KLAMATH ECHOES

Sanctioned by
Klamath County Historical Society
Log cabin thought to have been built by a Buckmaster, nearly 100 years ago. Still standing on the old Boggs place in Langell Valley, now owned by Dick Smith.

— Helen Heitrich

There’s an old log cabin standing
   Where the scaterring junipers grow —
There’s a spring of crystal water,
   Pure and cold as melted snow,
With a pathway leading to it
   Which the grass almost hides,
Where the junipers sway and whisper —
   Beneath the mountain’s rugged side.

Come inside and view the parlor
   With its mouldy puncheon floor.
And that flimsy clap-board frame-work
   That once answered for a door.
Long it’s been since on these hinges
   Swung that flimsy door around,
Long since through that old sick chimney
   Smoke a devious outlet found.

Once that frame-work in the corner
   Semblance of a bedstead bore.
But that worn and splintered bedstead
   Shall their bodies hold no more —
Never to that fragile table,
   Standing like a thing in pain,
Shall the hunter, tired and hungry,
   Bread and venison bring again.

A potato vine is climbing
   From the cellar though the floor,
Pale and slender, yet still crawling
   Onward toward the open door.
To the chimney’s broken stone-work
   Still another finds its way,
Clinging to the rusty pot-hook,
   Struggling upward toward the day.

From the Ashland Tidings, December 28, 1877
— Author Unknown.
Five Pioneers of Bonanza, Fred Bechdoldt, Dan Driscoll, J. O. Hamaker, Jack Horton and Bill Woods.

- Earl Hamaker

Henry Vinson, Pioneer of Langell Valley
- Klamath County Museum

Isaac Wilson, pioneer of Langell Valley, and his daughter, Martha (Wilson) Swan, Seeds.
- Fred Elvin Enlow

Dedication

We respectfully dedicate this, the 10th issue of Klamath Echoes to the pioneer settlers of Langell Valley and Bonanza. They, and many whose names and accomplishments have been lost, made it possible for others to carry on when their labors ceased.
The old Arthur Langell ranch home in Upper Langell Valley. A large spring and old wagon road beyond the house.

Front view of the Langell home with Langell Valley in the background. Present West side Road in the middle distance.
Threshing scene in Poe Valley with Lost River in the background. - Sykes Hamaker

Feeding cattle on the old Cowley Ranch, now the home of Walter Smith, Jr. About 1910. - Florence Horn
THE COVER: Our cover is a sketch of an actual photograph of the old Arthur Langell ranch home on the West Side of Upper Langell Valley. It was drawn by Stephanie Bonotto Hakanson, artist for all previous Klamath Echoes covers.
In continuing our chain of histories counter-clockwise around Klamath County, it was planned that *Klamath Echoes* No. 10 would cover the Cloverleaf Country of Langell, Alkali (Yonna) and Poe Valleys. It was soon evident that too much material was available, therefore we were forced to by-pass Yonna and Poe Valleys for the present, except for brief mention at times. However, much of their history is closely related to that of Bonanza.

In 1955 this writer and his wife, accompanied by Sykes Hamaker and Bill Campbell, both now deceased, spent two full days relocating the early school, ranch and sawmill sites, etc. of the Langell Valley-Bonanza area. A map was drawn at the time and notes taken which have served as the basis of this year's annual.

Between 1955 and the present time U.S.G.S. and U.S. General Land Office maps have been secured and consulted. Then in the fall of 1971 the real task began.

First we re-acquainted ourselves with the area by making a tour of the vicinity as before, but this time accompanied by Mrs. John S. (Florence Boggs) Horn, and Donald Philpotts. We also used on this tour the map and notes as told by Sykes and Bill.

To compile this history was no easy task. It has meant, in the case of Langell Valley, starting at the grass roots level and digging out, from forgotten and buried files, the beginning of a community. Bonanza, however, in 1963 compiled a very workable brochure of its past, with several written reminiscences in addition. These were made available to this writer by Mrs. Ester Brown, a real historian of the Bonanza area.

It is our understanding that the Bonanza community plans on celebrating their 100th Anniversary next year, 1973. A suggested date, or one as close to it as practical would be July 11th, the 100th anniversary of I. P. Chandler's filing on the first homestead in Klamath County, later to become part of the city of Bonanza.

We owe thanks to many people for information given and pictures furnished for copying: Beverly McFall; Mrs. Ivan (Clara) Bold; Mrs. Ernest E. Puddy; Earl Hamaker; the Noble families of Willard, Wilfred and Luther; Mrs. Bertha (Krauger) Vinson, Mrs. Louise (Flackus) Kilgore, Smoe; and Mrs. Velma (Sparks) Nix.

We are especially indebted to Fred Elvin Inlow who furnished exhaustive information and pictures on the early Wilson and Hall families of Langell Valley. Space has prevented the use of more of his material and pictures.

Finally it was through the kindness of Francis and Jesse Brotherton of the Log Cabin Museum in Bonanza, that we have been able to fill in the missing segments of Bonanza's early buildings, photographically. In passing, it must be noted that F. M. Priest was the photographer who originally took many of the pictures used in this issue.

We are further indebted to the *History of Klamath County*, the Klamath County Clerk's Office records, the Jackson County Historical Society Museum officers for the use of their microfilm files on the *Ashland Tidings* and *Jacksonville Democratic Times*, the *Herald and News* for the use of the old *Republican*, *Evening Herald* and *Klamath News* files and lastly the Klamath County Museum for the use of pictures.

If anyone should wonder why one family's history is used more extensively than another's the answer is simple. Someone cared enough, or took the trouble to leave a written record.

-Klamath County Museum
LANGELL VALLEY

The subject of this year's *Klamath Echoes* is Langell Valley and the range country in southeastern Klamath County extending eastward to the Lake County line. The main community is Bonanza, sometimes called the "Cloverleaf City" because of its location at the junction of Langell, Poe and Yonna Valleys. Ambitious citizens of Bonanza have in more recent times annexed the Sprague River Valley to the "Cloverleaf" but this seems not to have been the original intent.

Although the three valleys and adjoining territory are extremely important farming or stock raising districts, much of their colorful period is in the past, and it is some of that past that this issue will try to preserve in one place. The days when men engaged in cattle feuds, rode down Bonanza's dusty main street "armed to the teeth" and made their threats and brags over drinks in the pioneer saloons seem far in the past, yet it was only sixty years ago, and there are still living a few who can remember those stirring times.

The better to understand the first entry of settlers into "Cloverleaf Country," a very brief history of the entire Klamath Basin will be given.

The first whites to visit this region seem to have been two trappers, names unknown, of Peter Skeene Ogden's 1826-27 Hudson's Bay Company Fur Brigade, who passed through the main Klamath Basin three times that winter. On Wednesday December 21st, 1826 (possibly the 20th), Ogden in part wrote: "...The two men who started yesterday (from a point near present Henley) to examine the upper part of the river (Lost River) arrived with two Beaver, they report they found one Beaver Lodge and not the slightest appearance of any more, the river is not long it receiving its waters from a chain of Lakes (probably Langell Valley and Clear Lake) some of them of a large size, from all accounts all this Country is covered with Lakes. All these waters must discharge in some large River which I hope we shall see long..."

Between 1846 when the Applegate Trail was opened, and the fall of 1863 when Ft. Klamath was established, there must have been small exploring groups who viewed the Upper Lost River Valley. At least we know that "in the early 60's the discovery of gold in the John Day country of northern Oregon was the incentive to considerable travel through the future Klamath country. During 1861 and 1862, several different parties went from California to the mining districts in the north, driving stock and taking in provisions and mining utensils by means of pack trains. Their route through the territory was by way of Lost River, Sprague River, Sican Marsh, Silver Lake and thence north (*History of Central Oregon*, p. 932)." Further, the 1861 emigrant relief party of 42 men under Lindsay Applegate split into two groups at Tule Lake. One accompanied the emigrants while Applegate with 20 men explored parts of the Klamath country, discovering the future site of Ft. Klamath. There is faint evidence that this party possibly crossed parts of the "Cloverleaf" country.

The first individual other than a trapper, explorer or emigrant to spend any time in the Klamath Basin was Wallace Baldwin, who in 1852 camped for nine months west of Link River, herding some 50 head of horses. In April, 1857 Mart Frain arrived at the mouth of Link River to trade with the Indians. Both men later became permanent settlers in the Klamath country.

Wendolen Nus next arrived to spend parts of 1858 and 1859 along the southwestern shores of Upper Klamath Lake. Then following several years in the Idaho mines he returned in 1866 to take up permanent residence here. He was later killed on the opening day of the Modoc War.

In 1864 a new route of travel was opened from Yreka and the Shasta Valley over Ball Mountain to Butte Valley. Shortly thereafter
several stock ranches were opened up, the Ball, Van Brimmer, Fairchild, Dorris and Doten places.

Fort Klamath was established in the fall of 1863 and a second route of travel established into the Rogue River Valley where supplies could be secured. It was not until May of 1866 that Klamath Agency was established, although the treaty had been signed in 1864.

George Nurse, moving from Ft. Klamath, founded Linkville (Klamath Falls) in March, 1867. Shortly thereafter Orson A. Staeans and Lewellyn Covler homesteaded at Briar Springs, about halfway between present Klamath Falls and Keno. That same season O. T. Brown and wife, the first white woman to settle in Klamath County, homesteaded on Spencer Creek. Other arrivals were Arthur Langell, who located on the Hot Springs property (a few hundred feet east of the railroad underpass on Main Street in Klamath Falls) at that time over one mile east of Linkville; William Hicks who was employed by Langell; Dennis Crawley who homesteaded near Briar Springs; A. J. Burnette who settled on Upper Klamath Lake at a site later to become Pelican City; and finally Edgar Overton who worked for George Nurse, constructing most of his buildings.

"Thus," as written in the History of Central Oregon, "we find at the close of 1867, where at the beginning there was only one settler (Wendolen Nus), a town with something less than a dozen people and a few scattered settlers living in the Klamath county, aside from the soldiers at Ft. Klamath. The year 1868 witnessed the arrival of quite a number of new settlers in the Klamath country...

"In 1868 Messrs Coultes and Kuhn, with their wives, settled in the Klamath Basin and these women became the second and third white women to become residents of Klamath County."

Other settlers of that year were: H. M. Thatcher, who homesteaded near Briar Springs; C. C. Bailey, who settled at Naylox; Steven Stukel, at later Altamont; a Mr. Miller and three sons, John H., William and Warren southwest of present Worden; Robert Whittle and his son-in-law, Francis Picard, at Keno; Joseph Conger, in Linkville; and Granville Naylor and John Hockenjos who started a sawmill on Spencer Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Fulkerson and a Mr. and Mrs. Harris settled some 10 miles southwest of Linkville, in the later Keno vicinity, with the Fulkersons removing to Langell Valley in 1872. Also John Corbell, father of Mrs. Amy Lenz, and John Scheffauer, who bought the Hot Springs property from Arthur Langell. The latter shortly thereafter becoming the first settler in Langell Valley, at first known as "Langell's Valley."

"More settlers came in 1869. At the close of that year there were, possibly, 100 people living within the boundaries of the present Klamath county. This settlement of 1869, was due, largely, to the ending of the Snake Indian War following the successful campaign of General Crook...Among the new comers this year were George S. Miller, who drove in a band of cattle and located at Lost River gap; later moving to Langell Valley. Thomas J. Brattain, who settled near Linkville that year and moved to the Bonanza neighborhood (near the Hot Springs in Langell Valley) the following season; William J. Horten, Amon Shook, and several sons who located near the Stears ranch; Francis Smith, Ed Penning and John S. Shook who took claims in and named Alkali (later Yonna) valley (In those days, Bonanza seems to have been considered part of Yonna Valley — Editor); Benjamin Hall and a small party who found homes in Langell's valley; ... Silas Kilgore ... who first located southwest of Linkville.

"Some definite idea of the population of Klamath county in 1870 may be gained from the fact that the election in June of that year there were cast in the precinct of Jackson, lying east of the mountains, including present Lake and Klamath counties, 32 votes (men only)."

Further information on the early settlement of the Langell Valley region has been located in the U.S. General Land Office sur-
vey of Township 40 South, Range 13 East, dated September 29, 1871, and made by Turner and Howard. It locates the "Vincent" (Vinson) house as being east of the present St. Barnabas Church, possibly in the grove of poplars across the road south of the Wilfred Noble repair shop; the "Brattins" (Thomas J. Brattain) house as probably located on or near the location of the old Harry Martin or Earl Kent place, presently owned by Walter Smith, Jr., but now burned; the Stowe house as probably located on the south side of the present West Side road, approximately one mile east of the Brattain house; Langell’s field of approximately 100 acres, adjoining the present road and on both sides of the road leading into the old Langell ranch buildings; and, north of Langell’s field, approximately ½ mile, but sitting back from the present paved road nearly ¼ mile, north-east of the little round butte, was Duncan’s house (probably Henry C.’s first homesite in the valley).

Another Land Office survey of October 27, 1871 by Turner & Howard, also indicates there were two houses in Poe Valley at that time, Horton’s in Section 22, and Poe’s in Section 36, both in Township 39 South, Range 11½ East. The survey further indicates fair sized fields in cultivation.

Other General Land Office surveys, some as early as 1868 do not indicate settlement of any kind in any portion of the valley, although the location of several emigrant or miners roads are given.

Again quoting the History of Central Oregon: “During the three years preceding the outbreak of the Modoc War, 1870, ’71 and ’72, settlement was quite vigorous, although when the war came there were not to exceed 400 men, women and children, possibly not over 250, in what is now Klamath county. Data is not available to give the names of all these settlers, but a few who lived in the county for many years and became identified with the county’s history in after years have been brought to our notice (Only those who became associated with Langell, Poe and Alkali Valleys will be listed here – Editor).

In 1870 came J. P. Roberts, James Taylor, Joseph Swingle, and Benjamin Stout. In 1871 W. M. Roberts and Henry C. Duncan. The year 1872 brought George McDonald, Isaac Wilson, Thomas Wilson and I. P. Chandler.”

On July 27, 1871 Jesse Applegate wrote a letter from Ashland, Oregon to A. B. Meacham, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon. The letter in part follows:

“I have today reached this place after making the tour of Lost River and the rest of the Modoc country, and its inhabitants both white and red, are in a high state of excitement... Hence the settlers are greatly exasperated not only against the Indians, but those in authority whose duty they conceive it to be to protect them from such dangers and exactions.

“One settler (Mr. Miller) of Langell’s Valley I met returning from Ashland where he had taken his family for safety, declared his purpose in returning was to raise a company of settlers (which he said he could do easily) to make war upon the Indians and if the Agents interfered in favor upon them also. That the settlers had been for two seasons annoyed and their women and children kept in terror by the Indians. That their petitions for protection had been wholly disregarded both by the Agents and the military, until the Indians having grown confident by impunity had become so impudent and menacing that the state of terrorism in which the settlers lived was no longer endurable and they were going to take their defense into their own hands.

“At the head of Langell’s Valley (as we had wagons and a band of cattle) some 10 or 15 Indians, all fully armed, mistaking us for immigrants, came charging into our camp evidently aiming to intimidate us into compliance with their demands for food, ammunition &c. This band was headed by Capt. Jim (Black Jim – Editor), 2nd to Capt. Jack, a very saucy, impudent fellow, but, possessing good sense, when he found who we were he seemed very anxious to discuss the situation, and seemed to suffer to an equal degree the anxiety and fear manifested by the set-

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"I know you will excuse me for my anxiety on this subject when I inform you that two of my sons and my grandson are in the extreme frontier of the Lost River country, having their all invested in a band of cattle for which they are now cutting hay on Clear Lake, and that duty requires my own return to that vicinity tomorrow, not however near enough to them to render them any assistance if attacked.

Very truly yours, Jesse Applegate."

Next in sequence, the History of Central Oregon gives a list of "the signers of a petition by citizens of Klamath county, which was presented to A. B. Meacham, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and General Canby, commanding the Department of Columbia, presented in January, 1872, protesting Modoc molestations and atrocities, and asking their removal to the Reservation containing the following names of residents of the above mentioned three valleys: I. N. Shook, James H. Calahan, Simpson Wilson, Thomas Wilson, Frank Heffling, David P. Shook, James Vinson, T. J. Brattain, G. S. Miller, H. Duncan, D. C. Kilgore, A. C. Modie, Joseph Langell, C. H. Swingle, G. B. Van Riper, Willis Hall, I. C. Turnidge, E. Hall, and H. Hall. Three other names, Edwin Crook, C. A. Miller and P. H. Springer signed the petition but their exact residence, if in the "Cloverleaf Valleys," is unknown. Twenty other citizens located in the Klamath Basin also signed the petition.

On February 28, 1948 George Masten Miller told this writer of events which took place at his father's (George S. Miller) ranch on Miller Creek prior to the Modoc War as he remembered them (See Klamath Echoes No. 1, page 13). Nearly five years of age at the time, Mr. Miller never returned to the ranch after the war, however, the family remained in Linkville until 1878 or '79 after which they moved to the Willamette Valley. Mr. Miller could remember the names of Langell, Hall, Brattain, Stowe, Goodlow, Vinson and Buckmaster. The Vinsons lived straight across the valley from the Miller ranch, later to become the Charles Swingle home. It is the writer's opinion that some of these names became familiar to Mr. Miller as a boy around Linkville, often hearing them mentioned in conversations or repeated at later dates by his father. He did definitely remember seeing "lights across Langell Valley, tiny, lonesome and far away, like stars."

The Jacksonville Democratic Times of June 22nd, 1872 in part wrote: "The citizens of the Klamath country met at Linkville on June 18th, 1872 to make the preliminary arrangements for the Fourth of July celebration (The first ever held in the Klamath country, whose 100th anniversary was held July 4, 1972 - Editor). On motion, George Nurse was called to chair, and O. C. Applegate to the pen.

"On motion, a committee on general arrangements was appointed, consisting of the following Langell Valley residents: John T. Fulkerson, S. W. Kilgore, Henry Duncan and F. Heffling..."

In 1909, when a Pioneer Society was formed in Klamath County, O. A. Stearns wrote a series of historical sketches concerning early history of the area. The second article (Klamath Republican, December 19, 1909), "Rescue of Mrs. Brotherton and Children," in a condensed form will follow:

On the night of November 30, 1872, the second night following the outbreak of the Modoc War, seven men, John Burnett, Charles Monroe, George Flock, Jack Wright, Joseph Suds (or Seeds), O. A. Stearns and Ivan Applegate, under the leadership of the latter, "left Linkville to warn the settlers of Upper Lost river, Langell's valley and Clear lake of their danger."

Reaching Galbraith's cabin at Lost River Gap, near the location of Dr. Roenicke's home, they met Mrs. Boddy and her daughter, Mrs. Schirra who had just arrived in their flight over the mountains from their home at Tule Lake. Continuing up Lost River the seven men stopped at the Horton ranch but found no one at home. (According to the
History of Klamath County, page 390, Horton family biography: “All supplies had to be hauled from Jacksonville, Oregon and Redding, California. When the men would go after supplies the women who remained at home would go out and sleep in the sage brush to be safe from the Indians who were plentiful and none too friendly.” Here they bedded down in a haystack for a short rest.

The next house reached was the Vinson place in Lower Langell Valley, from which they pushed on to Arthur Langell’s ranch. “Here we were joined by Mr. Langell and David Kilgore and rode across and up the valley to the ranch of the brothers Isaac and Thomas Wilson.

“Seeing an unusual crowd of horsemen approaching, all the women and children ran out in front of their log cabins to learn what it all meant, and when informed that it was best for them to gather up their effects as speedily as possible and join the other settlers at some common point where they could be safe from attack, they were truly alarmed and at once began preparations to leave. Above this place there were only two or three bachelors, whom we did not find at home, and proceeding on we reached the Clear lake ranch about sundown. Here were congregated the families of Jesse Applegate who was in charge of the enterprise for Jesse D. Carr and Richard Hutchinson…”

According to George M. Miller some of the settlers forted up for a time at the Miller place before making their run for Linkville.

Only recently the writer has been permitted, thanks to Donald Philpott, to read and copy the unpublished “Pioneering Life of Mrs. John T. (Ellen Hiatt) Fulkerson.” It is an excellent reminiscence of early life in the Klamath Basin and Langell Valley and will be published in entirety in a future issue of Klamath Echoes.

In her reminiscences, Mrs. Fulkerson wrote: “The next day we got word (Probably from the O. A. Stearns group, as previously recorded – Editor) that the settlers should congregate and fort up, so we went to the ranch of Mr. Isaac Wilson in the upper end of Langell Valley, four families of us, and built a fortress around the house, and the government sent in four soldiers to act as guards. Most of the women and children were very nervous, uneasy, and scared. There were about fifteen children at this place. Nothing further developed. No Indians showed up to molest us but the troops prepared to meet them if they came. After two weeks passed and nothing happened, we went back to our home and immediately made preparations for an attack by taking up a portion of the floor and digging a trench from beneath the house back under a high ridge and dug out an underground room so that if the Indians came back and burned our house we could escape by this means. We made this in such a way that we could have an outlook hole and a place to shoot through if the Indians came.

We provided it with a stock of food also. Nothing further took place until Christmas Eve when our troubles began again. It was sitting by the fireplace making a few Christmas things for the children and sewing a rag doll for our little girl, Sadie May, when twelve volunteers rode up to the door. We went out and invited them in but they declined saying their mission was to warn the settlers to move out to Linkville to fort up. Two of them remained and the rest continued to the different places on the same errand.

“The whole neighborhood, twelve families (George M. Miller also remembered and told of this flight – Editor), congregated at our place and soon after four o’clock started for Linkville. On our way down a long sloping hillside (The original West Side Langell Road followed the base of the foothills north from the old Langell ranch to near the site of the later day Vinson school, where it headed northeast toward the Big Springs. This road ran about midway between Lost River and the present West Side paved road, or, about a mile east of the latter. It came through a gap in the hills due south of the Bonanza cemetery, as platted by the General Land Office survey of 1868, and perhaps was the route traveled by
at fire and ordered where our leader called a halt. Then he told us we could go directly to Linkville by way of the main road (down Lost River) but the Indians could head us off and trap us in the Gap and on a different route and gain our objectives without perhaps any more trouble with them. Some of the people objected but he insisted, saying 'I'm a squaw man and I know the ways of the Indian. You take my advice and follow me and I'll lead you out of this.' So they finally decided to let him lead us out the way he wanted to and we camped that night in Poe Valley (wrong, it would have been Alkali Valley) at John Shook's place and the next night we camped at Swan Lake after a drive of twenty miles (Probaby at Brookside, the old Lucian Applegate Ranch)... From Swan Lake we traveled over the mountains through rain, snow, and mud a distance of fifteen miles, escorted by this armed force (O. C. Applegate and about 25 Klamath and Warm Springs Indians)... We arrived at Linkville that evening (via the original Marine Barracks and the Old Fort Road)."

Little of note seems to have happened in Langell Valley during the Modoc War except the looting of the deserted homes by stray bands of Indians or renegade whites. However, near the end of the war, Upper Langell Valley saw considerable activity. And, since there seems to be considerable confusion as to the location of Captain Jack's capture, that event will be treated in more or less detail.

After the battle of Dry Lake, May 10, 1873 the Modocs retired to Big Sand Butte, quarreled among themselves, split up and scattered to the four winds. By the 22nd some of the Modocs sent word they were ready to surrender, and it was learned that Jack and his party had split from the others. Jack's band, thirty-eight in all, was actually divided into several groups and families.

When Bogus Charley, Steamboat Frank, Hooker Jim and Shacknasty Jim gave themselves up to Col. Davis they told Army officials, after talking it over among themselves, they thought Jack would be at Willow Creek Canyon.

Capt. Perry's First Squadron, Jackson's troop and Capt. Hasbrouck's mounted artillery battery were sent to Applegate's ranch at Clear Lake at once. Then on Tuesday, May 27th, the four defected Modocs spent the day scouting south of Tule Lake and past Horse Mountain in the direction of Clear Lake. The following day they approached to within a quarter mile of the suspected camp site of Jack on Willow Creek. They talked with him and with Scarfaced Charley. Later, on their way back to Tule Lake they met Captains Jackson and Hasbrouck, who told them to wait at Applegate's, as Davis would be there soon.

On Thursday, May 29th, the soldiers, after reaching Applegate's were made ready for an attack on the Modocs, who were now known to number but twenty-four. On reaching a point three miles from Jack's camp, the soldiers were divided into three detachments. And later, when the Modocs were on the point of surrendering, Steamboat Frank's gun accidentally discharged and they scattered to the four winds.

On Friday, May 30th, everything had to be done over, the Modocs had to be discovered and assembled in groups of two or three. Most of the Indians had disappeared in the direction of Yainax. Their trail was followed through the high country north of Clear Lake and down the rocky slopes leading into Langell Valley.

They were finally located in a small canyon east of Upper Langell Valley (Probably present Copeland Canyon, directly south of Miller Creek Canyon, and once pointed out as Black Jim Canyon by Sykes Hamaker, since, according to him, that was the location of Black Jim's capture. This event
took place a few days after Captain Jack’s capture.) Jack was located, and contacted, after which he asked for food and clothing, promising that all Modocs would surrender in the morning. To reassure the Modocs, the soldiers pulled back to the Wilson ranch in Langell Valley some five miles away (approximately two miles northeast of Malone Bridge on the East Langell Valley Road.)

By Saturday morning, May 31st, it was found that Jack had again pulled out. The other Modocs, however, surrendered, and were taken to the soldiers camp near Lost River. The next morning they were conducted to Col. Davis at the Applegate ranch on Clear Lake.

The next day, Sunday, June 1st, 1873 it was discovered that Jack had doubled back to his hideout on Willow Creek. It appears Major Trimble was in charge of searching troops this morning and accidentally ran onto Jack’s trail about ten miles from camp (*The Modocs and Their War* by Keith A. Murray, pp. 259-268).

A recent book, not publicly printed, "The Modoc War, 1872-73, Lava Beds National Monument," by Erwin N. Thompson, Division of History, Office of Archeology and History Preservation, October 1, 1967, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, quite thoroughly covers the closing hours of the Modoc War and in part will here be quoted. The information comes from documents in government files, hereto-fore unavailable to the average person. A copy of this book is located in the Klamath County Museum Library.

Capt. Perry on June 1st, reached a point where Willow Creek canyon “turned a sharp angle to the left.” There he approached the rim of the canyon, and stood on a ledge projecting well out, where he saw “on the opposite bank of the ravine and about a hundred yards to my left an Indian dog suddenly appear at the top of the ravine, and just as suddenly an arm appeared and snatched the dog out of sight.” Perry felt that the “coveted prize” was his. The final drama was about to be enacted. His men realized it too and lined the canyon wall to witness the events on the other side.

One man present, Brady, in reporting the event wrote: "It is difficult to determine how much of this description should be taken literally. Perry, as squadron commander was interested in acquiring as much credit as possible for capturing the ‘coveted prize’. He was on the wrong side (North) of the creek for that – although it would be he who wrote the official report, not Trimble. In his account he says his scouts talked with Captain Jack before Trimble reached the scene. However, Sergeant McCarthy’s description is given preference here, because I consider him more accurate.”

Sergeant McCarthy was in a detachment consisting of Captain Trimble, a citizen (Putnam), two Warm Springs, himself as sergeant, a corporal, and 14 privates. This patrol moved along the tableland south of Willow Creek, carefully searching for evidence of the Modocs. “We had been thus detached about an hour and were taking a short cut to avoid a promontory or bend on our left.” They might have passed by the bend, but Captain Trimble told McCarthy to send a man to examine it and the man, an old soldier named Shay, found a Modoc on the point who had been so intent watching the troops moving on the North side that he was cut off before he knew it and surrendered. Two Warm Springs disarmed the prisoner who was Humpy Joe, a half-brother of Captain Jack. The troops immediately dismounted and started to rush forward in a skirmish line. But the Warm Springs warned them not to be hasty; patience was more important than aggressiveness at this critical moment. The soldiers “set down out of sight of anybody in the cañon, but within a few yards of Jack’s hiding place, Humpy
Joe asked to speak to Fairchild. Putnam informed him that Fairchild was on the other side of the canyon, and asked where Jack was. The prisoner replied that Jack was hidden in the canyon bottom. Putnam reminded Joe that the troops surrounded the Modocs and urged him to call Jack telling him to come up. Sergeant McCarthy later wrote, "After some parley Jack came up on our side, handed his gun to Jim Shay, shook hands with him and surrendered himself."

The rest of Jack's group — or two men, two boys, three women and some small children — then came out of the canyon. It was a sad sending for this man who with less than 70 men had defeated the army repeatedly for seven months. Sergeant McCarthy was a little surprised when he saw the long sought warrior. "he looks rather younger than I thought he was. Altogether he is only a passable looking buck and don't at all look the character."

