

### Kittitas visitor

Mr. William Wright, who left here last fall, arrived here direct from Kittitas valley on Thursday evening, having left there 11 days previously. He reports the snow in the valley to have been 6 inches deep when he left, and in the Snoqualmie pass 3 feet deep when he passed through. For 50 miles he had to travel on snowshoes and experienced considerably difficulty on account of the snow being very soft...— Olympia Standard.

—The Dalles Mountaineer Jan. 28, 1871

## Town of Kittitas

A.L. Knowlton, civil engineer, returned from the Kittitass valley in Yakima county, the first of this month. While in that valley he surveyed out and laid off a new town, which was named Kittitass. This town is located in the center of the Kittitass valley, on a fine site, with a nice stream of water running through it, which will afford ample water power. A sawmill, grist mill and black smith shop are soon to be erected there, also a general mercantile house...—The Real Estate Record.

—The Mountaineer, April 12, 1873

## Kittitas valley 1876

...Mr. Olmstead, who keeps a store and is postmaster at Kittitas...

From him we learn that people there are engaged in building a road from the valley to Priest's Rapids to which boats can run without difficulty in seasonable stages of the water...will be 30 miles in length when completed, is now finished except 7 miles...Mr. Olmstead is assured by the OSN company that when the freight is ready the company will send a boat to that place. Hitherto the entire business of the valley in the way of transportation of goods has been done to and from The Dalles, a distance of 130 miles, by wagon, at a cost of \$60 or more per ton...

There are now about 200 or 250 settlers in the valley...

The mail goes into the valley from Umatilla...

The principal business is raising cattle for the Puget Sound, Portland and Victorian markets and an average of 200 head per month are driven out to supply the demand...

--Portland Oregonian, Aug. 1, 1876



## The Kittitas Valley

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### Some of the Delights of Being Shut Out from Civilization

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Editor Standard: It is highly important that all mankind and the readers of the Standard should know that the inhabitants of this valley, nestled in the bosom of the eternal hills, are still alive and are exceedingly anxious concerning the fate of the world, how it possibly can get along without the benefits of their wisdom and experience. I hope the world will continue to revolve on its axis, and that the affairs of government will not collapse until some of our wiseacres, who, Atlas-<sup>like</sup>~~like~~, carry the world on their backs can get out of this secluded locality to prevent things from "running into chaos and eternal light." It would be a great calamity should the world come to an end without us knowing it. Hemmed in by lofty mountains, covered with deep snows, we know but little of what is going on in the great world outside of us. Even the visits of the mail-carrier, like the "visitation of angels", are few and far between." Occasionally a venturesome fellow comes in on snowshoes over the trackless waste from Yakima, 50 miles distant, with a few letters on his back. It is a pleasant to hear from friends, and gratifying to us to have an opportunity to assure them that we are not like the Queen of Norway, buried in snow. As for newspapers, that boon cannot be granted us until the mail comes in on horseback. It is enough for us to luxuriate in three feet of snow on the level, and have a dense canopy of mist covering our valley for days and weeks together. But if we may not indulge in news, we may in gossip, and some of us have graduated ~~in~~ highly in the "school for scandal" and have also attained high degrees in the "Poking-nose-into-others-people's-business Society" But these are not the only fields in which some of our citizens have gained "local celebrity."

Some are quite adept in meteorology. They can tell the exact proximity of a change by the number of stars inside the circle around the moon, and foretell the coming of a "chinook" or a blizzard by the diameter of the circle around the sun. But meteorological observations are superfluous here, for some of

our most intelligent people have Ayer's Almanac, which foretells all the climatic variations for a whole twelve month. He might as well have let us know the kind of weather we shall have for 100 years. Pill-box of course knows all and is infallible. Dame Nature has revealed to him her weather programme for the future, and made him acquainted with all the remedies necessary to heal "all nations." His ears are ever open to her whispers and his fingers are constantly on her pulse. He is also "gentleman of the bed chamber" to her majesty the Moon; he knows the exact time of her rising and retiring at night, and the effect of her <sup>odi</sup>periodical alternations on the atmosphere. "If she changes," says he, "outside of two hours before or after twelve o'clock we may look out for a wet moon." Failing in punctuality has a wonderful effect on her temperament. In Summer she weeps continually and in winter she raves and storms like a lunatic. Of course she is not supposed to change until she reaches the confines of our valley when our majesty turns a complete summersault and if it is to be a wet moon she proceeds on her journey weeping. It would be money in Uncle Sam's pocket if he were to give "Old Probs" the sack, and hang one of these almanacs up in his house. Thus, Mr. Editor, if we are in blissful ignorance of the course of events in ultramontane countries, we are not without work and instruction as long as we have Pillbox's almanac and other people's business to attend to.

