

# Cave Junction is not now first class

**Cave Junction**  
By Elwood Hussey  
April 7, 1960 Bulletin

Publisher's Note: This is the seventh and final in a series of articles by Elwood Hussey, First Mayor and "Father" of Cave Junction. The *Illinois Valley News* feels honored to present these articles about Illinois Valley by Mr. Hussey which we believe to be invaluable from a historic standpoint.

The following is an interesting, and authentic account of the origin of the name Cave Junction. Although Mr. Hussey's account is written with restraint the situation at the time was explosive. The people of Cave Junction have always been proud of their town for they literally carved it out of the wilderness and to have someone else arbitrarily change the name was a matter of grave concern.

During the many years of my travels before I located in the Illinois Valley I visited cities in nearly every state of the Union and I found that the names of cities were generally suggested by something of major importance that happened at that particular place or some freak of nature that existed in the locality. I recall discussing this fact with the engineer who surveyed the townsite for me and he suggested Cave City; as a result I platted the townsite as Cave City and it was recorded as Cave City.

### Highway Signed Cave City

The State of California Highway Commission had six signs between Crescent City and Cave City giving mileage TO CAVE CITY. Also the State of Oregon stamped all guest stickers that went on the windshields of tourist cars that registered here as CAVE CITY. How did the town

acquire the name it now has? This is the question I have been asked many times and I have decided to answer the question publicly.

### Need for Post Office

From the beginning our town continued to grow, even the big fire that took most of our business section did not stop it and a Post Office was badly needed. Most business had to close and go to Kerby for their mail. We called this fact to the attention of the Postal Department several times and got no satisfaction.

I recall that I discussed this fact with a Grants Pass attorney who at that time happened to be chairman of the Republican Central Committee for Josephine County and I was surprised when he called me one day and told me to get my gang together and be at his office at 1:00 p.m. the next day; he would have the Post

Office Inspector there and we could talk to him. I followed his instructions and I recall there were five of us: George Martin, Loyd Lewis, Art Drews and myself; I can't remember just now who the other man was.

We were introduced to the Inspector and after we had presented the several reasons why we should have a Post Office he (and I think his name was Morse) said that if he did give us a Post Office we could not call it Cave City. At that time over half the mail we received was addressed to Cave City. Following the Inspector's remark Mr. Martin informed him that if we could not name our town that he should keep his \* \* \* Post Office. This concluded the meeting and I recall that I felt pretty blue about it.

### P.O. Dept. Changes Name

However, in less than 30 days we were informed that we were to have

a Post Office but it would be called Cave Junction. I recall that we were so happy that I did not do anything about the name until later, when I decided to write my friend, Senator Fred Steiwer. In a short while I got his reply that he found the name Cave Junction was suggested by our State Senator James T. Chinnock and George Sabin, Manger of Oregon Caves Resort.

The Cave Junction Post Office is now a second class Post Office. I recall some years ago when the Courier was urging their patrons to buy stamps and money orders of the Grants Pass Post Office to bring it up for first class so they could get a Federal Building. I understand the amount of business required of a Post Office has been raised considerably and this is the only reason Cave Junction is not now first class.

## A short history of Ruby Jewel Brewer's first 100 years



By Ray Brewer, the youngest son Mom (Jewel) was born to Henry and Lula Little in Francis, Oklahoma on February 27, 1911. Her family moved so much and to such remote places that having schools was hit and miss, consequently she was not able to get a complete formal education. She was married quite young on January 30, 1928 in Hobart, Oklaho-

ma to John Brewer. Due to the Depression and the dust bowl the whole Brewer clan (which included Simpsons and Plumlees) went on the road doing any kind of work they could get. Many times food was scarce or non-existent. At this time there were three children (Harold, Kenneth and baby Annabelle).

