

A HISTORY OF WINLOCK, WASHINGTON

written by C. C. Wall

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF WINLOCK WASHINGTON AND VICINITY  
 COMPILED BY C. C. WALL, AND PRESENTED TO THE WINLOCK  
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## CHAPTER I

## GENERAL HISTORY

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Up to 1843 the area now comprising the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the western part of Montana was known as "The Great Oregon Country." This area belonged to the United States, except a certain part in dispute with Britain, but the area had no form of local government what-so-ever. In 1843 a group of citizens from the territory met at Champoege, near Oregon City, Oregon, and formed and adopted a PROVISIONAL form of government, patterned after the state of Iowa.

This provisional government then divided the territory into four districts. That part of the territory north of the Columbia river was named COLUMBIA district. At the 1845 session of the provisional legislature they divided Columbia district into two counties. Everything north of the Cowlitz river, to the British line, and everything west of the Cowlitz river to the Pacific ocean was named Lewis county. All the balance of the district was named VANCOUVER county.

In 1846 the dispute with Great Britain was settled, and the boundary established where it is now.

In 1848 congress passed an act dividing OREGON TERRITORY which automatically abolished the provisional form of a government.

On March 2, 1853, congress passed an act dividing the Oregon territory at the Columbia river, and creating the territory of Columbia. But an amendment was attached changing the name to Washington.

President Pierce named Isaac I. Stevens to be the first territorial governor. He arrived in the territory on November 26, 1853. On November 28, 1853

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he called for delegates from over the territory to meet at Cowlitz Landing, county seat of Lewis county, on the 2nd day of January 1854, for a general territorial convention.

By 1861 the state had been divided into counties pretty much as they are today. In this division Vancouver county was changed to Clark county.

On November 11, 1889, Washington was admitted to the union as a state.

In 1852, Mr. George Drew took a donation land claim on what he then named Drews Prairie, the present site of the proposed Boys Ranch.

He established a little store in his home, built a small saw mill, and made that the trading center for all the territory between the present site of Winlock and Cowlitz Prairie. This whole area then became known as Grand Prairie.

#### SCHOOL ESTABLISHED

In 1855, there being a number of other settlers nearby, a school was established. This was the second public school to be established in the county. The first one having been established on Cowlitz Prairie in 1853, with H. H. Pinto as the teacher.

Mr. R. R. Powell was the first teacher in the Grand Prairie school. These schools were not county supervised schools as we have today. They were built by popular subscription, and maintained the same way, usually operating for three months of the year.

#### POST OFFICE ESTABLISHED

By 1861 there were enough people in the area to want postal service. They petitioned the post office department for a post office, and on July 25, 1861 a post office was established and named Grand Prairie, with Mr. George Drew as the first postmaster.

On November 23, 1864, Mr. Joseph P. Manning, grandfather of Ralph Champ.

was appointed postmaster, and the post office moved to his place on Grand Prairie.

On August 19, 1873, Mr. C. C. Pagett was appointed postmaster, and the office moved into what is now Winlock, and the name of the office changed to Winlock.

Succeeding postmasters and date of appointment were; John A. Adams, November 28, 1887, William T. Byham, April 9, 1889, William J. Wall, (father of C. C. Wall) April 26, 1893, John L. Gruber, July 30, 1898, Charles E. Leonard, November 12, 1912, George P. Wall, September 3, 1913, M. E. Meloy, May 23, 1922, C. C. Wall, June 6, 1934.

Rural delivery service was first started on February 1, 1906, under John L. Gruber, and Mr. Julius Nichols was the first rural carrier. Mr. Nichols then had a 20 mile route. Today routes 1 and 2 cover a total of 106 miles.

Having learned that the Winlock post office was first established in 1861, there was then some curiosity as to where this ranked in the order of early offices established in the county.

On checking, it was found that the first office established in the county, and one of the very first ones in the state was Toledo. This office was established on April 29, 1854, at Cowlitz Landing, one mile below the present site of Toledo, and was called Cowlitz. It was then moved to the present location on November 30, 1880, and the name changed to Toledo.

The Chehalis office was established May 8, 1858, as Saunders Prairie, and the name changed to Chehalis on September 23, 1870.

Claquato office was established on May 10, 1858, as Davis Prairie, and changed to Claquato on September 15, 1858, and to Littell on February 21, 1903.

Then came Winlock on July 25, 1861, as Grand Prairie, to be changed to Winlock on February 2, 1874.

Centralia was established July 30, 1867, as Skookumchuck and then was changed to Centralia on January 11, 1884.

In 1881, a post office was established at Cowlitz Corner, and called Cowlitz.

With the establishment of rural delivery service and star route service a great many of the small offices like the one at Cowlitz Corner have been discontinued.



## THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD AND THE FOUNDING OF THE TOWN

In 1864 Congress passed the Land Grant Act. This was a plan intended to subsidize the building of railroads from the east to the west coast by giving each road every other section of land bordering their road for the entire distance.

But also, as an inducement to having the land settled by bonafide settlers, there was a provision in the grant whereby the railroads could not sell this land for more than \$2.50 per acre.

Under the provisions of this act, the Northern Pacific Railway started building their line in 1870. They started from Superior, Wisconsin, on February 15, 1870, and from Kalama toward Tacoma in August, 1870. They had intended building direct from Superior to Tacoma, but the Cascade range was a barrier that completely stymied them until 1887. Because of that, they made a trackage agreement with the O.W.R. & N. to use their track from Wallula into Portland, and their steamers from Portland to Kalama. Thus, their plan to build from Kalama to Tacoma.

