

Faded and dingy with age a bundle of papers on a shelf in the clock tower of the Yakima county courthouse bears evidence of the prohibition movement among county pioneers in Washington territorial days.

The bundle contains the records of a local option election June 28, 1886 along with the petitions signed by the requisite number of voters calling for the election to prohibit sale of liquor within precinct boundaries under territorial local option laws.

Records indicate only 473 votes were cast. Most of these were in North Yakima and Yakima city precincts which favored local option by slender margins.

The vote in North Yakima precinct including what is now Yakima was 197 to 151 and in Yakima city precinct, including the present Union Gap was 35 to 33.

Judge R.B. Milroy, an early day Yakima resident recalls that local option prevailed until the territorial supreme court later invalidated the local option law. However the legal ban against sale of liquor here meant little, he commented, as every train brought anywhere from a pint to a keg of whisky.

"All anyone who wanted liquor had to do was tell a brakeman on the train how much he wanted and the trainmen would bring it down," he said.

The bundle of local option election records was discovered among other aging documents in the courthouse attic and clock tower by WPA workers who since February 26, 1936, have been indexing old records of historical matter for research purposes. They are the earliest election records the WPA men have found although elections were held many years prior to 1886.

The election of November 8, 1892, is the first for which the county auditor's office has a complete summarized record. It is the first one recorded in an office volume which contains data on all general elections from that time to 1908.

The fire that destroyed the first courthouse in what is now Union Gap on March 31, 1882, presumably destroyed all election records before that date. But where records of other elections between the time of the fire and the 1892 general election are, is unknown to courthouse workers.

Other historical sources record the first election in the county as occurring June 3, 1867 at the home of J.H. Henderson on the Antanum creek when 44 votes were polled. Alfred Henson, G.W.L. Allen and Thomas Goodwin then were elected commissioners, Charles A. Slawn sheriff; John Lindsey assessor, J.W. Grant auditor, E.W. Lyons, treasurer; S. C. Taylor school superintendent and Henry Davis, coroner.

The first officers for Yakima county, which then embraced a vastly greater territory than its present area were appointed by the governor after the county was organized by special act of the territorial legislature that was approved January 21, 1865.--Yakima Herald, May 9, 1937.

The application of William McIvor, Edward Uthe and Edward Richie, for a temporary restraining order against the alleged owners of the Front street resorts known as the Blair hotel was taken under submission by Judge Preble in the superior court this afternoon. The judge stated that he would probably render a decision on the question ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow.

The plaintiffs, who are owners of the property in the immediate neighborhood of the houses of ill fame seek a temporary restraining order against the owners which will prevent the operation of the houses until the matter may be finally adjudicated.

The motion was argued this afternoon as to only a few of the defendants, the others not being ready for argument.

The defendants who appeared this afternoon for argument by their counsel were: Rose Blair, Sam Chong, Sydney Varian and H.C. Brooks, John Needham and wife and Jung Lee being unready to proceed.

The complaints, who are property owners and some of who live in property adjoining the restricted district allege as grounds for the injunction that the buildings are a public nuisance for the reason that they are disorderly and that drunken orgies held in the houses disturb the entire neighborhood.

Liquor is sold in the resorts it is claimed and it is stated that the inmates indulge in foul and vulgar language which can be heard for some distance and brawls between men who frequent the places are of nightly occurrence.

The plaintiffs allege that the inmates of the place expose themselves to public view in indecent costumes and solicit the attention of men passing on the streets, driving away people who come to visit the homes of the complainants.

The houses which it is intended to close are located on Front street and are operated notoriously. The Blair hotel is operated

by a woman by the name of Grace Howard and the other two story frame building is run by Rose Blair, one of the defendants.

Both places have at various times caused trouble to the police department. Two days ago the Howard woman was brought into police court for the reason that a man was robbed in her resort- Yakima Republic, Nov. 11, 1910.

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Yakima's after nightfall shows up a good many games of chance.

In all the various public resorts men of all nationalities may be seen eagerly wooing the fickle goddess of fortune with varying degrees of success. There are to be seen nickle-in-the slot machines, crap games, roulette and faro tables and all the paraphernalia of well equipped gambling rooms.

Tables with various sports bring out some curious facts. In one house a firm of four gamblers have pooled their individual capital, amounting to \$1,000. Against this banking capital the man with a few dollars to bet, the chubber as he is called, stands little chance. In a faro game the percentage is only 5 per cent in favor of the dealer while roulette has but a 6 per cent in his favor.

In all gambling houses said an old time sport there is a percentage in favor of the house. Anybody except a born fool knows that a man couldn't afford to equip an establishment, hire help, pay rent and defray the hundred and one incidental expenses unless he derived a profit that was based on some fixed principle and not dependant upon mere luck or chance. Just where the profit comes in, however, is something that very few people understand. Most of them figure it is derived from some slight advantage in arrangement of the game such as the zero numbers in roulette or the splits in faro but they are very much mistaken.

