

GIVE HISTORY OF SCHOOLS

First Willowa County School Opened in 1876; Growth Since Then Remarkable.

(By G. S. Meek.)
WALLOWA, Ore. (Special)—With the first settlers coming into the Willowa valley in 1872 and '73 within a few years the need of a school of some kind was beginning to be keenly felt.

Settlers, the greater part of whom had settled in the western portion of the valley, began the consideration of this vital problem, which was the starting point, from which the present high class schools are largely responsible.

Some very interesting facts present themselves in a survey of the educational question from the year 1876 up until the present time. At this time Willowa valley was a portion of Union county, and with the small settlement so far removed from the more thickly settled portions of the county, and with no school district boundaries having yet been established, it remained for the settlers to get busy and work out some system, which would meet their needs, until the population had gained enough to warrant more attention being given the school question.

Thus, in the year 1876 the first school was opened in the valley, a small log structure was erected by the people living in the Lower valley, where some of the present residents of the valley, who were small children at that time, made their first entry into a school building.

This first small school house was a short distance west of the present town of Willowa, and was a private school, being maintained by the parents having children attending school. The teacher who ministered to the wants of the children, was a man named Anderson.

The furnishings of this first school, are said to have been very few. The seats and desks being built of rough boards, rudely carpentered, though answering the purpose very well. Another very difficult problem confronting both teacher and pupils, was the question of text books, the books available were products of many different authors, thus contributing to the very difficult task of teaching.

With the absence of roads and bridges, many of the children found it very difficult to reach the school, at many times when high waters, and other barriers to travel on foot presented themselves.

First District Made.
 The boundaries of the first school district was established in this section in the year 1879 being the first one in the valley. The question of education then began to attract the attention of more of the settlers of the valley, who were showing considerable gain.

A system calling for three months school each year, was at this time put into operation. Shortly after this time two or three school buildings were built of logs in the upper part of the valley, one located on Silver Street, and another on Hurricane street. One of the first teachers in this section of the county was Harold Burleigh.

About a year following this a school house was erected near the present town of Lostine. From this time up until 1887 when the valley was cut off from Union county, something like twenty school districts had been formed. A few districts were created within the next few years.

A report of March 27, 1888 showed 1394 persons of school age, 743 of whom were attending school. The teachers employed at this time, were about equally divided, as to men and women. That year saw the erection of several new frame buildings, for school purposes, to replace the older log structures. At this time the estimated value of school property in the county totaled \$2900.

The boundaries of the first 25

school districts were adopted by a meeting of the court court, January 10, 1890. The greater part of these districts had been created, while the valley was yet a part of Union county.

The total number of school districts, up until the year 1896 was forty-one. With the number of pupils of school age at this time placed at 1757, the average salary paid the teachers at this time was around \$25 per month. At this time the value of the school property had reached \$16,000.

During the year 1896 a fine frame school building was erected at Enterprise at a cost of \$2,500 and during the next few years seven more new school districts were created, bringing the total number of districts at this time to forty-nine.

In 1900 the minimum school term was three months of school each year. There were forty-four teachers employed at this time, at an average salary of \$40 per month. As a comparison of the present time, with that date, the minimum now is eight months school each year, with one hundred and twenty-five teachers employed at an average salary of \$1120 per month.

The first apportionment of school funds was made by Superintendent E. D. McAdie, August 19, 1889 on the basis of 1502 children of school age, the amount of the apportionment being \$2102.80 or \$1.40 per pupil. The apportionment made by Superintendent E. C. Conley, November 13, 1923 on the basis of 2966 pupils, was \$38,805.20 or \$13.28. In addition to this there is a high school tuition fund. While districts have the power to levy a special district tax, the greater portion of them find this necessary in order to meet the expenses of conducting the schools.

There has been ninety school districts organized in the county, although several of these have lapsed, due to the fact that a number of years ago, when the timbered sections of the county were taken up, and with families residing there, some very large country schools were in evidence. However, at a later date when this land had been proved up, and a large portion sold to large timber interests, the number of pupils has dwindled until a number of them maintain schools no longer.