This line from Kalama to Tacoma was completed on December 16, 1873. Under the provisions of the above mentioned act, the N.P.RR received a total of about 38,463 acres for building their line through Lewis County.

In April, 1883, they started building a line from Portland to Goble, Oregon, directly across the river from Kalama. This line was completed in October, 1884. They then started their own ferry service, ferrying whole trains across the river, so there was no break in service between Tacoma and Portland.

This ferry service was used until 1908. By this time they had completed their line from Kalama to Vancouver, and also the bridge over the Columbia at Vancouver, so they then had uninterrupted service from Tacoma to Portland.

In 1887, they completed the line over the Cascades, and on into Seattle,

thus completing their trans-continental line. During 1910, 1911, and 1912, the whole line was double tracked between Seattle and Portland.

#### UNION PACIFIC STARTS TO BUILD FROM PORTLAND TO SEATTLE

In 1890, the Union Pacific railroad started to build from Portland to Seattle. They had the right of way all bought, and the road bed pretty well along when the panic of 1893 stopped all construction.

Construction was not started again until 1909. Shortly afterward they made a trackage agreement with the N.P. and ceased further construction. And then shortly after the U.P. made their trackage agreement, the Great Northern made a like agreement with the N.P.

This produced the spectacle of three companies using the one line, and all fighting for the same business, especially the passenger business. Each road kept putting on new trains, just ahead of the other company, until finally there were thirteen trains each way running between Seattle and Portland.

But in 1925, they all got their heads together and worked out a pool agreement, whereby all passenger revenue was thrown into one pot, and apportioned back to each road on the basis of their average earnings for the past five years. This applied to passenger revenue only, and is still in effect. It had the immediate effect of reducing the number of passenger trains from thirteen each way per day to five each way per day.

Each road still fights for the freight business.

#### THE FOUNDING OF THE TOWN.

With the coming of the railroad came settlers. C.C. Pagget and Jack Nealy were the first two settlers in Winlock. It is not known who came first, nor just when. But evidently they came near the same time, and probably in early 1871.

Mr. Nealy filed a homestead right on the land west of the proposed road and Mr. Pagget bought 80 acres from the U.S. Government on the east side of the

proposed road.

These two tracts now comprise practically the whole area of Winlock. On December 27, 1873, Mrs. Paget filed with the County Auditor the original plot of the new, an area comprising practically all of 'the present' business district, and he named it WINLOCK.

#### THE NAMING OF THE TOWN.

Quite a number of people in and around Winlock think that Winlock Miller's father lived here in the early days, and that when it came to naming the town, he stepped forth and said if they would name it Winlock, after his eldest son, he would give a bell for the school.

This is not quite the case, It is true the town was named after his eldest son, and also true that he gave a bell for the school. But he never lived here and he named the town because he was requested to do so by Mr. Paget, who founded the town. He was requested by Mr. Paget to name the town because they happened to be very good friends. Some have thought that since the **were** both Indian War fighters their friendship developed then by reason of service together, but in an interview with this writer in Seattle on January 30, 1952, Mr. Winlock Miller said he did not think this was the case, since Mr. Paget's service was all in the field, and his father's service was all in the quartermaster corp in Olympia.

A little bit of their early history may indicate how they became acquainted and friends.

Mr. Miller crossed the plains in 1849, from Illinois, settling at Olympia, where he made his home up to the time of his death in 1876. After Washington Territory was created in 1853, he was made territorial surveyor. Much of his work at that time was in Lewis and Mason counties. In this work and travel over the area he saw and acquired rather extensive land and timber holdings. Mr. C.



C. Pagget arrived at Cowlitz landing, 1 mile below the present site of Toledo, in 1853. That being a thriving little community then, and the port of entry for all the country to the north, he stayed there and opened up a little store. A Mr. Joshua Tibeau had squatted on the land now comprising the townsite of Toledo. But he had done nothing toward acquiring title to the land. So Mr. Pagget payed him something for his squatter's rights, and then filed a donation land claim, and in 1858 acquired title to the land. It is quite likely that Mr. Miller surveyed this land for Mr. Pagget, thus forming their first acquaintance.

In 1859, Mr. Pagget accepted a position as teacher in the Squaxon Reservation, just outside Olympia. In 1863, he sold his claim in Toledo to Javan Hall, and moved to Mason County. In 1867, he went back to Toledo, and bought his old homestead back from Javan Hall. He remained there until 1871, when he sold out and moved over to the railroad to plat and found the town of Winlock.

From these moves, and those of Mr. Miller, it can readily be seen that there was ample opportunity for them to strike up an acquaintance and friendship that would justify Mr. Pagget writing to Mr. Miller and asking him to suggest a name for the town.

In my interview with Mr. Winlock Miller in Seattle on January 30 of 1952, he told me that Mr. Pagget's letter to his father asking him to suggest a name for the new town he was founding, and also his father's reply to Mr. Pagget had either been lost, or had not been kept. But some time later an affidavit had been made, stating the approximate content of his father's reply to Mr. Pagget. This affidavit was as follows:

Whereas, on the 17th day of November 1873, General W.

W. Miller of Olympia, Washington Territory, having been asked to give a name to the place, then known as Grand Prairie, did on the day above written submit the following name, "WINLOCK", in the words following, to wit. "If however you should fancy the name, and adopt it, I will agree to give a nice bell to the church or schoolhouse, that is built in the town.

Mr. Winlock Miller, who is now 82 years old, and quite healthy, energetic, alert, and most congenial, told me that the suggestion of WINLOCK was quite a natural suggestion on the part of his father. He said that his mother's maiden name was Winlock, his father's middle name was Winlock, his son's first name was Winlock, and that he in turn had named his eldest son, Winlock. Also that there was another branch of the family in Missouri with the same sequence of Winlock running through their family.

