WALLOWA

The Land of Winding Waters

A Short Guide Book Featuring Wallowa County

Issued 1949

Compiled and Published by
J. H. Horner and Grace Butterfield
Joseph, Oregon
The tripods on the banks of the stream were the "Wallowas". The long poles stretching across the stream were called 'La-cal-la-ahs'. The fish crowded between the poles downstream and were held in the traps by the upper poles which were weighted down with stones.

Taken from a drawing by B. H. Knapper.
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# ILLUSTRATIONS

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<td>35</td>
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<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Dedication

For most people, to enter Wallowa County is to love it. It is as if this country had been blessed with the spirit of love of home which first found articulate expression in young Chief Joseph.

And so, the happy valley — the wonder valley — the beloved land — all are true of this country, and to hope that they continue to be so, we dedicate this book.
High-Lights of Wallowa County’s Early History

WALLOWA COUNTY is completely surrounded by great natural boundaries — mountains and canyons — so it is not surprising that only two highways, the new Enterprise-Lewiston highway (No. 3) which comes in from the north and highway No. 82, coming in from La Grande on the west, lead into the county.

It is to this geographic aloofness that Wallowa county owes a happier history than most western communities have had. The mountains and canyons which encircle the Wallowa country protected her from trappers, traders, explorers, missionaires and settlers, and their liquor, their measles and their quarrels.

The Wallowa country used to be the home of part of the Nez Perce Indian tribe. They roamed the Wallowa valley and the surrounding country each summer and lived in the warm canyons of the Snake, the Imnaha and the Grande Ronde in the winter.

The Enterprise-Lewiston highway follows in a general way the route of the Indians to and from the Grande Ronde canyon. Instead of cars there were once long lines of Indians winding through these hills, headed up or down according to the season. At any time of the year it would have been a colorful sight, with the blankets of the Indians, their shawls, feathers and beads catching the sun, their spotted ponies standing out in contrast against the grassy hills. In the fall their pack horses would have been heavy with the winter supplies of meat and fish, the pounded roots and berries. In the spring every face must have been eagerly looking forward to that first glimpse of the distant Wallowas.

In 1865 a treaty between the Nez Perce Indians and the United States Government set off the Wallowa country as an Indian reservation. In 1863 a segment of the Nez Perce tribe, headed by Chief Lawyer, signed a treaty (which at the time was considered valid by all but the Wallowa Indians) by which this country as well as Nez Perce land in Idaho was turned over to the United States Government. Four years later, in 1867, this treaty was ratified and the Wallowa country was declared open for settlement.

White immigrants began to settle in the Wallowa country in the early 1870’s. They came into the country from the west side, from the Grande Ronde Valley, where some of them had
been living for several years, and, in a general way, they followed the present highway which comes in from La Grande.

They passed not far from the spot near the summit of the Minam Hill, as we do today, where Old Joseph, father of the famous young war chief Joseph, had set up a line of poles, after the treaty of 1863, to mark the boundary of the land he still considered his and beyond which he had asked the white men not to intrude. Old Joseph was dead, but this rough fence, if they had noticed it, could have reminded these pioneers that whatever the government had said, actually the Nez Perce Indians still held the Wallowa Valley.

There was no grade along the Minam and Wallowa rivers and the settlers had a difficult time getting up and down the steep mountains before they finally came into the Wallowa Valley. Many times they had to unpack their wagons and take them up the steeper spots in sections. To descend they often tied logs to the ends of their wagons to keep them from running over the horses or oxen.

Instead of stopping as soon as they had entered the valley, the first new settlers followed the river up the valley, as does today's highway. They passed the many spots along the river where the Indians had camps, council grounds and burial spots. How the Indian dogs must have barked and the children stared, while their elders muttered, as more and more wagons rolled into their country. From the upper valley the settlers spread out year by year, up and down the valley, into the surrounding country and to the warm river canyons.

In 1873 President Grant withdrew the order which had opened the Wallowa country for settlement. A government agent was sent to this country to appraise the settlers' holdings so that the government could pay them when they had to move away. But in 1875 there was a new order proclaiming the Wallowa area open for settlement again. In two more years, in 1877, the Nez Perces were ordered (with only thirty days notice), to the Indian reservation at Lapwai, Idaho. This order indirectly brought about the Nez Perce war.

During these difficult years, from 1871 to 1877, the Indians and the white settlers in the Wallowa country got along together as best they could. Considering everything, they did very well. After all, the land and the game and the fish were in such quantity there was nothing to quarrel over, and besides, the Nez Perce chiefs had always promised peace to the white men, and they still tried their best to keep this promise.

The one serious clash to take place between the Indians
and the whites in the Wallowa country, occurred in June, 1876. On the morning of June 6, horses belonging to A. B. Findley, who was living in the middle valley, were missing. Findley and Wells McNall, a neighbor, started out to look for them. They tracked them, they thought, to an Indian camp on nearby Whiskey creek.

Here McNall accused the Indians of stealing the horses. They argued and soon he and one of the Indians, Vil-lot-yah (heavy or hard wind) were struggling together near a pile of the Indians' guns. McNall, fearing Wil-lot-yah would grab a gun and shoot him, called out to Findley, "Shoot him before he gets me." Findley, a rather excitable man, although a very peaceable one, raised his gun and shot Wil-lot-yah in the breast.

There was a great deal of excitement in the valley over this shooting and the Indians' threats of retaliation. Some of the white families in the valley even packed up and left. A company of men under Captain Booth marched into the valley from Cove and another came in from Walla Walla under Lieutenant Forse. As there was no active fighting going on, although both sides were armed and ready, Lieutenant Forse, taking only an interpreter, went straight to the spot where young Chief Joseph, (who had succeeded to the chieftainship of these Indians at the death of his father some years before) had gathered his men to talk the matter over with him.

Young Chief Joseph agreed to Forse's provisions (that Findley and McNall be sent to Union for trial) and added, to show his good faith, that he would throw away the bullets his warriors had in their guns. He formed his Indians in single rank on the long flat above the present town of Joseph, where the meeting had taken place. At his order they instantly wheeled their horses, stopped, and fired their guns into the air so precisely that it sounded like one shot.

After this episode events piled up in such a way that about a year later the government ordered the Nez Perces out of the Wallowa country. They left, and most of them never returned, although in later years Joseph paid several visits to the valley trying to obtain at least a part of it, as a home for his people. It must be remembered that this land never passed into the hands of the whites by treaty or agreement and the question of their right to it is still being argued.

After 1877 the white settlers were in full control in the Wallowa country and new settlers came in fast.

Wallowa county was a part of Union county until 1887. On February 11, 1887, Wallowa county was officially created.
Wallowa county's 3145 square miles include a variation of elevation from 1500 feet on the Snake river to over 10,000 at the top of some of the Wallowa mountain peaks. This elevation range includes five life zones and we are listing below some of the plants and animals of each zone in order to give a general idea of the county's natural life.

No complete study of the natural life of the county has yet been made, but Elmo Stevenson's "Nature Rambles in the Wallowas" (Metropolitan Press, Portland, Oregon) includes a good list of its rocks, birds, mamals, reptiles, flowers and trees, as well as an account of its geological formation.

