

A History

of

The Dalles

Senior Thesis

by

Bertha P. White

1915.

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Professor of History

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Interviews.- Mrs.Shackelford, president of Old Fort Dalles  
Historical Association, most kindly loaned  
me books and papers, and to her I am in-  
debted for the photographs of her Indian



baskets made by Wascos and Yakimas.

Mrs. C. J. Crandall, sec'y of Association, not only loaned books and clippings but read my manuscript in order to verify facts.

Mr. Paddock, custodian of Old Fort Dalles.

Mr. E. O. McCoy, manager of Wasco Milling Company.

Mr. Wagner, manager of Scouring Mill.

The description of the ten miles of rapids westward from the mouth of the DesChutes is given from my own view of them.

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## A History of The Dalles.

<sup>1</sup>Long before the coming of the white man the dalles of the Columbia was a mart of trade between the upper and lower river Indians, and because of this was always neutral ground. There are two yearly runs of salmon - the big one about May or June and the lesser one in the fall. At these times as many as one thousand Indians would be camped along the ten miles of rapids and falls, fishing. Their main staples of food--kouse, camas, and berries could be gathered only during a part of the year but the salmon could be dried and kept for winter use.

<sup>2</sup>The method of preparing the fish was peculiar. First they were opened up and laid in the sun to dry. Then they were pounded to a fine powder and placed in a water-tight basket which had been lined previously with salmon skins. Each basket contained from ninety to a hundred pounds of the powder; and when a number of them had been filled, they were formed into a pyramid with seven baskets on the bottom and five on the top, and being covered over with mats were called a stack. The meat thus prepared would keep fresh and sweet for several years. It was a medium of exchange between the Indians living above the

1. Lyman, Vol.I, p.176.

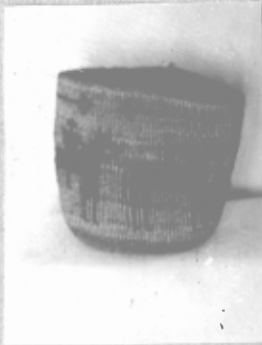
2. Lewis & Clark Journal-Allen-revised by M'Vickar. Vol.II,p.62. Thwaites, Vol.III,p.148.



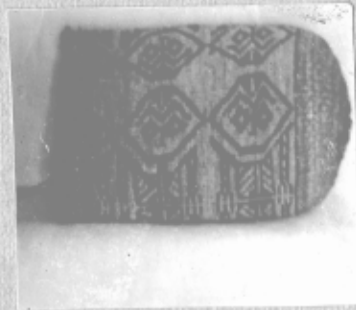
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yakima



Wasco



Wasco

Baskets which were made by the  
Yakima and Wasco tribes and are  
now in the collection of Mrs.  
Shackelford. at The Dalles.

Falls and those below, especially after white men began to trade along the coast. For then the Chinooks and Willamettes brought the trading material of blankets and beads, knives and clothing, and traded them to the up-river tribes for salmon and buffalo robes. Lewis and Clark saw numbers of stacks of salmon along on the rocks but found it difficult to purchase any for they were reserving them for the down river trade.

One particular reason why the falls was an ideal place for the Indian fisherman was that here the river narrows down in several places to between thirty and fifty yards in breadth and the native armed with a long-handled net or a spear can stand fairly above the water and catch the fish as they go by. Each net held from two to three bushels of salmon.

In the winter time many Indians of the mountains came down to this section because the climate was milder and there was plenty of grass and fuel to be had. One authority places the number of these as high as two thousand.

The Wascopums, who dwelt in the prosperous village of Win-quatt on the present site of The Dalles and in the village of Wishkam, had houses different from the tepees of those farther east; in fact Lewis and Clark stated that they were the first wooden houses they had seen since leaving the Illinois country. They were about twenty

1. Thwaites, Vol.III, p.154.



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feet wide by thirty long, and about six feet of their height was under ground- no doubt in order to prevent the wind from blowing the sides down. The walls were boards placed perpendicularly, and the roof was formed very much as on our ordinary shacks. The opening at one end was so small that one had to crawl in and then descend a ladder to the floor. The interior was used for a storehouse and a living-room, and was usually occupied by several families around as many fires; but rough bunks were built along the sides about three or four feet from the floor and under these the ordinary provisions were kept.

<sup>1</sup>The canoes, too, were of a different type from those seen above the falls, being much more graceful in appearance- tapering from each end to a wide center and ornamented with a wooden figurehead of a bear or a brave. All of the work of making the boards in the houses and of digging out the canoes was done with stone implements.

<sup>2</sup> Tradition has it that the first white man seen by these Indians was Soto, the son of Konapee the Spaniard who was saved from a wreck off Clatsop beach and held as a slave by the Chinooks, who kept him to work up the iron from his ship into knives and hatchets for them. He had been forced to marry an Indian wife and live among them. After years of this life he became such a favorite that he and his one companion were set free. Attempting to

1. Thwaites, Vol.III, p.150.

2. Lyman, Vol.I, p.172.

Franchere, in Addenda to Vol.I.





First of the snow peaks in the Cascades to be seen by Lewis & Clark.



Mt. Hood, called Fall Mountain by Lewis and Clark

rejoin his own race by an overland march eastward, he went as far as the Cascades and stayed there to the end of his days. His son roamed the country round and was seen by the next white men who came. This was the expedition of Lewis and Clark in October of 1804.

Lewis and Clark found the Indians at the falls to differ much from those of the upper river and mountains. In the mountains the hunter's life which they led made them active, and as a consequence they had strong sturdy bodies somewhat above the average size of white men. But along the big river which brought their food to them so easily in the shape of fish, the Indians decreased in stature and general appearance and increased in filth and lax morals until these qualities reached a culmination in the Chinooks at the mouth of the Columbia.

<sup>1</sup>Hundreds of miles up the river these explorers had heard of the Great Falls which the Indians called timm - drawing the word out in a peculiar manner so as to imitate the roar of the cataract. When asked where they obtained the wood they burned, the natives answered, "Near the Great Falls". <sup>2</sup>Observing that they used large acorns for food and wishing some too, they were told that they could be found in the woods below the falls. <sup>3</sup>Then the two upper river chiefs whom they had with them as interpreters begged to be allowed to return home since they

1. Thwaites, Vol.III, p.143.

M'Vickar Vol.II.

2. Thwaites, Vol.III, p.138 and 143.

3. " " " p.153.





The river here makes an abrupt turn at the left and flows back under the bridge so that the falls are really above the bridge.



The twenty foot fall which is the largest

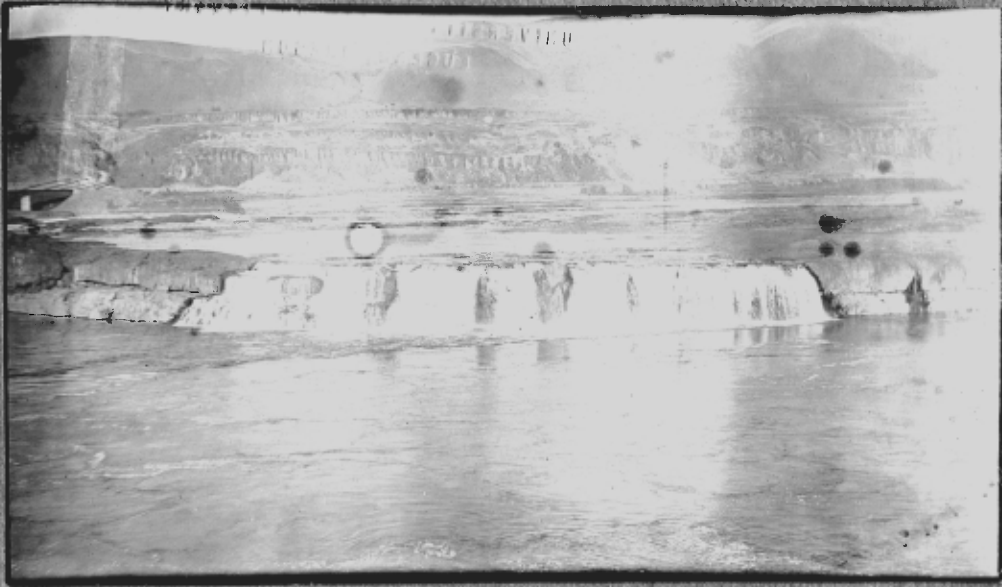


could not understand the speech of the natives below the falls. This seemed to be literally true, as the languages were different except for the few common words which are the same in the tongues of all the Western Indians.

<sup>1</sup>All along this section of the Columbia they were impressed with the fact that practically all of the permanent villages were on the right bank of the river when many more suitable locations could be found on the left shore; but the mystery was solved when the Indians told them of their fear of the fierce bands of Snake Indians, the main villages of whom were a twelve days' journey up the Deschutes River.

When Lewis and Clark left the Deschutes River they were within hearing of the falls which are two miles below and about twenty feet in height. On reaching the rocks above the falls, which is the head of the new canal now being cut, they landed and walked about twelve hundred yards to the falls. <sup>2</sup>They found that this distance was covered almost all the way by solid rock through which the river runs in a narrow channel about fifty yards wide, so swiftly that a boat could not live in it. The French Canadian voyageurs called this place Les Chutes and at high water, when the rocky bed north of it was flooded, passed over it successfully without making a portage. An Indian fishing village of Wishkam, consisting of seventeen

1. Thwaites, Vol.III, p.145.
2. Thwaites, Vol.III, p.147.



Lower Celilo Falls



The great dalles of the Columbia.



huts, was on the north bank and the men from it assisted in carrying the baggage to the foot of the rapids, but took their toll so heavily from it that it was necessary to guard it henceforth.

Three miles below this are the small falls which are run by the boats at low water, even though they are dangerous. But not knowing the channel the explorers let the boats down the eight feet of fall with leathern thongs. Then begins a series of rapids extending for over five miles through a channel, which narrows for half a mile to about forty-five yards in width, in which the water boils and eddies over hidden rocks. Charboneau, their French-Canadian boatman, decided to run the boats through this, and succeeded in getting them through the first mile in safety. <sup>1</sup>Here they encamped for the night on the right bank near a village of Echeloots consisting of twentyone houses. The inhabitants received them kindly and visited them in great numbers. One of the main instructions of President Jefferson had been that they should make peace between warring tribes wherever possible; so they used this opportunity to induce the Echeloots to make peace with the two upriver chiefs they had with them as pilots. After showing them the evils of war and the benefits of peace, they agreed to assume friendly relations and their chief was given a medal and some

1. Thwaites, Vol.III, p.151.





Lewis and Clark camping-ground at  
The Dalles - called Fort Rock by them.



Another view of the same.

presents. Then the Americans danced to the music of the violin, which greatly pleased the natives.<sup>1</sup>

The next day they nearly lost one of their boats which capsized against a rock and its cargo was rescued with difficulty. <sup>2</sup>When the first of the Hudson's Bay voyageurs saw this long narrows they were reminded of a long canal and exclaimed, "Le Grand Dalles". So it is to this portion of the river that the name belongs rather than to the obstructions at the falls as we so often imagine. The rapids from Fall Bridge to Seufert's extend for over ten miles and have been a hindrance to navigation until the present day; but within two years science will <sup>have</sup> triumphed over nature and river boats will pass on their way from Portland to Lewiston without obstruction through the Celilo Canal which is now being constructed by the government.

Below the last rapid the country opens up into a wide basin, the tribal home of the Wascos, whose name means horn-basin.

<sup>3</sup>Since their boats had suffered much in the rapids and needed re-calking and their goods needed to be dried after such frequent wettings, the party camped for three days near the mouth of Mill Creek in a place fortified by nature on three sides with cliffs twenty to thirty feet high, and having depressions on the top for ramparts so that their whole camp could be easily concealed

1.Thwaites, Vol.III, p.156.

2.Bancroft, N.W.Coast, Vol.II, p.44.

3.Thwaites, Vol.III, p.158.



from view. Hunters were then sent out to the hills three miles to the southwest and succeeded on the first evening in killing a deer and a goose. Later they were fortunate enough to secure five other deer besides smaller game which proved a welcome respite from the dog meat they had been able to purchase from the Indians.

Here as at every other encampment they were visited by many Indians whose friendship, in accordance with their instructions, they endeavored to enlist for the United States. Among these was a chief who wore his hair in a queue and had on a round hat and a sailor's jacket. When they finally resumed their journey they visited a village of eight houses opposite the mouth of Chenowith Creek at a place now called Curtis's Landing. <sup>2</sup>Here they saw a British musket, a cutlass, and several brass teakettles. These evidences of the presence of whites on the lower river filled them with a great joy for they hoped to find a vessel anchored there in which they might either go home around the Horn, or from which they might replenish their depleted store of trading material. But the ship had gone on its way before their arrival at the mouth of the river, and after waiting in vain all winter for another to appear they were compelled to retrace their steps overland, and arrived at the Narrows April 18, 1805. <sup>2</sup>Their great desire now was to purchase horses on which to pack their goods

1. Thwaites, Vol. III, p. 165.

2. " Vol. IV, p. 288.

as the progress by canoe against the current was too slow.

1 It was with the greatest difficulty that they obtained any as the natives preferred to steal their goods instead of trading for them.<sup>2</sup> Indeed so great were their thieving propensities that they stole a horse they had just sold to Mr. Lewis and resold it to a native of another tribe. This was the general character given to these Indians by the later white visitors.

3 In 1810, John Jacob Astor of New York sent two companies to found a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia - one in the ship Tonquin via Cape Horn, the other, commanded by Wilson P. Hunt, overland along the Lewis and Clark route. This latter party had great difficulty in descending the Columbia on account of scarcity of provisions. They separated in order to seek food and these divided bands straggled past the dalles during February, 1812. The Tonquin had reached the Columbia during the preceding year and Astor's partners, who had taken passage on it, had founded Astoria in March, 1811.

4 Before the Hunt party had reached the great river, another white voyageur had floated down its waters to the sea.<sup>5</sup> In July, 1811, David Thompson, explorer for the

1. Thwaites, Vol. IV, p. 308.

2. " " " p. 312.

3. Franchere, p. 150.

4. Thwaite's edition of Franchere, p. 254.

5. Thompson in his journal makes no mention of the object of his visit to Astoria as it is given by Franchere.

Thompson's Journal, July 3, 1811. Wed.

"After arranging several small affairs, we in number 8 men with 2 Simpoil Indians, set off on a voyage down the Columbia River to explore this river in order to open out a passage for the interior trade with the Pacific Ocean".





Present chief of the Wascos - 1915.



His camping place and family

Northwest Company, made a visit to Astoria hoping to reach some agreement with Astor's partners as to a division of territory between the two companies. On the return trip he was accompanied by David Stuart, one of the Astor partners, as far as the Cascades. From thence they continued up the river in separate companies and Mr. Stuart established his trading post on the Okanogan.

Sub-stations were established at various places, one being by Mr. M'Kenzie among the Nez Perces. An incident which happened at the dalles serves to show his fearlessness. <sup>1</sup>As usual the natives there had stolen from the travelers and were in a bad humor because they had been accused of it. Nevertheless Mr. M'Kenzie and two of his men crossed the river and entered a wigwam where the chiefs were holding a secret meeting to plan new mischief against the whites, and with drawn weapons demanded a gun which had been stolen. They did not obtain their property but they did escape and rejoin their companions, which was a wonder.

<sup>2</sup>Soon after the arrival of Mr. Hunt's party, papers telling of the safe arrival of both companies and other news of business interest were started east to St. Louis by Mr. John Reed who, along with a Mr. M'Clellan, a partner who wished to leave the company, were to accompany Mr. R. Stuart's supply brigade on its way to Okanogan. The company

1. Bancroft, p.210.
2. Franchere, p.151.



was set upon by natives at the dalles while they were making the portage and Mr. Reed's tin box of papers was taken, probably because they admired the box. This prevented his journey to the States.

<sup>1</sup>Then came the war of 1812 and the transfer of Astoria to M'Tavish, representative of the Northwest Company. Franchere returned to Canada with the Montreal express which passed the dalles April 12 and 13, 1814. On account of their numbers they found the Indians very pacific and willing to sell them food. Every precaution against a surprise was taken, however, for it was here that Messrs. Stuart and Reed had been attacked by the natives the preceding May. The weather was very bad and they were favored by a sandstorm for entertainment. This together with the long portage rendered their impression of the place unfavorable.

<sup>2</sup>The usual expeditions from Spokane in the spring and fall to furnish supplies and bring back goods were hereafter made to Fort George, as Astoria had been rechristened. In the fall of 1815, the returning brigade was caught in the ice at the dalles and the fifty voyageurs, overcome with exhaustion, refused to go any further until spring. The leaders sent to Okanogan for horses and went on, but the main party remained and did not reach Spokane until March 9, 1816.

1. Franchere, p. 264.

2. Bancroft, Vol. II, p. 264.

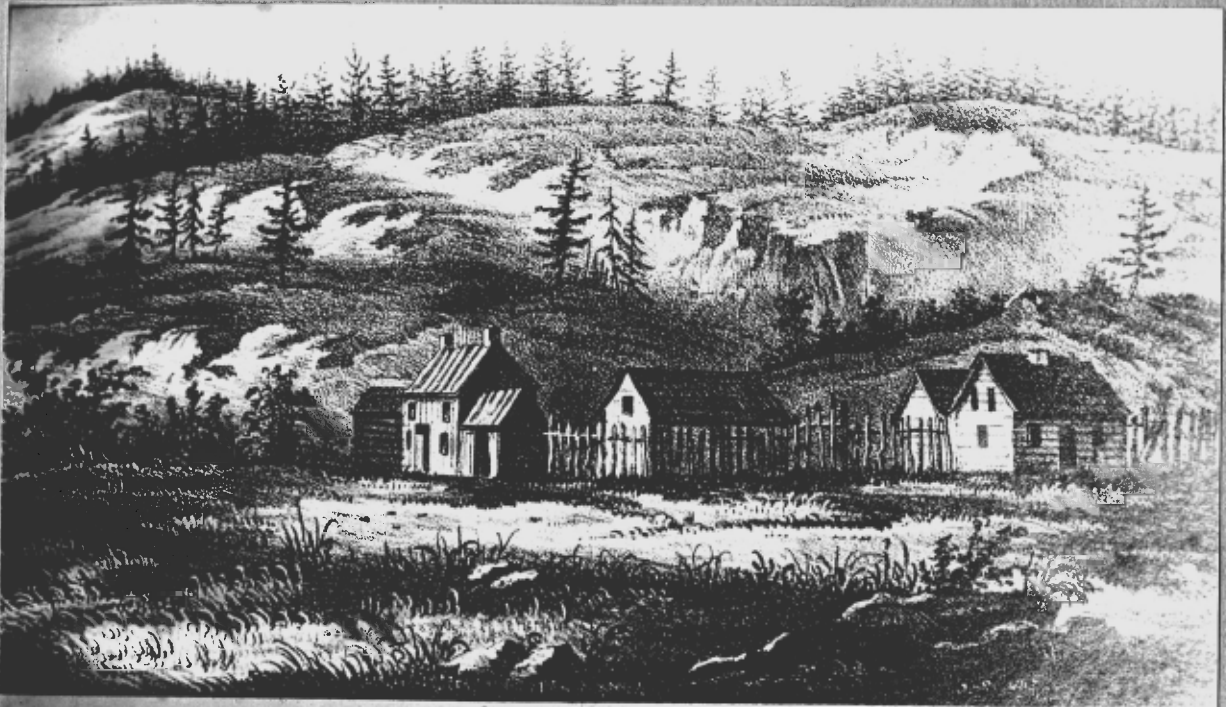
<sup>1</sup>October 20, 1818, a treaty of joint occupation of the Oregon country for a term of ten years was signed by Great Britain and the United States.

<sup>2</sup>By 1820 the Northwest Company thought it had subdued the Wascos sufficiently to establish a trading post among them; and so this was done, and James Birnie, a native of Scotland, was put in charge. He did not remain long and his buildings could not have been permanently erected since no one ever mentions seeing a trace of them.

The Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company in 1821 decided at last to cease their fighting and merged their interests in one controlling company - the Hudson's Bay Company. Dr. John Mc Loughlin was appointed chief factor of the western division and arrived on the Columbia in 1824. This was the beginning of an influence, extending over the vast Oregon country, which made it possible for missionaries to establish stations and settlers to take up claims - providing they were on one of the well established brigade routes. For outside of that pale the Doctor could not promise protection. Thus it was that the Lees and co-workers of the Methodist church, coming overland in 1834 with Wyeth's second expedition, were compelled to plant their first mission on the Willamette instead of <sup>in</sup> the Flathead country. Without protection they could accomplish

1. Schafer, p.126.
2. Bancroft, p.276.





MISSION NEAR THE DALLS.

*Life by T. Webber & C. Baltimore*

This is from a pen sketch made by  
one of the soldiers staying at the fort.

no good, and beyond the reach of supplies from the trading posts they could not have maintained themselves.

<sup>1</sup>When the two reinforcements of 1837 arrived, the mission band considered itself strong enough to divide, and so decided to establish a second post at the dalles about eighty miles up the river from Fort Vancouver. Some three miles below the narrows and on an elevation on the south shore, was a spring of clear fresh water. Near by was a good supply of pine and oak timber and the land surrounding it was very fertile. Since one of the chief duties of the missionaries was to teach the Indians agriculture, they built their log house in this favorable location. Work being a novelty, the red men assisted in cutting the timber.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Brewer later describes the buildings, "The logs were brought by hand, with the aid of the Indians, about eighty rods. The boards for the floor and ceiling were sawed out by hand. The shingles were made twelve miles from the spot and brought on pack-horses. At first (the house) consisted of one room, but now a kitchen and woodhouse had been added. The front door of the house opened toward the river, in which direction was a fine yard, enclosed by a high wall of earth, affording a pleasant play ground for the children. From the south end of the house the door opened into a square of nearly

1. Ten Years in Oregon. Lee and Frost, p.152.

2. Brewer's Book.



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Pulpit Rock from which  
Daniel Lee, Mr. Perkins and others  
preached

an acre of ground, making a kind of "common" or public promenade. Upon the opposite side of the square on the south, stood the church -a plain log building; and near it a schoolhouse, which, if not beautiful to the eye as many which ornament the growing villages of the States, was to the eye of the Christian very beautiful. On the east was the house of Mr.Perkins who had assisted as we have stated to commence the mission; and opposite his residence on the west was what the missionaries pleasantly called their "civilized barn" because it was in the style of those in the settled part of the country. Near this was a workshop which completed the settlement of the whites".

<sup>1</sup>Before the coming of winter in 1838, Mr.Perkins and Daniel Lee had completed the house and Mrs.Perkins had come from the Willamette station. Horses were obtained from Fort Walla Walla and cattle from Fort Vancouver to stock the farm. During this time services were held in the open air every Sunday, there being about fifty yards above the spring on a rocky eminence a stone pillar ten feet in height, whose top formed a natural pulpit. All during the fair weather either this place was used for worship or else an oak grove where the Indians would seat themselves on the ground and pay respectful attention.

<sup>2</sup>Up until 1906 Joseph Luxillo, one of their Indian

1. Lee and Frost, p.152.

2. Mrs.Crandall, Sec'y of Old Fort Dalles Historical Association, not only loaned books and clippings but read my manuscript in order to verify facts.



converts who became a preacher, would return annually to drink of the waters of the spring from which he had been baptized, and which seemed to possess peculiar medicine for him, and to sleep beneath the shade of the trees near by. On one of these visits he gave a very vivid description of the service when he was baptized. The preacher ascended pulpit rock and blew a horn to the four directions of heaven and called the people to the meeting. He impressed his hearers with the fact that it was not merely the braves who were called but all the people. After the sermon, Mr. Lee had a bucketful of water brought from the spring and many converts were taken into the church.

<sup>1</sup>The building was started in March, 1838, and while the men were working on it in April, Mr. Jason Lee and several companions visited them. These men were on their way to the States where Mr. Lee went to get additional workers and funds for his missions. In June an express passed bearing to Mr. Lee the sad tidings of the death of his wife; but it did not overtake him until he had reached Shawnee mission.

Other visitors from the Willamette mission came from time to time and frequent trips were made by Mr. Perkins and Mr. Lee for supplies. During December they had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Pambrum, agent of Fort Walla

1. Lee and Frost, p.152.



Indian village at the Rodeo in 1914,  
on their old camping-ground.



Young bucks in gala dress



Walla, who was delayed here twelve days by the ice.

<sup>1</sup>In the spring of 1839, they began their farming operations and cleared and planted about twenty acres. They succeeded in getting some Indians to help them on the shares with a small field. The returns chanced to be small and even part of these were stolen so that the savages were disgusted and never again degraded themselves with work of that kind.

We have already seen what notorious characters the Indians of this section were. Fighting, lying, and stealing, were common pastimes. To correct all this would require the work of a lifetime, but the missionaries were surely gaining headway. <sup>2</sup> During April, 1840, a camp meeting was held on the plain near Rowena where about twelve hundred persons were present. Mr. Lee said that a more orderly crowd could scarcely be imagined and a wonderful revival took place. On Monday the Communion was administered to several hundred. Of course this was only a mere handful compared with the whole number and did not mean the civilizing of the tribes.

<sup>3</sup> When the reinforcement of fifty-one souls brought by Jason Lee on the good ship Lausanne arrived in 1840, there was an addition to the working force at the Dalles. A wife for Daniel Lee had come, and in addition Mr. Brewer and Dr. Babcock and families and Mr. Frost were sent to this

1. Lee and Frost, p.175.
2. " " " Chap.XVII.
3. " " " Chap.XX.



station. Work continued in much the same way as described; the buildings being enlarged and the mission field being extended to the Cascades on the west and as far as Wishkam on the east.

<sup>1</sup> The Presbyterians had taken up the same call as the Methodists, and in 1836 Dr. and Mrs. Whitman had located among the Cayuses at Waiilatpu, and Mr. and Mrs. Spalding among the Nes Perces at Lapwai. When they had demonstrated that women could cross the continent the emigration of 1842 followed. Dr. White, the newly appointed Indian agent, guided it out. But it was all bound for the Willamette Valley and only stopped for necessities at The Dalles. One of the Peoria, Illinois section, Amos Cook, Mrs. Bradshaw's father, located here.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Whitman went east for his mission in 1842 and his wife spent the winter of 1842-43 at The Dalles. The doctor on his return trip of 1843 guided the emigrant wagons from Fort Hall onward. From Fort Walla Walla some of the emigrants went down the river in boats but only a few could do this and the oxen dragged the rest of the wagons down to The Dalles where they embarked for Vancouver. A thousand emigrants were in this train and other thousands were to follow in the succeeding years. <sup>3</sup> The Dalles Indians were aroused by their numbers and wished to kill them and thus prevent more from coming; but the timely and prompt

1. Lee and Frost, Chap. XIX.

2. Oregon Historical Quarterly, v.4, p.168-184.

3. Hudson's Bay Company Regime in Oregon, p.31.

Mc Loughlin and Old Oregon, Dye, pp.199,244,300.



interference of Dr. Mc Loughlin, of whom they stood in awe, prevented this.

<sup>1</sup>In the rear of this train of 1843 came Colonel Fremont, sent by the government on an exploring tour. One of his party having left him, he asked for a recruit from the mission, and was given one of their best Christian boys, Billy Chinook - a lad of eighteen years, who accompanied him on several trips. He was even taken to Washington, where he had long desired to go, and returning thru California married a Spanish woman. He died on the Warm Spring reservation in 1894.

<sup>2</sup> The Methodists on the representation of some mischief-makers who had returned to the States, discontinued their Oregon missions in 1847, and the Dalles station was bought by Dr. Whitman for seven hundred dollars. In the light of ensuing events the check, which was made payable by his eastern board, was never cashed. He placed Dr. Alanson Hinman and Perrin Whitman, his nephew, in charge of this place. A month later the Whitmans and others were massacred and the survivors rescued by Peter Skeen Ogden. The volunteers, under command of Captain G.A.H. Lee, sent from the Willamette Valley to quell the Cayuses and allied tribes, made The Dalles mission buildings their headquarters while there.

<sup>3</sup> Rev. Father Rousseau established the Catholic mission near their present cemetery across Mill Creek in 1846. But Father Mesplie soon took his place and when the

1. Mrs. Lord.
2. Annual.
3. Mrs. Lord and Annual.



The surgeon's residence now the  
museum of Old Fort Dattes Historical  
Association.



The old guard house.



mission building burned in 1852, rebuilt it of logs on the same site. In a few years a frame church with a belfry was erected near this. Ten years later they moved to their present location.

<sup>1</sup>May 10, 1850, the Rifle regiment of regulars arrived and commenced the garrison buildings. A plot five miles square was reserved for a military post and no settlers could take land within it. The long, low, log barracks and a guard house were built for the men. During the winter more than a hundred emigrants were at work building the mill and other houses for the garrison. The shingles as usual were made in the timber some distance away and other men found a job there. All of the later emigrants drove their teams as far as The Dalles and shipped their wagons from there to Fort Vancouver, while the cattle were driven through to the Willamette Valley by way of Mt. Hood. Many families reached there so destitute that they were compelled to stop and work at anything they could find to do until they could get enough provisions to go on. But until the coming of the soldiers few thought it safe to settle permanently.

<sup>2</sup>September 27, 1850, Congress passed the Oregon Donation Land Claim law which granted to a married man and his wife already in Oregon each 320 acres, and to a single man 320 acres, on the condition that they should

1. Lord, p.71.
2. Lord, p.109.



The bakery for the fort which  
is still occupied by the old baker.



Pinnacle called by some  
Grant's Rock.



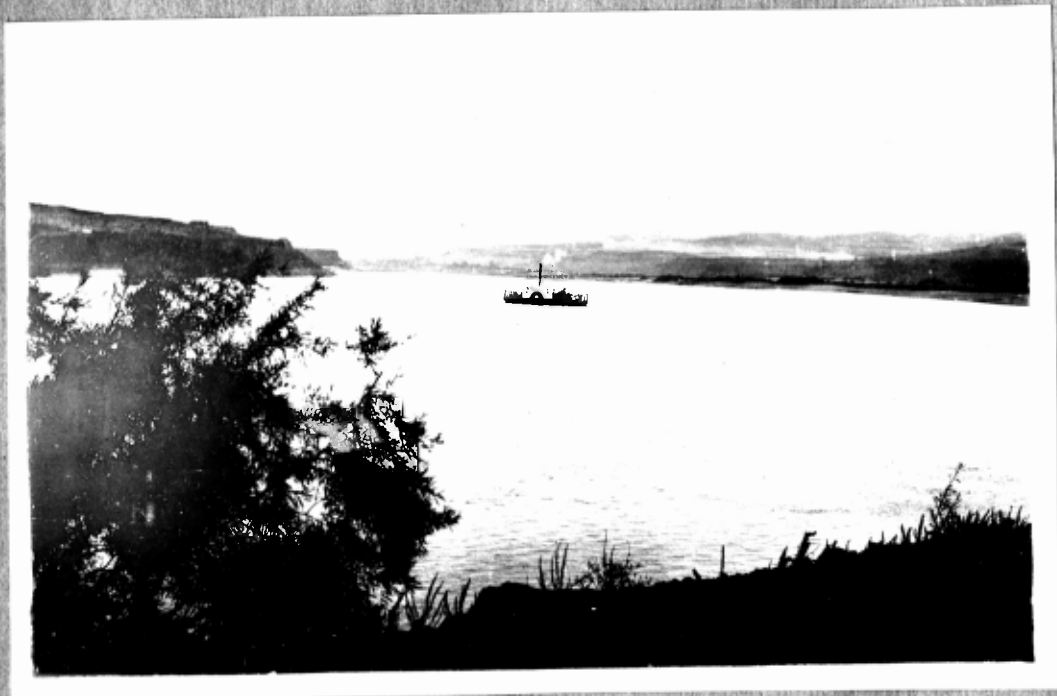
cultivate and live on them for four years. There were no single girls of marriageable age left in Oregon then. One man even married a thirteen year old girl in order to get 640 acres and left her at home until she was grown, telling her mother to bring her up properly. Many other laughable circumstances of like nature are related. This law caused a great rush to Oregon and many emigrants located at The Dalles - the most numerous company stopping being in 1853. The sutler's store of John C. Bell and Allen Mc Kinlay's Hudson's Bay Company trading post had been established by 1851, and many people came from the Valley to trade with the arriving emigrants, so that the place was quite lively.

<sup>1</sup>The Rifle regiment was transferred to California in 1851, and two companies of the First Artillery, under command of Lieutenant Woods, took its place. In 1852 their numbers were augmented by the arrival of two companies of the Fourth Infantry regiment, commanded by Captain Benjamin Alvord. During the military occupancy of this place, U.S. Grant was there for a few weeks on an inspection tour in 1852. Thomas Jordan, afterwards a Confederate Adjutant General, in 1858 gained some of his experience there. The buildings which formed Fort Dalles were built under his supervision. Five main dwellings for the officers, of which the surgeon's house is still standing, were erected at great expense and labor. The



*Memaloose Island, Columbia R.*

Indian Burial Ground



Ferry crossing northward to  
Grand Dalles



lumber was made mostly by the government mill on Five Mile Creek and so expensive was labor that one building alone cost between twenty and thirty thousand dollars.

<sup>1</sup>In 1851 a mail route lent an air of permanency to the settlement. The carrier, Justin Chenoweth, used a sail boat and of course usually had a wind to help him. At other times he hired an Indian rower.

<sup>2</sup>The town of The Dalles really dates from 1854 when the military reservation was cut down and place was given under protection of the guns of the fort to civilians to establish places of business. Of this privilege they were not slow to take advantage. The county of Wasco was then formed in the same year. It embraced all of Oregon east of the Cascade Mountains and The Dalles was the county seat since it was the only town in the section. The next year the city received its charter from the territorial legislature; but until 1863 five trustees were elected annually and they chose one of their number as president. After that a mayor was always elected. The charter was re-granted in 1859, 1862, 1870, and finally made permanent in 1880.

<sup>3</sup> As early as 1851 steamship service had been established on the upper Columbia; in that year the James P. Flint, commanded by Captain Vanburgen made its first trip. Soon several more boats owned by other companies were put

1. Mrs. Lord.

2. Annual.

3. Oregon Hist. Quarterly, Sept. 1908, p. 278.

into competitive service. When gold was discovered near Fort Colville in 1855, these boats could scarcely accommodate the rush of business, and their owners made a fortune as rates were very high. The freight trade from Portland to The Dalles was thirty dollars a ton. The boats ran tri-weekly and consumed two days on the trip. Passengers spent one night each way at the Cascades. On account of the long portage to the upper falls and the re-handling of freight there, The Dalles received quite an impetus. Many merchants established places of business and the town became an important shipping point.

<sup>1</sup> The first crude hotel was built in 1852 by Mr. Thomkins. During the intervening years a few others had sprung up and now to accommodate the greater number of travellers the Umatilla House, which has been a landmark of the town ever since, was built in 1857 by the Nixon brothers. But its most popular landlords were the Graves family. Two fascinating daughters, Louise and Sarah, had dramatic ability and added to the agreeable reputation of their house by giving theatrical entertainments. In 1871 the hotel was burned in a destructive fire which swept the business part of the town out of existence, but it was soon rebuilt; having again been demolished in the great fire of 1879, it was again rebuilt as it now stands. Although there are more modern hotels in the city it is still the largest.

1. Mrs. Lord.



<sup>1</sup>R.R. Thompson was appointed Indian Agent in 1855-56 and built his home in Thompson's Addition. He seemed to have been the first around there to try sheep-raising; but transportation was so high that he did not make a profit on it.

<sup>2</sup>The settlers had always been afraid of the Indians, especially of the murderous Snakes who killed and robbed travelers going into the interior whenever possible. Frequent scares had been given when someone would ride in and report that the Indians were going to make a raid on the town. But the place went wild when in 1856 the Cascades was attacked and the steamer came up to The Dalles for help. Volunteers and troops from the fort were reinforced by Philip Sheridan and troops from below and the ringleaders were caught and hung. A treaty had been agreed upon in June 1855 out at Three Mile between General Joel Palmer and the Wasco, Deschutes, and John Day Indians, but was not ratified by Congress until 1859, and was not in force until then. In that year treaties were made with the Indians over all the old Oregon territory and proved of great benefit to the settlers. The Volunteers, who were men who knew every foot of the country, were perhaps of more service in subduing the tribes than the regulars who were too few in numbers to accomplish much. It was not until after these treaties were made that the people felt safe in settling this upper country beyond the im-

1. Mrs. Lord.

2. Lord, p.141-146.

mediate vicinity of the fort, and but few families had had the temerity to do so. These men, like Billie Mc Kay, either had Indian blood in them or else had Indian wives and under ordinary circumstances would not be molested. But now the settlements began to enlarge rapidly.

<sup>1</sup>A school district was organized November 1, 1856, with C.R.Meigs in charge. The log school house was just back of where the Academy was afterwards erected. An educated soldier had begun teaching in it two years before it became public property. He was followed by Mrs. Sconce and Mr.M.R.Hathaway. Indian troubles came on and Mr. Meigs enlisted as a soldier. Another school was erected in 1860 on Fourth and Laughlin Streets at the foot of where the hospital steps now are. Then in 1871 Mr.Sylvester built the frame building which stood until recently in the little park, and which he replaced in 1882 with a brick edifice across the street. He also erected the brick Academy in 1881. In 1884 the Sister's Academy was completed.

<sup>2</sup>The Dalles Journal, the first newspaper there, began its existence April 1, 1859, being published by two soldiers at the fort while Captain Thomas Jordan was commandant. The next year it was bought by W.H.Newell who issued it as "The Mountaineer". It continued under that name until 1882 when it was consolidated with "The Times".

1. Annual and Mrs. Lord.
2. Annual.



and for many years the "Times-Mountaineer" was familiar in every home. For four years of this time, 1862-66, it appeared as a daily but after that the weekly edition only was published. Other papers published during this time were : The Dalles Tribune, 1875-77; The Inland Empire, 1878-80; Wasco Sun, 1881-; Oregon Democratic Journal, 1884-.

<sup>1</sup>Gold was discovered on the John Day, the Powder River, and at points in Idaho, in 1862. While it seemed before this that the river traffic was heavy, it was as nothing compared to the rush which followed. The Dalles became the distributing point for practically all of these places. The town grew by leaps and bounds. Pack trains left it daily for points in the interior and returning miners spent their earnings there.

<sup>2</sup>The Oregon Steamship Navigation Company had legally organized December 20, 1860, and by 1862 was in control of the portage at both Cascades and The Dalles. Railroads were constructed at both places that same year, twenty miles of iron track having been purchased by their agent in San Francisco. Previous to this The Dalles portage of about twenty miles had been in control of O. Humason with his line of freight teams. The charge for this distance was \$20 per ton measurement. The traffic was so heavy that at times freight was strung along almost the entire

1. Annual.

2. Oregon Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. 9, p. 278.

distance, exposed to the weather. In this way much of it was damaged and much stolen, so that a great deal was expended in paying insurance. However, the company was well able to afford it according to the rates they charged. Now one company owned straight through to the Deschutes. The steamboats coined money. On one trip up they would take in all the way from \$1000 to \$10,000. In 1866 the ticket by boat from Portland to The Dalles was \$8, and from Portland to Lewiston \$60 with meals and berth extra.

