

BOARDMAN WAS PLATTED 1915

BOARDMAN FILES LAND

C. G. Blayden First Permanent Settler; Built First Store Building.

Articles of incorporation of the Boardman Townsite company were filed November 3rd, 1915. The incorporators were E. P. Dodd, William Kennedy, Stella A. Dodd and May C. Kennedy, of Hermiston. The company had previously contracted to buy 55 acres from S. H. Boardman, and the town was immediately surveyed and platted. E. I. Davis was the civil engineer. Mr. Boardman had filed a homestead on the site including other lands and had made several attempts of irrigation by pumping and was growing some shade trees, fruit trees and alfalfa around his home buildings. Otherwise the region was unoccupied except a section house at the old station of Coyote, near the present railroad station of Messner. Construction of canals and a system of distribution of water had progressed to the point of opening land nearby for settlement. The townsite company laid the streets and leveled parts of the townsite and planted locust trees for shade, several hun-

Boardmen Pioneers.



C. G. Blayden and Mrs. Blayden and F. L. Klitts, who, with Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Warner were first settlers of Boardman. Mr. Blayden was the first mayor.

dred of which have grown to large trees now in Boardman. This example of tree planting was followed by home builders, and the town is now one of the best protected from wind, sun, dust and storm of any in the entire irrigated region.

Scarcely was the townsite company ready for business when settlers began to arrive, and during the succeeding four years, 150 settlers were placed on the irrigated tracts of the Boardman unit of the West extension. The first permanent settler in town was C. G. Blayden. He built a store building on Main street, installed a small stock of groceries, and curtained off two small bed rooms, and generally took care of the oncoming newcomers. When the town was incorporated he became the first mayor and he and Mrs. Blayden still live in Boardman. They recently celebrated their golden wedding and enjoyed an extensive trip

throughout California last winter, visiting sons and daughters, and other relatives. He met a brother and sister whom he had not seen for 30 years. He may be properly called the corner stone of Boardman.

Following him came Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Warner. Warner, as a carpenter by trade, built a livery stable which he soon transferred into a garage, and later rebuilt into the present hotel of the town. They accumulated considerable property. Mr. Warner died a few years ago, and Mrs. Warner still lives in the town.

Soon after came Mrs. Olive Payne and she was appointed first postmistress of the new postoffice. H. A. Frick established a lumber yard in 1916 which he sold soon after to Claude Ballenger, who operated it for a number of years, and also built several houses. Mrs. Ballenger's father built the largest concrete store building and Harry Murchie built two houses. The late Fred Phelps of Hermiston, his son-in-law Carl Voven opened a feed and seed store, which they operated several years. Frank Cramer from Heppner bought a number of lots and built a home and other buildings. Leo Root, built the first concrete building, which he now occupies, and F. A. Klitts built a home among the early day settlers.

One of the most important events of the first days was the erection of a community church. The Townsite company gave several lots and some assistance, and a Presbyterian missionary contributed mainly to the efforts of local citizens. It has been a meeting place for all denominations since, that desired to conduct religious services.

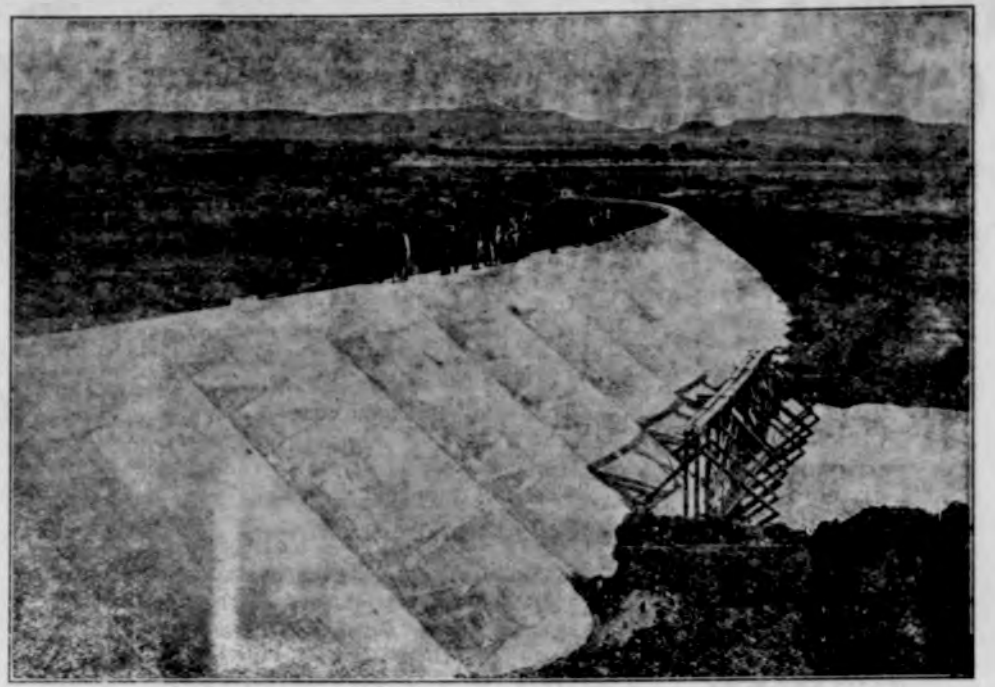
To establish a school was difficult in such a sparsely settled place. Mr. Boardman supplied a homestead shack which the townsite company revised, and Miss Clara Voven was employed as teacher for two years through some county and local subscription funds.

