

Sagebrush and Sand Reclaimed by Water

Boardman's Present High State of Development Reached After Years of Hardship and Labor.

By MRS. A. T. HEREIM,
Our Boardman Correspondent.

"Sometimes when memory draws the veil and we look back a way—"
Memory is so illusive a quality that we late comers are prone to forget the hardships and difficulties experienced by those who came to the project as pioneers. Let us turn back the pages for a few moments. In 1915 the government built the canal which supplies water to the West Extension of the Umatilla project and in 1916 the first settlers arrived. Can one conceive of the courage necessary to come to the desert and wrest a farm from the virgin soil?

Picture the scene: Acres and acres of sagebrush and sand, a trackless waste peopled only by coyotes, jackrabbits and owls; utter desolation; to all appearances "The country God forgot." Many of the settlers had little or no capital, and many of them had been accustomed to the comforts and luxuries of life. To dig a well was the first necessity, for one can live in a tent but water is a prime requisite of life; to clear the land and then the wearisome work with team and freshen turning over every inch of soil that it might be made perfectly level; to build innumerable flood boxes, drop boxes, lath boxes with cedar at \$50 a thousand; to sow the precious high priced seed and then perhaps have old King Boreas come sweeping down and blow the seed to all points of the compass; to build fences in order to keep out the hungry horde of jackrabbits who were especially fond of a diet of green alfalfa in preference to that of the bitter sage; to build roads and roads of ditches and perhaps have a large section wash merrily away because of the energetic "digging in" of a gopher; to harvest a fine crop and be forced to turn over most of the proceeds to pay for the water to raise another crop to pay for more water—an endless cycle; to endure the rays of the blazing sun beating mercilessly down upon the roof of the shack, for as yet the trees were not the stately spreading ones that we have today; these are but a few of the vicissitudes that were enough to test the fortitude of the strongest hearts. To you men and women who faced the hardships and trials and who rose undaunted above them we give honor. To you the palm and laurel wreath.

Boardman Family.
The original settlers were Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Boardman, and so closely is the history of the Boardman project linked with that of the Boardman family, it is expedient to give a brief sketch of their years spent in the desert.
It was in 1903 that Mr. Boardman filed his homestead, Mrs. Boardman coming later. At first they planned to stay "just until we provided up," but each year their departure was deferred, lured always by the ignis fatuus, the magic word, "water," each year encouraged by the appearance of a new surveying party, each year proving a disappointment until after 13 long years of waiting the red tape at Washington, D. C., was sufficiently untangled so that in 1916 the precious elixir that meant new life to the country was brought from the Umatilla river down through the newly constructed cement ditches to the thirsty desert.

Several who came to work on the ditches remained and have since made their homes on the project. Among them were Jack Gorham, Royal Rands, and F. F. Kiltz and families.

OPENING OF FIRST AND SECOND UNITS.

Early Settlers.
The first unit was opened in 1916 and the second in 1917. Each year brought new settlers. In this article we have stressed the history of those who came and remained to build up the country rather than the first settlers who remained but a short time. Regarding the early settlers, those who came and remained, were C. H. Dillabough, who was the first homesteader to file; Paul and Frank Partlow, Chas. Nizer, E. C. Mitchell, Geo. Mitchell, Robert and Alex Wilson, W. A. Price, Joe Curran, Tom Hendricks, H. Cason, A. P. Ayers, H. H. Weston, R. Wasmer, Frank Otto, I. Skoubo, Leslie Packard, John L. Jenkins, J. R. Johnson, the Attebury brothers, Ben, Sylvester and Charles, the latter having passed away recently, W. H. Mefford, M. C. Marshall, Jess Lower, John Brice.
Early settlers on the East End who still claim Boardman for their home are Chas. Hango, O. B. Olson, Ray Brown, Ralph Humphrey, Earl

and Frank Cramer, Adolf Skoubo, Mrs. Sam Shell, Paul M. Smith, Mrs. Gladys Gibbons Fortier, Nick Faler, W. O. King. Settlers coming later were Claude Myers, Ed Kunze, T. E. Broyles, Chas. Wicklander, J. Howell, B. Richardson, M. K. Flickinger.
Some of the farmers purchased their land from the defunct Oregon Land & Water company, some from the railroad company, some bought school land and many homesteaded. Most of the ranches consisted of 40 acres but there were three large ones, those of Henry Crawford in the extreme west end, 160 acres owned by the late H. G. Harrison that L. G. Smith now owns and the large ranch owned by Mike Marshall who had lived down near Six Mile for a great many years before the opening of the project.

