

Importance of Cattlemen

...long after the placer mines have had the gold washed out of them...our pastures and fields will support in affluence a population greater than the mines ever can...

--The Daily Mountaineer(The Dalles) Dec. 10, 1865

Cattleman Freeman

Mr. Jos. Freeman informs us that he has 1,100 head of cattle running on the north side of Snake river between the Palouse and the Columbia. They have wintered there thus far without being fed. ...There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of other cattle in that country that are doing equally well...Mr. Freeman...will have from 300 to 400 head of calves this spring. So far as we have heard he is the heaviest stock raiser in this territory.

-- Walla Walla Union, July 25, 1873

Phelps & Wadleigh
Cattlemen

My friend, E.D. Phelps, one of our cattle kings, with
a large pack train, leaves for the Okanogan with supplies for
his men who are looking after his stock in the Kingdom of Moses...

BUNCH GRASS (of Yakima)

--Portland Oregonian, May 30, 1879

Cattlemen

Mr. James J. Imbrie, one of the principal stockmen in Yakima, arrived in the city a few days ago from the upper country. He brought down a drove of cattle for the Portland markets. Mr. Imbrie is visiting relatives in Washington county.

-- Portland Oregonian, Aug. 6, 1879

George Smith, the well-known cattle driver, was married recently at Ellensburg to Miss Preston, formerly of this city (Seattle news)

-- Portland Oregonian, Oct. 10, 1879

Cowboys in Wallula 1885

Wallula May 15

About 17 car loads of cattle are to be shipped from here during the next week. The cowboys made the town lively last night with their pistols and lungs. Their being no police here they had their own way, cursing the people and daring anyone to cut, shoot or fight...

--Walla Walla Journal and Watchman, May 22, 1885

(Wallula correspondent also reported that cowboys had sport on Christmas day 1885 by lassoing dogs in the streets of the town.)

Sam Hitcheson, cattleman

Sam Hitcheson, well known throughout Eastern Washington and Oregon who measures 7 feet 3 inches in his stocking feet, has been engaged by Cole, the circus man at a salary of \$125 a month and traveling expenses. Mr. Hitcheson has a sister who measures 6 feet and 11 inches and his sire, who is now about 65 years of age, measures 7 feet. Sam is four inches taller than Barnum's giant. — Centervillian

— The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, Oct. 9, 1886

Live stock

The Stock Breeders association of Washington met at Ellensburg March 22d and in the afternoon effected permanent organization by the election of A.T. Vandevanter of King county, president; George Blyth, of Douglas county, first vice president; Charles I. Helm of Kittitas, second vice president; L.K. Cogswell of Chehalis, third vice president; William P. Reeser, Walla Walla, fourth vice president; J.W. Bean, Ellensburg, secretary; James Hart of Kent, treasurer.

The bonds of the secretary and treasurer were fixed at \$1,000 and \$2,000 respectively. The executive committee is composed of the officers elected.

The initiation fee was fixed at \$5 and the annual dues at \$2.

An advisory committee was chosen for each county represented and each county will be entitled to one--Yakima Herald, March 31, 1892.

Stockmen

A meeting of stockmen will be held at Mabton Feb. 7 for the purpose of forming an association with the object of mutual protection and benefit--Yakima Herald, Jan 31, 1895.

Dairymen

The Washington State Dairymen's Association will hold its sixth annual convention at Ellensburg on the 27th, 28th and 29th of this month.

An exhibition of dairy products will be a feature of the occasion which from the extensive preparations now being made will doubtless prove to be the most interesting and instructive meeting of its kind ever held in the state--Yakima Herald, Dec. 22, 1898.

At a receiver's sale of the Ben E. Snipes property at Ellensburg two weeks ago Bounds & Meyer bought the 1,700 acre ranch situated between Parker bottom and Zillah. The consideration was \$11,800. The sale has been confirmed by the court--The Yakima Republic, May 4, 1900.

The Cochran boys (Sunnyside) are getting up a herd to be kept on the range on top of Rattlesnake mountains, 12 miles north of Prosser. They guarantee to run the stock for \$1.50 per head for the season--Yakima Republic, May 4, 1900.

A.J. Splawn returned last Tuesday morning from the Chicago Live Stock exhibition held the first part of this month, bringing with him two of the finest Hereford bull calves in the United States, if not in the world.

One cost him \$1,500 and the other \$750 and the two together \$2,500, before he got them out here .

".....there were 200 carloads of the finest beef cattle I ever saw from all the whole country, the prize to be awarded to the best carload. Before the award was made I went through the lot and the one which ~~would~~ I selected was the one on which was placed the blue ribbon. I had a good trip, enjoyed it immensely and got what I went after, the finest Herefords in America. " The Yakima Republic, December 21, 1900.

Prosser

Cattlemen

Nick McCoy of North Yakima paid us a visit this week.

Nick used to run cattle in this part of the country in the early days. The first question he asked was: "Are there any slick-ears around here." Prosser Record, April, 1902.

The lower Yakima county stockmen met Saturday afternoon, March 21 and re-elected Ira Cater foreman of the south side round -up and E.E. Bernard foreman fo the north side.

Questions perta ning to the annual round-up situation and the discussin of matters looking to the bettering of conditions were indulged in.

A special meeting of the associati on has been called for April 25 at Prosser and all stockmen are requested to be present..
The Yakima Herald, April 1, 1903.

While most of the valley's famous early day cowboys have headed for the last roundup, there are a few who still live and their exploits are recounted when pioneers gather and wherever cowboys drink coffee from a can.

Mrs. J.R. Sickler, 514 South Sixth street relays a few of the best tales. She came to the valley in 1876, from Illinois, following her father J.H. Conrad, who arrived in 1871. Her brothers, Parm and Bart Conrad were among the best riders. Parm is ranching near Prosser and Bart near Tampico.

Mrs. Sickler remembers a horse called Masatchee Gray, a killer and an outlaw who caused no little excitement among the top hands of the day. Masatchee, a gelding, was tall and clean limbed and was owned by the Snipes & Allen outfit. A number of the boys tried to ride him but his saddle was a hurricane deck.

Ed Snipes was killed trying to ride the outlaw and Charley Lord was injured so badly trying to tame him he died of injuries. Then came Parm Conrad with the burning ambition to ride the killer. It was during the spring and the boys were riding out the Selah valley.

Parm roped saddled and mounted Masatchee without any trouble. But then the fun began. Side winding, sunfishing, plain and fancy bucking were tried but still Parm stuck. Then Masatchee broke into a running buck down a hill into a gully. Bart, Parm's brother tried to turn Masatchee but the gelding took him and his horse with one leap, landing knee deep in sand.

The disgusted horse couldn't move and Parm rode him from then on as quietly as a kitten. Some time later the horse was shipped east to be sold with a carload of his brothers from the range. The new owner was warned against him, but sought to make friends by patting his nose. Masatchee reared up and brought his front feet down on the

Billy Kincaid was 'nipes' foreman on the Parker bottom ranch.

Ren Farrell was another big time cattleman in the Emerald district near Sunnyside.