

## Reservation--Cattle

"e understand that a special agent of the interior department has visited Fort Simcoe and ordered the Indians to drive all of the cattle of white men beyond the boundaries of the Indian reserve and charge a dollar per head for doing so, and further authorizing six such drives an year if grazers do not keep their stock off the reserve.

It has been represented to the department that certain grazers have not only had nearly free range on the reserve but that they have thus been able to avoid taxes that would otherwise be due the counties and attention of the respective assessors is called to the fact that there are now many thousand cattle subject to taxation that were heretofore on the reservation. The "Washington Farmer, April 18, 1885.

The first cattle brought to the Yakima valley by a white man were driven in from Klickitat county in the winter of November, 1860 by Benjamin E. Snipes , Dr. D.B. Baker and a Mr. Allen.

The following spring these cattle were driven to the Cariboo mines in British Columbia.

In the spring of 1861 F.M. Thorpe moved his family from the Klickitat to the Yakima, bringing his stock with him. He located in Moxee and was the first white settler in the Yakima valley. A few months later came Armsworthy, Saxon, Splawn and Henson and their families and stock.

During the fall of 1861 several bands of cattle were brought to the Yakima valley to winter, their destination being British Columbia.

The Yakima having become a noted wintering ground (that winter was the longest and hardest winter known before or since ) about all of the cattle together with thousands of Indian horses, perished. The settlers in the Moxee had put up hay, therefore they suffered no serious loss.

1864  
In 1864 Mr. William Parker settled in Parker Bottom on what is now known as the Snipes ranch. He was one of nature's noblest men and it is with pleasure the writer looks back to the friendship of years ago. About the same time Elisha McDaniel came with his herd and turned them on the range opposite Mabton. He was the first large owner in Yakima but after a time he sold the band which had increased to many thousands, to Benjamin E. Snipes who was after that the cattle king, not only of Yakima but of the state of Washington. There is no doubt that he owned in 1880 50,000 head of cattle in Yakima.

From 1865 to 1868 many new comers had settled in the different parts of the county. Marks, Stanton, Simpson, Stabler, Bowzer, Polly Tanner, Dickerson and others on the Ahtanum; Henson and Taylor



valleys one ever looked upon. No stock save an occasional Indian horse ever ate the tall grass; beautiful streams meandered through the valley from the mountains on the north, making it an ideal cattle haven; and here the herds had their easy times.

In 1869 Joseph Borst, a member of the firm of Booth, Foss & Borst, Seattle butchers, came over the Cascade mountains via Snoqualmie pass and bought steers and drove them over the mountains to Seattle. These were much larger, fatter and better than the cattle raised on the west side of the Cascades so the firm continued to buy all their supply in Yakima. Soon other Western buyers came and a new market was opened for our beef which has remained ever since.

In 1872 the increase of cattle far exceeded the demand and prices dropped to \$18 and \$20 per head and continued low until 1875 when the eastern buyers made heavy purchases and drove them over to Wyoming where they had just begun stocking the ranges. For a few years that trade was brisk, but the winter of 80 and the 81 killed off about 60 per cent of the cattle in Eastern Oregon and Washington which made a scarcity and placed the prices at their old mark.

That winter Benjamin E. Snipes alone lost 20,000 head.

From 1875 to 1880 there were in Yakima about 200,000 cattle at an average price of 15 dollars per head amounting to three million dollars. This was the principal occupation and people who disposed of their beef once a year were prosperous and happy.

In 1878 Portland buyers began to come thus opening another needed market.

In 1887 the cattle business began to decline. The hard winter immediately following killed many on the ranges. Then too sheep had begun to destroy the grasses. The cattle raisers lost courage and

We have in our county a few pure blood cattle of the dairy and beef breeds. Mountain View Farm, owned by O.A. Fechter and Louis Janeck of Natchez have fine Jerseys; J.E. Shannon of Nob Hill, Polled Durhams; Fred Brooker of Selah, Shorthorns; A.L. J. Splawn, Springdale stock farm, Cowyche, Herefords, Polled Angus.

These herds will be added to and others go into the business until the county will take high rank as a producer of pure blood cattle.