On July 7, 1906 the first county high school was established in the county. It was located at Enterprise. Almost immediately each of the other towns felt the need of a high school, and in a course of time, the county high school was discontinued, and became the Enterprise high school.

The county now has five standard four-year high schools located at Joseph, Lostine, Willowa, Enterprise and Flora. The first class graduating from high school at the county high school at Enterprise, were three, while in 1923 the graduating class numbered 53. The first eighth grade graduating class consisted of three boys and two girls, these were from the Enterprise school. During the year 1923 over 150 graduated from the eighth grade in the county. Annual institutes were held in the county since 1894 when all teachers are required to attend. Each year sees many students graduating from the high schools of the county enter in comparatively large numbers into larger institutions of learning in the state.

While nearly fifty years have elapsed since the first efforts at maintaining a school in the county were started, when the facts that the start was made from nothing, are considered, it must be admitted that the growth has been by leaps and bounds. The pioneer teachers who labored so faithfully under those trying conditions of the early growth of the educational advancement, are certainly worthy of more commendation than they are usually given.

Items Man Claims Partial Deafness Cured by Radio
RENO, Nev. (AP)—Radio eventually may cure partial deafness, in the belief of Norman Squires, of this city, who cites his own case as an illustration.

Two years ago, Squires says, he was totally deaf in his left ear. Now, after constant treatments by radio, he declares he can hear a whisper across the room.

Prince and His Bride
 Prince Erik of Denmark, who renounced succession to the throne to marry Miss Lois Frances Booth of Ottawa, Canada, is shown here with his bride. The couple, following a honeymoon, probably will live in California.



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SPEED LIMIT NOT FAVORED

Washington State Efficiency Director Urges Removal of Speed Limit for Motor Traffic.

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Eradicating state motor speed laws would be abolished under a system evolved by L. D. McArdie, state director of efficiency, as a means of expediting traffic problems of the day.

He presented his solution of the traffic situation while on a business trip here recently and also announced that he favored the issuance of drivers' licenses without charge, but advocated a rigid investigation of the applicant's ability.

"I believe traffic problems could be handled with greater efficiency," Mr. McArdie said, "if the speed limit were removed and the punishment for reckless driving made more severe, with the question of the recklessness left to the judge. It is many times extremely reckless to drive at 20 miles an hour, whereas in other places a speed of 40 miles might not be dangerous to any one."

"I believe drivers' licenses should be issued without charge, but rigid investigation of the applicant's ability to drive be made. With a severe penalty in force for non-possession of a driver's license and conviction on a reckless driving charge revoking the driver's license, there would be fewer cases of criminal carelessness on the part of motorists."

Mr. McArdie announced his intention of introducing a bill at the next session of legislature which would give the state highway department authority to designate main line highways and which would provide that persons operating vehicles on such highways would have a tall time the right of way.

Belief that such a bill would forever settle the main line and right of way question was expressed by Mr. McArdie.

The gasoline tax now in effect in this state appears to be the fairest way to tax the automobile, according to Director McArdie.

"In that way," he said, "the man is taxed the most who uses the highways the most. I am in favor of charging a small rate for an automobile license, and then getting the money to keep up the highways from the gasoline tax."

PLANTING TO BE INCREASED

Cove Orchardists Are Arranging to Put in More Cherry Trees and Other Fruits.

COVING, Ore. (Special to the Observer)—It is evident that Coving has reached the point in her development that is reassuring to all of her citizens. The starting of a new era of activity in far greater proportion than ever before has begun and augurs well for the future success and standing of the city and community adjacent.

It seems that every man or woman who calls Coving his or her home is ready to do all within their means in the way of improving their property and adding to orchards. Many cherry trees will be planted this spring and as many as 10,000 have been mentioned.

The three Blackland brothers are planting fully half of the above number of trees, and in addition are going to pioneer two new lines of fruit growing in this locality, by planting ten acres of Blueberries, Highbush and seven acres of gooseberries and will also propagate and grow for next year's planting about 50,000 non-cherry trees.

