

Sutherlin, Youngest Town in Douglas County

By WILL J. HAYNER, Editor Sutherlin Sun

Sutherlin is perhaps the youngest town in southern Oregon. In 1910 it isn't on the map—it was a stock ranch—and save for a few hay sheds and riding herds there was not much in this vicinity. A badger country road, full of ruts and ruts, zig-zagged across the present waste, and from gave nightly corn in a pond which occupied the center site of the several business blocks in the vicinity of the First State Bank building.

After the original promoters of the town had made surveys for streets and alleys, residence and business lots, and taken steps to have them incorporated, they proceeded to attract settlers and other business men. The first settlers came from the western states to locate in Sutherlin. Many who received these early settlers came in order to obtain the location of the new town. But they failed to find even on any map which would indicate where the new town was.

Within a short time the new town company began to receive letters from people in various parts of the country asking where Sutherlin was and whether access to the town was had by water or wagon transportation. F. B. Waite, who was one of the principal promoters of the town, began to think about the matter. It had not occurred to him before that Sutherlin was not even mentioned on the Oregon road map. He decided to act quickly and let the inquirers know where Sutherlin was located. Making a trip to Roseburg, he went to the News office, and he had a thousand circulars printed under a heading in large letters which read: "Where is Hell Sutherlin?" The circulars then proceeded to give the most minute details in regard to the location of Sutherlin, even the chains, angles, cross, latitude and longitude, the latitude Meridian not being left. The distance from Portland, Oreg., was given as 100 miles. The distance from Roseburg, the Umpqua bridge and Andy Bunch's ranch was not overlooked, and after thoroughly digesting Mr. Waite's circular, a man could easily have found the location of the new town.

Shortly after the circulars were issued people from the middle west, attracted by the mild winter climate of this valley, began to arrive here. Little later the name of the town appeared on railroad maps, a very attractive depot was erected, and trains ran to make regular stops. A hotel was erected and within a few years Sutherlin was a "town that had a town to be."

About this time the Luse Land & Development company of St. Paul, Minn., were attracted to this valley, after making an investigation

and satisfying themselves as to its possibilities, took over "the whole works," including hundreds of acres of land along the foothills and extending several miles to the east end of the valley, and about a mile to the west.

A concrete dam was constructed on the Calapooia river, eight miles east of town, from which source approximately 20 miles of canals and ditches were supplied with water for irrigation purposes. An electric power plant was also constructed some distance west of the dam, and the new town was illuminated during the dark hours of the night by electric lights.

A very attractive two-story bank building, constructed of native stone, was erected. All the streets in the business district were paved with concrete, and a water system costing over \$20,000 was put in.

In the meantime, the Luse Land & Development company had a large force of men, under several expert horticulturalists, planting Spitzenberg and Newtown apple trees, Doan and D'Anjou pear trees, and Italian prune trees. Several large tracts were also devoted to leucoberry. The orchards, which were divided into tracts of from five to ten acres each, were all protected by wire fencing and were given careful cultivation.

Practically all the orchards were sold between 1910 and 1915 to people from the middle west, who came here on excursion trains, conducted by the company, from St. Paul and intermediate points. A number built attractive homes on their fruit tracts, while others built in town, in order that their children might have the advantage of good schools. As a result of the development work of the Luse Land & Development company, and others who came here and purchased undeveloped lands, Sutherlin valley has at the present time approximately five thousand acres of bearing apple, pear, peach and plum orchards, and between two and three hundred acres of leucoberry.

There are two large fruit packing plants here and a large drier. One of the packing plants and the drier is under control of the Oregon Growers' association, while the other packing plant is operated by the John A. Egan company, of Chicago. During the season just closed a third packing plant was operated here by the Guy Conner company, of Medford. Sutherlin also has a box factory, which furnishes thousands of boxes each year to the packing houses and growers of this vicinity. Aside from its fruit production, considerable livestock, such as cattle, sheep, goats and hogs, are raised on the ranches adjacent to this valley.

Sutherlin has four church organizations—Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, and Seventh Day Adventist, all of whom are comfortably housed

in buildings of their own. The city also has a commodious and well-equipped high school building of eight rooms, presided over by a corps of the best instructors obtainable. The Seventh Day Adventists also maintain an academy here, which at present has an enrollment of over one hundred students.

The 1920 government census gives Sutherlin a population of 843. Since this census was taken, however, the population has increased to some extent, for there was quite a number of vacant houses in Sutherlin between 1917 and 1921, while today there is not a vacant residence within the corporate limits of the city, and several attractive houses have been built during the past two years.

While fruit production will eventually bring Sutherlin into prominence as one of the larger producers of apples, pears and peaches on the Pacific coast, our citizens are anxiously looking forward to the development of other resources of this valley, which give promise of making it one of the most active industrial centers in southern Oregon.