The cattle industry will gain rapidly within the next few years. Our market for beef, mutton and dairy products could be no better for we are at the door of Puget Sound, Alaska and the Orient. No other state is so favorably located.

On the Pacific coast must the increase in population be more rapid than elsewhere, therefore I say, increase your alfalfa, improve your stocks and you will reap your reward--  
A.J. Splawn, Yakima Morning Herald, December 31, 1901.



## Cattle

.....Appointment of an agricultural agent for the Yakima Indian reservation in 1930 was followed by increase in the number of cattle grazed on the ranges within the reservation, Lester Pearne, a full blooded Indian and leading stockman said in a talk before the Washington Cattlemen's association.

He substituted for W.S. Murdock, agricultural agent who was unable to attend.

Starting with 500 head of cattle in 1931 the industry was increased to 4,200 head in 1936. Cooperative sales of cattle were started in 1934 while last year 625 head were sold in three sales. He predicted the number will reach 1,000 head a year.

Stockmen wishing to participate in the range conservation program should obtain approval of the county committee before proceeding with the range practices, C.S. Maddox, extension livestock specialist of Washington State college advised.

Last year 580 stockmen in the state signed with the government under the program and benefit payments aggregated \$70,000. These practices were chiefly development of springs and building of cross fences--Yakima Herald, May 18, 1937.

Yakima Indian cattlemen Monday took their horses to the foothills west of White Swan in preparation for the first ride of the season Tuesday when they will cut out yearling heifers which will be turned over to the government in return for drouth cattle given them in 1934.

The government has asked for 200 head of yearling heifers which it plans to distribute among Indians in North and South Dakota who are beginning to rebuild herds broken up by the drouth, W.S. Murdock, agricultural supervisor of the agency said.

The tribesmen received 1,525 head of drouth stock in 1934 and 1935 and last year returned approximately 500 head. They will return another 500 head this year and 200 head will be reallocated among Yakima Indians under the same conditions that they return a yearling calf within three years for every head of stock they receive.

Yakima Herald, June 8, 1937.



FROM YAKIMA

A Rough Trip through Mud, Water & Snow

Mr. George Smith, the veteran cattle driver, arrived here on Saturday evening from Yakima with a band of 448 head of cattle for this market. He reports the trip the roughest he has ever made over the Snoqualmie pass. The roads are almost impassable and the streams which cross them at various points are brim full to their banks and can only be crossed with great difficulty. On the summit the party encountered a rousing snow storm accompanied by thunder. Mr. Smith and party left the valley with 450 head of cattle. One of these died on the way of exhaustion, 2 more were drowned in swimming the Snoqualmie river and 5 others <sup>strayed</sup> ~~strayed~~ away from the band while crossing the summit during the storm and were lost. The cattle & other animals were all well night exhausted when they reached this city. This will be the last trip over this season. In a few weeks more it is supposed the pass will be snow-locked for the winter.

-- Weekly Pac. Tribune, Oct. 31, 1878

... reported Indian John on the way with 100 head of cattle for the Seattle market. Today the news comes from Renton that the cattle had arrived in good order. Other bands, we understand, are likely to follow this one ~~one~~ soon, as many of the stockmen are anxious to get their stock out of the country ~~and~~ and on this side of the mountain as fast as possible in view of ~~the~~ and Indian outbreak in the early spring.

-- Weekly Pacific Tribune, Dec. 22, 1878

## Indians to Hop Yards 1897

The town has been full of Indians all this week and as a consequence the watermelon market has been active and bonyant. They come from the Columbia river country --largely from Wenatchee and the Okanogan--and they are on their way to Yakima to pick hops ...\$1 a box...camped in the brush across the railroad track...

-- Ellensburgh Capital, Sept. 4, 1897



## Cattle

Bum Harrigan's tale of the time he roped a buffalo, faced death in the charge of the powerful animal and won a wife while being nursed back to health by the Crows in Montana will be a high light of the annual meeting of the "ashington Cattlemen's association next Monday and Tuesday.

Harrigan is a Yakima Indian, a long hair who has lived more than 70 years and has rode herd with the best in Washington and Montana. As a young man Bum liked to roam, hence the name but where he acquired the Harrigan is not on record.

