

Fred A. Lacey on Monday closed the deal whereby the Majestic theater becomes the property of Frederick Mercy, an experienced theatre man late of Seattle.

Mr. Mercy will continue to keep the Majestic up to the high standard that it has reached as a moving picture show house under Mr. Lacey's management.

His long experience guarantees the public that nothing but the best shall be shown at the Majestic. Mr. Mercy will reside here, his family being already here and occupying a home on South Fourth street. Mr. Lacey left in the afternoon for Portland where he will stay a short time. He will return here when he will start for Australia--the Yakima Herald, June 19, 1912.

## Land Office

Abolishment of 21 land offices including that at Yakima of which R.B. Milroy is now register and receiver and the consolidation of the offices of ~~registor and~~ register and receiver of some 14 other offices are proposed in the appropriation bill of the department of the interior which was reported in congress today by the house appropriation committee.

The bill carries \$720,000 for the Yakima reclamation project, a cut of about 50 per cent from the appropriation made last year. Reductions for the Indian irrigation service are similarly drastic on account of the limited use yet being made by the I<sup>n</sup>dians of these irrigation projects.

Land offices that would go out of existence July 1 under the bill include those of Vancouver and Yakima in this state.

The committee declared that the amount of business did not justify their maintenance. Secretary O.C. Soots of the Commercial club is already preparing to protest the closing of the land office which has been located here 44 years.

"~~One~~ Some of the six land offices in this state should be closed," stated Milroy when informed of the proposal "I doubt the advisability of closing the Yakima office on account of the large amount of public land subject to entry in this section and the actual business carried on as compared to other districts in the state.

The Yakima district has 194,760 acres of land subject to entry or the third largest district in the state from an acreage viewpoint.

Spokane comes first with 370,802 acres, Waterville second with 242,197 and Yakima third.

The Walla Walla district has 104,645 acres of available public lands 90,115 acres less than this district.

The Yakima district comprising Yakima and Kittitas counties and parts of Chelan, Grant, Benton and King counties collected the second largest



## Land Office

Indications today are that a fight will be made to keep open the land office in Yakima which was ordered closed on April 30 by an executive order issued by President Coolidge yesterday.

The land office brings to Yakima an average of at least 50 people a day. As many as 25 a day consult records in the office. Opening of the Kittitas highline project will mean much work for the office and when the Indian reservation is thrown open to homesteaders as it will some day in R.B. Milroy's opinion, several hundred thousand acres of land would be filed upon through the Yakima office.

It is also pointed out that the Yakima office is self-sustaining. The office now located here was first opened in Old Town in 1881. It was moved to this town in 1885. The first register was Capt. C.M. Holton and the first receiver was J.M. Adams, both of whom later started newspapers--The Yakima Republic, March 18, 1925.

## City zoning

Yakima's long sought city zoning commission was authorized today by the city commissioners who passed an ordinance establishing the group. The action is to be effective within 30 days.

The zoning commission will be directed to make a survey of Yakima with the view of dividing the city into zones or districts and to report to the city commission a zoning or districting ordinance specifying the uses to which property in each zone may be devoted.

The ordinance specifies that the commission shall be composed of the city engineer, the city building inspector, one member of the park board to be designated annually by the board and six other members to be appointed by the mayor... The Yakima Republic, March 23, 1925.



## Land office

In anticipation of the closing of the local federal land office which is set for April 30, Alvin M. Clark, clerk of the office since 1907 the other day dug into the closets and shelves and brought forth not a little of the flowery penmanship of 30 and 40 years ago.

And names well known to the pioneers and even many of the younger generation of the valley were found inscribed as former registers and receivers of the Yakima land office.

Some interesting characters were recalled. Some of the records go back only to 1885, the year in which the office was moved from Old Town to North Yakima. In that year Col. L.S. Howlett who is remembered by the old timers as one of the best known men of that period, took office as receiver for four years.

Howlett was succeeded in 1889 by T.M. Vance who held the office but two years giving way to the late W.H. Hare in 1891. Hare continued long in the federal service and at his death a few years ago was clerk of the district federal court.

A.L. Slemmons of Ellensburg followed Hare in the land office in 1894 and served until 1898 when Miles Cannon became receiver. He held the job until 1907. Registers over this period were R.B. Kinne, C.M. Holton and J.H. Thomas.

S.Y. Coleman was register from 1907 to 1909 and H.R. Saint from 1909 to 1913. Harry F. Nichols became receiver in June, 1906 and died in office in November of the same year being succeeded by Alfred C. Steinman who served until 1915. Richard Strobach was made register in 1913 and C.E. Rusk receiver in 1915.

At the end of the Strobach-Rusk regime the office of register and receiver were combined and R.B. Milroy, incumbent, took them both over.

Land Office:

"First Homestead entry in Yakima district was made October 19, 1861 1880 by John Bloomquist who filed on 120 acres in ~~the~~ Kittitas County. Up to 1908 when the serial system was dropped the number of homestead entries was 6,127, and 4,000 were made since then until 1925, making a total of 10,000 straight homestead entries for the Yakima office in 45 years. In addition there have been many desert land timber and mineral claims. ....

Some of the work done may be gained from the fact that in 1895 the unreserved and unappropriated land in the district totaled 2,000,000 acres while at present the amount is 197,000 acres...When the Yakima land office was closed, April 30, 1925 after opening in Yakima City and later transfer to ~~the~~ North Yakima there were 940,554 acres subject to entry on the East side through the Spokane Office, where Yakima office records were transferred...Yakima Republic, March 25, 1925.

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## Chelminar Grotto

The bid of the Chelminar Grotto for the purchase of the Rimrock cabins has been accepted by head offices of the United States reclamation service at Denver and Washington D.C., J.L. Lytel, project manager announced yesterday. No one however will be permitted to use the ground until the contract has been signed.

