

Construction of the Nibley-Mimnaugh Mills was started in 1908 and completed in 1909, the first of many large sawmills to serve the area.

This is the first newsletter for the Wallowa History Center. We are featuring information about the Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Co. We have also included your membership renewal form. For those who have already paid their 2003 dues your membership card is included. This is a non profit group so dues are deductible for your tax donation.

Save Money on Your
FUEL BILL

Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Co. will deliver hardwood anywhere in town for only \$2.50 per cord. Telephone orders promptly filled.
Four-foot wood at logmill only \$1.50 per cord.

Lumber at Retail

We supply any kind of rough or dressed lumber and maintain promptly on short notice. Our stock is complete.

Give us a call

Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Co.

Wallowa

History Preserving our Past for the Future

Center "Wallowa History Center works to save the memories, stories, and photographs that define the history and culture of the places we call home."

A committee of Wallowa Business Leaders headed by C.T. McDaniel raised \$2000 and started a search for a mill for the Wallowa area. c1907



NIBLEY-MIMNAUGH—WALLOWA, OREGON

MILL FOR WALLOWA

Big Enterprise is Formally Announced in La Grande

Big Payroll Assured and Home for All Products

Wallowa Sun September 24, 1907

The town of Wallowa is to have a big sawmill which is to be in operation as soon as the railroad is extended from Elgin, reaches this place. The Company which will put in this big plant is known as the Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Co. Articles of Incorporation have just been filed and the capital stock is \$150,000. The gentlemen principally concerned are residents of Perry although some local people in the town of Wallowa are among the list of stock holders. The list includes C.W. and J.H. Nibley, Patrick, James and Charles Mimnaugh of Perry; E.A. Holmes,

Charles Hunter, H.K. O'Brien, John McDonald and L. Couch of Wallowa. The plan of the Co. is to put a single band at the beginning and enlarge later. The mill will have a daily capacity of 50,000 to 75,000 feet. There will also be a planing mill plant and the other usual accessories for a manufacturing concern of this kind. The Company will build a logging road from the town of Wallowa to their lumber holding. The logging railway will be of but three or four miles in length to start with but will gradually be extended 10 or 12 miles. But little more than preliminaries is expected to be accomplished this year. The lumber plant is expected to be completed and is expected to be in readiness for operation next summer and in time to commence operation next sum-

Cameron' Boarding House and Christian Church

A boarding house to accommodate the laborers at the Nibley-Mimnaugh mill was built in the Mc Donald addition in 1909 for Neil Cameron. The building was originally 26 by 56 feet and was lath and plaster construction.

Mr. Cameron stated he planned to add more rooms if the trade demands.

E Reisland a La Grande contractor built the cement foundation. Mr. Reisland was a specialist of foundations and was also making cement blocks used for buildings and flues. The Cameron house was the first foundation of its kind in Wallowa. The house was to be ready for occupancy in April of 1909

The house is now owned by Doug and Stephanie Chrisman.

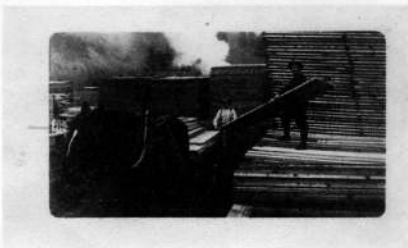
At the same time the Christian Church was being built. The building was originally 26 by 40 feet. It was built in three weeks.

They planned to use the first structure as a Sunday School classroom as soon as they finish the rest of the building. The Evangelist L.F. Stevens was instrumental in the construction of the building. It was equipped with comfortable seats and a convenient baptistery according to the March 19, 1909 Wallowa Sun.



*View on Lumber yard.
Wallowa, Ore.*

Wallowa Sun Mill Notes Nov. 4, 1915



The Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Co. began laying steel Monday morning on a new branch of their railroad. This new branch leaves the main line of their logging road at the Hunter ranch and runs up Whiskey Creek past the Willow Springs Schoolhouse, entering the timber at a point about three miles from their present main line.