With Alex Showaway another long hair in his seventies, Harrigan will be one of the speakers when Jack Crawford will be the top hand.

Showaway and Harrigan are both talented Indian orators---Yakima Herald, May 11, 1897.

## Stock brands

One brand, on cut, one year, \$12.00; each additional brand on cut, same owner, one year \$8.00

Each additional brand in straight letters or figures, \$2.00.

Each additional brand or character bar or connected letters, requiring engraved block, one year, \$3.00.

Each brand, giving location of brand, or ear marks or both on year ~~\$0.5000~~ \$5.00

All descriptive matter in addition to same of company, or address, range and brands charged for extra. Strictly in advance--  
The Washington Farmer, Nov. 22, 1884.



## livestock

On Sunday last several car loads of thoroughbred cattle arrived here from Minnesota, consigned to H.B. Scudder of the Yakima dairy. Mr. Scudder has nothing but graded Holsteins in his large herd and is probably doing more to improve the breed of cattle in this county than any one person. His dairy is a model, not only the most improved machinery being used, and the butter made is sweet, pure and first class in every respect. It is well worth the ride from this city to inspect this splendid dairy and to observe the advancements in butter making since the old days of the dasher church--Yakima Herald, November 7, 1889.

H.H. Allen estimates that the loss of cattle in Yakima county will be about 25 per cent . Most of the stock men lost about 10 per cent. This was owing less to the severity of the weather than to the fact the cattle entered the winter in the poorest condition known in many year--Yakima Herald, February 13, 1890.

## Cattle

In a recent interview Mr. Bruhn of the firm of Frye & Bruhn, Seattle stated that his firm had purchased 3,000 tons of alfalfa in the vicinity at from \$3 to \$4 a ton and would feed at least 1,000 head of cattle in the valley during the coming winter and more if they can be had at satisfactory prices.

He said their agent, A.J. Splawn, had just bought 800 head in the Okanogan country and that one-half of them will be brought here to be fed.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Bruhn stated that 35 pounds of alfalfa hay per day will fatten a steer if fed in good racks and strongly recommended stall feeding where practicable, citing James Gleed of the Natchez as practicing this system with profit to himself--  
Yakima Herald, Oct. 7, 1897.



## Cattle

The leading cattle growers of Yakima were out in force on Saturday afternoon. George Taylor was called to the chair temporarily. Dean Lesh was elected permanent chairman and J.E. Shannon secretary.

A committee composed of Anson White, Dan Sinclair and James Wiley was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. The committee was instructed to report two weeks hence, when a permanent organization would be affected.

Chairman Lesh stated there was no disposition to antagonize any other interests. If the stockmen were allowed to graze on the reserve the cattle growers would ask for a fair share of the grazing district-  
Yakima Herald, Nov. 2, 1899.

## Cattle

The cattle men of the county met last Saturday at the court house for the purpose of organizing. Over 50 representatives of the cattle industry were present and an active interest was manifested.

They propose to make a solid and compact organization that will be of a permanent nature. The cattlemen are greatly interested in the forest reserve regulations and a part of the organization's work this winter will be to influence the action of the interior department in this matter.

From the speeches made it appears that there is no hostility toward the sheep men but that it is the desire to work in harmony with them in all matters of mutual interest.

D.E. Lesh and J.E. Shannon were elected permanent officers. A committee composed of Anson White, Jas. Wiley and Daniel Sinclair was appointed to draw up a constitution and bylaws. This committee will report in two weeks when the organization will be completed and the winter's work mapped out--The Yakima Republic, Nov. 3, 1899.



## Cattle

### Private ranges

G.S. Taylor was in town Tuesday. In conversation with the Republic he said it had been a long time since he had turned cattle on the range as early as this year.

Last year it was April 17 before the grass was ready for the herds, the year before April 16 and the year before that April 7. This year finds the grass green and rank before March 20.

Concerning the opening of the reserve to stockmen Mr. Taylor believes that both sheep and cattle will be admitted this year. He did not detail his reasons but said there were influences which he thought would prevail in favor of the stockmen.

