

Jacksonville

By C. H. FREEMAN.

Jacksonville is the County Seat of Jackson county and is located in the center of the county. It is one of the oldest towns in the state and a history of Oregon would be far from complete without a resume of the lives of its inhabitants and a recital of the many incidents that have added so much to the story of the settling up of the state of Oregon.

It has never enjoyed the distinction of having a boom; a hot air artist, with a paper map marked off into imaginary town lots and streets, would starve to death in it; nevertheless it is the home of more capital, has more varied natural resources and more money paying investments within its corporate limits and adjacent territory to it and only it, than any other town of three times its size in the state.

It is more patriotic, more ready to join in and help along a good cause, and prouder of its fair name and civic pride than any other town in the state, bar none. Should a public celebration be planned, a fund of a thousand dollars or more is easily raised in a day. First, by good substantial contributions from its ever wide-awake and progressive business men, and second, from subscriptions varying from fifty cents each to five dollars, donated by the boys and girls. For years the children from its schools have been admitted without examination into the foremost and best colleges of the country. The statement, "Graduated from the Jacksonville Public School," is a guaranty of work well done and the pass word without test.

It is here that the Sisters of the Holy Names have so long maintained their Seminary for young ladies; here they have a beautiful home, consisting of two large, commodious and handsome school buildings, and a large and well-equipped dormitory. It is seldom here that you hear the remark "How much does it cost?" But on the contrary, it is "What is the best?"

Just three years ago our school house burned, but school didn't stop. We built another one that cost \$15,000, that was conceded by everyone, critics included, to be the very best public school house that money could buy or honest and intelligent labor and construction erect. Now it has just burned down and we are going to build another one that is going to cost more than that and be a better one in the bargain. That's the kind of people we have here—they never say "Quit!"

It is from Jacksonville and the adjoining vicinity that all of the principal products of the county come. Within its limits and near the southern and western suburbs are the finest vineyards in the United States. From them grapes are shipped to points scattered all over the United States and Canada. This is the only town in the state where native wine is made, bottled and sold, from grapes grown, cultivated, and picked at the very door of the winery. Very few visitors visit Jacksonville without taking back to their homes, as a pleasant memento of the trip a case of this splendid beverage.

When it comes to mines and mining, Jacksonville certainly leads in numbers—number of men employed, output and in everything except promoting and watered stock. Just a mile from it is the celebrated Opp Mine, now owned by a New York syndicate and employing a large force of men. Stock in it is not for sale—why? Because the owners are making money out of it by taking out gold at a low rate of cost for production. On this mine are 18 tunnels and a twenty stamp quartz mill of the latest pattern, including a new and successful roasting plant for the better treatment of the ore. A force of about one hundred men are employed in this mine. Three miles to the south and west is located the placer mine known as the "Sturgis" property, now owned and operated by the Sterling Mining Company. This mine, while not so large as the Sterling, employs a large force of men and yields handsome profits to its owners.

The Sterling mine, situated 8 miles south of Jacksonville, is the largest placer in the state. From it has been taken more gold than from any other placer mine in Oregon. It is a well-equipped, extensive property. Its water is conveyed through ditches twenty miles long around precipitous mountain sides that cause people to wonder how it was done. The water is taken from Little Applegate and it is only for the fact that the rights were initiated at an early date that the mine has so much water for its use.

The Blue Ledge is tributary to Jacksonville and located about 25 miles to the south. It is from here that supplies are shipped, the men paid, and the business of the mine transacted. This mine has a payroll of over 125 men and bids fair to be the most extensive copper mine in the West.

Taken all together, nearly every foot of land tributary to the old town is money-producing soil. Every gulch has its quartz mine and its placers; every little glade is a farm where thrift and enterprise combine to make it a home.

Altogether we are proud of it. Why shouldn't we be? Jacksonville boasts, and deservedly too, of the nearest, best arranged and most tastefully fitted up postoffice in

the state of Oregon. Not only do its patrons and visitors to this historic old town unite in words of praise for it, but it is the recipient of favorable mention by every postoffice inspector, and the work done by its officials has time and again commanded approval from the Department. Its postmaster, John M. Miller, is a native son of the old town and has done much toward making it what it is—one of the neatest towns in the state, with its beautiful flower gardens and cool green lawns. He was first appointed as postmaster in 1897 during William McKinley's first administration, and since that time, although the office is a presidential office and remunerative and enjoys a large patronage, there has never been a single kick registered concerning the affairs of the office and, through the successive administrations and the consequent change in the personal postmasters elsewhere, no one has ever made application for the place which has descended to Mr. Miller each time, solely in consideration of work splendidly done.