But this little shack became full to overflowing, and the necessity of not only a grade school but a high school was very increasingly apparent. The townsite company had secured a five acre donation adjoining the east of town for a school site from the United States through the project engineer, H. D. Newell. A school at Castle Rock was abandoned and a district formed with a new board of directors. This board consisted of C. C. Payne, W. M. Hatch and J. R. Johnson who secured plans for \$12,000 school building. At that time most of the land was in government ownership, and without buildings or personal property taxes, and the railroad company was being assessed for about 80 per cent of all taxes raised in the district. The railroad company entered a protest against so much expenditure by the district board, and offered to build a four room building at a cost of \$5,000 and donate it to the district. This building was not considered sufficient, and differences arose and finally a bitter controversy ended in the courts and the railroad company was defeated. This aroused the citizens who proceeded to build the present school building at a cost of around \$93,000, and the succeeding people of the new community have justified the early day work by maintaining a good high school as well as grade school, and adding a gymnasium at a cost of \$5,000. The school building has also been used for all public meetings needed by the community. It is claimed that the railroad company has profited by the investment, of which in the end the settlers paid a considerable share.

When Boardman was platted the Columbia highway had not been built, though the present highway street through the town was named Columbia highway in expectation of the coming event. The attempt to establish all business on Main street largely failed after the highway was built, when business shifted to the main thoroughfare through town.

Boardman precinct now has more than 250 voters, 150 farms and many beautiful homes and farm buildings. It is a diversified irrigated district with a water charge of 80 cents per acre, and produces dairy products, poultry, hogs, sheep and horses, alfalfa, corn, melons, potatoes and garden products. With

The diversion dam on the Umatilla river was completed in 1912, to serve the West Extension irrigation project. Regular water service diverted through the canals in 1915.



Irrigon it conducts the Northern Morrow county fair every year. During its 20 years of activity it has grown from a desert field of waste to a highly developed community.

Among the names of the earlier days still living there are: Ayers, Barlows, Blayden, Chaffee, Cramer, Dillabaugh, Doering, Dillon, Emberger, Faler, Flickinger, Gorham, Hango, Jenkins, Klitts, Macomber, Marshall, Messenger, Mitchell, Mulligan, Packard, Price, Partlow, Rands, Ransier, Root, Skovbo, Smith, Warner, Weston, Wicklander, Attebury, Wasmer, and many others. The community has a Community church, an Adventist and a Catholic church. S. H. Boardman and family live in Salem where Mr. Boardman is with the state highway department. Mr. and Mrs. Payne live at Rainier. W. A. Murchie and Harry Murchie have died. Claude Ballenger is with the CCC's in Oregon and H. H. Weston at an advanced age still follows the field work successfully on his farm.

Reclamation Engineers.

W. T. Whistler was the government engineer who located the Umatilla project and it was under his direction that the Cold Springs dam and all the main canals and pipelines were laid out and built. Under him was E. I. Davis, who was superintendent of the dam construction and later field head of the West Extension work. Also, with Whistler was H. D. Newell, who later became project manager, and directed the reconstruction of the Umatilla project works, the West Extension, and had much to do with the McKay dam.

One of the assistants was G. A. Stubblefield, a very able engineer, and Roy Saxton, a brilliant field man, who died before the works were completed. E. G. Hopson and D. C. Henney, who became highly known in later years, were then in official and advisory roles. A. P. Davis, who later drew a salary of \$50,000 a year from the Soviet government, as engineer of the new government's great irrigation works, was here often as assistant director and later director of the Reclamation Service. A. P. Moran, son of an Indiana governor, was attorney for U. S. Oregon Works.

