



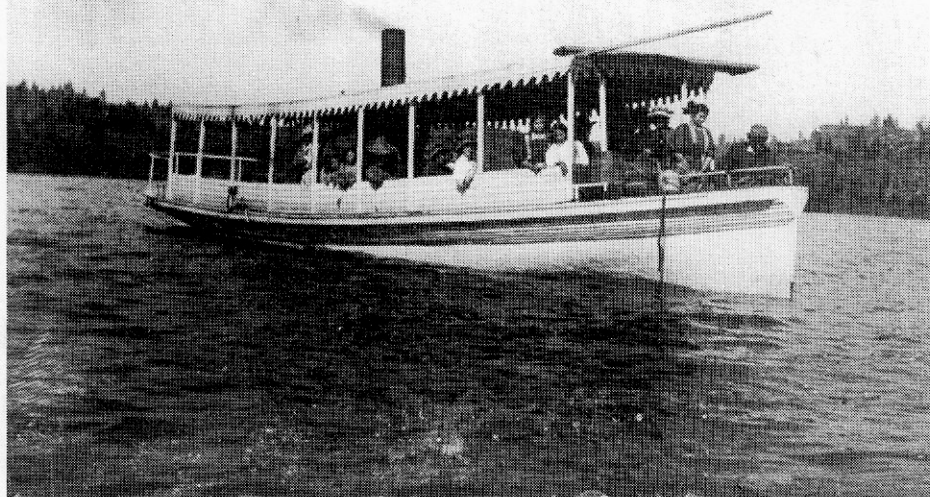
Bunchgrass Historian

Volume 3, No. 2

SUMMER, 1975

Recreation at Rock Lake

Summer fun long ago was made up of the simple things. Swimming and skating parties, strolls, tours and cruises. One place where cruises were especially popular was on Rock Lake. Located in northern Whitman county near Ewan in a basalt rock setting, the lake is a mile wide in most places and nine miles long.



The Evans steam-powered boat which could take 25 passengers to the head of Rock Lake nine miles away.

We are indebted to Mrs. Edna Evans Stephens and Mrs. Lucy Jordan Downen of St. John and Ewan, respectively, for the interview that brought this information to light. Both ladies were most gracious and helpful in lending us pictures and sharing their great knowledge of the area.



Bunchgrass Historian

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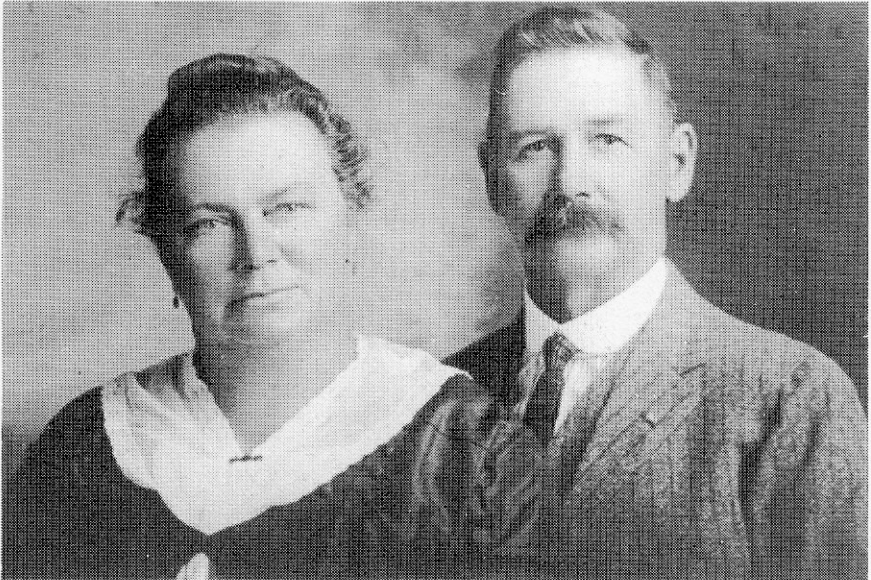
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(Continued from page one)

In 1903, Willis Anson Evans came to the Rock Lake area looking for land to settle and a place to set up his excursion business.

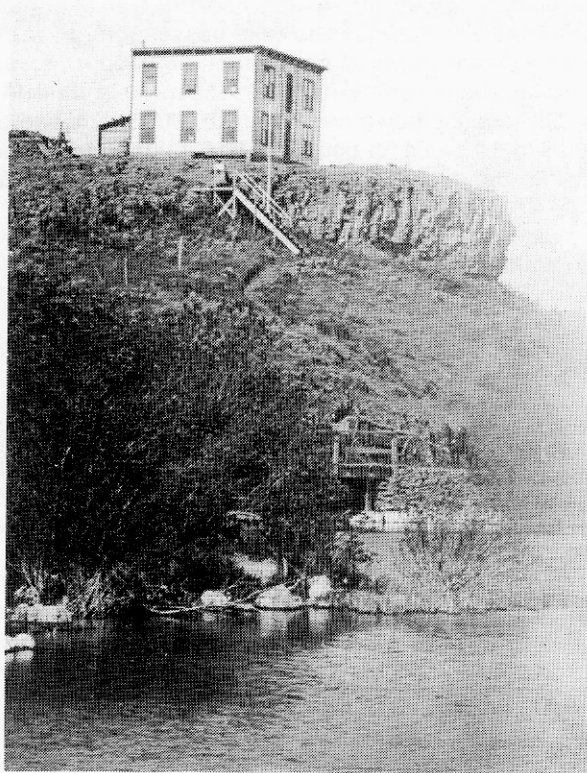
Deciding on a place at the foot of the lake he bought three acres of land. He built a store and a dance hall here by the county road.