... Meanwhile Trimble and Perry escorted their prize prisoner to Davis' headquarters at Applegate's. The prisoners who had been captured in Langell Valley had already reached the ranch and were quartered in a corral. Jack and his family joined them.

That evening, June 1, Davis ordered shackles put on the legs of Captain Jack and Schonchin John. The chiefs were greatly humiliated by this, but there was nothing they could do about it. Of his surrender Jack had little to say..."

For all practical purposes the Modoc War was now over, in so far as the Clear Lake and Langell Valley country was concerned. And the stage was set for renewed settlement by the white pioneers.

One of the best sources for names of settlers who arrived during the next few years is the Central Oregon History, page 968, which gives a list of all the taxpayers in later Klamath County and the gross value of their property for the year 1875, as taken from the Lake County assessment roll. Only known settlers of the Cloverleaf Country will be given:

J. J. B. Smith ........................................ $ 95
Louis Land ........................................ 3175
C. Horsten (Horron?) ............................. 1540
N. Walter ........................................ 591
Shook & Walter .................................... 300
John Shook ......................................... 10
Henry Vinson ..................................... 3135
Robert Taylor .................................... 1400
S. D. Whitmore ................................... 410
G. B. Van Riper ................................ 1820
George S. Miller ................................ 2630
F. Heffling ......................................... 1207
George McDonald ................................ 830
Thomas Wilson ................................... 3973
N. S. Goodlow ..................................... 480
Simpson Wilson ................................... 680
N. Fisher ........................................... 80
William Lockie ................................... 1550
J. Buckmaster ..................................... 180
E. Kilgore .......................................... 811
D. C. Kilgore ....................................... 200
James Kilgore ..................................... 350
S. W. Kilgore ....................................... 350
R. Buckmaster ..................................... 80
Coleman & Stoddard ................................ 250
Joseph Russ (Ross), Ida E. ...................... 4100
H. White (Thomas E.) ............................ 3205
Albert Modie ....................................... 500
S. N. Hazen .......................................... 357
John T. Fulkerson ................................ 584
Arthur Langell ..................................... 9210
J. Langell .......................................... 500
J. Hiatt ............................................. 394
Ben Hall ............................................ 1790
I. N. Shook ......................................... 2112
D. P. Shook .......................................... 200
A. Shook ............................................ 200
William Roberts ................................... 3394
W. H. Horton ....................................... 1640
I. P. Chandler ..................................... 868
L. M. McWharton ................................... 298

**Langell Valley Post Offices**

On December 11, 1871 three post offices, Linkville, Yainax, and Langell's Valley were established east of the Cascade Mountains in what was then Jackson County, later Lake and now Klamath.
There was one drawback, however, no mail route then served this part of the country and did not for almost seven months. History has always informed us that Silas Kilgore was awarded the first mail contract to begin July 1, 1872 from Ashland to Lake City in Surprise Valley, California. New information has been located in the Democratic Times of February 3, 1872 which states: “Goose Lake Mail Route. We learn by the Washington correspondence of the Eugene Journal of December 28 and January 3rd, that at the request of Senator Corbett, the Postmaster General has authorized O. A. Stearns and Wm. Angle to carry the mail, by special contract, for one year from the 1st of July, once a week over the route from Ashland, via Link River and Langell’s Valley to Lake City, California with a branch from Link River to Sprague River Valley. The correspondent thinks $4,200 per annum is the compensation.”

Whether Stearns and Angle ever actually carried mail over this route is unknown, or whether Silas W. Kilgore took over under a sub-contract. However, Kilgore seems to have carried this mail until 1875 when Garrett and Hatton took over.

“Langell’s Valley” post office, established nearly four years before the Bonanza office, was first located in the Arthur Langell home on the west side of Langell Valley nearly five miles from the head, or southern end with Arthur Langell as postmaster.

On December 15, 1873 John T. Fulkerson became the postmaster with the office in his home, located on what is known as the Harry Martin or Earl Kent property, but now owned by Walter Smith, Jr. Mrs. Ellen Fulkerson, according to her reminiscences, was the acting postmaster for the next 13 years.

Marshall T. Orr became the third postmaster, February 26, 1886, when the Fulkersons sold their ranch and moved to a new location in Langell Valley. The post office seems to have moved back to the Langell ranch, for whom Orr worked, or to Orr’s home which was located nearby to the south of Langell’s home.

Next in order came Amy Kilgore, August 24, 1889 with the post office probably located about two miles northwest of the Hot Springs on her husband Edward’s homestead which was later deeded to Levi Broadsword, and once known as the A. B. Brown ranch.

Then on March 5, 1890 Elmer Wilson became the postmaster with the office probably located in his father’s home, later the Bill Campbell swamp or hay ranch, some 3 1/2 miles northwest of Malone Bridge on the West Side Road.

Finally James Malone became the Langell’s Valley postmaster on November 21, 1890 with the office moved to his home on the east side of Lost River at Malone Bridge. On November 16, 1924 the name of the post office was changed to “Langell Valley”. After his appointment Malone held the office nearly 40 years, until March 15, 1930 when it was closed to Bonanza and rural route no. 1 began to serve the area.

James Malone, postmaster of “Langell’s Valley” changed to Langell Valley in 1924.
Langel Valley post office, James Malone was the postmaster for 40 years (1890-1930). Everett Malone is the boy in the doorway.

Meanwhile, with the population of Langel Valley increasing and the only post office “Langel’s Valley”, moving southward from the Fulkerson - Kilgore ranches, a demand arose for local service on the east and northern portion of the valley. Therefore, on August 3, 1887 a new post office of Haynesville was established with Joseph K. Haynes as postmaster. The new post office was located at the David Haynes home and Mrs. David (Elizabeth) Haynes seems to have been the acting clerk. At about the same time Munroe Haynes, a brother, started the original Haynesville store which was also located in the David Haynes home. The Haynes home was located approximately ¾ of a mile due north of the forks of the road at the later day William Campbell home.

Shortly thereafter, on February 17, 1885, Simpson Wilson platted the townsite of Haynesville, now the location of the Louis and Gary Randall stock loading chutes, and the post office was moved there on August 4, 1891 with Wilson becoming postmaster, and possibly also a storekeeper. The post office occupied along with the small store, the log building, still standing behind the Randall stock pens.

At a somewhat later date (at least from 1903 to 1909, according to Florence Horn) John Bradley, a bachelor, ran a store in a small building slightly to the northeast of the Wilson building. This building also faced east. It may be that Bradley started his store about the time Simpson Wilson ceased his chores as postmaster and store owner in 1894. However problematical these earlier dates, the end of the Bradley store seems to be in late 1909, after which he removed his enterprise to Bonanza where he is known to have been by early 1910.

Returning to January 2, 1894, we find that John F. Wizner became postmaster on that date with his daughter Jenny as “clerk”. On December 13, 1894 the name of the post office was changed to Lorella in honor of Mrs.
Old "Hainesville", later known as Haynesville, as existing in 1955. The central building, still standing, was probably built by Simpson Wilson about 1891 or before. Bill Campbell, left, and Sykes Hamaker.

Lorella Wizner. At the same time the post office was moved from Haynesville, which evidently had not “boomed”, to the Wizner home approximately 1 1/2 miles north of Haynesville.

David Campbell, the father, became the next postmaster on August 25, 1898 with the office moved to a little building back of his home, where a clump of rose bushes still mark the site behind the Oscar Campbell home. The post office remained stationary here for a number of years.

Then on May 4, 1910 Emanuel J. Pool became the postmaster with the office moved into his small store at the base of the hill immediately east of the Lorella Full Gospel Church but on the opposite or north side of the road. This seems to have been the first "Lorella Store".

Cash receipts for the post office in those early days were nothing to brag about. Reports are available, for every two-year period beginning July 1st, and follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1887-1889</td>
<td>$109.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889-1891</td>
<td>$132.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891-1895 (4 years)</td>
<td>$226.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895-1897</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897-1899</td>
<td>$154.97</td>
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<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<td>1905</td>
<td>$165.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>$146.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next, Moses James having bought out Pool’s interest in the tiny Lorella Store, became postmaster on December 5, 1911. He then seems to have moved the enterprise across the road, to a four acre tract on the south side. At some unestablished date after this move, a Walter Leverett became interested in the store in some manner, and “two kids”, Jess Cogburn and Ray Warford, ran the business for a short time. A man by the name of Butler may also have held a mortgage on the property. It was during the tenure of the
“two kids” that Willard Noble was a member of a nearby threshing crew that helped fight a fire that started on the property. The house burned but the store was saved.

It was after this probably, that Fordney, son-in-law of James became associated in the Lorella Store. His wife, Iona (James) Fordney, became the postmaster on October 15, 1913. The firm of James and Fordney enlarged the store which then became a flourishing country store.

James and Fordney ran the store until late 1927, when they sold to Charles N. Bassett. Mrs. Ruth E. Stewart became postmaster on January 9, 1928 but was replaced by Charles N. Bassett on May 25, 1928.

Bassett in turn sold to the twin brothers, Willard and Wilfred Noble, known as the two “Bills”, in 1929, with Willard becoming postmaster May 11, 1929. Sometime thereafter the Nobles divided their interests, with Wilfred taking the sawmill business, while Willard assumed full charge of the Lorella Store. On March 19, 1930 the post office of Lorella was discontinued with all mail transferred to Bonanza, and a rural mail route instituted from that place. In late 1930 or early 1931 Willard Noble moved the store to the present location at the cross roads.

Willard continued in the store until 1936, but somewhere near the end (dates not agreed upon) his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George S. Noble conducted the business for a time.

In the meantime Mr. and Mrs. Claude Murray built a store at the Hot Springs on the west side of Langell Valley. There was also a hotel and bath houses located at the same place, owned by a Dr. Mosier from Grants Pass who operated there for a few years. Another unknown doctor was interested there at one time, and possibly even a third, who, with one of the Pepples, was captured by the Japanese at Wake Island in the Pacific at the beginning of the war.

Business proved to be insufficient for two stores located so near each other, so, in 1936, the Murrays bought the Lorella store from Noble, and combined the two stocks in a better store at the Lorella location, and in addition, added a tavern.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Forcier next bought the property from Murray about 1946, who in turn sold to Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeBel in 1955.

After running the store several years, the DeBels sold to Virgil Boomer, who may have continued in business about two years, then was forced to turn the store back to the DeBels.

Lorella as it appeared on April 28, 1972.

- Helen Helrich
Finally, on December 31st, 1967 the Lorella Store and Tavern was sold by Mrs. Stella DeBel Arneson to Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Nichols, who have continued in the business down to the present time.

Langell Valley Schools

The schoolhouse of our pioneer settler was perhaps the most important single institution of any community. It served not only as schoolhouse, but church, community center and meeting place for various organizations.

Let it be remembered that (according to the History of Central Oregon, 1905, page 877) the law in Oregon at one time required that a three month term of school be held, before a district could be organized to secure county funds. These schools, during that period were financed by public subscription. Therefore, when noting the dates of establishment for the various schools, it is well to remember that all had been in existence for at least one term (three months) previously.

These terms varied in their times of existence. Some ran in the fall only, some in the spring and some even during the summer months, but few if any, Bonanza being an exception, in those earlier days, ever ran during the winter when snows made travel of any kind almost impossible.

The first school established in the Cloverleaf Valleys’ area, was that at Bonanza, which will be covered in the Bonanza section of this Annual.

The second school in the area was known as “Langell Valley”. It came into existence while present Klamath County was still in Lake County, and was designated as District No. 11. It seems to have qualified to receive county funds for the 1876 term, spring or fall, whichever, therefore a school must have been in existence a term or two before, 1875 and possibly 1874.

This little school, built of logs, sat in the swamp lands in the center of Lower Langell Valley on the east side of Lost River. Its legal description is the center of the Northwest 3/4 Section 11, T. 40 S., R. 13 E. We have sufficient proof that there was such a schoolhouse in existence, three different items being presented here:

1. Mrs. John T. (Ellen) Fulkerson in her reminiscences of 1935 wrote: “The fall of 1873 and the early spring of 1874 there were quite a number of families who came into Langell Valley and took up homesteads all around us, and as there were quite a number of children of school age, we had to establish a school district and build a schoolhouse about four miles from our place (the distance was probably figured by way of the Vinson ford across Lost River). The schoolhouse served as a church as well as a school…”

2. The Ashland Tidings, May 26, 1877 reported: “Eight pupils at Langell school. Mrs. Hutchison, teacher, rides horseback because of the swamp, the schoolhouse being located on an island.”

3. On a two-day tour of Langell Valley in the mid-1950’s, Sykes Hamaker and Bill Campbell pointed out to this writer the location of the original little log school. An old barn marks the approximate spot today, one fourth mile east of the Gale Road and about one half mile southwest of the Walter Smith Jr. ranch buildings. Further, at some unknown date, the schoolhouse was moved to a location on the East Side Road, between old Haynesville and Miller Creek. It was then on Simpson Wilson property, and clumps of Bouncing Betty still growing beside the road, mark this second location of the little log school.

Actually, after 1877 we have no further record of the original school, how long it remained in use or when replaced. The only hint comes from Mrs. Fulkerson’s reminiscences when she states she and her children moved to Bonanza where four of her children attended school “from November 1, 1883 to the spring of 1884” after which they returned to the ranch.

Mrs. Fulkerson further states that in 1884 “we established a new school district, and built another schoolhouse which was only
two miles from our place (known at various times as Lookout, Vinson and Lower Langell Valley)."

In the meantime, on October 17, 1882 Klamath County was created out of Lake County, but did not function as such until November 9, 1882 when an organization meeting was held in Linkville.

Shortly thereafter, three schools were organized to replace the original Langell Valley No. 11 school district of Lake County:

1. Langell Valley, District No. 10 in the Klamath County system was established January 12, 1884 with James Malone, clerk, Isaac Findley, D. C. Kilgore and George McDonald as the board members.

   According to information supplied by Mrs. Louise (Flackus) Kilgore Smoe, this school was first located east of Lost River. Her first husband Silas Warren Kilgore, always told that the first school he attended in Upper Langell Valley was located on a little ridge north of the present East Side Road, between the Kilgore and Doctor Hall (later Horn) ranches. Ella Walker was the teacher. Later it was established in a log schoolhouse at a location just a short distance west of Malone Bridge on the south side of the West Side Road. Whether the log school was moved or built new at this location is unknown. Later still a board schoolhouse was built slightly farther west. Then in later years, according to Florence Horn, another schoolhouse was built slightly over a mile northeast of Malone Bridge and again on the south side of the road. It was on the county school records as late as 1930, after which the children were bused to Bonanza under the County Unit system.

   District No. 10, Langell Valley, was annexed to No. 12, Fairview, on March 30, 1891, according to County School Superintendent P. L. Fountain’s records. On March 30, 1895 it was re-established as a separate district according to Mrs. C. N. Gordon, then County School Superintendent. In 1905 the board members were, Geo. Deal, chairman, H. E. Duncan and Jas. Malone, with O. R. Stewart, clerk.

2. Fairview, District No. 12 at the Bouncing Berry site, was established in Klamath County Records on July 25, 1885 with W. H. Copeland, clerk, Dave Campbell, Simpson Wilson and Frank Swingle as board members.

   When the school was moved from the log house at Fairview, to its later location north of old Haynesville is unknown. Also unknown is whether the school was ever known as Haynesville before it became Lorella. The post office of Haynesville came into existence in 1887 but seems to have been located at the several postmasters’ homes. Then on February 17, 1888 the townsite of “Hainesville” was recorded. It would seem logical for the school to have been moved sometime during the 1888 and 1891 period, to be part of the future metropolis of “Hainesville”, which we now know never fulfilled its expectations.

   Further, the arrival in 1885 of the rather large Campbell and Bussey families may have had something to do with the moving of the school. The why, when and what happened remains questionable, but we do know the name Lorella as a post office came into use on December 13, 1894.

   A board schoolhouse was first built just a few yards northeast of the later brick
Old Lorella school (right) at "Hainesville", and the new brick school just completed in 1924.

- Florence Horn


- Klamath County Museum
school at Lorella, District No. 12. Later, the brick schoolhouse was built during the summer of 1924 by Charles D. Withers for $3,771.00. The original barn still stands between the brick school and the site of the former board schoolhouse.

In 1905 the board members were, W. H. Copeland, chairman, C. J. Swingle and E. R. C. Williams with W. H. Pankey, clerk. The school seems to have been closed by 1938, after which the children were bused to Bonanza. The old Lorella brick schoolhouse still serves as a residence.

3. On February 12, 1887 District No. 14, Lookout (also known as Vinson and Lower Langell Valley) was established in Klamath County records with J. D. Hamaker, clerk, J. L. Offield, S. H. Patterson and L. Broadsword as the board members.

This old school stood near an old barn, still in existence, about one fourth mile east of the junction of the West Side and Teare Roads. Another present building approximately one half mile north on the right hand side of the Teare Road from the junction, is the remodeled remains of a later school.

The 1905 board consisted of A. H. Vinson, chairman, A. R. Brown and W. C. Thomas, with H. H. Burnham, clerk. This school seems to have closed after the 1925-26 season with the children being bused to Bonanza.

Somewhere around the 1910-1914 period there was a school at the north end of Pendland Flats (Pendleton?), about three miles north of Lorella. It ran for one or two years with a Miss or Mrs. Hammer the only teacher and some of the Caton children attended. Mrs. Alie (Cassie) Vinson lived nearby at one time.

On the west side of Langell Valley and some six or seven miles from the West Side-Poe Valley Roads junction sat the Bryant Mountain school, District No. 45. It began in 1914, running six months that first year. This school was established principally for the children of men who worked for the nearby Worlow sawmill. It seems to have passed out of existence about 1922 when the county unit system was founded.

Another school, District No. 52, some five miles north of Bonanza, was established in 1916. It was probably located near the Snyder and Kitts sawmill.
Beyond Goodlow Rim

Bordering Langell Valley and the Bonanza vicinities on the east is a high plateau country stretching to the Lake County line and beyond. It is bordered on the north by the old Klamath Indian Reservation and on the south by the California-Oregon State Line. This high region is in part separated from Langell Valley by the Goodlow Rim, and its continuation south of Miller Creek. Much of it is open rocky flats and timbered ridges, with the remainder lush grass meadows, watered and drained by several narrow meadow bordered streams. It was stock country, not farming country, although quantities of meadow hay was cut at times. Later, random homesteaders and timber claimers made their appearance, filing their claims as late as the early 1900's. To serve this thinly settled area, a few post offices and schools were established from time to time. Even a few crude sawmills made their appearance but lasted only a few years when the limited market was filled.

The territory can be divided into several areas of pioneer settlement. There is Dry Prairie, sometimes called Dry Valley, to the north, drained by Ben Hall Creek which joins Barnes Creek and others in Horsefly Valley, now partially submerged by Gerber Reservoir in the central section, and in turn drained by Miller Creek into Lost River. Both Dry Prairie and Horsefly Valley are watched over by Goodlow Mountain lying to the west above the rim of the same name.

Farther east, and snuggling against the Klamath-Lake County line is Barnes and Fishhole Valleys. Fishhole drains north into Sprague River near Bly, while Barnes Valley drains westward via Barnes Valley Creek into southern Horsefly Valley.

Farther to the south lies Willow Valley and its surrounding flats, all drained by the East Branch of Lost River, and the Rimrock (Grohs) Ranch, drained by Rock Creek, also a tributary of Lost River. Although the Rimrock Ranch lies in California it is
closely associated with Langell Valley. The entire area's history has been marred by several "range wars".

Three roads, with their many present day offshoots, lead into the area, and probably came in to existence in the 1870's. To the north the old Linkville and Lakeview Stage Road, running between Bonanza and Bly; in the center the Horsefly and Barnes Valley road, now compelled to detour around Gerber Reservoir; and to the south, the present State Line Road, closely approximating the original road.

Which community came into existence first is not definitely known, but Barnes Valley did have the first post office and first school.

Barnes Valley was named for this writer's great, great uncle, Capt. James Barnes, who fought in the Rogue River Valley Indian Wars of the 1850's. That he was in this vicinity at an early date is proven by an article in the Democratic Times of June 10, 1871 which states: "We noticed the jolly and familiar countenance of Capt. Barnes in town this week. The Captain has just returned from a somewhat lengthy stay in California (The State Line had not been definitely established at that time - Editor) to see about his cattle of which he has 'lots and cords' on Lost River."

Later Capt. Barnes settled in the Goose Lake country on the west side near the State Line. He ran hundreds of horses and cattle in the Drew's Valley - Dry Creek area and at one time owned considerable meadow land along Fishhole Creek near Bly, Oregon. The writer's mother, still living, was born in 1879 on the old Barnes Ranch, later owned by Venator.

According to U.S. postal records the first post office was called Loraton and was located in the center of Section 30, T. 39 S., R. 15 E. on Barnes Valley Creek. This description does not match with other information as to location. It was applied for simply as "Lora" on February 16, 1888, established April 9, 1888 and discontinued July 23, 1889 with Oliver P. McGee the only postmaster. The office was applied for with the claim of serving 40 people, the mail route being a continuation of No. 44307 from Bonanza to Haynesville.

The first school was established as Barnes Valley, District No. 21, on March 11, 1889. The district was formed out of the Bly, No. 9 District, and probably was in existence for the spring term of 1888.

By 1905 the school had been discontinued because of "no children". However, according to the Evening Herald, a district of Barnes Valley, District No. 50, was in existence for the year 1916.

According to Sykes Hamaker there was a small sawmill at Barnes Valley "across the creek from the 70 barn." He further located the Barnes Valley school as being "on the Ed Tull place, where the road first goes into the valley." One of the Pitts family was born on the "70 place" and Creed McKendrie of Lakeview once went to this school. Two teachers there were Minnie Bussey and Ida (Campbell) Gerber.

After a lapse of several months a new post office was petitioned for, to be called "Fairview". It was, however, established as "Vistillas" on May 17, 1890 with Edward S. Tull as postmaster. The post office was probably located in his home in the NE 1/4 of Section 14, T. 39 S., R. 15 E.

Thereafter, every few years, the office was shifted to a new location, probably in the current postmaster's home. The office further shifted between Klamath and Lake Counties several times. Following is a list of the postmasters as given by the National Archives:

Almon N. Lapham .................. October 7, 1897
Clara Bachelder .................. March 17, 1898
Almon N. Lapham .................. July 6, 1900
    (SE 1/4 Section 25)
    (Section 35)
Almon N. Lapham .................. July 6, 1900
    It was located in
    Lake County ................. August 31, 1900
    Albert B. Tull .................. August 4, 1902
Alex Stewart home below Goodlow Rim, about 1916. Located some 2 or more miles northeast of old Haynesville.


-Florence Horn
It was located in Klamath County, September 29, 1902. Charles Parmerlee located it in 1908. It was relocated in Lake County, August 24, 1908. Gilbert Lapham located it in 1918. Boyd M. Adams located it in 1931. Gilbert C. Lapham located it in 1937. Boyd M. Adams located it in 1939. Daniel Frank Owen located it in 1940. The post office was established December 14, 1892, but was called Royston. It was discontinued August 6, 1908, when the mail was transferred to Bonanza. Lura E. White was the only postmaster although at least one other person served as assistant postmaster, while the Whites moved to Bonanza during the winter of 1908 while their children attended school there. Royston was a way-station and horse change on the Linkville-Lakeview stage line, route no. 73302.

Next in time, came the post office of Olette, located at the home of William T. "Horsfly" Wilson on Barnes Creek, near the present road around the north end of Gerber Reservoir. It was established March 25, 1892, with Wilson being the first postmaster. The post office was named by combining parts from the names of Wilson's daughter, Oleta and Letitia.

John M. Dillard became the postmaster on January 24, 1899, with the office in his home, located at his horse ranch on Miller Creek, about two miles southerly from Wilson's on what he called Horse Creek. The office was about two to three miles northeast of Gerber Dam, or about two miles north of the original Gerber homestead, now submerged. Dillard's homestead was much farther east in Middle Fishhole Valley on the south side.

Next Hypathia McKendree became postmaster on August 14, 1903, location unknown. The office of Olette was closed to Lorella on January 30, 1904. Different members of the Noble families served as mail carriers to Vistillas and Olette at times.

There may have been a Horsefly school, but where and over what period of time it existed is unknown. An undated article in the Herald & News, by Florence (Dillard) Ogle states that among the schools taught by a Bussey, was the Horsefly school.

Farther north, a post office to be called Agnes and located at Meadow Springs on the old stage road between Bonanza and Bly was applied for on September 2, 1892. It was claimed 40 persons would be served.
ing assured that the letter contained an order for wearing apparel accompanied by the necessary money, Mrs. ______ opened it.

"Her suspicions were well founded, but the order did not suit Mrs. ______ as none of the things enumerated would fit her. Accordingly she changed the order for articles of which she was in need, believing that the package would pass through the Roysron office. By some mistake the goods were sent to Mrs. Campbell over another mail route the substitution being thus discovered."

The husband was not tried, the grand jury reporting that they had failed to find a true bill of information against him. The wife, who had charge of the post office, was placed under $1,000 bail.

She was tried in Portland, Oregon before the U.S. District Court on June 30, 1908, and was sentenced to 30 days in Multnomah county jail and to pay a fine of $400.00.

She was allowed to plead guilty to only one count, opening a letter written by Mrs. Fred Campbell, Bly, Oregon, addressed to Weinstock, Ludbin & Company of San Francisco. Four charges of embezzlement were dismissed as full restitution had been made.

A school called Dry Prairie, District No. 24, was accepted into the county school system on November 2, 1891, which means it was probably first organized for the summer term of 1889 or 1890. The location of this school was on the southeastern side of Dry Prairie near Paddock Butte, in the NE ¼ of Section 23.

"Ninety Years of Klamath Schools" records the following: "In 1889, Ida Campbell taught a summer school of 5 months at Dry Prairie, with 23 pupils. Stella Campbell had her first teaching experience there in 1901. It was spring of the year, with snow still on the ground, when she rode on horseback from her home in Langell Valley, to make application for the position. It was 16 miles from her house to the ranch of J. B. Casey where she stayed overnight.

The next morning, Nova Casey and Bunn Casey and George Noble rode with her to the White Ranch (later Roysron) which was 6 or 8 miles from Casey's. Mr. White was chairman of the school board and made the decisions. Miss Campbell asked for $35 salary, but Mr. White would allow only $100 for the three month term, and teaching included janitor work.

"The term was June to August and the Walt Farrer family boarded the teacher for $12 per month, so she rode horseback 4 miles each day, and on weekends, the 16 miles home. The school was a one-room, unpainted building with one door. Unpainted double-desks and a blackboard were the equipment; no reference books. Water was carried from a little creek, distant about ¼ mile, in a bucket, and all drank from the same dipper. There were 5 pupils that year."

Dry Prairie was out of existence by 1905, "no children".

The Langell Family

Joseph Langell, born in Pictou, Nova Scotia, September 20, 1802 accompanied by a son Nathaniel, came west by way of the Horn in 1854 and settled on a donation claim on Rogue River in Jackson County, in 1860. Another son, Arthur Langell, had crossed the plains by ox team and located in Jackson County some time before.

Arthur Langell first settled near Linkville in the spring or summer of 1867 on the Hot Springs property (on Main Street, between the railroad and the Government canal). The following year, 1868, Joseph, Arthur and Nathaniel all settled in Langell Valley, eventually accumulating in excess of 4,000 acres, which they were to drain and reclaim. They, supposedly, were the first white settlers in the valley which resulted in it being named for them.

Nathaniel Langell was born in Nova Scotia, January 6, 1831. He married Loretta (or Doretta) Hensley June 1, 1858, who was born in Franklin County, Missouri, and crossed the plains in 1856.
After arriving in the Rogue River Valley Nathaniel took up a donation claim which eventually became an extensive holding. To this couple were born 10 children, three of whom resided in Klamath Falls at times, Mary L., wife of Charles Sumner Moore, and mother of Charles Langell Moore; Harry Langell and Arthur Thomas Langell. The Democratic Times of November 2, 1872 reported "that Nate Langell, age 42, is a member of the Oregon Legislature originally a Democrat but since 1864 a Republican representing Jackson County."

Joseph and Arthur remained in Langell Valley the remainder of their lives, but Nathaniel returned to Jackson County to operate his holdings there, driving as many as 2,000 head of cattle between Langell and Rogue River Valleys.

The Langells, Arthur and Nathaniel, in acquiring their holdings in Langell Valley secured one tract of 3,113.25 acres in October, 1875 from C. C. and Julia Beekman for $1,556.62 according to Klamath County records. (Cornelius C. Beekman, owner of the famous Beekman Bank on the Northwest corner of Third and California Streets in Jacksonville, Oregon, also served as agent for the world famous Wells-Fargo Express Co. The Beekman Bank is now an Oregon Historical Landmark.)