Mr. Pagett's reply to Mr. Miller's letter of suggestion was as follows:

Grand Prairie  
November 22, 1873

Dear General:

I received your letter a few days ago from you in reference to the name of this place, and have to say the name pleased me very much. There is a strange, (somewhat) coincidence connected with name which I tell you some time.

We have a subscription already for the schoolhouse preparatory for the bell. I think better to use it in that capacity, than for the church. Let the churchman hang their own church bells. I have forgotten to say when I file the plat for record, the name will be WINLOCK, named by W. W. Miller of Olympia.

Thanking you, and wishing you many happy days, I am

Yours,

C. C. Pagett



## SCHOOL BELL RECEIVED

The new school was not completed until October, 1881. And in the meantime Mr. Miller had died in 1876. But his wife, on being notified of the promise her husband had made, promptly ordered a new bell from San Francisco. This bell was received and hung on the school on the 18th day of January 1882. This bell was transferred to the new school on the hill in 1891. And after this school house burned on February 2, 1922, it was placed on the present school building, and is still in use.

The citizens of the town, being grateful for the naming of the town and the gift of the bell, filed the following statement with the county auditor on February 23, 1882.

To whom it may concern:

Whereas on the 17th day of November 1873, General W. W. Miller Olympia, Washington Territory, having been asked to give a name to this place, then known as Grand Prairie, did on the day above written, submit the following name "WINLOCK" in the words following to wit, "If however you should fancy the name and adopt it I will agree to give a nice bell to the church or schoolhouse that is built in the town", and whereas said town was duly surveyed and entered in the records of Lewis County, Territory of Washington, and whereas on the first day of October 1881, a suitable, commodious, and substantial school house was completed. And whereas, the legal representative of General W. W. Miller, deceased, did on the 18th day of January 1882, place at our disposal a bell, according to the above promise.

Now, therefore be it known by the undersigned, citizens of Winlock, that in grateful remembrance of the generous donor, we accept said bell, and will endeavor to preserve the same in connection with the name, and further if the said name, WINLOCK should be changed, lost or become extinct, then in that case said bell to become the property of the school district in which said town of Winlock is or was located.

Witness our hands, this the 20th day of February 1882.

C. C. Pagett

Geo. F. Dueber

H. C. Griffith

J. S. Nealy

E. P. McClure

J. L. Pennington

H. P. Whiteside

F. M. Frost

L. M. Hughes

E. L. Finch

## CHAPTER III

### CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

#### CHURCHES

Churches and schools usually follow pretty closely upon the heels of civilization.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

By 1834, there were 46 people on Cowlitz Prairie, Mostly employees of the Hudson Bay Co. farm, and their families. These families included Simon Plamondon, Oliver Bouchard, Joseph St Germain, Louie La Due, Pierre Charles, Michael Cottonware, and others.

They were mostly French Canadians, and were Catholic. In 1834, 1835 and 1836 they wrote letters to the nearest Catholic station at the Red River of the North in Canada, requesting Cleric assistance, but got no response.

Then Simon Plamondon made a trip in person and at his own expense, to explain their growing need, and urge assistance. As a result, in the late fall of 1838 Rev. Francis Norbert Blanchet and Rev. Modists Demers arrived on Cowlitz Prairie to establish a church.

They held their first meetings in Simon Plamondons home, and then proceeded to build a log church, near where the present church and mission stands.

This was the first church of any kind to be established in the state.

In 1894, they built a church in the St. Urban district, and in 1909 their first church in Winlock was built on the hill, near Joe Denzingers home. The present church was built in 1926. Mr. Andrew Johnson gave the bell for the first Catholic church built here in town.

#### METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist church was the first church to be built in Winlock. The Methodist church had a missionary preacher here in 1883, but the church was



officially organized on September 1, 1884, and has functioned continuously ever since. The charter members were Mr. and Mrs. William J. Byham, and Mr. and Mrs. Levi Rose, (parents of Mrs. Charles McNelly), Mr. and Mrs. Henry Metz, and Mrs. A. J. Rhodes. The first few meetings were held in the home of Mr. Bryson Wall, (Grandfather of C. C. Wall) and then in the little old school house, until they got their new church built in 1888.

The first Methodist pastor here was Rev. J. W. Patterson, 1884 and 85. Succeeding early day pastors were, Mr. David Motter, a local resident, 1886. Rev. Hackett, 1887, Rev. A. H. Marsh, 1888, and 89. Rev. W. M. Ludwick, 1890, and 91: Rev. R. A. Atkins 1892: Rev. W. H. Wilson, 1893: Rev. S. P. Brokaw , 1894: Rev. G. G. Ferguson, 1895: Rev. R. Benjamin, 1896: Rev. G. G. Ferguson 1897. Rev. W. M. Ludwick 1898, 1899, and 1900. (Note, Mrs. W. M. Ludwick is still living, with her youngest son, Darth, in Tacoma). Rev. E. L. Hughes, 1901: Rev. J. W. Williams, 1902: Rev. T. H. Downs, 1903, and 1904: Rev. J.F. Redfern, 1905.

The Methodist Sunday School was established shortly after the church was founded, with Mr. Henry Metz as Superintendent.

On November 15, 1887, the church bought two lots from J. S. Nealy, where the school gymnasium now stands, and started construction of a church. This was completed in 1888, and is the same Methodist church now in use.

