



THE MAKING OF OAKLAND
J. V. Chenoweth

Would you like your Pioneer relatives remembered by donating artifacts to the Oakland Museum or by buying extra books for gifts as all net profit of this book goes to a permanent building fund.

I have made my donation to society by writing this book would you like to support this worthy cause also your pioneer name is worth honoring.

J V Chenoweth



Introduction

Oakland is a quiet, peaceful little town on the Calapooya Creek surrounded by rolling hills and little valleys. This little booklet is written with the intention of preserving the history of our pioneers and contains a number of the names of the people who took donation Land Claims and is written to show the hardships they endured, the way they lived and what they did to make a living.

I have written about many people including myself but these same stories apply to many other people also.

In this booklet I have endeavored to write a rather extensive presentation of historical facts that should be of unusual interest and value to many readers in this locality. I didn't wish to write a large book so I have tried to make my articles as short as possible.

This community is rich in Pioneer material that is available concerning the history of this section and its people. On the other hand almost every article and story has some point on which accurate information could not be obtained so I have tried to stay away from these articles where dates were not too accurate and in some articles I didn't mention dates because no two people could agree on the same dates.

Everyone should leave some good behind him before he leaves this earth: this little booklet is my contribution that I leave in memory of our ancestors. I have long regretted I did not observe more order and care in preserving these precious memorials to the years that are gone. The past years have been so crowded it is a wonder I ever found time to preserve these written words at all.

I hope all who read this little booklet will turn the pages very carefully and preserve the memories of Oakland and vicinity.

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J.V. Chenoweth

All the net profit from this booklet will go to a building fund for a permanent museum to house and preserve Oakland's artifacts. When you buy a booklet you are donating to this building fund and anyone wishing to donate more than the price of this booklet may do so and all will be put in the building fund. The Oakland Towne Club shall handle all finance in regards to this booklet.

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1970

DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate this booklet to the
pioneers and their children.



J.V. Chenoweth

J.V. Chenoweth
12-10-70

COVER PICTURE
(From the R. D. Bridges Collection)

E. G. Young and Co. brick building was erected in 1892 and survived the great fire of July 4, 1899 which destroyed the wooden building adjoining the Young bank. This brick building housed the Oakland bank and had a hall on the second floor. Present occupants are the First National Bank and Harry Smith Insurance office.

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The E.G. Young and Co. Bank

The history of this institution furnishes a great deal of the history of Oakland and its surrounding community. From the time of the establishment of the Old Oakland grist mill in 1852 the name of E.G. Young and the firm of E.G. Young and Co. have been closely associated with the business activities of Oakland.

Coming to Oakland in the early days of the community Mr. Young joined Dr. Dorsey S. Baker in the operation of the grist mill which had been built on the bank of the Calapooya in what is now called Old Town. A store was conducted in conjunction with the mill and both were taken over later by the firm of E.G. Young and Co.

As the need of banking facilities developed with the growth of the community, these facilities were provided by the firm which came to be known later as the E.G. Young and Company Bankers. Following the building of the railroad the company moved into a frame building located on the site now occupied by the bank. At the time a large turkey packing plant operated by E.G. Young and Sons was where the Legion Hall now stands.

78 years ago in 1892 the present brick and stone building was built by Mr. Young and the bank with A.G. Young as manager and George Stearns as cashier was installed in the rooms now occupied by the Harry Smith Insurance Office. The store was located in the corner of the building while the second story was rented to other businesses including the Oakland Owl at one time.

The store business was sold in 1909 to E.L. Henninger but the bank was continued without any changes in management until the death of Mr. Young in 1920.

Shortly afterward the bank was reorganized and was incorporated under the state and national laws as the E.G. Young and Company bank. The capital was increased to \$50,000 with a \$15,000 surplus. George Stearns was chosen president, T.B. Garrison cashier and E.G. Young Jr. who had been with the bank since 1912 continued as assistant cashier. Since the death of Mr. Stearns in 1923 Mr. Garrison had served as president and Mr. Young as cashier.

The Commercial Bank of Oakland which had been established in 1903 was consolidated with the bank in 1927 and Jess Lasswell, its president, served for a time as vice-president of the combined institution.

In 1921 the bank became a member of the Federal Reserve system thus giving its customers the advantages of greater security and more efficient banking service. With the same purpose the bank immediately took advantage of the recent federal laws providing for the insurance of bank deposits so that absolute safety is assured all deposits in accordance with Federal Insurance Corporation requirements.

With its existence of 98 years this is believed to be the third oldest bank in the state of Oregon in continued operation and without doubt the oldest one in continuous ownership through three generations of the same family.

E.G. Young and Company had extensive ranch holdings throughout the community and also considerable livestock. I believe J. C. Young headed this project as I have seen him riding their ranges many times.

They also bought fat livestock off the farmers to be shipped to market. E.G. Young Jr. headed this part of buying and he really knew a fat lamb. It seemed to have been a pleasure to him to get out among the farmers and he always gave the farmer a break if there was a doubtful animal.

I remember on New Years Day in 1917 there came a big snow that lasted over six weeks and smashed a lot of old pioneer barns down and E.G. Young Jr. rode the range nearly night and day to save livestock.

Right after World War I the automobile was a faster way of traveling than the horse and buggy so a good many farmers wished to have a better standard of living so they borrowed money from the bank at 8%, sometimes it would be 10%, but the banks had a sound investment as the farmer's ranch was a good security. It wasn't but a few years until piling was in good demand and the farmer cut piling and got out of debt. This was a little rough on some banks as it made them wince.

Before 1920 Oakland had more well-to-do people per capita than any town in Oregon. The E.G. Young and Company families grew up with the community and knew their customers personally. I saw an old store ledger one time and in some places there would be a ten or twenty cent item charged and other times it would show where a customer had borrowed ten or twenty dollars and this was put on with his grocery charge account.

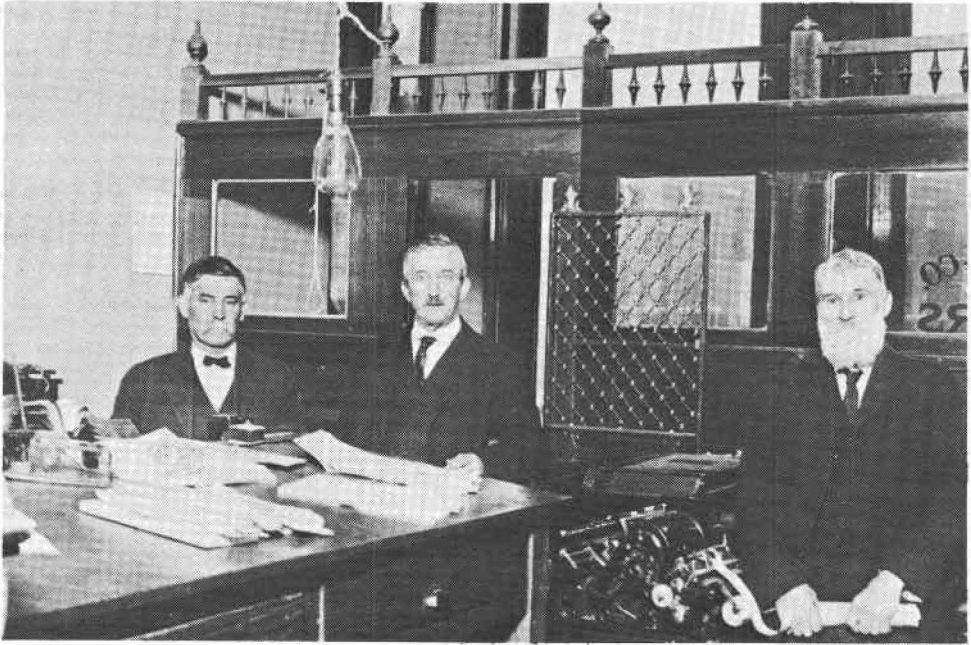


Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum

Interior of E. G. Young and Co. Bank when located where Harry Smith's Insurance office is now. They had a general merchandise store where the First National Bank is now located. The men in the picture from left to right are George W. Stearns, A. Gary Young and Adolph Smith.

After the death of Mr. Young and the bank being reorganized under State and National law there was some dissatisfaction among the bank customers as they were not used to hard banking laws but more lenient ways. In the early days most all transactions that required cash were carried on in gold coin but when all the gold was called in home banking ceased and checking accounts went in in full force.

In 1900 Ward O. Cockeram opened a banking account with the E.G. Young and Company Bank and still patronizes the successors of this firm. He is probably one of the oldest customers still doing business with this firm in the same bank building.

In 1951 Douglas County State Bank purchased the E.G. Young and Company Bank and the Oakland bank was then called the E.G. Young and Company Branch of the Douglas County State Bank.

In 1965 the First National Bank of Oregon purchased the Douglas County State Bank branch at Oakland. Mr. Vern White is the manager of this bank and fits well in the Oakland community.

This banking firm gave the outside of the building a face lifting which improved its appearance very much. I hope this firm will always leave the inscription on the outer wall inscribed, "E.G. Young 1892". I hope some day they will see fit to donate some artifacts to the Oakland Museum in memory of the E.G. Young and Company Bank.

Prior to 1918 if an individual had twenty or thirty thousand dollars he could always loan it out at 8%, in fact two people could retire on that much and still lay away a few hundred dollars. In those days people had their own cows for milk, cream, butter etc., also a garden, chickens and orchards.

This is an illustration as to wages and staple products---flour was \$1.25 to \$1.50 per fifty pounds and sugar was \$4.00 to \$5.00 per hundred pounds and wages were \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day. You would have to work 3 or 4 days to buy a sack of sugar while today's wages would buy 2 or 3 hundred pound sacks of sugar and as to flour a day's wages in those days would buy a sack of flour but today's wages would buy from 3 or 4 sacks of flour.

Perhaps this article has been tiresome to my readers so to borrow a miner's phrase I feel I have about "worked out the vein" on this subject.



Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum

Northwest corner of Second and Locust St. in Oakland shown in this picture taken in the 1890's. This corner is present site of the Oakland Bank, Tollefson's Antique Store and the ice cream emporium. Oil street lamps at the corners illuminated the dirt streets and board sidewalks on evenings for the pedestrians.

Post Offices and Mail Carriers

Tower was Oakland's first postmaster. From the records available the first post office in this locality was established at a place now known as the Cole Ranch three miles north of Oakland, Oregon near the year 1850. Mr. Hull Tower the first postmaster named the office "Oakland" from the oak grove in which it was located. The oaks were later blasted out by Capt. Peters so he could clear the land for a prune orchard.

Sometime later the office was moved to the Dave Underwood farm located one and one-half miles west of the Cole Ranch.

This ranch where the Post Office and the Umpqua County court house was is where the Cabin Creek Rest Area north of Oakland is now located.

During the year 1852 a grist mill was built on the Calapooya Creek by Dr. D.S. Baker. The mill was the beginning of a community now known as Old Oakland. E.C. Lord was Postmaster for several years in this community and then James A. Sterling was appointed. During these early days W.H. Byers carried the mail on horseback from Corvallis, Oregon to Yreka, California. The mail was scheduled to arrive here once a week, however the arrival of the mail was quite irregular because of the carrier having to detour on account of the Indians.

In 1872 the railroad was being built through this part of the country. A.F. Brown owned a large tract of land including the present town of Oakland. He gave the railroad company the right-of-way through his property and laid out a town site.

He then petitioned the Post Office Department to establish a post office. Mr. Brown wanted another name for the town but the P.O. Department preferred the name of Oakland and was informed if he agreed to name the new town Oakland the Post Office would be moved.

This was agreeable so the office was moved immediately and James A. Sterling continued to be postmaster.

I think W. M. Wheeler served a term as postmaster in 1878, later G. A. Taylor and Charles M. Hall conducted a hardware store in Oakland and Mr. Taylor served as postmaster for a time and then Mr. Hall was appointed by President Cleveland in 1885.

A. F. Stearns then served as postmaster, after his term expired C. L. Chenoweth was appointed Postmaster. Mr. Stearns and Mr. Chenoweth were engaged in the hardware business when acting as postmasters and the post office was in their hardware store. T. G. Ruth served as postmaster after Mr. Chenoweth and W. C. Underwood succeeded Mr. Ruth and continued in the post office for several years. He was also engaged in the grocery business with his brother James A. Underwood during the time he served as Postmaster.

After Mr. Underwood retired from the post office it was conducted by H. E. Mahoney and his wife Ora Mahoney.

The mail route serving the Umpqua District was first established between Oakland and Lookingglass, Oregon approximately 105 or 110 years ago. Later it was changed to serve the Millwood community, in addition it now serves the farm district four miles west of Millwood, and the Cole road district west of Oakland. In the early days the mail route was also operated between Oakland and the Cinnabar mines 12 miles east of Oakland. Another served the district between Oakland and the Shoestring country.

The route to Elkton was established nearly 106 years ago as a three time a week route and was not changed to a daily route until May 14, 1928. This route is thirty miles long and serves the rich Umpqua Valley between Oakland and Elkton, R.F.D.#1 serves the district between Oakland and to one-half a mile south of Yoncalla and the Red Hill country. It was established on December 1, 1908 and Ky L. Thornton was the first carrier to serve this route. He carried the mail until October 31, 1910 and his father Mr. Jeremiah Thornton then served the route until February 7, 1911 when Mr. W.L. Cain was appointed.

Mr. Cain continued to carry the mail until this route was difficult to serve, in his retirement on July 10, 1932. Mr. Cain and the others before him were required to carry the mail on horseback or on foot much of the winter months.

R.F.D.#2 serving the country east of Oakland was established March 3, 1924 and was operated as a separate route until it was consolidated with R.F.D.#1 July 12, 1932.

Mr. Wendell G. Truitt carried the mail on this route during its entire continuance. Mr. Wendell G. Truitt then served as its carrier for the two consolidated routes.

Harry Mahoney was appointed postmaster in 1913 until 1921 when Ora Mahoney was appointed Postmistress from 1921 till 1933. Then Harry Mahoney was appointed from 1933 until his retirement in 1953 at which time Herb Parker was appointed postmaster and has the position at the present time.

There used to be a mail route from Oakland to Hawthorn and it served Fair Oaks P.O. and the Nonpareil P.O. and was carried twice a week on Tuesday and Saturday. Edgar Rone was the carrier and received \$30.00 per month. He served from 1905 till 1911 and this was a thirty-two mile round trip.

Stephen P.O. existed from 1890 till 1912, it was five miles west of Oakland.

In 1903 there was a P.O. at Elliott or Cobb ranch called Hillside P.O. it was then moved on hillside west of Kellogg bridge and Mr. Miller ran it in connection with a few essential items. Next it was moved in 1918 to where the Kellogg Grange Hall now stands.

Winniford P.O. was established June 11, 1890 located 7 miles west-northwest of Wilbur near the east bank of the Umpqua River. In section 31 TWP25 SR 6W. Thomas W. Winniford was appointed June 11, 1890 and the office was discontinued January 11, 1891.

After Wen Truitt's retirement of Rt.#1 in 1953 Eloise Lamoreaux carried till 1954 then Jim Stearns took over the route and is still the carrier; this route is 71 miles round trip.

Umpqua Star Route carriers were: 1912-24, James Carter; 1924-34, Lee Cheever; 1934-38, Glen Abeene; 1938-42 Chet Davis; 1942-45 Carl Hart; 1945 to present time, Lillian Hounshell. This route is 95 miles round trip.