Sometime after October 6, 1878 and before 1882, Joseph Langell died in Langell Valley and may have been buried in the little West Side Cemetery, southwest of the St. Barnabas Church on land now owned by Walter Smith Jr. Then, according to the Tidings of December 29, 1882, "The remains of the father of Nat and Arthur Langell buried in Klamath County have been exhumed and brought to Jacksonville for re-interment."

Also in 1882, Nathaniel and Dorena Langell gave a Warrantee Deed to Arthur Langell, being their "interest in said lands which descended to Nathaniel Langell from his father Joseph Langell deceased."

In the meantime, at some unknown date, Arthur Langell had married Margaret _______. An only son, William Arthur Langell was born September 25, 1888 and five days later, September 30, 1888 the mother, Margaret, died. Her funeral was held in the old Fulkerson house, later Harry Martin place, so it would seem that she too, may have been buried in the nearby (less than ½ mile) West Side Cemetery.

Arthur Langell was killed September 7, 1894 by Frank Swingle, near a break in the fence of the Beekman property. The son, William Arthur, was living in Jackson County when he reached the age of 21 in 1909 and became the heir to the Langell holdings in Langell Valley.

Nathaniel Langell died at Grants Pass, Oregon in June, 1919 at the age of 88 years. Thomas Arthur Langell, one of the 10 children of Nathaniel and Loretta (or Doretta) Langell was born in Jacksonville, Oregon, February 10, 1866. He became a buckaroo in Langell Valley when only a boy, and was associated with the stock business there for many years. Thomas Arthur married Anna Chastain at Bonanza, November 5, 1896. They were the parents of three children. In 1936 Thomas Arthur discontinued stock raising and began buying and selling for some of the largest firms and outfits on the Pacific Coast, Gerber Brothers and Swanson and Son of Sacramento, and Miller & Lux and H. Moffet and Company of San Francisco.

The Vinson Family

The Vinson family settled in Langell Valley no later than 1870, possibly sometime during 1869, or, as it has been told, about the same time the Langells arrived, and the valley could as easily have been called "Vinson Valley". Elias and Phoebe Vinson took up a pre-emption claim which included land later known as the Pepple, now the Barrett place, as well as
that upon which the St. Barnabas Church is situated. Their house was located near or slightly east of the church, according to the U.S. General Land Office survey of 1871.

The Vinsons came across the plains from Missouri in 1855, to settle in the Rogue River Valley. They became the parents of at least four children, three boys and one girl, dates of birth and locations unknown except for one boy. That one, William Henry Vinson was born near Leavenworth, Platte County, Missouri, on September 15, 1850.

Henry attended the schools of Jackson County, Oregon where he resided until about twenty years of age. He then came to Langell Valley with his parents where he resided until 1903 when he moved to Medford, Oregon. He was married to Elmira Buckmaster on June 24, 1874. To this union were born four children, Annie on April 29, 1875, who never married; Phoebe, who married Stanley Vaughn; Reuben, who married Bertha Krauger, still living; and, Elias “Alie”, who married Cassie Davis.

Of the remaining children of Elias and Phoebe, the daughter Jane married _____ Stowe, whose home is shown on the 1871 G. L. O. survey as being slightly over one mile southeasterly from the St. Barnabas Church. She is buried in the Bonanza Cemetery and had at least one child, Ed, now deceased; James, who married Ida _____ and had one son, Fred; and David who married Etta Wilkins, she later marrying Bill Woods), and had two daughters, Elmira (Babe), and Lulu, who married Jonah Sparks, who worked at Clear Lake for Jesse D. Carr on the rock fences, and in turn had one daughter, Velma (Sparks) Nix, who related part of this biography. To David was deeded all the Vinson property adjoining and east of the Hot Springs by the various other members of the Vinson family. Doctor Hall was Lulu’s doctor when needed.

Henry Vinson at one time owned 120 acres where Wilfred Noble’s repair shop is now located, which extended eastward to the sharp turn in the Gale Road. Later he settled on what became his home ranch, now known as the Homer Roberts ranch. He purchased a considerable acreage at this location, which extended across Lost River nearly to the East Langell Valley Road. He had other holdings in the Goodlow Mountain, Dry Prairie, Bald Mountain (now Yainax Butte) area. This great stock enterprise included the raising of heavy draft horses, blooded saddle stock and young mules, using their own pedigreed stallions and jacks for breeding purposes. His cattle were Shorthorns and all the stock was run on the range during the spring and summer months, being returned to the “home ranch” to feed on the large stacks of hay put up by Indians hired by the Vinsons for ranch work in general.

It was during the pursuit of these range riding activities that the daughter, Annie, became an expert horsewoman when only a small girl. She once made a record horseback trip from Klamath Falls to Medford in one day. On January 4, 1909 she made a trip to San Jose, California by train, to recover three carloads of horses stolen from her father’s Langell Valley ranch.

Henry Vinson is supposed to have built the first frame house in Langell Valley, as well as being the proud possessor of the first buggy in the country, which was purchased in Eugene, Oregon. He died July 26, 1934 in Medford. His wife, Elmira, died September 26, 1936, also in Medford.

A suggestion to anyone saving a newspaper article of historical value: Take an added moment or so and write on the clipping, the name of the newspaper and its date. By so doing you will save about twenty-five percent of the value, otherwise it may be almost worthless or even completely so.

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Elmira (Buckmaster), Mrs. Henry Vinson
- Klamath County Museum

Pheba, daughter of Henry and Elmira Vinson.
- Klamath County Museum

Annie, daughter of Henry Henry and Elmira Vinson.
- Klamath County Museum

Alie and Reuben, sons of Henry and Elmira Vinson.
- Klamath County Museum
The Henry Vinson family: Standing, Pheba, Reuben, and Annie. Sitting, Elmira, Alie and Henry. - Velma Nix

Back row: James and David Vinson. Front row: Their wives, Ida (Frank), and Etta. - Velma Nix

Elias "Alie" Vinson - Velma Nix
The Hall Family

The Hall family moved to Langell Valley in 1869 (according to the History of Central Oregon), from the Scio, Linn County, Oregon vicinity. Icabod Hall, the father, according to the tombstone in the Hall Cemetery of Langell Valley, carved by his son Benjamin F., was born in July 1794 in Virginia, emigrated to Oregon by covered wagon in 1858 and died on April 8, 1882.

Icabod (no information is available regarding his wife), had six children, Benjamin F., unmarried so far as known, who filed on land just north of Miller Creek and died in Lane County, Oregon about 1910; Calvin; William Willis (1827-1902); Keziah; Nancy; and Edna or Edney. Descendants of Keziah and Edna married into the Findley, Malone, Swingle, Copeland and Cowley families of Langell Valley. The Hall and Wilson families were acquainted in the Willamette Valley before coming to Langell Valley.

When William Willis Hall and his wife Sarah Ann Deakin (1828-1883) also crossed the Plains to Oregon in 1858. They had four children, Gatsby 9, Rachel 8, William Icabod 6, and Nancy Ellen the youngest, 3 years of age. Except for Nancy Ellen it is not known whether any of these children ever lived in Langell Valley. After coming to Oregon, William Willis and Sarah Ann had two more children before coming to Langell Valley, Mary Jane and Ben Benjamin F. (2nd).

Nancy Ellen Hall was married to Simpson Wilson in Linkville on July 16, 1871 in the first white marriage to take place in what is now Klamath County but was then Jackson County. Their story has been told in Klamath Echoes No. 4.

Simpson and Nancy Ellen had eight children, all born in Langell Valley. The third child, Alice Irene, married George Deal, who at one time lived on the West Side near the south end of the valley. The sixth child, Sarah Margaret, born in 1885 was the mother of Fred Elvin Inlow who has supplied the information given on the Hall and Wilson families and a great deal more, not recorded here.

The Doctor John Hall of early Langell Valley times was no relation to the other Halls. He lived about one mile north of Malone Bridge and Dam, on what later became the Horn Ranch. He had two sons, Alec and Nick and may have at one time lived where Helleksons now live. For years he was the only doctor serving the Langell Valley - Bonanza area, or, until Dr. Stacey Hemenway settled at the latter place.

When Thomas Jefferson Wilson (3rd), a son of Simpson and Nancy Ellen, had his leg cut off by a mowing machine, it was Dr. Hall who amputated it twice to save his life and later fashioned an artificial limb which served for years. Thomas Jefferson (3rd) later married Matie McClellan whose relative John McClellan was a brother-in-law of H. C. Laws. Dr. Hall served both the Laws and Calavan families during their trying times when three young men were shot and killed in the family feud of 1882.

The Wilson Family

The Wilson families arrived in Langell Valley either in late 1869, or early 1870, probably the latter. There were two brothers, Thomas and Isaac, the former with four children, grown or nearly so, and the latter with six children, the oldest between ten and eleven years.

Thomas (Thomas Jefferson, 1st, according to relatives, but Thomas A. according to his tombstone) may have settled with his brother on the southeast side of the valley near what is now known as the Duncan place, on the later Sol Dewey ranch. However, his eventual home became what is now known as the Bill Campbell “Swamp” or “Hay” ranch. The house still standing there may have been built by Thomas and if so is probably the site of the Langell Valley's post office when operated by Elmer Wilson from March to November in 1890.
Rena (Wilson) Deal, daughter of Simpson and Nancy Ellen Wilson. - Florence Horn

Mary Elizabeth (Wilson) Mrs. George McDonald, daughter of Thomas, 1st, and sister of Simpson Wilson. She was the mother of three children, all born in the same house, but in three different counties, Jackson, Lake and Klamath. - Klamath County Museum

The 1921 Golden Wedding Anniversary of Simpson Wilson and Nancy Ellen Hall, the first couple married in Klamath County, July 16, 1871. All of their children, except one daughter, Pearle, were present. Back Row: Emma, Thomas (3rd), Chester and Margaret. Front Row: Mary, Simpson, Nancy Ellen and Rena. - Fred Elvin Inlow
Thomas Jefferson Wilson, 1st, and his wife Margaret Ann Dodson, had four children, Mary Elizabeth who married George McDonald, a nearby rancher (one mile south); Simpson who married Nancy Ellen Hall in the first white marriage in what later became Klamath County; Elmer, one time postmaster of Langell Valley, who also had another distinction. He was running the mowing machine which cut off the leg of a nephew (one of Simpson's children), Thomas Jefferson, 3rd; and, Thomas Jefferson, 2nd, who settled at the place now occupied by Frank Grohs. Thomas Wilson, 1st, buried as Thomas A. Wilson, died November 1, 1902, aged 76 years, 2 months. His wife Margaret A. died November 22, 1877, aged 56 years, 6 months. Both are buried in the Bonanza Cemetery, and Margaret A.'s grave seems to be one of the two oldest graves in that cemetery.

Simpson and Nancy Ellen homesteaded west of the East Langell Valley Road, near its junction with the State Line Road at the old Duncan ranch. Later Simpson acquired the land once known as the Bill Campbell ranch, now the Randall place, and laid out the town of Haynesville.

Simpson and Nancy Ellen had eight children, the fifth being Thomas Jefferson, 3rd, who lost his leg in the mowing machine accident; and, the sixth, Sarah Margaret, whose second child was Fred Elvin Inlow, who furnished all the Hall - Wilson family history.

Isaac Wilson and his wife Mary Caroline Copenhaver came to Langell Valley from Washington County, Oregon, where six children, Angelina, 1859; Charles, 1860 who was with the Laws boys when they were killed at the Rimrock Ranch in 1882; Elizabeth, 1863; William, 1866; Stanford, 1868; and Albert, 1869 had been born. Two more children were born in Langell Valley, George, 1870 and Martha, 1875.

Isaac Wilson seems to have lived on the east side ranch (the later Sol Dewey place) during his stay in the valley. He died at Baker, Oregon in 1903.

William T. “Horsefly” Wilson who lived in Horsefly Valley, north of the present Gerber Reservoir, was no relation to any of the Thomas and Isaac Wilson families.

The Kilgore Family

James and Mary (Dean) Kilgore crossed the plains in 1854 to arrive in the Rogue River Valley near Ashland or Talent, via the Applegate Trail. Still in possession of the present Kilgore family is a muzzle-loading, pin-fire, 50-calibre rifle, carried overland by one of the younger Kilgore boys. Mary (Dean) Kilgore died in Ashland, April 13, 1902 at the age of 88 years. She was the mother of 11 children, 8 of whom were still living at the time of her death.

They were, Mrs. Henry C. (Mary A.) Duncan of Klamath County; Mrs. K. A. Whitmore of Klamath County; D. C. Kilgore (There seems to have been both a David and Daniel in early records), of Loomis, Placer County, California; S. W. Kilgore of Klamath County; E. G. Kilgore of Klamath County; Mrs. A. F. Squire of Milwaukee; Mrs. M. W. Hargadinc of Ashland; and, Miss Florence Kilgore of Ashland.

There have been three Silas Kilgores, the grandfather, father and present Silas. The Grandfather, S. W. or Silas Wright Kilgore was born July 18, 1842 and died July 9, 1916 and is buried in Bonanza. He became a mail contractor between Ashland and Lake City, in Surprise Valley, around 1872. His wife, according to County deed records seems to have been Mary A., although the name Etta also appears. Silas Wright was the father of Silas Warren Kilgore, who married Louise Flackus, age 17 years, in 1912 and is still living. They were the parents of Silas Wright and Charles, still living at home with their mother and still unmarried. Silas Warren died April 10, 1943 and is buried at Bonanza.

In the beginning the Kilgores seem to have arrived in 1871, and in 1872 Ivan Applegate deeded them the land which became the original Kilgore home. David Kilgore must
have taken up a homestead at an early date since the U.S. Government patented land to him in 1876. Edward Kilgore deeded the Levi Broad-sword property to Levi in 1889. Amy Kilgore, Edward’s second wife, became the Langell Valley postmaster on August 24, 1889.

E. G. or Edward Harold Kilgore was the father of Harold (Herrin) Kilgore, in turn the father of Mrs. Sam (Lois Kilgore) Richey of Klamarh Falls. E. G. seems also to have carried the mails at one time. Further, he was one of the posse who hunted H. C. Laws, wanted for the murder of Franklin Calavan in 1882.

The present Kilgores still own the original Kilgore place at the head end of Langell Valley, now leased by Stanley Johnson. This is the only such instance of one family ownership yet found in the country, to this writer’s knowledge. The Kilgores have lived for the past 20 years, on the old Copeland ranch south of Miller Creek and east of the East Langell Valley Road.

The Goodlow Family

Information on the Goodlow family has been “hard to come by”. Just a few bits here and there to piece together.

N. S. (Newton) Goodlow, a southerner, and his wife Josephine arrived in Langell Valley either in 1873 following the Modoc War, or in 1874, since the name Goodlow does not appear in the records of the day, until the 1875 Lake County tax roll was made up. The Goodlows may have come to the country in 1873, as they seem to have been close friends of the Buckmasters who arrived that year.

Goodlow took up land on the west side of Upper Langell Valley (now known as the old George McDonald ranch). How or when acquired is unknown. However, Klamath County deed records reveal that he and his wife sold the property to George McDonald on June 1, 1876 for $800.00.

Where the Goodlow family lived for the next several years is uncertain, but it seems to have been farther north, or at least he was quite active in that vicinity, witness several news articles in the Tidings:

August 3, 1877: “A dispute occurred recently between A. Langell and N. S. Goodlow over a cow.”

December 20, 1878: “Frank Swingle, well-known in this place, received serious wounds on last Saturday, in Langell Valley, at the hands of a man named Goodlow. The particulars, as near as we have learned them, are as follows: Goodlow had told a rancher, James Vincent (Vinson), that Swingle had accused him of stealing cattle, and on Saturday, as Swingle was passing Vincent’s (Vinson’s) place the latter hailed him and asked about the matter. Just at this juncture Goodlow came along, and upon being appealed to by the men, again said Swingle had told him that Vincent (Vinson) had stolen a beef from him and had hid the hide in his house. Swingle denied it and hot words followed, when Goodlow seized an axe and threw it at Swingle, striking him in the small of the back. Swingle was not cut, as it was the pole of the axe that struck him, but he is very badly hurt, and may have received permanent, or even fatal injuries about the spine. We suppose Goodlow has been arrested by this time, and if the facts of the case are as they have been represented to us he may spend some time in the penitentiary.”

January 3, 1879. Letter from Bonanza to the Editor: “Please correct an item in your paper concerning an altercation between Swingle and myself, in which you represent the former as seriously injured and myself in danger of going to the penitentiary. Swingle was not injured at all. As to myself, there is not the least probability of my going to the penitentiary as I was not the aggressor, and was perfectly justified in what I did.

Please publish this and oblige,
Yours truly, N. S. Goodlow.”

January 24, 1878: “Notes from Langell Valley. Henry Vincent (Vinson), N. S. Goodlow and J. D. Carr lost 50 head of cattle each because of weather.”
The Goodlow family have left two landmarks named for them on the eastern borders of Langell Valley, Goodlow Mountain and Goodlow Rim, both prominent features that can easily be distinguished from almost any location in the valley.

Exactly when the Goodlows settled in that neighborhood after selling the west side ranch to McDonald is unknown. However, N. S. Goodlow bought 80 acres of school land in Section 16 from the State of Oregon in 1882 for $100.00. This tract lies just north of the present Gerber Reservoir Road above Goodlow Rim and southwest of Goodlow Mountain. The property is owned by Luther Noble at present. Goodlow also owned 160 acres some two miles to the northeast.

George Goodlow, a son of N. S., was killed by John S. Shook, in 1890, according to the reminiscences of Dan Driscoll, one time merchant of Bonanza.

On June 3, and December 27, 1897, Laura J. Goodlow, Administratrix of the Goodlow estate, deeded the above property to Benoit Abeloose.

Two members of the Goodlow family are buried in the Bonanza Cemetery, George Goodlow and L. Goodlow.

There seems to be some confusion as to Goodlow’s given name, N., S., Newt, and Nate appearing at different times. There also seems to have been a Henry Goodlow who went to Harney County at one time.

The Buckmaster Family

The Buckmaster family seems to have emigrated from Indiana, at least Elmira, a daughter, was born near Annapolis, Indiana, May 25, 1855. She was six years old when the family came overland, across the plains to Sacramento, California which would make the year of emigration, 1861.

The father, J. H. Buckmaster, according to Bertha (Krauger) Vinson, was a gambler, and according to the History of Klamath County, was supposedly killed by an Indian attack en route. After the father’s death, the mother, Sarah (1825-1897), just before the wagon train crossed Green River, in Wyoming, gave birth to a son, Joshua (1862-1939).

The family remained at Sacramento a number of years since Elmira attended school there before coming to the Klamath country, where they seem to have arrived in 1873, soon after the Modoc War was concluded. Possibly the publicity received from the conflict, influenced the Buckmaster to try the new country. They first settled near the site of Hildebrand, on land still known as Buckmaster Flat.

Three other brothers are known to have resided in the Bonanza-Langell Valley area, S. W. (Walt), Manford (perhaps also known as Matt), and Richard.

Joshua Buckmaster’s home was below the Goodlow Rim on land later owned by Clarence Walker and now owned by the Merle Settlers, northwest of the road to Gerber Reservoir. At some unknown date Joshua worked for Pete French on the P Ranch in Harney County, Oregon before French was killed in December, 1897.

Walter S. Buckmaster (1858-1933), who never married, had a place in Dry Valley (Dry Prairie) near Seven Springs and the old stage road between Bonanza and Bly. There is still a Buckmaster Spring and Flat named for him. He is supposed to have owned land through pre-emption, timber claim, a squatters right, and a homestead.

Manford Buckmaster is probably the one who built the log cabin, still standing, on what became the Boggs place, now owned by Dick Smith. He also owned land in the Dry Prairie country. Manford and several other members of the Buckmaster family left the Bonanza country for the Big Bend country of Washington during May, 1897.

Little is known of Richard Buckmaster, except that his wife’s name was Amy J. They owned 160 acres of land deeded to them by the U.S. which bordered the Bly Mountain
road on the east and lay immediately north of McCartie Road. Richard and Amy J. deeded the land to L. Birdie Burk in 1895.

The mother, Sarah, later married a man named Likens, but the name Buckmaster is used on her tombstone. Three of the Buckmaster family are buried side-by-side in the Bonanza Cemetery, Sarah, Walter S. and Joshua.

**The Fulkerson Family**

John T. and Ellen (Hiatt) Fulkerson moved to Langell Valley in November, 1872. They seem to have acquired the rights, or at least the improvements of the Thomas J. Brattain place, later the Harry Martin, and Earl Kent property, now owned by Walter Smith Jr. The improvements included a three room log cabin standing near a spring which still flows just north of the burned shell of the most recent house.

Ellen Hiatt’s parents, Lewis and Lydia (Jaquette) Hiatt were married in Iowa in 1848. Ellen was born October 2, 1851. The following year, 1852, the Hiatts together with Mr. Hiatt’s father and mother and other members of the family emigrated west to Rogue River Valley.

The grandmother Hiatt and Lydia both passed away of cholera en route. Lewis Hiatt after several years married a younger sister of his former wife.

On December 12, 1866 Ellen Hiatt, then 15 years of age, and John T. Fulkerson were married in Jacksonville, Oregon. Their first child, a girl, died of pneumonia a few months after birth in 1867.

The Fulkersons moved to the Klamath Basin in the spring of 1868, settling near the Klamath River about two miles east, or upstream from Keno. Here on December 7, 1868 a son George Edward, was born, the first white child born in what later became Klamath County. Other white children thought at times to have been the first white child born in Klamath County include the following:

- Earnest Union Lee...... December 26, 1868
  (21 days after the Fulkerson baby)
- Rufus Aylsworth .............June 25, 1870
  (At Fort Klamath)
- Vinnie Shadler ............. March 2, 1872
  (At Fort Klamath)
- Alice Applegate Peil .......... March 28, 1872
- Emma Evalyn Wilson ...... March 14, 1873

When the Fulkersons moved to Langell Valley, the Hiatt family was already there, Lewis Hiatt, his second wife Jesse, his children and his father. They were on an adjoining place to that purchased by the Fulkersons, but exactly where records do not show.

Also living nearby was a sister, Arilla, and her husband, Henry B. Stafford, location also unrecorded. All left the valley at the commencement of the Modoc War, only the Fulkersons returning afterward.

The Fulkersons have one child, a son, Jasper aged three years, buried in the little Westside Cemetery. That grave and the one of Franklin Calavan are the only identifiable ones in the cemetery.

The Fulkersons sold their ranch in the spring of 1886, and moved to a donation claim about one mile distant at which time Ellen resigned as Langell’s Valley postmaster after 13 years service. The family left Langell Valley October 13, 1888 traveling about one month overland to the Yakima Valley in Washington where they remained the rest of their days.

**Early Pioneer Life In Langell Valley**

by Minnie Bussey, Dillard, Davis

We came to Klamath County, Oregon in 1883 or about a dozen years after the close of the Modoc War. My ancestors knew the Campbell family in Texas when I was a baby and I am now 79 years old. My grandparents, David and Elizabeth Haynes and their 10 children and my parents came to Oregon first, and settled near Portland. They wanted
large farms, but it was hard to get the tree roots out of the ground. The Dave Campbell family came later and Mrs. Campbell and her children stayed with the Haynes family (near Portland) while Mr. Dave Campbell and my father, Henry Bussey, came to Klamath County, and took up joining homesteads, in Langell Valley, where there was plenty of sage brush, but not a tree there. My father and Mr. Dave Campbell built a house for the Campbell family to live in. Mr. Campbell and my father went up on the reservation and bought horses from the Indians to use in farming. After my father took up his homestead, he went to the Klamath Agency and bought a couple of good horses from the Indians. He used these horses to go to meet his family at Ashland, and for farming for many years.

I forgot to say that in 1885 there was no railroad into Klamath Falls, and not even a stage route was into Klamath Falls. So my father H. G. Bussey and David Campbell walked from Ashland, Oregon to Langell Valley, and they took up joining homesteads. My father used to make quite a joke of the fact that he bet the U.S. government $16 that he could make a living on a Langell Valley farm for his family - but he was doing it. (When my father homesteaded on a farm in Langell Valley, he had to pay I think it was $16 to take up the homestead.)

After my father and Mr. Campbell built a house for the Campbell family to live in, the Campbell family came and occupied the Campbell house and then Mr. Campbell and my father built a house for the Bussey family to live in.

My mother and her children came by train to Ashland, where we were met by my father in a covered wagon and we were taken to our new home in Langell Valley.

My grandparents and their family moved to Klamath County the next year or in 1886.

We were quite happy until the Hard Winter which was in 1889 and 1890 I think. My father and Mr. George Offield went up to the mountains and split rails and hauled them down to our home in a wagon and built a fence around our hay stack to keep out the stray stock. The snow drifted until my father felt that strange stock would eat up our little pile of hay, so he and Mr. George Offield went back up into the woods and sawed down trees and then split the trees, and brought down the rails and put another rail fence on top of the other fence. This happened a third time. I can never forget when the snow melted in the spring of that year that there stood three rail fences, one above the one that was just below.

Thousands of cattle and horses starved to death that winter and when school started in the spring of the year, that going to school among those dead and decaying animals made the worst and most pathetic stink I have ever smelled in my life.

My Uncle, Munroe Haynes, started a little store and it was called Haynesville. Later my grandmother, Mrs. David Haynes, took charge of the little store, and it was moved to her residence. When I would walk to her store, which was a mile from our home, she would give me some candy, which at that time was a wonderful treat.

My parents raised eight children and seven of us taught school in Klamath County in early days. I began teaching when I was only 16 years old. I worked for my room and board, rode horseback 2 1/2 miles to school, taught all eight grades and received only $30 a month. That was at a place I think now is called Dry Prairie. The next year I taught at Hildebrand, and then I taught again at Dry Prairie, and at Keno, and I really enjoyed my teaching.

My father used to walk behind a plow and drove two horses and raised rye hay, and one year he sold his hay to Lewis Gerber for less than $2 a ton and fed it our, free of charge.

After my first year of teaching, I went to school in Klamath Falls to Prof. Worden (later he was elected County Judge), and I boarded at one of the best hotels in Klamath Falls, which was known as the Clopton
Hotel, and I got my room and board for only eight dollars a month. At that time there were only about one hundred people in Klamath Falls. At that time, I never cared to walk along the streets because there were quantities of striped snakes in Klamath Falls. The sidewalks in Klamath Falls at that time were made of lumber and there were big cracks in the sidewalks, and the snakes would stick up their heads between the boards, and stick out their tongues at us, and I was afraid of them. They were called garter-snakes.

I have known my father to sell his 2 year old steers for $15 or $16 a head. At that time grass was plentiful in Laogell Valley, especially after the Hard Winter, there were not enough cattle and horses to eat all of the grass, and the stock that were left grew very large and fat.

Every spring there were great quantities of fish, sometimes called salmon, that would come up to Bonanza and my father would catch a big tub full with a pitch fork, and oh how we would enjoy eating them. I think they used to weigh about 10 or 12 pounds each.

The Indians caught many of these fish, they cleaned and dried them, but they did not destroy the refuse, and oh the places did stink.

My father used to say that he knew every white man, woman and child in Klamath County. (Written about 1960)

**Pioneer Teacher**
by Florence Dillard Ogle

Thirty-three years of teaching is the record of Minnie Bussey Dillard Davis. Born on October 4, 1878 on Grandfather David Haynes' cotton plantation near Whitesboro in the Red River Valley of Texas, she has spent most of her life in Klamath County, Oregon. Her parents were Henry Garland Bussey and Dayton Haynes Bussey.

Both Haynes and Bussey families moved west when Minnie was 2½ years old to avoid fevers which were so prevalent in swampy country in those days. They went by railroad to San Francisco, then by steamer to Portland, and settled near Oregon City.

After a few years, Henry Bussey and Dave Campbell, also from Whitesboro, Texas took up homesteads in Langell Valley, helped each other in building houses, and brought their families to Klamath County.

Grandpa and Grandma Hayes soon followed with their nine unmarried adult sons and daughters, and most of them took up homesteads nearby. The first yellow roses in Langell Valley were brought from Willamette Valley by Grandma Elizabeth Wilkins Haynes. She wove rag carpets for many pioneer homes. She knit socks, stockings, gloves, and lace collars, and yards and yards of lace. She often visited her children on their homesteads, even when she had to walk many miles.

Haynesville, later Lorella, was the first post office in Langell Valley, and one of the first school terms there was taught by Ida Campbell, who married Louis Gerber, another Klamath County pioneer. John S. Orr (later County Judge) taught all eight grades with about sixty pupils in the first log schoolhouse.

H. G. Bussey was a member of the first school board at Lorella, and all eight Bussey children, as they reached school age, attended there. Community affairs such as spelling bees, debating society meetings, and Christmas programs were held at the school. Fourth of July celebrations included picnic baskets, many flags, and a child representing each state all singing, "Red, White, and Blue".