Whatever kind of weather "Old Probs" may have given you on the Sound, Pillbox and the moon have given us a changeable and stormy winter, one of the most destructive seasons on stock since the settlement of the country by the whites. Snow fell early in November, in December we had another heavy downfall of the same commodity. Then for a change a real "blizzard" visited us in January, which made us think that the North pole had removed many hundred miles nearer to us. The wind blew a perfect hurricane, filling stables, barns and houses with snow, forming big drifts in the beds of the creeks, and turning the streams out of their natural channels. The atmosphere was at times so full of fine snow that a person could not see more than 10 yards ahead. No one could have lived in it more than half an hour. Two Indian women out on the Columbia range looking for ponies



perished. At Yakima City the storm was very violent, demolishing a considerable amount of property. Stock raisers have lost severely this winter, owing to the great depth and long stay of snow on the range. One stock man computes that out of a band of 1,500 he has lost 1,000. Others have lost at the same ratio. It is believed that fully two-thirds of the cattle and horses on the ranges have perished for lack of food. Owners of small herds have lost well nigh their all, many of whom have become discouraged and are determined to remove to more congenial climates where stock-raising is not subject to such contingencies.

Indians say that snow is four feet deep in the Winachie—a valley 30 miles distant from here, and that not a living animal is not to be seen anywhere. All the large herds of Indian ponies ranging over this section of country have perished. One Indian has lost 800 horses. Losing his stock to the cattleman is no loss of outlay, but of income, for his cattle multiply and fatten on the mountains without any expense to him, save that of branding and hunting them up occasionally. He makes up much of his losses by "slickearing", that is, appropriating anybody's cattle found roaming without a brand and branding them. However beneficial these cattle dealers may be to the people of Puget Sound, they are decidedly a detriment to the building up of a new country. They do not want to see immigrants coming in and the land taken up and fenced and cultivated. Every new settler limits his pasturage, whilst on the other hand, their vast herds of cattle and sheep devour the pasture which should be legitimately left to the animals of the poor settler.

The days of the stock-raisers here are about numbered, and some of them have sense enough to see it and will go out of the business as soon as possible. As for poor Lo, his misfortune elicits but little commiseration for the simple reason that he raises his horses, not for the market, nor for money-making, but for his own accommodation in riding around, and amusement in horse racing. As a rider, he is a veritable Jehu, running a horse to death in a short time, and when one is killed he has plenty of others to meet the same fate. His horses are his currency, his wealth, for these they gamble, and with these they

barter and trade among themselves. With but few exceptions, Indians set no value on money; an Indians would not sell a horse for 10 times his value in money, unless he was almost perishing for want of food, or burning for thirst for "firewater" or crazy for money to follow up a gambling spree. But for a breech-loading rifle or shotgun, or a few bottles of whisky, he would willingly part with the best horses in his herd, and there are several parties in this valley who are clandestinely carrying on a lucrative trade with them in the "beverage of hell." Drunken Indians are frequently seen rolling about our village and fighting like demons among themselves on the roads. Of course, our saloon-keepers do not know how they get it(?) But the death of their ponies is a severe loss to the whisky-seller and a great blessing, as far as drinking is concerned, to the Indian; while the farmer says "good riddance, we shall have better pasture for our stock." It is extremely unwise ~~and~~ and cruel to accumulate more stock than can be provided for during winter, trusting to the clemency of the weather for their preservation.

Feed and provisions have advanced in price, in consequence of the loss of stock and the protraction of winter. Hay has gone up from \$5 to \$25 per ton, beef from 4 to 10 cents a pound, wheat from 50 cents to 75 cents per bushel, and will, according to all probability, be about \$1.50 per bushel about seed time. It is said that there are plenty of grain and hay in the valley; but that the owners—farmer fashion—are holding them back, expecting to extort the very last cent out of the pockets of their poor neighbors. Were people less selfish, our settlement would be more prosperous.