Kellogg Star Route carriers were: 1912-38 Ed Haines; 1938-42 Carl Hart; 1942-44 Chet Davis; 1944-46 Vesta Thomas; 1946-55 Dale Baimbridge; 1955 to present Marjorie Spencer. This route is 111 miles round trip.

The Coming Of The Railroad in 1872

When people found out the railroad wasn't going to run through Old Town they were in a hurry to move to a new location. So in 1871 Hiram and Sol Abraham were the first to move a building to the site of the present location of Oakland.

The year of 1872 is considered to be the most important in the history of Oakland. First the railroad came and stopped here. It was not built on to Roseburg until a later date and very soon there were lots of buildings moved over the hill to new Oakland.

A paint shop moved over from Old Town was the first schoolhouse in Oakland. It was moved over in 1873 and was located just east of Kenneth Dorman's on the hill and later became the Episcopal Church.

The coming of the railroad was celebrated by an all day gathering and a big dance at night. An orchestra coming from Portland to play for the dance was paid \$125.00 which was a big price in those days.

The first store in Oakland was run by George Stearns and the first church built in the new locality was the First Methodist Church. It was built in 1874 and the first minister was Rev. Towers.

Oakland was incorporated as a town in 1878. In 1880 George Russell built a schoolhouse where the Washington School now stands. This was a private school and you had to pay tuition and it was called the Russell Academy.

The first sidewalks were put in in 1885 and they were six feet wide and made of lumber.

The first street lights were put in in 1895 and were kerosene and had to be lit each evening and turned out in the morning. In 1904 Oakland put in its first electric light plant and it was in Taylor's mill; the first year they had about 300 lights.

About 1906 the Luce Land Company built an irrigation canal from Nonpareil to within about a mile of Fair Oaks and installed a power plant there. Oakland got their electricity from them. Robert Powell installed this plant and operated it also, later on Oakland put in a light plant where the Oakland water plant is now located. It also was installed and operated by Robert Powell.

Robert Powell was the father of Ruth Bridges now living in Oakland.

Railroad Labor

When the railroad was built in 1872 it was built by Chinese labor and the maintenance crew was Chinese for some time. Then local men were hired for many years, but now they have crews that live in mobile homes and move from place to place where they are needed.

In the early 1900's when they changed to heavier steel they had what you call work trains. They were put on the side track and it was a mixture of nationalities. They parked there cars on the nearest siding in a town where they were working. Sometimes a little town had some problems after working hours.

I can remember well around 1903 they were bringing a large engine through Oakland. It was larger than two or three of the present engines and people came from away out in the country to see this big engine go through. You could walk as fast as it went as the steel rails were rather light for such a heavy engine. It was to be used as a helper to get larger trains over the Siskiyou mountains since they had laid heavy steel over these mountains. I believe it had again as many drive wheels as the regular engines.

Around 1910 the transportation facilities by train through Oakland were very good. Ten passenger trains passed through each day.

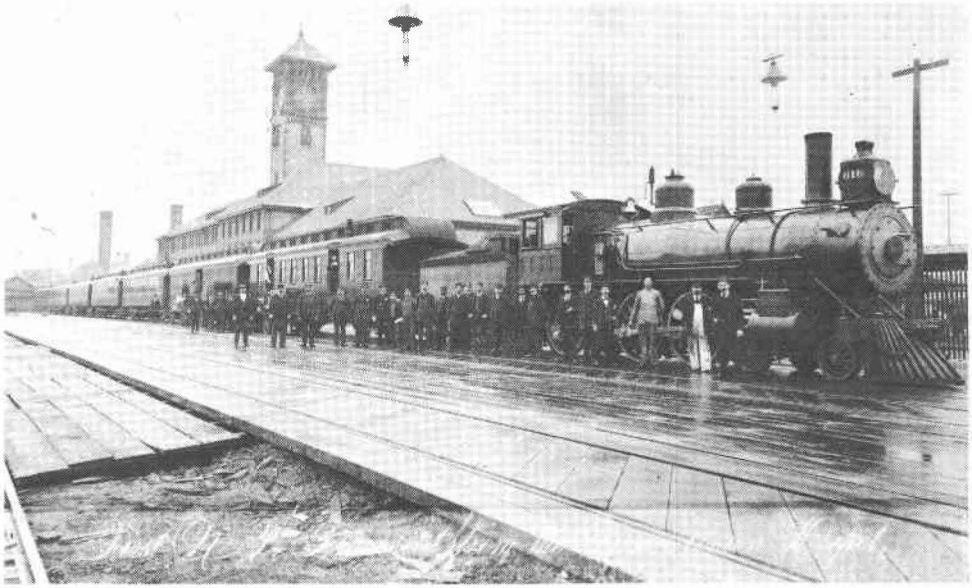


Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

The first Northern Pacific train as it arrived at Portland's Union Depot on February 16, 1896. The old photo was donated to the Oakland Museum by Mrs. George Munson of Roseburg.

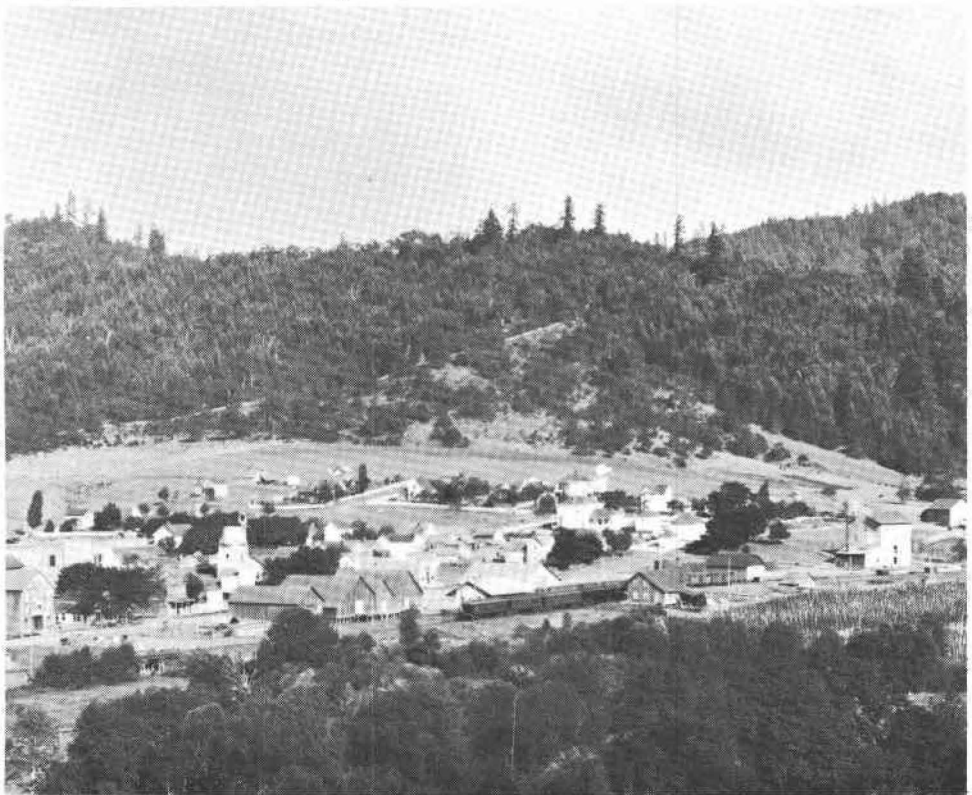


Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

This view of Oakland in the late 1800's looking southeast shows many of the warehouses that once lined the railroad tracks.

A Brief Story of Sarah Thomas Early Day Hotel Proprietor

Aunt Sarah Thomas, as she was known many years, was proprietor of the Thomas Hotel. She died at the age of 84 years on November 27, 1924.

Sarah Hall married Richard Thomas in 1864. At the time of their marriage, Mr. Thomas was a farmer. He also was an agent at Oakland for the stage which traveled north and south through the country.

When the railroad was built in 1872 and the station located near the present site, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were among the first residents of Old Town to move to the new location. They established an eating house on the depot grounds which continued to supply the wants of passengers and trainmen for several years. It was moved into a frame building erected on the corner across the street and purchased by the Thomases.

Mr. Thomas passed away in 1889, but Mrs. Thomas continued to run the hotel assisted in later years by her daughter, Mary. When this frame building burned in 1899, it was replaced by the present brick structure which has since been occupied as a hotel.

Mrs. Thomas was a daughter of Dr. Langley Hall and crossed the plains with her family and came to Oregon in 1853 at the age of 13 years.

The Thomases also ran a pumping plant from the Calapooya Creek which furnished water for the hotel and the railroad. The railroad had a large water tank where they filled their locomotives, as all trains were steam powered in those days.

In the hotel there was a large display room in which the salesmen (or drummers as they were called) brought in 8 or 10 large trunks filled with goods to display. The merchants went there and looked over the display and ordered their wares.

Aunt Sarah was famous for frying juicy steaks for the hotel guests and boarders.

Sarah Hall Thomas, the eldest daughter of Dr. Langley Hall, spent her early married life on a homestead. She had an exciting experience with a bear. It was a small bear and must have been hungry to come so close to their cabin. She had a small bulldog which went in for a kill. He got his hold and hung on: Aunt Sarah grabbed a clapboard and went to the dog's rescue. Her husband, Dick, came to rescue her. She hollered, "Wade in, Dick - wade in Dick." He managed to rip the bear's stomach open and save the bulldog. They put the dog in a box behind the stove and in about six weeks he was able to be about again.

Earliest Newspaper Started in 1886

Oakland's first newspaper "The Enterprise" was established November 5, 1886 by Milton H. Tower. The printing office was in the Page and Dimmick Building over Willis H. Young's Confectionery Store.

Mr. Tower did all the work alone the first year, but the second year had an assistant, Thomas R. Gaddis. About the end of the second year the paper was sold to Charles H. Fisher, a graduate of the University of Oregon, who later became prominent in journalism in Salem and Eugene. A year later Mr. Fisher moved the paper to Roseburg, combining it with another paper there and called it the "Roseburg Review."

Two other papers were to arise and fall before the launching of the publication which was to live through many vicissitudes of fortune down to the present time. There was the "Observer" started by H. J. Richmond in the early 90's and the "Gazette" published in 1897 and 98 by T.G. Ruth. On April 6, 1899 Dave E. Vernon founded the "Oakland Owl", which after being known as the "Advance" finally became "The Tribune". Mr. Vernon conducted the paper for nearly twenty years. It was then taken over by Claude A. Riddle in April 1919. Don Carlos Boyd succeeded Riddle at the paper's helm and on his retirement in 1920, Rev. R.A. Hutchinson took over in partnership with Harry Arnold. Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Mallery acquired "The Tribune" in 1921 and ran it approximately 20 years with the exception of a few years when Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Shaw were in charge.

Mr. Mahusin acquired it for a short period, then Mr. Pelham had the paper for a short time. He sold it to "The Sutherlin Sun" and Oakland ceased to have a newspaper but we hope someone will publish a paper again in the future.

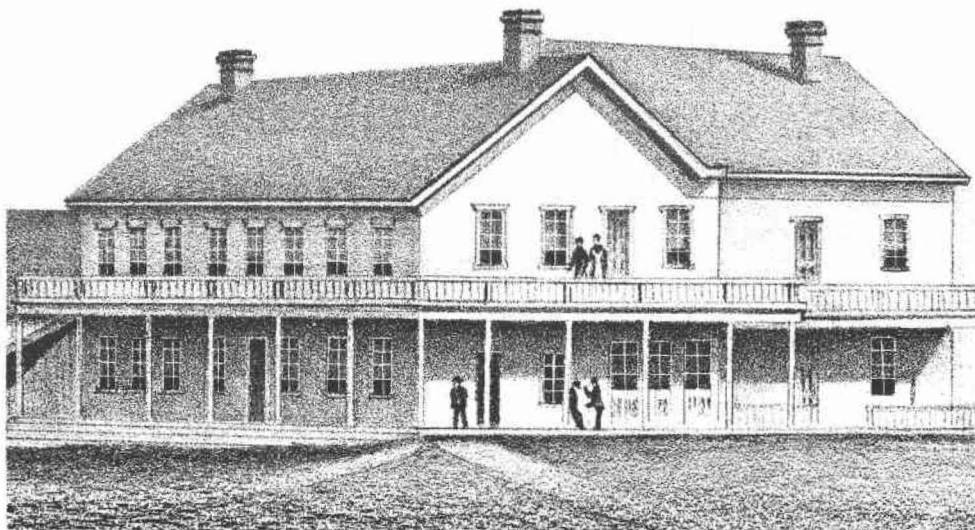


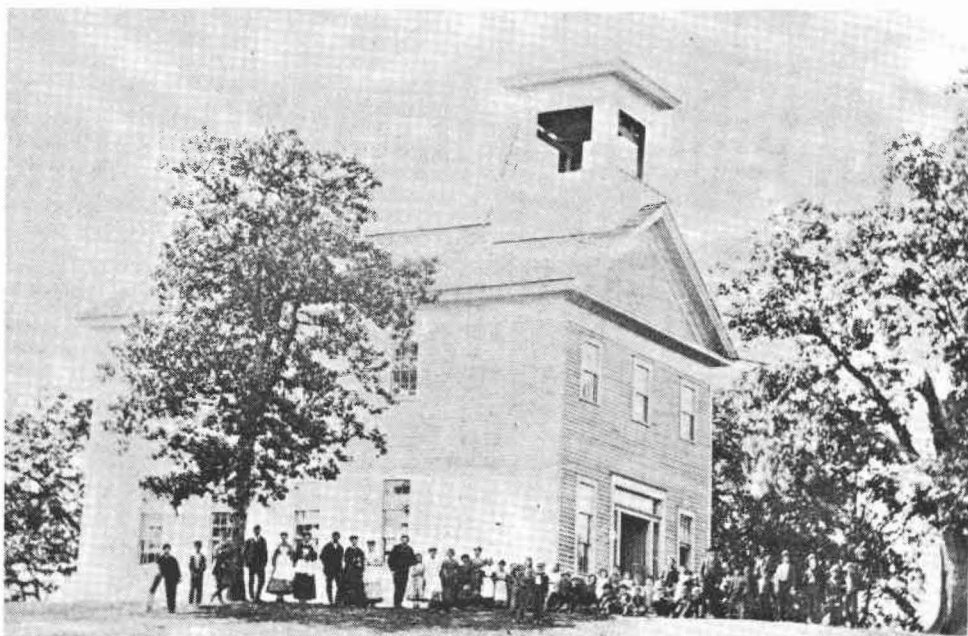
Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

This is a drawing of the Thomas Depot Hotel which burned in 1899 and was replaced with the brick building shown below.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

Thomas Hotel located on First and Locust St. Present owners are Jim Knudtson and Jim Gervasi. Looking north on First St. is the Collin's Hotel, the next large building is the livery stable, on the left is the smoke stack of Oakland steam light plant and behind the smoke stack a portion of the Deardorff Hotel can be seen.



Old Town School in 1868.

Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum

Schools

When the first settlers came to the Oakland vicinity the first few years the children were taught at home to read, write and little arithmetic. After they had been taught at home they were sent to the Wilbur Academy or to Eugene to a higher school.

Around 1860 they began to build country school houses in each community. Most of these early school houses were of one room and made of rough lumber and had a large wood-burning stove for heat. The teacher did most of the janitor work and they kept order if you don't believe this you should have been there. The teacher looked after the general welfare of all the children.

