

History of Monmouth.

The following history was written for the Vespertine Literary society, about the year 1878, by one of the members at that time. It was published in the Pacific Christian Messenger and preserved many years in a scrap book. It may be of interest to many now:

Over thirty years ago Monmouth was a vast prairie, only inhabited by Indians and wild cattle. Monmouth was surveyed in 1855 by T. H. Hutchinson. It was laid out for the sole purpose of establishing an institution for learning. Trustees of said institution consisted of the following named persons: T. H. Lucas, J. B. Smith, S. S. Whitman, D. Lewis and J. E. Murphy. They met for the purpose of giving their town a name. The names of Dover and Monmouth were proposed and voted upon, which resulted in a tie, when the casting vote was given by I. F. M. Butler, chairman, in favor of Monmouth, after the "city of Monmouth," Illinois, he being partial to the name, having lived there many years before coming to Oregon.

The first house was built in the summer of 1855, by the trustees of the Monmouth University, which was the foundation of Christian College.

The first school was taught in 1856, by Judge Cowls, now of McMinnville.

In 1856 several more buildings were erected, and in the fall two stores were built by J. B. V. Butler and W. Hart. In the fall of 1857 a drug store and two other stores were started. In 1858 a harness shop and sash and door manufactory were built, and also the old college building, then under the name of the "Monmouth University," the name of which was afterward changed to Christian College.

The postoffice was established in the year 1859 by J. B. V. Butler, postmaster, who held it until 1868, when W. Waterhouse was appointed, who is still holding it and is the oldest inhabitant of this place.

The I r i k College was erected in 1871, the corner stone of which contains a number of articles of value and curiosity. It is an institution of learning which is an honor to our country today.

Many of us, I fear, fail to appreciate the sacrifices made by those men to establish this institution.

The land originally belonging to the Monmouth University was donated by T. H. Lucas, S. S. Whitman, Elijah Davidson, I. F. M. Butler, J. B. Smith and John Harris, which amounted to about five hundred acres.

This institution has been under supervision of President F. F. Campbell since 1869, and through his earnest efforts it has become one of the best in the state. There are about 130 students and employ four professors. There are three literary societies.

The Pacific Christian Messenger was started in 1870, with Prof. F. F. Campbell editor. In 1878 Pros. Stanley started a job office. There are eighty-six dwellings and business houses and 335 inhabitants.

Our little town, like Rome, was not built in a day; its growth has been slow but sure, and we speak for it a bright future.

Farmers' Picnic

There will be a Farmers' Picnic at Shady Lane, two and a half miles North of Lewisville, Polk County, on Saturday, June 18th, 1910.

A pleasant time is in anticipation and a general invitation is extended the public to attend.

A Serious Situation.

In the local situation with respect to teachers there is certainly a powerful argument for the Eastern Oregon normal school. This year Pendleton has lost some of its most competent teachers. Like most strong teachers they are normal school graduates and they have secured positions at better salaries in the larger cities of the northwest. Seattle, Portland and Spokane have all taken teachers from this city this year.

Now it so happens that Pendleton is able to fill the vacancies with competent teachers chosen for the most part from other places within the state. This because Pendleton pays better salaries than do most of the Oregon towns and is a good place in which to teach. But to get these teachers Pendleton must take them away from these other towns. We must rob the little towns of their good teachers just as Seattle, Portland and Spokane rob Pendleton.

Now if the normal schools were running this system would work alright. The small towns and the country districts could make up their losses by employing new graduates from the normal schools. But this year there are no normal graduates and there will be no graduates next year. Even if the schools are upheld this fall it will be several years before any number of graduates can be turned out. This because the normal course requires four years of study before graduation and because most of those who were attending the normals when they closed down have either gone to other states or have given up the work entirely.

The situation as it stands simply means that unless the normal schools are revived and revived at once Oregon will soon face a decided scarcity of competent teachers. As pointed out above the schools of the country and of the small towns will be the first to suffer. But in the end small cities like Pendleton and eventually the larger cities will suffer.

In an interview yesterday Superintendent Landers of this city held that the need of a normal school system is unquestionable. This is the view of all leading educators for they know that good teachers must be trained just as physicians, dentists, lawyers and book-keepers must have preparatory training.

If you believe in upholding the standard of the public schools of Oregon then get ready to vote for the normal schools this fall. —East Oregonian.

Zook, the paper hanger will do your painting.

Dividing Something.

A farm laborer in one of the western counties was requested to vote for a candidate at the election, but he refused. Being asked for his reason, he made answer:

"Why, because them chaps be well enough paid."

They then tried to explain to Hodge that members of parliament in this country were not paid for their services. But he was not to be convinced.

"Don't 'ee tell me!" he replied somewhat angrily. "I believe my eyes, and when I zees in the paper as they divides almost ev'ry night I knows they be dividin' summat!"—London Tit-Bits.

Not at All Stylish.

Madam—What a funny looking hat that woman has on! Adam—Don't see anything funny about it. Looks mighty sensible to me. Madam—Yes; that's what makes it so funny looking. 'Tis be!—New York Times.

Just as Good.

"Have you any postage stamps?" asked the man entering the drug store. "I have not," replied the druggist, "but I've got plasters that stick just as good."—Yonkers Statesman.

If you wish any blessing look for it yourself.—Arrian.



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Meets every Wednesday night. Visiting Neighbors cordially welcomed.

J. W. SCOTT, C. C.
O. A. WOLVERTON, CLERK