

PARK PROGRAM HERE IS RAPIDLY TAKING A CONCRETE FORM

With the population of La Grande steadily increasing from year to year and the city growing in proportion, the need is felt for more city parks—rest parks, with shady benches, shrubs, flowers and trees—where one might stop to rest if he so desired, or being the family for a picnic dinner.

Several plans regarding parks have been discussed, but so far no definite decision has been reached and La Grande has only one park—Riverside park—which it can rightfully call its own.

About a year ago A. T. Hill, president of the city commission and chairman of the park board, struck upon a plan, which would give La Grande a two-block park in an excellent location. The site was between Fourth and Fifth streets, just off of M avenue and would have been available to both the high school and to the new normal school, when completed. No action was taken and since then two new houses have been constructed on the property.

Other park plans have been discussed and considered, in some cases the cost of the property was investigated and found to be too high. The present plan is for a park in the Commodore section of town. The city is building two blocks there, just below the normal school site, and if the school goes in, plans are now outlined, will be completed and work will start immediately on the park. The blocks are 24 and 25th foot blocks and the street between the two would be closed, giving 40 additional feet of land. Sidewalks and sewers are already in.

The property has not as yet been landscaped, but probably will be before long and planted to trees, flowers, lawn and shrubs within the next few years.

This idea was also first mentioned by A. T. Hill and it is largely through his efforts that the plan has progressed to the present stage. "While the site may seem out of town at the present time, that part of the city is rapidly building up and will improve even more quickly if the normal school is built, and will soon be in the heart of a residential district," Mr. Hill declares.

Another rest park should be built some place between the business section of the city and Old Town, according to Mr. Hill. A site on Fourth street and Lavonia has been considered, but no definite plans in regard to it have been made.

Riverside park—La Grande's only undeveloped park—is much prized and is one of which the citizens of La Grande may rightly feel proud. It is located outside of the city limits and is therefore not directly under the jurisdiction of the city, but is managed by a park board, of which the city president is chairman, and is kept up by a certain per cent of taxes in the same way as is the La Grande public library.

The park is about 24 years old. It was largely through the efforts of the women of La Grande that the city now possesses one of the finest parks to be found in this section of the state.

The idea of a park first came to Mrs. W. H. Bohlenkamp Sr.,

FINE BUSINESS BUILDINGS



The block of business buildings on the north side of Adams avenue between Fir and Elm street pictured above contains some of the finest structures in the downtown district. At the left is the W. H. Bohlenkamp building, which has housed the furniture company for many years. The company also occupied the lower floor of the second building from the left. Next is Anderson's Plumbing shop and in the same building is the Model Barber shop. Mr. Hancock's radio shop and his eyeglass specialists office. The Star theater, recently remodeled, is next and Carr's Furniture company's building occupies the corner position. This beautiful brick structure was erected a few years ago, after the former home of the company was razed by fire.

which overlooks the city of La Grande and gives an excellent view to those entering from the west.

The park includes about two acres and is located below the highway adjoining the observation point. This year the first steps towards its improvement were taken when members of La Grande's campfire girl groups planted a number of Russian Olive trees there. The trees were furnished by the state highway commission and were planted under the supervision of A. H. Boardman, who has charge of all tree planting for the highway commission. The trees were planted around the border of the two acre tract, and at present all but three of the number planted are alive and growing.

The park site was also plowed this year and is being cultivated during the summer months preparatory to planting next year. The park will be seeded to a mixture of Canada blue grass, Kentucky blue grass, red top clover and lucerne, as advised by G. H. Hyslop, of the Oregon Agricultural college.

Landscape plans have been submitted by Mr. Peck of the Oregon Agricultural college, calling for trees, grass, shrubs, etc. The park will be planted to give a natural appearance as possible. Trees will be planted in groves and shrubbery will be planted to look as though nature placed it there.

Native trees will be planted, including albes, a variety of fir and other types of trees which naturally grow in Eastern Oregon.

The city has promised to furnish water for the park and the improvements depends mostly on whether or not the water is supplied. This summer the trees planted by the campfire girls in the spring have been watered and cared for by employees of the state highway commission, who have also planted a number of blue grass, shrubs and additional trees, which would be impossible, however, without water.

La Grande also has a number of auto tourist parks, which add to the attractiveness of the city, besides furnishing a camping ground for the many tourists who pass through town. Two of the tourist parks are located on the eastern boundary of the city, and both are always crowded with tourists during the warm months. One of the parks is quite new and the trees are just now beginning to be big enough to make shade. The other park was built in an old orchard and furnishes plenty of shade. Both camps are modernly equipped with cabins, a tourist kitchen, etc.

Another tourist camp and picnic grounds is located west of the city on the old country club grounds along the Grande Ronde river. No planting of trees or grass was necessary to beautify this spot, nature providing plenty of large shade trees and soft green grass along the river banks. A swimming pool has been constructed there, which affords an additional attraction for picnickers.

The swimming pool and natural grove at Cove is another beauty spot of this county, which attracts many during the warm summer months for picnic and swimming parties.

Emigrant Springs park, another state park, of which the people of Eastern Oregon are justly proud, is located 30 miles from La Grande along the Old Oregon trail. The park includes 141 acres of timber land on top of the Blue mountains, this area having been dedicated to the memory of Oregon, where a monument has been erected in their memory.

For the past two years employees of the state highway department have been working there, cutting out the smaller trees and underbrush and getting rid of all old logs and stumps.

Last year the springs were improved considerably in addition to the grounds. Temporary campers' stoves were set up and other improvements were made by the state.