Barbecue.
Most of the farmers put their places into cultivation at once and it was in 1920 that a big barbecue was held on the Dillabough ranch, that outsiders might observe the vast changes wrought by water on the sandy soil and to boost for the proposed John Day project. Hundreds attended and were gratified with the hospitality shown and marveled at the wonders produced by irrigation.

Founding of the Town.

It was in 1916 that E. P. Dodd of Hermiston organized the Boardman Townsite company, purchasing 40 acres of land from S. H. Boardman, naming the town for the man who had spent so many years here; a hollow recompense for the many lonely years in the desert.
The first thought as soon as water was available was the planting of trees; lots were laid out, buildings erected, stores opened and homes built. Boardman's first postmistress was Mrs. Olive M. Paine, now of Portland, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Blayden. Since that time Mrs. Florence Root has held the office. The first mail route was carried by C. G. Blayden and later by his son Louie Blayden. Leo Root carried mail for some time, a buckboard and team being the means of travel. Since 1922 Victor Hango has been on the route. The post-office is located in the building of L. V. Root, and is neatly kept.

First Resident is Question.

It has always been a debatable question as to whether C. G. Blayden or O. H. Warner was Boardman's first resident. Both came, looked about and departed, then returned once more and have since remained. Mr. Warner built the Highway Inn and his wife has established a wonderful reputation for her excellent meals. Mr. Warner acted in the capacity of livery man when to drive a car through the sand was an impossibility, and later as a taxi man for the project, taking prospective settlers to their various ranches. He also drove the first school bus. At present he conducts a small grocery and Harry Henry's camp grounds adjoining the Highway Inn.

Ballengers, Gorhams, Roots, Cramers are other pioneers who have been closely identified with the growth of the town.
Mr. Blayden was Boardman's first mayor. He and Mrs. Blayden have done much to assist in making the life in the town pleasant. Boardman's first roses were started and cared for by the Blaydens, and the beauty and fragrance of the exquisite blossoms in the days when a flower was a rarity here will always be a pleasant memory to the early residents.
Credit for Boardman's first civic improvement goes to Ferdinand Embarger, who erected a water tank and built the first city water works which supplied water to the town until the tank was overtaxed and collapsed.

The Town Incorporated.

In 1921 the town was incorporated with C. G. Blayden, mayor, W. L. Fennell, recorder and Messrs. Harry Mitchell, A. T. Hereim, Frank Cramer, Leo Root, Nate Macomber and J. C. Ballenger, councilmen. Among the first improvements undertaken was the drilling of a well and installing a pumping plant to provide good water for the people. A lighting plant has also been installed but its future is problematical. J. C. Ballenger is the present mayor.

Sunday School Organized.

As food for the soul is as essential as food for the body and mind the next step was the organization of a Sunday school under the direction of Mrs. Boardman. The little

MELONS DO WELL IN BOARDMAN-IRRIGON SECTION



Truck Farming Has Proved Big Success in the Irrigated Sections of Morrow County.

Ione Lies In Center of Big Wheat Belt

Interesting History of the Egg City Written by Pioneer Merchant.

By BERT MASON.

The second town in Morrow county, with a population of 400, is situated on Willow creek, in the northwestern part of the county and in the center of the wheat belt. The Heppner branch of the O.-W. R. & N. railroad and the Oregon-Washington highway furnish transportation by operating two trains and two stages each day. There is a good, standard market road extending south 16 miles into the farming section and another 7 miles up Rhea creek and bonds have been voted to extend the Rhea creek road, also to construct a standard road out to the north and another west toward Olex.