Mr. Evans bought his store supplies from B. L. Gosdon in Spokane. These were shipped to St. John and then hauled by team and wagon to the store.



Mr. and Mrs. Willis Anson Evans

Anticipating the influx of railroad workers due to come to the area who would build the Milwaukee track the length of the lake from Malden to Ewan, Mr. Evans began to expand his business interests. On a high cliff that overlooked the lake, he built a two story hotel in 1905 known as the Cliff House. At that time water from the lake was good to drink and a five gallon can on a cable stretched from the hotel to the lake was used to bring up water for the hotel supply. It was held in a reservoir at the hotel until needed.



The Cliff House



The Evans store at Rock Lake. Seated on the counter L. to R. are Crocket Devine, Perry Ewan, Carl Ewan, Henry Hidmirer, the three Lee boys and standing boy unknown.

Claims have been made that Rock Lake had its own Loch Ness monster at one time.

A gasoline launch, which Mr. Evans had built at Medimont, Idaho, was shipped to Rock Lake and he began to take passengers on Sunday cruises. A year later he built a steam-powered boat which he used as a second excursion boat. He could take about twenty-five passengers at a time in the new boat.

Behind the Cliff House down near the lake, Mr. Evans had cleared the land for picnic grounds and a place for people to park their buggies and hacks and tie up the horses while they spent a leisurely day. He also had row boats to rent.



What could be nicer than a summer day on Rock Lake in a rented rowboat with your girl?

When the water in the lake became too polluted for drinking water at the hotel, the family carried water from Mr. Foley's place about a quarter of a mile away. They still used the windlass cable to draw up water from the lake to wash dishes and scrub up the floors. Down below the Cliff House there was a place along Rock Creek where the hotel laundry was done. Water from the creek was heated in boilers and the washing done on the spot. Tables, clothes lines and all the necessities for laundering were there.

A feature attraction at the hotel was a pet magpie which Mrs. Evans had taught to speak. The bird could say anything and would often mimic the voices of certain members of the household. He delighted in calling the dog, Coley, and kept the poor dog running around and around the hotel trying to find who was calling him.

Early one morning, he began calling to everyone in the hotel to hurry and get up, until most of the hotel patrons were up and some of the Evans children ran into their parents' bedroom to ask, "Why are you calling us?", only to find the parents still in bed and that the crazy bird had imitated their mother's voice so well no one had known the difference.

The family moved to Ewan in about 1912.□

Those Old Time Fourth of Julys

By Roy H. Davis

In 1910, they celebrated the 4th of July at Lyle's Grove. My father took a wagon loaded with bundle hay and grain and a camp outfit and several race horses to show. We put our tent up on a slope. Jim Heaslet and his family camped by our tent and we all cooked on an open fire together. Slept on hay on the ground. I think it was a four day celebration. My brothers, Claude and Hugh, rode home at night to do the chores.

My school teacher gave me several tickets to ride the merry-go-round. I got so sick I spent one day down by the creek. I lead one horse in the parade and my sister Ola held our half-brother Billy in the baby show and won. Everyone said, "Isn't she a young mother!"

When we left to go home, I rode a gentle broodmare home but the race horses my brothers, Claude and Hugh, rode with Harold Haynes ran away with them. When we got home, there was an old stray grey, sway-backed horse still hanging around so we tied a five gallon can to his tail and put a bunch of fire crackers into it. He went down the road on a run. Then we thought we might scare father's team of mules he had hitched to the wagon so we tried to catch him, but never saw him again.□

Celebrating the 4th of July was always a big event in the Palouse country. In 1912, the 4th was celebrated at the Seats Grange Hall grounds. Contests were arranged for everything from foot races and baseball to team-pulling contests and riding cattle.

They had one yellow cow that day that tried to hook everyone. They offered \$10 to anyone who could ride her. My brother, Claude, went home and put on some overalls and came back and rode her. She didn't buck much just tried to hook him off. The crowd threw money at the successful rider and Claude came out with \$21 all told.

Sherm Hatley came with a bundle-wagon loaded with bundles of hay and went to Colton and bought a lot of beer. At that time you could get three quarts for 50c. He would put a quart into a bundle of hay and sell it for 50c, or \$1 for three bundles of hay. Lots of people were buying hay that didn't even have a horse. They put in a makeshift telephone line to get the results of the prize fight between Johnson and Jeffries. They danced all day and all night. My sister, Iva, and Maud Hatley ran a race and it was so close they had to re-run it. It was a great day.□

Oh, Those Summer Romances

Because the harvesting of fruit required a great deal of outside help, summer time brought students to the orchards in droves. What a thrill when all the young people arrived. Swimming, weiner roasts and dances after work. Often what began as a summer romance blossomed into a lasting marriage.

CORRECTION: The Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc., Moscow, Idaho was organized in 1938.

The Land of the Palouse

More than fifty years have vanished since the day that I cut loose
From home, and came and settled in the land of the Palouse.
I hadn't any money 'cept my pipe and old cayuse
When I squatted on that homestead in the land of the Palouse.

On the hills and rollin' prairies stretchin' on for miles around
There was nothin' else a growin' 'cept the bunchgrass on the ground;
And the wind a breezin' through it 'neath the summer skies so blue,
Made it look like waves of water where a boat went surgin' through.

And there weren't no roads nor highways and there weren't no daily mails,
And you had to go on hossback 'long the dusty Indian trails,
Where the bands of red men traveled for a hundred years or more
To and from the lofty mountains to the old Snake river shore.

Then I built myself a cabin and I planted out some trees,
And I cut my hay from bunchgrass that was blowin' in the breeze.
And I hadn't any neighbors and I led a lonely life,
Till I went down there on Union Flat and found myself a wife.

