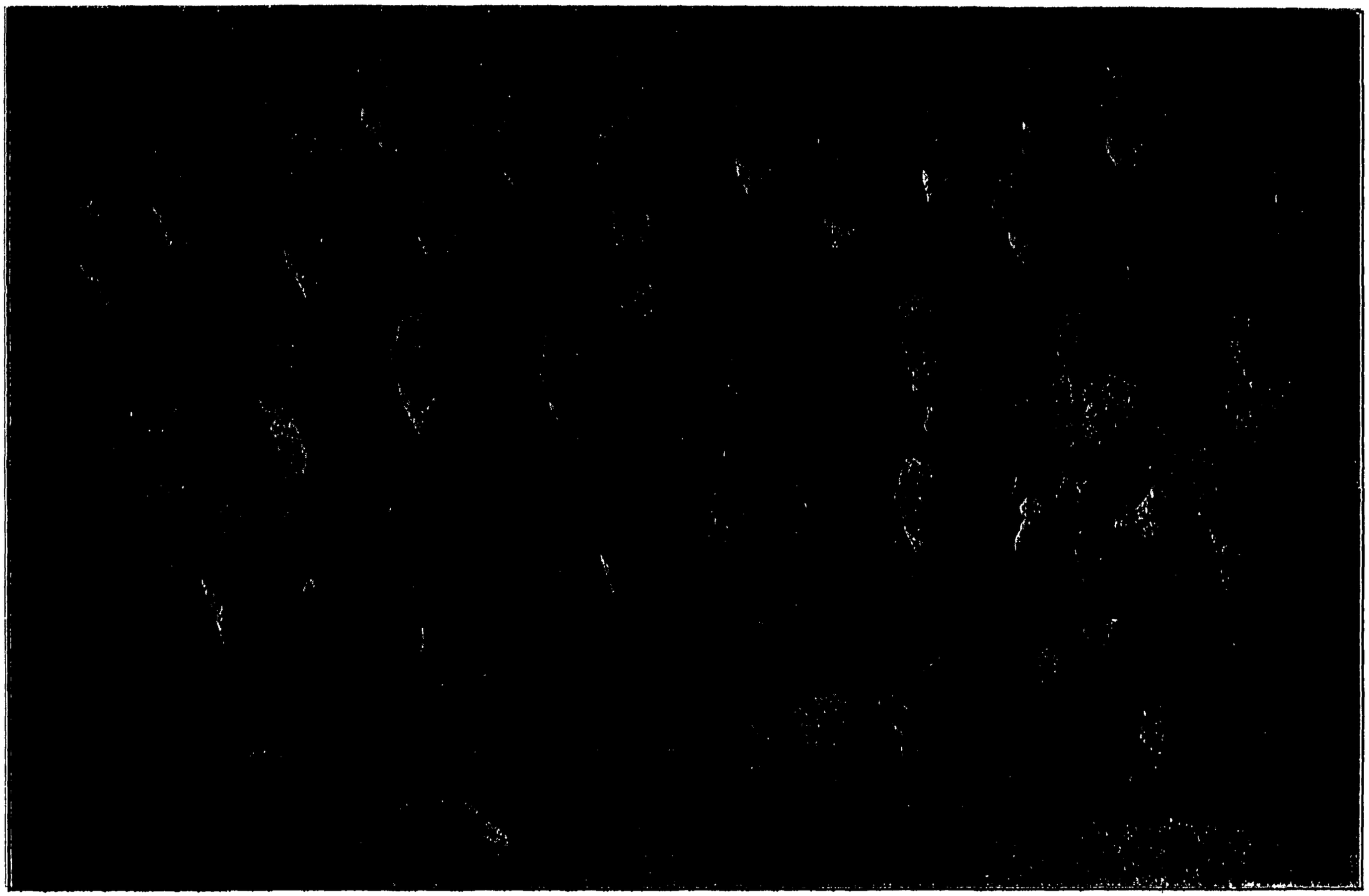

The above group of Big Bend pioneers was the result of a "roundup" in Spokane during the 'Portuguese Joe" Enos inheritance contest briefly referred to in these pages. Left to right they are: Back row—John Carroll, Arthur Dillon, R. W. Bingham, ————————, Geo. Urquhart, Victor Reich, A. J. Sterritt, Vincent Sommers, E. W. Hesseltine, Donald Urquhart. Guy Fruit. Second row—A. E. Hatton, J. W. (Gooseneck) Johnson, James Dungan, T. D. Geir, U. H. Vent, R. J. Reeves. Third row—Mrs. A. J. Jeffries, Mrs. A. J. Dillon, Thos. Walters, Judge N. T. Caton, D. M. Drumheller, L. W. Shrewsbury, Mrs. T. D. Geir, Mrs. J. A. Sterritt. Bottom row—Jefferson Irby, C. G. Gerlach, Price Fruit. Miss Brenchley, Jerome Drumheller, A. H. Siebert. J. H. Henderson.

The Story of Early Days in the Big Bend Country

Breaking Trails, Rush of Miners, Coming of Cattlemen, Making Homes, Pioneer Hardships in the Big Bend Country

As told by

WILLIAM S. LEWIS

Author of

"The Case of Spokane Garry," "Ranald MacDonald—1824-1894," "The Journal of John Work," Etc.

Autograph Edition

W. D. ALLEN, Publisher

Spokane, Wash.

1926

The interest of, and the request by a number of pioneers for copies of this address—now long out of print—has prompted the publisher to print this new and revised edition of Mr. Lewis' interesting address, in a limited issue of 105 "Big Bend Edition" and 100 autographed numbered copies.

No. 15

Mr Fred Lockley
Compliments of
William S. Lewis
Spokane Wn Aug 24, 1926

ALLEN PRINTERY SPOKANE, WASH.

"Early Days in the 'Big Bend Country'"

William S. Lewis, corresponding secretary of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society and treasurer of the Spokane County Pioneer Society, told of early days in the Big Bend country in an address at Lincoln and Adams counties' pioneer associations' picnic at Crab Creek, June 17, 1919. He spoke as follows:*

Mr. President, Ladies, Gentlemen and Fellow Pioneers:

I will attempt to briefly sketch the early history of the Big Bend country, designating by that term all the region in the Big Bend of the Columbia, from the Snake river to the mouth of the Spokane river, lying west of the Palouse and Spokane country, and embracing the present counties of Franklin, Adams, Lincoln, Grant and Douglas in the State of Washington.

Who the first race of people here were will probably never be known. When the first white men came into the Big Bend Country the ancestors of the present-day Indian tribes—the Isle de Prairie, the Methows, the Spokanes, the San Poils and bands from the Palouse and Yakima Indian tribes were already here, but the pictographs on the cliffs at Lake Chelan, and on the basaltic cliffs along the Columbia River below Trinidad, at Vantage Ferry and elsewhere point to an earlier occupation by other Indian people—possibly some early kinsman of the Shoshone Indian tribe that made similar rock carvings and whose history will never be known.

THE FUR TRADERS

This Big Bend Country lay to the north of the route of Lewis and Clark and was not traversed by them; such meagre knowledge as they gleaned of it was derived from the Indians in other localities. The first white men in the section I have described were possibly Jacco Finlay and Finan McDonald, two clerks of the Northwest fur trading company of Canada, who established the first fur trading post and the first white settlement within the

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Spokane (Wn.) Spokesman-Review, June 30, July 3, 1919.
Ritzville (Wn.) Times, June 20, July 3, 10, 1919.
Harrington (Wn.) Citizen, June 20, 1919.
Sprague (Wn.) Advocate, June 27, 1919.
Davenport (Wn.) Times-Tribune, June 26, 1919.
Odessa (Wash.) Record, July 18, 1919.

bounds of the present State of Washington at Spokane House, at the mouth of the Little Spokane river, in the summer of 1810.

The first white man here, of whom we have any positive record, was David Thompson, a trader and explorer of the Northwest Company, who descended the Columbia river from Kettle Falls to its mouth in June, 1811. On his return to the interior in August of that year he was accompanied by David Stewart and a party from the Pacific (Astor) Fur Company at Astoria, who established on September 1, 1811, the first American settlemen in the State on the North bank of the Columbia at the mouth of the Okanogan, known as Fort Okanogan. For the next forty years the fur traders were frequently over the Big Bend country and there was considerable travel overland from Fort Okanogan to Spokane House and the posts beyond. The first white child born in the Pacific Northwest was born at Spokane House in 1819; his name was Marcel Berniel and his parents were Canadian-French. He died on Puget Sound about 1890.

