

J.J. Wiley of Antanum who was in the city today brings the glad news that the new depot of the Yakima valley transportation company at that place was completed Friday and thrown open to the public.

A new pool room and cigar store was also opened yesterday and other buildings are in prospect--Yakima "epublic, Nov. 4, 1910.

The Ahtanum is to have another city if the plans of the Ahtanum Improvement company meet with success.

The name, which is given on the plat filed with the county auditor this morning will be Ahtanum City. Officers of the company promoting the scheme are optimists concerning the future of the new city.

Ahtanum City will be located seven miles due west of Yakima City on a spur of the Yakima Valley Transportation company and is in the heart of the fruit district.

Though the land has not been put on the market at the present time a number of lots have been sold and several buildings are under construction. A store is now open and several more are expected to be built in a short time. The land company is constructing a two-story fruit warehouse to handle the crops of the district.

The offices of the company are Ernest Woodcock, president; Guy O. Schumate, secretary and Roy D. Bailey, treasurer--  
Yakima Republic, Nov. 18, 1910.

Henry Sedge, forest ranger of the Rainier reserve was in the city last week. Ranger Sedge is the only official retained on the east side of the reserve during the winter.

His duties are to keep on the move and stop all timber depredations upon the reserve forest. His headquarters are established at the "old Conrad mill" at the head of Ahtanum creek. Mr. Sedge is now on his fourth year as forest ranger and is well acquainted with the Rainier reserve, its mountains, rivers, valleys and trails--Yakima Herald, Dec. 16, 1902.



The Wide Hollow extension of the Antanum line of the Valley transportation co. is being pushed on still further into the valley.

A gang of men is now at work smoothing up the grade which was made some time ago, and preparing it for the ties and rails. As soon as Superintendent Kenly receives steel which has been ordered, about three quarters of a mile of track will be laid extending the line to the camp of the government reclamation service.

Although there are no other people at present in that part of the valley, it is probable that with the opening of the Tieton it will be quickly settled and the question of further extension of the line depends upon the number of people-Yakima Republic, Dec. 16, 1910.

Jasper Knox, pioneer of the Ahtanum section took the stand on Wednesday to tell of early days of the community in connection with the Ahtanum water right adjudication hearing going on in the federal building.

Knox said he was in the district in 1880 and that he helped build several of the early ditches.

"I remember the Plainer ditch being constructed early in 1880 . I worked on the Johncox ditch in 1882 and on the Saw-Knox ditch in 1882. I was but a boy then," Knox recalled this afternoon.

During the hearing it was been brought out that the first district water right was secured by the Bishop of Nisqually, who established the old Ahtanum mission in 1847. These rights are held in trust by Bishop O'Dea of Seattle--Yakima Republic, January 10, 1924.



Franchise for the construction and operation of a telephone system was granted to the Ahtanun-Wiley City Telephone company by the county commissioners this morning after representatives of the concern had agreed to observe property rights and not interfere with shade trees along the route of the new line.

Meeting of stockholders in the new concern will be called in the near future and work will be rushed. The old line now has 20 patrons and the 114 persons who have signed up for the new service are without telephone service. But eight people attended the hearing this morning, a continuation from the one called yesterday morning.

C. Woodhouse, owner of the Wiley City telephone company was present this morning. He had nothing to say except to make a statement clarifying his attitude in regard to 24-hour service. He is perfectly willing to give such service, he said. The Yakima Republic, May 11, 1926

Prof. N.P. Hull of Valparaiso, Indiana, has been secured as principal of the Ahtnum academy for the ensuing year. Mrs. Stair has been retained as preceptress and teacher and will have charge of the girls in the institution.

Aid toward running the academy for the year has been given in the amount of \$500 by the Congregational Education society upon condition that \$200 be subscribed in the vicinity. This will place the school upon a self-supporting basis for the year. School will open on September 19.



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situation dangerous to hurrying pedestrians. August 31, 1893.

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A man named Locke who went up the Ahtanum the other day to pick hops received a charge of bird shot in the legs while helping himself to corn in a field opposite the Carpenter place. He is now at the hospital in this city. It seems that the fellow had no money and nothing to eat and was endeavoring to live on corn till he could earn a dollar or so. 9-14-93

Postmaster Andy Chambers of Ahtanum has received a dispatch from the postoffice department notifying him that the mail service for Ahtamum and Tampico postoffices has been increased to two trips per week. 4-30-91



F.T. Parker has associated himself with Wilbur Fisk, a practical broommaker and will plant ten acres on the Ahtanum to broom corn and ten acres will be devoted to the growing of garden seeds.

The seeds will be sold to seedsmen who prefer those of vigorous western growth while the broom corn will be manufactured into brooms by Mr. Fisk. 1-14-92

Christmas on the Ahtanum in the 80's and Christmas today illustrate the contrast between the old West and the new.

Telephones, good roads and many neighbors have softened hardships that were the lot of the pioneers and made the country no more isolated than the rural districts of the cornbelt states.

Christmas to those hardy homemakers lacked the trimmings of today but at best was a bright spot in a year of toil.

