

Independence Enterprise

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SOME FACTS IN HISTORY

PROGRESS OF TOWN IS SHOWN FROM EARLY HISTORY

Since the Days of Railroad Building Independence Has Made Rapid Strides Forward.

While there are thousands of colonists locating in Oregon this spring, they are apparently few who are fully cognizant of the wealth of this country, and who appreciate the fact that Independence is located in the best portion of Oregon. The unconcern about independence today on the part of the homeseeker is because the city and tributary country has not been advertised as other sections of Oregon, but independence is on the map and whether the homeseeker is aware of it or not, the city is making rapid strides forward at the present time.

The city of Independence has a population of about 2000 inhabitants, is of solid growth and substantial surroundings, and prides itself upon a high-minded citizenship that possess a laudable ambition to do things in the world which are worth doing.

This is about all it claims to be. However, like all things mundane, it has a history, commonplace enough in its way and the busy years have added page after page to the record of its written and unwritten story. To this record we will appeal for a few facts.

In the summer of 1850 Elven Thorp a pioneer of 1844, conceived the idea of locating a town upon the site now designated as the third ward, or more commonly called old town. The location possessed many natural advantages. A rich, fertile, primitive country was back of it, and the Willamette river, a most feasible highway to market, flowed along right at its door.

The restless population of the middle states and the Atlantic seaboard had already commenced moving toward the land of the setting sun. Strange stories of the fabulous mineral wealth of the new western Eldorado was setting the imagination of men on fire; an unexplored empire, a country of marvelous, undreamt of resources awaited only the strong arm and cunning brain to make the wilderness blossom like a rose. A great human sea commenced flowing into Oregon in the years of 1850 and '52, and many of these daring adventurers made their homes upon the fertile prairies round about Independence—Albion, there was no Independence here then, but it soon began to grow. Henry Hill, Esq., was among the first of these early settlers. He and Asa Burbank, Sr., and Leonard Williams formed a co-partnership for the purpose of carrying on a general mercantile and trafficking business. The enterprise prospered; subsequently Mr Hill disposed of his interest in the business to his two partners, for the purpose of engaging in stock raising and ranching, a business more congenial to his tastes and habits of life.

The little frontier trading post prospered and as the country became settled Independence soon became noted as the leading shipping point for the produce of Polk county. The names of many of these old pioneer business men occur to our mind. Thos. Burbank, Capt. Lyon, for whom Lyon L-dre, A. F. & A. M., of this city was named; Jas. Foster, Walcott Hart, J. E. Davidson, C. P. Cook, E. M'rwln, Isaac Vanduyne, C. S'oper and L. Ke'no were a few of the sturdy pioneer business men who did much to build up the early commercial interests of Independence. For many years Thorp's town (now third ward) was the business center, but about the year 1867 Henry Hill platted south Independence, which, owing to its superior shipping facilities, soon

took the place of Independence for years, but the inexorable laws of business were against it, for commercial interests, like the laws of the physical world, follow along lines of least resistance. One by one the north side merchants either removed over to the south side or changed their place of business altogether. The new laws (so called) boomed right along. Business houses sprang up on all sides, many neat and substantial residences, a commodious church and school house, ample for the needs of the growing community, were erected. Messrs. Vanduyne & Summerville, Crane & Wolf, McCord & Smith, Rosendorf Bros. & Hirschburg, T. Belt, L. C. Claggett and others, we do not recall, were leading spirits in business circles "as the days of old, the days of gold," in those days before railroading and competency changed the commercial relations of the county.

Time went on apace and many business changes occurred in our bustling and thrifty village. Old generations had not relaxed and the new generation was as ambitious, as quick to bend the knee that thrift might follow as their predecessors. The railroad era of 1880 very materially changed the commercial relations of the west side country. It gave impetus to business, facilitated immigration, caused a raise in the value of real estate and pushed the country ahead at a single bound.

Independence was in the swim. Her population very rapidly increased, business houses and residences and churches sprang up on every hand. The star of empire flashed o'er the mighty Pacific, and the wild West was rapidly becoming the great wheat mart of the world, a populous commonwealth, a busy hive of human industry, a center of refinement and culture, the seat of commerce. Within ten years, from 1880 to 1890, the population of Independence had doubled, every business interest had increased at the same ratio, every moral and intellectual interest had kept pace with the march of material progress.

The people were alive, the country was prosperous, everything moved.

