

This publication brought to you by:

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

Janet Richardson
Publisher/Editor

Shauna Desjardins
Office Manager

Doris Hutchinson
Receptionist

Garnet Stewart
Graphic Designer

Edward Wolfe
Reporter

**Serving Coos County
for 120 years!
~ 1882 to 2002 ~**

Introduction

The Coquille Valley Sentinel staff have prepared this historical section to commemorate the paper's 120th anniversary this month (Sept. 2002). We hope you enjoy this publication!

Comment

Much of history is lost over time. We've done our best to provide the most accurate information we could find. As you read the centerfold information about the newspaper's early years, please note that another newspaper, The Coquille City Bulletin, was also in publication at the turn of the century. It began in 1894 and continued at least until 1902. Owners included J.J. Stanley, E.C. Holland and Eickworth & Co. It is not clear what became of that newspaper.

Cover photos

All photos on the cover are part of The Sentinel's collection of early Coquille photographs.

The birth of a city... 1860-1896

(Editor's Note: the historical review in this publication was compiled primarily through a time-consuming review of past issues of Coquille newspapers. Some volumes have been lost through the years, so readers will notice that there is no information for some years. Coquille's first newspaper was printed in 1882; information on years prior to that was taken from other historical sources -- as was information for some years for which we have no surviving issues of the paper.)

**Compiled by:
Amanda Evrard, Edward Wolfe
and Janet Richardson**

1860
Population of Coquille area is 94; total of 445 in Coos County.

1862
First Homestead Act was passed.

1864
Several families start for Coquille with news of gold discoveries locally.

1865
First National Bank was organized.

1867
A school is built on Cunningham Creek, soon over-crowded and too far from town.

1870
Coquille precinct population swells to 127, county total climbs to 1,644. Coquille post office established with Titus B. Willard as its first postmaster.

1871
John Mounton, whose dad worked the Lane mine at Whiskey Run, moved to Coquille City and bought a small store from T. W. Vowell.

1872
Nosler families arrive and build first frame buildings in Coquille including the city's first school.

1873
Daily mail route established from Roseburg to Bay Area along a just-completed wagon road.

1877
Dr. S. L. Leneve moves to Coquille City and builds the first drug store.

1880
Coquille area population now 176, Myrtle Point records 52 residents, county now totals 4,834.

1881
New Coquille school holds 82 students in all grades.

1882
Coquille City Herald, later to consolidated with a competitor to become The Coquille Valley Sentinel, builds a building and publishes city's first real newspaper.

1884
Pioneer attorney Walter Sinclair hangs out his shingle.

1885
Coquille City was incorporated under the name of Coquille.

1887
The Lorenz department store was founded in Coquille.

1888
A record cold winter freezes the Coquille River, stopping all riverboat travel. Coast to Coast was established by John Kronenberg and wife on Front Street. Also that year, the Masonic Hall was completed.

1889
Telegraph communication completed between Coquille and Empire. Mrs. Ham (Em) Pierce was born and rode the first horseless carriage that came to Coquille. A gold miner named Glen Aiken was paid \$50 by the sheriff to hang a man named Gillman. Coquille

River Bank opens its doors as city's first banking institution.

1890
Coquille boasts 494 in census, with Myrtle Point now recording 354, and the county now totals 8,874. The Riverton post office was established. The Middle Fork Road "has some fearful slides," according to the Feb. 11 issue of the paper. The Coquille River was blocked by "an immense amount of driftwood in the shape of huge fur and cedar trees."

1892
Fire destroys many Coquille businesses and homes.

1893
Railroad joins Coquille with the bay area; a train rumbles down Front Street for the first time.

1894
One issue of the Coquille City Herald published an alert about train robberies. It states that on October 12, a train was robbed of a considerable amount in Sacramento, California. Another train was robbed the next day in Maryland of near \$200,000. There had been "a lull in such business for quite some time and a hope that it was at an end."

1895
New school built on site of present Washington School. J. H. Timon and Wesley Bean shipped the first coal to San Francisco. Coquille organized a volunteer fire department and bought chemical carts (see article on the fire department, page 9).

1896
Coquille becomes the county seat of Coos County by vote, ending a 20-year-long move by Marshfielders to relocate the county seat to their town from Empire City, where it had been since 1853. The Coquille City Herald featured the Union Labor Column "Devoted to the Interests of the Laborer."

FARR'S

True Value

"Help Is Just Around The Corner"

Just as Coquille has changed since 1916, so has Farr's True Value Hardware. Leaving office of Coos County Agricultural Agent to seek his fortune, Chester C. Farr bought in with Cecil J. Elwood on January 1, 1916 to operate the Collier Warehouse. They operated a feed and seed store as well as sorted way-freight for the Southern Pacific to be transferred onto Coquille river boats for delivery throughout the valley. Once the road to Bandon was completed and the Coquille river bridge was built in 1924, they operated trucks to deliver the freight directly to Bandon, Bear Creek and Parkersburg. Milk from the Bear Creek area was also delivered to the cheese factory near Coquille. It wasn't until 1932 with membership in Northern Wholesale Hardware of Portland that hardware was added to the seed and freight business. The business also moved then to its current location at Second and Central. With the accidental death of Cecil J. Elwood in 1941 and the sale of the heir's interest in the business, Chester Farr brought his sons, Donald and Leonard, into the business as partners. They operated the business as a hardware store since that time, becoming affiliated with True Value Hardware in 1970. Incorporated in 1975 to allow more family members an opportunity to participate in the business, the fourth generation of Farr's has wet it's feet in the local business scene working summers and after school at the Coquille store. A complete remodeling of both interior and exterior of the Coquille store in 1991 has brought Farr's racing into the next millennium with the latest technology to match the community's needs. Although customers reminisce about the old store, they appreciate the service capability of the new facility. So, although Farr's True Value Hardware is one of the oldest businesses in the area, it is also one of the best prepared to face the challenges of the next century.

(541) 396-3161
220 N. Central - Coquille



Jay Farr



Jim Farr



Mary Woolley



Chris Liga



Karmen Albertson



Bette Backman



Patrick Horath

