

Wapato

Wapato, Nov. 7-If a poet or novelist were to visit this town for the purpose of getting local color for his works he would be able to get it without employing a detective.

Local color is to be met with at every step. Think of a town that had only one store in it in 1903, whereas it now has more than a score with churches, a national bank, a live weekly newspaper warehouses, three-story school building, first-class hotel and good restaurants, a city hall, theater to seat 800 a commercial club, baseball club and a brass band.

Just ten years ago to wit in 1901 the present site of Wapato was being formed. The first lease from the Indians for farming was consummated that year by B.F. Barge now an honored citizen of North Yakima. He sold his lease the following year to F. Groshen, who placed Sterling Smith in charge of his farming operations the principal crops being potatoes, cantaloupes and melons. The only buildings there were the Northern Pacific depot and section house.

The first building off the Northern Pacific right of way on the present site of the town was erected by Alex McCredy in 1902 1903 in which he established a general store. It was not until the spring of 1904 that there was even a post-office where the residents could get their mail but it was brought in by carrier, being on the Wallah rural free delivery route No. 1.

The townsite was laid out in 1906 by the Wapato Development company of which Alex E. McCredy was at the head. The population by that time had increased to between 250 and 300. Two years later, September in 1908 the village was incorporated as a town of the fourth class.

Prior thereto a census taken to show positively that the town had the legal right to incorporate gave the population as 360.

The decennial census of the United States government in the spring of 1910 gave the population as even 400. Conservative estimates of the present population place it at between 500 and 550 and 600. Those familiar with Dante's Inferno will recall that false prophets after being having been consigned to the bad place had their heads transposed on their shoulders so that they were continually looking backward.

If it were not for that horrible punishment staring one in the face your correspondent might be induced to make some wild predictions. As it is, he will make a long chance on future punishment and predict that Wapato will have a population of 5,000 by the time the government next counts noses.

J.F. Douglas was the first mayor of the town while H.E. Trimble was its first clerk. Both of these gentlemen, then as now, are moving spirits in the Hub Mercantile company. The present mayor is E.F. Carver of the Carver-Shadbolt company, Inc. while Mr. Trimble is still clerk.

The townsite of Wapato was formally thrown upon the market September 29, 1906, that date being referred to as sales day. It was about that time that the Wapato trading Company commenced to erect the first brick block on the townsite, while simultaneously the Hub Mercantile company commenced the erection of the first concrete block building which edifice is at the corner of Wapato avenue and Third street. The latter building has an extensive frontage on Wapato avenue, the corner being originally occupied by the bank but at the present by the offices of the United States Reclamation service and the Wapato Development company as real estate and business offices.

The second concrete block building was that of Moran & Siegel, occupying a quarter of a block, now the home of a large meat

company. It was in Q0 1904 also that Burke & Carver erected their mammoth brick warehouse adjoining the railroad track where shipments can easily be made. That building has passed into the ownership of the Carver-Shadbolt company, inc.

A drug store came in 1907 and different kinds of business have been entered into from time to time until the present when for a the small place it may be stated that Wapato is well supplied, mercantile stocks being large and varied.

The Hub Mercantile company carries an immense stock and is being managed by J.F. Fougles. Charles S. Bilger, the former manager is at present in Russia in connection with a deal of the Commercial Wireless Telegraph and Telegraph company

The Wapato Trading company, another big concern, has W.N. Luby a trustee of the Wapato Commercial club, as its manager.

The Carver-Shadbolt company (Inc.) has the reputation of carrying the largest stock of farm implements and vehicles of any firm in the valley. As a sample the following will emphasize the above statement. At a special sale after thorough advertising in the Independent and otherwise nine farm wagons were sold in a single day.

