

Fanning out

East of Redmond, Powell Butte — an unincorporated community halfway between Redmond and Prineville — was becoming a thriving agricultural center in the early 1900s.

In 1907 Powell Butte's handful of residents built a school for the area's seven schoolchildren. Early residents raised sheep for wool. When water reached the area in 1908, agriculture boomed. While the potato no longer is king, Powell Butte continues to lure residents who enjoy rural life.

Five miles to the north of Redmond, Terrebonne began its existence as Hillman — a combination of the names of James Hill and E.H. Harriman, two railroad magnates who raced to lay track into Central Oregon. The name was later changed to Terrebonne, French for "good earth."

For about 15 years, Terrebonne had a thriving commercial district (including five saloons in 1914) but in the mid-1920s, as improved roads and better vehicles made travel easier, business migrated to Redmond. However, in recent years, Terrebonne has seen a resurgence and is home to restaurants, banks, a supermarket and hardware store.

To the west of Terrebonne, a community grew on what was once a cattle ranch. Seattle developer Bill McPherson purchased the former working cattle ranch in 1971 to develop a recreational home community. Since then, Crooked River Ranch has evolved into a permanent community of about 5,000 residents. In addition to the nearly 10,000 one- to 5-acre lots, the ranch has a golf course and small commercial district. The original ranch site was purchased by a Texas oilman in 1910, and his former main ranch house now hosts the Crooked River Ranch Senior Center.



Deschutes County Historical Society

Above, a historical photo of Redmond, looking north on Sixth Street, circa 1911.



Redmond Historical Commission

1908 freight wagon prepares to take load from downtown Redmond to Silver Lake, delivering a boiler to a saw mill.



Spokesman file photo

The power plant at Cline Falls, along the Deschutes River, offered Redmond its first electricity in the early days of its founding.