

Shortly after the city was incorporated, a group of aggressive citizens promoted the idea of a railroad coming up the Willow Creek Valley. Heppner had the reputation of being a wool capitol and needed an outlet for wool and wheat. The Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company willingly put in the railroad, and the first train to arrive in Heppner was in November of 1888. Henry Heppner kicked off a gay celebration, and Jackson Morrow drove in the last spike.



(L-R): Pat Anderson, Tami Rietmann, Albert and Beverly Wright and Howard Gilliam.

By this time, Heppner was a thriving city with many main street businesses. On the west side of Main Street and north of the Rhea and Welsh General Store, was the Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware store. Frank Gilliam moved to eastern Oregon in 1870 and homesteaded at Spring Hollow just east of Hardman. Frank Gilliam and Tim Bisbee formed a partnership and started Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware Store. Gilliam served as county commissioner, county treasurer, and was mayor of Heppner at the time of the 1903 flood. He was also president of the First National Bank of Heppner for a time. Tim Bisbee was a traveler from the beginning. His younger days were on the east coast of Maine. He was bitten by the "gold fever" and went to California to find, not gold, but pain. He traveled to Oregon City but eventually wound up in Morrow County where he married Julie Wright in 1873. Two children were born, Louis and Lillian. Strange as it may seem, Effie, the other daughter of Albert and Julia Wright married Frank Gilliam November 1882. Eventually Louis Bisbee would become an active partner in the Gilliam and Bisbee enterprise.

The descendants of Frank Gilliam and Tim Bisbee that are still living in Morrow County are Howard Gilliam, Albert Wright and Ned Clark, Matt Clark, Bob Hager and Jan Hager Evans from Irrigon, Rene Devin, Tami Anderson Rietmann, Pat Wright Anderson, Kelwayne Haguewood and Kevin Haguewood, and Louis Gilliam from Condon.

THOMAS HUMPHREYS

In 1892, Thomas Humphreys married Lizzi Rood. Humphreys opened the Humphreys Drug Store on Main Street. Children of Thomas and Lizzi were Leta, Evelyn and Roland. Leta Humphreys carried on the business from her father and eventually moved into what is now the Murray Rexal Drug Building.

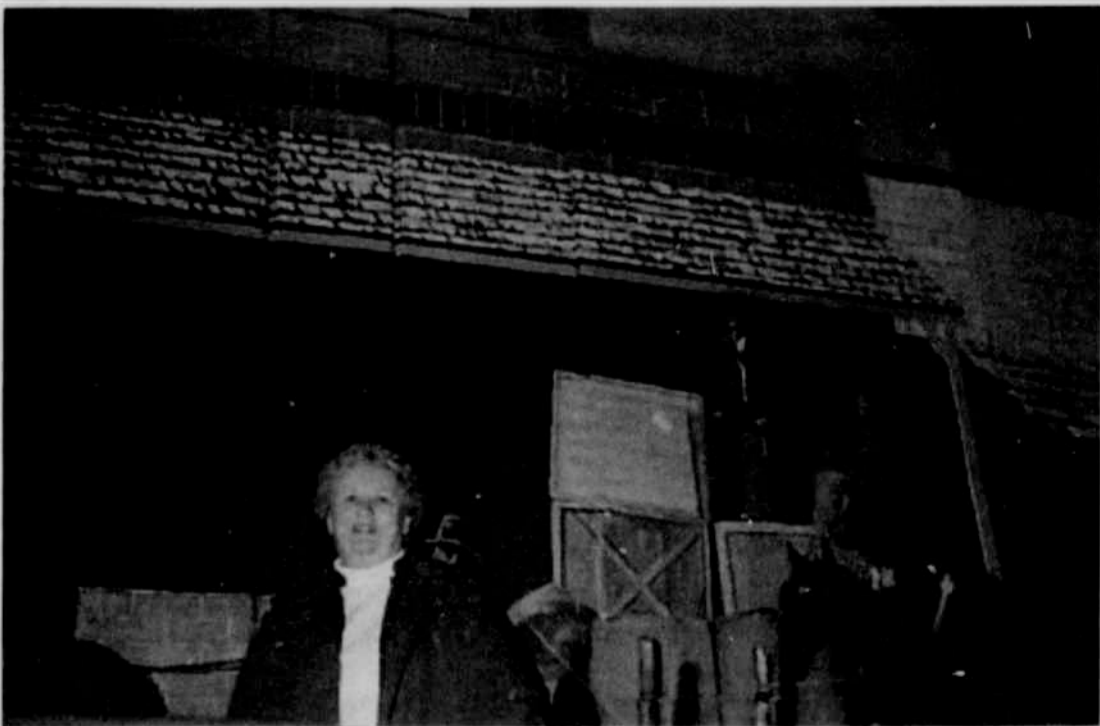
LICHTENTHAL BOOTS AND SHOE STORE

Moving down Main Street we find the Lichtenthal Boot and Shoe Store. Mathias Lichtenthal was born in Germany. He came to Heppner to form a new business. Lichtenthal spent his first 17 years getting his education in Germany. He then got passage to New York where he became a shoemaker. In 1879, he came to Heppner and went into the shoe business. He later enlarged his business to include general merchandise. He resided on Baltimore Street. He was on the city council for three terms and became the county treasurer in 1898. He was a member of the IOOF Lodge No. 66.