Hotel Wapato is a credit to the town. It is a two-story frame building at the corner of Wapato avenue and Fourth street, erected by the Wapato Development company in 1907 and later in the same year purchased by O.A. Hall, its present proprietor. He has 50 rooms and approaches the metropolitan in appointments with electric lights, billard and pool tables, barber shop, comfortable office, etc. It is operated on the European plan, the dining room and grill in connection being first class.

Mr. Hall is also proprietor of the pavillion, a frame building 50 x 125 adjoining the hotel. This is utilized as a theater, lecture room and as a place for the giving of dancing parties and other different forms of amusement. The pavillion fills the want of a young and growing town, being all to the credit of Mr. Hall's progressiveness. The floor is splendid for dancing while with the stage and drop curtain it can easily be transformed into a theater or used as a lecture room. The seating capacity is 800.

The State Bank of Wapato was organized April 9, 1906 with a capital stock of \$25,000. It was incorporated under the name of the First National Bank on May 11, 1906. It occupies its own quarters in a building of concrete at the corner of Wapato avenue and Third street erected by Siegel Brothers in 1906-7. Which was purchased by the bank and into which it removed from the corner building across the avenue on January 1, 1910.

The first offices of the bank were as follows:

Alex McCredy, president; G.S. Rankin, vice president; Harry Jones, cashier. The foregoing three and A.D. Dunn and D.A. McDonald constitute the board of directors. There has been no change in the above named officials up to the present, but as the business grew it became necessary to add one. In 1907 and 1909 L.W. Taylor cast his financial fortunes with the institution and was made assistant cashier. The record of the bank from its inception to the present has been most creditable to the management. It has the record during 1911 of not having refused a satisfactory loan, which is something that not many banks throughout the country can boast. According to the report of its condition at the close of business September 1, 1911, the last report issued, it had deposits of \$121,184.96. Its present capital-

ization is \$25,000 with surplus and undivided profits of
\$5,926.24--the Yakima Herald, November 15, 1911.

Wapato will become a city on Wednesday and Mayor Douglass formally becomes the chief executive of the town on that day.

Auditor Crocker has just taken the last formal step toward the incorporation of the place by sending the orders of the board of commissioners to the secretary of state at Olympia for filing. The order becomes effective on the filing at Olympia.

Before the general election it will be necessary to register all the voters in the new city and also in the remainder of the Wapato precinct. City Registration books will be opened at once and books for the precinct will be arranged by the county officials--The Yakima Herald, Sept. 10, 1908.

Three appointments of city officials of Wapato have been made by Mayor Douglass and the new municipality now has a full corps of officers for the transaction of business.

The council was organized on Tuesday evening when its first session was held.

H.E. Trimble is the first city clerk of Wapato and J.F. Barnes is the first to act as city marshal. A. V. Kellogg was named police judge and L.O. Meigs was retained as attorney for the new city. No other attorneys live in town.

Numerous ordinances are being arranged and Wapato will have a full equipment of city officials and city laws within a few days-
The Yakima Herald, Sept. 30, 1908

Wapato, July 16, 1909- At a meeting of the council last evening the preliminary sketch for the new city hall submitted by W.E. Smith of North Yakima was accepted.

Plans and specifications will be prepared and bids called for as quickly as possible so that actual construction may begin within a few weeks.

The building will be one of the prettiest in the city. It will contain a council chamber, mayor's clerk's and marshal's office, jail and fire department besides a fire proof vault, steel cells, toilets and allways.

The council accepted the resignation of A.G. Kellogg as police judge justice. William Verran was appointed by Mayor Douglas and confirmed.

Wapato's first community fair arranged and sponsored by the Ashue grange proved so successful that when it was closed Saturday evening it was announced that the fair would be an annual event.

Grangers will begin work to prepare for next year's exhibition and have the satisfaction of closing their first exhibition without sign of a deficit.

Following the dancing and fiddlers' contest that were featured Saturday evening the fair exhibits were auctioned off. George Vann, who has proved his fiddling skill on many previous occasions, won first as fiddler with C.J. Field second.

