

JACKSONVILLE SENTINEL

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JACKSONVILLE'S SCHOOL HOUSE.

The Stately Edifice Nearing Completion and Will Be One of the Handsomest and Best Appointed Educational Structures in the State.—Recitations Begin Sept. 14

The new school house is nearly completed and Jacksonville can boast of having one of the best school buildings in the state. On the site of the old historic building, which was destroyed by the fire fiend last winter, where so many of the prominent men and women of Oregon received their early training, a beautiful school building, modern in its architecture and equipment, has been erected. The location is a model one and the school officers of pioneer days deserve the gratitude of the present and future generations for the wise selection of school grounds. A slightly elevated mound with a gentle slope in all directions covered with many sturdy oaks containing over four acres was their choice. On the highest part of this eminence the old building stood and the new structure has been erected in the same place. The basement walls of concrete stand on the solid bed rock which at this point is only a few feet below the surface. The building itself is made of brick surmounted by a fire proof roof of dipped tiles. The old time severeness which was considered necessary in a school building a few years ago has been replaced by a charming irregularity of outline which gives it an attractive commanding appearance. The basement with its smoothly cemented walls is high, airy, and well lighted by many windows which swing from hinges and are protected by heavy wire netting. The floor of solid bedrock is covered with a coating of well packed granite and the sloping of the bedrock in all directions insures against dampness. The large floor space is separated by the posts supporting the upper floor and the air shafts, into four playrooms and two lunch and toilet rooms. These latter rooms will be finished up by the board and be supplied with seats, towels, mirrors, washbasins, and lockers. Pupils can then furnish individual towels if they wish and perfect sanitary conditions will prevail. The two furnaces are in the basement and these will furnish heat and ventilation to all rooms of the building.

All of the air, both heating and cooling the rooms, is brought from outdoors through air shafts thus securing pure air and avoiding the vitiated air of the basement and hall ways.

Leading to the first story of the building is a flight of easy stairs with a landing midway to make the ascent still easier. The main entrance to the first story is from the west and is wide and roomy with low broad steps which makes the little stair-climbing to be done neither tiresome nor harmful.

On the first floor are four school rooms. These rooms are large enough to comfortably seat 50 scholars, all that should be in one room, and allow ample space for movement of classes and blackboard work. They are well lighted, the windows being grouped so that all light will come to the scholars from the left, and the ceiling is high giving a light, airy appearance to the rooms as well as to give more air space to make the ventilation all that can be for the health of the little ones. The walls are plastered, rough finished and tinted to prevent a glare, the south rooms, where the light is the strongest being softened by a pink tint, while in the north rooms where the light is not so strong a light French gray is the tint used. The walls of the hallway are tinted a cheerful golden ochre. The windows are fitted with sliding blinds, giving full control of all the light to be had. Each room has blackboards on three sides, and these boards will have the best of surface and the directors, bearing in mind that a schoolroom, the air of which is laden with the dust from the old time chalk sticks, is a patent cause for much of the catarrhal troubles and weak eyes that effect school children, have ordered a generous quantity of dustless crayons and dustless erasers. Recognizing the fact that first-class teachers always seek positions in the best equipped schools, the directors have ordered for each room a fine desk, not a cheap table affair, but a desk such as would be in place in a well furnished office of a business man and containing ample compartments and drawers for the teachers' books, papers and other belongings. As a tired teacher is a poor teacher the directors, wishing

the best work possible from the teachers, have provided each with a fine revolving chair. The necessary globes, maps, and charts have been provided so that there will be no hindrance to Jacksonville doing as good work as any school in the state. The floors of the rooms and the hallway and stairs are thoroughly oiled, which adds both to the appearance and keeping down of the dust. Adjoining each room is a cloak room of good width and extending the entire length of the school. The teachers desks are so situated that the teacher can readily see what is going on in the cloak room and the hallway. The school rooms open into a large hallway, from which stairs descend to the school grounds and to the basement.

The second story will for the present be fitted up as an assembly room, but should occasion require it could be made into school rooms. A large rostrum is provided and the room will make a suitable place for the holding of various school gatherings.

As the well is some 300 feet from the building, the directors to provide ample water for the school use have purchased a large force pump and the pipe line used by Contractor Snook in forcing water to the building during his construction work and a water service will be installed in the basement where it will be most convenient.

The general appearance of the building is improved by an open belfry in which will be placed before school opens one of the largest bells in Southern Oregon, carefully selected for its rich, heavy tone. A flagstaff has been placed on the building from which a flag will float each school day, the directors having ordered a fine 12-foot bunting flag and their orders to the principal of the school will be to use it as a daily object lesson in teaching patriotism to the young Americans under his charge and not to keep it stowed away only for ceremonious occasions.

In the burning of the building last year the library, maps, charts, chemical laboratory, organ, and many other such aids were lost, but the most necessary of these have been furnished by the directors, and the citizens of the town will aid in building the library up to its former size and in supplying other needed appliances and aids for the school.

Many of the grand old oak trees that added so much to the beauty of the grounds and are remembered by former students as landmarks under whose shade they studied and played were injured by the fire and were cut down and removed. The Board of Trade will take up the matter of beautifying the grounds in the near future and assist the teachers and the scholars in making the spacious yard

about their school house one of the handsomest in all Southern Oregon.

