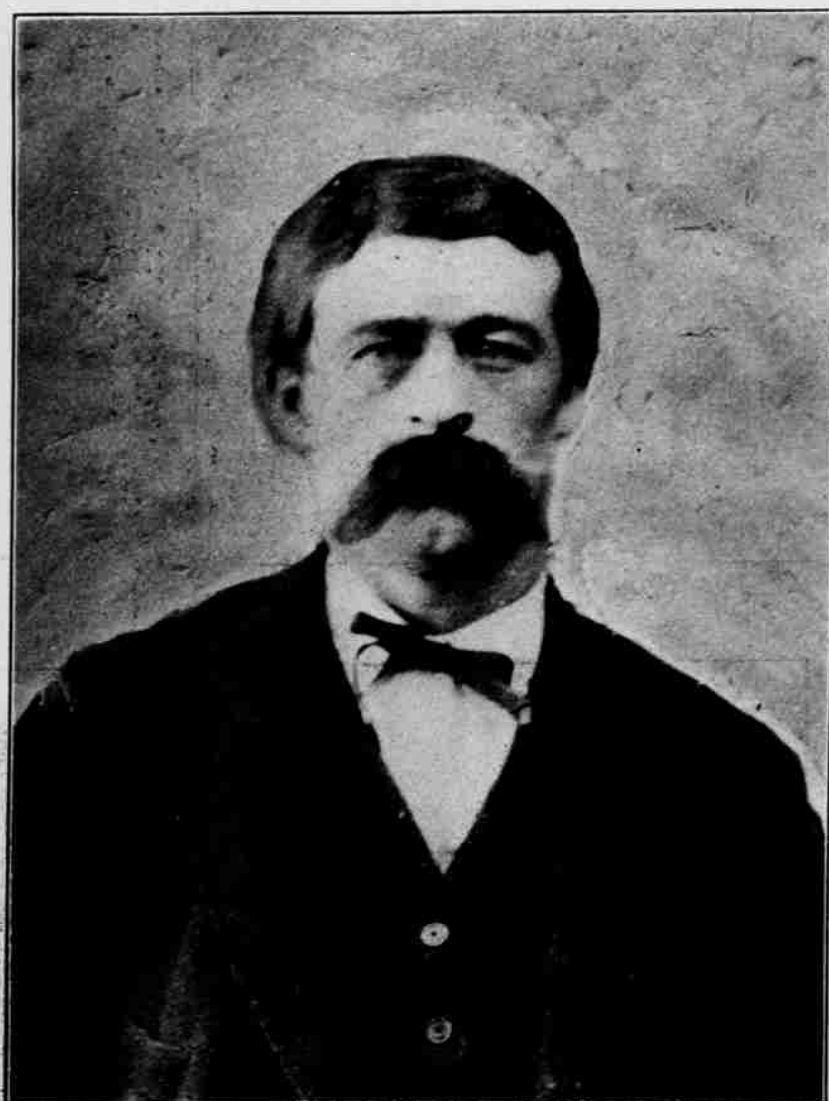


Born near The Dalles in 1860, he received his education there. In 1881 he entered the employ of E. Wingate & Co., and remained with them until they were burned out. He then went with McFarland & French, and after a short period was sent by them to Antelope to work for Bolton & Co. Shortly after he and E. M. Wingate started the present store, and 2½ years ago he bought his partner out. He has always aimed to meet prices quoted in The Dalles, and succeeds in his endeavor. He makes a specialty of Buckingham & Hecht's shoes and Hoffman, Rothchild & Co.'s clothing, and is also sole agent for the Oliver chilled plows and Idalia sewing machines. Since the organization of the city he has acted as city treasurer, and at present is also school clerk. Fraternally he belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows, Workmen and Woodmen.

In 1882 he married Miss L. M. Walker, of The Dalles, and has a daughter 14 years old.



WM. ASHBY.

PETER A. KIRCHEINER.

P. A. Kircheiner furnishes a striking example of the possibilities attainable to a man possessed of a fair share of perseverance, energy and thrift. Born in Denmark in 1862, he secured his education there. Coming to the United States in 1883, he went direct to California, but only remained there a short time, for in the fall of the same year he came to Sherman county and took up a ranch near Rutledge, on which he resided until 1894. He then came to Antelope, and worked in his brother's blacksmith shop, and a year later bought him out. He also buys and sells grain, and is general agent for the Osborne farm machinery. He is a member of the present city council, and takes a lively interest in anything tending to the city's welfare. About three years ago he built his present home, which is a credit to the community.