In the afternoon there was a baby clinic with Dr. H.R. Skinner on hand to advise mothers on care of babies. Three youngsters, Carroll Marie Williams, Thomas Francis Wattle and Carolyn Fern Ryckman were classified as practically perfect physically. Yakima Republic, October 19, 1925.

Fire Monday evening totally destroyed a portion of the business section of Wapato, causing property loss of between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

The fire was caused by a woman dropping a match in a coal oil lamp she had dropped on the floor in a room on the Cottage hotel.

Buildings destroyed and losses are:

Hub Mercantile warehouse-building \$1,000; stock \$8,000; insurance \$2240.

Pacific States Telephone Co. office \$500; fully covered.

Cottage hotel building and furniture, \$2,2250, partially covered.

W.D. Morrison saloon, building and stock \$2,280.

Curry and Burns, blacksmith shop, building and tools \$2,000.

The town has inadequate fire protection and depends upon the efforts of a "bucket brigade." The firemen could do nothing against the flames in the burning buildings and worked to save the nearby property. Every house room in the danger zone was covered with wet blankets. Twenty men were appointed to patrol the town Monday night as a protection against flying embers and sparks from the ruins starting another blaze.

A call was telegraphed to Yakima for help. The fire engine was loaded on a flat car and ready to start when advices were received that the flames had burned out-- The Yakima Herald, May 19, 1909.

Wapato, Nov. "here is one thing particularly noticeable in regard to "apato which clearly distinguishes it from many other cities and towns of the west and that is that a person need not have arrived and been a resident since before the flood in order to be classed as a pioneer or old-timer.

It is believed that Sterling Smith is the only one now living here who arrived before the town and that was only ten years ago. And he has watched it grow. He and his brothers, S.D. and D.C. now conduct a meatmarket in a frame building on "apato avenue, one of the first places of business in town. From 1902 1903 when Alex E. McCredy started on the first mercantile establishment until 1906 when the townsite was laid out and throw upon the market, September 29, the growth of Wapato was like unto the movement of a canal boat going up stream. Then the boom started and got under good heavway by January 1, 1908, since which time it has been accelerated by the efforts of of those already on the ground and the arrival of outside blood.

"ith these statistics in mind it may be stated that if a person has been a resident of the town since before January 1, 1908, he is entitled to be classed as a pioneer together with all that honors that go with the name.

The first ditch to supply water to the land close to Wapato on the west and north bearing to the south nearly 20 miles from where it takes from the Yakima river a short distance below Union gap is what is known as the Indian ditch. The first \$17,000 spent in its construction was obtained by the Indians from their sale of their fishery rights on the Columbia. That ditch is less than two miles west of the town and has done much to demonstrate the value of the land for fruit and vegetables and other purposes.

Running parallel to the Indian ditch are laterals A, B and C of the proposed big ditch to be constructed by the United States government known as the Wapato project.

All hands and the cook are anxiously awaiting the commencement and completion of this latter work for it means much to those already on the ground floor as well as those who will ultimately come to take advantage of the wonderful possibilities.

One of the industries of the town in which every person takes a pardonable personal pride is the nursery of Jim Kelly which almost adjoins the townsite on the southeast. Mr. Kelly has developed a nursery of considerable magnitude, the payroll from which gradually assists in making time good. It employs quite a force of men all the year around, in the different departments, office work, shipping, growing, grafting, budding, etc.

The quality of the output of the nursery is first class proving that here are found the combination of land, water and sunshine that will produce fruit in its most perfect form. Mr. Kelly's exhibit at the state fair last September was a good advertisement for the entire Yakima valley, for Wapato and for Mr. Kelly.

Like its sister cities of the Yakima valley Wapato has a Commercial club. This organization has been the means of starting and finishing a number of commendable enterprises for the upbuilding of the town in population and business. Just at the present time the Wapato Commercial club seems to be inclined to rest upon its laurels but there is too much work for it to do for it long to remain in its present somnolent condition. The officers of the club are as follows:

E.F. Carver, president; B. Schmidt, vice president; A. Devries^r

treasurer; William Verran, secretary; Alex E. McCredy, Dr. C.R. Duncan, B.A. Banister and W.N. Luby, trustees.