In those country schools they taught you to and including the 8th grade. In fact all the early day teacher needed was an 8th grade diploma and they were in business. If you wanted a high school education you came to town to get it.

Sometimes you walked two or three miles one way to these country schools and the smaller ones would get pretty wet but the big hearted teacher would see to it you got dried out. These were wonderful days that can never be forgotten.

When you walked to school you learned to get along with the neighbor children as sometimes these children had little spats but they couldn't go too far for the teacher would punish you for anything wrong you did coming to school or going home.

After many, many years of the little one room school house and the coming of the automobile these out-lying school districts began thinking of consolidation with the Oakland school district. And transporting their children to school so they could have their high school children with them at home instead of boarding them in town. In some districts it was a long and bitter battle but finally all these districts consolidated with Oakland except Umpqua.

Here are the names of some of the districts which consolidated with Oakland district No. 1 -- Wolf Valley, Little Canyon, Dodge Canyon, Green Valley, Chenoweth Park, Tyee, Calapooya, Drivers Valley, Spring Grove, English Settlement, Oak Grove, also a Tyee Camp School which ran for a few years from 1942 to 1951.

Oakland has a standard school system now but as the country settles up more I believe there will be more schools in the out-lying districts as you can get too many children in one place at the wrong time and people will be looking for safety for their children. Some of the old pioneer spirit that used to be in the schools is gone.

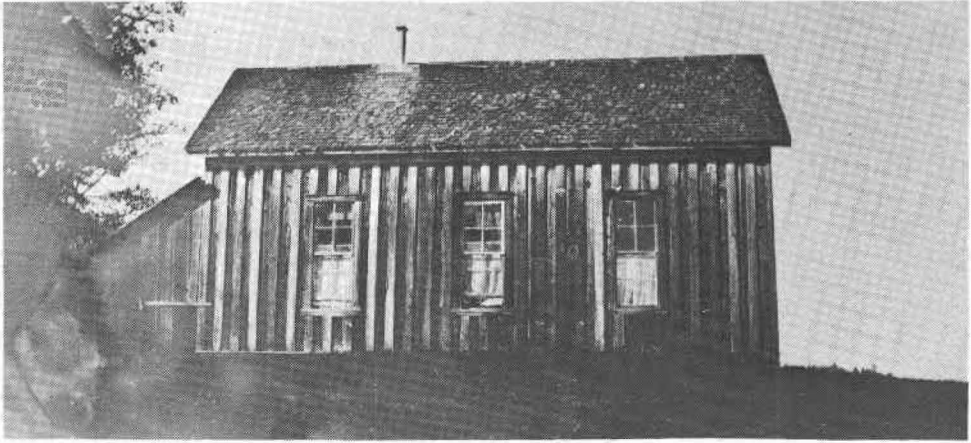


Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

Scene of a typical early day schoolhouse; this one was in Driver Valley.



Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum

Russell Academy. In 1880 George Russell built this schoolhouse located where the Washington School now stands. This was a private school and you had to pay tuition to attend and was called "The Russell Academy".



Dodge Canyon School 1887

Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

Dodge Canyon Country School in 1887.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

This large new brick school house was the pride of the community when it was built in 1910 at a cost of \$25,000. It is now known as Washington School.

Early English Settlement School History Recalled

According to old records the school District #5 (later District #26) dates back to April 1, 1860. The boundaries of this district must have been rather broad and indefinite but the center of the district was in what is now known as English Settlement.

The first entry was made by John M. Ogle, clerk. The sum of \$50.00 was raised by private subscription to run the school. They voted to move the school house to the east side of Mr. Ogle's claim. Umpqua County gave \$62.68 to the support of the school.

For the year ending March 1861, eight weeks of school was held, for which there had been about \$70.00 paid. The books used were: elementary speller, Davies Arithmetic, Clark and Smith Grammar, Sander's Readers. There were 28 children of school age and the average attendance was 10.4.

In November 1862, John M. Ogle was hired at \$40.00 a month for a 6 month school. Paying supporters were: Thos. Colvin, Thos. Stephens, Samuel Driver, J. H. Ogle, Dr. Langley Hall and George Hall.

In March 1863, Simeon Wheeler, Treasurer of Umpqua County, paid District #5 \$101.50 of which \$40.00 was in "Green Backs". In April 1863, Thos. Colvin, Wm. Suckey and A. Harvey were elected to the school board and W. P. Powers was clerk.

John M. Ogle taught this school until 1864, when I. Clinton Dewitt was the teacher. In 1865 they hired Leana Iler for \$124.00. In 1866 Mrs. Hulbert taught the school for \$100.00 and Mr. Wheeler was paid \$18.00 by the district for her board. Dr. Langley Hall was a director at this time.

In 1867 Mary Tower taught the school and received \$65.00 for a quarter. The directors bought a broom for 78 cents.

George Hall was elected a director in 1869. E. D. Jennings was the teacher at \$35.00 per month. Changes of books were made to: Wilson's Readers, Davies Arithmetic, Olney's and Cornell's Geographys, Webster's Spellers and Spencerian System of Penmanship.

George Williams was the next teacher. On December 22, 1870, the district bought four joints of stove pipe at 5 bits per joint.

In 1873 the report speaks of District #5 as District #26 but does not say how or when the change was made. That year Wm. Baimbridge was elected director and Ralph Cockeram, clerk. Martha Ogle was the teacher and there were 23 schoolers.

In 1874, H. C. Underwood was a director and Walter Wheeler taught a quarter as did Martha Pinkston.

In November, 1875 the school meeting was stormy as they decided on a new location for the school house which was to be north of Powers barn. They had to vote twice on a tax levy of \$300.00 and a motion was made to expel the directors for negligence, but it was later withdrawn. Voting at this meeting were: H. C. Underwood, Langley Hall, W. M. Carson, Joseph Turner, W. R. Hanna, David Winniford, John Hall, Thomas Baimbridge, A. Harvey, J. H. Smith, W. R. Winniford, James Turner, J. T. Bloomfield, James Medley, J. H. Warner, R. Harness, B. Linville, I. F. Rice, Clay Lamon, T. Cozad, Aaron Harvey and L. K. Cozad. Another matter before the meeting was the giving of the school house, which had been built by private donation, to the district free of expense. The motion was lost by two votes.

Those attending the English Settlement School in 1875 were: Alden Coates, Willie Harvey, Annie Harvey, Willie Baimbridge, Nannie Smith, Elmer Wheeler, Mary Harvey, Hannah Baimbridge, Mary Ann Hall, Maggie Winniford, Sallie Whitaker, Mary Smith, Fannie Smith, Mary Ann Baimbridge, Emma Smith, Harriet Cockeram, Lizzie Baimbridge, Milia Wheeler, Kate Cockeram, Willie Winniford, Willie Underwood, Jimmie Underwood, Harvey Cockeram, Ellen Harvey, Lucy Emma Hall, Victor Cozad, Robert Driver. The teacher was Eliza A. O. Winniford.

Those attending in 1882 were: Charles Badger, Thomas Harvey, Robert Harvey, Robert Hall, Charles Smith, Emma Badger, Belle Badger, Mary Baimbridge, Sally Baimbridge, Emma Hall, Sallie Hall and Anna Harvey. The teacher was Belle Dodge.

In the early days children went through all kinds of weather for miles mostly on foot and really went for the education they received. Now the rural schools are no more. They are consolidated with the town schools and brought into school in buses. The children have a hot lunch served to them instead of the old lunch pail.

In the old days the pupils all played together and created their own amusement but now they go miles to compete with other schools.

Umpqua Valley Agricultural Fair

The "Umpqua Valley Agricultural Society" held its first annual fair at Oakland, in Douglas County, November 2nd, 1860, and notwithstanding the unfavorable condition of the roads, owing to the recent heavy rains, as well as the short time the committee of arrangements had to make the necessary preparations, there was a large number of farmers, with their wives and daughters in attendance, and a very favorable degree of interest manifested by all concerned. All departments of agriculture, as well as many other branches of trade, were handsomely represented in the numerous articles brought forward for exhibition, many of which would compare favorably with those of any other country or State in the Union.

The Honorable R. M. Hutchinson, president of the Society, manifested a deep interest in its welfare and presided efficiently over the business arrangements of the fair. The secretary was absent, J. R. Ellison was appointed secretary pro tem. An appropriate and interesting discourse on the subject of agriculture was delivered by Charles Barret, Esq., after which the president announced the following committees:

On horses - Scroggins, John Scott, Benj. Grubb, R.P. Shirley, William Hanna and Thomas Smith.

On cattle - A. C. McGee, B. F. Smith, Thos. Stevens, Thos. Cowan and Benj. Butler.

On fruit - T. F. Colvin, Robert Cowan and John P. Ladd.

On needlework - Mrs. Goltra, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Whitmore.

On the fine arts - Wm. H. Brackett, E. C. Lord and S. Marks.

The different committees, after a careful examination in their departments, reported the following persons as entitled to certificates, to wit: Best full grown stallion - R. M. Hutchinson; 2nd do., - B.P. Smith; Best three year old stallion - John H. Meyers; Best sucking colt - Smith and Beckley; 2nd do., - George Hall; 3d. do., - John Long; Best brood mare - Smith and Beckley; 2d do., - George Hall; 3d. do., - Reasin Reed; Best 2 year old filly - George Hall; Best 3 year filly - Wm. Deardorff; 2d. do., - A.E. McGee; Best yearling filly - Reasin Reed; Best saddle horse - Levi Scott; 2d. do., - R. P. Shirley; Best full grown bull - Samuel Handsake; Best yearling bull - John Long; Best two cows - George Hall; Best two calves - George Hall; Best yearling heifer - Dr. Hall; Best lot of cheese - John Hall; Best lot of butter - John Hall; 2d. do., - (2 lots) - Handsaker and Wm. Deardorff; Best lot of ambrotype portraits - Mrs. E.J. Gultra; Best bed quilt - Mrs. Ellison; Best lot apples - Thomas Stevens; 2d do., - F. Sutherlin; 3d do., - G.W. Crusan; Best lot pears - F. Sutherlin; Best lot grapes - F. Sutherlin; 2d. do., - Thomas Stevens; Best lot squash - B.P. Smith; Best lot beets - B.P. Smith; Best lot potatoes - B.P. Smith; Best lot radishes - B. P. Smith; Best jar currant jelly - Mrs. T. Stevens; Best jar peach preserves - Mrs. T. Stevens; Best jar pear preserves - Mrs. T. Stevens; Best 2 jars gooseberries - Dr. Hall.

do. means ditto.

Sheep And Goat Shearing Time

As a rule in the old days sheep were sheared on a bench about a foot high and it was done with hand shears. If there were three or four men shearing each time a new bunch was put in the shearing pen the catty shearer would be looking to see if there were any bald bellies in the lot. If there were the job was already one-fourth done; they were paid around 5¢ and they tied their own wool. There were lots of goats around Oakland at that time and they had to be sheared also.

Later years they used a hand shearing machine and it made it a lot easier on the shearers. You had to turn it by hand; later on some ranchers used a treadmill for power and they used a large dog or a ram sheep to run it. I believe E.G. Young put in the first gas powered machine for shearing at the Shuey place where the Baxters now live. Later on sheep shearers had portable power machines.

Before the railroad came you hauled your wool to Scottsburg or Portland to market it. Wool got to be \$1.00 per pound just before the railroad came.

Pioneer Ranching

On the early day ranches every farmer kept from six to ten milk cows since this was his monthly pay check along with his eggs. They also made butter and cheese to trade for groceries on their weekly trips to town and in later years they had cream separators and sold cream. Oakland at one time had a creamery.

The city of Oakland kept a lot of cows and chickens and years ago when morning came one couldn't tell if you were on a chicken or dairy ranch.

During the summer months some farmers cut and hauled wood to town and they always tried to bring something to town to sell on their trips in to get groceries.

In the early days everyone burned wood for heat and also for cooking and it would amount to 4,000 tier or more every year. The early day trains used wood for their steam engines so there were great tiers of wood for the trains filed along the railroad right of way so you see cutting wood meant a great deal to the economy with lots of hard work. With the coming of oil, gas and electricity there is not much wood used at the present time.

Before the coming of woven wire fencing people used poles and rails for fences. On the Hunt Bros. ranch is some rail fence made out of cedar rails that is 107 years old and still in good condition. They came after the man who was making these rails to serve in the Army during the civil war so he had to go to war.

During pioneer days some ranchers cleared land for agricultural purposes. They would grub stumps and slash brush and burn it and the first year they would sow it to wheat right in the ashes and when the wheat got ripe they would turn the hogs and turkeys on it. This way they sort of got a free crop where they didn't have to plow the land and also got out of cradeling and thrashing it out on the threshing floor.

But the time came when farmers and stock raisers wanted a better standard of living so they started to slash and clear more ground for more grass and they increased their livestock 25 to 40%. This went on from 1912 to 1928.

Then there was a great demand for piling so there was an era of cutting piling for the next twenty years. What timber that wouldn't go for piling went into railroad ties and there was a good demand for hewn ties for a few years. The large cuts out of the trees went for saw logs. Slashing this second growth timber for pasture land looked very wasteful to people now days but over the years it wasn't that way. The ranchers had to feed, clothe, and put their children through school some way, so there were no pay checks coming in as of now.

Ranchers used to let their hogs run at large so a great many went wild entirely and it was hard to catch them to fatten to butcher for meat. They used to build log pens with a trap door to catch them in and you used to see these pens quite often. Where the hogs roamed they were about as wild as deer and it took some time to tame them and fatten them.

For many of we older citizens, Oakland was our home in early married life, the birth place of our children, and the burial place of our kindred. How these ties of birth and burial bind our hearts to a locality as with bands of steel. In imagination the old brown house on the corner rises from its ashes, and all things fair and bright are there. For this and many other reasons I love Oakland, Oregon, and its pioneers and where ever my lot be cast, true as the needle to the pole my heart still turns to her.

There are no friends like the old friends,
Who have known our morning days,
No greeting like the welcomed,
No plaudit like their praise.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

An early day pioneer ranch scene showing the type of buildings and fences in those days. The owner was Sam Whittaker taken in Green Valley. Ward Cockeram standing in front of Mrs. Whittaker and Ward's mother Sally Cockeram standing on porch. Present owner is William H. Hoppe.



Cedar rail fence on Hunt Bros. ranch east of Sutherlin built during the Civil War still standing today. This picture of Mrs. J.V. (Lora) Chenoweth and Mrs. Paul (Getrude) Ragen was taken in 1969.



R. D. Bridges Collection

Tommy Winniford and his threshing crew with his power driven threshing machine that replaced the old horse power threshing machine.

Donation Land Claims

When the early settlers came they took up donation land claims and the grass was so thick you couldn't see the oxen feeding and after this grass had fallen down and decayed for hundreds of years these rolling hills were very fertile and with the coming of the railroad they farmed most of these rolling hills.

They had to plow and plant grain late in the season or it would grow so rank it would all fall over. They didn't rotate crops in those days so it wouldn't grow much per acre so they ceased grain growing. At one time the Kellogg vicinity was considered the bread-basket of the Umpqua Valley.

Tom Higgenbotham bought a grain separator that was shipped around the Horn for \$5. He had grown some grain on Spooner Mountain and wanted me to bring my six horse Z engine down to run it. It sure did good work, the amusing thing or part were the drapes, they were made of cork in strips three inches square and rivited onto leather straps about three inches wide. This was the last time it was run, he sold it to the Ford Museum.

