

Cattle & Horses to East 1885

...Sanborn and Loud? of Miles City...have bought about 4,000 head of cattle in Washington territory this season and have finished their purchases for the present.

--Walla Walla Journal and Watchman, Aug. 7, 1885

Walla Walla, August 2, 1885

There still continues to be shipped large herds of cattle and horses. What will we do for beef in the sweet bye and bye.

--Walla Walla Journal and Watchman, August 7, 1885

"Shipping Live Cattle to Alaska"

Willis Thorp, formerly of Yakima, is making arrangements to establish a slaughterhouse at Juneau City, Alaska. He will ship the cattle from this Territory and contemplates the supplying of the principal Alaskan towns. At present dressed beef is shipped to Alaska, but its quality deteriorates in transit. Mr. Thorp thinks that he can create a market for 50 head of cattle a month--Yakima Signal

--Northwest Magazine, July 1886, P .28

Drive to Big Bend

Prinville News: Perry Read sold 124 head of stock cattle recently, cows and yearlings, to Col. Fulton who resides at the mouth of Deschutes. Col. Fulton will drive the cattle to Big Bend on the Washington side of the Columbia river.

— The Dalles Times Mountaineer, May 7, 1887

Senator Watson C. Squire and family left for Washington last Saturday in a private car. Senator Squire will occupy a residence belonging to W.C. Hill of Seattle and John C. Carrere of Spokane Falls will be private secretary.

The Seattle Post Intelligencer says the senator owns a 324 acre farm half a mile from Renton on Black river , which is stocked with a large number of full-blooded and valuable Holstein cattle. Netherland Prince, a Holstein bull was acquired by the senator at a cost of \$1,000 and he has other animals fully as valuable.

The farm produced some of the finest hons in the country last year. Ninety acres of land in the city of Seattle are also owned by the senator.

he dairy now produces sixty five gallons of milk daily.
Herald, November 28, 1889.

man, killing him instantly. A bystander drew a gun and destroyed one of the valley's most famous horses.

One of Mrs. Sickler's most amusing tales is of Ed Jones, a cowboy with the Geddis spread in the Natches. Ed had red hair and a temper to match it. Also he had a comical habit of crying whenever he became angry...

Yes, they still live, those old cowboys. There's Milt Burge of Natches and Ollie Geddis of the lower valley. And some of the best riders were the Thorpe boys, the Splawns, the Taylors and Bert Parton, names vivid in valley history - Yakima Herald, June 23, 1937.

The Puget Sound Dressed Beef company has purchased 2,600 head
of Yakima cattle for July delivery. 6-19-90

Reservation--Cattle

"We understand that a special agent of the interior department has visited Fort Simcoe and ordered the Indians to drive all of the cattle of white men beyond the boundaries of the Indian reserve and charge a dollar per head for doing so, and further authorizing six such drives an year if grazers do not keep their stock off the reserve.

It has been represented to the department that certain grazers have not only had nearly free range on the reserve but that they have thus been able to avoid taxes that would otherwise be due the counties and attention of the respective assessors is called to the fact that there are now many thousand cattle subject to taxation that were heretofore on the reservation. The Washington Farmer, April 18, 1885.

The first cattle brought to the Yakima valley by a white man were driven in from Klickitat county in the winter of November, 1860 by Benjamin E. Snipes , Dr. D.B. Baker and a Mr. Allen.

The following spring these cattle were driven to the Cariboo mines in British Columbia.

In the spring of 1861 F.M. Thorpe moved his family from the Klickitat to the Yakima, bringing his stock with him. He located in Moxee and was the first white settler in the Yakima valley. A few months later came Armsworthy, Saxon, Splawn and Henson and their families and stock.

During the fall of 1861 several bands of cattle were brought to the Yakima valley to winter, their destination being British Columbia.

The Yakima having become a noted wintering ground (that winter was the longest and hardest winter known before or since) about all of the cattle together with thousands of Indian horses, perished. The settlers in the Moxee had put up hay, therefore they suffered no serious loss.

1864
In 1864 Mr. William Parker settled in Parker Bottom on what is now known as the Snipes ranch. He was one of nature's noblest men and it is with pleasure the writer looks back to the friendship of years ago. About the same time Elisha McDaniel came with his herd and turned them on the range opposite Mabton. He was the first large owner in Yakima but after a time he sold the band which had increased to many thousands, to Benjamin E. Snipes who was after that the cattle king, not only of Yakima but of the state of Washington. There is no doubt that he owned in 1880 50,000 head of cattle in Yakima.

From 1865 to 1868 many new comers had settled in the different parts of the county. Marks, Stanton, Simpson, Stabler, Bowzer, Polly Tanner, Dickerson and others on the Ahtanum; Henson and Taylor

valleys one ever looked upon. No stock save an occasional Indian horse ever ate the tall grass; beautiful streams meandered through the valley from the mountains on the north, making it an ideal cattle haven; and here the herds had their easy times.

