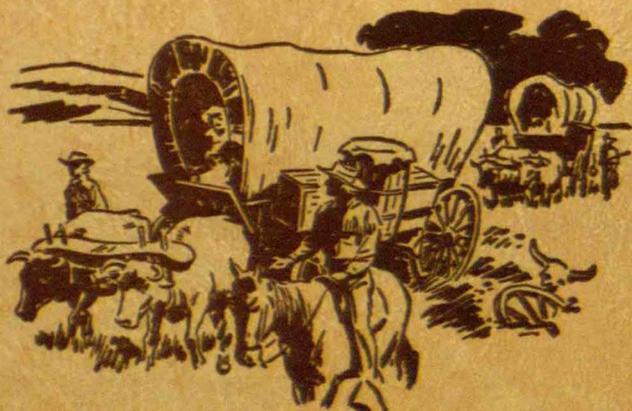


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*Yesteryears
of
Morrow*



A History of Morrow County
OREGON

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of
Morrow*

**A history of Morrow County prepared by the Morrow County
Extension Units and produced in Cooperation with the Morrow
County Court in celebration of the Oregon Centennial year.**

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PREFACE

The committee who was asked to compile and put together this history of Morrow County found the responsibility much more than we had anticipated.

The history began as a project lesson of the Morrow County Extension Units in January 1959. Seeing that 1959 was Oregon's centennial year, the women decided we should know more about the early history of the county in which we live. Historians were appointed in each club and they compiled a history which was mimeographed in the county extension office and entitled, "Know Your Morrow County."

This history was the basis of a centennial pageant, "Yester Years of Morrow County," presented by our units at their annual Homemakers Festival in the Willows Grange Hall, Ione, on April 30, 1959.

Demand for the mimeographed history far exceeded the supply on hand. The County Advisory Committee of the Extension Units then appealed to the County Court for assistance in printing a re-edited version. Our committee was given this task.

We found the research to be very enjoyable. We have tried to include all the early pioneers and major events that made Morrow County what it is today. There will naturally be some omissions and misinformation due to the lack of space or the lack of information on our part. We hope that you will not be disappointed with this booklet, and that you will read it with historical interest, rather than questioning.

A proper list of individuals who have contributed to this history would run to several hundred names. About all we can do is to give special acknowledgement to the unit historians who gathered the first draft of the county's history. They include: Mrs. Frank Marlow, Mrs. Nathan Thorpe and Mrs. Richard Waymire, Boardman Unit; Mrs. Douglas Drake and Mrs. Clive Huston, Heppner Unit; Mrs. Norman Nelson and Mrs. Omar Rietmann, Ione Unit; Mrs. Lloyd Berger, Mrs. Milton Biegel and Mrs. Marguerite Houghton, Irrigon Unit; Mrs. W. E. Hughes and Mrs. George Currin, Lena Unit; Mrs. Anne Smouse and Mrs. Walter Ruggles, Lexington Unit; Mrs. Marion Finch and Mrs. Burl Wattenburger, Pine City Unit; Mrs. William Rawlins and Mrs. Kenneth Batty, Rhea Creek Unit.

Also we give special acknowledgement to the pioneer daughters and sons of Morrow County who remembered the days their parents and grandparents first homesteaded in the county.

With humble hearts we say, "Thank you" and dedicate this book to the State of Oregon — in this, its centennial year — 1959.

THE EDITING COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Norman Nelson, Chairman; Mrs. Omar Rietmann, Mrs. Anne Smouse, Mrs. Walter Ruggles and Mrs. John Bergstrom.

I. Introduction

When Oregon was first settled most of the newcomers went to the Willamette Valley, leaving only a few miners and stockmen in Eastern Oregon. Consequently it was not until years after Oregon became a state that Eastern Oregon was settled. When the valley was pretty well taken up, and the excitement over the California gold fields was dying down, people began to remember the rolling bunch grass covered hills of the land through which they had passed.

Morrow and Umatilla counties were once a part of Wasco County. Morrow County was formed from a part of Umatilla County on February 16, 1885 and Heppner was chosen the first county seat.

Morrow County extends from the Blue Mountains on the south to the Columbia River on the north and consists of 2059 square miles. The elevation varies from 250 feet on the Columbia River to 6000 feet in the Blue Mountains.

Through the years many ways for making a living have existed. In the Blue Mountains there were sawmills; opal, gold, silver and coal mines; and summer grazing for livestock. From the foothills northward to the sands, grain, hay and livestock were raised. Along the river, truck gardens, orchards and dairies were numerous.

Morrow County reached its peak of population in 1920 with 5617 people. In 1958 there were 4875.

II. Early Settlers (1852-1870)

History indicates that the earliest homesteader in Morrow County was George Vinson, who came from Iowa to Butter Creek in 1852. He was the first man to take a wagon up Butter Creek and filed a claim on land two miles below the present site of Lena. This farm has remained in the family up to the present time and is now being farmed by Delbert Vinson. Mostly stock raisers began coming to Morrow County.

There were a number of families that settled along Willow Creek near its Junction with Rhea Creek. In 1859, John Jordan, originally from Ohio, built the first house in Morrow County, a log cabin, about two miles above the present site of Ione. His nearest neighbor at that time was Thomas W. Ayers of Iowa, who settled at the forks of Butter Creek in 1862. Tom and his brother, William, arrived in Umatilla County and each established himself on Butter Creek. Tom not only operated a farm for four years, but drove a freight train from Umatilla landing to Granite and also Grande Ronde. He soon acquired cattle and horses in such numbers that he gave up his freight line. He sold his ranch in 1878, to the Vey Brothers and moved to Heppner. William Ayers raised sheep on the place now owned by the Hughes family.

Creeks have a way of being named after some person, animal or episode that took place on its banks. Butter Creek is no exception. One of the stories told claims that it received its name because some lowly privates of a Cavalry Detachment of U. S. Soldiers riding between Walla Walla and The Dalles, stole the Captain's butter and hid it in the creek. Thereafter, it was called Butter Creek.

The years of 1860 to 1870 found more settlers homesteading in Morrow County. In 1863 William Y. Cecil, who

was born in England, built a home at the Oregon Trail crossing on Willow Creek. This was the beginning of a settlement that took on the name of Cecil and became the stopping place of the emigrants on their way to western Oregon. A post office was established here in 1867 and has continued on through the years.

Also in 1863, William Penland is reported to have brought the first band of sheep to Morrow County, making his headquarters at the mouth of what is now Black Horse canyon where it joined the Willow Creek valley. He was a native of Kentucky, very industrious and progressive, and realized the opportunity presented here. In a few years he succeeded in building up one of the finest ranches. He became known as the sheep king and one of the most wealthy men in his time.

Elijah W. Rhea, a native of Virginia, with his wife and three sons, Columbus A. ("Lum"), James and Thomas came to the valley, which was to become known by their name, in 1864. They settled on land about 12 miles from the point where Rhea Creek joins Willow Creek. They became prosperous cattle and sheep raisers.

Another very early pioneer sheepman on Rhea Creek was Albert Wright whose descendants, Orrian Wright and his son, Albert, still occupy the original homestead site. Crossing the plains from Indiana among the first wagon trains in 1852, Mr Wright farmed in Oregon City before coming to this area in 1864. The first winter was spent at the "Sunderlin Place", on Rock Creek near Chapin Creek, where he later operated a sawmill.

Amanuel C. Petteys, originally from the state of New York, came in 1868 from the Willamette Valley with a band of cattle and settled at the forks of Rhea and Willow Creek, three miles east of the present site of Ione.

Here he homesteaded, bought land and built a house. His place was one of the central stopping places for travelers. Here they could buy supplies for Mr. Petteys had about 50 acres of alfalfa which he sold for hay and 10 acres of orchard which produced an abundant supply of fruit. He also maintained a barn for the care of the stage and freighter teams. He became postmaster of Petteysville and held the post for fourteen years until the office was discontinued.

In 1869 Joseph Mason, of Portugal, came from Salem to the Rhea Creek valley where he bought 160 acres from William Hughes. On this tract of land the first brick house in Morrow County was built. His ten children were born there. Some of the house still stands and is in use as a modern kitchen. Mr. Mason planted the first orchard and berries on Rhea Creek. The early emigrants found this an ideal place to camp and rest and were happy to find a place to buy such fine food.

George W. Stansbury came to Morrow County and purchased land from a man named Estes in 1869. The meadow became known as Stansbury's Flats and until 1872 his cabin was the only building there. Stansbury's Flats was the later townsite of the city of Heppner.

Another colorful and interesting pioneer who took a homestead in 1870, at the present site of the Slocum ranch, was William (Uncle Billy) Gilliam. He crossed the plains in 1852 and engaged in the Indian Wars of 1855-56, including the battle for the Walla Walla valley. The Spring Hollow ranch was homesteaded by Frank Giliam, his brother, also in 1870. He started a hardware store in Heppner which is well known at the present day as Gilliam and Bisbee.

Henry Padberg with his family came to the Willamette Valley from Germany. He came to Morrow County in 1870 and settled about seven miles southeast of the present site of Lone on Rhea Creek. He raised sheep mostly, but now the home place is in wheat and farmed by his grandson, Darrell Padberg.

Eli Summers with his family filed on a homestead two miles northwest of Lexington on Willow Creek in 1870. Here he built his home, raised hay, ran cattle and had a large orchard and garden. Settlers from surrounding dry lands came here for their yearly supply of fruits and vegetables. He made trips to the Willamette Valley for nursery stock. Mrs Summers ran the hotel in Lexington during the building of the railroad and for about 16 years in all.

III. Pioneer Life

Most of the early settlers obtained their land by homesteading (donation land claims), pre-emption claims, timber cultures, purchase of school land for \$2.50 an acre, or purchasing railroad land for \$1.25 an acre.

To homestead, a man had to file his intention and live on this land the required time each year, making improvements on it. It usually took about five years to prove up on land and get the deed.

The pre-emption claims were filed

on and the land had to be lived on either six or nine months and then paid for at \$1.25 per acre.

Timber cultures could be acquired by the settlers by having a designated number of "live" trees on five of the 160 acres. Then they could prove up on it and the land was theirs.

Every thirty-sixth section of a township was given to the schools by the government for their support. This land was sold at \$2.50 an acre to early settlers.

The government also gave the railroad land if they would build their lines through to the west. The railroad, in turn, sold this land to early settlers, to finance their railroad.

The land was all open in early times; no fences. The hills grew lush bunch grass and wild grass on the meadows, which was cut for hay for winter feed. There were thousands of head of cattle, horses and sheep that grazed the open hills and valleys.

In the early 1880's settlers began to plant grains to be used for cereals. Hence, we find flour and grist mills in most of the settled areas. In 1888 the O. R. & N. (Oregon Railroad and Navigation) railroad was built up Willow Creek from the mainline on the Columbia River. At about this time the raising of wheat became more important to the farmer because it was a quicker cash crop than the livestock. Previous to this time, wheat, wool, and livestock from as far south as the Blue Mountains, had been hauled to Castle Rock, and in return merchandise had been hauled in on a route by way of Wells Spring. Later much of the produce was hauled to Arlington and trading for necessities took place.

PIONEER FARMING was quite different from our modern methods. In the early days horses were the main source of power. Later thrashing was done by the steam engine with straw for fuel. The ground-powered combines took the place of the header and the stationary outfits, until the advent of the gasoline and diesel crawler type tractor.

The early method of plowing was by the walking plow generally pulled by three horses. A few years later gang plows made up of a three-bottom 12" or 16" share were pulled by six or eight horses sometimes driven by a jerkline. Each farmer had his own small blacksmith shop equipped with an anvil, forge, slack tub and sledge

hammer, to care for his own equipment. Seeding was done by hand broadcasting from the back of a spring (or Democrat) wagon. When the wheat was ready for harvest the header cut a road through the center of the field, preparing the opening to accommodate the stack of grain. The remainder of the grain in the field was cut and hauled by header boxes to these stacks to await the stationary threshers that came later. There were very few farmers who owned their threshing machines, so they had custom threshing done by traveling crews. Payment was made according to the number of sacks of wheat threshed. Happy was the farmer who didn't have to feed the threshers horses over Sunday. Threshing was done from daylight to dark. Even then some farmers didn't get their grain threshed until Christmas some years. The sacks of wheat were piled in the field with the straw nearby. For easy counting, sacks of wheat were piled in long rows. Each setting started with a fifteen-sack pyramid and by additions could include several hundred sacks of grain. During the slack season the grain was hauled to the warehouses located by the railroad. The farmers dickered back and forth with the grain buyers for the most advantageous price

Some firsts in farming in Morrow County that are recorded are: the first bulking of grain was in 1920; one of the first mechanized power tractors in 1917; the first airplane spraying for weeds in 1948; and the first fertilizing of grain in 1955.

Pioneer Community Social Life

Pioneer community social life was limited because homes were often many miles apart. On Saturday nights, especially in the winter, the school house became a recreation center. "Literary Societies" often held debates with those from neighboring communities. "Spelling Bees" were popular. A type of local "newspaper" which

included choice bits of humor about everyone in the community was often prepared to be read at these meetings.

Each Christmas eve the school house became the scene for the big community gathering. A program of group singing of Christmas carols and recitations by the school children was held. It was the custom for each person to receive one present off the Christmas tree. The large Christmas tree was decorated with tallow candles, strings of pop corn and cranberries, paper chanis, apples, etc.

Other forms of recreation were barn raisings, house raisings, quilting bees, box socials, all night dances usually held in the school or private homes. Music was provided by local talent on the violin, piano, banjo, accordion or sometimes a harmonica. Singing schools were held in the homes when instructors were available. Among winter diversions were sleighing parties and rabbit hunts in which teams vied for a big oyster supper, which the losing team prepared.

There was a great deal of visiting between families on Sundays and holidays. Sometimes whole families would help each other with the butchering or lard making.

Some of the outstanding social events of the year were the Fourth of July celebration with patriotic speeches, picnic lunches (that took weeks to prepare), competitive races, baseball games and horse racing. Other events included the annual visit of the traveling circus or medicine show; the chatauqua; the fall fair and rodeo; the annual Sunday School picnic, which often required an excursion train; and the revivals with baptism in the creek, watering trough or any place there was sufficient water.

Hunting and fishing were first done by the early settlers to supplement their household food. In later

years, however, hunting and fishing have become a part of the recreational activity of the whole northwest. Elk and deer are found in the mountains of Morrow County in great quantities. Game birds, such as ducks, geese, Chinese pheasants, and grouse are plentiful along the creeks and open field. There is good fishing in the mountain streams and the Columbia River.

In more recent years, the ranches have become much larger than in the homesteading days; one family now occupying the land where as many as six families lived before. Therefore, there are fewer people in the rural areas. Consequently the towns have not grown as large as it was thought they would in the booming period. The homes now being built are all of the most modern type. The tendency in the old days was for the rancher, who had accumulated enough to retire, to move away to one of the larger cities in Oregon where he could live the "Life of Riley" the remainder of his life. This has now passed and the trend toward building a fine home on the ranch or in a nearby town has taken its place. Now there are many fine homes to be found all over the county.

THE PIONEER FAMILY for the most part, did without those things it could not produce. It was largely self-sufficient, relying on the labors of every member of the family. The pioneer family was an economic as well as a social unit. The families were generally large. Often there were 10 or 12 children. Yet infant mortality was very high. Epidemics were frequent and diptheria was a frequent child killer. Sickness and accidents were common; drugs and doctors were scarce. Neighbors depended upon each other for help during sickness. Home remedies were common and in each community there were women who acted as practical nurses.

Many of the early day houses of the homesteaders were built of rough lumber 1" x 12" with battens of 1" x 4" to cover the joinings — called box construction. They had a living room, one or two bedrooms, a kitchen and always a pantry.

THE KITCHEN was the most lived in part of the house. Besides the cooking and dishwashing that was done there, it was used for washing and ironing the clothes, bathing the family, caring for orphaned animals and many other things.

Cooking was done on big iron, wood-burning stoves. Cooking utensils were few: mainly iron pots, heavy iron tea kettles and skillets. Everyone made his own butter — first, in the old dasher type churn and then later in the barrel-type churn which was considered quicker and easier. During the summer months, milk, cream and butter were kept in the cellar, springs or wells. The cellars were used for things that needed protection. It was usually dug out of the side of a hill, or dug in the ground near the kitchen door. These cellars were boarded up and the sides covered with sod. Steps leading down were covered by slanting doors that could be laid back on the ground. Whence came the old song, "You Can't Slide Down My Cellar Door."

A traveling salesman often came to the house and supplies that had to be bought such as coffee, white and brown sugar, flour and other staples were purchased in large quantities once or twice a year. Sugar was bought in one or two hundred pound sacks and large sacks of green coffee which was roasted at home and ground in a family coffee mill as needed. According to an advertisement in the 1888 Heppner paper wheat

was taken to the flour mill and exchanged for flour. One bushel of wheat brought 35 pounds of flour in exchange. Flour could be bought at \$4.00 per 100 pound sack or \$3.50 per hundred pounds by the barrel.

Washing was done on the wash board and wrung by hand. Wash water was heated in cans or buckets on the stove. Home-made soap was made by the housewife from drippings and lye in an iron kettle out of doors. Heavy irons called "sad irons" and "flat irons" were heated over the cook stove and used for ironing.

For those whose farms were not on the creek or had dug-wells, the problem of having water for household use and the stock was a never ending one. Some ranchers were fortunate enough to have artesian wells or springs. As soon as the land was broken up many springs and wells went dry. Then water had to be hauled in barrels covered with gunny sacks and emptied into cisterns; one for household use and the other for the stock.

Homes were lighted by the ever faithful kerosene lamps whose chimneys were washed every morning along with the breakfast dishes, and covered during the day with a newspaper cap to be kept free from dust and fly specks. Kerosene was bought in five gallon tins. After being emptied they had many uses. By cutting the top out and having a rounded stick nailed to it, it made a handy water bucket. With one side cut through and the tin rolled back for holders, it made a good boiler or foot tub. In those days nothing was wasted or thrown away.

It is told that in the early days the men made trips to the "sands" to gather grease wood, Juniper and sage brush for fuel and later they

hauled wood from the Blue Mountains. Sometimes the men of several families would make the trip to the mountains together to help each other cut down the trees and saw up the logs to make enough wood to last two or three months. At the same time some also cut lodge poles for corrals and fences.

Before wall paper was available at a reasonable price, cracks in the walls were covered with strips of old cloth and the walls papered with newspapers — careful to have the printing right side up. This served as a good medium for children when learning to read.

The PARLOR, the least used room in the house, was kept immaculate and used only for company and holidays. It was dominated by the big pot bellied stove or the lighter, better-looking little sheet iron stove. Many very ornate cast iron heating stoves brought over in covered wagons were also used. They were polished weekly or oftener to a shining brightness with stove polish that could be purchased at the general store.

The floors were covered with rag rugs. These were made by the women and girls sewing together strips of cloth torn from worn or discarded clothing and rolled into large balls. When enough had been sewed they were taken to a person having a weaving loom and woven into a rug of the desired size. Scatter rugs were made by braiding or hooking woolen strips. The large rugs were tacked down after first having a layer of straw or rye hay laid on the floor. At various times the rugs were taken up, cleaned and a fresh layer of straw put down and the carpets tacked down again.

The furniture was large and heavy and often hand carved. Some slightly carved, claw-footed tables; massive bureaus of carved oak; or the parlor organ, that survived the trip across the plains in the covered wagon, graced the front room of the pioneer family. On rare occasions mother would take time off from her many duties to play a hymn on the family organ.

The BEDROOM consisted mainly of the bed. Bedsteads were often home made, with high hand-carved headboards. The bed had slats instead of springs and straw ticks in lieu of mattresses. These ticks were made of flour sacks or ticking and filled with new clean straw of special cut rye hay. When first made they were big. To keep them plump they were fluffed and turned often. After a year's use the ticks were emptied, washed and re-filled with new straw — usually after harvest when the straw was clean and fresh. In the winter feather ticks were added making a snug warm bed. (It was the belief of the families that sleeping between feather ticks would protect them during an electric storm.) The pride of every pioneer woman was her patchwork quilt which was made from the scraps of cloth saved over a number of years. When sufficient scraps were saved they were sewed into a cover top and neighbor women were called in for a quilting bee.

The women made most of the clothes for the family. In cases of large families, whole bolts of material were purchased at a time and the children appeared in shirts and dresses of one design of material. Other articles of clothing, that could not be made by the housewife, were ordered from a mail order catalog. Often there was only one catalog to a community.

It was a "red-letter" day for the pioneer homemaker and her children when a Jewish peddler came through the country with such wares as eye glasses, jewelry, yardage materials, items of clothing, combs, brushes, and other household items. These peddlers got their start by walking and carrying suitcases containing their wares, but as business thrived and times grew better, they were graduated to well loaded wagons.

From all accounts the pioneer wife and mother was never one with idle time on her hands. Besides raising babies, that had to be bathed and fed every day, other things to do were: raising chickens (the hen brooder way,) cooking three meals a day; washing all the dishes, pots and pans for every meal; bake bread; churn butter; strain and put milk in pans to be taken to the cellar; doing the family washing on the wash board and rinsing and wringing them all by hand; ironing with heavy irons heated over the cook stove; sewing for all the family (dresses, shirts and even underwear); raise geese and pick the feathers to be made into feather ticks; washing and carding wool to spin for yarn and for bats for comforters; making garden; canning fruit and making kettles of apple butter; piecing and making quilts; cutting and sewing rags for rag rugs; packing lunches and getting children off to school; nursing and caring for the sick in her family and the neighbors and at times even delivering babies.

