

THE KITTITAS VALLEY RAISES THE FINEST BEEF CATTLE IN THE NORTHWEST-TRY ONE OF OUR STEAKS AND SEE

Beef and Dairy cattle are the mainstay of Kittitas County agriculture and are kept on over four-fifths of all the farms in the county. In most recent census cattle have accounted for about 80 per cent of the value of all livestock. Cattle numbers have been gradually increasing, reaching a peak of 72,000.

Since 1939 there has been an increasing interest in raising beef cattle. Part time farmers have favored beef cattle as a sideline. Livestock men have been able to handle more stock by using modern haying equipment and by improving and expanding their ranges and irrigated pastures.

Early History of Ellensburg

The first family of settlers came to Ellensburg in 1865 although there had been some parties of white settlers in and out of the valley for some 50 years prior to 1865. John Roselle and family came from Moxee in that year . . . their first winter was one of extreme cold and suffering . . . they were conducted back to the Yakima Valley and settled where the town of Yakima now stands.

1867—First permanent settlement by Frederick Ludi and John Gollier who had started for Puget Sound across the Cascade Mountains . . . were attracted by the beauty of Kittitas Valley and decided to remain here. William Wilson, not a settler but a wandering white man living among the Indians, was in the valley at that time . . . Wilson Creek named after this man. Ludi and Gollier first located on Manastash Creek near where it flows into the Yakima River . . . were discouraged by heavy snowfall and extreme cold of first winter here, they moved across the river to the present site of Ellensburg.

1868—More white families of settlers came . . . Tillman Houser crossed Cascade Mountains, took preemption claim on what is now known as Coleman Creek . . . in autumn returned to Renton for cattle . . . later same year made trip back to Renton and returned with his family.

1868—Charles Splawn moved his family to location on Taneum Creek above Thorp. Mrs. Splawn was a daughter of the first white family on the Moxee . . . later settled in Kittitas Valley and town of Thorp named after the Thorp family. Charles Splawn and Dulcina Thorp were first white couple married in Yakima County, the wedding was at Fort Simcoe in 1863.

1869—First birth of white child in Kittitas County . . . twins born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Daverin, who settled on Carver place 3 mi. southeast of Ellensburg . . . In 1870, Daverin erected first building of Ellensburg which was a log house 14 x 18 feet. Jack Splawn and Ben Burch bought this log house and started the first store which was given the name "ROBBERS' ROOST" as a joke, and this was the first name of Ellensburg. Supplies for the first store were brought from The Dalles (Oregon) by wagon and pack train. 1871—Mr. Splawn became the sole proprietor of Robbers' Roost; in 1872 he sold his stock of goods to John Shoudy and made a present of his squatter's rights to the 160 acres of land which comprised the site of Ellensburg. Shoudy platted the townsite and named it after his good wife, Ellen, but for many years the settlers clung to the old name of Robbers' Roost.

1887—Northern Pacific Railroad built through Ellensburg; the line to the Puget Sound area completed year later; division point established in Ellensburg and there was a large railroad population.

The first mail service was in 1867 . . . this was to Charles Splawn's log cabin at the mouth of Taneum Creek . . . the mail was brought over Snoqualmie Trail on horseback by an Indian named Ke-ne-ho . . . in 1869 Taneum became a United States Post Office.

July 4, 1889—Ellensburg business district and 200 homes destroyed by fire . . . rebuilding begun immediately . . . assistance received from neighboring communities.

