

UNION IS OLDEST TOWN IN COUNTY; FINE HOME CITY

Was Laid Out in 1863—Named by Persons Supporting the North

SAWMILL PROVIDES A LARGE PAYROLL

Excellent School System Is a Feature—Experiment Farm and Fish Hatchery Also There

Union, the oldest town in this county, was laid out in the year 1863. There was not a building at that time but a number of settlers came to the place and set the new town plan. That section of the county, who was the first to travel by railroads. We are told that as early as 1852, the first wagon train went through and set their claim. This claim was on Catherine Creek. They had been told and were guided by an Indian girl from home to this locality.

The year Union was laid out was one of the stormiest years of the Civil War and like every other community or group of people, large or small, there was a division of opinion, some favoring one side of the cause and some the other. When it came to the question of choosing a name for the new town, the people gathered together and a vote was to be taken. Those in favor of the name of the North were to vote for the name "Union," the others were to vote for a name equally significant but favoring the South. When the votes were counted, it was found that there was one vote more for the northerners and consequently the new town was given the name "Union."

Population About 1,500
From that far off day, this little town has grown until now it is made up of a company of about 1,500 people, men and women who have an unbroken community spirit, who are alive, wide-awake, progressive and in consequence, have about 16 miles north and east of La Grande, a splendid little town, with many varied interests. Union has been called the ideal home town. Its residents claim for it that it is the center of the best farming section in Eastern Oregon.

Union lies in a general locality which is noted for its fruits, its grain, its cattle, its lumber and probably above many other sections, its dairy interests. In a normal year, 75 carloads of cheese have been shipped from the

SUMMERVILLE CHAPEL



The people in the neighborhood of Summerville with small contributions erected this lovely chapel in their community cemetery. The chapel contains a piano and substantial oak seats, sufficient to accommodate a large company. All these were secured through donations, and are indicative of the splendid community spirit existing in that little center.

and 100 carloads of prunes. Through the three decades of the town, it has been estimated that the amount per day of cream is around two tons. There are in the outlying districts during the winter, nine bands of sheep consisting of 24,000 head. There are also 10,000 head of cattle for which the natural rough ground furnishes excellent pasture.

Sawmill Payroll
Perhaps the largest payroll in Union is that of the Oregon Trail Lumber company, an organization wholly of Union men, of which A. C. Hess is the president and he gives the mill in all its operation direct supervision. This is a stage hand saw mill with a capacity of 20,000 feet per day, and sawing all grades of pine lumber. Fifty men are employed in the mill and in the camps. The Little Union Mill is another vital factor in the city's business life. This mill handles about 200,000 bushels of wheat per annum.

The town was incorporated years ago and today its administration consists of the following: Mayor, M. H. Lacy; Clerk, L. Z. Terrell; Treasurer, Mrs. Fred M. Fox; Councilmen, George A. Schindler, J. R. Jones, Walter Cook, G. I. Jones, P. R. Connor and Ralph Smith.

Marshal, Dave VanHouten; Street Commissioner, Charles Heasley. A volunteer fire department serves to give the town protection and assistance when needed. Union has a gravity water system, furnishing the patrons with absolutely pure water. Its source is in the mountains where the supply is brought through a twelve-inch pipe at the intake. The supply has never failed the consumers. Union has a very efficient organization of business men operating under the name of the "Union Commercial Club." They are at

many miles. Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Kerr are the competent managers of the hotel. Adjacent to the hotel is the City Auto Park which lies on Catherine Creek. On the main drive into the park is being erected a memorial, which when completed will bear a bronze tablet, with a legend to the effect that the four acres donated to the city for this purpose was made by Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Pursell. It is a beautiful site and is enjoyed not only by the many tourists passing through the city but by townfolk as well. There are two tennis courts, which are in almost constant use, also a kitchen, comfort and rest rooms, out-of-doors tables and benches, etc.

A private auto camp at Good-bred Lake is another restful spot and one which is made much use of.

Experiment Station
The Eastern Oregon Experiment Station adjoins Union on the west and is one of the largest stations of the kind in the United States. Superintendent, Robert Whitney, is a local citizen of the Union community and lends his support to every worthy enterprise.

The State Fish Hatchery is also another important feature. It is situated on Catherine Creek just at the eastern outskirts of the town.

These are some of the things of which Union boasts at present. We have been informed that there are now on foot movements for at least two large concerns which may be in operation later, but concerning which no definite announcement can be made at present.

