

Do you know (Daily Mirror of Yakima) about 1947. That community celebrations are nothing new in the life of the Yakima people. As far back as 18<sup>6</sup>89 they held community celebrations. On Christmas of that year all the people of the district gathered at the two-story log cabin of Columbus Goodwin, generally known as Lum Goodwin, to celebrate with a potluck dinner of pioneer delicacies and fiddlers working through the night as the settlers forgot their worries about the hostile Indians in a dance. Later at another community party in Centennial hall, all the young ladies made neckties of the same material as used in their party gowns and bestowed the ties upon their swains. Irrigation, a modern wonder in this year of dust storm dates back to 1866 when Thomas and Benton Goodwin built a ditch to carry water to their wheat field a mile south of Yakima. The Nelson ditch still used was built in 1892. Charles and Joseph Schanno, with Sebastian Lauber began their larger system in 1892. The Schanno ditch carried water from the Antanum to Yakima City. Many people laughed at the plan but the Schannos went ahead. In 1881 the first stand of irrigated alfalfa was harvested. James Beck, William Lince, Dan Simmons and Vaughn were other early ditch builders with the two last named starting the ditch that grew into Union Canal.

## Negroes

Plans have been completed for carrying for over 500 colored citizens of Yakima and the valley at the annual Emancipation celebration at the Union Gap park tomorrow.

A committee of eight including Joe Johnson, Nellie Clemen, Dave Lewis, Morris Ward, Herbert H. Jones, John Swindell, William Ward and Harry Winston is in charge of the arrangements.

The Colored Giant baseball club will play the Harrah team as part of the sport program which includes foot races and dancing. The celebration will be in the nature of a barbecue...Yakima Republic, August 3, 1925.



Fourth of July  
Historical

The first Fourth of July celebration held in North Yakima was in the year 1885 when the population of the city was about 500.

It was in the form of a picnic and was held in the grove on the bank of the Yakima river on a line about due east from the foot of B street on what was known as the Ross Beck place.

The celebration was well attended by both the city and country people. Patriotism reached the high-water mark.

Wilbur F. Sanders, afterwards United States senator from Montana was booked to deliver the oration but at the last moment he disappointed. The task then fell upon Colonel L.S. Howlett who it is said delivered as able an address as ever heard in the valley. Unfortunately the colonel was interrupted in the middle of his speech by George Ferguson who came down on horseback and told Mr. Howlett that his wife was dying of a paralytic stroke. The colonel left the stand immediately and hastened to the bedside of his wife. She rallied, however but died two years later after having suffered two more strokes. This sad incident cast a damper over the celebration although it was kept as quite as possible at the time.

The committee on arrangements for Yakima's first celebration consisted of Edward Whitson, now judge of the federal court for Eastern district of Washington; A.B. Engle, then cashier of the first National bank and Captain J.H. Thomas who was at the time register of the United States land office.

There was at the time no organized band in the embryo city. A quartet took the place of the band and sang many national songs.

In the evening there was a grand display of fireworks.

It was the first considerable celebration ever held in the valley. Previously there was one held in Yakima City on which occasion Judge James B. Reavis was the orator of the day. He was afterward

## Yakima City

### Historical

Resume of 1880 Fourth of July celebration called Yakima city's initial "first class celebration:" Parade started from Centennial hall 10 a.m. Yakima brass band led off ahead of liberty car. Miss Jennie Guillard, "Goddess of Liberty," on Liberty car with young girls representing states and territories. Following the car which of course was the main feature of the day came citizens of the town and country in buggies wagons and on horseback. They marched to the grove and listened to speeches from the stand there. Greased pig chase and sack and foot races in town. Races at track 1 mile out of town. Salute fired at sundown. All sponsored by band ended day. It was Yakima's biggest affair. Record, July 10, 1880.



## Mother's day

Next Sunday, May 14, will be Mother's Day in North Yakima and in all other cities throughout the land.

Celebrating Mother's day consists principally of wearing a white carnation and writing a letter home, these at least being the outward observances of the day.

It is presumed that there will be special at many of the local churches and also at the YMCA Auditorium (Copy) Yakima Herald, May 10, 1911.

## Christmas-historical

Yakima's first Christmas tree graced the home of Lum Goodwin a short distance north of the city limits in 1873, Mrs. Frances M. Lahar remembers.

