

the County

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Like Adamsville, the Salineville postoffice did not function much over one year when it was re-established as Lexington. Mrs. Benefield the earliest woman named to such a position in the county was postmistress at Salineville.

LEXINGTON

Heppner's neighboring community and very great historic rival has an historic past that is worthy of a complete book—at least much more wordage than it has here. When 1985 arrives Lexington and the entire county will be due a joint, terrific centennial.

Mr. William Penland had sheep there in 1870. He was a man of great resourcefulness and was backed by great wealth that helped in the acquisition of vast holdings and the establishment of an outstanding ranch. Penland's headquarters became quite a settlement accumulating people and businesses and shops. An armory was built as a precaution during Indian uncertainties. Blacksmith Jack McVey was an important early operator.

A few of those who came after the Penlands were A. J. Breeding, H. Leach, Hiram Clark, and, a little later, J.R. Willis, George Brown, and William Stauffer, 1885.

At Morrow County's birth, Heppner was designated as temporary county seat, and the County populace was given the power to elect the permanent seat about 6 months later. William Penland determined to build a town that would win this election and gave a part of his ranch for a town site, had it surveyed and streets and blocks laid out. Mrs. Penland (Jane) chose the name Lexington after her old home in Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Penland deeded an entire city block

to the town, and over \$3,000 was subscribed by T.J. Allyn, Andrew Reaney, Thomas Reaney, T.W. Halley, Charles McBee, B.F. King, Homer McFarland, Edward Cluff, George W. Harris, Frank Reaney, W.J. Davis, Henry Padberg, A.J. Kimsie, Fred Geiger and H.J. Hale for the erection of a courthouse, in the event that Lexington won the election. The big vote was

so close that neither town would concede defeat and the decision was left to the county court which decided in favor of Heppner.

A THRIVING TOWN

The first Lexington postmaster was Nathaniel Yates. Lexington bloomed fast, by 1886 it had the following establishments, in addition to the Penland enterprises: a general merchandise store of Homer McFarland, managed by him for E.B. McFarland, his uncle; the general store of Davis and Workman; the hardware and tin shop to T.W. Halley; two groceries, W.B. McAllister's and William Blair's; the implement store of N.A. Thompson; the drugstore of E.W. Harris; E. Fenton's jewelry sharing the postoffice building; a meat market run by Cooley and Hodson; a millinery store of Mrs. T.W. Halley; the Dave Letsinger and Jack McVey blacksmith shops; the saloon of Henry Keats; the livery stable of Reaney and son; a feed yard belonging to "Tex" Croft; the furniture store of E.T. Carr; the Palace Restaurant; the Allen and Tibbets Hotel; the barber shop of Joe Gibson; William Plinn's saloon; the grist mill of Rice and Davis; a newspaper, the Bunchgrass Blade; two halls — the armory, in which school and church services were held, and a large hall over McFarland's store and the P.O.

Lexington's school grew into a fine building (now the county office) after some of the out-lying schools of Social Ridge, Clark's Canyon, Devine, Hodson, Black Horse, Alpine and Strawberry were consolidated.

LEXINGTON HIGHLIGHTS

Like neighboring Heppner, Lexington had ups and downs—with downs being predominate. In the late fall of 1886 a devastating fire reduced three of the principal business blocks to ashes. In 1888 this was being rebuilt when the rare event, a tremendous cyclone struck on June 14. This went through the west end of town and crossed the northern side as it turned east. It killed several, damaged homes and farm buildings, completely wrecked one school house. The Heppner flood of 1903 took no lives there, but a great deal of damage was done to property; buildings moved and wrecked, lumber and debris scattered everywhere, wells and basements filled with water and mud. The Methodist Church and parsonage were moved and so badly wrecked that they had to be rebuilt; the tracks of the O.R. & N. were washed out from Heppner to below town for about two miles—where trains stopped and wagons took their loads the rest of the way. Another flood in 1925 washed down Blackhorse Canyon doing considerable damage.

LEXINGTON ENTERPRISES

Many lodges, three newspapers, several banks, and



LEXINGTON HOTEL & RESTAURANT owned by Anna Pickett. Del's Market now stands on this site. Anna Pickett is lady with X.

changing businesses, were based in Lexington. Its early warehouse eventually became controlled by Morrow County Grain Growers which just built a great new headquarters there in 1971. There were four doctors there. Dr. C.C. Chick practiced there when he first came west—later he practiced in Hardman and Ione. Dr. Hunter was there for several years and W.M. Lewis and E.T. Georgegan, physicians and surgeons practiced there.

In 1889 some of these business-people advertised in its newspaper, The Budget (formerly the Bunchgrass Blade, later the Weekly Budget) were: T.W. Halley Hardware

and Tin Shop, George Harris (successor to N.A. Thompson) machinery; H. McFarland and Co., merchandise; George W. Harris, drug store; J.O. Kirk, dry goods; Joseph L. Gibson, barber and confectionary; R. Lieuallen, blacksmith; Towns & Matthews, home restaurant and lodging house; William Estes, blacksmith; J.W. Lieuallen, meat market; William Penland, general merchandise, managed by William Blair; Henry Padberg city drug store; J.W. Brock, carriage and wagon maker; J.W. Redford, Lexington Hotel; Nelse Magnuson, Elkhorn livery and feed stable; E.R. Beach, nur-

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Carlssen's Gift Nook

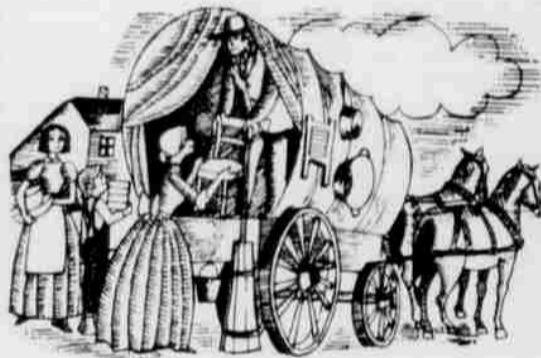
Custom made gifts, pottery, porcelein, hand painted china, and various other ceramic gifts.



Mary Lou Carlson
Lexington
989-8138

Hometown

Peddler Prices!



Del's Market

Lexington
989-8133

"Del's Market or bust!"

Delbert and Phyllis
Piper