

Looking Around



Ione Public School 1907 - postcard published exclusively by Halvorsen & Mason, Ione, Oregon.

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name. Mr. Esteb had a blacksmith shop and staple grocery store with the postoffice in it. The first store there was built by Stockes Kirk who lived in the back of the 16 x 20 building.

Some of the early settlers near Gooseberry were Isaac R. Esteb, W.H. Akers and sons, Ben and Garret, Mr. Fleming and sons, Whitney, Bob and Harvey, Nathaniel McVey, and Lige Hendricks who it is said lost 200 head of cattle from starvation and freezing in the great blizzard of 1886. A first school was built in 1886 and the Methodists met there to hear preaching by Mr. Howardton, Mr. Swift and Mr. Goodwin.

VALBY

A good-sized Swedish settlement was established by 1887 bringing in the families of Andrew Anderson, Eric Bergstrom, Frank Lundell, August Carlson, Charles Anderson, John and Erin Peterson and John Johnson to name a few. The Swedish settlers organized a Lutheran church in 1886 with 17 charter members. Valby Church was built in 1897 and its cost, \$458.82 was paid on the day of dedication by its forty members. (Yesterday, Pg. 61)

IONE

The county's second and third ranking communities towards its southern half were awarded postoffices in 6 months in 1884. Ione's first postmaster, Aaron Royce, opened that still active postoffice May 26, 1884. Salineville which was renamed Lexington got a P.O. in January 1884, but it was not listed as Lexington until Nov. 1885.

Two Indian War veterans jointly "fathered" Ione. E. G. Sperry moved up Willow Creek from about 3 miles below Ione and purchased land originally settled by George Emerick, later assigned to James Taylor, and still later sold to Mrs. Hamblet, a lady doctor. In 1883 Mr. Sperry decided to establish a trading center on his property (the Sperry Addition of Ione.) When the question of a name for the new settlement was discussed, it was suggested that it be named for a little girl, Ione Arthurs, whose

father worked for him.

An Irish native, Edward Cluff, came to the area in 1870 and raised and fattened cattle. He gave up some 40 acres of his farm for the city platting and donated land for the two churches. Cluff land formed the eastern part of the town, from the present Catholic Church to Willow Creek. The Sperry section extends west from that church and south of Main Street to the creek. In 1885 when Phoebe Sperry, a daughter of E.G. married Robert Wills, they homesteaded the land north of Main Street and this was platted and included in the townsite.

Both Edward Cluff and E. G. Sperry remained active in community affairs. The first places of business were a blacksmith shop by George Luttrell, a saloon by Charles McFarland, and a general store which had been moved from Hardman to Ione by Aaron Royce and which held the postoffice in 1884. In 1885 Mr. Sperry erected a small school which lasted only a short time. His son-in-law built a store that year. Soon Thomas J. Carle erected a small hotel, then a large store building with a dance hall above, and a small warehouse were moved from Castle Rock. C.T. Walker later occupied the store space and the dance hall became known as Walker's Hall, and it was used for school programs, traveling shows, and later

EARLY MOTION PICTURES.

IONE'S EARLY GROWTH

During its first ten years and as the century changed, Ione had periods of strenuous growth. J.A. Woolery who had driven the stage between Heppner and Monument until 1890 and then become a merchant in Hardman, moved his store to Ione about 1892. He maintained a general store, hardware, and implement store. A living monument to him is the beautiful City Park where he planted lovely Carolina Poplar trees he secured from his native North Carolina.

Ben Case opened a new blacksmith shop in 1893 and was soon joined by a partner, William Haguewood. In 1894 Mat Halvorsen came to Ione from Heppner to work for J.A. Woolery—he later started a store of his own and moved into a building of his own which is now part of the present Bristow Store. School was opened near where the park is now and had to run on a subscription basis at times. Paul Balsiger erected a wagon repair shop and his cousin, E.J. Keller, set up another blacksmith shop. W.L. Richard and E.M. Akers built and opened a photo gallery. S.P. Haney took over the hotel and livery barn; Hank Howell opened a barber shop; Sam Dickson built and applied for a saloon license which was denied and a Mr. St. Clair then used the building for a blacksmith shop. Pete Noble opened a harness repair shop and sold to Charles Martin and James Rhea. Charles W. Ingraham opened a drug store. Many businesses changed hands and farmers moved away during the crop shortages and hard times near the end of the 1800's.

NEW CENTURY— NEW GROWTH

As 1900 came to Ione it really boomed. It became a town of 350 inhabitants and had 100 business buildings and residences. There were four general stores, J. A. Woolery's, Halvorsen and Mason, C.T. Walker's, and the Ione Mercantile Co. of Arnold Balsiger and Charles Allinger; a newspaper, the Ione Post, owned and edited by Miss Virginia Deaton; C.W. Ingraham's Drug Store; Paul Balsiger wagon and wa-

ter-tank shop, Rhea and Martin's harness shop; Blake Brothers' butcher shop; two doctors and a dentist; H.G. Jordan's Confectionery; B.F. Vaughn's livery stable; T.J. Carle's lodging house; W.M. Haguewood's and Mr. Wood's blacksmith shops; Mrs. Deaton's Millinery Store; A. Lane's Barber shop; two warehouses, the Farmer's Warehouse Co. and Kerr, Gifford & Co.; and the O.R. & N. Depot and Telegraph Office; The lumber business of J.P. Louy & S.L. Stratton; the saloons of E.G. Sperry, Brierly & Earhart, Warfield Brothers, and Frank Engleman; W.H. Dobyns, Attorney and U.S. Land Commissioner. The J.A. Woolery Bank, operated by his sister, was established in 1903 (it dissolved in 1927).

THE EGG CITY

For awhile Ione was called the "Egg City" because almost every ranch had a side line of poultry raising and large quantities of eggs were shipped annually. By 1900 there were six lodges successfully maintained and other groups were organized later, which contributed in many ways to the growth and

improvement of the city.

Much more could be written about this attractive wheel at center. For example, in 1905 through the efforts of the teachers in the Ione School and in observance of Arbor Day, a plan was instituted for a general planting of trees in town. These trees flourished and Ione was changed from a salt grass flat to a green, pleasant oasis. The community has a fine school which grew when outlying districts at Ella, Cecil, Fairview, Gooseberry, Morgan, Rocky Bluff, Dry Fork, Rhea Siding, Lone Tree, Pleasant Vale, Davis, Four Mile and Hardesty consolidated with Ione.

Ranches in the area have become larger as modern equipment came in. Although new residents have been attracted during the years, it is interesting to note the ranches that are still owned and farmed by descendants of the original owners.

Ione has a strong community spirit. It will surely have a real centennial celebration in just over ten years, when its complete history will make great reading.

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