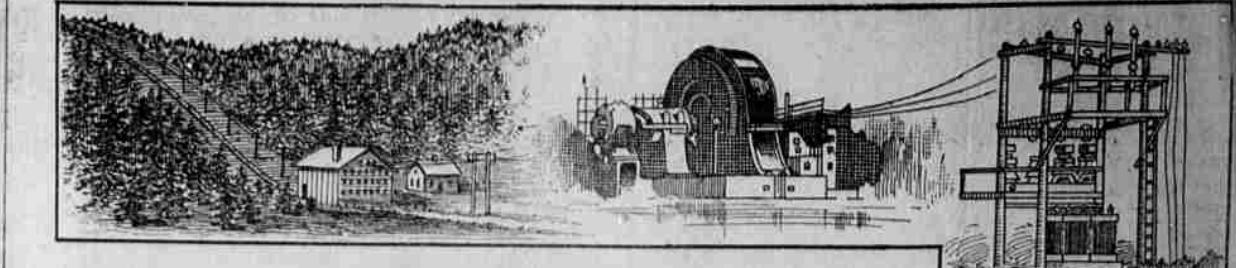
CHRONOLOGICAL STATE HISTORY TO BE PRINTED

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A chronological history of the provisional government, which existed in Oregon from the year 1841 to 1849, will be incorporated in a book which Dr. R. C. Clark, head of the department of history at the University of Oregon, is preparing. He expects to have the book completed this year.

The provisional governments were established by people of the Oregon country during the period of joint occupation of the territory by England and the United States.

Information derived from letters written by officials of the Hudson's Bay company will be Dr. Clark's chief source of material in preparing the history. Copies of these communications have been made in London for this purpose.

"The letters of these officials constitute a vast amount of material which has never been exploited," Dr. Clark said. "The archives of the Hudson's Bay company are now open to American scholars for the first time, a fact which makes this work possible."



To Know--Is to Understand

There are possibly many questions concerning the system of the Eastern Oregon Light and Power company that people would like to ask; that we will be glad to answer; that may not have occurred to us as being of interest to the general public.

For this reason we encourage a movement that is prevalent among the various organizations of our territory such as chambers of commerce, associations of businessmen, trades assemblies, farm groups, men's clubs, business and professional women's clubs, woman's clubs and other organizations of women, to inform themselves upon matters pertaining to our public service and give them an opportunity to discuss such questions appropriately in their meetings.

Members of committees from these organizations in our territory are invited to avail themselves of our offices and our records for information that may be of interest to their clubs.

If a particular phase of our service is under discussion we will be glad to arrange for one of our officers or employes to attend meetings and give of his knowledge and experience upon the question.

We are ever anxious and willing to become better acquainted with our customers and we know of no better way of accomplishing this than by providing facts and figures about the Light and Power business to those who are so interested in public utility operation as to desire details of our business.

Most of our public spirited men and women are identified with one or more of the various organizations in their communities. Telling our story to them is telling it to the communities, for they are among the leaders and their advice and counsel is sought by their neighbors.

If the question of a public service comes under discussion of an organization and it pertains to the lines of supply in which we are engaged, we cordially invite inquiries. Our success in our field depends upon the interest and cooperation of the public and we are earnestly striving to justify the same.

Eastern Oregon Light & Power Company
 "Always at Your Service"

MARKET FAIR FOR LUMBER

Though demand for lumber remains comparatively slack important consuming territories, due to recent bad weather, its total volume is very fair and the market is strong in virtually all its departments, says the American Lumberman, Chicago. The southern pine industry reports that while the middle West and the East are buying only moderately until the more general resumption of outdoor work, the South is a heavy consumer of lumber. That section is very prosperous compared with past years. It has money and is rapidly developing its resources and industrial life. The result is a great amount of building, creating an attractive local market for much of the lumber produced. There is again a good demand for timber and year stock from the oil fields, and exports to South America and West Indies hold up well. While most of the larger mills lately have been able to sort up their stocks, and are therefore in position to handle more orders and a larger variety of them supplies generally remain light. Prices are therefore firmly maintained by all larger operators, especially in view of good prospects for spring business. The market's only weak point is transit cars, which are being out rather freely by small mills in urgent need of business, and which are entering consumption slowly due to current market conditions in the northern section, but more particularly to most of these cars being badly assorted with low-grade lumber.

