

Klickitat valley 1859

We are glad to find that the real merits of the Klickitat valley have been appreciated. Fifty-one claims, we understand, have already been taken up in it, mostly by immigrants from the west side of the Cascades—with families and stock—men of the right sort to build up a thrifty community. There is ample room...for more good claims...Some enterprising party should erect a saw mill at once in the vicinity of the Block House. The settlement will need it.

...

— The Dalles Journal, Aug. 19, 1859

Historical:

The Dalles Journal, Aug. ~~18~~ 19, 1859 ..

51 claims taken up in Klickitat County.

1871-Thomas Johnson of Rockland surveyed new town site called it Galdburg..

The Dalles Times Mountaineer, May 7, 1887 the town of Bickleton was totally destroyed Friday, loss \$25,000.

Yakima Signal, 1887-June 11

The town of Bickleton is being rebuilt. Mr. Bickle has his residence underway and lumber is being hauled for Bickle & Flowers' store and Isaac Lancaster is building a large blacksmith and wagon shop. Flower & Blair will rebuild their drug store and a furniture and cabinet shop will be built.

Feb. 20, 1890

The country in the vicinity of Bickleton has suffered from floods. The thaw with three days of incessant rain made Alder Creek a raging torrent. The snow formed a dam above J.E. Story's place and when this gave way the flood struck Mr. Story's house, moving it from its foundation and carrying a portion of it away for a distance of two hundred yards.

Simon Bolton's house was inundated and damaged. Several head of stock were swept away by the waters.. Yakima Herald, Feb. 20, 1890

Jan 22, 1891-Yakima Herald.. Tobias Beckner of Bickleton vicinity was in the city Monday. He is the king farmer of his section with 1400 acres under fence and last year had 800 acres in crop, raising some portions as high as 50 bushels to the acre .

Bickleton News, Dec. 20, 1906-On last Saturday a corporation was formed at Bickleton known as the Bickleton and Northern Railroad Co., having as its object building a railroad from some point on the Col. River to Bickleton.

Bickleton News-Coyotes numerous and bold this year. Monday morning they were heard howling in the streets of Bickleton and evidence of their presence were two dead sheep with throats cut. They were owned by ~~Ed~~ Ezra Miller and were part of a small pet band running at large.

County Seat 1873 Klickitat Co.

Rockland, Feb. 3, 1873

(County Commissioners met)

"We find from an examination of the votes, cast at the last annual election
for county seat of Klickitat county, as returned by the board of

canvassers, that Rockland has received 78 votes and Goldendale 77 votes.

It appearing that Rockland has received a larger number of votes for
county seat than any other place, therefore it is ordered and declared that
Rockland be and remain the county seat..."

(said they had no jurisdiction over complaint on contest.)

—The Dalles Mountaineer, Feb. 8, 1873

Yakima Valley 1867

On the opposite bank of the river to our city is Rockland, the county seat of Klickitat county. At no far distant date this little village is bound to become of considerable importance, as it is the principal depot and shipping point for the large and extensive country lying to the north, containing millions of acres of the very best land for agricultural and grazing purposes to be found on the Pacific slope. During the last weeks several droves of cattle and sheep were ferried over from our side to that of Washington territory, having been driven from the Willamette valley this year. The counties of Klickitat and Yakima are fast filling up... This portion of Uncle Sam's domain has been very much neglected in the way of roads and postal facilities. There is not a single post office in these counties nor a wagon road that can be traveled during the winter months...

—The Dalles mountaineer, Aug. 3, 1867

County Seat Question in Klickitat

The probate court of Klickitat county...cited the county to appear and defend the contest for county seat...William Connell..has...come forward and executed a bond to pay all the costs on behalf of the county and the case will now doubtless come before the U.S. district court at Vancouver next month, Judge Green presiding...

— The Dalles Mountaineer, March 15, 1873

Klickitat county

- Klickitat county was organized in 1859 with the county seat on the land claim of Alfred Allen and with the following officers appointed by the legislative assembly of that year: Alfred Allen, Robert Carter and Jacob Halstead, commissioners; Willis Jenkins, probate judge; J. Clark, sheriff; Edwin Grant, assessor and William Murphy, treasurer.

The boundary line were as follows commencing at a point in the middle of the Columbia river about five miles below the mouth of Klickitat river, running thence north to the summit of the Cascade mountains, then east along the river divide between the Yakima and Klickitat rivers to a point north of the mouth of Rock creek thence down Rock creek to the center of the Columbia river and down the river to the place of the beginning. When the county was first organized in 1859 and up to about 1869, it was spelled ~~Some time after~~ Clicitat.