Each winter there was a "Surprise Play Party" at the home of each neighboring family. Games included drop the handkerchief, throw the handkerchief, spin the platter, clap in and clap out, and singing games such as Little Brass Wagon, Skip to My Lou, and Happy Is the Miller Boy. Sleigh rides sometimes with bells on the horses were always exciting.
Wild swamp hay and rye hay were fed to range cattle in winter. These crops and stock brought necessary cash. Wood, cut by hand and hauled by horses, was provided in early winter.

A church house was constructed at Lorella with John Offield and David Haynes families, all Baptists, leading in the work, and almost every family in Langell Valley helping. Early preachers were Rev. John B. Griffith, Baptist, and Rev. John W. Bryant, Methodist.

Minnie Bussey joined the local Baptist Church at the age of 12 and was baptized by Rev. Griffith, and has helped with Sunday School and church work ever since. Before the age of 13, she had read the entire Bible.

Dayton Haynes Bussey taught her children to read before they reached school age and continued to supervise their home study during all of their school years, even when they were preparing for teacher’s examinations. At that time teachers’ examination questions were put out by the State School Superintendent, and sent to the County Superintendents, who conducted examinations, all at the specified time. Teacher’s certificates were issued to all adult persons who passed these very difficult examinations.

After completing work at the Lorella School, Minnie Bussey attended at Bonanza a short time, staying at the C. R. DeLap home when the twins Charley and Chester were about 1½ years old. She studied in Klamath Falls the following winter under Professor Will S. Worden, boarding at the Mary Clopton Hotel, before beginning her teaching career.

All eight of the Bussey children except the youngest one, Lee, taught school in Klamath County. Besides Minnie, they were Ema (Mrs. Charles Burgdorf, deceased), Ella (Mrs. W. Everett Griffith, now Springfield), Zelia (Mrs. Ed Young, deceased), Uel (deceased), Douglas (now of Weed, California), and Lou (Mrs. Luther R. Holbrook, of Creswell).

Many of the school districts taught by the Busseys no longer exist in these days of good roads and bus service. Names of these schools were: Barnes Valley, Dairy, Dry Prairie, Hildebrand, Horsefly, Keno, Lone Pine, Lorella, Lower Poe Valley, Lower Swan Lake, Pine Grove, Poe Valley, Pokegama, Spencer Creek, Swan Lake, Upper Langell Valley, Upper Poe Valley, Vinson District, Wampus, White Lake.

At a home wedding on Thanksgiving day, 1898, with Rev. John B. Griffith officiating, Minnie Bussey was married to John Morgan Dillard. He owned a homestead in Barnes Valley and a stock ranch at Horsefly near the present Gerber Dam, where they made their home. When their older children reached school age, they moved to Missouri.

After her husband’s death, Minnie with the children returned to Klamath County, and she resumed teaching. She took correspondence courses during school months and attended Ashland Normal School during the summers until she graduated in 1928. She taught the first and second grades at Merrill from 1920 until 1931.

After her children were grown she married H. U. Davis and made her home in Klamath Falls. Following his death she attended San Jose State Teachers’ College for a year, then taught in several Oregon Counties before retiring.

...Minnie Dillard Davis taught until after she had seven great-grandchildren. One of her hobbies is exchanging letters and pictures with former pupils.

(Written in the early 1950’s)

Whitmore

Samuel D. Whitmore accompanied the Lindsay Applegate party from the Rogue River Valley with the first supplies for the Klamath Indian Reservation in 1866. He then took over as Agency Farmer, the second paid employee of the Reservation.
Members of the community Sunday School in Langell Valley, in front of the Lorello school house in 1912. Back row: Mary McComb, Florence (Boggs) Horn, Eva (Drew) Campbell, Mrs. Alex Stewart, Mrs. Bussey, Lou Bussey, Chester Stewart, Mrs. Dave Campbell. Middle row: Charlotte Stewart, Mildred Stewart, Edna Devaul. Front row: Dave McComb (Minister), Noble twin, Drew Campbell, Lee Bussey, Daye Burkendorf, Noble twin, Orval Devaul and Dave Campbell.

Florence Horn

According to Sykes Hamaker, Samuel D. Whitmore at one time “owned lots of horses and cattle but died in the poor house.” His headquarters was either the old Chandler place on the West Side Langell Valley Road, now owned by J. C. Stevenson or one adjoining it. Si Brown once owned this old ranch and an old chimney still stands beside the road near the canal bridge.

Finally the Evening Herald of May 1, 1911 had the following to say:

“James Whitmore (probably a reporting mistake in the first name), unique character of Bonanza, who ekes out a living mending shoes, eighty odd years old, has lived more than 60 years in Klamath. He has been at Bonanza the past 25 years, yet in that time never visited Klamath Falls.

“Some years ago Jim Driscoll took pity on the old man, whom he supposed was in a starving condition, and besides helping him from his store, got the county clerk to make a monthly allowance for him. It is related that he took out a few dollars' worth of goods when the fact dawned on his mind that he was a pauper, and he refused to take any more; told the authorities they could keep their damned stuff; he didn't want any more of it.”

Langell Valley Churches

The first church services held in Langell Valley were conducted in the various school houses. This lasted into the late 1920's. Then the Lorella Full Gospel Church was founded by Mrs. Willard (Helen Vorce) Noble and Mrs. Belle Kidwell at a meeting in the Lorella Community Hall in the summer of 1927. Cash Wood, an evangelist, set the church in order, and Mrs. Kidwell took over the duties of resident pastor.

In September, 1935 William J. Hagerman was accepted as pastor and built the present church structure on an acre of ground donated by Raymond “Tex” Evatt. Improvements were made from time to
Lorella Full Gospel Church about 1955.

In 1950 Lorella Full Gospel Church was organized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Pepple. The first service was held in the parsonage of the church. In 1952 the church was incorporated and became fully self-supporting. The church has continued to grow and is now a vibrant community center.

In 1930 Dave Turner gave an acre of ground, and the canvas to raise funds for the construction of a church was started. The details of the plan were worked out by Howard Perrin, local architect of Klamath Falls who donated his services. Rev. Thomas modified the plans to fit the needs of Langell Valley. A model of the church was constructed by Mr. Robinson of the Klamath Cabinet Shop and was later displayed in Denver as an ideal rural church.

Rev. Thomas traveled extensively through New York and Massachusetts and told of the great needs of the Western Missions, many of which had their beginning at that time. His tireless efforts on behalf of St. Barnabas resulted in a great deal of assistance from several Eastern Parishes.

A woman’s group of a New York church contributed $2,500 toward the original construction. Men of the community donated weeks of work. Hot lunches were served by the women.

The church was consecrated April 26, 1931 by Bishop William P. Remington. Rev. Robert Greene of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church comes out the third Sunday of every month for Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.

- Devere Helfrich
Commencing eighteen years ago, about 1954, Wm. D. Milne became the lay vicar under the direction of the Rt. Rev. Lane W. Barton, Bishop of the Missionary District of Eastern Oregon. On May 12, 1963 he became Deacon, and on December 17, 1968 was ordained The Rev. Wm. D. Milne.

(This article is based on two stories written in the Herald & News, dates and author unknown.)

Langell Valley Cemeteries

There are two old and almost forgotten cemeteries in Langell Valley and several individual graves scattered about, the location of a few known, and others long since forgotten.

One, known as the Hall Cemetery, is located on the property of Eldon Kent, some three miles east of Lorella. Supposedly there are ten graves there, seven marked and three unmarked. Ichabod (not Ichabod as engraved on a later tombstone) Hall died April 8, 1882 and a cemetery was then started on the Hall ranch (about ¼ mile from the family home. George Noble once owned this property).

Across Langell Valley on the foothills of Bryant Mountain about one mile southwest of the Hot Spring lies another almost unknown cemetery. Of the 12 or 14 graves located there, only two can now be identified, that of Franklin Calavan, age 15, killed on February 14, 1882 in the Laws-Calavan feud; and, Jasper Fulkerson, age 3, who died of scarlet fever and diphtheria combined, on November 11, 1885. The location of another grave, now but a depression, was that of Edwin Walker age 21, who was dragged to death by a horse about June 20, 1897. Buried at this cemetery on his father Jesse Walker's ranch, the remains were exhumed much later, and reburied at Bonanza. It is quite possible that Mrs. Arthur Langell's grave may also be located there. The little cemetery is on the hillside, some distance from any road,
The Hall Cemetery about three miles east of Lorella as it looked in 1955.

- Devere Helfrich

The grave and tombstone of Franklin L. Calavan, killed in the Laws-Calavan feud of 1882 in the almost forgotten West Side Cemetery.

- Helen Helfrich
The tombstone of Ichabod Hall, father of Nancy Ellen, as carved by his son, Benjamin Hall, in 1882. (Note the spelling of "Ichabod Hall".) -Fred Elvin Inlow

on land once owned by the Fulkerson’s, later Harry Martin and Earl Kent, but presently by Walter Smith, Jr.

There are two unmarked graves dating back to 1890 on the old Frank Swingle (later Bide Stewart) place on the East Side of Langell Valley near Miller Creek. They were premature twins of an itinerant minister, Rev. Hunt.

Two other unmarked graves are located on the old Sanford Jones ranch on Lost River, a short distance north of where the East Langell Valley Road crosses that stream. They were the Goodwin children. Also told is the story that one of the deaths was the result of a rattlesnake bite.

The approximate locations of a few other graves are known. That others exist at unknown locations is indicated by miscellaneous bits of information unearthed here and there.

Langell Valley Dairy Industry

In addition to the store, and hotel both located near the Hot Springs on the west side of Langell Valley, Charles Lee Holliday while living on the old Arthur Langell place, ran a cheese factory for a few years. This cheese factory started after 1912 and marketed its product under the name "Holliday Full Cream Cheese". It continued until 1919 when Holliday moved to Klamath Falls.

John Reber once operated a small cheese factory, a subsidiary to the one located in Malin, Oregon. It was located in the building still standing, on Gale Road that is presently being used as a repair shop by Wilfred Noble.

Later the Klamath Falls Creamery, whose products are known as Crater Lake milk, butter, cheese, etc., started a cream pickup route in Langell Valley in 1924. The Klamath Falls Creamery’s county-wide routes continued until about 1960 or 1962, when they were replaced throughout Klamath County by tankers which now pick up only whole milk.

The Holiday Cheese Factory on the old Arthur Langell ranch as it looks today. -Helen Hellrich
BONANZA

The site of the city of Bonanza, at the Big Springs on Lost River, was for untold centuries, a permanent Modoc Indian village known as "Nushaltkaga". It was especially popular during the fishing season, which activity continued into the early years of the present century.

"Nushaltkaga" has some Indian reference to the formation of water ponds by voluminous springs of water which issue from the ground at the border of the ponds, with a strong bubbling motion, without any indication of other springs in the vicinity.

According to Oregon Geographic Names, page 61, "The name Bonanza is a Spanish word meaning prosperity. This place is said to have been named because of a number of fine springs in the vicinity. Good water is always a source of prosperity in a country that needs irrigation."

The first white settlers seem to have substituted the name "Big Springs" at some early date, for the vicinity instead of the Indian name, "Nushaltkaga". The name "Big Springs" in turn, saw at least limited use until as late as June 5, 1876 when 11 votes were cast by Lake County residents (then including present Lake and Klamath Counties) for that place as a county seat of the newly formed county.

The Democratic Times of April 20, 1872 wrote: "Lost River Precinct: commencing at the south-east of fractional township 41-15 thence due north on said line to the northern boundary of the county; commencing again at the same point - to wit: southeast corner of fractional township 41-15 - thence west along the state line to the southwest corner of fractional 41-12; thence due north from last named point to the northern boundary of the county, and said place of voting in said precinct be at the house of Arthur Langell."

Later, on September 28, 1872 the Democratic Times again wrote: "Notice to Tax Payers: Sheriff McKenzie will meet the taxpayers of Jackson county, at the usual places of voting in their respective precincts, on the following days, for the purpose of receiving taxes, and will remain in each precinct from 9 o'clock, A.M. until 2 o'clock P.M. of each day, to wit: Link River, October 19th; Lost River, October 21st; Goose Lake, October 25th."

Lake County, then including present Klamath County, was approved by Governor Grover, October 24, 1874 and its appointed officers were chosen January 1, 1875. These offices held their first meeting February 1, 1875 in Linkville, the appointed county seat. A special election was held October 25, 1875 to choose a permanent county seat, and the polling place of Precinct No. 2, known as Lost River was held "at the house of John Shook" who was also one of the judges.

During Lake County's first general election held June 5, 1876 the polling place was "at Bonanza's school house in said precinct of Lost River". (History of Central Oregon, pp. 869-70.)

The first written use of the name "Bonanza" yet found was on August 27, 1875 when John S. Shook applied for a post office to be established near the Big Springs site of Lost River.

John Shook crossed the plains from Indiana and Iowa to Susanville, California in 1862, and continued on to Virginia City, Nevada in 1863. This placed him at Virginia City when many of the gold and silver strikes were being made and called "Bonanzas" when located.

Shook arrived in the Klamath Country in 1869, settled near the Big Springs before the Modoc War, to return there afterward. It was in October, 1873 that the "Big Bonanza" was discovered at Virginia City to become known all over the world as the "Consolidated (Con) Virginia" mine. This last "Bonanza" set the world on fire and was
Shook's stock enterprises. Moreover it is possible that evidently became too seeded for the other favorable things as were evident there acquainted with country. Such is height when the river was named by a man who had been an editor just before "Shook's Valley (Yonna) and when the war was ended ... and when the war was ended .... and when the war was ended. The reader must draw his own conclusion as to why the town was named "Bonanza".

Next, in trying to establish the actual founding of Bonanza, we find that the History of Central Oregon, p. 1027, in giving the biography of John Samuel Shook states: "...In the spring of 1869, he started out to find a first class stock location and lighted on Yonna valley, in what is now Klamath County. Such excellent grass, fine water and other favorable things as were evident there induced him to locate and he succeeded in getting his people to come there. They brought a few head of stock and went into business. Very few people were in the country then and much danger was experienced from hostile Indians."

In the past it has been thought that the Shook family originally settled in Alkali (Yonna) Valley some two miles south of present Dairy, Oregon. According to Klamath County Deed Records that did not happen until the 1880 period when Bonanza evidently became too settled for the Shook stock enterprises. Moreover it is possible that Bonanza itself was at one time considered to lie in Alkali (Yonna) Valley. In reality there is no physical feature dividing the localities.

Mrs. John T. (Ellen Hiatt) Fulkerson in her reminiscences written in 1935 states that just before Christmas, 1872, when the settlers were fleeing from Langell Valley after the outbreak of the Modoc War in late November they reached the safety of a thicket of willows (on Lost River — Editor) "and we camped that night in Poe Valley at John Shook's place (in reality, John Shook's place at the Big Springs on Lost River — Editor)."

Returning to Shook's biography we further learn that "During the Modoc War, Mr. Shook enlisted as a scout in Company B, Oregon State Militia and was chosen sergeant... and when the war was ended returned to his ranch. Later he located a sawmill at the Big Springs, which he afterward called Bonanza... and furnished the lumber to build the first school house in Bonanza. After completing it he taught the first term there..."

Three events evidently took place in 1873, first, the commencement of a saw-mill by Shook; second, the filing on the first Homestead in Klamath County, that of I. P. Chandler on July 11, 1873; and finally, the construction and first use of a school house on property probably pre-empted by Shook.

Construction of the Shook sawmill must have been commenced about the time the Modoc War ended, June 1873 with Captain Jack's capture, and the settlers beginning to return to their homes. The opportunity was there for the building of homes, both for the old as well as new settlers who began to flock in. The Shook mill was located across both channels of Lost River, south-west of the southern tip of the present Big Springs Park. That it furnished the lumber for the first school house more or less settles its date of commencement.

The founding of Bonanza can legally be said to have occurred on July 11, 1873 when the Ira P. Chandler homestead was filed on in the U.S. Land Office, Linkton Land District, located in Linkville from 1872 to 1879, after which it was transferred to Lakeview, Oregon. The homestead was patented by the U.S. Government to Chandler on June 24, 1878. The legal description of the 160 acre homestead was the S½ of NW¼ of Section 10, and the N½ of the NW¼ of Section 15, Township 39 South, Range 11 East Willamette meridian, and is now all of that portion of Bonanza including and south of North Street.

The school house stood about 200 yards below or west of the east end of the present Lost River Bridge, or about due east, across both channels of Lost River from the main picnic grounds of Big Spring Park. The school house was situated on Shook's place, but the sawmill actually stood on the Chandler homestead.
Heretofore the beginning of the school has been in doubt. It is now evident it must have commenced during the summer of 1873. The History of Central Oregon, p. 877, states: "school was held in (present - Ed.) Lake county prior to 1873..." but a three month term was held that fall on A. Tenbrooke's ranch in Goose Lake Valley. The next year, 1874, a second school was located on Kelly Creek, both south of Lakeview.

The History of Central Oregon further states: "It must be remembered that while we have been detailing the first and second schools in what is now (1905 - Ed.) Lake county, there were other schools started before this in what was then set off as Lake county (Klamath and Lake Counties - Ed.) in 1875."

It is definitely known that the Linkville school was Number 1, and "The second school in the county (Lake - Ed.) was not far behind and was established near the present town of Bonanza, in the Lost River settlement. Further when the Lake County school districts were organized by the county school superintendent in 1875, the District Numbers 2 and 3 were given to Bonanza and Sprague River (now Bly - Ed.) with numbers 4 through 10 given to schools in what is present Lake County. Langell's Valley became Number 11.

It therefore stands to reason, if the Goose Lake school commenced in the fall of 1873, both Bonanza, Number 2, and Sprague River (Bly - Ed.), Number 3, were commenced earlier, but not during the Modoc War when the Langell Valley - Lost River country was deserted.

Again the History of Central Oregon, p. 822, states: "When in 1874 the legislature named Linkville - the present Klamath Falls - as the temporary county seat, that was the only town in the whole territory named as Lake county. Although this little town in the western portion of the new county was the only one, the greater population was in the eastern part of the county - in Goose Lake, Summer Lake, Chewaucan and other valleys. Having the bulk of the population the east siders laid their plans to secure the county seat.

"No town had yet been built on the east side but the settlers decided on 'Bullard's Creek' or 'Bullard's Ranch', as the place for which to vote... So early in April (1875) the store of A. & C. U. Snider was started and before the election in June, several other enterprises were under way. This town was being started as 'Bullard's Creek' the present site of the town of Lakeview, although that name had not yet been applied to the place."

The same situation seems to have prevailed at Bonanza, so in 1874 with thoughts or hopes of the county seat being located in that vicinity, they also began building. This seems to be borne out by an article in the Tidings of August 24, 1876 which states: "Bonanza has one store, one hotel, one sawmill, one or two shops and a number of residences, and promises some day to be an important center of business." Therefore considering all factors of the day, it would probably have taken the elapsed two years (1874-1876) to have constructed a town of that size.

An election was held, June 5, 1876 with very indefinite results, no one named place receiving a clear majority although it now seems the intent was there. "Bullards Creek" received 120 votes, "Bullards Ranch" 39; "Goose Lake Valley" 5; and "Bullards Creek in Goose Lake" 11.

The other hopeful, "Bonanza" which received 38 votes was divided as the east siders with "Big Springs" receiving an additional 11, making a total of 49 votes intended for that locality.

The third contestant, "Linkville", the only actual town in contention, the then appointee, received 88 votes.

However, by November 7, 1876 the east siders had consolidated their forces and this time, the name "Lakeview" now in use, won out over Linkville, 242 votes to 181.
Approximate location of John Shook's first post office in 1875 near this old Bechdoldt chicken house or farm buildings in the background, both north of the present post office building on Market Street.

- Helen Hellrich

In the meantime, as stated before, John S. Shook had applied for a post office named "Bonanza" on August 27, 1875. According to his application it was to be located in the NW¼ of Section 10, Township 39 South, Range 11 East, on mail route No. 44169 from Linkville to the Langell's Valley post office "9 miles" distant and back to Linkville. There may have been some error in his description, as this would place the site of the office off Shook's homestead and on land that Albert Handy later filed on for a homestead. More than likely the description should have read the NW¼ of the SW¼ of Section 10. The post office site, probably in Shook's home, was further described as being "located 300 yards from Lost River and would serve some 95 persons, both sexes." Wherever located, the office was very near the center of Section 10 or approximately ¼ of a mile due north of the present post office building. The post office remained in this location until September 3, 1878 at least, when John P. Roberts took over as postmaster, and the office was probably moved into the Handy and Roberts Store, located at approximately the site of the old Bonanza Bank building at the corner of Market and North Streets.

In continuing the evolution of Bonanza, we find that Ira P. Chandler and his wife, Lucy deeded the property to J. H. Mayfield on January 17, 1876 for $450.

The second tract of land, authentically and legally filed on, that is closely connected to the history of Bonanza, is the homestead of John S. Shook. It has been shown that Shook settled at the Big Springs before the Modoc War, to return there after its termination, but by what right he held the land is unknown at present. His Homestead filing, Number 38, was not made until March 28, 1876 for the SE¼ of Section 10, T. 39 S., R. 11 E., part of which became known as East Bonanza or Shook Addition. The cemetery is included in this land, and the Cecil Hunt property embraces more of it. John S. Shook did not receive a patent from the U.S. Government for this land until March 20, 1882.

A third tract of land closely connected to Bonanza history is the homestead of Albert Handy. The date of Handy's arrival is unknown, as is his first claim to the land later filed on by him. He seems to have arrived in 1874 or 1875, since he and his old time partner John P. Roberts had a store in operation at Bonanza by August 24, 1876.
some time before Handy filed on the land as a homestead. However, Roberts did not join Handy at Bonanza until March 3, 1878 when he closed out at Merganser.

Handy's homestead filing, Number 148, was made on December 18, 1876 for the NE¼ of the SW¼ and E½ of the NW¼ of Section 10, and the SE¼ of the SW¼ of Section 3, T. 39 S., R. 11 E. The land was patented to him July 23, 1880. The southern forty (NE¼ or the SW¼) above was platted as the First Addition to Bonanza on March 30, 1888 by J. O. Hamaker.

Next we find that J. H. Mayfield and his wife “Tobitha” deeded the “Chandler Homestead” to Benjamin Price on August 6, 1876 for $1,000. The deed excepted “two lots, one 14 rods less 10 inches, North and 33 rods 5 feet east. The other 50 feet wide and 100 feet long on the north line of the above premises.” These two tracts had evidently been bargained for previously.

A mistake was made in the description of the land, so to correct the mistake, Mayfield and his wife issued another deed on June 1, 1877 with the correct description.

Again it is interesting to note that the L. P. Chandler land was not patented to Chandler by the Government until June 24, 1878. Further, the patent was not recorded until November 22, 1902. In addition, Francis J. Bowne in “quieting title” to the property, also secured a Quit Claim deed from the widow Lucy V. Chandler on November 1, 1902. Yet think of all the exchanges that had taken place in between times. One can now understand why so many Abstract and Title Insurance Companies have thrived and been so necessary down through the years.

A few days later, August Mayfield and his wife deeded a tract known as the “mill property” to John S. Shook for $100. Its description read “Beginning at the northeast corner of the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 15, T. 39 S., R11 E., thence South 48 rods, thence West 14 rods, thence North 17° East to place of beginning, containing 2 1/10 acres.” This indicates that Shook’s sawmill, constructed in 1873 was actually not on his own property.

On the next day, August 16, Mayfield and his wife deeded to Albert Handy a “Lot 50
feet wide by 100 wide (long – Ed.) on the North line” of the S½ of the SW¹/₄, Section 10. This probably indicates that Handy’s store, on or near what is now the old Bonanza Bank building, was over or partially over the section line, off Handy’s own land. It further indicates these original tracts of land had been settled on before a reliable survey had been made, locating the actual section and quarter-section lines.

Also on the same day, August 16, Mayfield and his wife deeded to B. Walters for $45, “All that certain land 14 rods less 10 inches, North 33 rods 5 feet east of the S½ of the SW¹/₄, Section 10. These descriptions are not at all clear, and it is only by later deeds that we can approximate where they actually lay. This last tract lay along the north line of North Street, extending west 901½ feet from a point on the bank of Lost River near the west end of the present bridge to the east line of Second Street. It extended south 230 feet from the north line of North Street. Presently it would include all of North Street from Lost River to Second Street, and those buildings situated on both sides of the Bonanza Cafe from the Park to Second Street. Thus we have the beginning of Bonanza laid out by metes and bounds, or a “horseback survey”.

Two days later, August 18, Mayfield issued a “Memorandum of Agreement” to John S. Shook and M. Walters for the right to use a dam on his place which was used to supply water for a sawmill owned by parties of the second part and the privilege of using as much land on either side of said stream as is necessary to keep the said dam in good condition.” Mathias Walters was the man actually in charge of saw mill operations.

It has been difficult at this late date, if not almost impossible, to reconstruct all the “wheelings and dealings” that took place in Bonanza during those formative years. Many were little more than so called “gentlemen’s agreements” and evidently did not always work out satisfactorily as recorded by the Tidings of February 24, 1877. “Another law-

suit between Mayfield and Handy is before Squire (Justice of the Peace – Ed.) Hamaker at this time.” From the vagueness of the descriptions given for land transfers, this can well be understood.

Concerning local conditions, the Tidings of November 11, 1876 reported:

Our regular correspondent sends the following under date of October 4th: “Bonanza Items: Mule deer and trout plenty. Snow on the mountains round. The health of the county is in excellent condition. Heavy fogs veil the valleys and obscure the mountains tops. We had a terrific gale on the 25th ult., which blew down a number of haystacks and fences.

“The County Seat question is the all-absorbing question in this county. The election to decide the question comes off next Tuesday. It is rumored that a Presidential election is to be held on the same day.

“A surprise wedding came off on the 1st inst., at the residence of Mr. Horton. It was given out that a young couple were to be married – Squire Hazen was called in – some time was spent in waiting for the young uns, but they came not. At length Joseph Swingle and Mrs. Steward stepped forward and were made one.”

Whether or not as a result of the strong wind previously reported, or a later one, the Tidings of December 16, wrote that the Bonanza school house had collapsed. And further, that “a large bridge is in course of construction here, to span Lost River. The timbers are all on the ground and carpenters are busily engaged in framing. It will be 200 feet long.” (At another time it was reported as 270 feet long – Ed.)

The year 1877 is recorded in a series of articles from the Tidings:

January 6: “Mr. Handy donated $25 toward the new bridge at Bonanza. Contemplate a new school house. There is an opening for a good blacksmith at Bonanza, to make sucker gigs by the time the fish come up.

“Weather magnificent, no snow or rain
yet. Beef cattle fat on grass. New Year ball a success. Flour $3.50 per hundred."


January 20: "From Bonanza the report is that there is no money, times dull, but script plentiful. Snow began the 15th, now four inches deep. Venison plentiful, mule deer fat."


"J. P. Roberts building a needed blacksmith shop at Merganser." (Roberts continued the store at Merganser until about May 3, 1878, when he moved the remainder of the Merganser stock to Bonanza where the two stores were combined into the Handy and Roberts Store - Editor.)

March 24: "C. A. Dyar in charge of the Sage Brush Academy at Bonanza." (Evidently the school house was being rebuilt at that time, which corresponds to old timers statements that there were two different schools across the river - Editor.)

April 28. "School will commence May 1st at Sage Brush Academy at Bonanza. Sawmill running. Another talked of three miles below Bonanza, with a grist mill attached."

May 26. "Bonanza; the sawmill wants a beef hide to make belts. Large bands of sheep coming in."

May 29. "Bonanza saw mill boasts of having the finest waterwheel in Lake country. Large droves to sheep en route to Lake county."

September 14. "We call attention to Handy & Roberts at Bonanza and Merganser who are enterprising merchant-men - ."

Very important information on the growth of Bonanza is given in the Tidings of January 18, 1878 where it is recorded: "Bonanza on Lost River 24 miles east of Linkville - has immense springs of cold water - picturesque and so situated at the gateway between upper and lower valleys of Lost River that it is certainly destined to become an important business point before many years - sage lands will
be utilized — grazing lands for thousands of cattle. There is one store, Handy and Roberts; a boarding house kept by Mr. Price (located at the northwest corner of Big Springs Park, at the corner of Main and North Streets — Editor); a sawmill owned by John S. Shook; a blacksmith shop (probably immediately west of the Handy and Roberts Store — Editor) at present with no smith; a school (Bonanza Sage Brush Academy) under the direction of Miss Fannie Van Riper; several families. Also, from time immemorial, the red skins came in the early spring, when the river was full to overflowing, to catch the juicy buffalo suckers, just up from Tule Lake, and dry tons for winter use — with fish and game there is no danger of hunger in Bonanza."

The Tidings further reported on May 3, 1878: "...mill changes hands. Mr. Gordon now the proprietor."

