

Settlers of the Cowiche district overcame many hardships in their first days in the Yakima valley, George Stephenson of Toppenish, secretary of the Yakima Valley historical society said relating some incidents in the life of pioneers of the district.

He obtained information from George Rockett who arrived in the Cowiche district in 1871, to compile his short sketch of the upper valley district.

Mr. and Mrs. John Goodwin were the first arrivals in the Cowiche district,, Stephenson said and they spent their honeymoon there in 1869. Mrs. Goodwin now lives in the Parker district.

John Stevenson arrived in the district in 1870 and took what was known as a squatters claim. IN the summer of 1870 the government made the first survey and Stevenson went to Walla Walla on horseback and filed a claim. Soon afterward he made a trip to The Dalles, Ore. with two yoke of Oxen and a freight wagon.

On his return trip he met a group of immigrants including A.J. Lewis, Sim Hawkins and Mrs. Rockett and her son, George and daughter, Mamie, who is Mrs. Ed Smith. The trip was a hard one. The group went by way of the block house at Fort Simcoe. A heavy snow fell and it took the travelers 10 days to go 12 miles over the Simcoe mountains to Ahtanum ridge.

The group stopped at a site near Wiley City and Stevenson left the party and headed for his Cowiche home.

The others made their way to the old Mabry ranch near the mouth of the Naches river where they spent the winter of 1871-1872 Stephenson added.

In the spring of 1873 Wilbur and Lafayette Masters arrived and the following summer their father, William Masters arrived in the valley and the family settled on what is known as the upper Splawn ranch. A Mr. Morton and his family came the same year and located on what is known as the lower Splawn ranch.

Cowiche

City Water

Henry Landes, dean of science at the University of Washington who spent two days studying the possibility of getting a municipal water supply by means of wells in the Cowiche district gives it as his official opinion that : "It is my judgment that a steady and reliable output of 10 second feet cannot be had from wells in the vicinity of Weikel." His official report was received today by the city commission and is accompanied by the recommendation that at least one test well be sunk at Weikel. Mayor W.B. Dudley has already expressed himself in favor of such an investigation.

In the course of his report Dean Landes after describing the Cowiche basin says:

"The two sources of water in the Cowiche drainage basin are the natural precipitation and the irrigation water from the Tieton canal. This water is brought in at the season when the rainfall is least and when the evaporation is most pronounced.

The precipitation of the Cowiche drainage area is very low because the stream and its tributaries are located in a region more or less of a lowland on the lee side of a great mountain range. None of the Cowiche streams rise in the higher Cascades and hence do not share in the heavy snows and ~~abundant~~ characteristic rainfall of those mountains. The precipitation is therefore more of the desert than the mountain type and the runoff of the streams is naturally very limited...

"When water enters the Cowiche watershed from either of the sources mentioned several things may happen to it. A comparatively small part flows down the natural runways and is lost in the Naches and Yakima rivers ; in the growing season a larger part is taken up by vegetation; a third portion especially in the warmer weather, evaporates directly into the air and a final portion enters

Because of an over supply of cheese on hand at the present time with the market below the cost of production the Cowiche creamery will discontinue manufacturing cheese for an indefinite time beginning with the first of the year until the market again opens up, it was decided at a meeting of creamery officials and patrons last evening.

At the present time there are 60,000 pounds of cheese on hand. The plant will probably be continued temporarily as a milk skimming station, officials say. With the shutdown of the plant for cheese making the crew of eight will be reduced to about two and the daily payroll of \$80 including expenses, considerably curtailed.

Appeals are being made for the use of local products by local consumers and dairymen especially are interested in the success of the plant and its full operation. The meeting was attended by O.D. Gibson of the Gibson Packing company, L.O. Janeck of the Yakima Mortgage and Loan company and Guy Finley of the Guaranty Trust company.

The Cowiche creamery is one of the Gibson Brothers' enterprises and has been a great asset to the Cowiche district--
The Yakima Republic, Sep December 17, 1924.

Seventy five Cowiche post office patrons are petitioning the federal postal department for the removal of the postoffice from its present location to Cowiche siding. The postoffice located at Cowiche is 1 1-2 miles from the siding. It has been in its present location for over 30 years, and is one of the ~~longest~~ longest established offices in the valley.

Petitioning patrons ~~of the district~~ are those residing between Tieton and Cowiche and who claim the office should be established at the siding so as to make mailing of parcels easier.