This year the contract was let for the construction of a park building at Emigrant Springs and the work is now underway. The building is a two-story structure of logs. It has a basement, where the heating unit, storage rooms and rest rooms are located. A large lobby, with a stone fireplace, is located on the first floor of the building, also a kitchen and storeroom. A long porch along one end of the end and one side adds to the attractiveness of the building. A large open stairway leads from the downstairs lobby to the upstairs, where there is a large balcony with a log railing. There are four rooms upstairs in addition to a balcony porch.

The building is 70 feet long and 40 feet wide.

In addition to the park building built the plans for the park grounds call for a spring house, which is also under construction. There will be a central pumping station, also a central water tank at the back of the park.

Traces will be built through the grounds, the work on this is probably start this fall. Macadam walks will also lead through the park. These will probably be built later next year.

Another park, located along the old Oregon Trail highway over the Blue mountains is Emigrant Hill park. Plans for this park have just recently been formulated. The idea is to purchase about 25 acres of land. An observation point will be established at the first sharp point at the top of the hill leading down on the other side of the mountains and water will probably be piped from some springs above so that grass, shrubs and trees may be planted if desired. This park is located about 41 miles from La Grande.

The state is also purchasing 500 feet on each side of the Old Oregon Trail highway from Elvins Point to the point of Emigrant Hill—a distance of about 21 miles—which will become state park land. The property is presently all timber land. The idea of the state in buying the section being point being graded and surfaced to protect the standing timber at the same time as the park, along the highway.

ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN THIS CITY



This beautiful two-story residence building, located at the corner of Fourth street and Spring avenue, is owned by Mrs. Fred J. Holmes. It was built many years ago and is regarded as one of the outstanding dwelling places in the western part of the city. Shade trees of imposing size contribute to the general attractiveness of the place, along with vines and shrubbery that are at their best.

OREGON SAFEST TO BE BORN IN

Public Health Service Reports Show This State Leading the Nation

That Oregon still holds the distinction of being the safest state in which to be born is proven by the 1926 summary report of the U. S. public health service, received Monday at the office of the Oregon Tuberculosis association in Portland.

This report shows that Oregon saves 948 babies out of each 1,000 living births. This is a higher ratio than is attained by any other state in the birth registration area. The nearest competitor is Washington, where 944 out of each 1,000 are saved. Minnesota comes third with a ratio of 933 per 1,000. The poorest showing is made by Arizona where only 836 babies are saved through the first year of life.

Portland has the highest ratio of baby saving of all cities over 100,000. This city saves 961 babies of each 1,000 born alive. This is an improvement of 7 lives per 1,000 over the year 1925. Eleven small cities of the United States had rates more favorable than Portland's rates. The highest rate of saving was shown by Benton Harbor, Mich., where 973 out of each 1,000 babies survived the first year. Of the other 10 small cities with favorable rates, four were in California, one in Washington and one in Oregon. The last mentioned is Salem, where the Marion county child health demonstration is in progress.

Minimum grade to a point about four miles from Wallawa will also be acquired by the state.

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GREEN and HOUGH, Props.

Much of the park grounds were left in nature intended to be trees, vines, bushes and flowers. A gravel driveway was built through the park, with bridges crossing the stream which flows through. Lawns, flowers, shrubs, vines and trees were planted from year to year, until now Riverside park is one of the prettiest spots to be found any place in this county.

A swimming pool was started, but was not completed. One spring when the river was exceptionally high, dirt was washed in and made a natural pond, where the swimming pool was under construction, which has been left and added to the beauty of the park.

The park is not only a healthy spot for the children, but is a recreational place for the children, and almost any day will find many children assembled at the playground there. Swings and slides and other playground equipment are there for both boys and girls and the older children, who enjoy the park.

For many years the park was used for chautauqua, and each year during the chautauqua program most of the townspeople would camp at the park, taking their tents and remaining there during the entire season. In addition to the chautauqua program there would be swimming in the river and other diversions.

During the chautauqua and other celebrations, the women of the fair board maintained the refreshment stand located there and most of the money for the playground equipment was raised in this manner.

During the year 1912 the park position was erected by the chautauqua association in connection with the park board, which was a big improvement with its large fireplace, stage and seating capacity.

The caretaker's home is also property of the park board, and is located on a part of the park grounds.

During the year 1926 many new trees, shrubs and flowers were planted, and all furnished adding greatly to the beauty of the park.

The area of the lake was increased, the material excavated being used to fill several depressions in the ground nearby and to widen the road in front of the park. Since then additional improvements have been made from year to year.

Several years ago the women of the Neighborhood club raised money and purchased trees, which were planted along the road leading to the park, and the street was named "Victory Way." The trees were planted on E avenue from Fir street to Spruce street and along Spruce street from E avenue to the park, as a memorial to the World war veterans of Lincoln county. The street was also widened considerably through their efforts. This year the road to the park was improved considerably, a new street surface being put on.

The park board, at present has about \$1000 in the bank, which it plans to spend toward further improvement of Riverside park, at though nothing definite has been decided upon.

La Grande also has another park, which is located outside the city limits, west of the city along the Old Oregon Trail highway. Gantloff park, as it is known, is owned by the state and is comparatively new, with very little improvement as yet.

This park was dedicated to the state of Oregon during the year 1922 by Mrs. Mary T. Foley in honor of her mother, Mrs. Johanna Gantloff, who with Mr. Gantloff settled on the property during the pioneer days before there was any city where La Grande now stands.

The idea of having a park there first originated with the Union county chapter of women. The park was dedicated in honor of the Oregon pioneers who traveled over the Old Oregon trail and a monument has been constructed there in their memory.

The monument was built in the fall of 1922, which the section of the Old Oregon Trail highway between La Grande and Old Town was established, an observation point being graded and surfaced to protect the standing timber at the same time as the park, along the highway.



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