In 1936 the clan ended up in Selma, Oregon and Mom refused to go on the road anymore because she wanted her children to get the education she was denied. So the whole Brewer clan settled in Selma. Dad eventually found work in the sawmill as a log scaler and pond monkey. The last three children were born in Selma. Earl was born in what was called the Hudson house. It was located between Deer Creek and

Eight Dollar Mountain close to the Warren Ranch. Shirley Mae and I were born in a log house about 1/4th mile down the Illinois River Road from the Selma store. The folks bought 160 acres of tax title land for \$2 per acre. It was located about 1 mile from the Deer Creek Ranch and had no power or running water and a very primitive access road. On April 1, 1944 we

moved onto the land into a partially complete house. You could not legally get lumber during WW II. Electricity was not put in until 1959. There were no neighbors. We loved it. It was the first property that the folks had ever owned.

Mom loved to read and would read to us when we were young, instilling in us the love of learning and the drive to succeed. Thus we children managed to get the educations denied Mom. Some of us have college degrees. All four boys are U.S. Navy veterans. Harold and Earl are retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officers and both went on to subsequent careers in Westinghouse Nuclear programs. Kenneth retired as the Pacific Power Manager in Grants Pass. I retired as an Electrical Engineer/Manager (radar) with the Federal Aviation Administration. Annabelle retired from the FAA and Shirley Mae retired from the Oregon DOT.

Mom started to work as a cook at the Kerby Elementary school in the early 1950s and was there until she went to work for the USFS Smoke Jumper Base as an assistant cook. She retired from there as the head cook. She put in a few stints as a cook for some Job Core Facilities. One of my earliest memories of working with Mom was picking hops in Grants Pass shortly after WW II.

Mom was a proficient seamstress. She wore out a treadle sewing machine and converted it to electric before finally getting a modern machine, which she still uses. She made most of her and the girl's clothes as well as some of the boy's shirts. She even made a sports jacket for dad. During the Depression she helped make

mattresses at the Deer Creek Grange Hall. It was some kind of government program. Mom has been quilting quilts sine she was a little girl. She is currently working on one for her step-grandchildren's wedding. She has made so many quilts over the years that I could not even guess at the number. She will probably not start any more as her eyesight is failing. (She still reads though.) Her hearing is not so hot either but her mine is as sharp as ever.

When Dad died in 1980 Mom moved on to Grants Pass as it was too isolated in the woods to live by herself. In 2003 she went in to assisted living at Spring Village and shortly thereafter voluntarily gave up driving when she was 93. She didn't learn to drive until about 1953 when Earl taught her. As an aside, when she was a girl she rode her brother's motorcycle and later rode Kenneth's Harley. She left Spring Village to live at Harold's place over on the Oregon Coast for about three years. But as the years began to take their toll she moved back to Grants Pass into Redwood Terrace Assisted Living.

Mom has six children (Kenneth is deceased), 19 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

On February 27 at 2 p.m. we will be celebrating Mom's 100th birthday at Redwood Terrace Assisted Living in Grants Pass. There will be family and friends coming from the east coast and points in between.

We invite anyone who knew Mom here in the valley or close by to come and celebrate with us.

## CJ anomaly tree can be saved, researchers say

A big, ancient tree on Boundary Ave. has generated quite a stir lately. Property owner Don Hall arranged to have it cut down after insurance concerns were raised and complaints about its safety came in from apartment owner Mark Kellenbeck.

But the tree cutting was ultimately put on hold after Hall decided to have more tests done, hoping for a thorough examination from scientists outside of the Illinois Valley.

On Friday, Feb. 11, a botanist, an arborist, a forester and other experts concluded that the tree's unusual shape is in part caused by a genetic mutation, while the tree is actually quite healthy and could live another 200 years.

"To find out if a tree is healthy,

look up into the crown and see how much blue sky you can see," said Frank Callahan, a botanist from near Central Point. "There's about 90 percent coverage. This is a very healthy tree."