ONCE A GREAT GAME COUNTRY

Ross Cox, "the little Irishman," one of the clerks of Astor's fur company, who passed through the Big Bend country in 1812 and visited the "big ravine" or Grande Coulee in 1815, mentions his discovering there two hot springs "highly sulphuric." He also mentions the great number of antelope (probably the small Oregon blacktail deer) then running over the plains which have since either become extinct, or have migrated to the west side of the Cascade mountains. Governor Isaac I. Stevens recorded in 1854 that the Indians had told him the last buffalo had been killed in the Grand Coulee about twenty-five years before.

It is interesting to note that these first fur traders state that the country previous to their arrival, had been the home of immense herds of mountain sheep and goats, whose horns and bones were strewn in profusion over the ground. Some unknown and unusual condition must have caused the extermination of this game.

HOW INDIANS HUNTED

The country had also been timbered to some extent, but a practice adopted by the Indians to make easy hunting, by setting

fire to large areas and burning them over, so that the game would be driven off and would congregate in greater numbers on the unburnt sections, in time killed the timber and drove off most of the big game. This practice of burning off the grass was also followed to improve the range for the next season—the bunch grass growing much more luxuriantly after the burning off of the old growth.

When the white men came, the Indians were mostly living along the Columbia. They had secured their first horses from the Spaniards and southern Indians about a hundred years before. In the spring they came into the bottoms to dig Camas and in June and July gathered about Moses Lake and the pot holes collecting duck eggs.

These Indians in the western part of the Big Bend were closely related to the Palouse and Yakima tribes, and the remnant was later known as the Moses band, from old Chief Moses, whose name is yet preserved in Moses Coulee.

EARLY TRAVELERS AND MISSIONARIES

Following, and contemporary with the later fur traders, many travelers and explorers visited the Big Bend section. The Scotch botanist, David Douglas, after whom the Douglas fir is named, known to the Indians as the "grass man," traversed this section in 1826. He was one of the first to mention the Grand Coulee, so named by the French Canadian voyagers. The Rev. Samuel Parker of Ithaca, N. Y., a missionary explorer, was through this country in 1836. The Wilkes (U. S. Govt.) exploring expedition was also through here in 1841. Contemporary with these first travelers and explorers, and equally valuable in gathering and disseminating information concerning the country were the early missionaries. The Catholic fathers, F. N. Blanchet and Demers, passed through here in 1838. The Rev. Eells and Walker and their families camped near the site of Sprague in 1839.

Priest Rapids, on the Columbia, contrary to popular belief, were so named from the fact that Dave Stewart's advance party from Astoria in 1811 observed an Indian medicine man practicing his rites on the river bank there; the rapids were not named from any white priest or missionary there.

ERA OF DEVELOPMENT

With the creation in 1853 of Washington Territory out of the

northern half of the old Oregon Territory, embracing northern Idaho and Western Montana, the era of actual development commenced. That year saw the Pacific railroad surveyors under Capt. McClellan, afterwards General of Civil War fame, cross the Big Bend country on their surveys from the Sound to Ft. Colville, and the arrival of our first territorial governor, Isaac Ingalls Stevens. The organization of the territory was followed by the discovery of the first placer gold diggings on the Columbia river near the mouth of the Pend Oreille in the fall of 1854 by Jos. Morel, an employe of the Hudson Bay Company post at Colville. By August, 1855, 1000 men were on their way to the diggings from the Oregon settlements in the Willamette Valley and hundreds of others from the new settlements on Puget Sound came across the mountain passes, and across the indian trails of the Big Bend to Colville.

GOLD MINING ALONG THE RIVER

Gold was struck on the Upper Columbia River above the old Hudson Bay Company Fort Colville, in 1854, when the bars and benches along the river were worked by white men; years later they were replaced by Chinese placer miners. Only a few years ago Chinamen were still operating on Chinese bar above the mouth of Hawk Creek and at other river bars along the north edge of the Big Bend.

The gold rush was followed by the Indian wars of 1856-58. Col. Wright, during his campaign, camped along Cow creek and the Four Lakes country. At the close of the war the survey of the Canadian boundary and the establishment of an army post in the Colville Valley for the protection of the American Boundary Commission and surveyors, led to the establishment of the first roads, and the first permanent settlements in the Big Bend.

OPENING WAY TO COLVILLE

WALLA WALLA-FORT COLVILLE MILITARY ROAD

In June, 1859, Major Pinckney Lougenbeel of the 9th Infantry, with four companies, started out from Walla Walla, crossed the Snake river and proceeded by old Indian trails to the Colville Valley, establishing the old Walla Walla-Fort Colville Military road which crossed the Snake below Texas Ferry, near the mouth of the Palouse; here the McWirk Bros. established a ferry in the early '60s, later known as the Dan Lyon ferry.

The road then led from the Snake river north along the west side of the Palouse past where George Bassett later settled. Sheep (or Palouse) Springs were reached in 14 miles. Ten miles further on it struck Cow Creek, about four miles N. E. of George Lucas' place. The famous Mullan road branched off from the Walla Walla-Colville road near the crossing of Cow Creek.

Thence, the Colville road went almost due north to Big Lake, now known as Colville Lake. Three or four miles below the lower end of the lake there was a camping place named Lougenbeel Camp or Lougenbeel Springs. Thence, the road was along the east side of the lake past what is now Sprague, to Rock Creek and Willow Springs, passing about four miles west of Medical Lake, crossed Deep Creek, striking Coulee Creek at the Forks, thence to the "winding ford" on the Spokane.

A later road, known as the "Cottonwood road" branched off from the Colville road near the Lucas place, and continued up Cow Creek, past the Coss place and Sinks (east of Ritzville) and thence north by Harrington, Lord's Springs to Cottonwood Springs, and thence northeast to the "winding ford" on the Spokane river.

CAMP NEAR COLVILLE

From the "winding ford" on the Spokane river, the Colville road crossed Walker's Prairie to Fool's Prairie, to Chewelah and Arden, to Mill Creek, where camp "Harney's Depot" or Ft. Colville, and the civilian settlement of Pinckney City, were established five miles northeast from the present town of Colville.

Up to this time there was no white settlement between the Snake river and the French half breed settlements near Chewelah and Colville. Shortly after the Colville road was established, roadhouses were established. At the Snake river crossing Hugh McClinchy, the ferryman, had accommodations for a few men. On Cow Creek a short distance from where it joins the Palouse, was a roadhouse established by Henry Wind in 1865. Wind sold to Favre, a Frenchman, who afterwards sold to George and Bill Lucas, who came from Montana in 1869.

Another roadhouse at the head of Big Lake was first run by Bill Wilson in 1865, and later by Tom Reynolds. On a little stream called "Fishtrap Creek," running into Big Lake, a man

named J. F. Smith settled in a short time, probably one of the first settlers in the Big Bend country.

In 1861, Wm. Newman, later a settler at Newman Lake, Spokane, county, had a roadhouse and station on the Colville road near Sprague, during the time King Bros. ran the stage and carried the mail to Colville.

From Lougenbeel Springs, below Big Lake, the principal camping places on the Colville road were at Rock Creek, Willow Springs, Little Coulee and at Coulee Creek crossing, some miles south of the Spokane river. At the river Bill Nixon, who had accompanied Major Lougenbeel for that purpose, put in a ferry, later replaced by a bridge known as Monaghan's, and later as LaPray's bridge. Nixon ran a saloon at the Dalles, and his partner was Vic Trevitt, a gambler. They hired a young Irishman named Jim Monaghan to run the ferry for them. He later bought them out.

FURTHER MINING RUSH

In the latter '50s and '60s gold discoveries in the Frazer river, Similkamine, Caraboo and Rock Creek (B. C.) 1858, Pend Oreille, Wild Horse (B. C.) 1864, and in Idaho and Montana stimulated a further rush of adventurers through parts of the Big Bend country. Several large parties, one of 350 men, from The Dalles and Walla Walla, passed through the Big Bend on their way to theh Frazer river diggings via the Okanogan and San Poil river. With this big party were Okanogan Smith, Wild Goose Bill and others who became pioneer settlers of northern Washington.

THE WHITE BLUFFS ROAD

In 1863 the Oregon Steam Navigation company extended its traffic to White Bluffs on the east side of the Columbia to take care of shipments to Montana. A new road was projected known as the White Bluffs road following old Indian Trails. This went from White Bluffs northeast to the lower crossing of Crab creek, then some eight or ten miles to the upper crossing, thence to Black Rock lake, and by Sheep springs, Duck Lake draw, Ivy lake, Boothe springs and Mosquito springs, thence some thirteen miles northeast to Cottonwood springs, east via Mondovi, Deep Creek, Spokane Falls, Westwood, etc., to Steamboat Landing on Pond Oreille lake. The road later constructed went north from Rathdrum to the river at Simacateen Ferry.

Over this trail, for it was nothing but an Indian trail, David Coonce in 1864 hauled the boilers and machinery for "The Mary Moody," the first steamboat built on Pend Oreille lake. At this time a warehouse and a store were built at White Bluffs, operated by two bachelors named Nevison and Boothe, two of the first settlers.

