

PROMINENT PEOPLE OF MORROW COUNTY

Facts Forced From Familiar Faces

By E. G. H.

WILLIAM E. LEACH.

Ex-President Eliot of Harvard said a short time ago, "If you can produce enough to satisfy your wants and provide a surplus for the future, you can be termed an educated man." This is surely a different view of what we have considered an education in the past. Greek and Latin are no longer considered necessary to culture—they are tolerated but not encouraged. "We recommend something practical," educators say and introduce the subjects of applied sciences. Girls and boys in school are living now, not preparing to live. They are not trying to get an education by mousing over old books. They are doing things.

History of wars, of battles and kings is now supplanted by the history of the development of industries, inventions and their application to work. The heroes of our young people are not the men who have killed, wasted and destroyed, but those who have built railroads through the waste places, men who have settled the farms by the way and men who have opened stores to provide the comforts of life to everyone who will come and exchange for a fair price their money or commodities.

Among the names of those business men in this county who have shared its upbuilding is the name of William Leach of Lexington. William Leach is a son of James and Belle Leach, who came from Harrisburg, in the Valley, and settled at Blue Mountain station near Weston. Soon afterwards they came to Lexington and arrived there the year before the railroad came.

Leach was born of educated parents; that is, they were competent, honest, simple, efficient people. He was dowered with good health and a habit of work. He worked hard on the farm, attended the local school and with the money he saved working at odd times for his neighbors he attended the Agricultural College at Corvallis. He stayed two

years there, grubbing hard but thankful for the opportunity. Technically, this ended his schooldays but paradoxically, he has been going to school ever since. Any man goes to school who has a healthy, happy, active, curious, receptive mind.

The next two years found him in the sheep business in Wyoming. "I saw some of the finest country that I ever saw in my life, during that time. There was plenty of game. Elk, antelope, and fish were plentiful. I remember once when we were driving some sheep, we were stopped at Jackson's Hole, in Wyoming, and the people there would not let us through. About that time the Indians were on the warpath and during the excitement we slipped through the town. We went around Green River and crossed Winn River and delivered our sheep down on Big Horn River near Big Horn Hot Springs."

"I came back to Lexington and rented a place north of town for one year. The store here, which I now own, was started about two years before I came back from Wyoming and was owned by my brother and Mr. Nichols. I bought an interest in the business after I decided not to farm longer and the firm continued with the three of us at the home for five years at which time Mr. Nichols sold us his interest. About a month ago I bought the interest of my brother but the store will still be run under the names of Leach Bros.

As I entered the store I saw the groceries arranged on the right side and the drygoods on the left, with the shoes in the rear. There were two large show windows in the front and these were being cleaned and redecorated. Some great man once said that the show windows are the eyes of your store. Leach Brother's store has never had optic trouble, so I am told.

Mr. Leach told me that no one concerned handled all of the kinds of groceries that he sold, so he bought from several houses. Every brand that I knew and many that were strangers to me were there. I noticed that he carried a large stock of breakfast foods. Leach's store is a city business placed in a country town. He handles Kellogg's Wheat Flakes, which some dealers don't know is being made. "Business in breakfast foods is growing every day with me," said Mr. Leach.

I noticed that he had the entire rear of the store filled with shoes. "How much have you invested in shoes, Mr. Leach," I asked.

"I think it will run pretty close to \$5000," he answered. Brown shoes are handled almost exclusively and Brown by the way is the largest shoe firm in the United States, which is to say, in the world. For new shoes and shoe news, everyone goes to Leach's.

In the drygoods department there is a lady in charge. All business men know the reason for this. This is no "staple" department but goods ranging from a few cents a yard to a few dollars a yard can be found here in large assortments. It matters little how your taste runs, you can always satisfy it here.

Furnishings for men and women are hobbies with Mr. Leach. I noticed the Fall and Winter sample book of the International Tailoring Company in the store and for Made-to-Measure clothes, they are about the last word to the careful dresser.

I next visited the furniture department. The furniture looked fully as nice as the pictures you see in the papers. Many a man has had William furnish his home taking every article right out of stock. In the hardware line, he handles everything from needles to harvesters. Granite ware, tinware, aluminum ware that wears, is here in abundance. All plumbing devices, and in fact everything that a first-class hardware store keeps in stock can be found at Leach's.

In his stock room I noticed that he handled Heppner flour. I was also informed that he just unloaded sixteen miles of wire fencing. I saw his oil supply and saw several automobiles drive up and fill at the curb with a long delivery pump. Everything was arranged for convenience and for despatch with the least amount of labor. This was especially true of his office. A Burroughs adding machine allows the bookkeeper time to use her energies for more profitable work.

I ask Mr. Leach how he had accumulated the twenty odd thousand dollars which he had invested in the store. "I got it by working, no one gave it to me," he said.

"Do you still think that there are good openings for a young man here," I asked.

"I don't know of a better place in the country for a man without money. If a young fellow will come here and show that he wants to do something, he can't help but make good. I don't know of any place where you can buy land for twenty and twenty-five dollars an acre that will raise fifteen to twenty-five bushels of wheat to the acre. Most certainly not in any place

that I have ever been.