In 1889-90 a great forward step was taken. Two substantial tank buildings a commodious theatrical hall, a 30,000 ft capacity steam saw mill, and the finest public school building in the county were completed. Also a complete system of city water works, an electric light plant, 2000 candle power and a steam power motor line connecting Independence with Monmouth; new additions to the town were platted and platted upon the market, and real estate ran 25 per cent at a single bound. A passing word, however, cannot do justice to our splendid school facilities. We must pause to give a few salient points. In the summer of '89 it was thought feasible to consolidate school districts Nos. 28 and 29 into one district for the mutual good of all concerned. The proper steps were taken and upon application to the county school superintendent the desired change was made. Then by vote of the tax payers it was ordered that a suitable school building should be erected not to exceed in cost the sum of \$20,000. Under the able management of the school board (W. P. Connaway, Abram Nelson and G. W. Shinn) the building, including grounds and fixtures, was completed at a cost less than \$20,000. The building is a three story with an eight foot basement and eight large rooms for school purposes. A large hall runs east and west through the lower and upper story respectively, and each room is supplied with warmth by steam heaters. The rooms are commodious and well ventilated.

RACE HORSES ARRIVE

Several horses arrived in the city Monday from different parts of the country and are in training at the Independence track preparatory to the coming meet. More horses will be here this week.

MASS MEETING AT MONMOUTH

ENTHUSIASTIC MASS MEETING HELD AT MONMOUTH

Citizens and Patrons in the District Express Willingness to Bond for \$20,000.

A very enthusiastic mass meeting was held at Monmouth Monday evening for the purpose of discussing the relation of the public schools of that place to the State Normal school and to discuss the problem of building an up-to-date school building in that district. At the meeting there was presented a petition signed by fifty-one of the qualified electors of the district. In explaining the petition Rev. W. A. Wood, of the board of directors, stated that it had been in the minds of the school board, and it was their intention, if the Normal School was re-established in Monmouth by the people of the state, to place the proposition of building a modern school building before the patrons.

The meeting was filled with enthusiasm and earnest speeches were by P. O. Powell, J. H. Hawley, J. B. V. Butler, Dr. D. N. McInturff and Prof. J. H. Ackerman, President of the school. Prof. Ackerman said in substance, each scholar enrolled in the Oregon State Normal must sign a bonified statement that he or she is there for no other purpose than to learn to be a teacher. The Board of regents of the Normal School passed a resolution that no scholar could enter the Normal School as a student until he or she had finished the eighth grade in the public school. It was not the intention of the board, said the speaker, to antagonize the citizens of the city of Monmouth but this resolution was absolutely necessary in order for them to be able to provide for the students in the Normal school. It is up to the citizens of Monmouth to come up to the requirements of the State in this respect and to arise to the emergency which has been placed before them.

It is understood that the public school for the Normal, and at the election on the 8th of this month the question whether there will be \$20,000.00 appropriated for this purpose and the school district be bonded for the amount, will be settled.

HAVE THE FEVER

Automobiles Are Fast Increasing in Number.

Independence people are apparently afflicted with a severe attack of the automobile fever this year, and Dr. Long, the specialist, is affording relief nearly every day.

It was through his agency that the deal was consummated whereby the Enterprise building was traded for an automobile. The same day Dr. Long sold an Overland to Dr. Butler, a 5 passenger car to August Sperling and a 30-horse power, 5 passenger Overland to Geo. Kuh.

Every week adds to the number of Independence cars, and before the season is over the number will be greatly increased.

A CLEVER BUNCH

One of the best Vaudeville shows that has visited Independence for a long time entertained at the Star Theatre Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of this week under the management of McCarty and Vohl. The Company were truly interesting and pretty clever in their song and dance specialties. Which goes to show that their experience behind the footlights is not limited. They had fairly large attendance and in most cases the entertainment was appreciated.

IT'S SELL OR LOSE

If the stockholders of the Independence Cannery expect to realize anything at all out of the investment, immediate action must be taken in turning the stock over to the committee appointed to receive it. It is this or nothing. If all share holders will call at the Kirkland drug store and confer with Mr. Kirkland, chairman of the committee, they will be able to realize at least 50 per cent of the money invested, and possibly more. If no action is taken in this direction the mortgage will be foreclosed and the property sold to satisfy the indebtedness. It would seem that it is better to accept at least half of the investment rather than to lose all.

There are only a few days left in which the committee can settle the accounts in this way, and if the stockholders do not give them the privilege of handing their shares, all will be lost, and lost soon.

BIRTH DAY PARTY

Artie McKinney gave a party to several of her little friends Saturday, April 1st, in honor of her 11th birthday and a very pleasant time was had by those in attendance. Light refreshments were served and games were indulged in after which Charlie Ewing took a picture of the happy group. Vera Johnson won first prize and Velma Whiteaker second, for pinning the tail on the donkey. Those present were: Ella Muhleman, Eva Lalberly, Vera Johnson, Vivian Brown, Reva Mills, Velma Whiteaker, Alice Sperling, Edna Mills, Frances Sperling, and Artie McKinney.