Mr. Taylor recently bought 4,000 acres of grazingland from the N.½. lying between Little and Big Rattlesnake creeks. He thinks this tract will sustain his herd through the season and a few of his neighbor's as well; hence he is not personally worrying about the opening of the forest reserve. He started a drove of 500 head of cattle to his pastures between the Rattlesnakes last Wednesday.

Dan Sinclair has bought 6,000 acres between Little Rattlesnake and the Titan basin and has 800 head of cattle on the trail to that place--The Yakima Republic, March 23, 1900.

### Cattle to Yakima

About 300 head of cattle from the Tualatin plains were driven through town yesterday, and will start for The Dalles this morning. These cattle are going to Yakima valley in search of pasturage.— Herald 11th Inst.

—The Dalles Mountaineer, March 16, 1867



## Stock-raising

It is said that the loss to stockmen in Klickitat and Yakima counties will be fully 80 per cent but if the experience of the present winter leads to some provision against a recurrence of disaster it may result in benefit hereafter. The sufferings of many thousands of dumb brutes during the long exposure to the driving storms and their final starvation is enough to appal the heart of anybody having the least emotion of human sympathy.

-- Washington Standard (Olympia) Feb. 11, 1881

The firm of Phelps & Wadleigh, well-known in the cattle-raising and butchering business, both in eastern and western Washington for the past 11 years, has been dissolved, the latter purchasing the remnant of their heretofore large herd, and the former to engage in mining. The last severe winter was very disastrous to the firm. Out of about 12,000 head it is estimated that not one-third survive.

-- Standard, July 1, 1881

Yakima claims to have sent over 3,000 head of cattle to the Sound region within 100 days and has plenty more of the same kind left.

-- Tacoma Herald, Sept. 1, 1877

Mr. David Longmire brought a band of 100 head of cattle over the Naches pass last week from Yakima. He reports the trail in good condition.

-- Tacoma Herald, Sept. 1, 1877

A man left Yakima City on Tuesday of last week with 90 head of cattle, which he drove through the Natches pass. He reports that a blockhouse is being built at Yakima City. The cattle reached Puyallup valley on Tuesday and are to be pastured on the prairie till they are so.

-- Tacoma Herald, July 14, 1877

## Canning Beef 1877

We learn from a reliable source that it is the intention of the 18 canneries on the lower Columbia river that as soon as the fishing season is over they all intend canning beef.

In the year 1875 the Kinney brothers at Astoria made their first venture...(their product) has all been shipped--mostly to England...

--The Dalles Mountaineer, March 17, 1877



## Cattle

B.F. Yantis says:

For a reasonable amount of stock the Yakima valley would be a fine stock country but it is entirely overstocked at present and unless stock raisers dispose of a large number of cattle this fall there will be a great loss during the winter..W.W. Spirit of the West. Sept. 17, 1875.

Close feed destroyed its vitality. Some range was overstocked. Consequently about 1870 and thereafter stock began to look winter in the face with short or bare fields and a few sharpwinters dotted the hills with the bones of dead animals..History of Pac. N.W. Portland, 1889.

## Yakima Crops and stock 1872

By private advices from Yakima we ~~have~~ learn that there were 10,000 bushels of grain raised in the Kittitass. The first thresher made its appearance this last season; it is owned by Messrs. Lewis and White of the Itahnum. Grave apprehensions are felt of crickets injuring the grain next season, as they are making their appearance this year but not in numbers sufficient to do much damage.

Booth, Foss & Borst of the Sound monopolized the beef buying in the Yakima this summer; leaving with their last band October 21st; having purchased and drove in all about 850 head. Quite a number of 20 year olds are still in first hands; also, some 3- and 4-year olds intended for market, but not yet sold. The cattle go on the winter range in good condition. The range is better than for four years past and as good as ever known by the whites. The number of beef cattle held by one firm alone, Phelps and Wadleigh, that they propose having ready for market next season, will be between six and seven hundred. From the excellence of the winter range in the Yakima it is expected that that region will furnish us our early spring beef.

— The Dalles Mountaineer, Nov. 9, 1872