Among the many events of importance to Wapato in the year 1906 was the founding of the Independent by Charles M. Schrader, the first number being issued March 23.

It later passed into the hands of the Wapato Development company from whom it was purchased in 1909 by William Verran, a graduate of the Yakima Morning Herald and other good newspaper offices.

June 16, 1909 was the date of Mr. Verran's first issue and from that date to the present he has been upholding the merits of the town and vicinity with fidelity, appearing on time once per week. Mr. Verran is assisted in the office by his son, Will, who is rapidly developing into a newspaper man. The Independent is planning for a monster special edition to be issued December 15, which will contain much news and information and will be of immense benefit to those who have been contemplated taking advantage of the possibilities of the reservation. The Independent is well equipped for a country office having a cylinder press, a job press, news and job type, impressing stones, etc. The office is lighted by electricity and the presses are driven by the same force power being supplied by the Pacific Power and Light company.

The public schools of Wapato are different from those of any other district in the county and are the pride of the town.

The main school building of the district is located in Wapato and there are five other school buildings outside the town. The Wapato building is of brick, three stories high, known as the high school building erected at a cost of \$28,000.

It occupied a full block between Yakima and Wasco avenues.

In addition to ~~One~~^{One} ~~Washed~~^{Washed} A.C. Kellogg, superintendent of the district, nine teachers are employed here, two in the high school, seven in the grades as follows:

S.W. Ness, principal; Sadie M. Norris, Eva M. Dove, Gladys Peairs, Jessie M. Cobb, Dale Dustin, Blanche Rodman, Nina E. Irish, L.E. Marks, the last named having charge of the manual training department. It is the intention next year to establish a domestic science department and to fit ~~up~~^{up} a well equipped gymnasium.

The names of the outlying districts and of the teachers there employed are as follows:

Barker, where there is a brick school house--Hard Penning, principal; Mattie Ortley.

Guyette-Nellie Kentschler.

Thompson-L.M. Rowe, principal; Ado L. Rowe, assistant.

Bradshaw-Ella Mayer.

Lawrence-Ida F. Poessel.

The value of the real ~~estate~~^{estate} in the Wapato district is approximately \$1,450,000, B.A. Bannister is clerk of the district and it is largely to his credit that the district had a cash balance of nearly \$4,000 at the close of the last fiscal school year. During the coming year it is the intention ~~to~~^{to} to replace the buildings at Bradshaw and Lawrence with new ones suitable to changed condition. It will also be necessary, probably, to build a new one in addition to those already in use, at some point yet to be selected.

At the Thompson school there is a cottage for the teacher. That is the only school in the county where such an innovation has been introduced. There is no need for wonder that Wapato is

proud of her schools.

Wapato--There were imported into the United States during the year 1909 between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 bushels of potatoes. The value thereof was approximately \$5,000,000 while the duty paid to get the vegetable into the country mounted to more than \$1,000,000. The people of Wapato are not greatly given to bragging but it might not be out of place for a newspaper correspondent to give them a little boost in this connection.

There are 30,000 acres of reservation land tributary to Wapato and ~~the land is so rich~~ that could more than raise the quantity of potatoes imported annually and keep the money at home.

These figures may look large but large figures must be used when talking of the productiveness of reservation lands.

During the busy season for the fall shipments of melons, fruit, cantaloupes, alfalfa and farm products generally there were shipped from this station on the Northern Pacific an average of more than ten cars daily. The lively part of the alfalfa shipment is about to commence. The baling of the alfalfa crop is a work of no small magnitude.

There are three religious organizations here, each worshipping in its own church edifice. They are as follows:

Catholic, Presbyterian, Christian.

