

GROWING TOWN OF SPIRIT LAKE

A Young City With Modern Methods and Improvements

The town of Spirit Lake was born October 3, 1907. It came into existence just at the time when the financial depression had settled upon the country, and while its effect was disastrous to many enterprises that had then been launched, and had the effect of retarding many towns, it had

the timber supply in the country surrounding Spirit Lake.

Agriculture.
While the main industry is lumbering, and nearly all of the land is covered with heavy timber as soon as this is cleared off, the land can be used for agricultural purposes. A

house was the one room frame building which stands at the corner of Washington and Fourth streets. By the first of May, 40 pupils were enrolled and Miss Emeline Stoddard was the teacher.

On July 11, 1908, an election was held by the citizens of the new town at which the proposition for the organization of a new school district was voted upon and carried, the result being Independent School District No. 63.

The district was then bonded for the purpose of buying the \$15,000 school building which was being erected by F. A. Blackwell and P. S. Peterson. Such in brief, is the history of the beginning of Spirit Lake's present public school system. The school building is located on block 53, facing Jefferson street between Fifth and Sixth streets. The building is composed of four large school

The present school year opened September 17, 1908 with four teachers. H. H. Van Benthuyzen, principal, Retta F. Martin, Emeline Stoddard and Ida D. Burns. The first day 119 pupils were enrolled. On March first this number had increased to 180, which necessitated the employment of another teacher, Mrs. Van Benthuyzen.

Much credit is due the board of education, both the old and the new for the efficient manner in which they have handled the school problem in Spirit Lake. They are and have been thoroughly progressive and up-to-date business men and by their administration of affairs have given the people of Spirit Lake, a town whose growth has been the marvel of all visitors a public school system of which they are justly proud

PROSPEROUS POST FALLS

Power City of Northern Idaho Agricultural Resources.

On the north bank of the Spokane river just nine miles west of the city of Coeur d'Alene is situated the town of Post Falls. The immediate vicinity of Post Falls was settled in 1871. Frederick Post, who conducted a grist mill, and sawmill near the site of the town, being one of the first settlers. While the country was settled at an early date the development of its marvelous resources was slow, and it was not until the last five or six years that the country became famous for its production of cereals, vegetables, and fruits, under a system of irrigation. The town has grown rapidly and can now boast of a population of about 1,000 people, and each year that passes by will witness a material increase in its business, and of its population.

Greatest Water Power in Northwest.

Post Falls townsite and the natural resources back of the town can not be surpassed. It is situated on the Coeur d'Alene & Spokane railroad company's electric road and the Northern Pacific and has the best of railroad facilities being connected with Coeur d'Alene city and Spokane by hourly trains. Where the town is situated on the Spokane river the

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Business Street in Spirit Lake.

no such effect on Spirit Lake, but it continued to grow, flourish and prosper until it now a town of at least 1000 population. The town is situated on the Idaho & Washington Northern railroad and has direct communication with Spokane and also communication through the Coeur d'Alene & Spokane with Coeur d'Alene City. The business houses are all of a substantial and permanent character. It possesses its lighting and water plants and sewerage system, has five miles of cement sidewalks and is pronounced the handsomest little town in northern Idaho.

Lumbering Main Industry.

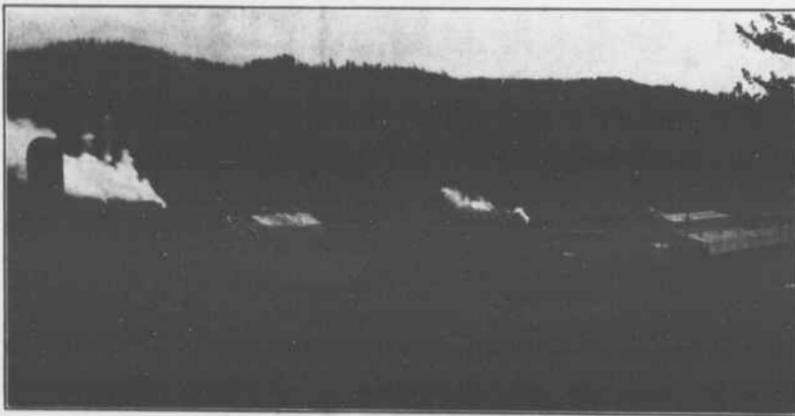
Lumbering is the main industry of the town. The Panhandle Lumber company is located here and its mill is one of the most modern in the northwest. The mill cost over \$300,000, has a double cut band saw and has a capacity for cutting 125,000 feet of lumber every 10 hours. The mill is of a frame construction and covers an area of 54x192 feet and is three stories in height. The power plant of the mill cost \$75,000, and it is claimed by the citizens and business men of the town that there is no more complete and modern mill in the whole northwest than that of

large portion of the timber is situated on benches, and when cleared will make the best of agricultural land. The soil is rich and productive and will when cleared make a splendid fruit as well as grain country. Large tracts of this land is being cleared each year and put into orchards and farms, and the time is not far distant when Spirit Lake will be the metropolis of a rich agricultural country as well as a timber country.

Climate is Good.