These "gold rushes" were followed by the cattlemen and the first permanent settlers. In 1865, over Coonce's route, J. H. Fairchilds, an early Dalles and Walla Walla settler who died at Missoula, Mont., at the instance of Dalles (Ore.) merchants, laid out the "White Bluffs road." Less than $2000 was actually spent on the road.

Sam and Seth Richie were among those establishing this road. At Pend O'Reille lake the first steamer was named the Mary Moody, after the daughter of Governor Moody of Oregon.

CATTLEMEN ARRIVE

The first settlers were cattlemen, mostly former gold miners or government freighters, who had previously passed through the country. They first settled along the Colville road along Cow creek. Johnnie Smith, now of Reardan, a participant in Colonel Wright's Indian campaign of 1858, and later a packer into the Colville country, settled in 1869 on Cow creek, 14 miles above the Snake, and about eight miles from Palouse falls. In the '70s old Jim Kennedy—a pioneer stockman—stayed at Smith's. George and Bill Lucas, settlers of 1869, were two miles further north on the creek, Tom Turner was eight miles east. Al Hopper was seven miles and his brother, Ernest, 10 miles southeast. Korst was 12 miles to the north. Old man (J. F.) Cross settled on Cow creek, about 12 miles southeast from Ritzville, in 1872. William Lambie settled in the vicinity about the same time; he sold out shortly to Thomas Derry. Along the Columbia Dave Coonce, returning after an absence of eight years, in 1872, settled at Ringold bar.

LUXURIOUS BUNCH GRASS

In early days a considerable part of the sage brush country was covered with a good growth of bunch grass—especially the bottom lands—with only scattering bunches of sage brush. This grass often stood three feet high in favored places and could be

mowed, and was so luxuriant that at a distance it looked like a grain field in bloom. In the latter '50s and the '60s one could stake his horse in such a spot and he would have all he wanted to eat within a radius of a twenty-five foot lariat. One could ride along on horseback and in many places the grass would touch one's stirrups. Like most ranges the Big Bend became overstocked in the late '70s and early '80s. In the spring when the bunch grass came up the cattle, horses and sheep ate if off so that within a few years all this high bunch grass, which formerly covered good-sized patches all over this country, had largely disappeared.

EARLY SETTLERS

Among early settlers in the Crab creek and Rock districts were:

1866—J. E. Ingram, Jack McElroy on Rock Creek; Bert Hughes.

1868—James Lord of Lord's Valley; A. L. Thorpe.

1869—W. A. Bussey, Noah Wollie, O. G. Woods, Steven Devenish, W. H. and J. R. Vent, George Delaney, L. W. Armstrong on Crab creek and at Orchard valley.

1870—Peter Meyers, adjoining Delaney; Jack Harding, John H. Lamona, Jack Leonard, Frank McMahon.

1871—Barnham & Biddle, Antonie Pellisier of Pelliesier's gulch.

1872—Mike Cosgrove at mouth of Rock creek; "Old Grizzly" Ravenaugh, Sam Kelly, D. M. Drumheller, J. P. Duke.

Others in the Big Bend district in the early '70s were:

L. W. Shrewsbury, Owen Femerty, Bob Green, Bob Potts and John D. Fry.

ON UPPER CRAB CREEK

On upper Crab creek another line of settlement was started. In the vicinity of Krupp, Henry Martin, who had gone into the Colville country in 1862, settled with his family in 1871, engaging in horse and cattle raising. Martin sold to George Urquhart in 1876, who was followed by his brother Donald in 1877. Charles S. Irby, a pioneer of 1852, settled with his family in the vicinity of Irby station in 1876. The Walters Brothers, (Tom and "Swearing" Jack, John W.,) pioneers of 1859, settled on Kennewa run,

some 20 miles southwest of Wilbur in 1874. Russell M. Bacon, 1871, and Portuguese Joe Enos (1875) also had stock ranches along Crab creek.

PORTUGUESE JOE

Portuguese Joe, a noted pioneer character, was at Kenewa run or creek, adjoining the Walters Brothers on the west. Portuguese Joe, by the way, accumulated a fortune of several hundred thousand dollars and retired, taking up his residence at Spokane, where he invested his money in business property. On his death a celebrated legal contest occurred over his estate on account of a claim made thereto by an Indian woman who claimed to have been his wife. Many of the old Big Bend pioneers were witnesses in that case.

FIRST POSTOFFICE

Bacon at Crab creek postoffice, about three miles up the creek from these picnic grounds, was the first postmaster in Lincoln county. He had first settled in the Colville valley near Arden. "Dancing Bill" Sappington settled on the south side of the Columbia, opposite the mouth of the Okanogan. "Tenas George" or "Shorty" Runnells was at the mouth of the San Poil. Shrewsbury was on upper Wilson creek, 15 miles above the present town in the '60s.

THE CATTLE BUSINESS

Prior to 1880, the business of the Big Bend district, in fact the only business, was the cattle business. The principal buyers were Colonel J. Q. Sherley, the Seewright Brothers, Lang & Ryan, Sturgeons & Goodsel and Sturgens & Lane. Prime four and five year olds sold at $20; two year olds at from $9 to $12, and yearlings from $5 to $7. The buyers after traveling over the country making their purchases, assembled the cattle at Walla Walla, in bunches of 4000 to 5000, swimming the cattle across the Snake river near Lyons Ferry, then started them overland across the mountains, via Baker City, Boise, Shoshone and American Falls, Eagle Rock, etc., to Laramie plains, Wyoming, where they were resold for the Chicago and Omaha markets.

It took two and a half to three months to drive the herds over in bunches four or five days apart.

In 1875 D. M. Drumheller drove 5800 head over this route. The assembling of herds of 40,000 to 50,000 Oregon cattle on the Laramie plains was not uncommon. In those days everything was Oregon, Oregon cattle, Oregon fruit, Oregon lumber, Washington territory was comparatively unknown; they couldn't be sold under any other name.

AMONG EARLY CATTLEMEN

Among the early cattlemen may be mentioned Commodore Downs, near Sprague, Kirkman & Dooley on the "Figure 3" ranch, 10 miles southeast of Sprague; Si Graves, eight miles east of Sprague.

Others were Bill Dillard, southeast of Sprague; Phil McEntee and Bebe near the Grand Coulee: Barney Fitzpatrick, William Bigham (1878) "Eel River Jim" Ferrier afterwards bought Bigham's holdings; Virgil Brock and Jules Jarmane. Pat Clinton, H. Widdell, who came in 1874, bought out Lord in 1878; Guy Fruit, H. McKenter, Jack Williams, Hugh McCool, Bob Greene, Adam McNeilley, Jack Harding.

What is now Sprague was first a sheep camp. At Sprague or Big lake Pat Comaski bought out a squatter in 1869 at what is now the Hercules stock ranch of Day & Rothrock. He was followed in 1871 by Patrick Wallace and "Hoodoo Billy" Burrows in 1872. Years later when a town was laid out it was first called "Hoodooville" in Billy's honor. The railroad authorities changed it to Sprague, in honor of General Sprague, one of the directors of the road. Mat Brislawn, a pioneer of '78, settled on the Colville road seven miles northeast of Sprague in 1879.

George Bassett located at Kahlotus springs, now Washtucna, in 1873. The name Kahlotus was subsequently given to the present settlement some 20 miles southwest. Phillip Ritz located a homestead just south of the site of Ritzville in 1878. J. B. Bennett the same year located a mile north and Jared Harris just west of Ritzville that fall. The Adams County Court House adjoins his timber culture. Shortly afterwards Bill McKay established a tavern and installed a stage line between Ainsworth and Sprague. Provisions and supplies were all brought in from Walla Walla in those days.

WILD GOOSE BILL

Wild Goose Bill (Samuel Wilbur Condin) who came to the

country from the Cariboo mines in 1865 and who packed for the government between Walla Walla and Fort Colville and later ran a pack train to the mines in British Columbia, Idaho and Montana, had a trading post and "Condin's" ferry on the Columbit during the development of the Ruby mines, now in Okanogan county. About 1875 he settled at Wilbur, so named in his honor. Bill acquired his name of "Wild Goose" at Wild Horse, B. C., in early days by innocently shooting a flock of tame geese which a priest had hatched out from eggs brought from Oregon. He paid the priest $20 apiece for the geese, and, the story becoming known among the miners, he was ever afterwards known as "Wild Goose Bill." Bill died with his boots on in January, 1896, in an encounter with a party named Parks; both were killed. Bill is reputed to have dispatched a few Indians in his time.

