KLAMATH COUNTY OREGON
MARCH 1, 1900

INTRODUCTION

In 1900 Joseph G. Pierce, proprietor of The Klamath Falls Express, a local newspaper, published a booklet titled Klamath County Oregon, describing the resources and advantages of the Klamath area. You could subscribe for $2.00 per year or receive three months for fifty cents or purchase a single copy for ten cents. It doesn’t state how often it was published, nor do I know whether this was the only issue printed. Mr. Pierce’s intention was to bring in people who would be willing to develop the land.

The Express was started as a Democratic weekly on April 28, 1892 by David B. Worthington. In 1895 Mr. Pierce and George J. Farnsworth purchased it from Worthington. In December 1895 Pierce and Farnsworth had financial difficulties, wherein Evan R. Reames took charge of the paper. By January 1896, Mr. Pierce had resolved his problems and again became editor and proprietor. He subsequently had the paper for nearly seven years. The paper was sold in 1902 to Roy Hamaker, thus ending the ownership of Pierce. [Klamath Echoes, Number 4, 1967, pgs. 65-66.]

Thank you to Letta Goehringer, a member of our Historical Society for allowing me to borrow this booklet, so that I may share it with all of you. Spelling, punctuation and grammar variations are strictly those of Mr. Pierce. Some readers may find the author’s comments offensive or questionable, but they are printed here in their entirety to show the mind set of the developers at the turn of the century.

Susan G. Rambo, Editor

THE LAND OF GREAT PINES, HARDY CATTLE,
WONDERFUL LAKES AND TEMPERATE CLIMATE.

It is her boast that she has more sunny days in the year, hardier range cattle and sheep and greater forests of soft pine than any other section of America. One such feature would make any locality worth
living in, but with all three and many minor ones this County has a future before it of great wealth, great population and great industries. The main deterrent to immigration into this great inland plateau so richly endowed by nature, has been the lack of transportation facilities. But before many more months the great civilizer and foundation of agricultural and commercial advancement--the railroad will have shoved its way into this beautiful upland of great fertile valleys, large navigable lakes, crystal streams of cold water and forests of the grandest pine trees which ever reared their crests to the blue sky of a cloudless heaven. [Ed. note: the railroad arrived in 1909.] It is not our desire to clothe this description with a garb of rhetorical blossoms and a wreath of flowery words, but rather so tell the plain facts in an honest manner, and we shall proceed with the work, keeping that end always in view.

DESCRIPTION

Klamath County is situated in Southern Oregon, east of the Cascade mountains and is one of the largest counties in the State. Its mean or plateau altitude is about 4200 feet above sea level. It comprises an area of 5832 square miles or 3,732,480 acres, divided as follows: 1,206,000 acres of agricultural land, 1,000,000 acres of grazing land, 1,250,000 acres of timbered land, and 276,480 acres covered by lakes and marshes.

Its highest mountain peak is Mount Pitt which is 10,000 feet high, and its greatest marvel is Crater Lake, which surpasses in grandeur any known creation of nature. The southern boundary of the County is the State line between Oregon and California, the eastern boundary is close to the plains, the northern boundary is in the midst of good timber and the western boundary is west of the center of the splendid soft pine forest referred to above.

The rough outline of the County can easily be traced on a map, but never the skill of artist so deft, to portray the lavish beauty, wonder and grandeur of that which nature has enclosed in these four cold walls to the north, the east, the south and west. And no man who has lived here a quarter of a century can truthfully say that he has seen more than a portion of these creations of nature.

This region is rich is (sic) historic associations; near the Lower Klamath Lake are the Lava Beds where the Modoc war was stubbornly contested in 1872-73 and near the head of Upper Klamath Lake was situated Fort Klamath, the most beautiful frontier post that it was ever permitted a soldier to occupy. Historic interest, exquisite scenery and streams of crystal purity cast a charm over Fort Klamath which haunts the visitor to its solitude for many days after his departure. Though the soldiery has left it in solitude, the eye quickens none the less at its charm.
The largest unsettled portion of the County lies north of Fort Klamath and its wild haunts, unsurpassably beautiful in mountain, valley, lake and stream scenery are a paradise for the sportsman. Deer and bears, grouse, pheasants and small game are plentiful and the streams abound in many varieties of trout.

