

Pendleton, Oregon



Umatilla County Court House 1922

Located along The Oregon Trail, the city of Pendleton was founded in 1868. It was named for George Hunt Pendleton, a Democratic candidate for vice president in 1864. The county commissioners decided on the name at the suggestion of G.W. Bailey, the county judge at that time.

Dr. William C. McKay established a post office at the mouth of McKay Creek and called it Houtama in 1851. Later, Marshall Station was situated about a half mile to the east on the north bank of the Umatilla River. Marshall Station was called Middleton about 1863 as it was located half way between Umatilla Landing (now called Umatilla) and the Grande Ronde Valley (La Grande, et al in Union County).

When the county was created in 1862, the temporary county seat was placed at Marshall Station. The post office was established there in 1865 with Jonathon Swift as the postmaster. It was changed to Pendleton October 8, 1869.

Much of the Pendleton town proper was owned by Moses E. Goodwin and G.W. Bailey. Goodwin arrived in the area about 1861. He traded a team of horses to Abram Miller for squatter rights to 160 acres, about three miles above Marshall Station. Goodwin Crossing was a stop for freight wagons. In 1868, Goodwin deeded two and a half acres of his land to the county. A toll bridge that spanned the Umatilla River was constructed along with a hotel, a newspaper and other businesses.

Discover Historic Umatilla County, Oregon

Umatilla County was carved from Wasco County

At one point in time, all of Oregon east of the Cascades belonged to Wasco County. A glance at a map will show how ponderous and unwieldy it was, embracing more, than half of Oregon. When formed, the

farthest settlement to the west was at The Dalles and it was organized with that place as the county seat, with all the "wilderness: to the east and south added to it. The impossibility of people in the new settlements going so far to transact official business was evident. If they were to enjoy the benefits of a government, it must be one of their own and accessible.

The Powder River settlers, where the largest population was, and where the need of a government was the most urgent, sent a petition to the Legislature, asking for the creating of a new county to be called Baker. The petition was presented on the night of September, 1862, by O. Humason, Representative from Wasco, and was referred to a special committee of three. These gentlemen thoroughly investigated the question, and became convinced that at least two new counties were necessary for a seat of justice on Powder River would not benefit the people of Umatilla or John Day Rivers, while one west of the mountains would be of no advantage to those on the other side. They therefore reported two bills, one for Baker to embrace all of the state east of the summit ridge of the Blue Mountains, and one for Umatilla, to contain the John Day and Umatilla settlements, the county seat to be with the latter. The bills passed.

Grande Ronde Landing vs Umatilla City for the seat

The county seat of Umatilla County was designated in the bill to be "temporarily located at or near the Umatilla River, opposite the mouth of the Houtamia, or McKay Creek, at what is known as Marshall's Station, until the same shall be removed by the citizens of said county as provided by law."

There were then no regular town within its limits except the mining camps on John Day River. For this reason the county seat was located in the center of that portion which promised to contain the largest population and on the great route of travel from The Dalles to Walla Walla, and from the Columbia to Powder River. At this time an effort was being made to start a town on the Columbia, where goods for Powder River could be landed and forwarded to their destination, thus saving time and distance over the Walla Walla route. It was expected to become a rival of Walla Walla; to be, in fact, the "Sacramento of Oregon," and door to the mines. A point eight miles below the mouth of Umatilla River was selected and a town called Grand Ronde Landing was laid out. This was followed early the next spring by a new town just above the mouth of the Umatilla, which was laid off and christened Columbia, though the name was soon changed to Umatilla Landing or Umatilla City.

Thus before the county was fairly organized, two new candidates for the seat of justice had sprung up. In the struggle between the rivals on the river, Umatilla Landing prevailed, and Grande Ronde resigned in its favor. The discovery of the Boise mines that winter and the great trade that at once sprang up with southern Idaho, gave an impetus to Umatilla as soon as it started that caused a busy, thriving city to appear in a few months where had been but a wide waste of sand.

