

# Early Day History of Brookings Is Interesting Story

## First Cargo Was Gas Engine, Unloaded on Raft, Mouth of Chetco

The origin, rise and fall, and birth of Brookings, Oregon, has been the subject of many conversations, speculations and many of embellishments. The origin of the name of this community has been the subject of deep and thoughtful talks by newcomers to the area. And exactly what happened to the "old town" has done nearly as much to pass the time on rainy days as discussion on growth of bulbs.

Brookings was first thought of in the mind of Robert Brookings in 1906 when he hired William Ward, a graduate of engineering and forestry of Cornell to make a survey of this area for the purpose of buying land and locating a site for a mill and town.

William Ward arrived in this area in the latter part of 1906, and for the next six years he explored the area, investigating possibilities for the purpose in mind of Robert Brookings. The original choice of sites was tentatively located at either Mack Creek, 14 miles north of present Brookings, or mouth of Chetco River. However, the site at the mouth of the Chetco was selected because of the possibilities offered for a port for coast-wise shipping.

In 1912 the townsite had been bought, and in about September of that year the first men of the Brookings Lumber and Box Company arrived. Among the very first couples to arrive were Mr. and Mrs. Weter, and Mr. and Mrs. Driskell. Travel in this area at that time was as primitive as it had been 50 years earlier in the past. Mrs. Driskell recounts that she and his young wife, in

October, 1912, left Grants Pass by horse stage. They rode all day and all night, arriving early in the morning at Crescent City. There they rested a couple of days before they left for the new community of Brookings.

The second stage of their journey took less time, but was nevertheless as arduous. They left Crescent City early in the morning and arrived at Smith River in time to eat lunch and to have a short rest. After lunch they resumed, to arrive at Ferry ranch—crossing the Chetco above Harbor after dark.

The immediate job to be accomplished, with the arriving of men, was to get in supplies and materials with which to build the new town, most of which were being shipped up by steamship from San Francisco.

The men of the Brookings Lumber and Box Co., as it was then known, made preparations for the arrival of shipload of supplies. Their first job was felling timber suitable for shear legs that could be placed some distance off-shore in the water, from which to run a "high line."

In the meantime, Brookings bought the S. S. South Coast, and outfitted it with supplies and materials for the new community, springing up on the north bank of the Chetco river, and it sailed from San Francisco under Capt. Hamilton, arriving at Chetco Cove Nov. 15, 1912.

When the S. S. South Coast arrived, there were no facilities ready for unloading, so the first cargo was put over the side onto rafts made from railroad ties that the ship was carrying. The first raft to be loaded from the vessel carried a gasoline engine for power ashore. The raft had no motive power. It was cast loose from the ship and the waves carried it ashore. Some of the local boys from Harbor came out in rowboats to give whatever help they could, which, it was agreed, was very little.

As the raft hit the beach, lines were made fast to it, and it was

pulled ashore, and the gasoline engine was man-handled up the beach to high ground, just south and east of where the coast guard lookout station was during this war. It was set up to furnish power for the high line—a cable stretched from the shear leg to the shore, and ships could anchor underneath the cables. Cargoes then would be attached to the cable and pulled ashore.

With the power for the high line, unloading was stepped up. Among the first materials to be brought ashore was lumber to build a cook-house, bunk-house and store. The original plans for the Brookings townsite called for the store to be located at the north edge of town, near where the old messhall now stands.

The town was to develop out from the store, and a railroad was laid to high line on Chetco Point from the store. After tracks were laid, it was time to bring the first locomotive in but it was decided that the high line would not carry it, so it was floated in on a raft, too.

Although this railroad in a wilderness was probably one of the shortest in history, it was also one of the busiest. The townsite was laid out for a population of approximately 1500 people, by this time—rapidly developing, in came men who had been hired to work in the mill.

With the construction of houses and quarters well under way, actual work on the mill started. The first step in the mill's construction was the location and building of the mill pond in the latter part of 1913.

Robert Brookings was an idealist. He engaged the services of the best architects available to design the town of Brookings. The principle one among the architects was a Mr. Maybeck, who had been chief architect for the 1913 World's Fair at San Francisco.