The Christian church will seat 150 while those of the other two denominations will each seat about 250. Thus is the religious side of the town keeping pace with the more prosaic and commercial.

A city hall of brick, two stories high, erected in 1910 at an expense of \$6,000, looms up with considerable grandeur at the corner of Simcoe avenue and Third street.

On the second floor are the council room, office of the town clerk, gymnasium for the firemen and a ~~cell~~ vault in which is kept books papers etc. of value. On the ground floor are two cells for the accommodation of town prisoners and rooms for the housing of the fire department. The latter consists of hose, a Watrous pump and two hose carts.

The city hall and fire apparatus are of such size and value as to do away with much more expense along the line for several years.

The one thing in which the residents of this town pin their faith is the productiveness of the surrounding land. Much of this land is owned and farmed by Indians, much of it is leased to and farmed by whites and some of it has been purchased by the whites.

Every person interested in Wapato has his eye fixed on the time when the work on the Wapato irrigation project of the U.S. government will be commenced and hurried to completion.

The outlook now is that this work will be begun some time during the coming year. The commencement of the work will mark another epoch in the building up of the town, the climax of which can scarcely be prophesized with anything like reasonable certainty. This much is sure, that when water has been turned on in the big ditchlands will have a much greater and more certain value than at present and that thousands of acres will contribute bountiful crops nearly all of which will use Wapato as a gateway to the markets of the Northwest and Alaska and after the completion of the Panama canal, to the markets of the world.

The officers of the Wapato election appeared before the county commissioners today and filed with that board the returns of their election.

The election figures were given in Sunday's edition of the Herald and need not be repeated here. The almost unanimously voted town voted for incorporation by an almost unanimous vote and elected Mayor Douglas and the rest of the town ticket in the same manner.

Wapato now has a population of nearly 400 and enjoys the distinction of being the youngest as well as one of the most prosperous cities in the state--Yakima Herald, Sept. 2, 1908.

Wapato was incorporated by the voters of that town Saturday by a vote of 61 in favor and 6 again.

By an even larger vote J.F. Douglas of the Hub Mercantile company was elected as the first mayor of the place. When the ballots were counted it was found that 75 had voted and of this 72 had favored Douglass. (copy SS and S)

Eugene Cristler was nominated for treasurer by 70 votes and Claude Faulds who ran on the sticker plan getting only one vote. The members of the council were elected by votes of 71 and 72 as follows:

A.J. Rober (copy) 72; J.K. Kline 71; W.M. Luby 72;
A.C. Barnes 72; A.C. Mess 71--The Yakima Herald, Sept. 2,
1908.

Wapato

W.B. Kurtz of Wapato was at the Hotel Yakima last evening. He is a recent arrival in the new town from Seattle but is formerly of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mr. Kurtz is putting in the second drug store at Wapato expecting to open for business in a few days as soon as his stock of goods arrives. .

Among the new buildings contemplated is a club house. The storm damage around Wapato aside from the raising of a few roofs and the blowing over of a blacksmith shop was not serious--The Yakima Herald, March 14, 1906.

At least five warehouses are in the course of construction in Wapato at the present time and when completed will aid materially in the handling of hay and other produce from this vicinity.

The Wapato produce company has begun erection of a warehouse for hay and W.W. Robinson has let the contract for a warehouse also. Lumber for two other structures is now on the ground and a warehouse is underway at Parker Junction near here--Wapato Independent, August 1907.

Sixty-four citizens of Wapato presented a petition to the board of county commissioners for the right to incorporate the town and consideration of the question was set for Friday morning at 10 o'clock when all in favor and all opposed to the plan will be given an opportunity to tell their views to the officials.

C.S. Bilger heads the petition and the signers include nearly all leading residents of Wapato. Under such conditions it is not unlikely that the request will be granted and that Wapato will become an incorporated town in the near future --The Yakima Herald, August 5, 1908.