Patrons of the district get mail daily from the Naches star route carrier. Three times weekly mail and parcel post is received at the siding from the train. The siding is closer to the petitioning patrons than the office and as a large amount of fruit is mailed during the summer it is claimed that the 1 1-2 miles additional to the office is an imposition.

E.V. Rightmire, postmaster says he will try to better the parcel post service to some extent but believes there is little hope for much improvement. Rightmire has been in charge of the office for six years. The Yakima Republic, May 9, 1924.

to playgrounds.

Plans for these two new schoolhouses as well as those of several others will be sent to Spokane in the form of charts for exhibition there during the National Apple show...Yakima Republic, Oct. 14, 1910.

Marshal Cock has had the city prisoners, weighted with ball and chain,
cleaning streets of Yakima avenue and the main cross streets
of rock and other refuse matter during the past week. Good work is
being done and the appearance of the town materially improved. 11-21-89

Miscellany

Yakima's police force has made its appearance clothed in handsome bluish-gray uniforms with brass buttons. The uniforms were ordered by the officers through Myron H. Ellis and are in every way satisfactory. Yakima is certainly getting very metropolitan in appearance. 7-3-90

Ed Henderson, the noted cattle thief of Douglas county has been captured and now languishes in jail at Waterville. Sheriff Valentine followed him over 300 miles, capturing him in British Columbia.

That sheriff has been making a record for himself lately. 9-14-93

In order to be prepared for the large increase in population that is expected in the Cowiche because of the opening of the Tieton project, the voters in school district No. 10 voted on Friday to bond the district in the sum of \$10,600 for the purpose of buying a site and building a school that will be sufficiently large to accommodate all the pupils that may be expected for a number of years.

County Superintendent S.S. Busch says it is his intention to systematize the schools of the county in such a manner as to provide for the future needs. "Here there is likelihood of rapid increase in population he proposes to be prepared--Yakima Republic, June 24, 1910.

Cowiche is rapidly coming to the front. Standing on a platform overlooking the valley one can see numerous new dwellings and improvements that have taken place the past few months, some of which would do credit to a modern city.

This is only a beginning and we are not backward in saying that this valley will rank first at no very distant date.

The new church which has been under construction for some time is nearing completion. Dedicatory services will be held on Sunday the 23rd. Through the untiring zeal of Rev. Heinick of the Evangelical church (copy) this edifice has been constructed and Cowiche can boast of one of the newest little houses of worship in the Yakima valley.

The Ladies' Aid will give a social in the new church Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Messrs Ed. Chas and G.L.E. Smith and their families attended the funeral of their mother, who died in North Yakima Friday evening. The

The Inland Lumber Co. and the Cowiche Lumber Co. are running at full blast and are furnishing all kinds of building material to this valley...The Yakima Herald, May 12, 1909.

A. Rightmire of this city has purchased the store of William Schenk at Cowychee postoffice and will take possession on Saturday next--The Yakima Herald, March 4, 1903.

Cowychee

S.L. Masters has been appointed postmaster at Cowychee, vice EL.
Masters--Yakima Herald, March 28, 1895.

Tom Staton and Mr. Gibson of Toppenish are building a saw mill on the south fork of the Cowychee.

The machinery will be in position and everything in readiness in a few days to begin cutting the magnificent timber abounding in that neighborhood. Another mill is being

erected at Oak Flat in the Tietan country where the timber is also of the choicest character--Yakima Herald, August 27, 1896.

Superintendent S.S. Busch of the county schools has just finished getting out the plans for a new two-story \$10,000 schoolhouse of the bungalow type to be constructed immediately in the Cowiche and to be placed in service if possible by the opening of the new year.

The schoolhouse will be of stone of the most modern construction and will be built along the plans which the superintendent has outlined for a new and better system of school buildings throughout the county.

The building will have two recitation rooms on the main floor with room in the basement for manual training and domestic science or whatever branches of study the district finds most in need of room and its feature will be the novel construction of the second floor where a large assembly hall will be provided and a sliding partition will convert a third recitation room on this floor into a part of the stage of the assembly room.

One other recitation room and a large warehouse will occupy space on this floor.

The building will follow the general plan of that in Green Valley on which bids have already been advertised and will also be finished if possible by January 1.

The Cowiche building will be situated about one-half mile north of the present schoolhouse and will provide accommodations for 75 pupils now in attendance in the district and two teachers with ample accommodations for an increased force.

Both the Green Valley and the Cowiche schools will be provided with ample grounds but the former will divide its four acres into a parking plot and playground of about equal size while the latter will devote the space entirely