The Pioneer Church

The pioneers leaned heavily on the church. It was the community center. Most pioneers carried Bibles in their covered wagons and held religious services. Most of these early

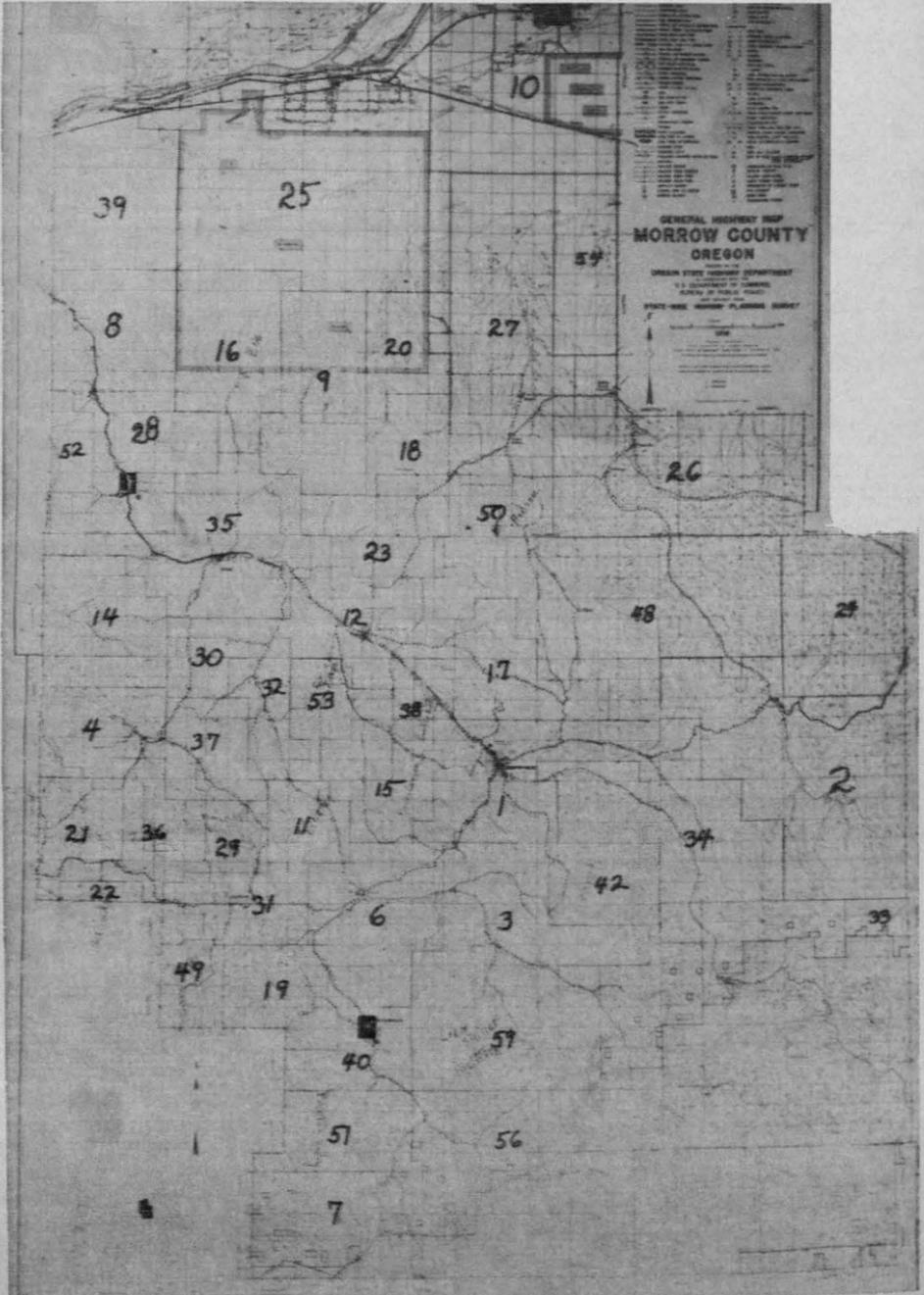
day services were conducted by traveling ministers in private homes, schools and a few scattered churches. Many religious denominations sprung up. Among these were the Lutheran, Congregational, Christian, Church of Christ, Baptist, North and South Methodist, Episcopal, and Catholic. The services were often rather long. It is told of one minister that habitually preached for three or four hours until the congregation chose a hymn and "sang him down."

The Pioneer School

Schools during the pioneer era were a far cry from those of today. They were usually built of logs, but often an abandoned settler's cabin was used. They were open for about three months in the fall and an equal period in the spring. Attendance was not compulsory and few children attended a lot of the time. Boys were often kept at home to help with the ranch work. As many as 35 to 40 pupils attended a single one-room school. At times the pupils ranged in age from four to twenty; some were even married. It has been said that there were as many as 59 school districts in Morrow County at one time. This was necessary because each school had to be located within a radius that would allow pupils to walk or go by horseback. After the advent of better roads and a school sponsored transportation system, consolidation of outlying districts with the town school districts took place. Teachers boarded around with families of the district. Salaries were from \$18.00 to \$35.00 a month.

The year 1959 saw Morrow County as the first county in the state of Oregon to operate under the County Unit Administrative system. (one school board for the entire county.)

SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF MORROW COUNTY



School Districts – Past & Present

Following is a list of known school districts in Morrow County:

1. Heppner
2. Lena
3. Willow Way
4. Davis
5. Irrigon
6. Golden West
7. Camas Prairie
8. Cecil
9. Lone Tree
10. Irrigon
11. Liberty
12. Lexington
13. Coplinger
14. Pleasant Vale
15. Clark's Canyon
16. Ella
17. Blackhorse
18. Strawberry
19. Rood Canyon
20. Juniper
21. Missouri Ridge
22. Democrat Gulch
23. Devine
24. McDonald Canyon
25. Boardman
26. Pine City
27. Alpine
28. Four Mile
29. Rocky Bluff
30. Shiloh
31. Eight Mile Center
32. Rhea Creek
33. Gurdane
34. Upper Willow Creek
35. Ione
36. Gooseberry
37. Fairview
38. Bunker Hill
39. Willows
40. Hardman
41. Morgan — Devine
42. Twin Pines & Balm Fork
43. TWP. 2-S
R 23 EWM
44. Joined Umatilla
45. Wilmot
46. Sand Hollow
47. Joined with No. 23
48. Pleasant Point
49. Hail Ridge
50. Hodsdon
51. Burton Valley
52. Hardesty
53. Social Ridge
54. TWP. 4 S — R28 E
55. Galloway
56. Parkers Mill
57. Joined to No. 17
58. Green Cottage
59. Dee Cox

IV. Development of Public Services And Utilities In Morrow County

Transportation

Horses and horse-drawn vehicles were used until the advent of the motor car and the railroad.

Agitation began in 1887 to secure a branch railroad line from the main-line of the O. R. & N. (Oregon Railroad and Navigation) on the Columbia River up Willow Creek to Heppner or farther. The spring of 1888 saw the work begun and the rails reached Heppner on December 7, 1889. A day of celebration was held. During the ceremony, Henry Heppner was given the honor of driving the last spike. This new mode of transportation was a great asset to the whole country and increased the value of property about fifty percent. The mercantile businesses in the communities along the line increased their business three times over the previous years.

By 1900, with the coming of the motor car, more and better roads were needed in the county. One of the first cars known in the county was a 1902 Oldsmobile owned by Ben Patterson. The first automobile agency was probably that of J. B. Sparks who sold Studebakers in Heppner.

The first bond issue in the county for roads was in 1919. Most of this money was spent on the highway down Willow Creek. Some money was used to improve the Hinton Creek road and the Heppner-Spray highway.

State and Federal highways run throughout the county. The state, in 1922, completed the road from Heppner to the junction at the Columbia River.

Between 1916 and 1955 Morrow County had paid out \$5,500.00 in improving county roads. There were, in 1958, 1200 miles of county roads. (100 miles oiled, 800 miles rocked, and 300 miles dirt roads). Highway im-

provement was very much needed as there has been a steady increase in the yield of crops making better hauling facilities necessary.

Telephones

Probably one of the first telephone lines in Morrow County was from Castle Rock, on the Columbia, across the north end of the county, through Ella, up Blackhorse canyon and into Heppner. (About 1888) This was the same route as the freight-stage line.

The Inland Telephone Company, in 1898, sent a line from Arlington to Heppner. In 1900 the Pacific Telephone Company took over the business and in 1902 placed a switchboard in T. J. Humphreys' Drug Store in Heppner. (The drug store was located in the building now occupied by Connors Dress Shop). The switchboard was situated by the front door; only town phones connected. The farmer lines came into the back room and Tom Humphrey or his clerks would have to make a trip back there to answer calls.

There were five or six farmer lines that operated early in the century; Galloway, Upper Rhea Creek, Lower Rhea Creek, Sand Hollow-Blackhorse, Down Willow Creek, and out towards Dr. McMurdo's ranch. Farmer lines were first carried on the barbed wire fences. In many of the outlying areas there would be a phone in one person's home with a switch to the other houses up the line. Rural lines were built and maintained by the farmers themselves to the city limits. For years a ring on a farmer's line was a signal for everyone who heard it to lift their receiver and "rubber" (listen).

Among the first operators in the Heppner area were: Mabel (Leezer) Bascom, Pauline (Reno) Boyer and Frank Turner. (Turner worked from

7 A. M. until 10 P. M. and was paid \$30 a month). Others following included: Mary (Morgan) McCaleb, (Wm. L. McCaleb, her husband, was a lineman for the telephone line coming up from Arlington), Flossie (Barlow) Coats, and Charles Barlow, who was night operator while attending Heppner high school from 1914 — 1917.

The telephone office moved into a new building, built by Frank Roberts, in 1917. (The building was located on Willow Street where Joe Nys now has his law office.)

This office was closed on April 11, 1953 when telephones were converted from manual to dial service. (No operator was needed for local calls.) The dial system had already been installed in Ione and Lexington in 1938 and calls were routed through Heppner until the individual dial system was established in all three localities in 1953.

It seems that the first switchboard at Lexington was installed in the Joe Burgoyne store and run by him and his son, Frank. Mr and Mrs Bert Vance, in 1921, took over in their home for a short time. M. D. Tucker became the next manager who built a building where the old jail once stood. His daughters Elsie Conner and Mrs Bertha Hunt were managers and operators until 1938.

The first switchboard in Ione was in the Thomas Wade drugstore. (The present site of the A. C. Swanson grocery). His daughter, Etta (Wade) Bristow, was the first operator. Later the switchboard was moved to a small building built by E. T. Perkins. (Next to the present White Apartments). He was postmaster and had a printing shop and telephone exchange in conjunction with the post office. In 1913 Della (Reed) Corson took the position and remained at this post for twenty-five years. The telephone company honored her with a banquet in Arlington in 1938 upon her retirement.

Extension and Other Government Services

Aid to farmers through governmental agencies has been a part of the county's life especially since the first World War. An Oregon Agricultural College Extension Office was first established in Morrow County on January 15, 1918 with F. F. Brown as agent. The service has been extended continuously since that with the following agents: Al A. Hunt, C. C. Calkins, Roger Morse, Charlie Smith, Joe Ballinger, Clifford Conrad, Arnold Ebert and N. C. Anderson.

During World War II under the War Food Administration, emergency assistants were established in many extension offices to help in the food program. Out of this program came the demand for the first agent in Home Economics in Morrow County who was installed July 1, 1946. This has been a continuous program since that time except for the year 1947-48. The two emergency assistants were Grace (Gadekin) Drake and Cecelia (Nordstrom) Van Winkle and the Home Demonstration Agents Katherine (Monahan) Hager, Mable (Wilson) Flint, Maud Casswell, Beverly (Bradshaw) Doherty and Esther Kirmis.

The 4-H Program begun in the early 1900's in Oregon, was under the supervision of the Extension Service most of that time. Some early agents spent more time with 4-H than others. First indication of 4-H work in Morrow County was 1918 when Mrs Lucy Rodgers, County School Superintendent helped in the supervision of 4-H projects.

Morrow County has also had Planning Conferences each ten years since 1927 (four in all). The purpose of these Town and Country Planning Conferences has been to review or evaluate the progress of the county and plan to make the best use of the new opportunities for the improvement of the home, farms, and businesses.

Agricultural Adjustment

Administration

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration was set up in early 1930 to handle an emergency buying program for sheep and cattle and was a part of the extension program during the 1930's. In the 1940's the AAA changed to the Production and Marketing Administration and now is known as the Agricultural Stabilization Administration. It has had various responsibilities and activities of an emergency nature such as marketing quotas but now is mostly a conservation program.

Civilian Conservation Core

In the early 1930's a C. C. C. camp was established at Heppner to assist in the development of soil conservation practices and flood control work. Creek bottoms were cleaned out, small dams built to raise the water table for irrigation, and fences were also built. About 200 boys were located in the camp.

Soil Conservation District

Interest in a district organization resulted from the conservation program which was carried on by the Heppner S. C. S. — C. C. C. camp on the Willow and Hinton Creek project area from 1935 — 1941. When it became apparent that the Department of Agriculture was turning most of its technical assistance and other conservation facilities to organized districts, interested land owners who had benefitted from the conservation program of the C. C. C. camp inquired how they could organize a local district. John Hanna, W. E. Hughes, O. W. Cutsforth, John Wightman, Frank Wilkinson and Fred Mankin were instrumental in organizing a soil conservation district in 1941. At present the district now comprises approximately 305 operating farm and ranch units involving 1,330,600 acres.

Forest Service

Data from the Forest Service in Heppner discloses that David B. Shell-er took the lead in organizing the Heppner National Forest early in 1907 with headquarters at Heppner. It later became known as the Umatilla National Forest and now comprises timber land in southeastern Washington and Grant, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties in Oregon. Headquarters are now in Pendleton, Oregon — Heppner having a district ranger headquarters.

The first supervisor in charge of the Heppner National Forests was Thomas E. Chidsey, who was followed by Hugh B. Rankin and W. W. Cryder.

The duties of the forest service, then as now, dealt with the supervision of timber conservation, forest recreation (camping, fishing, and hunting), grazing of livestock on government lands and fire protection of the forest.

The Heppner Ranger District comprising Morrow, Grant and Wheeler Counties contains 228,927 acres of land. Of this total 197,21 acres is national forest and 30,656 acres are privately owned.

It is interesting to note that permits were given in 1959 for the grazing of 10,840 head of sheep and 925 head of cattle.

R. E. A. (Rural Electric Association)

The organization and incorporation of the Columbia Basin Rural Electric Association in 1940 made a great deal of difference in the life of the farmers of Morrow County. Due to the unavailability of materials during the war years, the electric current was not ready to be turned on till late November 1949. There were approximately 375 consumers originally and now there are over 800 consumers. In Morrow County the power comes from the Bonneville Power Association on the Hermiston-Ione 69,000 volt

transmission or high line to the two distribution sub-stations near Ione and Heppner. Here the voltage is reduced and sent out on a 7200 volt distribution line to the subscribers. Each subscriber pays a fee of \$3.50 a month, which is an amortization charge to repay principal and interest and a farm home useage charge according to the following schedule: first 50 KWH per month @9.5 per KWH; next, 50 KWH per month @5.0, next 100 KWH per month @2.5, next 100 KWH per month @1.5, over 300 KWH per month @1.0.

Radio And Television

The first radio reception in Morrow County was in 1920.

Television came to Morrow County first in 1955, and some people were able to receive the programs without any more than a few feet of aerial on their homes direct from Pasco KEPR. However, in most places it had to be picked up at a transmitter placed on a high butte and piped or cabled into town or to the individual farms. In some outlying districts (Rhea Creek—Eightmile) the cable is attached to the telephone lines. Later more and stronger booster transmitters were added and three or more stations could be received.

Morrow County Fair And Rodeo

The first county fair was held in 1912 in what is now the city park on the north main street of Heppner. Wallace Smead was the first fair manager and is credited with having a great influence in its promotion.

In 1922 the rodeo was organized with V. Gentry as the first manager. C. W. McNamer also helped in promoting this enterprise and served as its second manager. Marjorie (Clark) Riding, daughter of M. D. Clark was selected as the first Rodeo Queen.

The fair pavilion was located on the park block along with a large shed for the storing of county road

equipment. The pavilion was used for dances and roller skating when the fair was not in progress.

Although the fair was only held intermittently for a number of years, it became established and has been held annually since 1939 when it was moved to the present rodeo-fair grounds on Hinton Creek. This acreage was acquired by the county in trading the aforementioned block on main street to the city for the C. C. C. camp location which had been vacated some time before.

North Morrow Fair

According to available information, the North Morrow County Fair has been in existence since 1921. For many years it was held at different intervals between Boardman and Irrigon in the school gymnasiums. For many years now it has been held in Boardman. In 1952 a beautiful brick fair building was erected.

Morrow County Grain Growers

In 1930 the Morrow County Grain Growers, a grain marketing cooperative, at present managed by Al Lamb, was organized in Lexington. It was formed in order to more effectively handle the selling of wheat. The original capitol stock was \$25,000 of which nearly all was sold at \$30 per share. The first officers were: H. V. Smouse-president; R. W. Turner, secretary; R. B. Rice, George Peck, Ernest Heliker, Bert Johnson and Floyd Adams, directors and trustees. In 1932 it went into the wheat storage business in order to handle wheat in bulk, thereby reducing the cost of wheat production to the farmers. Its first elevator was built at Lexington. From this first elevator handling a few hundred thousand bushels of grain annually it now owns and operates 10 elevators; two in Heppner; two in Lexington; two in Ione; one at McNab; one at Ruggs; the North Lexington elevator and the Hogue Warner elevator at Paterson.

They handle over 3,600,000 bushels of wheat in 1958. It is the 2nd largest county grain marketing cooperative in Oregon.

Pioneer Memorial Hospital — Heppner

On June 11, 1950, the Pioneer Memorial Hospital was officially dedicated by Judge Garnet Barratt. This dedication was the culmination of a long hoped for dream of Morrow county residents, since the first step toward a hospital had been taken in 1944. Garnet Barratt donated the land on which the hospital was erected and numerous citizens in Morrow County were most generous with contributions; both of money and equipment. In his dedication address, Garnet Barratt, County Judge at that time, stated that not one cent of tax money entered into the purchase of equipment. All equipment had been bought by personal subscription funds.

In 1955, 20 more beds, including 4 pediatric beds, were added; bringing the total cost of the hospital to approximately one half million dollars, financed jointly through contributions, tax levies and Federal Hill-Burton funds.

In 1958 various improvements were added: an automatic ice machine; donated by Mrs Amanda Duvall; the installation of a laundry and the remodeling of the former County Health Nurse's quarters into 2 wards (adding five more beds) and a recreation room; the widening of the front parking area.

Wranglers

In March 1947 a group of horsemen from the county met and organized the Wranglers Riding Club with the primary purpose of the group being to encourage horeback riding as a family recreation. About 40 were included in the original membership and this number has grown until in 1959 there are 98 family memberships. Many activities have been carried out

by the group during the years including the following: in the spring and early summer a series of play days at member's ranches or the club grounds have furnished competition and training in mounted games and roping for adults and juniors. Each year the club has sponsored a horse show during Rodeo time. Fred Mankin has been superintendent of this event since its origin in 1949 with 6 entries and under his able leadership it has grown to 230 entries in 1958. In June of each year a Hey Day is held for competition in mounted games and riding clubs from surrounding communities are invited to compete. A Wranglers breakfast consisting of ham, eggs, hashed brown potatoes, pan cakes, and coffee has been served to some 500 people on Sunday of Rodeo. Trail rides are held a couple times a year. The club was housed in a building on the Rodeo grounds until 1957 when it purchased property on Willow Creek about two miles below Heppner and built its own arena. This group has added a great deal to the life of the people of Morrow County as indicated by the comment of one of the judges who came to our fair who said that there was great improvement in horsemanship and a marked improvement in the quality of horses in the last ten years.

Willow Creek Golf Club

In 1956 a group of persons interested in golf met and organized a golf club. They leased land on Willow Creek from Tom Wells and began work on the development of a course. At first there were seven holes but this has been enlarged to the standard nine hole course. Members donated time, work, money and materials to make this course and it was incorporated as a standard golf club in 1958. Recently new improvements have been added including sign boards, a graveled parking lot, new

cup standards, a ball washer at the creek, benches at the tees. Some of the activities of the club are mixed two-ball foresomes, competition in tournament with other clubs, ladies day on each Tuesday with lunch following play and a weekly column in the newspaper entitled "Over The Tee Cup". The club has grown from a membership of about nineteen in 1956 to sixty nine families and four student memberships in 1959.

Port of Morrow

Early in 1958 a group of interested citizens in the county began to circulate petitions for the establishment of a port commission in Morrow County. This was approved in the general election in 1958 and a Port Commission was selected consisting of George Weise, Boardman, chairman; Dewey West, Boardman; Garland Swanson, Ione; Al Lamb, Heppner; and Warren McCoy, Irrigon. This is one of the thirty six or eight port districts that have been established in Oregon and Washington along the Columbia River to better take advantage of our natural resources such as the electric power generated by the waters of the Columbia River. Morrow County will thus benefit from any industrial development along the river within the county limits.

Castle Rock

Castle Rock is mentioned in the Oregon Historical records as early as 1847. It was named for a rock formation along the river that resembled a castle. In 1847 a wagon train of 13 families camped there. Buffalo skin clad Pawnees approached the train, apparently out of curiosity. As they left they revealed their true purpose by stampeding the teams and stock. Several shots were fired, trail ropes grabbed and the animals retrieved. This was the only serious Indian incident experienced by this train. Later two men of this train, who had asserted with bravado that they would kill

an Indian during the trek to Oregon, were hunting for the train near Castle Rock. Pawnees again approached, forced them to disrobe, threw their boots back at them (as boots were useless to the Indian) and chased them at a fast clip back to the wagon train.

The magazine "West Shore" of October 1883 states: "Castle Rock now contains express office, post office, saloon, dwelling, school, etc. The growth of western towns is wonderful."

Evidently Castle Rock came into being as an ideal location for a shipping point. A ferry existed, and hay was ferried from Morrow County to sheep raisers on the Washington shore. Eventually the O. R. & N. Railroad was established and Castle Rock flourished as a major shipping depot for the county.

After the development of Boardman, Castle Rock's growth waned. The post office was closed after the Boardman post office was established. School children travelled to Boardman after the school was built. Around 1930 a fire took the two story business building.

Castle Rock today, in 1959, is a station for a siding and maintains a section foreman home and a cabin for crew workers.

Lena Community

Lena, located on little Butter Creek, has been active in production of cattle, sheep and horses. Grass is considered a valuable asset, and only a little farming is done. The hills are considered too steep for farming.

Many of the ranches originally claimed are still worked by members of the family up to the fourth generation. Some of these are Vinsons who came in 1852, the Hughes, Brosnans, and French families. Part of the W. E. Hughes ranch, where Allen Hughes now lives, was taken up by the following: Charles E. Hinton in 1881; Eliza Jane Ayers in 1896; and Sylvester Tipet in 1892. It changed hands several

times until Percy Hughes, father of W. E. Hughes, bought it in 1912. Jerry Brosnan came from Ireland to the Willamette Valley, where he helped build the Union Pacific Railroad. He came on to Morrow County in 1875 when he settled on the place where his grandson, Jerry, now farms. Raymond French also lives on the same place his grandfather, Dillard French, originally owned.

The Charles Hinton family lived on the place now owned by the Randall Martins. An interested incident is told how Mrs Hinton made good money selling biscuits to the soldiers who camped at Lena.

Ed Day settled on little Butter Creek in 1878. He raised sheep and was especially noted for his herd of Delaine Merino bucks. He supplied the northwest with these breeding animals. In 1890 he sold out to Robert Hynd and William Barratt. Hynd and Barratt had only been acquainted for fifteen minutes, but their partnership lasted for nine years. Garnet Barratt, son of William Barratt still owns a farm on upper Butter Creek.

