

## UMATILLA OLDEST TOWN IN COUNTY

### RAILROAD TERMINAL ON U. P. PROVIDES PAYROLL

Neighboring Town Looks Forward To Time When Umatilla Rapids Project Is Built.

(By MRS. ALICE R. NUGENT)

Umatilla, the oldest town in Umatilla county, and at one time the county seat, is located 44 miles west of Pendleton and 191 miles east of Portland, Oregon, on the Old Oregon Trail. At one time the population was 5,000 but at the present it is only about 450, a railroad terminal with a changing population.

There are several small farms in the direct vicinity of Umatilla raising alfalfa, sheep, turkeys, dairy cattle and fruit principally.

#### This Project.

The west extension, under which Umatilla is listed, has been under government supervision until last year, when by a vote of the water users it was taken over by the farmers and has since been handled by them with a manager and board of directors in charge. So far this system has been satisfactory. There has always been plenty of water available for raising of various crops. There are no vacant tracts of land in this locality, although some tracts have been sold in the last year and new residents have come in.

The extension of the electric service by the Hermiston Light & Power Company west of the Umatilla river for a half mile down the highway has meant a great deal to the farms and business enterprises affected, four families and one business enterprise being served.

#### Electricity Used

A. E. McFarland, who does extensive dairying, milking about 30 cows, has his ranch completely electrified, to the extent that he has installed a milking machine, motor to operate separator, bottle washer, sterilizer, lights all over yards, barn and house, and an electric iron. These things are all run by electricity. Mr. McFarland's herd is tuberculin tested,

and his is an accredited dairy, passing all sanitary state inspection.

The next two farms are small family tracts, where water pumps and washing machines are run by electricity, as well as various kinds of electric cooking utensils being used.

The Staymore auto camp is well lighted, nearly 50 lights being lighted every night. The water supply is furnished electrically, cooking done on an electric range and various other electrical devices in constant use.

The electric line terminates at this place, but as soon as the farmers are ready to have the line extended the Hermiston Light & Power Co. is ready to build the line on toward Irrigon.

#### Town of Umatilla

There are three hotels in the town and various rooming houses to take care of the public, and among them are some very good ones for a town of its size.

Two good grocery stores, two meat markets, two pool halls and confectioneries, Western Union branch office, good public school, grade and high, and two churches are found here. Improved streets, modern new homes, garages and service stations, a first class restaurant on the highway and two in town, nice yards, lawns, shade trees and flowers all flourish here. A new round house has been built here and a new high tower water tank, these things all within the last few years.

The Umatilla ferry, between Umatilla and Plymouth, runs day and night in summer and days in the winter to accommodate the tourist travel over the short cut to Spokane, Seattle and other points.

The O. W. R. & N. terminal is located at Umatilla with seven passenger trains daily for various parts of the world, and numerous freight trains.

Eight passenger and a number of freight trucks stop at Umatilla daily to pick up and discharge passengers and freight.

The original public school built in 1863 is still standing in Umatilla and until about twelve years ago was the only school here. There are bullets buried in the walls of this building which were shot into it by Indians in the early days. Senator Robert N. Stanfield received his early education in this school house, this town being his birthplace. The building is now used for a community

hall. The Oregon state highway commission completed a \$50,000 bridge over the Umatilla river recently connecting the east and west side of the main highway. It is one of the finest bridges in the state.

The Umatilla Rapids dam site is just above the town of Umatilla, and with the development of this mammoth project, many new settlers will move into this vicinity, for with cheap power to aid the farmer in his labor and plenty of water for irrigation, this locality is one of the most desirable to be found. Anything will grow here if sufficient water is available.

#### SHEEP FARMING GAINS IN POPULARITY ON PROJECT

High Carrying Capacity of Good Pastures Makes Business A Profitable One

During the past few years the raising of sheep, both on a farm flock basis and on a larger scale, has shown a steady growth in the irrigated districts around Hermiston, and the experiences of farmers have been successful in such degree that the practice seems likely to see a steady increase.

Most of the flocks are small and are kept on the ranch the entire year. New Madden is an exception in that he runs his flock of 1000 head or a little less on forest grazing land during the summer months. Winter, fall and early spring feed are provided on the project and on adjacent sagebrush lands.

One of the heaviest carrying capacities of any pasture land in the district, as far as records go for grazing sheep, is held by S. E. Starr who until a short time ago owned and operated a part of the old McNaught ranch south of Hermiston, now owned by Henriksen Bros.

During 1927 from April until December, on a little less than 90 acres that he was just getting to a good stand of bluegrass, he ran a total of a little more than 1000 head of ewes and lambs, six horses, five head of cattle and 20 head of hogs.

The pasture has not yet reached its maximum carrying capacity. Mr. Starr said, and a larger number of stock can be run on the acreage as the bluegrass stand becomes thicker.

## Farmers Helped by Work Done by Assistant Agent

O. A. C. Graduate Gives All of His Time to Problems Faced on Irrigated Ranches.

One advantage that farmers in the irrigated district in the west end of Umatilla county and the north end of Morrow county, have that is the lot of few communities of such size is the services of an assistant county agent, all of whose time is spent with them in finding solutions of their problems.

George H. Jenkins is the man who serves in this capacity. His presence on the irrigated lands is due to the special fund provided by the department of agriculture for educational work on the project. Heretofore, both the above mentioned districts have had the benefit of advice from county agents of Umatilla and Morrow counties. The two county agents still give of some of their time to the district.

Mr. Jenkins came here six months ago to assume his duties and during his brief residence has gained a wide acquaintance and been of service to the farming interests in many of their activities.

He is a graduate of Oregon Agricultural college and has spent some time after his graduation as manager of a combination dairy and commercial poultry ranch in the Willamette valley. The knowledge of lines of farming activity particularly popular here that he possesses gained both in academic study and from practical experience, have proved valuable in his work on the irrigated farms.

Particular attention is being paid this year to farm management problems, poultry work, dairying and lub work with many other phases of irrigated farming coming in for consideration.

Some measure of the need Mr. Jenkins has been able to fill since he came is found in the fact that he is always asked to be present for every meeting of farmers, and his efforts in putting over special work are always invited.

Walter A. E. is the efficient

county agent of Umatilla county and aids Mr. Jenkins in his activities in this county, and Charles W. Smith, county agent of Morrow county, cooperates in the work done in the Irrigon and Boardman districts which are in Morrow county.

#### HERMISTON PROUD OF ITS FINE SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS

Educational Needs of Community Served by Adequate Schools Throughout District.

The children of the first settlers of Hermiston went for their lessons into a one room school house in the west end of the town. At the present time project children attend school in one of five buildings. The main building, situated in town, has eleven rooms for the high school students and grades. Two bungalow school buildings near the main school hold overflow classes. Sixteen teachers are in charge of the town

classes. Hermiston has a union high school district and all teachers in the high school are required to be university graduates.

A one room school, with one teacher, is in the Minnehaha district, about three miles west of town, is maintained for the children of that section, and a three room school in the Columbia district east of Hermiston, is in charge of three teachers.

A two room school at Westland, southwest of the project lands and a school at Cold Springs, northeast of the town, while not on project lands, take care of the education of the children of those districts, whose trading center is Hermiston.

Free school busses, in charge of competent drivers, pick up the children on certain routes each morning in the outlying districts and take them back after school sessions.

Basket-, base- and football are all played under competent coaches. Glee clubs, oratorical contests, debates and plays are all active interests during the school year.

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