First School House at Boardman.



First school building at Boardman. In the picture are members of the first Sunday school, composed of Mrs. S. H. Boardman, Mrs. F. L. Klitts and Mrs. Eva Warner, superintendent and teacher, and children, Dorothy, Helen, Alfred and Kenneth Boardman, and Noel Klitts.

PIONEERS NOW LIVING ON BOARDMAN PROJECT

Among the first settlers who came to the Boardman unit and who have remained there are the following:

Paul Smith, wife, three boys and two girls, has 40 acres, year 1918.
Adolph Skovbo, wife and six children, has 40 acres, year 1918.
James Howell, 1918, wife and boy.
W. A. Price, 1918, wife died, one boy, 40 acres homestead.
Fritz Emberger, 1916, town property, single.
Ray Brown, 1918, 40 acres, wife and two girls.
Mike Flickinger, 1918, 80 acres, wife.
Frank Cramer, 1917, town property, family.
Jack Gorham, 1916, merchant, wife and two girls.
Paul Partlow, 1919, 40 acres, family of eight.
Bob Mitchell, 1918, 40 acres, wife and son.
Frank Otto, 1918, 40 acres, wife and two boys.
Elmer Messenger, 1919, 80 acres, wife, two boys and four girls.
Ed Kunzie, 1919, wife and two boys and two girls, 40 acres.
Claude Myers, 40 acres, 1918, wife and two girls.
John Pruter, 40 acres, 1919, wife.
Tom Delano, 40 acres, 1919, wife and one child.
Nick Faler, 1918, 40 acres, wife.
Charles Hango, 40 acres, 1918, wife, two boys and three girls.
O. B. Olson, 1918, wife and four girls, 40 acres.
Mrs. Eva Warner, 1916, hotel and

home and 20 acres.
Nels Kristensen, 1920, 95 acres, 500 sheep, wife and two children.
Glen Hadley, 1920, 40 acres, wife and one boy.

Leo Root, 1918, wife and one boy postmaster, two story building.
Nate Macomber, 1920, wife and one daughter.
Dad Weston, 1915, 20 acres, widower.

The present mayor of Boardman is Mrs. Nate Macomber. Former mayors are G. C. Blayden, Jack Gorham and C. J. Ballenger. The first agent at the railroad station was Ralph Davis, now of Umatilla.

Jas. A. Fee, once circuit judge of half of eastern Oregon, and who owned and rode after horses here during the range days, is in active practice of law in Pendleton. He is the father of Federal Judge Fee.

TOM'S CAMP

2 miles west of Boardman on highway.

Shady Grove
Free Picnic Ground
Cottages
Lunch Room

C. G. Blayden
REAL ESTATE
Agent for County Lands
and
Federal Land Bank
1916 — 1936
Boardman, Oregon

Russel's Service

SHELL OIL

HOME MADE ICE CREAM — LUNCHES
Lunch Goods

— In Business for Seven Years —

BOARDMAN

OREGON

HI-WAY INN

- DINING ROOM
- \$1.00 ROOMS
- CLEAN BEDS
- GOOD SERVICE
- SHADY AND COOL

— CONTINUED SERVICE SINCE 1918 —

Boardman, Oregon

BARLOW'S Service Station

STANDARD GAS & OIL

GARAGE

AND GENERAL AUTO REPAIRING

WRECKING CAR SERVICE

AUTO ACCESSORIES

CONFECTIONS & COLD DRINKS

Boardman, Oregon



Boardman High School which was built in 1912

COATS' RED & WHITE

PART OF THE BOARDMAN
COMMUNITY FOR 11 YEARS.

GROCERIES

NOTIONS

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

— Farm Bureau Feed Store in Connection —

MOVED INTO ORIGINAL BOARDMAN
BANK BUILDING JUNE, 1935.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Coats, Prop.

Boardman, Oregon

Oasis Station

Modern Cabins

Equipped with Electric Lights.

- CABINS \$1 to \$3
- LUNCHES
- FOUNTAIN SERVICE
- MEAT MARKET
- LUNCH GOODS

GASOLINE - OIL - GENERAL MOTOR REPAIR

— In Business for 10 Years —

E. W. PECK

LESTER UTHE

Boardman, Oregon