There is an overlap in the elevations of the several life zones. This is due in part to the warmer southern exposures being at higher elevation than the colder northern slopes at lower elevation. There is an overlap in the flora for the same reason. There is an even greater overlap in the animals, for with just a few exceptions, such as the rattlesnake and the cony, the animals listed range over most of the county.

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Upper Sonoran Zone River Canyons (Imnaha, Snake, Grande Ronde):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANTS</th>
<th>ANIMALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willows (several species)</td>
<td>Black-tailed Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Juniper</td>
<td>Ground Squirrels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hackberry</td>
<td>Wood Rats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitterbush</td>
<td>Pocket Gophers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Currant</td>
<td>Field Mice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagebrush</td>
<td>Desert Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greasewood</td>
<td>Bats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Sunflower</td>
<td>Skunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td>Mule Deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumac</td>
<td>Rattlesnakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lizards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Porcupine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transition Zone—The Wallowa Valley and Promise and Paradise regions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANTS</th>
<th>ANIMALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ponderosa Pine</td>
<td>Mule Deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodgepole Pine</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain Elk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Fir</td>
<td>Chipmunks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Larch</td>
<td>Ground Squirrels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Birch</td>
<td>Field Mice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willows</td>
<td>Gophers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>Bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullein</td>
<td>Cougar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rabbits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Porcupine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coyotes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Canadian Zone—Slopes of mountains and higher country in north and eastern parts.

**PLANTS**
- Douglas Fir
- Western Larch
- Ponderosa Pine
- Engelmann Spruce
- White Fir
- Grand Fir
- Quaking Aspen
- Mountain Maple
- Mountain Ash
- Mountain Alder
- Cottonwood
- Red Elderberry
- Blue Elderberry
- Sierra Bearberry
- Oregon Boxwood
- Huckleberry
- Wild Honeysuckle
- Twinberry
- Quetncup
- Western Serviceberry
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Mock Orange
- Gummy Gooseberry
- Ocean Spray
- Ninebark
- Snowberry
- Woodrose

**ANIMALS**
- Rocky Mountain Elk
- Mule Deer
- Mountain Sheep (?)
- Cony
- Rabbits
- Squirrels
- Marten
- Lynx
- Bats
- Gophers
- Field Mice

Hudsonian Zone—Lower mountain parts.

**PLANTS**
- Limber Pine
- White Bark Pine
- Mountain Hemlock
- Alpine Fir
- Mountain Laurel
- Labrador Tea
- Utah Honeysuckle
- White Heather
- Red Heather
- Shrubby Cinquefoil
- Avalanche Lily
- Adder-tongue Lily
- Loveroot
- Gilia
- Willowweed
- Shootingstar
- Saxifrage
- Fernleaf
- Buttercup
- Penstemon
- Asters

**ANIMALS**
- Field Mice
- Cony
- Shrews
- Mountain Sheep (?)
- Squirrels
- Marmot
- Gophers

Artic-Alpine Zone—The highest mountain parts.

**PLANTS**
- Dwarf Willow
- Phlox
- White Dryad
- Chipmonktail
- Sieversia
- Arnica
- Cinquefoil
- Saxifrage
- Mountain Campion
- Sandwort
- Springbeauty
- Alpine Willowweed
- Nevada Bitterroot
- Mountain Sorrel
- Polygonum
- Alpine Speedwell
- Alpine Mimulus
- Curlybloom
- Fernleaf
- Alpine Hulsea

**ANIMALS**
- Field Mice
- Cony
- Shrews
- Mountain Sheep (?)
- Squirrels
- Marmot
- Gophers

(No data at present)
Except for the introduction of new methods, the industries of Wallowa county have remained essentially unchanged since the coming of the first settlers. This was always a stock country with excellent grazing (even the Indians had a great many horses and cattle) so that ranching has been the main occupation here and Wallowa county beef is of the finest. The figures below will show you that numbers of sheep and hogs are also raised here. The early farmers, with their families, milked many cows, and in their home dairies made butter and cheese, which they sold outside the county. This industry is also being continued.

In 1945 there were 812 farms, 39,579 cattle, 16,975 hogs, 32,548 sheep, 633,310 gallons of milk, 719,648 pounds of butterfat, 1,153,244 bushels of grain, 627,200 bushels of peas, 66,148 tons of hay produced.

An early lime kiln built by the LeGore brothers on Hurricane creek (its remains are still there) preceded the lime kiln which operates intermittently outside of Enterprise.

A sawmill was set up by E. V. Cochran on the bank of Hurricane creek in 1878. Since then lumbering has become, next to ranching, one of the most important industries of the county.

Mining is not a well developed industry in Wallowa county, although small mines have been in operation here since 1885. Deposits of gold, silver, copper, molybdenite, tungsten, marble, granodiorite, and basalt have been found here.

In the early days the annual run of sock-eye salmon (red-fish) in the Wallowa river led several people to start fish packing establishments here, but they were short-lived.

In recent years, a new business, one that was unknown in the 1800's has come to Wallowa county. Dude ranching, along with pack horse and guide business, has come to stay.
**HOW HIGH IS IT?**

**Facts of Interest regarding Elevation in Wallowa Co. and Forest**

(All general figures are close estimations from best available topographic maps)

### PEAKS OVER 8000 FEET IN ELEVATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peak Name</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sacajawea</td>
<td>10,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matterhorn</td>
<td>10,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easthorn</td>
<td>9,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Cap</td>
<td>9,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Peaks</td>
<td>9,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aneroid Point</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturgill Peak</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawtooth Peak</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Peak on Hurricane Divide</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentinel Peak</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point Joseph</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Bonneville</td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagstaff Peak</td>
<td>9,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cusick Mountain</td>
<td>9,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Mountain</td>
<td>9,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkhorn Peak</td>
<td>9,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Peak</td>
<td>8,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak 1/4 miles southwest of Blue Lake</td>
<td>9,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak just south of Francis Lake</td>
<td>9,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Mountain</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marble Mountain</td>
<td>8,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lookout Mountain</td>
<td>8,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel Mountain</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katy Mountain</td>
<td>8,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Howard</td>
<td>8,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minam Peak</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ELEVATION OF MOST OF THE LAKES IN WALLOWA MTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake Name</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cliff Lake</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Lake</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Lake</td>
<td>8,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Jones Lake</td>
<td>8,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewett Lake</td>
<td>8,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket Lake</td>
<td>8,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimney Lake</td>
<td>8,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar Lake</td>
<td>8,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Lake</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Lake</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Lake</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Lake</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheval Lake</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers Lake</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Lake</td>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror Lake</td>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Lake</td>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Lake</td>
<td>7,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hobo Lake</td>
<td>7,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aneroid Lake</td>
<td>7,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Lake</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Henry Lake</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crescent Lake</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Francis Lake</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moccasin Lake</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Lake</td>
<td>7,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minam Lake</td>
<td>7,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe Lake</td>
<td>7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Storm Lake</td>
<td>7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Lake</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frazier Lake</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steamboat Lake</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Lake</td>
<td>6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadhorse Lake</td>
<td>5,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallowa Lake</td>
<td>4,411</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ELEVATION OF STREAMS HEADWATERS AND ITS JUNCTION WITH OTHER STREAMS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Headwaters</th>
<th>Mouth or Junction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wallowa River</td>
<td>Glacier Lake (8300 ft.)</td>
<td>Grande Ronde (2312)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imnaha River</td>
<td>Little Crater Lake (7500 ft.)</td>
<td>Snake River (1100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minam River</td>
<td>Blue Lake (7700 ft.)</td>
<td>Wallowa River (2537)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lostine River</td>
<td>Minam Lake (7300 ft.)</td>
<td>Wallowa River (3300)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Creek</td>
<td>Bear Lake (7800 ft.)</td>
<td>Wallowa River (2941)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Sheep Creek</td>
<td>Dollar Lake (8100 ft.)</td>
<td>Imnaha River (2000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ELEVATION OF FOREST LOOKOUTS (State and National)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lookout Name</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harl Butte</td>
<td>5,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mcgraw</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elk Mountain</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland</td>
<td>5,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Hill</td>
<td>5,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woods Butte</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akers Butte (State)</td>
<td>4,515</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ELEVATION OF TOWNS IN WALLOWA COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town Name</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td>3,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minam</td>
<td>2,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallowa</td>
<td>2,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rondowa</td>
<td>2,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>4,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imnaha</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lostine</td>
<td>3,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compiled by Wallowa National Forest Service.
Where to Go and What to See
in Wallowa County