Gold Hill

Gold Hill is located in the world famous Rogue River Valley, in Southern Oregon, on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railway, 313 miles south of Portland and 450 miles north of San Francisco, and is 1100 feet above sea level. The delightful climate of this locality is unsurpassed; here is found the golden mean between the excessive moisture of the Willamette Valley and the scorching droughts of California. We seldom ever have colder weather than 10 degrees above zero, not hotter than 90 degrees above while the night temperature, in summer, as a rule, is below 65 degrees.

Severe storms such as cyclones and tornadoes are unknown. Mining for gold is the pioneer industry of this section, and for years we held first rank in the state as a producer of the precious metal. There are more than 100 gold mines within a radius of 4 miles of Gold Hill, but gold is not, however, the only metal found here, there being fine deposits of lead ore, iron, lime, coal, asbestos, mica, marble, cinnabar and copper. Our coal is said to be the finest coaling coal on the coast.

The soil in the valleys is a rich sandy loam, verging into a black vegetable mould, and seems absolutely inexhaustible and will produce in abundance of anything that will grow in the temperate zone. The world does not produce the equal of the Rogue River Valley apple, and this is particularly true of the Spitzenberg and the Yellow Newtown Pippin. The yield is prolific and a failure in crop is unknown. The receipts from a 9-acre orchard of Newtown for four years amounted to \$16,620. Pears do equally well and a car-load, shipped to Boston, yielded the grower more than \$7.00 per box. It is not uncommon to get a box of peaches which will average 10 inches in circumference. Prunes, plums, and cherries grow to perfection, and the trees are very prolific. Berries of all kinds attain a size and excellence not surpassed in any country, and our melons beat the world, while nuts, such as almonds and walnuts do well.

Gardening and truck-farming under high cultivation returns surprisingly large products, for which there is always a demand at good prices. Wheat, oats, barley and rye are largely grown, and corn develops better here than elsewhere in Oregon. Dairying is in its infancy, but is rapidly expanding. At present we do not supply one half of the local demand.

There are extensive timber areas near Gold Hill and much of it will cut 25,000 feet per acre, and some as much as 40,000 feet per acre. The electric power plant at Gold Hill, 4 miles from Gold Hill, is now developing 4,900 horse power, and the power plant at Gold Hill is about to increase its capacity to 4,000 horse power. These plants furnish cheap power for mines and manufacturing purposes and are economical power for farmers for pumping water for irrigation and other purposes, while most of the towns in the valley are supplied with cheap electric lights by these companies.

Gold Hill has a good water and sewer system, the water being as low as \$1 per month for an ordinary dwelling.

While our population is only about 500 our schools are very efficient, employing three teachers for nine months. Taxes are low and the bonded indebtedness is only \$2,500. Cleared land for general agricultural purposes can be bought for \$20 per acre and upwards, while the best orchard and alfalfa lands sell from \$75 to \$150 per acre.

A letter addressed to the Gold Hill Commercial Club, Gold Hill, Oregon, will bring full particulars.

A writup of Gold Hill would not be complete without a few lines complimentary to Mrs. M. A. Pryor. Mrs. Pryor is a daughter of Thomas Chavner, who settled in Rogue River Valley in the year 1839 and is one of the largest land owners in the valley. He has done more for Gold Hill than any one person in the valley, and always the first to do anything that will help Gold Hill. Gold Hill can boast of having some of the most enterprising men in the Rogue River Valley. Among the leading men of that thriving town, will be found C. F. Young, J. H. Freeman, A. J. Olson, Riley Hamner, and Dick McKay. These men have done more for Gold Hill than they have been given credit. The generation to come will look back with pride on the work done by these men.

Central Point

Central Point has a population of some 1000 people, who generally refer to their town as "The Hub of the Rogue River Valley," because of its central location in the richest portion of that beautiful spot of nature's treasure house. The town has enjoyed a rapid growth during the past year, with a most promising outlook for the future. During the past year a new brick school house, costing \$15,000 has been erected, a modern creamery plant with capacity of 700 pounds of butter a day has been installed, a substantial banking institution has been established and the Central Point Herald newspaper and job printing house has been launched and is now being published. Besides these a number of business enterprises have been established, chief of which is the large general store of L. Hatfield, which opened its doors just one year ago.