To give a proper setting to the development of Morrow county one must not forget to give proper credit to those sturdy adventurers who have opened up this country to civilization.
We find that John Jordan was first to make settlement in this vicinity, in 1863, when he pitched his camp at the forks of Willow creek, two miles east of the present location of Ione, where he proceeded to take possession of the country by erecting a house from trees growing along the creek.

Mr. Jordan kept a wayside hotel and feeding place for immigrants coming west over the Pendleton to The Dalles cut-off, and miners going to the interior mines. He also engaged in cattle raising. His neighbors were ex-Judge Thos. Ayers, who lived on Butter creek, and Thos. Scott, who lived on Rock creek.
As an illustration of the tasks which those early settlers passed through in helping each other, the following narrative has been handed down by responsible oldtimers. A traveler passing through informed Mr. Jordan that his neighbor Ayers was needing help to harvest his oats. Mr. Jordan mounted his horse and rode to Ayers' place, 30 miles away, where he put in a day in the field and then rode home to attend his own chores. He repeated this routine for a week and when the Ayers' crop was harvested he was informed that his neighbor Scott needed help with his crop, and for the next week he made trips to Rock creek to assist with haying.

As a monument to the man who began the development of this county we find the highest point in northern Morrow county, Jordan butte, named in his honor many years ago. Jordan, with its large concrete elevator, is located on his homestead.
Mr. Jordan lived to see the railroad built through his farm, as well as the entire cattle range turned into wheat land and his wife is still a resident of Ione.

The next man to pull off the feat on trail was Lum Rhea, a 20 year old boy who made his way up the west fork of the creek, eight miles, where he unpacked and with his axe proceeded to construct the first house on Rhea creek, from trees growing along the banks. When it came to providing a door to his group met at the Boardman home with an attendance of five. When this increased to 13 meetings were held in the old schoolhouse until 1917 when the present church structure was erected. This is a community church and affiliated with the Presbyterian denomination as

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J. A. Williams and Adrian Engleman who have large careages, and Andy Douglas, located on Jordan for' Paul Rietmann and wife are the original settlers on the north side and they have accumulated a fine farm as well as having raised

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Much Wheat Sent Out of Lexington

Prosperity Reigns In Central Morrow County Grain Section; Large Yields Received Yearly.

By BURTON H. PECK.

Lexington, Oregon, a country village situated in central Morrow county, in the fertile Willow creek valley and surrounded by vast rolling prairies of grain land, stands, not to boast, save of its fortunate agricultural situation; its exceptional transportation facilities, both by highway and railroad; its good schools; its religious privileges and the general air of contentment of its residents.
A village of some hundred people, situated on the Oregon-Washington highway, which affords easy communication by auto or truck to the northwest country. Willow creek, a sizeable mountain stream, traverses this section in a northwesterly direction. Its valley affords rare opportunities for raising fruits, vegetables and forage crops. The stream affords water for two heavy irrigations, and frequently a third. Thus large quantities of alfalfa,

wheat, oats and barley hay are raised while the income from dairy herds, sheep and swine raised upon luxuriant pastures, help to swell the income of the farmers.
But Lexington's chief boast, if boast we may, is the vast country behind it, where, from every direction—Strawberry and Penland buttes to the north; Blackhorse to the east; Spring Hollow, lower Heppner flat, Clark's canyon, to the south; Social Ridge and lower Rhea creek brakes to the west—the wheat comes pouring in to the warehouses and the loading tracks of the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation company, Heppner branch just as soon as combining can begin at harvest time.
Besides the trunk road running east and west, the Lexington terminal has, within the last two years,

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THE BIG STORE OF IONE

Bert Mason

General Merchandise

IONE, OREGON

Dry Goods, Clothing,
Ladies' Wear, Men's
Furnishings, Shoes
Groceries, Feed, Crockery
Hardware, Harness
and
Farm Implements

Atwater Kent Radios