

the story of . . .

KENNEWICK

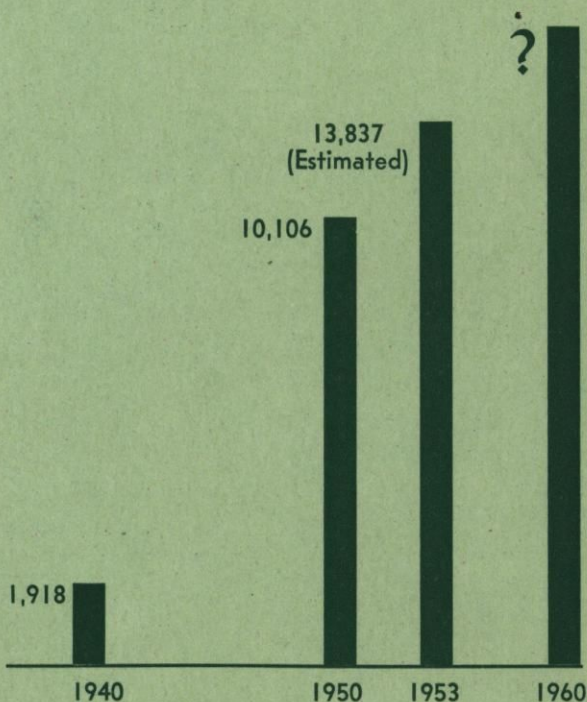
WASHINGTON



"THE HEART OF THE FASTEST
GROWING COUNTY IN AMERICA"



BENTON COUNTY WASHINGTON



Presented by

KENNEWICK CHAMBER of COMMERCE

GENERAL:

The City of Kennewick, which is situated near the confluence of the Snake, the Yakima and the Columbia rivers in Southeastern Washington, was incorporated in 1904. The economic stability of the area is guaranteed by the permanent multi-billion dollar government owned Hanford Plutonium plant, 10 miles from the city, thousands of acres of irrigated land immediately adjacent to Kennewick, low-cost power from nearby hydro-electric dams, the Columbia Basin Irrigation project, the Kennewick Irrigation project and some of the finest wheat land in the country. Ample rail, truck and water transportation facilitates the import and export of manufactured products and raw materials.

CLIMATE AND ALTITUDE:

The altitude in downtown Kennewick is 400 feet above sea level. Rattlesnake mountain to the northwest of Kennewick rises to an elevation of 3,621 feet. Kennewick, located in a semi-arid region, is blessed with comparatively mild weather. The average mean temperature is 56.3 degrees. 180 days of frost-free growing season allows the cultivation of a wide range of crops in the area. The sun shines on an average of 180 to 200 days a year. Average rainfall is 7.06 inches.

AGRICULTURE:

Kennewick is the market city for an irrigation district of 4,268 acres of tremendous productivity which is in the process of expansion to a potential 16,680 acres. Beyond these is the vast plateau of Horse Heaven hills with its 350,000 acres of wheat lands. Concord grape vineyards are extensive in the irrigated district. Over 800 acres of these are owned and operated by the Welch Grape Juice Company. Their 360 acre vineyard adjoining the city is the largest in the country and the tonnage per acre the largest in the world. The grapes in this area are famed for their naturally sweet quality.

Asparagus is an old established and stable crop well adapted to the area. It is of exceptionally fine quality and handled by the local processors as canned or frozen pack.

Soft fruits grown in commercial quantities include peaches, apricots, plums, prunes and cherries. Other crops produced in minor quantities are tomatoes, lettuce and melons. Some mint is also grown in the area and there are several commercial apiaries.

TRANSPORTATION:

Kennewick and the Tri-Cities are served by two eastern Washington highway routes: U. S. 410 to the east and U. S. 395 to the north and south, as well as by highway 8 south to McNary dam. Bus service is provided by the Intercity Bus Co., serving the Tri-City area, and by Northwest Greyhound, serving the northwest and offering transcontinental connections. Passenger and freight service are provided by three railroads: Northern Pacific, The Spokane, Portland and Seattle and the Union Pacific's Yakima branch. General cargo truck transportation lines serving Kennewick and the Tri-Cities include these interstate carriers: Consolidated Freightways, Inland Motor Freight, Lee and Eastes, St. Johns Motor Express, United Truck Lines, Inc., and West Coast Fast Freight. Transfer, van and storage services are also provided by local transfer lines. Overnight truck service is available to Walla Walla, Spokane, Yakima and Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon.

