

Sentinel

COQUILLE, OREGON.

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COOS COUNTY HISTORY

Port Orford Has Record Of First "Coose" County Postoffice; Others Explained

By Emil R. Peterson

"Coose" County's first post office was Port Orford, established March 27, 1855, with Reginald R. Smith as the first postmaster. Port Orford was located in Coos County until the Territorial legislature created Curry County in December of that year. However, it was not until early in 1856 that the county organization became operative.

Coos County as we know it today did not have a post office of its own until April 30, 1858, when John J. Jackson became the first postmaster of Empire City. Randolph obtained a post office the following year when George Wasson became its postmaster on August 18, 1859. March 7, 1863, Amos C. Rodgers became postmaster of Coos County's third post office, Coos River.

Returning to Port Orford, it is interesting to note that two of its early postmasters later became prominent among the business men of Marshfield. Andrew Nasburg served in that capacity for Port Orford from 1864 to 1866. In a story Gaston's History of Oregon, Thomas Hirst says, "Andrew Nasburg was the first postmaster in

Marshfield." A sign on the front reads: Nasburg & Hirst—Merchandise—Post Office. That was published in 1884. If you walk down Front Street now in 1950, you may see that same building in good repair and fully occupied.

A len D. Wolcott's name may be found in the official records as having served Port Orford in the capacity of postmaster for more than ten years, 1862 to 1872. Later he became well known among the merchants of Marshfield. Older residents of fifty years ago recall his association with his son Chester, in the Nasburg & Hirst building. Chester Wolcott continued in the grocery business in Marshfield for more than thirty years. He still resides in his old home town.

Curry County did not have another post office in addition to Port Orford until March 3, 1863, when two were established in the southern end of the county with Augustus F. Miller as the first postmaster.

At the mouth of Rogue River, John Dewey was made first postmaster of "Ellensburg." Notice the spelling, end with "berg," not "burg. Fourteen year later the spelling was changed to "Ellensburg"—notice the "h" at the end. Historians have ignored the "h," but the official records have it. Walling in his History of S. W. Oregon, 1884, refers to Ellensburg. Larzell in his book, The Doctor in Oregon, 1943, speaks of Dr. Von Der Green located at Ellensburg.

"Gold Beach" became the official name on March 28, 1890. There can be little if any doubt that the place was called Gold Beach long before the 90s. As early as April 14, 1856, Rodney Glisan recorded in his Journal of Army Life, "I left camp at the mouth of the Rogue River at six p.m. yesterday, in the schooner Gold Beach and reached here (Port Orford) about ten last night." It seems reasonable to assume that the schooner had been named for the place and that the place had been called Gold Beach even in the early fifties. But officially, it was not until forty years later that it took that name.

New Castle—Tell Tale—Eckley—Each of these, at different dates, officially designated a single community.

The first name, New Castle,

sounds like a perfectly good cognomen. It would seem to infer, however, that a rich coal strike was anticipated. Perhaps it petered out, and the disappointment suggested a change of name. But why in heck would they call it Tell Tale? It must prove unsatisfactory immediately, for it lasted only 39 days, when it was changed to Eckley. The community is still known as Eckley, although there has been no post office for many years. Mrs. Charlotte W. Guerin served as postmistress, beginning with New Castle December 1879; again when it was changed to Tell Tale May 21, 1883; and next to Eckley June 29, 1883, continuing until August 7 of that year. The name of the succeeding appointee appears to be the same as the first, except for the middle initial, perhaps Charlotte N. Guerin, date of appointment, January 15, 1890. No record is at hand as to the final losing of the post office at Eckley.

At another time I want to tell you about a woman who has served as postmistress continuously for 32 years in one location. If you know of a case that can exceed or even equal this record, please send it to this paper.

IWA WOULD BOOST VOTERS REGISTRATION IN COUNTY

The International Woodworkers of America are actively engaged in plans to push registration of all citizens, they announced this week. They want all loggers and woodworkers in Coos county to be registered and to vote in the coming elections.



Brilliantly designed and distinctively styled in gleaming white, gold, chromium and ice-blue, this streamlined Frigidaire DeLuxe refrigerator is representative of an extensive new 1950 line of 20 models in three types. Featured are such innovations as adjustable and sliding aluminum shelves, twin extra deep porcelain Hydrators which can be stacked to make space for big items, a new full-width plastic chill drawer for beverages, and a new plastic basket drawer for eggs. The new full-length door and ice-blue and gold interior trim make it particularly pleasing.

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