

Peck Family One Of County's Pioneers



Not many families in Washington county can claim two members who have each lived in the county for 90 years. *E-2-13-69*

B. F. (Ben) Peck and his sister, Mrs. Blanche Warrick, both now of Blair, have each lived in this county 90 years this coming summer, 1969. Ben came to Washington county in the summer of 1879, when a lad of five years old. Mrs. Warrick was born here in 1879.

A brother, Fred Peck, is now 85 years old and also has lived in this county all his life. He now lives in Blair.

The father of the Peck family, Sheldon Peck, emigrated from Vermont to Belle Plaine, Iowa, before the Civil War. A Civil War veteran, he served in that war with an Iowa regiment.

In 1879, Sheldon Peck and his wife, Elizabeth, brought their family to Nebraska in a covered wag-

on, crossing the Missouri River by ferry. They first settled on the Missouri bottom north of Blair, near what was known at that time as the Highland station. Their trading point at that time was the now vanished Cuming City.

After three years, they moved to a farm southwest of Blair, now owned by Anna Thompson, just north of the Blair Cattle Co.

It was on this farm that a sister, Mabel, saved a Northwestern freight train from disaster, an incident that was widely noted at the time. After a heavy rain, Mabel was hunting some of the Peck hogs which had escaped and discovered that the railroad bridge had washed out. She took off her coat and flagged down an oncoming freight train, which stopped before it went into the torrent. In recognition of this warning, the crew of the train gave Mabel a watch and the railroad presented her \$200 and a lifetime pass on their lines.

After living on this farm for several years, the Peck family

moved to a farm north of Orum. Members of the family, as they grew up farmed on several locations in eastern Washington county.

For seven years, Ben worked in the Crowell Lumber Yard in Blair and while there built the house on South 16th Street now owned by Ralph Steyer. He later farmed near Lyons, Nebr., until his retirement in 1943, when they moved to Blair.

Ben is a veteran of the Spanish American war, serving two years in Cuba. He missed the actual fighting, but arrived there in time to witness the evacuation of the Spanish forces.

Among the items treasured by the Ben Peck family is a letter from the director of the Nebraska Children's Home Society, thanking them for fifty-one years of continuous contributions to the Children's Home.

Fred moved to Blair from his farm west of Herman in 1960, and Mrs. Warrick came to Blair in 1936.

FORMER LUCILLE BRUNTON IS DEAD

Older Blair residents will remember Lucille Brunton, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Warren Brunton who lived on west South street some forty years ago. *P-7-2-24-69*

Information has been received by a cousin, Mrs. Lorion Jones, that both she and her husband have died in recent months. Miss Brunton's married name was Mrs. Herchel Lowe. Mr. Lowe died in a Veterans Hospital shortly after Christmas and Mrs. Lowe died on February 17th.

HERMAN NEWS

By Mrs. Terry Andrew

TED WEBERS ATTEND FUNERAL OF AUNT IN HOMER

E-2-13-69
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Weber attended Funeral Services for Mrs. Grace Longwell at The Lutheran Church at Homer, Nebr., Wednesday. Mrs. Longwell was an aunt of Mrs. Weber.

E-2-13-67

We wish to express our thanks to everyone who sent cards and for all expressions of sympathy received following the death of our mother, Mrs. Louise Taylor. Mr. and Mrs. John Haye and family
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