

Meneghel, Hedwig

Kittitas

Roslyn

The village of Roslyn , shabby, tumbled down, wearily hangs onto the hillsides that are not more than sling shot distance apart.

The main street and the coal mines are Roslyn. The boards of the frame houses and false front stores have slipped out of plumb. Once when the town was new they had been painted.

The bank and company store and pool hall are of brick. It was here that Hedwig Meneghel came from Kattowitz, Poland to join her first husband in 1887. He had been working in the mines for three years.

In 1896 he died and in 1897 she married his brother, Christopher a saloon keeper. He is tall, emaciated and blind. An Austrian, he talks in precise and cultured English. He speaks to his round little wife with affection and reaches for her hand. Because of his blindness he mistrusts a stranger and says that he and his wife are old and they are foreign and have lived to themselves. He will only hint at the time the first sight of a Chinaman and the fear of cheap labor drove the Oriental out of town his pig tail flying out behind him. He says nothing about the strikes.

He speaks more freely of his wife, born Hedwig Schubert, grand niece of the great musician. The death of her father and the loss of fortune shut her out of the musical world. She speaks of music in professional terms and phrases.

Roslyn has not changed since 1884 save to grow shabbier and shakier.. 1936.

Kittitas

Mires, Mrs. Austin

Ellensburg.

Mrs Mires is the widow of Austin Mires who died less than a month ago. He was the first mayor of Ellensburg when it was incorporated as a town in 1886 and a member of the constitutional convention at Olympia. All of his adult life his interests were bound to the development of Kittitas county.

When Mrs. Mires' maternal great grandfather was a child of 8 and his brother a youngest of 6 were eating their bread and milk in the garden of their home in England they were kidnapped. They were left in the woods of an estate. A milk maid found them. The children were not wanted and after a search had been made for their parents they were given to an Irish family who gave them the name of Sherwood and brought them to America.

Mrs. Mires' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Roland crossed the plains from Iowa to Oregon. In 1871 they settled squatted upon what is now Naches City. Mrs. Mires was 9 years old then. They waited for the government surveyors to place the boundaries of their homestead. Every new man he saw her father asked if he were a surveyor. The nearest neighbor was Mary O'Neil, now Mrs. Clarence Palmer of Ellensburg. At that time she lived in the Cowiche where her husband was a horse dealer.

The first clergyman to come to what is now Naches City was a Methodist minister, Rev. Kelley. Mrs. Kelley taught the girls school where Mrs. Mires received her first instruction.

When the surveyors finally came the homestead was not where it was supposed to be so it was sold for the cost of the improvements and on November 3, 1876 the family started to Ellensburg. They had a light team and a heavy load.

They stopped at the cabin of Andy Berge in the Wenas where the main road left the creek.

It was December 21, 1876 when the family reached the site of Ellensburg. There was nothing in sight save sagebrush and rocks and dead rose briars. The only settlers were John Sharp, later a state legislator, and his family. Mathias and Jacob Becker and Doc Robbins, the father of 18 children.

There was no mail unless some one rode to Yakima and brought it back in a sack across the horn of his saddle.

Provisions were laid in once a year and were brought from the Dalles. Green coffee in tow sacks, sugar by the barrel, beans and peas and a couple of mats of rice and flour were the staples. Bacon and hams were not always procurable. Rabbits and squirrel furnished most of the fresh meat.

Oranges and lemons were unheard of. Breakfast, dinner and supper the year around scarcely varied those first few years.

Wrapped in tissue paper and packed in the boxes that had travelled all the way from Boston were rhubarb and sage roots and flower cuttings. Aside from salt and sugar these sage plants were the only seasonings in the district. Later the flowers from the cuttings were the only tame ones at Ellensburg. Beef Hide conveyance

Few people remember the beef hide conveyance which was used when the snow was deep and firm. A beef hide was tanned stiff and hard, handholds were cut in the sides. The horses were hitched to it and there you were and no bumps from the spring wagon. It was on a beef hide that Mrs. Mires first rode to town. It was an old Montana invention.

Made and upholstered furniture

A carpenter, friendless, old and alone came to Ellensburg with Mrs. Mires' family. At first her mother objected but later was glad he was with them. He minded the children when she was ill, helped put up the log house and made the furniture which consisted of the sleeping bunks stools for the children and benches for the grownups.

