

History is a vantage point. From it we can look ~~h~~ and see from whence we came and how we got where we are. And turning we can look into the future if we have been observant of the past.

My research encountered many pre-settlement day matters of explorerers, fur traders and the Indians, the first inhabitants. These are of passing interest only today.

Then the Dalles Journal of Aug. 19, 1859 told how things were starting to shape up. It reported the taking up of 51 claims in Klickitat county.

And the year Mr. Bickle arrived on the regional scene, Thomas Johnson, down the river at Rockland surveyed a new town site ~~called~~ and called it Galdsburg. That's the only reference I've encountered ~~about~~ about it

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

The Yakima Signal, June 11, 1887 reported "The town of ~~Bick~~ Bickleton is being rebuilt. Mr. Bickle has his residence under way 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.

Then, 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 200 yards.

Simon Bolton's house was inundated and damaged. Several head of stock were swept away by the waters.

And Jan. 22, 1891 from the Yakima Herald. Tobias Peckner of Bickleton 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 ~~800~~ in some portions as high as 50 bushels ~~per~~ to the acre.

It may be redundant for me to go a little bit into ~~the specific~~ history of this area, skim ~~over~~ it lightly. ~~Now I can tell you old-timers nothing you do not already know. But perhaps younger persons and visitors can gain a little better appreciation of your fine cultural background.~~

How Ripley Dodge came from Cleveland, Ohio, settling here in 1879 opened a hotel and later platting a town called Dodgetown but changed ^{the name} to Cleveland, at one time a community of 500 or more persons

By 1880 S. Lowenberg had constructed a store and established a postoffice. This was when Wood Gulch was on the wagon road from Goldendale to Dot.

Lowenberg sold out to James L. Chamberlain, who remained only a few months before moving to Prosser.

In these early days David Mason had a drug store, George Merton a general store; Archibald Dodge, a general store, J.J. Purviance a furniture Ripley Dodge a hotel, W.A. McCredy a hotel and livery barn and Charles McClain a blacksmith shop.

Henry Hackley built a grist mill in 1890

In 1896 the entire business district of Cleveland was wiped out by fire which started at day ^{sale} ~~brake~~ in a livery barn. Isolated houses did not burn. Bickleton grew. By 1915 ^{Cleveland} it was in decline and the Alder Creek Pioneer Association was its biggest prosperity.

Charles N. Bickle arrived on the Bickleton plateau in May, 1879, near where Robert M. Graham and others had settled. The North bank railroad was built in 1905-07 and it was then Alfordale, Roosevelt, Sundale, Sixprong and Blue Light were started.

Bickleton was also destroyed by a fire in 1887, and this burned everything except one blacksmith shop and two dwellings.

In those early days sheep were ^{important} ~~extensive~~ in eastern Klickitat county and there was many as 150,000 a year.

Ephram McPharland started a sawmill in 1879 in timber bordering Pine Creek west of Bickleton. Dave Sprinkle started a mill further back in the timber. Richard M. Buckley started a third sawmill in woods northwest of Cleveland.

Then came Californians, Danish families like the Matsens, Jensens, a company of 12 to 15 Danish families; some Russians..

Until 1881 all the grain sown was cut for hay. In 1881 Walla Walla seed wheat provided plantings. C.N. Newell did the first threshing. Grain was hauled to the Coyle boat landing and shipped to Portland. Farmers got 75 cents to \$1 a bushel for sacked grain, ^{train} with sacks made by prison convicts at Walla Walla. They paid \$1 to \$1.50 a sack for flour shipped from Portland.

When the NP arrived in the Yakima Valley in 1885-85 grain was taken to Mabton.

By 1903 threshing machine meters showed a yield of 500,000 ~~acres~~ bushels of milling wheat from the Bickleton plateau within a 10 mile radius.

I want to pause here and mention the Excelsior Lodge No. 111, IOOF, instituted at Bickleton Jan 1, 1892 with 18 charter members. Charles N. Pickle was the first noble grand. ~~One~~ And when I wandered into the picnic grounds last Saturday, tired and faint with hunger and saw ^{2 years I didn't know anyone like my mother sister for 100 years} all the pies and other food, I wondered where the hospitality I ~~10000~~ had heard so much about was. But I did find refreshments, two ice cream bars at a store in Bickleton.

I want to recall ^{to you} 1890 and talk about the Pasco, Goldendale and Columbia River Railroad, which never materialized ^{and} that no good road existed along the Columbia. One is now built. The Klickitat Ditch never materialized. A dream of unlimited water in the Horse Heaven has long been a strong dream. It may not be too far off now with

Umatilla Lake formed behind John Day Dam. ^{and new lake plans spots}
Harry at place 1490 - Harry

Sony
 Lets skim through ~~a few~~ more pioneers. In 1947
 only a few ~~readded~~ of the first to help with picnics remained, Mrs.
 J.E. Carter, Mrs. Emma McCredy, S.F. Ganders, A L. Powers, Mrs. Cora
 Gadeberg, N.S. Shattuck, J.L. Wherry.

