

MONMOUTH

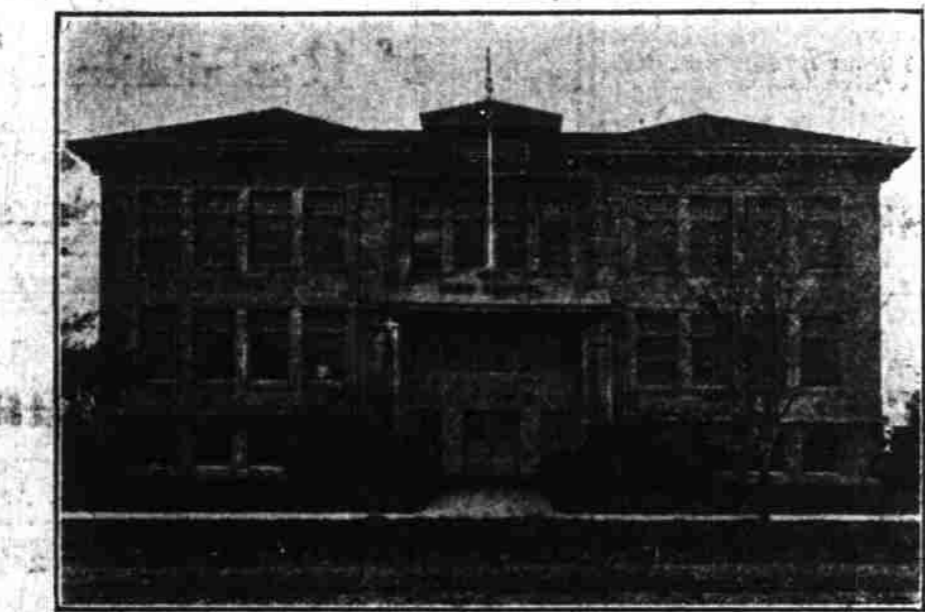
By HERBERT B. POWELL, Monmouth, Oregon

In the heart of the Willamette valley and 15 miles from Salem, on the paved West Side highway, is Monmouth in Polk county, a town of an estimated 800 permanent residents. According to a firmly rooted story, the town is the realization of a dream which came to a group of men in Illinois, bidding them come to Oregon and establish an educational institution and a Christian town.

Monmouth was surveyed in the spring of 1855 at the direction of the trustees of the Monmouth University which was granted a charter as a denominational school of the Christian church, by the territorial legislature, in 1856. In 1865 the Monmouth university became the Christian college and in 1882 it was accepted by the state legislature as a gift and named the Oregon Normal school. The townsite was dedicated in 1881.

In 1909 the normal at Monmouth was left with three other normals in the state without appropriation, to struggle for existence, but in 1910 a popular initiative measure established the Oregon Normal school at Monmouth as the only normal in the state and since that time its growth has been steady except during the

period of interruption occasioned by the war. During this time the attendance was much reduced, especially among the young men. Since the war recovery has been rapid. Several factors have contributed to a recent substantial growth. The return of young women to the ranks of teaching after an experience in other fields of activity during the war, ambition of both young men and women to secure a better education, the laws of certification requiring normal training of all high school graduates entering the profession, and the efficient work done by the institution—all have had their influence in securing a larger student body. The growth of the last two years has been greater than any other institution of like nature on the coast. The attendance for the fall term of 1920 was 329; that of the fall term of 1921 was 373; of the same term for 1922 was 537. This increased attendance necessitated the engaging of a number of new instructors. Four new critic teachers added in the training school at Independence and two at Rickreall. Other instructors have been added in the departments of Art, Commerce, Education, English, History, Library, Music, Physical Education, making a present total of 19 critic teachers and 26 heads of departments and instructors.



Modern High School at Monmouth, Oregon

Coincident with the increased student body and additional personnel in teaching force of the normal school, other courses of study have been provided and some of those formerly in use have been enlarged and strengthened. Special certificates are given to students majoring in Art, Commerce, Music or Physical Education and upon graduation these students may teach not only in the elementary grades but also in high school. The school is endeavoring to keep pace with the growing needs of the state and it is the ambition of the official management to add two years of work above the two years of standard normal instruction now being offered in the institution and to transform the normal into a full fledged Teachers college.

The Monmouth high school is rated a standard school and is said to be one of the best small town schools in western Oregon. Commercial courses are offered in conjunction with the practice teaching of the students of the Normal school. The school is housed in a new three story brick building of the most modern type and is well equipped. Athletics are given attention through a coach who is a member of the faculty. The gymnasium facilities of the normal are at the disposal of the high school teams during certain hours of the day and an adequate athletic field is owned by the student body near the school grounds.