Around all of the lakes and marshes are myriads of water fowls, and nearly every stream and lake is the home of innumerable of the gamiest fish that is known to the sportsman--the mountain, lake and rainbow trout. In the central and southern part of the County lies the great agricultural and grazing district, which is fast being reclaimed, its marshes drained and its arid land irrigated. It has already been claimed by persons entirely competent to make the declaration, that in the near future Klamath County will become the greatest producer of alfalfa and feeding ground for cattle of any section of the west. This is no idle dream, but a fact which is becoming more apparent each year as irrigation systems are being enlarged and added to.

From Klamath Falls, the county seat, to the Southern Pacific railroad at Ager, Cal., is 57 miles, to Ashland, Or., is 65 miles and to Klamathon, Cal., the western terminus of the Oregon Midland railway about 60 miles. Daily stages carrying mail and express are run between this point and Ager and Ashland, and a daily mail to nearly every town in the County, puts them in connection with these two main stage lines.

As a summer resort the county is already quite well known and during the past summer, barring special excursions, more than five times the number of tourists visited this section than during any previous year.

From the scenic standpoint Klamath County is a natural observatory from which we gaze over the diversified and picturesque. Its lake regions and grassy meads, shrubby hills and lofty forest clad mountains deserve more space than is allotted to it. Here the romantic and the useful join in the economy of purpose, and the varied handiwork of nature proffers its resources to the builders of civilization.

On most of its greater elevations the rocks and cliffs of igneous visage show that most of the formations are of volcanic origin.

The lakes of Southern Oregon are all interesting, but the queen of them all is the Upper Klamath which nestles among the timbered spurs of the lofty Cascades, one of which, on the east side, reaches an altitude of nearly nine thousand feet above the sea.

From the summit of this mountain looking westward one can gaze far out upon the ocean; a little further north and ten miles distant Mt. Pitt, a handsome pyramidal peak of ten thousand feet altitude, rises up in the midst of the majestic wilderness. Looking southward Mt. Shasta and the California Coast Range
are remarkably distinct and imposing. Southeastward the Sierra Nevada mountains' snowy crowns are plainly visible despite their great distance. Eastward the expansive panorama is complete in one vista—the lake in the foreground with its bays, peninsulas and islands and its meadowy pampas-like surrounding picturing in grand perspective with the receding middle ground of a hundred miles in extent, replete in topographical features and outline, until at last the vision rests upon the craggy peaks in Nevada that mark the horizon nearly two hundred miles distant.

CLIMATE AND PRECIPITATION

The climate is all that can be desired, the temperature ranging from 95 degrees in summer to zero in winter in the plateau section and the average annual precipitation is 19.76 inches. There is none of the hot, dry, enervating weather of the more southern regions and none of the severely cold weather of the east. It is in fact a climate such as conduces to the highest development of man and the more perfect development in the animal and vegetable kingdom. The plateau deer is twice the size of the valley or mountain deer, the plateau trout the largest and gamiest of all, the range yearling superior to the valley two-year-old and the plateau pine the largest, clearest, softest and most perfect pine that ever sprung from the leaf-mold.

Quite the largest percentage of the precipitation occurs from October to May, the snow-fall varying greatly, some winters being from three to four feet and others not exceeding six inches. At no time of the year does rain fall in torrents or in very heavy showers, but it is usually a gentle downfall lasting for several hours.

During the summer the wind or gentle breeze as it might more properly be termed prevails from the north and during the winter from the south, and no cyclone or blizzard was ever known to happen in this region, nor any severe drouth, flood or other unusual climatic occurrence.

From the records compiled by the Oregon Weather Bureau for eighteen years are taken the following average results in Klamath county:

- Average mean temperature: 45.6 deg
- Average maximum temperature: 59.3 deg
- Average minimum temperature: 31.9 deg
- Highest temperature on record: 95 deg
- Lowest plateau region temperature on record: -15 deg
- Average precipitation: 19.76 in
- Average number of days clear each year: 112 days
- Average number of days partly cloudy each year: 158 days
- Average number of days cloudy each year: 95 days
- Average number of days each year which one hundredth of an inch precipitation fell: 84 days
TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL

This county occupies the high plateau of the eastern slope of the Cascade range of mountains, and comprises a series of valleys of various sizes separated by broken spurs of mountains and hills; the general slope of the country is towards the southeast.