Michael Kenney, who came from Ireland in 1879, took up a homestead and pre-emption claim. This is owned by Mrs John Healy and farmed by her two sons, Tom and Bill Healy.

Some of the other early settlers were Edward Kilcup, a native of Nova Scotia, who settled on the place now owned by W. W. Weatherford; Hugh Fields and Andy Tillard, who were early owners of the Kilkenny and Currin ranches; and Felix Johnson who owned Joe Kenny's ranch.

The raising of fine race horses by Thomas J. and Cresswell Matlock is remembered by many. Although Thomas J. Matlock did not live on Butter Creek, he did have a race track at the ranch where John Hanna, Jr. now lives. Besides running sheep, Mr. Matlock had one hundred head of

fine thorough-bred trotting and running horses. He owned Reppeta, the fastest running mare in Oregon. Her time was 1:40 on a mile course in a regular race. His brother, Cresswell, raised fine race horses on the former Pirl Hirl place now owned by Arvine Porter. A fine barn with box stalls still stands on the ranch.

The Lena Post Office served the community from June 11, 1873 until it was discontinued in 1942, when a star route was established out of Heppner. C. E. Hinton was the first post master. The post office was moved from ranch to ranch with each change of post masters.

Lena Cemetery is located five miles below Lena and is under the care of the Cemetery Commission which insures its safe keeping. Among the early settlers buried there are members of the following families: Kenny, Howards, Felix Johnson, Wigglesworth, Vinson, Waddell, Adams, Day, Hinton. Newman, Presley, Pearson, Franklin, Smith, Shell, Bennett, Fleek and Crawford. One row of graves consists of the five Crawford children who died in September 1878, possibly of diphtheria.

Franklin Hill

On highway 74 between Pilot Rock and Heppner is a grade known as Franklin Hill. It takes its name from an old family, the Franklins. They lived at the foot of the grade and kept a stage station. Here passengers stayed overnight and horses were exchanged for a fresh team at the stage barn up the canyon where William Instone later took up a homestead. In those days banking of money was a problem and the Franklins are said to have buried their gold to keep it safe. Some think that there is still gold buried there.

Schools on Little Butter Creek

In 1885 the school house was located approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below the

present Jerry Brosnan home. It was located on a bank, across the creek from the road. It is not known exactly when this building was erected, but Lulu Hinton Johnson started to school there in 1885.

There were children coming from almost every canyon in those days, as people were proving up on homesteads. As there were quite a few children living on Big Butter Creek, the school was later moved up to the foot of Pageant Hill. This more centrally located, and could accomodate the children from both creeks. Lottie Scher-singer, who now lives in Heppner, was one of the teachers who taught while the school house was located there.

The next move was to the mouth of Howard Canyon, where it was located until 1918 or 1919. It was relocated at this time because of the water being tested and declared impure.

The final move was to the place where the building now stands. A good spring was available here; a new building was erected. Myrtle Miller was the teacher when this change was made. School was held here from 1918 or 1919 until 1936, with the exception of the year 1934-35, it was held at the Joe Hays place that year as there were only two children attending school. The Lena School District has since consolidated with Heppner School District and students are taken by bus to school in Heppner.

Indian Attack At Willow Springs

The attack at Willow Springs was one of the skirmishes in the Bannock and Piute War of 1878. Chief Buffalo Horn of the Bannocks attempted to unite all Indians west of the Missouri River into a confederacy to wipe out the whites. He started from Fort Hall, Idaho with about five hundred warriors of the Snake and Piute tribes. On July 2, 1878 Major Narcisse A. Conroyer, an Indian Agent, reported con-

tact with the hostile Indians while out on the John Day River with a hunting party. Settlers hastened by horseback and wagon and on foot to the nearest towns for protection. Chief Buffalo Horn was killed in one of the skirmishes before the Indians reached the Blue Mountains so the command of the allied force of the Snake and Piutes devolved upon Chief Egan of the Piutes. Many say that if Egan had been the great leader that Chief Joseph was the outcome of the war might have been in favor of the Indians. Egan's army of Indians arrived in and had possession of Camas Prairie on July 4 but Egan hesitated, allowing time for the whites to muster their forces. On July 5, 1878 Sheriff John L. Sperry started for the front with a company from Weston and went as far as Pilot Rock. July 6 they marched from Pilot Rock towards Camas Prairie and stopped at Willow Springs for dinner. Willow Springs was about 15 miles south of Pilot Rock and consisted of a house, a shed and a sheep corral. While at dinner the volunteers were attacked by the Indians. At first alarm thirteen of the volunteers struck out for Pendleton on horseback. The others took refuge in the shed where they made a stout resistance all afternoon. William Lamar, a school teacher, was killed during the engagement. A retreat of the volunteers began at midnight and they were attacked four times in about six miles with the loss of one man, Harrison Hale, Major Throckmorton of Walla Walla started to the relief of Sperry's party and soon after daylight met the retreating volunteers about four miles north of Pilot Rock. He escorted them safely back to Pendleton. The present state park at Battle Mountain was named for these Indian encounters.

Pine City Community — 1862

Pine City was named for the group of pine trees which were standing on the creek bank nearby. There were quite a number of these pine trees in early years but only a few remain standing—these are known to be more than one hundred years old.

In the southern part of this community there are two forks of the creek known as Butter Creek. The north fork and south fork, running practically parallel and joining just north of the present Pine City school house. Both of these forks start in the Blue Mountains.

A Thomas Ayers was believed to be the first settler on what is now known as the Vey Place. Records show he owned it by 1878. The three Vey brothers came originally from Portugal and worked for Mr. Ayers. The year 1878 also marked the last Indian uprising in this community. One of the Vey brothers was killed by the Indians. Later Mr. Ayers sold the place to the two other brothers. A nephew still owns the place. Other early settlers along the creek were John Barker, whose place is now part of the Vey ranch. Alfred Ayers settled the place now owned by Raymond Porter, and a Mr. Shaw was the first settler on the place now owned by Laurence Doherty.

The first place south, on the south fork, was owned by Jacob Yarlett. He died and his widow married Thomas Scott. Scott sold out to Harry Bartholomew and later Charles Bartholomew. This place is still in the Bartholomew family as it is owned by Charles' daughter, Lila (Bartholomew) Myers and her husband, Jasper. Scott owned the next place also and later sold to E. O. Neill. John Alex Thompson family was next up the creek and later this place was sold to John Healy. Edward Day was the owner of the next ranch which is now owned by Marion Finch.

The first settler at Pine City was believed to be William Jones who later sold to J. J. Galloway. Other first settlers on down the creek were Job Smith, who lived on a place belonging to Mathew Neaves, later sold to J. T. Hoskins, who also owned the next place. These two places are still in the Wattenburger family. E. G. Sloan settled on the next place in the late '70's. It passed on to several owners and is now owned by Barney Doherty. Mr. Reader settled on the next place in the early 60's and sold to C. B. Atwood in 1870. This place is now at the junction of the Lexington—Butter Creek highway.

J. J. Galloway erected a nice home across the creek from the Pine City school house; the present location of the Ashbeck and Luciana homes. Then he also erected a large building which housed a general store, post office and blacksmith shop. Mr. Galloway wrote to Washington, D. C. asking to have the post office named Pine City. There was already one in Oregon with that name, so it was called Galloway. The post office was established in 1892.

There was also a post office called Atwood at the junction of the Lexington-Butter Creek highway. The mail was taken by stage coach from Echo to Heppner one day and then returned the next. People received mail from Echo three days a week. It is thought the mail was taken to Galloway Post Office, from stage line, on horseback.

It appears the first church was built just south of the present school building around 1885. It was United Brethren. On June 14, 1889, a cyclone passed through the neighborhood and the church was completely demolished. A chair in the building was carried to the top of the hill and set down without being harmed. J. T. Hoskins, in 1896, donated land near the site of the school house for a new

church, which was erected with \$50 in cash and donations from neighbors of labor and equipment. This building stood until about 1945 when it was torn down. This building was also used several years for school purposes.

The children walked or rode horseback to school in a small building near the old store. A one-room school house was erected in 1906, on the site of the present building. This building was added onto around 1915 and additions followed in a few years until the present building was completed. In the 1920's it was a four year accredited high school as well as a grade school. About 1948 or a little later the school was closed and the

children were transported to Echo.

The winters of 1882 and 1883 were very severe. The snow was about three feet deep and the temperature got down to 36 degrees below zero. A few years later they had what they call the double winter (two severe storms) when hundreds of head of livestock froze and starved to death, because there wasn't enough feed put up for the winter.

Most of the grazing land has been plowed up and wheat has become a major crop since 1915. The water from Butter Creek was the only means of irrigation, up until a few years ago, but now there are numerous wells used for irrigation in addition to the creek.

Lexington 1863

The Pioneer Period

Lexington, built on a large level tract of land in the Willow Creek basin at the mouth of Black Horse Canyon in Morrow County, has interesting history. It is located on the homestead of William Penland, who at an early date is reported to have brought into the county one of the first bands of sheep. Being a man of great resourcefulness and backed by great wealth, he gradually acquired (through purchases and leases) vast land holdings on which he grazed his many bands of sheep. He established his headquarters here; which in time became one of the finest ranches in this part of the then Umatilla County. He was known as the "sheep king" and became one of the wealthiest men of his time.

The Penland home was an imposing two-and-a-half story white house. A large porch, with balcony, stretched across the front of the house. The front door opened into a long hall with the parlor and sitting room on either side. Both parlor and sitting room had large bay windows-one facing the town and the other facing south. A curved stairway led to an open hall on the second floor. The three bedrooms opened from this hall. There was also a stairway to the attic which provided further sleeping quarters.

At the end of the downstairs hall a door opened into a large dining room which reached the entire width of the house. The kitchen was back of the dining room, and a large wood shed and store in back of it. A fruit and root cellar under the kitchen was entered from the store room which was a few steps lower than the kitchen.

On the south side of the house was another long porch with doors opening from the dining room and kitchen. A sidewalk led to the well,

which was enclosed by a lattice wall roofed like a chinese pagoda. This was covered by vines and surrounded with flowers.

The house was beautifully furnished with the much prized horse hair chairs and settees in the parlor. Traditional furnishings were found in all other parts of the house.

Many large trees- mostly poplars, surrounded the house with its many old fashioned flower beds.

The house, in later years was rented to various people. It finally was in such a state of disrepair that it was abandoned. By the time the farm was purchased by Newt O'Hara the house was a complete wreck and was torn down by them.

In a few years Penland's headquarters became a small settlement. Besides the various establishments used in connection with the running of his business, other establishments gradually accumulated; stores, eating houses, hotels, shops, etc. One of the first shops was that of the blacksmith shop of Jack McVey. At an early date an Armory was built; perhaps as a precautionary measure, not feeling too sure of the Indian situation.

Early Settlers

A few of the early settlers at Lexington, arriving some time after Mr. Penland were: Mr. Breeding, locating about two miles south of Lexington; H. Leach, and Hiram Clark, who laid claim to land north of Lexington on Willow Creek at the junction from the canyon on the south (later known as Clark's Canyon). A few years later came the J. R. Willis, the George Browns, The Jacob Ernests, George and Mary Smith and the William Stauffers settling in the Social Ridge area and helping to establish the early school there.

In 1885, the year Morrow County was formed out of the west end of

Umatilla County, by an act of legislature, Heppner was designated as the temporary county seat. Penland proposed to build a town which would contend with Heppner for the honor of being the new county's permanent seat of government. With this in mind, he gave a part of his ranch for a town site, had it surveyed and streets and blocks laid out. To Mrs. Penland was given the honor of choosing its name. She chose Lexington after her old home in Lexington, Kentucky. An entire city block (block 8) was deeded by Penland to the town and over \$3,000 was subscribed by T. J. Allen, Andrew Reaney, Thomas Reaney, T. W. Halley, Charles McBee, B. F. King, Homer McFarland, Edward Cluff, George W. Harris, Frank Reaney, W. J. Davis, Henry Padberg, A. J. Kimsie, Fred Geiger and H. J. Hale for the erection of a court house. This was in the event that Lexington won the election, which was to be held the following year. The election, in which practically everyone in the county voted, was held on June 7, 1886. The result was so close that neither side would concede defeat. The decision was left to the court who decided in favor of Heppner.

Early Businesses

At this early date Lexington was a busy thriving town. Besides the initial buildings of Mr. Penland, the residences (other than log cabins), there was in the early fall of 1886 the general merchandise store of Homer McFarland managed by him for E. B. McFarland, his uncle; the general store of Davis and Workman; the hardware and tin shop of T. W. Halley; two grocery stores—one owned by William Blair and one by W. B. McAllister; the implement store of N. A. Thompson; the drugstore of E. W. Harris; post office with E. Fenton's jewelry store in the same building; a meat market run by Cooley and Hodson; the millinery store of Mrs. T.

W. Halley; the blacksmith shops of Dave Letsinger and Jack McVey; the saloon of Henry Keats; the livery stable of Reaney and son; a feed yard belonging to "Tex" Croft; the furniture store of E. T. Carr; the Palace Restaurant; the Allen and Tibbets Hotel; the barber shop of Joe Gibson; a saloon of William Plinn; the grist mill of Rice and Davis; a newspaper; the Bunchgrass Blade; two halls—the armory, in which school and church services were held, and a large hall over McFarlands store, and the post office.

The post office had been established in 1884 and called Salineville with Mary E. Benefiel as postmaster. In 1885 its name was changed to Lexington and was approved by the U. S. Government. The postmaster then was Nathaniel Yates. In 1886 George Harris was post master followed through the years by W. B. McAllister, James Leach, Mrs. W. B. McAllister, W. P. McMillan, Mrs. Emma Breshears who after 45 years of service retired this spring (1959) and Mrs. Wilbur Steagall.

First Schools

As noted above, the first school was held in the Armory; Mrs. E. R. Beach the teacher. When the Congregational church was built school was maintained there, until a school house could be built. In 1888 and '89 a two room building with fairly large rooms—one upstairs and one down with steps going to the upstairs room on the outside of the building, was erected in the south end of town. Early teachers here were J. E. Tibbets, Ella Mason, J. D. Brown, and others. In 1894 the district built a new two story school house at its present location in the north end of town. A few of these teachers were: S. E. Notson, R. B. Wilcox, (the first one to teach the ninth grade), Arnold Balziger, Ada Gentry, Dona Barnett and Elsie Palmer Beach and Joseph Wade. In 1915 this building was enlarged

and remodeled. The new addition of brick and the old part of brick veneer. This made a modern structure with four class rooms and a first aid room on the first floor. Upstairs were three class rooms and an auditorium. A kitchen, dining room, showers and rest rooms were in the basement. This is as the building is today — still in very good condition. A few of the teachers may be mentioned: Ina Gilbert; Emma (Millet) Peck; Ladd Sherman; Pearl (Vail) Gentry; George Gillis and W. D. Campbell. One teacher who taught a number of years was Lillian Turner through whose eighth grade many boys and girls passed. A later teacher is Mrs. Juanita Carmichael.

Some of the early out-lying one room school houses in which allgrades from the 1st through the 8th were taught by one teacher at a salary from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per month were: The Social Ridge, Clark's Canyon, Devine, Hodson, Black Horse, Alpine, and Strawberry schools. Later these schools were consolidated with the Lexington school.

Fire of 1886

In the late fall of 1886 Lexington experienced a devastating fire. It is reported to have started in the livery barn of A. Reaney, where some fine horses were stabled and much hay stored. These were destroyed and three of the principal business blocks reduced to ashes. Two men were convicted of starting the fire and were sentenced to 5 years each in the State Penitentiary. The cause, whether intentional or accidental, was never definitely ascertained. Not much insurance was carried by the businessmen of the destroyed areas, hence not much rebuilding was attempted for some time. In 1888 and '89 business showed recuperative strength as gleaned from business advertisers carried in 1889 and '90 by "The Budget": T. W. Halley, Hardware and Tin Shop; George Har-

ris, (successor of N. A. Thompson) Machinery; H. McFarland and Company, Merchandise; George W. Harris, City Drug Store; J. O. Kirk, dry goods (groceries, boots and shoes); Joseph L. Gibson, barber and confectionary; R. Lieuallen, blacksmith; Towns & Mathews home restaurant and lodging house; William Estes, Blacksmith; J. W. Lieuallen, meat market; William Penland, general merchandise managed by William Blair; Henry Padberg, city drug store; J. W. Brock, carriage and wagon maker; J. W. Redford, the Lexington Hotel; Nelse Madison, Elkhorn livery and feed stable; E. R. Beach, nursery; Davis and Burgoyne, Lexington Flour Mill; W. B. McAllister, the Boss Store of groceries and provisions; the Lexington Saloon; W. M. Lewis, physician and surgeon; Dr. E. T. Georghegan, physician and surgeon; Snow and Whitson, Notary Publics and Real Estate agents; E. P. Sine, attorney at law and notary public; S. B. Hope's chop mill. Others not advertised though also to be included were K. L. Beach, plumbing and hardware; Mrs. Eli Summers, hotel; N. A. Leach, store (this had not been destroyed by fire). This business spurt was rather short lived for there followed an era of short crops and the financial panic of 1893 when wheat sold for 15 cents a bushel and eggs at 5 cents per dozen. Many of these established were forced to close up or move away. There followed a business slump for a few years until in the 1900's.

Pioneer Church

The pioneer church, the Congregational, was built in 1887. Credit for its erection at this early date is given to the Rev. E. R. Beach, to the people of the community, and to the Congregational Church Building Fund. The Congregational Ladies Aid was organized in 1907 and was active for many years. In 1899 the Methodist-Episcopal church and parsonage were

built with the Rev. Thorougham its first minister, followed by the Rev. W. O. Miller and Rev. Turner.

In 1918 the church and parsonage were purchased by the Church of Christ group who in 1938 were joined by the Congregational group for Sunday School and Church services. The Congregational Church building was later sold to the Veteran's of Foreign Wars.

Lexington Cyclone

A cyclone, a rare occurrence in this area, struck Lexington on June 14, 1888. Its path went through the west end of town, causing the death of Mrs. Brock, when their barn was demolished. Much damage was done north and west of town to homes and farm buildings. One school house was completely wrecked, injuring some pupils. Not much property damage was done to the main part of town other than partly unroofing the Armory Hall, which was located in the northwestern part of town. The trees in the grove on Willow Creek below town were sheared off, as if they had been mowed. The grove was cleaned up, trees replanted, and the grove used for many years for Sunday School picnics and 4th of July celebrations.

Lexington Cemetery

The cemetery (the first one established in the county) was on the flat which is now a residential district. Later Mr. Penland gave a site from his ranch on a rise west of town for a new location. All graves were then moved. Mr. and Mrs. Penland are both buried here—he in 1901 at the age of 62 years and she in 1917, 74 years old. In 1905 the Odd Fellows lodge purchased land from Mrs. Penland for its cemetery plot, adjoining the Penland Cemetery.

Lexington Newspapers

Lexington has had three weekly newspapers. The first one was "The Bunchgrass Blade" which carried the

cudgel for Lexington in its fight for the county seat. The next one, in 1887, "The Weekly Budget" by Snow and Whitson, lasted a little over three years, then was sold to a Heppner concern who ran it under the name of the "Heppner Record." The last one the "Wheatfield" was run by S. S. Thomas.

Pioneer Homesteaders

The town of Lexington is a tributary to some fertile, level, and slightly rolling land in the Social Ridge, Clarks Canyon and Blackhorse areas and northward to "the Sands". It is reported that the Blackhorse area (so named from an early story of a band of wild horses being led by a large black stallion) seemed to be the spot in which raising wheat hay and wheat was first begun. Some of the early wheat farmers in this section were Kirk, Swetser, and Duran. Practically the entire surrounding country is now under cultivation and has become a rich wheat growing area.

Available data shows that the following homesteaders came to this area during the great migration of the 1880's and '90's.

Edgar Palmer and family, from Iowa, homesteaded southwest of Lexington in the Social Ridge section in 1882. A son, Lawrence, was an early school teacher.

The Benges of Iowa, came in 1884. Mrs. Benge is said to have named this section "Social Ridge" because she found her neighbors so sociable.

Eph and Joe Eskelson located on land in the Social Ridge area also. They came from Montana to Weston and later to Lexington, in 1884, to work on the railroad. Here they established a home and brought their families. Joe bought the J. R. Willis place in Clark's Canyon. The early school was held in Eph Eskelson's house until a school building could be built.

John Carmichael and family left

their home in Illinois in the year of 1877 and came west to Umatilla County near Weston. Five years later they moved to Morrow County near Penland Buttes. Besides farming they had an extensive orchard.

The John McMillan family of Tennessee came west by emigrant train arriving in Echo in the fall of 1886. (Some early settlers came by railroad. Their livestock and possessions, and often the family itself, occupied a railroad car). They were met here by an uncle, Pres Workingham, in a lumber wagon to bring them and their household goods to Lexington. The next year the five boys, with four horses, worked on the railroad for \$6.00 a day. Later they filed on land northeast of Lexington. This land is still owned by the family and is being farmed by grandsons Sam and Dennis McMillan.

In 1881 Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Swaggart located on land known then as Penland Buttes (now called Swaggart Buttes), nine miles east of Lexington. By filing on a homestead, a pre-emption claim, donations, timber cultures and through claims and purchases they acquired some 3000 acres of farm and pasture land. They were accomplished horse men, raising and breeding the famous Creamoline strain of horses. This ranch has been operated 77 years by a member of the family. A granddaughter, Mrs Gloria Swaggert Dolven with her husband and son, are now operating it.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Campbell filed on a homestead in the fall of 1887 in the Social Ridge District, seven miles southwest of Lexington. In 1892 he helped organize School District No. 53. He owned and operated the first threshing machine in that area continuing in the threshing business until 1916 when he and Mrs. Campbell moved to Heppner. He was a Morrow County Commissioner from July 1, 1908 until December 31, 1924 and was Coun-

ty Judge from January 1, 1931 to December 31, 1936.

The J. M. White family came to this community in 1884. He first farmed; then he operated the livery and feed stable in Lexington. He was the town constable and justice of the peace.

R. A. Nichols came to the area with his mother in 1884. He did some farming, then moved to town to join W. E. Leach in merchandising.

Clinton N. Peck came to Lexington in 1887 where he worked for awhile for Mr. Penland. He purchased a quarter section of deeded land in Clark's Canyon. By filing on a timber culture adjoining this property, taking a pre-emption quarter and a railroad quarter, he acquired seven quarter sections of land. His grandson Kenneth Peck won the title of "State Conservation Man of the Year" on this farm in 1956.

