



ELLENSBURG
WASHINGTON

facts

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
WRITE:
ELLENSBURG CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON
98926

THE COUNTY AND MARKET AREA

Ellensburg, the hub of the fertile Kittitas Valley, is near three other major markets including the vast Columbia Basin, the Yakima Valley, and the Wenatchee and Okanogan Valley. Kittitas Valley is 34 miles long from east to west, and is 13 miles wide. Ellensburg, the county seat of Kittitas County, is centered on the 112,000 irrigated acres whose pastures, grain, and hay help produce beef and dairy cattle, the mainstays of area agriculture. Extensive forests provide another vital industry—not only logging but also the manufacture of lumber and its by-products. The fast-growing Central Washington State College is the largest payroll in Ellensburg.

LOCATION

The city is located at the crossroads of the state. It is 108 miles east of Seattle, 179 miles west of Spokane, and 220 miles northeast of Portland, Oregon. Ellensburg is the junction of Interstate Highways 90 and 82, and is 200 miles south of the Canadian boundary. Elevation is 1,597 feet.

HISTORY

The first permanent settlers came in 1867 and by 1870 the first store, "Robbers' Roost," was built by Jack Splawn and Ben Burch. The town was called "Robbers' Roost" until John Shoudy bought out the store, platted the townsite, and named it for his wife, Ellen. In 1887, the Northern Pacific Railroad built through to the Puget Sound and the population grew. A July Fourth fire in 1889 destroyed the business district and 200 homes, but the community rebounded rapidly to become the center of this cattle producing area.

CLIMATE

Average mean temperature covering a period of 30 years: January, 24.6 degrees above; February, 31.0; March, 39.8; April, 48.1; May, 56.0; June, 61.7; July, 68.9; August, 67.7; September, 59.9; October, 48.9; November, 36.0; December, 29.8. Temperatures below zero or above 100 degrees occur rather infrequently. The warmest weather in summer is usually broken with marine air from the ocean. And although there is cloudiness and fog in winter, there is little snow and wind.

POPULATION

Within Ellensburg the population is 10,240. The county population in 1960 was 20,467. Census projections indicate by 1975 that population will reach 15,000 in Ellensburg with the county population at 25,000.

GOVERNMENT

Council-Manager government with seven councilmen, one of whom is elected Mayor. The City has a zoning ordinance and a building code.

TAX RATE

Real and personal property each is assessed at 25 per cent of real value. Total millage in the city is 59.914 and in the industrial fringe area is 63.90. Assessed city valuation is \$8,004,434.00. General bond indebtedness is \$116,000.00, and revenue bond indebtedness is \$1,441,000.00.

RECREATION

The area abounds with great recreational activity. Hunting, fishing, skiing, camping, boating, and picnicking opportunities are abundant from the surrounding mountains with inviting lakes to the sage brush vistas of the mighty Columbia River. The usual facilities for golf, bowling, tennis and theatres are available. The city recreation program and active college and public school programs add diversity. The Ellensburg Rodeo, begun in 1923, is an "extra treat" each year on Labor Day Weekend. The Ginkgo Petrified Forest (east of the city), the famous Ellensburg Blue Agate (the rockhounds' favorite), modern ski areas, abandoned gold mines, the Yakima River (one of the six best trout streams in the U.S.) all are within minutes of Ellensburg.

SCHOOLS

Four public, one Catholic and one Seventh Day Adventist elementary schools, a junior high school and a high school accommodate more than 2,900 students. Ellensburg enjoys a spectacularly high percentage of students who go on to higher education. Minimum teachers' certification requirements are the B.A. degree. Vocational training in the high school includes agriculture, wood, metal and machinery shops, commercial and business training. The night school program offers courses quarterly to meet the interest and requirements of the community.

LIBRARIES

The public library, near downtown, has one librarian and three assistants and 27,000 volumes. Local circulation is 94,220 books annually with 2,794 registered borrowers. Central Washington State College library (with more than 100,000 volumes) offers limited service to non-college personnel.

COLLEGE

Central Washington State College, enrollment more than 4,700 students, is a complete state college offering B.A., B.A. in Education, M.Ed., M.A. and M.S. degrees. The college faculty of more than 250 is drawn from throughout the United States and abroad. It is a residence college with 50 per cent of its students living on campus.