There is every indication that at some former age this County was mostly an inland sea, hemmed in by the Cascades and Siskiyou mountain ranges, until some convulsion of nature of volcanic origin, rent the mountain barriers on the west, and let the waters escape toward the Pacific ocean through the rocky gorge, now known as the channel of the Klamath river. Succeeding ages have obliterated many of the watermarks made by the wash of the angry waves of this ancient sea; enough remains, however, to trace its former boundaries. And the deposits of fertilizing material have formed the basis of a soil rich in all the elements of plant growth. The ages of accumulated vegetable mould, the wash of disintegrated volcanic rock and pomace and deposits of lime and chalk combine to form a variety of soils, according to the preponderance of the several materials, that are not only productive of a varied class of agricultural products, but are very easily subdued by the plow, and respond beautifully to intelligent culture. Our high altitude of 4,200 feet, insures us a fresh and invigorating air, free from miasmas and malarial fevers of lower altitudes.

Most of the soil is a deep sandy loam easy to work, and in some places covered with sage brush which is easy to clear. The land improves with irrigation and produces wonderful crops.

CRATER LAKE

The recorded wonders of the world give no instance of a similar marvel that is comparable to Crater Lake. At the summit of the Cascade mountains in Klamath County, Oregon, it attracts the wonder seekers of the earth. Some eight miles long by six miles wide its calm surface, enchants the beholder as he stands on the rim of the crater 2000 feet above and watches the changing tints of the water, which from a beautiful light green near the shore breaks abruptly into a deep blue which shades to lighter tints towards the center and reflects as a mirror the spectral grimacing walls of the crater and the billowy and fleecy clouds of the sky. From the rim of the crater the effect is magical—every minute the mobile water changes as a kaleidoscope in its perfect reflection of the changing sky and sun-tint permutation of the bettling crags and crevasses. From Victor rock near the terminus of the road leading to the lake Castle rock can be seen on the right rearing its serrated head many hundred feet above the crater’s
rim, while further on the shadows of Phantom Ship add maritime fantasy to the ever changing wonders of this snow fed lake. Mount Scott can be seen in the distance to the northeast. To the left of Victor rock appear in quick succession on the west side, Mts. Maxwell, Bentley and Llao Rock and further to the north the gothic crown of Mt. Theilson. Directly in the path of vision toward Mt. Jackson is Wizard Island, several miles in circumference and about 800 feet high. It is cone shaped, covered with firs, grasses and flowers, being itself a miniature of Crater Lake as it has a crater at the summit 100 feet deep which is partially filled with snow and water.

Innumerable crags and deeply serrated pillars of rock raise their spectral forms along the walls of the crater adding majestic detail to the marvelous whole. At several places where the walls have broken loose and slidden into the lake, descent is possible and comparatively safe. There are plenty of good camping places a mile and a half south of the lake, and by using snow water good camping places are plentiful at the summit, near the crater’s rim, which is reached by a good road that leaves the Rogue River Military road three miles distant.

The artist wonders why the “restless and ambitious tourist who has crossed every sea and visited every foreign realm has not yet gazed upon this greatest natural wonder where the weary eye may at last rest and satiate human ambition for the marvelous.”

What a grand spectacle in mid winter, when swirls of frost driven by arctic storms howl through the splintered crags of Castle mountain and sigh among the sturdy hemlocks—a mass of knots and twists—that hang in the almost sunless caverns of perpetual winter. This hardy specimen of the vegetable kingdom is almost immortal, for it will grow on the crests of topling pinnacles which seem held intact only by the network of roots which fetter it to its drossy environment. Again it might be seen at the base of some dizzy height from which it has been hurled hundreds of feet through the open air, but still clutching some of its native soil in its cancer-like grasp, continues to grow as though transplanted, and year after year comes forth from a grave of ten month’s snow as fresh and green as the arbor vitae of our gardens.

Now wander back in fancy to the ancient Crater Lake mountain and for a moment revel in the handiwork of the furies as they paint the stormy panorama through unreckoned ages of chaos, written only in the heiroglyphics of crumbling walls and sunken mountains. But with Dante’s ambition to transcend, in search of a terror inferno may we through burning firmament descend to the war of primitive nature where tableux of vanishing creation linger for a moment then vanish in the fierce maestrom of unchained elements; at last the furies, their work to complete, join hands in their wrath and the troubled earth rises to
mid heavens, a plutonic throne of fire to light the surrounding world—but, alas, a temple of time, it fell back with a crash that shook a continent, to slumber forever 'neath the lake of ultramarine.

