

Names

Valley Towns

Naming the Town of Almira. Almira is a new and thriving town this side of Wilbur on the line of the Central Washington railroad. While the location of the road was being made Engineer H.S. Huson and Attorney James Ashton went along to treat for right of way and town sites. At the present location of Almira they found a store presided over by a Mr. Davis and his attractive wife. Mr. Huson decided upon the place for a station but he could get no concessions from Davis. Finally Mrs. Davis was approached and enlisted in the cause of the company's officials and through her efforts of persuasion the required arrangements were made. When it came to the signing of the deed of conveyance, Mrs. Davis wrote in round and handsome characters, Almira P. Davis. Upon glancing at the signature Mr. Ashton spoke up and said: "Huson, Almira is a pretty name for this townsite. "By 'od, just the thing," answered the vigorous engineer and then and there it was christened.--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T. Oct. 24, 1889.

Names

The postmaster general has designated "Wash." as the abbreviation of the state of Washington. This will be hard to bear, but it was fully understood when the name was adopted and the situation accepted. If there is no dirty linen exhibited by our officials, we can put up with it--Yakima Herald, October 24, 1889.

Names

The scholars of Chief Moses' tribe say the Okanikane, now anglosized into Okanogan, is an Indian name meaning rendezvous, and was applied to Okanogan lake, the source of the river given the same name, where the Indians of the various tribes in Washington, British Columbia and even as far northward as Alaska, assemble in potlatch and secure their supply of fish and game, a custom that still continues.

The name Soovos, applied to a lake in that region means narrows. The etymology of this word has been corrupted into O Sooyos which destroys its beauty. The lake is one of the finest fishing places in the state.

The correct Indian name of Conconully is Sklow Ouliman, which means money hole, thus given by the Indians because of the abundant beaver found in that locality in early times, the skins of which brought them much money. But the same locality, the Conconully of Okanogan country, has proven to be a money hole for the white race in the way of the rich gold and silver mines found there.

Yakima is an Indian name meaning a "great succotash garden" and also applied to a tribe of Indians thus named.

Klickitat is an Indian name meaning a cove of salmon, it also being applied to a tribe of Indians inhabiting the eastern part of the state along the Columbia river.

And thus it is with all the streams, localities and objects in the state bearing Indian names. They are tribal designations, including Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Walla Walla, etc. which have a definite meaning and are euphonic when properly pronounced--Yakima Herald, special edition, June, 1898 1890.

Names

Put on the Prefix--While the trains do not stop at Yakima city the mails are delivered and received there by trains instead of passing through North Yakima as formerly.

As a result , all mail intended for North Yakima but simply addressed Yakima , goes to the old town, resulting in a delay and often much inconvenience. Publishers and correspondents from a distance are requested to bear this fact in mind and guid themselves accordingly--
Yakima Herald, North Yakima, W.T. August 22, 1889.

Meaning of Indian Names

Since the Outlook has sojourned in the Okanogan region it has, in its intercourse with the native Americans, learned something of the meaning of various Indian names applied to streams, localities, etc.

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And thus it is with all the streams, localities and objects in the territory bearing Indian names. They are tribal designations, including Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Walla Walla, etc. which have definite meanings and are euphonic when properly pronounced--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, Saturday, February 2, 1889.

Edgar Rock

Edgar Rock is a picturesque and grand precipice of basalt rising almost perpendicularly out of the Natcheez. It gained its name from Mr. Edgar of Puyallup who crossed the mountains in the troubled days of the Indian uprising and discovering war parties coming towards him from each way of the trail he lowered himself over the cliff where the least miscalculation or crumbling stone would have sent him to his death beneath. But his fate was certain if he fell into the hands of the warriors and he took the chances and concealed in an alcove or hole in the cliff which is visible from the other side of the river he successfully hid himself until the danger was past.

The late Col. Cock who knew Edgar and to whom every foot of the Natcheez was familiar always claimed that the rock which bears Edgar's name was not his place of concealment but that a precipice very much similar in appearance though nearer to Hanging Rock was the historic place. Yakima Herald, August 15, 1895.

Names

The state of Washington is nicknamed the Chinook state; North Dakota the Flicker-tail state; South Dakota the Swinge-cat state and Montana the Stubbed-toe state--Yakima Herald , March 19, 1891.