In 1869 Joseph Borst, a member of the firm of Booth, Foss & Borst, Seattle butchers, came over the Cascade mountains via Snoqualmie pass and bought steers and drove them over the mountains to Seattle. These were much larger, fatter and better than the cattle raised on the west side of the Cascades so the firm continued to buy all their supply in Yakima. Soon other Western buyers came and a new market was opened for our beef which has remained ever since.

In 1872 the increase of cattle far exceeded the demand and prices dropped to \$18 and \$20 per head and continued low until 1875 when the eastern buyers made heavy purchases and drove them over to Wyoming where they had just begun stocking the ranges. For a few years that trade was brisk, but the winter of 80 and the 81 killed off about 60 per cent of the cattle in Eastern Oregon and Washington which made a scarcity and placed the prices at their old mark.

That winter Benjamin E. Snipes alone lost 20,000 head.

From 1875 to 1880 there were in Yakima about 200,000 cattle at an average price of 15 dollars per head amounting to three million dollars. This was the principal occupation and people who disposed of their beef once a year were prosperous and happy.

In 1878 Portland buyers began to come thus opening another needed market.

In 1887 the cattle business began to decline. The hard winter immediately following killed many on the ranges. Then too sheep had begun to destroy the grasses. The cattle raisers lost courage and

We have in our county a few pure blood cattle of the dairy and beef breeds. Mountain View Farm, owned by O.A. Fechter and Louis Janeck of Natchez have fine Jerseys; J.E. Shannon of Nob Hill, Polled Durhams; Fr d Brooker of Selah, Shorthorns; A.L. J. Splawn, Springdale stock farm, Cowyche, Herefords, Polled Angus.

These herds will be added to and others go into the business until the county will take high rank as a producer of pure blood cattle.

The cattle industry will gain rapidly within the next few years. Our market for beef, mutton and dairy products could be no better for we are at the door of Puget Sound, Alaska and the Orient. No other state is so favorably located.

On the Pacific coast must the increase in population be more rapid than elsewhere, therefore I say, increase your alfalfa, improve your stocks and you will reap your reward--
A.J. Splawn, Yakima Morning Herald, December 31, 1901.

....Appointment of an agricultural agent for the Yakima Indian reservation in 1930 was followed by increase in the number of cattle grazed on the ranges within the reservation, Lester Pearne, a full blooded Indian and leading stockman said in a talk before the Washington Cattlemen's association.

He substituted for W.S. Murdock, agricultural agent who was unable to attend.

Starting with 500 head of cattle in 1931 the industry was increased to 4,200 head in 1936. Cooperative sales of cattle were started in 1934 while last year 623 head were sold in three sales. He predicted the number will reach 1,000 head a year.

Stockmen wishing to participate in the range conservation program should obtain approval of the county committee before proceeding with the range practices, C.S. Maddox, extension livestock specialist of Washington State college advised.

Last year 580 stockmen in the state signed with the government under the program and benefit payments aggregated \$70,000. These practices were chiefly development of springs and building of cross fences--Yakima Herald, May 18, 1937.

Yakima Indian cattlemen Monday took their horses to the foothills west of White Swan in preparation for the first ride of the season Tuesday when they will cut out yearling heifers which will be turned over to the government in return for drouth cattle given them in 1934.

The government has asked for 200 head of yearling heifers which it plans to distribute among Indians in North and South Dakota who are beginning to rebuild herds broken up by the drouth, W.S. Murdock, agricultural supervisor of the agency said.

The tribesmen received 1,525 head of drouth stock in 1934 and 1935 and last year returned approximately 500 head. They will return another 500 head this year and 200 head will be reallocated among Yakima Indians under the same conditions that they return a yearling calf within three years for every head of stock they receive.

Yakima Herald, June 8, 1937.

FROM YAKIMA

A Rough Trip through Mud, Water & Snow

Mr. George Smith, the veteran cattle driver, arrived here on Saturday evening from Yakima with a band of 448 head of cattle for this market. He reports the trip the roughest he has ever made over the Snoqualmie pass. The roads are almost impassable and the streams which cross them at various points are brim full to their banks and can only be crossed with great difficulty. On the summit the party encountered a rousing snow storm accompanied by thunder. Mr. Smith and party left the valley with 450 head of cattle. One of these died on the way of exhaustion, 2 more were drowned in swimming the Snoqualmie river and 5 others ^{strayed} ~~strayed~~ away from the band while crossing the summit during the storm and were lost. The cattle & other animals were all well night exhausted when they reached this city. This will be the last trip over this season. In a few weeks more it is supposed the pass will be snow-locked for the winter.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune, Oct. 31, 1878

... reported Indian John on the way with 100 head of cattle for the Seattle market. Today the news comes from Renton that the cattle had arrived in good order. Other bands, we understand, are likely to follow this one ~~one~~ soon, as many of the stockmen are anxious to get their stock out of the country ~~and~~ and on this side of the mountain as fast as possible in view of ~~the~~ and Indian outbreak in the early spring.

