

# MONMOUTH--SEAT OF STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

Also Center of Rich Agricultural Community Where Farming, Fruit Culture, Purebred Cattle and Poultry Farming Thrive--Educational Institution Makes It a Cultural Town of Clean, Healthful Influences--Great Building Improvement of Past Year Adds to Appearance--New Business Homes Are Noteworthy--Has Number of Important Industrials

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**RICHARD B. SWENSON**  
Editor Monmouth Herald

Monmouth, located 14 miles southwest of Salem and two miles west of the Willamette river, is a city with a past and a future, both of which are more or less closely linked together. It was a memory of its past with the record of sacrifice by pioneers to establish and preserve education in Oregon that was largely instrumental in giving Monmouth the preference as the site of Oregon's only normal school in the popular election of November, 1910. That election demonstrated the hold which Monmouth's claims have with the voters of the state and stands as a guarantee of its permanence in the future.

In the course of litigation over local affairs in 1913, Attorney Oscar Hayter dug up the fact that Monmouth was platted and the documents recorded before the main traveled roads of the county were established and that the early roads passing through Monmouth were described as occupying specific streets.

**Early Settlers from Illinois**

The story is told that in the early fifties a group of men assembled in Monmouth, Warren county, Illinois and planned a journey to Oregon for the purpose of establishing a town and a Christian college. They were a portion of a company who arrived in Oregon in August, 1852, and spent the first winter at Bethel near McCoy. The next year they moved to the site of Monmouth, and in 1854 founded the town. Rev. John E. Murphy, Elijah H. Davidson, J. B. Smith, Thomas H. Lucas and Squire S. Whitman donated 640 acres of land for the purpose. The square mile was subdivided, lots sold and the proceeds used to build a church and college.

School and town grew by slow degrees. The school was known as Monmouth University up to 1871 when it was called Christian College. In 1882 the state legislature accepted the gift of buildings and site and the school became the Oregon Normal school.

A long line of distinguished men and women have graduated from this school under its different names. P. L. Campbell, the present head of the University of Oregon, was president of the normal from 1890 to 1902, and his father, T. F. Campbell, was one of the beacon lights of Christian College.

**Permanent Site of Oregon Normal**

Since established permanently by the initiative vote of 1910 the Normal school has prospered steadily. For ten years the school was directed by the late President J. H. Ackerman and his organizing power and wide acquaintance in the state gained it positive recognition.

J. S. Landers, who has been president of the Normal since September, 1921, has proved himself a fitting successor to Mr. Ackerman. His talents as an educator and his ability as an administrator are making sure preparations for the work Oregon is demanding of its Normal school. Mr. Landers is popular with students and the public and has the confidence and good will of the faculty.

The school now has 500 students. Not all of these are in school at one time. Constantly there are some students in the rural centers doing practice teaching work. The centers are located at Eola, Oak Point, Mountain View, Elkins and Rickreall. About 50 students daily get their practice teaching in independence, and the remainder in the Monmouth training school. The varieties of

training thus afforded are of high value, as the student is enabled to practice under all sorts of conditions with the eye of the experienced critic upon their work.

Since the Normal fits teachers especially for rural work its location is especially valuable. With few distractions the student is able to concentrate all her energies on her work.

**Town and Gown Fraternize**

Townpeople share with the students in their diversions. The public is welcome to the different platform attractions which come to the school and at the weekly moving picture night the public attends also. All of the better attractions are shown here about as soon as in any of the cities of the state. At the dancing parties and social affairs of the student body, eligible people of the vicinity are welcome.

The two literary societies of the student body, the Vesperettes and the Delphians, give programs in the chapel alternately every second Friday evening to which the public is welcome.

By invitation distinguished citizens of Oregon or visitors to the state appear before the student body at its assembly period.

The enlarged dormitory provides room for 155 girls, 26 are



Group of Buildings of Oregon State Normal School at Monmouth Where Oregon Teachers Receive Their Training

taken care of in the Senior cottage and 18 in the Junior cottage. The remainder of the students are residents of the city or live near at hand, driving in daily, or are in the various boarding houses of the city.

A popular variety of boarding house for the students is the kind in which the student is provided with light, heat and a small cook stove at which she prepares her own meals. These are known as "housekeeping rooms" and through them board is very economically obtained.

Many families move to Monmouth during the course of the school year and rent small furnished houses as long as the school lasts. There is always a demand for these houses.

**Monmouth a Modern City**

The population of Monmouth, exclusive of students, is estimated at 800. Electric light and power are furnished by the Mountain States Power company. City water is municipally owned and comes in a six-inch pipe line from Teal creek, 11 miles to the west. The quality of the water is universally commended. As an auxiliary we have a deep well and a power pump with capacity of 60 gallons per minute.

The city is exceptionally well located as regards natural attractions. To the southwest is the Luckiamute valley, said to be the best and most fertile soil in the state, its only rival being the river bottoms to the south of Independence.

To the west of us is a range of hills which have proved themselves unusually well adapted to

fruit culture. Monmouth Orchards, owned by a stock company and located six miles to the southwest of Monmouth, is one of the best orchards in the state. The soil of these hills is deep and productive. They have in them the possibilities of large wealth for this section.

**Blooded Stock Raised Successfully**

Stock growing and the breeding of purebred cattle is a noteworthy feature of agricultural life in this vicinity. Some years ago John B. Stump astonished the natives by sending to the Island of Jersey for a carload of the cattle which have been famed for their dairy qualities for centuries. Such men as Frank Loughary and G. G. Hewitt are acknowledged as leaders among Jersey breeders of Oregon. Every little while some new record is taken in Jerseydom and held in Polk county. Lad's lota, owned by Sam McKee, holds the world's record for Jersey butter production.