In climatic conditions the Spirit Lake country is well favored. The temperature is quite even, and the winters short and unsevere, and the cold weather seldom continues for a greater length of time than three days. The snowfall is quite heavy, but is not greater than the soil demands, and the snow never becomes very deep except in the timber country. The summers and falls are ideal and during the hot summer months the town is a resort for tourists and lovers of game and sport. The lake even when transportation was difficult was a popular summer resort, and now that it has railroad facilities it is heavily patronized. There is plenty of fish in the many streams in the country surrounding the town, and much game, both large and small.

rooms, two large halls and an office room. It is thoroughly modern in every respect and is finished in white pressed brick. It is equipped with a steam heating plant which has been proved entirely satisfactory in every



Plant of Panhandle Lumber Co., Spirit Lake.

particular. During the coldest weather when other schools throughout the country were closing because of a lack of heat, the rooms of the Spirit

stream divides into three channels which have a fall of 50 feet, and the town lays claim to the greatest available water power in the northwest. One of these channels is the site of an electric plant which will develop 18,000 electric horse power.

Surrounding Country Rich.

The surrounding country has become famed for its production of cereals, vegetables, and fruits whether they be grown upon irrigated or unirrigated lands, and especially is this applicable to the Spokane valley which lies north and east of town. South of the town lies the hills, and back of them the mountains, and along the sides of the former can be seen orchard after orchard which produce some of the finest fruit grown in the northwest. Besides being supported by a rich agricultural territory Post Falls like the other towns located in the Coeur d'Alene country is backed by the lumber industry and here is located the large mills of the Post Falls Lumber & Manufacturing company which has a daily capacity of 50,000 feet.

SKETCH OF KOOTENAI COUNTY.

(Continued from Page 13.)
"English Bill," was a leader in the search and because Flood wore a

outfitting and supply point for them. In 1884 the town had 1000 inhabitants and boasted of being larger in this respect by a few people than the town of Spokane Falls. The county seat continued to remain at Rathdrum, the county and judicial business being transacted there and no effort was made to remove it until 1885. When the county records were taken to Rathdrum no official action for the removal of the county seat from Coeur d'Alene, or the selection of Rathdrum as the future county seat was taken by the board of county commissioners, and it was on the ground that the board had never legally established the county seat at Rathdrum that the people of Coeur d'Alene sought its removal through the board of county commissioners. Although no official action had been taken selecting Rathdrum as the county seat, it is stated by M. D. Wright, then assessor, that it was agreed between the commissioners that Rathdrum was to be the future county seat, but no minutes of this agreement were ever made, and Judge Norman Buck, in summoning the defendant to appear for trial in the first case tried by him in the county cited him to appear at Rathdrum. The board of county commis-



Public School Building, Spirit Lake.

the Panhandle Lumber company, one of the features of the mill is the mammoth train shed which is 354 feet long and 22 feet wide. Into this shed a string of cars can be switched and loaded no matter what the weather conditions may be without an injury to the lumber. In the arm of the lake the company has constructed a storage pond that will hold 5,000,000 feet of logs so that the mill can be supplied with logs and continue sawing even in the coldest of weather and continue in operation during the whole year. It is estimated that it will take at least 20 years to exhaust

in the woods. The town is well provided with hotels for the accommodation of the seekers for recreation and game, and also every other accommodation necessary to make their stay a pleasant and successful one.

School Facilities Excellent.

The first school in Spirit Lake was opened Dec. 9, 1907, just two months and six days after the first lot was sold, with seven pupils and Miss Emma M. House as teacher. Owing to the newness of the country the school was supported and expenses paid with funds secured from entertainments and dances. The first school

Lake school were warm and perfectly comfortable.

The Spirit Lake people claim their school building to be the most completely equipped school building in the northwest. A system of free text books is furnished by the district and everything in the way of apparatus, necessary in the school room is found here. In addition to the eight grades, which follow the course of study adopted for the state of Idaho, a high school course of two years work has been established and it will be lengthened to a three year course this year.



View of Spirit Lake.

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sloners at the time consisted of H. H. Newhall, George B. Wonnacott, and John Russell. The two former were in favor of the removal of the county seat to Coeur d'Alene, but Russell favored Rathdrum in the contest. A determined fight was made by Coeur d'Alene and so warmly was it waged that the citizens of Rathdrum guarded the records, in fear of a forcible removal of them for a period of three months. The towns in the northern part of the county were with Rathdrum in the controversy, and the fight was abandoned by Coeur d'Alene looking to a removal of the county seat through the board of county commissioners, and then commenced a long and determined fight in the legislature for a division of the county with the ultimate end in view of establishing the county seat at Coeur d'Alene, either by a legislative act of by an election after an act had been passed dividing the county.

Battle Renewed.

The battle was again, and successfully this time, renewed in the session of 1907. A bill was introduced by Representative Taylor for a division of the county, the northern part to be known as Bonner, and its county seat to be Sandpoint and the southern portion of the county was to be left the same, with Rathdrum as the county seat. This bill passed and became a law. In the senate the bill was passed by the efforts of Senator McClellan.

The people of Coeur d'Alene, now that they had secured a measure through the legislature dividing the county, set about to remove the county seat from Rathdrum to this city by an election. The campaign to this end assumed an active shape in the spring of 1908, and all through the summer and up to election day the contest was vigorously prosecuted by both sides ending in a sweeping victory for this city.

The Coeur d'Alene Evening Press to any address, \$4 per year; \$2.25 for six months.