After Mr. J. A. Veness bought complete interest in the old mill, he increased its capacity, and as a safety measure he built a conveyor to convey the slabs and refuse across the creek away from the mill. But this brought the fire pit so close to the church that he had to shut down the mill every day and some times several times in a day to put out a fire on the church. In 1906, Mr. Veness bought the lots and moved the church to the present location at his own expense to get it away from the fire hazard.

In 1894, the Home Missionary Society of the Methodist church bought a tract of land on top of the hill east of the present school from Mr. J. V. Warne, and built a large three story building for an orphan's home. It was named Mothers Jewels Home. Rev. W. H. Wilson was transferred from the pastorate of the local church to Superintendent of the new institution. It functioned until 1900, and then closed down, as the expense of operating it was more than they could handle at that time.

Mr. J. V. Warne bought the building, tore it down, and with the material built the old Commercial Hotel building on the present site of the Warne building. Since he wanted to build a larger building than the size of his lot, he prevailed upon the city council to vacate ten feet of Walnut street between Front street and First street. Thus the old building, which was destroyed by fire in 1911, occupied 16 feet of the street. This situation was corrected when the present building was built in 1912.

#### BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist church was organized in February 1886, by Mr. Marion M. Lewis, a school teacher here at the time. There were eight charter members, but we have been unable to learn their names.

After the church was organized, Mr. Lewis was ordained a minister of the Gospel, and carried on for awhile in the dual capacity of school teacher and preacher. But in a few months they secured the services of Rev. Pulliam of North Carolina.

In 1888, they began the construction of a new church, which was completed in January 1889.

Rev. J. M. Haskell took over the pastorate after the new church was completed and was here for several years. He went from here to Chehalis, and in 1913 he met a tragic death at Grand Mound. He was driving a horse and wagon to



Chehalis when he was struck by a train and instantly killed.

The old Baptist church built in 1888, stood just west of the parsonage and was used until 1936, when the present beautiful structure was completed.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church of Christ, commonly called the Christian Church was organized here in 1890.

In February 1891 they bought a lot just east of the present home of Art Wepsala. They built a large two story building, leasing the upper story to the Masonic Lodge, and using the lower floor for church purposes.

In July 1909, their ranks having thinned, they disbanded. They sold the building to the Masonic Lodge for \$200. The Masonic Lodge used it until 1918 when they acquired their present quarters, and then sold the old building to Mr. Lew Livingston, who tore it down.

The old bell was sold to the city in 1910 to be used for a curfew and fire alarm. This bell was just recently removed from atop the city hall.

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

The Christian Science church was organized in 1890. They held their meetings for some time in the old I. O. O. F. hall. About 1900 they acquired the present site, which was the site of the old home of Mr. A. J. Rhodes, the mill man. They used the old building for some time; then built the present church.

#### SCHOOLS

There is no record of when the original school districts in our vicinity were established.

The County Superintendent's office has no record whatever. All the county treasurer's records were searched to see when they started paying apportionments.

District #4, Grand Prairie, was the first school to be officially organized in the vicinity. It is known that the Grand Prairie school was in oper-

ation in 1855. At that time it was built and maintained by public subscription. But being the fourth district to be officially established in the county, it is probable that it became a county school shortly after the above date.

There is some evidence that the St. Urban school was established in 1886. The Ainslie district #47 was established in 1889. The Ainslie school was first established on what is now the Haapala property. It was moved to the more central location near the Leathers and Cunningham homes in 1901. The number of the St. Urban school was 36, which indicates the 1886 date of establishment as probably correct.

Sam Henry district #95 was established in 1902. This was consolidated with Winlock district #19 in 1910, and became known as the King school.

District #19, now the parent district in this consolidated district, and operating now under the number 232, was probably established in 1881.

It is known that there was a school here prior to 1881. But it probably was operated on the old method of popular subscription.

In 1881, District #19 became a known reality. They bought a tract of land, unplatted then, 100 x 100 feet, now occupied by the Winlock Cleaners and the Winlock Hotel, and built a new school. And then when it was completed, they didn't have enough money to pay for it, so a couple of liens were placed against it. The citizens dug down into their pockets and paid them off.

By 1890 they had made one addition to the school, and then had over 140 students. By this time they realized fully that it was a mistake to have the school right in the center of town, and began to think and plan on another location on which to build.

Jack Nealy offered to donate one acre of land on top of the hill just west of Dr. Fishbach's residence, and it was accepted. The new school was built there and opened in 1891.

It was a large two story building, with 4 large rooms downstairs and 4 upstairs. But they didn't use any of the upstairs as they had no high school course at all.

The building cost \$4500 for which bonds were issued, drawing 8% interest. The district only had a valuation of \$100,000 at that time, and that just didn't bring in enough tax money to get by on. By 1895 they were in debt over \$4500 on their general operation, in addition to the \$4500 building debt.

In 1896 they added their first year of high school. And in 1897 their second year of high school.

#### FIRST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

In 1898 they turned out their first two year graduate, Mr. Charles Metsker. Many of you have seen the METSKER MAPS in general use today. They are being made by Charles Metsker, a cousin of Fred Arct, who graduated here in 1898. In 1905 there were two graduates from the two year high school, they being Maude Arct, sister of Fred Arct, and Al Raught, a cousin of Lloyd Raught.

It is my recollection that the first teachers in the new school on the hill in 1891 were Mr. Eddy, as Principal, and Mr. George I. Brooks, Miss Sadie Smith, and Mrs. Jennie Sargent comprising the balance of the staff.

Mr. Eddy got \$40 per month as Principal, and the others got \$30 per month.

In 1908 a one room school was established on the Jones road, on the Rowland Smith property, so that students in that area would not have so far to walk to school.

