

TO ASSIST THE RIGHT  
STATE OF OREGON  
1859  
TO REGIST THE WRONG

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## FIRST MAN SETTLED IN LENTS IN YEAR 1847

**Wm. Gason Said to Have Been First Settler--Waterman Gates Came Here in 1851--A Resume of Lents From Its Inception.**

IN the early history of the Lents territory the first man to settle was Wm. Gason, who took up a donation land claim in 1847. Waterman Gates' donation claim was taken in 1851 and on this claim the school house and most of the business section of Lents is built. Wm. Johnson also took a donation land claim on the famous creek which bears his name. His sons Ezra and Jacob also settled here. Wm. Johnson was the grandfather of Chas. Johnson of Lents, also J. J. Johnson. Mrs. Jacob Johnson is still a resident on the old farm at the foot of Mt. Scott. Other early settlers were Plympton Kelly, O. P. Lent, Wm. Kerns, Emanuel Hinmons, W. Jefferson Campbell, Hiram Campbell, followed later by Hugh Furey, Jackson Painter, Peter Wyant, Robert Gilbert, Perry Powell, James Sales, Chris. Schuman, John Ginty, Geo. Spring Sr., Mrs. Harriet Chase, Henry Chapman, Walter Danvers and others.

The mail route from Portland to the Cascade Mountains was established by O. P. Lent, who was a man of push and enterprise, and his daughter, Mrs. J. C. McGrew, now a resident of Gilbert Ave. W. was the first Post Master. So the P. O. was named, and rightly, Lents. The first office was kept at the McGrew residence which is now standing at the corner of Fourth Ave. and Foster road where the big Walnut trees are. These same Walnuts were planted by Waterman Gates and are the only relics left of the Gates family.

Mrs. A. Brown was the second Post Mistress with the office at the same place. Then John Yott built a small store on the ground where I. F. Coffman's store and the present office now stand, and moved the office to a public place in June, 1889. After Yott, came I. F. Coffman as Post Master,

then Louis Kemp and last, Geo. Spring Jr., the present incumbent.

Early in 1891 a stock company was formed by A. C. O'Neil and A. W. Brown with Geo. P. Lent, Pres., and H. W. Scott and others directors to build a motor line from Portland to Lents, which was finished in March 1902. A. C. O'Neil surveyed the road, it being his first attempt at railroad work. He is now chief bridge and railroad engineer for the syndicate in Alaska, of which we hear so much. Wm. Payne and his son-in-law, Council, still residents in this vicinity, did the construction work on the road. Afterward this line was turned over to the O. W. P. Co. and made an electric line.

Since then our burg has waxed great and gets much mention in the papers of the Northwest. But one of the main factors for this work has been Geo. W. Brown, of water works fame, who laid out many additions, built homes, booming the town and selling cheap property to people, who have turned Lents into a city in size.

I. F. Coffman must not be forgotten, as he has also been instrumental in making many improvements.

J. C. McGrew built the first side walk in Lents and has done much towards its improvement.

O. R. Addition, the pioneer real estate agent here, was also a great help in our advancement.

Among the churches the Episcopal and Evangelical were the first to own their church home, but the good old Methodists held services in the school house forty years ago and was the only denomination in the field for many years. Now we number in church buildings, besides the above, Friends, Baptist, Christian, Presbyterian, Adventist, Lutheran-Evangelical, Lutheran, Catholic and several sects who hold meetings but do not own buildings.

### A BUSINESS STREET SCENE IN LENTS



Main Street looking North from carline.

## LENTS

Is a modern suburban home town of from 7500 to 10,000 population, with 12,000 people receiving mail through the postoffice.

It is situated 6 miles east of the center of Portland at the base of Mt. Scott.

Two street car lines and the best macadamised roads in the state give the town the best transportation to and from Portland.

The town has a good water supply, electric light and power, local telephone system, fire department, good streets and has under way several substantial brick and concrete business blocks.

The public school is one of the largest and best in the state, costing \$100,000.00, 900 children attending. A modern catholic school is also about completed. A good public library is located here.

Most ever denomination is represented among our churches. The fraternal societies are also well represented. We have a good band and several orchestral organizations.

Most every line of business and profession is represented here.

Lents is an ideal location for manufacturing enterprises, being well located, near Portland and in the heart of the home of working people.

The climate is unsurpassed, the soil adapted to the raising of fruits and vegetables of every description.