Around 1920 to 1935 there was a good market for different types of vetch for cover crops and a great deal was grown around Oakland and it was cleaned and shipped out by the carload.

In the early twenties the county agent persuaded me to plant some Grimm alfalfa for a seed crop. It was the first to be planted in the county. I did quite well and sold all of it in the county for 50¢ per pound. Alfalfa does well on river bottom land.

In late years farmers ship in lots of hay from other localities where they can irrigate. Some day not too far off when the people around Oakland get progressive and get a few dams built you can look forward and see all these rolling hills green, especially north and east of Oakland.

Because dams are a must to get water on these rolling hills; with fertilizer and water these hills can be made productive enough to carry triple the present number of livestock also it would be excellent vegetable and berry land.

Recreation In The Early Days

In the good old early days people created their own amusements. Sometimes they gathered in the neighborhood and everyone came with well-filled baskets for a picnic dinner. They played games and visited; they played ball, pitched horseshoes and ran foot races, etc.

Sometimes Oakland put on a Fourth of July celebration. In 1888 they had what was called Ring Riding. Those participating would have on elaborate costumes and masks. They had posts with an arm on it with a ring in a slot. The object was to ride at full speed with a spear and try to spear the ring. The team spearing the most rings and also the best horsemanship was winner. The people in those days were prouder of fine horses than people are of fine automobiles today.

Some people went to the seashore at South Beach near Winchester Bay. They would drive to Scottsburg with team and wagon or hack. There they took a boat to Gardner where they would stay all night and go on to South Beach next morning and set up camp. The stern wheeler "Eva" was one of the old-time boats which carried passengers since there were no roads west of Scottsburg then. The livery stable at Scottsburg would put your horses out on pasture for a month for \$1.50 and if you let them know when you would be coming out they would have your horses hitched up and meet you at the dock.

Lots of times for a vacation people would go to Coon Creek and camp for a week or two. It was very nice there and you were away from the heat and could catch fish and hunt for wild game which was plentiful in the old days. The water in Coon Creek was very cool there and we used to keep our vegetables and beverages cool. Sometimes six or eight people slept in the same tent and many a hair-raising tale was told until after midnight. Our transportation was by horse and wagon or some of the family that couldn't go camping would take you up.

Some of the business men of Oakland would set up camp at Hall's Ford for their families. This campground is four miles east of Oakland above the old bridge on the Calapooya Creek leading to English Settlement on the old T.J. Medley ranch. The men folks would go back and forth in their buggies to their stores during the days. Sometimes the women folks would have to come home to do a little washing or shopping. Children would wade in the creek and catch crawfish and they had swings in the oak trees.

I might mention one more incident. In 1914 Giles Hunt and I decided to go to the coast as he had never seen the ocean. We got Uncle Creed Chenoweth's horses and hack with the promise of bringing him some salmon. I got a row boat off the lighthouse captain and tried our luck at trolling for salmon. I did the rowing and Giles did the fishing as we caught about 10 silver salmon. One fish put up a big fight and Giles was having a hard time landing it. Finally the fish cooperated and jumped right into the boat. Giles did all right as a seaman while fishing but when he got on shore the beach and drift logs were all dancing up and down and finally he draped himself over a log to hold it down and emptied his stomach and he felt a lot better then.



South Beach Camp Ground at Winchester Bay.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

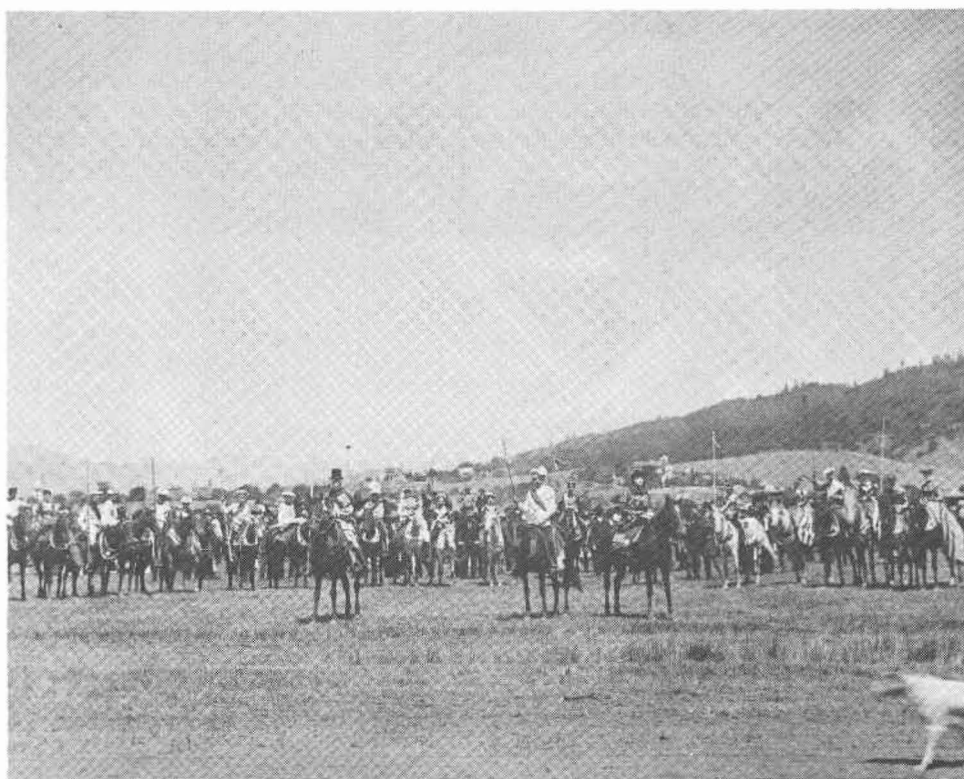


Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

These pictures represent a Fourth of July Celebration held at Oakland, Oregon in 1888. It is a Scandinavian sport called ring-riding.

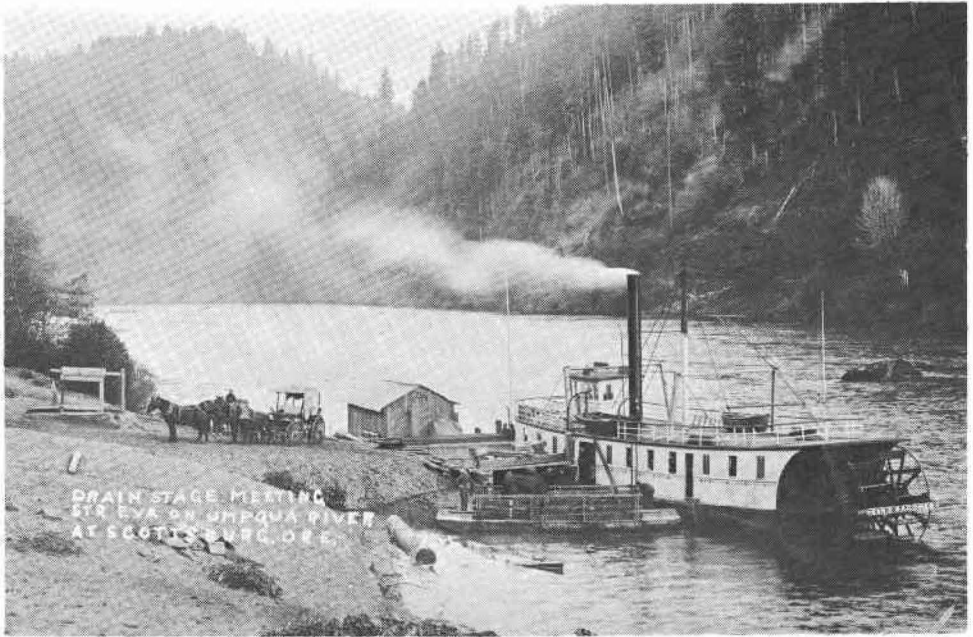


Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

After a long, hot and tiresome journey of 50 miles from Oakland to Scottsburg by team and wagon, people going to the beach near Winchester Bay for their vacations found it a very refreshing and pleasant ride on the steamboat Eva on the Umpqua River which plied from Scottsburg to South Beach.

THE SEA BIRD

Beautiful bird of this far off sea!
Where may thy home and thy loved ones be?
Are they with mine in yon western land?
By northern iceberg? or southern strand?

Far, far away they must surely be,
For home there is none on this pitiless sea;
No shelter for home or nestlings here,
Nor protection for aught the heart holds dear.

This morning I see thee dip thy wing,
And fresh from the wave into ether spring,
But my eye may not follow thy midday flight,
Nor see where thy pinions are folded tonight.

Ah, me! I must wearily plod along,
No wings for soaring, no voice for song,
And a lengthening ocean's billows sweep,
Twixt me and the home where my loved one sleeps.

Written on board the Stern Wheeler "EVA" November 20, 1914

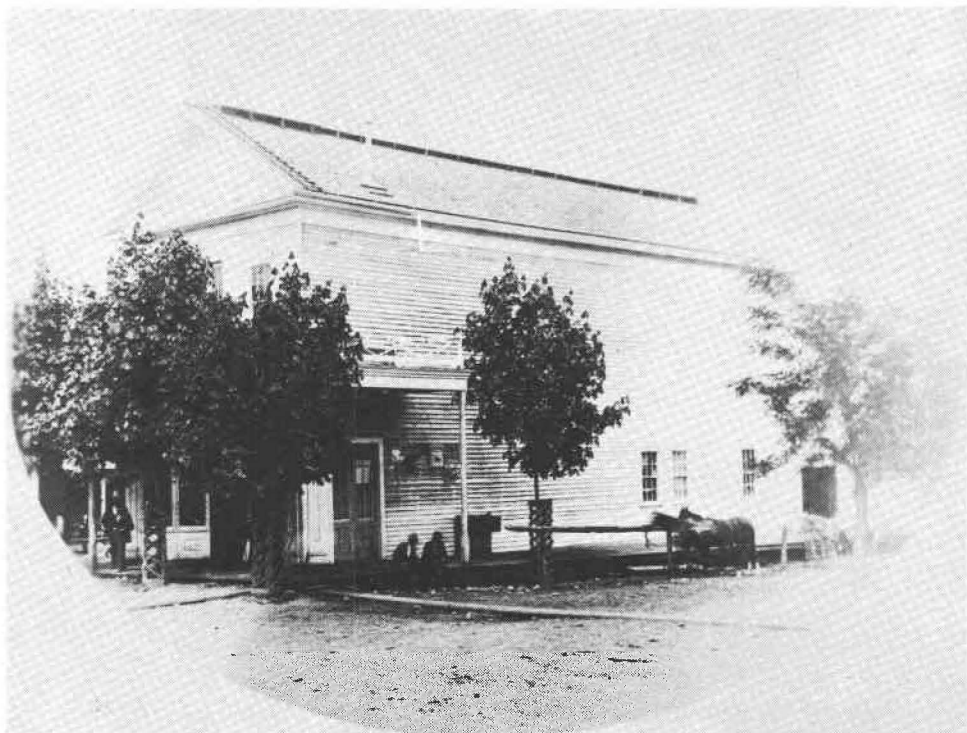


Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum

This two-story wooden frame structure housed the James B. Smith Hardware Store and was moved over from Old Town Oakland to the northwest corner of Second and Locust after 1871. Prior to 1892 it was again moved along Second St. to make room for the E. G. Young brick building. The wooden building was lost in the 1899 fire.

Pioneer Stores

Store keepers in pioneer days just didn't buy and sell. They had to be traders, especially with the rancher. If you wanted a wagon or some other farm machinery, you would make the store keeper take some kind of produce, grain, hay or stock for what ever you purchased. If your child wanted a penny pencil or a penny stick of candy, you would probably give the child two eggs to purchase a penny item.

Lots of things the store keeper had were in five gallon wooden buckets or kegs and some items they sold a lot of came in large barrels. These would be sitting most any place in the store.

Most stores were general merchandise and handled most anything commonly used, especially the essential items that were used in everyday life. But if you wanted something that you couldn't see they had willing clerks that would hunt it out for you. You didn't wait on yourself, the clerks waited on you.

Most ranchers had charge accounts and paid the merchant twice a year when ever they sold their wool or turkeys. If the rancher had wood products he would sell the merchant posts or shakes. A merchant had to be a good trader and keep posted on prices of many items or he would come out short.

In the fall of the year most farmers laid in their winter supply of flour, sugar etc. As a rule farmers came to town on Saturday.

Oakland at one time had four saloons, two drug stores, two banks, two doctors and several grocery and general merchandise stores.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

This picture of the Underwood Bros. Pioneer Grocery Store and Post Office was taken in the early 1900's. The store operated continuously for sixty-five years. It was started by William C. and James A. Underwood and later operated by Harry Underwood until he retired in 1956.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

The interior of Stearns and Chenoweth. The hardware store has been in business in Oakland at the corner of 2nd and Locust St. since 1887 and possibly before this date. Pictured on the left is Creed Chenoweth and on the right Arba Fay Stearns, owners.

Stearns and Chenoweth is the oldest store in Oakland. It is without a doubt the oldest store to remain in continuous ownership through three generations of the Stearns family. Each generation seems to improve it. It is now called Coast to Coast Store. Stearns and Chenoweth used to have a branch store at Yoncalla, also one at Roseburg. When the Page woven wire fence first came out, they had exclusive franchise on it all over Douglas County. Stearns and Chenoweth also had the agency for the Reo automobiles about 1918. It isn't known how long they held the agency or how many cars were sold, but they did sell one auto to Ed Haines, and the store owners, Arba Stearns and Creed Chenoweth each had one.

Oakland had a vast territory surrounding it that depended on its stores for its trading center. It consisted of more than nine townships; on the east its border is Coon Creek, Hawthorne, Hinkle Creek, Nonpareil, and Bonanza quicksilver mines; on the south all of Sutherlin Valley, Deady and Umpqua; on the west Coles Valley, Millwood, Hubbard Creek drainage, Tyee, Wolf Creek drainage; and on the north Kellogg Community, Yellow Creek drainage, Rice Hill, Red Hill, Shoestring, English Settlement and Oldham Creek.

It had a great many small homesteads in the early days and they were absorbed by the large ranches and timber companies.

Sutherlin didn't become a town until around 1909 or 1910 when it became Sutherlin Valley. It was known as Camas Swale in early days.

A Little History of Some Pioneer People

Mrs. Jarvis was a woman that was always ready to help the sick. She was 90 years old when she passed away in 1920. She was born at St. Paul, Oregon and came from the Willamette Valley in 1860. Her mother was from the Old Chinook Tribe at Astoria, Oregon. Homesteading on Old Deady Creek in a log cabin on Jarvis Ridge, she was always ready to go and help the sick any time, in fact she was with my mother when I came into the world and waited on both of us.

Later years while her husband was away at work she told me of having a sick baby and she was in a log cabin with a dirt floor. The crying of the sick baby was answered by a cougar. It kept coming closer to the cabin which had no door. She kindled a fire on the dirt floor and the cougar walked back and forth in sight of the fire light all night. When daylight came it left but the fire close to the opening of the cabin prevented the cougar from coming in. This might sound fishy to some people but most wild animals can tell when other animals are in pain. The coyote and bobcat will come when the call is made of a rabbit in pain.