Business Conditions Good
Business conditions in Union are good. There has not been a bankruptcy in the town for over six years. The first bank, the First National bank, having a capital of \$50,000 is a sound financial institution and meets all the needs of the community. George W. Benson is its president and James P. Hutchinson is the cashier.

The stores of Union have good and large stocks of modern merchandise and capable of supplying all the demands of their patrons. Merchants take pride in the appearance of their stores and the stocks and the latter are found to be up-to-date and well kept.

As stated before Union is called "An Ideal Home Town." It has been estimated that at least 35 per cent of the residents own their own homes. This means that almost without exception, the homes and dwellings are well kept up and offer an attractive appearance.

Proud of Schools
Union is justly proud of its schools and school system. They have three buildings—a high school and two grade buildings and also the biggest gymnasium in Eastern Oregon. The latter is 60 by 115 feet, has a hardwood floor and because of its size and construction is the place selected for the Eastern Oregon tournaments. Roy Conklin is the superintendent of the high school and he has associated with him 18 competent teachers. Three hundred and fifty pupils were enrolled last year. The high school is fully accredited and attracts pupils from Tolocast, Coos, North Powder and other communities.

Union is also a city of churches with seven denominations represented. All have their own places of worship and all, with the possible exception of the Adventists, have at present a regular and stated minister in charge. The Methodist have for their pastor, the Rev. R. C. Lee, the Presbyterian, the Rev. H. E. Dickinson, the Catholic church is under the supervision of the priest from La Grande, the Rev. William Badner is in charge of the Episcopal church and Bishop Jacob Kohler has supervision over the Latter Day Saints organization.

Fraternities flourish in Union. Perhaps the most active is the Masonic lodge, organized in 1878, which has a membership of 100 men, with M. H. Lacy as worshipful master. Associated with it is the Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Mabel Galt being the worthy matron. There are also the Royal Arch and Council. James Webb is the chamberlain of the Knights of Pythias and Mrs. VanHouten is the noble grand of the I. O. O. F. and two other members of the Grand Army of the Republic are left, that organization has disbanded but the Women's Relief Corps is a very active organization. There is a strong American Legion post with Adolph Lewis as commander. The W. G. T. U. is also a strong group. The Women's club justifies its organization by fitting a big place in the community life. The president is Mrs. Frank Wright. The day school has for their leaders, the Rev. William Badner, and Mrs. Mary Wright has a similar responsibility with the Camp Fire girls.

The town's newspaper is "The Eastern Oregon Republican" of which George A. Schindler is the owner and publisher. The Union News covers the town in a splendid shape and gives the community a very newspaper.

On Oregon Trail
Union is on the main line of the Oregon Trail highway and has consequently excellent auto service, with buses running about every week on the day.

No story of this little town would be complete without a mention of some of its distinctly community enterprises. Perhaps the first to be mentioned should be the Union City Stock Show which has this summer, many difficulties, successfully overcome in the preceding show for the winter. The Union News is usually on hand for a paper for every citizen. Union is known far and wide on account of this line activity alone.

Next in line should come the Union Hotel. This is a big, the town's most outstanding feature. It is a hotel which would be a credit to a town of several times the size of Union. It is owned by a company of Union men, who erected the \$125,000 hotel in the year 1922. It operates a very excellent dining room which attracts its patrons from a radius of

IMBLER LOCATED IN RICH GRAIN, FRUIT DISTRICT

Has Population of 225 and Is Surrounded by Prosperous Farms

ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL SERVES 67

Many Business Enterprises Listed—Large Apiary and Two Fox Farms Near Town.

Situated in the heart of one of the county's prosperous grain and fruit sections, the little city of Imbler lies about twelve miles north, with a slight bearing east, of La Grande. Although it is in one of the districts, generally speaking, where the early settlers chose to stop, the town itself was not laid out until the year when the C. & N. railroad line went up through that part of the country. It was felt that a station at this point was justified and the town of Imbler followed.

Imbler now boasts of about 225 people, who enjoy citizenship in the town. Lying out around the limits of the town are immense apple orchards and prosperous farms, and the people in that vicinity are of the sturdy, thrifty type. Imbler is an incorporated town and its officials include the following:

Mayor, Claude Hale; City Clerk, William Westenshaw; City Treasurer, Irving Westenshaw; Councilmen, James Andrews, E. M. Martin, Grant Tackler, Ralph Morgan, John Conklin, Mr. McReidie; Miss Ruth Litterell is the postmistress of the town.

