

Jackson County City and Rural Schools Show Progress

Jackson county, during her progressive strides in various lines within the past few years, has not overlooked her schools. Those of the rural districts are reported in another column, as are also the schools of Medford. As space is limited, we can give only a very brief account of each.

Ashland, at the southern end of the county on the Southern Pacific line, has a school district of the first class. The schools are housed in three buildings all of which are modern in every respect. The high school, located in the eastern part of the city on a six-acre tract is of granite, with dash stucco finish. It has twenty-six recitation rooms, gymnasium, assembly, splendid laboratories for the sciences, manual training, domestic science and cooking rooms.

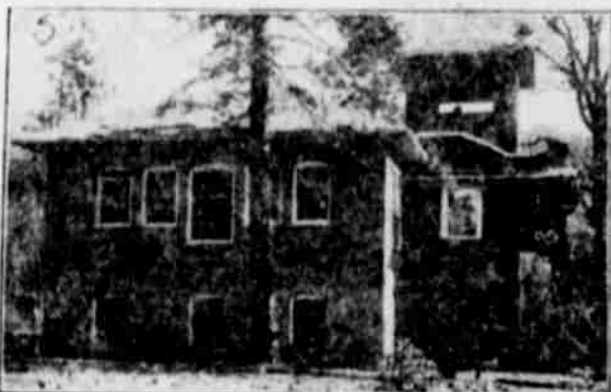
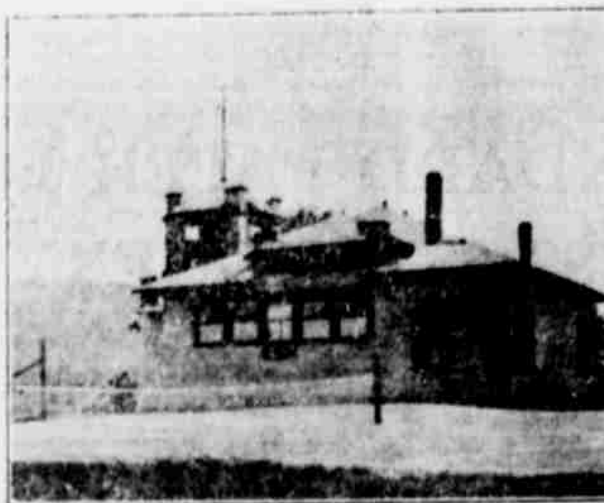
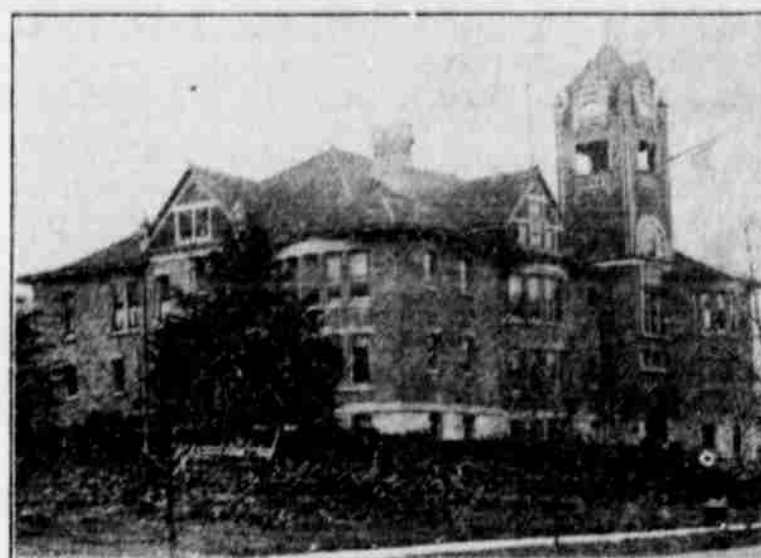
The grade buildings are of brick construction and each is located on a three-acre tract. At each of these, as well as at the high school building, there is a well kept front lawn planted to shrubbery and flowers.

While Ashland considers her school buildings modern in every respect she is no less proud of her system of schools than she is of the buildings. The organization is modern throughout, the handwork and cultural studies being well balanced and progressive. Under Superintendent G. A. Brjane the schools are second to none in the West.

Coming north from Ashland we find the Talent schools, a district of the second class, located in a new and up-to-date building. Under the principalship of G. W. Ager, it has this year met the requirements of an A standard school of Jackson county. Besides the grammar grades, the course includes two years of high school work, with special teachers for manual training, domestic science and music. This school is making extensive improvements each year.

Phoenix, another town on the Southern Pacific line, has a school district of the second class. Five years ago the district was bonded for \$15,000 for building purposes. At that time the assessed valuation of the district was a little less than \$200,000, there were about 150 pupils in the district, and three teachers were employed. Some of the residents considered the step of bonding a foolish move. But its wisdom is now seen, for the school today has an enrollment of 228 pupils, employs seven teachers and the district has an assessed valuation of over one million dollars. H. W. Ager is the principal.