NEWS MEDIA

One daily newspaper (evening—Monday through Friday) and one radio station (1240 KC, 1,000 watts daytime, 250 nighttime, ABC) serves the community. Television reception from two stations in Yakima and three Seattle channels is available.

CIVIC CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Numerous organizations exist within the city and work in behalf of community welfare, culture, and progress. Among them are the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Federated Women's Clubs, the Community Concert Association, Rodeo Board, Ellensburg Development Corporation, and many others including the College around which the cultural activities are centered.

REGISTERED VOTERS

The number of registered voters is 4,610 in the city and 6,281 in the county.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Many fraternal, benevolent, and patriotic organizations are represented in Ellensburg. Among the groups with their own meeting places are the Masonic Order, the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, the Moose, the American Legion, the Eagles, as well as social clubs.

CHURCHES

Twenty-six church organizations represent all major denominations in Ellensburg. Many are located in modern, beautiful edifices.



PARKS

National forests, two state parks, six city parks, and Rotary Picnic Park provide playgrounds and picnic areas for residents, tourists, and visitors. Barbecue pits and modern facilities are maintained at most. A large municipal out-door heated swimming pool, wading pool, and baseball and softball diamonds are widely used. Forest camp grounds are located north and west of Ellensburg. Ginkgo Petrified Forest and Museum is 25 miles east of Ellensburg.

HOSPITAL

One modern, new community hospital with 50 beds; two medical clinics; eight physicians and surgeons; eight dentists.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A thirteen-man force with an efficient record operates from a central police station with three radio dispatched patrol cars. A fifteen-man auxiliary force is also maintained.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Ellensburg Fire Department has 11 full-time employees and 18 volunteer firemen equipped with four trucks. The county maintains fire districts with volunteer fire fighters. Fire classification in the city is 4, and 8 in the industrial fringe.

WATER SUPPLY

Water service is provided by the City of Ellensburg from source wells with temperatures 44 degrees maximum, and 40 degrees minimum. Storage capacity is 4.6 million gallons with a pumping capacity of 7 million gallons per day. Average demand is 2.7 million gallons. Sewage service is also provided by the city.

ELECTRICITY AND GAS

The City of Ellensburg provides both natural gas and electricity at low costs. Puget Sound Power & Light Company and Public Utility District No. 1 provide low cost electrical service beyond the city limits. A local independent telephone company serves the community.

RETAIL SALES

1958 — \$17,298,000.00. 1963 — \$23,481,000.00.
Increase of 35.8 per cent.



TRANSPORTATION

Ellensburg has complete rail service by one railway, and freight service only by a second. Five truck lines provide regular common carrier service, and complete airport services are available to include chartered service, but no scheduled passenger service. Closest commercial airport with passenger service is Yakima (36 miles south). Bus service is competent and barge transportation on the Columbia River is expected by 1970. Four-lane freeway to Seattle will be complete soon and construction of four-lane highway to Eastern Washington points will be complete by 1972.

INDUSTRIES

Ellensburg's largest single source of employment is offered by Central Washington State College and the public schools. Agriculture (beef, dairy, cash crops) and lumber share the predominant role of the economy with education. One large dairy products plant, three meat packing companies, a lumber corporation, a sand and gravel operation, and a food processing plant are the six largest manufacturing firms. Twenty-six manufacturing firms operate in the community.

BANKS, SAVINGS, LOANS

Two national banks and one savings and loan association. 1964 deposits — \$29,072,576.

BUILDING PERMITS

1960 — 288 permits — \$742,588.00
1961 — 346 permits — \$1,015,066.00
1962 — 323 permits — \$893,963.00
1963 — 272 permits — \$656,572.00
1964 — 290 permits — \$2,190,376.00

AGRICULTURE

Kittitas Valley agricultural production has grown tremendously with the development of irrigation. Irrigation in the county started about 1870. There are several private canals. Kittitas Division of Yakima Reclamation Project delivered first water in 1933; 72,000 acres in federal project. Total irrigated farm lands — 112,000 acres; total acreage in farms — 580,000; 122,000 acres in crops. Principal crops — alfalfa, Timothy and grass hay, grains, sweet corn, sugar beets, and potatoes. 80,000 to 100,000 head of beef cattle; 8,000 sheep; 4,500 head of producing dairy cows.