of Buffalo for their efforts in behalf of our long suffering Cuba and you sir, accept my heart-full gratitude for the interest displayed by you in this matter:  
Yours very truly T Estrada Palma.

William H. Redman, contributed a prophecy which will seem a strange thing, a voice from the past, when some one reads it, let us hope, long

after Mr. Redman shall have passed away. It follows:

North Yakima, Wash, June 5, 1906

To present and future generations. I take the occasion of the laying of this cornerstone to record my prophecy made five years ago:

That the child is now born who will live to see the city of North Yakima 100,000 population. Now the population is but about 7,000. Few if any of my fellow citizens agree with me in this prediction.

When this stone receptacle is opened by a future generation it will be known whether or not this prophecy has been made good. Long before that time the definitive North will have been dropped from its name. Very truly yours. William H. Redman, No. 12 South Naches avenue-The Yakima Herald, June 6, 1906.



The new county court house which is just completed at a cost of \$125,000 has been accepted by the county commissioners from the contractor W.W. Felton and will be occupied by the county officials in the case of the next two weeks.

The building is a handsome structure of stone and was designed by Newton C. Gauntt, the architect of this city. The contract was let October 3, 1905, several months prior to the fire which destroyed the top story of the old building May 5, 1906. Subsequently the commissioners discovered that they could not authorize the expenditure without a bond election and this was held in December, 1905 and the contractor notified to proceed with the building.

Date for completion was extended, due principally to delays caused mainly by difficulty in getting stone shipped from Port Angeles. December 18, 1906 was the date originally stipulated for the completion of the contract, this was extended to June 1 and then again extended.

The old court house, minus its top story destroyed by fire already referred to is still the habitat of the county officials. It stands directly in front of the new building. Naturally the quarters are cramped.

Courts have been held in another building ever since the old court room went up in smoke and flames.

This old building has quite a history attaching to it. It was erected in Old Town after the first court house was destroyed completely by fire there. When the NP railway company persuaded the residents of Yakima City that they would be better off in North Yakima the court house was one of the first buildings to be moved free of charge by the railway to the site of the town. The lumber contained in it will be sold for firewood to the highest bidder.

Old timers recall an amusing incident in connection with the fight

put up by the NP to avoid paying taxes at that time. H.J. Snively, now a leading attorney of this city but then a young man satisfied to hold the responsible but not richly endowed office of prosecuting attorney caused the wheels of one of the company's locomotives to be tied up with chain and padlock and held the locomotive until the taxes were forthcoming.

The new court house will provide ample accommodation for many years to come. Its various rooms are lofty and commodious.

...At the dedication of the cornerstone of the new courthouse, Tuesday, June 5, 1905.....Frank J. Allen read a brief but very comprehensive history of the city dating back to 1855 prepared by J.D. Medill. This paper was included in the contents of the box in the cornerstone--The Yakima Herald, Nov. 13, 1907.



What is expected to be one of the final payments on the court house county bonds which were issued on March 1, 1906 when actual construction on the present building was begun was made yesterday by Treasurer Lillian Busch in the sum of \$80,000.

This amount was sent to the Equitable Trust Co of New York.

Mrs. Busch arrived in the county in that year but lived in the lower valley first.

The bonds were issued for the construction of both the court house and the jail. If tax collections come in next month, Mrs. Busch plans to make the final payment on this bond issued by the end of March. They were issued March 1, 1906 and run for 20 years. By paying next month the issue will be retired a year ahead of maturity.

A check for \$9029 was mailed to the state treasurer and \$493.35 was sent to the Benton county treasurer, the latter sum being taxes on the Horse Heaven and Grandview irrigation districts which were paid in this county.--The Yakima Republic, February 11, 1925.

The old courthouse, after years of service in the history of Yakima county passed from the hands of the commissioners yesterday to Jesse Chicochette for the magnificent sum of \$275.

The courthouse must be moved within 60 days and then work of clearing away from the front lawn of the new courthouse will be done preparatory to beautifying it next summer.