The James Leach family were early pioneer farmers. Their sons were active in business in Lexington the early part of the twentieth century.

Josiah S. Boothby, a Civil War veteran who served with distinction under Colonel Stevens, General Logan and General Grant; came with his wife to Lexington from Kansas in 1883. He took up land and engaged in raising wheat and cattle. In 1894 he was elected to the State Legislature. Here he made a hard fight to have the Columbia River opened for navigation by the state, so that farmers of the inland could obtain cheaper freight rates.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Reaney came at an early date and had a creek ranch and orchard.

C. C. Boone of Illinois, a lineal descendant of the noted Daniel Boone, took up his abode here in 1882. Besides his house in town, he owned one quarter section of land six miles north of town. For sixteen years he was the constable and deputy sheriff.

He was affiliated with Rawlins Post No. 38 of the G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic).

The W. F. Barnett family, from Arkansas, settled on a homestead north of Lexington in 1886. The first years he freighted, with wagon and team, from Arlington to Heppner. He worked for a time for Mr. Penland. Later he purchased land and began farming and raising Black Angus and Hereford cattle. He did community threshing with a stationary machine. He moved to Lexington and purchased the general merchandise store of Nichols and Leach in 1902. In 1915 he erected a new store which has been in the Barnett family for 43 years. Mr. Barnett was mayor of Lexington for a number of years and was active in church and civic affairs.

W. G. Scott family came from Iowa to Morrow County in 1885, where he operated a saw mill at the head of Willow Creek. They came to the Blackhorse area in 1896 where he purchased land on which he raised hay, horses, and purebred Shorthorn cattle. After moving to Lexington he was manager of the branch of the Heppner First National bank and later president of the Lexington State Bank.

W. B. McAllister from Iowa, located on the hill directly north of Lexington in 1884. Later they moved to town where they ran the post office.

Lexington's Outstanding Football Players

Harvey McAllister, son of the W. B. McAllister's brought fame to his home town by his prowess on the football squad at Oregon Agricultural College (Oregon State College) where he was affectionately called "Pap Hayseed." He played center on the varsity, the third year that they wore the school colors of orange and black, and won the coast championship. He was chosen center on the "All Pacific Coast team."

Dallas Ward, another graduate of Lexington High School in 1925, won high scholastic and athletic honors at Oregon State College. He was student body president, played end on the football team and was elected end on the "Pacific Coast" team for two years. After graduation he was hired as football coach at Marshall High School in Minneapolis. Then he became assistant coach, under Bernie Bierman, at the University of Minnesota. Next he was hired as head football coach at the University of Colorado, at Denver where he coached for eight years. He is still a member of the University of Colorado faculty.

Lexington 20th Century Period

On October 3, 1903, Lexington was incorporated by an act of legislature as a town. It's first mayor was S. E. Notson, later County School Superintendent of Morrow County. Before that time, the law and order of the community was vested in a Justice of the Peace and a Constable. Perhaps the most famous of the constables was Col. C. C. Boone, the lineal descendant of Daniel Boone. Andrew Reaney was the first Justice of the Peace in the county.

Floods

The Heppner flood of June 14, 1903 was one of the major floods to strike Lexington. There were no lives lost here but a great deal of damage done to property; buildings moved, and wrecked, lumber and debris scattered everywhere, wells and basements filled with water and mud. The Methodist Church and parsonage were moved and so badly wrecked that they had to be rebuilt. The tracks of the O. R. & N. railroad were washed out from Heppner to below town for about two miles. Trains came to this point with supplies and were taken by wagon and teams the rest of the way for several days. Blackhorse Canyon had flash floods from time to time before the channel was changed

and dyked. One of the worst of these occurred in May 1925 and did much damage by moving buildings and flooding homes. The general store of W. F. Barnett had damage to the extent of \$15000 to their merchandise by the flood.

Lexington Banks

The first bank to be established was about 1905 and was a branch bank of the Heppner State Bank managed by W. B. McAllister. When this one was closed a branch of the First National Bank of Heppner was opened with W. G. Scott as manager. Later stockholders organized the Lexington State Bank with W. G. Scott as President; W. O. Hill as cashier; George McMillan, Karl Beach, and W. E. Leach as directors.

Water System

In 1904 the first water system was put in by W. G. Scott with Karl Beach later becoming his partner in the enterprise. In 1939 and 1940, under the leadership of Thomas L. Barnett as mayor, the town council had a new well drilled. This well was constructed with the aid of the W. P. A. to give the present larger system.

In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Newlon of Seattle, Washington, began drilling a well on the homestead of R. B. Rice. They found plenty of water, but it was not an artesian well, so they moved a mile and began drilling close to the house. In October 1915 they struck artesian water. Mr. Newlon estimated the flow at 240 gallons per minute. Now in 1959 it is still flowing and being used for irrigation.

Organizations

Lexington Odd Fellows Lodge No. 168 was organized May 22, 1903 with the following officers: George McKee, Frank M. Smith, Ephriam Eskelson, Ralph Bengé, John W. Beckett, Edwin L. Wood and M. W. Fray. In 1904 Holly Rebekah Lodge No. 139 was organized having 10 charter members with Elizabeth Campbell being the

first elected Noble Grand. These lodges are still active and flourishing. The Woodmen of the World, the United Artesian and Independent Order of Good Templars Lodges were organized and active for a time but are now disbanded.

An annual Pioneer Reunion was organized in October 1922. It was held in Leach Memorial Hall in October of each year until 1932.

Lexington Grange No. 726 was organized May 22, 1929 with 51 charter members. S. J. Devine was the first master and Mrs. Pearl Devine was Chairman of the Home Economics Committee. Meetings were held in the Odd Fellows Hall until 1935 when the Grange Hall was built, three miles north of Lexington, near the Lexington-Jarman highway. It now has a membership of 101 with Vernon Munkers as master and his wife, Faye Munkers as Home Economics Chairman.

On November 17, 1953 the Edwards Way Post No. 6098 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, named in honor of Clyde Edwards and Stanley Way, who were killed in action in World War II, was organized. The first officers were: Edward Way, Commander; Elroy Martin, Senior Vice Commander; George Erwin, Chaplain; Carl Marquardt, Quarter Master and Adjutant. The V. F. W. Auxiliary was organized November 17, 1954 with Mrs. Edward Way, President; Catie Padberg, Vice President.

The G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Rawlins Post No. 38 had an active encampment in 1889 as recorded in the Lexington Weekly Budget of that date. It also was reported that Co. D., Oregon National Guard, was stationed here at that time. An ad in the Weekly Budget under the date of February 28, 1889, announced a centennial (the one-hundredth year since inauguration of George Washington) Inaugural Ball and also hon-

oring the inauguration of Harrison, newly elected U. S. President, to be held March 4th under the management of Co. D., Oregon National Guard; all members of the company were expected to appear in uniform.

History of Business In Lexington

By the turn of the century, as farming became general, and the surrounding country became further developed, and population increased; various necessary businesses were established in the town of Lexington.

Grain Warehouses

The Penlands built a small platform warehouse on the railroad. This was later taken over by James Burgoyne who operated it in connection with his flour mill until 1924.

The Lexington Farmers Warehouse was organized in 1925 with Clarence Hasseltine, as its first manager. Other managers were Sim Strodman and Harry Dinges (until 1936).

At an early date Kerr Gifford built a sack warehouse. It was managed first by N. A. Leach, then by Charles Johnson and W. P. McMillan. George McMillan and W. S. Scott took over the warehouse in 1917 and built on an extensive addition. It was operated under the name of Scott and McMillan Warehouse Company. After the death of Mr. Scott it was sold to Henry Collins who called it the Independent Warehouse Company. Ralph Jackson was manager until 1933. When the Farmers National Warehouse Corporation was formed he was hired as their manager until 1936 when the Morrow County Grain Growers bought all the warehouse facilities in Lexington. Eventually the warehouse was torn down and replaced with the present elevators.

Morrow County Grain Growers

The headquarters of the Morrow County Grain Growers, second largest county grain marketing cooperative in Oregon, has its headquarters in Lexington.

Implement Companies

Through the 1900's the following implement and mercantile businesses were formed, changed hands, are still in business, or discontinued.

Leach Brothers, who at an early date operated a hardware store, acquired the agency of McCormick Deering Machinery line. They also handled Leaders and Winona wagons.

In 1920 Karl L. Beach, a plumbing and hardware dealer, became the first International Harvester agent. After his death in 1930 his widow and son, Lawrence, operated the business until 1935. At that time the Jackson Implement Company was incorporated and bought the Beach dealership. It was purchased by Mervin Leonard in 1946, who now handles this machinery line under the name of Lexington Implement Company.

The Karl L. Beach Estate, after selling to Jackson, formed the Beach Implement Company, handling the Allis, Chalmers machinery. This line was sold to Padberg and Son, who now also handle the Massey-Ferguson machinery line.

Grocery & General Merchandise Stores

Nichols and Leach, in 1898, bought the T. L. Barnett grocery store. They purchased the Penland store in 1904 and moved their merchandise into this building which had once been occupied by McFarlands. Later W. E. Leach purchased the entire stock and building of "Nichols and Leach" (R. A. Nichols and N. A. Leach) He put in an immense stock — hardware, machinery, groceries, dry goods, (men's women's and children's clothing) and at one time even had motion picture machine (run by M. F. Parker) installed in the store. Mr. Leach had the honor of owning the first touring car (Michigan) in Lexington — if not the first in the county. After his death in 1917, his widow operated the merchandise business until 1929. She then closed out the entire stock of

merchandise and gave the store building and lodge hall to the Lexington Odd Fellows Lodge as a memorial to her husband, W. E. Leach.

In 1902 W. F. Barnett bought Nichols and Leach's old store building. He stocked a line of groceries. He enlarged the building in 1915 and added a line of general merchandise. In the last years it has changed hands four times. It is now owned and operated by Archie Nichols.

The Charles Barnett Hotel, located on main street, was built in 1896. After operating it for several years he sold it to Mrs E. A. Beymer of Eight-mile. When she closed the hotel it was remodeled and is now the grocery store and residence of E. E. Peck.

R. H. Lane operated a Pastime (tavern), grocery and meat market. After he passed away it was bought by C. C. Carmichael. He built a concrete building on the corner and added a cold storage plant. It is now owned and operated by Kenneth Klinger.

The Barber Shop of J. E. Gentry was first sold to Carl Allyn, then to Callie Duncan. The business has now discontinued.

Henderson Brothers Garage and Service Station was closed in 1955.

W. J. Davis and Son, carpenters and builders, erected many of the homes in the town and surrounding country.

Lexington Oil Co-op

By the 1920's farming, which from early days was done by horses and mules, was now being done by tractors. This demanded adequate supplies of gas and lubricating oils. The spread between the price of these supplies at Portland and local markets was found to be so great that farming with tractors was not practical. Interested farmers met and discussed ways of obtaining these essentials from Portland at wholesale costs. They decided to organize an oil company

with shares selling at \$5.00 per share; until enough were sold to insure sufficient capital to incorporate. After the prescribed number were sold, a meeting was held by the stockholders in Lexington on April 13, 1931 to incorporate. Fred Mankin was the Chairman of the Incorporating Committee. The following directors were elected: J. O. Turner for one year; Fred Mankin and J. O. Kincaid to serve five years; Karl Beach and Glenn Jones for three years. At a meeting of the Board of Directors, Fred Mankin was chosen President; Glenn Jones, Vice President; J. O. Kincaid, secretary and treasurer; and Karl Beach, general manager. The office of this business was located in Lexington. It was first named Morrow County Oil Company, a corporation, and later changed to "Lexington Oil Cooperative" in order to affiliate with the Pacific Supply Cooperative of Walla Walla, Washington. Under the various able managers it has succeeded far beyond their greatest expectations. Other lines, besides gas and lubricants, have been added from time to time. For the last 18 years it has increased its business from \$43,000 until in 1958 it exceeded \$204,000. Its present manager is Joel Engleman; Directors are Edwin H. Miller, Jr., President; W. A. Munkers, Secretary and Treasurer; Karl G. Miller, M. V. Nolan and Paul Jones, directors. It is worthy of mention that Fred Mankin was President for the first eighteen years and J. O. Kincaid, secretary, until his death in 1939.

Doctors

Dr. C. C. Chick practiced in Lexington for a time when he first came west. He later practiced in Hardman and Ione. Dr. Hunter practiced medicine here for several years.

Fire Department

The first fire fighting was done by the bucket brigade; the next was with a second hand fire truck purchased from Condon. Then in 1955 a modern

fire truck completely equipped to handle all emergencies, and manned by volunteer firemen under Fire Chief, William J. Van Winkle, Jr, was purchased by the town when Mervin Leonard was Mayor. A concrete block City Hall was erected in 1956.

Airport

In the winter of 1944-45 the Civil Air Patrol was organized in Morrow County by Walter Ready and other interested men. The site chosen for the airport was on 80 acres of land north of Lexington. Before the dedicatory ceremony to be held July 4, 1945, crews of men (some with farm tractors) graded, surveyed, and established runways. The members of the first governing body of the organization were: Conley Lanham, Frank Turner, Milton Morgan, Kenneth Smouse, Clifford Yarnell, and Archie Munkers with Clifford Yarnell as Chairman. Jack Forsythe was the first

operator and flying school instructor. Gar Leyva is the present operator. (1959).

Business of Today

As of 1959 the businesses operating are: Nichols Grocery; Hatfield Grocery, now owned by E. E. Peck; Mervin Leonard's Machinery handling the International Harvester Company line; Padberg and Sons Machinery with the Massey Ferguson and Allis Chalmer line; Mrs. Cornelison's Cafe; Gene Orwick's Chevron Station and Garage; Klinger's Tavern; Lexington Oil Co-op; Morrow County Grain Growers Office; warehouse and elevators; Parson's T. V. Shop; and buildings other than business houses are the City Hall, IOOF, the post office, the Airport, V. F. W. Hall. Grade and High School with an active P-TA, Christian Church and many modern homes.

Rhea Creek - 1864

Rhea Creek, with its abundant water from the Blue Mountains and its surrounding open grass country, was an ideal location for growing livestock. Its early white settlers, in true eastern Oregon homestead fashion, settled the bottom lands first. Sheep raising was the first leading industry of this area.

Rhea Creek took its name from its first settlers, the E. W. Rhea family, who crossed the plains by oxen team in 1852. They came, to what is now known as the Thompson ranch, in 1864. (This ranch was later owned by Robert Thompson; later by his son, Steven; is presently operated by a son-in-law, Jim Webb).

Brothers of the Rhea family were Jim, Tom, Elijah, and Columbus A. (Lum). It was "Lum" who was credited with having built the first house on Rhea Creek and having remained there during the Indian troubles. He also founded the First National Bank of Heppner. His sons were Curtis and Carl. One daughter, Josie Jones, now lives in Heppner.

Albert Wright another of the earliest settlers in the Rhea Creek area came in 1864. His sons, Silas (who was born while crossing the plains) and Anson, continued in the sheep raising business of their father. Other children of the Albert Wright family included George of Lonerock; Effie (Mrs. Frank) Gilliam and Julia Bisbee.

Well known children of Silas Wright presently living in Morrow County are Oren, Delbert, and Pearl Devine. Sons of Anson Wright who still operate ranches in the area are Walter, Ray and Maude (Mrs. Ed) Rugg, from whom Ruggs took its name. Harold Wright is a grandson.

The first store near the present site of Ruggs was started by Taylor Spencer in 1872. It was moved to Heppner in the summer of '73.

The first settler to establish his headquarters at the present site of Ruggs was Orin E. Farnsworth. He became, reputedly, one of the largest sheep owners and most skillful breeder in Eastern Oregon. Farnsworth, of Scotch and English descent, was born in New Hampshire in 1846 where he received his education. He served in the cavalry until the close of the Civil War, and engaged in the mercantile business in San Francisco and Portland before he came to Rhea Creek in 1874. In those early years he had to haul his mail from Umatilla Landing, about 60 miles away.

The first post office in this area was established at the Albert Wright home, and was called "Midway". This was because it was nearly half way between The Dalles and Canyon City. The route between these two points made up the first through freight line in this part of the country. Later the Arlington to John Day freight line was used.

The present site of the Ray Wright ranch, on McKenny Creek was taken by George Noble in 1872. He was best known for his later business as a harness maker and harness dealer in Heppner. This business was continued by his son, Eugene, a skilled saddle maker, whose work was known throughout the world.

Other early settlers on the creek include the Henry Gay family who came in 1878. In 1886, Mr. Gay was a representative to the state legislature.

Among pioneers are also the names of Crockett Kirk, Henry Schersinger, Jim Hayes, Lafe Penland, Charles Miller, Jeff Jones, Jack DeVore, and Mr. Howell.

Eightmile

The land in Eightmile, which which the Eightmile Canyon runs, was not settled until the early '80's. It was then taken up by homestead, pre-emption, and timber culture claims — the first of these naturally being located at the sites of springs.

The first settlers of the early '80's, most of whom have children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in and around Eightmile today include: Moses Cantwell, Elihu Stanton, Jacob Young, Harvey Vaughn, Richard Robison, Luther Huston, Bill Becket, Riley Munkers, Olof Bergstrom, Charles Anderson, Oliver Pierson, John Allstott, Martin and James Gerkin, Pete Brenner, George Junkin, Mel Humphrey, Clifford Jones, Lee and John Cantwell, Charles and Bud Ingram, Francis Courter, Leonard Farmer, Frank and Case Fuqua, Jerome Young, and Wes Brannon.

There are a few of the ranches that are still in the family. They are: Olof Bergstrom ranch, farmed by his daughter-in-law, Mrs Carl Bergstrom; Luther Huston ranch, farmed by his granddaughter and her husband, Leonard Rills; Charles Anderson ranch, farmed by his son, Ben Anderson; and Bill Becket ranch, owned by his son Charlie and farmed by Charlie's nephew Laurence Becket.

In the early '90's several more people settled in and around the Eightmile Community including the Dan Barlows', Theodore Andersons, Wright Sailings and Jim Knightens.

The first post office was located at the home of Case Fuqua; later it was moved to the E. B. Stanton's then to B. Haine's. It is reported to have been located in eight different homes before a building for the purpose was erected in 1912 at the Eightmile Center. A general store and school were located on the same site—the school having been there since the early '80's.

The area south and west of Eightmile known as "Hail Ridge" also had its post office in the early days. Some pioneers were Albert Lovgren, Alfred Hooker, Mike Swearington, Tom and Lou Davidson, H. D. Warren, and Link Cradick. An early cattleman of note was Bill Hendricks whose headquarters were on Rock Creek in that area.

The law required that fences be made around the timber cultures, and necessity demanded building them about their fields to protect their wheat from livestock.

The first schools in this area were located on lower Rhea Creek, near the present site of George Snider's home and at Rocky Bluff, on land now owned by Donald Peterson in Eightmile. Later there were schools at Eightmile Center, Hail Ridge, Rood Canyon West (near Ruggs), two further up Rhea and Liberty. These school houses remained in use until 1940 when better transportation facilities made it possible to send children to Heppner and Ione. Some early teachers included Jesse Martin, Perry Oliver, Jim Hilton, "Pet" Marshall, Elsie Farmer, Perry Ham, and Addie Conlee (Binns).

In 1921 the Rhea Creek Grange was organized and the hall was built and has, to the present, been the main community center for the Rhea Creek—Eightmile area.

Hardman — 1870

Twenty miles south of Heppner pleasantly situated on a level table land, under the brow of the Blue Mountains is the quiet little town of Hardman. This town is surrounded by grain fields and grazing lands.

In 1870, Mr. John F. Royce and his brother were the first permanent settlers in this area.

From this time, 1870 — 1885, the following people settled in these areas: Hardman, Parker Mill, Burton Valley and Camas Prairie: Peter Gleason,

Benjamin H. Parker. John Adams, Mrs. Nancy Johnson, John Hadley, Dan Rice, A. H. Allen, George Chapin, Ed Moreland, Fred Ashbough, Virgil Steven, George Bleakman, Dave Hardman, Sperry, Ben Compton, De Fords, James Hams, Isaac Knighten. Jim Allen, Frank Farrens, Herman Tash, Ben DeVore, Andy Rood, Ben Leulien, Grover Wright, Mr. Howston, Coleman, Mallory, Charlie Miller, Ed and Sam Cox, Sam McDaniel, Herman Neilson. Jim Wylund.

The first school in this section was established and taught by Mr. Royce in 1879.

About 1882 the pioneer general merchandise store of the town was opened by a man named Hughes, who was succeeded by Kahler Brothers. The first blacksmith shop was opened by George Louterelle. These, with a few residences formed the town.

The official designation of the place was Dairyville, though it was commonly known as Raw Dog and Yellow Dog, until the time Dave Hardman moved from the farm into town, around 1882. By the consent of the government, he brought the post office with him; and it's name was not changed. The town took the name of the office and became known as Hardman.

The growth was slow until 1901 when a new school was built and many farmers moved their families in for school, which was taught by Mr. Smith. Another early teacher was Mrs. E. E. Bleakman, who later ran the post office and lived in Hardman till she died. It is told that she brought her baby to school and rocked the cradle with one foot while she heard the classes recite. At one time there were 90 pupils in the school.

At the height of its prosperity Hardman consisted of a four room grade school, a two teacher high school, three hotels, three livery stables, three stores two lodges, two

saloons. As the area became more settled, the people donated labor and material for the school and church.

In 1890 Dr. Akers was practicing. Soon afterwards Dr. Chick and Dr. Gaunt came. Dr. Gaunt opened the first drug store.

One of the reasons for the prosperity was the freight line and stage route from The Dalles to Canyon City. This went past Parker Mill, Lovlet Place, Monument, Mt. Vernon and Canyon City.

At the present time, about a mile southeast of Parker Mill, one may still see the signs of the old roadway road which was used through swamp areas.

Parker Mill

In the Parker Mill area there was a post office, which was run by Milt Maxwell; a hotel and a school. Some of the early school teachers were Mrs. Barker, Mrs. E. L. Freeland (Inez), Ada Jones (Mrs. Ben Parker), Flora Ward, (Mrs. Joe Nys). Around 40 pupils attended.

This area is widely known for the three day 4th of July celebration which consisted of horse races, bucking horses, bull riding, ball games, and dancing on an open air platform. The Leather's family was the prominent orchestra at this time.

Burton Valley

Another interesting community was the Burton Valley section with schools post office and mills. A Mr. Howston established a mill at Burton Valley along with Mr. Cantwell and Mr. Mallory.

Like all the old pioneer communities the school was used for all social activities. At one time there were 60 in Sunday school as well as 50 being registered in the daily school. School consisted of three months in the spring and three months in the fall. Mrs. George Chapin was the first

teacher. Some of the others were Cora Sullivan, Addie Binns, Roy Glasscock, and Ed Merrill. The last school was taught by Marguerite Glavey. This still continued to be a summer school with school starting in March and ending in November, because of weather conditions in the mountains.