3 Catastrophe

On July 4, 1889 the combination of kerosene and fire crackers blew up the general store and destroyed practically all of the town.

Mrs. Mires was away at the time and Mrs. Mires had just returned from a buggy ride with her two children and had left them in charge of her German servant girl. The Mires house was one of the few that did not catch fire. One corner of the Masonic Temple was saved and it was incorporated in the new structure.

For 53 years Mrs. Mires has lived in the same house.....1936.

Ellensburg

Celebrations

Mrs. Austin Mires

Christmas was celebrated in Christmas, Dec. 24, at Ellensburg in 1874 in fine style. The west siders had a Christmas tree at the Sharp schoolhouse. Everybody in the valley had been invited and there was a good turnout. The children assisted by others, gave tableaux, recitations, plays, songs etc. which were enjoyed by all. The snow was deep and travel difficult. B00001

Another Christmas celebration that I recall was one given at Christmas, 1876. This time there was a community Christmas tree.

The gathering was held in John A. Shoudy's store building in a hall upstairs in Ellensburg. This had been facetiously named Robbers' Roost but that fact did not deter people from all over the valley from attending. The Christmas tree was a fine one but the scarcity of articles hung on it, except candy and pop corn made it look poor, Indeed.

Christmas 1878 was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. William Lewis who lived somewhere near James Stevens on the West side. They gave a dinner to which a general invitation to all the people had been given out. The settlers came from all parts of the valley and a royal good time was had.

In 1879 Mr. and Mrs. Mills who lived near where the village of Thorp now stands gave a tree at their home and people of the entire valley attended.

1936.

Mires, Austin.

Territorial days

It was on March 16, 1883 that I first appeared in the territory of Washington. A young friend and I had come from Southern Oregon en route to Old Yakima. At noon that day we crossed the Columbia River at The Dalles, on our way. We came by stage and at the same time as passengers with us were a young medical student, returning from Willamette university to his home at Goldendale and two Chinamen.

After a tiresome ride we reached Goldendale late that evening and stopped for the night. The next day we came by buckboard, the hardest riding machine known to man drawn by four horses over a weary distance of 75 miles to Yakima city, my friend and I being the only passengers.

At that time Yakima City contained a population of something over 500 people. On Thursday, April 18, 1883 my old friend Eugene Shelby representing Wells-Fargo and company's express company came through Yakima from Portland on his way to Ellensburg to establish an express office there. I came from Yakima with him.

We came by stage and with us were Thomas Johnson, an Ellensburg merchant and a Mr. Parsons, agent for the Singer sewing machine.

Old Stage Road

The old stage road at that time ran up across the Naches river at Nelson's place, thence turned up over the ridge into the Wenas. There bearing to the right into and following up Cottonwood Creek crossing the Umtanum range and passing down into and across Umtanum canyon by the Umtanum range and passing down into and across Umtanum canyon by the Durr road, thence up over the hill and down into the head of Shoo-Shoos-Kin canyon and coming out at the old Coleman place, thence up the valley on the west side to the Durr bridge which spanned the Yakima river at the place now occupied by what is known as the upper bridge and fo

and from the river up through Becker lane which road in the springtime has no bottom, to the town of Ellensburg.

We reached Ellensburg and put up at the Valley hotel that stood on the southeast corner of Main street and Third streets. The first man I met was John Catlin, then clerk at the hotel.

We remained in Ellensburg April 13 and Shelby established his express office in the store of Thomas Johnson on the northwest corner of Peal and Fourth streets. During that day I attended the trial of a law suit in justice court which took place at the schoolhouse standing on the ground now occupied by the Presbyterian church. James H. Naylor represented on one side and Daniel Gaby the other and Charles B. Reed presided as justice of the peace. We returned to Yakima on the 14th where I remained vainly attempting to produce a shadow in the practice of my profession until the 14th of June when I boarded the stage for Ellensburg.

On the 15th of June, 1883 I commenced the practice of law here in Ellensburg in partnership with James H. Naylor, where I have remained until the present time.

Robbers' Roost

At the time of my coming Ellensburg had shaken off its primitive name of Robbers' Roost. John A. Shoudy had become proprietor of the land and had laid out the original townsite naming the prospective city for his good wife. The village then contained a population of something like 200 people.