-- Weekly Pacific Tribune, Dec. 22, 1878

Indians to Hop Yards 1897

The town has been full of Indians all this week and as a consequence the watermelon market has been active and boryant.

They come from the Columbia river country --largely from Wenatchee and the Okanogan--and they are on their way to Yakima to pick hops ...\$1 a box...camped in the brush across the railroad track...

-- Ellensburgh Capital, Sept. 4, 1897

Cattle

Bum Harrigan's tale of the time he roped a buffalo, faced death in the charge of the powerful animal and won a wife while being nursed back to health by the Crows in Montana will be a high light of the annual meeting of the Washington Cattlemen's association next Monday and Tuesday.

Harrigan is a Yakima Indian, a long hair who has lived more than 70 years and has rode herd with the best in Washington and Montana. As a young man Bum liked to roam, hence the name but where he acquired the Harrigan is not on record.

With Alex Showaway another long hair in his seventies, Harrigan will be one of the speakers when Jack Crawford will be the top hand.

Showaway and Harrigan are both talented Indian orators--Yakima Herald, May 11, 1897.

One brand, on cut, one year, \$12.00; each additional brand
on cut, same owner, one year \$8.00

Each additional brand in straight letters or figures, \$2.00.

Each additional brand or character bar or connected letters,
requiring engraved block, one year, \$3.00.

Each brand, giving location of brand, or ear marks or both
on year ~~\$0.0000~~ \$5.00

All descriptive matter in addition to same of company, or
address, range and brands charged for extra. Strictly in advance--

The Washington Farmer, Nov. 22, 1884.

livestock

On Sunday last several car loads of thoroughbred cattle arrived here from Minnesota, consigned to H.B. Scudder of the Yakima dairy. Mr. Scudder has nothing but graded Holsteins in his large herd and is probably doing more to improve the breed of cattle in this county than any one person. His dairy is a model, not only the most improved machinery being used, and the butter made is sweet, pure and first class in every respect. It is well worth the ride from this city to inspect this splendid dairy and to observe the advancements in butter making since the old days of the dasher church--Yakima Herald, November 7, 1889.

H.H. Allen estimates that the loss of cattle in Yakima county will be about 25 per cent . Most of the stock men lost about 10 per cent. This was owing less to the severity of the weather than to the fact the cattle entered the winter in the poorest condition known in many year--Yakima Herald, February 13, 1890.

Cattle

In a recent interview Mr. Bruhn of the firm of Frye & Bruhn, Seattle stated that his firm had purchased 3,000 tons of alfalfa in the vicinity at from \$3 to \$4 a ton and would feed at least 1,000 head of cattle in the valley during the coming winter and more if they can be had at satisfactory prices.

He said their agent, A.J. Splawn, had just bought 800 head in the Okanogan country and that one-half of them will be brought here to be fed.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Bruhn stated that 35 pounds of alfalfa hay per day will fatten a steer if fed in good racks and strongly recommended stall feeding where practicable, citing James Gleed of the Natcheez as practicing this system with profit to himself--
Yakima Herald, Oct. 7, 1897.

Cattle

The leading cattle growers of Yakima were out in force on Saturday afternoon. George Taylor was called to the chair temporarily. Dean Lesh was elected permanent chairman and J.E. Shannon secretary.

A committee composed of Anson White, Dan Sinclair and James Wiley was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. The committee was instructed to report two weeks hence, when a permanent organization would be affected.

Chairman Lesh stated there was no disposition to antagonize any other interests. If the stockmen were allowed to graze on the reserve the cattle growers would ask for a fair share of the grazing district-
Yakima Herald, Nov. 2, 1899.

The cattle men of the county met last Saturday at the court house for the purpose of organizing. Over 50 representatives of the cattle industry were present and an active interest was manifested.

They propose to make a solid and compact organization that will be of a permanent nature. The cattlemen are greatly interested in the forest reserve regulations and a part of the organization's work this winter will be to influence the action of the interior department in this matter.

From the speeches made it appears that there is no hostility toward the sheep men but that it is the desire to work in harmony with them in all matters of mutual interest.

D.E. Lesh and J.E. Shannon were elected permanent officers. A committee composed of Anson White, Jas. Wiley and Daniel Sinclair was appointed to draw up a constitution and bylaws. This committee will report in two weeks when the organization will be completed and the winter's work mapped out--The Yakima Republic, Nov. 3, 1899.