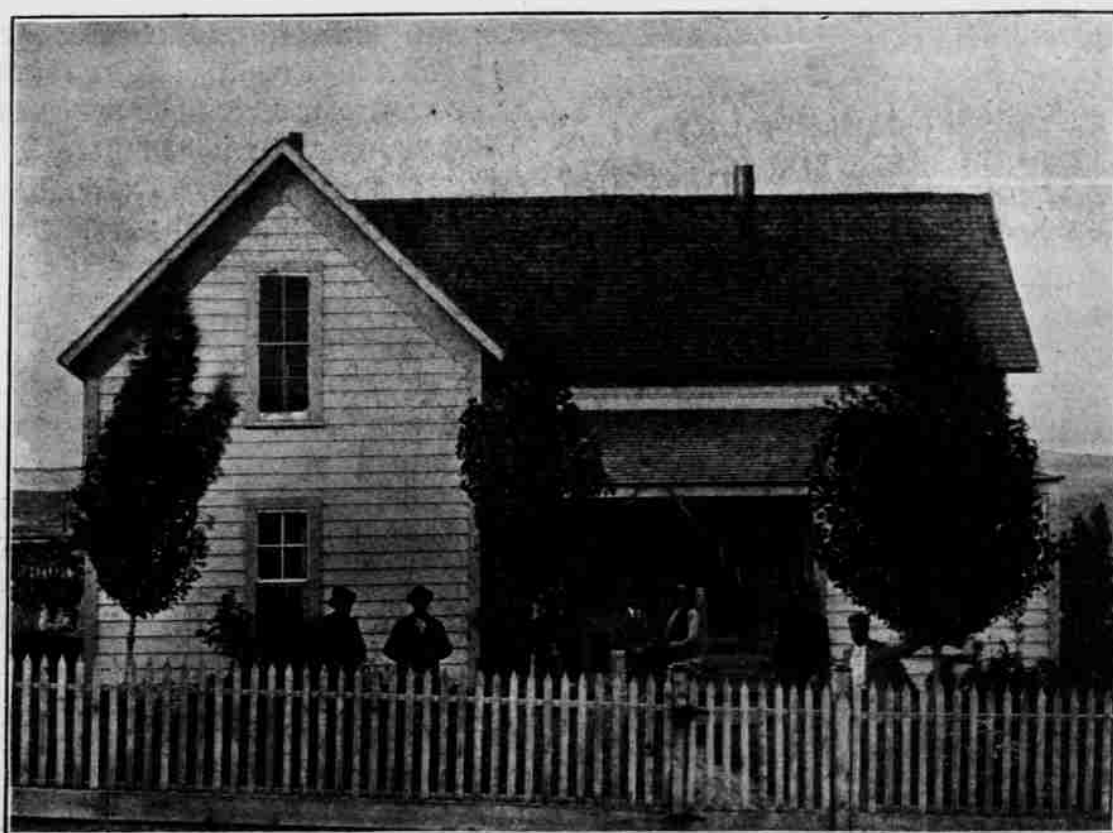


ANTELOPE HOTEL.

WM. ASHBY.

The genial host of the "Antelope" Hotel, Wm. Ashby, was born in Carroll county, Illinois, July 31, 1851, and remained there until his fourteenth year. He then crossed the plains, with his parents, in a wagon, reaching the Willamette Valley, September 20th, 1865. His parents purchased a farm among the famous Waldo Hills, and he assisted them in its cultivation until 1872. He moved then to Wasco county, locating at Cross Hollows, near Antelope, and for a period of ten years was engaged in cattle raising. He also a little later bought some farm lands in Wash-

ington and to-day has two well improved farms in the lower end of the Klickitat valley, consisting of 320 acres, and he gives them a portion of his attention. March 4, 1897, he bought the "Antelope" Hotel, and by careful and systematic business methods has soon placed it to the front of his competitors. He also has leased the "Antelope" feed barn, and is operating the stages running from Bake Oven to Antelope, and from Antelope to Mitchell, a total of seventy miles. February 14, 1871, Mr. Ashby married Miss Nancy Downing, and has eight children, his oldest daughter, Levina, being married to Freeman Reese, of Antelope.



RESIDENCE OF P. A. KIRCHEINER.

SHERMAN COUNTY.

For years, when the great emigrant trains came through from the far East, crossing through great rocky gorges and canyons, until there wound high upon the horizon a great plateau. Tall bunch grass waved in undulative motion before the western breeze that prevails. Cool, invigorating winds, that kissed the hilltops, making them blossom rich in nature's bountiful harvest—bunchgrass. Vast acres spread out before the vision, getting richer and richer as the Empire star leads westward. Until the John Day river is reached and crossing the mighty gorge that guides the water to the great water course of the Northwest.

Here is found a body of land seemingly set aside for the use of a favored class. A tract almost 40 miles square, bounded on the east, west and north by the John Day, Deschutes and Columbia rivers, and on the south by a deep gorge, so abrupt that with the others it makes a vast section of land set apart from all others. A typical prairie country it supported a heavy growth of prairie grass; differing only from the great plains in the fact that it is rolling, and intersected with canyons. These canyons, however are not rocky, and are easily accessible. All along the horizon loom up majestic mountains, covered with timber, and occasionally the towering summit of a snow peak rises high above all else, a thing of grandeur to be admired. On the east are the Blue mountains, and on the west the Cascades, and most important of all, Mt. Hood—the pride of Oregon—shows itself so all may look and admire.