It really depends on a principle that applies to all games alike, and is what is called the percentage of capital. Strange as it may seem I could take a capital of \$1,000 and begin pitching nickles, in which the chances are perfectly even, letting the players guess either way they wanted to and I would make a steady profit, day in and day out.

The secret is this: The average player has only a limited amount of money and a slight run of bad luck wipes him out. He is obliged to quit and somebody else takes his place, while the house keeps right on through good luck and bad, continually swelling its reserve with the cash of broken players.

One \$1000 nickle in the slot machine, carefully watched here, paid \$5.25 out of \$17.25 that had been played into it.

Here is a curious calendar made up of an ordinary deck of playing cards. There are 52 cards representing the number of weeks in a year, 365 spots, representing the 365 days; 12 face cards representing the 12 months; four suits representing the four seasons; 13 cards in each suit representing the 13 moons in each year and the joker makes up for the extra day in leap year. -Yakima Herald, Oct. 19, 1899.

Culture

The young ladies and gentlemen of North Yakima who have been desirous of advancing their talents for piano playing now have an opportunity. Miss Stamats, who has had considerable practice in teaching in the east, is organizing a class and respectfully solicits membership. Call and see her at her residence on Front street near A. April 24, 1889, Herald.

Cultural

Prof. Prigmore, a dancing teacher of Ellensburgh. late of Seattle, will be here tomorrow to organize a dancing school.

The professor has a very satisfactory class in Ellensburgh and he has been encouraged to believe that he will be able to organize a successful school here. His place of meeting the young people of this city will be announced hereafter--
Yakima Herald, November 23, 1893.

Yakima--Gambling

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Nickle in the slot

The police committee finally decided upon a \$50 per annum license, payable quarterly, on nickle-in-the-slot machines, and licenses are now being taken out by all of the owners excepting Moore & Moore and Liggett & Walton--Yakima Herald, May 13, 1897.

YMCA

Frank F. Stubbs has been selected to head the YMCA campaign for funds which this year aims at the record goal of \$25,000.

Stubbs was picked at a meeting of the executive committee held late yesterday and will select his campaign committee, division managers and workers in the course of a few days.

The drive will open November 2 and is to be completed by November 7.

YMCA

This evening the whirlwind "Finish the job" campaign to raise \$20,000 to wipe out the indebtedness of the YMCA building will be set up in its last details. A meeting of all the committee solicitors will be held in the YMCA building and there the whole situation will be gone over for the last time before the actual solicitation of the money begins.....
Yakima "epublic, Dec. 2, 1910.

Pioneers
association

the first annual picnic of the Yakima Pioneer association will be held at the State Fairgrounds Saturday June 6. All pioneers and their families are expected to be on hand.

Picnic dinner at 12. Address of welcome by President L.L. Thorp, 2 p.m. Address Hon A.J. Splawn. Reminiscences. Music by Yakima band. Races and athletic sports--The Yakima Herald, June 3, 1908.

Medical Society

The preliminaries for the formation of a county medical society were held on Thursday evening of last week .

Dr. Gunn was made chairman and Dr. Rosser secretary of the temporary organization. The society will be open to all physicians of standing. Those who have thus far associated themselves in the plans of organization are Drs. Gunn, Gorden, Dulin, Baker, Frank, Burns, Adair, Wells and Fletcher.

Permanent organization will be effected at a meeting to be held in Dr. Gorden's office Friday evening--Yakima Herald, Jan. 3, 1901.

Eagles

The Order of Eagles has been organized here with a very flattering enrollment already, and it is expected that more than 150 will have joined before many days go by. State Organizer Barnes and Del Cary Smith of Spokane came over to institute the new lodge--Yakima Herald, December 9, 1902.

Elks

A committee of members of the local lodge of Elks consisting of D.E. Lesh, J.D. Medill, W.A. Dell, Alex Miller and E.B. Moore has been appointed to look up an available site on which to erect a building for a permanent home of the lodge.

Their power is unlimited and if they can find a suitable site it will be purchased. Mr. Moore of the committee states that as yet no location has been investigated and the committee would like to hear from anyone having a suitable property to dispose of--The Yakima Herald, May 24, 1905.

The arrangements for the Fourth of July Celebration at Yakima City are progressing and a big time is expected.

There will be a parade which will include 13 ladies on horseback representing the original states; picnic at the Schanno grove; tilting ring; oration, patriotic exercises and bicycle tournament at the woollen mills in the afternoon and a grand ball in the evening. Yakima Herald, June 8, 1893.

Miscellany

Yakima avenue was the scene of a horse show last Saturday.

The display was very creditable, although a number of fine animals owned in the country were not brought out. *April 18, 1889*

Miscellany

Arrangements are being made for a rabbit drive on Thanksgiving day. Those who remember the amusing incidents of the last drive will not fail to be present on this oc casion. 10-3-90

Gen. Heath , a special agent of the interior department, has been visiting the Indian reservation during the past week. Gen. Heath served under Lee and it was he that opened the battle of "ettysburg.

Racco is jubilant. Herman Russell of New York has agreed to take