Drives, View Points, Industries, Dude Ranches

WALLOWA LAKE. One-half mile south of Joseph. Follow the highway. Cabin and hotel accommodations at head of lake.


ENTERPRISE-LEWISTON HIGHWAY No. 3 leading north out of Enterprise. Good highway to Clarkston, Lewiston, Spokane, and points north.

JOSEPH CREEK VIEW POINT. On Enterprise-Lewiston highway about 30 miles north of Enterprise. Viewpoint on edge of canyon looks down about 2000 feet to the creek.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER CANYON. On Enterprise-Lewiston highway 50 miles from Enterprise.

IMNAHA RIVER. Thirty-one miles from Joseph on highway down Sheep Creek. Imnaha town, at the bridge, has garage, store, etc. Good picnic and camping spots, fishing usually good along river both up and down. Road runs about 30 miles up the river, ending at the Indian Trail crossing. Imnaha gorge and Narrows reached by short hike on up the river. Government camping spot at end of road in real primitive area. Road goes back to Joseph making a wonderful scenic circle trip. Eugene Palette’s ranch about twenty miles above Imnaha town. Fine camping ground at end of the road above Coverdale at old Indian crossing. Two mile trail to Duck Lake, noted for the peculiar mossy growth from four to six feet thick which covers about one-half of its surface. Absolutely safe to traverse to its edge, from which you can fish in water over 75 feet deep. Old Indian trail from Powder River valley to Snake River passes this lake.

LICK CREEK FOREST STATION ROAD. A day’s drive if you make the loop trip through Coverdale (an excellent camp ground with piped water) and Imnaha, then back up Imnaha highway to the valley. Good forest road through timber. Take Imnaha highway at Joseph, turn right when road comes to Sheep Creek canyon. Good picnic and camping spots all along the way.
HAT POINT SNAKE RIVER VIEW POINT. A round trip of about 120 miles from Joseph or Enterprise. Take Imnaha highway leading east from Joseph. At Imnaha you take grade up Grizzly ridge and follow forest road to Hat Point Lookout Station. From Hat Point you look down some three miles to the Snake River. Johnson Bar, upper terminus of the boat trip up from Lewiston, lies to the north. To the south about 6 miles you can see the beginning of Hell's Canyon, the deepest part of the Snake River gorge. Seven Devils Mountains in Idaho lie directly across the canyon.

LOSTINE RIVER CANYON. Road runs straight south leaving highway at Lostine. Good road for 18 miles. There are many good camping, picnicking and fishing spots along the way. Trails lead into the Wallowa Primitive Area reaching many high lakes and streams, where fishing is good. The dude ranch, Lapover, is 16 miles up this river where saddle horses and guides may be obtained for trips into the mountains. Justice William O. Douglas, of the Supreme Court of the United States, has built a summer home on the Lostine River.

HURRICANE CREEK CANYON. Five miles south of Enterprise or two miles west of Joseph. Good forest road into the mountains for about five miles. Camping and picnicking spots. Good trails lead to high mountain lakes.


BEAR CREEK CANYON. Two miles southwest from Wallowa. Forest road up canyon for about ten miles. Picnic and camping grounds. Trails lead into the high mountains.

WENAHA RIVER. Take road to Troy, which is 38 miles on market road north from Wallowa. Steep, winding road into Grande Ronde River canyon. Beautiful scenery, picnicking spots, good fishing in canyon. Store, garage, etc., at Troy.

PRAIRIE CREEK. Several hours drive through farming section of upper valley east of Joseph.

ALDER SLOPE. An hours drive through farming section at foot of the mountains south of Enterprise, west of Joseph. Many beautiful views from higher levels.
JOSEPH MUNICIPAL AIRPORT. Halladay School of Flying and Air Transport. One mile west of Joseph on Hurricane Creek highway. Coffee shop. Visitors welcomed.


FISH HATCHERY. One-half mile southwest of Enterprise. Turn south on main street of Enterprise onto West Third street; south on West Third across railroad tracks, turn right on gravel road and follow west one-half mile to hatchery. Visitors welcome.

CO-OPERATIVE CHEESE FACTORY. Located on southern outskirts of Enterprise on Hurricane Creek highway. Visitors welcome.

RAVEN CHEESE, BUTTER, ICE CREAM FACTORY. In Enterprise just off Main street on West First street. Visitors are welcome.

CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY. Situated in Wallowa, east just off Main street. Visitors welcome.

LAZY "T" DUDE RANCH. Three miles south of Joseph on the slopes of Chief Joseph Mountain. Go straight through town, follow dirt road south. Signs all the way. Visitors welcome the year around.

LAPOVER DUDE RANCH. Sixteen miles south of Lostine in the Lostine River canyon. Follow road straight south from the main street. Follow signs to ranch. Open June 1st to October 25.

MINAM RIVER HORSE RANCH. Located on the Minam River and is accessible only by pack horse or air. Seven and one-half miles from Cove by pack horse trail. About one-half hour flying time from Baker or La Grande.
Some Wallowa County Geographic Names and Their Origin

ADAMS CREEK. This creek heads in Ice Lake and empties into the west fork of the Wallowa River. Named for Tom Adams who located mining claims on this creek and built a cabin near them.

ALDER SLOPE. The slope of the mountains just southwest of Enterprise. Named for the profuse growth of alder trees on it. The first settlers in Wallowa valley came to this vicinity. The village of Alder in the center of the slope was platted in 1886 and flourished for some years. It began as a stockade in 1877 when the settlers feared Joseph would bring the warring Nez Perces back to Wallowa. This stockade was torn down but was built up again soon after, in 1878, at the Bannock scare.

ANEROID LAKE. Located in the Wallowa mountains southeast of Wallowa Lake. Was once called Anna Royal lake after the first white woman to visit it. Named Aneroid by Hoffman Phillips in 1898. No account of this lake would be complete without mention of Charles Seeber who came there as a young man for his health. Interested in mining at first, he has since built up a private resort there with excellent, well equipped cabins. Also he has studied the fauna and flora of the place until he has become an expert on them.

BENSON GLACIER. Just east of Glacier lake. Named for Frank W. Benson, governor of Oregon from March 1, 1909 to June 17, 1910. There are tunnels and ice caves on the under side.

BILLY MEADOWS (Creek and Ranger Station). About twenty-five miles north of Enterprise. Named for William Smith who carved his name on many trees in that vicinity while he was herding sheep there. Fenced in and used for an experimental pasture for sheep by the government in about 1907. The elk brought to Wallowa county in 1912 from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, were first turned loose in these meadows.

BILLY JONES (Creek, Lake and Basin). Empties into Hurricane creek. Named for William Jones who herded sheep in the vicinity in the 1890's.

BIG SHEEP CREEK. Empties into the Imnaha river just above the town. Named in the early 1880's for the many mountain sheep that roamed its headwaters.
BLUE LAKE. In the high mountains south of Minan lake. It is a darker blue than other mountain lakes. It's moss, gravel and sediment seem to have a blue tinge.

BUCKHORN SPRINGS. In the extreme northeastern corner of the county. Named for the many deer horns found scattered there. The deer lay around these springs and shed their horns. From this point one looks east across the Snake river into Idaho and north toward Washington, about fifteen miles away. There is said to have been an Indian chief buried near these springs, under the ridge, beside the old Indian trail, long before the white people came.

CAMP CREEK. Empties into the Big Sheep about 20 miles above the mouth. There was an old Indian camping ground here at the junction of the two creeks. This was also a camping ground for some of the first stockmen to come into the country when they took their cattle to the canyons for the winter months.

CATCHED TWO (Lake, Creek and Camp). Empties into the west fork of the Lostine river. An angry man, when his sheep herder and friend didn't set up camp as he wished, in this vicinity, said: "Catched two damned fools . . ."

CHESNIMNUS CREEK. Empties into Joseph creek. Indian name "Sis-nim-mux" which means thorn buttes or mountain.

CHEVAL LAKE. In the mountains east of the Minam river. Named by Lewis Carpenter, forest ranger, and Ira N. Gabrielson while on a trip through this district. Gabrielson was riding a horse named Cheval and while they were admiring the beauty of the lake, Cheval got scared and nearly bucked his rider off. The two had been discussing a name for the lake and this was their clue.

CHIMNEY LAKE. In the mountains west of the Lostine river. Named in the early 1880's by Crof Warnock for chimney-like reflection in lake by nearby cliff.

CHINA BAR. Above the mouth of Knight creek on the Snake river. Named for several Chinese miners who were placer-mining there in 1887. They had made dugouts in the bank to live in and had a good many provisions there which they deserted when several of their countrymen, mining on the river above them, were suddenly killed by a group of white men from the Wallowa valley. They had come in by pulling their boat with a long rope up the river from Lewiston, prospecting as they went.
along. We mention this and the China Bar below, not so much for the importance of the places but for the historical importance, connected with the early gold mining here and the role of the Chinese in the early Oregon days. Chinese mined along the Snake river as early as the 1860's. The first settlers in the country found dugouts along the river, walled up in front with stone, which had been inhabited by Chinese miners.

CHINA BAR. Just below the mouth of Salt creek on the Snake. Named by the Warnock brothers for seventeen Chinese miners who were working there in 1887 when the other Chinese miners were killed below them on the Snake. They had built a house on the bar and left two tons of flour and other provisions behind them in it. It is said that they had left behind a good deal of gold buried near their fireplace.

COLLEGE CREEK AND RANGER STATION. This creek empties into the Imnaha river at the ranger station. Settlers built a schoolhouse there and jokingly called it a college.

COVERDALE RANGER STATION. On the Imnaha river at foot of road from Joseph. Named for Marion Coverdale, hunter and trapper there in the early 1880's. During the depression a large CCC camp was located there and the boys did much work on the campgrounds near there. Now a forest service public camping ground.

CRESCENT LAKE. Named by George Rogers in 1929 for its shape. In September, 1930, this lake was stocked with shrimp from Utah. In 1929 it was stocked with eastern brook trout.

DEADMAN CREEK. Empties into Hurricane creek. Named for a miner who was killed while working on his mining claims on this creek. He always carried a .45 caliber revolver and one day while he was working it fell from his scabbard. The hammer struck a rock, the gun went off and killed him. John Dunn and others who were working with him buried him in the basin about a mile and a half above the mouth of the creek.

DOLLAR LAKE. In the mountains south of Aneroid lake. Named for its shape by Fred McClain.

DOUGLAS LAKE. In the high mountains in the Lake Basin. Named for Mrs. Harvey Harris (whose maiden name was Lora Douglas Cramer) who admired it a great deal when she first saw it.
EAGLE CAP MOUNTAIN. Named in 1907. This mountain, its top resembling a huge cap is outstanding among the Wallowa mountains. Its elevation is 9,675 feet. From the Eagle Cap area of about two miles all the main canyons of the Wallowa mountains — the Lostine, Hurricane, Minam, Imnaha, Eagles, Pine, Catherine and the East and West forks of the Wallowa, head.

EDEN. In the northwestern section of the county. So called because an early settler, William Adams, lived near the Elkhorn springs there and planted a garden which the settlers called the "Garden of Eden".

ENTERPRISE. County seat of Wallowa county. The town was built on a flat which the Indians called "Tom-mah-talk-ke-sin-mah" meaning "white, fluffy, or alkali soil. This was a natural gathering place, as the animals came to lick the salty soil, the Indians to camp, and later, the settlers to round up their cattle. The first settlers here called it Bennett Flat, later Franklin, then Wallowa City and finally in 1887, Enterprise, as they felt it was an enterprising little city. It was incorporated February 21, 1889. The court house stands in the exact center of the town of Franklin, as it was first platted in 1885. The land on which it stands was donated to the town by its founders, John Zurcher and R. F. Stubblefield.

FINDLEY BUTTES. The Indian name for these buttes was poo-oocs-sin. The middle butte was called max-am-apay, meaning high hill or highest place. The buttes were named by the settlers for Florence Findley, daughter of the early settlers, A. B. and Jane Findley.

FLORA TOWN. Located in the northern section of the county. Was first called Johnson Meadows for Frank S. Johnson who homesteaded there in 1888. Named Flora in 1889 by J. C. Burch for the many wild flowers growing there.

FRANCES LAKE. In the mountains east of the Lostine river. Formerly called Lost lake. Named by Sam Lilly.

FREEZEOUT CREEK. Empties into the Imnaha river. Named for the miserable night several early settlers spent there.

GLACIER LAKE. Named for the glacier (Benson) which feeds it. This lake was stocked with shrimp in 1931.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER. This river heads in the high mountains south of La Grande in Union county and runs through the Grande Ronde Valley into the extreme north and northwestern
part of Wallowa county. On the Lewis and Clark map of 1805 this is marked as Welleweah river. According to some Indians this means winding water, also a river that flows into the far beyond. Others say it means "where very little snow falls" or "horses winter well". Both terms were very applicable. Many of the Nez Perces' horses were wintered here each year when their owners camped at the mouth of Joseph creek and on down the Grande Ronde River to the Snake. There is some evidence that between 1846 and 1850 there was a Hudson Bay trading post on the Grande Ronde River in the vicinity of Hansen's Ferry, Washington, on the lower part of the river.

GUM BOOT BUTTE AND CREEK. Empties into the Imnaha. Named in 1881 or 1882 by W. P. Hambleton and James Hayes. On a hunting trip, they lost one of a pair of gum boots from their pack. Later Johnson and Jack Keeley picked the boot up and hung it in a tree.

HAT POINT AND CREEK. The creek empties into the Snake river. So named because early in the 1890's Alex Warnock's horse began bucking close to the creek and his hat fell off—when things quieted down, he couldn't find it. A year later it was found hanging on a bush.

HAZEL MOUNTAIN AND LAKE. In the mountains northwest of Steamboat lake. Named by N. J. Billings of the U. S. Forest Service in August, 1913, for Hazel Taylor of Milton, Oregon.

HEATHER LAKE. On divide between east and west fork of Wallowa river. Named by Charles Seeber for the prolific growth of wild heather there.

HOBO LAKE. In the mountains west of Lostine river. Originally called Hebo lake by some, after a man named Demmon, who came from the Hebo reforestry tract in the Suislaw. Another version of the name goes that a hobo was found camped there by settlers in the early days.

HELLS CANYON. Empties into the Snake river south of Hat Point. The Indian name for the canyon was An-nim-kin-ni-coota-ka-lea-yecht which means about the same as hell or devil canyon. The creek that runs down the canyon empties into the Box Canyon of the Snake River, which includes its deepest section (6000 feet. Deeper and narrower at this deepest point than the Grand Canyon at El Tovar.) This box canyon has now come to be called "Hells Canyon".
MAP OF THE IMNARIA AREA

- Imnaha
- Imnaha River
- Little Sheep Creek
- Big Sheep Creek
- Crow Creek
- View Point
- Paradise
- Indian Village
- Findley Hotte
- MT. MEBO
- Duck Lake

IDAHO

WASHINGTON

RAVEN COUNTY
HORSE SHOE LAKE. In the mountains in the lake basin. It is shaped like a horseshoe.

HURRICANE CREEK. Empties into the Wallowa river. Named by A. C. Smith, an early traveler in the Wallowa country, in the early 1870's when he came down the creek. He said there appeared to have been a hurricane on the creek some years before which blew large trees over criss-cross for several miles. The Nez Perce name for the lower part of the creek was Wow-win-ma or Cold creek. The upper part they called Yau-win-ma or "place of pity" for a bloody attack on a Nez Perce camp by the Snake Indians that had once taken place there.

ICE LAKE. In the mountains west of the Wallowa river. So named because there is often ice on the lake the year around. Once called Pyramid lake because of the pyramid-like mountains around it.

IMNAHA RIVER & TOWN. The river empties into the Snake river. Called by the Nez Perces Im-na-ma-ha with the ha silent. Some Indians say that it has reference to root digging country. It is also said that an Indian sub-chief Im-na used to claim the land across from the forks of Imnaha and Big Sheep for his winter camp. The ha on the end meant Im-na's place or land. The first settlers here crossed the river by means of a basket which was swung to a cable stretched across the river. The next means of crossing was a foot-bridge built in 1885 where the highway bridge in the town now is.

INDIAN CREEK. Empties into the head of Wallowa lake. So called because the Indians caught so many redfish (blueback salmon) there when these fish crowded up it to spawn in the fall. It was said that the bucks wouldn't bother to fish for them here, the catching was so easy, but left it to the dogs, squaws and children.

INDIAN VILLAGE. On the Chesnimnus ridge. Called this by the early white settlers because so many Indians camped there to hunt in the fall after leaving the fishing grounds at Wallowa lake. After hunting here for a time, they took their different routes to the canyons with hundreds of horses packed with dried venison and fish for their winter food.

JACOB CAVE. On top of the ridge a mile south of Sacajawea Peak. Named for Glen Jacob who discovered it October 16, 1924, while surveying.
JOHN HENRY LAKE AND WILSON BASIN. In the mountains west of Lostine river. Named for J. H. Wilson who had mining claims and camp there.

JOSEPH (City of). Incorporated on February 9, 1887. Had been called Silver Lake, Lake City and Joseph Town after Young Chief Joseph. Young Joseph was named after his father Old Joseph, who was one of H. H. Spalding's first converts. Spalding gave him this Biblical name when he baptized him at the Presbyterian mission at Lapwai in about 1838. The Indian name for the town was Hah-um-sah-pah meaning “big rocks lying scattered around”. Joseph was platted in about 1882 with wide streets patterned like those of Salem which had been the home of one of the founders, F. D. McCully. Joseph was Wallowa county's first county seat in 1887. The first bank, hotel and drug stores in the county were in Joseph.

JOSEPH CREEK. Empties into the Grande Ronde river in Washington. Indian name was An-an-a-soc-urn meaning “long, rough canyon”. Named Joseph later because Old Joseph's main winter camp was at or near the mouth of this creek. Trails from this camp went branching out to enter the Wallowa country at different points. Each spring the Indians watched, from points nearby, for the first signs of the chinook winds which would mean they could leave the winter camps for the Wallowa valley.

LAPOVER AND LAPOVER LAKE. In the Lostine river canyon. Named by a man called “Turkey” Jones who worked for Robert Bowman. Bowman had taken up some mining claims there and in 1908 or 1909 he built a cabin. In 1909 he hired J. H. Jackson and “Turkey” Jones to work out his assessments. While working the men asked each other where they were from. Jackson said he came from the Lapover district in Kansas. Jones was from the wild turkey district in Missouri. From then on Jackson called Jones “Turkey Jones” and Jones called Jackson “Lapover”. Finally they decided that the camp should have a name. This they decided with a game of cards. Jackson won, hence, “Lapover”.

LEE LAKE. In the mountains in the Lake Basin. Named for Helen Lee Joint in 1915.

LEGORE LAKE. In the mountains west of Hurricane creek. Named for Joe Legore who has mining claims just below it.

LILLY LAKE. In the mountains west of Lostine river. Named for Sam Lilly, who prospected nearby.
Joseph in the year 1894, Chief Joseph Mountain in the background.
Photo loaned by Kirk Beith, Joseph, Oregon
LITTLE SHEEP CREEK. Empties into Big Sheep creek. There were many mountain sheep in this district in the 1870's and 1880's. Steve Blevans, who lived on the ridge between this and Big Sheep creek in the early 1880's, said he had counted 150 of these sheep in one band grazing on the breaks of these creeks. There used to be a story that mountain sheep, in jumping off a cliff, land on their horns. To test this story, Blevans one day stood near to a gap in a cliff about ten feet high and watched a bunch of sheep jump down. Each sheep would land on its feet, but as it landed it would throw its head to one side onto the ground. He supposed they did this to break the weight of their heads which were heavy with horns.

LOOKING GLASS CREEK AND MEADOWS. In Union county. But since it is on the railroad line coming into Wallowa and is an unusual name, we mention it. Named, not for the Nez Perce chief Looking Glass, but because a large tree that stood on the bank of the river had an oblong hole burned through it, which resembled a looking glass frame. Picnickers could stand and look through this hole into the waters of the creek and see their reflections.

LONG LAKE. In the mountains west of Steamboat lake. So named by L. C. Hartshorn in 1895, for its length, which is over a mile.

