

New jail; soldiers go to fight Iraq ... 1985-1995

1985

Coquille's budget committee suggested eliminating the city's police department in order to cut expenses. Police Chief Corky Daniels defended the department, which was spared. Coos County's unemployment rate hit 18 percent in February.

1986

Work begins for a new county jail to be built next to the courthouse in Coquille. The city library receives a grant to purchase a computer for public use. Washington School was closed. Ernest and Diana Amling renovate the 1879 home that Diana grew up in at 225 N. Birch, and restore it to house Amling-Schroeder Funeral Service. They found newspapers in the walls dated 1896.

1987

County plans to build a power generating plant at Beaver Hill. As of this writing, that has not happened, but it has been recently discussed again. The old Coquille River Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic; the new Hwy. 42S bridge was opened.

1988

The Coquille Indians asked that Rep. Peter DeFazio introduce a bill to restore their official tribal status, which had been terminated by the state in 1954. The status was restored. Governor Neil Goldschmidt dedicated the new jail on June 1, with a little help from the Sawdust Theatre Troupe.

1989

The city completed a \$1 million addition to its water treatment system. An arctic air mass drops about 12 inches of snow on Coquille in February (the previous week, temperatures had been in the high 60s). Coos County officials alert the public to the emergence of Satanism in the area.

1990

The year of 1990 was a year of closing doors. Southwestern Motors car dealership closed their doors after 64 years of service leaving the town with an empty building (which at this writing is again vacant). Georgia-Pacific Mill closed their doors, leaving hundreds without work, and leaving property that wouldn't be developed for twelve years (at this writing, an access road is being built for the site, for commercial development next year). The Casino and Cafe closed its doors quietly, along with other businesses who did so unwillingly, in the East Main Street area to make way for a rerouted Highway 42.

1991

Photos of Coquille's soldiers in Operation Desert Storm appear on the front page of The Coquille Valley Sentinel. A 6.6 earthquake off the Oregon/California coast rattles Coquille residents. Main Street buildings are razed and fill material is placed in the log pond of Roseburg Forest Products to make way for the new Highway 42 reroute. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces a plan aimed at saving northern spotted owls; it is expected to cost 40,000 jobs and devastate the regional timber industry and the local economy. Despite a fire that badly damages the 87-year-old Sentinel building on Aug. 10, the newspaper staff gets the week's issue out on time.

1992

During 1992, a great deal of businesses came to Coquille. JoDeb's Feed and Grain, Shell MiniMart (now Southwest Physical Therapy), My Retreat Fine Foods, South West Bodyworks, T&J's Mini Truck Stop (now Halstead's Mini Mart), and Southwestern Motors all opened their door for business and made it to the front page of the Sentinel in June.

1993

In 1993, the county's timber sales reached record sales of \$4.3 million. Sales for that year were only projected to be \$2.6 million. State and federal timber revenues may have been down, but Coos County had a great year.

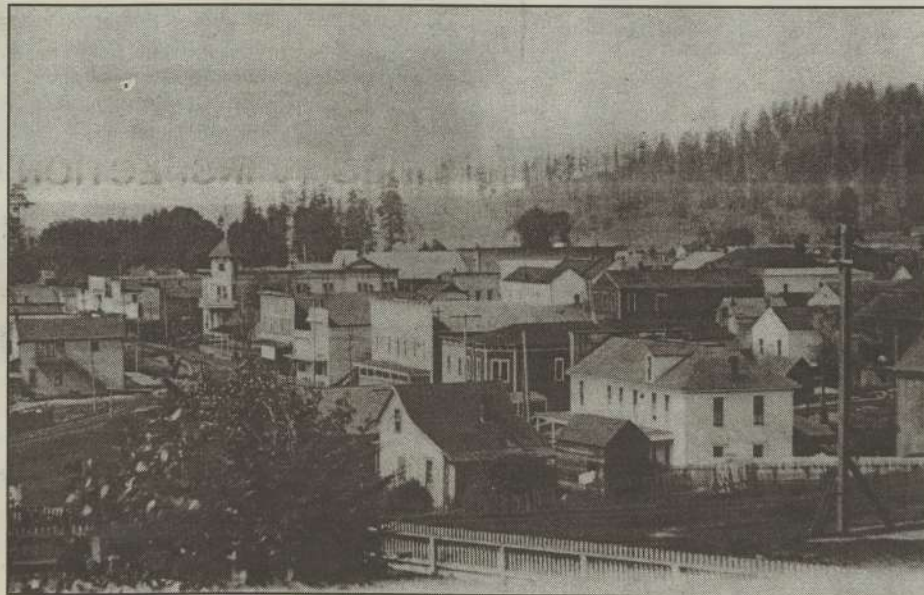
1994

On July 19, the Great Roxy Fire struck the theater of Coquille and the hearts of its people. Fifty-three firemen were on scene to extinguish the flames and save surrounding buildings. An estimated 500,000 gallons of water were used to extinguish the flame and it took five hours to get the blaze under control. The Roxy Building was built in 1937 by Lloyd Cleaver and O.C. Wood. Originally, there were hopes of rebuilding the theatre on the G-P Mill Site in an old warehouse, an idea that never became a reality.

1995

The 33-acre Georgia Pacific Mill site was officially annexed to the city in January. In December, it was decided that a nursing home would be built on the property. Construction on the nursing home was expected to begin in 1997. It never happened.

Coquille's early days



The city has done a lot of growing up since this undated photograph was taken.



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