The grading is now completed to the edge of the timber, but will be extended another mile this fall should the weather continue favorable. J. C. McIntyre has charge of the construction work. The

month of October was a banner month at the plant of the Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Co. The sawmill made an average of a little over 50,000 feet of lumber per day, the largest average of any month since the company began operations in Wallowa.

The planing mill was also a very busy place last month. A grand total of 1,500,000 feet of lumber was shipped during October.

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Enclosed is my tax deductible membership and donation:

Return to: Wallowa History Center P.O. Box 486 Wallowa, Or 97885 Phone 541-886-9695

Name: _____ Address _____

Phone _____

Membership: 1Yr. Single: \$5.00 __ Couple \$7.50 __ Family __ \$10.00 __ Memorial __ Amt. __

Name _____

Address _____

Photos _____ Stories _____ Work at the Center _____ Other _____

Reese Sutphin The Wallowa Record, August 30, 1962

In 1962 Reese Sutphin related a story for the Wallowa Record. He was working in Perry in 1900 for the Grande Ronde Lumber Company and then moved to Wallowa in 1903. He worked as a timber grader for 47 years. He stated that Nibley-Mimnaugh owned the mill in Wallowa until 1923. The logging was done on the ridge west of town. This land was owned by the McDonald family at that time. Then they moved to the Whiskey Creek area. The mill was steam driven in the beginning and all hauling in the yard was done with horses.

Bowman-Hicks bought the mill and lumber operations in 1923. At that time they remodeled the mill. New conveyers were built and installed, a new hog, a new slasher along with a new carriage. There were no dry kilns and all the lumber was air dried. The lumber inventory in the drying yard was reputed to have been the product of the past year's sawing.

Bowman-Hicks hooked up the Nibley-Mimnaugh road up Dry Creek past the old Henry Beggs place, up Tamarack canyon and came out on the top of the Summit near Ace Searles homestead. The mill at these times worked perhaps seven months a year depending on how cold it got and how soon the log pond froze up. The planer usually worked year around if enough lumber was sawed during the summer to keep the drying yards full enough for a winter's run.

Reece also recalled they worked a 10-hour shift, six days a week for the grand total of \$1.25 a shift.

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New Books

We are looking for more stories to publish which help with our income. If you know of any please contact us about them so that we can start working on them this winter. If you feel there are subjects which would be of special interest we would appreciate your help.

Can you help us with names of this crew at the Nibley-Mimnaugh Mill?



Nibley-Mimnaugh Mill Crew

WALLOWA HISTORY CENTER Newsletter

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**AS A MEMBER YOU RECEIVE 10% OFF
YOUR PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND 3
FREE COPIES OF PHOTOS.**

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

We need a person who would like to serve on the Wallowa History Center Board. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please contact any of the board members or call 541-886-9695
Wallowa History Board
Tony Chrisman, Cathy Wirth, Shirley Olson, Mary Ann Burrows, Sally Goebel and Dale Victor.

Thanks to Ron and Celene Gay for providing the space for the Wallowa History Center.

WORK BEGUN ON BIG MILL WALLOWA SUN, APRIL 23, 1909

Carpenters at Work Getting Warehouse Ready for Material

Surveying Road up Whiskey Creek

Car of Cement and Other Material Will Arrive Soon—A Half Dozen Buildings to be Rushed to Completion.

Work has begun on the big Nibley-Mimnaugh Lumber Company's mill and the survey is being made for the logging road up Whiskey Creek. This welcome bit of news is the topic for much self-congratulations among property holders and business men here. Carpenters began work Tuesday morning on the warehouse that will be used for material for the big mill. A car of cement and much other material is being shipped in and will be on hand by the time the warehouse is ready to receive it.

Six buildings, a warehouse, a barn, and office, a

blacksmith shop, a planing mill and a box factory and the sawmill will be rushed to completion. Skilled help will be employed and the buildings will be the best of their class. Arthur Curtiss, the Union County Surveyor, has been over with J.H. Mimnaugh and they have spent several days up Whiskey Creek among the company's holdings surveying of the route for the logging railroad to be built up that stream.

Thus is the first material step taken toward the realization of the people of the North End for a railroad and actual work has begun on the big project that means so much for Wallowa's future.