

Altruistic Idea Back of Monmouth

Illinois Group of Religionists Founded Town Primarily as Place to Educate Young; Saloons Forever Barred in Charter; University Opened in 1861; Presidents Noted

By MRS. BEULAH CRAVEN

AMONG picturesque and noteworthy figures of history, the pioneers of Oregon obtain a unique, endemical significance. Less concerned were they, in the large, for personal acquisition and aggrandizement, than for the advancement of the common good; for the most consistent uplift and benefit of the greatest number of people.

The founding of Monmouth, Oregon, exemplifies in an outstanding type, this fundamental altruism. Eighty or more years ago in Monmouth, Ill., a small group of men and women, ambitious—though not young—became imbued with an idea to go into the far western frontier and establish an institution of learning:

"Where men and women, alike, may become schooled in the science of living and in the fundamental principles of religion."

They planned, of course, to carve homes in the new environment; to afford their families protection and the necessities of living; and, ultimately, to build a prosperous community. But the motivation of their migration was, essentially, to establish an institution of learning.

Donation Claims Community Nucleus

In 1850, Squire S. Whitman and Thomas H. Lucas, as the vanguard of these prolific dreamers, came to Polk county. They were joined a little later, about 1852, by Ira F. M. Butler, Albert Lucas, William Murphy, Elijah B. Davidson and John E. Murphy, who with their wives made the long, arduous journey. Each of these families took donation land claims, or bought squatter's rights, thus forming the nucleus of a little community with the central aim and purpose of founding a college.

In deciding upon a name for the site, this interesting incident occurred: as the proposed institution of learning received always the first consideration, trustees were chosen before ground was selected for its erection. A tiny group appointed as a committee—some say five persons—as the first organization of any sort to function here, met and voted on three names: Monmouth, Dover and Cincinnati. Monmouth and Dover tied on a majority vote, so Ira F. M. Butler, chairman of the group, was privileged to cast the deciding vote, and as he favored "Monmouth" he so cast his ballot.

16 Blocks in Original Townsite

The first survey of the territory was made in 1855 by T. H. Hutchinson; and the original "town" was comprised of 16 squares, or blocks, which, now, constitute the central portion of Monmouth. Several families, including those of Allen Shirley and William Mason, had joined the little band, and in the same year Joseph B. V. Butler opened a small store and became the first postmaster. W. Hart also built a store. A drug store, a harness shop, and sash and door factory came with the coming of more settlers.

Bethel Academy, in Polk county, was already in existence. A mutual concurrence of opinion among leaders of the Christian church, brought about a relocation of this academy at Monmouth. Land was freely donated for a campus, and a small building erected. It was not a beautiful building—nor imposing. One of the founders is said to have remarked at a public gathering: "Our surroundings are new and cruel here. We must control them; not let them control us!"

Monmouth university opened

its doors in 1861. In 1866 the institution became known as Christian college. A small grammar school was built in 1856 where the Davidson Photo studio now stands, and Judge Cowles of McMinnville, acted as teacher. In 1856, also, the Christian church was organized, and services were held in the little square schoolhouse with Rev. John E. Murphy as first minister.

Church and School Membership Same

The membership of the little church and the scholarship in the university was largely concurrent. When the university building was completed it superseded the little grammar school for church gatherings. In time this dual-function building also became inadequate, and the central wing of the brick structure, later to become the nucleus of the Oregon Normal school, was built in 1871.

Among the names of early presidents of Monmouth university and Christian college, are found Professor Thomas W. Haley, Professor L. L. Rowland, and Professor A. D. Butler. In 1869, Professor Thomas F. Campbell came from Montana to preside over the college, serving with distinction for 13 years. He laid the foundation for an advanced program of higher learning, and was largely influential in promoting the ultimate growth and expansion of the school prior to 1900. It is interesting to note that contemporaneous with his duties as president of the school, he preached at regular intervals, taught the fundamentals of the Bible, and began—about 1870—the publication of the Christian Messenger, Polk county's first newspaper.