Middleton is named the county seat

Umatilla City, as the only real town, wanted to be the county seat, but there was no election till 1864, and no way could be found to secure the prize. The county court met at Marshall's Station and fully organized the county by the appointment of all necessary officers. The name of the place was changed to Middleton, and an unsuccessful effort was made to build up a town.

J.W. Johnson was appointed county judge to succeed Richard Coombs, and S. Hamilton took John R. Courtney's place as commissioner. The government was not in good working order until May 1863, when a special meeting of the court was held and the first record of its proceedings kept.

Umatilla City finally becomes the county seat

Umatilla City was still intent on becoming the county seat, however it wasn't until a special election held in March 1865, that circumstances settled the question once and for all. The same day that the special election was enacted in October 14, 1864, Grant County was created out of Umatilla and Wasco, taking all south of 45th parallel including the John Day and Granite Creek mines, thus leaving the voters of Umatilla City in a majority. Union was created out of Baker, north of Powder River the same day. The election was duly held, a majority of votes were cast for removal, and the commissioners held their first meeting in Umatilla City on April 3, 1865. Two months prior to this a house and lot had been purchased in Middleton for county purposes for \$403.50 which were now sold for the same sum. In April 1865, \$2,100 was paid for a court house at Umatilla, and \$1,440 for a jail which was completed in September 1866. Unfortunately, Umatilla City didn't stay the county seat for long!

Umatilla County seat put to another vote

In 1868 the fortunes of Umatilla City were on the wane, owing to a decline in her trade with the mines. On the contrary the agricultural section was prosperous, and increased in wealth and population continually. It had been discovered that the hills along the base of the Blue Mountains were extremely productive for grain, and thousands of acres of it had been taken up. During the two previous years the number of population in the north and east had increased to such an extent that they largely outnumbered those of Umatilla City. From the vicinity of the present towns of Weston, Milton and Centerville it was a long journey to the county seat, and the people there were desirous of having it moved nearer to them. There were enough residents on Umatilla River to defeat an attempt to remove it to the extreme northeast corner of the county, which prevented an effort for that purpose and resulted in a combination to have it located at some central point on that river.

M.E. Goodwin had a land claim just below the mouth of Wildhorse Creek, on the edge of the Indian reservation, which offered a good site for a town, and an effort was made to secure the county seat at that point. The advocates of removal applied to the Legislature and secured passage of the Act of October 13, 1868, providing that at the next general election the county clerk should place in nomination "two candidates for county seat of Umatilla County, to wit: the present location, Umatilla Landing, as the one candidate; and upper Umatilla, somewhere between the mouth of Wildhorse and Birch Creeks, as the other candidate, to be voted on at said election."

If a majority favored removal, the commissioners were to call a special meeting and appoint three persons to locate the site for county buildings, and give an appropriate name to the new county seat. The Act provided that the existing county buildings be used until new ones the third of November, less than a month after passage of the Act. The county officers were divided on the question, being governed by their personal interests, as was every one else.

The Vote for Pendleton

The vote was close, 394 being cast for upper Umatilla, and 345 for Umatilla Landing. The commissioners appointed J.S. Vinson, James Thompson and Samuel Johnson to locate and name the county seat. They selected Goodwin's location and bestowed upon it the name of Pendleton at the suggestion of Judge G.W. Bailey, in honor of Hon. George H. Pendleton of Ohio. The town was laid off and liberal offers were made by the proprietors to induce people to locate there. Mr. Goodwin, Judge Bailey and a few others who were interested in the new town, advanced money to build a court house, in order to secure the

removal as quickly as possible. At that time there were only two buildings: the private residence of Judge Bailey and a little shed in which Goodwin kept hotel. When the committee reported in January, 1869, that they had located the seat of justice on land donated by Mr. Goodwin on sections 10 and 11, township 2 north, range 32 east, Judge Bailey ordered the county officers to remove their offices and records to Pendleton. He rented his dwelling house for their offices, reserving the cellar for a jail. All but the Treasurer obeyed the order.