Here, on this rolling table land, the weary immigrant lingered to rest his tired teams, and nature's treatment soon rejuvenated not only the beasts of burden, but tired man as well, that he might travel onward to his destination. An occasional band of antelopes, always fat, as a result of the superior quality of feed furnished by the country of their nativity, always fleet of foot, served to relieve the monotony, as well as furnished many a toothsome morsel for the simple meal. And no less important is the festive coyote, and the ungainly jack rabbit.

No place on earth is blessed with better climatic conditions. The prevailing winds are from the west, and carry a moisture that in later years has proven to be fully equal to the dews of low valley lands, invigorating in its effects it becomes one of the necessary features of the country. Not only are these winds needful to growing vegetation, but health is borne on every breeze. Naturally healthy, these western winds purify the atmosphere, making it all man could ask. The average rainfall is light, the soil being perfectly adapted. A light sandy loam does not require much water; yet there is plenty and to spare. Most

of it falling during the winter months. And no country ever had more delightful winters. Not too cold. The mercury rarely ever goes below the zero mark; stock seldom ever needs to be fed more than sixty days, and often much less. In fact range stock most generally subsist without being cared for in the least—snowfall generally coming light enough to allow them to break through to the nutritious bunchgrass that is being sheltered beneath.

What is now known as Sherman county was first developed as a stock country. Stockmen discovered that the bunchgrass peculiar to Eastern Oregon and Washington, yields the finest range feed for stock of all kinds, that after the first stock farm was established, great herds of horses and cattle flocked in to take advantage of pastures in countless numbers. Then everybody was prosperous. And so they have always been.

In early days Sherman county as well as almost the whole of Eastern Oregon, was a part of Wasco county; and it has, like others, left the mother branch and set up in business for itself, retaining the kindest feeling for the maternal government that gave it sustenance. The Dalles, being the head of navigation on the Columbia, was naturally the supply point for all this vast country, and the usual transportation was by freight wagons until the O. R. & N. Co.'s lines were built across the northern end of the county. The road was built early in the '80's; and it was then that Sherman county began to develop as a wheat raising county. Probably the first men to come to Sherman county in search of wheat land, were Messrs. O. M. and Hugh Scott. These men came from a splendid wheat belt, not dissimilar to the one they hoped to develop, and the output of the year last past tells better than words how well they succeeded. It was not a slow steady growth, but seemed almost spontaneous. It seemed as though Sherman county had been transformed in one night. It was a paradise for a poor man. Hundreds came and found homes. The carpenter plied his vocation building new houses, the blacksmith came with his tools, and the merchant saw the opportunity to do business. In a short time the golden cereal was being transported from what was to be Sherman county by the trainload. It was the largest wheat belt in the world not intersected by a railroad. Year after year, wagon load after wagon load was hauled to the O. R. & N. stations at Rufus and Biggs. Wood, coal and lumber, or such supplies were hauled back, and the farmer prospered. It seems almost strange even now, to look out over these hills, once green, and covered with fat, sleek horses, cattle and sheep, with never an obstruction to hinder one's path,

and see them all sectioned into fields, either brown with summer fallow, or golden grain. Yet in the county there is land, the very best of wheat land, not cultivated because it has hitherto been too far away from transportation to make wheat raising a paying investment. But the advent of the Columbia Southern Railway has obviated all this. There is now not a foot of land that cannot be farmed without profit.

In the year just ended the output of wheat alone was 2,742,876 bushels—by far the largest crop yet raised, and about one-fourth of the entire crop of Oregon. Yet this amount seems small when we figure on the amount that can and will be put on the market, now that the C. S. Ry. has made it possible for the markets to be easily reached. It is safe to say that Sherman county will very soon be exporting 4,000,000 bushels of wheat, and that in the coming year she will easily double her population.

Not only is this immense business constantly going out, but no section consumes more; for wood, lumber, everything the farmer needs must be shipped in. And he uses great quantities of supplies. He is of no small consequence; he does not farm on a small scale; a walking plow and a single team would insult a Sherman county farmer. He drives from four to ten horses and uses several plows at one time—that is unless he's on the road, then its two wagons. One man thinks nothing of farming less than a half section, and the majority of them have more. Then, when he harvests he turns out with a header or two, or mayhap a combined harvester, works several weeks, and if he has a small crop he markets a thousand sacks, or, if a larger, he sells from three to four thousand. These are the average; yet several go considerably higher.

No person has an easier time raising wheat than the Sherman County farmer. Through being able to do so much work in such limited time, he can farm cheaper than in any country in the world—except those who deal in slavery.

And, perhaps, there is no better evidence of the prosperity of these same farmers than their home surroundings. Not one man in the county—except the indolent, a class that afflicts every county more or less—but that has an elegant home and comfortable appointments. A splendid buggy, a pair of roadsters, a piano in the house, are all evidences that Sherman county is kind to those who delve into her bosom or sustenance.

Sherman county, long before it was capable of doing business for itself, was settled by the best class of people that ever existed, and they are with us still. Perhaps the