The old courthouse was the central figure in the scene of bitter strife which existed when the North Pacific decided to move the county seat from Yakima City to North Yakima.

It has had a turbulent history up to that point when its existence became calmer with age and barring a fire or two and having its walls bored open occasionally by jail breakers it settled down into a peaceful life which will soon be over.

Just what bitterness arose over the moving of houses, stores and public buildings from Yakima City to North Yakima is plainly shown in the Yakima Sun, February 17, 1885, Vol 1, No. 1 of which is in the possession of The Herald.

The Sun was the first paper ever published in Yakima and in its initial announcement told the people that it was not a weekly or monthly and would appear at any time the people saw fit to "vindicate and defend their city and property from any and all persons who are seeking by false representations to crush them and render their houses and property worthless."

This means that the paper was published for the sole purpose of taking up the fight relative to moving from the old town to the new.

Letters from a large number of citizens are printed and to read these letters today there is much that is humorous and pathetic found.

Central in this fight was the old courthouse because it meant the



removal of the county seat and much to make a city grow.

In this paper North Yakima is referred to as New Yakima. One letter declares that this is not a good location.

The writer states "misrepresentation and falsehood may win for a time but in the end honesty and fair dealing will triumph. We have in Yakima what New Yakima cannot have for years to come, if it ever can, on account of the rocky nature of the land on which the town is located and that is shade and fruit trees. We believe as above stated that Yakima cannot be made to produce vegetables of any kind for it is mostly loose ground. Now as the topography of the new townsite is so unattractive and possessing no natural advantages that is not possessed to great abundance by the old town, therefore I cannot see how any amount of booming will give new Yakima anything more than a temporary growth."

Other letters are along similar lines. One man condemns the Northern Pacific; another declares that the Oregonian is a liar in telling of moving a town; a third says that no pure water can be found in New Yakima; another states that the school system of New Yakima will probably never equal to that of old town; another advocates boycotting the NP and asking for an extension of the O.R. & N Through the Klickitat.

There was much bitterness expressed throughout the fight, which was eventually won for this city.

Probably North Yakima has had an interesting history as any town in the northwest. The Northern Pacific agreed to move old town to New Yakima and to give each one much more land here than possessed in the old village. Many took advantage of this offer and the foundation of the metropolis of central Washington was laid.

Among the buildings moved was the old courthouse. This structure was erected in the old town shortly after the fire which destroyed the original structure. It was one of the first buildings to be



moved here free of charge by the Northern Pacific.

Old -timers here recall an amusing incident in connection with the fight put up by the NP to avoid taxes at that time. The wheels of one of the company's locomotives were tied up by a chain and padlock to secure back taxes. One H.J. Snively, rather well known in these parts at the present time, was responsible for the move.

The top story of the old courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1906. But this was after arrangements had been made to erect the present handsome structure. The old building is held as sacred by a large number of people in this county.

Many have spent much of their business lives therein and they hate to part with it. But the old is compelled to give way to the new and probably in less than two months the courthouse will be nothing but a memory--The Yakima Herald, Dec. 18, 1907.



county

Apetition has been in circulation for the past week and numerously signed asking the county commissioners to submit to a vote of the people the proposition to build a \$50,000 court house to take the place of the present building which is inadequate to the needs of the county.

There is a valuable block of land in North Yakima which was given to the county by the Northern Pacific railroad and which, if not soon utilized for the purpose given, will revert back to the county. This county cannot afford to allow and as a large and better building is greatly needed at the present time and as this need will increase with each passing month, there should be no opposition to this movement. Let the voice of the people be heard for a structure that will be a pride to the county and answer the requirements for the prosperous years to come.--Yakima Feb., 26, 1890.



Telephone call bells have been placed in the office of the county clerk at the court house for the benefit of the county officials having their offices in the building.

The phone is in the clerk's office and the call bells are so arranged that any official in the building can be notified without much trouble to the clerk--Yakima Herald, Oct. 29, 1901.