Mrs. Jarvis made a laxative out of herbs. It was used for children and adults. She put enough alcohol in it to keep it and of course this had to be bought by someone other than an Indian. When my mother had her last child she was in great pain every time the baby nursed. She would cry all the time the baby nursed. Mrs. Jarvis heard of this and came on her old horse with a side saddle. The first thing, she gave me instructions to take an ax and chop off the rough bark of a white oak tree, then shave the inner bark off. I had enough to fill a two gallon iron kettle. She filled it with water and put in the bark and boiled it down to a quart of liquid. She then applied it to the sore part of the breast and in three days it was completely healed. After that we used it for sore shoulders on horses and also on saddle galls. It was a toughener to the skin. Maybe that is why it's used in tanning hides. Mrs. Jarvis also made buckskin gloves. She was loved by many people.

Mr. T.B. Copeland used to make a salve and it was sold in Page and Dimmick Drug Store. I understand he used to make it in a big wash kettle at one time. Here is a testimony of Mr. N.R. Rone in regard to the salve. "I have fully tested the ointment compounded by Mr. T.B. Copeland of Oakland, Oregon and I most emphatically say that its curative properties are wonderful. I had a very sore leg and had tried various medicines for years but no cure was affected. Last spring I was advised to try a box of T.B. Copeland's Boss Salve. I did so and in four weeks my leg was sound. I was completely cured. I feel I cannot say too much in favor of this salve. I am now well grounded in the belief that it will do all Mr. Copeland claims for it. I am with great respect, Mr. N. H. Rone, Oakland, Oregon - November 22, 1890."

Mr. Copeland was also maker of buckskin gloves. He was the father of the Copeland family of Oakland, Oregon.

Oakland at one time had two or three eating houses. They served family style and you could eat all you wanted for 25¢ a meal. The traveling salesman or drummers, as they were called then in those days, always made it a point of being here at meal time and overnight.

The local barber shops would cut your hair for 25¢ and shave you for 15¢.

The local livery barn would feed your team of horses for 25¢ and if you wished to hire a livery team you could for \$3.00 per day or a saddle horse for \$1.50. These prices look very cheap but the eating houses had their own gardens, milk cows and chickens. You could buy loose hay for \$5.00 per ton delivered at Oakland, so you see when you came to town you could get all slicked up, your dinner and horses fed for less than \$1.00.

If each child in the family got a penny to put in the Sunday School collection it was a lot of money in those days or a penny for spending money in one week.

There are many graves on a lot of different ranches around Oakland. They are sleeping among your groves and prairies beneath the sod that, perchance, in the years long past, their own plows first turned over to the sun light. The stern reaper did not wait for the laying out of cemeteries before he began his work. How often it was true of the pioneer.

The Masonic Cemetery over by Old Town Oakland has many of our early pioneers laid to rest there. Many of these lots are fenced in with iron posts and iron railing. Some individual graves are fenced in the same way. Some graves are of rock slab curbing with a large slab of rock for a cover. You would call it a covered vault.

I have sometimes thought that our grand little town of Oakland has a hold upon the hearts of her absent children. They may have wandered in many lands, called many places home as the years glide by but true as the needle to the pole, their hearts still turn to the first home, humble though it may have been, within the confines of the Oakland community.

These ties so subtle, tender and strong are hard to define. I do not care to analyze them too minutely, enough for me that they exist, and we would not sever them if we could. Still, I may venture to suggest, it is not altogether in the recollection of fertile fields, of shady groves or rippling streams that constitutes this bond, the charms of memory but that strange thing we call association of ideas.

The mingled fragrance of youth and love has cast a glamour over the past and made it sacred. Such flowers bloom but once along life's pathway and for we old folks, they have blossomed and faded long ago.

There is a sunshine that falls only on life's morning, on us it can never fall again, but far out into the twilight or darkness we may carry the memory of the flowers and the shine.

As the shadows lengthen, and the sun of my life is slowly sinking in the West, my memory is often busy with the past, the Far Away Past.

And as the best of my life belongs to Oakland and vicinity, there is always a picture in my mind of people and things pertaining to this locality.

Telephone Service Developed With Community

The first telephone was installed in the Page and Dimmick Drug Store located in the building which now houses the Library at 2nd and Locust St. in Oakland. It was used for long distance phoning only. It was moved from the Drug Store to the highway corner building now vacant. N.R. Neas and his brother, Frank, were the agents. They had a confectionery store there at the time.

In 1906 the office was moved to the building now used for the Oakland Post Office. It was there the first switch board was installed. Mr. Mahoney had a confectionery store in the same building and later sold both businesses to Guy Mann and Kelly Jones. They kept it over a year, selling to Jenner Page. He sold it to H.E. Mahoney who moved it to a small building on Locust St. now occupied by the "Oakland Museum". Mrs. H. J. Mahoney was the agent and chief operator for about one year.

The first farm line built ran east of Oakland. Cap Guinn, George Hall, Dan Crouch and three or four others had a rural line. In 1912 the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph bought the system.

Harvey Mahoney was one of the first local persons employed by the company. At the time the local manager was called an agent and Grace Tanner had this position. Working for her were Mildred Kruse, Florence Henry, Mrs. Roy Truitt and Mrs. Wendall Truitt.

Mildred Kruse became the next manager and her title was "Chief Operator". Her helpers were: Josephine Henninger, Fern Oberman Kellogg, Agnes Hogan, Jennie Thornton, Mildred Young, Mrs. Roy Truitt and Ruby Weyforth.

The next chief operator was Mrs. Wendall Truitt. She was assisted by Florence Moore, Wanda Castor Schosso, Mildred Young, Mrs. Roy Truitt, Ruth Edwards Lilly, and Lois Edwards Anderson.

In 1924, Mrs. Roy Truitt became chief operator but the station was made an agency. In 1927 the switch board was moved to the Settle Building on Maple St. east of the old Leas & Son Garage now owned by Rex Tollefson. Florence Moore was transferred to Roseburg. Those who worked under Mrs. Truitt were Wanda Schosso, Mildred Young, Mrs. Wendall Truitt and Mrs. Florence McNabb.

In 1937 the Sutherlin system was bought by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company and the exchange was added to the Oakland office. The Oakland exchange served a large territory. It extended to the Julian Thiel place on the Rice Valley Road and the Lloyd Pinston ranch on the north, to the Noah Rose's 17 miles east, also to Hawthorne on the east and up Coon Creek; south of Sutherlin; west to Dayton Minter's near Elkton. Also west to Ernest Short ranch at Tyee and R.R. Clarke's at Millwood. It served 215 homes and businesses. Pay stations were located in the Oakland Hotel and Okey's Cafe in Sutherlin. All this area is now served by the modern dial system.

The early day telephone lines were a single wire and the telephone was a wall type with dry cell batteries and you cranked them like a coffee mill. If you couldn't get your party there was always a helping hand to relay the ring on for you.

This was the way of getting news as there was no radio or TV in those days. I believe this was the way gossip got started, because it was the only way of getting news in those days. With electricity coming to the farm, the telephone lines had to put in double circuits to eliminate interference from the power lines.

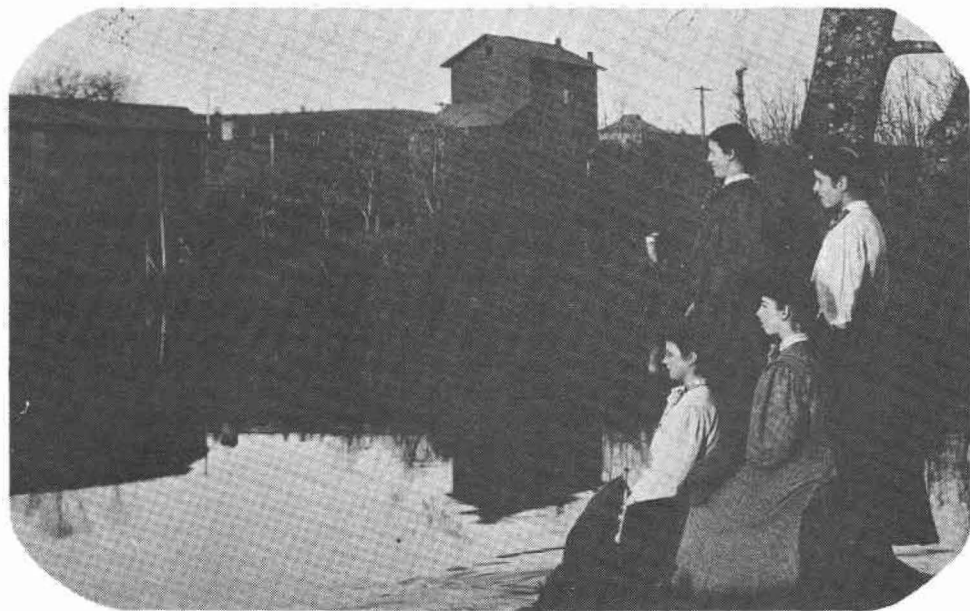


Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

Old Taylor Grist Mill located where the Shell distributing plant now stands and the covered bridge crossing Calapooya Creek leading north out of Oakland. Probably taken around 1900.

Oakland Noted As A Shipping Center

Oakland, Oregon was noted as a shipping center and for its business transactions in the early days. At one time it shipped more poultry and produce than any two towns between Portland and San Francisco. The following figures will give adequate conception of the amount of business transacted at this flourishing little city.

The shipment from Oakland during 1889 was: 235,000 pounds of wool, 177,000 bushels of wheat and oats, \$22,000.00 in bacon and dried fruits, one hundred seventy five car loads of livestock, and last but not least \$31,500.00 worth of poultry and eggs.

The country around and about Oakland was especially blessed with wonderful resources of agriculture, minerals and timber wealth and water power sufficient for manufacturing purposes in those days. There were in the surrounding neighborhood and Oakland three water-powered flour mills. The farmer took his grain to the mills to have it made into flour and the miller took his toll out of the flour so the farmer wouldn't be out any cash. In the early days most all tillable ground was put into wheat and oats and Oakland was a shipping center and there were about seven warehouses filled every harvest with grain to be shipped out where needed.

There were two quicksilver mines near Oakland in operation in those days and a salt spring 5 miles south of Oakland which was worked to an advantage and produced a fine quality of salt. The water was taken from the spring and boiled down, leaving a fine grade of salt.

At one time Oakland was a shipping point for Douglas County cement mines. They were located about 8 miles northwest of town and the rock had to be shipped to Oregon City. They built special grinding equipment and had cheap water power for crushing and grinding it into a fine cement. At that time this finished cement was tested both by assay and practical tests and was found to equal if not better the Portland Cement of England. The supply in this mine seemed to be inexhaustible. They tunneled into the hill a long way before they ceased work. No doubt it will be opened up again some day if not for cement for fertilizer which would be a big boost to agricultural land.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

Pollock Creek Falls Grist Mill in early days. There also was a saw mill that was run by Mr. Pollock.

Oakland at one time had a brick and tile factory and shipped brick and tile out to different towns. Many of our business buildings are built of this brick.

The pioneer farmers of this vicinity were diversified farmers but after the First World War diversified farming ceased and consequently Oakland is not longer a great shipping center. It turned to shipping of wood products. Oakland was always satisfied to be a small home town and friendly to all. There is a movement on by the younger generation to preserve and restore the old business buildings.

Oakland is more free of air pollution than any town in Douglas County and with the modern sewer system being installed and the town having an active Towne Club, the future of Oakland will be assured and go forward from its long sleep.

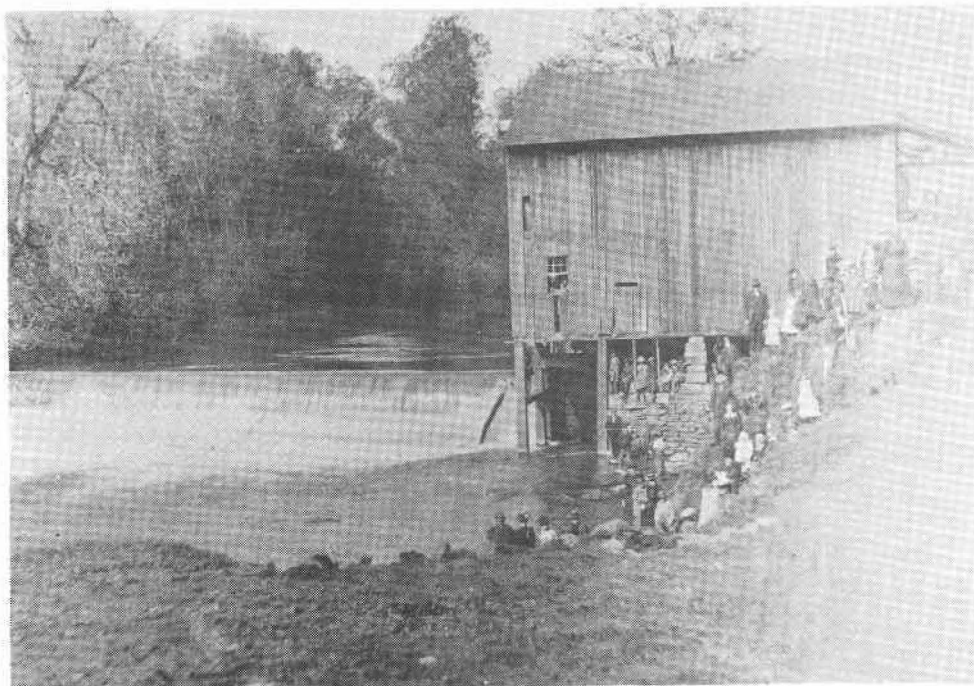


Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum

Dr. Dorsey S. Baker Grist Mill located on bank of Calapooya Creek in Old Town Oakland. Established in 1852.

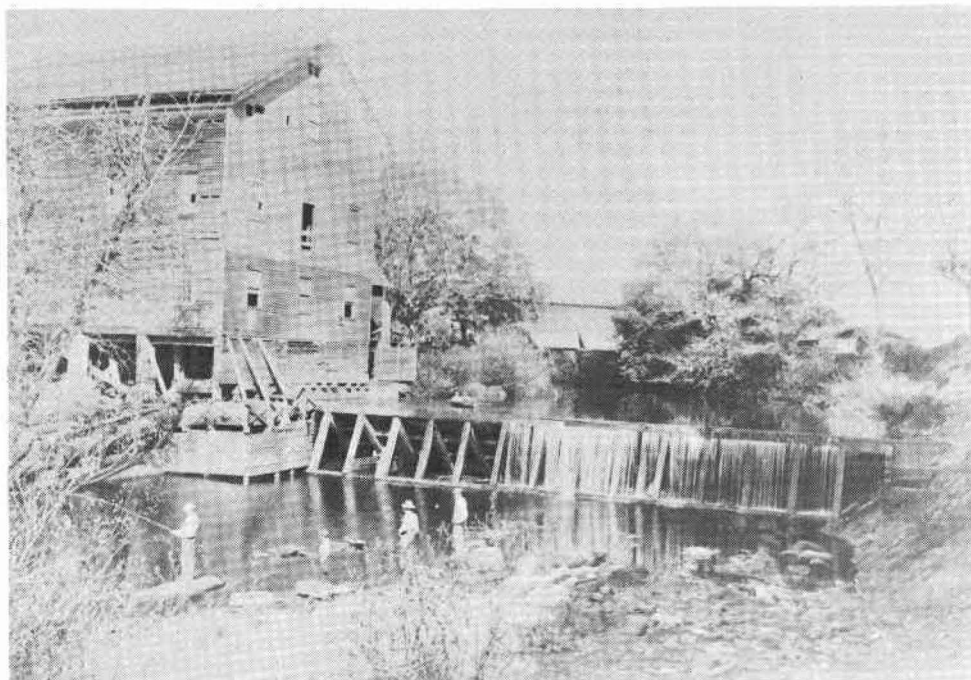


Photo Courtesy of Douglas County Museum

Rochester Flour Mill and covered bridge above the dam across the Calapooya Creek. The covered bridge now stands about three miles west of Oakland. The bridge shown was washed out by high water in 1933 and was replaced the same year by the present bridge.