Jacksonville, though the oldest school in the county, is by no means a "moss back." While the school district has had the misfortune of losing two buildings in the past, it now has a modern brick structure, in which the district has about \$18,000 in-



vested. Besides the recitation rooms the building contains a large auditorium with stage, a gymnasium, a lunch room and a furnace room. Under the leadership of Superintendent F. C. Smith, besides the regular grade and high school work, courses are given this year in domestic science and vocal music.

In size Central Point has the third school in Jackson county, and its superintendent, A. H. Micker, says their aim is to make it first in organization and efficiency. Their motto is "The best is none too good for Central Point." This school was among the first in the state to em-

ploy a special teacher in music. Special teachers are also employed for domestic science and art and for manual training course, one of the largest in southern Oregon. Another feature of the school system is its departmental work, which is carried on in all grades above the third. The building, equipment and organization of the Central Point schools would do credit to a much larger city.

The people of Gold Hill are determined that no school in this end of the state shall be better than theirs. Under the direction of Superintendent B. A. Adams, the school has come rapidly to the front in the past

two years. The attendance has outgrown the large new brick structure, and it has become necessary again this year to fit up a room in the old building. A full four years high school course is offered. Commercial work, music, domestic science and manual training are given special attention. At the present writing the high school has an enrollment forty-two.

Rogue River, at the north end of Jackson county on the Southern Pacific line, is well to the front with its schools. Under the directions of Miss Frances A. Nevel as principal, excellent work is being done in the

grades and in the three-year high school course. Instruction in music is given by a special teacher. At the time of this writing, seventeen pupils are enrolled in the high school and 121 in the grades.

Eagle Point, located on the P. & E. line some fifteen miles northeast of Medford, is the only town in Jackson county without a high school. However, the grades, under the principalship of W. E. Buchanan, are doing first-class work. The school has an enrollment of eighty pupils, nine of whom are in the eighth grade. The pupils, through their own efforts with entertainments and industrial

work have bought an organ, a baseball outfit and basketball and playground equipment.

Butte Falls, the little town at the terminus of the P. & E. near Mount Pitt, is keeping its school abreast of others in the onward march. The school is housed in a fine new building, surrounded with a beautiful lawn and playgrounds. The enrollment this year totals fifty, four of whom are doing ninth and tenth grade work. Plans are being made to install a course in manual training next year. A. L. Wright is the principal.

Jackson county's public school system consists of two districts of the first class (having more than 1000 children of school age), Medford and Ashland; five districts of the second class (from 200 to 100 children of school age), Central Point, Jacksonville, Gold Hill, Talent and Phoenix; and ninety-one districts of the third class.

The county is divided into three supervisory districts. Two supervisors aside from the county superintendent are employed to supervise the work in the rural schools.

During the school year of 1912-13 there was an enrollment of 4948 pupils, and 243 teachers were employed. Fourteen high schools were in operation with an enrollment of 710 pupils.

Manual Training and Domestic Science courses have been introduced in the schools of Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Gold Hill and Talent. Other places will take up this same work in another year. Special instructors in music are employed in Medford, Jacksonville, Central Point, Talent, Phoenix, Gold Hill, Rogue River and Wagner Creek.

During the last five years every incorporated town in the county, with one exception, has erected an up-to-date school building, and many of the rural districts have school facilities not to be excelled by any of the towns. Altogether during these five years forty-five new school buildings have been erected in the county, most of them modern in every way.

The following figures are taken from the county school superintendent's report for the school year 1912-13: Number of persons between four and twenty years of age residing in the county November 25, 1912, 3518 males and 3230 females; total, 6848.

Total enrollment, 2527 males, and 2421 females; total, 4948.

Number of teachers employed during the year, 51 males and 192 females; total, 243.

Number of eighth grade diplomas issued during the year, 141 to males and 167 to females; total, 308.

Average number of days public school taught during the year, 145.7. Whole number of days attendance during the year, 642,976.5.

Whole number of days absence during the year, 30,391.

Average number of pupils belonging, 4621.5.

Average daily attendance, 4413.

Per cent of attendance, 95.5.

Whole number of organized districts in the county, 98.

Number of school houses in the county, 107.

Estimated value of school houses and grounds, \$611,625.25

Estimated value of school furniture and apparatus, 60,575.47

Amount of insurance on school houses and other property, 347,615.00

Cement Plant at Gold Hill Will Have a Capacity of 1000 Barrels a Day



Site of Beaver Portland Cement Plant—Hill in Foreground is Cement Dyke, Flat at Base, Building Ground of Eighteen Acres

(By Ben H. Lampman.)

With a \$500,000 cement industry in the process of building, a \$50,000 gold dredging project assured, an important power project under way, the numerous mines of the district showing increased activity, and a general sentiment of wide-awake business activity, and optimism in the future among the citizens, Gold Hill is certain during the coming year to contribute her full quota of prosperity to a greater southern Oregon.