It was nearly a year later, February 6, 1879 before John S. Shook deeded the "mill property" consisting of 2 1/10 acres to Daniel Gordon for $1,500. Gordon ran the mill for several years, deeding the property back to John Shook February 24, 1883 for $500. The mill seems to have ceased operation at that time. This little mill was a sash mill, run by an undershot water wheel.

Stimulated perhaps by the steady growth of Bonanza, T. B. (Benjamin) Price had the city surveyed, platted and notarized by I. B. Chandler. He then appeared before R. B. "Rube" Hatton, the Lake County Clerk, who approved the plat May 16, 1878. The plat however, was not filed in Lake County until July 1, 1879. Later when the new County of Klamath was formed, the plat was re-filed there on April 23, 1883.

This original plat of Bonanza as filed by Price consisted of 11 blocks. Of these, blocks 1 through 8 lay south of North Street and between Lost River and the eastern line of Fourth Street. Blocks 9, 10 and 11 consisted of a strip of land 86 feet wide along the northern portion of what is now North Street and adjoining on the south, the buildings from Market Street west to Fourth. These three blocks partially sold to various individuals were eventually vacated entirely and the land became part of North Street. Those buildings commenced with the old Bonanza Bank building and westward to Fourth Street are situated in the First Addition to Bonanza.

Later, during 1878, the Tidings on September 14, wrote: "...The little village of Bonanza, located twenty-four miles east of this place (Linkville), at the head of sucker navigation on Lost River, is improving. We learn that considerable farming is to be done in that vicinity next year by Handy & Roberts and others.

"Agents for the Tidings are... Jno. S. Shook — Bonanza."

On January 18, 1879 Mathias and Caroline Walter deeded to Albert Hand, John P. Roberts, and Robert T. Baldwin (all former residents of Mergusser below Linkville), the property heretofore described as lying in and along North Street, some 14 rods less 10 inches, by 33 rods plus 5 feet, or the first Bonanza.

It has been told that Robert T. Baldwin "opened the first harness shop in Klamath County at Bonanza." In reality he first set up business in Mergusser, the ghost town, from which place, as the Tidings of October 3, 1879 reported: "R. T. Baldwin is moving to Linkville from Mergusser." However, he has here been shown to be connected with Bonanza at an early date.

We have after this, for the remainder of 1879 no new purchases, but several transfers, where the several people involved continued to pass deeds back and forth, eliminating mistakes in previous property descriptions and combining their various holdings into tracts to conform with the new townsite plat.

1st. On August 4, 1879 Benjamin Price deeded a one acre tract and a portion of the West Branch of Lost River to G. B. Van Riper and Orson Lewis for $500. This site became the location of the second sawmill in Bonanza, with a log pond in Lost River. It was located near the Jack McFall and Flor-
ence Horn residences. According to "Lumbering in Klamath" by W. E. Lamb, "The island between the two branches of Lost River provided each mill with a separate channel of the river, but that did not prevent trouble over the water question, since the volume was insufficient for both mills. Van Riper hauled logs about four miles with oxen and wagons and cut 700 to 800 feet per day. About 1882 he sold out to a nephew of Lewis, Frank Nichols, who logged with horses and a wagon. He doubled the capacity of the mill and ran it until 1885."

According to Klamath County Deed Records, Orson and Elizabeth Lewis deeded their interest in this property to Van Riper on May 29, 1880. Then Van Riper and his wife, Sara E., in turn deeded the property to the Nichols brothers, Daniel, Frank and Andrew for $1,200 on May 18, 1881. As stated, the mill probably ran until 1885 at which time "James P. Colahan built a circular mill on Bly Mountain north of Bonanza situated in timber which eliminated the long haul, heretofore necessary by both sawmills at Bonanza."

2nd. On September 10, 1879 Albert Handy, John P. and Harriet Roberts issued a Bargain and Sale deed to Robert T. Baldwin for $1.00. It was for the southern half of the original "14 rods x 33 rods, or first Bonanza" strip between Lost River and Second Street. Included was the southern portion of North Street and the lots now occupied by the Bonanza Cafe and flanking buildings.

3rd. On September 27, 1879 Benjamin and Melissa Price deeded to A. Handy and John P. Roberts, Lots 3 and 4 in Block 11, Town of Bonanza. These two lots lay immediately south of the original Handy and Roberts Store, near the site of the old Bonanza Bank building. This purchase was probably made to perfect title to land previously secured and insure a store front on North Street.

4th. On September 29, 1879 Benjamin and Melissa Price deeded an 86 x 45 foot piece of land on what is now the northwest corner of Big Springs Park, where the swings and slides are located, to Robert T. Baldwin, part of which he probably used for his harness shop.

Eight and one half months later, on May 19, 1880 Handy and Roberts secured Lot 5, Block 11 from the Prices. This lot in the town site of Bonanza blocked the entrance of the old Bly Road, or, what is now Market Street into North Street and undoubtedly its purchase was to insure that junction not being blocked.

Research of land transfers in County Deed Books could be carried on indefinitely but the subject would become too monotonous. Therefore, only one more will be given, and that to illustrate the type of land descriptions encountered from those "good old days."

On April 18, 1885 J. P. and Harriet Roberts, Amy Bardeen, Ruth and Henry Dewolfe deeded to Benjamin Price the following described land: "Beginning at a point from which the quarter section corner of line between Sections 10 and 15, T. 39 S., R. 11 E. bears S 17° 56' East 21.62 chains set Basalt rock 6x8x14 inches, marked thus X on top, thence 55° 51' W 100 feet to North West corner of building plank Basalt rock 3x3x10 inches marked thus X on top, thence 34° 10' E 50 feet set Basalt rock 10x12x20 inches marked thus X on top thence 55° 50' East 100 feet set Basalt 8x10x14 inches marked thus X on top, thence S 34° 10' W 50 feet to place of beginning being part of NW¼ of SW¼ Section 10-39-11 and commonly known as Blacksmith Shop lot."

With the founding of the Linkville Star in 1884, the Ashland and Jacksonville papers reduced their coverage of happenings in the Klamath country. Detailed information on Bonanza after 1880 is very scarce. Linkville-Klamath Falls newspapers up to July 1, 1899 have disappeared, except for a stray issue now and then, due to fires and other unknown reasons. One of these issues, The Klamath County Star of February 8, 1889 (as later reprinted in the Herald &
The post office, date unknown, claimed to have been on skids, across Market Street from the present post office. Other buildings, the Bradley Store shed, coffin room at rear of Bauman blacksmith shop and unknown barn. The men, L. to R.: Hank O'Brien, unknown, possibly D.G. Horn, possibly "Dad" Maxwell, unknown, Hugh Clopton and three unknown.

-Jessie Brotherton

News) recorded:

"Editor Star: Thinking that a few items from this section would not come amiss, I send the following: "Weather is fine, stock fat, and farmers are jubilant.

"Our little burg is improving slowly. A number of lots have lately been staked off and sold. Those who have invested are preparing to build, and we understand that there will be another large dry goods store opened here in the spring.

"Our enterprising postmaster has put up a commodious building and moved the post office into it and will in the near future put in a stock of drugs and school books that are much needed here. The public school is well attended this winter and we say to the credit of our citizens that we have the second best school house in the county.

"We have organized and running in good shape a lyceum which is well attended and from the interest manifested we think it productive of good results.

Signed, Croaker, Bonanza,
February 5, 1889."

According to Birdie Burk, as written in the Herald & News, "the postmaster mentioned above is Harve (James H.) Oakman, possibly dead by now. A Jimmy Morton went in with him and they did operate a large store and the post office on the site where the present one now stands. The set-up was later purchased and operated by J. O. Hamaker.

"The other large store mentioned did not come into being until the turn of the century. The school mentioned was a not-too-large, white, one-room building (later 2 rooms - Ed.) that was built on the property where Mrs. Sadie Bray's residence now stands. It replaced a one room log building that was located across the river from the Benson Dixon place on what is now the Weatherby property.

"The white school house was the center of community activities. Church was held there once a month to which large crowds came in their horse drawn vehicles from Langell Valley, Poe Valley and Yonna Valley. It was here the lyceum was held and which was, as Mrs. Burk remembers it, a debating society...""

"The old paper belongs to Hazel Burnham Carter of Portland, a member of one of Klamath County's pioneer families, she and her brothers, Ernest Burnham, who died at Forest Grove last month, and Hall Burnham, also deceased, grew up in Langell Valley. They were the children of Horatio
South side of North Street on both sides of Main: Chastain Barn, Chastain or Morine Big Springs Hotel, Driscoll General Store and Post Office, Driscoll shed warehouse, saloon, barber shop run at one time by Lee Bean, and Goss’ New American Hotel. All burned in the big fire of 1910.

- Klamath County Museum

South side of North Street from Main west, excepting the two barns, all destroyed in the big fire of 1910. Driscoll Mercantile Store and shed warehouse, saloon, barber shop, New American Hotel, Hettinger building, shoe shop, two feed barns.

- Jessie Brotherton

Burnham, pioneer, who ranched 600 acres. They lived there for 25 years and left in 1913 to make their home at Dayton. Mrs. Carter was born in Langell Valley.”

Ashland and Jacksonville newspapers ceased giving the Klamath country much notice after the railroad commenced building between Redding, California and Roseburg, Oregon in 1882, after a ten-year shut down. News of the railroad’s approach to the Rogue River Valley crowded out the more hum-drum community items.

Next the Republican of August 31, 1899 reports: “Hugh Clopton, the bustling merchant contemplates building a new store building in the near future. The building will be 30 x 100 feet, with a hall above, which will be fitted up for a dance hall or opera house.

Alex Bradburn, mixologist is having a new saloon built, H. Patterson builder.”

Later on March 29, 1900: “Married at Bonanza, last Wednesday, the 21st. the saloons of A. M. Zevely and Alex Bradbum. Bonanza now has but one firm dealing in wet goods.”

By November 29, 1900: “Hugh Clopton is moving into his fine new store.”

Then on February 14, 1901: “Leon Bean and Silas Taylor open a notion store.”
Looking north on Market Street around 1909. At left, the Bonanza Bank building, burned in 1930 fire, and the old post office said to be on skids. At right, the Harpold building, housing several businesses, and beyond, the Broadsword Hardware store, both destroyed by the 1913 fire.
- Jessie Brotherton

Probably taken in the fall of 1909. Horn house, withstood all fires, pioneer blacksmith shop later known as the W. J. Bauman shop, with a dance hall upstairs and coffin room in the rear. The old Handy and Roberts store, possibly the first building in Bonanza, later housing several other enterprises. Last two buildings destroyed by fire in 1930.
- Mrs. Addie Puddy

Finally the Republican of February 22, 1906 wrote: "Notes from Bonanza by C. U. Agin. Also on the strength of the city improving and the boom coming, this week Goss, owner of the New American Hotel of this place, sold to Roy Kilgore the hotel property consisting of 87 feet front on North Street for the sum of $4,000, or $46 per foot. This is only the beginning, as Mr., Kilgore was offered in less than three hours $5,000 for his bargain. Roy says he will hold on to the property for the depot grounds of the McCloud railroad, and we do not think he will have long to hold either from the information we can gather."

Lastly, a brochure published in 1926 and in part reprinted in the Herald & News of April 7, 1970: "...This section has five post offices, three church organizations, eight grade schools, one high school. The town of Bonanza is located near the center of this section. It is an old town, which has just recently taken on new life by reason of the coming irrigation, transportation and the consequent revival of not only farming but also the livestock and lumbering industries. It has three grocery stores, two hardware stores, one bank, one drug store, a first-class hotel, a restaurant, a livery stable and two garages, four repair and filling stations."
Six wagon-loads of wool, probably from Lake County, about 1909, headed for the railroad either at Pokegama or approaching Klamath Falls from Weed. Two feed barns, a rooming house, a saloon, and unknown residence. - Florence Horn

Bonanza, Oregon.

Bonanza about 1909 from the northeast corner of Market and North Streets. New American Hotel, Hettinger Building, shoe shop and the two Feed barns. - Florence Horn

Stage and express wagon between Bonanza and Klamath Falls on sled runners. Driver Jim Grimes. Short man in center with shovel, a Levi-Strauss drummer from San Francisco. Picture in front of the two Feed barns in Bonanza.
Bonanza the next day after the big fire of May 15, 1910. The buildings in the middle distance, J. O. Hamaker’s newspaper and Clopton’s Hotel were destroyed in the 1914 fire. Foreground, site of the Big Springs Hotel

- Florence Horn

Kenneth Bold in one of the earlier F. W. Bold and Son stores

- Mrs. Ivan (Clara) Bold
Bonanza Schools

As previously shown, Bonanza's school house was probably a board and batten affair built by volunteer labor during the late summer of 1873. It stood across Lost River from the present Big Springs Park.

After this building collapsed in late 1876, a new school house was erected on the same site. This time however, on information furnished by Birdie Burk in 1952, the school house seems to have been built of logs, probably thought to be more substantial. At one time twelve or thirteen pupils attended, with Marshall Orr as the teacher.

From Mrs. Ellen Fulkerson's reminiscences of 1935, it appears the old white one-room school house was built during the summer of 1883. This was located about two blocks northwest of the intersection of North and Market Streets near the (1963) home of Dewey Horn. According to Birdie Burk this building was enlarged to two rooms in 1888.

This white two-room school house was in turn replaced by the old Brick school of eight class rooms in Block No. 46 of Grandview Addition in 1907. It stood on the hill just behind the present school. High school classes began in 1908. This building served until about 1939.

A new school house was built about 1931 or 1932, but was destroyed by fire in 1944. The present school house was then constructed and according to the Brochure History of Bonanza published in 1963 "...is an attractive brick structure with appropriate landscaping, play grounds, and a football field. There are sixteen classrooms, a well equipped science laboratory, a library, a projection room, office space, cafeteria, and two gymnasiums complete with lockers, showers and dressing rooms. The front hall is decorated with a beautiful mural depicting the life of the community and painted by Mr. Steber, principal of the school, as are numerous pictures, appropriate to the community."

Bonanza Eighth Grade Class of 1902: L. to R. Nellie Patterson, unknown, Jim Driscoll, Charlie Zevely, unknown, Daisy Patterson. - Earl Hamaker
The old Brick school built in 1907 and served until about 1939. High school classes began in 1908. Gymnasium at the right. Picture taken before 1934.

Schools in the Bonanza

Area of Klamath County

(Part only, as in 1963)

by Elsa Rueck

... A good looking white school house was built near the present Dewey Horn home. It was the center of community activities such as debating which was as popular a recreation then as bowling is today. Church services were also held there before a church was built. The Klamath County Star newspaper mentions this school in its February 8, 1889 issue and an 1889 county map records it. This school was still standing in 1923 when this writer came to Bonanza to teach.

She taught in the brick school built in 1907 by R. E. Wattenburg of Klamath Falls, on the side of the hill above the town. This school was very imposing in appearance and could be seen far and near.

It had some drawbacks, however. There was no playground but the wind-swept rocks in front of it. The cracked and chipped cement sidewalk and the steps to the school afforded the only safe places to play except for the hill back of the school where adventure awaited the more daring. Sage ticks and rattlesnakes were possibly feared less by both pupils and parents than bones broken from playing on the rocks in front of the school because of the difficulty of getting to a doctor.

In 1923 there were three teachers in the grade school — James Luebke, principal, Harold Brownson and Elsa Armstrong and three teachers in the grade school — Grace Lytle, Minnie Crank, and Alice Lytle. A Mr. Hatch had been principal for several years preceding this. Members of the school board were J. O. Hamaker, Robert Lytle, and John Bradley, a merchant, was the school clerk.

The County Unit System for the elementary grades went into effect in 1922 and was extended later to include the secondary grades. Children no longer rode to school on horseback. Family cars brought the children from various neighborhoods and then busses conveyed children to and from school.

People of Bonanza were very proud of their school during the nineteen-twenties. In athletics one year they won the championship in basketball when it took every boy in the High School to compose a team. Milburn Burk was on this team. In 1924 the school won the county and district championships in debating. In 1925 in a study made by the Rockefeller Foundation of high schools in various counties in the United States, Bonanza High School rated highest in Klamath County.

The old brick school towering from its place on the hill had been condemned by state fire inspectors, but it was not until the Depression that a new school was built. Mr. E. L. Cooyer was the principal at this time. It was used only a short time, however, as it was destroyed by fire in 1944. The old Brick building was the grade school. High school students went to Henley until a new school was built.

Old timers used to call Bonanza the center of a clover leaf with Langell, Poe and Yonna Valleys forming the leaves. The settlers of these valleys provided “grade schools” for their children who then went to Bonanza, Klamath Falls, or other places where they could room and board with relatives or friends for their high school years. Some who afford to go elsewhere, returned after completing the 8th grade and studied whatever the teacher could teach him of high school level. Many of these early day teachers were not high school graduates themselves but were willing to share their knowledge with those wishing to learn...
My connections with the Bonanza schools date from the time of my birth, for in 1897, when I was born, my uncle, James H. Driscoll, was a teacher in the school system.

In 1903, I started to school in the two-room building located near the present Dewey Horn residence. My teacher was the late Dora Reed. At this time, the classes were not precisely graded, but there were two teachers and two rooms, and the classes were divided into upper and lower divisions. As I recall the equipment, it included double desks for the pupils, a large important looking one for the teacher, blackboards, a recitation bench placed in front of the room, charts, maps, a globe and one large
dictionary. Pupils had their own books and although ink, pens, pencils and paper were available, the beginning pupils used slates for most of their work.

I presume that we progressed normally in our reading, writing and arithmetic, but all this is rather hazy in my mind. However, other details stand out vividly. I recall so clearly the huge school bell hanging in the belfry. It rang punctually at 8:30, and 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and at recess time. That was the summons to line-up in grade order in front of the steps that led to the school rooms. I particularly remember one principal, Jim Wright, walking up and down the double line swinging his hickory pointer back and forth, and anyone not in exact position felt the sting of this "educator".

The playground, beaten hard and clean by the youngsters, boasted no equipment. The older ones played blackman, blind man's bluff, hide and seek, and town-ball, while the smaller children took turns at hopscotch, walked on stilts or played house in the rocks behind the schoolhouse. In the early spring many looked for the buttercups that appeared soon after the snow melted. In winter the snowballs flew, and the younger ones took refuge in the schoolhouse.

The two-room building also served as a community center. Many spelling contests were open to adults. Debates were held and I recall two subjects that came under discussion — "Resolved that irrigation will benefit the community more than a railroad"; and "Winter is more enjoyable than summer."

Basket socials were often held in the school house. At the age of 8, I was the proud possessor of "the old oaken bucket" filled with my mother's best fried chicken, salad and cake.

My day was complete when Louie Hoogleland, another 8-year-old of the community, gave the high bid of a dollar for my basket. Others, more competitive ones, brought as much as five dollars. There were no buses to transport pupils to and from school. The children living any distance from school came by horse-back or rode in buggies or sleighs. One of my most distinct memories is of Fred Rueck driving his sisters, Elsie, Margaret (now Mrs. Lee Holiday of Klamath Falls), and Anna past our homestead (now part of the Ed Oberheide ranch) on their way to school.

By 1907 the two-room school house was replaced by an eight-classroom brick structure that was in use until 1939. What controversy this building caused. The school directors at this time were Van Riper, Lawn Burk (husband of Birdie Burk, 90-year-old Bonanza resident), and my father. Many felt that the planned building was too pretentious for the community, and it was by a very close margin that the "progressives" succeeded in getting the tax levy passed that enabled them to build the new school.

I remember my father chuckling and retelling the remarks of Grandpa Maxwell. "Dan'l," grandpa said, pointing his finger at my father, "If you live to be a 100, you'll never see that building filled with young guns." My father didn't live to be a 100, but he reached the 92 mark, and he saw with interest and pride the youth of the community outgrow that building, move into another that was destroyed by fire and later into the present one that is now bursting at its seams.

The directors of the early '90s had almost complete charge of school affairs. They hired teachers, determined salaries, and in general ran the school. In later years my father noted the change in administration and determining factors in the hiring of teachers. It would invariably bring out this comment. "Well, things have really changed." "Take for instance," he would say, "the time we hired Fred Peterson. Oh, he had papers and the like from some teachers' college and gave them the once over, but we particularly noticed that he was a big bruiser, had strong muscles and a determined jaw, he could certainly handle those 18-year-olds, the ones that had tried to whip the last teacher. So we hired him."
The move to the new school building meant many changes. For a time only the four rooms on the lower floor were used, but this was a great improvement. Soon a room was finished on the upper floor, and limited high school classes were offered.

Although there was no gymnasium, the older boys practiced basketball, and later entered competitive play. This brought full support of the community and in spite of the cold snowy weather during the season, townspeople followed the "boys" on their trips away from home. My father always enjoyed telling of one episode that proceeded one of these games. The Bonanza team was to play Klamath Agency. People gathered at the general store in buggies, hacks and carriages, complete with foot-warmers, robes and literally bundled to the ears. The weather was cold and stormy and the roads wet and muddy, it was truly not a trip for the faint hearted, but much to the astonishment of all, Grandpa Maxwell appeared overcoated and muffled. When there was a general protest, he only answered, "Come on, let's go, we must cheer the boys to victory."

School children gave several programs during the year. Elocution was at its height, and no recitation was too melodramatic. Special robes with flowing sleeves were often used to enable the elocutionist to have maximum freedom for gestures. Drills, with participants dressed in crepe paper costumes made with painstaking care, were popular. Poetry reading and group singing was an important part of the program.

However, eighth grade graduation was the high point of the year. Graduates dressed in their Sunday best were seated on a platform in the front of the room. On an easel placed in a prominent place was a landscape with the class motto painted on the screen. On several occasions my mother, handy with colors, was asked to paint this motto picture.

I particularly remember the scene for the class motto, "Climb Though the Rocks Be Rugged". A calendar picture of the rocky trail leading from the floor of Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point above was the final selection for my mother's painting. With the landscape complete, the austere motto was painted on the forbidding cliffs that pointed always upward and beyond. I was also impressed by another selection used for the motto, "We Have But Reached the Harbor; the Ocean of Life Is Before Us". I recall my mother searching for an appropriate picture to copy. Being a person who believed in using the material at hand, she finally decided upon a harbor scene that was painted on a huge coffee can in the general store.

At the graduations there were orations by the students, "words of wisdom" from perhaps an aspiring politician, appropriate singing, and the awarding of diplomas by the chairman of the school board. If such a ceremony seems pretentious for an eighth grade graduation, we must remember that formal schooling for most of the students was over. Many of these graduates were 18 or over, since much of their schooling had been received in three-month school terms. This was the marriageable age for many of the boys and girls, and at this point the boys went to work on farms in the community. Some of the girls who did not marry, took the teacher's examination, and if they passed and were 18, started teaching in other schools of the county.

This graduation was only for those who had passed the state eighth grade examination. There was no such thing as a social promotion. Sealed printed examination questions came from the county office to the chairman of the board, and it was he who conducted the examinations. These examinations were given in arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, civics, spelling and physiology. There were 12 questions on each subject, and the pupils were graded on the 10 answered. Passing grade was 70 per cent in any one subject but an average of 80 per cent was necessary. These examinations were dreaded by both pupils and parents and examination days were crucial ones.

My father, director for many years, served
his terms as chairman. As the town’s merchant, he knew the pupils well, and was always concerned at the outcome of these dreaded tests. He told humorous as well as serious incidents concerning these examinations. This is one that I especially remember.

He usually walked up and down the aisles, peering now and then over the shoulders of the hard working students. This particular hour they were taking their examination in physiology (it was physiology – not health). The particular question that this student was working on was, “What is the length of the stomach?” After considerable thought the student wrote, “30 feet”. This incongruity caused my dad to laugh aloud in spite of his desperate effort to remain serious, for suddenly he was picturing the type of monster that would have this astonishing stomach.

School in the early 1900s was important to all. Although children were glad when the school day was over or the term at an end, just as they are today, never-the-less, many hardships were endured to get this education. Friendships were close, and many of these early ties are still important.

**Bonanza Post Office**

According to the National Archives and Records Services, John S. Shook applied for a post office on August 27, 1875. It was established September 23, 1875. We know it was somewhere near the center of Section 10, T. 39 S., R. 11 E. A likely location, allowing for an error in land description, would have been in Shook’s home, probably located on the left of the Bly Mountain Road running north from Bonanza, approximately ¼ mile due north of the intersection of Market and North Streets.

John P. Roberts became the next postmaster on September 3, 1878 and it would seem logical that the post office was then moved to the Handy and Roberts store near the site of the present Bonanza Bank building.

One year later, on October 10, 1879 Benjamin Price became the postmaster and it would seem the post office would then have been located in Price’s “Big Spring Hotel,” which seems to be that taken over by Chastain in 1888, and still later by G. W. Morine. It stood on the northwest corner of Big

Looking westerly from the present Post Office. Old post office on skids, 1907 Brick school, Broadsword residence back of man, Chrisman house over horses and Sy White house at right. Man unknown. - Beverly McFall
Springs Park at the intersection of Main and North Streets. The building burned in the big fire of May 15, 1910.

On January 6, 1881 John Shook again took over as postmaster with the office probably again moving to his home.

Garret B. Van Riper became the next postmaster later that same year on August 4, 1881. It will be remembered that Van Riper and Lewis bought a sawmill site from Benjamin Price on August 4, 1879 to resell to Nicholls Bros. May 5, 1881. The Van Riper ranch home joined Bonanza on the west, but north of North Street. Where the post office was located is unknown.

Thomas J. Goodwyn became the next postmaster on July 20, 1882 to hold that office for better than five years. Who he was, or where he conducted the post office is unknown. It was during Goodwyn’s term as postmaster that the following event seems to have been inaugurated: “The Evening Herald, May 20, 1908 – Twenty-three years ago last month Ernest Applegate wrote a letter to Miss Jennie Grubb at Klamath Falls. The letter was mailed at Bonanza in 1885 and reached its destination after being in Uncle Sam’s care a little more than 23 years, in which time it traveled the distance of 25 miles. The recipient of the letter is now Mrs. George R. Hum, and the letter was from her cousin and told of a number of their childish plans. The postmark on the letter showed that it arrived at the Klamath Falls post office last night, and it is quite evident that Bonanza is just coming out of a Rip Van Winkle nap.”

On September 8, 1887 Garret B. Van Riper again became the postmaster but again the location of the post office is unknown.

James N. Oatman became postmaster April 23, 1889. According to an article in the Klamath County Star of February 8, 1889: “Our enterprising postmaster has put up a commodious building and moved the post office into it and will in the near future put in a stock of drugs and school books that are much needed here.”

This building may be the one that stood for many years just north of the later day Bonanza Bank building and across Market Street from the present post office. It probably served several postmasters, including Oatman, J. O. Hamaker, James Morton, Henry W. Keesee and at least part of Hugh Clapton’s term before being moved into the Driscoll Store building.

In part, Birdie Burk substantiates the the above when she stated that Harve (?) Oatman built the building. However, she goes on to say, “A Jimmy Morton later went in with him and they did operate a large store and the post office on the site where the present one now stands.”

It has also been told that this building was on skids so that it could be moved about. The different locations on which it operated cannot now be determined.

John O. (Oliver) Hamaker was appointed postmaster on March 25, 1891. He once owned the store on the present post office site, so may have purchased the business from Oatman and Morton, with the post office remaining stationery.

Next James Morton became postmaster on May 10, 1892 with the post office probably remaining in the portable building, however, it may then have been moved to its later location as recorded by several old photos.

Henry W. Keesee became the next postmaster on October 24, 1893 but where the post office was actually located is problematical. Keesee’s home stood directly south of the Driscoll store but the post office may still have remained in the portable building.

Hugh Clapton took over as postmaster on October 13, 1897 and it seems to have been sometime during his term that the office was moved into the Driscoll store building. We know it was there on September 16, 1900 when “a small sum of money was taken.” The post office seems to have remained there until the store burned on May 15, 1910 during the big fire of that date.
It was after the fire that Clopton built or acquired a building on the north side of North Street near the location of the present Antler’s Den.

Then on September 28, 1913 Bertha M. Clopton became the postmaster with the post office remaining in the same location. On January 16, 1914 the post office burned and the next morning all that could be turned over to the new postmaster, John S. Horn, was the key to the now vanished building.

There seems to be some sort of discrepancy, however, since the U.S. Archives state John S. Horn was appointed postmaster on December 12, 1913.

After John S. Horn became postmaster, the post office was located in the Bonanza Bank building in a room, adjoining the bank which had its entrance on Market Street. Here the post office remained until May 30, 1930 when the entire bank building was destroyed by fire. Everything was lost except the bank and post office records which had been placed in the bank’s fire-proof vault. The post office was then operated for an indefinite time from the D. G. Horn residence, still standing across Second Street west of Bold’s General Store. It was then moved into a room on the west side of the Heidtman Hotel, still standing, where it remained a year or two until the Bank building was reconstructed. The post office moved back into the bank building to remain there until February 20, 1961 when it was moved to its present location on the east side of Market Street.