~~Some time after~~ Some time after its organization and prior to 1867 the county sheriff, not clerk, absconded with the funds and the county was disorganized and in 1867 was reorganized with the following officers: McNary, P. Schooster and A. Stalk, commissioners; A. Johnson, auditor; William Connell, treasurer; A. H. Simmons, sheriff; S.H. Jones, assessor; James Taylor, probate judge.

At one time the county was bounded on the north by the Antanum and Yakima rivers and in 1869 that territory north of the Topnish was added to Yakima county. The county is about 128 miles long with an average width of about 18 miles. The northwest is well timbered while the southeastern part has but little timber. The N.P. is now running within 10 or 12 miles of the northern boundary of the eastern end of the county and when the R.R. r

the r.r. reaches the Kittitas coal fields this county can be easily supplied with fuel from there by rail.

As approved Nov. 14, 1873, the present boundary, so far as applies to the north boundary and the west boundary as located in 1881 and the south and east line never having been changed when the Columbia river was made the boundary:

Commencing in the middle channel of the Columbia river directly opposite the mouth of the White Salmon, thence up the White Salmon to the south boundary of the township four north range 10 east of the Will. Mer. thence west of said township line to range nine east thence north on said range line until it intersects the south boundary of Yakima county.

Commencing there at the northwest corner of township 6, north range 12 east thence east along the north boundary of township 6 north until said line intersects the Columbia river to the place of beginning. It will be noticed that the northwest corner of this county is not closed up owing to the fact that the legislature of 81 in changing the line between Klickitat and Skamania co's didn't take into consideration the necessity of extending the south boundary of Yakima county across the space intervening occasioned by the removal of the west boundary of Klickitat co. further west...there are nearly 40 school districts in the county. The town of Goldendale has an excellent four room school...The Washington Farmer, Christmas Day, 1884.

Klickitat Firms

The colony of Finlanders in Klickitat county, W.T., are...most industrious...During the run of salmon, they will be found at the canneries and fish wheels. When winter comes they are in the timber cutting rails, posts and fuel, which they haul close to a trading post and make a sale of them to the best advantage. The colony has lately erected a church at Centerville...

-- The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, April 30, 1887

Klickitat County Wonderland

Thinking a description of some of the peculiar and somewhat wonderful characteristics of Honey Lake valley might interest some of your readers, I will tell them that I saw on a trip to the east end of the valley. Honey Lake, a body of water which in the past occupied an area of several thousand acres, sank from sight in the month of June last and remained out of sight up to within a week or two past, notwithstanding two streams about the size of the Klickitat are constantly discharging their waters into its bed. At present it is very coyly coming in sight again. The lake took its name from the great deposits of honey dew in the early settlement of the valley. But at present I would more particularly call attention to the boiling springs, a number of which rise near the border of the lake on the northeast shore. These rise out of a level plain, not less than a mile from the surrounding hills in a vast tract of alkali as white as though covered with snow.

There are quite a number of these springs and they extend by for three or four miles along the border of the lake when it is at its largest extension. Each spring has some peculiar characteristics of its own. The largest one of all throws out a volume of water four feet wide and four inches deep as clear as crystal, and boils with such energy that the water comes up a foot above the still water around and jets of water are constantly spurting much higher and roaring, hissing and sputtering is so loud that our team would not willingly go near. If this is the place discovered by emigrant Dutchman when he so urgently requested Hans to drive on for God's sake for his satanic majesty's dominion was not one mile away, one can hardly wonder at his fears.

If some of our Klickitat bacon manufacturers would import this spring it would make a great saving of fuel. If I felt of this stream six or eight rods below where it issues from the ground and found that it was hot enough for scalding and I was told the water where it came from the ground was hotter than water can be made artificially. Here is a nut for

philosophers to crack. The other springs, a number of which rise near this large one, are of different degrees of heat, all from boiling down to cold. In one place a cold and a hot spring are near enough together that by lying down, one hand can be placed in one and the other hand in the other. A large volume of steam arises from the head of the spring and for a long distance along the stream its course can

be readily traced by the rising steam. I was told by my guide that in the past an overheated dog one summer day came running up to the pool at the head of the spring and plunged in and could not and did not get out alive. I was also informed that it is an excellent sanitarium for sweat baths for persons who are troubled with rheumatism. The steam gives off a sulphuric odor.--The Yakima Herald, February 28, 1889.