Early Day Turkey Raising In Douglas County

As far as is known the first turkeys that were introduced in Douglas County were brought here by Fendel Sutherlin in the early 1850's. They used to get fat in the fall of the year on poison oak berries and acorns.

When the early settlers went to raising more grain, they used to run them on the stubble fields and finish them off for market on wheat.

Some farmers killed their turkeys if they had only a few, but those who had large flocks drove them to Oakland to a turkey picking plant. As the years passed the quality improved.

In the year 1916, a man from Hermiston, Oregon came to Oakland to buy live turkeys to stop the hordes of grass hoppers that were eating his crops up. This writer sold him 550 turkeys about the size of large chicken hens. They were shipped by express in chicken crates.

In the early 1920's the farmers were in need of more money, so they doubled their production of turkeys all through the 20's and most of the 30's. The feed dealers shipped in 2 or 3 cars of shelled corn per week for the turkeys from the east as you could buy it cheaper than wheat here.

The downfall of the turkey business in Douglas County came when people found out they could raise turkeys by the thousands on small acreages. We had thought they had to be raised on open range, so they began raising them where the feed was grown cheaper in the corn belt country.

It was always a big day on Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was turkey day in Oakland. There were always several local buyers, as well as lots of outside buyers from different towns, as the turkey raisers were always looking for the best price they could get.

The first turkey show held in Oakland was in 1929. It was unheralded and unreported except by county papers. After three years of striving, Mrs. O.C. Brown arranged for publicity in the "Turkey World", published at that time in Chicago. From that time on the state of Oregon received immense publicity. At that time the value of poults, eggs and of stock shipped from Western Oregon out of the state would easily amount to \$100,000.00.

In 1938 the poultry industry of the state amounted to \$8,000,000.00 and of this sum turkeys accounted for \$3,500,000.00.

Live birds entered in the Northwest Turkey Show at Oakland ranged from 283 in 1929 to a peak of 613 in 1932. The largest number of dressed birds shown was 633 in 1936.

McKinley Huntington was the first president of the show association and Mrs. O.C. Brown was secretary. Mrs. Olivant and Mrs. Earl Strong were directors. Mr. J.C. Leedy was manager.

In 1931 E.F. Strong was elected president and Cecil Fessler and Floyd Johnson were chosen directors. Mrs. Brown remained on the board as secretary and Mrs. Ward Cockeram as vice president.

In 1933 E.G. Young became manager and served several years. Henry Domes and Mrs. Willard Herman were chosen directors.

The first show was strictly a standard breed exhibition. The dressed show had its inception in 1930 when 30 birds were exhibited. From then on this department grew by leaps and bounds.

C. R. Dear was the first manager of the dressed show. In 1932 Mr. Dear and T.B. Garrison managed this department. In 1930 Mr. Garrison became dress show manager.

In 1938 the first live utility birds were shown with restricted entries. This department made a great hit with the average commercial grower.

Grand championships of the live show were as follows: Ward Cockeram 1929 and 1930 with Bronze, Henry Domes 1932, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938 with White Holland. In the dressed show for five years George Hall won grand champion, Kupetz, two; Mitchell, two; and Cockeram, two. In 1938 George Mitchell won champion bird of live utility class.



Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

A typical farm scene of a herd of turkeys on W. A. Cockeram's ranch when turkey raising was a profitable industry around Oakland and was practically the staff of life for many people.

Ten years of turkey exhibitions made Oakland nationally famous, and advertised Douglas County and the state of Oregon in every nook and cranny of the country. The 1938 show received an illustrated story in the Poultry Tribune, the largest poultry paper in the United States, in the Turkey World and in the American Turkey Journal. The northwestern Coop paper of Salt Lake also covered the show in an illustrated writeup.

The fame of the Oakland banquet spread over the entire Pacific Northwest, as the acme of all events of such a nature.

Douglas County lost the poultry production on account of being too far from market and the high cost of feed. Big feed companies financed people on small acreages to raise poultry enmasse production. Incubators were a big advantage on the small acreage.

The competition was not so much on account of the price of the birds as the big mills furnishing the feed as the big feed men made the big profit.

So Oakland lost one of its main industries they had been in on for around 70 years. At first it was sort of a side line for the rancher but it grew into a big business.

The following old figures might interest some of the old time turkey raisers.

Oakland at one time had the reputation of annually shipping more turkeys than any other town on the Pacific Coast. The Thanksgiving and Christmas shipment of turkeys for the following years were 1907 - 150,000 lbs; 1908 - 101,000 lbs.; 1909 - 120,000; 1910 - 160,000 lbs. The average price paid in these four years was 22 1/2 cents.

One year George Hall Jr. started in the spring 1910 with 30 turkey hens and 2 gobblers the approximate value of these was \$80.00. From this flock for the holiday trade he sold 255 birds, for which he received \$803.75, he had a breeding flock of 55 birds left worth \$164.60. The average cost of caring for and feeding was 50¢ per bird or a total of \$160.00. Deducting this amount together with the cost of the original flock, leaves a net profit of \$728.35 on an investment of \$80.00.

Mills And Wood Products

Charley Stephens had a planing mill in the west end of Oakland, he was a good carpenter and built many houses in Oakland and vicinity in the early 1900's.

Joe Miller had a hardwood mill where he made singletrees, neckyokes, brake blocks, wagon tongues, wagon spokes and felloes. He also made rollers for saw mills; in fact he could make almost anything you needed out of hardwood.

Dave McCollum, N.H. Rone and R. Cooper each had mills on the upper Calapooya Creek. Some teamsters would haul lumber from these mills at so much per thousand, it was 12 to 15 miles to these mills from Oakland so these men put in long days.

W. R. Powers had a sawmill in English Settlement in 1853, close to where the old covered bridge used to be. He cut timber along the Calapooya Creek and floated it down to the mill. One time the boom broke loose and he lost a lot of logs.

There weren't many bridges over the Calapooya before 1900 but shortly after the turn of the century they built covered bridges. When you had real high water you stayed at home. It was a great thrill for the young people to ford the creek but not for the older ones especially when the current washed the back end of the hack or wagon down stream. One thing nice about it you came out with clean wheels and the horses had clean legs.

At one time there was quite a demand for barrel staves, lots of fine oak trees were cut into bolts and shipped to barrel manufacturers.

During the 1920s and 1930s there was a big demand for maple and myrtle burls. Quite a lot of men were employed at this work and Hugh Miller was one of the main shippers of these burls.

The first settler in English Settlement was Sim Oldham in 1852. There was a sawmill on Oldham Creek where they used oxen to log with. It was a water powered whip sawmill and was operated by Joe Gossup and Ed Lane.

Fair Oaks had a grist mill at one time, it was located just above the present bridge and run by Mr. Wheeler and Mr. White.

In 1879 Sampson Sutherland operated a store where the Grange Hall now stands.

There used to be a grist mill, also a sawmill at Pollock Creek Falls, run by Mr. Pollock in the early days.

On the Calapooya Creek three miles west of Oakland below the covered bridge was the old Rochester flour mill.

Prune And Hop Growing

Around 1895 there were quite a lot of Italian prune orchards planted and they began to bear in the early 1900's and the prune industry flourished for several years. It was quite a boost to the economy as it gave employment to most of the entire family as it took lots of labor to pick and dry these prunes.

There used to be a lot of prune driers over the country to handle these prunes. Sometimes there was a ready market as soon as they were harvested and sometimes they would hold them in warehouses. When they did this they had to be worked over during the winter months as they would get a white mold. They would sprinkle water over them and then they would be shoveled around as you would mix cement. I had a brother-in-law who did this one winter and it amused him the amount of water you could put on them. He said after he had learned this trick he began making money.

Hop growing was quite profitable if you didn't get too much mildew but mildew finally won out and they gave up hop growing. It had furnished a lot of employment to women and children. I can see Edwin Stearns yet as he went about putting hop twine on the poles and training the vines to run out on the hop twine. He used his faithful old pony Jack to do the work on as most of this was about seven feet high.

At one time A.F. Stearns had all the bottom land west of the depot in hops.

Life Story Of Mary Hall Smith Reveals Hardships Of Pioneering

With the death of Mary Hall Smith, December 7, 1930, there passed to her reward not only a dearly beloved citizen of Oakland but also one of Oregon's oldest pioneers and one of the most helpful of Douglas County's early citizens. A citizen that had much to do with the building, not only of an empire - but what is more important - also the formation of character, the spiritual character especially, of the settlers of that early period.

The passing of Mrs. Smith recalls to the minds of a number of pioneers something of the trying times of that early period when settlement in the new country meant hardships, privation, menace to life and property from predatory Indians and animals, as well as self denial of many luxuries, the ease and contentment this well-to-do middle class family enjoyed in their beloved England.

A brief story of the life and early adventures of this pioneer family, we are sure, will be of more than usual interest to Mrs. Smith's many friends.

Dr. Langley Hall, father of Mrs. Smith, and his two brothers, George and John, were born in Mansel Park, Darbeysire, England, where they were educated in a private school. In 1837 the family migrated to America, making the long trip in a sailing ship. During the voyage the mother became seriously ill and passed away when almost in sight of New York. The remains were sewed up in a feather bed and weighted with rocks from the ship's ballast and buried at sea. The remainder of the family settled in the so-called west Stark County, Illinois, helping to pioneer and settle that country.

In the course of time trappers, scouts and other adventurers, returning from the Oregon Country, told stories of beautiful valleys, ample rainfall, fertile land, rivers teeming with fish, deer as thick as cattle on Illinois pasture, gold in a thousand creeks and hills, freedom from excessive cold, but little if any snow - which immediately appealed to the Hall brothers, so much so, in fact, that in 1853, with many others, they formed a small emigrant train, drawn by oxen and mules, loading as much household effects, farm equipment and provisions as it was deemed advisable to bring. Their destination was southern Oregon.

At this time Aunt Mary Smith was five years old and vividly remembered the stirring incidents of that memorable journey.

As the Hall train advanced it overtook and joined, or was overtaken and joined by a number of smaller trains, until by the time it had reached central Oregon, a large train of nearly 100 wagons and two thousand or more head of livestock had gathered together. When the train had reached a point near the Malheur River, it was joined by a man named Elijah Elliott, who had come to see if his wife and family were among the members of the train.

Elliott had come up the middle fork of the Willamette. He had settled in the upper part of the valley and had ridden out over the new trail that the territorial government had laid out between Summit Lake and Diamond Lake. Listening to Elliott's statement that he was returning over the route he had come, a saving in distance of 300 miles over the Barlow Route, the big train separated, about one-half, going via Barlow, Mt. Hood and The Dalles, the others heading for the new pass. And right there is where trouble commenced for the Hall family and little Mary and her brothers and sisters.

Seventy-five wagons and a thousand head of stock followed the leadership of Elliott, crossing the summit without much difficulty. But when they arrived in the heavy timber along the headwaters of the Willamette, difficulty increased. Instead of the promised wagon road they found only a blazed trail, which they could not follow. Impounded within mountainous windfalls, progress almost impossible, provisions ran short and cattle died like flies, or were so poor they were unfit to eat. For days the hardy pioneers had nothing to eat but stringy, tasteless beef -- and but little of that.

Little Mary, the subject of this sketch, holding her mother's hand tramped through the mountains for five successive days with nothing but a small piece of brown sugar each day for sustenance.

A runner, Martin Blanding, was finally sent for relief and two weeks later was fortunately found, starving, by Dave Matthews, a boy of 13, who led him to a settler's home near where Lowell, Oregon now is. Other settlers were notified of the predicament of the emigrant train.

Relief was immediately sent, the starving emigrants fed and then helped to get to where they could help themselves. At Lowell the new settlers separated. The Hall brothers and Dr. Hall's family coming on to the Calapooya, where they settled, each taking a donation claim of 640 acres.

And here Mary Hall, together with eight brothers and sisters of her parent's family, grew and thrived and blossomed into young womanhood. In the earlier years Indians were to be guarded against, for many homes had been burned and many head of cattle and horses driven off. But in spite of these early hardships the little settlement thrived, its people were happy and the population grew.

Mary's father, Dr. Langley Hall, became the family physician of Oakland, the new town on the Calapooya and Mary was wooed and fell in love with J.B. Smith, one of Oakland's first merchants. She married him and they lived happily in Oakland until his death some years ago.

For many years Mary was a teacher in the Episcopal Sunday School. One of the saddest days of "Aunt Mary's" life came when the Episcopal congregation dwindled to the point where it was deemed best for the community's good to organize a community church for Oakland. While not one of the organizers the movement had her consent and from that time on her purse strings were ever open to the material and spiritual needs of the new church.

While reared in comparative luxury, "Aunt Mary" nevertheless readily adapted herself to the life of the community in which she lived and was ever ready in times of illness or want to do her full share in the pioneer community.

A commanding figure, stately, aggressive, yet kindly and courteously so -- for whatever she believed right, Mrs. Mary Hall Smith was always a material factor in shaping the ends of her community, and many a Douglas County young man and woman owe their early molding to the careful spiritual training of "Aunt Mary".

Hunting Predatory Animals: Killers Of Livestock

Most stock raisers used to keep two to four varment hounds for hunting coyotes. When coyotes got to killing sheep the people would get together in the neighborhood for a hunt. When the race got underway and the coyote circled the hunters could turn in some fresh dogs every hour or so and the hunt would soon be over. If the coyote took across the country he usually got away but sometimes if the coyote had just made a kill and his stomach was full he would go in a hole in the rocks or an underground ditch or even a hollow log. When this happened the hunters would all gather there and let the inexperienced hound do the killing. All hunters carried a hunting horn that could be heard for miles and they had several different signals they blew that told you what was taking place.

But when the killer of all killers, the grey timber wolf, came in 1900 from the Calapooya mountains into the sheep pastures the destruction was ten times greater than any other predatory animal. If you hunted them with hounds in fenced pastures and could shoot them it was a great sport. If they got away and got in heavy timber they would turn on the dogs and kill them. Semour Quant had three hounds after wolves one time and only one came home and he was so bitten that he would never go in a brush patch after anything after that. I myself ran into some timber wolves on Benmore. My dogs would chase the wolves a little way then the wolves would chase the dogs back to me. They did this several times and each time they would stop just out of sight of me and the wolves would give two or three mournful howls. If you have never heard a wolf howl I can tell you its pretty hair-raising. You know its coming out of a large lung cavity and it carries a warning with it that you are treading on dangerous ground.