Attorney John H. Lynch well remembers those early Yuletides celebrated in the Anglo-Saxon outposts of the sagebrush.

"My first Christmas in the Yakima country was in 1878 when I was three years old," Mr. Lynch related. "Father, mother, my four sisters and three brothers and I arrived from the Wahkiakum country in the spring of that year. We traveled by Indian dugouts down the Cowlitz to Portland by boat from there up the Columbia to the Dalles and then overland in a mule drawn covered wagon through Goldendale along the canyon road past Fort Simcoe and to Old Town or Yakima City as it was called. Father had been over the previous year to pick a homestead and we moved on to the Ahtanum near the Catholic mission. Father was an expert carpenter. He wanted to put up a lumber house with the aid of a few neighbors he built a primitive sawmill between Lampico and Soda Springs. We had a four-room house, the first frame dwelling in the community.

"Our Christmases were pretty much alike from year to year. If there was little or no snow father would get time from his work and he and my oldest brother would go up in the hills for an evergreen tree, usually a pine. But some years I remember we couldn't have a green tree so we contented ourselves with a scrub oak or cottonwood sapling.

Tallow candles and popcorn strings were the chief decorations on the tree.

"Turkeys were rare but we had plenty of wild game to draw upon for our Christmas dinner. Prairie chickens were plentiful, often 250 to 300



In a flock and native grouse were everywhere. Jackrabbits and cotton-tails hid behind every sage brush, it seemed.

"Mother always made currant and raisin loaves and fruitcakes and we children pulled taffy. That and hard candies brought in small kegs from The Dalles were the only candy we had. Chocolates were unknown.

"Christmas Eve we never failed to hang our stockings. Toys, delight of boys and girls today were scarce, our gifts being articles for use rather than pleasure.

"Christmas shopping as we do it now was impossible. We couldn't go to town a week or two in advance and buy our things. Practically everything had to be purchased at The Dalles. The store at Old Town had a few articles but prices were too high so the ranchers made it a point to lay in their Christmas supply at The Dalles when they took their grain and hops to market in the fall.

"Christmas Eve there was always a dance either at our place or at a neighbor's. Everybody in the community came. Square dances, the Virginia reel, polka and waltz were the only kind we knew. Accordions and fiddles wielded to the accompaniment of stamping feet provided the oldtime 'jazz'."

"Midnight mass at the mission was attended by everybody, regardless of creed. Many converted Indians mingled with the whites and they had excellent voices."

Whisky was a favorite article of Christmas cheer among some of the pioneers, being hauled from The Dalles to as far north as Ellensburg and Kittitas, Lynch admits. Seldom did a consignment conveyed by paid freighter arrive intact. My. Lynch said, as the teamsters had no scruples over tapping the barrels whenever in need of liquid refreshments.

In order to conceal their thievery they would pry up a stave and bore a small hole into the barrel, drawing off whatever they wanted



More than twenty years ago Dr. G.H. Atkinson, superintendent of Congregational work in Washington and Oregon and a well known pioneer urged the establishment of a Christian school in the Yakima region and suggested the Ahtanum valley as the most suitable location.

His plans were warmly seconded by Deacon Elisha S. Ranner and Deacon Fern B. Woodcock. Only the last named gentleman lived to see the realization of the long cherished plan.

In the fall of 1899 the Yakima association of the Congregational churches took up the matter and appointed a committee to receive offers of money and land for an academy to be located within the bounds of the association at the point giving the most encouragement. Ellensburg, North Yakima and Ahtanum made offers for this institution.

These offers were presented at the meeting of the association in the spring of 1890 copy . That of Ahtanum was most encouraging. Sixty acres of good land was offered by Fern B. Woodcock, and wife and a subscription in money and labor amounting to about three thousand dollars accompanied the offer of land. Also the strong moral support of the community was pledged to it.

The association voted its hearty approval of the proposition and approved its location in the Ahtanum valley. The following board of trustees was incorporated in 1890: hon R.H. Nichols, president; Rev. S.H. Cheadle, secretary; Fern B. Woodcock, treasurer; Rev. Samuel Green, Rev. Frank T. McCaughy, Hon D.W. Stair, John Cowan, Capt. J.H. Thomas and Dan W. Nelson.

In the carrying out of their trust the Ahtanum Academy was completed and opened for school in September, 1892. In January, 1897 the chief founder, Deacon Fern B. Woodcock



was taken to his last rest and in April of the same year the trustees voted to commemorate his name by changing the corporate name of Ahtanum Academy to that of "Woodcock Academy" which it now bears. The Yakima Herald, Sept. 23, 1903.

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## Ahtanum academy

Board of trustees, Rev. S.<sup>W</sup>. Cheadle, president, North Yakima; Rev. F. McConnaughy, secretary, Ahtanum; Benn B. Woodcock, treasurer, Ahtanum; R.K. Nichols, North Yakima; Dan Nelson, Natcheez; John Cowan, Wenas; D.W. Stair, Ahtanum; John Cleman, Wenas; Rev. Samuel Greene, Seattle.

