

SKETCH OF THE CITY'S HISTORY

(Continued from ninth page)

advice and request that Uncle Tite laid out the plate. At any rate, Mrs. Miller purchased the first lot sold. Mr. Miller sold the hotel to Noah Tripp who conducted the place for about four years and then sold out. Not many years later it was purchased by Chas. Olive who conducted the place until it was destroyed by fire on the night of June 5th, 1892.

W. H. Nosler, father of our well known merchant and ex-mayor S. M. Nosler, settled at Iowa Slough near Riverton about 1871. He assisted S. B. Cathcart survey the Willard plat; but he was a carpenter by trade and built the first frame buildings in the town. He first assisted Till Vowell to build his store elsewhere mentioned and they camped in a small open space about where the Coquille laundry now stands. All around were dense forests and they were in constant fear of being attacked by wild beasts, but luckily never were molested. He moved to Coquille shortly after that and erected the first dwelling in town which stood just back of the Woodman Hall. He resided here for a year or two then fled on the Notley claim east of the Cunningham claim and built a house about where E. D. Webb of the First National Bank has just completed a new residence. This building was later moved to the north side of the block where it now stands and is used by Arthur Selander for a garage.

Among the other buildings which Mr. Nosler erected were the Elkhorn Hotel and the new school house. He was a teacher and taught the first school in this building.

Among the other well known landmarks of early days was a spring near the river back of the Busy Corner, from which the inhabitants obtained water for domestic purposes until the Occidental Water Co. installed the first water system for the town in 1886.

Mr. Nosler was always a leading spirit in the development of the town and country. He claimed the distinction of having organized the first Sunday School in the county at Iowa Slough. He opposed the late Judge J. Henry Schroeder for school superintendent in 1874, but was defeated. He was a member of the State legislature in 1897.

He moved to California about 1885 where he lost his estimable wife in 1887. He returned to this place where he died at a ripe old age in 1914.

He was the father of ten children, one of whom died in infancy and all the rest are now living and are classed among our best and most enterprising citizens. Of these Mrs. A. T. Morrison, Mrs. C. A. Gage, Mrs. C. T. Skeels, S. M. Nosler and Gene Nosler all reside here.

Judge John H. Nosler, father of James T. Nosler, settled here in 1874 and built his residence on the site now occupied by the residence of Rev. A. W. Bell, having purchased a portion of the E. W. Stillwell homestead. Mr. Nosler and his sons were all prominent citizens and were active in the growth and development of this community, the senior Nosler having served as County Judge from July 8th, 1874, to July 8th, 1882.

M. W. Miller settled here in 1872, and, as shown by what has already been said, took an active part in the affairs of our town in its infancy, so it would seem meet and proper that the son and daughter of these two pioneer families should have joined for better or worse, which time has proven to have been all for the better and none for the worse.

In those days there were no roads, but there was a trail from Myrtle Point which meandered through the town across the block now occupied by the hotel building thence in a northerly direction near where the Moulton street bridge stands, thence to Coaledo and Marshfield. The principal patronage of the Elkhorn Hotel was from settlers traveling to and from the county seat, which was then at Empire City.

James Cardwell operated the first dray, with one mule and a sled; and his price was two bits per trip, regardless of quantity or distance and this price prevailed for many years, even after business had greatly increased and competition had entered the field. Mr. Cardwell afterwards sold out to R. E. Buck, who continued the business until about 1900 when he sold to Hark Dunham and Capt. Thos. White, who later sold to T. J. Little and Little continued in the business until the advent of the automobile made it unprofitable. Cardwell built the first livery barn on the site now occupied by the Laird Building which was afterward acquired by Buck and still later by Little. Mr. Buck found it necessary to increase

his hauling capacity by adding another mule and Mr. Buck and his two mules and dry wagon were familiar objects on our streets for years. Mr. Buck and his wife have both gone to the great beyond.

Another familiar scene on our streets in those days was J. P. Messer and his ox team. Mr. Messer did a general dray business and his oxen were famous all over the country for their strength and ability to draw heavy loads. This team was raised by Joseph Collier, broken to work when they were calves by his son, George, and were named Duke and Golden.

After M. W. Miller sold the Elkhorn Hotel, he erected the small building where Ben Hersey now lives just east of the Hersey and Ruble pool hall and conducted a grocery store there for a number of years.