In the meantime Dan C. Hanks became postmaster on November 12, 1934 and it may have been at that time that the office was moved into the new Bank building.

Ernest E. Puddy became postmaster on June 1, 1935; Dewey D. Horn on April 18, 1937; Cordelia M. Leavitt on April 4, 1956; and finally Leroy F. Femlund, the present postmaster on June 12, 1959.

Bonanza Churches

The Brochure History of 1963 informs us that “In 1886 the ladies aid of the community held their Christian meetings in the one room school house. They gave basket socials, made quilts, and other fancy work to help build the church. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nichols donated the lot, and the first deed was made for $1, on September 3, 1902. The first denomination of the church was the Buelah Methodist Episcopal. In 1947 the property was purchased by the Nazarene Church (who abandoned their work in 1955 – Ed.) and later by the Assembly of God.”

The Herald and News (date and author unknown – Ed.) then takes up the story: “The Bonanza Community Church added a bedroom and more than doubled the size of the front room of the parsonage last year. The work was done by the men of the church and the McGuire Construction Company of Klamath Falls for an approximate cost of $1,200. The work has not yet been com-
Bonanza Community Church funeral services for some unknown lady.

- Jessie Brotherton

completed, and members expect to spend an additional $200 for siding for the exterior, as well as paint and materials for redecorating the interior. Money for the project was obtained by a loan from the Oregon District Assemblies of God.

"...The present Community Church was organized around 1954 by Rev. Bill Alsup, an Assembly of God minister; and the present congregation completed purchase of the property, owned by the Nazarenes, in 1962. The Oregon District Assemblies of God loaned the local church the money for the purchase and granted $500 outright. This loan has since been repaid.

"In order to prevent members of the community from having to buy the property again, as it has exchanged hands numerous times, the deed granted to Bonanza Community Church carries a provision that should the Assemblies of God ever cease their interest in the work in Bonanza, the property will revert, without charge to the community. However, the community must use the property for church purposes in accord with the basic principles of evangelical Christianity."

The Herald and News (date and author unknown) further informs us that: "...From 1905 to 1938 the Catholic families scattered in the Langell Valley were in the Sacred Heart Parish. As more people moved into the Klamath Basin, other parishes were organized with Bonanza falling in Merrill's St. Augustine's Parish in 1938.

"Just when serious talk about a church for the area began, no one remembers for sure, but by 1949 there was definite talk.

"In 1950 the first Mass was said in the Langell Valley Community Hall. Then, for more than a year Mass was said once a month in the Bonanza Library. Members pooled their resources, and Mrs. Catherine Billingsly, now living in Porterville, California, donated the property. Appealing through the Catholic Church Extension Society, the Bonanza organizers received a $10,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Lewis of Chicago.

"Mass was celebrated for the first time in the new building in June, 1952, followed by the formal dedication in September. The church in the frontier setting was appropriately named for the first citizen saint of the United States.
"The $28,000 building and its accompanying parishioners were placed in the newly formed Sr. Pius X Parish in 1957, another sign of population growth in the Basin.

"Since September, 1961 Rev. David J. Hazen, who assists Rev. George A. Murphy, pastor of St. Pius, has been making weekly trips to the Bonanza Mission Church.

"St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Catholic Church in Bonanza serves 23 families in the Langell Valley. Built in 1952, the red brick structure with stained glass entry way, seats 80 persons and is also used for parish religious educating classes."

**Bonanza Telephones**

Telephone connection was made in February, 1902 between Klamath Falls and Ashland. The service was "not first class (It can well be imagined - Ed.) at present due to interference of the telegraph lines at Ashland."

Shortly thereafter H. V. Gates was granted the right to "conduct a telephone and telegraph line in Klamath county, said line to be commenced by May 1, 1902 and completed by October."

On November 20, 1902 the *Republican* reported: "The force employed by the Midway Telephone Co. completed its line to Bonanza last Saturday (November 15th) and returned to this place. Four phones were located in Bonanza and two at intermediate points - at the ranches of Chas. Horton and the Olene Livestock Co. On account of inclement weather, the building of the proposed line to Dairy, via Shook Bros. ranch, will probably be delayed until next spring."

By August 4, 1904 the *Republican* again reported: "The Midway Telephone and Telegraph Company have a crew of eleven men working on the new telephone line between Bonanza and Bly. Superintendent O. B. Gates announces that he expects to have communication open with Bly by the 1st of September."

"H. V. Gates will go to Lakeview in the interest of the telephone line which he is considering building to that point..."

Finally on August 24, 1904 the *Republican* reported: "The Midway Telephone and Telegraph Company have completed their telephone line from Bonanza to Bly. Connections were made Monday afternoon (August 22nd) ... We can now talk with our friends on the main line at Ashland and at Keno, Fort Klamath, Agency, Yainax, Merrill, Tule Lake, Bonanza and Bly."

Florence Horn, in November, 1971 recalled that Mrs. J. O. Hamaker conducted the first telephone exchange office in Bonanza, and Mrs. Malone served in a similar capacity on the other end, in Langell Valley. She further remembered that as a girl she was confined to her home with the pinkeye, so to pass the time, listened in on the telephone conversations, in other words "rubbered". It was at that time she heard the latest news on the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

**Stores in Bonanza**

*As written in 1963* by Claud Bechdoldt

The present General Merchandise store in Bonanza is owned and operated by Kenneth and Ivan Bold and is a modern, up-to-date store. I can remember when the store or stores in Bonanza were small; also I can remember driving with my father, Fred Bechdoldt, in a freight wagon pulled by a team of horses over the Green Springs Mountain Range to Medford for a year's supply of groceries and dry goods for our family. This trip took a week, three days going over, and three days coming back, with one day spent there. I always went with him on this trip and we ate one meal at a restaurant in Medford on each trip. The meals usually cost twenty-five cents each. A large bag of candy cost but very little and Dad usually bought a five gallon wooden bucket filled with assorted candies costing approximately three dollars."

Among the more recent stores in the past thirty years was a general merchandise store owned and operated by J. L. Sparretorn, later Lloyd Beebe, in the rock building now owned by the Bold Family and where the Bolds operated a meat market and had frozen food lockers.

The space between the present tavern and the old Post Office on the corner has housed several different kinds of stores. First, a pharmacy and Patent Medicine store run by Doctor Johnson; then later operated by R. H. Hubbard who also dealt in Patent Medicines, plus school supplies and candy. It was run even later by Chris Heidtman, who also sold drugs. More recently it has been operated by Lester Boggs for a Variety Store. Afterwards John and Ester Brown had a variety store there, selling Patent Medicine, candy, school supplies, notions, and a fountain for sodas and milk shakes; and also a cafe.

John Bradley had a grocery and dry goods store in the same building where the present tavern is now. This unit was later taken over by "Pop" Bray, who ran a feed store.

Dan and Jim Driscoll had a general merchandise store that was located where Ivan Bold now lives.

Fred Bechdoldt and Joe Hettinger ran a grocery store in what is known as the Hettinger Building. It consisted of a dance hall on the second floor, and a meat market and general merchandise store below. It was located almost where the present Chevron Gas Station now stands. Joe Hettinger ran the meat market and made the best bologna sausage that I have ever eaten.

About 1914 Erle Bechdoldt, my brother, built part of the present site of the Bonanza Cafe, now owned and operated by John and Ester Brown. He operated a meat market there.

Walter Broadsword owned and ran two hardware stores; the first being located about where the present new post office stands; the second was the brick building, just west of the two old barns, now torn down, that Ed Simmons later owned. In later years this building was used as a general merchandise store by Tom Bray; and still later by Earl Weber.

F. W. Bold ran a hardware store in a lower part of the present hotel building; he later had a grocery store there.

The first store in Bonanza that I can recall was owned and built by Abberdale Harpold. It was located where Roy Warfield now has the Union Gas Station; and was there before I was born. It consisted of a General Merchandise Store and Pharmacy with lodging
rooms on the second floor. Other people who had businesses in the Harpold Building were Claud Daggett, Creed McKendrey, John Bradley and Andy (A. B.) Moore; then Mr. Harpold took it over again and ran it until it burned about 1913.

Other people who had stores of one sort or another in Bonanza included Lee Bean, about 1904, who built a small place onto the Bill Bauman Blacksmith shop. He sold candy and soda pop only. A man named James, first name unknown, had a dry goods store where the Oasis Tavern now stands. A man named Keesee, first name unknown, had a little red store with a false front off the street and to the rear of the present site of the Ivan Bold residence. Howard and Holgate ran a candy kitchen and an ice-cream parlor in the Hettinger Building. J. L. Sparretorn also had a candy kitchen there. He later had a general merchandise store in a small building between the old post office on the corner and the present merchandise store. Creed McKendrey's mother, Mrs. McKendrey, had a notions store, featuring toys for children in the same building. It was later turned into a restaurant and barber shop. It burned in 1930.

Prices in those days were somewhat different than today. For instance, a room in a hotel cost twenty-five cents a night. A meal consisting of steak, potatoes, pie, and all that goes with it cost twenty-five cents; and the steak would cover a whole plate. A nice fat calf, ready to butcher cost $3.50. A shoat or young pig cost a dollar. Dress goods sold for five cents a yard (calico); wide hair ribbon cost five cents a yard; socks were six pair for twenty-five cents, all one size, and the boys of the family wore the same size; shoes, called brogans, were fifty cents a pair (we had one pair a year); Levi's cost 35 to 50 cents a pair for small sizes. The very choice land was $7.50 an acre, hay $3.50 a ton and wheat ninety cents a hundred pounds in a sack.

A big fire on May 15, 1910, burned all the buildings of the street of Bonanza on the side where the present Cafe, Chevron Station, and Rock building now stands. The town consisted of a lot more buildings then than are there today. Then it was built solidly from the Springs down in the Park all the way to the big livery barns that later stood across from the present hotel. A later fire, about 1913, burned the stores and houses that stood between the present fire house to the bridge crossing the river. Another fire in 1930 burned still other places, including the block where the old post office stands and the remaining stores between there and the Gladys Kilgore (then Horn) residence. Since then our fire department has done a wonderful job in the town and surrounding country in keeping down fire losses.

**Bonanza Cemetery**

John S. Shook is reported to have donated the land to be used as the Bonanza Cemetery. It was located in a field on his original homestead.

Tradition also tells us that "Sadie Howell" was the first person to be buried there. This, however, seems to be in error. Recent examination discloses that Margaret A. Wilson, wife of Thomas Wilson, early Langell Valley settler, who died November 22, 1877 was buried there. Further, Martha Walker, born in 1790 also died in 1877 and was likewise buried there. On the other hand, Sadie Howell, born in 1868, was buried there in 1888.

In addition there are between 30 and 40 unknown graves in the cemetery, several of which probably have early dates.

The 1963 Brochure History of Bonanza sums up the more recent activities connected with the cemetery: "The first clean-up job on the Lost River Cemetery and the IOOF Cemetery, which are connected, was conducted by men and women of the IOOF of Bonanza and area residents during 1922. Mrs. John Liskey of Merrill began the project by raising money for a fence."
"Up until 1922, no one thought about keeping the cemetery up because the pioneers were so busy trying to make a living. By then, the graves were run down, markers fading and broken from the elements and sagebrush was in abundance.

The final grand-scale cleanup was made in 1950. Men of the area loaned machinery and equipment to clear and level more land, grass was planted and pine and hawthorne trees were added. Today, the cemetery is a far cry from the way it looked in 1922, with the grounds smooth and unfurled and the headstones and markers in good condition. This was accomplished by the establishment of a cemetery association and the hiring of a caretaker for the grounds. In 1963 a caretaker's cottage was completed and more improvements are slated for the near future."

An interesting sidelight of an early grave in Bonanza is given by the Ashland Tidings of March 3, 1880 which tells us that "William (John) Gordon, son of Daniel Gordon of Bonanza was killed by William (Scotty) Douglas a few days since. A quarrel was followed by a beating at Wright's blacksmith shop which continued to Walter's hotel. Douglas pursued Gordon and killed him. He was arrested and taken to Lakeview."

According to a story related to Don Philport's by his father, it seems that Gordon had applied a blacksnake to Douglas' back, severely beating him. Douglas retired to his living quarters, secured a rifle and returned to pursue Gordon who had in the meantime been warned by those in the shop to look out for Douglas. Next, according to Sykes Hamaker, Gordon was buried in an open, sandy field south of North Street and near present Big Springs Park. Then a few years ago, while the park site was being prepared, a skeleton was dug up and later taken to the Log Cabin Museum, owned by Mrs. Jessie Broderon. The skull only was kept. Could it be that of John Gordon?

Bank of Bonanza

As stated in the Bonanza Historical Brochure of 1963, the Bank of Bonanza "was established in 1907 by a group of Klamath County residents, some of whom were Alex Martin Jr., William C. Dalton, Dell V. Kuykendall, and Jacob Rueck.

"Temporary offices were opened in a residence building in the west end of town, but soon moved to a building on the south side of the highway near the present location of the Bonanza Cafe."

The Bonanza Bulletin of September 10, 1908 reported that Alex Martin Jr., was President; Jacob Rueck, was Vice President; and H. L. Holgare, an Attorney in partnership with D. V., Kuykendall, was Cashier. Further, the bank then had resources totaling $47,523.02.

Again quoting the 1963 Brochure: "About 1909, a long time saloon building (Bradburn - Zevely) was removed from the corner of Market and North Street, and permanent quarters for the bank were built there and occupied at that time.

"Ownership of stock saw several transfers with Daniel G. Horn emerging with major interest in 1909. Banking needs of the community were served by this institution and at this same location for several years."

On May 30, 1930 the supposedly fire proof Bank Building was wiped out by fire. It was soon afterward rebuilt, which may have eventually proved to be a mistake.

On November 12, 1931, according to the Klamath News, three young men drove up to the Bonanza Bank in a battered old car, stolen the night before from the St. Francis Garage in Klamath Falls. They were heavily armed but unmasked and had the appearance of loggers, thus arousing no suspicions.

Dewey Horn, president and Miss Sarah Poole, assistant cashier, were in the bank at the time. Horn was forced to unlock the
vault and the safe in the vault. Altogether the men secured in the neighborhood of $4,000 in bills and silver.

After securing the money, two of the men returned to the car outside and started it, whereupon the third man who had remained in the bank compelling the officials to lie down, joined the others. The three men sped northward on the road toward Beatty, with Horn able to fire one shot after the car.

Ed Simmons and Dewey Horn entered another and better car, and set out after the bandits. Deputy sheriff Cy Combrest also left in another car in hot pursuit. The sheriff, Lloyd Low, and the state police from Klamath Falls were notified and joined in the search. The old car used by the bandits was found abandoned some three or four miles north of Bonanza. Evidence was found there indicating the bandits had transferred to another car waiting for them and had disappeared thereafter. Several days later, two men, Horace Nordstrom, alias Fred Johnson, aged 22, and Bob Wilson, aged 21, celebrating in a room in Sacramento, California were arrested and found to still have $1,500 of the stolen money. They had been boasting of the ease with which they had accomplished the robbery, and had been overheard by a woman.

As a result of this arrest, a third man, George W. Wolf, was arrested in the Anchor Hotel in Klamath Falls with $700 of the stolen money in his possession. The fourth man, "Slim", driver of the get-away car, had been picked up at "Hooverville", the old transient camp in the tulies south of Sixth Street and east of the railroad in Klamath Falls. After the robbery the men had driven the second car to Merrill where it also was abandoned, and taking to the railroad had scattered to their various destinations. "Slim" was never caught.

The Klamath News of November 13, 1931 "The money taken is protected by insurance John Horn stated and depositors and the bank will lose no money. The bank remained open for business after the robbery.

"Dewey Horn is president, John Horn is the vice president and cashier, D. C. Horn is a director and Miss Sarah Poole is assistant cashier and bookkeeper."

At the end of the year 1934, the Bank of Bonanza liquidated by transfer of all accounts, without loss to depositors, to the American National Bank of Klamath Falls.
Electricity to Bonanza

The reports of two different newspaper articles furnish us with about all the information available on the arrival of electricity in Bonanza.

The first is in the Evening Herald of April 13, 1908 which reports: "Moore Brothers have a force of men at work on the line to Bonanza. The Pole gang is now working near the Horton ranch. There has been some delay in getting the work on the plant (in Klamath Falls) started, but a force will be employed shortly. The machinery of the plant is at Bray (California) and will be brought in at once."

The second article was printed in the Bonanza Bulletin of December 10, 1908 and states: "Thompson Meldrum and Robt. Sloan, who have been wiring the residences and business places of this place during the past three weeks left Saturday for Klamath Falls. Before returning here to finish their work they will go to Merrill for a short time to do some work there on the electric line."

Fires in Bonanza

Bonanza perhaps holds the distinction of having suffered more disastrous fires than any town of its size in the State of Oregon. At one time it was a busy and thriving village, with an opera house, two hotels, a flour mill, newspaper, hardware and general merchandise stores and many other business houses. Two large livery stables survived all of these fires.

The first fire of record occurred September 4, 1900. If there were any fires previous to that date, and it is quite probable there were, no mention of them has been found to date.

On the above mentioned date, according to the Republican of September 16, 1900, about 17 years of age "broke into Clopton's (Driscoll's - Ed.) store and the post office at Bonanza and appropriated some clothing from the store and a small sum of money from the post office." This building was long known as the Driscoll Mercantile Store and was located at the corner of Main and North Streets where the present Bold stone building stands.

Young ______ then went to the residence of Alex Bradburn, who was absent at the time, and stole $45.00. This residence, a valuable piece of property with no insurance and owned by young ______ father, ______ of Klamath Falls, was then set on fire and totally consumed.

The next morning the young man confessed himself guilty of the crimes and was placed under arrest. It was learned that for years he had been a kleptomaniac. He was taken to Portland where he was tried before the U.S. Circuit Court, charged with robbing the post office at Bonanza. He was tried in late November, and was discharged, the evidence being insufficient to warrant an indictment. The father then announced his son would not return to this country, but would remain with relatives in the northern part of the state.

The next fire of record took place in 1903 or 1904 during a time when a considerable group of Indians were camped across Lost River from Bonanza, perhaps during the spring run of mullet. Two Indians, Fred Snyder, half white, and _____ Morgan, who had reportedly imbibed too freely of "firewater", were placed in the town jail, a wooden building situated north of the west end of the present bridge. The fire was thought to have started from the inside and both inmates were burned to death. Alex Zevely and A. D. Harpold pulled the bodies from the smouldering building. Zevely remembers that the Riddle family was camped there at the time. Considerable excitement and some trouble with the Indian encampment followed. Ester (White) Sullivan remembers that her brother, Erie White, "just a kid", hid behind a rock with a rifle, on the hill above Bonanza, thinking every bush hid an Indian.

On May 15, 1910 occurred the first of Bonanza's four big fires in the business section.
According to the *Evening Herald* of January 14, 1914, "...two hotels, two general stores, the post office, a butcher shop, barber shop, a saloon and warehouse were destroyed... the origin of the fire has been a mystery. When this first fire swept the village many were away and this was the case in today's fire, scores from Bonanza being in town to testify before the grand jury."

Contemporary newspaper files for that period of time have disappeared, therefore we must rely on old photos and reminiscences to reconstruct how many businesses actually burned. 1. The old Chastain or Morine barn next to the river; 2. The Big Spring Hotel, once the Chastain Hotel and later the Morine Hotel on the east side of Main Street at its intersection with North Street; 3. The Driscoll Mercantile Store which also housed the post office at the rear, on the corner of Main and North Streets at the location of the present stone building; 4. and 5. Two small false fronted buildings, in one of which was a saloon, approximately where the Bonanza Cafe now stands, and the other a barber shop; 6. The New American Hotel; 7. A two story building once known as the Hettinger Building, which held the Racket Store, Confectionery and Candies, once operated by Howard and Holgate, and at another time by J. L. Sparretorn; The City Meat Market conducted by Joe Hettinger; The Bonanza Cash Store by Fred Bechdoldt and Joe Hettinger; while upstairs was a dance hall, once also known as the Opera House; 8. An old shoe shop that stood just east of the two barns which survived.

Next, the *Evening Herald* of August 19, 1913 reported: "For the second time in the history of the town of Bonanza, the metropolis of the Clover Leaf country was visited by a bad fire last night, when the Harpold building containing a drug store, general merchandise store, barber shop, confectionery store and hotel, and the building occupied by the Broadsword Hardware company, went up in flames.

"Both buildings were of wood, and the efforts of a bucket brigade were of no avail. It is believed that the conflagration was due to defective wiring. The loss is figured at $20,000, and the fire victims carried but little insurance."

Bonanza's third big fire occurred on the morning of January 16, 1914 when fire started in the post office building and destroyed other buildings immediately adjacent.

According to the *Evening Herald*: "The losses total $8,900. Of the buildings lost, the only one insured was the hotel, on which a policy of $2,600 was in force.

"The losses follow: The Clover Leaf Hotel, owned by Mrs. N. E. Posten, $3,000; United States Post Office, loss $1,000; Hugh Clopton, post office building and boxes, $500; Bonanza Bulletin, plant $2,000; Bulletin building, owned by J. O. Hamaker, $1,200; I.O.O.F. lodge, equipment, $700; Hickman's Barber Shop, building, $500.

"The telephone exchange was destroyed, but communication with Klamath Falls is carried on by a telephone instrument just installed.

"All the furniture of the Hickman barber shop was saved. J. O. Hamaker saved his desk, containing a new typewriter and some of his papers and library."

By March 14th, Bonanza residents offered the sum of $1,000 for evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of parties responsible for the fire. The reward was offered by the Bank of Bonanza, by John S. Horn, cashier; W. S. Johnson, D. G. Horn, William Wood, L. D. Buck, J. L. Sparretorn, William Goss, Kilgore Company, F. W. Broad- sword and L. J. Bauman.

By May 2nd, Hugh Clopton had been arrested and his wife, then in Lakeview was also to be arrested. The arrest was made at the insistence of a Mr. DeHay, an itinerant blacksmith, who started some sort of an investigation at the time the citizens offered the reward.

A preliminary trial was held May 5th, and both "bound over in the sum of $1,500,
each to await the action of the next grand jury, by Justice of the Peace E. W. Gowan this morning (6th - Ed) at the conclusion of the hearing in his court," according to the Evening Herald of May 6.

The outcome is unknown, but a few old-timers think the Cloptons were turned loose.

The fourth and last big fire occurred on May 30, 1930. The fire started about noon in the blacksmith shop owned by F. W. Bold and Son, and operated by C. S. Pope, marshal of Bonanza, who first discovered the blaze. For the next two hours the fire, fanned by a strong wind burned through the bank, post office, Sparretorn's restaurant which was operated by Carl M. Lentz, the drug store run by Lester Boggs and Bradley's general merchandise store.

Loss was estimated from $75,000 to $100,000. Valuable papers in the bank and post office were locked in the fire-proof vault of the bank and withstood the blaze.

The bank, post office and drugstore buildings were owned by D. G. Horn and his sons, John and Dewey. J. T. Bradley was the proprietor of the general merchandise store. All were 25 year residents of the Bonanza country as were Bold and Sparretorn.

Flying sparks from the forge in the blacksmith shop (the old Bauman building - Ed) started two fires in the shop, one between the walls, and the other under the door. The bank building which was supposed to be fire proof was valued at $15,000 with fixtures worth $2,500.

There was no insurance on the Bradley store, either stock or building. Estimated loss was about $6,000. Lester Boggs, the owner of the drug store stock carried $1,000 insurance on his stock. Carl M. Lentz, who was running the restaurant, lived over his place of business. All his furniture, clothing and possessions were lost, without insurance.

Behind the business block were several sheds and warehouses belonging to J. L. Sparretorn which all burned. Sparretorn carried some insurance, but by no means full coverage.

In later years other fires continued their work of devastation, the High School, the old Langell Apartments, the Oasis adjoining the present hotel to the west and others not known at this time.

An article in the Herald and News of unknown date, but later than 1962 states:

"Bonanza has good protection from a joint city and rural fire department that includes a feminine assist in the form of the Fire Belles, a group newly organized in 1962.

The present city fire department was first organized December 19, 1948. The fire house was built in the summer of 1952. That year, the rural fire district was organized and the operation combined with that of the city. There are two fire trucks, one for city and one for rural use.

The Bonanza city council controls the city fire truck, and a board of five directors controls the rural department..."

**Bonanza Library**

(From the Brochure History of 1963)

The Bonanza Library is one in which the community may be justly proud. Prior to its inception in the early 1920's the only Libraries were a few books furnished each school by the school districts. About this time a small group of Bonanza women organized and met for cultural and community improvement. In 1926 they joined the Book of the Month Club. By donating their own books and magazines they soon had the nucleus of a library. They loaned out the books for 5 cents a week to buy more books.

In 1928 the first Klamath County Branch Library was established here and the Women's Club has continued as custodians. The Library was housed in different temporary buildings until the present building was completed in 1934. It didn't appear by magic but after many, many good sales, bazaars, dances, and other money making
affairs. They also received help in putting up the building from the C.W.A. (Civil Workers Administration). The building was completely paid for by 1935. In addition to upkeep, new furnishings and many improvements have been added each year. For many years it has filled a need for a community center and is available for any worthwhile project.

In the early years the Librarians served without remuneration. They now receive a small salary. Women who have served as regular librarians include: Ada Parsons Sparrottorn, Birdie Burk, Clara Daniel, Lillian Bechdoldt, Mabel Pepple, Ester Fernlund, Irene Harrley, Elsa Rueck, Bell Ross, Florence Horn, Lola Horn and Mildred Kellison.

Big Springs Park
(from the Herald & News, date unknown)

The pride and joy of Bonanza, among other things, is the Big Springs Park. Interested members of the community began active work on getting the park started in 1952. From an unsightly weed patch, willing care created a beautiful spot for picnics, including fireplaces, tables, benches and even piped water.

As each year progressed, new things have been added to the park and use of the park has continued to increase. Latest project is a tennis court. The area for the court was blacktopped in the fall of 1962 and fencing will be added in the spring to make it ready for use. Plans also call for a basketball court at each end and an area that can be used for roller skating and square dancing as well as basketball.

One of the additions in 1962 was a Christmas tree which was donated in memory of Mrs. Walter (Nell) Casebeer by Mrs. Eva Arthur of Lakeview. It was decorated for the first time for the 1962 Christmas season.

Overseeing the work of the park at the present time are Lois Van Sipe, president; Mildred Kellison, vice president; Roy Warfield, treasurer, and Lilith O'Conner, secretary. Directors are Don Gibney, Lois Van Sipe and Ester Brown.

Bonanza Newspaper

The Bonanza Bulletin, only a memory now, came to life around the last of May, 1906. It survived the two disastrous fires of 1910 and 1913 only to fall prey to another, which struck the village in January of 1914.

The Bulletin was founded by Charles Pattee and Frank Salcedio, to be purchased by J. O. Hamaker in August, 1906.

The plant was first located in an old building on Market Street near Central (probably the old wooden post office building - Ed.) from which Hamaker moved it to the coffin room in the Bauman blacksmith shop building on North Street.

At first, Louis Gerber had an interest in the plant, but later sold his share to Earl Hamaker, son of J. O. Sometime in the fall of 1908 S. C. Graves took over as editor and proprietor.

Some others who worked on the Bonanza Bulletin from time to time were Roy Hamaker, Minnie Clyman, Montie Hamaker, Mrs. Doris Reed, Mrs. Ada Parsons Sparrottorn, Mrs. Frank Pool, Mrs. K. I. Bold, Katherine Skinner, Mrs. James Goss, J. H. Healey, and Buddie Bean.

In 1908 a new two-story building was built and the Bulletin made its last move to that location, near what is now the Antler's Den. Insurance to the amount of $4,000 was carried on the building and stock until about a month before the fire of 1914. The policy was cancelled on account of an old building next door which at that time housed the post office. At about that same time the Bulletin was leased to Charles Faught.

About three weeks thereafter the fire of January 16, 1914 destroyed the entire Bulletin plant, the post office and Clover Leaf Inn next door. The last two buildings were owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Clopton, the latter being the postmaster at the time.

Mrs. Hamaker discovered the fire about 2:30 in the morning, but by then it was too
late to save any of the Bulletin's equipment, or for that matter anything in the other buildings. For further information see the "Fires of Bonanza" in this issue.

The following articles are gleaned from the Bonanza Bulletin of Thursday, December 10, 1908, S. C. Graves, Editor and Proprietor: "CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL. Langell Valley and Bonanza Getting Ready for Test of Foot-Ball Agility and Strength. From Langell Valley comes the report that a husky and fiery lot of young men are practicing with the pigskin, getting ready to try foot-ball conclusions with Bonanza's newly formed eleven, here on Christmas day. All the names of the Langell Valley players could not be learned, but among them are, Warren Kilgore, Ivan Kilgore, Merle Kilgore, Hollis Swingle, Weeden and Low. The names of the first four seem very appropriate. Weeden and Low are said to have had considerable experience at the game.