Camas Prairie

Camas Prairie was another school district with Alice Bayless the first

teacher. Some of the families living in this area were: Steers, Junkins, Grahams, Robinson, Medlocks, Hastings, Harry French, and McDonalds.

Along the present highway the names of these pioneers are still remembered, such as: Chapin Guard Station; The Blue Mountain Ranch, named by Harry French and Parker Mill. Shaner and Cox are remembered by the old Opal Mines which attracts rock hounds from all over the state.

Henry Heppner

Mr. Henry Heppner was born in Germany in 1843. He came to the United States in 1858, landing first in New York City, then traveling on to San Francisco, via Cape Horn in 1860.

After gaining some experience working for others, he entered into a mercantile business of his own in Shasta, California. After two years, he transferred his business to Corvallis, Oregon. Not satisfied here, he moved on to The Dalles, where he did very well for six years.

At that time the mines in Idaho were opening and Mr. Heppner foresaw the future in the transfer business. While the government's attention was occupied by the Civil War, the Indians of the Upper Columbia River had become troublesome, making freighting a hazardous business. Although aware of the dangers, Mr. Heppner conducted a pack train of mules over the "Canyon City" route for over two years. On one of these trips the Indians attacked the train of twenty-nine mules. They drove off the mules in one direction and the five men in charge escaped in another. Luckily the train was on a re-

turn trip, so the packs were empty. The mules were replaced and freighting continued. Except for being shot at a time or two he carried on his business without serious trouble. Being shot at was so common an occurrence in those days that it was scarcely noticed.

In 1872 he quit freighting and while in La Grande he met Captain Morrow who persuaded Mr. Heppner to join him in entering into a mercantile business on Stansbury Flat in that part of Umatilla County which was later to become Morrow County.

Later he became a business partner of Frank Maddock and still later with his brother-in-law, Henry Blackman. They conducted a forwarding and commission business which he first established in Arlington, which was then called "Alkali."

As he never married and had no family to perpetuate his name it was fitting that the town he had been instrumental in founding should carry on his name.

Mr. Heppner died on February 16, 1905 and he is buried in the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

City of Heppner

The townsite of Heppner was originally known as Stansbury's Flat on Willow Creek. It is situated at the convergence of five canyons, on a level valley floor, in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. It was named for George Stansbury, who in 1869 purchased the claim of a man named Estes and built a crude cabin on the spot later occupied by the home of T. W. Ayers. (This is located south of May Street just west of the bridge in front of the Court House.) For two or three years, Mr. Stansbury was the only white man in an area of many miles. Prior to 1872 there were

a few settlers on Balm Fork Creek, among them were: A. M. Mallory and family; his son-in-law, Charles Wallace, and his family; Tom and Mike Quaid; and Dave Herren. Supplies had to be hauled from Umatilla Landing on the Columbia River, then the great distributing point for the whole interior country. This was a distance of more than fifty miles.

The natural pasture land had been the first lure to settling this territory, bringing in the stockmen with their horses, cattle and sheep. among these entering between 1870 and 1880 were Tom Ayers; John Woodward; Billy

Gilliam; Frank, Billy and Alex Thompson; Art and Oscar Minor; who later became interested in the general merchandise business; Charley and George Currin; "Hank" Scherzinger; James Wesley and Robert Turner.

In 1872 the Hon. J. D. Morrow, a merchant of La Grande, accompanied Tom Quaid to this section. It had been suggested to Mr. Morrow, by Frank Maddock, that a favorable site for a trading center might be located on Willow Creek. There were about twenty-five families in this area at that time. Some of these were the families of Crocket Kirk; Anson Wright; the Hayes Brothers, Jim, John and Jeff; Lum, Jim and Tom Rhea; Orin Farnsworth; Matt, Bill and John Hughes; George Currin; Milt Hale; Alex Thompson; Tom Matlock; A. G. Bartholomew and Wm. P. Dutton.

It took a man with vision to be willing to invest his capitol in an enterprise of this kind, but it was evident to Mr. Morrow that the location on Stansbury Flat had a promising future. On his return to La Grande he began negotiations with Henry Heppner and entered in partnership with him. Mr. Heppner left at once to purchase the stock and Mr. Morrow returned to the Flat and began to erect a store building on the crossing of the present May and Main Streets. This building was eventually moved farther north in the block and the Palace Hotel built on this corner. Later a man named Ted Howe used this first building for his general store and is said to be the first to handle liquor in Heppner. The lumber used in this first construction was obtained from the Van Armens Mill located at the head of Butter Creek.

The story is told that as soon as this Heppner-Morrow structure had been roofed and floored, the people in the surrounding country decided it was time for a celebration and accordingly a big dance was planned.

Word was sent out over the area and families, as far away as fifty miles, came bringing with them provisions and blankets. It is reported that the only ones who did any sleeping were children under twelve who were considered too young to dance. The music was provided by Lew Trainer and John Crawford, the fiddlers of the community. About the 10th of August, 1872, Heppner and Morrow were open for business. O. H. Hallock started a blacksmith shop the same year. Later Bishop Chase and George Stewart built another blacksmith shop out of whip-sawed lumber.

Umatilla Landing was so far away that Heppner became the center for the miners, cattlemen, and cowboys. Many names were suggested for the new settlement, some of them were Willow Creek, Willows, and I.X.L., (The last being the name of a popular "tonic" at that time) Finally the town was given the name suggested by Mr. Stansbury — Heppner, in honor of Henry Heppner.

In 1873 Taylor Spenser moved in from Rhea Creek, where he had previously had a store to compete with Heppner & Morrow. The first doctor came to Heppner also in 1873. Dr. Shobe of Nevada, although not a licensed doctor, was considered the pioneer doctor of the town and region. Dr. Louis Shipley was the first qualified physician, having been graduated in the fourth graduation class of Willamette University and coming to Heppner in April 1880.

Heppner & Morrow persuaded Dr. Shobe to put in a drug store. I.X.L. was included in his stock of supplies. The first drug store was on the corner where the Gilliam and Bisbee building now stands.

In 1873 the need of a school was felt and Henry Heppner was instrumental in interesting the people in donating labor and material to build the first, one room, school house. All

helped, but when it was found that more funds were needed, Nelson Jones, the first milkman in town, provided this amount. Henry Johnson, a carpenter, was credited with overseeing the construction. It was said that he built a very creditable building on the block where the Heppner Clinic now stands on Gale Street between Center and Willow. Henry Heppner also donated the bell. Although Mr. Heppner had no children of his own, he was very public minded and did all he could to help in the progress and development of the town. No record could be found of the first teacher in Heppner.

Before 1873 the mail came from Scott's Post Office on the John Day River or from Umatilla Landing. In 1873, Mr. Morrow with the aid of Congressman Slater, succeeding in establishing mail service between Pendleton and The Dalles, with a post office in Heppner. George Stansbury was honored by being appointed the first Post Master. The office occupied a six foot square space in the corner of the Heppner-Morrow store.

In 1873 Dishaway and Sanford started the first saloon which was built of lumber hauled from Umatilla Landing.

In 1875 Henry Heppner entered into partnership with Frank Maddock for another general business in the building formerly occupied by Taylor Spenser. The first hotel was built and run by a partnership of E. Van Shull, Frank Goble and Perry Oller. Oller also instituted the first livery business. Another blacksmith shop was started by N. S. Whetstone and another hotel by Mrs. E. J. Smith.

T. W. Ayers in 1877, bought Stansbury's interest in the town site and the whole area was platted for further development. It was at this time that Mr. Ayers built his fine home near the May Street bridge.

In the same year Wells, Fargo

and Company established an office in Heppner with J. L. Morrow as agent. Later J. P. Bushee served in this capacity and in 1883 Cash Malory became the agent and continued as such as long as the Wells, Fargo & Company carried on their business in Heppner.

Indian Scare

In July 1878 was the Indian scare. The Snake River Indians and other tribes were to meet the Umatilla Reservation Indians and cross the Columbia River to join the Moses band and other Indians that could be induced to join, and clear Eastern Oregon and Washington country of the whites. It was learned from a squaw known as Sarah Winnemucca, who had been captured by General Howard in the beginning of the out-break, that the Indians were planning to come to Heppner.

Many families left to find protection elsewhere, so the remainder, built a fort for their own protection. This fort was on the east side of the block where the Palace Hotel later stood. (Now Ford Motors). It was rudely constructed by digging a cellar five feet deep and roofing it over about two feet above ground. This was covered with cottonwood logs and over this—two feet of dirt.

A military company was quickly organized with Frank Maddock as Captain; J. F. Morrow, First Lieutenant; A. S. Wells, Second Lieutenant; and between fifty and sixty men making up the company. The U. S. government sent several boxes of guns and ammunition, as the settlers, on the whole, were poorly armed. As the scare subsided the people who had left began to come back.

About the same time another fort was built for protection of the people around Long Creek. When word came that they needed help, Maddock took about thirty men and went to their aid. During their absence the Indians

came to Heppner, however, they proved not hostile, but quite friendly. As a precaution they were disarmed and held under arrest. One squaw managed to escape. To avoid any more trouble, the rest were allowed to return to the Columbia, on the promise they would remain peaceful and not return to Heppner. Soon after they left, Maddock and his company returned with the report that two men named Nelson and Skilly had been killed by the Indians on Butter Creek, and another man, Charles Jewell had been badly wounded. This caused great excitement and anxiety, but soon died down as no Indians returned, nor were any people near Heppner molested.

New Business After 1879

This Indian trouble slowed down the development of the town temporarily but in 1879 new businesses began to appear. W. J. Leezer established a hardware store; Minor and Theodore opened a grocery and variety store; and Dr. Shobe built a feed store and stable. In 1880 P. O. Borg, who had driven an ox team over the plains, started a jewelry business; C. E. Fell planted a nursery on the site now occupied by the Schwarz apartments (just north of May Street near the bridge); A. J. Stevenson, who had started a brewery, sold to William Roche and Shobe's Drug Store was sold to C. M. Mallory.

From 1881 to 1882 an epidemic of small pox throughout Eastern Oregon resulted in a half dozen deaths in Heppner.

The Heppner Gazette, a weekly newspaper, was started in 1882 with Ed Redington its first editor.

Early in 1883 M. Shortridge established a shoe store and E. Nordyke a wagon shop.

Churches and Schools

Until 1883 the church services of all denominations were held in the school house. In 1883 the Baptist peo-

ple built their temple of worship on the corner where the "Fair Store" now stands (on the corner of Main and Center Streets.) This church was later moved to the other side of the block facing Gale Street. Still later it was moved to the northeast corner of Gale and William Streets, where it was destroyed by fire in May 1918.

By 1883 the town had grown to such proportions that a larger school was needed. A fine five room structure was built on the same site (Gale Street) as the first school building. Among the teachers who taught in this building were Stanley, Shurte, A. W. Weir, T. C. Aubrey, Miss Eva A. Weir, Miss Inez Voruz and Miss May Bailey.

Mr. Weir, who was the first principal, introduced grading in the schools. The children were all given tests to determine in which grade they belonged. Records show there were 244 pupils in ten grades in the year 1890 to 1891.

The school house on Gale Street was destroyed by fire in 1892. A new building was erected on the hill east of town. (Hospital Hill). This was an imposing structure with eight class rooms.

The first high school graduation was the class of 1893, with five members, Ben Patterson, Effie (Fields) Rhea, Frank Jones, Jay W. Shipley and Roy Glasscock.

The school was again moved in 1912, this time to the present location on North Court and Stansbury Street. The "School House on the hill" that had been a familiar sight for almost twenty years, was torn down, to make way for a residential district and eventually the Pioneer Memorial Hospital. A gymnasium was added to the school system in 1917. To H. H. Hoffman, Superintendent of Schools from 1910 to 1918 must be given much credit for the success in planning and erecting the new building. Mr. Hoffman's in-

terest extended to civic as well as school affairs. Mention should be made also of another Superintendent of Heppner schools, D. V. S. Reid, 1899-1910, who introduced music in the school as a subject. It was also through his efforts that the school became standardized in 1910. Most of all he is remembered as a strict disciplinarian.

County and City Government

With increase in population in the 1880's came the need of closer government supervision and the need for a county seat became apparent. The State Legislature enacted approval of Heppner as temporary county seat on February 16, 1885. This encouraged the public minded citizens to erect a courthouse; obtaining funds entirely by popular subscription. This building was presented to Morrow County and gave Heppner an advantage as a permanent location for the county seat over the other towns — especially Lexington. This fast growing settlement was anxious to obtain the honor. Lexington also was more centrally located and accessible to the majority of the settlers, in Morrow County. The Courthouse was dedicated July 4, 1885, in much the same manner as the Heppner-Morrow store had been dedicated a few years previously. The present Court House was built in 1902 of native stone quarried in various places in the county.

J. M. Hager became the owner of the J. L. Morrow & Son store in May 1885. Later J. D. Locknane opened the Belvedere saloon; the firm of Minor, Dodson & Company bought out D. S. Herren; and O. H. Hallock sold his stock of drugs to C. M. Mallory.

On February 9, 1887, by an act of Legislature, Heppner became an incorporated city. The first officers were Henry Blackman, Mayor; M. C. McDougall, Treasurer; O. H. Hallock, Recorder; and the councilmen were: E. R. Swinbourne, E. Minor, Thomas

Morgan, J. B. Sperry, S. P. Garrigues and George Noble. The first Marshall was J. D. Locknane.

Among improvements noted in the newly incorporated city were the building of twelve foot wide board sidewalks and uniform grading of the main street.

With the coming of the railroad, in 1889; the flour mill, brewery, and other manufacturing establishments doubled their output and were still unable to meet the increasing demands of the people of the community.

Early Newspaper

Advertisements and News

A news item began appearing weekly in the town paper. This was the time scheduled for the train. Ed. R. Bishop was the first agent.

In less than twenty years from the time George Stansbury built his rude cabin, Heppner grew into a thriving town. We find in the Heppner weekly Gazette in the years 1888 to 1890 many varied and interesting advertisements. W. R. Ellis and George Wm. Wright were Attorneys at Law; Wm. J. McAttee and C. E. Hinton each had a meat market; Charles M. Jones and Ira G. Nelson ran barber shops. Peter Borg dealt in jewelry and Arthur Smith was a watch maker. Fred Hallock was an insurance agent. Mrs. Warren had a millinery store and Mrs. S. P. Garrigues offered Ladies "Furnishings." James Depny's Pioneer Hotel advertised meals at all hours—25c and lodgings also 25c. Two restaurants were a little higher priced—Callahan's and George Petrie's charged 50c for single meals, 3 for \$1.00 or \$5.00 by the week.

There were also J. A. W. Coffey's planing and chop mill; the Willow Creek saw mill owned by Ed L. Meeks and Wm. Scott. Ayers and Fell were wool buyers, and it is noted the price was 14½c a pound. Jim Jones now owned the Belvedere saloon and J. B. Natter the brewery. Several men

had money to loan—F. O. Bucknam, J. W. Morrow and Orin Patterson. Cunningham raised Clydesdale horses and the Florence Brothers were listed as stock raisers. John Voss and Company and Cris Krauss were bakers. A. H. Tyson and L. D. Boyd were contractors, builders and architects. Roberts & Simon; N. S. Whetstone; Gun & Ruark were all blacksmiths (the last two specializing in horse shoeing).

A. Abramseck opened a "Tailoring establishment" and advertised custom made pants—\$7.00 to \$15.00 made of the best goods on the market. Hardware was sold by B. A. Hunsaker & Co.; Leezer and Thompson; Staver & Walker; Arthur Coffin and Frank McFarland. Rider and Kerns were sign painters, paper hangers and decorators. E. J. Slocum had drugs and medicine. W. G. Scott advertised lumber, pickets, lathes, and sawed shakes. J. F. Spray sold feed, wood and lumber. D. W. Horner and George Noble were saddle makers and Harrington & Co. made harness, whips, spurs and saddles. The saddle made by these two firms became world famous.

There were several general merchandise concerns at this time: J. M. Hager; Dave Walsh; Jeff Jones and Minor. Dodson & Co. Kirk & Youngren advertised furniture, mirrors, bedding, brackets, pictures, frames, etc., and "Undertaking a specialty." Sperry's new Roller Mill ran an ad and also Mat Lichenthal's Boot and Shoe Store.

Of special interest to the ladies were the articles from Godey's Lady's Book which appeared each week. Needless to say, the ladies impatiently waited for the paper to appear. "Rasmus the Dentist" advertised faithfully each week in the "News Column." George C. Foor, a traveling photographer, guaranteed satisfaction by offering a 25% discount on resittings if patrons were not pleased with the first sitting.

Another item of interest was that dried venison was sold by J. W. Matlock and Company Grocery.

Among the news items we found a notice of the Sunday School annual convention to be held in the Grove on James Adkins place on Rhea Creek, Thursday, June 12, 1890. Basket picnic and programme. Signed by John B. Ely, President, Ione and George W. Lord, Secretary, Heppner.

In 1888 William Mitchell was Judge and T. R. Howard was Sheriff. C. L. Anderson was Clerk and George Noble, the Treasurer of the County. Henry Blackman was still Mayor.

The Palace Hotel

The Palace Hotel Company was incorporated in October 26, 1889 to accommodate the increased number of travelers the train was bringing in. The promoters of this enterprise were Tom Quaid, J. W. Morrow, C. A. Rhea, Henry Blackman and J. B. Natter. In a short time a magnificent three story building, one of the finest in the Inland Empire, was erected on May and Main Streets. Will Van Cadrow was the first manager. It served the public continuously from September 5, 1891 until destroyed in the fire of July 4th, 1918. The most well known of all the managers of the Palace Hotel was Phil Metschen who was later the manager and part owner of the Imperial Hotel in Portland.

The improvement of the road to Monument, by the state, was also bringing Heppner more trade from the interior country.

The Flour Mill

The flour mill, erected on what is now North Court Street, was started by Mr. Beagles. Before 1880 the mill had passed through several hands. Namely: Mr. Overholtz; W. B. Cunningshame & Co.; John W. Morrow; Nelse Jones and others. In 1887 J. B. Sperry, then owner, made many improvements. He enlarged the mill and replaced the old machinery with more

adequate and improved kinds, to the amount of about \$32,000.00. About this time a stock company was formed to assume charge of the now thriving mill. This mill was in continuous use until 1924, when the milling was discontinued. W. Huston was the last manager. The building is completely gone now and only a short section of the "flume" on the hill above Hager Street remains as a reminder of the mill.

Water Supply

As the town increased in size, the problem of adequate water supplies, both for general use and for protection against fire became serious. The combined supply of water from the several large springs and a few wells in town was not enough. In April 1888, the City Council voted to have a well drilled. Otis Patterson, of the Gazette, contacted the Empire Well Auger Company of New York. In November 1889 a well was drilled with 12 inch bore, 530 feet deep, at the cost of \$5.00 a foot. It was not artesian water as had been hoped, although the water came to within a few feet of the surface.

Late in 1892 the city entered into a deal with H. V. Gates of Hillsboro, who was to install a complete water and electric light plant to furnish an adequate supply of each. Work began at once; utilizing the old well that had been drilled, in hopes of striking artesian water. Before the plant was completed, the Heppner Light and Water Company was formed and bought the system from Mr. Gates. In 1893 the Heppner Light and Water plant was operating.

A new well in 1928 gave the people of Heppner at last, the much longed for artesian water. This well was drilled about twelve miles south-east of Heppner at the forks of Willow Creek. The well, pipeline and reservoir cost the citizens of Heppner \$112,000.00 but all felt the added supply of water was

well worth the price.

Heppner Considered For State Asylum

The next subject of interest for the Heppner people was the possibility of being selected for the location of the State Asylum in Eastern Oregon. Several favorable sites were suggested — among them Pendleton; Heppner, because of its pure water; and Union with hot lakes and springs in its vicinity. Because of political pressure, however, Pendleton was finally selected.

Crisis of 1893

The financial crisis of 1893 was keenly felt in Heppner as elsewhere. Added to this was the shortage of rain for both crops and stock throughout the county. All this and the low prices caused a critical situation. A Commercial Union was formed by the merchants to buy their stock in large quantities in order to take advantage of lower prices and cut freight rates. Officers for the organization were J. W. Vaughn, President; Harry Warren, Secretary; J. W. Leezer, Treasurer; and the Executive Committee were L. W. Briggs, El J. Slocum and T. R. Howard.

The town began to expand, extending up and down Willow Creek valley and up Hinton and Wright's Creeks. A new livery stable of William Gordon was added to the business area and the new homes of D. Cox, Al Evans and P. O. Borg were built.

Coal Mining — Arbuckle Mine

An attempt was made in 1898 to move the Depot to the center of town but this failed because there was no space adequate for the needed facilities. A survey was also made about the same time to extend the railroad through the Blue Mountains past the coal mines to La Grande. A great deal of effort had been made and much money had been spent in trying to develop these mines into a paying enterprise, but the coal proved to be of such inferior quality to be un-

profitable for commercial mining. The Arbuckle Mines among others, became a dream of the past.

The first Pioneer Reunion was held in 1900 with Judge S. A. Lowell of Pendleton, the speaker. It is said the celebration lasted two days and ended in a street brawl.

The I. O. O. F. Hall and the Roberts building (Humphrey Drug Store) was built in 1901. The Masonic Temple was erected in 1916.

Fires and Fire Protection

The need for more adequate water and better fire fighting equipment in the town was more forcibly brought to the attention of the people when the planing mill of S. D. Garrigues, on May and Court Streets, was burned to the ground in 1891. In January 1892 three cisterns were constructed for fire protection in the business district, and new equipment for the volunteer fire department was purchased.

Despite these improvements in the Fire Department, fire destroyed the school house on Gale Street in 1892.

On October 13, 1898 the Volunteer Fire Department was reorganized and took a new lease on life, with new hose carts and uniforms. An old history states that Frank Natter was Fire Chief; James Thompson was Assistant Chief; Frank Roberts, Captain of No. 1 hose; E. M. Shutt, Captain of No. 2 hose; J. T. Stewart, Secretary and James Hart, Treasurer.

On October 5, 1899 fire destroyed two saloons and other buildings in the Palace Hotel block despite the gallant efforts of the Fire Department. Damage to the amount of \$6,750.00 was suffered by the owners.

In May 1918 a fire destroyed the Heppner Commercial Club building, skating rink and Baptist Church; wiping out the west end of Willow and Gale Streets. For a time it threatened

the whole town. At that time the Sigbee Photo Studio and Ott's Music Studio were upstairs and the Theater downstairs in the Commercial building.