Lents needs more people, more business and manufacturing enterprises, a good hotel and apartment house, and several more substantial business blocks.

Desired information will be furnished by the Lents Improvement Club or The Herald.

## PIONEER SKETCH OF LENTS AND HISTORY OF ITS SCHOOL

**What Is Now a Prosperous Town of Thousands of Inhabitants Was Once Home of Few Scattered Throughout Timber--Hardships Many.**

BY W. J. CAMPBELL, OF AMBOY, WASHINGTON

EDITED BY D. M. SIMONSEN

THE year 1912, just approaching, sees Lents a prosperous city of town of from 10,000 to 12,000 inhabitants with every modern convenience, electric cars, mail service, wire connection with all parts of the world, with many people daily seeking new homes here, and in all it finds it as prosperous and metropolitan as any 20th century town should be. But if you could look back four score years you would find what is now a modern city, only a groaning wilderness, populated even then by Indians, abounding with wild game and only a settlers' cabin located here and there in the timber.

Between here and Portland there was only one house, that on the tract where now stands the Plympton Kelly school.

Mail was received here sometimes once a week, sometimes once a month and even longer periods. The only by-way then was a path through the tall timber to Portland. Then a trip to the "city" was not only long and tedious, but perilous.

The settlers who paved the way for this village have nearly all passed away, but the monument to their endurance, patriotism and zealotness is the town of Lents. It will be a lasting monument, for each year it has continued to grow until it now ranks second to none in the state for thriftiness, healthfulness, educational advantages and as a suburban home town.

The following by W. J. Campbell, of Amboy, Wash., recites the tales and hardships of the settlers in starting and maintaining a school here. In this, too, we see a monument, that in the handsome 20-room, \$100,000 school-house, the largest in the state outside

of Portland and second in the city itself.

"In answer to your question in regard to the early history of District No. 12, I will say that your request has taken me back to days when parents realized what the difficulties were to give children an education in a country where the inhabitants were few; but, fortunately for No. 12, it had men of public spirit and iron will who were determined to give their children an education, although fate seemed against them, and they proved themselves equal to the emergency.

Let me tell you who the principal men were--O. P. Lent, Jacob Johnson, and Plympton Kelly. True, there were others that assisted, but these three appeared to be the main stay and the result of their labor manifested itself before they were called away from this life.

You can understand more about the difficulties encountered when you learn the size of the district, which was bounded on the west by the township line of 1 and 2 E., and on the east by township line 2 and 3 E.; on the north by the section line road and on the south by the county line. Except a small square cut out of the N. E. corner the district contained 6 square miles.

As to the inhabitants, there were nine families, six of whom had children and five or six ranches held by bachelors. This was the total sum of the inhabitants of the district.

Then we thought we were quite a distance from Portland, as there was but one house from Lents to Father Kelly's place on which the Clinton Kelly

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### CATHOLIC SCHOOL TO BE DEDICATED

Date Set Is Sunday, December 17--Structure Cost Nearly \$7,000 and Is Credit to Town.

The handsome new structure to be used as a Chapel and school by St. Peters parish at this place is about completed and will be formally opened and dedicated the coming Sunday.

The building stands on a part of the quarter block purchased by the church on W. Gilbert adjoining Main street. It was commenced August 5th of this year and was rushed to completion. Jacobson & Smith, of Portland, were the architects. Its cost will be nearly \$7,000 in all.

The building is three stories in height. The first floor will be used as a hall, the second as school rooms, there being two music rooms and two school rooms thereon. The third is fitted up as a chapel to be used until the new church can be erected.

A community house is yet to be built on the tract.

The parish was established a year ago. It embraces territory from East Sixty-ninth street to Jenne Station on the Graham line. Rev. Father P. J. Bueigen is the pastor and to him belongs the credit for the erection of the new building.

The chapel and school will be dedicated December 17, by Archbishop Christie. High mass will then be celebrated for the first time in the edifice and the Archbishop will deliver the dedicatory sermon.

The citizens of Lents are invited to participate in the opening exercises and to partake of the bounteous dinner that is to be served from 12 to 6 in the afternoon.