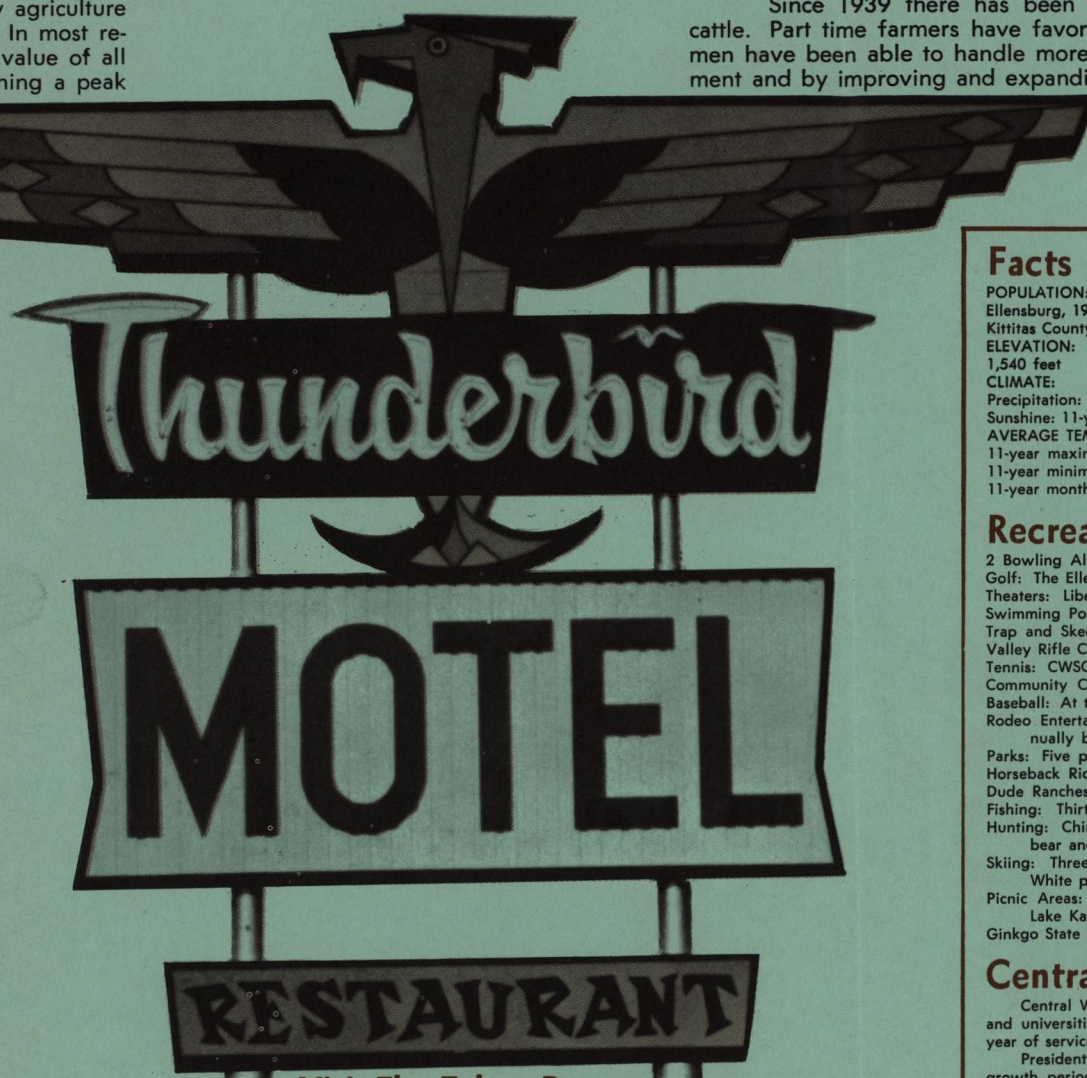
Ellensburg's first newspaper was printed in 1883.

"Kittitas" is an Indian word meaning "plenty food." Yakima came from "Eyakima" and meant "well-fed people who lived in Kittitas, the land of plenty food."

Washington territory was created March 2, 1853 . . . first legislative assembly met in Olympia in 1854.

The Kittitas Valley has always been a cattle country since the first settlers came. From those early days when the herds ran on open range to the present, when the emphasis is on irrigated pastures, the Kittitas Valley has been one of the Northwest's top cattle producing areas.