LOSTINE TOWN AND LOSTINE RIVER. Named after Los-tine, Kansas. Incorporated in 1903. The river was once called the south fork of the Wallowa. Nez Perce for it was Ta-cab-tan-meh, the mouth of the river See-me-ne-cam, and the forks, See-me-ne-cam-mit. Old Joseph's main summer camp was here and he died in this vicinity. During the Bannock war scare in 1878, a stockade was built by the settlers about three miles below Los-tine.

MARR CREEK, FLAT AND RANGER STATION. The creek empties into Big Sheep. The flat lies between Big Sheep and the head of Marr creek. Named in the early 1880's for William Marr who took a homestead at the head of the creek near the springs. The Armin post office was established here later.

MATTERHORN MOUNTAIN. On the east side of Hurricane creek. Once called Marble mountain. It was named for the Matterhorn in Switzerland by Frank A. Clark in 1907 while he was laying out the boundaries of the Wallowa forest.
MAXVILLE. North of Wallowa. Named for J. D. McMillan, who was logging superintendent for the Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company in 1923, when the town or camp was established.

McCULLY CREEK AND BASIN. Empties into Little Sheep creek, with the basin at the head. Named for Frank D. McCully who built a cabin at the basin near the head and ranged sheep there. McCully and Charles Christy also had mining claims there.

MEMALOOSE MEADOWS. Between Imnaha and Snake rivers, close to Hat Point. This is an Indian name which means “kill” or “dead” and the spot was so named because there was an Indian grave near there.

MINAM TOWN AND MINAM RIVER. The town lies at the junction of the Minam and Wallowa rivers. The Indian name for this part of the country was E-mi-hi-ne-mah of “Valley of roots.” The town was begun by Jackson Graham in the 1870’s when he built a hotel for travelers and a barn for stage horses. In the early 1880’s he built a bridge of poles across the Wallowa river and charged toll for its use.

MINAM LAKE. The lake is situated near the headwaters of Minam river. This lake has two outlets, one into the Minam river and one into the Lostine river. About 1914 the farmers of the Lostine district dammed up the Minam outlet to divert the water into the Lostine river for irrigation. This raised the lake and submerged a small island in it. In 1931 the lake was stocked with shrimp.

MOCCASIN LAKE. In the lake basin of the Wallowa mountains. Once called Mosquito lake. Named by Harvey Harris, forester, in 1908.

MOONSHINE DITCH. At the base of Chief Joseph mountain. Carries water from Hurricane creek for irrigation. In a race for water rights the officials of this ditch posted their notices by moonlight ahead of their competitors.

MT. BONNEVILLE. Just above power plant at head of Wallowa lake. J. Neilson Barry suggested the name while making a speech at the pioneer meeting at the lake in June, 1924. He named it in honor of Captain Benjamin Bonneville although when the latter passed through this country he did not come into the Wallowa valley proper. Formerly called Middle Mountain.
MT. HOWARD. Name suggested at the same pioneer meeting as above, for General O. O. Howard of Nez Perce war fame. Once called Signal Peak as the Indians used it to signal from.

MT. JOSEPH (or Chief Joseph Mountain). This name was suggested at the same pioneer meeting. It was formerly called Tunnel mountain for the long tunnel which was put in on the north side for mining.

MT. NEBO AND MT. NEBO LAKE. Named in 1902 or 1903 by James W. Dale. He was herding sheep there for Aaron Wade and discovered that from the top of the mountain one could see the surrounding country for a great distance, as from the Mt. Nebo of the Bible.

O. K. GULCH. Part of the road to Buckhorn and Indian Village. Named by John Creighton who used corrals here when rounding up his cattle in the late 1870's. He branded "OK" on the left hip.

PAPOOSE LAKE. In the McCully basin. Named by J. K. McCool, ranger, in 1940 for its size.

PARADISE. In northern end of county. Named after a remark that Sam Wade, Pres Halley and Wm. Masterson made on their return from that district in October of 1878. They rode out there looking for winter range for the cattle in the valley. Coming back they told the settlers that this was a regular paradise for cattle.

PETE'S POINT. In the mountains south of Aneroid lake. Named for Peter Beaudin who ranged his sheep here. From this point one can see a great distance in all directions.

POCKET LAKE. In the mountains east of Mirror lake. Named for its location.

POWWATKA RIDGE. Between Mud and Wild Cat creeks. Named by the Indians Pah-toes-wy-pa for a kind of fir tree that grows there. One of the oldest Indian trails from the valley to the Grande Ronde went along this ridge.

PRAIRIE CREEK. Empties into the Wallowa river. Named for the basin in the upper end of the valley through which the creek once ran. A stockade was built in the upper end of the district in the summer of 1878 for the protection of the settlers during the Bannock war scare.
PROMISE. In the north end of the county. Named by John Phillips and Dan Mann when they camped in this district in the spring of 1890. Phillips jokingly remarked that this was the promised land that Moses never got to. He settled here later and named his first daughter Promise. During the first twelve years he lived here, he killed 89 deer and 14 bear.

PROSPECT LAKE. In the mountains east of Eagle Cap. Very inaccessible. Named by Charles Lee and Max Roberts.

ROGERS LAKE. In the mountains east of Aneroid lake. Named for G. M. Rogers.

RONDOWA. At the junction of the Grande Ronde and Wallowa river. On the railroad. Named by John Anthony, who combined the two words “Ronde” from Grande Ronde and “owa” from Wallowa.

SCOTCH CREEK. Empties into Hurricane creek. Two Scotchmen, the brothers Lowe, built a cabin on this creek and hunted and trapped there in 1872. The first permanent settlers in Wallowa county settled on this creek in 1871.

SHEEP RIDGE. The large ridge that juts into the valley along the highway east of Lostine. Until the late 1870's the wild mountain sheep came in the winters in great numbers down this ridge from the high mountains for feed.

SLED SPRINGS. Empties into Mud creek. On the Flora highway north of Enterprise. Named for an old bob sled that broke down and was left there by James Alford, Ed Renfrow and others in 1884. This was a popular camping place for the settlers from the north end of the county in the old days, on their way to the valley. A large log hotel and feed barn was built here by Oliver Barnes in the 1890's for their accomodation.

SMITH MOUNTAIN AND ROAD. On the north side of Wallowa canyon. Named for A. C. Smith who, with M. B. Rees in the summer of 1872 built a road over the mountain (the first into the Wallowa valley) and a bridge over the Wallowa river. The bridge was supposed to be a toll bridge but they had to give so much credit to travelers that they lost money on it.

SNAKE RIVER. Named for the Snake (Shoshone) Indians. Several creeks which empty into the Snake have Indian markings on the rocks along their edges. There are Indian painting on Jim creek, Cherry creek, and Saddle creek. Also there are Indian signs chiseled on rock near the mouth of Cache creek.
STEAMBOAT LAKE. In the mountains west of the Lostine river. There is a rock formation in the center of the lake that looks like a steamboat. Next to Wallowa, this is the largest lake in the Wallowa mountains.

TENDERFOOT MINES AND ROAD. In the mountains southeast of Aneroid. A fortune was made in about 1903 by two men, when they salted worthless mines and sold shares to gullible easterners. They built a road from the Salt Cabin to the mines which wound up the wild stretches of Big Sheep creek. A boom town was built at the end of the road near the mines.