I worked and worried month by month and by the grace of God
I labored sixteen hours a day a-plowin' up the sod.
And as the country settled up I worked with all my might
To help to build the roads and schools and start things out just right.

And judgin' from the kids that played where the old cabin stands
You'd think I did my level best to populate the land.
I raised and schooled them every one and gave them all a start,
And now it makes me happy when they say, "Dad did his part."

What a change has hit this country since I set out to roam
And journeyed to the good Palouse and made myself a home.
Bunchgrass hills have turned to wheat fields, home and cities dot the land,
Railroads, highways, all have builded through the energy of man.

More than fifty years have vanished and my hair is gettin' gray,
And here I'm still a livin' in a happy sort of way.
Do not talk of better places for there ain't no earthly use ———
I'm glad I came and settled in the land of the Palouse.□

Leroy LaFollette

This poem was dedicated to the pioneers of Whitman county and read at the annual Pioneer's Picnic in Pullman, June 21, 1927.

Readers are again invited to contribute articles for publication in the **Bunchgrass Historian**. Response to date has been most helpful. A backlog of material allows us a choice. —Ed.

Fruit Production In The Palouse Country

There once was a time in the Palouse country when orchards grew in most areas of Whitman county. The time-tried orchards of the Snake river are certainly remembered, but long before the turn of the century and shortly thereafter, there were large commercial orchards at Pullman, Colfax, Farmington, Elberton, Palouse, Oakesdale, Garfield, Rosalia, Pine City, Hooper and other points.

One may ask what happened to what was probably the third largest industry in the county?

How were these orchards harvested? Where were the markets for it? Who were the owners? and what happened to leave the county so stripped of this industry.

The following articles will we hope give some insight into this. □

William Doty Orchards

By Edna Haxton Gingrich

William Doty, a Civil War veteran, homesteaded land three miles southwest of Pullman on the north side of the Palouse river. He had a large family and built three homes about one half mile apart. He planted a timber culture of cottonwoods and poplar trees and three orchards likely planted in the early 1880's. There were apples, plums, cherries and pears in the orchards.

Mr. Doty had a huge flower garden of lilacs, tulips, lilies and iris in front of his home, which he cared for until he moved to Pullman with his son, Grant Doty. He was elderly when we knew him.

In March of 1906, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Perry Haxton, my brother, Richard, and sister, Flora, and I moved to the Doty home closer to the road and the river. Grandfather Moys had purchased this farm and we grew up there.

Our house was enlarged, but the orchard remained to bloom fragrantly in the spring. A huge crabapple tree sheltered our play house. Such delicious jelly, apple butter and pies were made from this fruit. Juicy peaches, plums and winter pears were plentiful too. A vinegar plant on north Grand street in Pullman took the extra fall apples.

My parents planted a young orchard on the north slope of Italian prunes, Bartlett pears, and some varieties of summer apples and cherries in our garden plot. There were also many kinds of berries.

A Mr. Van Amburg in Pullman used to travel through the country taking orders for nursery stock for fruit and berries until sometime in the 1920's.

Much fruit and vegetables were canned each summer for the winter months ahead. We children helped gather the fruit and fed the culls to the pigs each evening at chore time.

My parents drove to Almota each fall to bring home peaches from the large orchards there.

All of these orchards are gone now, but fond memories remain of living on a farm where the steam engine sent up white puffs of smoke from the water tank in the valley below at noon time.

Other orchards I remember were the Prune Orchard on the Pullman-Colfax highway; the Holt Orchard on the old Pullman highway ½ mile west of the I.O.O.F. Cemetery and the large packing house on the north side of the highway; the Dawson Orchard off the Colfax highway on the John Fulfs land. □

Charles R. Moys Orchards

By Edna Haxton Gingrich

Mr. Charles R. Moys, my grandfather, came by covered wagon from Kansas to Almota with his young wife and two small sons in 1878.

He homesteaded on the hills three miles from Almota on bunchgrass land. He planted a seedling orchard on the north hill back of their home and in the meadow close by. Apples and some plums grew well. He also raised wheat.

My mother, Mrs. Perry (Myrtle C. Moys) Haxton has told me how she, her sister, Lydia, and brothers, Edward, George and Walter C. Moys, often carried the heavy pails of ripened fruit down to their house. Much of the soft fruit was canned in tin cans and sealed with wax.

There was a wooden stile (steps) over the fence to the orchard. This was used until 1916 and was such an interesting place for the grandchildren to play.

Grandfather later planted an orchard from nursery stock that, I believe, he obtained from Salem, Ore. There were apples, peaches, pears, apricots, plums and cherries.

Some of the seedling apples still produced well then.

Mrs. Walter C. Moys of Colfax still has a certificate which states: Charles R. Moys won first prize for the best seedling apples at the annual Whitman County Fruit and Agricultural Fair at Colfax in Sept. 1895.

She also has a certificate from the Alaska Yukon Exposition at Seattle awarding Charles R. Moys a bronze medal for cherries in July 1909.

Grandfather grew Bing, Lambert, Royal Ann and Black Republican sweet cherries and also pie cherries.

He and his sons hauled cherries to Pullman in a small Democrat wagon for many years. It was my pleasure to ride from grandfather's back to our home close to Pullman with Uncle George Moys on the wagon one summer.

Grandfather Moys always planted a large garden. He built a root cellar to store apples and potatoes for winter use.

A large strawberry bed, blackberries and raspberries produced abundantly, all without irrigation. A second cherry orchard was planted on the moist flat south of their home, close to the early John Moys home. We enjoyed luscious fruit from this orchard until about 1920. I always enjoyed picking cherries.

My grandparents retired to Pullman in 1917, where grandfather continued to grow beautiful flowering shrubs, peonies, roses and a small garden as long as his health allowed.