Sam Kossier of Sunnyside was there. He operated the Bickleton bank
 from 1903 until 1932. He was mayor of Sunnyside that year.

C.L. Ingram was your president.

In 1948 Howard C. Graham, Chester Beck, Mr and Mrs. George Robbins,
 Mrs. Rora E. Roberts, L.J. Crider who was born at Pine Creek, Mrs. W.G.
 Mitty.

In 1952 Jess Wherry was master of ceremonies and C.W. Smith was president
 of your association.

Mrs. Chloe Walling was here, she arrived in the area in 1886.

Al Jensen, president in 1955 was a native of Bickleton. John Dogson
 was president in ~~1955~~ 1956 at the 46th annual picnic. Howard Coleman was the
 oldest in attendance at the 47th annual gathering in 1957. He helped
 organize the first. Joel Crider was president in 1960, your golden jubilee
 year.

In 1957 the new Mabton grade was completed, gu d rails, oiled roads.
 They had walking plows here first, then riding ploughs and now look at
 you.

earlier at P Creek
~~A.J. Spoon was the first president.~~

*2 was a cracker then on a
 and plank floor*

I am told the picnic ~~organized on the~~ was proposed March 3, 1911 at a
 meeting of the County Farmers Union in Dot. ~~It~~ was first called Pioneer
 Fay. A.J. Spoon was the first president; E.Y. Stove the vice president
 and R.H. Buckley was secretary.

The grounds were donated by W.A. McCredy, George Varneff and George
 Robbins.

Things have changed. Like Indian chief told me: How used to be.
 Columbus etc.

Now ~~you~~ the welcome and come again signs are at Bickleton and

Cleveland are nailed back to back.
Irrespective that this is your 58th annual gathering

But how fortunate we are, that we are living in a land

so young that sagebrush and uncultivated fields surround us, there is much land and water around us and clean, pure air yet flows above us.

What a contrast to the dead and played out lands of the old world and Central America where even now the wilderness is reclaiming the dead from so recently known civilizations

To you who are young you will see what + those who no longer can return
Edward Whitson, who arrived in the Kittitas Valley in 1871 and
1 with money
later moved to Yakima and became a federal judge,

~~once said:~~ *He said:*

"But few men attain prominence in every age. The world knows them and is ever ready to applaud. But those who are unsung, whose unheard efforts have contributed to the forward march of our civilization are quite as deserving ^{as} our remembrance. Their silent works speak in mute eloquence of days and patient toil, of weary hours and unrequited work; yet a combination of all these disseminated efforts gathers at last into the great torrent of accomplished things. These are the empire builders of the world. Without them society would be a failure. It is well to recall the labor of the plodding ancestors.

And he also said:

"We have had reform in government. Isn't it about time that we enforce the laws we have rather than fly to others that we know not of. The burdens of taxation are ever a favorite theme, but retrenchment of expenses never seems to occur to communities as it does to individuals. We have provided elaborate machinery for the taxation of property. Already we hear a cry for further legislation to enable the officers to reach more property. That the people support the government instead of the government the people should ever be borne in mind. They can neither legislate nor tax themselves into prosperity. And he said that more than 25 years ago.

~~I am told~~ Every speech in reality is four speeches. The one you gave. The one you wished you had given. The one others wish you had given and the one the newspaper says you gave.

~~But~~ As a curator of the Wash State Historical Society I want to commend you for setting an example here unparalleled in our state.

You do not have to restore what you are preserving. *you cling to it because you love it. you find a peacefulness & gratitude here which keeps & pleases*

In my various writings, including books I have tried to preserve the little stories. In ~~the wider scope the~~ *these* little stories, gathered from near and far are the stories which have made America what she is.

~~and~~ I am not alone in my conviction that if we believe in our way of life, and that it and the Past are worth preserving, these are the best weapons against ~~any~~ attacks of any insidious isms from the outside. The basic things made and are still making America.

You have a wonderful seclusion in this land of early Central Washington history. You are favored by having access to the wonders of a modern age. ~~So~~ you can ~~come back here~~ *return,* year after year from ~~the~~ areas that have undergone strange changes ~~within the past~~ even within the past two ~~100~~ years. Here *you* we can meditate in relaxation ~~and~~ *and* the question is not what we can do to help straighten ~~out~~ things, but what should we do.

Confusion..like the education researcher, interviewing the old Indian chief:

Chief, how far did you get in school. The chief replied, not far, ~~1300~~ two or three miles.

No chief, I meant how high did you go, what grade.

No grade at all said the chief. It was level.

And I do not expect to impress you.

Like the speaker who finished a talk and turned ~~to~~ to the old Indian chief in the audience.

How did that ~~im~~ impress you chief, he asked.

well, said the chief, it was a good long talk. It didn't impress me, but I was impressed, sitting on this cane bottom chair listening to you