TROY. On the Grande Ronde and Wenaha rivers in the northern section of the county. Named for the son of Al Grinstead, in 1902. First called Narvoo as there were several Mormon families located there.

WALLOWA. The town was platted in 1889 and incorporated in 1899. It was named for the valley, the mountains and the river. This country was always called "Wallowa" by the Nez Perce Indians who lived here. This was a great fishing country and the "wallowa" was a part of their willow fish traps. (See illustration, page 3). Wallowa has been called "Gate City". The Indian name for the district was Hi-paah or "bear robbing salmon cache."

The Wallowa mountains have been called the Blue, the Granite and the Eagle mountains. The Lewis and Clark map of 1805-06 shows them as the Wallowa mountains.

WALLOWA LAKE. This lake lies at the foot of the Wallowa mountains about a mile south of Joseph. It is three miles long, three-fourths of a mile wide and 283 feet deep at its deepest point. It was first called Spalding lake in 1839 by H. C. Spalding, the Presbyterian missionary from Lapwai. Next called Arabella by W. H. Odell, a surveyor in 1867. Later called Silver lake and Joseph lake, until the settlers went back to the Indian name of Wallowa.
The lake was formed by a glacier and is recognized by geologists as one of the most perfectly formed glacial lakes in the world. The morain along the east side is nearly perfect.

The mountains from the foot of the lake, looking south, are, from left to right: Mt. Howard, East Peak, Mt. Bonneville and, on the west side of the lake, the long Chief Joseph mountain.

The land at the foot of the lake was a favorite Nez Perce camping spot. The Indians caught many fish from the lake but were afraid to go out onto it in canoes for fear of a sea serpent that was supposed to live in it. (Whose existence, by the way, has never been disproved!)

An Oregon State Park was created at the head of the lake in 1946, and 40,000 persons visited the park that summer.

WENAHA RIVER. Flows into the Grande Ronde at Troy. Was once called O-na-ha by the Indians. This name has reference to this section being the best hunting and fishing in the vicinity.

WHISKEY CREEK. This creek flows into the Wallowa river just above Wallowa. In August 1872, several men came into the Wallowa valley from the Grande Ronde valley with a pack horse loaded with a couple of five gallon kegs of whiskey. They stopped to sell the liquor at a large camp of Indians on this creek, a few miles northeast of the present town of Wallowa. The Indians were all getting drunk on the whiskey when an old Indian preacher jumped on his horse, hurried to the nearest white settlement and notified the men there. J. A. Tulley, J. A. Masterson, W. W. White and Hans Hamilton rode over to the camp and emptied the whiskey into the creek. They say the Indians ran below and tried to drink up the creek. One of the bootleggers was caught and taken to the settlement to be hung, but on his promise to leave the valley and to stay out, they let him go.
CHIEF JOSEPH—(About 36 years old)

Reproduced courtesy of Mrs. L. R. Hamblen of Spokane, Wash.
Wallowa Was a Part of Him

Many stories have been written about the life of Joseph, the young Indian chief who became famous in the Nez Perce war of 1877. Most of the stories stress this war, treating at length the events which led up to it, carefully measuring Joseph's natural ability as a strategist with that of other famous soldiers and then, still treating him carefully, respectfully, as is a hero's due, tell the story of the rest of his life.

But Joseph himself thought a great deal more about the mountain land he had had to leave than about the honor that came to him from his own people and from the astonished whites, during and after the war. The war had been forced upon him, but Wallowa was part of him. To what place on earth could his own name Hin-mah-too-yah-lat-keht (thunder rolling over the mountains) refer, other than to the Wallowas.

In this brief biography of him we want to show his life from this point of view and its close relation to the Wallowa country.

In his youth, Joseph's natural, wild love of his home had been intensified by his father's (Old Joseph) early teachings, full of foreboding as they were of a day when this home might be taken from them. Joseph, young and proud, resolved that that day should never come. He would be careful, he would be wise. As a boy he had realized that there was no use trying to fight the white men. When the whites stole the Indians' horses, when they accused the Indians of stealing their horses, when they sold liquor to the Indians, then blamed them when the Indians quarreled as children would do under its influence, Joseph kept his young men quiet. They wanted to return the treatment they received, but he told them, he commanded them, to bear insults quietly and never to be in the wrong.

In the end, however, the white men had their way. In May, 1877, Joseph's band was given thirty days, by the United States Government, to leave their Wallowa country and go to the Nez Perce reservation at Lapwai, Idaho. The Nez Perces gathered together as much of their livestock as they could in that time and in June they crossed the Snake on their way to the reservation.

Joseph said goodbye to his home, heartstricken but proud, in the knowledge that he had done no wrong—hard comfort for a young man in his prime of life. To console his people, all of whom had been born in the Wallowa country and whose parents and friends were buried there, he reminded them that home
would not be far away and that they had been promised an annual visit to Wallowa at least once a year.

Suddenly several young Indians from other Nez Perce bands that had also been on their way to the Lapwai reservation, killed four Salmon river settlers. Other acts of violence followed. Joseph begged for peace, still. But wild blood is catching and he was over-ruled in council. War had come.

"Then", thought Joseph, "We will make a last stand. At least we can die fighting for our country." In a way he felt that the young men were right, but he knew, as they didn't, that war was the end. There would be no going home now, whatever happened.

With this realization, everything was over for Joseph. He didn't care what happened next. Home was gone, the opportunity of fighting for it was gone, and his inner spirit, bound closely with his deep love of home, became numb within him. He felt the responsibility of his chieftainship too much however, to sulk or brood about it. He threw himself into action. He took the lead in their flight, the flight of seven hundred Indians, old and young, male and female, with all their goods, their cattle and their horses. It was he who directed its course, lead the warriors in battle and cunningly outwitted the enemy for nearly four months and across 2000 miles of mountain country.

Finally in October, overtaken by U. S. troops which had been summoned by telegraph (if Joseph could have telegraphed his friends in Canada, things might have turned out differently)—when the Indians were only forty miles from the Canadian line, Joseph had to surrender. He did so, as he understood it, only under the provision that the Indians who had fought with him (this included his own band from Wallowa, the Wallam-watkin, as well as the other displaced bands that had joined him on the Salmon) receive good treatment and with the understanding that they would be allowed to return to Idaho.

It was surely with mingled feelings that he gave up his gun. That into which he had put his entire energy for the past four months was now lost. But, on the other hand, he and those he had led, could now return to the country they had thought never to see again—if not to Wallowa, then to Lapwai in Idaho. The pride of his chieftainship, the zest in winning a battle and in outdoing the foe was now gone, but in its place his inner spirit, his love of home, which he had regarded as dead, stirred again.

But they were not allowed to go back. They were sent to Fort Leavenworth in Kansas "until spring, when traveling would be better", said officials. Joseph's heart sank. If only they could
turn west now. Surely his band, the 431 left of the original 700 had suffered enough. If punishment was what they had deserved they had had it. But, less suspicious of the white man than his wary father had been, Joseph braced himself and looked forward to spring for himself and for his people.

