

Re

Alder Creek

Wo/A

BICKLETON- An antique ~~xx~~ rocking merry-go-round, built in 1909,

~~has been~~

is ready to go into action as one attraction at the 58th annual

Alder Creek Pioneer Association program Saturday.

Housed in its original circular shed with conical top and with the original ~~ticket~~ old-fashioned ticket booth, the rocking merry-go-round was ~~bought~~ acquired ~~for~~ from the old ~~Rose~~ Oaks Amusement Park at Portland in 1927. Residents of the community raised \$500 ~~for~~ to purchase the antique. The association is frequently offered much more than that ~~from~~ by restored amusement locations throughout the country.

A.L.(Art) Lowell, president of the Alder Creek Pioneer Association said the grounds at the old Cleveland park have been put into condition for the state's oldest ~~old~~ pioneer gathering which will open at 10:15 a.m. with the merry-go-round, other carnival attractions and swing into an afternoon Indian parade, Indian beauty contest and rodeo in the afternoon.

From 2,000 to 4,000 persons gather on the ~~h~~ park, bordering the old location of the ghost town of Cleveland which at one time had a population of 500 persons.

(more )

first ad

alder creek

Ed Barnett operated a ~~steam~~ steam engine merry-go-round at the park for a time, charging a nickle a ride.

Then the residents of the area got together and bought the one from Oaks Park. It has 24 horses and four sleds and lots of cast iron equipment as well as the circular runway.

Sam Ganders, now dead; Chris Jensen, Bickleton; Charles Jensen, Sunnyside; S.N. (Soren) Matsen, Wapato; Al Matsen, and Larsen were among those who helped ~~the~~ dismantle it. It was brought by train to Roosevelt, unloaded and then hauled to the park on the "Hill."

There was no roof the first year. One was built the next, and a flag pole erected atop it.

Originally the merry-go-round operated on cast wheels and was pulled by a cable, operated by a steam engine. But the wheels made so much racket they had to be covered with rubber. Other changes had to be made but the basic fixtures were retained.

The ~~calliope~~ calliope played out about 20 years ago. ~~and has since been~~ It was turned over to Joy Carroll of Grandview who has ~~repaired~~ completed repairs. Calliope music will ~~be~~ accompany the merry-go-round rides this year.

(more )



second ad

Although the gathering is generally referred to as a picnic there is a complete program.

After the ~~dededdeddedded~~ morning memorial services and the noon-time picnic and reunion, there will be a "grand parade" for boys and girls ~~deded~~ less than 16, an Indian mounted parade and Indian beauty contest.

Everett Carter, rodeo chairman in charge of the afternoon program announces the following arena events:

~~Barb~~ Bareback bronc riding, \$75 purse; saddle bronc, \$100 purse; ~~and~~ calf roping, \$75 purse; girls' barrel race, kids pony race, and once around, twice around and three times around (the race track) horse races, all with prize money.

A "starlight Dance on the open air dance floor, starting at 9 p.m. will ~~xx~~ climax the day. An open air ~~dededdeddeddedded~~ square dance is scheduled for Friday night.

Cleveland was ~~originally~~ settled by Ripley Dodge who came from Cleveland Ohio. He opened a hotel there in 1879 and platted a town called Dodgetown. Then the name was changed to Cleveland.

By 1880 S. Lowenberg had constructed a store and established the first post office there. Fire destroyed the business area in 1896 but the town was reestablished.

Now the Alden Creek Pioneer Association is the ~~XXXXXX~~ ghost town's biggest

Re

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Wo/A

BICKLETON- A.L.(Art)Lowell, president of the Alder Creek Pioneer Association operates a wheat and cattle ranch in the Six Prong country, southwest of Bickleton, toward the Columbia River.

~~He is 73~~ He will be 73 years next month.

Lowell came to the Hills in 1918 to work on the 6- P Ranch but didn't stay too long. That was because his wife (xx Evelyn Medler who he had married at Wasco, Ore. didn't like rattlesnakes and insisted on leaving after ~~odd~~ ~~odd~~ finding one in the house.

The two returned in 1935 to the historic old ranch, owned by the Seufert Bros. of The Dalles in older days and now built up to 3,100 acres. Lowell was born in North Dakota, started out in the garage business with his father. His father sold out and moved to Montana and ~~Low~~ Lowell was driving a ~~taxi~~ taxicab for his father at ~~Redmond~~ Kalispell. He was 10 when he started to drive the taxi. His father sold Model T <sup>+</sup>ords and Reos in 1907 and 1908.

Then the father W.S. Lowell, bought a lumber mill at Devils Lake, N.D. and the family returned to the Dakotas for a time. After that they went to Puyallup where the elder Lowell was in the feed business.



first ad Lowell

The father bought the Ed Miller Ranch ~~dead~~ out of Wasco, Ore.  
and it was there in 1916 that Lowell married .

~~He said that~~ Wicks (George) Varner's father, Lowell said those  
who had been at Pickleton in the earlier years told him, gave the  
original tract of land to the community for a picnic, with a provision  
that ~~the~~ grounds admission not be charged. In subsequent years  
the association acquired ~~some~~ adjoining ground , owning now some 20  
acres.