(Taken from the Ellensburg Daily Record Centennial Edition, July 1953)



Visit The Tahoe Room

The Rodeo City

The romance of the Old West is brought into the Kittitas Valley each year—always Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day — when the citizens of Ellensburg present "The Rodeo" featuring champions of the world in one of the nation's top ranking sports. The Ellensburg Rodeo is the largest in Washington state.

Rodeo in Ellensburg has an atmospheric setting, in the area where cattle and hay are main industries, and in the natural arena that is a part of the Kittitas County Fair grounds. The fair is held on the same dates as the rodeo.

The rodeo was begun in 1923 as an additional attraction to the fair, and has now developed to one of the leading shows in the entire United States. Besides its six contest events, one of its main features is the grand entry in which Indians and cowboys play a prominent part.

The grand entry recalls the days when the Kittitas Valley was the "no man's land" and the tribes of the Wenatchees, Nez Perce and Yakimas descended into the "Peaceful Valley and Land of Plenty" to hunt, fish and play games before returning to their warfare with each other.

Facts About Ellensburg:

POPULATION:

Ellensburg, 1964 — 11,000

Kittitas County, 1960 — 20,467

ELEVATION:

1,540 feet

CLIMATE:

Precipitation: 11-year average 9.05 inches

Sunshine: 11-year average 209 days

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES:

11-year maximum — 59 degrees

11-year minimum — 35.5 degrees

11-year monthly average — 47.3 degrees

Recreation and Amusements

2 Bowling Alleys.

Golf: The Ellensburg Golf and Country Club.

Theaters: Liberty, 5th and Pine; Ellen Drive-In, (movie) Kittitas Highway.

Swimming Pools: One located at the Y.M.C.A.; one next to Rodeo Field.

Trap and Skeet Shooting: At club house at county airport.

Valley Rifle Club: Meets at 15th and Cora Avenue.

Tennis: CWSC courts and courts at the public school.

Community Concert: Programs held at McConnell Auditorium at CWSC.

Baseball: At the local baseball field.

Rodeo Entertainment: Ellensburg is famous for its rodeo, presented annually by the community.

Parks: Five parks.

Horseback Riding:

Dude Ranches:

Fishing: Thirty lakes which cover 20,000 acres and numerous streams.

Hunting: Chinese pheasants, duck, quail, hungarians, chukars, deer, elk, bear and cougar.

Skiing: Three separate ski developments located within 50 miles, plus White pass.

Picnic Areas: Taneum, Rotary, Swauk, Mineral Springs, Salmon La Sac, Lake Kachess.

Ginkgo State Park: Located 26 miles from Ellensburg on U.S. 10.

Central Washington State College

Central Washington State College at Ellensburg, one of five colleges and universities maintained by the State of Washington, begins its 75th year of service to the State in 1965-66.

President, James E. Brooks, has led the College through its fastest growth period—a span in which enrollment burgeoned from 2,226 full-time students in 1961 to 4,550. More than 5,100 are expected to enroll for the 1966-67 academic year.

The 120-acre campus, which fringes U.S. 10 (Eighth Ave.) three blocks east of the junction with U.S. 97, is dotted with 60 major buildings. Estimated worth is more than \$16.5 million.

The Central operating budget for 1965-67 is \$11 million, and three-fourths of the funds are spent directly on instructional programs and library. The College offers undergraduate programs leading to bachelor's degrees in arts and sciences and in education.

Central also has a strong graduate program. It has offered the Master of Education degree since 1949, and the 1961 Legislature authorized the granting of Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees.

The programs are fully accredited by both the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

In athletics, varsity teams represent Central in football, basketball, baseball, golf, track, swimming, wrestling, tennis, and cross country. The College is a member of the Evergreen Conference which includes Eastern and Western Washington State Colleges, Whitworth College, and the University of Puget Sound.

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT THE SIMCOE CAFE AND DESERT ROOM AT GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON