

Bunchgrass Historian

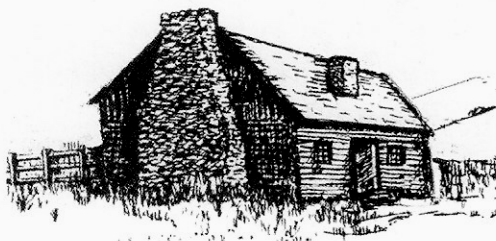


Whitman County Historical Society
Colfax, Washington

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- **THREE 1907 ARTICLES FROM *THE COAST***
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF WHITMAN COUNTY
WHITMAN COUNTY FLOURING MILLS
GARFIELD WASHINGTON
 - **BUFFALO BILL IN WHITMAN COUNTY**
 - **YAKIMA CANUTT**
-



Whitman County Historical Society Colfax, Washington

The *Bunchgrass Historian* is published by the Whitman County Historical Society. Its purpose is to further interest in the rich past of Whitman County.

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COVER

Palouse Flour Mill showing flume and penstock

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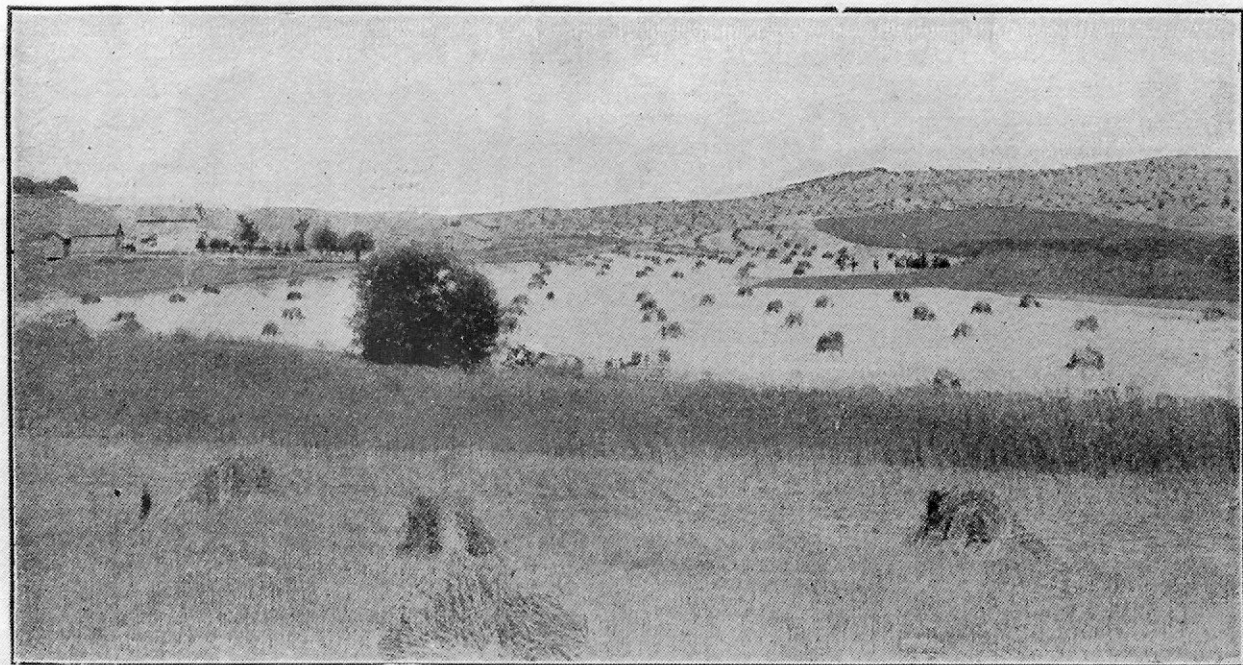
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FROM THE EDITOR

The Coast was a monthly magazine published in Seattle from 1901 to 1911 as “an illustrated monthly of the West.” Each issue tended to be devoted to one area. Volume 14, Number 6 (December, 1907), was devoted to Whitman County. This volume has 68 pages with articles on various aspects of life in the Palouse – the history, the resources, the financial institutions, the schools, and the towns. We have chosen to reprint the “Agricultural Products,” written by the *Colfax Gazette* editor C. S. Clarke. The flour mills of the county are described by J. M. Risley, who owned a flour mill in Palouse. And a selection from the unsigned article on the town of “Garfield” gives the flavor of the optimism so prevalent in this publication. We need to be reminded, as this article does, just how important agriculture was for the development of the county – and of how important it still is for Whitman County.

On a visit to Cody, WY, **Robert King** saw a map in the Buffalo Bill Center that marked all the places in the US visited by the Wild West show. He was surprised and intrigued to see Whitman County on that map. His research resulted in this article. This traveling show was an important part of the era of rapid growth for the county and reveals how we were a part of the trends carrying the country forward.

The photographs of local showman and celebrity **Yakama Canutt** are from the collection of the Whitman County Historical Society. The information concerning his life and career is taken from various *Colfax Gazette* articles published over the years.



Wheat field near Thornton, Whitman county, Washington, on ranch of S. I. Henning.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF WHITMAN COUNTY

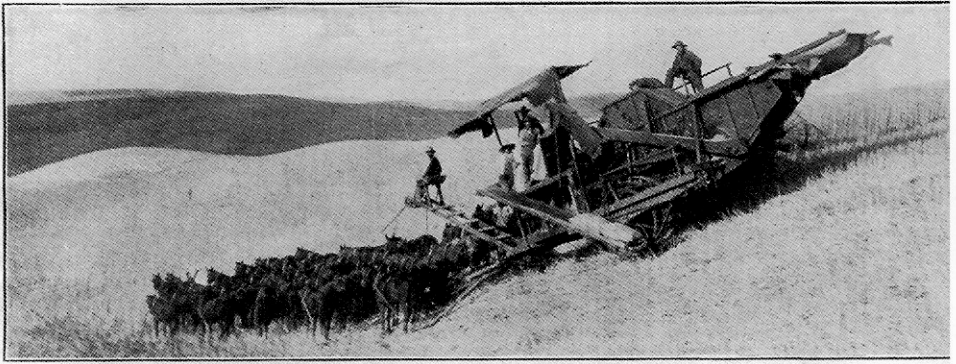
By C. S. Clarke

Editor *The Colfax Gazette*

The agricultural products of Whitman county are extensive and varied. The evolution from a stock range to the greatest wheat-producing county in the state came naturally. Here everything raised in the temperate zone is to be found, whether we speak of the cereal grains, the vegetables of the garden or the fruits of the orchard and vineyard. The soil and climate denotes this. A rich loam covers all the hills and fills every valley and dell, giving strength to plant life.

The raising of wheat, oats and barley has been the chief occupation of the people up to this time. Whitman being known as the banner wheat-producing county in the state. This is so manifest abroad that the Palouse country, of which Whitman is the most central figure, is known more particularly as a wheat country, covered by immense fields of waving grain.

The first settlers, many of them, were nomadic in their disposition. They looked upon the rolling sweep of the everlasting hills, covered with the most luxurious growth of bunch grass that ever blessed a land, and said to themselves, "Here we will camp with our flocks and our herds." By the water courses, in the deepest and most protected valleys they pitched their tents or built their rude houses, while their cattle and sheep roamed over the hills and grew fat on the rich native grasses. It was the paradise of the stockman—the man who reckoned his wealth, not in land, in home or orchard, but by the number of his sheep and cattle. Sometimes a garden was planted. Would the soil produce anything but the native grasses? Results were astonishing: Gradually the truth dawned on the nonplussed stockman that he possessed and occupied the largest body of alluvial soil in the Pacific Northwest, where the cereal grains and the vegetables of the garden grew to perfection. The hilltops and their slopes, which were at first considered worthless, soon became covered with waving fields of grain, and the tiller of the soil pushed aside the stockman, or, it would be more proper to state, in a measure he changed his occupation and went into the business of raising wheat. Those who stuck to the soil, weathering the hard times that prevailed in the nineties, have either become well-to-do or rich, and substantial homes, beautiful residences, wealth and plenty are the predominating features. There are now but little evidences of pioneer times, so complete has been the change from the abode of the exclusively stock man.

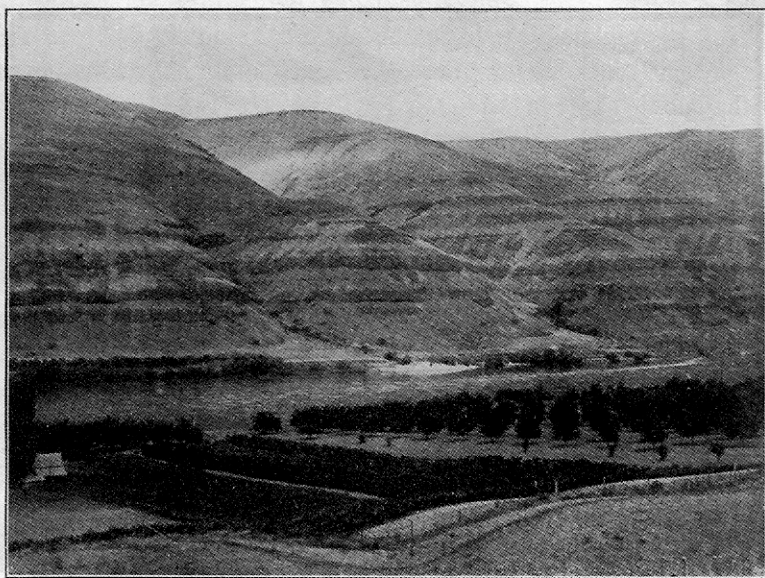


A Combine Harvester and Thresher at work on the Palouse hills near Pullman.—Photo by Artopho Studio.

But other changes have and are taking place. While the wheat grower has been busy getting rich the fruit grower has likewise been busy experimenting, showing the adaptability of the soil and climate for growing all the fruits raised in the temperate zone. The evolution from stock range to a great wheat-producing country was no less astonishing than the advance from an exclusively cereal producing to that of the most promising fruit section on the Pacific slope. For be it known, without fuss or feathers, without the aid of boosting clubs and big advertisements, Whitman County is becoming known far and near for the excellence of her fruits, and is not excelled in the size, quality, amount and flavor of the fruit raised. This remark particularly applies to apples—the king of fruits. This season has witnessed an apple crop that almost staggers belief, which has baffled all efforts to handle it. The spectacle is presented of the ground being covered with fruit in hundreds of orchards, to remain there and rot, in addition to the vast volume shipped to eastern markets, a great deal going direct to London, such has been the fecundity of nature. The Palouse apple is now known and sought after. Eastern buyers are here, declaring it to be the best grown on the market, not excepting the Manitoba and Hood River products.

Irrigation cuts little figure in raising crops throughout the Palouse. Underneath the rich soil that covers the highest and steepest hills and shades away into the gently undulating valleys a hardpan holds the moisture from the rains and snows of winter, and during the hot days of summer sends life-giving nourishment to all plant life sufficient to insure the best of crops, cereal as well as fruit. As most readers know, non-irrigated fruit is the best. This remark applies particularly to apples.

Peaches, Concord grapes, pears, plums, prunes, the small fruits do equally well here, and stand forth in monumental evidence of the greatness of the land in which we live.



A part of the "Lafayette Fruit Ranch," on Snake River, near Pullman.—Photo by Artophic Studio.

Whitman County is the home of the prune. This is particularly illustrated by what we see around Elberton, where is located the largest prune dryer in the world. It is now in full blast, running night and day, and if persistent rains do not set in early, 25 car-loads will be shipped from this one establishment this year. At this writing 20 car-loads are dumped into a large bin 105 feet long ready for processing as soon as the drying is done, which may continue for some time. It takes 1100 bushels of prunes a day to supply this dryer. And the product is all sold, there being a big demand for it in the eastern cities.

As giving an idea of the extent of the prune industry in and around Elberton the names of nine principal growers are printed, with the number of trees cultivated by each, who supply this big dryer with green fruit, getting \$12 per ton, payable on delivery.

James Long, 4000 trees.
 Dr. W. N. Divine, 3200'trees.
 Ed Baker, 3500 trees.
 W. V. Swing, 3500 trees.
 Frank Brown, 2000 trees.
 J. W. Hale, 3000 trees.
 John Goss, 1000 trees.
 Long Estate, 1400 trees.
 Henry Hunt, 1000 trees.

This year the ground is literally covered with prunes in the orchards above named, the dryer being unable to handle the entire product. Probably no dried fruit is used to the same extent as the prune. Whitman County is excelled by no other section of the Pacific slope in prune raising.

No country in the world surpasses the Palouse in raising apples. The quantity grown this year has been phenomenal. Notwithstanding the immense quantities shipped east, some of it finding its way to London, by far the greater portion has been fed to hogs or left on the ground to rot. There are several reasons for this. In the first place nearly all the grain raisers have orchards, the raising of fruit being a secondary consideration. During the harvesting season fruit is ripening of all kinds, but wheat and oats and barley are growing on many broad acres and must be attended to, so the fruits of the orchard, save for domestic uses, are left to go to waste. In the second place, help is extremely scarce in all industries, so that the grower, as a rule, could not save both crops if he so desired. In the third place, we have not enough fruit dryers and mills where cider could be made and the product turned into vinegar to use up the apples not considered of the quality to ship, hence vast quantities go to waste. But this will be remedied in the not distant future, as it is becoming recognized that the big wheat farms must be subdivided and more attention paid to the raising and caring of fruit, particularly apples.

We see the spectacle of the Frank Simpson Fruit Co., of Los Angeles, invading this market and shipping apples to the City of the Angels. Shipping fruit there is like sending coals to Newcastle, but there is a reason for it. The Palouse apple is recognized by them to be of superior quality, and they are buying all they can from the small growers and shipping them to Los Angeles as fast as cars can be supplied. They make their headquarters at Tekoa, where they will ship 10 carloads from the Jamison orchard alone, but are buying apples at Seltice, Farmington, Colfax and other points.

The Burrell Investment Co. is another concern engaged in raising and shipping apples on a big scale. They have an orchard at Diamond of 220 acres devoted exclusively to apples. Not all the trees from this orchard are bearing now, but will be next year, when they expect to ship 100 carload to the eastern market. This year, from 57 acres, they will ship 30 carloads, most of this having already gone forward. They also own an apple orchard at Garfield of 100 acres.

These are given as instances of what has been done and what may be expected in the future, not as an epitome of the whole. All the fruits raised in the temperate zone grow to perfection here. The evidences are on every side. Concord grapes and the most luscious peaches are seen in plenty in season.

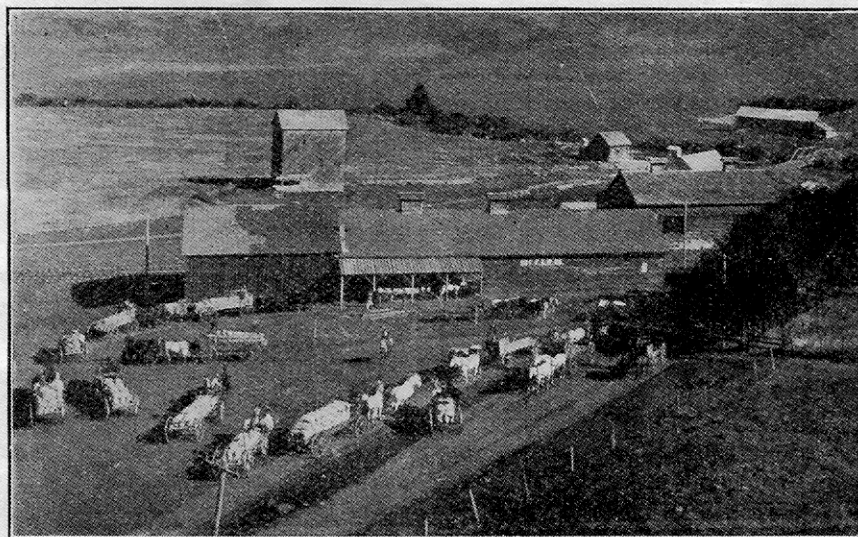
Of the cereal crops Whitman county is a large raiser. State Grain Inspector Arrasmith has given out an estimate that at least 40,000,000 bushels of wheat were harvested in Washington this season. The farmers are getting from 60 to 70 cents a bushel at the warehouses of the east side. Splitting the difference and calling

the mean price 65 cents, this will give them \$26,000,000 for this season's wheat crop. In giving an idea where this \$26,000,000 paid to the farmers of Washington for this season's crop will go, Chief Deputy Grain Inspector King has furnished a table showing the acreage and yield by counties of the wheat-growing sections, as follows:

Counties—	No. of acres	Bushels
Garfield	45,000	900,000
Columbia	35,000	770,000
Walla Walla	200,000	5,000,000
Whitman	375,000	8,250,000
Spokane	100,000	2,000,000
Lincoln	300,000	6,000,000
Adams	275,000	6,050,000
Douglas	275,000	4,950,000
Franklin	200,000	4,000,000
Benton	80,000	1,200,000
Klickitat	75,000	1,125,000
Yakima	40,000	600,000
Totals	2,000,000	40,845,000

It will be seen from the above that Whitman county is in the lead in the production of the premier cereal.

A. M. Scott, who represents the Interior Warehouse Co. in Whitman County and is well acquainted with all the conditions here, estimates the wheat crop at



Waiting their turn to unload grain at Albion (Guy), Washington

11,000,000 bushels raised and 10,000,000 for export. Barley he places at 600,000 bushels and oats at 6,000,000 bushels raised. The sight of this growing grain as well as the harvesting of it is one never to be forgotten, and has left its impress on thousands of people visiting the Palouse.

This is but a glance at a theme on which much could be written. The soil of the region known as the Palouse is peculiar to itself. It should not be confounded with the so-called Spokane country, which is as different as day is from night. Neither with the Big Bend country, nor the lands lying with in the Columbia River Basin. The soil is a rich loam.

It is also a region well watered. Springs are a feature and abound everywhere. By digging, the purest water can be found even on the tops of the highest hills.

Its resources are illimitable. "Wealth and plenty are seen on every side. It is a land to conjure with.

William L. La Follette, the heaviest fruit grower in Whitman County, writes: "Our fruit crop was in part very heavy and for most of the season prices for same were all that could be desired. We lost very heavy for lack of packers all the time and pickers part of the time, but taking it all in all the season has been a prosperous one for us." Mr. La Follette's orchard at Wawawai on the Snake river is well worth going many miles to see. He raises mostly grapes and peaches, which grow to perfection along Snake River.

We refer to this matter of help again as an illustration of the cry that has been general throughout the Palouse country during the season drawing to a close. A large part of the fruit crop was lost through inability to get the necessary help to harvest it. While a glut in the labor market is to be deplored, so likewise an extreme scarcity of labor is a matter of regret, and, as illustrated by our immense fruit crop, results in loss.

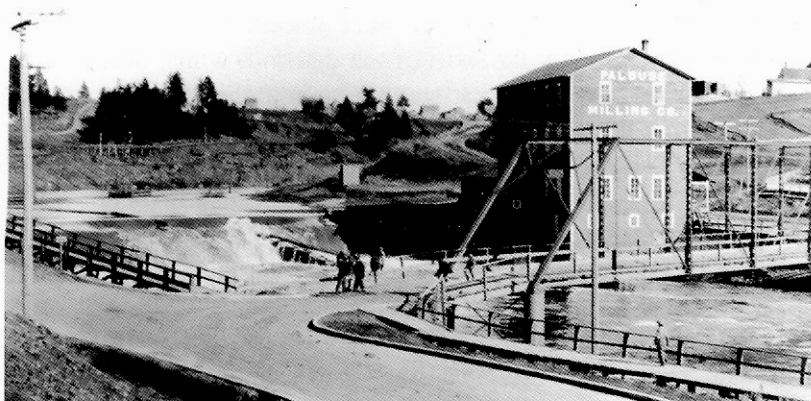
WHITMAN COUNTY FLOURING MILLS

By J. M. Risley, Proprietor
Electric Flour Mills Palouse

The Palouse country is known throughout the entire world as the most wonderful country in the world for the raising of immense yields of superior wheat. Few people know that the entire Palouse country in Wash-



Elberton Flour Mill



Palouse Flour Mill

ington is contained within the confines of Whitman county. This is the fact.

The yield of wheat for the year 1907 has not only equalled that of other years, but has increased until it has reached the vast proportions of twelve million bushels.

Whitman county is one of the richest counties in the state of Washington. It is mostly a rolling treeless area. There are raised in abundance a great variety of tillable crops, all of which contribute materially to the importance of the county and make it a most inviting locality for the practical and industrious farmers.

It is in this wide diversity of agricultural resources that Whitman county has a decided advantage over other sections of the state. The certainty of sufficient natural moisture and all other essential factors necessary to assure good crops are found here. In fact, failure of crops is unknown.

Whitman county takes the lead and is the banner county of the United States, not only in the quantity but in the quality of grain produced; its wheat product forming the principal basis of the county's great wealth and prosperity. The fact that the county is a natural center for the vast trade of the rich mining and timber districts tributary to it has induced enterprising flour mill men to freely acknowledge the fact that few agricultural and commercial centers hold out such certain promises and that few counties are backed up by such unusually favorable natural advantages.

This opportunity has been improved upon so that the county today boasts of having some of the best up-to-date flour mills to be found anywhere, and the demand for the products of these mills has kept them taxed to the full extent of their capacities. This demand, however, is not altogether local, but flour manufactured from Whitman county wheat reaches every part of the world.

An encouraging feature to the milling business in this section of the state is the large and increasing demand for mill feed, on account of the dairying industry, and the large number of hogs and other live stock the farmer and stock men feed. This keeps the supply of feed as a by-product from the mills exhausted. In fact in some localities the supply is far short of the demand, which necessitates a large number of feed mills, which are scattered throughout the county.

The leading flouring mills of Whitman county are as follows:

- At Palouse, the Electric Flour Mills, J. M. Risley, prop., capacity 125 bbls, and the Palouse Flouring Mill, N. B. Hunsperger, mngr., capacity 90 bbls.
- At Colfax, the Colfax Milling Co., C. H. & H. H. Warner, proprs., capacity 175 bbls.
- At Tekoa, Tekoa Mill & Grain Co., L. J. Lauritzen, mngr., capacity 125 bbls.
- At Pullman, Pullman Milling Co., Gustafson Bros., mngrs., capacity 50 bbls.
- At Oakesdale, Oakesdale Flouring Mills; J. C. Barron, propr., capacity 100 bbls., daily.
- At Garfield, Garfield Roller Mills, F. G. Leonard, propr., capacity 75 bbls.
- At Winona, Winona Milling Co., John T. Billups, mngr., capacity 100 bbls.
- At Farmington, Farmington Roller Mills, H. G. Taylor, propr., capacity 50 bbls.
- At Elberton, Elberton Roller Mills, C. N. Hinchcliff, propr., capacity 100 barrels.
- At Colton, Colton Flour Mills, 50 bbls. capacity, lately repaired and rebuilt.

This is a very encouraging feature of the development in Whitman county and gives an opportunity for a maximum of price for grain to the producer and a minimum of cost to the consumer of a vital necessity of life. It also stimulates a development in dairying and cattle raising, whereby the by-products from the mills are consumed at home.

The quality of Whitman county wheat, being equal to any other in milling qualities and superior to wheat raised in other parts of the Northwest for the grade and excellence in the flour produced, has gained for our Whitman county mills an enviable home patronage and a large and increasing demand throughout the other portions of the Northwest, in addition to a demand from foreign markets which, at the present capacities of the



Colfax Flour Mill

mills, cannot be supplied.

As an instance of the growth in foreign shipments, the Electric Flour Mills alone, which were built two years ago, last season shipped 80,000 bags of flour to the Orient and the Colfax Milling Co. shipped out of Whitman county the same amount. It is estimated that last season all of the mills shipped abroad at least 250,000 bags, or \$250,000 worth of flour, where five years ago they did not ship a bag.

The phenomenal growth of Whitman county is not better evidenced than in the growth of the number and capacities of its flouring mills. No greater evidence of the superior quality of its wheat can be gained than the pronounced home consumption. As the shipping facilities become greater and better, opportunities are afforded to reach the city markets, or tide water ports, there is no reason why Whitman county will not rank among the first in flour manufacture in the West.

This will doubly be true when full and complete facilities are enjoyed for electric power and water power, development in that line being in its infancy. The principle of saving freight on the by-products and consuming them at home will stimulate this. Then, as the county becomes more thickly settled as is now rapidly going on, the manufacture of flour will become a larger and more important industrial factor and with its immense wheat raising area, ideal climate for cereal products, and exceedingly fertile character of the soil. Whitman county is bound to attain a position among the foremost and largest flour manufacturing centers of the entire Northwest.

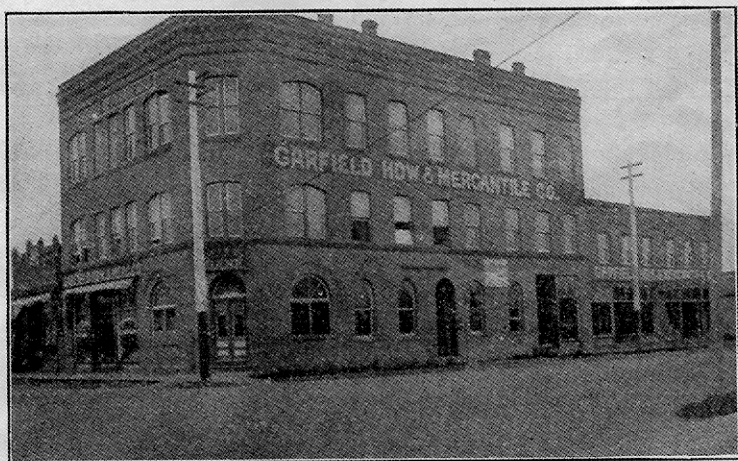
GARFIELD, WHITMAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

As a place of residence Garfield is especially attractive to the man of family who appreciates superior graded and high schools, a wholesome moral atmosphere and a climate that causes the winters of the East to be remembered only as unhappy nightmares. For many years the city has been without saloons and is perhaps as free from vicious allurements as any town in the West. The school buildings are among the most commodious in the county and the enrollment is nearing the 400 mark; the city's business streets are macadamized and lighted by electricity, and there is a complete municipally-owned water system. Both the business and residence sections are built in a manner to indicate the prosperity of the community. The possibilities of the territory tributary to Garfield are of a character that makes safe the prediction that the town will within the next few years double in population.

Garfield has become an important trading and commercial center through the enterprise and progressive character of its business men. One of the largest and most important commercial institutions in Whitman County is the immense

store of the Garfield Hardware and Mercantile Company. The two banks here have gained a wide reputation for their strength and conservative methods. The excellent hotel here maintained, the clean and enterprising newspaper here published, the general stores and the flouring mill all have contributed to attract trade to this point and hold it here. The rank and file of Garfield's business men are in each instance enthusiastic for their city.

This public spirit and genial hospitality manifested have gained for Garfield a reputation as a live and growing city. In every respect this is true and as the years unfold the hidden history to be recorded, the truth will become apparent that this city, with its residents, loyal and enthusiastic has builded strongly and well. It will be a city of prominence and influence in the Northwest, as it is now one of the most thrifty and prosperous in Whitman County. All of this is ultimately true because of the immense richness of the tributary country and the great excellence of its natural advantages and opportunities.



Home of Garfield Hardware & Mercantile Co.—the big store of Whitman County, and the State Bank at Garfield.



BUFFALO BILL IN WHITMAN COUNTY

By Robert E. King

One of the greatest traveling spectacles in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, which appeared in over 1,000 cities and towns throughout the USA and Europe between 1883 and 1913. It made two visits to Whitman County, with appearances at the County Fairgrounds near Colfax, Washington, in 1902 and 1908. This is the story of Buffalo Bill in Whitman County and the excitement he brought to its residents.

William Frederick "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917) was a larger-than-life character from the Old West. He was born at Le Claire, Iowa Territory, and lived for a few years in his father's birth nation of Canada before returning as a child to Kansas Territory in the 1850s. After his father's untimely death in 1857 from the lingering effects of being stabbed by a pro-slavery advocate, in 1860 young Cody, at age 14, headed west, where he was a Pony Express rider. From 1863 to 1865, he served as a Union soldier in the Civil War. Afterwards, he worked as a civilian scout for the U.S. Army during the Plains Indian Wars of the later 1860s and 1870s, receiving the Medal of Honor in 1872 for his service.

Cody also was employed for a time by the Kansas Pacific Railroad as a contractor to supply buffalo meat for its workers. He was so successful that he earned the name of "Buffalo Bill," which he used for the rest of his life. In 1869, at age 23, he became a celebrity as the subject of several highly popular – but mostly fictionalized – action-adventure novels. Before age 25, Cody had become a legend.

Cashing in on his celebrity, in 1872, Cody began starring in stage performances based on both true and fictionalized incidents from his life. Later, he was joined by his friends Texas Jack Omohundro and James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok. Together they toured for about ten years before Cody decided to go it on his own with even grander plans. In 1883, he established "Buffalo Bill's Wild West." Its inspiration in part was the success of traveling circuses like Barnum and Bailey, but Cody's focus was on telling his version of the story of the American West, which already was changing and disappearing. His shows displayed cowboy themes and episodes from the frontier days of the nation including partial reenactments of incidents from Indian Wars and skirmishes that were still happening when Cody's show started.

Later in 1893, after traveling to Europe starting in 1887, Cody changed the name of his extravaganza to "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders." He had added the colorful spectacle of a "congress" of horse-using soldiers and warriors from other nations, including Cossacks from Russia and Bedouin Arabs. Over the years, many historical western figures were part of the show, in-

cluding Chief Sitting Bull, who had annihilated General George Armstrong Custer and his men at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana Territory in 1876.

While European appearances brought Buffalo Bill and his show world-wide acclaim and recognition from the heads of nations such as Queen Victoria, traveling in the United States dominated Cody's career as a showman. The rapid expansion of railroads after the Civil War was a key to his ability to bring his form of entertainment to the nation. When Whitman County got its first railroads in the 1880s, it became possible for Cody's show to travel to the region. The first time this happened was in 1902.

The first news of Buffalo Bill's planned visit to Whitman County was announced in the July 25 in the *Colfax Gazette* under the headline "Great Wild West Show Coming."

The gratifying announcement is made that on August 22 Buffalo Bill's great Wild West is to appear here. It has been shorn of none of its fair proportions, but comes in its entirety, the biggest, as it is unquestionably the best, aggregation traveling for public entertainment today. Great service it has rendered making known to the east and the old world the real men of the west, both the white and the red, how they fought, worked and played, the showing being intensely realistic from the fact that it was made by the real men themselves. It is faithful to reality in presenting its 'Congress of the Rough Riders of the World,' which includes typical representatives of the horsemen of the English, German, French, Russian and Turkish armies, with our own American cavalry and artillery. And a feature worthy of especial mention is the exhibit of the U.S. government coast guard life savers, showing how they have been accustomed to rescue ship-wrecked mariners. Altogether it is a wonderful and unrivalled entertainment.

On July 25 and Aug. 15, 1902, the *Colfax* paper also featured a large paid advertisement for the upcoming event that was standard format used for appearances elsewhere at this time. It included an image of "Col. W. F. Cody" and also a depiction of "the Grand Scenic Episode This Year." It promised a "Realistic Military Spectacle, The Battle of San Juan Hill," which had taken place in 1898 in Cuba during the Spanish American War. The illustration used in the paper showed American forces, with guns blazing, storming a fortification.

The ad also described other highlights of the upcoming performance. It proclaimed: "Over 1,200 men and horse participate," with the "World's Mounted Warriors," including U.S. cavalymen and artillerymen, plus "German Cuirassiers, Russian Cossacks, Bedouin Arabs, Colonial Dragoons, Mexican Vaqueros, South American Gauchos, Sioux Indians, Wild West Cowboys, Western Girls, [and] Cuban Patriots." The entire show would be seen during both the 2 pm and 8 pm per-

formances, rain or shine, for an admission cost of 50 cents, or \$1.00 for reserved seating. Children under age nine cost only 25 cents.

On August 1, 1902, the *Colfax Gazette* included a short article based on information provided by the Cody organization. It called Buffalo Bill's visit "a rare opportunity," pointing out that "it behooves everyone" to take advantage of the event, as Cody's show was soon to leave for another tour of two or three years in Europe and might never be in the local area again. In promoting the show, it also seized on another idea common in this period – that it was a "vivid and genuine presentation of conditions in civilization's progress which, in another generation, will exist only on the printed page."

On August 8, 1902, the *Colfax Gazette*, again with the help of information from Cody's advance staff, reminded its readers of the upcoming event. The visit to the Whitman County Fairgrounds, it said, was part of "swinging around a larger circle than has ever before been mapped out for it on this continent; one that takes in San Francisco and important points in the extreme southwest." After Colfax, it would travel to Spokane, appearing there the next day.

Eight days later, the August 16 *Pullman Herald* carried a front-page notice that the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company (O. R. & N. Co.), the local railroad connecting Pullman to Colfax and the Whitman County Fairgrounds, would sell roundtrip tickets for 75 cents, with travelers returning the next day. How they would spend the night (camping or staying in nearby Colfax?) was not explained.

On the day of the event, in a front page story that was also fed to it by the Buffalo Bill show promoters, the *Colfax Gazette* described the special display being made of the "wonderful organization" of the United States life saving corps that was part of the 1902 tour. The corps members were heralded for their "reputation for bravery, devotion and heroism" and were thus very worthwhile to see. Finally, the article stressed the educational value of the event. As per custom, Buffalo Bill and others from the show would personally ride horses through Colfax on the morning of the arrival of the show by train before the first performance.

The performance at the fairground on August 22, 1902, drew an estimated 4,000-5,000 people, according to the next issue of the *Colfax Gazette* (August 29). Other regional newspapers also mentioned residents attending. The *Pullman Herald*, August 23, reported that "Pullman was well represented at Colfax yesterday, Buffalo Bill's Wild West aggregation being the attraction."

The apparent financial success of the 1902 appearance of Buffalo Bill's show in Whitman County sparked a return visit on September 15, 1908, with two performances that day at 2 pm and 8 pm. The price was 50 cents or \$1.00 depending on seating, with children under ten, half price. All seating was protected from sun and rain by an immense canvas canopy, as performances took place in the open air. And with Buffalo Bill's second appearance, there were new attractions scheduled to delight audiences. The kick-off announcement appeared in the *Col-*

SEPTEMBER 16

Buffalo Bill's Wild West *AND* Rough Riders

OF THE WORLD

VISTAS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

THE BATTLE OF SUMMIT SPRINGS

**A Thrilling Engagement Between the Army and Marines
Fought the Campaigns and Victory-Forward
Soldiers of the Army and Marines, Fighting With Their
the Factors of the Army and Marines, Fighting With
Soldiers With the United States Army.**

**VARIETY
PICTURES
OF WILD
WESTERN LIFE**

THE GREAT TRAIN HOLD-UP

And the David: *History of the Union-Swede: A Political Representation of Eastern Sweden Which Followed the National Era in Western Development Whereas A Practical Treatise, Is Given by A Practical Craftsman*

A HOLIDAY AT "T-E" RANCH

Is A Continuing Illustration of Peace and War. The Mothers of the Million and the Phoenix of the Pioneer Give Way Before the Modern Movement of Beauty. This includes the Personal History of Emma-Lee A. Warner Center Ave. To the Institute of International

THE WHOLE WORLD CONTRIBUTES

Men and Women Supplying the Clasp of Uniqueness and Authenticity For Every Detail of the Collection. Indian, Chinese, Japanese, European, American, and African. All the world's cultures are here. All the world's art is here.

REAL ROUGH RIDERS

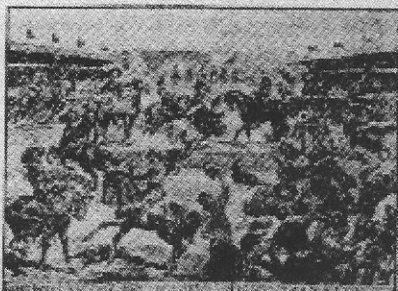
Who knew anything of Fear had former personal experience in
Kassam, Africa, and with countless thousands of the black and
Chinese of the Royal Family in Europe.

TWO PERFORMANCES DAILY

PLAIN OR SUIT, 1 and 2 P. M. Admission (including
Seat) 20 cts. Grand Stand Chairs (including admission)
\$1.35 on sale day of Exhibits at

SMALLEY'S DRUG STORE

Children under 18 years old are 30% more protected



...and one in America (James C. ...)

fax Gazette on August 14, 1908: “The advance agent has leased the county fair grounds for the purpose, and there will probably be a ‘hot time in the old town’ when Buffalo Bill gets here.”

On August 28, 1908, the *Colfax Gazette* printed a large pictorial advertisement similar to the one used for Buffalo Bill’s 1902 appearance. It also appeared in the following two weekly issues of the same paper. Again, it included a large image of Cody, but this time a second illustration featured an Indian village with teepees and inhabitants being raided. It was described as a part of the show depicting the “Battle of Summit Springs,” a “vivid re-enactment of the Red Man’s Final Conflict at Arms.” Further, in the usual over-the-top description of the show, the ad further extolled that the Indian battle would be: “Thrilling in Realism. Exciting Beyond Description and unequalled as a History-Picture of Grim Visaged War Reflected in the Smiling Face of Peace.” The ad also vividly summarized other parts of show, including its participants, Rough-Riders – Assembled from All Nations:

Indians – The Real Red Man of the Plains in war-paint.

Cowboys – Brought Direct from Ranch and Prairie Ranges.

Arabs – Swarthy Bedouin Athletes and Desert-Born Acrobats.

Soldiers – Military Men in Warlike Scenes and Incidents.

Cossacks – Reckless Riders from Far-off Russian Steppes.

Mexicans – Real Rough Riders from the Land of Montezuma.

Scouts – The Sturdy Westerners Who Blazed the Pioneers’ Trail.

Wild-West Girls – Dashing Queens of the Saddles.

Plainsmen – Makers of History ‘Way Out West.’

Lancers – Graceful Cavalrymen in Difficult Tournament Tilts.

Artillery – Drills and Exhibits of Old –time Tactics.

Vaqueros – True Types of the Mexican Cowboy.

Japanese – ‘The Little Brown Men’ from the Far-East.

Marksmen – Led by the Wizard-Wonder ‘Crack Shot’ Johnnie Baker.

Ruralies – Typical Members of Mexico’s Mounted Police.

Zouaves – Perfection in Rapid Drills and Manual of Arms.

Cavalry – ‘Uncle Sam’s’ Horsemen. The Pride of the Army.

Dragoons – Representing ‘The King’s Own Defenders.’

Further, the same advertisement listed the exciting actions and skills to be featured at the upcoming show. There would be “Skillful Feats” of horsemanship, including “Skillful Feats of Daring Native Horsemanship,” “Fancy and Real Rough Riding,” and “Trap, Target and Expert Horseback Rifle Shooting.” Demonstrations of expert roping and lassoing would take place, performed by “Wild-West Girls and Cowboys.” A parade would feature “hundreds of Men and Horses” in a grand military march, as well as reviews, pageants and fancy artillery and cavalry drills. The “Famous Cowboy Band” would dispense popular and classic music. The “crafty methods” of wild Indian warfare would be shown, along with

the usual recreations of battles between “desperate” Indians and Whitemen.