In 1875 John Panter erected a grist mill on the present site of the city dock. That was prior to the invention of the roller mill and the grain was crushed by the old fashioned stone burrs. Mr. Panter was not a miller himself, so he employed William Notley, who was a miller by trade. But there was not sufficient grain raised in the valley to justify this enterprise and it was never a paying business, for four or five days' operation each year would grind all the rain raised in the valley.

Mr. Notley homesteaded one hundred sixty acres lying just east of the Cunningham claim and later his son, John, platted a portion of it into what is now known as Notley's addition.

The first school house was a log structure erected in the northerly part of the town on property now owned by W. A. Goodman on the west side of the block and just back of where Mrs. Harry and Mrs. Wilcox have recently erected two beautiful little bungalows.

As the population increased, most of the dwellings were built upon or near the townsite and soon the log school house was outgrown and a larger and better building was erected of lumber on the site now occupied by the First National Bank Building.

This school house stood for many years and was used for all sorts of gatherings including church services and it was in this building in November 6, 1876, that James T. Nosler and August Miller were united in marriage one Sunday evening after church service. They were the first couple to be married in the new building. Rev. Mr. Morgan, a Christian minister, officiating.

Many of our prominent citizens attended school in this building, among whom were Mrs. Nosler, just mentioned, George T. Moulton, Mrs. Charles Watson and Mrs. Albert Miller. The teacher was Lake W. Woolford who now lives in Portland. Mr. Moulton has a photograph of this building with the teacher and pupils standing in front of it.

There are many amusing incidents told which happened in and about this building. One is about a large herd of swine which roamed at large and sought shelter at night and inclement weather under the school house and many times their squealing and thumping against the floor and joists form underneath interrupted the church service.

The boys played ball in the nearest open space which was were the Coquille Service Station now stands and the street north of it. Beyond that to the north and west was a dense wilderness consisting principally of giant fir trees; and small children feared to venture as far as where the court house now stands on account of danger from wild beasts—whether real or imaginary I cannot say, but a huge bear was treed and killed just east of the City Hall.

A severe earthquake shock occurred in 1874 which shook dishes from pantry shelves and knocked people down who were standing. So far as known this is the severest shock ever felt here.

On the lot now occupied by Gardner's Garage there stood an immense fir tree which was struck and practically destroyed by lightning.

After Grandma Leneve sold the property here, she and her husband and family moved to Parkersburg and remained until 1876 when they returned and Mr. Leneve bought the property across the street from Fuhrman's Drug store. This property he owned until his death and his heirs have continued to hold it until recently when it was sold to H. D. Jones. Mr. Leneve erected a store building there and opened the first drug store and was afterward appointed postmaster and served in that capacity for a great many years when he was succeeded by Judge Nosler who in turn was succeeded by L. Harlocker.

Among other old timers, were Emerson and Hayes, who erected a building and conducted a store about where the Busy Corner now stands. W. W. Hayes, of this firm, was the local Justice of the Peace for many years and was County Treasurer from July 9th, 1894, to July 5th, 1900.

John T. Moulton, father of George T. Moulton and Mrs. S. M. Nosler, erected a building about where the Henry Lorenz store now stands. He sold this to Dyer & McEwen who opened a hardware store there. Till Vowell sold his store to Elkasey Nosler and he, in turn, sold to Mr. Moulton in 1871, who continued the business for many years and also served as postmaster the greater portion of this time.

C. Andrews erected a building and opened a general store about where the Nelson market now stands. This was about 1827, or perhaps later. Mr. Andrews also served as postmaster several years.

The first church erected in the town is the building now owned by the Christian Science Society. This is generally known as the Little Church. This was built in 1877 by the Universalist Society of which Judge Nosler was the leading spirit. It was dedicated by Rev. Lyman Z. Cook, Universalist Minister from Chicago, who held services in the church frequently thereafter. In the foundation of this building was placed a glass jar containing coins of various denominations, a newspaper and other writings. When the foundation was relaced a few years ago, it was found that this glass jar had been crushed and all perishable articles had crumbled to dust but the coins still remained and were distributed, so far as could be done, among the descendants of those who had placed them there. George Moulton has a silver half dollar placed there by his father which is a very interesting relic. It was minted in 1811, the edge is not milled but is smooth and has the words "half dollar" impressed thereon. This building was also open to all denominations and was the only church building in the town until 1888 when the M. E. Church South erected a small building, which has since been enlarged.