"On the Bonanza team the present line-up, subject to probably some changes are: Center, Harry Nichols; R. Guard, Virgil Irwin; L. Guard, Earl Hamaker; R. Tackle, Lee J. Bean; L. Tackle, Jas. Colahan; R. End, Levi McDonald; L. End, Colly Bailey; C. Back, Ray Howard; R. Half, Fred Harpold; L. Half, Bert Jenkins; Full Back, Earl Bechdoldt.

A purse or trophy will be presented to the winning team by citizens of Bonanza. While the game will be played chiefly by novices, it is nevertheless certain to prove highly interesting. Officials will be selected who will bar unnecessary rough playing.

"If Bauman's hall, which has been leased by the Bonanza Athletic Club, is wired for the lights in time, there will be a basket ball game played there Christmas Eve.

"The big masquerade dance will be given Christmas Eve. It is sufficient to say, in behalf of the music, that the Lamm orchestra will play. The opera house has been wired for electric lights, the floor will be in perfect condition and the big feast will be ready at midnight."

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"The school board should offer a good reward to the person informing upon the boy or boys who have been shooting out the basement windows in the new school house and several other buildings about town. The reform school would be a good place for a few of the lads in this town and the penitentiary is waiting for one or two more."

Advertisements:
Dr. W. S. Johnson, Physician and Surgeon.
H. L. Holgate, Attorney at Law.
Klamath Falls - Bonanza - Lakeview Stage Line.
New American Hotel, Chas. Larnbert, Prop.
Heidtman's Pharmacy.
Bradley Cash Store, J. T. Bradley, Prop.
Driscoll Mercantile Company.
Bank of Bonanza, Capital Stock, $50,000.
New American Hotel, Mrs. Marjorie Hoagland, manager.
Eldred Saddlery Co., Morine Block.
Bonanza Creamery Company.
Bald Butte Sawmill, J. D. and S. W. Hamaker, Pros.
Confectionery and Racket Store, Fred C. Vinson, Prop.
The Candy Bazaar, Ray Howard, Manager, Opera House Bldg.
D. L. L. Truax, Physician and Surgeon.
J. D. Hamaker, Land Attorney. For Sale, Town Lots in East Bonanza.
S. C. Graves, Notary Public and City Recorder.
New American Livery Stables, McDonald and Hoagland, Pros.
The Elite, Pool and Billiard Parlors, Harry Nichols, Prop.
Big Springs Hotel, G. W. Morine, Prop.
Pioneer Blacksmith Shop, Bauman & Sparre tuna, Pros.
O. K. Barber Shop, Lee J. Bean, Prop.
Near Corner Main and North Sts.
The Bonanza Creamery

During Bonanza’s boom-period, 1900-1914, several businesses were commenced, among them a creamery, a newspaper, a flour mill, a slaughter house, a brick yard, and the telephone and electric utilities.

About January 20, 1906 several well known business men of Bonanza incorporated with a capital stock of $5,000, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a creamery at that place. The incorporators were C. T. and Fred McKendree, Charles Horton and the Driscoll Mercantile Co., each subscribing 10 shares at $50 per share, fully paid up, for a sum of $2,000 in the treasury. The capital stock was divided into 100 shares, to be subscribed for as needed.

Fred McKendree was elected business manager and was sent to the State Agricultural College at Corvallis to take a short course in dairying and its associated industries.

The creamery was built on a site occupied by the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack McFall and may have been on the foundations of the old Nichols sawmill. Its first day of operation was June 17, 1907 when the first "Bonanza Creamery Butter" was produced. Van Riper brothers, then operating a general merchandise store in Bonanza, were the first to place an order for butter.

The Klamath Republican of April 16, 1908 reported: "I. S. Davis received this month from Bonanza Creamery for butter fat turned in during March from three cows, $38.02. This makes an average of almost $12.67, per cow, per month. Is there any profit for such return? Besides in this case, the cows were fresh at the first of the month, and he did not save all the milk as it is shown by the weekly report which gives 40 lbs. cream the first week, 57 lbs. the second, and 78 lbs. the third, 72 lbs. the fourth and 78 lbs. the last week. - Bonanza Bulletin."

Evening Herald, April 29, 1908: "H. N. Whiteline has sold his milch cows, 35 head to John S. Shook who will milk for the Bonanza Creamery..."

May 21, 1908: "BONANZA CREAMERY IN NEED OF MARKET. Jas. H. Driscoll is in the city today on his way to Sacramento in the interest of the Bonanza Creamery. This creamery is now supplying the market of Klamath County, and also shipping some of its product into Lake. Still the butter making business has reached the stage where the creamery can turn out every week about 1,000 pounds of butter over the amount used by the present trade. Mr. Driscoll goes to Sacramento to make arrangements to ship the surplus to that city every week. (Remember the railroad did not reach Klamath Falls until May 19, 1909 so the product had to be freighted to railroad, probably Pokegama - Ed)... The Bonanza Creamery now manufactures about 2,000 pounds of butter every week and this amount can be increased at any time. It will be necessary to find a new market soon..."

June 27, 1908: "Virgil Erwin will leave tomorrow morning for the railroad with another shipment of 2,500 pounds of butter for the Sacramento market."

July 11, 1908: "After one year's experience in the business, the stockholders of the Bonanza Creamery Company are thoroughly satisfied with the result of their investment of $5,000. The creamery has paid no dividends, nor will it for some time, but the business is now on an even keel, and the satisfaction of the shareholders is in account of the large benefit their venture has been to the farmers who have been able to take advantage of the opportunity the creamery affords.

"The monthly expenses of the company are about $380. For the past month the price received for butter was 23 cents or 19½ cents net, deducting expressage, freight and commissions."

August 7, 1908: "Sacramento is now consuming all of the butter that is not needed to supply the local markets. A few days ago a nice large shipment was made and imme-
diately following this came so many local orders that just now the creamery is a few days behind with the orders from the various Klamath county points."

However rosy the prospects of the Bonanza Creamery may have seemed at first, the next newspaper article found, the Evening Herald of February 24, 1912 reports: "The Bonanza Creamery is being sued on their notes." No further information has been found as to the cause of the failure, when the creamery ceased or what became of the equipment.

Bonanza Flour Mill

"The ground was broken for the Flour Mill building this week, and it will be ready for operation by August 1, 1908. The motive power will be electricity furnished by the Moore Bros." Thus wrote the Republican of October 17, 1907 to one year later again report on October 29, 1908:

"The new flour mill at Bonanza began running last Saturday, being in operation all of that day and Sunday. The machinery worked perfectly and gave entire satisfaction. The out put far exceeds the fondest expectations of the proprietors, Kilgore Brothers. It was assumed when the construction of this mill was begun that there would be enough wheat in the Upper country to keep it in operation for several months, but the wind storms of the early spring, followed by the extreme drought, cut the supply of wheat far below the needs of the communities that this mill is expected to supply. However, with the prospects of the early completion of the irrigation system for the Upper project and the belief that next year will not see a repetition of this year's drought, it is believed that there will in the future be ample wheat to meet the demands of the mill. Bonanza is to be congratulated on the enterprise of her citizens and they deserve unlimited success."

The Kilgore flour mill was located west of the Florence Horn residence, some 200 yards or more. It probably failed for the reasons mentioned above, but how long it lasted is unknown at present.

Miscellaneous

A few other Bonanza enterprises that were in existence for a time are:

A brick-yard operated by Bert and Gene Childers near the base of the hill southwest of the cemetery.

A slaughter house, still standing, across Lost River 1/4 mile south of the Florence Horn residence was operated at one time by Joe Hettinger.

A small privately owned fish hatchery across Lost River from Big Springs Park was operated for a time to supply reservoirs and ponds in the Bonanza-Langell Valley neighborhood. A man named Albertson was the operator.

The "Greenhouse", the red light district of Bonanza, stood in a field east of the present Poe Valley - West Langell Valley Road, and north of Lost River. The house was moved and still exists as a residence.

Bonanza Museums

The Log Cabin Museum is located in the western end of Bonanza, north of North Street. Begun in 1946 the museum belongs to Francis and Jessie Brotherton. It contains thousands of articles of historical interest, which have overflowed to the walls of several buildings and the grounds surrounding them. The museum is open upon request, to the public, free of charge, whenever the Brothertons are home, especially Sundays. They continually pursue their hobby of collecting more artifacts of all kinds.

Three other private collections are also well worth visiting in Bonanza. The Florence Horn exhibit in a separate building at her home. The Mr. and Mrs. Jack McFall exhibit at their home, and the collections of John and Esther Brown at the Bonanza Cafe. There is no charge on these exhibits which are open to visitors when the owners are home.
Eating dinner in the Horton barn in Poe Valley at the July 4, 1906 celebration.

-Misellaneous Cloverleaf

As stated before "Cloverleaf Country" consisted of three valleys, Langell, Poe and Alkali (Yonna). We do not have the space in this book to cover the latter two, but will mention the post offices and schools located within their boundaries. This is done, since they are very closely related to the Bonanza area.

SCHOOLS: District No. 4, Lost River (Olene) ... Established sometime in the 1878-79 period and accepted into Klamath County, January 1, 1883. Closed to Henley about 1930.

District No. 5, Alkali (Dairy) ... Accepted into Lake County, January 25, 1882 and closed to Bonanza about 1930.

District No. 13 (Hildebrand) ... Established in Klamath County, April 13, 1886 and closed to Bonanza by 1941.

District No., 16, Lower Poe Valley ... Separated from Olene No. 4, February 15, 1888 and closed to Henley in 1939-1940.

District No. 20, Upper Poe Valley (Butin) ... Separated from Lower Poe Valley No. 16, February 8, 1889. Last time to appear on the county lists, 1927-1928.

District No. 47, Horton ... First appeared on the 1920-1921 county list and was closed to Bonanza in 1924.

POST OFFICES:

Lost River, established February 8, 1875, closed April 10, 1876 with W. H. Horton the only postmaster.

Dairy, established May 8, 1876. Discontinued in 1878 to be re-established in 1883. In June, 1967 it became a branch of Klamath Falls, with Edith Parrish as Clerk in charge.

Olene, established May 8, 1884, closed June 30, 1956, reopened April 30, 1959 as a rural station.
Hildebrand opened as Edgewood on August 21, 1890. Name changed to Hildebrand, December 1, 1890. Discontinued September 12, 1942 with mail to Dairy.

Bedfield, established March 1, 1892 and discontinued August 14, 1909.

Yonna Valley, established February 7, 1882 and discontinued March 12, 1883 with the mail to Linkville.

**Mullet and the Indians**

There are two subjects that rated high in the interest of early day residents of the Cloverleaf Country whenever writing or talking to friends, the ever present Indian and the early spring-runs of fish.

At various times called buffalo fish, whitefish, suckers and more recently as mullets, these fish made their annual spawning runs from Tule Lake, up Lost River to the Big Springs every February and March. For unknown centuries Indians congregated at the Big Springs each Winter and Spring to lay in their next year’s supply of fish which were dried on the spot. Their camps probably lined both sides of Lost River in the vicinity of Big Springs. In later years their main camp was at one time across Lost River from Bonanza only, extending down river from the bridge some distance.

After the whites appeared on the scene the depletion of these fish really began. Wagons were backed into the river just below the bridge, and by the use of hands and pitchforks, were loaded to overflowing, or to the extent of a team’s ability to pull the wagon out. The fish were used for oil as a lubricant, fertilizer and food. Now, they have all but disappeared from the river. A few are caught each year in Upper Klamath Lake, between Barclay Springs and Modoc Point.

The earliest news item found to date, concerning Indians in the vicinity comes from the Democratic Times of September 21, 1872 when their Langell Valley correspondent wrote: “A Modoc Indian at Langell Valley blew into the muzzle of his gun last Saturday to see if it was loaded. Could poor Lo communicate with his friends in this world, his spirit would gently whisper ‘It was.’

The first mention made of fish and the Indian encampments was that of James
Sutton, founding editor of the *Tidings*, who after visiting Linkville (Klamath Falls) and the Lower Lost River Valley, wrote in part on August 24, 1876:

"... Pursue our way along Lost river banks for 40 miles ... occasionally a farm house .... then Bonanza where we get dinner. On foot, explore the wonders. After traveling a half-mile along the wagon road, turn off and go down to the river. ... the water comes out of the earth from a thousand springs distributed over several acres of ground. The water runs out from the rocks so quietly that one can but suppose it is the continuation of the subterranean river ... fish are fabulous. The stream abounds in mountain trout of very large size, but it is a kind of sucker or whitefish which makes this stream truly wonderful. They come up from the lake every spring in such enormous quantities that neither spear, hook or net is needed to take them. At a few places on the river that are fordable, it is almost impossible to cross on horseback during the run of this fish. Great quantities are taken by the Indians and dried for winter use. They are exceedingly fat and produce a great quantity of oil. Parties at Bonanza are making arrangements to commence operating next spring in preparing oil of these fish for market. ..."

Following are a series of early newspaper articles relating to the Indians and their hunting and fishing activities: *Tidings* November 11, 1876: "The Indians from the reservation are still roaming through the country killing and running off our game, and making themselves generally obnoxious. Is there no help? (How quickly, after seven years at the most, had the Indian lost his rights to hunt and fish on land for centuries his to do with as he wished! - Ed.).

*Tidings*, September 14, 1876: "Bonanza Items ... Indians are all over the country, stripping it of wild plums and berries, shooting our game. These Indians are a nuisance to the settlers, but it is useless to abate it as long as the present Agent remains in office. If a white man's horse gets on the Reservation, the Agent compels him to pay the Indian for grass destroyed by said horse. Signed, Dick."

December 2, 1876: "...from Bonanza, Dick writes again about the troublesome Indians and their killing off the game and taking wagons of fish."

January 6, 1877: "Langell Valley: "...Bonanza needs a blacksmith to make sucker gigs."

February 24, 1877: "...warm and dusty; fish not arrived yet."

March 10, 1877: "Bonanza Item. date of 2nd. Rain - water high - Fish plenty. Indians will not be permitted to catch and dry fish this year."

March 24, 1877: "Bonanza Items, dated 9th. River high. Fish abundant. Mr. Walker & Co. are making oil on a small scale. Fish very fat and easily caught. Yield two gallons oil per 100 pounds of fish."

February 22, 1897: "The annual run of mullets in Lost River has begun. They are an excellent food fish and many caught for their oil which the farmers use as a lubricant, preferring it to that which is procured in the stores. They are plentiful during their spawning season but to state just how plentiful would probably lead our outside readers to believe we were drawing upon our imagination or relating a story of extremely fishy flavor. We refrain."

Lastly came an item from the *Republican* of April 9, 1903: "Fred and Chas. Biehn had a narrow escape from serious consequences in going through a bridge over Lost River with horses and a load of hay on Sunday, at the Lower Gap (Olene). It was their third trip for the day with hay from the C. C. Lewis Ranch. The bridge seemed safe, but the middle span fell 15 feet without turning the wagon over, and one horse tried to walk out on the back of the other, nearly drowned it. One of the boys crawled down the tongue, and cut loose the horses. The wagon, hay, and boys floated 100 yards, then lodged against some rocks. They were rescued by a
man who had a boat nearby. A valuable dog, belonging to George Biehn, traveling under the wagon, was killed.

"Judge Baldwin and Fred Biehn visited the scene of the calamity on Monday. The wagon was pulled out of the turbulent waters, but, according to the Judge, the alfalfa was gone, having been assimilated by a million suckers which fed out of the rack like cattle. Hence, from now on people may expect to get alfalfa fed fish from Lost River."

Pictures are in existence of fish drying on racks in Indian camps along Lost River below Olene. And, in this same location in the early 1900's a fish packing plant was set up and operated for at least one year. There is record of these barrels of fish being shipped out of the Klamath country by way of Pokegama.

**Cloverleaf Country Rabbit Drives**

Few people today, when seeing an occasional jack-rabbit sitting beside the road, or scurrying through the sagebrush, realize that at one time these little animals almost threatened the very existence of our pioneer settlers. It is hard today, to believe that where from one to two jack-rabbits, or even none, will be seen in a day's time, that in the early days of this century, hundreds might be seen in the same distance.

In fact, jack-rabbits were so numerous at the turn of the century they became a serious threat to some communities. Entire fields of grain, gardens, etc., were eaten to the ground and it became a case of survival to rid the communities of the innocent appearing little pests.

Presumably sometime during the 1890's Klamath County started paying a bounty of five cents per rabbit scalp (two ears attached together) as an incentive toward ridding the country of the hungry, long eared jack-rabbit. According to the *Tidings* of June 8, 1896 the County Court "replaced" the bounty on rabbit scalps.

As a result, we have two different articles in the *Republican* that record the result. "February 14, 1901: Several of our sportsmen have been engaged in the wholesale slaughter of jackrabbits during the past week. They have killed several hundred. They kill them to secure the bounty, 5 cents per scalp."

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Results of a rabbit drive, somewhere in Cloverleaf country, hundreds of jack-rabbits.

- Beverly McFall
March 13, 1902: “The county court was in session last week on Friday. The bounty on over 30,000 rabbit scalps, and about 854 coyote and wild cat scalps was ordered paid. The rabbit bounty of 5 cents per scalp was ordered continued until May 7.”

Other means utilized were community rabbit drives, usually held in late fall, winter and early spring, when the entire populace, men, women and children turned out. Formed into a continuous line, sometimes more than a mile in length, the drivers would advance cross-country for three or four miles to end up against a hill, rimrock, canyon wall or many times “wire netting” fences.

The Tidings of January 3, 1895 reported: “Lou Matney of Lost River was in town (Klamath Falls) Sunday circulating a petition asking the County court to purchase a mile and a half of wire netting to be used for rabbit drives.”

At the beginning of a drive, the rabbits would allow themselves to be forced away from their home territory, but after a quarter or a half mile, they began to turn back. Laying their ears back they would try to break through the advancing line of people. Some were killed by the advance line with their clubs, and most of those that managed to get through were killed by the shot-gun fire, rifles being barred as too dangerous from ricocheting bullets.

Sometimes the rabbits were driven into “wire netting” corrals, which had two long wings built out at right angles, after which they were killed with clubs to conserve ammunition and reduce accidents. Even under the best managed drives shooting accidents occasionally occurred, (especially if you were envious of some husband, it was a good place to accidentally get rid of him. The writer has known this to happen).

On an average these drives netted from five or six hundred to as many as 2,000 rabbits killed in one drive.

After drives, hot coffee and pot-luck dinners were served. Everyone renewed old acquaintances and visited the hours away. A general good time was had, even a dance might be held that evening.

Another means of hunting rabbits was for a community to choose up equal numbered sides, and the members of the two teams hunt for two weeks to a month, using whatever weapons the individual preferred, since they were hunting alone and away from anyone else, but being sure to save the scalps of every rabbit killed to be tabulated later. The losing side would then “treat” the winning side to a “big feed”.

These hunts and drives failed to keep the jack-rabbit population of Klamath County under control however, so other means were sought, and poison at first seemed to be the answer.

Evening Herald, December 17, 1919: “Three hundred jackrabbits to each gallon of poisoned grain was the extermination record established last Saturday by Claude Bechdoldt, a farmer of the Langell Valley.

“Bechdoldt is a member of the county farm bureau, which is conducting a comprehensive extermination campaign. The county court recently decided to abolish the bounty on rabbits and use the remainder of the bounty fund in co-operation with the farm bureau to buy and distribute poison, the county paying half and the bureau the other half of the cost.

“Mr. Bechdoldt got five gallons of the poisoned oats and put them out Saturday night. Sunday morning he found dead jack rabbits scattered all over the place. There were so many he felt that without corroborative evidence he would not be believed if he told about it so he secured a committee of neighbors to help him tally the results. The party found 1500 dead rabbits.

“The heavy snow which deprives the rabbits of natural forage, makes conditions ideal for poisoning as the rabbits eat the grain greedily. Ranchers everywhere are taking advantage of conditions to eradicate the pests.”
Evning Herald, December 18, 1919: “Monroe Lytle, leader of the rabbit extermination campaign in the farm bureau district comprising Dairy, Bonanza and Hildebrand, reports continued success. 80 in one night around one small corral of two quarts. 50 ounces of strychnine was divided in these precincts. James Ezell, is the county leader; M. T. Prince at Lorella & Barnes Valley; M. J. Lytle at Dairy, Bonanza and Hildebrand; and Ray Kinsman at Pine Grove and Olene.

“Umatilla, Morrow, Deschutes and Malheur Counties have like campaigns.”

Finally we have the Evning Herald of January 12, 1920 reporting: “The rabbit drive in the Pine Grove sector yesterday started from the school house, advanced 1½ miles toward the hills with 200 rabbits killed. One man tried to outrun a rabbit. This is the 3rd of a series of drives, the rabbits getting to be so numerous as to seriously effect crops in many sections, and the rabbit drive is the most successful means of coping with this pest yet discovered. Next drive, January 18th, at the Joe Taylor place, in Poe Valley.” (Some complaint had arisen in regard to careless handling of the poisoned oats, several head of valuable stock being killed as also cats and dogs which ate the carcasses - Ed.)

One amusing circumstance of many hunting experiences was reported by the Republican of November 29, 1900: “A Merrill hunter says the meanest man on the Pacific Coast lives near Bonanza. He is a rancher west of here. A few days ago he killed a big squirrel, and after skinning it stuffed the hide and fastened it securely to the limb of a big tree. When the Merrill hunter came along he shot away all his ammunition but the squirrel remained in the tree. He then climbed up to the squirrel’s perch, and when he saw the joke he was so hot he burned a hole in his pants sliding down the tree. He left the squirrel for the next hunter.”

Cloverleaf Sawmills

As heretofore shown, John S. Shook built the first sawmill at Bonanza in 1873. It was situated across Lost River from the lower end of Big Springs Park. Shook sold the mill to Daniel Gordon in 1879, who ran it about four years before deeding the property back to Shook in 1883, at which time it seems to have shut down.

The second sawmill, that of G. B. Van Riper and Orson Lewis, was located on the Bonanza side of Lost River about where the present Jack McFall home stands. It seems to have started sometime in 1879 with Lewis selling his interest to Van Riper the following year. Van Riper sold to Nichols Bros. in 1881, who ran the mill until about 1885.

As written in “Lumbering in Klamath” by W. E. Lamm, Frank Nichols once stated: “It didn’t cost much to make lumber in those days, since I cut Government timber, then hired a man and team to haul in the logs. I ran the mill by myself, so I didn’t have any payroll to meet, and the only supply bill was for axle grease to grease the sash.” This mill cut about 700 to 800 feet per day while Van Riper ran it but Nichols doubled the capacity.

Both of these Bonanza sawmills received their power from undershot water wheels. The cutting was one by “up and down” or “sash saws”.

An old-timer of Bonanza told Mr. Lamm, when questioned about the Gordon mill: “Yes, I knew the Gordon mill, it was one of those up and down mills – up today and down tomorrow. Grandpap used to start the saw in the log, then go away, sometimes catch a fish, and then after a while he would go back to see what effect the saw had had upon the log.”

Mr. Lamm also recorded that “James P. Calahan built a circular mill on Bly Mountain north of Bonanza about 1885. (It would seem this mill may have been in operation much earlier, since the Tidings of September 14, 1877 wrote there was to be a “sawmill
between Langell Valley and Sprague River."

- Ed.) Run by a steam traction engine, it was the first steam driven mill in the county and had a capacity of 5,000 feet or more per day. This mill was portable and was moved quite often to various sites on Bly Mountain, probably to shorten the log haul. It was moved to the White ranch in 1889 and again to Keno Springs about twelve miles northeast of Bonanza, in 1898.

Al Fitch built a steam driven circular mill near Hildebrand in 1894, the first mill to have a stationary boiler and engine and the fastest mill in southern Oregon, up to that date, capable of cutting 15,000 to 20,000 feet per day. The mill ceased operation in 1903, when Mr. Fitch was killed, crushed by a log. The mill machinery was sold in 1904 to Ackley Brothers of Klamath Falls who constructed the first sawmill on Lake Ewauna at the southern end of Center Street. This mill was the predecessor of the only sawmill now located in Klamath Falls on Lake Ewauna, The Modoc Lumber Company sawmill.

Further information on Fitch indicates that his first or at least an early sawmill was located at Keno Springs. This mill was sold to Williams and Watson who later sold to Clark Hamaker, who in turn sold to Potts and Vanderpool who moved the equipment to the Paisley vicinity. While under Hamaker’s ownership this sawmill was known as the “Bald Butte Sawmill”.

We have two articles from the Tidings which record the difficulties of hauling lumber by individuals from the Keno Springs mills into Langell Valley:

“June 7, 1897. Clarence Cooper Saturday had a runaway on the mountain while on his way from Bonanza to the Keno Springs sawmill after a load of lumber. Mr. Cooper was jolted from the wagon while the horses were in rapid transit and was stunned by the fall. On recovering his wagon and horses were nowhere in sight. Up to noon Monday only the wagon and one span of horses had been found. Mr. Cooper was quite severely bruised.”

“June 27, 1898. J. A. Graham of Langell valley was killed Saturday afternoon the 18 instant, on the Goodlow mountain by being thrown from his wagon, one of the wheels passing over his head and crushing his skull. Graham and Arthur Langell were returning from Keno Springs with their wagons loaded with lumber. When they reached Goodlow mountain Mr. Graham was ahead and had the lines tied to the brake-pole, the wagon started to run on the team of mules. Mr. Graham instead of pulling on the brake, pulled up on the team and unable to hold the load it started to run. He jumped off, the bank was sloping and he was thrown under the wheels, with the above result. ... Mr. Graham leaves a wife and four children.”

Another method, no less difficult but less dangerous was that employed by a homesteader on the northern slopes of Bryant Mountain as reported by the Evening Herald of May 28, 1908: “F. M. Priest, the insurance agent located on a homestead near Bonanza some few months ago and he has been out there this Spring building a home on his ranch. It is two and a half miles from his place to the nearest mill and the trail is very rough and rocky, but Mr. Priest has packed every stick of lumber he has used in his house from the mill to his building site. It was a slow process but the road to his place is exceedingly rough and rocky and it takes eight miles of driving to get from his home to the mill so he decided to show good faith by packing the lumber on his shoulders. He might of used logs in building the house but he preferred frame and in order to have it has worked hard for several weeks. It can not be said that he has not started out to earn his homestead. (F. M. Priest was also an early Klamath County photographer, many of whose photos have been used in past Klamath Echoes. In fact it has been mainly through Maude Baldwin and F. M. Priest photos that we have been able, in this annual and past annuals, to record pictorially the past of Klamath County – Editor.)

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From 1890 until about 1915 the sawmills located in the Keno Springs area furnished the bulk of lumber to Langell Valley and Bonanza, with a few very small mills filling in from time to time.

Wm. Lockie built a sawmill, which was never finished and only cut a few logs, on the west side of Dry Prairie.

A. D. Slack had small mills at several different sites, one of which lay in the foothills of Bryant Mountain near the old Langell Ranch. This may have been the mill once purchased by B. B. Nichols. After closing out his sawmill in Bonanza about 1885, Nichols seems to have remained out of the sawmill business for some years, but later re-entered it when he purchased a mill from Slack as indicated by an article in the Evening Herald of June 20, 1914: "A claim and delivery action for the return of a circular saw, valued at $80, was commenced in the circuit court this afternoon by Charles Horton, of Dairy. B. B. Nichols, who operates a mill near Bonanza, is the defendant. The complaint alleges that Horton loaned the saw to A. D. Slack, who afterwards sold the mill to Nichols. Horton says Nichols will not return the saw."

We further find that a man named Woodcock had a mill on the ridge south of the present Hriczicse ranch in 1920 or before. It was known as the Illinois Lumber Company. Darling may have been the operator of this mill at a later date.

McCullum had a small mill along the foothills of Bryant Mountain in the 1930's which was sold to Loveness Brothers when they purchased the larger sawmill southeast of Malin, Oregon.

Another well known sawmill had its beginning in 1918, when the Evening Herald of February 5, reported: "A sawmill of 60,000 foot capacity, was recently purchased by Clark Hamaker at Grants Pass for the North side of Bryant mountain. Mark Hamaker a son is to be associated with him."

And later on April 15, 1919: "S. C. Hamaker is anxious for the Strahorn railroad to be completed to Dairy. His sawmill is on Bryant mountain, 18 miles distant. As soon as the railroad is finished he will begin shipping to Klamath Falls."

During the mid-1920's, Wilbur Kitts constructed perhaps, the largest sawmill in the Keno Springs area. By 1929 a planer and box
factory had been built at Bonanza, across Lost River from town, on the west side of the East Langell Valley Road. The entire operation ran until about 1933.

Finally the Noble Brothers set up a sawmill in 1926 or 1927 about 1½ miles northeast of Goodlow Mountain. They ran there about two years on timber furnished by Cecil Connelly, then stored the equipment at the Abeloose ranch one or two years. After this, the two brothers divided their interests, Willard taking over the Lorella Store and Wilfred the sawmill.