One of the undeveloped resources is timber. Some years ago the Roach Timber company, of Muscatine, Iowa, acquired a tract of approximately 55,000 acres of timber 20 miles east of Sutherlin. Later the timber was cruised, plots were made of each section and logging roads were surveyed. Two large mill sites were secured a few miles east of town and a right-of-way for a railroad extending from Sutherlin to the timber was acquired by the Roach company. Just preceding the World war over ten miles of a good, substantial railroad bed, extending from the Southern Pacific right-of-way in the city to a point above the dam, ten miles east of town, was constructed. Then the war came and development operations ceased, and have not since been resumed. The writer understands, however, that negotiations are progressing looking to the development of this timber in the near future.

While careful investigation has conclusively proven the presence of oil in this vicinity, as yet it has not been fully shown that it exists in paying quantities. Some months ago a California company erected a steel derrick and installed expensive drilling equipment on the old brickyard site, a mile north of town. A hole has been drilled to a depth of nearly 300 feet, and considerable gas and a small amount of oil was either purposely or carelessly allowed to drop in the hole, thus making drilling operations impossible. After this incident, E. B. Latham of California, who is at the head of the company, came here and took personal charge of operations. Expert drillers have taken the place of the men formerly employed at the

well, and efforts are now being made to remove the obstruction in the well. The iron has been cut in several pieces, two or three of the smaller ones having been brought out. Mr. Latham states that he is confident that oil in paying quantities exists here, and that he proposes to go ahead with drilling operations just as soon as the pieces of iron are removed from the hole. New buildings and roads were recently constructed on the property, and it looks as though the company intended to go ahead with their plans regardless of the annoyances and vexatious delays which they have encountered.

Sutherlin, like all new towns, and many of the older ones, has had its ups and downs, yet the optimism of its citizens has always carried them forward with a new hope and new zeal for the future. While some have turned back after taking hold of the new hand, many have remained, and will continue in their work and effort for a greater Sutherlin.

Pulling the Throttle

By Christopher G. Hazard

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IT IS the custom of a certain railway engineer to have his boy with him now and then in the engine cab. The youngster states that he has "rined the bell and blown the whistle," but that he has not yet "pulled the throttle."

This seems to be the matter with a good many older ones of the present generation, and it may explain their lack of progress. They have rung the bell and they have blown the whistle, but they have neglected to open the throttle.

That invisible force that is in us all responds wonderfully when we call upon it, but is only a useless and diminishing energy until we do. Bell and whistle may advertise that we have steam up, but they cannot get us along. They may both be active while we are really slowing up, like the train that approaches a stop.

The station may be a permanence for us when we could go a good deal farther, we may arrive at a dead line in life while yet young, because we have shut the throttle instead of opening it, turned off steam instead of turning it on.

There never was more chance for progress than this New Year is offering. Never before did opportunity beckon more earnestly. Never was talent so much in demand, never was capacity so much needed. Never was ability so largely rewarded. Great positions wait for those who can fill them. Ambition may plan. Aspiration may hope.

But I wouldn't want a fast young man on my road. I wouldn't have a loud young woman in my office. Cigarettes shut off steam. The call is not for noise, but for efficiency. I can watch a young man's smoke when that is about all there is of him. I can hear a belle ring when I would prefer to have her busy!

Happy, Though Older

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NOT by mourning because life cannot be all springtime. Not by thinking that youth can be powdered, painted, dressed and affected into renewal. Not by looking backward and living upon reminiscence. Not by counting up our losses.

In fourfold beauty life is on the wing. As well try to change the course and succession of seasons as to hold back the progress of our ages. Spring, summer, autumn, winter are not only for nature, but for human nature. No one is deceived by imitation when we are not just as young as we used to be. Fading pictures and a passing show, "allings and arrows of outrageous fortune," are just the differences in life's weather.

But every season has its own peculiar beauty. Every day of every year is really a gem on Time's finger. There is even a majestic and terrible beauty in a storm. In the long monotony of the doldrums at sea one could hail a cyclone. In the dusty glare of protracted drought a flood could be welcomed. In too much of any season the wish arises for the rest of the program. Change opens up new vistas of the scenery of our histories. The afternoon of life is meant to be a pleasant outlook upon its harvest fields, a gathering in of that wealth of production that requires time and patient toil. The enjoyment of that richness of character that is given only to long experience. Wisdom can never be hastily acquired. Nothing can be done in less time than it takes. Even God must wait until fall for a ripe apple.

Age marks progress and gives leisure. To look forward and go on with power of choice hitherto denied, and to have time and opportunity to do as one likes, rather than as he must, these are much. To have acquired new powers of thought and to have time for books, to hobnob with a few cronies, to have a little something to do, to sit on the porch and see the world go by, to look beyond the setting sun to a new day, and beyond the coming winter to a new spring—all these and more may mean that one has kept the best wine until now!

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