The spring in which they could return never came for most of the band. They were not sent back as promised. They lived on a low river bottom at Leavenworth for a year during which time twenty-one of them died, some of typhoid and some of homesickness. Then, like cattle, they were ordered and prodded into a box car and moved to the Indian Territory on land set aside for them. There their numbers still shrank. It was here that Joseph's young daughter who had been born at the time of the first battle with the white men, died.

From the Indian Territory these Nez Perces were moved to the Ponca reservation in Oklahoma, where they stayed for four years.

Joseph tried to take care of his people, to get medicine for them, to hearten them and to teach them—they who had roved free all their lives—how to live on small plots of ground. Gradually Joseph changed. Naturally thoughtful, he thought hard about many things during these years. The fire that had burned bright in the proud young chief, died away, but as it died it left a fine essence, proving that he was a big man as well as a great chieftain.

A few men interested themselves in this tribe of Nez Perces and in 1885, after many talks with the senators, the soldiers and the newspaper reporters who came to see him, Joseph and his people were moved west. Some to Lapwai, Idaho, and some to Colville, Washington. It was Joseph's own band, the Wallowa Indians, who were sent to Colville. The whites must still have feared the intense love of home in these suffering Indians, and sent them farther north to keep them from the unrest that they were afraid might seize them if they lived at Lapwai, so close to their native land.

Sad and tired as Joseph was by then, his heart must have moved when he saw the Rockies again. Wide, forest-covered land, rolling up and up, wide, open, grassy prairies, mountains, and the fresh, high air. And there, miles away to the south, but nearer than it had been for years, was his own land of "winding waters".

In the next twenty years Joseph made trips to Washington, D. C., and to Wallowa, in an effort to have a small part of Wallowa county set apart as a reservation for his people. He failed
in this, but he saw again in reality, the land, the mountains, that were always before his inner eye. Once again he visited his father’s grave. He wept when he saw that a kind white man had left the plot enclosed and unplowed. The whole country, Joseph saw, was plowed and fenced beyond his imagination, but the mountains, aloof and lovely, were the same. They would never change, nor could Hin-mah-too-yah-lat-keht in his love for them.

Joseph died suddenly in 1904, when he was about 60 years old, at Colville, Washington, where he is buried.

For many years now the thunder has been rolling across the land, rolling in the mountains which rise straight up from the land of winding waters, but it speaks no longer to the man who took his name from it, and who loved it enough, not only to be willing to die for it, but to continue in his devotion for it from youth to old age.

This sketch is based on “Chief Joseph’s Own Story”, a very moving account of his life dictated by Joseph at Washington, D. C., in 1879.
E A R L Y  H U M O R I S T S

Our Wallowa pioneers hadn't much coffee or sugar, they never used gas, rubber, soap chips, varnish or wax, they used china matches which came awkwardly in clumps, and they often ran out of flour, but the things that happened to them are just as funny today as they were sixty years ago.

These are a scattered few of those happenings which amused the participants enough to have been remembered and handed on:

It is still remembered that the Democrats made the celebration of Grover Cleveland's first election quite an affair at Alder. The Republicans, however, were not completely beaten. First, the Democrats wanted an anvil to use in their shooting match. The nearest one belonged to a Republican blacksmith, who wouldn't let them have it. So they had to go by wagon five miles away to find a sympathetic Democrat. After the shooting they wanted to have a big feed of mush and milk. Unfortunately, they made arrangements with a Republican to furnish the milk for it. The milk turned out to be sour! O—0—0

For quick thinking, the pioneer Adams, who stuttered, takes our fancy. Once he went to a hotel at Elgin to stay the night, but found that all the beds were taken. The landlord told him he could fix him up all right, if he would sleep with another man. Adams said that would be per per all right. But he would prefer sleeping alone. That was not possible and the landlord talked a traveling salesman into letting Adams sleep with him. But a few minutes after Adams got in bed he began scratching and scratching. The salesman asked him what the matter was. And Adams answered that he per guessed he hadn't got rid of all them per dammed greybacks yet, although he had bo bo boiled his per clothes good awhile back.

The man answered, "Hell, I didn't know you were lousy or I wouldn't have let you share my bed with me." He got up hurriedly, dressed, grabbed his bags and left. So Adams had the bed to himself. The next morning the landlord told Adams that he would have to pay for the cleaning of the bed clothes to get rid of the greybacks. Adams laughed and answered, "Why, I haven't had any per greybacks since the per per Civil War!"

O—0—0

Among Wallowa County's early humorists there were two especially that stand out, Jack Johnson and Waldo Chase. The
former started his career of humor early. One day when he was a young boy his mother sent him out to the well for a bucket of water. He went, taking his gun with him. At the well he set down the bucket and left for the west. Several years later he came back on a visit, but before he went into the house he picked up a bucket, filled it with water and walked into the house with it, saying, "Here's your water, Ma."

He is the same man who, when he found that passing travelers always ate all of his sugar when they stopped at his cabin on the Imnaha during his absence, went out and dug into an Indian grave he knew was near by until he found the buried Indian's skull. This he cleaned, sawed off the top and put sugar in it. He used it for years and no one else ever bothered his sugar!

Once Johnson and Chase were on a hunting trip on which they killed ten bear. Chase nearly lost his life on this hunting trip. They ran onto one of the bears in the brush and she took after him before they had a chance to shoot her. He ran for a tree with the bear right after him, so close that she occasionally hit him on the back. Johnson stood with his gun ready to shoot her as soon as there would be enough space between them so that he would be sure not to hit Chase. He kept yelling to Chase to "run faster". Chase finally got up a tree and Johnson shot the bear before she could start up too. Chase said afterward that it was no trouble at all to climb that tree. It seemed that the limbs just came down to him and took him up. "Only", he said, "I would have gotten along better if you hadn't kept hitting me in the back."

"Hell", said Johnson, "That wasn't me. That was the ba'r!"

"Good God. If I had known that", said Chase, "I expect I would have just flown!"

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Two quick tempered men who kept hogs once lived near one another in the Imnaha canyon. The first, Henry, had a sow which kept getting out and eating up his neighbor's, Larson's, garden. Larson finally shot her and buried her. Henry discovered this and several years later, when Larson's boar pig began getting into his potato patch, he shot him, took him and buried him beside the sow with this epitaph printed on a board by the graves in large letters:

"Here lies Henry's sow and Larson's boar,
But they will never eat 'taters any more."
Then there's the story of the dance.

One day a man and his wife announced a dance at their house for a certain evening. Preparations were made for a big crowd but only seven or eight men arrived. No girls.

"Why didn't you bring any girls?" asked the man of the house.

"Oh, we thought there'd be some here", they answered, probably rather sheepishly.

They all waited and waited, but no girls.

"Well, I guess we'll have a stag dance, then", the man announced. The guests protested, but he laid his gun across his lap, took up his fiddle and began to play.

"Now dance there, you — — or I'll shoot". They knew he would, so they partnered up and danced. Supper time came, which the wife served them, lap fashion. Then her husband took up his fiddle and his gun again and made them dance until morning.

Later one of the men remarked, in telling the story, that he had never been so tired after a dance in all his life.
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Reliable and complete accounts of Joseph's life are: "War
Chief Joseph" by Howard and McGrath; "Red Eagles of the
Northwest" by Frances Haines.
Beautiful Wallowa Lake
One mile from Joseph, in "The Switzerland of America"