

This story was written in 1981.

Typed from a copy of a letter written in cursive by Dean Bones February 2023

Mina OTT Hall Launt wrote a letter to Bernice in 1981. I am assuming that Bernice was Bernice FLETCHER Lane who was a keeper of Hebo School history and other local history. This story is excerpted from the letter to Bernice. Apparently Bernice had written to Mina asking questions about photos and asking if Mina had any "other" photos. Mina's father, P.D. Ott, owned a number of businesses in Hebo. In this story Mina writes about those businesses. db

The year was 1914. My father, P. D. Ott (*Pheren Dean Ott db*) answered an ad appearing in a Portland newspaper. He came to Hebo and was the successful bidder on a feed and seed store located on the site of the present service station. (In 2023 the building is a sporting store for fishing supplies.)

While awaiting construction of the building on the site of the present Hebo Inn which became "Ott's General Merchandise" we lived in the one-room house north of the station.

After construction was completed we lived upstairs. The store was opened and sold not only feed and seed but everything from pickled herring in barrels to long underwear, lingerie, jewelry, yardage, groceries, freshly ground coffee and chewing tobacco! The store was complete with a pot-bellied wood stove and an area where the men could congregate around the stove, spin yarns and spit tobacco on the stove and listen to the sizzle!

The store at peak times had as many as 8 clerks including my father and mother. We always had one woman clerk that roomed and boarded with us and sometimes a man clerk. But usually we had only one roomer . . . boarder. We had a delivery truck, which was practically unheard of in 1915, that delivered merchandise as far away as Beaver, Pacific City and Sandlake. Buses stopped at the store enroute from Portland to Tillamook carrying many "patients" enroute to Brooten Hot Springs.

The store was sold in 1924 to A.E. & Mabel Grosky who in turn sold it a couple of years later. I'm not familiar with what subsequently happened.

In about 1920 P.D. Ott built a service station which is at the present site of the station. At the time it was built and for several years thereafter it pumped more gas than any other rural or suburban station in Oregon. There were 8 pumps.

Launt, Mina Adela OTT Hall
Hebo, Oregon, 1914 - 1930s

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The gas station burned probably in 1923 or 1924 and was rebuilt smaller as it now is. There was for some time a mechanic's garage on the back of the station property which was torn down a number of years ago.

I believe it was about 1930 that my father purchased property adjoining the store and built a building containing two apartments.

I believe you have an old picture of the station that Glawe gave you. Muzzy ran it for a number of years, and commencing about 1936 or 1937 Standard Oil leased it until June of 1981.

I do remember the 2 room schoolhouse, the cow in the belfry at Halloween and that sort of thing. I was only 12 when we left Hebo, but I have always had fond memories of it.

Cordially,

Mina OTT Launt