Nature's wreck and man's glory, may you on canvas and in poet's pen forever live.

OTHER LAKES, STREAMS, SPRINGS AND RESORTS

One remarkable feature of our country is the numerous boiling springs, some of them known to possess valuable medicinal properties, as the Brooks' springs, near Klamath Falls, where a bath house awaits equally the grimy traveler, city exquisite and suffering invalid. Near this place also, is the famous hot earth or solfatara, a spot—an acre or so in extent—situated on a hillside, at least 150 feet above the big hot spring. By boring down seven feet into this hot earth, the temperature was ascertained to be 210 degrees. It is claimed that this hot earth, when applied to the parts affected with lumbago, acts like magic. To relieve pain in cases of rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica and paralysis, this treatment is said to be equally efficient.

The numerous cold springs throughout the County, for coldness, purity and volume are almost beyond compare. Some of the more famous ones only will be mentioned. The springs supplying Pelican creek which flows into Pelican bay, an arm of Upper Klamath Lake, and at The Poppars some three miles south of Pelican creek are very large, cold and clear and form streams navigable to ordinary lake steamboats. Both of these places are popular tourist's resorts, as the trout fishing is of the finest, the surroundings intensely picturesque and the accommodations excellent. At Pelican Bay Lodge there are besides the main two-story log building some eight or ten log cottages, a naptha launch and numerous row boats. The season at these resorts extends from May to November.

The big springs at the northern end of Klamath marsh and at Klamath Agency are cold and limpid and furnish a large volume of water for domestic and irrigating purposes.

Spring creek about six miles east of Klamath Agency is a marvelous stream and a famous fishing resort. The surroundings are as peaceful and as glorious as the sylvan dells and shaded retreats of the Rhine and the water— it can only be appreciated when seen. No diamond of purest ray serene was ever clearer, colder or more brilliant, and twenty feet beneath its surface a pin will glisten like the silver rapier of a Lilliputian knight, while great rainbow trout flash by as the flight of a meteor. The source of this creek or river is three miles from Williamson river into which it discharges. It is formed by many springs which can be seen bubbling up out of the white sandy bottom. In many places on the bottom of the stream are patches of water balls, of a greenish brown color, filled with a gelatinous liquid. They present an interesting picture and these places have the appearance of having been the dumping ground for all the old baseballs since the beginning of time. The largest rainbow trout (its only denizens) taken with a rod and fly from the
mouth of this stream weighed 13 ¾ pounds. A canoe ride down Spring creek will repay the trouble and expense of a trip to it from the nethermost part of the continent.

Williamson river which flows from the northern part of the County and empties into Upper Klamath Lake is equal to its tributary as a fishing stream but it is not so clear or cold, the temperature of Spring creek being 38 deg. the year around.

Sprague river which flows into Williamson river a few miles from its mouth, rises in the eastern part of the County and with its tributaries forms an immense valley nearly 100 miles long, which is used almost exclusively for stockraising, the range grasses and natural meadows being practically inexhaustible.

The streams flowing into the northern end of Upper Klamath Lake are Wood river with its tributaries, Fort creek, Crooked creek and several small streams and Cherry creek, Anna creek and Seven-Mile creek, while on the western side besides those already mentioned are Crystal creek and Rock creek. Of these Cherry and Seven-Mile are famous for Dolly Varden trout, Wood river, Fort creek and Crooked creek for the wonderful purity and coldness of the water and Anna creek for its yawning rack-ribbed canon, from the summit of which the stream appears as a silver thread winding in and out of the meanderings of the fathomless pit, whose ragged jaws seem ever about to crush it.

The streams flowing into the Lower Klamath Lake and Klamath river are Link river which is a mile and a half long and connects the Upper Klamath Lake and Lake Ewauna; it has a fall of 60 feet in this distance and motive power enough to move the wheels of every mill and factory in the State. Spencer creek flows into Klamath river, its source being Buck marsh on the Dead Indian wagon road. Lost river flows through large fertile valleys from the extreme eastern part of the County and passes beyond the State line a few miles east of Lower Klamath Lake. Besides running through the heart of the agricultural district it is famous for its mullets, which congregate at a warm spring at Lost river gap and in the spring can be thrown out with pitchforks by the ton.
Upper Klamath Lake, the largest of the many lakes in the County is thirty miles long, navigable and surrounded by shady groves and fertile meadows. Its feeders are never failing, and from the deck of a steamer on a sunny day it is a delightful vista that greets the eye—the unruffled water of the lake, winding streams pursuing their course through endless meadows of natural grass or babbling down the mountain side, the lofty Cascades to the west ever changing in appearance, the vast Wood River Valley of meadows and streams to the north, the Williamson River Valley to the northeast, the imposing Modoc Point to the east and the vast panorama to the south pierced by the snowcapped Mount Shasta. It vastly rivals in grandeur and beauty the famous Chautauqua Lake of New York.