Umatilla City files suit

Suit was brought by the people of Umatilla to compel them to return. Judge J.G. Wilson decided that the removal was premature, as Umatilla was the proper county seat until new buildings had been erected. The decision was rendered early in March, and the officers were compelled to cart their records back again. Meanwhile work was rapidly progressing on the court house, and as soon as it was at all habitable, the officers piled their records into a wagon one quiet Sabbath morning and departed for Pendleton, thus avoiding an injunction. Again suit was brought by citizens of Umatilla, who endeavored to have the removal declared illegal on the grounds that the Act was void because of indefiniteness. They argued that "Somewhere between the mouths of Wildhorse and Birch Creek: was so indefinite a description that citizens were unable to tell what locality they were voting for. The court held that the description was sufficient to show the general locality desired by voters, and that the Act had amply provided for its definite location by the three commissioners. The result was a complete triumph to Pendleton, and a sad blow to the waning fortunes of Umatilla Landing.

The court house at Pendleton which had been so hastily built by the citizens was paid for by the county, and in the summer of 1879 a new jail was erected in the court yard. A fire proof vault was added to the court house in 1876. The county steadily increased in population, and advanced in prosperity, as is amply shown by a table of property valuations given on another page. Pendleton became quite a city, and the new town of Weston began to spring up in the northern end of the county.

In 1874, Weston had advanced to such proportions that it aspired to possess a county seat. The little town of Milton had appeared to the northeast of it, though as yet containing but a few houses, and the rich farming lands in that section had become occupied by a numerous and prosperous population. The question of a division of the county and creation of a new one with the county seat at Weston, was discussed. In the end, regardless of the growth in the northeast portion of the county, Pendleton prevailed as the county seat.

From "Historic Sketches of Walla Walla, Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield Counties, Washington Territory and Umatilla County, Oregon," by Frank T. Gilbert, Portland, Oregon 1882.



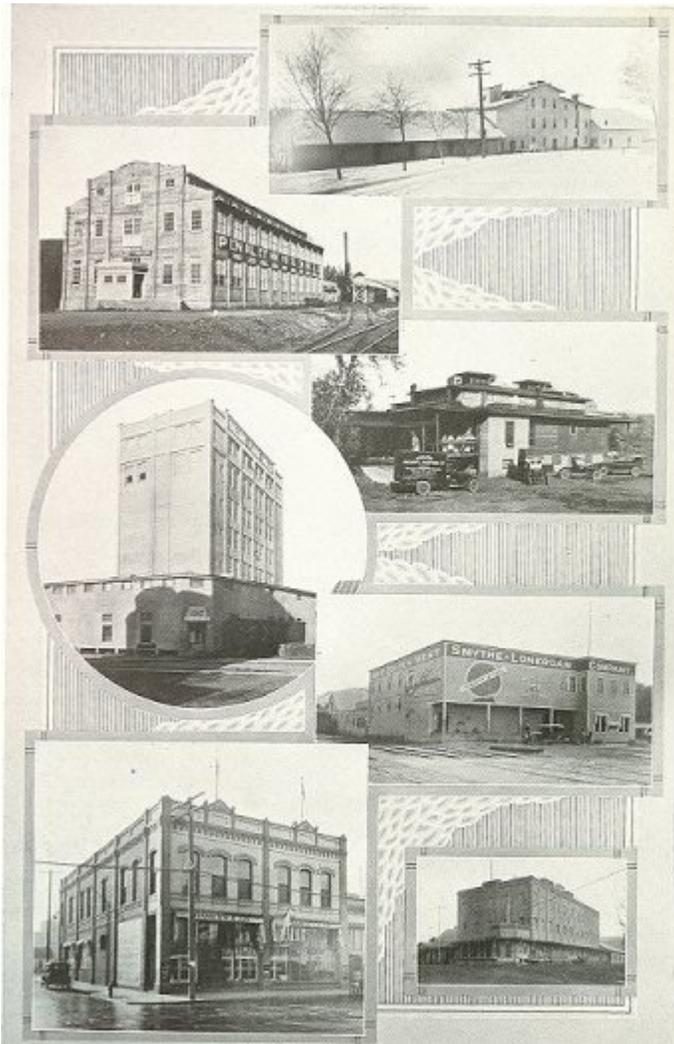
Umatilla County, Oregon

Aeroplane view of the business section of Pendleton, the county seal, showing large tracts of the highly productive wheat lands of the county in the background.