The Tri-Cities area is the head of active barge navigation on the Columbia river.

The Port of Kennewick is spending \$65,000 to develop Clover Island into a new, modern, up-to-date port in anticipation of increasing river traffic after the water behind McNary dam has reached the 340 foot level.

ATOMIC ENERGY:

Ten miles northwest of the city lies the government owned, unincorporated city of Richland, the administrative city for the 8,000 workers in the Hanford Plutonium plant. Construction workers, which number up to 11,000, live in Kennewick and outlying areas of Richland. The payroll of the Atomic Energy Commission, coupled with the construction payroll, is a major factor in the economy of the city.

RETAIL BUSINESS:

With over 150 retail and 50 service establishments, Kennewick offers a complete and well-rounded shopping center. Taken as a unit, the Tri-Cities of Kennewick, Pasco and Richland, form the largest concentrated market in southeastern Washington and Eastern Oregon, since the combined population of the three cities is conservatively estimated at 80,000.

CITY STATISTICS:

An indication of the scope of the business transactions is shown by the National Bank of Commerce of Seattle branch with deposits of over \$93 millions in 1952. The year 1952 also saw 350 building permits issued for a total of \$2,342,605.00. Kennewick has seventy-two and one-half miles of streets and owns its own water system valued at over one million dollars along with a new and modern sewage disposal plant built to accommodate many years of expanding use. Up-to-date fire equipment and a police department of a chief and 13 officers offer protection to its citizens. The city is governed by a mayor and a seven-man council, being classed as a third class city. Geographically, Kennewick is located 225 miles southeast of Seattle, 220 miles northeast of Portland and 145 miles southwest of Spokane. The population was recently estimated by the postmaster at 13,837, with an additional 6,000 people living in the adjacent rural area.

KENNEWICK HILANDS IRRIGATION PROJECT

Construction has started on the Kennewick Highlands project which will irrigate approximately 16,000 acres. Present plans of the Bureau of Reclamation indicate that this land will be served with water in 1956. When this project comes into production, Kennewick will certainly be blessed with a sound, permanent economy, due to its proximity to this project, the Columbia Basin Irrigation development and the huge Atomic Energy installations near Richland.

OPPORTUNITIES

The most outstanding need of our area is the establishment of commercial canneries and frozen food packers. Since Kennewick is located in the center of a tremendous agricultural area, it is obvious that opportunities exist in this field. Further exploring the agricultural possibilities, it seems reasonable to state that opportunities also exist for the establishment of a fertilizer plant in Kennewick.

RADIO STATIONS:

The city and the adjoining area is served by radio station KWIE, a 1000 watt station affiliated with the CBS network. Two other radio stations are located within the Tri-City area.

LIBRARY:

The Mid-Columbia library serves Benton county rural areas by bookmobile, and the City of Kennewick from its headquarters in the city. There are over 25,000 volumes and a wide selection of periodicals, pamphlets and pictures in the library which is tax supported and offers many free services.

NEWSPAPERS:

Kennewick is served by two local daily newspapers, an evening paper, the Tri-City Herald, and a morning paper, the Columbia Basin News.

HOSPITAL:

Kennewick Memorial Hospital opened in August, 1952, with a present capacity of 46 beds and is strictly modern in every respect and adequately staffed. Present plans call for expansion to an ultimate 100 bed capacity.

SCHOOLS:

Kennewick has a new Senior High School, modern in every detail, with an auditorium seating 1450 and a gymnasium seating 3000. The city also has a public nursery school, three elementary schools, two of which are new, and a Junior High School. The Tri-City Business College provides training in the various business skills. The only parochial school is the Bethlehem Lutheran school sponsored by the Lutheran church.

MOTELS AND HOTELS:

At the present time there are 20 motels and auto courts in Kennewick. A good many of these motels have excellent accommodations. Regardless of your desires, Kennewick can furnish a motel to suit you. The Commercial Hotel is the only hotel operating in Kennewick.