Diamond Lake at the foot of Mt. Theilson in the northern part of the County, Lake of the Woods, west of Klamath Lake and the beautiful Ewauna, along the shores of which nestles the metropolis of the County, Klamath Falls, are all singularly beautiful and with the many other lakes inspire the stranger with wonder and pleasure.

NATURAL, AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES

The maker of the universe was not stint in preparing this section of the world for mankind, and there is here no cause for wondernment at the divine plan, unless it be at the completeness of application of the economic principle.

Wide valleys lie beneath great reservoirs of nature, long stretches of natural hay land girt the shores of every marsh, lake and river, and forage abounds throughout the million and a quarter acres of timbered land, which would supply lumber and fuel for its own inhabitants for generations unnumbered. Water for man, beast and soil abounds everywhere and there is one continuous navigable body of 70 miles, a natural causeway for the traffic of three of the largest valleys and for transporting several billion feet of lumber. A railroad touching at Klamath Falls brings into usefulness at once a navigation system equal to 70 miles of railroad, and a water power equal to any on the Pacific coast. It never varies and requires nothing from science or capital for its utility or perfection.

The valley of Wood river comprising some 75,000 acres is one great natural meadow and is as well irrigated by nature as is any other region by artificial means.

Langell valley through which Lost river flows requires but little more effort to make its irrigation perfect.

Tule Lake and Lost River valleys for 25 miles north of the State line are rich sandy loam and nature’s reservoirs can be used and are being used to change this sage bearing section to one of the greatest alfalfa regions west of the Rockies.
Other valleys there are which excel in grain and vegetable crops, owing to sheltered location, and again other river and stream valleys which nature has designed for natural grasses. The great Klamath marsh is also one of nature’s applications of the economic law. Its 65,000 acres of marsh will one day be a great field with canals and ditches running through it, to carry off the surplus water and properly irrigate the soil.

We therefore deduce the chief advantages to be, that this county is particularly adapted to stock raising, that its natural motive power for manufacturing purposes is second to none on the coast, and that its soft pine forests are greater in extent and stumpage, of finer quality and more feasible to log than any in America—not so modest a deduction, but one which inspection will verify.

**PRODUCTS**

The cereals of all kinds are produced in abundance, our flour having a fame for superiority wherever introduced, in fact the first prize for wheat awarded at the World’s Fair in Chicago in 1893 went to wheat on exhibition from Klamath County. All the hardier vegetables flourish here and are of a flavor and crispness found in but few other localities. Potatoes yield bountifully and are never affected with pests or other unsoundness so common elsewhere. Sugar beets grow well and contain enough saccharine matter to justify their culture for sugar making. Apples, pears, plums prunes, cherries and in some localities peaches, and berries are successfully raised, with a flavor which is unknown to the imported fruits.

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*KLAMATH COUNTY SQUASH PATCH*

All kinds of grasses do well here, but the main ones used are the natural grasses and alfalfa. Flax is a native
of this County, but the raising of tame flax has never been tried.

Our marshes would furnish a wonderful revenue if prepared for cranberry culture, as the location and general characteristics are ideal for the raising of that berry, which has made many a millionaire in the eastern states.

On the dry uplands alfilarce, sain foin, sand vetch and other productive forage plants have been successfully raised and if more extensively planted would become a valuable source of revenue to the stock raiser.

Hops, though not raised for the market, are grown somewhat and never fail to yield abundantly, at the same time being free from the ravages of the destructive pests which are so annoying to the growers in many places.

A natural product, the wild plum, abounds on every hillside and is a great producer of fruit, which is, when canned or dried superior to any tame plum that was ever propagated and is here regarded as equal to any specimen of fruit in the realm of horticulture.

IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION

A thousand processes of development are under way in the United States today. Among them all, which is the one possessing the deepest human interest? It might well be said that irrigation stands at the head, for there is no question which presents a broader field for investigation than does that subject. It has become a question of national importance. Millions of money have been invested in the reclamation of arid regions in the western states. The government has of late years become interested in this all important matter and congress appropriated funds for the careful investigation and study of this subject, to determine the best means to be employed for the reclamation of the arid lands of our country.

There is no field more ripe, nor one in which there is a greater quantity of undeveloped arid land than in this section of Oregon. That portion of the State lying east of the Cascade range, although forming the greater portion of the State, is known as Eastern Oregon. The climate, as compared with that of the rest of the northern portion of the United States is unusually mild. As a rule there is sufficient moisture three or four years out of five to raise fair crops of wheat and other cereals, the success of such crops depending, however, largely upon the skill and care shown by the farmer, and not merely upon the occurrence of fortunate rains.

The character of the soil also has an important bearing upon the abundance of crops, some soil retaining a small amount of moisture for a longer time than others. There is always considerable uncertainty as to the success of the cereals, and there are some grains, as well as small fruits, which are
never of value without an abundant perennial supply of water. It may be said, therefore, that while in one sense irrigation is not absolutely essential, in that farmers can make a living, yet on the other hand, without irrigation the most valuable resources lie dormant. The wonderful supply of water of the Klamath lakes and their tributaries offer inducements for the investment of capital in irrigation enterprises not met with in many portions of the Pacific coast. Thousands of acres of arid lands, desirably situated for irrigation, are waiting the incoming of capital and enterprise to convert these broad acres into productive and profitable farming lands.

Throughout Southeastern Oregon, and especially in Klamath County, are vast sage brush plains of rich, sandy soil, which produce abundantly with irrigation. Surrounding and above these valleys or plains are high mountain ranges where the snow in winter falls to a great depth, and from which water-shed a vast amount of melted snow rushes down in the spring. The matter of storage of water in these hills is a simple one. Mountain valleys and depressions are numerous for reservoir sites where the water may be confined until required for irrigation during the summer. Many of the streams which course through the country could be diverted and their waters placed on the arid plains. Nature has done much for this County; what is wanted now is capital.

In thus setting forth the advantages for the investment of capital an apparent eclipse of what has been accomplished has been unavoidable.

Two large canals have been in operation several years, one taken out of Upper Klamath Lake, about 20 miles long, 20 feet wide and four feet deep, which irrigates some 4,000 or 5,000 acres of land east of Klamath Falls, and the other taken out of Lower Klamath Lake is about 25 miles long and of about the same size as the other described. It irrigates in excess of 5,000 acres of the Tule Lake Valley. Besides these two, another and larger has been started in the Tule Lake section on a higher line. It has been completed for several miles and is about 60 feet wide, the intention being that it shall irrigate about 10,000 acres. Several hundred miles of smaller, mostly private, ditches have been dug to divert the waters of lake, stream and marsh. Also the government last year caused a survey to be made of an extensive and complete irrigation system for the Klamath Reservation. The two systems most needed are the successive reservoir system leading from Upper Sprague river, and the two or three miles tunnel system from Upper Klamath to the valley east of Klamath Falls.

Besides the opportunities for irrigation there is still another and greater even, that of reclamation of the 200,000 or more acres of marsh and overflow lands, which are without doubt as rich as the reclaimed lands of the Sacramento river in California, the White river in Washington or the famous overflow lands of
the Nile in Egypt. These lands have received the deposits of decayed vegetable matter for ages and are composed of the richest plant producing substances in existence. To reclaim these lands involves one of the most profitable undertakings in irrigation or reclamation that has ever been attempted, as it includes both and little more than is required to drain these lands will construct canals and use up the drainage for irrigating even more land than is brought to the light of day from beneath the shallow waters which have so long rolled ceaselessly across its bosom.

**ALFALFA CULTURE**

Alfalfa grows well when once established, and on some soils where the water stratum is not too deep, has been known to produce three crops during the season, without irrigation, but in most localities but two, and sometimes only one is harvested. By the use of water, however, two heavy crops are assured, with a good pasture afterwards.

