

Taken from "An Illustrated History of Umatilla County and Morrow County", 1902, by Parsons and Shiach

WESTON.

Nestled among the hills on the banks of Pine creek, in the richest, healthiest and most picturesque portion of Umatilla county, lies the beautiful little city of Weston, characterized for its educational advantages and achievements, wholesale moral atmosphere and social purity.

In this immediate vicinity grain and fruits have never been known to be a total failure. The farmers around Weston are thrift, and industrious, and as one passes their well-kept farms, with substantial barns and houses, it gives the impression of pleasant homes and a spirit of contentment.

Weston is the oldest town of the county, except Umatilla City, having been founded by the Hon. T. J. Lieuallen in 1865. It was named after a town in Missouri. He erected the first two houses, a dwelling and a blacksmith shop. "Uncle Tom," as he was familiarly called, was a prominent citizen, and officiated as Weston's first postmaster. A man named Bell ran the first store. He afterward went to San Francisco and committed suicide. Rube Baskett, as lawyer, a man of many eccentric traits, and R. A. Steele, as notary public, were the dispensers of law and justice. Charles Patterson drove the first stage coach from Walla Walla through Weston to Pendleton. Barney Keenan, a prominent farmer, now living near Weston was the second man to hold the reins of the old stage coach. S. F. Neff held the all-important position of Weston's first schoolmaster. The writer understands he is now living near Moscow, engaged in farming and stock raising. In early times Hill & Baker kept a general merchandise store. They were succeeded by Saling & Reese.

Money was plentiful; all kinds of labor commanded high prices, hence the firm of Saling & Reese did a rushing and lucrative business. I. T. Reese was a public spirited man, and did much to aid the town in various ways. George Hayes kept a corner saloon, and a corner saloon it is to this day. The writer distinctly remembers a doctor in those early days generally known as "Old" Dr. Morris who, it is said, dosed his patients with diluted lye and bread pills. He said if people had sufficient faith bread pills were just as good as any; but you cannot fool the people of Weston with bread pills and diluted lye these days. They have to have an up-to-date doctor or none.

In 1878 Weston was incorporated, and the Hon. T. J. Lucy had the honor of being the first mayor. W. L. Black established the Weston Leader. Black was a man of considerable ability, and now occupies a good position in an eastern city.

Only a few old timers remain. Prominent among them the writer recalls Hugh McArthur, Ransom Lieuallen and his wife, William Lieuallen and wife, Mile Ransom, Robert Jamieson, James Kirkpatrick, Jess Milton, S. V. Knox, I. E. Saling, Mrs. Sarah McDougal (former wife of T. J. Lieuallen), I. T. Reese, L. S. Wood, P. A. Worthington and T. J. Price.

As years went by Weston gained in wealth and commercial importance; but subsequently suffered severe losses from fires. In July, 1874, the first big fire occurred, and burned nearly all the town north of Main Street, except Saling & Reese's brick store. October 17, 1883, another fire destroyed the entire business portion of the town, except this same brick building. In May, 1886, Proebstel Brothers' large flouring mill went up in smoke; and in October, 1896, Saling's roller mill was

destroyed in the same manner. Notwithstanding all these reverses from fires, Weston can boast of quite a number of substantial brick buildings.

The approximate number of inhabitants in Weston is 1,000. The city is well governed and the city council is composed of men who will see that law and order are maintained.

Weston is truly the Athens of Eastern Oregon. For its educational advantages it is known far and wide, and in that Weston greatest pride. In 1892 a commodious brick school house was erected at a cost of \$14,000. Since that time a perfect system of graded schools has been maintained employing from five to six teachers.

Weston is the seat of the Eastern Oregon State Normal School, which was practically established in 1893. The school has been in existence since 1882, and was recognized in a small way by the state, the holders of its diplomas being granted license to teach-just as a number of other schools in the state are now recognized. But it was not until 1893 that the Weston Normal became a bonafide state school by the appropriation of sufficient money to enable it to possess adequate facilities for doing normal school work.

The Normal's function is that of a training school for teachers, and it has steadily grown until the regular classes include one hundred and fifty students, all preparing to teach in public schools of the state. Its course of study is modeled after that of leading normal schools in other states. The Training Department has an attendance of nearly two hundred, and is conducted in the public school building, Miss Stowell, the principal, co-operating with the principal of the public school and her assistants. The Normal has a three years' course beyond the public school, and gives three years of additional culture, at the same time training the young teacher in all the latest methods and devices in the school room. In the classes of the training department the young teacher who is subjected to the kindly criticism, counsel and advice of the training teacher, acquires a self-poise that enables him to feel at home the first day he enters the school

room over which he is himself to preside.

In 1895, the legislature appropriated four thousand dollars for the building and furnishings a boarding hall for young ladies, thus enabling the school to cheapen the cost to lady students, besides providing a pleasant quiet home under a competent matron.

That the school is all it is claimed to be is demonstrated in the increasing number of students the present attendance being larger than during any previous year. Good work is done in every department.

The last legislature voted a handsome appropriation to be used for the enlarging of the school. The new building which is now completed, give the school ten additional recitation rooms, office and reception room, library and two cloak rooms, two society halls, a kindergarten room, a ladies gymnasium and the laboratories, so that the accommodations for students are now very complete. This school has done admirable work in the past, in training teachers and giving a broader education to the youth of Umatilla and adjoining counties, and now that it has been recognized as a permanent state institution, it will certainly continue to prosper.