The first Sunday School was organized in the Little Church in 1877 which was participated in by all denominations. After the school population outgrew the one room building, a site was purchased and a two story structure erected where the Presbyterian church now stands and this served as the main school building until about 1899, when it was sold to the Presbyterian Church, the top story removed and the first story remodeled for church purposes.

Before this was sold, a portion of the building was occupied by the grade school which was erected in 1899 and was enlarged after a few years.

This building occupies the site of the first cemetery laid out as such by the Masons. Numerous bodies had been buried on top of the ridge just beyond the north end of the Moulton street bridge, but were all removed later and buried in other cemeteries. Among the old settlers who deserve special mention are Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Messer, who arrived here about 1870 and have continued to make this their home since that time, although they resided on a farm north of town for several years. Mr. Messer at one time conducted the Robinson Hotel which stood just east of the Lorenz store. He also later conducted the Olive Hotel and still later the Stewart Hotel. In 1890 an epidemic of diphtheria swept this part of the country and Mr. and Mrs. Messer suffered the loss of their entire family of six children. A few years later a daughter was born to them who is now Mrs. M. O. Hawkins, a musician of renown and a leader in our social circles.

The first newspaper was established in 1882 by John Dean. He erected a portion of the building now occupied by Cotton's real estate office and from there, on the 9th day of September of that year issued the first number of the Coquille Herald with which he was connected, usually as editor and business manager, until about 1891, when he sold out to the late J. S. McEwen, who with D. F. Dean, published the paper for a number of years. D. F. Dean finally became sole owner and the publication continued until it was purchased by The Sentinel in 1914.

About 1875, Thomas Willard, a brother of Uncle Tite, erected on the lot where Brandon's store now stands, for Joseph Dame, what was then considered a large building. This building was used as a meeting place of Odd Fellows and Masons for a number of years. Mr. Dame now lives in Berkeley, California. In 1877 the Odd Fellows built a part of their present structure which they have since occupied for a lodge room on the second floor and the first floor has been leased for various business enterprises.

About 1887 the Masons built a large two story building just across the street from and facing the Liberty Theatre, and they held their lodge meetings in this building until it was destroyed by fire March 17, 1918.

Another outstanding figure was that of Clark Miller who was a school teacher and a very proficient musician. He organized the first band in

1881, but its personnel are not known and it was not of long duration; but another band was organized of which he was instructor and George A. Robinson the leader. Mr. Robinson and George Moulton each have a picture of this organization which is very interesting and consists of the following members: D. F. Dean, snare drum; Bird Nosler, trombone; George Pike, tenor; Cash Goodman, alto; Chas. Wickham, alto; Ed. Gallier, bass drum; R. E. Buck, tenor; George Moulton, cornet; Harry Kribbs, cornet; George A. Robinson, cornet; John Leneve, cornet. These are all still living except R. E. Buck and Harry Kribbs. Clark Miller spent his last days in the Patton Home in Portland where he died about two years ago.

The first charter was granted to the city of Coquille by the legislature and approved by the Governor February 25th, 1885. This act provided that the first election should be held on the first Monday in May of that year and appointed George McEwen, J. H. Nosler and Allen Collier as inspectors of election and required them to post notices ten days before the election. This charter provided that the city government should consist of a board of five councilmen, a recorder, a marshal and a treasurer.

The first meeting of the council was held August 26th, 1885, and there were present at that meeting councilmen Charles Olive, A. G. Aiken, C. Andrews and J. A. Collier; absent R. E. Buck. There were also present James Cartright, marshal and W. Sinclair, recorder. Charles Olive was elected chairman of the council.

The charter was amended by the legislature in 1891, again in 1901, again in 1903; since which numerous amendments have been made by the vote of the people.

The city has suffered several destructive fires, the most serious of which, or at least which covered the most territory, occurred on the night of May 30, 1892. It started in the Hunneywell building just across the street in front of where the Busy Corner store now stands and swept practically everything along the river front, and the next two blocks north. There was a saloon on the corner where the Farmers and Merchants Bank now stands and along the curb in front of this were large maple trees which prevented the fire from reaching the saloon building and this probably saved that block. However, the Odd Fellows' hall was threatened and was saved only by the heroic efforts of some of our citizens, notably among whom was Hark Dunham, who was severely burned while on the roof of the building and endeavoring to quench the flames which frequently burst forth along the front and upon the roof of the building.

