

UMATILLA COUNTY HAS MANY LIVE TOWNS ASIDE FROM PENDLETON; BRIEF FACTS RELATING TO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES

Pendleton is the capital of Umatilla county and likewise the metropolis. However it is far from being the only town in this great agricultural county. There are many other towns reflecting activity and enterprise.

The following facts relating to other towns of the county will be of interest to Round-Up patrons.

Athens
Located in the heart of Umatilla County's chief industry—wheat raising—Athens is situated midway between Pendleton and Walla Walla on the hard surfaced state highway. It has a population of 627 as given by the last census enumeration and strictly speaking is a "home" town in every sense of the word, being endowed with all essentials necessary for meriting the term.

No climate is more healthful than that of the foothills of the Blue Mountains and no water more pure than that which flows from their springs. The records of Athens physicians disclose the fact that for thirty years past there has not been one case of either typhoid or malaria here but that the patient contracted it in some other locality. Athens's municipal water system comes from springs by gravity flow into a concrete reservoir and is supplemented by a pumping system, used for emergency purposes only.

The streets of Athens are broad and clean and there are more paved blocks to be found here than in any other town of like population in the state. For permanent street improvements \$30,000 has been expended in the past two years. The residents streets are paved, with the appearance of a cool, shady grove. Her homes are for the most part modern, and well-kept lawns attest to the pride the average resident takes in beautifying his premises.

There is more "school spirit" to the square inch in Athens than can be found anywhere, population considered. One of the best appointed buildings in the county, a live board of directors, an efficient faculty and studious pupils blend as a whole in putting Athens in the front rank of the accredited schools of the state. Included in the construction of this splendid high school building is a gymnasium, library and auditorium.

City Park embraces five and one-half acres of land in the south part of the city. It is well shaded and is skirted on one side by Wild Horse Creek, making it a most inviting place to while away the hours in summer. Free camping grounds are maintained by the city in a portion of the park.

Five religious denominations are represented in Athens—Methodist, Episcopal, Christian, Baptist and Catholic.

Social conditions are all that could

be desired. The people are hospitable and of entertaining inclination. Women's clubs flourish in the community and there are local lodges of all the leading secret orders. The American Legion is also represented here.

The commercial interests of Athens are headed by the Athena Commercial Club, which has well furnished and commodious quarters.

Surrounded by thousands of acres of the most fertile wheat land on the Pacific Slope, it naturally follows that the principal industry here would be the manufacture of flour and mill stuffs. A large flour mill operates on a 24-hour-a-day basis 365 days a year, giving employment to twenty-five men. This mill has a capacity of 500 barrels of flour per day, consumes in the process of grinding approximately 600,000 bushels of wheat per year, handles 2,000,000 pounds of barley and distributes 200,000 grain bags to the wheat raisers.

Delivered at the Athena warehouse each year are approximately 450,000 bushels of grain. The farmers own and operate a modern concrete elevator of 101,000 bushels capacity for bulk wheat and in addition a warehouse of 50,000-sack capacity for sacked grain. In addition there is a chop mill of twenty tons capacity daily.

The financial pulse of a community throbs through the strength of its banking institutions and from them the arteries of trade and commerce are to be gauged. The First National Bank of Athens was established in 1891. Its present capital stock is \$50,000 and it carries a surplus of \$60,000, with deposits of \$624,642. The Athens State Bank opened for business in January, 1920, with a capital stock of \$25,000 and a surplus of \$5,000, and it now has resources over the \$100,000 mark.

The O.-W.-R. & N. and the Northern Pacific railroads serve this community and compete for freight and passenger traffic, affording excellent shipping and transportation facilities.

The entire main street of Athens is paved, with no poles or wires overhead. Athens has a large lumber yard, five garages, a department store, a dry goods store, two groceries, two restaurants, a meat market, two banks, a harness shop, a hardware and implement store, two theatres, a weekly newspaper, two blacksmiths, a paint store, a furniture and undertaking parlor, one hotel, a laundry, a drug store, a jewelry store, a branch library and three barber shops.

Athens is truly a prosperous, clean and progressive town, filled with contented citizens living in modern homes and proud of their home town.

Helix

The town of Helix was surveyed in

1882, on land then owned by Peter Hjelmsen. What is known as the Richmond Addition was surveyed a few years later. The name "Helix" had been given to a postoffice established in 1880.

Helix is situated five miles east of the center of what is probably the largest solid body of high-grade wheat land in Oregon. A block sixteen miles wide and twenty miles long, containing 320 square miles of wheat land that is very productive, almost absolutely clear of weeds, all of which is justly tributary to Helix.