Robert Brookings, in setting up the mill here, wanted the latest and most up-to-date equipment. It was one of the largest and best-equipped all-electric mills of the time, for cutting fir.

In 1914, the Brookings Lumber and Box Co. was re-organized, and was re-named Brookings Timber and Lumber Co. The re-organization was for administrative purposes, and the original stockholders kept their stock with the new company.

The first log, rough dimensional lumber, was put through the mill in October, 1913. Throughout the remainder of 1913 and during 1914 some lumber was sawed and sent "over the wire." However, most cutting was for buildings, railroad and some bridges. Most of the effort was spent in developing the townsite.

In July of 1915, the Brookings Timber and Lumber Co. closed down for recovery of prices in the lumber market. At that time at San Francisco, the base price for lumber was \$11 a thousand. It was anticipated that the price of lumber would rise with the threatening war clouds of World War 1.

The mill had been closed down for six months when the holdings of the Brookings Timber and Lumber Co. were bought by another company, and was named the California and Oregon Lumber Co. Robert Brookings, however, continued to hold stock in the new company which was under the guidance of Jim Owens, a lumber man from Wisconsin.

To Be Continued

Many in town were taking advantage of the spring weather by driving here from Coos Bay and Grants Pass. However, there was noted a decided increase in the cars traveling both north and south.

According to local sources, this is the real beginning of the tourist season, and there will be a steady increase of travel through here for the next five or six months.

op, who recently returned from a survey of the lily market in the east, was a business visitor at Crescent City, Monday evening and left early Tuesday for Coos Bay where he attended a meeting of lily growers at that place.

### Chetco Tide Tables

A. M.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.
May 10	1:47	3.4	5:55	5.6
May 11	2:45	2.8	8:22	5.3
May 12	3:34	1.7	9:22	5.2
May 13	4:26	1.1	10:15	5.2
May 14	4:44	0.7	11:04	5.2
May 15	5:29	0.8	11:49	5.2
May 16	6:03	1.0	12:31	5.1

  

P. M.	Time	Ht.	Time	Ht.
May 10	1:47	1.1	8:30	6.2
May 11	2:32	1.4	9:06	6.4
May 12	3:13	1.8	9:35	6.6
May 13	3:49	2.1	10:04	6.7
May 14	4:24	2.5	10:32	6.8
May 15	4:56	2.8	10:58	6.8
May 16	5:28	3.1	11:25	6.7

### Local News Items

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Layman of Smith River were brief visitors at Brookings, Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gott and children expect to leave Friday evening for Dayton where they will attend a family re-union of Mrs. Gott's family. They will return Sunday night.

Mark C. Cotton, manager of the West Coast Bulb Growers Co-

# BROOKINGS MARKET

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## We Have in stock:

Here's What We Have in Those hard-to-get items:

Nucoa	Dried Beans
Olives	Smoked Salmon
Chocolate	Snow's Clam Chowder
Syrup	Catsup

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## COFFEES

EMMRICH'S COFFEE  
 GOLDEN WEST COFFEE  
 MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE  
 WELLMAN COFFEE  
 DEL MONTE COFFEE

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## Canned MILK

Limit: One Case To a Customer

# \$4.89

Per Case

BORDEN'S    DARIGOLD    SEGO  
 GOLDEN STATE    CARNATION

**MEN --**

Just What You've Been Waiting For—  
**Sweat Shirts                      White T-Shirts**  
**Shorts and Athletic Shirts**  
**and Pep Shirts, at**

**POLLY'S---The Family Shop**  
 Templar Building, Brookings  
 Clothing for every member of the family!

**Now on Display!**

A LARGE SHIPMENT OF  
**LIGHT FIXTURES**  
 For Every Purpose

**PORCH FIXTURES**

**BATHROOM FIXTURES**

**FLUORESCENT FIXTURES**

**BROOKINGS ELECTRIC & RADIO CO.**

V. A. MENDENHALL

**Warm Weather Brings Out Motoring Public**

The nice weather over the past week-end brought a steady stream of tourists here. The restaurants report that they did the biggest far this year.