"We need to raise more than wheat however. A few years ago there were few cows here, scarcely any one had chickens. I have a number of farmers who have a balance in their favor on my books. Eggs and cream are doing it. I have also noticed that the people whose cattle graze on the hills have larger cream checks than those who run their cattle in the valleys. I want to see more people living on the land. I have not made anything from my land, simply because I was not there. What we need most here are more farmers living on their own land and raising a little of everything and the sooner we see that, the better it will be for us all."

Mr. Leach is the President of the Morrow County Fair Board and has given his time and money for several months in order that it might be a success. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and a Republican in politics. He has been Mayor and a Councilman at various times. He married Miss Minnie Thompson of Lexington and has four daughters and one boy. He so loved his wife and family that he built a new house two years ago and contemplates taking a vacation soon at Rockaway beach.

Mr. Leach is no villager, even if he does live in a small town. He knows the big things from the little things. In his store there are no old, shopworn, out-of-date goods. Everything is new, up-to-date. If he can't get what it is worth, out it goes for what it will bring and the Profit and Loss is charged up to Experience. He is a man of few words, an incessant thinker, and carries off twice the burdens of the ordinary man. He is still a young man, ball-stead with brains, equipped with common sense and as Mr. Pruyne would say, "he is wired for service." He thinks constructively and his life is an affirmation. Such men can only make conditions better for their having been here.

CONFIDENTIAL CHATS

Farmers and Farm Facts.

J. J. Adkins is reported to be improving slowly this week.

Harvey Scott was in from Blackhorse for some supplies.

R. W. Beckett was in Saturday looking for a few harvest hands.

Will Straight was in from Butter Creek and took out some feed.

John Shaw was in Portland last week with cattle which he shipped.

Theodore Anderson, a prosperous Eightmile wheat farmer, was in Saturday.

Charley Valentine, who lives eight miles down Willow Creek, was in for some supplies.

Ora Adkins, who lives over on Rhea Creek, was in the County Seat to do a little trading.

J. C. Brown came in last Saturday from the Blackhorse country and was seen to take back a watermelon.

Arthur Wills, one of the up-to-date fruit farmers along with other things, was in from Butter Creek Saturday.

Sand Hollow had two good representatives in town Saturday, when John Edwards and R. B. Rice dropped in.

Mr. Henry Gay, our most widely known reader in Rhea Creek, was in last Saturday to get a few articles for the Sunday table.

Percy Hughes and Lon Wattenberg came in from Butter Creek last Saturday to see some of their friends and to transact business.

Ed. Hunt came to Heppner, Saturday and took out some horse millinery. Ed. says that everything and everybody is all right in Rhea Creek.

D. O. Justus was in town last Saturday. Mr. Justus is putting up alfalfa now. Mr. Justus drives some of the best horses in the county.

Will Kummerland, from the Clark's Canyon country, was in Heppner Saturday. Will is one of the large wheat farmers of that part of the country.

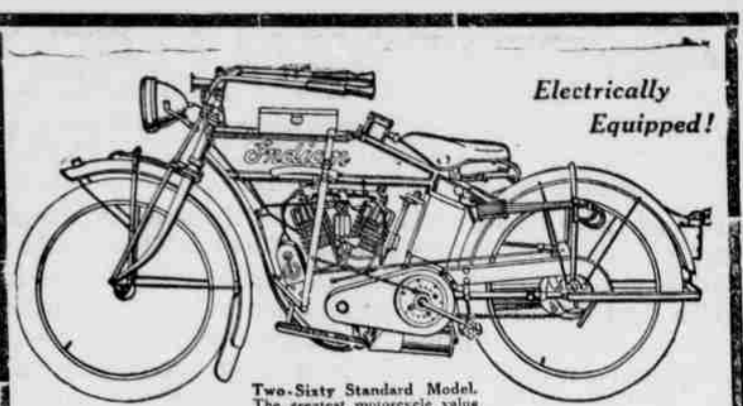
Ralph Benz, who lives between Heppner and Lexington, was in Heppner Saturday. Ralph has over a thousand acres of wheat this year and we understand that he has a good crop.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee White have added another name to the list of Sand Hollow citizens. They have a new baby girl that arrived last Friday night. Lee says that she is a welcome guest.

One of our readers, Kent Rakes, of Blackhorse, is the proud father of a baby girl. On Wednesday of last week Mrs. Rakes gave birth to a seven pound daughter and the baby and its mother are in excellent condition.

Mrs. C. W. Lawson dropped into the Herald office Saturday for a little printing. She said that the grasshoppers had paid her a short visit. Mrs. Lawson is well known for the excellent gardens she has every year.

John McCollough loosened up to the extent of one cartwheel which puts him in good standing with the financial dept. of this paper. John had the misfortune to lose four of his best horses recently by lightning. He says that they were worth about \$600 and he had no insurance on them. John is thinking of applying for membership in the Moral Squad, as he is well acquainted with Private Cornetti.



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J. B. SPARKS

HEPPNER, OREGON

Agent for Morrow County.