The first grandstand was about 60 feet long with six rows of seats.  
The first picnic contests were foot races, tugs of war , and saddle horse  
races. Rodeo events didn't come until the '20s.

The first dance floor was wood ~~board~~ and when it became unusable  
a ~~new~~ slick-finish concrete floor was poured.

~~During spring runoff~~

During spring runoff a little stream flows through the meadow near  
old Cleveland. ~~But~~ "It 's not a creek," insisted an association member.  
"The proper name is Wood Gulch."

Picnic veterans say the June rain season doesn't bother them.

"One time out of every three picnics it rains, ~~but~~ but we take it in  
stride. If it 's ~~not~~ a long rain instead of a heavy shower we just ~~can~~  
drive to the Pickleton Grange Hall and go on with the program."

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McCredy  
111111  
heuterman

80 Bus  
43 Res.  
15 hrs  
8 blocks individuals  
Bawdick & Hayes  
Sept 21-1905-

WAPATO--The same stories of early-day development, sagebrush and tents which are marking the observance of Wapato's 50th anniversary year are all vivid recollections for Mrs. Alice McCredy who, with her husband Alex, helped to lay Wapato out.

In those days, however, it wasn't so certain that the couple <sup>WAS</sup> ~~was~~ to have a hand in Wapato's development.

Mrs. McCredy, who now lives in Yakima, recalls that her husband was in the sheep <sup>P</sup>~~A~~ business and wanted to go to Canada. She didn't want to go, however, and silently hoped he would accept the job of Indian Post Trader at Simcoe where Wapato now stands. The job was offered him by her father, Benjamin F. Barge, who lived in Yakima.

McCredy accepted and they moved to Simcoe which then consisted

MORE

of only a red depot on the railroad between Parker and Toppenish, near where the Wapato station now stands.

They built a five-room house near the railroad and a store nearby. On Aug. 12, 1902, Mrs. McCredy remembers the store was opened. A vast number of Indians came to deal at the establishment. One day, as she offered a small child free candy for the opening of the store, she remembers he was gone like a flash, and although there wasn't a house in sight, in less than half an hour a number of children were clamoring for free sweets.

By the time winter came about 15 families moved into the area, living in tents near the store.

"It was cold and nearly every night we'd stay up until midnight with the men telling their stories around the pot-bellied stove in the store," she said. "I once asked them what their wives and children were doing and they said they were in the tents asleep to keep warm."

Three months after they got to Simcoe the post office was set



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up and Mrs. McCredy was named postmistress. A difficulty arose as the office's mail was ~~was~~ continually getting mixed up with that of the nearby fort so the department contacted her to submit a new name for her office.

Although at first she didn't like the name of "wapato" she first submitted, she feels now that the choice wasn't too bad and really quite fitting.

Life for the early settler in the immediate area was no bed of roses, Mrs. McCredy said. Water had to be obtained, well water used and plans made for arrival of ~~the~~ wives and families to the barren scene.

The railroad was the main transportation to Yakima for social life, the bank and Mrs. McCredy's parents. She soon came to know most of the railroad personnel either through traveling or by post office contacts. Horse and buggy travel through the Gap via Parker was also common, however.

M O R E

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On the McCredy's fifth wedding anniversary she recalls 75 persons came to their home from Yakima by train for the celebration. Even though the wind seemed unbearable, Mrs. McCredy said the orchestra, punch and festive air made it seem like quite a celebration.

Another of Mrs. McCredy's activities in early day Wapato was substituting in the school which then had a staff of three teachers. At first, she said she was afraid the two-story frame structure would blow over when the wind blew.

One thing led to another and more and more people began to build up the Wapato area. In 1905 McCredy ~~laid~~ laid out the townsite after the government received no satisfactory bids for the area during initial bidding and he was awarded the area during the second time. Mrs. McCredy said her husband gave all persons a free lot they could pick out with each initial lot they bought.

M O R E



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He thereby formed the Wapato Development Co. of which he was secretary and treasurer. Initially 80 acres of land was obtained and later another 80 acres was added. Good lots sold from \$100 to \$500 and some rose in price to \$1,500.

Mrs. McCredy remembers one day when the womenfolk of the town raked the rocks off what was to become the main street as the men worked on the rising buildings.

Another project Mrs. McCredy said they enjoyed was the naming of the town's streets. These names reflect the color and important areas of the day: Camas, Simcoe, <sup>cf</sup> Satas, Wasco, Yakima, Naches, Tieton and Ahtanum.

In April, 1906, McCredy established the Wapato State Bank which was nationalized on May 19, 1908. He also established the Post Traders Store and became one of the organizers of the Yakima Trust Co.

M O R E

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Another of the firsts for the McCredys was the ownership of one of the first automobiles in Wapato. She said she especially remembers the big seven-passenger vehicle as her husband drove curious children around the area in it.

Mrs. McCredy was also conscious of the cultural development of the community. She organized the Atheneum Club and was the first librarian with books which had been sent from Olympia.