Another destructive fire occurred on the morning of St. Patrick's day, 1918, which started in the Scenic theatre build and quickly spread through the telephone building to J. E. Quick's furniture store which stood on the present site of the Liberty Theatre. It destroyed more than half of this block, the rest of the block being saved only by the efficient and desperate work of our volunteer firemen. North of this block was the Masonic Hall, the Wickham Hotel and George Leach's rooming house, which were all destroyed. On the next block was a large apartment house and one of the oldest dwellings in the town besides a more modern dwelling which were all destroyed. The fire took a northeasterly course jumping across the street and destroying three more dwelling in that block. More recently the Baxter Hotel was destroyed which stood on the site of our present hotel building.

FUHRMAN'S PHARMACY THE REXALL STORE

An establishment which has occupied a position of leadership since its first opening in Coquille is the pharmacy operated under the name of Fuhrman's Pharmacy at the corner of Taylor and Front streets.

This store is one of the many Rexall stores in the United States. The fact of its having been selected by the Rexall company as the local representative of that company is in itself a testimonial that the store is in every way classed by this national organization as a first class, properly conducted drug store. The Rexall company will not sell, or permit to be sold, the Rexall line of goods in any store that has not shown, in their rigid examination, itself to be in every way a competently managed and conducted one.

Mr. C. J. Fuhrman, the proprietor of this store, has been in the drug business 34 years, coming from a family which for several generations back have been associated with the drug business and medical practice. He has been located in Coquille for the past 18 years, and this store is one of the oldest established businesses in the district.

The prescription department is presided over by Mr. B. D. Wood, who is a graduate of Oregon college. Mr. Wood personally oversees every prescription handled by this store. He is a prescription man who realizes that the filling of a prescription to give the medicine the doctor desires for the particular case being treated,

calls for the most exact following of the directions of the prescription, and the using of only those drugs that are called for, in order that the resultant medicine will have the exact potency to meet the particular case. It is the policy of this store never to substitute in the filling of prescriptions. In any case where a drug that is called for in the prescription is not in stock, the prescription will be returned to the patron, but this occasion is seldom necessary, as this store follows the changes in drugs and medicines and makes an effort to always carry a fresh and complete stock of drugs for the compiling of any prescription the physician might write.

Aside from carrying the complete Rexall line of drugs and compilations, this store is stocked with a complete and well selected assortment of what is known as druggist sundries, in addition to a complete line of kodaks, rubber goods, stationery and smokers' supplies.

It is to such business men as C. J. Fuhrman that Coquille owes its business progressiveness. He is one of that class of business men who is always found ready to give of his time and finance in every movement that is for the general good of the city and the surrounding country, and it is with pleasure we are enabled to make this reference to him and his worth while, progressive mercantile establishment.

COQUILLE FURNITURE CO. KEEPS UP-TO-DATE STOCK

One of the mercantile establishments that has never failed to meet the expectation of the wage earner of this district is the Coquille Furniture Company, which is located at 368 West First Street.

The business is owned by and is under the direct management of M. J. Hartson, who gives his personal attention to the conduct of the store. There are few establishments in Coquille that number so many wage earners as their regular customers and friends. This condition is due to two reasons. The first and most important one is the liberal treatment the establishment accords every customer, and to the fact that a stock of furniture and home furnishings is carried to meet the desire of customers at prices which, for quality considered, are the lowest obtainable.

This store is one that does a large business in the sale of furniture at one price to all. On credit terms Mr. Hartson allows every liberality to the customer that good business policy permits. This store endeavors at all times to establish confidence and a friendly feeling with customers, and seeks to satisfy patrons in each business transaction, to the end that they may take pleasure in recommending the store as one deserving of trade and support.

Realizing the impossibility of presenting an adequate impression of this establishment in a descriptive ar-

ticle, the suggestion is made that those in need of household appurtenances are welcomed at the store where the stock on display may be inspected at leisure.

Mr. Hartson, in conducting this business, has given his personal attention to it to the end that he has one of the best balanced and best selected stocks to offer to the trade. It has been his policy always to offer to customers the best goods obtainable at their selling prices, and a range of goods is carried that is sure to meet the taste and the pocketbook condition of every family resident in this district.

