

Toppenish--Library

Toppenish, Nov. 19-- Members of th Toppenish C_ommercial clu b this noon leanned of the growth of the T_oppenish library from Mrs. J.L. Goodrich, who has been one of the leading spirits in the library work since it was first installed. She spoke at the weekly meeting of the club in the Toppenish hotel.

When the city took over the library two ye_ers ago Mrs. Goodrich stated it contained but 900 books. Now it has over 3,000 and t e work is well systematized. A_ll the money appropriated by thecity for library purposes is used for the prchase of books and additional funds for maintenance comes from contributions. The work of the librarian and her assistants is done on a volunteer basis and the library served a great number of people--The Yakima Daily Republic, N_ov. 20, 1924.

Toppenish

Commercial club

Toppenish now has its commercial club formally established, the articles of incorporation having been filed with the county auditor Friday. There is no capital stock. The official title is "Toppenish Commercial club" and the objects are to disseminate knowledge to do publicity work in behalf of Toppenish and the neighboring county and to meet as a social club, have a library, reading rooms etc.

The incorporators of the club are J.G. Hedges, F.A. Wiggins, Sam T. Keifer, J.D. Cornett, L.Y. Coleman, L.J. Goodrich, W.C. Moore, A.W. McDonald, C.W. Hall, Moscoe Maddox, Otto Lubbe, F.A. Hatfield, Leo Talbott, Fran Snipes, William M. McGovern, F.A. Williams, G.G. Lee--
The Yakima Herald, march 31, 1909.

Toppenish

The board of commissioners Monday granted the petition from Toppenish citizens asking that the town be converted into a municipal corporation and consequently an election will be held April 19.

The board will canvas the vote April 22 and the officers will take their positions May 1.

The election will be under the new primary law and the town will have the distinction of being the first one to elect original officers under that law.

Already there are two men named as candidates for mayor, A. W. McDonald, president of the Washington Nursery company and Mr. Talbot, station agent for the Northern Pacific....The Yakima Herald, Wednesday, April 3, 1907.

Rotary club members of Toppenish learned something of the early history of Toppenish today when George Stephenson, secretary of the Yakima Valley Historical Society spoke at the noon meeting.

Barbed wire fences surrounded the territory which now is the town's business area and cattle and horses grazed where buildings stand when some of the residents who still live here first settled in Toppenish, Stephenson said.

Mrs. N.H. Lillie built the first store in Toppenish in 1888 and it burned the next year. She constructed another building for a store but it was used for the first schoolhouse. George Harvey of Billah became interested in the Toppenish district about that time and built a store which he operated for several years and then sold out to J.B. George.

Frank Williams who played an important part in the early history of Toppenish came here in 1898 and established the old Toppenish Trading Co. The town, which was incorporated in 1907 developed as was expected of its founders. Stephenson traced the history of the valley from the time Ben Snipes and Henry Allen, early cattlemen, came to the valley in 1864.

Around the Parker district much of the early history of the valley occurred. The first store building there was constructed in 1867 by Egbert French--Yakima Herald June 22, 1937.

1925?
Feb.

George Allen was installed last night as president of the Toppenish Commercial club. He is publisher of the Toppenish weeklies. The installation was at the club's annual stock raising banquet at the Christian church and attended by 150 members.

Mr. Allen receives the gavel wielded during the year from Paul Kirker who was highly praised for his efficient leadership. R.M. Graham was seated as vice president. G.S. Trimble as treasurer and George Fields and C.J. Atwood as trustees.

Toppenish

Toppenish, July 6-~~00~~th The Toppenish at midnight Saturday closed its most successful Fourth of July celebration which had an attendance of about 7,000 including a number from all parts of the valley.

The celebration was handled by the American Legion post as has been the custom in other years.

B.V. Dunn, 64, was awarded a prize as the oldest man to brave the crowd and drive in the parade while R.H. Evans with a family of 10 had the largest family. Murray Britton with a hayseed party won first for the best comic group and Mrs. Brady Layman and Mrs. Wallace Doran were winners in the competition for the prizes for the most beautiful car.

Numerous sports ~~00~~ events were held for youngsters. The winners being Floyd Bates, Paul Briethaupt, Raymond Booth, Gladys Brown, Evan Briethaupt, Mary Moore, Bill Jacks, Harry Dunn, Lucille Jamerson, Geneva Briethaupt, Mary German, Donald Randle, Lloyd Bates and Claude Humphries.

Only one bit of gloom came to the Toppenish celebrators. Wapato won the baseball game by a score of 12 to 4.

Yakima Republic, July 6, 1925.

Sanitarium

Toppenish, Aug. 26-Toppenish commercial club members at their meeting this noon voted in favor of asking the county commissioners to provide for the erection of a county tuberculosis sanitarium in their 1926 budget.

Mrs. Bethesda B. Buchanan, executive secretary of the Tuberculosis league and Mrs. Ruth Thornton field secretary presented the tuberculosis situation in the county and explained the need for the sanitarium. After their talks a resolution asking the commissioners to make the appropriation was quickly passed. The Yakima Daily Republic, August 26, 1925.

