

Courthouse in Coquille built in 1898

The original courthouse in Coquille was a frame structure with two stories and basement, erected in 1898 by H. Snook of Salem at his bid of \$12,105. Bids were originally opened in April 1897, but held in abeyance for nine months because proper plans had not been made for funds with which to build. This delay cost the county close to \$500, because the price of material had advanced in the meantime.

At the time the structure was erected, it was thought that it was being made sufficiently large to take care of the county's needs for many years, but the vision of the most sanguine residents of that day could not foresee what the future had in store for Coos County. For in 1916, the population of Coos County had so grown and its legal business so increased that it was necessary to erect a new and more modern addition to the frame structure. Even the capacity of this addition, known as the Hall of Records, was fast overcrowded.

In 1954, the 1916 structure was remodeled and enlarged. The west wing cost \$258,000; the east wing cost \$177,968 (built in 1951). In 1986, work began on a new jail constructed next to the courthouse; it was dedicated June 1, 1988.

Coquille's first charter was granted in 1885

The first charter was granted to the city of Coquille by the legislature and approved by the governor on Feb. 25, 1885. This act provided that the first election should be held on the first Monday in May of that year, appointed George McEwen, J.H. Nosler and Allen Collier as inspectors of election, and required them to post notices 10 days before the election. This charter provided that the city government should consist of a board of five councilmen, a recorder, a marshal, and a treasurer.

The first meeting of the council was held Aug. 25, 1885, and there were present at that meeting councilmen Charles Olive, A. G. Aiken, C. Andrews, and J.A. Collier; R.E. Buck was absent. Also present were James Cartwright, marshal, and W. Sinclair, recorder. Charles Olive was elected chairman of the council.

The charter was amended by the legislature in 1891, in 1901 and again in 1903. Since 1903, numerous amendments have been made by the vote of the people.

Turn of the (last) century



Men and their ride, on the Myrtle Point to Roseburg road.



A nice boardwalk to Bandon's beach.

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Adolph Isler came to Portland from Switzerland when he was 16 years old. He soon decided Coos County was the area for him and, with wife Lena, came to Coquille in 1929. He opened his sheet metal shop that year near the post office. He soon needed a larger place and built behind Safeway. When the highway widened, his building was demolished. Isler sold to Clyde and Lonnie Clark in 1958, who built at the present location. They sold to Ed Howe who in turn sold to Bob Hutchinson in 1975. Hutchinson carries on the long tradition of quality and dependability.



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