RECREATION:

CITY PARKS: Kennewick has five parks, maintained and operated by the City Park Commission. Keewaydin park includes 20 acres devoted to softball, baseball, tennis, horseshoe court, golf instruction, playground, picnic ground and supervised recreation during the summer months. The city athletic field, directly to the south, has a lighted playing field with bleachers, used by the city schools and for public recreation activities. Playground equipment was installed during 1951 at Fruitland Park located in the north part of the city. Underwood park is a general playground. Three additional parks are under development: Nagley park in southwestern Kennewick; Nob Hill Park in the southeastern part of the city and Columbia park with a half-mile frontage on the Columbia river.

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL:

Kennewick is the home city of the Tri-City Braves, a professional Class A baseball team with headquarters at Sanders field a mile west of the city. The field has a grandstand seating 5000 and is lighted for night games.

BOATING (WALLULA LAKE):

Organized boating on the Columbia river fronting Kennewick can be enjoyed through the Kennewick Yacht Club. A large basin for the mooring of small boats is being built by the Port Commission at the foot of Washington street that will be second to none on the Columbia river. When the water reaches the 340 foot level in the fall of 1953 this basin will be put in use.

ANNUAL FAIR AND RODEO:

The Annual Benton County Fair and Rodeo is held at Kennewick each fall. During the off season the grounds and track are used for stock car races and by the three local organized riding groups: The Benton County Mounted Posse, The Posse Auxiliary and the Junior Posse.

SWIMMING:

A \$1000.000 municipal swimming pool is being built now and will be ready for use this summer. In addition, swimming in the Columbia river can be enjoyed at neighboring beaches, and further facilities will be developed when the lake is formed behind McNary Dam.

HUNTING:

A variety of hunting can be enjoyed here in season. Within a ten-mile radius of Kennewick, pheasant, quail and chukkers are found in the farming districts. Geese and ducks are very numerous adjacent to Kennewick in the fall of the year, in fact the goose hunting is the finest to be had in the state of Washington. Deer and elk are found within 100 to 150 miles in the Blue Mountains to the southeast.

FISHING:

Kennewick is unusual in that it offers fishermen the opportunity to fish the year around. Steelhead can be obtained in the Columbia river practically the entire year and during season, fishing for bass, sturgeon, salmon and whitefish can be enjoyed in the Columbia, Snake and Yakima rivers.

OUTDOOR THEATRES:

There are four outdoor theatres located in the Kennewick area.

GOLF:

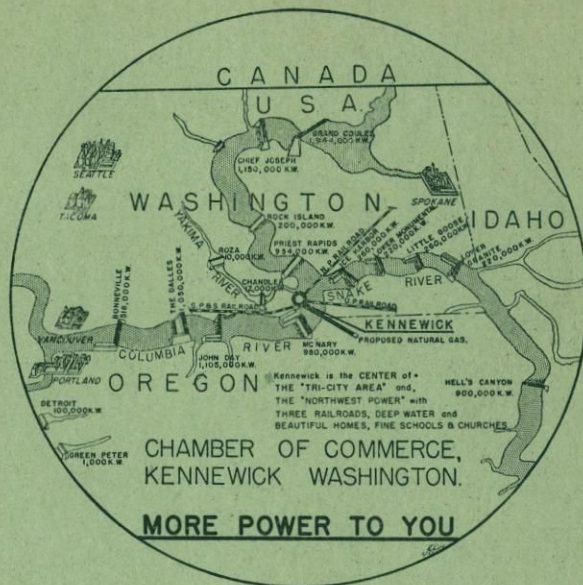
The Tri-City Country Club provides golfing facilities for the entire Tri-City area. Its modern clubhouse is a half mile west of the city center. It offers a nine-hole course with grass greens.

CLUBS:

Clubs and organizations in Kennewick include Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Red Cross and AAUW, as well as many fraternal, business and labor groups.

CHURCHES:

The religious life of Kennewick is centered in the 22 churches in the city which represent a cross-section of the various denominations, including Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Christian Science, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and others.



Recent population surveys by persons interested

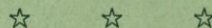
indicate a population of

450,000

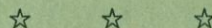
PEOPLE WITHIN A

150 Mile Radius

OF KENNEWICK



In 1948 actual GROSS INCOME for the State of
Washington was \$3,600,000,000.



In 1952 the actual GROSS INCOME was \$4,582,-
000,000. Washington's growth is TERRIFIC! Why
not build your future in an area where the brightest
prospects are to be found?