VIRGINIA BILL

"Virginia Bill" Covington, another well-known pioneer character, first settled near Brewster, at the mouth of the Okanogan, and ran a ferry there in 1865. In 1878 he located at the mouth of Hawk creek, near Peach, and later had a saloon and dance hall at Fort Spokane.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

Time will not permit more than a momentary reference to the days of the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad through the Big Bend Country from Ainsworth to Sandpoint, Idaho. In 1880-83 Henry Villard was President and H. W. Fairweather, Superintendent for this division; the Pend Oreille division 228 miles—Fred Curtis and Jonathan Evans were master mechanics; Bob McGregor, assistant. I might recall the names of a few of these forgotten pioneer railroaders—Mat Weeks, yardmaster; Pete Tully, roadmaster; Mr. Stevens, superintendent of track laying; Tom LeRoy, boss track layer; Harry McCartney, chief boarding house and boarding car proprietors; Fallet & Harris, butchers; Harris & Co., contractors of grading; Wm. Carlow in charge of materials and curving of iron; Tom McCarty, "Chink" herder.

Among the early trainmen were Fog (John) Johnson, Ed. McCall, Charlie Fish, Frank Renaud, O. M. Godfrey, engineers;

Jerry McAuliff, Jim Cutting, Tom Murray and Meigs, conductors; Bob Tuts, John Stafford, Jack Cartright, fireman; Johnnie Cross and Bill Walker, brakeman.

Whitman, Spokane and Stevens counties were then the only counties north of the Snake River. Labor was scarce and the greater part of the grading was done by Chinamen. There were no steam shovels; the rock work was handled by the Irish and blasting was done with common black powder. In those days the first settler encountered along the railroad after leaving Ainsworth was Pat Coamskey at the head of Big Lake—107 miles: at Ritzville there was only the Ritz hotel; at Sprague but seven or eight buildings, and two or three tents. In the absence of towns the places along the railroad line were known as Wells. Bridges and Cuts; many of the old station names, 20-mile well ('Ell to Pay); 30 mile well, (Messa), 39-mile post, (Connel): 48-mile well, Hatton or Twin Wells; 67 mile well or Summit (now Providence Cut) Canyon, etc., have long since been forgotten.

PASSING OF THE CATTLEMEN
THE LONG COLD WINTERS OF 1880-1881 AND 1889-1890

The winter of 1880 and 1881 was the worst ever experienced in Eastern Washington Territory and Eastern Oregon since the settlement of the country. It commenced to snow about the 15th of November, 1880, and the last heavy snowfall was March 15, 1881. All the tall sage brush around where Pasco is was buried under snow and ice. We had not yet begun to keep our eye on Pasco; it was not on the map, or thought of; the only settlement was Ainsworth.

I have heard it estimated by well-informed cattlemen that over 100,000 head of cattle and horses perished by cold and starvation that season in Eastern Oregon and Washington. Ben Snipes lost immense numbers in the Yakima Country. Dave Coonce at Ringbold Bar, near White Bluffs, was one of the heaviest losers. Many cattlemen in the lower portion of the Big Bend were cleaned out entirely. Providence Cut, on the N. P., about 40 feet wide, drifted full of snow. All bunch grass and forage was deeply buried; and in the four or five miles between Messa and Eagle Rock, hundreds of horses and cattle perished by drift-

ing with the wind and falling off the cliffs into the rocks and deep snowdrifts below.

Cattle in the vicinity of Pasco broke into homestead shacks in their endeavor to find shelter from the bitter wind, and hundreds drifting with the wind onto the ice of the Columbia river, broke through and were drowned. This was the beginning of the end. Each year thereafter incoming settlers fenced more and more of the springs and waterholes and the free range became more restricted. The winter of 1889-90 finished the cattle business on the open range in the Big Bend country. The intense cold was accompanied by deep snows that stayed on the ground in many places until the end of May, and a number of pioneer farmers sowed their grain on the snow-drifted fields.

HARD WINTER

Settlers had a very few good crops until after 1889. That year most of the crop burned up and some of the settlers went into the winter a little short of feed. They had enough to last until the first of March and that was as long as we had to feed up to that time. That winter we had a deep snow and it did not go off until the first of May so that one could begin to farm. There was very little stock left after that winter, 90 per cent of the animals dying of starvation and cold. The range was piled five and six deep with dead stock. When the first ones died the others climbed on top of them to get out of the snow and died. Others did the same, so they were in heaps. They ate the hair off the dead ones, so that they were almost bare. The snow was four feet deep and laid on the ground 180 days.

ONE RULE WAS FIXED

The "West" of those early days was noted for its open-hearted hospitality, an invitation to a stranger to eat and stay all night were a matter of course in frontier days. When the owner was not at home the law of necessity implied an invitation and the right to occupy his cabin for the night and to use such food as was necessary.

In the early cattle days you might ride through the Big Bend for 50 or 100 miles and only encounter one or two roundup cabins in chosen spots close to wood and water. The latch string was always out. If no one was at home you went in, spent the night,

ate some of the grub if you were hungry, and had none, and passed on. There was one fixed rule, however, that you should leave the cabin as you found it. If there was wood in the wood-box and water in the bucket you replaced what you had used before you left.

Old Jack Cartwright used to tell me that in coming up from Walla Walla in the spring of 1877, he stopped at one of these cabins for the night and thoughtlessly went on the next morning without even washing the dishes.

About noon that day he was overtaken by one of the irate owners and compelled to go back 28 miles and wash up the dishes, and to cut and bring in an armful of wood and a pail of water. Jack afterward attributed his ingratiating manners to this early lesson.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
FIVE AND TEN GALLON PARTIES

The first settlers of the Big Bend were not without their social functions. Some of these early parties were known by the amount of liquor available for consumption. Five gallons of Hudson's Bay rum or Kentucky whiskey was an ordinary party where every one could go; a sort of go-as-you-please party. There you could expect to find the first families represented. A Jew's harp, a fiddle, or an accordion was sufficient music to set pioneer feet a dancing all night. People thought nothing of riding or driving 120 miles to attend some 10-gallon party at Fort Colville or at some other early pioneer settlement.

SALOONS USED FOR BALLROOMS

In later years many an enjoyable dance was staged in the bar room of the old Columbia Hotel at Davenport which would be spruced up and decorated for the occasion. These dances were all-night affairs and the whole community attended. They had real dances in those days. Folks coming for long distances and being hungry for the society of others, they often danced all night, and on Christmas and other like occasions the dance often went on all the next day. The old-fashioned fiddlers played the good old homely tunes: "Turkey in the Straw," "Give the Poor Fiddler a Dram," "Leather Britches," "Money Musk," "The Arkansaw Traveler" and the like.

In winter sleigh-riding parties were in great vogue and in looking back one recalls the snowfalls of forty years ago were much heavier than those in later years. There was much social intercourse and many athletic contests between the early settlers and the officers and men at the old army post, Fort Spokane—abandoned since the days of the Spanish-American War.

FEW SO-CALLED "BAD MEN"

Unlike the Southwest and some other parts of the frontier the Big Bend Country of those days had few so-called "bad men" and no organized bands of desperadoes. There were a few horse thieves and a few "gun men" or killers who were quick on the trigger, especially when animated by the poor grade of frontier whiskey vulgarly but well termed "rot gut"—fortunately their victims were usually poor Indians. Such white men as from time to time died with their boots on were the victims of sudden passion rather than the wanton sport of desperadoes. The country as a whole was too poor to attract or interest the stage and mail robbers of the South.

INDIAN EXCITEMENT

In June, 1877, when Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perces went on the war path, the early settlers on Cow and Crab creeks set out in alarm with their families for Colfax, Palouse, Walla Walla and Dayton. The local Indians, principally under Chief Moses, were peaceful, though Moses himself was suspected of hostile designs, and was even arrested at Yakima charged with complicity in the Perkins murders. He was eventually released through intervention of the Indian Department.

During the absence of the settlers the only damage done by the Indians was the killing of a few cattle and the pilfering of some trifling property left behind by the settlers. The Big Bend country has been free of the so-called Indian outrages.

The establishment of Camp Chelan in 1879 caused many people in military service and civilian employment as contractors, teamsters, packers, etc., to go over to the Big Bend country and acquire knowledge of it, which they passed on to inquiring settlers. In 1880 the government by Lieutenant Symonds laid out the route for a wagon road from Ritzville to Camp Chelan, a

distance of 107 miles. Though the post was abandoned in 1880, its relocation at Camp Spokane further stimulated the development of the northern part of this region.

The construction of the Northern Pacific in 1881-2 closed the period of early pioneer history. The building of the Northern Pacific railroad and its influx of settlers, the fencing of the ranges and water holes and the blizzard of 1880, saw the beginning of the end of the reign of the early cattlemen.