Saloons Prohibited in Town's Charter

Monmouth was qualified from its beginning as a synonym of chaste morals and earnest Christian character and scholarship, for its citizenry was dedicated to the outlawry of saloons, no lot ever being sold here except with the explicit understanding that the presence of such a scourge should forfeit title. Pool halls, long prohibited, are still relegated to second story occupancy.

The college laid down 16 rules and enforced their observance. Diligent study, full attendance, clean living and good discipline were required. An excerpt contains this: "Every candidate for admission into the college must present evidence of good moral character. It is required that every student be diligent in study, and punctual in attendance; that he neither introduce upon the premises nor use any intoxicating beverages; that he abstain from profanity, gaming, card playing; that he do not visit a drinking saloon, attend any ball, billiard saloon or other improper place of amusement; that he shall neither keep in his possession or use fire-

Record is Matter of Pride

BY MERLE R. CHESSMAN
Editor-Manager, Astorian-Budget

INFORMATION has just reached me that The Oregon Statesman will on March 28th publish an edition which will commemorate and celebrate 80 years of continued existence. I hasten, therefore, to extend for the members of the staff of the Astorian-Budget most hearty congratulations. These congratulations go too, to the people of Salem and Marion county that they have had in their midst for such a long period a newspaper whose very age testifies to its value.

"A newspaper which has for four score years been the spokesman for such a community as our capital city, which has voiced its hopes and aspirations, recorded the progress and development it has made year by year, chronicled the daily events in its life and in the lives of its citizens and which has counseled and advised it through all is indeed a most intimate and important part of the community. That it has survived through all the changing fortunes and vicissitudes which 80 years have brought, grown and prospered, speaks more eloquently than can any words for the character it has maintained and to the service it has rendered, for there is no commercial institution more dependent for success upon public confidence than a newspaper.

"Your 80 years of uninterrupted publication is a heritage of which any newspaper would be proud. Let me say, too, that it is no small asset to you, for it is a pledge and a guarantee to your readers. While faith in the future is perhaps more essential to continued success than pride in the past, a long and notable record of service and achievement is a steady anchor for any institution.

"May your birthday be a happy one and bring to you satisfying evidences of an appreciation which will inspire you to larger efforts in behalf of community and state. This is the wish of myself and associates on the occasion of the celebration of your 80th anniversary."

arms, a dirk, a Bowie knife, or any other kind of deadly weapon; that he do not loiter on the streets."

Whitman and Lucas Monmouth Vanguard

The literary society was the principal medium of social recreation; and the "love of truth, the power of faith, respect for authority, the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the beauty of holiness," were stressed at convocation each morning.

Eventually the building and grounds were donated, in 1882, to the state of Oregon as the base of a state Normal school; such a step being fully in keeping with the progressive cultural ideals held by its pioneer founders.

Joseph Butler was Earliest Postmaster

Other distinguished presidents of this institution were Prince L. Campbell, who later went to head the University of Oregon; and President E. D. Ressler, who for seven years endeared himself to the students of the school and the people of the town. When the state legislature voted no appropriation for support of Normal schools in 1909, President Ressler taught on at Monmouth for many months without salary—as did many of his faithful co-workers—in order that students, dependent upon the hope of certification, should not be disappointed.

J. H. Ackerman, a former state superintendent of public instruction, became president at Monmouth when the school was reopened in 1911. His death occurred in 1921; and since that time J. S. Landers has been chief executive of the Normal.