<sup>1</sup>Under a law of Congress in regard to military roads, The Dalles and Canyon City Military Road Company formed in 1861, was granted 450,000 acres of land adjacent to the road. Troops and stores could be moved more easily by this means and the government could better protect travelers than on mere trails. Regular stages were now run to different points east. These were often attacked by Indians and it took a brave and skillful man to be driver.

<sup>2</sup>By 1862 the cattle industry was on a firm basis and proving a great source of revenue. The Dalles became a cattle market and cattlemen who had been forced out of the bunch grass country to the east by settlers, pastured their stock on Wasco's fertile hills.

<sup>3</sup>In 1865 Congress appropriated \$100,000 for a branch

1. Mrs. Lord.

2. Annual.

3. Annual.



mint at The Dalles. Building stone was quarried about five miles up Mill Creek and the workmen had finished the first story of the building by the following summer, when Congress decided that the mint was not needed and made no further appropriations. The reason for this was that the Union Pacific transcontinental line was fast uniting the two oceans and the mint was located in Colorado as a more central place.

<sup>1</sup>When the claims in Idaho and Montana had been worked out and the mining excitement subsided in 1868, The Dalles had a period of business depression. But people thus thrown out of work entered upon a farming career and the grain industry has proved a more lasting benefit to the town than the mining.

<sup>2</sup>When Henry Villard bought the Oregon Steamship Navigation Company's rights and formed the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company in 1879, the country was bound to receive the greatest boom in its history. For with this man, to conceive was to execute; and his dreams were far beyond anything the West had ever seen. His schemes in the east had been so uniformly successful that he had no difficulty in securing financial backing. After he had rescued her University from public auction in 1875, Oregon had no hesitancy in trusting him. So when in 1879-80 work commenced on the line between Portland and

1. Annual.

2. Oregon Historical Society Quarterly, p.298.

Walla Walla and an army of men was employed, The Dalles, being one of the supply depots, was greatly inflated. The completion of the entire line in September, 1883, marked the settlement once more to normal conditions.

<sup>1</sup>The shops, however, located in this city in the spring of 1863 by the O.S.W.Co. were made permanent by the O.R. & N.Co. and continue to be a source of benefit at the present time. Indeed they are to be greatly enlarged in 1915 and thus will bring still more people to the town.

<sup>2</sup>In 1900 the interior of Sherman County was opened up to transportation facilities by the completion of the Columbia Southern Railroad. But instead of making the country of easy access to The Dalles, it very nearly ruined her wool trade from which she derived great revenues. These people could now ship directly to Portland or the eastern centers and no longer hauled the wool in wagons to The Dalles. A few years later the Great Southern was built from The Dalles to Dufur, the first train being run over it December 1, 1905, and has proved a great benefit to the town since it is the terminus.

<sup>3</sup>In recent years several great industries have been built up, and since they employ a number of workmen, the town has increased accordingly. Perhaps the most important of these is Seufert's fish-packing and canning establishment

1. Annual.

2. Agent of C.S.R.R.

3. Business Men's Association.



YR 1811 1812 1813 1814 1815 1816 1817 1818 1819 1820 1821 1822 1823 1824 1825 1826 1827 1828 1829 1830 1831 1832 1833 1834 1835 1836 1837 1838 1839 1840 1841 1842 1843 1844 1845 1846 1847 1848 1849 1850 1851 1852 1853 1854 1855 1856 1857 1858 1859 1860 1861 1862 1863 1864 1865 1866 1867 1868 1869 1870 1871 1872 1873 1874 1875 1876 1877 1878 1879 1880 1881 1882 1883 1884 1885 1886 1887 1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1902 1903 1904 1905 1906 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2035 2036 2037 2038 2039 2040 2041 2042 2043 2044 2045 2046 2047 2048 2049 2050 2051 2052 2053 2054 2055 2056 2057 2058 2059 2060 2061 2062 2063 2064 2065 2066 2067 2068 2069 2070 2071 2072 2073 2074 2075 2076 2077 2078 2079 2080 2081 2082 2083 2084 2085 2086 2087 2088 2089 2090 2091 2092 2093 2094 2095 2096 2097 2098 2099 2100



First National Bank.



Second Street looking west from the  
White River Mills

which has been running under the same ownership since 1884. Fish wheels are used on both banks of the river, and since the cannery is located at the lower entrance to the ten miles of rapids, its situation is very advantageous. Twenty carloads of fish are frequently taken in one day from a single fishery at Seuferts. The salmon are prepared for the market at the cannery and fifty thousand cases are shipped annually to all parts of the world.

<sup>1</sup>The first woolen mill was established at The Dalles in 1867, but since this was a cattle rather than a sheep country and the owners paid \$1 a pound for raw wool, and since the skilled workmen had to be imported from the east, this industry failed. Now, however, this has changed and thousands of sheep are pastured in the finest grazing land to be found. <sup>2</sup>A scouring mill was started in 1900 which handles from two to three million pounds of wool annually.

In 1866 Robert Pentland moved his flour mill from Fifteen Mile Creek to a good site within the city limits on Mill Creek on the west end of Third Street. From this beginning we now have one of the most modern flour mills in the United States. <sup>3</sup>The Wasco Mill was built in 1902 and burned to the ground in 1911. But in 1912 and 13 it was reconstructed on a larger and more up-to-date plan. It is of reinforced concrete and steel, fire-

1. Mrs. Crandall, Sec'y of Old Fort Dalles Historical Association.

2. Mr. Wagner, Manager of Scouring Mill.

3. Mr. E. O. Mc Coy, Manager of Wasco Milling Company.



proof throughout - including the window frames and furnishings, and the main building is six stories high. It has eight grain elevators. An automatic sprinkler system is a great protection against fire. The capacity of the mill is 1500 barrels of flour, 6500 bushels of ground wheat, and 65 tons of mill feed a day. Eighty men are employed in it. It is one of the largest shipping industries of its kind in the United States and sells to California and the Orient.