In 1909 Mr. S. O. Oistad was hired as Superintendent. His first ambition was to establish a full high school course and to have the school fully accredited. He soon accomplished both. He established a third year course in 1909 and a fourth year course in 1910. In 1911 the first four year graduates were graduated. They were Georgia Veness, daughter of George Veness, Winnifred Dove,



and Ethel Warne, sister of Wilbert and Myrth. And in this same year, 1911, the school was fully accredited.

In 1913 there were 6 graduates. They were: Cyril Colbath, Emma Viste, Edgar Bryans, Myrtle Davis, Russell Hall and Martha Johansen. The speaker on that occasion was Prof. Edmond S. Meany, head of the history department at the University of Washington, and his subject was "The Present Day in History."

#### WINLOCK SCHOOL DEVELOPS

In 1913 the King school requested that their students be brought into town to the main school. The directors hired two teams to haul them in and back. This was our first bus service. In 1914 they requested that their little one room school be reopened.

In 1915 the Torgerson (Buckhorn) school and the Marttala schools were established. Margaret Sargent was the first teacher at the Marttala school.

Up to 1914 all eighth grade students had to take a county examination at the end of the year and qualify in this examination for promotion. Regardless of how good a student they had been, if they flunked this county examination they could not be promoted. But in 1914 this process was changed, and thereafter they were promoted, or not, on their average grade for the year.

In 1919, having no athletic facilities at the old school on the hill, the directors leased the old W.A.A.C. building (Winlock Amateur Athletic Club), now occupied by Ervings Hatchery.

By 1920 the old school was crowded, outmoded, and entirely inadequate in every respect for a modern school. They just had to have a new one, but where? There were many sites offered and argued over. But they finally decided on the Baxter site, the present site, and called for a special election to vote bonds, which was done, and then proceeded to build the present school.

The old Baxter home was right in the center of the tract, so it had to be moved. It was rolled down the street a couple of blocks, and is now Red Nixons home.

The new Johnson school was completed and opened in Nov. 1921. That is, the downstairs was completed. They figured on keeping the high school in the old building on the hill, and built just the lower floor of the new school for the lower grades, until such time as they could finish the upper floor. But on Feb. 2, 1922, the old school burned down. This, of course, necessitated immediate completion of the balance of the Johnson school.

If there be any who do not know, the Johnson school was named after Andrew Johnson, a pioneer who came here in 1885, and through the years had been an important figure in the industrial life of the community, and at the time was a member of the school board.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF WINLOCK SCHOOL CURRICULUM

A Manual Training class was first adopted in 1913. But a lack of proper facilities soon forced its abandonment. But it was established again in the new school in 1921.

In 1921 the first P.T.A. was organized, with Mrs. R. W. Fletcher as the first president.

Hot hunches were started in 1925. Agriculture class was started in 1934 and the gym was built in 1928.

In 1927 the St. Urban school and Grand Prairie school (Pikes Hill) voted to consolidate with this district.

Bus service was started then, and the King, Torgerson, Smith, and Marttala schools were closed and all students transported to the central school in town. In 1932 the Ainslie school came in. And in 1946, the last one, the Veness school came in.

This year they plan on building a new and modern shop building.

There are now 176 students enrolled in high school, and 355 in the grades, or a total of 531. Thirty students will be graduated this year.

William Waxmuth has been the Superintendent since 1947, and has been retained for the coming year.

The present school board is composed of the following men: Emil Hofmann, Ralph Nelson, Jack Sarvela, Walter Annonen and Fritz Korpi.

We think we have one of the best schools in the state. And we also think it is going to get bigger and better.

#### UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

On January 30, 1858, the Washington Territorial Legislature passed a bill to establish a state university. At that time Cowlitz Prairie was the most populated area of the territory. Also they reasoned that when a railroad was built between Seattle and Portland it probably would pass through Cowlitz Prairie. So the bill as passed was that the State University be located on Cowlitz Prairie, PROVIDED some one donate 160 acres of land for the site.

But there was no one on Cowlitz Prairie at that time who was sufficiently interested to give away 160 acres of land. So the offer was defaulted.

At the next session of the legislature in 1860, Mr. Arthur Denny, of Seattle, introduced a bill to locate the University in Seattle. This bill passed, with a proviso attached that some one donate 10 acres for a site. Mr. Denny, Edward Lander, and Charles C. Terry promptly gave the 10 acres.

Congress had previously passed a bill giving 2 townships of land to the Territory for the construction, maintainence, or endowment of a University should one be built. The legislature therefore thought that all they had to do was authorize the construction, and this land grant would take care of everything.



It was built and opened in Nov. 1861. It was just a one room school and opened with 20 students enrolled. But by 1863 the number of students had dwindled to 5, and it was closed for lack of public interest. But it opened again in a few months, with a prospect of more students.

Within the next year they got up to 66 students enrolled. And then they had to close for lack of funds. The legislature wouldn't appropriate any funds as they figured the land grant ought to take care of it.

In 1868 the state advertised all over Washington, Oregon and California, offering to lease the University to anyone who would open it and operate it. But there were no takers. In 1869 they sold some of the land grant, and opened it again, and run this time to 1874, when they closed again for lack of funds, and also lack of students, as they were then down to 24 students.

In 1875 the legislature made its first appropriation, \$1500.00 for the University. But this had to be used mostly for much needed repairs, so by the end of 1876 they were out of funds, and down they went again. But before they closed this time they graduated one student, the first one since it was founded 15 years before.