With her parents Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Cook she made the trip the day before Christmas from their ranch on the Antanum to the Goodwin home.

"There were only a dozen or 15 persons there but we had a good time," she said today. "The tree, a fir, had been cut up in the hills near Soda springs and brought down on a lumber wagon.

It was decorated with popcorn strings as we didn't have any fancy ornaments. I received a rag doll and my brother a rubber rabbit. They meant as much to us as a present costing \$10 or \$15 means to children now.

"We had dinner with the Goodwins Christmas eve--whole roast pig, browned cherry sauce in lieu of cranberry sauce, mince pie and pumpkin pie. We also had walnuts and peanuts <sup>in</sup> and mosquito bar bags. The nuts were brought from The Dalles with other supplies and we made the bags. Gifts consisted principally of clothing. I remember we danced and sang and enjoyed ourselves, just as much as people do now--"Yakima Republic, Dec. 25, 1924.



Are the toys which filled Santa Claus' pack today, and which were distributed to the homes of hundreds of little boys and girls in Yakima more or less interesting than those which the boys and girls of a generation or two ago received from the old Saint Nick on Christmas day?

There are those who look in the shop windows and shake their heads --- "no, they're not what they used to be," while others equally truthfully to hear of their childhood memories think there were never such wonderful things in the past. To a generation of Yakima folks who spent their childhood in Yakima and who are now buying playthings for their own little boys and girls of 5 or 10 years there is nothing now to compare with Sam Ahrendt's store on North Second street which was a veritable fairyland for children 25 years ago.

"There is nothing these days to compare with the toys the children had then," Miss A. Aaron, sister-in-law of the late Mr. Ahrendt recalls. "There was one whole room full of dolls at Christmas time. There were all sizes and kinds. Lovely great big ones the size of a baby were not more than \$6 or \$7 and they had fine kid bodies with many joints and real hair which could be combed and sleeping eyes. Those were dolls made to last for years. They were all imported from Europe.

"Now there are mamma dolls, which cost much more than those old ones did but they can't compare with them.

"There were all kinds of mechanical toys too, nearly as many kinds as you see now. There were even electrically propelled toys in Mr. Ahrendt's store. There were big well finished alphabet blocks that one does not see any more and building blocks and ten pins and big iron trains much more substantial than one sees now days. The large rocking horses and swinging horses too were finer than the ones children

## Christmas-Pioneers

The first Christmas trees on the market were brought to the city this morning by David Clark, who was the first man to sell Christmas trees in North Yakima more than 20 years ago.

Clark began selling trees for Yakima merriment when the city had about 400 inhabitants and has never missed a year although some seasons his venture has been unprofitable from a financial point of view.

The trees brought in today are known as the balsam fir and came from way up in the Cowlitz about 40 miles from the city.

With his helper Clark waded in snow from a foot to waist deep in cutting them. They were hauled down by two teams, the best he could get.

North Yakima people are not as much inclined to the old fashioned way of celebrating the day as they used to be, Clark thinks. When only 3,000 to 4,000 people lived here he used to sell as many as 300 trees in one season. Of late years with 10 times as many inhabitants, his sales have sometimes run below that. He expects this year to dispose of at least 350. Yakima Republic, Dec. 2, 1910.



## Yakima

Christmas was observed in Yakima with good cheer. Hundreds of children were made glad by the unloading of Christmas trees at home and at the Methodist, Christian and ~~Methodist~~ Episcopal festivities. Appropriate services were held in all of the churches, and, as the weather was pleasant, the attendance was good.

The sleighing attracted many people out of doors and every sleigh. from the huge affair drawn by four stout horses to the dainty cutter and the clumsy home-made bob were put in use. The merchants all say that the trade was much better than was expected and that the presents made this year were in as great volume and value as ever before--Yakima Herald, December 26, 1889.

## Thanksgiving History

Thanksgiving in the early days in Yakima was much like it is today with turkey dinners as the main attraction according to a half dozen valley pioneers.

When it comes to numbers of Thanksgiving dinners on one single day, R.B. Milroy probably carries off the prize for all time. On his first Thanksgiving in Yakima in 1885 he ate no less than five Thanksgiving dinners. The only reason he didn't take on another one or two, he frankly admits was because the hours of some of his invitations conflicted.