PENDLETON, OREGON

Say those two words to almost anyone in any old town or district in the Northwest, or even in the Middle West, and to some people in the East, and they will immediately conjure up a picture of some vivid scene of the world-famous Round-Up, and they will think of Pendleton as a city of 25,000 or 30,000 population. That is the common experience noted by Pendletonians who speak of their city while they are visiting in other states.

And just because the world beyond our doors thinks of our city as being populated by 25,000 or 30,000 souls, Pendleton actually takes pride in letting the information be published that her family consists of less than 8,000 people. The reason for, the pride in this smaller population is very easily explained. The quality of the people in Pendleton and Umatilla County is such that it requires only 8,000 of them to make an impression in the realm of accomplishment which will equal and actually surpass the records of many cities three or four or five times as large.



To those people who do not know the virtues of Eastern Oregon, the foregoing might pardonably be considered as braggadocio, but once one comes to know and to appreciate the spirit of Pendleton and the splendid qualities of its tributary territory, this ability to accomplish big results is more easily understood. A wonderfully pleasing climate is one element that is a factor in the ambition of its population. Many days of sunshine, about 300 a year, a comparatively high, dry attitude (1,070 feet), the close proximity of mountains, which insures delightfully cool nights, and freedom from cyclones or severe storms, are a few of the conditions which tend to cause its people to give the best of themselves in every work they do. This same climate is responsible for huge crops of wheat, which have never failed during the many years of the county's history.

Pendleton

- Pendleton Woolen Mills
- Collins Flour Mills
- Hamley & Co. Walters Flouring Mill
- Pendleton Meat & Provision Co.,
- Smithy-Lonegran Company
- Pendleton Roller Mills

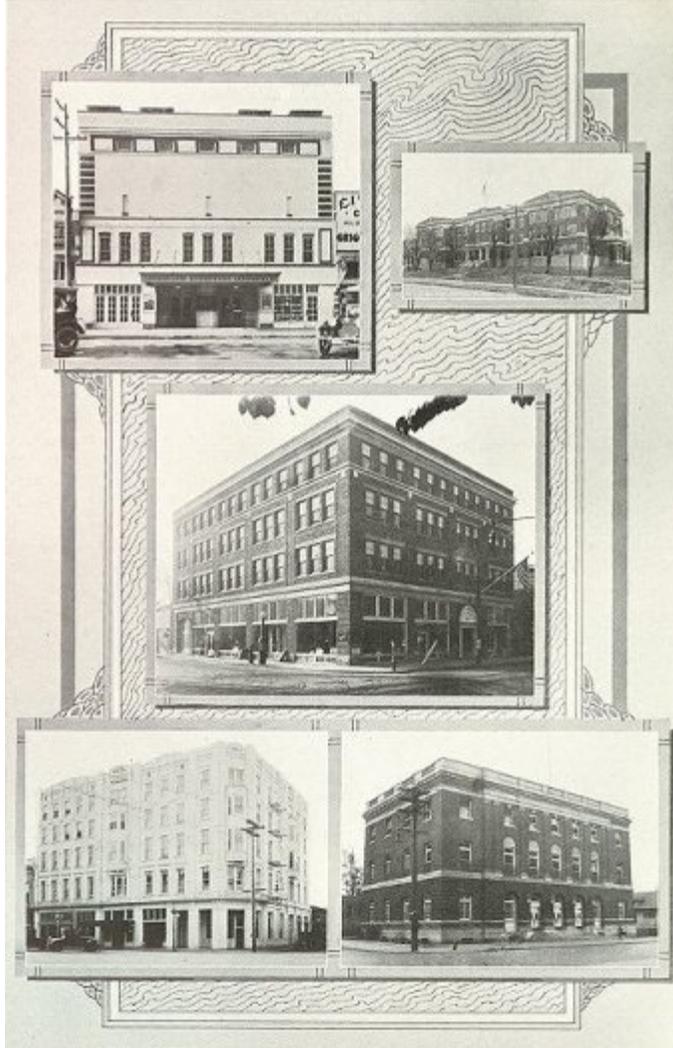
And Pendleton, itself-what is it like? The county seat city is cupped in the Umatilla