Toppenish

Toppenish, Oct---Had the possessor of Aladdin's wonderful lamp been a resident of this region and using his gift overtime working miracles he could scarcely have made a greater transformation than that which took place here within the past thirteen years.

When there were the Northern Pacific section house and one place of business, the Indian trading company store, in a frame building, now swallowed up by the Toppenish Trading company, a corporation with a capitalization of \$100,000 and magnificent home of brick.

At that time as nearly as may be estimated, the population was about six. Now it is more than 2,000.

Fifteen miles southeast from where the Yakima river debouches from the foothills ~~through~~ through Union Gap stands the city of Toppenish, destined in the not distant future to take its place as the metropolis of the Yakima valley between that point and where rolls the Oregon.

The greatest building period experienced by the city was undoubtedly that of three years ago, commencing January 1, 1909, although the Hotel Toppenish, quite a pretentious, was erected in 1907 and many other brick buildings constructed during that and the succeeding year. Not what it was but what it is and a few possibilities of the future shall be the principal topics here treated.

From sagebrush waste to hamlet, to village to town to a progressive city is the way the record reads.

It is the ~~record~~ record in which the people of Toppenish may justly take a pride. One year ago steps were taken for the installation of a sewer system and \$35,000 in bonds were voted as

a starter for the work. Though some technical flaw in the proceedings after the state of Washington had agreed to take the bonds, work at that time was not commenced.

Within the past thirty days \$50,000 bonds have been authorized to be issued and from statements of the city officials it is believed that work on the trunk line of the sewer will be commenced before January 15, 1912.

The city owns its own water system, the water being taken from a well 125 feet deep. Three pumps have been installed but they are not operated above one-third their capacity except during the irrigating season when the drainage upon them is the heaviest. The water supply is ample so expert engineers have reported to supply a city of 6,000 ~~wooden~~ with all the life-giving fluid necessary for all practical purposes.

The pumping plant was installed at a cost of \$9,000 while the water system as the whole stands the city an expense of about \$27,000.

Power and light are furnished by the Pacific Power & Light Co. operating under a franchise extended to the Reservation Electric Light company. The latter company has a franchise to furnish light and power to the city and the inhabitants thereof for a period of 50 years which is transferred to the former.

The year 1911 has been a tempestuous one in the government of the city. That does not mean that other years have not seen other tempests for they have, but the present year all these clashes ~~the city has been~~ have been particularly prolific, but during all these clashes the city has been getting the benefit of wise legislation.

Plans have been discussed for the grading of a considerable portion of Toppenish avenue, the main artery of trade, but the work has not been inaugurated. The improvements on the streets have been principally grading and graveling. The coming year will see a mile of paved avenue. Many blocks of concrete sidewalk have been laid and the city is well taken care of in that regard.

The city hall is a slightly two-story brick structure in public square at Toppenish avenue and Front street. On the first floor are the office of the police magistrate, the quarters where the city criminals are incarcerated and the equipment for the fire department. On the second floor are the council chamber, battle ground of many a hard fought parliamentary duel (almost personal at times) office of city clerk, etc.

Following are the names of those composing the city council together with the names of the other city officials:

Dr. H.M. Johnson, mayor; Messrs D.W. Berger, Z.Y. Coleman, L.B. Bryan, Fred Rowe, A.W. McDonald, D.S. Pape and J.W. Peterson, councilmen; W.H. Rassig, clerk; J.J. Hays, attorney; W.S. Doran, treasurer; D.R. Redman, engineer; J.J. Dawson, chief of police; E.H. Ferguson, police judge; Dr. J.J. Tilton, health officer; T.J. Tomlinson, water commissioner.

An efficient volunteer fire department, with equipment worth \$2,500 has Harry Hough as its chief and F.S. Rinehart as its secretary.

The rapid growth in population and the increased number of pupils of school age made a great change necessary in 1909.

At that time there was but one building, a frame structure. It was succeeded by two modern school buildings of concrete, each two stories in height and each worth approximately \$20,000. The Lincoln school building is on the east side of the city

while the Garfield building is on the west. To these two have been added during the present year a third, the McKinley building, in the northwestern part of the town for the accommodation of a region remote from two previously mentioned.

Notwithstanding that great increase in school buildings and rooms, it did not keep up with the demand. It became necessary to provide a suitable setting for high school. The sum of \$13,000 in bonds was recently voted and a fraction more than ten acres of ground in Olney addition was purchased. To it was taken the original frame school building which was remodelled and made comfortable as a home for the high school until permanent quarters have been provided. The grounds are sufficiently large to provide for a ~~baseball~~ baseball field encircled by a quarter-mile track, experimental garden tracts, tennis courts, park, with all accessories that mark a metropolitan high school--for be it known when completed in accordance with the lofty artistic and scholastic ideas of those who have the fathered and mothered the scheme from its inception, the Toppenish high school building and grounds will become famed throughout the state as models after which other cities may well take pattern.