He passed away in 1924 and grandmother in 1940.

The Old LaFollette Orchard

By Amy Keith Davidson

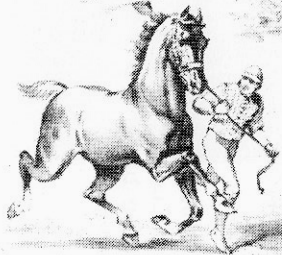
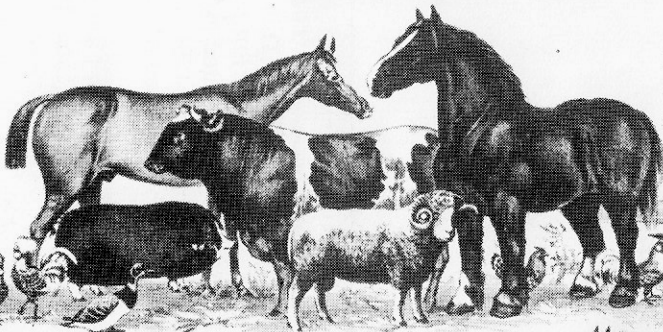
Drove down to the river one bright spring day
To see the fruit trees blossoming
So fragrant and so gay.

Such dainty little flowerlets flirting with the breeze
Like frilly pretty petticoats around a girlies knees.
Thanks to Mother Nature and the birds and bees,
In the fall they'll be peaches swinging on the trees.

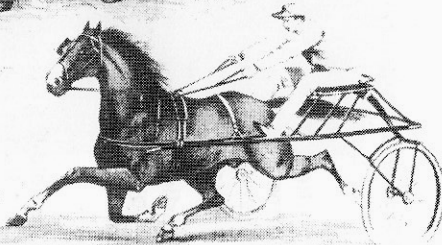
Whitman County Fruit & Agricultural Fair



DIPLOMA



Awarded at _____ Annual Fair September 1900
To _____
For _____
Given by _____



Elberton Center Of Fruit Production And Processing

Garfield Enterprise—August 9, 1895: Aaron Lausch's farm at Elberton was producing peaches and apricots.

Garfield Enterprise—August 30, 1895: "F. L. Bell, the enterprising lumberman of Elberton has just completed a fruit dryer and is now ready to handle your fruit. He will pare and dry apples, pit and dry plums for one-half the fruit; prunes for two-thirds."

Garfield Enterprise—November 1, 1895: Various kinds of fruit will be grown, but the acreage planted to plums has far out stripped all others — the young orchards are looking thrifty and will soon begin to bear.

Garfield Enterprise—January 3, 1896: Announce Bell's fruit dryer burned down. No fruit was lost because at the time of the fire, it was being used to dry lumber.

Garfield Enterprise—October 2, 1896: J. H. Lausch — has 10 varieties of grapes growing on his place in Elberton.

Spokesman Review—September 15, 1900: W. K. Allen of Newburg, Oregon is building the world's largest fruit dryer and evaporator in Elberton. It's expected to be operating in two weeks. Mr. Allen has 123 other dryers in operation in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. This Elberton fruit dryer is built with a five year contract from the Elberton Fruit Grower's Association. The second largest fruit dryer in the world is located in Yakima. This Elberton dryer is expected to be housed in building 90' x 128'; it will have 3600 trays, each holding 1,000 lbs. of green fruit. The daily capacity is 66,000 lbs of green fruit.

July 10, 1913—at 2:45 A.M., a passing train noticed a fire in the prune dryer, owned by W. K. Allen (which later became the Allen Evaporating Co. of Salem, Oregon. This company owned several fruit dryers in the Pacific Northwest). Dryer was built in 1900 and is believed to have been the world's largest. The dryer's daily capacity was 75 tons of prunes. The dryer had just finished drying the crop two weeks ago. The loss was \$20,000.

