

DID YOU KNOW?

Historical notes from Big Butte Historical Society
Abstracted by Charleen Brown

The following excerpts recorded between 1912 and 1942 are evidence of some of the significant historic events that took place in the development of our Town.

In 1912 fire protection was established for the town. A hose cart, 600 ft of fire hose, and 2 nozzles were purchased from A.G. Long CL. of Portland. Even with this protection, the Pine belt Bank which had been built in 1907 burned down leaving only the vault. Two weeks later the U.S. hotel burned down. Both of these fires occurred under rather suspicious circumstances.

Sept. 7, 1914, The Town contracted with George W. Barker to build a jail for a cost of \$666.66. It was completed in 1915.

On Nov 6, 1916, The Town received the deed for the Butte Falls cemetery property from F.G. Owen and it was recorded in Jacksonville

In 1918, The Town arranged to house library books in private homes with volunteer librarians.

Oct 26, 1920, a Library Board and a Librarian were appointed.

Feb. 26, 1920, the Council banned all public gatherings and quarantined the Town due to the flu epidemic.

In 1922, Permission was granted to Jackson County to build a road through town.

Aug. 14, 1923, The Town borrowed money to gravel the streets and crosswalks.

In 1926, The Butte Falls High School was built at its current location.

Apr 23, 1929, a new fire siren was purchased and installed.

Mar. 25, 1937, a "Superior Brand" fire hose was purchased from Eureka Fire Hose Co.

In 1939, a fence was built around the town. A.E. "Gus" Edmondson was mayor. Being situated in open range territory, the fence was necessary to keep livestock from running at large in the town.

In 1942, WWII even had an affect on the little community of Butte Falls. The Town established rules for air raid warnings on May 18, 1942. Zelda Edmondson described "watch shacks" in an oral history interview for *Recollections: People and the Forest*, as follows, "Watch shacks were manned, mostly by local women, 24 hours a day. They were to watch for and report airplanes, balloons and anything suspicious. The shack was located on the Forest Service Compound and had electricity and a telephone.

The Japanese had implemented a program which they hoped would divert U.S. men from the war effort. They launched incendiary balloon bombs toward the forests in the Pacific Northwest. There was only one reported incident when one of these balloon bombs caused any casualties. That was near Bly, OR. A church group was on a Sunday picnic in the nearby hills when the minister's wife and a child discovered one of the bombs that had not detonated. Before the minister could get there to warn them, they touched it and the bomb blew up, killing them both. This incident and any others caused by the balloons were intentionally kept quiet by the military and our Government. Our Government wanted the Japanese to think their balloon program had failed. It must have worked because they stopped launching the balloons.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - \$5.00 per household

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Send to:

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