The closing year has witnessed a stimulation in industrial enterprise generally throughout the state, but the most significant single enterprise

conceived in Oregon during that period is undoubtedly the successful promotion of the Beaver Portland Cement company, a project calling for a cool half million dollars to complete, now under actual progress of construction, and destined to add permanently to the population and prosperity of the city and the valley.

The story of the promotion of the cement plant is one of the unswerving faith in the resources and industrial advantages of southern Oregon, a faith that eventually overcame all obstacles, interested the required capital, and is literally to move a mountain of high grade lime rock

into the giant crushers and rotary kilns of the big plant, and thence to the markets of the world. In April last the promotion of the project was successfully terminated and articles of incorporation granted to the Beaver Portland Cement company, with capital stock of \$600,000.

Although Eastern capital is heavily represented in the local cement industry, fully half of the capital was subscribed by Oregon investors, in which Medford financiers and other prominent men of the valley bore a large part.

Repeated and thorough tests of the local lime rock have proven it to be

ideal for the purpose of cement manufacture, while the location of the deposit, together with the low freight rate granted, assure it a favorable field in the competitive market. The factory site and lime ledge lie three quarters of a mile directly west of Gold Hill, within a few hundred yards of the Southern Pacific tracks. The ledge itself stretches northward over the hills to an indeterminate distance—with a sufficiency of high grade cement material in sight to keep several cement plants busied for a lifetime.

During the past month a force of from fifty to seventy-five men have been constantly employed at the plant site. Tons of powder have been expended in opening up the quarry, preliminary work has been accomplished and the construction of buildings is in full swing. With a contract to supply 50,000 barrels of cement for use in the construction of the Jackson county Pacific highway, delivery to commence June 1, the work of construction will be speeded up to achieve the point of operation before that date.

The construction of the plant is contracted to the Hunt Engineering company of Kansas City, a concern of established reputation in the cement industry, whose specialty is the erection of similar plants. Engineer Dan E. Servey is locally in charge. This company is also rushing the completion of a \$2,500,000 plant at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

The Gold Hill plant will be the most modern in type, with a production of 1,000 barrels daily. The wet process will be employed, entirely dispensing with the dust incident to other methods of manufacture. Seventy men will be employed in its operation, largely skilled workmen and men of family, permanent ad-

ditions to the growing population of the valley.

The admirably located plant site comprises eighteen acres, the greater part of which will be actually used for the extensive buildings of the plant and the three loading and receiving tracks. At the present time workmen are engaged in the construction of machine shops and office quarters, and in addition there will be the storage warehouses, kilns, crusher, slurry tanks and numerous other buildings essential to the operation of the big enterprise. Modernly constructed and equipped to the last word in up-to-date machinery and methods, the new cement plant will afford an excellent opportunity for Oregon folks to evidence their preference for Oregon goods, as the competitive market will have no terrors for the new enterprise—the only cement plant in the state.

Although the utilization of the extensive coal deposits near Medford have been discussed, lack of transportation facilities will not permit of this for the present.

Power will be furnished by the Rogue River Public Service corporation, successors in interest to the Annet properties at Grants Pass, and to the plant of the Oregon Water & Power company at this city. The new company has recently completed a complete overhauling and improvement of the local plant for the development of temporary power to supply the cement company, but the work will not end here. Admirably situated upon one of the best power sites along the river, work will be resumed at the earliest possible moment next season and a dam constructed for the development of 4500 horsepower. This, too, will be a new and permanent enterprise and should further result in the estab-



Opening Quarry at Beaver Portland Cement Plant, Gold Hill, 2000 Pounds Blast of Powder

lishment of new industrial enterprises. An extensive irrigation project, with a main canal from this city to Grants Pass, is also under consideration by the Rogue River Public Service corporation, and will eventually be perfected.

Not all of the development of the past year, however, is to be attributed to industrial enterprises. More than double the produce of the previous year, in fruits, livestock and other products of the ranch, were exported from this city during the closing twelve months, as attested by the records of the freight agent. Numerous homeseekers have purchased or taken up properties in the various smaller creek valleys, important real estate transfers have been active and the value of local ranching properties has a decided upward tendency from the excellent showing of the year.

Much has been accomplished locally in 1913, but Gold Hill, in common with the remainder of the val-

ley, is pinning its faith to the certainty of a larger and more prosperous future and is willing to take off its individual and collective coat and work toward that end.

Butte Falls

Butte Falls, the coming lumber center of Jackson county, is the present terminal of the Pacific & Eastern railroad, a part of the Hill system, in the heart of the largest sugar pine belt in the world. Tributary to Butte Falls is eight billion feet of standing timber. The railroad will be extended to a connection with the Oregon Trunk, thus giving a transcontinental line to the East.

Big Butte river, upon which Butte Falls is located, is one of the finest power streams on the coast—a power that is already being utilized to operate lumber mills, of which there are half a dozen scattered through the district.