Names--Counties..

Washington Edu Journal, Dec 27, 1939?

Adams..in honor of President John Adams, Nov 28, 1883, co. seat Ritzville.

Asotin--dian word meaning Eel ~~word~~ Eel creek from abundance of eels there, Created Oct 27, 1883, co. seat Asotin city.

Benton: In honor of Thomas H. Benton, U.S. Senator from Missouri, March 8, 1905, Prosser. capital.

Chelan: Indian word meaning Deep Water, ~~Mar~~ March 13, 1899, Wenatchee Columbia--for the great River of the West, Nov 11, 1875, county seat Dayton.

Franklin--In Honor of Benjamin Franklin, created Nov. 28, 1883, Pasco co seat.

Garfield, named in honor of President James A. Garfield, Nov 29, 1881, Pomeroy county seat.

Kittitas..Indian word meaning "Gray gravel bank", Nov 24, 1883, Ellensburg.

Klickitat--Meaning robber, Dec. 20, 1859, Goldendale.

Spokane--Indian word meaning child of the sun--January 29, 1858, Spokane.

Stevens--In Honor of Isaac I. Stevens, first governor of Wash territory. January 20, 1863, Colville.

Walla Walla--Indian word meaning running water, April 25, 1854, Walla Walla.

Yakima-Indian word name of a tribe said to mean "black bear." January 21, 1865, Yakima. (39 counties in all, others omitted.)

Names Proposed For City Park (Spokesman-Review Nov. 30, '48)

Colville, Wash., Nov. 29--The city park has been named Yep-Kanum park and to the older residents the name is significant. C. J. Rhode, park caretaker, suggested the name to the city council last week and today he related some of the story that makes Yep-Kanum a proper name for the area.

In the early 19th century a Father St. Pierre came from the north with a party of Hudson Bay company traders, Rhode says, and established a mission and trading post on the Columbia river where the town of Marcus stands now.

It was not long after this that he was invited to attend a celebration of the Colville Indians near the present site of this northeastern Washington town. An account of Father St. Pierre's impressions is contained in some of his writings:

"The powerful tribe called Kelto-to-ko-tewis(Colville) Indians were then at peace with all neighboring tribes and as providence had been lavish that year in providing rains--plenty of grass for horses, the hill country abounded in game, the streams teemed with fish, the Indians were celebrating the bountiful season with feasts, dances, sports, races, games, the giving of presents and exhibiting the results of the chase.

"This event they called the 'Yep-Kanum,' (fall festival). No word in the English language expresses to the whites what this does to the Indians. I was greatly impressed by the occasion, the beautiful setting, the mountains, the Indian villages and apparent wealth and good feeling of the Indians."

Three-quarters of a century after Father St. Pierre first witnessed this celebration, John Louie, a Nez Perce Indian, suggested in 1912 to the Colville chamber of commerce that something be done to revive the historic Yep-Kanum festival.

(8) For many years thereafter Colville celebrated Yep-Kanum in conjunction with the annual Stevens county livestock show. Each fall hundreds of Indians from a score of tribes would set up their teepee villages on a plot of ground near the fairgrounds.

With the coming of the depression in the '30s the plan was abandoned and has not since been revived.

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Names--Indians

Rotarians forgot today the passage of years and were once again as small boys in their eagerness to listen to the tales of the Indians and pioneers as told them by Mrs. A.J. Splawn at their noon meeting.

Mrs. Splawn asked for the perpetuation of the Indian legends and history of the Yakima valley which was the "Gouldie" practice ground for many of the soldiers who later became famous in the Civil War.

The legend of the valley is that the Indians came here in a huge canoe and that this, their Noah's ark, landed a short distance below Union Gap. Evidence of the canoe still remains in the contour of the hills.

Lewis and Clark came to the Yakima valley river with the Nez Perce Indians as guides and Alexander Ross, a trapper, came in 1814. He is the first writer to refer to the Yakima tribe.

Mrs. Splawn gave an interesting account of the origin of many of the Indian place names, saying that Selah means smooth water, Naches, swift water, Tieton, roaring river, Ahtanum, long river from the big mountain and Yakima by the big lake.

"California has commercialized her old Indian history Mrs. Splawn said. "We have a rich treasure house of the same kind--" The Yakima Republic, Sept. 24, 1925.