River valley between the folds of the undulating hills whose volcanic ash soil is so fertile. The city is more than fifty years old, and its growth has been slow enough to insure the absence of any mushroom qualities which sometimes make cities take on the appearance of greater worth than they really possess. More than ten miles of its streets are paved, and the sidewalks and gutters are of concrete construction. The streets are shaded with trees, and fringes of well-kept parking on either side are backed up with substantial houses, which are the homes of happy, energetic people.

This city is on the main line of the Union Pacific System (O.-W. R. & N. Co.) and is 219 miles east of Portland and is the southern terminus of its main line to Spokane. This company operates branch lines which connect all of the principal towns in the county with Pendleton and a branch line of the Northern Pacific connects Pendleton with the main line at Pasco.

In addition to rail connections, Pendleton is a natural highway center. The city is on the Old Oregon Trail,

which to the west becomes the Columbia River Highway. The Autumn of 1922 will see the trail road roacadarnized all the way over the Blue Mountains, and this will mean a heavy volume of traffic from the east. Then the Oregon-Washington Highway, which connects Walla Walla, Washington, Pendleton and other points in Oregon, is a paved road, and the traffic over it is extremely heavy.



Pendleton

- Rivoli Theatre
- High School
- Elks' Temple
- Pendleton Hotel Federal Building

With these splendid transportation facilities, Pendleton is ideally situated to become the distributing center for Eastern Oregon. Pendleton has a very large section of business houses in proportion to its population, and this condition almost invariably attracts the attention of strangers. The reason for this is that the city has a large area from which it draws trade. The quality of the stores and places of business is not overshadowed by those of any city of the same size in any part of the country and the competition of keen merchants is a factor which insures Pendletonians. the best of

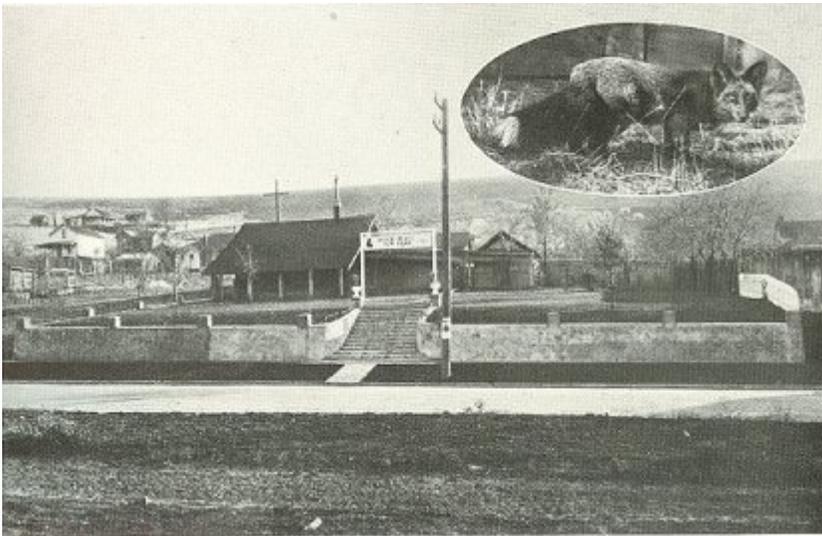
service and quality in merchandising. Such conditions are highly desirable from the point of view of heads of families who not only desire, but who must secure, a full value in merchandise for all the money they spend.