Monmouth is supplied with water by a municipal gravity pipe system running from Teal creek in the Coast mountains 11 miles west of the city to a 300,000 gallon reservoir on the top of "Cupid's Knoll" in the edge of town. An emergency auxiliary to this gravity pipe a deep well with a pump capable of throwing 60 gallons of water per minute is held in reserve. Electric lights and power is furnished the city by the

Mountain States Power Company which has recently connected a high voltage power line with a company in California, creating a reserve for both companies.

As has been mentioned, the city is located on the paved West Side Highway, coming through Salem from Portland on the North and going to Corvallis and on South in the other way. Stubs of this highway lead to Dallas and Independence and Polk county is now laying several miles of hard-surfaced market roads making practically all of the main traveled roads in the vicinity hard surface.

To the west of Monmouth is a large range of hills which has proved very adaptable to fruit raising, especially prunes. Pears, apples, plums and peaches are also grown as well as several English walnut and filbert orchards. A dryer is operated in Monmouth for curing the prunes grown in the vicinity for the market but most of the growers own and operate dryers with their orchards. The Monmouth orchards, three miles south of town, which is operated by a stock company, is composed of 70 acres of prunes and operates its own dryer.

The mild climate and rich soil of the Polk county section of the Willamette valley makes possible a great variety of diversified farming. Local farmers have used this possibility to good advantage and produce grain, clover, potatoes, beans, truck garden sup-



One of the Business Streets, Monmouth, Oregon

plies, pork and dairy products. Dairying is conceded to be the most important industry of the section and is gradually assuming more importance. Up-to-date methods of testing and weighing the milk and of keeping the barns in a sanitary condition are used, and a large number of dairymen of the section are now using milking machines.

The dairy farmers of the community operate the Monmouth Co-operative Creamery which has attained a state wide reputation for its butter. The creamery was organized as a private corporation in 1908 and was merged into a farmers cooperative organization in 1916. During 1923 this creamery churned 433,555 pounds of butter and paid an average of 46 cents per pound for butterfat. Routes are maintained by trucks of the creamery which pick up the cream at the dairy.

Thoroughbred stock raising has proved a decided success in the vicinity of Monmouth, and more records are claimed to be held by local breeders than anywhere else in the valley. J. B. Stump started registered dairy stock raising in Polk county several years ago when he sent to the Isle of Jersey for a pure blooded herd. At the present time Langhary & Son, south of Monmouth and P. B. and P. O. Powell north of Monmouth are among the most prominent pure bred Jersey herd owners. G. G. Hewitt of the Luckiamute district south of the city is building up a registered herd although he recently sold out a top-notch assortment.

William Riddle and Sons have had remarkable success with registered Angora Goats and Lincoln Sheep. They hold many prizes and have sold some of their animals at close to two thousand dollars.

All grain shipped through Monmouth is hauled in bulk from the separator to the rail shipments, due to the modern equipment of the Oregon Milling company's large warehouse, of 100,000 bushels capacity, which is operated in conjunction with the company's flour mill in Independence and its large farm north of Monmouth.

Although Monmouth has grown

up as a religious and educational center it is fast becoming a substantial business town as is shown by the fact that during the past year and a half there was an increase of business blocks and buildings costing an aggregate of approximately \$75,000. The First National Bank of Monmouth erected a new building of Roman-Gothic design at the intersection of Main and Knox street which cost \$25,000 and said to be the most artistic in the valley which provides a community room for the convenience of patrons. This bank was for many years a small state institution and became a part of the federal reserve system of national banks in 1911. At the present time the paid capital and surplus is \$50,000 with total resources of \$400,000. The institution is noted for its conservative management and its willingness to help farmers of the section.

During 1923 Morlan and Son completed a new brick building on the corner of Main street and Monmouth avenue for their confectionery and school supply business, which cost approximately \$10,000. The building is heated by hot water and is fitted to cater to the student trade of the town. P. H. Johnson who operates the Normal Book Store in the same line of business, carrying a complete line of school supplies and confectionery goods, recently moved his business into larger quarters on Main street.

Graham and Calbreath, Star car agents and dealers in Samson products built substantial addition to their garage providing room for storage of some 30 or more cars and additional shop space. S. C. Halliday also enlarged his garage with tile building, giving more storage space and additional shop space for his repair work. Both of these garages are on Main street facing the state highway and are enlarging their facilities continually to accommodate the increasing business brought by tourists and the almost universal use of gasoline power in the vicinity.

