

Looking Around the County

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sery; David And Burgoyne, Lexington Flour Mill; W.B. McAllister, the Boss Store; the Lexington Saloon; Snow and Whitson, Notary Publics and Real Estate agents; E. P. Sine, attorney at law and notary public; S.B. Hope, chop mill. Others who did not advertise were: K.L. Beach, plumbing and hardware; Mrs. Eli Summers, hotel; N.A. Leach, store.

Many of these businesses were short lived as some closed and others moved away during the financial panic of 1893.

The first church was the Congregational, built in 1887. The Methodist Episcopal church and parsonage were built in 1888. (In 1918 the church and parsonage were purchased by the Church of Christ, which in 1938 was joined by the Congregational group.)

So much more can be written about developments and citizens of the Lexington area, but as this community is 13 years younger than Heppner, its full story must wait. (Most of the facts given here are from Yester-years of Morrow which gives more Lexington memories.)

PINE CITY — (GALLOWAY)

The year after Morrow County was established, J.J. Galloway, became the first postmaster of Galloway, Oregon which was located very close to where Acton had been, and about where the Pine City school building (now a residence) now stands. This post office was not discontinued until 1915. When Mr. Galloway erected a home and a large building that housed a general store, postoffice, and blacksmith shop (where the Leo Ashbecks now live) he tried to get the postoffice listed as Pine City, but because Oregon already

had a Pine City, his application was accepted and named Galloway. A United Brethren Church was built there in 1885 and was destroyed by the 1889 cyclone.

Thomas Ayers was probably the area's first settler on what is now the Tony Vey Place. Records show that the three Vey brothers came from Portugal and were working for Mr. Ayers in 1878 when one of them was killed by Indians. The two surviving brothers later bought from Mr. Ayers. Other early

Saddle, then as Douglas, and then as Morgan, it really didn't grow much until after the railroad came through it in 1888. Paul, Swen and Johannes Troedson from California settled there in the middle 1880's. The Douglas P.O. was established in 1890 with L. Morgan as postmaster; it was later moved to the railroad station. The Douglas P.O. was discontinued in 1906 and the Morgan P.O. established in 1890 with L. Morgan, postmaster. Early settlers were Henry and Gay

"In 1902 the Oregon Land and Water Co. put on an extensive advertising campaign for the purpose of selling land at \$100 per acre with a water right, however, at that time neither the canal nor the dam had been constructed. This proposed canal was to supply water for the land from the Umatilla River, west to the district around a railroad siding on the O.R. & N. known as Stokes Siding. The town built there was known as Stokes until about 1903, when

on their acres in 1904. A school was started in a home; Adison Bennett became postmaster and started a weekly newspaper in one end of the postoffice building called the Irrigon Irrigator which did not live very long. The O.R. & N. railroad built a depot, started telegraph service. The dam on the Umatilla was built and the canal constructed and settlers were working on these projects for \$2.50 for a ten hour day. A team also earned \$2.50 a day—and it took a day's time to go the sixteen miles to Hermiston with a team.

A ferry crossed the Columbia from Irrigon and freight and passenger stern wheelers moving between Portland and Lewiston, Idaho stopped there.

MANY BUSINESSES

By 1905 Irrigon had a blacksmith shop, the general merchandise store with a dance hall above, a barber shop, hardware store, hotel, furniture store, feed store, and Sam Carson's livery stable and city dray service. Dr. Beck and his doctor wife came and built a drugstore. A three-room school was built and served the district until 1921 when it burned. Page's Pool Hall and Confectionery came in 1907. Other later businesses included Semen's Complete Food Store; Hinkle's Store; Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co.; Pierce's Lumber Yard; Leight's Motel; Clyde Grimm's Tavern.

In the hardtimes of 1907, The Oregon Land and Water Co. was in the hands of a receiver—and settlers sold out and left until there were only about 50 left. In 1915 the irrigation system was improved and expanded and in 1926 the west extension of the Umatilla Reclamation project was organized with the water office in Irrigon.



Lee Cantwell (front) and Austin Sprinkle stand in steam engine behind the First Nat'l Bank building. The old Hayes place (where Gonty's is now) is in the background toward the hill.

settlers were John Barker, Alfred Ayers, Jacob Yarlett, William Jones, Job Smith, E.G. Sloan. Several second owners families still farm there. In 1920 the school was a four year accredited high school as well as grade school.

MORGAN SADDLE— DOUGLAS

Saddle Butte about 10 miles northwest of Ione has had a community near it for quite some time. First known as

Silvers, brothers from Nova Scotia, the Robert Sayers, the Redfords, Millers, and Charlie Cochran. Above Morgan were the Milton R. Morgans, Milton Hales, Lum Rhea, and James Casons. The W.W. Weatherfords were below it on Willow Creek. At the height of its development, Morgan was destroyed by a fire and had to be rebuilt. Mr. A.C. Morgan, who like the Weatherfords and others had come back to Willow Creek after living in Linn County, rebuilt the town and gave it the "new" school, which still stands. The Morgan postoffice was discontinued in Jan. 1955.

DAVIDSON AND STOKES

Two postoffices established before 1900 are hard to find on maps these days. Mr. Gamaliel Davidson the grandfather of Mrs. Harlan McCurdy, Sr. (Della), was the first postmaster at Davidson in 1893. He was a Civil War veteran. The large Lovgren family lived next to the Davidsons. That postoffice was discontinued in 1897 and its mail sent to Eightmile. Stokes postoffice was established in 1897 with D. Dailey as postmaster and was discontinued in 1899 when its mail was sent to Umatilla. Stokes became Irrigon in 1903.

IRRIGON

Some of Morrow's 20th century communities were formed in places where men first lived, for example Irrigon and Boardman along the Columbia, the first travel route.

the name of Irrigon was originated, by taking the first four letters of irrigation and the last three of Oregon." (Yesteryears, Pg. 63) The Irrigon postoffice opened on Nov. 16, 1903 with Frank Holbrook as postmaster.

Settlers arrived by 1903 and a general mercantile store was established in a two-story building built by Mr. Egbert from North Dakota and Mr. W.G. Corey from Woodburn, Oregon. The George M. Rand family settled

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