The program of dinners started at 11 o'clock in the morning and concluded at 1 o'clock the next morning.

Early settlers were always hospitable and no one had to eat his turkey dinner in solitude. The weather was not cold as Mr. Milroy recalls it though there was a light sprinkling of snow and about. The principal difference between Thanksgivings in the olden days and now was in the drinks, Mr. Milroy ventures. Cocktails or egg-nogs were a usual accompaniment to such meals in pre-Volstead days.

Turkeys were so plentiful in the early days they were herded in large bands like sheep with a herder in charge. Turkeys were raised in such numbers in order to destroy the crickets which infested the sage brush. The birds got fat on the crickets.

Dances were a special Thanksgiving accompaniment in the early days. There was often a dance in the hall in the building where the Emporium now stands, either a community affair or a private gathering. Later the dances were held in the old Mason's opera house building on North First street.

Turkey shoots were an important part of the pre-Thanksgiving arrangements. Fred Parker, president of the Pioneer association recalls. He remembers a Thanksgiving in 1888 particularly



### 3--Thanks giving

were frozen, they couldn't have Thanksgiving dinner at home.

That afternoon Herbert and Roy saw their first football game when Yakima played Ellensburg--The Yakima Republic, November 26, 1925.

Few persons anywhere have witnessed more Thanksgiving days than Anson S. White, 310 North Second street and probably no one in the valley has spent so many Thanksgiving days in this section as Mr. White.

He first caught sight of the place now called Union Gap in 1866 and with slight exception he has been here ever since. In other words, Mr. White has been acquainted with the valley for 58 years, only two years less than the life time of the average individual.

"I was just 18 then, the pioneer relates. Eighteen years plus 58 equals 76 years, the age of one who has seen the sun dawn "that many Thanksgiving mornings.

"My first Thanksgiving in the valley was at the home of my sister, Mrs. R.O. Dunbar, 58 years ago. "He resided at Old Town along with 50 other people " is the way the early pioneer begins telling about his first Thanksgiving here.

"Oh it was about like the Thanksgiving we celebrated today. One of the main differences is that we did not have turkey. Chicken and ducks were the first fowls here and we had plenty of them that day. Then, too, there was an abundance of wild game birds, sage hens, prairie chickens and native pheasants. "There was no fruit here although we had some fruit on such days as Thanksgiving hauled in from The Dalles," he continues.

"How about drinking--I suppose there was much tipping of the cup on the holidays years ago?" is a question almost every modern youth would ask one who came here as early as Mr. White did.

"I'll say not. There was less drinking than now, the pioneer answers with more vim than some men of half his age. "Of course we men had our class composed of boys who drank, gambled and staged horseraces. That element was a small one then and was frowned upon in the early days even more than now."



"That was the first wagon ever over the route. There had been others in on foot and on horseback but there was no wagons over the route earlier," he declares.

White's first trip to the valley was as a young surveyor and was made on foot. He and a party of engineers worked their way from The Dalles to Umatilla and on through the Horse Heaven to Yakima.

One of White's achievements was the acquiring of a tract of land in the Cowlitz. He has had the land planted to fruit and has taken numerous crops off it without administering fertilizer. He admits the fertility of the Yakima valley soil is nothing short of a miracle.

Mr. and Mrs. White moved from Union Gap to North Yakima shortly after the new town was founded. They made their home on North Second street and are still residing in the same house.

"We could not see how it would ever be possible to water the sage brush land on the bench where Nob Hill and Summitview sections are now located. As far as putting water on the Tieton and other highlands, we never dreamed of it." -- The Yakima Republic, November 27, 1924.

Yakima City Fourth of July 1875

Yakima City, W.T. June 24

...the people here will celebrate the 4th of July here in the usual manner with ~~martial~~ martial music and procession to the grove on the bank of the river, where we expect an oration, a dinner and a good time generally and wind up the celebration with a dance in the town and supper at Merwin's hotel. In the afternoon there will be a number of running and trotting races. The people of this place have just finished a No. 1 race course...

Our celebration will be on the 5th as we proposed to keep the Sabbath holy.

E.P. BOYLES

--The Dalles Mountaineer, July 3, 1875



## Celebrations

### Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition

June 11 is to be Yakima day at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition and September 22 will be Yakima valley day.