The ad further promised a reenactment of “The Great Train Hold-Up.” This may have been added in part due to the popularity of the 1903 silent movie, *The Great Train Robbery*, heralded as a milestone in motion picture history for its innovative techniques and use of a plotline. In turn, its inspiration was a 1900 train hold-up by members of Butch Cassidy’s gang near Table Rock, Wyoming. The same Colfax paper also included a longer article:

Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show will be in Colfax on Tuesday, September 15, at the county fair grounds. It is needless to say that the biggest crowd of the season will be there. Buffalo Bill’s show is unique. There is no other show exactly like it. It is not a circus, neither is it a hippodrome nor a menagerie. It is an evolution of the plains as seen by the Argonauts. Buffalo Bill has appeared before the crowned heads of Europe—not that that makes his show any better—but it tells of the keen interest all classes of people have to see what he has to offer.

On September 4, 1908, the *Gazette* printed another announcement that Buffalo Bill’s show was coming in eleven days and would be “complete in every respect and identical with that given at Madison Square Garden, New York City, where the big organization began its tour this spring.”

A week later, on September 11, 1908, the *Colfax Gazette* added more details of the upcoming event, including one that probably disappointed some people in the town. It said that while Buffalo Bill would personally ride on his horse through Colfax on September 15 “to convince the public by his appearance that the old scout is still in evidence, ready to appear in the saddle twice daily, and at every performance given by Buffalo Bill’s Wild West,” there would not be a customary street parade. The reason was that the train carrying Cody’s extravaganza would be coming in late and there was not enough time to do a parade before setting up the show at the fairgrounds. Nonetheless, the train carrying the special show cars

THE GREATEST ATTRACTION

For Friday, August 22nd

DURING BUFFALO BILL’S WILD WEST

Will Be the Greatest Bargain Event of the Season.

Friday, August 22nd, we will inaugurate a slaughter of values that will eclipse and overshadow any attempt ever made by us in bargain giving—a **BARGAIN EVENT** that will be hailed with delight by every economically inclined person in Colfax and for hundreds of miles surrounding. Beginning in our Dry Goods Department and continuing throughout every Department (Groceries excepted)

A 20 Per Cent Discount Sale

On all merchandise bought on Friday, August 22nd, at

JULIUS LIPPITT’S

The Pioneer Merchant, - - Colfax, Washington.

Colfax merchant supporting and benefitting from the scheduled show.

would pass through the town. And for some, that became an event to see. The same paper also listed special excursion roundtrip train rates being offered by the Spokane and Inland Railroad for the September 15th event for these towns: Garfield \$2.15, Rosalia \$1.10, Oakesdale \$1.75, Steptoe 50 cents, Thornton 75 cents. The article further reported that the return train would leave at 11:00 pm after the end of the show.

Unlike its scant coverage of the 1902 Buffalo Bill show, the *Pullman Herald* on September 11, 1908, gave more details of what to expect, including providing some information not included in the Colfax paper. It said that the show would include the playing of “football” (probably meaning soccer) on horseback. The account also stated that “the big battle scenes will introduce a hundred full-blooded Indians, troops of cavalry and artillery,” with “Col. Wm. F. Cody” riding “at the head of his cavalcade of horsemen, directing each performance and seeing personally to every detail of the entertainment.”

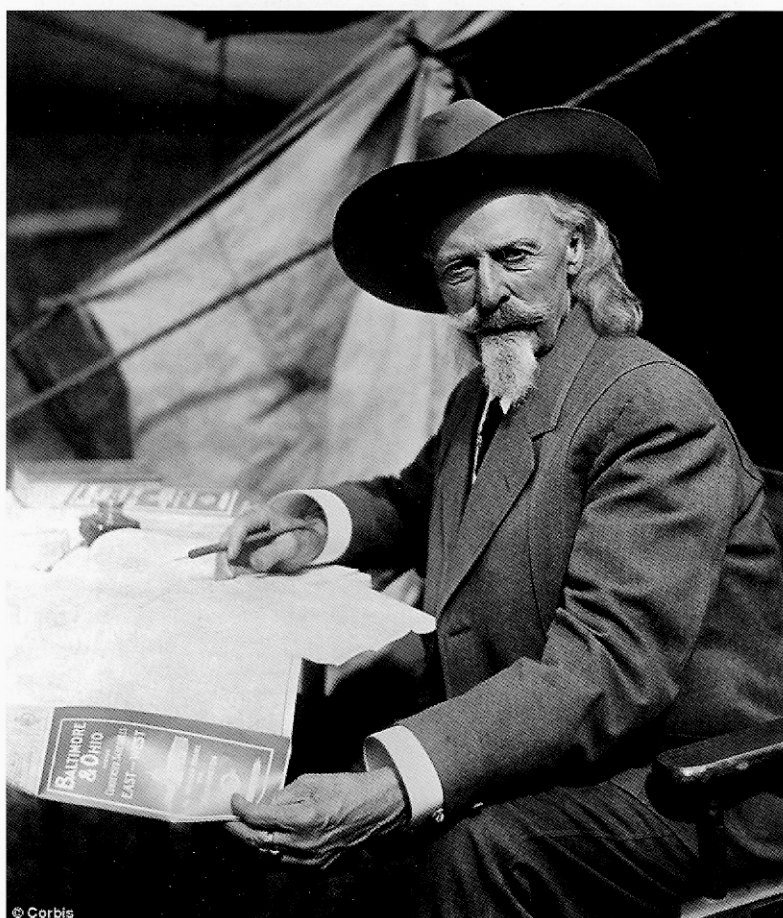
In other words, excitement and spectacle galore!

After the event, the Colfax and Pullman papers added further details of what transpired. On September 18, 1908, the *Colfax Gazette* marveled that Cody personally “did some wonderful shooting,” and the show included a “small band of buffaloes [that] trotted around the arena.” The same paper also named eight people from the town of Hay in Whitman County who attended the performances.

On September 18, 1908, the *Pullman Herald* reported under “Public School Notes” that “quite a number of high school students attended the ‘Wild West’ Show in Colfax.” But most intriguing was the comment that a Pullman resident had once hunted “the big game animals of the bunchgrass plains with Cody forty years ago [late 1860s].” The person was Azro Russell Boyd, who said that the Colfax performance had “brought back visions of long ago and of vanished herds of buffalo.” Like Cody, Boyd had been a teenager when he left Vermont and worked for the railroad as a game hunter. By 1888, Boyd and his wife were living in South Dakota with their daughter Olivia, and by mid-1894, they were in North Dakota, where their son Joseph was born. Why the Boyds ended up in Pullman about 1897 is not known, but Azro’s obituary in the *Pullman Herald* June 28, 1929, stated that he had been a “pioneer Pullman contractor.”