WOODMEN MEET

A meeting of the M. W. A. county delegates was held in this city Wednesday afternoon. The Falls City camp was represented by Messrs. Alcock and Ellis, Suver, by Messrs. Thurston and DeArmon and Independence, by O. T. Solle and O. B. Travis. J. J. Thurston of Suver, was elected delegate to the state head camp which meets next month.

MUST USE CEMENT

At the regular meeting of the city council held Wednesday evening the cement sidewalk and curbstone ordinance was passed and the city attorney was instructed to draw up the necessary papers preparatory to improvement of five blocks in the city with hard surface pavement. Every week shows greater effort in the way of development on the part of our citizens.

Ladies of the Presbyterian church will give a basket social in K. of P. Hall one week from Friday evening, April 14th. Each lady is requested to bring a basket with lunch for two, also an unhemmed apron with needle and thread. The baskets will be sold for 35 cents each. With each basket will be an apron which the purchaser will be expected to hem. A prize will be given to the gentleman doing the neatest job. Hot coffee will be served with the lunches.

WANT COMMERCIAL CLUB

In making a canvass of the business portion of the city this week, it was ascertained that considerable interest prevails relative to the re-organization of the Commercial Club on strictly business principles. The Mayor and city council has kindly given the use of the council chambers as a meeting place wherein the organization may be effected and the meeting is called for Friday evening.

IT LOOKS GOOD TO HIM

Mr. Jenkins, Traveling Passenger Agent for the Southern Pacific Company, was in the city yesterday. He seemed much pleased with the efforts being made here in the way of development, and spoke very encouragingly of Independence's future.

BIG OFFER TO OUTSIDERS

FREE RAILROAD FARE TO ALBANY AND BACK HOME

A most extraordinary liberal offer is made out of town people by The Greater Chambers & McCune Store of Albany. They give people the opportunity of going to Albany, at no expense, to trade at the "Big Day Light Store" and choose from a stock of over \$30,000.00, all new stylish merchandise bought in large quantities which enables them to sell for less than other stores.

At the Big Store it is not a case you can buy any kind of wearing apparel you want at the price you wish to pay and select from the largest stock of Suits, Coats, Dresses, New Spring Millinery, Waists, Skirts, Shoes, Ox-fords, Pumps, Dry Goods etc., between Portland and San Francisco.

All they ask which is most reasonable, that you buy a suit, coat, dress or any bill of goods to the amount of \$25.00 and your Railroad fare both ways is paid.

\$25.00 is a small amount for a shopping trip when one can have such a large selection of goods to choose from. For instance, over one thousand Suits, Coats and Dresses, over eight hundred beautiful Spring Hats, hundreds of beautiful Waists and Skirts over one hundred different styles of ladies, Misses and children's Shoes, Ox-fords, Pumps and Sandals in prices less than any other store.

any kind of leather, cloth or velvet and Goggles, Prints and Muslins at it's not only a FREE trip to Albany to buy what you want and know it is Up To Date but Chambers & McCune guarantee a saving of ten to twenty five per cent on every purchase and guarantee service and satisfaction in every article or your money refunded.

This Big Ready to Wear Store is selling the best trade in such large Cities as Salem and Eugene suits, coats, dresses and hats which is evidence of the style and quality of goods and the saving in price.

Cut this out, bring it to Albany and get your railroad fare refunded.

TEMPERANCE PEOPLE MEET

The Loyal Temperance Legion will meet in the Presbyterian church next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. An increase of membership is encouraging. The lessons taught being most helpful. The leaders manifest much care and earnestness in the training given, with the hope that in later years will bring an hundred fold.

An appeal is hereby given to parents to urge the regular attendance of their children now while the impressionable years are passing.

In this day the youth are surrounded by so many temptations, indulgences, easy allurement to tempt the appetite. Let all remember that our happiness in two worlds depends upon the right improvement of one.

Geo. Conkey returned from Hood River Sunday where he went to have an operation for a cancer on his face. He has been absent for nearly two weeks and the operation was a success.

The Women's Christian Union met Wednesday with the president, after the regular business was transacted the members accepted the invitation of the Monmouth Union to meet with them on Friday, the 14th, at 2:30 in the afternoon, at the residence of Mrs. Helfoy; the occasion being Gift Day, offering to be given on that day for the defraying of expenses connected with the cause. The day chosen as Gift Day being the birthday of Mrs. Shane, the State treasurer. All the members of Independence are requested to be present.

A. C. Moore was in Portland on business this week.