Contractor Harmon Snook is rushing the finishing work as fast as is consistent with good workmanship and has from 9 to 12 men at work. The carpenters under Foreman L. M. Lyon will in another week have all the woodwork completed on the first floor and then will finish the assembly room in short order. The plastering which is being done under contract by D. H. Brown of Grants Pass, is completed on the lower story and the upper story will be finished this week. Mr. Brown is an expert finisher and is this week putting on the cement ornamental work about the outside of the building. W. P. Sharman of Grants Pass has the painting contract and he and his men are well up with the carpenters in their work. School is to begin September 14th and Contractor Snook expects to have the building all complete by that date. He planned to have it off his hands by the 1st, but the endless delays in securing material and the scarcity of skilled mechanics has been a serious handicap to him and caused much extra expense. That Mr. Snook is doing a first-class job on Jacksonville's school building is fully proven when one compares the terms of his contract with the work and the material used. He has put on a heavier roofing and heavier doors and windows than was required of him and on the foundation he spent more than \$100 in extra labor and material. His contract called for foundation walls to go a certain depth, which would reach the supposed top of the bed rock, but when the excavation for the basement was made it was found that the bedrock at the northeast corner dipped two feet and at the southwest corner nearly three feet. To obviate the possibility of the building settling Mr. Snook had the foundation sunk to the bedrock at these low places, though he will ask no extra pay for it. The building when completed and fully furnished will represent an outlay of nearly \$12,000, but it will be money well spent for the good of Jacksonville, for it will bring returns that will add to the prosperity of the town in more ways than one. The school board, composed of J. H. Huffer, Sr., T. J. Williamson and Peter Applegate, have given their closest attention to all the details connected with the construction of the building and to their good judgment it is due largely that Jacksonville has a brick school building in style, finish and appointments that will compare well with any other school building of Oregon.

Anything needed in the furniture line can be had at C. W. Conklin's. I especially solicit orders for fine goods. Can save you money.

Death of a Native Son.

Another of the persons whose names are linked with the early history of Jacksonville and the Rogue River valley has passed away. James Cluggage McCully whose death took place Monday at Ft. Klamath was a representative of a family who were well known in the pioneer days of Southern Oregon. His father, Dr. James W. McCully, and mother, Jane Mason McCully, came to Jacksonville in June, 1852. Dr. McCully at once identified himself with the progress of the town and in 1858 built the two story brick building on Oregon street which is now owned by the Odd Fellows. He afterward went to the Willamette valley where he became prominent in operating steamboat lines and died in Salem several years ago. Mrs. McCully was prominent in the social life and activities of this place from the early days to her death in June, 1899, her life was commemorated by many acts of generosity and her charitable disposition and by the native daughters in the Jane McCully Cabin No. 1 Native Daughters of Oregon. James Cluggage McCully is said to have been the first white child born in Jacksonville. He was named for James Cluggage, who with James Pool discovered gold in Rich Gulch in 1851 near the present crossing of Oregon St. which caused the rush of miners to this section and who afterward took up a donation claim embracing a great part of Jacksonville. In 1852 Mr. Cluggage, N. C. Dean and Abel George were appointed commissioners by the Legislature to organize Jackson county.

Mr. McCully was born in Jacksonville August 27, 1852, and died at Fort Klamath, Monday, August 24, 1903 being 49 years, 11 months and 27 days old. He was a graduate of the Jacksonville High School and Willamette University and was noted for his generous disposition and native wit and humor. For the past four years he has been a forest ranger, this year having charge of the Fort Klamath district. A month ago he was found at his camp in an unconscious condition by his packer and was taken to the hotel at Ft. Klamath. His sister, Miss Issie McCully, went to his bedside upon receipt of the news, but neither the loving attention of a sister nor the skill of the physician could save him. His illness proved to be appendicitis which with other complications caused his death. His death took place Monday forenoon at 10 o'clock and at 4 o'clock that afternoon Mr. M. F. McGowan of Medford, a personal friend of Mr. McCully's who had assisted in caring for him during the last days of his illness, with his rig brought Miss Issie McCully and Mrs. L. C. Sisemore, formerly Miss Anna Orth of this place and a warm friend of Miss McCully, to Jacksonville, arriving the following day.

The remains were brought to Jacksonville by Mr. Ed Hoyt, he being accompanied by Prof. J. Percy Wells of Ashland who kindly volunteered to assist in making the drive, which was a very trying and dangerous one, as they had to drive all night and while they were crossing the mountains a heavy rain storm prevailed rendering it extremely dark. They made the hundred mile drive to Jacksonville without a mishap, or delay, arriving here at six o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

A brief funeral service was held at the family residence at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, being conducted by Rev. S. H. Jones. A large number of the business houses of the town were closed during the services which were attended by a large concourse of friends of the deceased. The interment was made in the Masonic cemetery, the remains being laid to rest beside those of his mother. The simple but impressive ceremony of the Independent Order of Red Men was performed, by the members of the Oregonian-Pochahontis Tribe No. 1 led by W. H. McDaniels, sachem, and J. C. Whipp prophet. The closing rite of their service was the releasing of a white dove, symbolic of the passing of the spirit of the deceased brave to the hunting grounds beyond, and the dropping of a twig of evergreen by each brave into the open grave indicative of the tender and imperishable remembrance that he would retain of the good deeds of his departed comrade.

Mr. McCully was unmarried and leaves a sister, Miss Issie McCully, who had a touching devotion for her brother and his best interests were always uppermost in her mind. His other sister, Mollie was married to Hon. J. W. Merritt and died several years since. She left a son, George, who is at present with his aunt.

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