W. C. Leever, the leading hardware merchant, is chairman of the board of town trustees, the new board having been recently elected on the issue of installing a first-class water system for the town during the present year. W. J. Freeman, of the firm of Freeman & Wiley, prominent implement and vehicle dealers, is also a member of the board and is chairman of the ordinance committee, to which has been entrusted the important duty of drafting a new charter for the town to more fully meet the requirements of the rapidly changing municipal conditions.

Machinery is now being installed in a big flouring mill, the most modern in design in Southern Oregon, which will be ready for operation by September 1st, and arrangements are also being made by California people to install one of the largest fruit evaporating plants on the Pacific coast. It is fully expected this plant will be ready to handle the second-class fruit of the present season's crop. Besides the many new modern residences and business buildings will be erected.

The Odd Fellows lodge is planning for a business block, of brick or concrete blocks, 50x80 feet, with commodious lodge, club and office rooms on the second floor.

The Central Point Townsite Company reports a greater demand for town lots than ever before. Realty prices have more than doubled during the past year, but the demand more than keeps pace with the advancing prices. L. W. Flansburg has taken charge of the Hotel Jackson and at a great cost has completely and newly furnished the hotel throughout. There are large sample rooms in connection and a first class dining room, where a special table is set for the traveling public.

MEDFORD NATIONAL BANK.

The Medford National Bank is one of the most firmly established financial institutions in the State of Oregon and occupies its own building—one of Medford's newest and most modern structures. The management of the bank has had seventeen years' experience in Jacksonville county, and since it was organized in July, 1906, it has experienced a growth that placed it in the front rank, and now has resources to the amount of \$400,000, a capital of \$50,000 and a surplus of \$10,000. The Medford National is the only bank in Southern Oregon having a savings department, and this feature, together with the fact that interest is paid on savings deposits, has won favor among the people. The officers are among the best known business men in the county. They are: J. E. Bryant, president; J. A. Perry, vice-president; John S. Orth, cashier; W. B. Jackson, Asst. Cashier; Horace Pelton, Wm. M. Colvig, J. S. Howard, J. D. Ottwell.



A. A. DAVIS. One of Medford's citizens who has always been at the front in every movement for the improvement or advancement of the community, is A. A. Davis. Mr. Davis's first move for Medford's progress, made just after his arrival here, 18 years ago, was the substitution of a cash business basis for the primitive system of barter and exchange then in vogue, and every since that time, he has always been identified with every progressive move, lending his influence and financial aid freely and generously whenever called upon.

OUR COUNTY TREASURER.

Jackson county has an efficient officer in the person of Jas. M. Cronmiller, county treasurer, and one in whom the people have the fullest confidence, because of their long association with him and their knowledge of his honesty and business integrity. Mr. Cronmiller was born in Crescent City, California, forty years ago, came to Jacksonville, with his parents, when a small boy, and has since made that city his home. He has been in the general merchandise business for nearly fourteen years and city treasurer of

Jacksonville for twelve years. He is serving his first term as County treasurer, having been elected in June 1906.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK. "The Youngest and Strongest," is the claim made by the First National Bank of Medford, and this assertion is substantiated by the fact that this bank has had a more rapid growth than any other bank in Southern Oregon, and has been forging ahead steadily since it began business in 1893. Its growth in eighteen months has been \$200,000, and it has at the present time resources to the amount of \$250,000. This bank was the first in Medford to be established in a new home, and the structure it now occupies is substantial, thorough in all arrangement and one of the most beautiful in architecture. The officers and directors are as follows: Wm. S. Crowell, president; P. K. Deuel, vice-president; M. L. Alford, cashier; Chas. Strang, E. V. Carter, Geo. W. Dunn.



JOHN F. WHITE. John F. White came to the Rogue River Valley from Kentucky, in the year 1883 and was associated with Gen. Thos. G. Rensselaer for nine years in the general merchandise business at Jacksonville.

In the year 1903, the Real Estate firm of White & Trowbridge was established in Medford, and Mr. White has been prominently identified with that business ever since.