The organization, which will handle the lease is, includes J.H. Mack as president; R.R. Oswin, treasurer and R.C. Tibbling, secretary. Plans for improving and developing the townsite and cabins are under consideration--The Yakima Republic, July 23, 1925.



## Chelminar Grotto

Organizing of the proposed Chelminar Grotto Summer home a sociation into a corporation for the purpose of developing t e recently acquired camp site and cabins at Rimrock will be taken up tonight at a meeting of club members. John Mack, president of the association will be in charge.

At a preliminary meeting held in the schoolhouse at Rimrock yesterday afternoon which was attended by 200 35 Grotto members it was decided to meet tonight to form a corporation. Each ~~member~~ owner of a cabin home will become a shareholder with one vote according to the plans. Dr. E.L. Green is chairman in charge of building a swimming pool. Chief A.W. Hawkins heads the committee to supervise rebuilding of the lighting system and Don W. Sturgis is in charge of the committee arranging for development of a community house.

Tentative plans are for an outdoor concrete swimming pool 60 by 125 feet for which a natural excavation on Wildcat creek only a short distance from the schoolhouse already exists.

Reorganization of the lighting system, including that in the buildings and on the streets is contemplated. The schoolhouse will be transformed into a community house with a fireplace, rustic porch and details which will make it an attractive gathering place for the summer colony. The building measures 36 by 75 feet.

Yakima Daily Republic, August 3, 1925.

## Locations

"ilcox building

One of the biggest real estate deals of the year was completed today when papers were signed conveying title to the "ilcox building 17-21 North Second street to James T. Urquhart and Dan H. Williams of Yakima for a consideration of \$75,000.

W.H. Wilcox of Tacoma was the former owner.

Urquhart is president of the Pioneer Drug company and vice president of the Yakima Finance company. Williams is a large fruit grower, owning several orchards in the Naches Heights and on the reservation....The Yakima Republic, Oct. 24, 1925.

Settlers--Irrigation

1425

Washington, April 15, 1926-AP- Federal instead of state aid in financing settlers on irrigation projects was agreed upon today by the senate and house managers of the interior department appropriation bill.

Secretary Work supported the house provisions but safter conferences with the Western senators agreed upon a compromise under which \$500,000 from the reclamation fund would be used in experimental federal aid for the settlers with the states cooperating.



## Land Office

Carpenters today completed tearing down at 112-114 1-2 South Second street i the heart of the city's business district an old wooden buildi g--to t em only a dirty old hulk but to valley pioneers one of the initial structures erected here and the first home of the ~~Yakima~~ land office. Since 1900 it has been known as the Mull building.

In the spring of 1885 Capt. J.H. Thomas first land office register erected the land office building. He and L.S. Howlett receiver , opened up the office at once and transacted the government's business there for five years. The office was then moved across the street to the second floor of the building now occupied by the Kelly Tire company.

R.I. Mitchell has purchased the property and the bilding fr m AE E. Larson and C.E. Udell and will erect a 140-50 foot brick one-story garage building. The total investment r presents \$20,000 Mitchell stated this morning.

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Coe hav purchased the lumber from the old building and will use it to erect thr e California bungalows at 408 North Sixteenth avenue. Mrs. Coe in spite of soot and dirt and armed with a claw hammer personally directed and aided in tearing down of the building.

There are many stories relatives to the origin of the old landmark but R.B. Milroy , land office registrar states it was the first land office here. Mrs. Coe believes the building was at one time a saloon at Old Town and was used as such here for some time after being moved.

Harry Mull , wo with his fathe J.M. Mull owned and operated a general merchandise store in the building from 1899 to 1916 r members the structure as one brought up from Old Town. He says



Government lands;

(Real estate--Maclean & Reed, North Yakima  
Stewart, "ilkins & Col Ellensburgh.

P.B. Groat, general emigra on agent, St. Paul

Cha B. Lamborn, land commissioner, St. Paul, Minn

There are over 50,000 acres of choice government lands for settlement in the Northern Pacific Company. They are given free to settlers under the Homestead, Pre-emption and Timber Culture acts.

Minnesota, ND, Montana, Northern Idaho, Wash and Oregon.

Homestead Act..A citizen or one who has declared intention can homestead 160 acres by filing his application and affidavit at the local land office and within six months thereafter commencing settlement and improvement, continuing the same for five years.

The only cost is the U.S. Land office fees which are \$18 to \$20 for 160 acres.

A soldier, having served in army or navy during the War of the Rebellion for over ninety days can obtain 160 acres

of any public lands by filing a declaratory statement and within six months thereafter filing his affidavit and application commencing settlement and continuing the same five years less military time served, such time not to exceed four years. His widow can take advantage of the above. In case of death in army the term of his enlistment is deducted.

#### By Pre-emption

The Pre-Emption law gives to any citizen of the U.S. and to those who have declared their intention to become such 160 acres of land within the limits of land granted to those to have declared their intention of becoming such, 160 acres of land within limits of and granted to any railway co. at \$2.50 an acre or outside of the railroad limits at \$1.25 an acre on condition of cultivation and residence within

### Settlement

It is estimated , on reliable authority, that the influx of immigrants alone into Washington at the present time is very nearly 500 per day. A study of the passenger lists of the different roads will show the daily division to be about as follows: Northern Pacific, 100 to 150; Oregon Short Line, 50 to 100; Oregon & California, 30 to 115; Canadian, 100; while steamers and other routes make the estimate of 500 an approximate accurate one. The daily average for 188 was 300 and it is quite certain that before 1889 is over the arrivals will reach 1,000 per day. This is the estimate made by close observers of the tide of immigration.