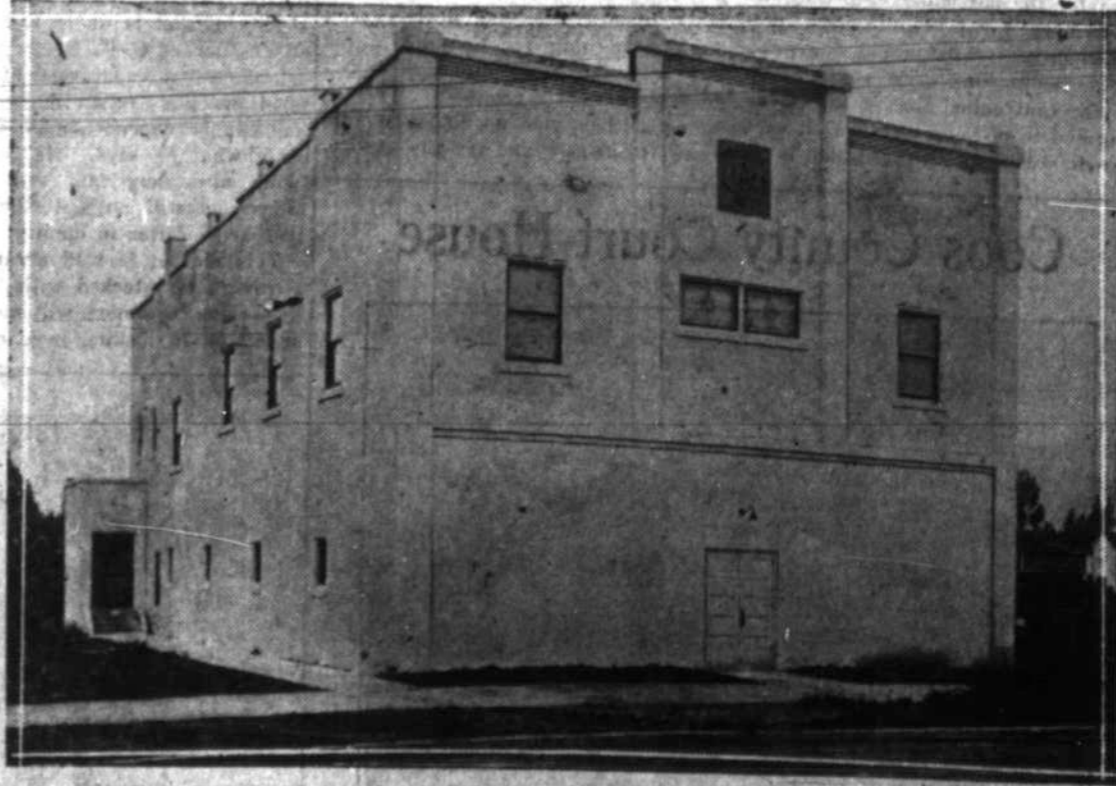
Whether the want may be for the simplest in furniture or the most elaborate home furnishings it can be met at the Coquille Furniture store at prices that are always found to be the most reasonable.

It is such business places as the Coquille Furniture store and to such men as M. J. Hartson that the evidences of the permanent growth and refinement being shown in Coquille today are directly attributable. Mr. Hartson and his store are daily contributing to the popularity of Coquille, and it affords us considerable pleasure to devote this space in our Anniversary edition to a recognition of the proprietor of the Coquille Furniture Company store and his efforts for the good of Coquille.

Community Building An Asset to the City

The 70x110 Community Building, constructed the past year in the Myr-

tle Park, by subscriptions from business and professional men and other citizens, is a decided addition to the public halls in the city. The main purpose which it will serve is to house the annual Corn Show, but it may be used for Chautauquas and all kinds of public meetings.



MASONIC TEMPLE—HOME OF CHADWICK LODGE No. 68, A. F. & A. M. AND BEULAH CHAPTER, No. 6, O. E. S.

The Masonic Temple, which was built in 1922-23, is one of Coquille's rapidly increasing number of "White Buildings." Built of hollow tile, at a cost of \$10,000, with the furnishings, it represents an investment of \$15,000. The building is 45x90, with well-appointed kitchen and banquet room on the ground floor, lodge room and ante rooms on the second, and club room on the third. The latter has not yet been equipped.