The arrangements have been agreed to by the exposition management. In this connection it may be said that Kennewick recently elected to class itself as a part of the Columbia river valley and not a part of the Yakima valley--The Yakima Herald, May 5, 1909.

## Celebrations

### Blossom dates

Yakima's blossom festival will be the <sup>week</sup>~~week~~ of April 15 to 22, the date originally suggested by the lady who had that work entrusted to her.

The decision is based on dates covering the past ten years and having reference to peach and apple blossom season which data was furnished by A.T. Richardson of Fruitvale.

J.T. Keppel has been selected secretary to have charge of clerical work of the festival. Ten thousand colored post cards showing Yakima's apple trees in bloom are to be obtained for distribution--  
Yakima Herald, March 15, 1911.



### July 4 Celebration

We learn from Messrs. Wm. Lewis and George W. White that the citizens of Yakima valley had a grand Fourth of July celebration at Yakima City, on which occasion over 500 people were present. Mr. A.H. Conrad<sup>d</sup> was selected Marshal, Mr. Oregon Dunbar delivered the oration and Mr. A.E. Withers read the Declaration of Independence. The procession started at about 10 o'clock headed by a band of martial music and proceeded to a shady grove a short distance off where everything had been prepared for the accomodation of the immense gathering...A grand ball was given in the evening at Schanno's hall...

— The Dalles Mountaineer, July 13, 1872

## Blossom Festival

School children of Nerty Yakima with some outside assistance certainly gave the citizens and guests from other places a good entertainment when they paraded as one of the feature of the blossom festival week.

It was the first time in a very long while that the children have taken part in a public performance of any kind.

Thousands of people lined Yakima avenue to watch the children and their assistants in the line of march....

The inevitable Northern Pacific freight rain put in its appearance at the usual inopportune time and cut the procession in two and caused some disruption as it permitted the long string of camp followers to catch up and crowd across the avenue along with those who were on the parade.

The floats, the automobile decorations, the pony procession and such features lent novelty and interest. Leon D. Green's contribution of a score or more of Holland ponies was one of the heaviest contributions of the day.

Fred Lindekugel as a Klootchman with black pony was one of the best figures in the procession.

Following the Indians came the mounted soldiers who fought the Indians and after the soldier came the farmer in his farm wagon and with his grain sacks. George and Martha Washington were represented by Sears Horsley and Lois Shardlow and they were real parade figures.

Miss Arminta Williamson was the queen of the festival and her ladies in waiting were Misses Ruth and Edith Johnson, ~~Constance~~ Mira Thompson, Frances Townley, Clara Wallen and Elizabeth Henry.

Queen Williamson wore a court gown of white satin. She was



Fourth of July

Historical

Fred Parker and Bruce Milroy have taken a mental journey through the years that have passed. Their impressions of the old time celebrations and the modern days are given below.

In the early days the oratorical spellbinder ruled supreme. No one thought of having a celebration on the Fourth without at least one oratorical address and the least one patriotic address and the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

By horseback, wagon and in buggies and on foot people came to town. Nowadays, aided by the automobile, people leave the city to lose themselves in the mountains and countryside.

A quarter of a century ago and even much later, everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion. Each person considered himself a committee of one to make the celebration a success. The Fourth, then was almost a 24 hour affair. The crowd gathered early on the festival morning and usually did not disperse until the next morning.

Referring to his diary Mr. Parker finds that the first celebration of which he has record is that of 1888. Col. L.S. Howlett was the orator of the day. In those days Mr. Parker was usually pressed into duty as marshal. Many Indians were present and there was an abundance of real lemonade.

Horse races and wrestling were features on the program. Horse races were held on Yakima avenue from the Yakima hotel to the NP depot which stood in the middle of the street. During the races that year an old man named D. O. Eglin attempted to cross the street and was injured. In future years this feature on the program was eliminated.

In 1890 the celebration was held on the reservation and many Yakima people attended. Charles Pearne and Charles Allen gave speeches and a number of Indians talked through interpreters.

W.L. Jones, now senator, was the principal orator at the celebration.

Baseball games are an attraction of more recent celebrations according to Mr. Milroy. Another conspicuous point of difference is the absence of John Barleycorn whose demise at the hands of Mr. Volstead took some of the local color out of the observance of the Fourth--The Yakima Daily Republic, July 4, 1925.