Business Enterprises
Imbler's business concerns cov-

GRANDE RONDE LUMBER COMPANY'S NEW MILL



The mill of the Grande Ronde Lumber company recently erected at Pandosa, lying near the southern border line of the county. The view is the rear of the mill, taken across the log pond and looking toward the road. At the extreme left hand side may be seen a few of the cottages erected by the company for the mill employees.

er the general wants of the community. There is the Westenshaw general store carrying a splendid line of the indispensables. Tucker's grocery store, two confectioneries, a barber shop, a meat market, the telephone exchange, two garages, the Melville lumber yard, and the two elevators, the Farmers and Kiddle, make up the balance of the business enterprises. Some private industries include one large saw mill, and two fox farms. Besides train service, Imbler is on the route of the La Grande-Walla Walla line with bus service in very frequent intervals during the day.

Imbler has a very excellent school system for a town of its size and regular services, three times a week, on the part of the minister, and the church made necessary proper work for discontinuing the work.

While there are residing within Imbler members of different denominations of churches, there is at present no church having regular, preaching services.

The Methodists have a church and up to within a few months ago had regular services, three times a week, on the part of the minister, and the church made necessary proper work for discontinuing the work.

A Union Sunday school has been organized and these constitute the religious activities of the town. The Imbler Ladies Aid is a friendly, active group which furnishes considerable social life for the ladies of the community.

PAYS FOR DIVOTS
BOSTON (AP)—A golfer whose conscience troubled him has sent 15 cents to Boston's conscience fund for some divots. He explained that while trying to make a long drive on the municipal links he succeeded only in digging up the turf, and finally quit in rage. Later he remembered he had not replaced the divots, one of the greatest crimes in golf.

The happiest man in the one who honestly doesn't expect anything and gets a little.

You Can Relax While You Play



The Great Indoor Game

Billiards, both carom and pocket, offer one of the most pleasant and interesting forms of exercise to be had indoors. Played the world over, it is a game that requires skill and concentration and yet is not too strenuous.

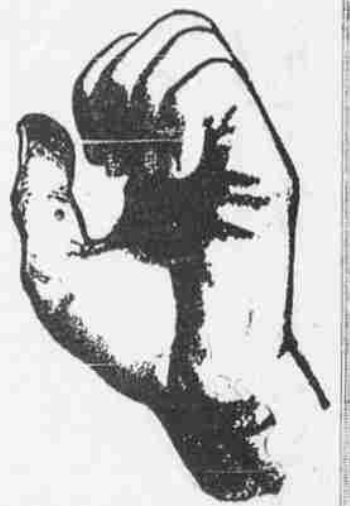
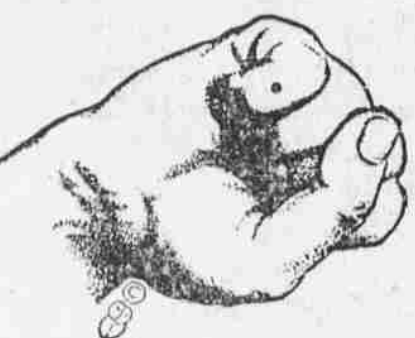
The tables, balls and cue equipment in this parlor are of the best and are maintained in first class shape. Try the tables, you will find them clean and true. A wide selection of cues will let you find one that has the right tip and the right weight. Ivory and composition balls according to the game you wish.

The Imperial

Jesse Tryon

Where you can find the largest and best kept stock of Cigars in La Grande

Meet Your Friends Here



How Can You Afford To Do Without?

Every day you hear of someone who has been unfortunate enough to have a fire, or to have an auto wreck, or to be sued for running into someone with a car, or to be laid up with no income.

Fire and accidents are doubly unfortunate when you haven't insurance to compensate you for the loss. How can you afford to take the chance—when a few dollars invested can save you thousands?

Every Kind of Insurance Protection

Insurance is our one and only business. The best protection and the least expensive protection—for every kind of possible loss—is our primary concern.

That's why you'll find that the property owners who have to know every angle of insurance risks and responsibilities are among our policy holders.

Don't wait until someone happens to solicit you for insurance. It's an immediate responsibility. Investigate it—come into the office where we can give you detailed information and solve your insurance problem as it deserves to be solved. We are here to satisfy you and protect you against every possible loss.

Reynolds' Insurance Agency

Sommer Hotel Bldg.

Chas. H. Reynolds

Telephone Main 595