#### A Terrible Blunder

to neglect liver trouble. Never do it. Take Dr. King's New Life Pills on the first sign of constipation, biliousness or inactive bowels and prevent virulent indigestion, jaundice or gall stones. They regulate liver, stomach, and bowels and build up your health. Only 25c

#### CHRISTMAS DANCE AT ROCKWOOD

Rockwood Grange will give a Christmas dance on Saturday evening, Dec. 23. Richards' orchestra and the usual grange supper. Tickets 75 cents. Supper extra.

### LENTS LIBRARY IS GROWING

In Spite of This We Are in Danger of Losing It Unless More Financial Support Is Offered.

The attendance at the Lents library for the year so far exceeds that of last year by a good margin. The circulation of books has also increased. The figures are:

1910	Attendance.....	14,271
	Circulation.....	8,702

1911	Attendance.....	15,001
	Circulation.....	9,779

This is a good showing but in spite of this Lents is in danger of losing this worthy institution and unless we all rally to its support, and we may say defense, it is liable to be taken away from us.

The Portland library board has signified its intention of moving and combining the Lents and Arleta branch libraries to a more central location. While this perhaps would be more suitable in some ways it would be less so in other ways.

Lents people would not like to have a mile or so to walk to enjoy the privileges we should enjoy at home, and Arleta people doubtless feel the same way.

The library should remain where it is. Use your influence in helping to keep it here. Sign the roll and then raise your voice in protest if you are not already a member and have not protested.

Lents people appreciate the library and will doubtless devise some means of keeping it here.

#### M. E. CHURCH

Preaching service 11 a. m. Subject: "Fatal Arguments with the Devil." Evening subject: "The Man who Turned States Evidence Against the Devil to Hide His Own Shame and Weakness." Men and women please take notice: See to it that you avail yourselves of the high social, intellectual and religious privileges of the gospel.

W. Boyd Moore, Pastor.

#### CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends for their kindness and sympathy during the sickness and loss of our only little one, and for the many beautiful floral offerings. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fague.

### WHAT WOULD TEDDY SAY IF HE SAW THESE?



Photo by Montag

Lents is noted for its children, says a writer--this seems to bear him out. Seldom do we see three pair of twins together but the above is an actual picture of three pair of Lents youngsters.

### PAUL MEINIG MAYOR OF SANDY

Elected to That Office to Succeed Mayor Burns--Six Councilmen also Elected.

At the municipal election held in the town of Sandy, December 5, Paul R. Meinig was elected Mayor of that place over P. T. Shelley and to succeed Ed. Burns the present incumbent.

For Councilmen the voters chose E. F. Burns, L. E. Hoffman, Casper Junker, Otto Meinig, Henry Perret, Geo. A. Wolfe.

For Recorder R. E. Esson was elected. A. W. Bell was chosen for Marshall and Alborn O. Meinig was elected Treasurer.

### LENTS GRANGE ELECTS OFFICERS

T. J. Kreuder Re-elected Master--Other Granges Hold Elections--Names of New Officers.

Lents Grange held an interesting all-day session last Saturday. Several candidates were given the third and fourth degrees. The drill team put on the work in its usual creditable manner and brought forth commendation from Master Crane of Rockwood Grange, who was a visitor. Many other visitors were present.

The lecture hour though cut short was interesting and educational.

The election of officers resulted in the following:

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### XMAS CANTATA AT M. E. CHURCH

"Angelic Choir" Is Title of Cantata to Be Given--Date and Program Announced Later.

The Cantata to be given Christmas by the M. E. Church Choir will be the biggest musical treat ever given by a Lents Church Choir.

The Cantata entitled, "The Angelic Choir," is made up of five full choruses, two women's choruses, one male quartet with contralto obligato.

The soloists are Mrs. Daniels, soprano; Mrs. Dr. Sells, contralto; Mr. Melton, tenor; Mr. Getting, baritone; Mr. Blything, bass, and Miss Helen Hansen, organist.

A full announcement, date and program will be given in the next issue of The Herald.

### BANK STATEMENT SHOWS INCREASE

Lents New Bank Rapidly Growing in Deposits and It's Prestige is Greatly Increasing.

In another column will be seen the financial report of the new bank. The Multnomah State Bank of Lents. It shows among other things the growth of the institution since its opening July 1st. The deposits of the bank have since the statement was issued reached the \$30,000 mark, which indicates the confidence the business people of Lents and vicinity place in the bank and its management and connections. We note that the cash reserve is more than 50 per cent of the deposits and we doubt if any other bank in this county carries such a large reserve. In all it certainly

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