The schools of the city are under the superintendency of E.T. Robinson whose conscientious work has brought success stamping him as a man of more than ordinary ability in his chosen profession. He has an able corps of teachers to assist him, five in the high school and fourteen in the grades. There are more than 40 students attending the high school. It will immediately be given a four-year course in order that it may take its place among the high schools of the state on accredited list. More than 400 pupils are attending the grades, the number increasing at every semester. One may quickly see the necessity of increased school buildings, by scanning the number of

pupils in Toppenish school district according to the Toppenish school census of 1909;

383 in 1910; 522 in 1910; by the census of last May, 711.

It will be noticed that the number of pupils of school age has nearly doubled within the short space of two years.

The city in 1910 is increasing so rapidly in population that it is difficult to keep tab on it.

In 1907 the population was estimated at 500 and

Toppenish was a town of the fourth class.

When it came ytime to take the thirteenth decennial census by the United States government in the spring of 1910 it was learned that the population had increased to nearly 1600. During the past 18 months there has been a constant increase so that it may be safely stated within the bounds of truth that there are more than 2,000 people within the corporate limits.

Having reached that position in society where population was no bar, Toppenish in June, 1911 voted to become a city of the third class. Progress has been made along another line.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, the receipts at the postoffice passed the \$10,000 mark. That fact entitles the city to free delivery of ~~mail~~ mails after certain other requirements have been complied with. These include the numbering of the houses, the placing of signs on the street corners, etc. The city council has already commenced this work, so it is probable that by the glad New Year's day the free delivery system will have been inaugurated.

Toppenish is well supplied with newspapers both in number and quality, being described briefly as two and excellent.

The Review was first in the journalistic water, having been launched in 1905. George A. McArthur was the man who first

paced the quarter deck. The Review has gone along steadily toward success and now boasts a large subscription list and heavy advertising patronage. It occupies its own building, the Review block being one of the best in the city.

George M. Allen present editor and manager is steering the craft on its victorious way.

In 1910 Mr. McArthur returned to Toppenish and started another newspaper, the Tribune. Like its predecessor it is getting to the front. It occupies commodious quarters in the postoffice block, with Captain W.E. Zuppann in charge, as editor and manager.

Both offices are well equipped to handle the business entrusted to them and each has a brand new press, thus is the city well taken care of from a newspaper standpoint.

One is astounded to find the new business blocks and large dwelling houses that have been erected here within the past two years.

First on the list for many reasons, must be mentioned the three-story brick block of the Central Bank and Trust company at the corner of Toppenish and Olney avenues. It is an imposing structure of cream-colored pressed brick and terra-cotta and represents an expenditure of \$40,000.

A further description of this and other buildings mentioned will be given in a later article. Lack of space prevents it at this time.

In addition to the foregoing the following brick or stone buildings have been erected within the period mentioned: The Casey block, occupied by New Hotel West with J.G. Fritz in charge; the King block, occupied by Hotel Washington, the Review block occupied by the Review, Peterson's drug store and other stores; the Gilbert two-story building on Olney avenue now

by the Moore & Palmer furniture store; Toppenish garage
 Reservation Electric company's block; Pacific Ice and Cold
 storage company building and last, the Northern Pacific Passenger
 depot.

This building is one of the most ornate in the city, erected
 at a cost of \$35,000 making a improvement that is heartily
 approved of by the business public and particularly by those
 who have an eye for the Beautiful.

Had the Northern Pacific railroad company known of the encomiums
 that were going on to be hurled in its direction upon the completion
 of a new depot, it is believed it would have been built some time
 ago. But it is there now and it is a beauty, big enough for a city
 of 10,000 and of such proportions as to please even the eye of a
 St. Gaudens.

Frank A. Williams, president of the Toppenish Trading
 company and president of the First National bank is one who
 watched the city of Toppenish grow from its beginning.

Thirteen years ago there was but one business house in town,
 that of the Toppenish Trading Co. with Mr. Williams in charge.

It was an old Indian trading store. In those days Toppenish was
 not on the map. The only other building there was the Northern
 Pacific section house. The business has grown with the city and
 the company is now incorporated with a capital of \$100,000.

"Y. Voleman, vice president and manager and William M.
 McGowan, secretary and treasurer, are the president's right and
 left bowers.

Two additions were made to the original building before the
 plans were drawn for the new buildings which were occupied
 for the first time in September, 1908.

The old structure now utilized by the company for storage purposes still stands, a monument to pioneer days and a landmark to the Indians and early settlers who made it their headquarters.

The main store building now occupied by the company covers an area of 85 x 110 feet. Directly back of the structure is the harness and implement building with a floor space of 50 x 140 feet.

The buildings are of brick construction, steam heated throughout and lighted by electricity. In the various branches of the business a staff of 26 people is employed.

An intercommunicating telephone exchange connects all departments which comprises the dry goods, suits and cloaks, men's and boy's wear, hardware, groceries, and the hay, grain and coal departments--The Yakima Herald, November 8, 1911.