

Miscellaneous Information about South Tillamook County

by Eugene Hayden
written May 6, 2000
Typed by Dean Bones

Eugene Hayden sent this information to Nestucca Valley Middle School in 2000 when the school was working on the Heritage Project, a project designed to not only teach students about local history but also to find ways to preserve local history. Students learned skills normally taught in textbooks by also doing real research and real projects.

I have enclosed a picture of the Standard Oil Service Station in Hebo. This picture was taken in the 1930's when this station was new. You will note that the name P.D. Ott is painted on the front.



Mr. Ott also owned a General Store that stood where the Hebo Inn is now located. My father, William (Bill) Hayden worked for him and drove the grocery delivery truck. Groceries were delivered from Pacific City to Blaine. This store was eventually destroyed by fire. There were many fires in those days as the buildings were all constructed of lumber which became very dry, and building codes such as we have today were non-existent.

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Dairy farming was and remains one of the chief industries. The difference being that the farms were smaller, and the requirements much less stringent. The milk was strained through a cloth strainer into milk cans. Of course there had to be some place to take the milk.

Cheese factories were a big part of all of Tillamook County. In South Tillamook County from South to North the factories were in Oretown, South Cloverdale (Central Cheese Factory), Cloverdale, Hebo, Beaver, East Beaver, Sandlake and Pleasant Valley if that is considered South County. In those days because lumber was plentiful and inexpensive cheese was shipped in wooden boxes which were assembled in each of the factories. Many of these buildings still stand and are used for various purposes.



You will also find enclosed a picture of Bell Mountain Lookout.

These lookouts were manned during the summer months for the purpose of spotting fires in their early stages so they could be extinguished before they got out of control if possible. There were several in the area, Mt. Hebo, Bald Mountain, Mt. Gauldy and others. They have now been replaced by airplanes.

Logging was a very big industry. The trucks were, of course, smaller, but the logs were much, much bigger. There were many one-log loads. It was common for a log to be 5 - 6 feet in diameter. These were cut by two men with a crosscut saw. There was much waste in those days as it seemed there were enough trees to last forever. And reforestation was not a high priority. Much of the small portion of the tree was left to rot on the ground.

Sawmills were therefore prominent turning the logs to lumber. There was much waste here also. The sawdust was burned in what was called wigwams. There are a few still in existence but, of course, are not used.

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River fishing brought many fishermen to the area to fish for salmon and steelhead. This created the need for a sporting goods store, and one was built next to the Hebo Inn. Of course this also brought business to restaurants, grocery stores and service stations.

There was a doctor's office in Cloverdale, and Dr. Brown owned a 1937 Packard. In those days house calls were made. He was noted for his quick response. He was also famous for record time in getting to the hospital in Tillamook.

I attended and graduated from Hebo Grade School in the building that stands there today (2000). I was a freshman in Nestucca Union High School in 1938 and graduated in 1941 in the building that is used there today (2000 db). There have been some changes and additions, but for the most part it is still the same. I suppose the football field is better now as when we played we had to pick up rocks before practice, and the field was full of mud puddles.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your project.