Names

Chelan Falls is the new town started by L. MacLean and associates a few months ago , which has made such very rapid advancement.

Burnham Huntington, zafter whom the town of Huntington, Oregon was named and who is now register of the U.S. land office at Harney, Oregon, spent a couple of days in the city this week with his wife who is visitin her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Guillard--Yakima Herald, June 11, 1891.

Names

Anacortes

Decay of Anacortes--C.E. Smith arrived from Anacortes Monday and gives a gloomy picture of that one time booming town. Anacortes was christened after Mrs. Amos Bowman, the wife of the original townsite proprietor whose maiden name was Ann Curtis.

Bowman sold \$200,000 worth of property and two months ago could have closed out worth half a million. He kept reinvesting his money however in the same place and is now reported to be much embarrassed.

During the later part of February a population of 4,000 was claimed for Anacortes but now it would be difficult to scare up a tenth of that number. Herald, May 8, 1890.

The census enumerators of Seattle have made returns showing a population of 43,467 for that city., May 8, 1890.

Names

Frank L. Wheeler, whose likeness is here reproduced through the courtesy of Ranch and Range is one of the most progressive and best posted fruit growers in the state.

Mr. Wheeler was deservedly honored by the Northwest Fruit Growers Association which lately convened in Spokane. The intelligent and successful conduct of his extensive farm and orchards near North Yakima known far and wide as "Fruitvale" renders his observations weighty and entitled to respect. Yakima Herald, Feb. 9, 1899.

Names

Ellensburgh-Ellensburg

Yakima Herald, Oct. 11, 1894, contains noticeable use for first time of Ellensburgh spelled ELLENSBURG.

Names

The name of the postoffice at Oren, Kittitas county, has been changed to Thorpe--Yakima Herald, March 5, 1891.

Names

Whyaniee is a beautiful yearling, the property of Mr. Alexander and is nearly a thoroughbred. His name is a Yakima word meaning flying eagle. H was sired by Bob Duff and dammed by Cutting's Wilkes. Yakima Herald, June 2~~5~~, 1891.

Names

Spokane Falls

The question is being discussed at Spokane Falls whether, under the new charter, the word "Falls" shall be left from the name of that place or not.

The Spokesman says that as a rule the citizens favor the abbreviation although a few are violent in the denunciation of the measure.

H.W. Fairweather is one of the latter. He says Spokane Falls indicates the nature of the place and advertises the fact of having falls and water power while the word Spokane, in the tongue of the aborigines means a "dirty nosed Indian."

It is the name given to an epizoodic savage and anything but an ~~epizoodic~~ the appropriate appellation for the beautiful City of the Falls--
Yakima Herald, October 23, 1890.

Names

Rosa and Umtanum

A west bound freight light engine ran over and killed August Norman Wednesday in the canyon between ROSA and UMTANUM about 15 miles above this city--Yakima Herald, May 26, 1898.

The name of the Stillagdamish post office has been changed to Sylvania--Yakima Herald, June 24, 1898.

Rimrock -Tieton

Sen. Jones. Naming

Though Senator Wesley L. Jones would be proud beyond telling to have the great Rimrock dam to be officially christened on

Thursday given his name, he will ask Dr. Hubert Work, secretary of the interior, to respect the wishes of the pioneers and retain the name of Tieton dam.

"Naturally I would appreciate having the dam given my name, even though it is a common one, but I do not desire to have the wishes of the pioneers disregarded, Senator Jones said. Their wishes should come first as they have sacrificed and suffered to make the construction of the dam and the settlement of this great valley possible. They may be few in numbers but their plea is strong. When I meet Secretary Work at Pasco tomorrow I shall ask him to keep the name of the dam in accordance with the resolution passed by the Pioneers association at its annual meeting.

Some time ago members of the Yakima Realty board recognizing the great service of Senator Jones in working for a reclamation in the valley asked that the huge earth fill dam be named the Wesley L. Jones dam. Several other organizations also favored it but the pioneers considered that the older name of Rimrock or Tieton dam should be retained. The first settlers were ready enough to pay due tribute to Senator Jones for his continued and successful activity on behalf of the valley but believe in the general principle of retaining the early names as a means of recalling pioneer history--The Yakima Republic June 30, 1925.