T.R. HOWARD

T.R. Howard advertised "Good Goods Good Prices." Groceries, provisions, glassware, along with fine teas and coffee were sold. Howard came from Illinois and was married to Rebecca Long and their family crossed the plains on the Old Oregon Trail. As a young lad, Howard was playing on a wagon tongue and fell, breaking his jawbone. He carried the effects of that injury all his life. He wore a moustache to cover the protrusion of broken bone. The family settled on Little Butter Creek. They homesteaded and also farmed additional ground. Eventually the Indian Wars forced them into Heppner where it was safer. In 1885, when Morrow County was created, Oregon's governor appointed Howard to be county assessor. He was elected sheriff in 1886, and carried many distinctions in government. He then formed a partnership with A.P. Sloan to develop a general provision store. Unfortunately the Howard home was washed away during the 1903 flood, killing Thomas, Rebecca and their daughters Mary, Nellie and Mabel.

THOMSON AND SONS DEPARTMENT STORE



Meredith Thomson Walters

James Thomson came to the Heppner area in 1892 with Jack Hynd from Canada. He eventually opened up a grocery store north of what is now Murray Drug Store. In 1898, he and his brothers Charlie and George purchased property from Henry Heppner. That property was the Lichtenthal Boot and Shoe Store as well as the adjoining music store. The property then became the famous Thomson and Sons Department Store. Son, Jim Sr. ran the store until two years before his death in 1950. Jim Jr. carried on with the store until 1978. This was 52 years of providing the Heppner community with groceries. Meredith Thomson Walters, Jim Jr.'s daughter, currently resides in Heppner.

PATTERSON DRUG STORE

A railroad engineer owned the Patterson Drug Store. After working for the railroad for 35 years, John Ancel Patterson purchased the drug store in 1888. He was the first locomotive engineer to bring a train to Heppner upon completion of the line. He was born in 1845 and died in 1928. Patterson was a member of the first graduating class of Heppner High School. He said, "There were six of us." He attended Pacific University for two years, and then transferred to the University of Buffalo, graduating in the school of pharmacy. He married Addie Bean. They both survived the flood.

STONE MASONS KEENEY AND ROBERTS

What is now the Murray Rexal Drug Store was built in 1901. Stone masons were Keeney and Roberts. It was built out of blue basalt from a quarry south of the city limits from the present day Osmin Ranch. It was trimmed with red sand stone. Cost of the building was \$10,000.

WILLOWS LODGE IOOF

Adjoining the Murray Building and last to be depicted on the mural is the Willows Lodge No. 66, IOOF Building. Like the Murray building, it too was described as a massive building, being built out of solid blue basalt with a red sandstone front. It was considered ultra modern and cost \$16,000.

In the year 1901, in excess of 26 new building projects were constructed; all of these just two-and-a-half years prior to the devastating flood of 1903.

In our wish to show more of Morrow County history on the Ag Museum building, we are in need of more funding. Any size of donation is appreciated. It only takes \$10 to paint another foot. For any donation of \$100 or more, a signed and numbered print will be available. For \$200 or more, a framed print will be available. Send donations to the Farm Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Heppner, OR 97836.

The goal is to raise enough money to paint at least another 60 feet this year and eventually 121 feet, which would cover the Riverside Street side of museum. A sketch is now on the building except for the Krebs Ranch, which was not completed due to bad weather.



Bob Kilkenny and Butch Laughlin with Veys' wool wagon.



Shirley Rugg, with Dick and Virginia Wilkinson in front of Wilkinsons' wool wagon.



Sharon Lewis with Thompsons' wool wagon.

Stamping Girls visit Assisted Living

The Stampers Anonymous 4-H Club spent three meetings making and stamping out Valentine treat bags for the residents at Willow Creek Terrace Assisted Living. Several 4-Hers delivered the Valentine bags on Friday, Feb. 13 and visited with the residents.

Those attending were Kristen VanCleave, Whitney Smith, Cassey Arbogast, Sarah Stillman, junior member- Chelsea Hams, leader Judie Laughlin and assistant Phyllis Piper.

The next meeting will be at the Laughlin residence on March 3.

Legion and Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion and Auxiliary will be meeting on Monday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., in the Methodist Church basement in Heppner.