In addition to the paving and sidewalks, an adequate system furnishes "good, pure drinking water to all sections of the city and the sewerage system is up-to-date. The supply of water for the use of the city is secured in springs at Thorn Hollow and is piped a distance, of twenty miles. Two huge reservoirs having a storage capacity of 1,000,000 gallons each are used to provide a reserve of water sufficient to take care of any emergency when to provide an extra supply for fire-fighting purposes might be necessary. The system is so constructed, however, that it will function perfectly without the reservoirs, and if they were to be destroyed, the supply of water for the city would not be endangered. The water is cold and clear and tests show that it is of excellent quality. This purity and its coldness, even on the hottest summer day, are two

qualities which have made it very popular with Pendletonians and strangers visiting in the city.

In the way of civic beauty spots, Pendleton has just begun to realize her possibilities. There are two parks which have been partially developed. One is Pioneer Park, on the north side of the city, and the other is Round-Up Park, which, besides the stadium for the presentation of the epic drama of the Old West, includes the city natatorium. A camping ground for the use of auto tourists will be enlarged and further improved for the coming season, and other property which belongs to the municipality is expected to be improved. To look into the future and plan the civic development of the city is the function of the city planning commission, which was created under authority of the state law and which does its work in conjunction with the city council. The activity of this commission has the effect of always keeping development problems in the fore so that Pendleton will not make the mistake of many other cities in the Northwest which, after attaining a large population, suddenly awake to the realization that they have not built adequately to provide for their own growth and then have to incur a needless expense to take care in one day of the problems which should have been accomplished, piece at a time, over a period of several years.

Pendleton is a city of good homes. There are practically no wealthy people here, as great wealth is computed, and there is very little poverty. Pendletonians are noted for their hospitality. Social and educational clubs of every kind abound, and membership is not difficult to attain. There are ten religious denominations represented here. The Pendleton Woman's Club, the largest organization of its kind in the city, is open to any woman resident who desires to belong. The Pendleton Commercial Association is, one of the most active in the state, with 500 live members, and its headquarters are located in the Elks' building. Pendleton also has a Rotary Club and a Progressive Business Club, both of them splendid organizations working harmoniously and cooperatively with the Commercial Association in making Pendleton and Umatilla County a better place in which to live and prosper.