These heavy snows will be productive of rich harvests, and farmers are looking forward for a season of unusual abundance. Between the logging camps and the gold mines, farmers will find a ready market for their surplus produce. Logging is being pushed on vigorously by Messrs. Smith and Bull, the contractors for timber for the NP railroad; they give \$4 a thousand for logs and 18 cents a piece for ties hewed and delivered on the river banks, which is considered a fair price. An active man might make good wages. All the men

and the teams that can be got hold of are employed and there is a large force at work in spite of the six or seven feet of snow which lies on the ground. The richness of our soil and our proximity to the Sound will make farming always remunerative here. Even now, farmers realize good prices for their produce. Butter sells at 40 cents a pound, pork at 18 cents a pound, potatoes at 75 cents a bushel, and a gentleman who raised a large crop of onions last year found ready sale for them at \$1 per bushel.

Now that spring is near, and the Surveyors about returning to complete their work in the mountains west of us, people are beginning to talk railway matters again, and to surmise whether the road will be built on the west or the east side of the ~~river~~ Yakima river. Everyone expects it will pass his own door and that a big town will spring up within a few rods of his own house. But it will make no difference on which side of the river it will run, it will be easily accessible to all, and a great boon to this valley. It will afford a grand outlet for our produce, and bring in, we hope, a swarm of merchants who will sell a better quality of goods and at lower prices than we have to pay at present. There are 1,500 people in the valley with only two stores to accommodate their needs; and it is shameful to think of the exorbitant prices one has to pay for the trash which they sell. Considering the energy and keen lookout there is among businessmen for favorable localities to open establishments, it is strange that more merchants do not come in; they might do well here, but we do not want extortioners, we have enough already, and they are thoroughly detested, but nevertheless their stores are thronged with customers every day, including Sunday, for they are destitute of all Christian principle and have not sufficient regard for morality even, to close their establishments on the Lord's day. Indeed, the Sabbath is a gala day at Ellensburg, all the stores are crowded with customers, and the saloons are thronged by men who barter and trade, and drink and gamble, and get intoxicated and fight, and whoop and scream like demons about the streets. There is more immorality and dissipation in the village on Sunday than on all the other days of the week combined. Amidst all the bitter complaints



of poverty and a scarcity of money, men find plenty of money to spend for intoxicating drinks. All the saloons are in full operation day and night, dealing out poison, degradation and death. The night is made hideous with the sounds of revelry and obscene songs. These "hot drinks" are not gotten on trust, for the saloon keeper knows the character of his customers too well to give credit to their word or their honesty. It is "pay today and trust tomorrow" with him.

We have debating societies, Sabbath schools and churches organized in our valley, which are doing some good. A mere handful of Christian people and temperance men are endeavoring to purify the moral atmosphere. What we need is a greater influx of people favoring morality and religion, then these "birds of darkness" who disgrace our valley and corrupt society, would fly away before the light of civilization to more congenial climes.

The infidels in our valley, becoming alarmed lest the people should lapse into darkness and immorality, held a meeting recently to "disprove the existence of God and to condemn the Bible." The eloquence flashed up to the fifteenth heaven; wit and wisdom flowed out of their mouths, eyes and ears, like a cent candle put in a mule's skull on a dark night to scare old women and children. They condemned Christianity and the Bible, fired off their expletives and made big holes in the atmosphere. Things looked very blue and smelled very sulphurous around that schoolhouse for some days afterwards.

OCCASIONAL

— Washington Standard (Olympia)

Friday, March 18, 1881

## Bickleton Fire

The town of Bickleton was totally destroyed Friday.

Loss \$25,000.

— The Dalles Times-Mountaineer, May 7, 1887

Kittitas County 1887

Ellensburg, May 29, 1887

Editor Times-Mountaineer:

Ellensburg is <sup>a</sup>reaping the profits of a railroad "boom"...

It is ~~an~~ materially the base of supplies for the Roslyn mines and the tunnel work and the favorite spot for the whisky bums when they get too rich to work... (good ~~wheat~~ wheat country too)...

There are nearly 400 men employed at the mines (Roslyn) but the company expects to have 1,000 or 1,500 men at work by fall. There seems to be no end to the coal in that county... These veins of coal have been found.. Each man loads his own car and puts his number on it and when it is unloaded at the dump the number is tallied to his credit so that the clerk at the office knows just what each man is doing although he is 1,000 feet back under the hill without any boss. The miners working in the rooms take out about 3 tons to the man per shift. They are paid \$3 per day. There is not much gas in the mine as yet and they use open lamps but as they go back they may find more gas and be compelled to use the safety lamp...

Roslyn is building up rapidly...

