

Columbia River Settlement

In the Ellensburgh Capital appears weekly budgets of news from Lake Whelan giving notes of settlements, sawmills at work, bridges across the river and a steamboat running on the lake. It is but a few years since the Lake Whelan was ~~xx~~ so little known that the military commander ~~x~~ at Vancouver sent an engineer's party to that locality to survey the lake that it might be correctly entered on the maps, it being so far in the wilderness that only its name was known. About that time Mr. Alfred Downing of this city, now of Seattle, floated on an upturned boat for a day and a night down the Columbia without seeing a white man and being finally rescued by Indians. A steamboat now runs the route and numerous ferries cross the river, which is studded with settlements on both sides.--Vancouver Independent.

--Ellensburgh Capital, May 9, 1889

Post offices

Chelan

A post office has been established at Chelan, Okanogan county and the P.M. glories in the name of Brenton Lovelace--Yakima Herald, May 8, 1890.

Three townships of government land in the Chelan country will be opened for settlement Tuesday and a great rush of applicants to the Yakima land office is expected--Yakima Herald, May 8, 1890.

Chelan .

Judge Ignatius A. Navarre, informs The Herald that the settlers on the government townsite of Chelan, located at the foot of the lake of that name, are joyous over the prospect of patents being issued to them this winter--^Yakima Herald, November 12, 1891.

Chelan

The citizens of Chelan are building a dam across the Chelan river so as to secure a navigable low-water depth and admit steamers reaching that point from the lake.

The daming of the river, it is said, will raise the entire body of the lake six or seven feet. The lake is 60 miles long and from one to three miles in width--Yakima Herald, April 7, 1892.

John Mackison and Abbie Jordan returned from Lake Chelan on Sunday, accompanied by Mike Mackison.

They made the drive of 150 miles in three days. Mr. Jordan doesn't think much of Chelan as a townsite. He says there are only a few houses and a newspape. How the newspaper lives he is at a loss to know but in one way the editor is fortunate--he is at no expense for shoe leather.

The town is built on a sand bank and the people all go barefooted. If a citizen puts on shoes he is immediately dubbed a dude and his political fate is sealed--Yakima Herald, July 11, 1895.

J.E Ryan returned Saturday from a trip to Chelan and the town of Oro. ~~After~~ the latter place he visited his old time friend, J.T. McDonald, formerly sheriff of Kittitas county.

Oro is there at the confluence of the Okanogan and Samilkameen rivers and there Mr. McDonald is stationed as a deputy collector in the internal revenue service.

When Mr. Bryan reached the town there was practically no one in it excepting the postmaster, a storekeeper and saloon man. Everyone else had been driven away by the mosquitoes. Mr. Ryan had lost his mustache on the trip and was suffering painfully from the mosquito bites and knowing an antidote for poison he hurried to the saloon.

There were screen doors and throwing them open his eyes took in a peculiar picture. Everything was covered with gauze and there sat the barkeeper, all by his lonesome, his head shrouded in cheese cloth and white cotton gloves on his hands. After Mr. Ryan had received his medicine the barkeeper softly whispered to him not to open the door any wider than possible in going out.

Mr. Ryan found Mr. McDonald on the uplands where he had built his house so as to get as much freedom as possible from the summer pests. He was feeling in good spirits and had strong faith in finally realizing the wealth from his mines which he so richly deserves.

At the ferry he encountered the ferryman with cheese cloth reaching below his hands and an insertion of veiling over his face. He had smudges all around but still was unable to secure peace. The mosquitoes were so troublesome that they drove the horses and cattle frantic and one horse was actually bitten to death. --The Yakima Republic, August 4, 1899.

C.W. Feickert, formerly of Yakima but now the possessor of a dairy on the shores of Lake Chelan was married a few days ago to Miss Ada Shinn, of Mendocine, Cal. Miss Shinn made the journey alone to Lake Chelan to meet and marry her affianced.--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T., August 15, 1889.

Some prospectors claim to have discovered a wonderful cave along the borders of Lake Chelan. The size is not yet known as it has not been explored, but it is thought it will rival in extent the celebrated Mammoth cave of Kentucky. 1990