On July 4, 1918, the same year, Heppner experienced it's worst fire. It originated in the tailor shop adjacent to the Palace Hotel and was discovered about 2:00 P. M. The fire moved to the hotel and soon every building nearby was ablaze. Almost everyone was celebrating the fourth, at Ione, so there were only a few men in town to fight the fire, which was soon out of control. Two blocks south of May Street west of Chase and across Main (with the exception of the home of Dr. McMurdo) were wiped out. Dr. McMurdo, with the help of Jasper Crawford and Jess Turner, had been able to save his home. Old landmarks such as the old Brewery and the Mountain House (a rooming house, west of Main and south of May) disappeared into ashes. The fire was finally halted before reaching the Power house, mostly due to the valiant effort of Frank S. Parker. Other buildings and businesses destroyed besides the Palace Hotel were Patterson's Barber Shop, Bode's Tailor Shop, Greshens Pastime, the Star Lodging house, Livery Stable, Print Shop, Borg's Jewelry and many dwellings. Early records of the city were lost. These included records, pictures and copies of the weekly paper that had not yet been moved from the old Print shop to the newly completed Gazette-Times building on Willow Street.

A year after this destructive fire Gilliam and Bisbee erected a fine brick building on the southeast corner of Main and May Streets.

The next year, 1920, the Elks Lodge building was built on Main Street just north of the location of the old Palace Hotel. The Elks Club rooms and hall are on the second floor, with a modern theater on the ground

floor.

In 1921, the new Heppner Hotel was completed on the north end of the same block where the old hotel stood.

Fire again struck Heppner in 1922. This time it was the Christian Church that was destroyed, but by the next year another fine building replaced it.

Heppner Flood

June 14, 1903 is a date that will never be forgotten by the people of Heppner and all Morrow County, for that was the day that the greatest disaster struck the town. That afternoon it began to rain, first a few big drops, then increasing in intensity until it was coming down in sheets, then turned to hail. About 5:00 P. M. a cloud burst on the hill between Balm Fork and Wright Creek, which is now called Donaldson canyon. Some water came down the smaller stream causing considerable damage to roads, washing out bridges, fences, etc., and carrying everything moveable before it into Willow Creek. The greater amount of water came down Willow Creek in a great wall, carrying boulders, houses, animals, barbed wire fences and baled hay. The residential district of the town was along the creek right in the path of the torrent.

The new steam laundry, filled with heavy machinery, held for a few minutes, long enough to dam the waters twenty feet deep, and also long enough for a few people to see the danger upon them and to start running from it. Then the dam gave way, loosing the rush of a lake into the streets, carrying its helpless victims. A few of the running men managed to get to the hills, but not as many of the women. Skirts were long in 1903 and the muddy water quickly made them heavy. Many women stumbled and fell, then disappeared. Many children also perished. Many heroic and tragic stories are told of that horrible afternoon. That swift

terrible hour turned a happy Sunday afternoon into a night of terror.

Meanwhile, two young men of Heppner had set out on a heroic mission. They were Leslie Matlock and Bruce Kelley. They saw the first wave when the steam laundry gave way. They knew it was too late to do much for Heppner. It might even be too late to warn Lexington. But a man could try. While Kelly hurried to get horses from the only livery stable not in the path of the waters, Matlock ran to Bisbee's hardware store for wire cutters. They would have to ride overland and between Heppner and the lower towns were fences of taut, well strung barbed wire. The store was locked. Matlock kicked the door in, got two pairs of cutters and then ran for the stable. He and Kelly mounted and took off, heading over the big bare hills west of town, in order to get out of the creek valley, now running high and fast with destruction.

The two riders came in sight of Lexington to find that the waters were going to beat them by about two minutes, but no lives were lost there. On to Ione they spurred their tiring horses. The sudden appearance in Ione of two men on wind blown horses brought the people running out of their houses. "Get to the hills" Matlock and Kelly shouted. Ione's total population went into action. Driving such stock as they had at home and carrying such household treasures as they could, they moved to the hills on either side of the canyon where some remained all night. The flood waters hit the town within minutes after the horsemen arrived, but not a life was lost. Although these two towns did not lose any lives in the actual flood a number of people in Ione died of Typhoid Fever during the next year. This was thought a result of the polluted wells in town.

In Heppner, however, there were about 200 deaths. Surviving families

were separated, some having escaped to one hill and some others. The water went down by morning and the next day the work of cleaning up the wreckage and recovering the bodies was undertaken. Local men were deputized to help control order. Farmers as far away as Ione brought their teams to help pull apart the piles of debris. A number of nurses from The Dalles and elsewhere hurried to the stricken city to offer their services.

Two companies of Oregon Militia arrived from Portland the day after the flood. Men also came from Pendleton and other places to help clean up the streets. The second floor of the building where Humphreys Drug Store is now was used as a morgue. People were buried in plain boxes as there were no coffins.

The number of dead amounted to nearly one-fourth of the population, for Heppner claimed a population of 1100 citizens in 1903. Not even the larger and far more publicized Johnstown flood of 1889 took such a proportionately great number of its inhabitants.

Henry Heppner Dies

On February 16, 1905 the community was saddened by the death of its founder, Henry Heppner, who passed away at the age of 62. Although he was comparatively a young man as ages go today, he had led a strenuous life and had accomplished a great deal in helping the progress of his town, giving both work and money.

Flood of 1934

During the years since the Flood of 1903, the people of Heppner had been uneasy and anxious whenever a severe storm threatened, but it was not until May 29, 1934 that any damage really came. That afternoon a rain began and as the storm became more threatening, people began to get more concerned. Mrs Robert Thompson, who lived about eight miles up

Balm Fork, called the telephone office, warning that there had been a cloud burst and water was rushing toward Heppner. The operators immediately began calling those living along the creek above and below Heppner. They also called those living near the creek in town. Their first thoughts were for the cripples and invalids and families with little children. When the water reached the Osmin Hager home on the south edge of town, Mrs Hager called a second warning. This time the fire siren was sounded to warn the people that there was real danger. Although no lives were lost, considerable damage was suffered by those in the path of the water. In the homes, basements were filled with mud and debris. The Methodist Church basement door had been left open and much of the furniture was either floated away or ruined by the water. The machinery in the creamery suffered a heavy loss and lumber washed from the Tum-A-Lum lumber yard, completely blocked the bridge near the north end of Main Street, causing an added threat to the homes and businesses below. The operators in the telephone office were given credit for helping to avert more serious loss.

World War I and II

When the United States entered World War I, Heppner did her share. Her boys went over the top. Mothers and wives worked diligently in the Red Cross for the boys "over there". Some boys were sacrificed for the cause.

A generation later, in the early 1940's, the energies of the community were again channeled toward helping win the war (World War II). Men worked over-time and women helped with the Red Cross but counted the days until husbands and sons would be home. In the spring of 1946, the town and surrounding communities expressed their appreciation to all the servicemen by having a huge dinner

for them and their families. The Chamber of Commerce and all other organizations and churches cooperated to make it a very fine occasion.

City Improvements Since 1930

Some time in the 1930's the Heppner Light Company was sold to the Pasific Power and Light Company and the Heppner Water Company was bought by the city of Heppner.

During 1933, when Jeff Jones was Mayor of Heppner the first oiling of the streets was done, three new bridges were built, costing the tax payers of Heppner another \$27,000.00.

In 1936 another fine building was added to the business section, The Dick Building on Main and May Streets, now housing the Ford Garage.

Heppner Lumber Mill

In 1937 after long negotiations, the Kraft Company of Chicago established a lumber mill about one mile west of Heppner. About one hundred families directly dependent on this mill have greatly increased the population of the town. This has been the major force in a number of changes in the last twenty years. The school facilities have had to be enlarged, with more teachers added. The house developments have expanded the size of the town and businesses have improved and new ones have been established.

The mill was first called the Heppner Milling Company, but later the name was changed to the Heppner Pine Mill. Maurice Hitchcock is the owner and Paul Koenig is the manager. (The mill was purchased in October 1959 by Kinzua Corporation).

In 1948 a new reservoir costing

\$75,000 improved the Heppner water system a great deal. With the added water supply Heppner could provide the city with a swimming pool. The initial cost of the recreation area was \$8,000 but added improvements and equipment have increased this amount until now it is considered a \$50,000 plant.

During the last ten years other improvements have been made. In 1950 the Pioneer Memorial Hospital was dedicated. In 1952 a new well was added to the system and in 1959 the pipe line is being replaced. In 1953 one of the greatest improvements was made when the \$256,000 sewer system was installed. In 1955 the new Elementary School was completed. This modern \$290,000 building has added much needed class room that is so essential to good education.

In the last ten years a major building or remodeling program has been successfully carried out by members of seven different churches in Heppner. The denominations represented are Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Christian, Lutheran, Seven Day Adventist and Assembly of God. Most of them held their first meeting in the early school house until places of worship could be built. Most have suffered loss and damage by flood and several by fire. They show that the people of this community are no forgetting in prosperity, the spiritual resource that brought them through many kinds of hardships.

If the people of the city continue to exercise the same faith and fortitude they have shown in the past, there should be a great future for Heppner.

City of Ione

"Ione is situated on a large level tract of land in the Willow Creek valley about thirty miles from the Columbia River. There is ample space here for a city of several thousand. Another feature favorable for such a growth is the fact that there is an abundance of water just a few feet below the surface." This is quoted from the History of Umatilla and Morrow County published in 1902.

The eastern part of the townsite from the present Catholic Church on Main and A. Street, east to Willow Creek above the McCabe land, originally belonged to a cattleman, Edward Cluff, who was a native of Ireland. He fought in the Indian War and his military record is one of "Distinction and Valor". In 1855 to 1856 he participated in several battles and did scout duty under Colonel Nesmuth and Major Raines. He came to Morrow County in 1870 and two years later homesteaded and bought railroad land. Here he raised and fattened cattle. Besides giving up some 40 acres of his farm, for the city platting, he donated land for two churches in Ione. He was active in community affairs, too, serving for a time as Justice of the Peace in a "very creditable manner."

The western part of the city is on land that was pre-empted by George Emerick, later assigned to James Taylor and still later sold to Mrs Hamblet, a lady doctor, who in turn deeded it to Elisha G. Sperry who was a native of Ohio. This area extended west from the Catholic Church to the creek west of the town, including land now owned by H. R. Ekstrom, and south of Main Street to the creek. Sometime later in 1885 Robert Wills married Phoebe Sperry, daughter of E. G. Sperry and they homesteaded the land north of Main Street and this was platted and in-

cluded in the townsite.

Mr. Sperry also served during the Indian Wars in 1855 to 1856. He volunteered as a packer and freighter and was present at the four day battle near Walla Walla. Although he did no active fighting, he helped to take 3,000 head of captured Indian ponies to the Willamette Valley where they were sold as trophies of war. Later he packed to Boise, Idaho, clearing as much as \$1.00 a pound for his loads. Each animal carried 300 pounds. After several years of this work he brought a herd of cattle from the Willamette Valley in 1871. Four years later he sold 400 head of beef cattle. His start in this business had been 105 cows. He first pre-empted land three miles below Ione, but later sold this and bought land where Ione now stands. He continued to raise hogs, cattle and mules.

Sometime in 1883 E. G. Sperry decided to establish a Trading Center on his property which is now known as Sperry Addition of Ione. When the question of a name for the new settlement was discussed, it was suggested that Mr. Sperry name it for a little girl, Ione Arthurs, who was the daughter of a man who worked for him. Mr. Sperry liked the name and so the little town became Ione, Oregon.

Mr. Sperry's ability as a leader was recognized and he was rewarded by being made Mayor of the town he helped to form. The town was incorporated, the City of Ione, in 1899 and he was elected Mayor and M. S. Maxwell the first recorder.

The first places of business set up were a blacksmith shop, by George Lutrell, a saloon by Charles McFarland and a general store which had been moved from Hardman to Ione by Aaron Royce. The Post Office of Ione was established in 1884 in the Royce store and Mr. Royce was the first post

master.

In 1885 schools began to make their appearance. E. G. Sperry erected a small one in Ione which lasted only a short time as there were not enough children to maintain it. Other schools, one at Petteysville and another three and a half miles west of Ione, fared better and lasted a number of years. Still others were started on the hill both north and south of Ione, thus providing for the educational needs of the growing population.

In 1885 more development was seen in Ione. E. G. Sperry's son-in-law, Robert C. Wills, a Canadian, built a small store. This building, along with the Will's home, still stands on the corner of Burch and Main Street. The Harvey Rings now own this property.

In the early 1880's the first wheat and cereal grains were planted. Not much was grown except for home use. The first had to be hauled by team across country to Arlington, which was the nearest railroad. Then the branch line came up Willow Creek in 1888. Wheat raising became a cash crop and it was reported that in 1891, 231 cars of wheat were shipped from Ione.

Between 1885 and 1894 there was much building in the town. Thomas J. Carle erected a small hotel and became the second post master. A large store building with a dance hall above, and a small warehouse were moved from Castle Rock. C. T. Walker later occupied the store space and the dance hall became known as Walker's Hall. The upstairs was also used for school programs, traveling shows, basket socials and later the early motion pictures. Charles Freeland of Salem, with his partner, John Steele, brought one of the first traveling movie shows through Eastern Oregon in 1904. Later Frank Engleman ran a weekly movie show in this building. This building stood on the corner of Main and Green

Streets, where James Barnett's Chevron Station is now. The building burned in 1918, but the warehouse is still in use by Melvin Melana as a lumber warehouse.

J. A. Woolery, a native of Case County, Missouri, came to Morrow County in 1884. He engaged in driving the stage between Heppner and Monument until 1890, when he became a merchant in Hardman. After a successful year there, he moved his store to Ione. Here he maintained a general store, hardware, and implement store. He was also the post master. His place of business was on the lot where Jack Ferris' Pastime is now located on Green and Main Streets, opposite the Walker store. Mr. Woolery was public spirited and progressive and was influential in securing the incorporation of the City of Ione. He later was Mayor. A living monument to Mr. Woolery's interest in developing the town, is a beautiful City Park in which he planted the lovely Carolina Poplar trees which he secured from their native state of North Carolina.

In 1893, a new blacksmith shop was opened on Main between Green and Cherry Streets, by Ben Case. Two years later William Haguewood became his partner. This shop was later owned by Paul O'Meara. In 1894 Mat Halvorsen who had operated a store in Lone Rock and later was bank clerk in the Bishop Bank in Heppner, came to Ione to work for J. A. Woolery; later he started a small store of his own in the Wills building and eventually moved across the street into a building of his own. This building is now part of the present Bristow store.

During the same year, a small school was built on the block south of the Park, and Fred W. Balsiger, of Illinois was the first teacher. Alice Glasscock was the teacher the next year. In 1896, owing to the shortage of school funds, the school was open-

ed on a subscription basis. Orlean (Jordon) Ray was the teacher that year, but as the funds ran out, the school was closed. The next year was more successful and ran a full year with Della (Reed) Corson as teacher.

In 1895 Paul Balsiger, a brother of Fred, erected a wagon repair shop and his cousin, E. J. Keller, also of Illinois, set up another blacksmith shop. These two buildings were in the block where the Rietmann Hardware store and the Swanson building (now occupied by the Bank of Eastern Oregon) are.

Other new buildings erected in the next few years were the Hague-wood residence on the corner of Cherry and Main Streets where the White Apartment House is now; W. L. Richard and E. M. Akers built west of the Halvorsen store and opened a photo "gallery". S. P. Haney took over the hotel and livery barn; Hank Howell opened a barber shop; Sam Dickson erected a small building west of the Woolery store and applied for a saloon license, which was denied, so a Mr. St. Clair used the building for a blacksmith shop and built his home next door. J. T. League became the post master and erected a small building to house the Post Office. This building was in just about the same place as the present Post Office.

After a year of building inactivity, the town began to grow rapidly again in 1897. Some businesses changed hands and others were established. Frank Engleman bought the photo business and opened a confectionary and bowling alley. Bert Mason came to work for Mat Halvorsen and bought an interest in the business. The next year the firm became Halvorsen and Mason. The same year Charles W. Ingraham opened a Drug store on the corner where Cot Swanson's store is now. Charles Martin and James Rhea became the owners of the Harness Repair Shop which had been opened

by Pete Noble. The new owners moved the business to another location in the block south of the Park. W. M. Akers bought the interest of Ben Case in the blacksmith shop; Mat Halvorsen bought the hotel and livery stable and C. T. Walker moved into town from his ranch southwest of Ione and opened a general store in the building which had been moved to Ione from Castle Rock.

Between 1892 and 1897 there had been crop shortages and many farmers had moved away, but by the last year in the Nineteenth Century, Ione was again on the boom. At the turn of the century there were, in all, about 100 business buildings and residences in Ione and about 350 inhabitants. Ione could now boast of four general stores; those of J. A. Woolery, Halvorsen and Mason, C. T. Walker, and the Ione Mercantile Company, owned by Arnold Balsiger and Charles Allinger; a newspaper, the Ione Post, owned and edited by Miss Virginia Deaton; C. W. Ingraham's Drug Store; Paul Balsiger's wagon and water-tank building shop; Rhea and Martin's harness shop; Blake Brothers Butcher Shop; two doctors and a dentist; H. G. Jordon's Confectionary Store; The Ione Livery Stable, now owned by B. F. Vaughn; T. J. Carle's lodging house; W. M. Haguewood's and Mr. Wood's blacksmith shops; Mrs Deaton's Millinery Store; A. Lane's Barber Shop; two warehouses; the Farmers' Warehouse Company and Kerr, Gifford & Company; the O. R. & N. Depot and Telegraph office; the lumber business of J. P. Louy & S. I. Stratton; the saloons of E. G. Sperry, Brierly & Earhart, the Warfield Brothers and Frank Engleman; office of W. H. Dobyns. Attorney and U. S. Land Commissioner; the hotel and a church. The J. A. Woolery Bank, operated by his sister, was established in 1903 and dissolved in 1927.

At one time Ione was known as the "Egg City" because almost every ranch had a side line of poultry raising and large quantities of eggs were shipped annually.

Many disasters have beset the little community of Ione. Fire and flood have taken the most toll of buildings and lives. In 1917, C. T. Walker's store was burned. In 1918 the Oddfellows Hall and Joe Mason's General Store, which was on the site of the old Woolery store, burned. Also in 1918 a hail storm swept through the area north of Ione and hailed out most of the wheat. It caused a flash flood when the water came down the Rietmann Grade and filled the basements of the stores and residences.

The homes in the City of Ione varied in size and construction. Some of the more prosperous businessmen built some very fine residences that are still well preserved and make fine homes today. Among these are the J. A. Woolery house now owned by Elmer Holtz; the home of Willard Blake, a sheep man, now the home of Mrs. Echo Palmateer; the house known as the C. J. Pennington residence which was built by Tom Davidson, is now the home of the Ernest Helikers; (Mr. Pennington was the agent for the O. R. & N.). The C. T. Walker home now occupied by the Grant Rigbys and owned by Franklin Ely; the Bert Mason home where the Charles O'Conner family live and the W. C. Case home where the Sam Esteb's now reside.

In 1900 the school was in a two story frame structure on the site of the present school system, with two very capable teachers in charge. They were Miss Anna Balsiger and Miss Cora Simpson. Miss Balsiger later became the first woman to hold the position of County Superintendent of Schools in Morrow County. Another teacher of note was Mr. Akers who invented a panorama camera. The first

Ione graduation class from a four year High School were Grace Wattenburger and Otto Rietmann in 1909.

About 1905 through the efforts of the teachers in the Ione school and in observance of Arbor Day, a plan was instituted for a general planting of trees in town. These trees flourished and Ione changed from a salt grass flat to a green, cool oasis it has been ever since.

The schools in the Ione area have changed with the times. There has been consolidation of many school districts over the years to form the one Ione School District. These outlying districts that have been discontinued and are sending pupils to Ione are Ella, Cecil, Fairview, Gooseberry, Morgan, Rocky Bluff, Dry Fork, Rhea Sidling, Lone Tree, Pleasant Vale, Davis, Four Mile and Hardesty.

The school census of children in the Ione area between four and twenty years of age, show 181 in 1920; 131 in 1930; 101 in 1940; 180 in 1950 and 239 in 1958.

The present school building was built in 1924 and a new building to house a shop, band room, gymnasium and cafetorium was built and in operation in 1953. An outdoor, heated swimming pool was constructed with the cooperation of the Ione Memorial Improvement Association and is located adjacent to the new building. Ione planted the first turf athletic field in the county in 1946. Music was added to the school curriculum in 1940 and several fine musicians have developed through this training.

The Ione High School Basketball team of 1954 made quite a record for sportsmanship when they succeeded in reaching the final game of the State Tournament in Salem that year. Although they were barely defeated by Harrisburg, they received such favorable comment in the Salem papers and on the radio, on their well mannered behavior while in that city, that the

lone community felt the team had won a reward much more valuable than the trophy.

Some businesses, not mentioned previously, that flourished during the first half of the twentieth century that have been discontinued or have burned down, included I. R. Robinson's Machine Shop; Bill Swanson's Rolling Mill, which burned in 1948 in a fire that threatened to destroy the whole town; Laxton's Confectionery (this brick building is now owned by the Oddfellow's Lodge); Engleman's Hardware Store; Harlan McCurdy's Confectionery; Walter Pryear's saloon; The Carle Rooming House; (which was used for a Mortuary for some time before it was remodeled into apartments.) It was torn down in 1949 when the Catholic Church was built on that site. Several jewelry stores existed during this time, among them were Rose Jewelers, Titus Jeweler, and Steele Jeweler; C. A. Rehas, druggist; Engleman's Pastime and Ice Cream Parlor; Cronin and McArthur Hardware Store; Seven Oaks candy store; Interior Warehouse Company; Balfour-Gathrie Company; Louis Balsiger's Photograph Gallery; the Tum-A-Lum Lumber Company; Jim Rhea Butcher Shop; Ture Peterson's Butcher Shop; Arthur (Shorty) Shaver and Johnny Bryson's Livery Stable; River & Ackley Garage (now the Drake Independent Garage); F. H. Robinson Law Office (in the Wills Building); Dr. Alonzo Reid, Dr. Bruce, Dr. C. C. Chick (physicians); and Dr. Davis (dentist); Wilt's Blacksmith Shop; "Little Doc" Frank Christianson, druggist; W. E. Bullard, druggist. Newspaper men that came after Virginia Deaton, were Les Hallon, Mr. Ward, L. E. Acherman and Rev. W. W. Head. Some of the wheat buyers were Louis Balsiger, Elmer Griffith, E. J. Swanson and Walter Eubanks and the Bert Mason Grocery.