One time I was fishing on the upper Calapooya Creek above Coon Creek junction and a deer came running by me with her tongue hanging out. I hadn't gone only two or three hundred feet when I ran into wolf tracks so I knew what was after the deer. When I came back down the creek fishing I found the deer and it was practically eaten up. The wolves had smelled me and simply went around me in the brush and made their kill. This shows they are not a dumb animal, as a rule they only came out of the mountains in the winter time. But one time around 1911 one wolf kept coming out every three or four days and killed one sheep. Finally we found it always came through a certain prairie so my father smoked a pair of buckskin gloves to kill the human scent and used

a carving knife and fork to kill a sheep. We used the lungs, liver and head and my mother put the strychnine in them and I put it all in a three gallon bucket and it was never touched by any hands. I took it on horseback and with a carving fork I put it out in three places in the prairie. The next morning I took two dogs coupled together and when I got near the prairie I put a rope on them and tied them up. I saw the lungs and liver were gone and one ear ate off the head so I tied the horse up and turned one of the dogs loose. After I put the sheep head back in the bucket pretty soon there was a lot of growling and barking going on. The way the dog acted you'd thought the wolf was alive and when I got where the dog was he kept going for about twenty yards and there lay the wolf dead.

We thought it was a wolf with pups but she had been shot in the foreleg and was unable to hunt with the pack when they went back in the mountains.

Earnest Neal had always said he had hit a wolf with his 22 rimfire single shot. Stock raisers had to corral their sheep at night or make them bed close to the house because it wasn't anything for a pack to kill or cripple twenty-five or thirty sheep in one night. The ranchers tried to fence against them but they would dig under the fence.

Hunt Bros. ranch on the upper Calapooya Creek put up a fence 13 wires high. It was sort of a steel fence and it was what was called Page fence. They put barb wire on top and bottom and they put this fence around 2300 acres. Finally by trapping and poisoning the wolves ceased to come out of the mountains around 1912.

I don't know for sure but I believe Floyd Norris caught the last one in the Calapooya mountains. They ranged all through the headwaters of the Umpqua River and the last of the timber wolves were killed around World War I, so they have become extinct in Oregon. At one time coyotes were pretty well controlled but they seem to be on the increase around Oakland. The timber companies don't want you to trap or poison on their holdings so the coyotes have sort of a preserve now. If they ate trees the timber companies would want them killed.

Town dogs and rural dogs have put some stockraisers out of the sheep business and they had to go to cattle. Dogs running at large are a nuisance to the stockman and these unattended dogs kill thousands of dollars worth of stock every year.

But I am astonished by a glance at my pages, I am overreaching the bounds of a newspaper article; I have tried to be brief but see I must cut down remarks still more. I would like very much to call this a continued story.

Commercial Fishing And Hide Hunting For Deer And Elk

Farmers used to do some commercial fishing on the side along with their ranching. There would be Chinook in the Spring of the year, in the fall Silvers and Fall Chinook and in winter the Steelhead Salmon also in summer the Summer Steelhead. One could fish all year around if you had a good fishing eddy. Several ton would be caught in a year and some fishermen made a living fishing.

Henry Gething was a fish buyer at Oakland and some would ship to other markets. The fall Chinook and the Silver salmon used to be the most plentiful but they are about exterminated on account of poor legislation for their protection. The Game Commission is inclined to open more of the river and make the bag limit larger so the end will come to salmon fishing soon.

In the early days deer and elk were plentiful everywhere but as the country settled up they killed the ones near the agriculture lands, besides everyone had varment or deer hounds running at large. The deer and elk went farther back to higher elevations: all the hunting in the 1900's was away from the agricultural lands.

It got so not many hounds are used these days and the planting of legumes caused the deer to come back to agriculture land, so now 75% of the deer are on or near farm lands.

There was a era of hide hunting in the first of the 1900s and that about exterminated them so the elk season was closed for 30 years. These hunters used to set up camp in a regular way for this kind of hunting.

Sometimes they would dry venison and make jerky, it got to be quite a good business in the larger towns. When the deer got scarce they used to make jerky out of goat meat and when selling it they called it deer jerky.

You could take two suitcases of jerky to Portland and sell it for \$75 which was good money when wages were 50¢ and 75¢ per day and \$1.00 was extremely high wages.

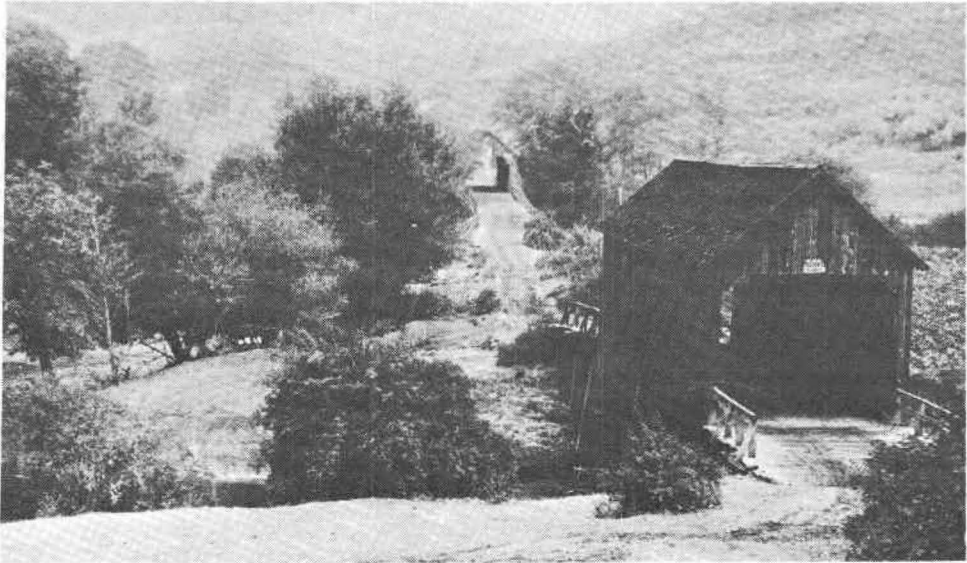


Photo Courtesy of Oakland Museum

The twin covered bridges were located near Old Town Oakland. The bridge in foreground crossed the Calapooia Creek. The bridge in the background made passage possible during high water and wet ground part of the year. The use of the bridges was discontinued about 1937 or 38. The last one fell down in 1947.

County Road Work

Oakland and the surrounding territory has come a long way from the so-called "cow-trails" to the present road building. In the pioneer days they used corduroy for the mire holes. If rock was handy they would throw great big rocks in these holes that had no bottom to them: otherwise you went through with pure horse power. Sometimes they would have to cut poles and pry a wagon out, but with the coming of right-of-ways for roads they began to haul gravel to build roads. In lots of instances people volunteered labor to build roads. In the old days it was done this way: one neighbor would help another to make bridges so they could cross his property and they hauled gravel with horses and wagons with what was called gravel beds. You took the wagon box off and put 2 x 12 on each side and 2 x 4 for the bottom. These were made rounding on the end to get hold of when you got one out. The unloading of gravel was easy as a rule. The county paid \$4.00 per day for man, teams etc. for hauling and \$1.50 per day for gravel shovelers. It was an eight hour day and you went and came on your own time. Sometimes you traveled a long way to go to work and as a rule they would give the people in the immediate vicinity where they were working the first chance to work.

In the early days all males had to work out a poll tax. Some of them scorned this very much and in later years it was done away with.

Before Old Highway 99 was built you had to travel over the Goodrich Highway between Yoncalla and Oakland. It was a rather hilly and muddy road; some travelers tried to use this road with cars when it wasn't fit to travel. They would get mired down and would have to get a farmer to pull them out and sometimes they would have to pull them for a mile or more. Quite a lot of this car pulling fell to George Chenoweth or Fred McCord as they lived on this road.

With the building of Highway 99 there was a demand for better country roads. As more people began buying more cars, they voted to bond the county for a huge sum and road building progressed. When the depression hit in the early thirties road building was slowed for two years.

One road district around Oakland had over 100 miles of road.

The road patrolman in this district was allowed to hire only one helper most of the time as there was no tax money coming in.



James Chenoweth

This is a brief story of the life of James Chenoweth. There is much history that could be told of him during his life, but it would require a great many hours to search it all out.

James Chenoweth died at Oakland, Friday, January 3rd, 1890, in the fortieth year of his age. Mr. Chenoweth was one of the best known citizens of Douglas County and was a man of great energy and the strictest integrity. His death in early manhood came as a blow to many friends throughout Oregon. He was in every sense a true man, true to his friends, true to his conviction, true to his fellowmen. No citizen of Douglas County could have been so illy spared.

A special train was chartered by friends in Roseburg who attended the funeral Sunday. The services were held in the Baptist Church, of which he had been a member for many years, and were conducted by Rev. J.C. Richardson, assisted by Rev. Lund and Marcellus.

While all that is mortal of James Chenoweth has been consigned to the bosom of Mother Earth, his spirit has received the Divine Benediction "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," and his memory will ever be fresh in the hearts of mourning friends and relatives.

James Chenoweth crossed the Plains to Oregon with his parents in 1853. He had a half brother, John Adamson by a previous marriage of his mother. He also had a sister, Nancy born on the wagon trail while crossing the plains. She later became Mrs. A. F. Stearns. James Chenoweth's father died at the age of 52 years and it became James' duty to help his mother raise six younger brothers and sisters. They all respected his decisions and instructions that they might lead a full and respectable life.

James Chenoweth planted a large orchard four miles north of Oakland, Oregon known as Chenoweth Park. It still carries that name in 1969.

He also operated the Bonanza quicksilver mines east of Sutherlin, Oregon which eventually caused his death so young. He would wrap himself in wet towels to take the quicksilver out of the ovens and the fumes from these ovens caused his death. The Chinese who worked at the mines refused to go in the ovens.

At one time he was a hardware merchant in Oakland. He was also a postmaster in 1887 for a short period.

Honoring The Pioneers Of Oakland And The Surrounding Territory

These words will not have a great deal of value to the general public, but will be of great interest to the immediate descendants of these pioneers.

Whoever may read these pages after I am gone will be enriched in memory of the old pioneers of Oakland, Oregon.

The old pioneers of Oakland and surrounding territory are deserving of all the pleasures and honors that can be bestowed upon them. Into the trackless waste they came and made the hills and meadows bloom as a rose. They possessed a spirit of resoluteness a degree of honesty and uprightness that is somewhat wanting in these degenerate days. While I have lingered but a short time on this earth I have seen many of the old sturdy pioneers slip away to be seen for the last time.

There are but a few grand-children left living of these old settlers of Oakland and surrounding territory and our thoughts are many as the sun is sinking low in the west for many of us. I can look back and see and hear these early settlers tell of the hardships they endured; they mark out the path for the present generation to walk in.

God bless the sturdy pioneers of Oakland and the surrounding territory, the log cabin in its history it made and developed the county into what it is. There was good faith and honesty in those days, the latch string of the log cabin of those sturdy old pioneers was always out and a hearty welcome given to all whom chance had directed their footsteps to their humble cabin. There was more neighborly and friendly feelings then than now; the neighbor's rights were respected.

The Golden Rule was better observed. Men and women were freer from guilt, deceit and hypocrisy and there was more arbitration by neighbors and less use for lawyers.

With the passing of these pioneers of Oakland and vicinity truly a life of wonderful possibilities has gone out; rich in gifts beyond compare and with all this in view may we not truly say, we of the third generation have not forgotten them. They were connected with the early interest of our community and associated with its rise and progress and were prominently figured in the many stirring events in its history.

These pioneers will long live in the memory of the people and the many good deeds they paid to those who nobly strove with them and they are all gone now, let's not forget these sturdy pioneers.

Nearly fifty years ago the happiest event Oakland ever had was a home rodeo, it was all local stock and local riders. It was full of joy, a great blessing and fully appreciated and heaven to every soul. It was ushered in and developed into the highest point of excellency and passed on to history's pages, it was the most all around successful Old Pioneer rodeo ever held in Oakland and was put on by the "Oakland Development Club." The day was perfect and undoubtedly the refreshing atmosphere and brilliant sunshine helped to relieve hearts and minds of any anxiety and to give fullest joy to every soul.

The old pioneers of Oakland and surrounding territory were a grand set of people.

In their homes the husband was the bread winner; the wife the homemaker and together they ruled over this pioneer home. There were many children in the homes and they were loyal and obedient, it never occurred to them to question their divine rights. As of today, one hundred years later, it is quite different, the parents rule half the time and the children the other half.

I have not only lived my own life but have lived the life of the early settlers for all my grandparents and many others who planted deep their names in the early history of the old community of Oakland.

I have seen sorrow invade many of these old pioneer homes. Death the relentless reaper always claims the fairest flower before it was in full bloom. We meet but once between two eternities, an eternity past and an eternity to come.

To the east is Mt. Scott, to the west, Tyee Mountain which acts as Sentinals looking over the many homes of these pioneers in the Calapoos drainage.

I have told this tale as it lives in my memory. To all those who think of the Oakland community as their motherland of her pioneers from these mountain tops I waft a kind greeting and hastily wish that not only this day but all your days may be happy and successful.

Names, Births And Occupations Of Pioneers

Biographical Brevities from the Appendix of the History of Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos counties. Published by A. G. Walling in 1884 at Portland, Oregon.

Dr. E. J. Page lives in Oakland. Is a physician and surgeon. Born in Green Co. Tenn., October 21, 1848. Graduated from Louisville Medical and Jefferson College, February 1874. Came to Oregon 1877. Married Miss Theresa A. Lewis December 17, 1874. Children - Lillie Lee, Dora F. and Edward J.

N. H. Rone lives in Oakland, is a lumberman. Born January 3, 1837 - Ray County, Missouri. Came to state and county in 1865. Married Mary A. Copeland January 7, 1857. Had two children - one living, Sarah A. Married again October 6, 1867 to Miss Eliza J. Rice had three children, America M., Edgar L. and Frank.

James C. Hutchison lives in Oakland. Is a farmer and stock grower. Came to state and county 1839. Born October 10, 1835 in Henderson County Illinois. Married Sarah Copeland. Children are Myrtle, Arthur, Lucy, James R. and Fred.

Dr. J.C. Shambrook lives in Oakland. Is physician. Born in Douglas County, September 3, 1856. Graduated from Louisville Medical College, February 25, 1881.

George Shambrook lives in Coles Valley. Is a farmer and merchant. Born in Cambridge, England, 1828. Came to State 1847 - to County 1852. Married November 5, 1855 to Lauretta Ridenour. Children are John C., Daniel R., Eli (deceased) Mary J. and George H., Hannah E., Jesse, Olive B. (deceased) Benjamin F., Welthya (deceased), Martha E. and Maude C.

G.A. Taylor lives in Oakland. Is a telegraphist and postmaster. Born near Albany, Oregon, February 22, 1855. Came to county 1872 - married to Miss E. J. Hall, May 7, 1874. One child, Eva.

Jesse Clayton lived on Calapooya Creek. Is a farmer and stock raiser. Post Office Oakland. Born October 16, 1828 in Perry County, Ohio. Came to state 1847. Was in Cayuse War. Married Mrs. L.E. Heckathorn August 10, 1869. Children are: Lizzie, Susie, Jesse R., Franklin and Maude.

W.H.B. Deardorff lived on Camas Swale. Is a farmer and stock grower. Post Office Oakland. Born March 28, 1928 in Union Co. Indiana. Came to state and county 1853. Married Georgia A. Harl, March 21, 1853. Children are: Albert G., Josephine, Marcana, Isabella, Horace, John W. and Katie.

Ralph Cockeram is a farmer and stock raiser. Post Office Oakland. Married Ann Harvey, 1856. Their children are: Harvey, Harriet, Teresa, Jessie, Mary (deceased), and Ralph Roland.

James Chenoweth lives in Oakland. Is a merchant. Was born in Dekalb County Missouri, Sept. 22, 1850. Came to state in 1852 to county 1853. Was elected to the Legislature in 1878.