She started the Library Ball, the outgrowth of which is still held annually. The event was then given by the Atheneum Club to raise money for the new library.

A few years later the pioneer couple built their large home on the west edge of Wapato. The building, one of the showplaces of the Valley for many years, was destroyed by an early morning fire April 30, 1949. It had a second floor ballroom where many area social events were held.

M O R E



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"We ~~really~~ really enjoyed our home," Mrs. McCredy said, "and were quite proud of it. I once remarked humerously that I hoped we would be the only ones to enjoy living there. Although I of course hadn't meant exactly this I've often thought of it since the fire."

On March 30, 1950, Mr. McCredy died of a heart attack after being forced a number of years previously to curtail his activities because of his health.

Although definitely living today in the present, the days of early Wapato are not far removed from Mrs. McCredy's mind, and the manner in which she relates the events of that period reflects the enthusiasm she felt as she saw the Valley grow.

###

Alder Creek Pioneer Association

58th annual

June 15

at Cleveland P ark, 4 miles west of Bickleton

sponsored by Alder Creek Pioneer Association

(Art )  
President of Association A.L. Lowell, president.

immediate past pres. Harry Carrell, Grandview.

M James Spalding, Bickleton, publicity.—

Open morning, Singing Travelers, from California

*Supper  
Wang*

10:30 Sherman Jensen , farmer master of ceremonies morning program

president of Wash State Crop Improvement Association

Memorial services in morning, Mrs.Chloe Walling, in charge

recognition of pioneers and deaths

old merry go round, purchased at Portland, la t year refinishing it,

~~60~~ rebuilding horses etc.

Address of welcome, president. Immediate pastres presents plaque to  
incoming president

speaker..around 11:30

Flag ceremony Sunnyside Elks. 4-H groups Bickleton, carrying flag.



first ad

Flute solo, Elaine Padgham, sunnyside high school senior

Picnic

rodeo...grounds , 1 :30 to 2 p.m.

dance, outdoor dance pavilion

Indian parade,. Indian beauty and costume contest (Everett Carter)

Bickleton He in charge of sports ~~com~~ committee..

~~the~~ Sat June - 8  
Cleanup day - whole community =

1965

A.L. Lowell (Art) president, succeeds Harry Carrell of Grandview.

Sherman Jensen, master of ceremonies, morning. Mrs. Chloe Walling, in charge of memorial services.

Peter Bell, who has been a Bickleton community resident since 1918 said the first merry-go-round was steam driven and operated by cable. The steam engine set off to one side, puffing away.

There ~~and~~ were, as he recalls, ~~a~~ four or six sleighs on the first power driven merry-go-round.

Milner  
~~Miner~~ Larsen, born in 1904 4 1/2 miles from Bickleton was 64 years old June 8 and on hand to help get the grounds in shape.

He and other old timers have recollections of a hand pushed merry-go-round operating for a short time and boys who pushed it got a free ride.

Another home-built merry-go round followed, powered by two head horses, powering a sweep, one horse working across from the other. There were six sleds and no horses on the horse powered merry-go-round.

Ed Barnett operated a steam engine merry-go-round at the park and the charge as a nickle a ride.



There are recollections of an earlier picnic being held at Pine Creek, between Cleveland and Bickleton before the first was held at the Cleveland Park in ~~1911~~ 1911. Cleveland was quite a community then with its stores, one with an upstairs dance hall where there was a killing one night which old-timers recall.

A pioneer named Campbell prepared a beef barbecue for the first picnic, starting his pit fire the ~~night before~~ day before.

~~The merry-go-round which will go into operation Sunday will make its first run at the first picnic.~~ ~~1911~~

Residents of the area got together \$500 and bought the old merry-go-round, 24 horses and 4 sleds, antique ticket booth and the cast iron supports ~~and~~ and other equipment from the ~~same~~ old Oaks Amusement Park at Portland in 1927. The merry-go-round was built in 1909, two years before the picnic.

Sam Ganders, now dead; Chris Jensen, Bickleton, Charles Jensen, Sunnyside, S.N. (Soren) Matsen, Wapato ~~and~~ Al Matsen, ~~and~~ Milner Larsen recalls, ~~had~~ were among those who helped dismantle the amusement ~~device~~ device. ~~The~~ It was brought by train to Roosevelt, unloaded and then hauled to the park.

<sup>1</sup>here was no roof the first year, because time did not permit its construction. One was built on the circular structure next year and a flag pole added.

000 Originally the merry-go-round operated on cast wheels and was pulled by cable, but the wheels made so much racket they were covered with rubber and other changes were made, though not to the ~~■~~ basic cast ~~iron~~ 000 and forged iron ~~parts~~ equipment.

➤ The calliope played out several years ago and no one recalls ~~how~~ if it ~~ran~~ turned out more than one tune but Joy Carroll of Grandview took it into town and has repaired it. ~~added~~ It will be in operation now ~~added~~ for the first time, after 20 years.

Steve Jury built the first horse drawn mg.

A tractor, standing to one side of the circular merry-go-round building and powering a cable will operate the ride this ~~added~~ year