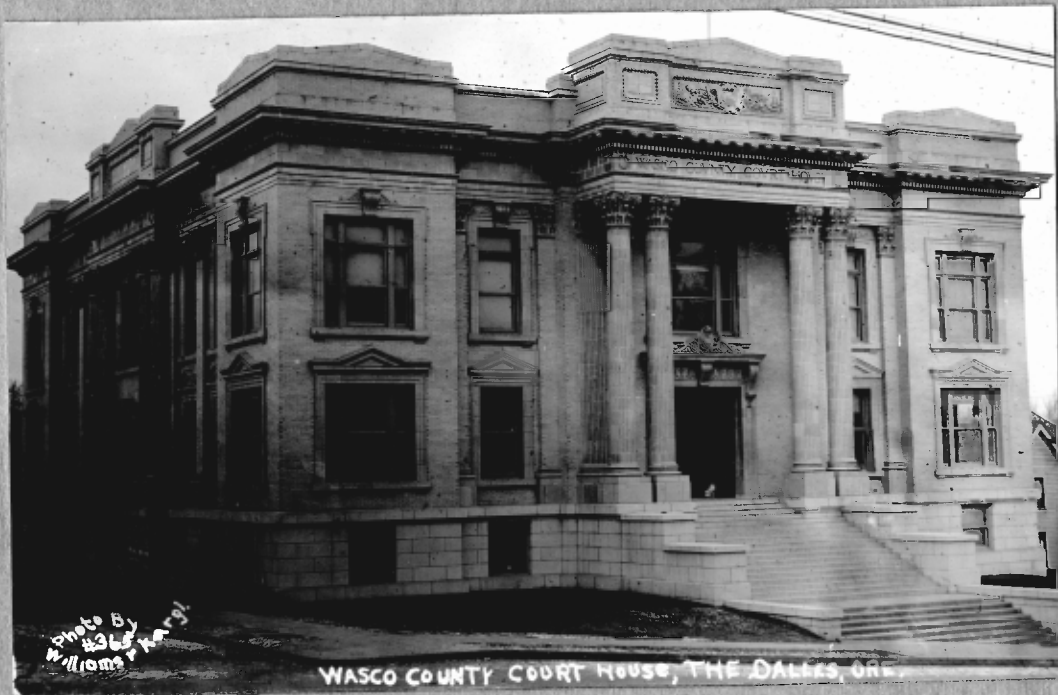
<sup>1</sup>The Marden Harness and Saddle Factory has made a reputation for itself in the manufacture of leather goods. Its hand-tooled and silver-ornamented saddles and bridles are sold over all the United States, being particularly employed for exhibition purposes at Wild West shows as well as for ordinary usage.

Another industry that has made The Dalles famous is that of the fruit. Fleck's grapes took the first prize over the California exhibits at the Seattle Exposition. Ben Davis and Newton apples, Alberta and Crawford peaches, Royal Ann and Bing cherries, and Tokay and Hamburg grapes are the best shippers of the fruits, many boxes of them being sold in Asiatic and European markets. In addition to these, small fruits and garden products find a ready sale in the nearer markets. These last have brought quite a colony of foreigners within our gates, especially Hindoos, Japanese, and Belgians.

#### 1. Business Men's Organization.



Old Court House not showing  
the town clock



Completed and dedicated  
in October 1914.



As the city has become a home center much money has been expended in beautifying it. The court house, Elk's temple, bank building, Masonic temple, Dalles Hotel, and high school erected within the past six years add much to its appearance. A gravity water system supplies the town from a mountain stream, power generated at the White River falls furnishes the light, and well paved streets in the business section, make this a modern city.

<sup>1</sup>The last official census, that of 1910, gave The Dalles a population of 4, 880; but a local estimate of recent date places it above 6000.

With the opening of the Cascade Locks in 1896 the water route from The Dalles to the sea was made complete. As a consequence the increase in the number of steamboat lines very materially decreased the exorbitant passenger and freight rates on this route.

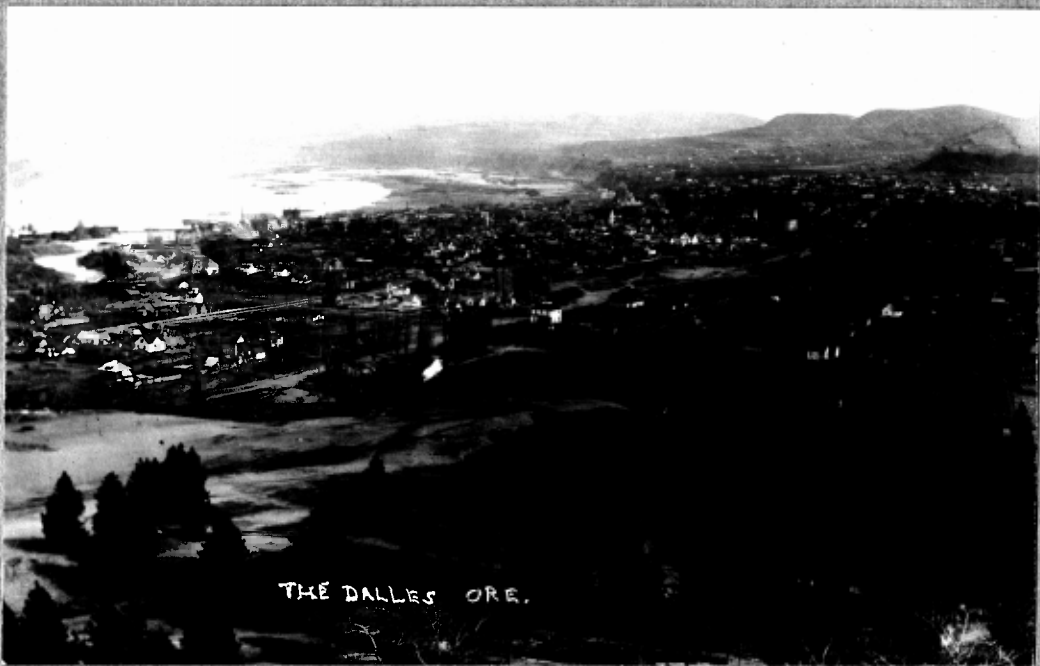
The city has ample shipping facilities - being connected with Portland by the O.W.R. & N., and the Spokane, Portland, and Seattle R.R., and a daily line of boats.

There are great possibilities for The Dalles yet undeveloped. Many good sites for water power factories should bring other industries. One of these on the Deschutes is to be utilized soon by a company which will pipe the water from interior lakes, rich in salt deposits, and manufacture it into commercial products. A factory is planned across the river whose employees will materially

1. Business Men's Association.



The new Elks Temple



Birdseye view of the city



add to our population. Workmen on the Celilo canal now spend most of their earnings in our city; but the completion of that work will not mean a decrease in trade. For with the opening of the canal and the Panama Pacific Exposition a greater emigration of homeseekers is anticipated.