Mr. White is also president of the Medford Pharmacy.

HON. W. S. CROWELL.

Than Wm. S. Crowell Medford has no truer friend nor Jackson county no more exemplary citizen. Mr. Crowell was born in the state of Ohio and served through the Civil War with the troops of that state, returning at the close of the war to his native commonwealth, where he held various offices in the gift of the people. He was United States consul at Amoy, China, for five years. Coming to Oregon in 1890 and making his home in Jacksonville county, he was elected County Judge in 1890, which office he held until 1900. Mr. Crowell twice declined the nomination for Circuit Judge for the first district of Oregon. Since the organization of the First National Bank he has been president of that institution. As an orator the Judge has no superior, and he is the "papoose" of Westonska Tribe.

P. H. DAILY.

School Superintendent P. H. Daily was born in Putnam county, Mo., near Unionville, Nov. 6, 1874. He obtained a common school education in Iowa and Missouri, after which he moved with his parents to Kansas in 1884, graduating from the common school in Mitchell county, Kansas. After teaching a term of school in Jewell county, Kansas, he moved to Oregon in 1892, where he worked on the farm during the summer months and taught school during the fall and winter. He attended the Drain State Normal School and graduated from that institution in 1895, after which he served two years as principal of the Eagle Point schools and later served one year as vice-principal at Central Point, after which he was elected to the principalship at Gold Hill, serving two years as principal at the latter place, and in the spring of 1900 was elected to the office of County Superintendent, which office he has held during the past seven years to the entire satisfaction of all school patrons.

Professor Daily enjoys an enviable popularity among the people of Jackson county.

AN EXPERT PLUMBER.

Few cities have as extensive plumbing business as that conducted in Medford by Wm. A. Altzen, who is enjoying a well-merited patronage and who has the most extensive business of the kind between San Francisco and Portland. Mr. Altzen has resided in Jackson county for seventeen years, one year and a half of which he has been in business in Medford, and he has exerted every effort to keep pace with the growth of our city. There is no better recommendation for his work than the fact that he has done the plumbing in Hotel Moore, Hotel Nash, the three new bank buildings, the new North school, and has the contracts for doing the plumbing in the new postoffice building, the Emerick block, the Big Bend Milling Co.'s building and a number of structures of minor importance. He will locate in the new White block in the near future.

G. B. CARTER.

The subject of the above caption, the present deputy sheriff of Jackson county, was born in Elkhart county, Iowa, and after residing in various sections of the Union and Mexico, came to Jackson county and settled in Asland, which place he still calls home. Mr. Carter received the greater part of his education in the Polytechnic Business College of Oakland, Calif., the University of California at Berkeley, and the Asland

High School, of which latter institution he is a graduate. He was for several years engaged in the cattle business in this county and was one of Oregon's official representatives at the Pan American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901. Mr. Carter was appointed deputy sheriff in July, 1906, and is giving the county a commendable service.

ULRICH BROTHERS.

There is no firm in the county more worthy of a good patronage than Lewis and Ray Ulrich, operating under the name of Ulrich Brothers, (successors to Jas. M. Cronmiller) dealers in general merchandise, at Jacksonville. These gentlemen were both born and raised at the county seat, where their business is located, are energetic and ambitious and are being accorded a patronage commensurate with their numerous good qualities.

JACKSONVILLE'S MAYOR.

Emil Britt was born in Jacksonville 1862, and has been a member of the city council for ten consecutive years, including several terms mayor, as which position he now holds. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, being now Master of Warren Lodge No. 10, for the fifth year in succession.

Mr. Britt is among the best "costers" of the county capital and takes much interest in questions of public moment.

CONTENTED HORTICULTURISTS.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Allen, who live two miles west of Medford, on the Jacksonville road, are among the happy and contented home-builders who have been "Driven Back to Eden." They were former residents of Salt Lake City and came west for the benefit of Mrs. Allen's health, which has improved wonderfully in the "glorious climate of Oregon." Mr. Allen was formerly employed in the art preserve of art, and was also in the employ of Wells, Fargo & Co. Mrs. Allen is a daughter of David Keith, the well-known railroad builder. The Allen home is one of the best in the county, surrounded by a young orchard of 120 acres and a tract of garden land which will produce vegetables of any kind and of the best quality. These people take great pride in their beautiful home and, being automobilists, are advocates of good roads.

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