Others pointed out that the tree was still growing fast for its age, estimated to be between 350 and 400 years old. They also said that instead of cutting the tree down or putting up expensive metal supports, cables could be used to secure some of the branches.

"This tree can be saved, there's no doubt about that," Callahan said.

Consulting arborist Bill Harrington from the city of Medford also examined the tree, while some climbed up into

the foliage to view the tree up close.

Callahan said cables could expand and contract with the tree, allowing movement while still providing stability. Even without the cables, arborists suggested the tree would be safe for a number of years.

Written reports are expected to be finished soon to help Hall decide what to do with the Douglas fir. Hall originally said he wanted to preserve the tree, but not at the expense of safety.

The tree was there before the apartments were there," Hall said. "But people can't predict exactly when a tree will fall."

## City council discusses park, Blackberry


**Continued from A-1**  
If the IV Little League wants to give the festival another try, I say, why not?" said councilman Margaret Miller during discussion.

Davis said in a letter to the council that she spoke with several who were interested in setting up booths and that Sterling Bank gave the little league permission to use the whole

parking lot. Funds from the festival would go towards equipment, operation and scholarships for families unable to afford having their kids play.

City Recorder Ryan Nolan also informed those present that Josephine County Public Works denied a request for an extended school zone and stop sign at East River Street and Old Stage Road based on traffic volume and population.

Crossword brought to you by



**Ready for a Change?**

### NEW DIRECTIONS

**HYPNOTHERAPY**  
Adults and Children  
541-659-5792 [cjnewdirections@yahoo.com](mailto:cjnewdirections@yahoo.com)


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**Across**  
2. Trampled  
5. Refuse  
9. Jumping on one foot  
10. Ooze  
11. Hesitate  
12. Type of sheep of central Asia  
15. In a joyous manner  
17. Nil  
19. Wife of your uncle  
20. Heroic tale  
22. Consumed  
23. Crouch  
25. Unaccompanied  
27. Wood fastener  
28. Northern lights  
30. High mountain  
31. Relinquish control over  
32. Urn  
34. Total up  
36. Maybe  
38. Hibernating  
41. Darkish  
42. Burden  
43. Baseball stat  
44. Unit of money in India  
45. Lazily

**Down**  
1. A yellow quartz  
2. Heavy dull sound  
3. Valentine flower  
4. Manipulator  
5. The state of being rich  
6. Bird of prey's nest  
7. Health club  
8. Flightless bird  
10. Body covering  
13. Fabric for military uniform  
14. Prevaricator  
16. A street or road (Fr.)  
18. Topic for discussion  
20. Break with a sharp noise  
21. Extremely cold  
22. Succulent plant  
24. Type of motor fuel  
26. Dictate  
28. Vinegar is one type  
29. Boulevard  
30. Burned residue  
33. Forms of creative beauty  
34. An appraisal of the state of affairs  
35. Appliance that removes moisture  
36. Window glass  
37. Knitting stitch  
39. Belonging to us  
40. Swab

Crossword Solution on Page A-4

IVHS Activities Calendar  
brought to you by the folks at




**HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE**  
541-592-3556 Cave Junction  
541-471-7487 Grants Pass  
541-469-7545 Brookings  
541-773-7487 Medford

**Varsity Wrestling (Boys)**  
Friday, Feb. 18 - @ Glide High School (3A District Tourney) Time: 12:00pm  
Saturday, Feb. 19 - @ Glide High School (3A District Tournament) Time: 12:00pm


Look for New Spring Schedules for Baseball, Softball, Track, and Boys & Girls Golf ... All Coming VERY Soon!

**GO COUGARS!**



Kim, I'm so tired of beans & rice! What I really want is some good Old Spaghetti.

And I don't remember who won the last time we played in the Pool Tournament. (maybe you do)



145 S. Redwood Hwy  
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Mac, I don't remember much of anything from the last tournament either. But let's try again on Saturday at 7pm! AND...for \$5 You can have your Spaghetti & eat it too!

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