Origin of Kittitas

The name Kittitas is Indian, pure and simple. You have all, perhaps heard many translations of this name and in the future you may hear many more. Some undertake to say that the valley gets its name from a white bluff opposite Thorp. When I first came here Old Man Shoudy told me that the Indians had informed him that Kittitas

meant "land of flowers."

I have since been informed by Indians, well versed in the lore of their race, that the literal meaning was the Indian bread or hard tack made from the dried root of the kouse, that always grew and yet grows in great abundance along the foothills in the northern, eastern and even western borders of our valley and which is found in such abundance nowhere else.

The Indians from far and near came here in the early days to dig and dry the roots of this camas for their bread and Kittitas Valley was held by all to be neutral ground, owned by none, common to all. In the proper season the whole country where the kouse grows is tinted with a purple hue, the bloom of the camas. A long time ago the valley itself took the name of the article of food that it produced and it is but a short step from the root of the plant from which Kittitas bread is made to the flower of the name, so the translation, Valley of Flowers, is another way of expressing the same idea.

Indians

Toby and Nancy were until a few years ago a prominent landmark in the valley. Charles B. Reed gave them their Boston names away back in 1869 or 1870. Toby was a Puget Sound Indian, Nancy a Yakima. Long ago Nancy was in the Sound country attending a big Indian potlatch. There she met Toby. He afterwards visited the Yakima country to see the horse racing so he then said. At all events Nancy went back to the Sound with him on his return and they were married. Nancy's people were angry because she married an outsider and they would not tolerate Toby among them so Nancy and Toby came to the Kittitas and "mitlighted" here until they died.

Toby was always a steadfast friend of the whites and warned them on more than one occasion of intended depredations on the part of the Indians. Some years before he died he went entirely blind and it was

a pathetic sight to see old Nancy leading him wherever she went by a little rope tied to his waist.

Kittitas county is created

The legislature of 1883 and 1884 divided Yakima county and created the new county of Kittitas. By that act Robert N. Cannady, Charles P. Cooke and Samuel Packwood were appointed commissioners for the new county.

They met in the second story of the old Smith building, standing on the southwest corner of Pearl and Third streets, on Monday, Dec. 17, 1883 and organized Kittitas county by appointing for it a full set of officers. They were:

Auditor: W.H. Peterson, Sheriff, John C. Goodwin; probate judge, Walter A. Bull; treasurer, Thomas Johnson; school superintendent, Irene Cumberland; surveyor, John R. Wallace; sheep commissioner, E.W. Lyen.

On August 25, 1884 the republicans held their first convention in Kittitas county. Richard Price, Dr. I.N. Power, S.S. Sterling and myself were elected delegates to the territorial convention to be held at Seattle September 4. The county ticket nominated then were: Auditor J.R. Wallace, Sheriff J.J. Imbrie; Probate judge, Walter A. Bull; Treasurer, G.E. Dickson, school superintendent, Rev. J.A. Laurie; Surveyor, B.E. Craig; Coroner Dr. T.J. Newland; street commissioner, Mathias Becker; commissioners, William Devans; Thomas Haley and James S. Dysart. Territorial convention.

On August 31, 1884, Price, Sterling, Ed Butler of Wenatchee and myself started for Seattle on horseback over the Snoqualmie pass to attend the territorial convention. I rode a white cayuse. He hated to travel but he liked to buck. We were three days on the way and it poured down rain all the time after passing Lake

Keechelus. At that convention Edward Whitson was a candidate for the nomination as delegate to congress but there were contesting delegates from Yakima, his home county and the opposing delegation to him, headed by Capt. Hotton was seated, thus destroying Whitson's availability as a candidate (Copy)

Major J.M. Armstrong of Spokane was nominated for congress and was defeated at the November election by Charles S. Vorhees, democrat. John A. Shoudy was nominated for joint councilman for the district then embracing Kittitas, Yakima, Spokane and other counties, but he too, was defeated at the ensuing election by James B. Reavis of North Yakima.

I here first met Judge George Turner. He had been recently appointed to the bench of our territory from the state of Alabama and it had been rumored that he was a Negro and some lawyers had declared with ultra profanities that they would not practice before him. When I returned home I informed our people that I had met the new judge. I was flooded with questions as to his color and they all seemed relieved when I assured them that he was a white man.

Women Vote in Territorial Days.