In a new brick and tile building next door to the new bank building on Main street, which was built by P. H. Johnson a few

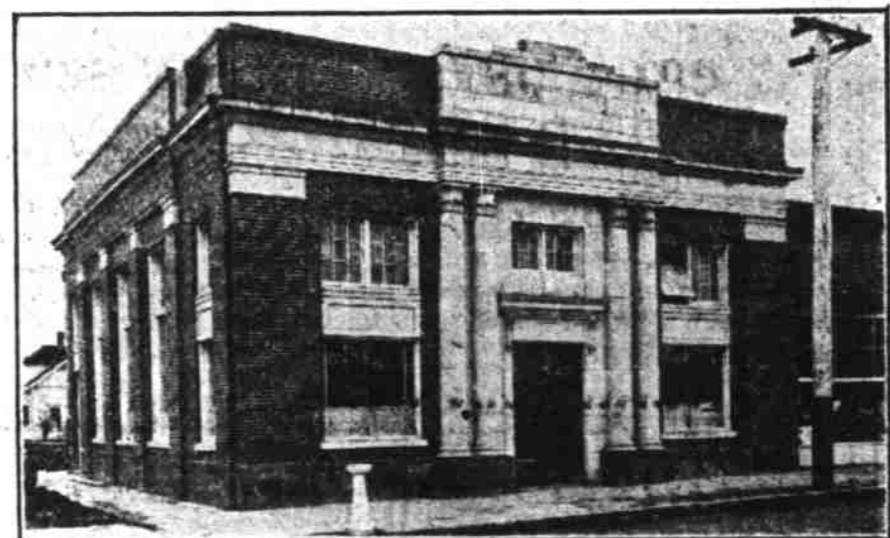
months ago, Fred J. Hill has installed a ton refrigerating machine which augments his fresh and cured meat business. This equipment insures a complete and well kept supply of meat for the town at all times. Outside of the Monmouth hotel dining room, restaurant facilities are well taken care of by C. E. Fetzer's Electric Restaurant which fits especially the needs of the students of the town and of visiting tourists. The proprietor maintains menus of home cooking and serves meals at any time during the day.

The sign of the Rose Bakery and Tea Shop operated by E. B. Arnold supplies practically all of the bread and pastry used in Monmouth as well as shipping a quantity out to surrounding towns daily. Confections and light lunches are also served. Modern machinery and sanitary methods are used.

The good roads in Polk county have made gasoline transportation very popular and several truck owners in Monmouth are kept busy with produce hauling. Polan Bros., who are engaged in this business do moving with a well equipped truck. Others in the field are Guy Coffin and W. Eg-

gleston. Local carpenters, contractors and tradesmen are busy at all times of the year with their trades. G. A. Nestler, recently of Idaho, is a new arrival who is busy with the carpentry and contracting business.

During the early part of 1923 the local I. O. O. F. lodge completed a \$25,000 hall and business block, on the opposite side of the street from the First National bank at the intersection of Main and Knox streets. This business block is operated by the Miller Mercantile company department store and the Perkins Pharmacy. The Miller Company's store is one of a chain of seven stores throughout the valley and is up to date and modern throughout. Two other grocery stores, C. C. Mulkey & Son and N. W. Arnold are in the field in Monmouth.



First National Bank of Monmouth, Oregon

Located at Monmouth is the home plant of the Central Clay Products company which supplies practically the entire amount of the building and drain tile used in Polk county. Modern machinery and burning methods make the company's products rank with the best. Various sizes of tile are made for use by local farmers and rough and smooth building tile are produced. The building tile, which were first used in silos on the dairy farms, have been found so successful in all types of buildings that they are largely supplanting brick except for the facing of buildings. The company maintains brick plants at McMinnville and Monroe.

A third class post office handles the mail at Monmouth and the amount of material handled is steadily increasing. Street signs have been ordered for the town and all houses have been numbered making it only a step to a city mail delivery which is expected in a short time. Daily mail deliveries are made from the post office to the farmers of the southern part of Polk county.

The religious influence which founded the town of Monmouth still survives and five different churches hold regular services throughout the year. The First Christian church which was the first church to be established in the town, now occupies a larger building at the corner of Monmouth avenue and Clay streets. The Baptist Congregation occupies a Community House which they erected for the use of the town at the corner of Monmouth avenue and Main streets, embodying a dignified chapel with a building suited to the needs of the community in holding meetings