In 1877 the legislature passed a Free Scholarship act, and appropriated \$1500.00 to cover these tuitions. They got along pretty well then until 1882, when they were about to go under again. But this time the President of the Northern Pacific Railway gave them \$4000.00 in cash from his own personal funds. From then on they got along pretty well.

By 1890 they began to see that it was a mistake to have a University right in the heart of town. Mr. Edmond S. Meany was then a member of the legislature and he proposed that they go out on the lake shore and buy 160 acres for a new site. When the legislative committee went out to inspect it, they were so impressed that they recommended the purchase of all the land this man had, which

was 563 acres. This was done, and is the present site of the University. They moved to the new location in 1895.

In 1904 the 10 acre tract downtown was leased to Mr. James A. Moore for 50 years. The Metropolitan Building Corporation was then formed and the lease assigned to them. The plan was that this corporation would build up the tract with modern business structures, and take the major portion of the income for the 50 year period, and then the buildings and lots would revert back to the University.

This tract is in the very heart of the Seattle business district, and has such buildings on it as the Olympic Hotel, Olympic garage, Stewart-Henry-White building, Stimson building, and others. It is now worth many millions of dollars, and will revert to the University in 1954. The rentals from this tract alone will guarantee that the University will not have to close again for quite some time.

In 1920, the stadium was built. In 1950 it was enlarged so it now has a seating capacity of 55,000.

In 1927 the pavilion was built. This is one of the largest and best pavilions in the U. S., with a seating capacity of over 12,000.

The University of Washington is now one of the GREAT universities of the country, with an enrollment of something like 16,000 students. And it could have been located on Cowlitz Prairie just 6 miles from Winlock.

#### STATE COLLEGE OF WASHINGTON

Our local interest in Washington State College is through a former resident, Dr. W. W. Webb.

Dr. Webb came to Winlock in 1910, and practiced medicine here until about 1937, when he retired on account of illness. A good many residents here today came into this world with the able assistance of Dr. Webb.

In 1923, he bought the lot where the Davies Drug store now stands, and also the building that stands there today, and it is the nicest looking business building in town.

He was a member of the school board in 1928, and exercised a lot of personal interest and supervision when the school gym was being built.

His father settled in Pullman, Washington in 1881. In 1890 the State College was to be built somewhere in Eastern Washington. Dr. H. J. Webb and three other citizens set out to get it located in Pullman.

Some years ago this writer was in the Washington Hotel in Pullman. Hanging in the lobby of the hotel was a bronze plaque, placed there by the Pullman Chamber of Commerce, and engraved as follows: In grateful remembrance of the valued services rendered by, Dr. H. J. Webb, E. H. Letterman, A. T. Farris, Thomas Neill, in making Pullman the home of the State College of Washington.

Dr. W. W. Webb died on March 23, 1945, and is buried in the local cemetery, beside his mother, who died here on November 19, 1938.

#### STATE TRAINING SCHOOL, AND AN OLD SONG

The State reform school as it was called then, was opened in Chehalis on August 28, 1891. Now it is called State Training School (or Green Hill Academy).

The State hired Thomas P. Westendorf of Memphis, Tennessee as the first Superintendent, since he had had considerable experience along that line.

Mrs. Westendorf was so homesick that first winter she nearly died. He tried every way in the world to comfort her, and get her to stay at least until the end of one year's service. But she was still homesick.

Finally, being quite a talented musician, he composed the song "I'll Take You Home Kathleen", and every time he caught her crying he would sing that song to her.



I'm sure many of you have heard that old song many times. But I just wonder how many of you know the origin of it.

By the end of the first year, however, Kathleen had gotten pretty well over her homesickness, and they stayed there for 16 years.

#### STATE PENITENTIARY

We have no particular connection with the state penitentiary, thank goodness, but just as a matter of interest, I wonder how many know that the first territorial penitentiary was located at Bucoda.

It was a wood structure, made out of 3 by 6 spiked together, and was located just out of town to the south, on the bank of the Skookumchuck river. The old remains could be seen there for many years after it was abandoned.

It was built there in 1878. By 1886, it was very evident that it was not only too small, but not in a good location. The Legislative Committee then bought a 160 acre tract just outside the town of Walla Walla, and built a safe and modern institution.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### UTILITIES

#### WATER

One of the first problems the city had to face was WATER. There used to be a large community spring where the city hall now stands. Up to 1902 everyone within the present business district carried their water from this spring.

There was also a large spring on the N. P. right-of-way, near the present Standard Oil bulk station, and all residents in the north part of town carried their water from this spring.

A spring on the present school property, and one on the Seaman property, (now Wayne Bevis), together with a few wells, supplied the West side of town.

A spring on Sammy Stewart's property, together with a few wells, supplied

the South part of town.

In 1902, Mr. George I. Brooks, who then lived where Pink Crocker now lives, applied to the council for a water franchise. It was instantly granted, as they thought they would then have a general water system. He had a good spring on his place, but all he did was build it up, and run a two inch pipe from there to the business district only. At least it was a start.

In 1903, Mr. C. E. Leonard applied for a general water franchise. On objection by Mr. Brooks it was turned down.

By 1907, there was a general need, and a clamor for a water system. The council then decided they would keep on with their springs and wells for drinking water, but would put in a limited system of mains for fire protection only. They figured on 1600 feet of six inch mains, and about 7 hydrants, and entered into an agreement with J. A. Veness Lumber Company to pump water from the Olequa creek into the mains for \$30.00 per month.

They called for bids on the above amount of pipe. Secor Brothers of Portland happened to have 2000 feet of 8 inch pipe which they agreed to sell the city for \$1809.00, but the city turned it down as too high.