In 1895 the first Sunday School was organized in the school house and

three years later, in 1898 a community church was built of lumber hauled from a mill in the Blue Mountains and erected on a lot donated by Edward Cluff. This later became the Congregational Church. In 1904 the Baptist Church was built, the Christian Church in 1914, the Full Gospel Mission held services in the Brierly Building next to the Park beginning in 1930 and continuing for several years. The St. Williams Catholic Church was dedicated on May 24, 1949. The Nazarene Church was organized in 1955 and has held services in several places having no building of their own. In 1942 the Baptist, Christian and Congregational Churches combined to form a Cooperative Church and in 1954 the group voted to become a Community Church and with all faiths recognized. The Baptist Church has reorganized and services are now being held in their church.

Before 1900, the old Ione City well, located near the present Masonic Hall was pumped by hand. Farmers hauled water from this well to their ranches in large water tanks. Some came 15 miles or more over tedious dirt roads. In 1900 a deep well was dug near the site of the present one and was used until 1956. At that time a new well was drilled and at present supplies the city with 18,000 gallons of water an hour. Since water is so important to the growth of a community and vital to the maintenance of the surrounding ranches that support it, well-drillers have found it a lucrative business here. Some of these men were Albert "Shorty" Shaver and Johnny Bryson; Charles Shaver; M. E. Cotter and G. M. Jannesen.

One of the greatest improvements in the city has been the oiling of the streets. This began in 1946, when Garland Swanson was Mayor. Main Street was surfaced that year and each year since then other streets have been added, until now only a few

remain to be finished. It not only improves the appearance of the city, but adds to the convenience and comfort of the citizens.

Today the City of Ione does not present too different a picture than it did in former years. Because of improved roads and modern means of travel that shortens distances, some types of business are not found in the town. There are two grain elevators in the city limits (the one at the west end of Main Street was built in 1918 and was the first of its kind ever built). Others at Morgan, McNab, and Jordon help to handle the large quantities of wheat and barley raised. Besides these commercial bins, many ranchers have storage on their own property. Other businesses include the two garages, Drake & Son's Independent Garage and Akers Motor Service; Jim Barnett's Chevron Station; Pete Ham's Truck Line; two oil and fuel distributing plants of Paul Pettyjohn (Shell) and L. R. Leathers (Standard Oil of California); three grocery stores belonging to Edmund Bristow, A. C. Swanson and Dick Greer; Black's Electric Shop; Jack Ferris's Pastime; Stefani's Fine Food Cafe; Gordon White's Machine Repair Shop and his apartment house; O'Meara's cottage apartments; Melvin Melena's Builders Supply; Omar Rietmann's Hardware and Implement Store; three insurance agents of Swanson & Hamlett, Charles O'Connor, and Walter Dobyns; Harold Dobyns Pest Eradicating Service; and the Bank of Eastern Oregon.

The old City Hall was built about 1900 on the present site of the City Hall. It was a two story building about 16 x 20 with the fire hose cart on the first floor and the council rooms upstairs. A small building just north of the City Hall served as the City Jail. When elections were held the voting was done in the council room upstairs, but the building became so shaky that only about 20 people could be

allowed there at one time. This building was later remodeled into a home and is now occupied by the Lee Palmers.

In 1947 the city bought the brick building on Spring Street, that had been vacated by A. C. Swanson when he moved his grocery store to a new location in the Bert Mason Building on Main Street. This City hall burned in 1948 when the Swanson Rolling Mill was consumed. The present building was constructed in 1952 when Omar Rietmann was Mayor. It houses the fire truck and the Ione Public Library besides the council room.

The Library came into existence in 1936 through the efforts of the North Ione Women's Improvement Association, later known as the Ione Topic Club. The first library board was Mrs Ruth Mason, Mrs Orral Feldman and Mrs Ella Smith. It was originally housed in Laxton McMurray's confectionery, then Bert Mason's store, then in the old City Hall, until it was destroyed by the 1948 fire. It has been in the new City Hall since then. There are about 4,000 books in the library at the present time. A representative from the Oregon State Library considers it one of the best small libraries she has seen on her tour around the state.

The social life in Ione has never been neglected for there was always a Ladies Aid, Lodges and constant interest in the progress of the school, besides the dances and other social affairs. By the first of the century there were six lodges successfully maintained, the Independent Order of Oddfellows, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Masons, Modern Woodmen of America and Rebekahs. Since then other groups have been organized, including the Order of the Eastern Star, Willows Grange, the Topic Club, Maranatha Club, the Ione Garden Club, the Amica Club, American Legion and American Legion

Auxiliary, Beta Omega Chapter, E. S. A. (a service sorority), the Parent-Teachers Association, the Ione T. V. Cooperative, and the newly organized Fire Protection Organization and a Home Extension Unit.

Besides providing social enjoyment, several of these organizations have contributed greatly to the improvement of the city. As before mentioned, the Topic Club, the women's study group that organized and maintains the Ione Public Library, raised funds for several years, by serving an annual smorgasbord which became well known and was patronized by many people coming from as far away as Pendleton, The Dalles and Portland. More than 400 people were served some years.

The Maranatha Club, the Community Church group have contributed yearly to a project for the improvement of the church and parsonage.

The Ione Garden Club sponsored a project to clean up and plant flower beds and lawn in the City Park. They also built a fireplace and tool house in the Park. They have made it an area that all can enjoy. The tables and benches were donated by individuals and local organizations. The city now maintains the park with a maintenance man in charge. The Garden Club also holds a flower show and plant sale each year and often provides corsages for special occasions of other organizations. The annual Twelfth Night program is also sponsored by the Garden Club.

The Beta Omega Chapter, E. S. A. made one of the most needed and appreciated contributions, for they are responsible for having the city water piped to the cemetery. This service organization has as its yearly project money contributions of between \$50.00 and \$150.00 to the Crippled Children's Hospital at Eugene. Each year they also have a local project and these have included the cemetery water pro-

ject; \$200.00 contributed towards the building of the public wading pool; twelve men's bathrobes to Pioneer Memorial Hospital; table and benches for the Ione City Park; food and clothing as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the needy; solicitations for Red Cross Heart Fund, Cancer Fund, Easter Seal for Crippled Children; 4-H scholarship to Summer School at Corvallis; and money donated towards helping a badly burned nurse with her hospital bills.

Before the school took over the financing of the school lunches the P.T.A. sponsored an Auction for many years, to raise funds to provide this noon meal. Many and varied articles were sold. One year over \$800 was raised this way.

In April this year, 1959, the Ione Extension Unit was hostess for a very successful Homemakers Festival. With the cooperation of all the Units in the County, the Centennial theme was carried out in a very enjoyable and instructive program.

The Ione American Legion Post sends two local boys to the Boy's State each year besides carrying on several local projects. They sponsor the town Baseball and Basketball teams. Each year they hold memorial services at the school's turf field where they erected a memorial plaque in memory of the Ione boys who gave their lives in World War II. On the Fourth of July people come for miles to enjoy the fireworks exhibit, the Ione Legion boys display on the turf field. The American Legion Auxiliary send a local girl to Girl's State.

The Ione Oddfellows and Rebekah Lodges assist in sending a district winner of the United Nations Pilgrimage Contest to visit the United Nations in Washington D. C. This contest is held annually by the I. O. O. F. Lodges. The local lodges also hold a yearly community clean-up day at the I. O. O. F. cemetery with the

ladies serving a pot-luck dinner for the workers at the lodge hall. Election Day dinners served by this group are considered a special treat.

In recent years, as the ranches have become larger and new people have come into the country, it is interesting to note how many of the ranches are still owned and farmed by descendants of the original owners who homesteaded here. Among these are Arthur (Sam) Crawford who farms land homesteaded by his grandfather,

Herbert Phillips in 1900; Arthur and Roy Lindstrom farm the land homesteaded by their grandfather, Otto Lindstrom in 1899; David Rietmann owns the land homesteaded by his father, Paul Rietmann in 1882; Ted Palmateer farms the land his grandfather, William Palmateer homesteaded in 1898; Berl Akers ranch includes the homestead of Ralph Akers, his father and that of Hal Ely, father of Mrs Berl Akers. These last two were homesteaded in 1898 and 1899.

Jordon

Mr. John Jordon was a Morrow County pioneer in many ways. He was the first to build a home in the area which is now Morrow County, in 1859. It was a log cabin on the bank of Willow Creek a mile or so below the junction of Rhea and Willow Creeks.

Soon after settling here in 1860 he planted grain and other farm crops. Tom Ayers, on Butter Creek, was his nearest neighbor. They would help each other in harvesting their crops. Mr. Jordon would do his morning chores, ride horseback about 20 miles to Butter Creek, work all day in the field, and return home at night in time to do the evening chores. Mr. Ayers would do the same for Mr. Jordon.

Later he brought in the first McCormick mower and reaper and the first Fanning mill to help harvest the hay and grain crops of the settlers on Willow and Rhea Creeks.

The first school in Morrow County was erected on land donated by Mr. Jordon where the present Rhea Creek highway crosses Willow Creek.

He was the first to engage in cattle raising here. He planted the first hop yard and built the first hop dryer house in Eastern Oregon, in 1892. After harvesting two crops, he found he could not make a profit with the price of hops at only .07c

a pound, so he dug up the hop yard. But for many years the vines continued to grow in his hay fields.

Mr. Jordon married Missouri Haney, daughter of Jack Haney, who settled on Rhea Creek in 1870. John Jordon Jr., Luther, Orleana, and two other sons were born on this Jordon ranch. Later the Jordons sold the ranch and built a Hotel in Arlington. Here the two younger sons died. They were buried in the family plot in Penland Cemetery at Lexington. The family then moved to Monmouth where he built another hotel, which he operated until the death of his son John Jr.

Mr. Jordon then decided to return to Morrow County. He brought back his former ranch and moved his hotel from Arlington, adding to it to make a large ranch house which is now owned by the G. Hermanns. Mr. Jordon died here in 1901 and is buried in the Lexington Cemetery.

Many landmarks bearing his name are reminders of the pioneering spirit of John Jordon. Among these are Jordon Butte near his home at Jordon Siding; Jordon Fork of Eight Mile; Jordon Waters, a spring in Eight Mile Canyon, one-half mile above the Ione-Olex Road and Jordon Elevator which was built on his ranch land.

Cecil

Cecil, named for William Y. Cecil, became a settlement and a Post Office was established here in 1867 and has continued through the years. It was one of the oldest settlements in the region where people congregated for fun as well as the humdrum of every day affairs. Some of the dances given there were attended by people who came from as far away as Monument and other John Day Valley settle-

ments, the festivities lasting a full weekend, as it took two days to travel each way from their homes. After the railroad came in many carloads of cattle sheep and produce were shipped from Cecil, it being the principle shipping point of the lower Willow Creek section. It is said that the first carload of wheat shipped out of Morrow County was loaded at Cecil.

Morgan

Morgan is another community on Willow Creek that deserves mention. This community at the foot of Saddle Butte about 10 miles northwest of Ione was known as Saddle prior to the coming of the railroad. Before 1886 there were very few people in this Morgan district, but less than five years later most of the land had been filed on for homesteads, pre-emption or timber cultures. Paul, Swen and Johannes Troedson came from California in the middle 1880's and settled near Saddle.

The school at that time was a small building just below where James Lindsay lives now. A post office 3 miles east handled mail twice a week. About 1890 the post office was moved to the Douglas home where the daughter, Mollie, became postmaster. Still later when the railroad was built, the post office was moved to the railroad station which was still on Douglas land and the name was changed to Douglas. After the Douglas family moved away, a Mr. Filkins was post master until 1900 when he traded his property with A. C. Morgan who was then post master until 1907. When he became post master the name of the settlement was again changed, this time to Morgan and has been known as such ever since. Mr. Fred Ely was post master in Morgan from 1917 to 1922. Martin Baueren-

fiend was the last post master there as the mail is now sent out on a route from Ione.

In the early days several families lived between Morgan and Ione. Two brothers, Henry and Gay Silvers, from Nova Scotia, and above them on the creek the Robert Sayers place (now owned by Franklin Ely) and then the Redfords (Jim Lindsay place), Millers, and Charlie Cochran (Albert T. Woods rented it, later owned by Henry Padberg, Lee Padberg and Phill Emert). Elisha Sperry was the first place below Ione. The places on down the creek were owned by Milton R. Morgan, Milton Hale, Lum Rhea (present Lewis Halvorsen place), James Cason (later known as the Stenge place. Below the Douglas place were the Weatherfords, Bauerenfiends and then the Cecils. For a number of years, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bauerenfiend raised Shetland Welsh ponies on their "Silver Star" ranch and they became well known throughout the United States for children's ponies. They moved to Grants Pass in 1957. To the north Harbkes and Hollaways lived on the hill land and to the south the Elys, Deans, Wilmots, Murraus, Pickles, Brobst, and Gartens had farms of various sizes. The stage from Arlington to Heppner passed through Morgan and a stage station was maintained across from the school house.

The Fairview Community

The Fairview community, about 10 miles south of the present site of Ione, was settled in the 1880's. One of the families locating here included the Menzo A. Olden family who came in 1885, from Kansas by emigrant train to San Francisco, then to Portland by boat, and farmed near Comstock before coming to Morrow County. Other families were the Sam Warfields, the Robert Simpsons, Thomas Morgan, and his brothers-in-law, Hamelet and Downing who came in 1882; John Peterson, who was born in Sweden and came from Indiana to Morrow County in 1885; Jerry Barlow and John Cox in the 1890's.

The Fairview school was built about 1887. The oldest of the Olden boys made the shingles for the school house. Some of the earliest teachers were Marten, Shealds, Hosseason, Mounts, Ella Mason, Arnold Balsiger, Mr. Cole, John Ely, Mrs. Donegon, Conner, Anne Miller Blake and later Sylvia McCarty and Ruth and Anna Belle Howard.

Rietmann Grade

Among these early farmers were Paul Rietmann who lived two miles from town on the canyon leading out of Ione, thus giving it the name "Rietman Grade". Farther out were found the McGaffreys, Teters, Froones, Bill Allens and George Holland.

Ella

Ella at one time was a changing place for the horse drawn coaches that ran from Castle Rock to Heppner by way of Blackhorse Canyon. Mr. Oviatt was the first postmaster and was instrumental in the construction of the school house. Ella was named in honor of Mrs. Ella Lord Parsons who was the daughter of John R. Lord who came from Maine. Mr. Lord was a doctor in the Confederate Army. Other early settlers were John Handy who located at Ella Center; Johan Troedson who purchased land from Handy and lived on it for forty years; Charles Jaynes who settled on Six Mile Canyon about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Ella Center and later sold his holdings to Johannes Troedson; George Crane who settled two miles south of Ella in Six Mile Canyon; the Van Cleves who settled on the Oregon Trail near Ella on what is now the Charles Doherty

ranch. William Parsons settled south of Ella Center.

The Ella school house was built in 1888 with lumber hauled from a mill at Hardman. W. B. Beach held Sunday school and preached there shortly after it was built. The first teacher was Clarence Shurte who boarded with the Wishard family and later married Florence Wishard. Other teachers were Miss Etta Reed, Charles Reed, Miss Della Reed (Corson). Some of Mrs. Corson's pupils were Carl F. Troedson, Clara and Anne Troedson (Anne Smouse), Joe and Edward Handy; Elmer, Nora and Claude Crow and Earl Lord.

Some people in the community remember when Ezra Meeker came through Ella in 1908 or 1909 on his second passage west and in 1918 by automobile.

Gooseberry Community

The Gooseberry area was opened by the Homestead Act in about 1862. The railroads were given every other section of land and sold to the settlers for \$200 a quarter section. Gooseberry became the name because some Gooseberry bushes grew and flourished near a spring on Hail Ridge. There was good grazing for stock; both cattle and sheep on the wild bunchgrass so it was natural that those with stock should settle here.

Some of the early settlers in this section were Isaac R. Esteb in 1883; W. H. Akers and Sons, Ben and Garret who came from Iowa a short time later; Fleming and Sons, Whitney and Bob and Harvey who came from Texas in 1886; Nathaniel McVey in 1880; and Lige Hendricks in late 1870's. The story is told that in a great blizzard in 1888, Lige Hendricks lost 200 head of cattle from starvation and freezing.

The first post office was founded here in 1885 with Isaac R. Esteb the first post master. There was a tri-weekly stage which ran to Arlington via Fletts and Olex and carried mail semi-weekly.

The first school house was built in 1886 and the children were taught by a Mrs. Huston from Texas.

Church was held in the school house with Mr. Howardton, a Methodist minister preaching. Other ministers were Mr. Swift and Mr. Goodwin.

A good-sized Swedish settlement was established by 1887 bringing in the families of Andrew Anderson, Eric Bergstrom, Frank Lundell from California; August Carlson, Charles Anderson, John and Erin Peterson and John Johnson to name a few.

The Swedish settlers organized a Lutheran church in 1886. The first communion was held on Palm Sunday, April 18, 1886 in the home of Charles Anderson. The following day they met

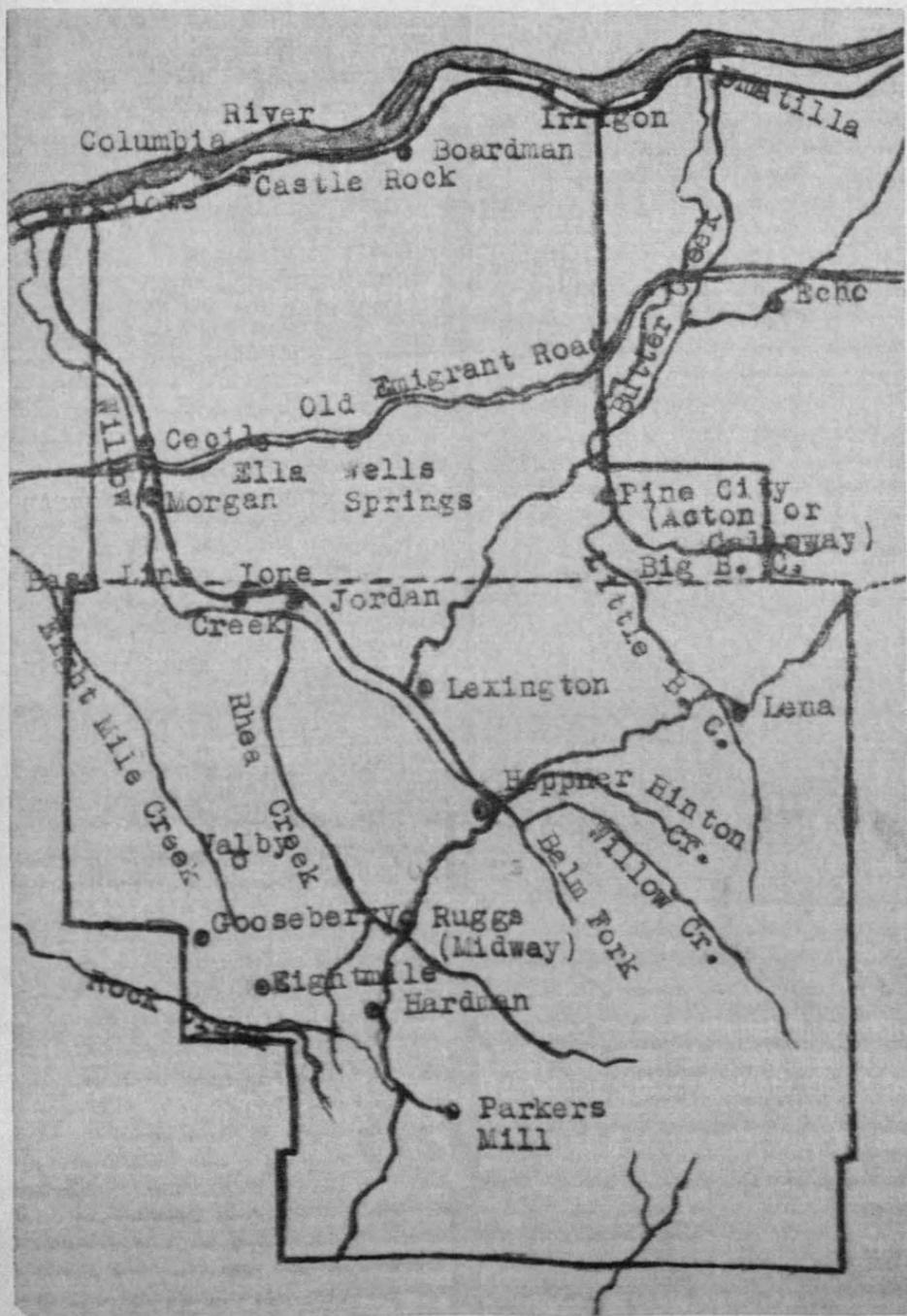
at the home of John Johnson (the site of Olaf Bergstrom family) and organized their church with seventeen charter members; Charles Anderson, John Johnson and family, Andrew Olson, Olaf Bergstrom, Oliver Peterson, Andrew Anderson, John E. Peterson and John Janson.

The Valby Church was built in 1897 and was the first church built and dedicated in Morrow County. It still stands on the original site today and is still in regular use. The ministers came from Portland to preach and stayed for a week at a time. They would come to Arlington and then on to Valby by horseback or even walk. The building committee for Valby church was John Peterson, Andrew Anderson, and Frank Lundell. The total cost of the church was \$458.82 and the whole sum was paid on the day of dedication on October 24, 1897. At the time of the dedication there were forty members in the church and forty-one children.

The first wedding performed in the church was that of Anna Lundell and Otto Lindstrom in 1899. Other marriages performed in the Valby Church were those of Lena Baker and Ernst Lundell in 1904; Mary Lundell and Emil Swanson in 1904; Betty Graves and Louis Carlson in 1950; Eunice Peterson and Rod Kvistad in 1951; Donna Lovgren and Robert Peterson in 1955; and Barbara Prock and Herbert Peterson in 1955.

There were not many businesses at Gooseberry. Isaac R. Esteb had a blacksmith shop and staple grocery store with the post office in it. Mail came from Willows Spring on the Columbia River by stage coach to Olex where it was picked up by Esteb and brought to Gooseberry. The first store was built by Stockes Kirk who lived in the back of the 16x20 building.

Twentieth Century Towns



Irrigon Community

IRRIGON, OREGON! WHERE'S THAT? Or is it just a tongue twister?

Irrigon is one of the earliest twentieth century towns of Morrow County, on the Columbia River. In 1902 the Oregon Land and Water Company put on an extensive advertising campaign for the purpose of selling land at \$100 per acre with a water right. However, at this time neither the canal nor the dam had been constructed. This proposed canal was to supply water for land from the Umatilla River, west to the district around a railroad siding on the O. R. & N. (Oregon Railroad & Navigation) Railroad. This junction was known as Stokes Siding. The town built here was known as Stokes until about 1905, when the name of Irrigon was originated, by taking the first four letters of irrigation and the last three of Oregon.