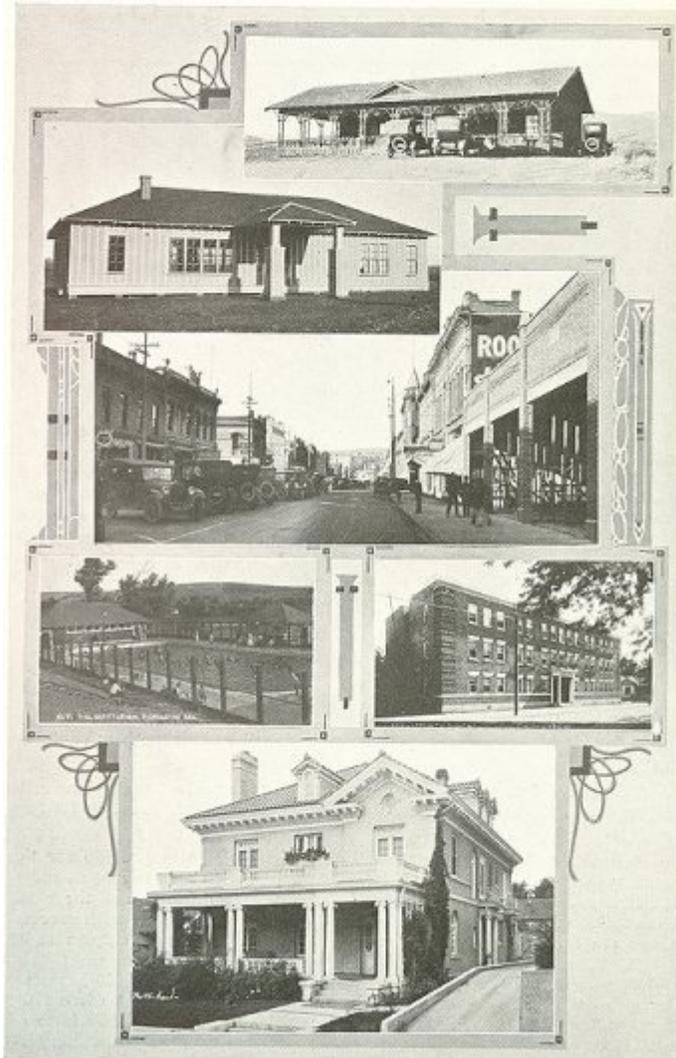
Silver Black Fox Farm at Pendleton

The Umatilla County Library, which is located in Pendleton, is one of the most beautiful in the state and aside from serving the city is also the central institution for fourteen branch libraries maintained in Umatilla County, with books in fifty-eight rural school districts, and the clubrooms, which are a part of the building, are the center of many social and educational gatherings.

Pendleton is the educational center of Eastern Oregon. It has four grade schools and a high school occupying modernly equipped buildings with a broad, well-balanced curriculum designed to afford the best training for useful citizenship. The requirements regarding qualifications for teachers are the highest in the state and none but thoroughly trained teachers with successful experience are employed. The administration of the schools here under the direction of the Board of Education, which employs approved business methods in conduct of school affairs, has resulted in efficiency and economy. The school tax for 1922 is lower than any other first-class district in the state.

In addition to the public schools the Sisters of St. Francis conduct St. Joseph's Academy, a denominational school for boarding and day pupils.

The summer extension session of the State Normal is conducted in Pendleton for the benefit of Eastern Oregon teachers, the only higher educational institution in the state east of the Cascade Mountains.



The Eastern Oregon Hospital for the Insane is located here, and the grounds and buildings receive much praise from visitors. St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton has only recently been enlarged to more than twice its former capacity and greatly improved, placing it among the best equipped in the country.

The sessions of the state supreme court for the eastern part of the state are held in Pendleton, as are the sessions of the federal court in Eastern Oregon.

Pendleton

Rod & Gun Club House
Natatorium Golf Club House
Street Scene, business section
Security Apartments
A modern residence

When it comes to those material assets which go to provide for the security of a community, few places indeed have anything to make Pendleton envious. While agriculture and the livestock industry are the chief interests, there

are other lines of endeavor which are pursued with success. There are three banks, whose combined capital stock and surplus equal \$1,525,000, and whose deposits total \$5,200,000. Their resources total \$9,700,000. Four flour mills having a combined capacity of 2,050 barrels a day grind wheat into flour and by-products. The Pendleton Woolen Mills manufacture blankets of Indian design, which have extended the fame of Pendleton, using the wool grown in Eastern Oregon and, incidentally, a nice payroll is supported by the mills. A large packing company carries on a business in killing and curing meats, and the products of the big packing plants. Pendleton also has a creamery and ice cream manufacturing plant, which does an immense business in Eastern Oregon; an up-to-date planing mill, a plant manufacturing roofing materials, a modern foundry and machine shop, a large saddlery manufacturer and numerous other small industrial concerns.

It has come to be a habit to estimate the conditions of a community by the number of cars owned by its population. Umatilla County, with 5,000 cars and trucks, possesses two and one-half times the average of all the counties of the state except Multnomah County. Taxes are comparatively low. A survey of the

cities of the state made by the conservative Oregon Voter recently showed that Pendleton's tax rate is the lowest of any city of its size or larger in Oregon. In this day of reconstruction, when the world is paying the debt of taxes incurred in the great war, comparatively low taxes are sufficiently an oddity to prove alluring to those seeking new homes.

Men and women expecting to locate in new surroundings want to know the prospects offered by a place for financial success. Educational facilities, and opportunities for religious worship according to their own faith are also sought, in most cases. But when all is said and done, other things being equal, it is the spirit of a place which most often attracts or repels. How do people carry themselves, what is their attitude toward each other and toward strangers, and how full of life and virility are they? Answer these questions and a stranger will know whether he will like a new place, even before he knows whether he can make money in that town. To get this information calls for a personal visit, the acid test of a town's ability to attract. Pendleton extends an invitation to prospective home seekers to come and see for themselves whether the city would suit them and whether they would be at home.