HARD WINTERS AND HARD TIMES. PASSING OF THE CATTLEMEN

The early stockmen made no provisions for cutting hay or wintering their stock, and the severe winters hit many of them very hard. In the winter of 1889-90 many men like Jodie Williams, Dave Coonce and others lost several thousand head each, and many of the smaller owners were practically put out of business; those few who had put up hay were more fortunate. In 1884, after the completion of the Northern Pacific, great numbers of cattle were shipped out of the Big Bend. About this time the horses on the range began to multiply in great numbers, and increased to such great numbers that the range for cattle began to get short. In 1890 there were probably over 25,000 wild horses ranging in what is now Grant County. Douglas County's last "roundup" was held on August 2, 1906. This marked the end of the open range.

The later hard winter of 1889-1890 and the hard times of 1893-1894 broke many of the pioneers—fortunately most of them stuck it out, not so much from choice as from necessity, until better times came. As an illustration of land values during those trying days I may remark that in and about Ritzville, "the bread basket of the world," old timers still tell of E. G. Gibson's unsuccessul efforts to trade off two sections—1280 acres—of land to A. G. Gritman for a new Rambler bicycle. In 1890 Gritman tried to sell the bicycle to Gibson who had no cash but wanted to buy it. When Gibson's first offer of a section of land was refused, his partner, Mr. Gentry, said: "Slip him the other section too." Gritman, however, refused to deal, saying: "Nothing doing, I'd rather have the bicycle than the land."

THE NAMING OF DAVENPORT

The first settlement in the vicinity of Cottonwood Springs (Davenport) was by Barney Fitzpatrick and Aloyuis Harker in June, 1879. They were followed by O. B. Parks, A. D. Strout and C. C. May in 1879. Harker settled on the actual townsite.

John Davie of Spokane, a pioneer of 1879, relates that in November of 1879 he got lost in a snowstorm in the vicinity of Cottonwood Springs, and that he met and was taken in by a German settler named Hackett, who lived about eight miles southeast from Davenport. Hackett, in his little shack had nothing to eat except some flour and a very small piece of bacon. Hackett fried the bacon and used the grease to make some gravy and bannocks. The bacon was placed on the table for two successive meals, but out of politeness neither would take it; finally Hackett regretfully remarked that it was Friday, and he was a Catholic. Davie replied that he was a staunch Scotch Presbyterian, that the Catholic religion was an excellent one, but that he had never before fully appreciated its merits; whereupon he helped himself to all the bacon, and while Hackett wistfully looked on, he ate his fill.

The town took the name Cottonwood Springs from the cottonwood trees growing along the creek at that point. It was one the main camping points on the old White Bluffs road. John H. Nichols in July, 1881, helped erect the first business building, a store; this was followed by John Cartwright's saloon—John afterwards settled on a farm near Mondovi. J. C. Davenport later started a rival town on the high land to the south of Cottonwood Springs to which he gave his own name. Later a fire destroyed a part of the buildings and Richard Traul, the saloon keeper and principal surviving business man of the new town moved down to Cottonwood Springs, bringing with him the name of his former townsite Davenport—this soon replaced the old name, Cottonwood Springs.

AMONG THE PIONEERS

In 1879 and 1880 the occasional lonely homestead cabins or shanties (12 by 14 by 16) of the first "bunch grass" farmers were four to five miles apart. Colfax and Walla Walla were the nearest trading points. Among the first "bunch grass farmers" in the southern Big Bend and Rock Creek country were:

Mike Farrell, the Murphy family, J. McGowan, Alec McDonald, Elsie Messenger, Chas. Carrington, John Dorethy, John Kirk, Neil McGreevy, Tom Flaherty, Gun McKinney, Warren Witcher, the Embler, Damrell and Henderson families, John Hancock, Billy Purvis, Bill Downs, M. Blackfau, Joe Reed, Joe Bryant and family, John Cody and family, E. M. Kinnear, Bill White, Pat Dillon, Ed Dean, R. Ragent, George F. Alback, Pat Malloy of Malloy Prairie, Curley Doan of Cheney, Wm. Terwillinger, Yancey Blalock, McAuliff, Charles Russell, John Kniflong and Felix Warren.

REARDAN, DOWNS, HARRINGTON

The first settler near Reardan was John Wickhan in 1878; he was followed by J. G. Kethroe and W. H. Childs.

The first settler near Downs was Sylvester Page in 1878 and Gust Holmquist, the same year.

The first settler near Harrington, F. M. Gibbons, about 1864, followed by the Hon. Chas. Bethel, Waverly Anderson, the three Glascock families, John Weisgerter, A. G. Mitchem, W. L. Crossel, Jacob Linchy and son and T. C. Larkin.

EDWALD AND MONDOVI

The first settler in the vicinity of Edwald was Capt. John McGourin in 1878; he was followed by Emmett Cosgrove.

R. A. and W. H. Hutchinson in 1879 became the first settlers in the vicinity of Mondovi. Their first neighbors were Byron and Delbert Richards, John Glazebrook and Wm. H. Ditmer.

In 1879 the Hon. S. C. Hyde had a timber culture at Mondovi.

A sister of the Hutchinson boys, Maggie, now Mrs. David J. Jones of Davenport, was the first school teacher in Lincoln County, teaching in District No. 1; her brother, State Senator R. A. Hutchinson, was the first assessor of Lincoln County, and his niece, Madge, the present County Assessor (1919) is the first woman county assessor in this State.

Horace Parker, who settled on Cold creek in 1878, became the first settler near the present town of Lamona.

George Langenour and Isaac Long and sons settled at Blue Stem in 1879. Friedlander had a store on the Columbia between Whitestone and Hell Gate in early days.

Among other prominent old timers coming into the country prior to 1880 were:

J. W. Johnson, 1875; Tony Richardson, 1875; George M. Lowe, 1878; Henry Hazder, John Turner, Jake Ludy, Peter Fremond, Tom Stephanson, Lester Bailey, Alfred Gravelle, Goose-Necked Billy Johnson, Christopher Misner, John F. Nee, James Nichols, Jesse Rockhold, Joseph Sarasin, George Bowder, Jack Sterrit.

NOTED HORSEMEN

The ranges of the Big Bend produced a large number of excellent riders and roundup men—some of national reputation. Among these celebrated "bronco busters" were Jack Skerritt and Bill Ireland—the latter became one of Buffalo Bill's star riders. "Eel River Jim" Ferrier and "Rattlesnake Jack" were among the most noted of these "buckaroos." So far as I know no one ever learned the latter's true name. He was one of those frontier characters who rode full grown and unannounced into the community from 'nowhere" and years later as mysteriously departed for an equally unknown destination.

EARLY SHEEPMEN

Sam Johnson of Walla Walla was probably the first man to run sheep on the Big Bend ranges. M. C. Chittenden and a Swede sheep herder ran a bunch of sheep for Tom Derry and Tom McGilvray of Walla Dalla in 1876-7 in the neighborhood of Willow Springs, and the site of the present town of Sprague. When the emmisaries from the Nez Perce war party appeared in their vicinity and commenced to dance their war dance and tried to persuade the local Indians to join in the hostilities the Swede set out for the "lower country" and did not stop until he had put the Snake River between himself and the Indians. Later about 1881 William Smith and the Pople brothers entered the range.

NATURAL PHENOMENA—EARTHQUAKE IN 1874

Early travelers in the Big Bend County mention warm springs and sulphur springs, then existing in the vicinity of Moses and Grand Coulee.

Among the great natural phenomena of that period was the

earthquake of November 14, 1874, when a landslide near the mouth of the Entiat, below Wenatchee, dammed the Columbia; and the great wind of January 8, 1880. Talking about wind reminds me of a story which the late Judge L. B. Nash, one of the pioneers in the Badger Mountain section, used to tell.

One cold November day, in the early '80s, the Judge was riding along a trail in the Big Bend country when he saw a curious object approaching him. On closer view it developed into a long, lank man riding a small cayuse. At a distance, his arms flopping up and down, and the tails of his Prince Albert coat flying in the breeze, made him look like some strange bird; his derby hat was tied down with two handkerchiefs, and his rising trouser legs and coat sleeves left several inches of bare shank and bony wrist exposed to the wind.

The stranger stopped the Judge and inquired the way to the cabin of an early settler. It was evident from his appearance that he was not entirely happy. After getting the directions, just as he turned to go, he called out to the Judge in an aggrieved tone, "Say, mister, I'm a stranger in these parts, but I have traveled some, and I want to say that this is the damned best ventilated country I ever was in." The strong wind and sand storms of the Big Bend Country are not a new phenomena—as I have read accounts of similar storms and winds in the diaries and journals of the old fur traders—written a hundred years ago.

FIRST THINGS IN DOUGLAS COUNTY COUNTRY WEST OF MOSES COULEE

P. M. Corbaley was the first settler west of Moses Coulee. He came in from Crab Creek in March and located his claim and was the first man to build a cabin and move his family. He was the first postmaster and had the office in his house at the foot of Badger Mountain at the head of Corbaley Canyon, three miles southwest of Waterville. The first mail route was from the head of Wilson Creek to the new postoffice and a man by the name of Jordan was the first mail carrier. He was found dead in his cabin, supposedly from poison, in the spring of 1884.