The company refuses to carry whisky to the front but like the bed bug "it gets there all the same" and many tricks are played to smuggle it through but most of it goes in as baggage, wrapped up in blankets, valises, etc... S.J.

— The Dallas Times-Mountaineer, June 4, 1887



## Bickleton

Yakima Signal: The town of Bickleton recently destroyed by fire is being rapidly 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 as soon as lumber can be obtained. Another general store is one of the things of the near future.

— The Times-Mountaineer, June 11, 1887

## Kittitas Winds

(Herald says Ellensburgh has been squawking about Yakima wind and that's the last thing they should bring up)

...It should remember the experience it had with Sells brothers' and Barrett's circus--how the billboards, usually so brazen, ~~xx~~ modestly returned to Mother Earth before an Ellensburgh zephyr and how the poor showmen were unable to raise their tents but were compelled to give their performance behind canvass thrown over a circle of wagons...

--Yakima Herald, August 29, 1889

A petition has been numerously signed and will be presented to the legislature asking division of Kittitas county and for the formation of a new county to be known as Grant , with the county seat at Cle Elum, The only opposition to this division comes from the merchants and bankers of Ellensburgh who fear that building of a town will rival Ellensburgh.--Yakima Herald, November 28, 1889.



## Bickleton

The country in the vicinity of Bickleton has suffered somewhat lately from floods. The thaw with three days 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 next inundated and slightly damaged. Several head of stock were swept away by the waters--Yakima Herald, Feb. 20, 1890.

## Bickleton

Tobias Bickner of Bickleton was in the city Monday. Mr. Beckner is the king farmer of his section. He has 1400 acres under fence and last year had 800 acres in crop, raising some portions of his farm as high as fifty bushels to the acre.

This year he has between five and six hundred acres in crop, summer following the balance. Mr. Beckner justly complains about the mail facilities of Bickleton, the service between Prosser and that point having been abandoned. Now mail from North Yakima and the Sound passes Prosser and is carried around via Wallula, Columbus and Goldendale to Bickleton, traversing an almost complete circle.

Representative Wilson should see that this well settled section is no longer neglected as to mail accommodations--Yakima Herald January 22, 1891.

to Bickleton, Ohio

other ~~wording~~, other ~~any~~ other agency.

been taken up by the home people, the road will surely be built.

Bickleton News, December 20- 1906.



## Liberty

President Taft has authorized the establishment of a new ranger station which is called the Liberty administrative station and which is to be located near Liberty in Kittitas county.

The tract set aside, which is on the recommendation of the secretary of agriculture, approximates ten acres in extent and is for the use of the forest service. It is in section 10 , township 20, range 17 and is in the Wenatchee forest reserve. The Yakima Herald, Oct 8, 1912.

## Bickleton

Coyotes seem to be numerous and bold this year. Monday morning they were heard howling in the streets of Bickleton and the evidences of their presence were two dead sheep with their throats neatly cut. The sheep were owned by Ezra Miller and were part of a small pet band running at large--Bickleton News, Nov. , 1912.

## Galdburg

Mr. Thomas Johnson, of Rockland, informs us that he has surveyed a new town in the Klickitat valley, W.T., to be called Galdburg. It will soon contain a store, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shop and other buildings. Thus it will be seen that the county is rapidly settling up.

—The Dalles Mountaineer, Sept. 16, 1871



On Tuesday the registration books of the city showed 527 voters.

This number, it is believed, will be increased to upwards of 560, which will be the greatest registration by 200 votes ever made here. The vote of the county is sure to be 1,400 and may exceed 1,600.

The Kittitas artesian well is down 600 feet and still no  
indications of water. The boring is in a species of clay that is very  
tough and sticky. 8-27-91

The indebtedness of Kittitas county is \$164,151.71;  
of Yakima \$134,576.12. Estimates of amounts required to meet  
expenses of government: Kittitas \$80,460; Yakima \$47,300. 11-19-91



Sam Vinson had the fortune to bring down a deer one day last week which he killed in the Cowychee hills west of the city.

Ma Forty seven marriage licenses were issued by Auditor Ellis during 1891. One hundred and twenty licenses were issued in Kittitas county for the same period which makes a comparison unfavorable to our young men.

During 1891 two hundred and ninety cases, civil and criminal were filed in Kittitas county and nineteen criminals were sentenced for terms ranging from 48 hours to twenty years.

For the same period 120 marriage licenses were issued, 362,988 tons of coal were mined for which \$611,533 were paid in wages 1-14 92