In 1908, the city decided to hire a competent engineer to come in and make a thorough survey for a water system. They hired a Mr. Hall to make said survey. He did, and recommended that they go way up the west fork of Olequa creek and put in a gravity system, using said Olequa creek as the source of supply. This didn't sound too good to the council, so they decided to have another engineer come in and make a survey.

This time they got a Mr. Allen. He recommended that they go up the East fork of the Olequa creek, but not so far, and pipe the water into town, and then use a hydraulic ram to boost the water into a reservoir on the hill East of the business district, and recommended that a system be installed capable of

serving a population of at least 2,500, estimated cost of \$15,000.00.

This sounded pretty good to the council, and they immediately called for a special election to vote the \$15,000.00. The bond election carried by a good majority. But since the bonds were to be Utility bonds instead of General Obligation bonds, they could not find a buyer. By then they had spent over \$1,000.00 for engineering and election, and still had no water system.

It was then that Mr. C. E. Leonard stepped into the picture. He told the council that if they would give him an exclusive franchise for 40 years he would put in a good water system, with good water. They said O.K., provided he cover the entire town, and it not to exceed 14 months. This was done, and today Winlock has one of the best water systems, and the best water in the state.

#### LIGHTS

Up to 1895 there were nothing but kerosene lights in use. In 1892 the council felt some need for street lights, at least in the business district. They put up six posts, with a kerosene lamp on the top, and required the marshal to light these lights every night, and keep them filled and clean, and also specified that there would be no increase in the \$30.00 per month salary, for this extra work.

Shortly after this, the Veness Lumber Company installed a dynamo at their mill, run it 24 hours per day, and applied to the town for a franchise to furnish general electric service. This was granted. Then the city ordered six 1,600 candle power arc lights, replacing the old kerosene street lights, at a cost of \$6.00 each per month.

In 1902 the Snoqualmie Falls Power Company came in and asked for a franchise, on the grounds they could furnish power for industry, where Mr. Veness couldn't. They were granted a franchise, but never came in with any service.



In 1907 Mr. Veness sold out to the O'Connell Lumber Company, and his franchise was transferred to Mr. O'Connell.

In 1912 the Independent Electric Company took over the franchise of the O'Connell Lumber Company.

In 1918 the Washington-Idaho Water, Light, and Power Company took over the franchise of the Independent Electric Company. In 1924 they went into receivership, and were bought by the Pacific Power and Light Company of Portland.

In 1925 the Puget Sound Power and Light Company acquired the properties, and installed Mr. V. G. Corkins here as their first manager. Then in September 1948 the Puget Sound Company was absorbed by the P. U. D.

#### TELEPHONE

The first telephone system was installed in 1887, between Winlock and Toledo. This was installed by a Dr. J. H. Hepburn, who came in here from the East. He seemed to have been a professional promoter, and after the line was put in to Toledo, he tried to promote on to Chehalis and Centralia, but promoting wasn't very good in those days, and he went on his way and never was heard of again.

In 1905 C. E. Dueber got a franchise from the town for a telephone system, and put in a few phones.

In 1907 the Home Telephone Company got a franchise for a rural system. In 1908 they asked the town for a franchise for a general communication system. The franchise was granted, but nothing happened.

In 1909 the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company took over the franchise of C. E. Dueber, and installed a general telephone system.

Since, the rural lines have been extended to practically every section of our community, and connections can be made through the local office to any point in the world.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

On January 21st, 1892, a representative of Scott and Long of Portland appeared before the town council and tried to interest them in the purchase of a hook and ladder truck for city fire protection. But since there was no available water supply, and practically no streets, they couldn't give it serious consideration.

Remembering the disastrous fire of 1890 which burned the whole business district, they did feel the need of some form of fire protection, on March 21st of 1892 the town council ordered that they have four ladders made, and also authorized the purchase of \$15.50 worth of buckets. These were to be stored in some convenient spot where they could be quickly reached in case of fire.

Shortly thereafter there were organized the first fire department in Winlock. On June 30, 1892, they submitted the by-laws to the town council and these were immediately ratified. There is no record of the personnel of this group.

In April, 1893, the representative of Scott and Long appeared before the council again to try to sell the town a second hand fire engine for \$325.00. The council sent one of their members to Portland to see it and have it demonstrated. He recommended that they do not buy it.

It seems that the members of the fire department were considered to be employees of the town, and as such were exempt from the town poll tax then in vogue. On March 15, 1894, the town council disbanded the fire department, and ordered that all members be put back on the poll tax roll, saying that they were of no benefit to the town.

By July, 1896, most of the buckets and ladders had disappeared. The council ordered the marshal to make a search of the town and recover as many as possible, and then to bring the number of ladders up to 6, and the number of

buckets left were 75.

By 1898, they found their bucket supply down to 27 buckets. They then bought a supply of rubber buckets, thinking that perhaps some folks would not care to be found with rubber buckets in their home. It didn't seem to make any difference. Even the rubber buckets soon disappeared too. In October, 1898, they replenished the ladder and bucket supply, and then built a shed on the spot about where Earl Cummings service station now stands, and kept the buckets and ladders under lock and key thereafter.

In January, 1900, a Mr. Nadine of Chehalis appeared before the council to try to sell them some fire apparatus. No mention of what it was, was made. The town's answer was to buy more buckets.

They went along then until 1910, when they purchased a two wheeled cart with two 35 gallon chemical tanks mounted on it. But every time they'd have a fire they had to quick call a meeting of the council to authorize the purchase of sulphuric acid and soda to recharge it.