Monmouth College Opened Doors in 1861

Within the past 20 years many changes have improved the Normal grounds and beautified them; and the administration building has been enlarged and altered, within. New buildings have been

SILVERTON NEW MILL FINISHED

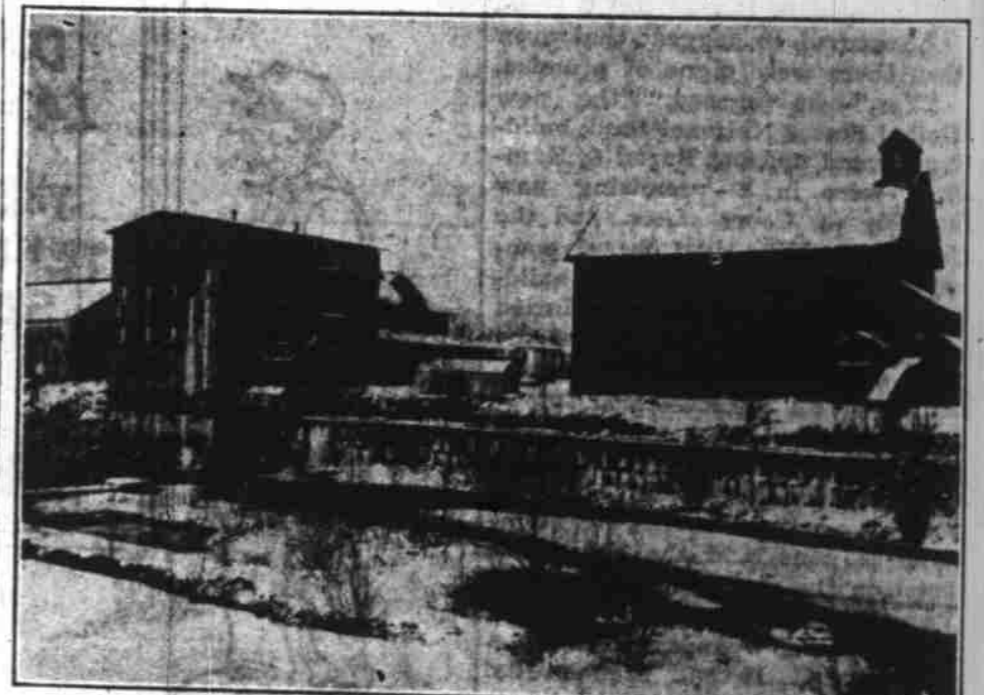
Women Prepare Dinner as Stockholders Gather; Bourne is There

"Visit of Stockholders—Yesterday Jonathan Bourne, Jr., William Dunbar and other stockholders of the Oregon Milling company together with a number of invited guests from Portland, came up on the narrow gauge to Silverton to witness the maiden efforts of their new \$45,000 mill at that place. The mill was finished last Saturday and yesterday was selected as the time for testing the machinery. The train arrived at 10:45 and the visitors were soon inside the mill. At about 11 a.m. Superintendent McIntosh turned on the water and the mill began grinding. The machinery worked splendidly, and as the guests passed from one room to another they expressed themselves as more than pleased with its appearance and workings. After thoroughly inspecting the beautiful but complicated machinery with which the mill is furnished, the party adjourned to an adjacent warehouse, where a table groaning under its load of choice edibles awaited them.

carved distinguished records among Oregon's "Who's Who," including the late Justice George H. Burnett; Governor I. L. Patterson; Federal Judge Charles Wolverson; and Judge Robert Bean, of Portland.

Many others may be recalled from among the active ranks: Mrs. Sheba Childs Hargreaves, of Portland, Oregon, author; Judge Harry H. Belt of Salem; Dean J. B. V. Butler of the Normal; Dr. W. D. Burton, president of the First National Bank at Monmouth; Jeanette Kramer, cooking school editor of the Oregonian; Julia A. Spooner, Portland, president of the National Platoon school organization; Mrs. Madeline L. Callen, valley editor of The Oregon Statesman; Floyd D. Moore, Portland attorney; Mrs. Gertrude R. Corbett, society editor of the Portland Telegram; E. S. Evenden, assistant to Doctor Strayer in the department of education at Columbia Teachers' college, New York City; Miss Kate Houx, director of teacher training at La Grande Normal.

SALEM FLOUR MILLS



—Photo collection of Mrs. S. C. Dyer. OF THE SOUTH BRANCH OF MILL CREEK WHERE THE PAPER MILL NOW STANDS. IT WAS BURNED DOWN IN 1909.