In the spring of 1883 N. S. Titchend, now of Cashmere, with his father and oldest brother, Louis, came up from Rockford. They got up there about the middle of May in company with

Colonel L. B. Nash, afterwards circuit judge; O. H. Kimball, paymaster on the Northern Pacific when it was building, and Peter Bracken, a former steward on Pacific steamships. They traveled together to Badger mountain by way of the mouth of the Grand Coulee. When they arrived they found five men that had preceded them by three days. They were Hector Peterson and his partner, Frazier: two men by the name of Ferren and Ole Rudd.

TO BADGER MOUNTAIN

Kimball and Bracken located a claim each and camped on them. The rest of the party returned without making a location that trip by way of the Indian graves as it was then known, where Ephrata now stands. They proceeded up Crab Creek to Cottonwood, now Davenport, then to Spokane and Rockford. At Rockford they took a four-mule team and started back, arrived in Spokane June 2 and loaded the wagon with supplies for the store Kimball, Nash and Bracken were opening. Among the supplies was a barrel of whiskey. With a load of 3000 pounds they left for the new town, and going the Crab Creek route, built a grade at Ephrata (Indian graves), crossed Moses Coulee on the old government trail and made dry camp at the top of the hill. The stock had to be taken back down the hill the next morning to water. It was 20 miles across the trackless bunch grass to Badger Mountain and that first wagon was the beginning of the wagon road that was used while the country was settling.

FIRST STORE

They arrived at the camp on June 8, 1883, with the first load of freight that came to the new settlement. Two days later the party started out to look for a claim each. They went south from the other claims and staked three claims in sections 24 and 25 in township 24. As soon as the claims were staked, they began to haul logs off the top of Badger Mountain to build the store and helped to lay them up. It was built of peeled pine logs, 16 x40 feet, with walls 12 feet high. It was early in July and they went back to harvest the crop; it was cut with cradles and bound by hand. When this was finished another load of goods was brought down for the store and they went back and moved the family down and built some cabins in which to live.

COUNTY DIVIDED

J. W. Stephens and L. B. Nash brought it in a sawmill that fall and began to cut lumber. A man by the name of McArthur hauled the mill in from Spokane and did the logging that winter. A man by the name of Adams came in that fall and located a claim 2½ miles northeast of the present town of Douglas. He went back to the land office at Spokane and scripped 40 acres and laid out a townsite. He then went to Olympia and had the county divided that winter. It was all Spokane county west to the Columbia river. Lincoln and Douglas county were made at the same time. Adams called his town Okanogan and it was the first townsite laid out in Douglas county and was the first county seat. The first county commissioners were Adams, Myers and Platt M. Corbaley. Myers staked a claim but never did anything with it and was never a resident of the country. However, he always attended the commissioners' meetings. Walter Mann, now of Everett, was the first auditor and I think S. C. Robins was the first sheriff.

FIRST WEDDING

The first wedding in the new county took place when Jesse Wallace and Jessie Soper were married. Their child, the first born in the county, died during infancy. Richard Corbaley performed the marriage ceremony. The first school was taught in Ole Rudd's house, a hewed log one, that he had built and had not moved into. Judge R. S. Steiner, now of Wenatchee, was the teacher. The first schoolhouse was built by donations early in the spring of 1885 on Douglas Creek about a mile above where Alstrown now stands. The first blacksmith shop was put up in the fall of 1884 by Howard H. Huff near the postoffice at Badger.

HARVESTING METHODS

The spring of 1884 found the first settlers very short of provisions and the Indians brought potatoes and wheat to sell. They paid them six cents per pound for potatoes and the same for wheat. The teams had to go to Spokane after supplies and the store ran out of supplies before they got back. The little settlement still had a little flour left and managed to kill a grouse or two, so they did not suffer. A good crop of wheat was grown that summer and threshed enough for seed—tramped out with horses and cleaned by a fanning mill built of wood except the sieve,

which was made out of a five-gallon oil can. The Ticheneks made a rope drive from the fan and it did a good job of cleaning. When they were through with their own job, they loaned it to a neighbor and he loaned it to the next one, and the last we heard of it, it had gone 40 miles away and I presume it is still going, for they never got it back. The next year they had to make a new one. S. C. Robins brought the first threshing machine into the country in 1887 from Ellensburg. It was a second hand one.

ROAD OVER MOUNTAINS

The road over the mountain to the mouth of Moses Coulee was built in the spring of '87 and the freight all came from Ellensburg after that time. The Indians were great civil engineers before the white man came to this country for most of the early roads were laid out on the Indian trails and most of the mountain roads follow them yet. Blewett Pass and Snoqualmie Pass were formerly such trails.

Part of the land was surveyed prior to the settlement and the balance of it was surveyed by J. M. Snow in 1885 and settlers did not make out filing until 1888. Douglas County was then in the Yakima district and the filings had to go to Yakima. The papers were all made out in Waterville and sworn to and a man took the papers to Yakima and made the filings for the entrymen. Most of the settlers had a few head of cattle and they ranged on the mountain. Badger Mountain is a range of hills extending from Moses coulee north to Corbaley canyon, and is mostly bare of timber, all of the timber being on the north end. The hills then were covered with bunch grass with small streams of water in the gulches, making an excellent cattle ranch.

TROUBLE WITH SHEEPMEN

In the spring of 1884 the sheep men of Crab Creek drove their flocks in there and put them on this range. The settlers did not appreciate this so they proceeded to make trouble for the sheep men, killing a few of their sheep and some of their dogs. The sheep men then took their sheep away and stayed away thereafter.

WATERVILLE COUNTY SEAT

The country settled up very fast in 1885. One could see new shacks going up every few days. I do not remember but I think

that the townsite of Douglas was staked out in the fall of 1885 and part of the people of Okanogan moved to Douglas on account of the inconvience of hauling water. Okanogan was a dry town and had no water except what was hauled there from Douglas. Adams had brought a well drill in the spring of '84 and had sunk a hole 300 feet deep and did not get water. While he was drilling, quite a town sprung up there. A store, hotel and postoffice and a number of dwellings were built as the county officers lived there until they stopped drilling, when most of them moved back to Douglas and folks paid their taxes thereafter that time until the county seat was moved to Waterville. A. T. Green dug a well in the spring of '86 and got lots of water at about 28 or 30 feet, so he staked out a government townsite of 40 acres and called it "Waterville." Lots were staked in a short time and several business houses were built in the fall. Waterville was voted the county seat in the fall and moved January 1, 1887. A. T. Green built a courthouse and donated it to the county.

FIRST NEWSPAPER IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

L. E. Kellogg started to Waterville with a printing press in the fall of '87 but he was a little late getting started and only got it to McWintee's place (now Coulee) and stored it in a chicken house until it could be brought in after the snow had melted in the spring, when travel was again possible. He printed the first issue of the Big Bend Empire in March, 1888, at Waterville, the first newspaper printed in Douglas county. Mr. Kellogg now lives on Sunnyslope, about four miles from Wenatchee.

The Douglas County Democrat printed its first issue July 20, 1898.

SHOOTING AFFRAY

An incident happened in the early fall of 1886. A man by the name of Paine moved into the country in 1883 and took a claim and proceeded to improve it. Jack Hubbard, deputy sheriff at Deep Creek, eight miles out of Spokane, learned that this man was wanted in Missouri.

Hubbard was told that the man was a desperate character, but he wanted to be the next sheriff of Spokane county, so he hired a man by the name of Akin to take him out to Douglas county and bring Paine back. They came and got S. C. Robins, sheriff

of Douglas county, to help him make the arrest. They left Douglas about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, September 10, 1886, and crossed Moses Coulee and went up the hill and over near St. Andrews. A man came up behind them on horseback and opened fire. The old man and the deputy sheriff were killed, but the other man got away. He cut one horse loose from the buckboard and rode him until the animal fell dead. Then he went on foot to McKintee's place. The man that came up behind them when the shooting was over laid his gun down and left it and rode away. The news was brought in and Sheriff S. C. Robins subpoenaed a coroner's jury and went to the place and found the gun where it had been laid down. No one ever claimed it. The old man was brought back and buried and the deputy sheriff was taken home and buried. The old man had a son there and a warrant was sworn out for him but the sheriff could not find him. He afterwards came back, gave himself up and was cleared after he stood trial.