The east Rock Creek area in Klickitat county has found the grain crop almost totally destroyed and in only a few places will the crop make hay. The further west one goes, however, the less the grain appears to be damaged. The summer fallowed land west and south of Goldendale and north of the Columbia hills will generally yield about two-thirds of a crop.

The advantage of summer fallow, deep plowing and sowing not more than three pecks of seed to the acre have been thoroughly demonstrated this year.

Forty thousand Oregon sheep have paid the migratory sheep tax in Klickitat county. Fourteen hundred head were poisoned after crossing the Arlington Ferry, by eating poisonous weed. They were the property of Wm. Barker, S.B. Barker and T.J. Ferguson.

The U.S. Building and Loan Association of St Paul, which organized a local board at Goldendale, is a grand fraud--Goldendale Sentinel, June, 1989.

Settlement

In Klickitat during the year 1891 a total of 711 applications covering 142,227 acres were made for government lands, divided as follows:

Homesteads 297; pre-emptions 10; timber cultures 3 and cash 401.

During the same period there were 188 final proofs embracing 37,600 acres--Yakima Herald, January 28, 1892.

Goldendale

One of the natural curiosities in Klickitat county is Lone lake which lies in a butte or mound in the Simcoe foothills six miles west of that city (Goldendale)

The butte looks as though the top had caved in, as the trees are lying dead all over the bottom and years ago were growing where the lake now lies.

This lake cannot be seen until one reaches the summit of the butte as it is circular in form and surrounded by a wall or bank of earth which is covered with trees.

The bank itself is more than 100 feet high. The early settlers tell of cutting hay on the ground which this body of water now covers, a good many years ago.

By the waters steadily rising trees have been covered, have fallen and now lie slowly decaying beneath the waters.

It is fairly possible that the lake will one day fill the entire cavity and overflow the banks--Goldendale Sentinel, May, 1892.

Trout lake

About twelve miles from Mount Adams, over the line of Yakima county in Klickitat, is Trout lake, one of the most attractive camping spots in the northwest.

The lake abounds in fish and in the vicinity is a series of caves. One of the largest, which is known as the Ice cave, is a regular arctic palace.

The dome is of stalactile-shaped icicles, which remain there from season to season; the floor is of ice and the cave is partitioned off into chambers with the same cold building material.

While on the outside everything may be a tropical heat, the cave is too cold to remain in long in comfort--Yakima Herald, June 28, 1894.

Klickitat ..county
division

Bristol

Bristol, "ash.-Division of Klickitat county promises to be a live issue in the county election this fall.

The movement is gaining support rapidly in the west end where organizations of all kinds are taking cognizance of the agitation which was given form by favorable resolutions of the Bristol development club last summer.

Citizens of all sections unite in declaring division is bound to come but some think the time is not yet ripe. West end taxpayers however are gradually organizing with a view to bringing the matter up at the state legislative session next year.

The new division, if made next year from present tentative plans, will include the territory from range 13 east to the White Salmon river, practically the western boundary of the present county. This will bring Lyle, White Salmon, Bingen and other live towns into the new county.

It is said a proposition was made in White Salmon last week by Skamania county politicians to cede that portion of Skamania county lying east of the Little White Salmon river to the new county in return for support of Skamania county's candidate for joint state senator. This proposition was turned down.

Among reasons advanced for division are the differences in assessed valuation of farming land in the two sections of the county and the distance and difficulty of travel to the present county seat.

The growth of the west end in the last 10 years from a few hundred and a scarcity of cultivated land to approximately 4,500 people and the development of hundreds of fruit

farmers insured a hearing when the division question is brought up.

"Assessed valuation in the east end of the county on farms will average in the neighborhood of \$18 an acre while the valuation in the 'white' Salmon valley reaches \$150 and more--Yakima Republic, July 1, 1910.

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It is said a proposition was made in 'white' Salmon last week by Skamania county politicians to cede that portion of Skamania county lying east of the little 'white' Salmon river to the new county in return for support of Skamania county's candidate for joint state senator. This proposition was turned down.

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Klickitat county seat 1873

A friend writing us from Klickitat county, W.T., dated the 17th instant, gives us the following items:

...Our county board of commissioners will meet on the first Monday of next month, and the contested election case, relative to the county seat, will probably come up, as I understand a complaint has been filed with the county auditor by persons pecuniarily interested in moving the seat of justice to a point 25 or 30 miles from its present location over to the other side of the county...

—The Dalles Mountaineer, Jan. 25, 1873