Instructors; W.M. Heiney, principal; Mrs. Ella Stair, assistant principal; Mrs. Lillian Heiney, instructor in music; F. McConaughy, instructor in Greek.

Pupils: Second year: May F. Crosno, Ollie Crosno and Ethlyn Parker; Third year: Eldridge Crosno, Ella F. Chambers, Harley Hill, Charles Marks, Anna M. Stanton, Anna Wiley.

Preparatory: Eli Fletcher, Myrtle Gleed, James Gleed, Norman Henderson, John Henderson, Blanche Heron, George Hesse, Mary Hesse, Mary Blondded Marsh, Maud Marsh, Ralph Ferrell, Eba McGinness, Rosa McGinness, Walter McLean, Ollie Parker, Lizzie Stuart, William Stuart, Annie Stanton, Matthias Stanton, Clarenc Stair, Ga-- Stabler, Lloyd Siverly, Minnie Smith, Her Ward, Frank Woolsey and Drayton Walsh.

Historical sketch by Rev. S.H. Cheadle:

Some twenty years ago Rev. G.H. Atkinson, superinendent of Congregational work in Washington and Oregon began to agitate the questin of starting an industrial school in the Yakima region and suggested that the Ahtanum valley was the place for it.

He referred to thi scheme everytime he visited the Congregational churches in these valleys and urged the brethreh to plan for it and but the country was not readyfor it and money was not here to equip and run such an institution



Dr. Atkinson died without seeing the realization of his hopes.

But in the autumn of 1889 the Yakima association of Congregational churches took up the matter and appointed a committee to receive offers of money and land for an academy to be located within the boundaries of the association, at the point giving themost encouragement.

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The following board of trustees was secure and in orporated in July, 1890 : Hon . R.K, Nichols, president; Rev. S.H . Cheadle, secretary; Fenn B. Woodcock, treasurer; Rev. Samuel Green, Rev. Frank T. Mc'onaughy, Hon D.W. Stair, John Cowan, Capt. J.H. Thomas and Ben W. Nelson, trustees.

Various plans for starting the institution were discussed but the stringent financial condition of the country caused all action to be postponed until the next season.

In the spring of 1891 the subscription list was renewed and extended and rreparations mde for beginning the building.

The corner stone wa laid in August of that year and a solid stone foundation was completed. Mr. John A. Williams was engaged to superintend the construction of the building and plans were adopted for a three-story building, 36 by 56 feet and a story and a half wing, 24 by 32 feet. This building was completed in September, 1892, and furnished re dy for use at a cost of \$8,000.



## Ahtanum

On Monday last at 10 o'clock a.m. about fifty visitors and students assembled at the Ahtanum academy for the opening exercises.

Rev. S.H. Cheadle, president of the board of trustees, presided and conducted the devotional exercises after which he congratulated the people of the valley upon the opening of such an institution of learning in their midst and the young people upon the opportunity given them for educational training.

Among the guests present were Rev. and Mrs. Elkanah Walker, missionaries from Foochow, China. Mr. Waker was born near Spokane in 1844 while his father, Rev. Cushing Ellis was conducting missionary work among the Spokane Indians.

He gave some interesting reminiscences concerning the origin of Lualatin academy, now Pacific university, at Forest Grove, Arizona and of the founding of Whitman seminary, now Whitman college at Walla Walla by Rev. Dr. Ellis. Seeing the outcome of these two feeble academies he had high hopes of what Ahtanum academy might become.

Rev. F. McConaughy, pastor of the Ahtanum church and secretary of the trustees of the academy spoke of the struggle in founding the school and of the burden borne by those who had the work in hand.

Hon D.W. Stair, a member of the board of trustees, spoke of the early beginning of Yale and Harvard among the New England colonists and of the fact that the leaders of this enterprise were New England people.

Prof. Heiney, the principal, spoke of the work in hand and the need of perserving work on the part of the students. Mrs. Stair, the assistant principal, spoke of her joy in seeing such an institution opened in the community and of the pride that all ought to feel in it.



Opportunities were when given for enrollment of students. Twenty-four came forward and placed their names upon the list. These, with others not able to be present at the opening, will make about forty for the first term.

The new dining room was then christened by the serving of an excellent dinner, prepared and presided over by Mrs. McLean, the matron and her assistants. After dinner Prof. Heiney met the newly enrolled students to arrange classes and studies.

Mrs. Heiney was on hand to make arrangements for studies in music.

Thus opened most auspiciously the first institution for higher education in Yakima county. It is the purpose of the trustees and faculty to make it an institution worthy of the patronage and support of the people of these valleys. If it receives proper financial support, it will become a growing educational force, well and favorably known throughout this region--S.H. Cheadle--Yakima Herald, September 29, 1892.

The dedication exercises of Ahtanum academy building will take place Wednesday October 19 at 2 p.m. There will be addresses by Superintendents Bailey and Greene and others--Yakima Herald, October 13, 1892.

The Yakima Congregational association will meet with the Ahtanum church Tuesday and Wednesday, October 19 and 20. All are invited to attend--Yakima Herald, October 13, 1892.