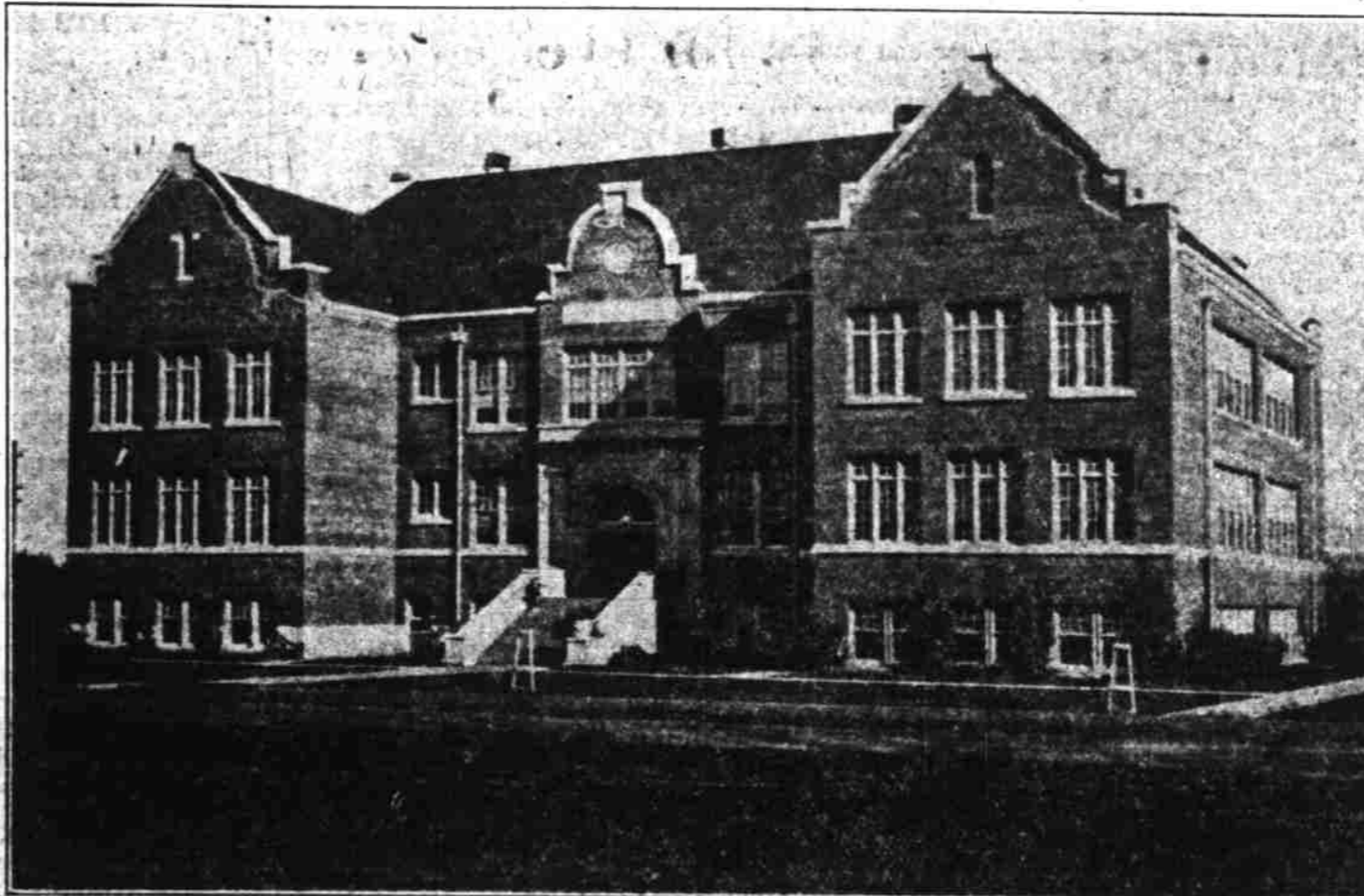
and social affairs. The Evangelical church has moved its building to Monmouth avenue and enlarged it to handle adequately a crowd of several hundred people. The Christian Science church of Monmouth meets in the new I. O. O. F. building where it has unexcelled facilities for service. The Church of the Nazarene worships in the hall of the Monmouth Improvement Company's post office block.

As a step towards greater spiritual influence in the community the men of all of these churches have organized a religious brotherhood which is to carry on practical Christian work to any needy in the town and to foster religious discussion and study.

The community is rich in live social and business organizations. The Monmouth Commercial Club is an active organization of the business men of town and gives special attention to satisfying the tourist and the new settler. The women of the town have a civic club whose activities correspond to the commercial club. Normal Lodge No. 204, I. O. O. F. has in the vicinity of 150 members and a Rebekah auxiliary lodge besides connections with the County Muscavite and Camp organizations.

The Monmouth Herald, the local weekly newspaper, has developed steadily the last few years under the guidance of R. B. Swenson, its editor and publisher, and is recognized as one of the live wire small town papers of the Willamette valley. Mr. Swenson has modern equipment including linotype machinery and up to date job press equipment.

Every phase of the life of the city of Monmouth has shown advancement during 1923 and as the state highway is being completed and all of the roads of the county placed in first class shape the farmers and business men look forward to the coming year with great optimism. New settlers are arriving constantly in Polk county from other parts of the country and are finding conditions favorable and satisfactory.



Oregon Normal Training School, Monmouth, Oregon