PICTURESQUE NAMES

The Big Bend country of pioneer days was noted for its picturesque names: "Swearing Jack," "Lying Bob," "Dancing Bill," "Tenas George," "Wild Goose Bill," "Old Grizzly," "Taters," "Texas" Rourke, "Virginia Bill," "Portugese Joe," "Eel River Jim," "Rattlesnake Jack," "Shacknasty Bill," "Goosenecked Johnson" are all familiar to us all; the district was also noted for its picturesque characters.

SQUAW-MEN

The Big Bend Coutry was also noted for the number of its squaw-men. The term has become one of reproach, but let me say this: The marriage with a good Indian woman never belittled any good man; if he was the right kind of a man, the local Indian woman made him a fine wife.

The trouble with some squaw-men was not that they married an Indian wife, but that they were generally no-account anyway. Many of the most substantial and honored citizens of this state can point with pride to Indian blood in their veins, from an Indian mother or grandmother. Many of the old Hudson Bay Company's traders and factors and many pioneers in this state were justly proud of their Indian wives. Governor Connolly of

that company married an Indian woman; his daughter by this marriage was Lady Nelia Douglas, the wife of Sir James Douglas, Governor of British Columbia. Dr. John McLoughlin's wife was an Ojibway Indian; Governor Peter Schene Ogden of the Hudson's Bay Company took a Spokane Indian woman for his wife. Joe Meek, the first delegate in Congress from the old Oregon territory, which included the present States of Washington, Idaho, and part of Montana and Wyoming, was married to a Nez Perce. Lady Strathcona, wife of the great Canadian, who recently died, was the daughter of a humble squaw. To their honor, it can be said that many squaw-men stuck to their Indian wives and halfbreed children in their years of honor and affluence, and in private and in public life were as affectionate and loyal to them as though the blood of the royalist white coursed through their veins. I say all honor to the faithful Indian wives of the early pioneer.

COUNTY SEAT FIGHT

In November, 1884, occurred one of the most exciting events in the early history of the Big Bend Coutry—the county seat fight between the towns of Sprague and Davenport. Sprague won the election; through fraud, say old Davenport settlers, but the county records temporarily held at Davenport were taken away from that town by an armed sheriff's posse and a committee of citizens from Sprague. Cool heads prevented serious trouble.

THE PIONEER MAN

Taken as a whole the pioneers of the Big Bend were good examples of that sturdy self-reliant and courageous race of stalwart men who made the West—men who looked the world in the eye and drank down their "four fingers" of old rye without a chaser—who could neither be discouraged by hardships nor deterred by disaster.

Much is said, and too much can not be said, about what the pioneer men have done, but little or nothing about the pioneer women. That is because the woman then was not in the forefront of things. Her life was spent in keeping her home and rearing her children. Indulgence never came her way, and recreation or rest seldom.

THE PIONEER WOMAN

A few words should be said about the pioneer women. It has been remarked that they endured greater trials than the pioneer men, for they not only had to put up with all the hardships that the men put up with, but they also had to put up with the pioneer man.

Life was often a desperate struggle for a bare existence. In this the man had the easier part in that he was engaged in the active struggle while the woman kept the home fires burning and passed her days in the lonesome monotony of household drudgery. Every woman then did her housework as a matter of necessity. If necessity demanded, as it often did, she could also do her husband's or her brother's work. These women were true helpmates and companions of their husbands. They had no so-called modern conveniences. Even water was often a luxury —laboriously hauled from a great distance and carefully conserved. The nearest neighbor was often miles distant.

None of these pioneer women had an opportunity to indulge in high-heeled shoes—often they had no shoes—or in fancy corsets and French lingerie. A few plain garments constituted their whole wardrobe. They rarely had the assistance of a "sewing woman" or of a sewing machine and few of them ever had a ready-made dress or as much as one hundred dollars in cash at any one time.

They grew tanned, lined of face, faded and weatherworn—wrinkled and bent with hardships and service to their families. They mostly lost all the superficial beauty of face and feature, and grace of movement, and had no means, time or opportunity to devote attention to dress and the little luxuries and refinements of personal care and toilet which women crave. None of them ever had a hair dresser, or a facial massage. They became hard and callosed-handed, but they had clear eyes and warm hearts.

They raised babies that were often rocked to sleep in a dry-goods box or in home-made cradles hollowed out of a log. These pioneer women raised good babies—babies which when they grew to manhood have taken the lead in our country in all lines —in business, professions, war and in politics.

This type of early pioner womanhood, sturdy, capable, self-reliant and unselfish, as typified in Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, is entitled to all the honor and reverence we can bestow upon them and their memory.

But if her lot was hard, the children never knew it. She taught them that indolence and inefficiency were a disgrace, and if they ever expected to have anything or be anybody they must work for it, as nobody ever succeded who wasted his time. The idea of looking to the government for support, or to luck for prosperity, had not originated then. Children knew better than to spend their time frivolously, and come down to a dependent old age. The pioneer times were hard times, but not unhappy times. Women and men then were of strong fiber and stout hearts. They were not afraid of the appearance of economy, or of simple living. It took hard-muscled men and women of great faith and sincerity to break paths through the wilderness that was the old west.

THE PIONEER MOVEMENT—AN APPRECIATION

The Big Bend pioneers were the last representatives of that great pioneer movement which crossed the North American continent from the rocky shores of New England until it reached the fir-clad hills of the Pacific, moulding the land of the savage into the home of the greatest nation of the world.

No keener or bolder story was ever enacted than that of the Americans west bound across the richest region in the world in the greatest people's movement the world has ever known. It was a march of conquest, but of conquest over nature, not man, for the native American Indian was rarely encountered in sufficient number to give a militant character to the movement. Perhaps some day the epic of this wonderful pioneer history will be written, and the present-day American people awaken to the thrill of its heroism and self-sacrifice, the lure of its romance, and a just appreciation of its worth.

THE PIONEER CHARACTER AND SPIRIT

The desire for elbow-room and freedom, and the appeal of the unknown land beyond, teeming with opportunity; its game, its gold, its virgin fields and forests—and even the opposition of war-like savages—offered adventure and opportunity which the

bold men, reared on the western fringe of our population, could not resist. These pioneers were every one just as eager to better themselves as we are now, they were, moreover, more self-reliant and adventurous than we are now, willing to risk their all on their ability to carve a new and better home out of the wilderness, and yes, willing to work much harder to secure what they wanted than most of us are today.

On the American frontier could always be found the clean-cut, clear-strain American. Their ancestors—English, Dutch, Scotch, Irish, Norse and Nordic-German—had lived on this continent from one to two hundred years until the strain had become clear American—a new race or breed of men as it were; strong, keen, industrious, self-reliant, eager, adventurous and brave as any the world has ever seen. As the settlements became crowded behind them, the more adventurous and ambitious pushed on to carve a competence and perhaps a fortune from the new lands on the frontier.

For log cabin citizenry ancestry was unnecessary—to be self-respected and self-respecting one DID something; men were valued for their personal worth, not their father's nor their worldly possessions. The weakling stayed home, or if he started, faltered and turned back before ever he reached the "Western Frontier." The enfeebled and degenerate emigration of our later years from the worn-out countries of Europe usually halted and revived itself on the Atlantic Coast. Only a sprinkling of the more hardy races—English, Scotch, Irish, German, Norse and Scandinavian—wandered out to the frontier. Such as came were mostly, in heart, true pioneers and they were quickly assimilated among the pioneer settlers. No direct action socialists, no anarchists, no I. W. W.s, no Bolsheviki were ever developed among its citizenship. These are later and trifling social ailments caused by our population hastily bolting down too many undigested and unamericanized foreigners of an undesirable type that have been unable to readily understand or appreciate our, and their, great opportunities.

The West has thus inherited and preserved the finest virtues of our country. The West was "God's Country" and it was Man's country—it was no place for the effeminate.

In the pioneer the rugged traits of courage, self-reliance, honesty of purpose, frugality and steadfastness and patient perseverance, a capacity and willingness to work long and hard, generosity and neighborly assistance, and a fixed ideal of loyalty to American institutions were predominant characteristics.

It was characteristic also that with the arrival of the pioneers there immediately followed the log schoolhouse, for the pioneer ever regarded education as a necssary accomplishment for a free and enlightened race.

The pioneer lived and worked in the open, and obtained a broad vision. Their isolation made them value human companionship: they were sociable, friendly and good neighbors. They were honest, excepting an occasional misguided horse or cattle thief—there was, in fact, little else to steal. They were industrious; in early days a person had to hustle or go hungry. They were brave and self-reliant; the weakling dropped out before ever reaching the frontier.

THE PASSING INFLUENCE OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER—WHAT WILL REPLACE IT?

