

Log Drives 1873

The Walla Walla and Columbia river Railroad company have large gangs of men at work on the Yakima and Grande Ronde rivers engaged in bringing down timber to be used in constructing the road. Unexpected difficulties have been encountered in getting out timbers, and in this the cost of the road will be materially enhanced. Dr. Baker, president of the company, states that from the two streams they expect to get 6,000,000 feet of timber...

--The Dalles Mountaineer, June 11, 1873

Chamberlain Flat
& Log-Catchers

A letter from Chamberlain Flat, W.T., dated 24th instant, gives the following items of news:

...Just now we are all employed in catching drift-wood and thousands of nice logs are floating along, while some dozen boats and men are constantly employed in hauling in wood for winter use. Mr. Chamberlain succeeded in securing one nice cedar log 80 feet long and 10 feet through at the butt. He thinks it will make over 1,000 posts. Messrs. Eaton and Jenkins have done a very fine thing in this business and have caught wood enough to last for two years to come.

Peaches and all kinds of fruit are doing well...

— The Mountaineer, June 28, 1873

Rafting on Snake river

From The Dalles Inland Empire July 15:

The foundation timbers for a large steam sawmill to be erected at the new town of Ainsworth near Snake river are being floated down the Clearwater toward their ultimate destination in a raft of 280,000 logs in charge of Jack Carrollton, an experienced raftsman. He has contracts for over a million feet in all, to be delivered by the 18th of August. The Northern Pacific is evidently moving ahead.

-- Puget Sound Courier (Olympia) July 11, 1879

Log Drives

Capt. S.R. Smith has resigned his position as pilot in the OSN company's service and commenced to saw ties and bridge timbers at his mill at the mouth of the ~~Columbia~~ Snake river. The logs are rafted down the Yakima and Clearwater.

-- Portland Oregonian, Oct. 21, 1879

Timber

The lumber sawing capacity of all mills in Washington territory as computed from lumber shipments and local sales, is 306,981,270 feet, valued at \$6,759,580.24, the actual lumber production being about 350,000,000, the remainder is divided up into laths, rickets, shingles, spars and small lumber.

This production covers the territory of Puget Sound, Gray's Habbor mills, Columbia river, Shoalwater bay and in a few internal mills. The Puget Sound lumber product for the year 1888 was 285,000,000 feet which was sent to various points on the Pacific coast and the foreign shipments went to all parts of the world, the largest however being consigned to the colonial markets which have continued to demand our lumber with a steady degree and insured a profit to the ship owner--
Tacoma Ledger, July, 1889.

Forests

Three miles east of Snohomish city , on a tract of land owned by Ulmer Stinson stands the largest tree in the state of Washington. It is a dead cedar which has been hollowed out by fire, the top being broken off so that the tree stands only about sixty feet in the air but its diameter is 23 feet : in fact it is greater than this at the surface of the ground. Inside is a spacious room, fully 9 by 9 feet into which 50 people could crowd.

The inner side shows traces of Indian encampments from time to time through many years .

The tree must be over one thousand years old for eight hundred rings were counted on the butt of the large tree on the Clay farm below Snohomish and the cedar is several feet larger.

Would not Barnum's Seattle Fire or the gospel legend "Looking Backward" as the world wide topics of curiosities be for once laid aside and the subject of Washington's "Giant of the Forest" be assumed if it could be laid prostrate. Four men of average height would have to stand upon the ground, the next upon the shoulders, to see over the tree.

The average height of trees in this state is 150 feet. The tallest are 250 feet , those higher than this being extremely rare.

The tallest standing tree is a eucalyptus in Tasmania, height 350 feet. The largest tree in the world is the "Father of the Forest," falken, in California, length 450 feet.

The largest stick of timber ever hauled from the woods in any country was cut in this state in February, 1888 and sold to the Port Madison mill company. It was 165 feet long and its dimensions were 38 by 22 inches--Seattle Press, May, 1890.

Ex-president Cleveland observed Washington's birthday by establishing thirteen forestry reserves containing an aggregate area of 21,379,840 acres of which over eight million acres are in this state.

From these reservations are excepted all lands which have been embraced in any legal entry in the U.S. land office upon which any valid settlement has been made....

The lands withdrawn in this state are the Priest River, Washington, Mount Rainier and Olympia forest reserves. These which especially effect Yakima through being an embargo on the further acquisition of mining property in the Summit and Gold Hill district are the Mount Rainier and Washington reserves. The Washington reserve includes an estimated 3,540,240 acres.

The Mount Rainier forest reserve was originally established by executive order Feb. 20, 1893 as the Pacific forest reserve. The proclamation extends the reserve southward along the two slopes of the Cascade Mountains nearly to the Columbia river and changes the name from the Pacific to the Mount Rainier forest reserve. The proposed extension makes the total area of the Mount Rainier reserve 2,234,880 acres--Yakima Herald, March 4, 1897.

Marshal Dilley brought J.D. Hedrick in from the Cle-Elum country yesterday and landed him in the county jail.

The charge against him is setting forest fires, and he is the first man arrested for violating the new law on this subject passed by the last congress-Yakima Herald, Oct. 3, 1897.

Forest Reserves

The superintendent of the reserves in Washington is D.B. Sheller of Tacoma, Wash.

These contain an aggregate area of 8,121,880 acres, comprising that part of the Priest river reserve which lies in this state, area 103,960 acres; the Washington, 3,594,240 acres ; the Olympia 2,188,800 acres and the Mount Rainier 2,234,880 acres.

The Washington and Priest river form a supervisor's district of which Edward Burin, Custer is the supervisor. F.C. Mathewson of Shelton is the supervisor for the Olympia and George McCoy of Napavine for the Mount Rainier.

Twenty-three rangers--eight for the Washington, six for the Olympia and nine for Mount Rainier--were authorized for immediate duty and for duty on July 15, 11 more, as ranger-at-large--Yakima Herald, Nov. 9, 1899.

Olympia, Feb. 19- Distribution of \$80,043 to various counties of the state from the federal reserve fund for 1924 were announced by W.G. Potts, state treasurer, here today.

The money was derived from sales of timber in federal forest reserves in the state and is distributed to the counties on the basis of acreage of the national forest within county limits.

County quotas are:

Yakima \$3,873; Whatcomcomb, \$3,807; Walla Walla, \$15; Thurston \$2.35; Stevens \$557; Snohomish \$1,0962; Wkamania \$,4045; Skagit, \$2,222; Pierce, \$1,057; Pand Orielle \$17,874; Okanogan \$6,800; Mason, \$1,668; Lewis \$3,179; Klickitat \$48; Kittitas \$1,868; King \$398; Jefferson \$7,699; Grays Harbor \$1,634; Garfield \$594; Ferry \$4,845; Cowlitz \$100; Chelan \$5,450; Asotin \$328; Columbia \$955; Cn Clallam \$4,809;

Most of the timber sales were in Rainier, Wenatchee, Snoqualmie and Snohomish national forests - The Yakima Republic, Feb. 19, 1925.

Longview-- F_orma_l celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Long-Bell L^umber C_o. as a retail yard in a small Kansas town will be held h_{ere} tonight.

R.A. Long, foun_{der} ~~of~~ the company, is to speak over long distance telephone from Kansas C_{ity} where the event also is to be observed--The Yakima Daily Republic, April 30, 1925.