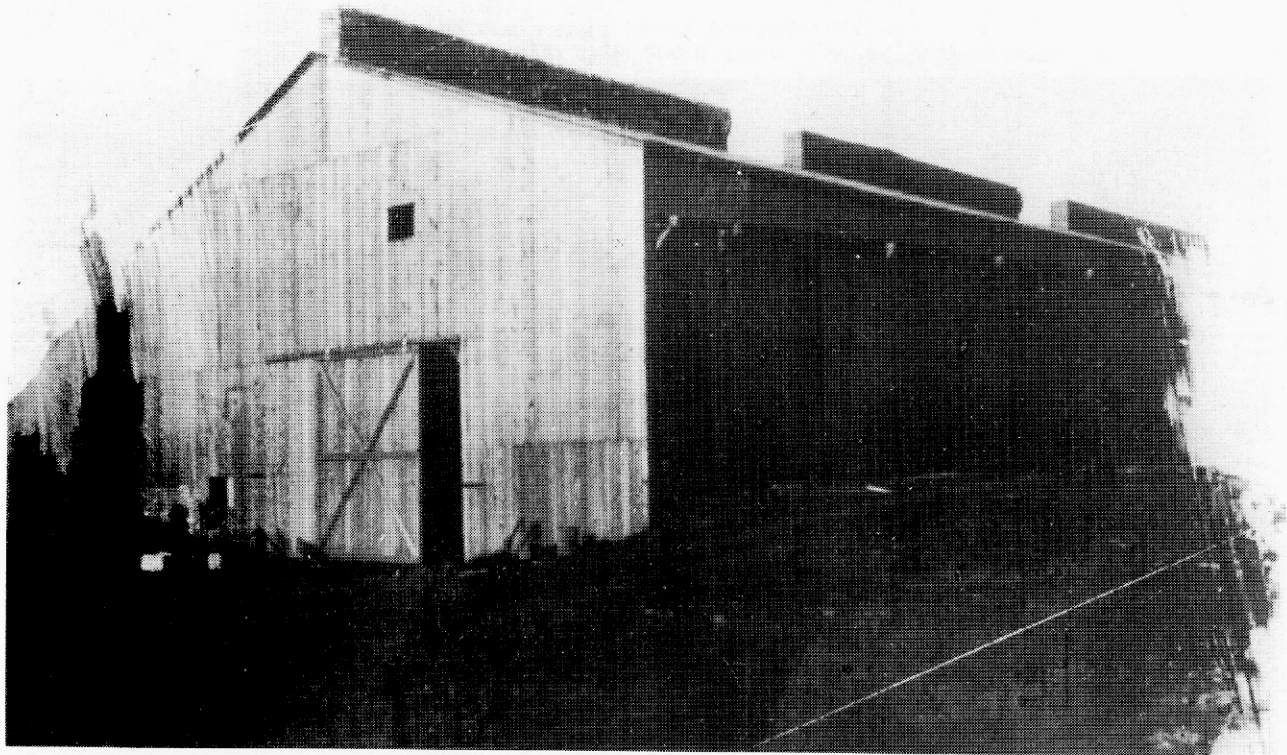
Source: Spokesman Review—July 11, 1913

October 8, 1914—at 6:30 A.M. fire destroyed a prune dryer owned by W. G. Allen of Eugene, Oregon. The drying season was over and the entire crop was in bins. The blaze was found between two walls; near the furnace and was impossible to reach with water.

—Source: Spokesman Review—October 9, 1914

—Excerpts compiled by Nick Manning

The early homesteaders in Whitman county evidently planted orchards of from five to 25 acres on nearly every farmstead. This was planted for home consumption with enough over to share or sell. They were not commercial orchards, as such, though the surplus usually found a market.□



Elberton fruit dryer. Circa 1913.
Courtesy of N. J. Manring and V. Irwin.

—From glass negative.

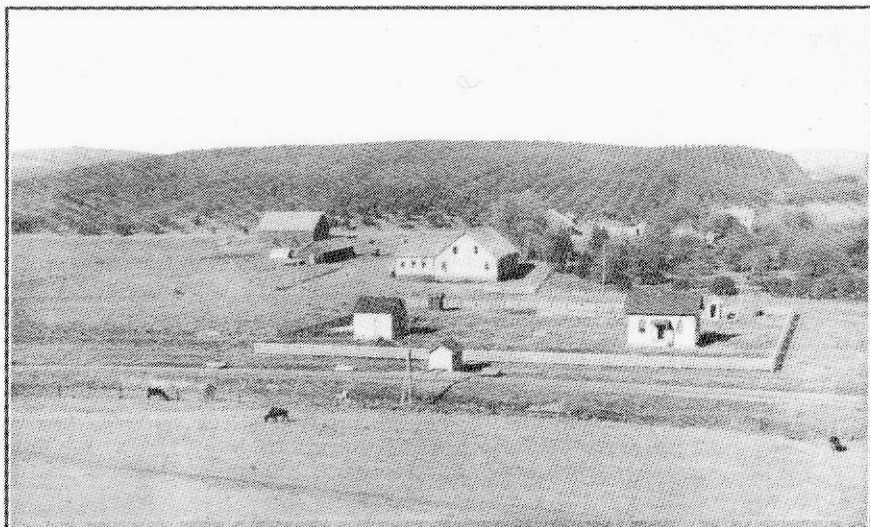


Elberton dryer crew about 1913. —From old glass negative.
Courtesy of N. J. Manring and V. Irwin of Garfield.

Whitman County Commercial Orchardists of 1904

J. J. Nessly	Farmington	Wm. Lawrence	Pine City
R. C. McCroskey	Garfield	Yant Stephens	Pine City
J. E. Trimble	Garfield	Wiley Campbell	Pullman
Edward H. Hanford	Oakesdale	J. H. McKenzie	Pullman
Edward Baker	Elberton	Wm. Priest	Pullman
W. R. Ewing	Elberton	S. M. Smith	Riparia
Mrs. A. Long	Elberton	Hans Munn	Rosalia
James Long	Elberton	Jacob H. Olson	Rosalia
F. W. Gaines	Palouse	Celestin Schurra	Rosalia
Evans Peddycord	Palouse	George Haidacher	Uniontown
N. N. Cota	Penewawa	T. Batty	Wawawai
R. L. Fincher	Penewawa	Wm. Batty	Wawawai
J. R. Lee	Penewawa	Ed Bishop	Wawawai
H. S. Smith	Penewawa	Hunt Bros.	Wawawai
S. W. Smith	Penewawa	Wm. L. LaFollette	Wawawai
S. J. Crutcher	Pine City	C. T. Hoffman	Wawawai
A. Guston	Pine City	C. S. Johnson	Wawawai
S. N. Jeffries	Pine City	H. T. Johnson	Wawawai
G. O. Jones	Pine City	Hugh McKuhn	Winona
Jacob Kimm	Pine City		

TAKEN FROM POLK'S DIRECTORY FOR WHITMAN COUNTY—1904



The Burrell orchard out of Colfax was non-irrigated. Palouse country apples were noted for the excellent flavor and keeping qualities. Taken from THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PALOUSE COUNTRY—published in 1908 by Palouse Country Federated Commercial Clubs.

Harvest wages in the 1930's were \$1.00 to \$1.50 for a ten to twelve hour day. Cherry pickers were paid ¾c a pound. Some put rocks in the bottom of the buckets to make them weigh up.