There is no more frontier, there will be no more pioneering and no more pioneers. Our free lands are no longer free; our limitless resources are no longer limitless. Recently we noted an incident in the passing of the old west in the closing of many pioneer land offices. We can see the end of our inexhaustible timber resources, the public domain so far as fitted for agriculture has all been taken up. Already our urban population exceeds our rural population. Already we are importing foodstuff to feed our people. Today we are fast becoming a settled nation without the compelling liberal influence that accompanied the westward spread of population, and we are to become more and more like an American version of European civilization. The American nation will henceforth be shaped by other influences than the western pioneer spirit. What will, what can replace it?

OUR PIONEER HERITAGE—SHALL WE PRESERVE IT?

Many of the older pioneers in the audience have seen the closing scenes of this great phase of our history. Much of it is written, but much minor detail is unrecorded and exists only in pri-

vate records, letters and in the memory of those yet living. It is the purpose and object of local pioneer and historical societies to collect and preserve such historical data, which otherwise might be wholly lost. But, my friends, we have a greater duty—a greater opportunity; that of adopting and preserving the pioneer spirit, as well as the pioneer history.

WHAT WERE THE DOMINANT CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS PIONEER SPIRIT?

Analyzed, it was founded on a firm belief in God and in the fundamental principles of goverment. It was the embodiment of self-respect and of self-reliance; of a firm belief in the dignity and the rewards of labor. It carried a clear and prophetic vision of the things that are and may be, which human patience, courage and labor may accomplish, with the stubborn unfaltering courage and persistency to stick to the chosen task to the bitter end that dreams might come true. If there were rivers to cross, they were crossed; if there were barren plains and trackless deserts to traverse, they were traversed; if there were rugged mountains to climb, they were climbed; if there were forests to cut down, they were patiently cut down and cleared away; if there was desert land without water, the waters of the distant stream were laboriously brought by many a mile of ditch and flume to pour out over the barren sands that they might become green with vegetation, blossom and bear fruit.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WEST UPON AMERICAN HISTORY

We have just witnessed in the picturesque period of history that I have attempted to picture the course of the most important and the most interesting and romantic epoch of our American history—that of the Western Expansion to the Pacific.

Even up to our own time the United States has been constantly beginning over again and repeating its history on its outer edge as it advanced into the unsettled wilderness. In the outward expansion of our population, our frontier was first on the outer edge of the original states; then across the Alleghenies, on the Ohio and Kentucky; then on the Mississippi, then in Missouri and Kansas, then on beyond the Rockies, until at length, in our own day, it reached the Pacific.

This West was thus a migratory region and a passing phase or condition of American society rather than a place. Each region in the progress of our expansion from the Atlantic was in turn "the Frontier"; then the frontier passed on to new regions; leaving behind in the older, more thickly settled areas to its immediate rear, the pioneer memories, traditions and habits of thought that persisted long after the frontier itself had passed

The West, thus broadly speaking, included not only the immediate frontier but also the adjacent and more populous territory in its rear, settled by the descendants of pioneers, and yet largely influenced by the pioneer western spirit. This West thought of itself, and the nation in somewhat different terms than the East, and for the first one hundred and twenty-five years of our national existence exercised powerful influence upon our national character.

This West was largely agricultural and rural, while the East became increasingly urban and industrial; this West was poor and a debtor region, the East was rich and a creditor region. The West stressed the rights of man; the East laid greater emphasis on the rights of property. The West was buoyant, optimistic, restless and full of innovation; the East was slow, cold, conservative, guided by precedent and fearful of innovation. These opposite influences have made the present American nation.

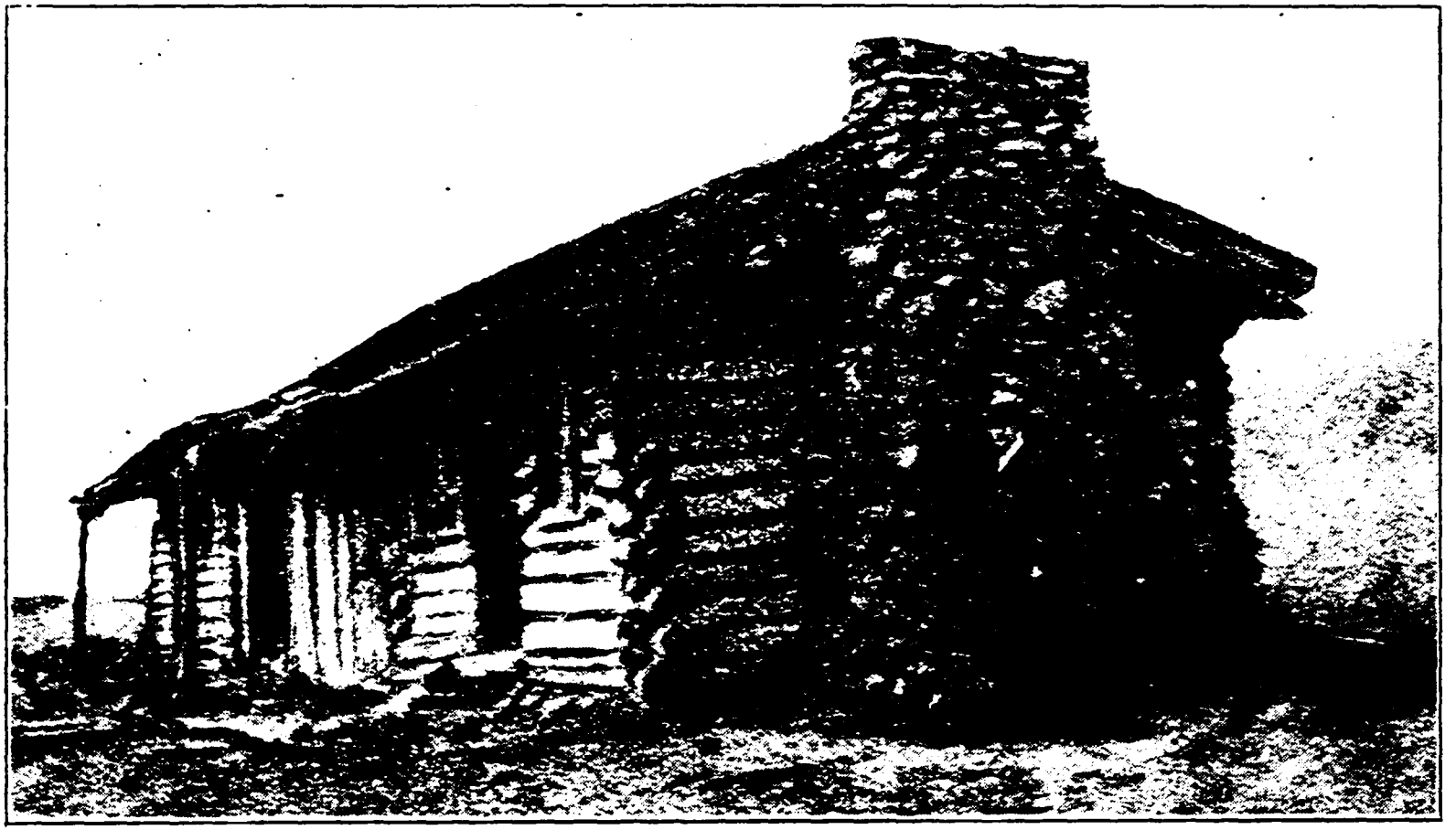
That luminous history, comprising bitter hardships bravely borne, the encompassing of dangers dauntlessly accepted, needs reviving in these days of sickly sentimentality, where the government or the school intervenes from birth to death to nurse and coddle and shield great masses of the descendants of that parenthood. The guests of ours, gathered here today, who made this fair land possible, knew nothing of steam heat, plumbing, sundaes or cigarettes and automobiles for a journey of six blocks. But in their primitive means of living they found altogether as much satisfaction—maybe a good deal more—as the generation which makes of life a continuous round of jazz.

But, for all that, while their day is gone, they have left us a day which, if not so robust, so glamorous and so bold, is a better day. And if the men and women be not better, at least they better fit the time. We hope the pioneers have had a happy

reunion, and if some of them seem bent, or broken, none of us fail to remember that their scars worthily got are the good livery of honor.

The pioneers themselves seldom came into the full enjoyment of fortune in the promised land. Most of them lived and died in the midst of pioneer hardships and privations, and it is the later comers and the new generation which have come into the full enjoyment of the great heritage which they helped to create. We owe them a great and unpaid debt of gratitude for the pioneer work they did. The only way to pay it is to preserve and pass on to our children the heritage we have received, not only the material heritage, but the spiritual heritage, for the pioneer life was as a whole an exemplification of the best of our American citizenship.

Note:—D. M. Drumheller, R. A. Hutchinson, John Davie and many other pioneers mentioned in this address have—in the years intervening since its delivery—crossed "the Great Divide" into the unexplored frontiers of eternity.



The first postoffice in the Big Bend, Crab Creek, 1871. Russell M. Bacon, postmaster. C. E. Ivy of Big Bend Pioneer Association is the figure in the foreground.