The ~~legisla~~ legislature by an act approved January 29, 1886 and again by an act approved January 18, 1888 had conferred upon women the right to vote and hold office and this right was exercised until August 14, 1888, the supreme court of the territory declaring the law unconstitutional in a case entitled Nevada M. Bloomer vs John Todd. The members of the supreme court at that time were Richard A. Jones, William S. Langford and Frank Allyn.

On ^{First court} Sunday, October 19, 1894 John A. Shoudy, Judge George Turner, Moses M. Emerson and I came to Shoudy's shack from Yakima to Ellensburg and on Monday, Oct. 20, district court convened in Ellensburg. Judge Turner presiding, this being the first court ever held

in Kittitas county. The lawyers present at this time were: George Turner, judge; Hiram Dustin, prosecuting attorney; John B. Allen, Edward Whitson, James B. Reavis, Edward Pruyn, Samuel C. Davidson, Daniel Gaby, Frank S. Thorp, W.H. Peter, James N. Naylor, John B. Davidson and Austin Mires.

During the year 1885 many deaths of old timers occurred. Charles Gessid and Mrs. Walter A. Bull died on January 27, 1885. Old Man Yocum was buried October 7, 1885.

Cemeteries

Mrs. Bull was buried out on the hill on the farm a few yards southwest of the house. She left a husband and five or six children. Mrs. Harry Bryant was buried on Friday, Feb. 13. She was a daughter of W.H. Peterson. She was one among the first to be buried in the new cemetery on the hill east of town and Mrs. David Murray was buried in the same cemetery, February 17, 1885.

Valley hotel

The old Valley hotel burned on March 16, 1885. The three story frame building on the northeast corner of the block was saved but Key's saloon, Bloomquist's beer hall, Jack Lyen's dwelling, New England hotel building, Lyen's saloon, Rehmke's bakery and jewelry shop and Jacob Beckner's blacksmith shop were all burned. A man by the name of John Harbin was burned to death in the hotel.

Incorporation

After rowing over the proposition of incorporating the city of Ellensburg for a week on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1885, I finished drawing the city charter and sent it by express to the legislature, then in session at Olympia and the first city election was held in Ellensburg in pursuance of this charter on Friday, February 26, 1886.

The women voted at this election and there were 372 votes for mayor with the following results:

John Shoudy 93, Austin Mires 279.

In pursuance of that election the first city officers of the new city of Ellensburg met on Monday, March 6, 1886 at my office on the west side of Main street between Third and Fourth and completed the organization of the city government.

The first city officials were: Mayor Austin Mires, Marshal, John R. Wallace, Councilmen, Fred Leonhard, Mathias Becker, Thomas Johnson and George W. Elliott. Councilman Elect F.D. Schnebly was not present at that first meeting.

The council appointed Samuel L. Blumauer city clerk, Henry Rehmke treasurer; John R. Wallace, engineer and assessor and L. Pool, street commissioners. City ordinance No. 1 was passed and thus the new city of Ellensburg was started on its way to continue long after all those who had assisted in its organization have been forgotten.

The Northern Pacific comes to Ellensburg

The Northern Pacific railroad track was laid to North Yakima Dec. 27, 1880 1884, to Ellensburg March 30, 1886, to Cle Elum Oct. 11, 1886, to Stampede Tunnel March 2, 1887 and made connections from east and west at Bridge No. 21 on the switchback over the Cascade mountains July 1, 1887.

On Sunday, July 3, 1887 the first passenger train from the east passed over the switchback and on to Tacoma. The train carried an excursion of over 500 people. Invitations and in many instance passes had been sent out from Tacoma to prominent people and public officials to participate in the big Fourth of July celebration at Tacoma. I was mayor of Ellensburg at that time and responded to the invitation as the official representative of our city. All were accorded royal treatment. Among others aboard that train from Ellensburg were J.C. Havelly, wife and sister; John B. and Mrs. Davidson, Thomas Johnson and family; W.L. Webb and wife; S.L. Blumauer, a Mr. Pierce and the Robinson sisters.

B. and Mrs. Davidson, Thomas Johnson and family; W.L. Webb and wife; S.L. Blumauer, a Mr. Pierce and the Robinson sisters.

on Tuesday, April 27, 1886 C.W. Wright, Oakes and Buckley, high officials of the NP visited Ellensburg and in the name of the city I as mayor presented them a silk American flag. Oakes and Buckley accompanied by some of the women were given a ride over Craig's hill and around the town. 1936