Steamboat Strike Hampers Fruit Harvest

July 4, 1902

To Grant W. ———

Dear Son,

I rec'd your letter in due time but have been so busy failed to answer as prompt as I should. I was in hopes you would get over while Ben was here. I took him to Colton last week, he was going from there to the Big Bend country to buy grazing land.

He said he would come back this way and thought he would go over to see you folks before going home. (I think it is doubtful).

I was up to Colton Sunday. Hattie was at Ida's. She is well and talks of coming back to Lewiston to work. She was with me about one week.

I had my hay cut and shocked last week, got the stable filled up before the rain came, will stack tho' it has rained right along on the river for 48 hours and every indication that we will have as much more. Well, the engineer and deck hands have struck on the boats (steamboats) which necessitates hauling to the railroad until that is settled. A Lewiston wholesale fruit dealer, his mother-in-law and daughter went down on the boat to see me Wednesday and as that was the last boat they were stranded. I brot them up today, will get my horses shod all around in the morning and go to hauling out. My peaches, apricots and beans should be picked every day from this on. Peaches start in at \$1.50 a box (7½c a pound) I sold 3 boxes Monday. If you or Rob was here now you could get all the hauling you wanted as all the orchard men will have to haul, dry or let it spoil. However, the strike may be of very short duration. I saw Billy Courter here sometime ago, he told me your flax was looking fine. He was on his way to Oregon.

Come over and help me eat peaches. I have been eating cherries, raspberries and dew berries now for over a month, now it is peaches and have some ripe apples but not many yet. There is a wagon road all the way down from Lewiston to Wawawai right through my place.

Well, I must cut off.

G W W.

This letter was written at Lewiston, Idaho by George W. Willoughby to his son, Grant.

—Courtesy of Mrs. Grace Starkie

BURN THE OLD BOXES

Owing to the great danger of spreading fruit pests of all kinds, we will not allow any second hand fruit boxes to be brought in or refilled in our orchards.

—Snake River Fruit Growers Association

D. M. Holt Advertising

D. E. Kelley Commission

G. W. Smith

—August 21, 1891—Pullman Herald

(Ad on Next Page)

Taken from MARKS AND BRANDS—Whitman Co.—1886 by C. B. Hopkins.

—Courtesy Mrs. Lucy Downen

PALOUSE NURSERY

— { AND } —

PLEASANT DALE FRUIT FARM

Situated two miles northeast of Colfax.

HARDY FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS A SPECIALTY.

Many years of observation and experience in this Palouse Country have enabled me to judge what is best adapted to this climate, as near as possible.

PRICE OF TREES:

Apple trees, one to two years, as to	
number taken, - - - -	10 to 15c
Pears, Plums and Cherries, - - - -	25 to 75c
Strawberries, - - - -	\$1.00 to \$2.00
Flowering Shrubs, - - - -	25 to 50c
Roses and Peonies, - - - -	25 to 50c

<p><i>Summer Apples.</i> Yellow Transparent, Red Astrichian, Red June, Golden Sweet, Trenton Early, Jersey Sweet, Sops of Wine, Thayles.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Full Apples.</i></p> <p>Hawley, Aut. Strawberry Rose, Heswie Codlin, Waxen, Porter, Mother,</p>	<p>St. Lawrence, Hass, Alexander, Twenty Ounce, Bayley's Sweet Oldenburg, Bellflower, and others.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Winter Apples.</i></p> <p>Jeffries, Wagenor, Roxberry Russet, Paradise Sweet Dutch Mignon, Man Apple, Walbridge, Jonathan,</p>	<p>Yellow Bellflower, White Bellflower, McIntosh Red, Wolf River, Blue Pearmain Wealthy, Islam Sweet, McMahan's White, Ben Davis, Seekno further, Northern Spy, New Pippin, Baldwin, Gleriamonda, Spitzenburg, Nonesuch, Russian, etc.</p>
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We warrant no trees except to be good when they leave the Nursery. It is not right to ask a nurseryman to warrant your labor and care and the vicissitudes of the weather.

We do not send out agents, but sell to those who come or send for them, believing it is best for all concerned. We do not wish to induce people to buy trees when they are not prepared for them.

THEO. SMITH, COLFAX, W. T.

The John F. Kelley Orchards

By John F. Kelley

The John F. Kelley Ranch, located on the highway between Oakesdale and Belmont, had some fifty acres in orchard, about twenty-five of which near the buildings were planted as a timber culture or improvement. The west orchard was removed in about 1930 and the east orchard in about 1945. I personally removed the latter, and what a job it was! Many of the trees were 50 years old and our bulldozer was not too efficient. However, we used horses, shovels, slips, block and tackle, and men, and finally got the stumps removed and the branches burned. I still have about two dozen small trees which I have planted around the house. No fruit has been sold since about 1925, the last being some excellent cherries and prunes. I can still remember some of the more exotic names of the Eastern apples that grew on our place. Such names as Blue Permain, Maidens Blush, Grimes Golden, along with such favorites of the early days as Jonathan, Wagner, Winter Banana, and Rome Beauty. This orchard was planted long before the advent of the Delicious varieties. My father, who came West in 1911, bought a power sprayer, and used to whitewash the trunks of the trees. During my early youth (which was spent in Spokane where we lived) I don't believe we ever bought any fruit. There were two large root cellars on the farm, and they were always filled with boxes of apples, Italian prunes, Bartlett pears, and some crabapples. During the Thirties the trees became badly damaged and no spraying was done.