In the late summer of 1916, a diminished version of the Buffalo Bill Wild West show once again appeared in the region, but in a substantially altered form, as part of the Sells Floro Circus. Performances in Moscow, Idaho, took place on September 8, 1916. Cody’s show had been sold due to bankruptcy in July 1913, with Cody hired to appear in what was renamed the “Sells Floto and Buffalo Bill Circus.” Cody performed in the renamed show in 1914 and 1915, but he was apparently missing from the show in Moscow. Indeed, ill health had overtaken “Buffalo Bill” Cody, who died on January 19, 1917, just over four months later.

To conclude, the two appearances of Buffalo Bill in Whitman County in 1902 and 1908 were major entertainment events of the early 20th century. They drew some of the largest crowds ever assembled in the county at that point in time. The spectacular performances brought not only a blend of the real and mythical “Old West” to the region, but also colorful visions of horse-riding peoples around the world. All were designed to thrill and awe the crowds. And they did! These performances created long-lasting memories for Whitman County residents of the legendary “Wild West” shows and their genius, the one and only “Buffalo Bill” Cody.



Buffalo Bill Cody in his later years



YAKIMA CANUTT: ENTERTAINER AND SHOWMAN FROM WHITMAN COUNTY

Yakima Canutt is one of the great celebrities to come out of Whitman County. He was named to the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1966 and was presented an academy award in 1978, when the academy also honored him with a "tribute to Yakima Canutt" dinner.

Enos Edward Canutt was born November 29, 1895, at the family ranch near Penawawa. In spite of his parents' objections, Canutt was determined to ride broncs. By 1906 the Colfax Fair, like most fairs, had bronc riding events and wild west shows on the order of the famous Buffalo Bill Cody Wild West Show. Canutt hit the rodeo circuit in 1912 and met a number of famous riders and ropers.

He was tagged with "Yakima" at the Pendleton Roundup in 1916. As the story goes, he was rousting around with some cowboys from the Yakima Valley and, after a little too much celebration, the group all attempted to ride. The first two were thrown and Canutt, feeling heroic, said he would show what a Yakima bronc rider could do. He was thrown, but the name "Yakima" stuck.

In 1917 and 1919 "Yak," as he was called, won the Police Gazette belt for "All Around Cowboy Championship of the World." He spent the winter of 1919 in Los Angeles and met a number of screen stars. In 1923, he won the Roosevelt Trophy and went to Los Angeles for the award presentation. He decided to stay there and soon was invited to star in a series of westerns known as "blood and thunder quickies." All were silent films and required wild and wooly riding feats. By 1928, however, almost all films were talkies and Yak knew he couldn't do talking films as his vocal chords had been damaged by a bout of flu in 1918. His voice had lost all "resonance."

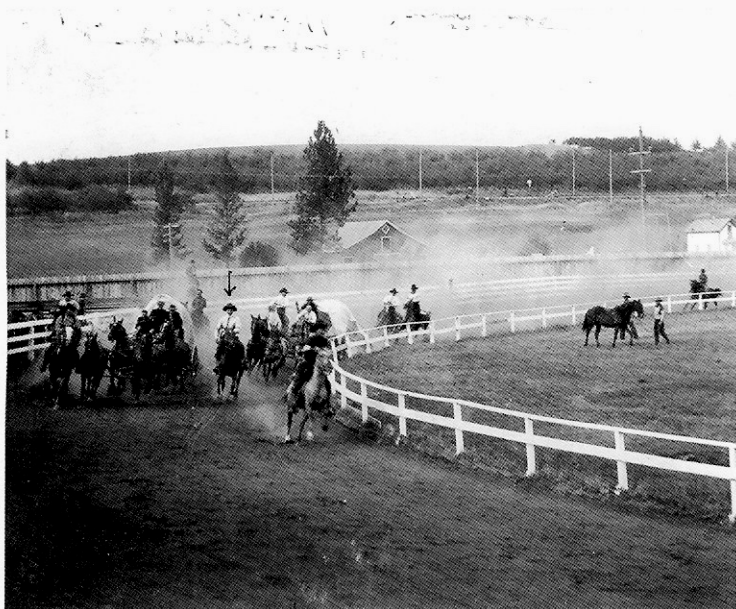
A new opportunity came with stunt work. He was the "second" for the young John Wayne in *Shadow of the Eagle*. He continued working with Wayne. One of his most spectacular stunts was in the John Wayne classic *Stagecoach*. The action involved jumping from a wagon to the six-horse team pulling the wagon. His stunt work included leading a horse and wagon through burning Atlanta in *Gone With the Wind*.

After breaking both ankles in 1943, Yak switched to directing action scenes. One of his most famous scenes was the chariot race in *Ben Hur*. In this Charlton Heston film, the stunt man was his son Joe. Over his long career, which ended in 1976, Yak was involved in about 150 films either as actor, stuntman, or action director.

Yakima Canutt died at age 90 in 1986.



Sixteen year old Enos Canutt showing off his sheepskin chaps before riding in the Whitman County Fair at Colfax.



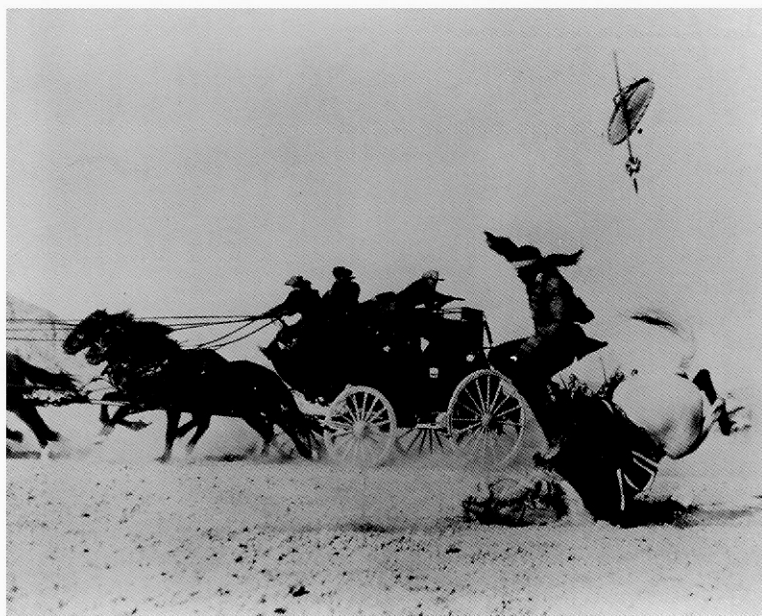
Chuckwagon race at 1914 Elberton picnic, Yak marked with arrow.



*Yakima Canutt's first competition at the
Whitman County Fair 1912*



Yakima Canutt doubling for Roy Rogers



Canutt in Stagecoach 1939

Bunchgrass Historian



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Yakima Canutt on his horse, Boy, 1924