Settlers began coming in by 1903. A General Mercantile Store was established and a two story building built for the purpose by Egbert and W. G. Corey. Mr. Corey had sold out his business in North Dakota, and Mr. Egbert came from Woodburn, where he had a hardware store.

There was, in 1904, a very small old company ditch owned by the Oregon Land and Water Company with water rights covering 100 acres. One of the first settlers on this project was George M. Rand, who brought his family from Kansas to settle on 10 acres, which he planted to fruit. This farm is still owned by the Rand family but is now used for raising cattle.

By now there was need of a school, so accommodations were made in the living room of, what is now, Abkins dwelling. Adison Bennett was hired as post master, and he soon started a weekly newspaper in one end of the post office building. This paper was known as the Irrigon Irrigator,

and was not known to be in existence for too long a time. The O. R. & N. Railroad built a depot and established telegraph service during this period.

The big advertising boom was paying off! Land was improved into farms. With the coming of many settlers, small businesses sprang up in Irrigon. The dam was built on the Umatilla River, about three miles south of the old land mark — the City of Umatilla. When the canal was being constructed settlers could get employment on the job for \$2.50 for a 10 hour day. The wage of a team was the same as for a man. It took a days time to go to Hermiston with a team, a distance of 16 miles.

During this time a ferry was established across the Columbia River, at the docks in Irrigon. At one time there was also a boat freight service and passenger service, by stern wheelers, between Portland and Lewiston, Idaho.

There was a company blacksmith shop, a new general merchandise store with a dance hall above, a barber shop, hardware store, a hotel, a furniture store, and a feed store all erected in the years 1904 and 1905. Sam Carson built the livery stable and operated the city dray. Dr. Beck and his wife, also a doctor came to Irrigon and built a drugstore. A three room school was built and served the district until 1921, when it burned down. Page's Pool Hall and Confectionery was erected in 1907.

Some other businesses that have existed in the community include Semen's Complete Food Store; Hinkle's store; Tum-A-Lum Lumber Company; Pierce's Lumber Yard; Leight's Motel; Clyde Grimm's Tavern.

Then came the panic of 1907. The Oregon Land and Water Company was in the hands of a receiver—they were

bankrupt. The settlers then sold for what they could get or just left the country, until there were only about 50 in the community. In 1912 the government became interested in the district and Senator Lane was sent here by special train to investigate to see if it would be desirable to build a dam and concrete canal. He was so favorably impressed by the melons, fruit and grapes grown here that in 1915 the high ditch, as it was known, was constructed. This took in a lot more acreage than the old company ditch. It was extended on past the railroad siding of Coyote, 12 miles west of Irrigon, and Boardman was established there. In 1926 the West Extension of the Umatilla Reclamation project was organized with the water office in Irrigon. There were three directors. A. C. Houghton was the first manager and held that position until his death, twenty five years later.

Some families located in or near Irrigon were the Cosners, Zabransky, Swearingen, Haskell, Earley, Suttereth, Fred Kick, Mike Walton (Ole Hoop 'n Holler), Waldpoles, Keiths, Cheney's, Wolfs and Benefields.

Because there were no improved roads, all the produce was shipped by local express. Many a time the local train was stopped for more than an hour loading crated melons, fruit and cream. The Union Pacific Railroad discontinued its service through Irrigon in 1950 and the rails were removed a year or so later.

Since this time a black-top highway, telephone and electricity have been acquired. In 1920 a new concrete school building was under construction and is still in use as a high school. In 1952 the new A. C. Houghton Grade school was constructed as the other

building was not of sufficient size to accommodate the grade and high school.

Irrigon has long been famous for its wild Irrigon Rose (Sand Burr) and melon stands along the highway. People from all parts of the world as well as the United States have been served a slice of cold melon in the shade of our Locust trees during the hot season. And with good reason, for the temperature has been known to be as high as 118 degrees in the shade, although usually the normal is 103 degrees to 108 degrees in the shade. There was an increase in population during the construction of McNary Dam during the early 1950's.

The population of the Irrigon District in 1959 is about 500. Our city, which is now incorporated, has the Baptist Community church, the Adventist, and the Assembly of God churches; Bill Bolton's Times Service Station; and Elton Fraser's Chevron Station; William G. Taylor's Texaco Station and Cafe; Bill and Dan's Tavern; Fred Adams' Irrigon Mercantile; Mart Abkins' Complete Food Store; Harold Brownlee's Corral Motor Court and Ruby Kelly's Motor Court and Bus Depot.

Blalock Island

Various attempts have been made by prospectors to mine gold on 4,000 acres of Blalock Island, west of Irrigon in the middle of the Columbia River. As late as 1957, using crude makeshift equipment, Lee Tyler, Edmonds, took out \$4,000 in the ore. Unofficial assays ran \$1.30 and \$1.70 per yard for the gold. The gold, many Indian relics, and the ancestral burial grounds will be under water as the forthcoming John Day Dam is completed. Who knows what other changes this will bring in the future.

Boardman Community

It was in 1903 that the original settler, Sam Boardman, filed on his homestead. Mrs. Boardman came at a later date. The country was a desolate wasteland of sagebrush and cactus and each year their departure was postponed by the hope of having irrigation water. It was 13 years before red tape was untangled in Washington, D. C. and in 1916 water was brought from the Umatilla River to the new cement ditches on the project. Five families worked on the ditches and still here are the Royal Rands; Buster Rands, their son; and Mrs. Margaret Klitz, widow of F. F. Klitz. Jack Gorham also assisted with the ditches.

The first unit was opened in 1916. This opening was held in June and as it was so late in the season, very little work was done until after the second opening held March 1, 1917. C. H. Dillabough was the first homesteader to file and about 40 families came at this time. Paul and Frank Partlow, Charles Nizer, R. C. Mitchell, George Mitchell, Robert and Alex Wilson, W. A. Price, Joe Curran, Tom Hendricks, H. Cason, A. P. Ayers, J. J. Weston, R. Wasmer, Frank Otto, I. Skoubo, Leslie Packard, John L. Jenkins, J. R. Johnson, the Attebury Brothers, W. H. Mefford, M. C. Marshall, Jess Lower, John Brice, Ira Berger, W. W. Bechdolt, Gratton (Hi) Hoffman, Charles Hango, O. B. Olson, Ray Brown, Ralph Humphrey, Earl and Frank Cramer, Adolf Skoubo, Mrs. Sam Shell, Paul M. Smith, Mrs. Gladys Gibbon, Nick Faler, W. O. King, L. V. Root and their families. Of this group the following are still residents of the project: Paul Partlow, R. Wasmer, Robert Harwood who came with Frank Partlow, Elvira Harwood who is the daughter of John L. Jenkins, Ray Brown and family, Adolf Skoubo, Gratton Hoffman, Mrs. L. V. Root, and

Margaret Thorpe, the daughter of Paul M. Smith who now resides in Union, Oregon.

More settlers arrived later: Claud Meyers, Ed Kunze, Charles Dillon, Dan Ransier, T. C. Broyles, Charles Wicklander, J. H. Howell, B. Richardson, M. K. Flickinger, Elmer Messenger, Nate Macomber, Jess Allen, John Pruter, Tom Delano and Nels Kristenson and their families. Still residing on the project are: Elmer Messenger, Nate Macomber, Mrs. Jess Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Kristenson, Mildred Allen Baker, Arthur A. Allen and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dillon. Ed Kunze still owns a farm on the project, but is now living in Tacoma, Washington. Many of the above mentioned people have since passed away. The roads on the project have been named for many of these early settlers.

The Town of Boardman

It was in 1916 that S. H. Boardman sold 40 acres to the Boardman townsite company and E. P. Dodd of Hermiston, organizer of the company, platted the town. Naturally the community was named for the man who spent so many years here. It was a great loss to the community when Sam Boardman passed away January 26, 1953 at the age of 78. Mrs. Sam Boardman now resides in Salem, Oregon. A son and daughter reside there also, a daughter in Portland and a son in California.

After water was available trees were planted on the project and many are still standing. A post office was opened and postmasters were Mrs. Olive Payne, Mrs. Florence Root, (who held the office for 24 years), and the present postmaster, Mrs. Flossie Coats. Rural carriers have been C. G. Blayden; his son, Louie; Leo Root; Victor Hango for 13 years), C. A. Tannehill; and Harold Baker since 1955. Team and buckboard were used for many

years. L. V. Root built the post office building with residence in 1921.

Town's First Residents

O. H. Warner of C. G. Blayden were in a debatable tie as the city of Boardman's first resident. Warner built the Highway Inn, housing many tourists who were fed by Mrs. Warner. He drove the first schol bus (probably horse and buggy) and was livery man, driving prospective settlers to the various ranches. Around 1925 he built a small grocery store and camp ground and traded in 1928 for the present Leo Potts farm. Ballengers, Gorhams, Roots, Klitzes, and Cramers were closely associated with the growth of the town. Mr. Ballenger is in real estate at Hermiston, at this time.

Mr. Blayden was Boardman's first mayor and he started the first roses growing in town when flowers were a rarity in the desert surroundings. Although in the spring the yellow hues of the cactus and sage in bloom on the desert are viewed with pleasure by many people travelling to the Boardman area to see the profusion of blooms.

Credit for the first civic improvement goes to Ferdinand Emberger, who erected a water tank and the city water works. The tank was greatly overtaxed and collapsed. He is remembered as the little man who pedaled his bicycle up and down the river in his effort to pan a little gold from the river. It was on one of these trips that he was hit by a car on the highway and killed.

The town was incorporated in 1921 and a well was drilled and a pumping plant installed. March 1926 saw a small electric plant installed (never too dependable). In 1930, Paul Hatch purchased the plant and started extending lines into the country. REA lines were run to most of the project farms in 1939.

Mrs. Sam Boardman started the first Sunday school with an attendance of 5. When attendance reached 13, they met in the little school house until the community church was built in 1917.

Cemetery and Community Park

The need for a cemetery was stressed around 1920 when Mr. Harper passed away and his body had to be moved to Irrigon. Members of the Executive Committee of the Commercial Club were appointed to select a suitable plot of ground. They also located an aviation field and community park. They also represented the club in making plans for a big barbeque to promote the John Day Project. This was held June 1920 on the Dillabough ranch and many outsiders could observe the vast changes wrought by water on sandy soil and boost the John Day Project. Hundreds attended and marveled at irrigation wonders.

Telephones

About 1919 a telephone line was built by Walter Meade with Mrs. Leo Root as first operator. The A. C. Chaffee family arrived in 1920 and took over the telephone company, followed by the William Garners in January 1948, who extended the lines to many more homes. Dial phones were installed in 1957 when the Eastern Oregon Telephone Company of Pilot Rock purchased the franchise from the Garners.

Depot and Highway

The depot was located at Messner for many years. Some operators were Bobby Smith, Carl Doering and Lee Meade. The railroad built a depot at Boardman in 1922 and Ralph Davis was the station agent.

The highway was surveyed in February 1917 and grading was well underway the spring of 1919 under the supervision of F. L. Brown.

Organizations

The Greenfield Grange organized April 1919 through the efforts of Sam Shell and Charles Wicklander. There was a Charter of 70 members. Some first officers were C. H. Dillabough, Charles Nizer, Sam Shell, Adolf Skoubo, R. G. Mitchell, Homer Mitchell, Mrs. Ira Berger, O. B. Olson, Mrs. Nizer, Mrs. F. H. Edwards, Mrs. Ray Brown and Mrs. Dillabough. They met at the school and Root's Hall until the old bank building was purchased in 1932.

Other organizations were the Home Economics Club organized April 1927; IOOF in April 1923; Rebekah's in November 1925; Modern Woodman in April 1922; Royal Neighbors in March 1923; and the American Legion was organized in December 1921 and was named for Elmer Mefford who died in the flu epidemic during service. Women's Auxiliary organized in 1922. The Ladies Aid of the non-denominational Community Church organized in May 1919 with first officers, Mrs. Sam Boardman, Mrs Blayden, and Mrs. W. W. Bechdolt. October 1919 the P-TA was formed. At the first meeting hot lunches were discussed, resulting in a splendidly equipped cafeteria recently remodeled to conform with state regulations.

Land Settlement Committee Picnic

Among the interesting events taking place was the large picnic held in June 1926 at the Porter ranch, now owned by Russell Miller, with more than 400 people attending. The occasion was the visit of the Land Settlement Committee from the Portland and State Chambers of Commerce. Visitors were taken around the Boardman and Irrigon projects to show the points of interest and the results of irrigation water. Following the large picnic dinner, speeches were given by Marshall N. Dana, assistant publisher of the Oregon Journal at that time and now assistant to the president of the U. S. National Bank at Port-

land. Col. E. E. Faville, editor of Western Farmer and Whitney L. Bois, Chairman of the Land Settlement Committee were introduced by Sam Boardman. Norma Gibbons, about 13 years old gave a recitation. People attended from Irrigon, Alderdale, Ione, Heppner, Hermiston, and other nearby points.

Schools

The first school was opened in the fall of 1916 under the direction of Miss Clara Voyen. There were 11 pupils from the Barnes, Rands, Klitz, Paine, Blayden, Boardman and Mitchell families. School was located in Boardman's field about where Erwin Flock's home now stands. The house was later purchased by Paul Smith; and at present Dwight Ewing uses it for his home. Previous to 1916 a small school operated at Castle Rock. It was later abandoned and the building moved to Boardman as a temporary school building. Primary grades were held in the Community Church until the school building was completed in 1918; (the center section only.) The auditorium was partitioned into class rooms and the high school classes were held in the present library and office. The wings were added in 1919 and dedicatory exercises were held March 1920. E. Francis Williams of Portland was the designing architect and a great deal of foresight was put into his plans for a pleasant building to be used for many years to come. Plans were included for parallel wings to extend east from the present building, but these were never erected. The building and equipment was to cost \$12,000 and spiraling prices during World War I raised it to \$35,000. 1927 saw the building of the old gymnasium and 1953 the new gymnasium designed by H. Brande Cesswell of Walla Walla, Washington. First school board members were L. M. Allen, M. C. Marshall, H. H. Waston, and school clerks through the years were L. V.

Root, Mrs. Boardman, Claire Harter, Mrs. Lee Meade, Martha Titus Cramer, Ed Barlow, LaVern Partlow, Flossie Coats and Margaret Thorpe.

Other Additions

J. F. Barlow and sons of Heppner purchased stock and fixtures of the service station from the Latourell Auto Company in 1925. The Guy Barlows operated the station for years and their entire family added much to the development of Boardman.

Leo Root built a movie house about the same time. Later it was turned into a grocery store by Jack Gorham in 1928. He sold the store to Charles Stoltnow who later sold it to the present owner and operator, Walter Hayes.

The Adventist Church was built prior to 1922 and later converted to the Lutheran Church. The Catholic Church was erected in 1929. Land for the churches was donated by E. P. Dodd of Hermiston.

A golf course was opened in 1925 in the desert across from Messner and flourished for some time.

Ditch Riders

The following ditch riders have been in charge of the irrigation project: C. P. Stanyen, Dan Ransier (who came in 1919 and rode ditches for 28 years until he died in 1947); Charlie Wooley (until 1953); and Roy Ball, the present ditch rider.

Epidemics

In February and March, 1926, there was a small-pox epidemic affecting many project homes. In 1937 there were several cases of typhoid fever with some deaths.

Crops and Stock

Many crops have been tried over the years, among them being mint, broom corn, potatoes, melons, sorghum, corn, hay, grain, asparagus, and even the lowly earthworm was cultured. Cattle, sheep and hogs have been predominate. Charlie Dillon had the first poultry plant of any size.

Turkeys and rabbits have been raised and Frank Otto had the first apiary. Arthur Allen also had bees for many years. Around 1927 many turkeys were raised and hundreds of pounds were sold annually.

There have been many efforts to promote the sale of the produce. During early years efforts were made to interest Libby & Heinz in setting up a salting station for cucumbers to enable the growers to preserve them while small and fresh and they could be picked up at frequent intervals at the company's convenience.

In recent years several farmers raised early potatoes on a large scale for export. One of the most successful years was 1956 when approximately 175 carloads were shipped out of Boardman.

Another crop to be tried was a cross between the currant and huckleberry known locally as the Pruterberry. This name was derived from the people who succeeded with this experiment, Mr. and Mrs. John Pruter.

Recent Civic Improvements

There have been many civic improvements in recent years. In 1955 about 10 miles of country roads were oiled. The Columbia River Highway was moved south of town and the main street of town was oiled connecting it to the service road running parallel to the new highway. Several businesses moved to the service strip and new ones built. Dewey's Chevron Station, Walley's Associated, Gronquist's Mobile and Allen's Texaco were the first to locate. At this time the Hitchin' Post Cafe was built and in 1953 Mabel Peck and Maxine Crowder took over the Little Dutch Oven from Ernie Knopp. They replaced the building in 1954 naming it the M and M Cafe. In 1946 S. C. Russell struggled through the war time problem of procuring materials to build a new Shell Station. When the highway moved, he closed the business and in 1956

built a new Shell Station now operated by his son, Vernon. In a matter of 2 or 3 years, they will be moving again making way for the new John Day Dam.

Glen Carpenter owns a farm bordering on the new highway and he built modern cabins as the Boardman Motel. He opened for business in 1951 while the highway was relocating. Smith's Motel moved from the old highway site, but was later destroyed by fire and never replaced. The Nugget Motel was built around 1954. Erwin Flock's trailer court and melon stand has been in operation for many years.

New fair buildings were erected in 1952 at Boardman to house the North Morrow County Fair which has been an annual event since 1921.

In 1948 a new water system was installed with larger pipes in town and meters added. The City Hall was built across from the school grounds. In 1956 a fire truck was purchased and a nice building erected for it on Main Street. This same year the new automatic street lights were installed. In 1952 the Cemetery Association was formed and later a well drilled and a pump house with a sprinkler system installed for the increased size.

Kuhn's Garage was built on Main Street in 1955 moving from the building owned by Arthur Allen, the original Latourell's Garage. Many existing buildings have made improvements and the Boardman Supply enlarged to carry a supply of most anything the customers would want — feed, lumber, clothing, appliances, fishing supplies, etc. The Grange recently tore out the old kitchen and dining room, built in the '30's and part of the original building was remodeled to contain three rooms which are excellent. The building was used for many things over the years—bank, cannery, grocery store, feed store, and headquarters for the high-

way engineers during the construction.

Many original homes on the project have been modernized and others torn down or abandoned. New homes replaced homesteaders shacks though a few shacks remain on the project. Service Stations on the old highway are now lovely homes.

Bombing Range

Most of the time since World War II Boardman has had an active Air Force Base and bombing range now used by the Navy. These men and their wives have added much to the community. In 1954 with their help a City Park was made in the center of town and is now enjoyed by local people and tourists who stop for picnic lunches in the cool shade. The flag pole was erected in 1955, donated by the Air Force Wives Club. The same year the Tillicum Club added the playground equipment to the park and Arthur Allen and George Weise constructed a wading pool. Dedication ceremonies were held in 1956.

Chamber of Commerce and Present Organizations

The active Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1956 and is now working closely with the Planning Committee in plans for the new town. Boardman will be proud to call "home" in its new location — approximately south and east of the new Shell Station.

Active organizations at present are Greenfield Grange and its Home Economics Committee, Tillicum Club, (of the General Federation of Women's Clubs), P-TA, Garden Club, Ladies Aid Society, Chamber of Commerce and Home Extension Unit as well as the Church organizations. Many 4-H clubs are active and there has been an F. F. A. project in school over 30 years.

Boardman is a popular place for hunting geese, ducks, and pheasants and in recent years has become very

popular for sturgeon and steelhead fishing. It is also close to deer hunting areas.

Business enterprises tried over the years are co-op feed store, coal selling by the carload, cannery, broom factory, cheese factory and many others. J. C. Ballenger had a lumber yard in early years, later sold to W. A. Price. The Arlington Hulden Motor Company operated a supply store in the building for a time, sold it to Robert Parker. He, in turn, sold it to George Weise, now operating it as Boardman Supply.

Fires

Several fires have occurred, among them the coal chute at Messner burned prior to 1926. A large grocery store was lost where the City Park is now located. Smith's Motel burned and a grocery store was lost and all stock in a fire. In October 1929 a disastrous fire occurred on Blalock Island, where the pumping plant burned at a loss of \$2,000. Even as late as 1957, \$4,000 worth of gold was taken in an enterprise on the Island. The blacksmith engine used to pump water for 400 acres of alfalfa was ruined, this project owned by the Riverside Farming Company.

The Dillaboughs who originally settled near the canal in the '20's and also homesteaded a mile west of Boardman on the Columbia River highway near the river, had a grove of trees that became famous for a place for picnics. In July 1959 a desert fire started accidentally on U. S. 30, devoured many acres of desert rangeland and before it was successfully controlled close to the west end of the project, took 450 acres of privately owned desert pasture and the Dillabough place.

Centennial Wagon Train Passes Through Boardman

Highlight of the year 1959 — Oregon's Centennial year — was the night encampment of the Centennial wagon

train. This train of seven covered wagons re-enacted the long trek, made by many a pioneer, from Independence, Missouri to Independence, Oregon.

Starting in April, 1959, these 23 Oregon people led by Gordon Serpa, a rancher from Ashland, Oregon, followed the old Oregon Trail, as closely as possible.

They spent the night in Boardman on August 4, 1959, camping at the North Morrow County fairgrounds. The entire county turned out to welcome them with a huge salmon feast and an evening of entertainment.

The wagons continued on to The Dalles where they went by barge down the Columbia River, just like the early pioneers, to Oswego on the Willamette River. The train arrived at its destination, Independence, Oregon on August 15, 1959 when a big celebration was held to welcome the party that proved "pioneering" had not died.

Boardman's Future

Boardman has been in the news recently as being affected by the new John Day Dam. In the next few years the town will have to be relocated. So, for the second time in 42 years, the town of Boardman will be built from scratch, so the history of Boardman has a bright future and an interesting one.

Boardman is proud to show the world the wonderful advantages of the climate the Columbia River and Columbia highway with the growing Port facility, farming, business, educational, religious, social and cultural opportunities. It will undoubtedly show development with the new John Day Dam as a tourist and resort area of importance on the Columbia.

So the history of Morrow County has developed through a very colorful past to the present.

New methods of travel and communications, new developments in in-

dustry, agriculture and lumbering will effect the county's progress in many ways.

But the eternal hills, in the southern part of the county, and the sagebrush prairies that touch the mighty Columbia River, on the north, have

all contributed their bit to the character of the people. They are not easily swayed in opinion, nor are they insensitive to real need. The moral fiber gives great promise of steady progress in Morrow County — the land of promise.

Thérèse & Claire

Love
Mum

December 1959.