George Hall, Sr. was born at Hulland, England 1819. Died 1896. Was a farmer and stockraiser. Post Office Oakland, married Mary Jane James, 1867. The children are Mary A., Lucy E., Robert, Sarah E., George Jr. and Eva J.

Richard Thomas was born November 25, 1837 in Schuylkill Co., Penn. Came to Douglas Co. Was a farmer. Moved to Oakland in 1872 and opened Depot Hotel. Married Mrs. Sarah E. Cozad, May 1864. She was daughter of L. Hall. Had two children, Fanny and Mary.

Honorable Daniel W. Stearns was born Dec. 31, 1821, in Chesterfield, N.H. Was a prominent capitalist of Oakland. Was a farmer. Married in Mass. January 3, 1847 to Miss Almira Fay. Had five sons: George J., Loyal B., Arba Fay, John W. and Ralph S.

Charles M. Hall lived in Oakland. Was a tinner. Born in Stark County, Ill. March 4, 1850. Came to state in 1853. Married Sarah M. Barr, Dec. 19, 1875. Children - Carrie and William.

Ferdinand Fortin was born in Quebec, Canada. Came to state and county in 1855. Married Mary Ridenour. October 12, 1860. Lived in Coles Valley. Is a farmer. Post office Umpqua Ferry. Children are: Josephine (deceased), Timothy A., Louis S., Margaret A. (deceased), Harvey B. (deceased), and Ferdinand.

Wm. K. Hanna lives in Oakland. Is stock raiser and butcher. Came to state and county in 1853. Born March 8, 1838 in Monitor County, Missouri. Married November 8, 1868 to Lucy M. Smith. Children are: Eliza M., Robert K., Henrietta V., Carl F., Stella and infant.

James E. Rice lives in Oakland. Is a farmer and stock grower. Came to Oregon in 1844 to county in 1861. Born in upper Canada, Feb. 18, 1812. Married Nancy Bear.

James H. Mahoney lives in Oakland. Born in Boone County, Missouri, Dec. 28, 1829. Came to state in 1853. Settled in Oakland in 1861. Married Mary Perdue in 1866.

John H. Myers lived on Calapooya Creek. Post office Oakland. Is farmer and stock raiser. Born Jan. 8, 1823 in Licking Co. Ohio. Came to state in 1853 to county 1854. Married Mrs. Anna Byars March 27, 1851. She had at time of marriage three children, William H., Rebecca, and Mary. Their children are: Austin, Benton, Anna, Maggie, Addie and John.

Ambrose C. Young lives in Oakland. Is livery stable keeper. Born in Ky. July 13, 1830. Came to state 1853 to county 1864. Married Pauline Reed 1866. One child, Willis H.

Thomas W. Winniford lives on Calapooya Creek. Post Office Oakland. Is farmer. Born in Addington, Washington Co., Va. August 13, 1830. Came to state and county in 1871. Married Margaret E. Bruner, Dec. 19, 1854. Children are: George B., Martha J., John A., Mary E., Joseph E., Robert L., Susan E. and Thomas.

Wm. Wheeler lives Oakland. Is a miller. Born May 8, 1826 in Ashland Co., Ohio. Came to state in 1845 to county in 1865. Married Mary E. Armpitt, July 25, 1850, who was drowned in Umpqua River in 1876. Children living are: Margaret A., Joseph L., Charles W., John P., Ernest, Shadrack and George F.

Sampson Sutherlin lives at Fair Oaks near Oakland. Is a farmer and stock raiser. Came to state and county in 1850. Married Lucy Parris, June 23, 1861. Children are: Irene J., (deceased), Lula A., John H., Wm. F., Emma, Mary A., Charles and Sampson.

John H. Shupe lives in Oakland. Is a merchant. Born April 26, 1850 in Cass Co., Missouri. Came to state in 1853 to county in 1854. Married Mary E. Kruse, Sept. 16, 1877. Children are Leone E., Margaret W. and Racheal G.

Joseph L. Churchill lives in Coles Valley. Is a farmer and stock raiser. Post Office Umpqua Ferry. Born in Columbia Co., N. Y. 1840. Came to county in 1866. Married Lillia A. Emmet, June 1, 1873. One child, Frank.

Thomas Banks lives near the Cinnabar Mines. Is a blacksmith. Post Office Oakland. Born August 2, 1819 in Hawkins Co., Tenn. Came to the state and county in 1853. Married August 28, 1850 to Cathrine Davis. Children are: Isabel, John and Sarah.

A. F. Brown lives in Oakland. Is a merchant and town proprietor. Born August 31, 1836 in Stratford Co., N. H. Came to state and county in 1859. Married in Boston, Mass., November 9, 1854 to Miss Ada Lamkin. Children are: Minnie A. (Deceased), Edgar (deceased), Frederick A., Wm. H., Charles H. and Joe H.

Aaron Harvey Sr. married Elizabeth Hall in 1826. Was a farmer and stockraiser. Children are: Eliza, Ann, Aaron Jr., Sarah, Jane and William.

John M. Hunt lives at Nonpareil. Post Office Oakland. Born January 15, 1826 in Wayne Co., Ind. Came to state and county in 1871. Married Sarah A. Argabrite. Children are: James L., Rebecca B., Arthur F., Charles H., George W., Jephtha V. and Herbert W.

Langley Hall was born in Hulland, England, 1815, died 1897. Came to Douglas County in 1853. Was farmer and stockraiser. Post Office Oakland. Married Sarah A. Ligo, 1837. Children are: Alfred, Sarah E., Fanny M., Charles J., Langley Jr., (Cap), Mary A., Charles M., Eva J. and George H. (deceased).

John Hall born in Hulland, England, 1800, died 1884. Was a farmer and stockraiser. Post office Oakland. Was a bachelor.

James Cole lives in Coles Valley. Is a farmer and stock raiser. Was born June 6, 1811 in Cumberland Co., Kentucky. Married Louisa Leeper in 1843. Came to Oregon in 1843. Died Aug. 4, 1888. Children are: Wm. Hugh, Hannibal, Sydney, Martha (deceased), Mary (deceased) Virginia (deceased), Jim, Joel Alexandria and three bachelors.

Aaron Harvey Jr. lives 8 miles northeast of Oakland. Is a farmer and stock raiser. Born October 16, 1831 in England. Married March 30, 1858 to Elizabeth Drake Harris Coats. Children: Aaron Huston, Mary Elizabeth, Ellen Louise, William Henry, Anne, Thomas Ezra, Robert Drake, Bessie Jane, Eliza, Edna Francis, Came to Douglas Co., in 1853.

Oakland Pioneer Childhood Home

The voices that have mingled here now speak another tongue,
Or breathe, perchance to alien ears, the song their mother sang,
Sad, strangely sad, in stranger lands, must sound each household tone;
The hearth, the hearth is desolate; The bright fire quenched and gone.

And of the hearts that here were linked by long remembered years,
Alas! The brother knows not now when falls the sister's tears!
One haply revels at the feast, while one may droop alone;
For broken is the household chain, the bright fire quenched and gone.

Not so - 'tis not a broken chain; thy memory binds them still,
Thou holy hearth of other days, though silent now and chill,
The smiles, the tears, the rites, behold by thine attesting stone,
Have yet a living power to mark thy children for thine own.

Among the pictures hung in Memory's halls, have you one of an old home? Your childhood home, perhaps, and dear to you by most tender associations, and to the recollection of which, still cling thoughts of youthful love and trust, and all the graces that adorn life's morning.

This old home may have been a mansion, or a low-browed cottage, or but a cabin on the frontier. These differences are immaterial. It was the essence of home life, not its adjuncts that sanctify the place and made it a shrine. It was the presence there of parental love, of filial obedience, of brotherly and sisterly affection, that hallowed it in our hearts of hearts, and made its record immortal.

In these respects our pictures would all agree, however; they may differ in outline. One may have stood by the singing ocean, another by the placid river, another among mountain pines, yet another on our western plains, but love sanctified them all alike.

We cannot see our pictures, or conjecture their endless variety, but you each know your own, and at will can recall the scene and people as of yore.

There was a plain rambling old house in the town of Oakland with old-fashioned furniture and belongings. No trappings of wealth adorned the spot, but its rooms were spacious, and its hearts were warm. Books, there were, in abundance, treasures of thought and research. Friends often gathered within its walls, free from the conventionalities of fashionable life, and conversation flowed like choice wine, sometimes rich and strong, sometimes light and sparkling, but always enjoyable. And thus within these old homes we learned to think and feel, the best sense of the word to "live". And there these pioneer daughters dreamed "Dreams of Love". The memory of which is sweeter than the breath of flowers and within these old walls there stood a white robed bride and gave themselves away in an everlasting covenant, no more to be their own, always another's.

Oh me! What changes time has wrought since that June day. Then they were young and many called them fair. Their father's steps were strong and elastic, their mother's eyes beamed brightly through her tears, and their voices were as cheerful as a bird in springtime.

Brothers and sisters hovered around them, and they went forth from their home all mantled in their love, but time rolls a mingled tide. Sorrow invaded this sanctuary of hearts and death the relentless reaper claimed the fairest. Some were transplanted to grace other households, so it came to pass that the laughter of many voices, the paths of busy feet no longer resounded through the dear old homestead. Still it was a pleasant place, the magnetic center of many loving thoughts.

The fire burned brightly through the winter evenings and the "old folks" still sat in their easy chairs, the newspaper and work basket kept their accustomed places. The latter not so full as when the children were all at home.

Thus passed many pleasant, peaceful years. Life's evening tide devoted to rest and contemplation. But the end drew near, first one chair was left vacant, then the other, and the old home was desolate, indeed. They carried the dear forms from haunts they loved so long, over the thresholds worn by feet that should never tread them more. One when fruit and flowers hung in rich profusion along the garden paths, the other, when December's snow wrapped all things in its mantle of spotless white, and embalmed by tears they laid them side by side, in the silent city of the dead, and all that is left us now of the old home, is the picture painted by Memory. These memories are priceless to me, throwing as they do a gleam of light over life's evening tide. If I have succeeded in awakening a passing interest among the readers of this booklet I am satisfied. Forgive me if I have dwelt on this too long.

Oakland Frozen Food Lockers

In September, 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Williams, better known as Rollie and Lu, purchased Bill's Frozen Food Lockers from young Bill Sewell. For the first time there was an owner whose name was not "Bill", so the name was changed to Oakland Frozen Food Lockers.

The first winter was a very slow one for business, Rollie spending a lot of time reading and dreaming of what "his" plant could be doing. The business depended entirely on the farmer bringing his slaughtered animal to the backdoor to be aged and cut and wrapped. A few people bought carcass beef that Rollie purchased from an inspected slaughter house. They made ham and bacon and sold it retail, but business was slow.

The following Spring, March 1966, Rollie and Lu bought a large 1940 Ford Van truck and decided that if the business didn't come to them they would go out and get it. This van proved to be the answer to the farmer's problem. The farmer no longer had to load his animal and take it to a slaughter house or kill it himself. Rollie takes his Mobil Slaughter Truck to the ranch, kills the animal and brings it back to the locker plant for processing. The farmer must call into the office to make an appointment to have his animal slaughtered. Business boomed! Rollie and Lu were busy six days, sometimes seven, processing approximately 1000 lbs. to 1200 lbs. of meat per day. Curing of hams and bacon became one of their specialties.

In 1967, the Federal Government enacted a bill called the Wholesome Meat Act. This law stated that all processing plants were to immediately improve their sanitary conditions to come up to Federal standards. Rollie looked over his plant at 210 Locust Street and knew something had to be done - no floor drains, paint chipping on the walls, electrical outlets outmoded, coolers that wouldn't keep cool - the list grew. If he was going to stay in business, he would have to rebuild.

After many months of planning and building, the Williamses finally moved into their new modern facility at the corner of 4th & Maple, Oakland, on June 1, 1970. Many of their good friends and neighbors of Oakland; the Holland Hutchings, Dennie Dunn, Leon Severson, Jack Smith, Al Cole, Walter Williams, Curtis Harger and Merle Knox helped move the over 400 lockers to the new plant with 160 lockers. The crew worked all day moving the frozen food from old lockers to new. The new lockers are a warm room type locker. The customer has only to open a large freezer type door and behind this door are 10 lockers. The customer never feels the cold. A convenience that is very much appreciated by everyone renting a locker.

The rest of the plant is modern and sanitary to the highest degree. Epoxy paint that will not chip or mar, concrete floors that have drains in every room, two aging coolers for beef and one for pork, a special cooler for offal, hides, etc., a concrete block smokehouse, a track scale, stainless steel sinks, Formica wrapping table, cutting room controlled temperature set at 50 degrees, a freeze tunnel for fast freezing the meat set at 20 degrees below; and all operatable with the least amount of physical labor.

The Federal Wholesome Meat Act that forbid Rollie and Lu from selling any meat as long as they handled the farmer "uninspected meat" has been repealed; but there is still a State of Oregon law that they cannot handle the two types. It is hoped that this law is also repealed, so that they can again sell their bacon and hams to their customers.



Mode's Emporium one of the first buildings to be restored under the restoration project in downtown Oakland. Mr. and Mrs. John Stephens operators. It is patronized by many tourists and people of surrounding towns for a good cool drink made with an old-fashioned soda fountain.



Terry and Carol Tollefson's store located in Historical Downtown Oakland. They remodeled an old brick building into the most attractive building of its kind in all of western Oregon. Oakland is very proud of the Tollefson's and their attractive store that attracts many tourists off the freeway. They buy and sell many kinds of antiques.

Conclusion

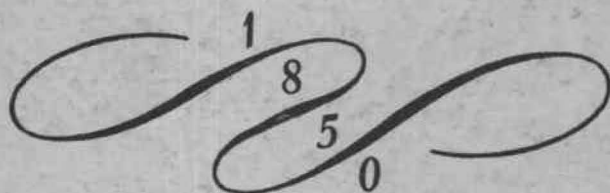
Before my pen and lips have ceased to move I will say I am a grandson of two families that came to Douglas County in 1853. On my father's side was John Chenoweth who settled on Oak Creek east of Roseburg, my mother's side was George Hall Sr. who settled in English Settlement east of Oakland. I was born at Wilbur, Oregon, moved to Oakland in 1905 and have always lived in this vicinity. I married Lora Ann Shupe in 1915 and have one son LeRoy.

When I started to write this history I asked myself this question: But of what shall I write to those that remain? After you have read this booklet I hope the names and dates of the past will awaken a host of memories within you of these early pioneers.

There are some grandchildren still living whom have heard their parents testify what a home that was so full of cheer, of simple pleasures and of hearty good will to all men was like, that the neighbors were sure of a kind welcome, the tired stranger of a resting place, and the children a safe refuge from the snares and ills of life.

Today trooping before me comes visions of distinguished men and women I have met in Oakland and with them sometimes the thoughts that are strange: one living in a quiet town for years remote from railroads and when Oakland was a much newer town than now should have been privileged even briefly to know, to clasp the hand and look into the faces of these men and women, to have done so and to have listened to their inspiring words have been a part of my education which I shall always remember with pleasure.

I wish to thank all the kind friends who typed the finished manuscript. They are Louise Stearns, Maude Cole, Elaine Harger and Lou Williams and also my beloved wife Lora who helped me complete the manuscript and to keep me in line and helped collect the data. Most of these people encouraged me to write this history so I gave them a job too.



And The Name Of That Town
Is Oakland Oregon
And We All Have Buried
Treasures There
Long, Long Ago