The sawmill equipment was then moved to a location immediately north of the old Charley Partridge ranch buildings, approximately ½ mile south of the Hot Springs on the west side of Langell Valley. Operated here for a few seasons the sawmill was sold to a man named Baker who moved it to Barnes Valley. The machinery was then set up on the foundation of a previous sawmill, the old Matson mill, where it later burned.

Irrigation of Cloverleaf Country

The first irrigation in the Langell Valley-Bonanza area consisted of the few individuals who irrigated gardens from springs, or the few wet-weather creeks.

Of course the hay-crops of Langell Valley depended on the overflow of the vast meadows by Lost River, as noted in the Tidings of January 6, 1877: "The water has not covered Langell valley by a space of three miles, consequently there will not be much hay next season."

Much of Langell Valley, especially the upper end, was obtained under the Swamp Land Act, under which land was purchased from the State with the understanding that it be reclaimed by drainage.

The Beekman property and a considerable acreage owned by the Langells fell under this category. How much, if any, acreage was actually reclaimed during those early times is unknown.

After the benefits of irrigation had been proven by the Ankeny Canal, or Steele Ditch, on lands southeast of Klamath Falls, and the Adams and Van Brimmer ditches near Merrill, other communities began to "talk irrigation."

A series of newspaper articles best explain the early history of the Langell Valley - Bonanza area: "Tidings, March 27, 1899. Clark Hamaker and L. D. Burke were in the Falls Monday from Bonanza, loading machinery for a pumping plant which Mr. Hamaker proposes to put in on his place near Bonanza for irrigating purposes. The plant consists of a 10 horse-power boiler and engine and a pump which will lift 150 miners inches of water out of the spring at Bonanza, and distribute over Clark's 100 acres of grain and alfalfa. Clark is a hustler and proposes to make farming pay during dry seasons."

"Tidings, May 8, 1899: At the Big Springs right in the town of Bonanza will more than likely at no very distant date be placed the largest pumping plant to be found in Southern Oregon. These springs in the summer time are the source of Lost River and from them can be taken sufficient water to irrigate Poe and Alkali Valleys. The project is now being looked into by several interested parties."

"Republican, March 21, 1901: The articles of incorporation of the 'Summit Lake Irrigation and Power Company,' organized at Bonanza with a capital of $3,000 were filed in the County clerk's office last Friday, the incorporators being A. D. and R. A. Harpold and R. S. Gardiner. The lake from which the water is to be taken is about three miles from Bonanza."

"Republican, March 19, 1903: Francis J. Bowne expects to begin work on his irrigating enterprise on land near Bonanza as soon as the roads will permit bringing in the necessary machinery. He will lift water from Lost River by means of a pumping plant."

"Republican, September 3, 1903: Francis J. Bowne placed an order for machinery and a pumping plant, size 70 horse power boiler
Lee Bean with his inboard motor, taking women for a Sunday boat-ride on Harpold Dam Reservoir on Lost River about 1910. L. to R.: Mable Harpold, Anna Bean, Lola (Parker) Driscoll and Mrs. Truax.

with 12 inch Price’s Patent California Pump, which is considered the best centrifugal pump on the market. It will be shipped from San Francisco by October 1st. Work on the ditches will commence at once.”

“Republican, November 10, 1904: The Klamath Canal Company has started Camp No. 3 in Poe valley. They will construct a canal on each side of Lost River from the Harpold dam.”

Certain individuals, who either recognized the future potentialities of the great Klamath Basin, or anticipated the actual involvement of the United States Government in the area, incorporated the Klamath Canal Company on May 18, 1904. The company was organized presumably for the irrigation of the major portion of the Klamath Basin irrigable land. The company acquired certain rights of way in the Spring of 1904 along the line required for the future Government canal if and when commenced.

Some work was done, such as a tunnel built through the hill southeast of the lower end of Upper Klamath Lake, canals, a few laterals, etc. This work, in the long run only served to retard the main project. The company originally asked $250,000 for their rights, which were finally purchased by the United States for $150,000. They had possibly aimed for this sale from the beginning, or at least it was so claimed by some at the time.

One of the original plans worked out for the Klamath Project provided for the building of Clear Lake and Gerber Dams for impounding flood waters to relieve the Tule Lake lowlands, and for use on the upper areas. By 1906 the settlers were demanding that construction on Clear Lake Dam be commenced. However, it was not until 1908 that the Herald of April 30 was able to report: “One of the principal obstructions in the path of the Clear Lake dam was removed Friday, when Francis J. Bowne signed up his land to the Government embracing about 2,500 acres. If he had continued to refuse, all hope for the commencement of work this year on Clear Lake would have dissipated. The delay was due to a difference in price.

“Work must commence within 30 days after the contract is signed, and be completed by October 15, 1908.”

Work actually commenced August 29, 1908 when two teams were employed clear
ing brush and rocks from the right-of-way. Due to a strike, winter weather and other difficulties, the dam was not completed until in November, 1909.

Nearly a decade passed before the Langell Valley Project was commenced, and shortly thereafter the Herald of January 21, 1920 wrote: "Work was halted on the Langell Valley project due to lack of funds. Water could be delivered to south end but is impractical on account of the cost. Eight to twelve settlers objected, as they have a state water right."

Two years later, the Herald of June 26, 1922 reported: "Work has begun on the Langell Valley diversion dam, according to H. D. Newell, manager. A camp is being located there, and the work will be done by force account under J. C. Whitney, who supervised the Healey flume last year. The dam will cost about $75,000. 35 to 40 men are to be employed. A coffer dam will be built to the base of the river bottom. There will be approximately 12 miles of ditching. The ditch work will be divided into about 12 sections to portion out and will start in August."

Next, the Herald of March 13, 1923 wrote: "Work has been recommenced. The lower three miles of canal has been let to H. J. Tickner, E. Probst, and J. C. Weber, and is to be completed by June 30.

"A drag line from Tule Lake will start the latter part of March, and will have the upper eight miles completed by late fall. 10,000 miners inches are to be diverted at Malone dam, and delivered to the proposed pumping plant near Dry lake.

"Several highway bridges, and 17 farm bridges are to be built, all two spans, 32 feet in length. The Highway bridges will use about 120,000 feet of lumber. In addition: excavation of 2,000 yards, and the placing of 50 yards of masonry to each will be necessary."

Finally, the Herald of June 16, 1924 reported: "Langell Valley extended a lavish greeting to between 1,500 and 2,000 visitors yesterday (June 15) at the barbecue and program marking the official opening of the big irrigation project. (This celebration was held at "Cranberry" or "Strawberry" Meadows north of the old Langell ranch buildings and west of the present paved road more than 1/2 mile - Editor.)"

"Irving E. Vining, President of the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce, and Jay Upton, President of the Oregon State Senate both spoke.

"Interesting recollections by Judge J. S. Orr, from Reno, formerly of Klamath Falls, and a resident of Langell Valley forty years ago were given.

"Other speakers were R. C. Groesbeck, Vice President of Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, a cooperation talk, and H. J. Ticknor, President Langell Valley Community Club who spoke in behalf of the residents of the new project.

"A program of music and songs was led by Lynn P. Sabin, Secretary of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce. (Wilfred Noble recalls that Sammy Gordon and Babe Lightfoot put on a boxing exhibition - Editor.)"

Gerber Dam was probably commenced early in 1924, because we find that by June 26, the Herald in part reporting: "12,000 cubic yards already excavated, pointing to the completion of Horsey Reservoir by July or August 1.

"The reservoir is to cover 3,500 acres of land, and will hold 90,000 acre feet. It will irrigate the east side of Langell Valley by means of the North Canal. Construction of a diversion dam in Miller Creek has been contracted to E. D. Bates.

"A contract for construction of one half of the laterals from the north canal has been let to Bratton, which must be completed prior to December 1. Pouring of the concrete is to start by the latter part of July. W. D. Miller who has contracted to construct the dam and reservoir - will soon have 10
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"The reservoir is to cover 3,500 acres of land, and will hold 90,000 acre feet. It will irrigate the east side of Langell Valley by means of the North Canal. Construction of a diversion dam in Miller Creek has been contracted to E. D. Bates.

"A contract for construction of one half of the laterals from the north canal has been let to Bratton, which must be completed prior to December 1. Pouring of the concrete is to start by the latter part of July, W. D. Miller who has contracted to construct the dam and reservoir – will soon have 10
trucks hauling 5,000 sacks of concrete from Dairy. The foundation is to be grouted under to the depth of 15-20 feet. The present working crew consists of 50 men."

One month later, the Herald of July 26, 1924 reported: "The Gerber Dam excavation has now been completed. The sand comes from a spot 5 miles distant from the dam. The dimensions of the North canal ditch is 8 feet on the base, with a depth of 3 feet. With the completion of the Gerber Dam, 12,000 acres will come under irrigation by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation."

Lastly, somewhere around 1930 Dunn and Baker, contractors, were hired to build a small dam at Willow Valley. When the construction work was completed, they took over the project, not having been paid for their work.

Then around 1934, according to the History of Klamath County, "Mr. Campbell (Bill) and the Horn Brothers purchased the Dunn and Baker interests in the Willow Valley reservoir, comprising 9,000 acres of land. This project has been of great importance to the ranchers and stockmen of Langell Valley."

Lloyd Gift later acquired a controlling interest in the project, and in turn a man named Jacobs, whose interest more recently has been acquired by Ted Hyde.

Gerber Reservoir waters irrigate land on the east side of Langell Valley from the Noble ranch northward to the old Sanford Jones Ranch. Horsefly irrigation water comes via Lost River, from storage in Clear Lake Reservoir. All of the east side of Langell Valley receives its water from Lost River and the Clear Lake Reservoir via the Malone Diversion Dam.

Around 1938 or '39, Wilfred Noble started dredging activities in Langell Valley. The irrigation district loaned him money for gas and an old drag-line which he overhauled and rebuilt himself. With this start he worked on the Langell Valley drainage and irrigation ditches for many years.

In 1942 the Langell Valley Soil and Conservation District was formed and continues to the present time. In the beginning farmers could not get equipment they needed on their ranches, so the U.S. Government started the conservation district, helping in every manner possible. All equipment is kept at the Noble home, where ranchers sign for each piece of equipment rented to them, and pay a small fee for upkeep. Mrs. Wilfred Noble is the Secretary, which position she has filled for the past eleven years, taking over from Clyde Wooten, who then became District Manager.

It Happened in Cloverleaf Country

The "Wild and Woolley" documented history of the Langell Valley - Bonanza area includes family feuds, horse stealing, cattle rustling, range wars, sheep shooting and town brawls started by would-be toughs. Several have resulted in deaths from gun fights.

There are many second, third and even fourth hand accounts of other such events that are better left untold, since they are principally hearsay and cannot be authenticated. Furthermore they can only cause embarrassment to some innocent party.

A few accounts will be given however, since they have been written and rewritten numerous times in newspapers and histories.

First in time, and probably the most noted would be the Laws-Calavan feud of 1882. The author is in possession of extensive information on this affair but only a very condensed version will be given at this time.

It seems the H. C. Laws family - father, mother and four sons - came from Big Valley, Modoc County, California before 1880, and settled on the Rim Rock Ranch (now the Grohs Ranch).

In 1881 the Calavans, father and two sons, former neighbors of Laws in Big Val-
ley, brought in a band of cattle to winter near Langell Valley.

Trouble arose between the two families which culminated in a “shoot-out” on February 13, 1882 near the Oregon - California State Line just north of the Rim Rock Ranch.

Laws was driving a small band of cattle along a two foot deep, snow bordered trail when he met the two Calavan boys James about 19 years of age, and Frank about 16, who were batching in a small cabin in nearby Corral Valley. An argument arose over right-of-way along the narrow trail. Guns were drawn, James’ horse was shot and soon died, Frank was shot in the side and Laws reportedly hit in the leg. Many stories have been told, and of course there were two sides to the telling. We will try to give only the actual happenings.

Frank made it to the boys’ cabin on horseback, while James arrived there later in the day on foot. He then made his way to the Dr. John Hall and Kilgore ranches in Langell Valley for help. Returning to the Calavan cabin the men arrived there about three hours before Frank died. Improvising a sled, they hauled the body to Langell Valley by ropes attached to the horns of their saddles. Frank was buried in the little West Side Langell Valley Cemetery where a small, flat tombstone records simply, “Franklin L. Calavan, 1866-1882.”

In the meantime, lynching talk was in the air. A dance was being held in Bonanza so the door to the hall was barricaded to keep the populace from knowing what was happening. Later, eight men did ride to the Rim Rock Ranch, but when Laws appeared with a rifle and declared he would defend himself, their ardor disappeared and for a time the matter was dropped.

Later still, Laws is reported to have appeared in Bonanza and a hearing was held before Squire (Justice of the Peace) Price, which resulted in Laws being committed to await the Grand Jury. He was then taken to the county seat at Lakeview.

Shortly thereafter he was taken from Lakeview to Linkville by Deputy Sheriff Lewis, where a preliminary trial was held and the case assigned to come up for trial in the Circuit Court of Lake County in September.

It was while Laws was being held in the old Linkville Hotel awaiting his preliminary trial, that a mob of some 17 or 18 men appeared with the supposed intention of lynching him.

Pandemonium reigned for a short time, and when the smoke had cleared away, Deputy Sheriff Lewis lay dead, Justice W. A. Wright was slightly wounded and the mob had retreated in disorder. It was reported that one of their number had been killed. The mob was thought to be mainly from Big Valley in California, augmented by a few unknowns from the Bonanza neighborhood.

Taken back to Lakeview, Laws was later turned over to Modoc County, California where the grand jury at Alturas dismissed the case for lack of evidence and jurisdiction. It could not be determined in which state the fatal shooting had actually taken place. Laws was never arrested again.

Finally on June 24, 1882 an unknown party of men, hiding in the rimrocks above the Laws cabin, shot and killed Lee, age 19, and Joe Laws, age 15, sons of H. C. and M. P. Laws. They were buried just inside the south entrance to the old Linkville Cemetery where a large headstone marks their last resting place.

Laws, en route to Ashland for supplies at the time of this last shooting, is supposed never to have returned to the Langell Valley vicinity again. He was later reported to be in Salina, Utah, but disappeared from there. About four years later he was reported to have died in New Mexico.

The second “Wild and Wooley” episode, in point of time, was the Shook - Goodlow shooting, and the Buckmaster troubles. Both happened around 1890 and are record-
ed by the reminiscences of Dan Driscoll in the 1941 History of Klamath County, pages 70-72, and follows:

"I came to this country in August of 1887 — had ridden horseback overland from California. As my companion and I arrived in front of the saloon in Bonanza, some of the crowd of cowboys in the place came out and invited us to 'get down and come on in.' In the midst of the crowd a short, stocky Irishman was throwing money on the counter and ordering drinks all 'round. After a while we gathered what the celebration was about — a daughter had been born on the Colahan ranch that morning. The generous Irishman was owner of the ranch, father of the baby, and later my employer.

"During the 'hard winter' of 1889-90 I took 300 head of Mr. Colahan's cattle to winter on Sprague River near Bly and only 75 were alive in the Spring. The snow started falling on December 10th, was four feet deep on the level at Bly, and was still deep on the 17th of March. Some say it snowed continuously 40 days and 40 nights, but I'm not sure the snow fell all that time. It seemed to be flying in the wind parallel to the ground. An aftermath of the 'hard winter' was the famous 'Shook — Goodlow feud'. What cattle were alive in the Spring were turned out to range in Langell Valley, where there was opportunity for dishonest cattlemen to acquire stock belonging to others by the device of changing brands. A family by the name of Goodlow lived at 'Goodlow Mountain' about five miles north of Lorella — a southern family, hospitable and neighborly, but not too scrupulous in business. Three grown sons were accused of changing brands on animals belonging to Shook and Colahan, the leading cattle ranchers of Alkali (Yonna) Valley. The Colahan 'C' was easily converted by the use of a circular iron into the Goodlow '8'. On a certain summer day in 1890 George Goodlow had some trouble with Dave, one of the four Shook brothers, in the little town of Dairy, and word was carried to the Shook ranch by some of the 'buckaroos'. I was then riding for Shook but was away from the ranch that day. A little later Goodlow and Johnny Colahan rode up to the Shook Ranch, Goodlow stopping at the gate, dismounting, and calling threateningly to John Shook, who sat on the porch reading a newspaper. John walked up to the gate, carrying the paper in such a way as to conceal his pistol. That he was armed was no matter for remark, as practically every man carried arms in those days. Men even had rifles with them in the hay fields and pistols tied under their mowing machines. As the two met at the gate, both fired, Shook's shot being a moment the quicker, passing through Goodlow's heart, and resulting in immediate death.

"Public excitement was intense, one faction intimating that the Shook brothers had built up their herd in the same way that the Goodlows were now accused of doing, another claiming that the homicide was justified and that the county was well rid of a ruffian and cattle 'rustler'. The court seemed to take the latter view. (John Shook was acquitted of the charge of murder, lived to a respected old age, and served one or two terms in the Oregon Legislature.)

"Associated with the Goodlows was the Buckmaster family, one of whom, Josh, rivalled the Goodlows in his reputation for outlawry and is said to have had a price of $1,000 on his head. Being met one day by a group of sheriff's deputies, he turned to flee, leaning low upon his horse's back, and received a bullet which traveled the length of his spine and came out at his neck without breaking a bone. During the time of the feud, with Seldon Ogle, was deputized to ascend the Goodlow mountain and watch from the rimrock above the ranch to see if we could detect anything suspicious. We went at night, circled around Bonanza, so that nobody would know we were going, arrived in a little valley above the rimrock at two or three in the morning, picketed our horses and lay down to sleep until daylight.
In the morning I knew by the actions of the horses that something was approaching and aroused Seldon, who was a dead shot, with the remark that I thought that there was a bear near. As Seldon peered through the bushes for the bear, a man appeared—Newton Goodlow, father of the outlaws. 'Well,' he cried in a hearty tone, 'what are you fellows doing camping up here? I don't want you to ever do such a thing again. When you have business in this vicinity, make our house your headquarters.' After some lame explanations from the spies about looking for cattle, the spied-upon rook a cheerful departure, soon sending one of his boys to our camp with a dozen fresh eggs and a pair of milk. Of course he knew perfectly well why we were there, but his cordiality ruined our taste for spying. Soon after, however, a crime was committed by Henry Goodlow, Josh Buckmaster, and others that could not be denied. A band of mules belonging to the Shocks was stolen and driven to Big Valley, near Bieber, California. The location of the band was immediately reported to Klamath County officers, some say through a man hired by the Shocks to accompany the outlaws as a 'stool pigeon'. Soon after a deputy sheriff of the county, accompanied by Billy Shook and others, had located the band, Buckmaster rode up from the nearest small town on a horse stolen from Colahan. When ordered to throw up his hands, he started shooting. When a ball hit his right hand and came out at the elbow, shattering his forearm, he managed to get the gun into his left hand and continued shooting. He was captured only after his horse stumbled in trying to jump a wire fence. After the officers returned to Klamath with the prisoner a rumor came that Henry Goodlow was on his way to the Batchelder—Earl ranch in Barnes Valley. I was deputized with another man to trace him. Being overtaken by night, we slept in a haystack and continued our journey in the morning. After Henry was finally captured he related that he slept the same night in another part of the same haystack, but changed his direction sharply as soon as we had gone on our way. Finally he was traced to a small town in Idaho. (J. O. Hamaker says it was Vale, Oregon.) As the deputies went down the street of the village, which was all a bustle with preparations for a big dance, whom should they see in the barber shop getting a shave but their intended quarry, Henry Goodlow! Ordered to throw up his hands, he sent a shot through the barber's apron in which he was enveloped that chipped off a finger of Billy Shook's hand. Thus, though foiled in all his other attempts to avenge his brother's death (it was said that the mule stealing was planned in order to raise funds for prosecution) he succeeded in leaving one mark on a Shook that was never forgotten. Bill Woods, a powerful man in the Klamath party, threw his arms about the desperate man, who continued shooting until completely overpowered. Henry Goodlow was sentenced and afterwards paroled, after which he went to Harney County and became a respected citizen."

I (Rachel Applegate Good) have heard several versions of the Shook—Goodlow shooting, but that of Mr. Driscoll and Alice Applegate Peil, who as a young girl was on her father's ranch a quarter of a mile from the Shook place and heard the shots, agree most closely. Her Uncle, Charles Putnam, lately resigned as Sheriff of Klamath County, was the first man to view the body of Goodlow and thought it likely that he had fired his gun at the moment of death. Mrs. Peil remembers vividly how immediately after the shots they saw two riders coming at a full run down the road—John Shook and his nephew, Freeman Parker. Shook turned in at the Applegate place, white as the proverbial sheet, announced, "I've killed Goodlow; I'm going to town to give myself up," and was away again like the wind, down the road toward Dairy. She recalls how Shook, out on bail, was guarded at his plowing by a man in a linen duster, and how both Shooks and Goodlows went armed, expecting any hour to be attacked.
J. O. Hamaker says there was a deal of boasting done on both sides but only one dead "buckaroo".

The third "Wild and Wooley" episode, in point of time, was the killing of Arthur Langell by Frank Swingle, on September 7, 1894.

The immediate trouble seems to have occurred over a hole in the fence of property known as the "Beekman place". According to Klamath County Deed records, C. C. Beekman, of the Beekman Bank in Jacksonville, Oregon, deeded 3,113.25 acres of Swamp Land in Langell Valley to Nathaniel and Arthur Langell in October, 1875. The land lay along Lost River, south of Gale Road and probably extended southward past the present Gift Road. A fence owned by both Swingle and Langell, separated the Swingle and Langell property. A hole had existed in this separating fence for some time, allowing cattle to travel back and forth at will.

On this particular day in September, both Swingle and Langell met at the hole in the fence and a quarrel ensued. What happened exactly is unknown, but Swingle claimed that Langell came at him threateningly with a raised hatchet, which it seems Langell usually carried to use in mending fences. According to evidence in the trial, Swingle ordered Langell to stop, and when he didn't, shot him.

A trial was held, probably in the spring of 1895, which resulted in a hung jury.

A second trial was held in late June of the same year, and extended over two days, Saturday the 22nd, and Monday, the 24th. This time the verdict was "Not Guilty".

Most of the residents of Langell Valley were involved in one way or another in the trial, as witnesses, etc. These witnesses testimony was reported in the Klamath Star of Thursday, June 27, 1895.

According to Sykes Hamaker, the cost of defending himself supposedly broke Swingle financially.

Our next "Wild and Wooley" episode will relate the cattle and sheep troubles adjacent to Langell Valley to a limited extent, but first we must relate the troubles of neighboring counties to the north and east.

On February 3, 1904 a cattle and sheep war broke out in Lake County, northeast of Christmas Lake, when 2,000 head of sheep out of a band of 3,000 were slaughtered by five masked men one night.

This sheep shooting was closely followed by the loss from fire, of a string of freight wagons belonging to J. C. Conn of Silver Lake. Conn intimated it was punishment by the sheep shooters because of some facts leaking out concerning the past sheep shooting. Then on March 4, 1904 Conn came up missing, his body not being found until April 25th. Two bullet holes were in the breast and one in the back.

On April 29, 1904 2,300 to 2,400 head of sheep out of a band of 2,700 were killed by nine masked men, about 30 miles from Christmas Lake.

Shortly thereafter, about June 15th, a cattle and sheep war broke out in Crook County, when 65 head of sheep were shot and killed on Mill Creek, northeast of Prineville. This killing was followed later in the summer by the slaughter of 1,000 head on Willow Creek, north of Prineville. Sometimes later, in January, 1905 another shooting occurred near Paulina, southeast of Prineville, when 500 head were killed.

Attempts at establishing territories and boundaries for cattle and sheep had completely failed. The cattlemen had arrived first, and as was usually the case in such wars, the sheepmen were the losers.

On April 27, 1905 the Republican reported that sheep killing seemed to be still in progress, but this time it had occurred in Klamath County. About 75 head of Owen McKendree's sheep had been killed and one of Bob Elder's sheep camps burned by nine masked men, some 20 miles south of Bly, near the Lake County line.

Sheriff Obenchain, of Klamath County,
who went to the scene of the sheep killing reported that no men, as first reported, had been shot or even harmed.

"The sheriff stated that he went to the scene to make an investigation and as the shepherds did not make any complaint there was nothing further for him to do. McKendree has moved his sheep back across the line."

Many other tales are told of sheep camps burned or destroyed, of sheep killed, etc., but none can be authenticated by any written evidence.

On April 22, 1918, the *Evening Herald* took up the story when they reported the killing of O. T. McKendree by William Holbrook at Dry Prairie near Horse Fly Valley.

It was alleged that Holbrook had leased ground from J. E. Paddock, who claimed the property as a homestead. Holbrook's camp was on this land and it was into this camp that McKendree had ridden, when the quarrel over range rights to some of this property, ensued. All three men had been armed and trouble was evidently expected when McKendree, who ran some 20,000 head of sheep in the neighborhood, rode up. Thus ends our cattle and sheep wars.

In the meantime, on February 6, 1908, the *Evening Herald* reported:

"In a fight at 9 o'clock last night at Bonanza between Bill Woods and Nick Williams, the latter received a severe scalp wound, either from being hit on the head with a revolver, or from a soft nosed bullet.

"According to reports there has been trouble for some time between Mr. Woods on one side and Nick Williams and "Curley" Devol on the other. Williams is known as a prize fighter and he and "Curley" have been hanging around Bonanza for some time, doing nothing but picking a fight whenever opportunity offered. Both parties are known in Klamath Falls and at Lakeview.

"It is said that Woods went out to his barn and was followed by Williams and Devol when the quarrel was started. The fight occurred outside of the barn and was witnessed by Jim Goss and Claude Clopton. The reports differ as to the details of what happened during the scrap, but as a result Williams is nursing a sore head, which, Dr. Patterson gives as his opinion was caused by a soft nosed bullet. Others claim that Woods fired williams with his revolver, the hammer causing the wound on the head, also discharging the gun. No arrests have been made but it is said that Devol has left town and that Williams has been ordered to do so.

"In talking with a prominent businessman of Bonanza over the phone, the question was asked if any arrests had been made. The answer was 'No, they cannot arrest Williams, as it was the other man who used the gun.' From this we would conclude that the sentiment is not very strong against the action of Woods."

Finally, on January 28, 1930, the *Klamath News* announced: "Gun battle staged in Bonanza restaurant Sunday."

According to evidence submitted, one Owen Miller, 21, had at one time been placed in jail after causing trouble at a dance. At another time he and another youth, Lyons, were placed in jail for running their car about town, trying to knock down fences, and steering it in circles in the street.

Miller then declared that he would not be put in jail again and went about town with a knife, seeking C. S. Pope, the marshal. Other escapades were also reported, in one of which Miller tried to ride a horse into a store run by Mrs. John (Florence) Horn who met him at the door and refused him entrance unless he left his horse outside.

Then, a few days before the above date, Marshal Pope had entered the Lentz restaurant for dinner where Miller followed him, carrying a rifle.

Miller fired, but missed, whereupon Pope fired, as did Miller again. In all, Pope fired five times before his opponent sank to the floor. It was later found that Miller had been hit three times.

Wounded though he was, Miller was able
to walk to a car which took him to a hospital in Klamath Falls. There he insisted before he died that he would like to shoot it out with Pope.

A coroner’s jury handed down the verdict that Miller came to his death by gunshot wounds, and no one was guilty of a crime thereby.

Horse powered (at left) threshing machine on the Lawn and Birdie Burk ranch north of Bonanza.

In front of the Clover Leaf Hotel in Bonanza about 1913, since the building was burned in the fire of January, 1914. Back row: Carol Clopton, Hugh Clopton, proprietor of the hotel, ______ Clopton, F. W. Bold between the two women, Francis W. Broadsword, owner of the automobile, and Kenneth Bold. Front row, seated, John Bradley and Frank Nichols.

- Mrs. Addie Puddy
The "Black Bridge", Bonanza's second bridge across the Lost River, east of the present North Street Bridge. Built around 1910-1913.

Bonanza players in the "Noble Outcast" at the Houston Opera House in Klamath Falls, January 31, 1913. L. to R.: Cecil Sparks, Earl Hamaker, Tom Sparks, Ester White, Marie Harpold, _____ Bellman. Front: Kenneth Bold.

- Florence Horn
- Mrs. Ivan (Clara) Bold
The D. G. Horn family at their home on North Street, east of the present Bonanza Hotel building. The 1907 Bonanza Brick School in the background. - Florence Horn

The John and Ester Brown Bonanza Cafe on approximately the site of the old American Hotel of pre-1910 days. Brick building belongs to the Bold family.
Looking north on Market Street. R. to L.: 76 Union Oil Service Station, Post Office, Fire House and Irrigation Office.