Its early environment was not favorable. The first settlers were pioneers and often impassable and the progress of the community necessarily slow. In 1889 the so-called Hunt Line, now the Northern Pacific Railroad, was completed and thereby one of its serious handicaps was removed. In 1903 the town was incorporated. In 1904 the Bank of Helix was instituted. In the past few years the town has been coming forward, as is shown by its seven blocks of concrete pavement, its ten blocks of hard-surfaced streets, its own water system with a reservoir having a capacity of 135,000 gallons, purporting 41 pounds pressure, its own auditorium, an active volunteer fire department, an active commercial association, with a membership purported to be the largest in comparison with any city of its size in Oregon.

The town has roads leading into it from all directions, being connected up with the Columbia Highway with a hard-surfaced road, and having like roads leading north and west.

The principal business houses are a bank, two general merchandise stores, hardware, drug store, two confectioneries, two garages, machine shop, woodworking establishment, hotel, chop and feed mill, lumber yard, barber shop, permanent agency, Pacific Coast Elevator Company, large high school, two churches, mill with capacity of 500 barrels, drayage and transfer line, newspaper, headquarters for Farmers' Mutual Warehouse Company, doctor, permanent homes owned by the I. O. O. F., the Masons, and K. of P. lodges. The warehouses have a capacity of 500,000 bushels of grain, and over one million bushels of wheat are annually shipped out.

Echo

Echo, with an altitude of 600 feet, lies in a picturesque spot on the Umatilla river, with alfalfa fields and meadows stretching to the south and west, while to the east and north endless grain fields pour their wealth into the warehouses of this city.

Its location on the main line of the O.-W.-R. & N. railroad, also the Columbia Highway, and its proximity

to the Columbia River, affords it excellent traffic facilities for its products.

With a soil that state and federal tests show ideal for alfalfa, fruit, berries, grain and every kind of vegetable, and a climate that is unexcelled

for raising cattle, sheep and hogs, it is no wonder that settlers here are content to look no further for a location.

On account of its record of 300 days of sunshine a year, and its healthful climate this section has attracted

many people. The fertile meadows on the west side of the Umatilla river, and the renowned Butter Creek section still farther west, with their thousands of tons of alfalfa hay, are the winter feeding grounds of cattle and sheep from the mountain pastures of

Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Dairying and the marketing of butter and cream is an important industry in the Meadows district and there are several

(Continued on page 3.)



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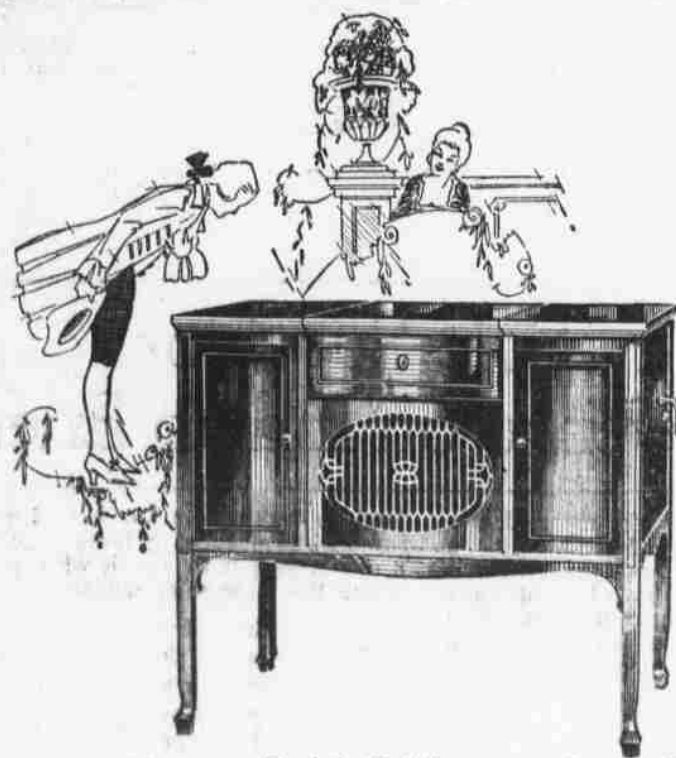
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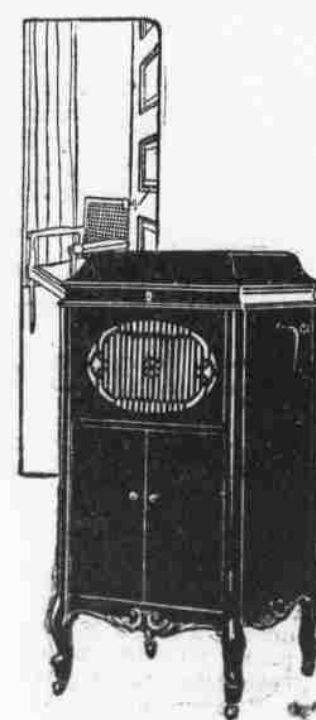
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