The Hanford orchard, just to the southeast of Oakesdale, was a very large commercial venture, and was planted about the same time as was the Kelley orchard, although it was removed many years earlier. This enterprise was located around the beautiful old Hanford castle, which may be seen from the state highway. I believe it was several hundred acres in extent.□

(Excerpts from paper of John F. Kelley to Westerners)

General Thomas R. Tannatt was a former colonel in the Civil War. As a result of wounds, his health became poor, and in 1886, we find General Tannatt moving his entire family to Farmington, Washington, a fairly new and rapidly growing little Palouse town, which, because of its fine soil and good climate seemed to favor fruit-growing. He laid out what is now Railroad Addition in Farmington and set out and developed a beautiful fruit orchard just south of the present railroad tracks and grain elevators.

This orchard contained about 80 acres of trees, all of which were to be highly productive. He ultimately moved a store building and converted it into an apple-packing plant along the railway tracks and proceeded to devote himself to horticulture in the Palouse country. A few years later he was to display and win prizes for his fruit at the Spokane Apple Show, having previously won awards at an exposition in Buffalo, New York. Many of his prize Rome Beauties were shipped as far as Europe. In 1909 he sold his beautiful orchard and apple plant to the B. C. Camerons of Farmington, who continued to operate it as "Poplar Crest Orchard" and to ship various fruits, including prunes, cherries and apples to various points, such as New York, Pittsburgh, Canada, and Europe. At one time, the packing plant operations required 50 to 75 people. Shipping probably stopped about 1930.□

Mr. Kelly is an attorney in Spokane. He enjoys writing history for **The Westerners** and other publications as a hobby.

Organization of Snake River Fruit Growers Association

By June Crithfield

With the development of the soft fruit industry on the Snake river came a number of problems for the growers. How to produce and market the best quality of fruit in the cheapest way being the uppermost thought in mind. But still, there were new markets to contact, comparisons in price for supplies offered, certain transportation services to be considered and other similar questions to be answered.

Therefore, the decision was made in March of 1890 to band together to better solve these problems. This was the formation of the Snake River Fruit Growers Association. The purpose of the organization was to be the mutual betterment and aid of the members by the exchange of ideas and experience in the business of fruit culture, and the protection of the industry along the river.

Members of the association were mainly growers at, above and below Wawawai, and at Almota, on both sides of the river. First officers were: J. S. Davis, Garfield Co., president; Frant Beckwith, Offield Bar, Garfield Co., secretary; D. M. Holt, Wawawai, treasurer; David Kelley, Garfield Co., Henry Spalding, Almota, and J. B. Holt, Wawawai, directors.

The association expected to market 40,000 boxes of fruit and had arranged to ship most of it to Herron & Carpenter, commission merchants and the Northwest Commission Co., both of Spokane Falls, that year. The commission houses charged 10% of sale price for selling the fruit. The fruit was sent down river by steamer and then by rail from Riparia to Spokane Falls. Rates of 40¢ freight per hundred pounds in carload lots had been secured.

Members of the association and their holdings that first year were:

Bishop Bros., seven miles above Wawawai. Charles, Al, and J. Ed Bishop owned and operated 70 acres of fruit. All varieties of fruit usually grown along the river were grown here. Their vineyards were said to be the largest on the river. Irrigation was done with a 700-gallon-per-minute pulsometer pump.

James V. O'Dell, a well-known Colfax attorney and fruit grower, had orchards just above Granite Point, 3 miles above Wawawai. He had 20 acres of orchard, mostly peaches.

At Wawawai Bar were the vast orchards of T. F. Burgess and sons, and J. B. Holt. The Burgess holdings were more than 7,000 trees at the time with 40 acres of that bearing age. Peaches, apples and pears the main varieties, but other fruit in smaller numbers were grown. A new pulsometer pump and flume costing \$1,500 irrigated the farm.

Of the 100 acres of prime level land owned by J. B. Holt, 70 acres were planted to trees and vineyards. From the more than 8,000 trees he expected to harvest about 4,500 boxes of peaches and 3,500 boxes of other fruits. In addition, from five acres of blackberries he expected to harvest 3-4 thousand gallons of fruit. These orchards were beautifully arranged with a well-stocked packing house and an excellent irrigation system. The Holt orchards were the largest on the river at the time.

On this bar, to the east of the Burgess orchards was the Frank Brown orchards of 15 acres of fruit.

Up the Wawawai canyon was a small orchard owned by Wm. Batty of 600

trees, M. B. Myers had 1,200 trees. W. S. Shaw had 1,500 trees and a large planting of berries, especially raspberries.

D. M. Holt came next with 50 acres of fruit land, 25 acres in trees. Mr. Holt sold over \$300 worth of strawberries and had set out 3,000 tomato plants that year.

Beyond Holt's was the C. W. Bean place with 20 acres of orchard, C. Q. Martin with 15 acres and Adam Mathaney with 1,000 trees.

That completed the list of Wawawai orchards, but downriver was the S. T. Davis place with 20 acres in trees, eight acres of bearing age.

At Almota were the extensive orchards and vineyards of Henry Spalding with 5,000 vines and several thousand trees of mixed varieties. He specialized in prunes, peaches and grapes. He expected to market 20 tons of grapes in 1890.

So ends the list of members of the association, but to get a clear picture of the booming fruit industry of 1890 we look further and find these growers:

At Almota, one of the largest fruit growers on the river was L. M. Ringer owning orchards on both sides of the river which totaled some 8,000 trees. He specialized in nut growing with 1,000 trees planted to the pecan, sweet chestnut, butternut, black and English walnut varieties. This was the only nut orchard on the river at this time.

About 20 miles below Almota at Penewawa were vast orchards grown on one of the largest bars that bordered the Snake river.

Emsley Fincher had 1,000 trees of the 3,000 planted, of bearing age.

E. D. Smith had 20 acres in fruit, mainly peaches. He had 1,500 trees of bearing age.

G. W. Smith, owned 25 acres in trees with 2,000 of bearing age. The Smiths were known for the fine cherries they produced.