The world also was startled last year when a goat was sold for \$1750 at a fair in Texas. It was not sold for its glands either. The goat which brought this record price was owned by Wm. Riddell & Sons of Monmouth and was an Angora. The Riddells are famed for their goats and sheep and

possess medals and premium ribbons by the bushel. Wm. Riddell Jr., is specializing in Lincoln sheep with notable success.

**Poultry Farming Thrives**

Chickens also engage local attention and there are a number of fanciers whose reputations have gone abroad. The Normal City poultry yards and hatchery hatched fifty thousand chicks last year and will do better this year. Two men are kept constantly at work attending to the incubation; welcoming the young strangers, packing them for their travels to new homes and making ready for future hatches. J. M. McCaleb is the proprietor of this flourishing business.

During the war the Monmouth warehouse had to enlarge its capacity to accommodate the increased harvest of wheat, oats and barley. It has a capacity of 100,000 bushels. A great deal of wheat is still raised in this section, although dairying is encroaching upon the wheat land. Red clover does well here and with seed and forage as by-crops is highly esteemed.

Walnut orchards in the vicinity of Monmouth are now coming into bearing. Last year was a prosperous year for the nut men. A great deal of the local crop of prunes is dried in the Alsip dryer in Monmouth which handled over ten thousand bushels of prunes last fall.

**Creamery Big Asset**

The Monmouth Co-operative creamery cares for the product of a circle of dairies reaching over Polk and Lincoln counties. This

creamery which has been in business for the past 15 years was taken over seven years ago by the farmers. F. E. Murdock is the present manager. The creamery has grown from small beginnings until last year it churned nearly five hundred thousand pounds of butter. Gradually it is working into all sorts of co-operative work among its patrons, selling them feed and dairy supplies and taking in and disposing of their eggs. The creamery has two trucks, one for the delivery of goods and the other for the gathering of cream from patrons.

**The Plant Important Industry**

The Central Tile plant is one of the flourishing institutions of Monmouth, and it has climbed up fast in the scale of importance since G. H. Partridge became connected with it five years ago. Previously they had been hauling clay from a distant deposit to make tile, but Mr. Partridge discovered the clay on which the plant was located made a superior product. The tile and brick produced are hard, have a smooth, lustrous finish and the building tile, being hard and tough, rank among the best. With R. U. Steelquist at the business end and Mr. Partridge as manager, the concern is incorporated as the Central Clay Products company and is growing each year. They have acquired brick plants at McMinnville and Monroe. Locally they have bought several acres of clay yielding soil and have material for many years of business.

**Building Record Notable**

Last year over a mile of concrete sidewalks were built in Monmouth. Several fine residences were built during the year, but the most notable addition to buildings of the city was on Main street, the new bank building and Odd Fellows hall, both of which were finished during the late summer. Each building cost over \$20,000. The bank is a model for rural business, and as a special feature had a community room where small public meetings may be held. Its ceilings are high, its floors of terrazzo, its furnishings of Columbia marble. Its vault is made of 18 inches of concrete and iron and the whole is protected by an up to date burglar alarm. President Ira C. Powell of the bank has been with it since he was a young man, starting in as clerk when an important part of his duties was sweeping the floors and building fires. J. R. V. Butler, vice president of the Normal and son of the original pioneer merchant of Monmouth, is chairman of the board of directors.

The Odd Fellows building occupies a ground space of 80x150 feet. The upper floor is occupied by Normal lodge No. 204 and other organizations. They have a large lodge room and a large dining room with suitable aineroms and rest rooms. The lower floor is occupied by Bowersox pharmacy and the remainder by Pember & Snell, general merchandise. Normal lodge has 140 members and with its auxiliary lodge of Rebekahs is a power in the social life of the city.

**City Meets Religious Needs of People**

There are five religious societies in the city, first being the Christian church, founded by the first inhabitants and which has been the leading church ever since. The Nazarenes are newly established; the Christian Science holds regular services in Odd Fellows hall and is in a flourishing condition. The Evangelical congregation recently moved its church building to Monmouth avenue, put a basement under it and enlarged the structure at an expense of

\$5,000. It is an important factor in the religious life of the community.

The local Baptist church in keeping with up to date ideas of service has made its church the chapel of a community house. This building known as "The house by the side of the road," stands at the corner of Main street and Monmouth avenue. The pastor, Rev. E. B. Pace, who conceived the idea for the building, with Mrs. Pace occupies the house and looks after callers. The house is open at all hours of the day and evening. It has a reading room and social room used by visitors and in the basement below is a play room for the younger folks and a kitchen in which the Normal girls entertain small parties of friends and is used by the activities of the church when they take this form.

**Living Conditions Ideal**

It appears now as if the long controversy over the west side highway is finished. This thoroughfare has already given to Monmouth a paved road south from Rickreall and east to In-

dependence. The contract has been let for the paving with concrete of the road south from Monmouth to connect with the road to Corvallis a few miles south of the Luckiamute. Grading for most of this improvement was done two years ago.

Monmouth has long been a place that attracted people seeking a place to retire from active work. The first city charter forbade saloons and gambling houses and none such has ever existed here. It has seemed an attractive home to many the people and its citizenship is of the best. Its citizens have always had confidence in the future and never more so than this year 1923.

For the person who desires a home where the higher things of life are possible of attainment, no sacrifice of opportunity or financial achievement, Monmouth provides an ideal home. To such persons, add to all newcomers, the citizens extend a hearty and cordial welcome.

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