No essential change has occurred in the Douglas fir market. Aside from the continued good demand for cargo shipments to the Atlantic seaboard, heavy production has lately been the outstanding feature. By means of this manufacturers have been gradually lightening their order files and rounding out their stocks. No accumulations have as yet resulted, nor are any expected, in view of the prospective rail demand which is only awaiting better weather to assert itself, and of an expected early stimulus in the California and export markets. Some mills are now curtailing their output. Prices on all yard items are being maintained with little variation from previous levels, and special cuttings are somewhat stronger as a result of some attractive car material business recently placed.

Hardwood demand is said to be a shade lighter this week, but the market is unquestionably stronger throughout, due to the growing

scarcity of many items in dry conditions. FAR birch, PAs plan sap gum and the better qualities of PAs red oak are among items that have advanced markedly lately.

University Aids Students in Choosing Their Careers
RENO, Nev. (AP)—It is planned to have a faculty vocational committee at the University of Nevada to conduct psychological tests with a view of suggesting to students the vocation for which they seem best fitted.

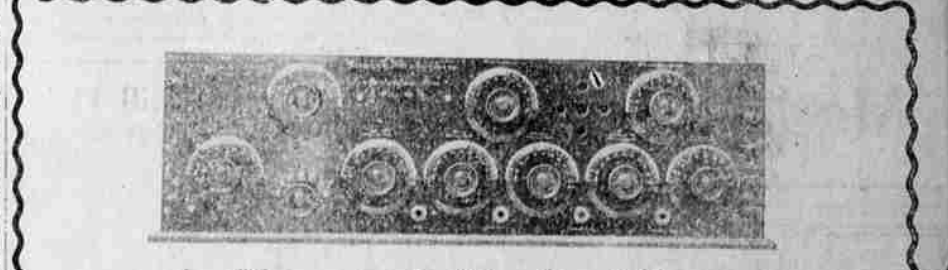
Since student often come to college without a definite career in view, it is believed that the scheme will be helpful. Freshmen students then will be offered the course of studies considered most helpful to the business or profession favored. The plan was proposed by Dr. J. B. Young, professor of psychology.

High School Tags Offenders For Using Incorrect Grammar
CLARKSBURG, W. Va., (AP)—

The English classes of the Washington Irving High School recently conducted a campaign known as "Better Speech Week" to improve the grammar used by the student body.

Everybody watched everybody and those who were careless enough to let slip "I seen," "don't know nothing," or any other offense against good grammar were chastely decorated with red, blue or yellow tags.

Sponsors of the movement announced a hurry call for more tags before the week was half over.



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- More selective than other makes. This is due to my system of selective wiring.
- Impossible to make any interference with it!
- BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU BUY A RADIO
- Don't let anyone sell you a set that interferes with your neighbor's reception, as that type of radio will soon be legislated against. All those whistles and squawks that you hear when listening in on radio are made by regenerative type radio.
- "I DO NOT SELL REGENERATIVE RADIO SETS AS MY FIFTEEN YEARS OF RADIO EXPERIENCE TELLS ME TO KEEP THAT TYPE AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC AS THEY CANNOT OPERATE THAT TYPE WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH OTHER RECEIVING SETS CLASS B37."
- I sell all makes of radio that do not interfere, and if you buy one with a loud speaker, I will install it free.
- I sell the following makes of sets:
 - ATWATER-KONT Radio Frequency
 - FEDERAL Radio Frequency
 - KILBOURNE & CLARK Radio Frequency
 - NORTHWESTERN Radio Frequency
 - GIBBE Radio Frequency Only
 - METLAD Radio Frequency
- All the above sets except the Atwater-Kont are higher priced than the HEACOCK RADIO.
- We have tested out the above line of radio and if you are in the market for any of them, give me the order, and I will install it complete in your home and in addition will give you a HEACOCK RADIO PHONE to test with it, thus giving you a chance to get the BEST MADE. If you want it, BE YOUR OWN JUDGE—I want you to know the difference between the ordinary radio, and the HEACOCK RADIO PHONE.
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Gives Greatest Private Library

●S. P. Morgan, the banker, has given to the public his great private library, with an estimated worth of several millions of dollars. It contains about 25,000 volumes and paintings. Morgan gave it as a memorial to the memory of his father.