T. J. Smith raised a full variety of fruits with the bulk of his twenty-three acres of fruit land in peaches.

Up the Penewawa canyon were the 15 acres of fruit land owned by J. R. Lee. The small orchard of A. L. Daniel, 13 acres; C. C. and W. H. Cram each with large and thriving orchards, and J. L. Cannutt with a good number of trees. All canyon orchards were irrigated from Penewawa creek.

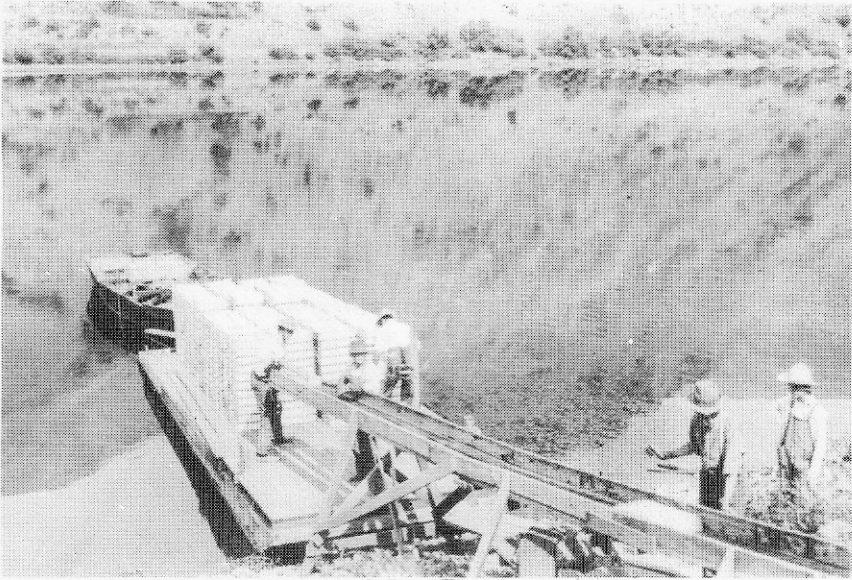
One can see from this that the fruit industry along the Snake river was expanding at this time and from all accounts it continued to do so until the depression years of the thirties. It began to recover again after World War II but by then the cost of production was so increased by laws governing control of pest infestation, the scarcity of hand labor available at harvest time, and other factors that the heyday of the industry was past. The **coup de grace** for the industry was given by the Army Corps of Engineers when the orchard lands along the river were bought for the Snake river dam projects.

Under the supervision of the Corps, the government pulled 86 acres of fruit trees in the Little Goose reservoir and 326 in the Lower Granite reservoir. Thus ended an industry which was once probably the third largest in the county. □

Wawawai—Pres. T. F. Burgess called the meeting of the Snake River Fruit Growers Association to order.

A communique from the Northern Pacific railroad negotiating for refrigerated cars, iced by the company, to any point on their road for 2¼c per pound was read. The growers wanted to introduce Snake river fruit to Montana where deliveries could be made to Helena in 2 days. Growers voted to accept the offer.

—June 7, 1891—Pullman Herald



Transporting fruit from the packing house to the steamboat dock on the Snake river by means of chute on the Lakin ranch.



Herb Snelgrove pushes trees into piles for burning in 1967 as clearing of Snake river orchards began in the Lower Granite dam reservoir. This ended the once thriving industry in Whitman county.

On the Snake River—June 27, 1891—T. F. Burgess in chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Communication read from Standard Box Factory, also Wright, Barrett and Stillwell offering cut paper for wrapping fruit at 5½c per pound, uncut \$2.10 per ream. Crown Point Mills offered paper cut for 5c and card paper for \$45 per ton. The following commission merchants requested the association's fruit: Perry and Co., Denver, Colo., A. Cofferata and Son, St. Louis, Mo., Daniel Hanley and Co., Helena, Mont., E. R. Barton, Denver, Colo., G. G. Lubhardt Commission Co., Denver, Colo., Gerber Fruit Co., St. Louis Mo., W. K. Harding, Kansas City, Mo., Sam J. Gorman Commission Co., Portland, Ore., and Chicago, Northwest Commission Co., Tacoma, Wash. Also a number of communications were received from the Union Pacific agent, Mr. Campbell of Portland, who takes a lively interest in Snake river fruits. The secretary was instructed to return him thanks of the association for his many kindnesses.

—July 17, 1891—Pullman Herald

Heretofore, the peach crops at Penewawa have found a market at Colfax. This season it is going toward Walla Walla.

—August 9, 1882—Colfax Commoner

Emsley Fincher of Penewawa, being proprietor of the fruit tent near the Farmers Hotel, had bunches of grapes weighing 6 pounds.

—July 25, 1889—Colfax Commoner

The fruit wagons from Snake river are beginning to be plentiful on our streets. Fruit is comparatively cheap and is of a superior size and flavor. Some strawberries sold here the other day were about the size of a hen's egg.

—June 15, 1894—Uniontown Journal

165 acres of prune orchards at Elberton.

—Nov. 1, 1895—Garfield Enterprise

Fruit men are protesting the inadequate transportaion schedule and there may be a schedule for 3 trips a week arranged during the fruit season.

—Colfax Commoner—Summer of 1894

E. J. Northcutt brought in a box of apples and pears which he raised ——— will show them at the Spokane Exposition.

—Sept. 26, 1890—Colfax Commoner

W. F. Hickman was in town from his ranch near Almota yesterday. Mr. Hickman owns a fine apple orchard and will have fifty tons of fruit this year which he offers for sale.

—August 19, 1891—Pullman Herald

Wawawai Notes—"The best of the fruit is now ripening and the steamer landing presents the appearance of a New York market."

—August 19, 1891—Pullman Herald