What is generally termed the Lost River country is a valley about twenty miles long averaging in width five miles. The soil of this valley is generally a sandy loam, and when water is brought upon it is very productive and will raise grain and some grasses in abundance. In fact, it has been proven that it will produce even larger crops than some of the best grain lands in the valleys of California. All that it needs is water to make it one of the most productive valleys on this western coast. Water can be had in abundance for all of this land from both the Upper and Lower Klamath Lakes. We already have two irrigating ditches tapping these lakes, but they are not large enough to supply but a small portion of the water needed. This can be easily remedied by enlarging and lengthening one or both or building others, as the supply is practically unlimited.

Now if the farmers of this valley will only get water on their lands and raise alfalfa there will be a market for all that can be raised---and it will be cash. The cattle men and butchers will feed their beef cattle here in preference to feeding in Shasta valley, as none of them like Shasta valley as a feeding place for several reasons: chiefly on account of the climate being too wet, and the ground of a character that works into mud as soon as it gets wet, whereas our soil does not get muddy and we have less rain and more snow.

Alfalfa has made the fortunes of many men in California and Nevada, and will do the same for our farmers if they will only take hold in earnest and raise it in such quantities as will induce these men to feed here; sell at fair living rates and they will find that they can or will sell all that they can raise. Alfalfa can be raised here at much less the expense and risk than grain can, and will pay far better.
But we are told that it costs a good deal to prepare for raising alfalfa. With the exception of the seed it costs no more to prepare for it than for grain. All farming requires an outlay of brains, muscle and money, and as a general rule, the returns are in proportion to the outlay.

If proper encouragement is given I have no doubt but men can be found ready to build the necessary ditches, and sell the water to the farmers, or the farmers might form a joint stock company and build the ditches themselves. They could then seed such land as they have cleared and each year put in a few acres more, by doing so they will, in a short time, have a crop that will bring them an income greater and more certain than they will ever have from grain. One hundred acres of alfalfa, if properly cared for, will yield about 500 tons per annum and then leave a good pasturage for fall use. This hay can be sold readily for $4 per ton, and after deducting all expenses of irrigation, cutting and stacking, and feeding it out, should leave a net profit of about $1,300, or $13 per acre, besides having the fall pasture to sell or upon which to pasture his own cattle.

There is now about 2,000 acres of land in the County in alfalfa, which amount is being annually increased, but with proper irrigation facilities there could as well be 100,000 acres or perhaps even more, producing annually 500,000 tons of alfalfa.

[This concludes the first half of the booklet. Ed.]

**New Members**

Bruce & Gaynel Baker  
John C. Bowden  
John & Paula Fields  
Ken Gettys  
Paul & Phyllis Goebel  
Todd Kepple  
Pearl Nason  
Roger Nicholson  
Mardi Randolph  
Nancy Sieverts  
Charles E. Walker Jr.
Klamath County Historical Society

The Antiques and Collectibles Sale will be held November 6, 9-4 and November 7, 12-4 in the Museum Meeting room on Spring Street.

Membership information

Individual Member $5.00
Supporting Member $25.00
Life Member $100.00

Make your dues payable to: Klamath County Historical Society
and mail to: Klamath County Museum 1451 Main Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Dues will be due at the end of the year. Sometimes there is some confusion whether you have paid for the upcoming year. If you look on your mailing label you may see an entry above your name. A date entered indicates you are paid through that year. Initials indicate you are receiving a complimentary issue or are a Life Member. If there is no entry, you either haven’t paid for a while or the Editor is sending you a complimentary issue, hoping you will become a member.

Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of the month — with some exceptions. See schedule below or call 883-4208. We meet at the Klamath County Museum meeting room, 1451 Main St., Klamath Falls, Spring Street entrance. The annual meeting will be a potluck held on Saturday, November 21 at 1:30 pm. Bring your own table service and a dish.

'99 Meetings
January 28, 2 pm
February 25, 2 pm
March 25, 2 pm
April 22, 7:30 pm
May 27, 7:30 pm
June - Annual Tour
July - Summer Potluck
August - No meeting
September 23, 7:30 pm
October 28, 7:30 pm
November 21, 1:30 pm
December - No meeting

Thanks to the following people who contributed to the Endowment Fund: Ruth Tillery, Don & Betty Hancock, Phil & Helen Burton, Byron Beach, Ann Hollack, Bob & Ruby Elliott, Sally Elliott Jackson, Otto & Neva Ludwig, John Michaelsen, Cheryl Medill, Robbi Porter, Dorothy Cooper, Tamera Caillouette, Edna Hunsaker, Chet Mahoney and Linda Long.

Susan Rambo, Editor