In May, 1911, a representative from the state fire marshals office appeared before the council and requested that they begin planning on some better form of fire protection. They then bought another two wheeled cart and 500 feet of hose. They also created a fire limit, consisting of practically the present business district, where nothing but fire proof buildings could be built.

In March, 1913, the council requested from D. B. Stewart, manager of the Independent Electric Company, a figure on the cost of an electric fire alarm. The figure scared them.

In 1891, there was a church organized here called the CHRISTIAN CHURCH. They bought a lot and built a large building on what is now Virgil Harkins home property. They leased the upper part to the Masonic Lodge, and held their scr-



vices down stairs. But in 1909 they disbanded. They then sold the building to the Masonic lodge. One halloween night a bunch of kids went in there (Ask Wilbert Warne if he knows anything about it) and rang the bell so vociferously that they cracked it. Shortly thereafter the town bought this bell from the Masonic lodge, for \$25.00, to be used for a curfew and a fire alarm. When the present city hall was built in 1914 this bell was mounted on the rear top and used until 1917. It remained there until last week when the fire boys tore down the old hose tower, and removed the bell, to make room for the first rural truck, which is to be kept for washing the streets and for stand-by service. In 1917 the council installed an electric fire alarm for \$256.00 and discarded the old bell.

In Feb. 1922 the council ordered the town marshal to blow the fire siren at twelve o'clock noon on the first day of every month, to see that it was in working order.

Up to 1925 there was no organized fire department. There never was a lack of volunteers when there was a fire, but there was no one with authority to take charge. In 1925 Mayor Floyd Hancock appointed Max Atlason as Fire Chief, with instructions to organize a volunteer fire department. At the same time he started action with the State Department of Labor and Industries to have the boys protected by industrial insurance while on duty at any fire. Max Atlason accepted the appointment as fire chief, and organized a volunteer fire department consisting of the following members. Max Atlason, Chief. Earl Harkins, Assistant chief. Howard Nixon, Clyde Dubel, Joe Murray, Alvin Strand, Lloyd Raught and Harry Warne.

With the forming of the fire department there soon was agitation to get a modern fire truck. The agitation continued through the summer, and the council decided they would call for a bond election to see if the people were willing

to vote bonds for the purchase of a fire truck, this election to take place at the time of the regular town election in December. The bond issue carried decisively.

At this election C. C. Wall was elected Mayor. Shortly after the first of the year Mayor Wall, the fire and light committee composed of Ben Miller, Phil Erckenbrack and Charles Randt, and fire chief Atlason, made a trip to Portland to inspect equipment, and while there contracted with the American La France people for the towns first pumper which was delivered in October 1927.

Shortly thereafter a crew from the Washington Rating bureau came to town to revise fire rates.

In May 1927 Chief Atlason appeared before the council and said he was being criticized for taking the fire truck outside the city limits, and asked what he should do about it. The council didn't know what to do about it, so did nothing. But this started the first agitation for a rural truck, which culminated in 1931 in the purchase of the first rural truck, the purchase price of \$2014.00 having been fully subscribed by the rural patrons who would be benefited by it. This by the way was the first experience in the whole state where such an arrangement had every been made.

By 1945 the first pumper, having been used for almost 20 years was getting pretty well shot. Since the town had years before created a sinking fund from which to buy a new machine when it became necessary, there was then enough in this fund to buy a new one, which they did, it being delivered to the town in March 1945.

In 1950 there was the same experience to go through on the rural truck, except that there was no kitty to draw on. But again the community was equal to the situation. They raised the full purchase price of \$10,000.00 by popular subscription, and the new rural truck was received in July 1951. Winlock now

has the best equipment and the best fire department of any town its size in the state.

Max Atlason who was appointed Chief in 1925 resigned in 1928. Succeeding chiefs have been, Earl Harkins 1928, Howard Nixon 1929, Clyde Dubel 1930, Earl Harkins 1931 to 1940, Clyde Dubel 1940 to date.

The personal of the fire department at the present time is as follows:

N. C. Dubel, Chief	1925
Lloyd Raught, Ass't	1925
Howard Nixon, Captain	1925
Tom Elliott, Captain	1931
Ed Schlittler, Lieut	1946
George Dueber, Lieut	1933
Rolla Mathews, Sec.	1941
Bob Craft	1949
Bob Brosey	1951
Bob Johnson	1951
John Gibbs	1949
Sanford Wall	1931
Fritz Korpi	1951
Edgar McNelly	1947
Larry Jones	1950
Jerry Schlittler, (Mascot)	1950



## CHAPTER V

## EARLY WINLOCK

The early OFFICIAL history of the town is rather confusing. The town was incorporated in 1883. Articles of incorporation were filed with the county commissioners on February 28, 1883, and this was the first town in the county to be incorporated.

However, there was no list of city officials, either elected or selected, filed with the articles of incorporation. Exhaustive research and inquiry has failed to find any trace of city officials prior to 1889. All city records were destroyed by fire in 1890, so there is no official record of anything before that date.

Present city records began in 1891, but there is some evidence to indicate there was a municipal administration immediately prior to that.

In 1891 the town council called upon city attorney, J. R. Buxton to check, and give them an opinion on whether or not the incorporation of the town of Winlock was legal, and if not, to call a mass meeting to take steps to re-incorporate. No further mention of the subject appears in the records, so it is presumed that attorney Buxton ruled that the incorporation was legal.

What probably happened was that they filed the articles of incorporation in 1883, and waited a number of years before setting up a city administration.

Mrs. Jessie Raught has an essay on Winlock, written in school by Louise Raught, in 1891. In this essay she mentions that Mr. Sam Herron was the first mayor of Winlock, in 1889. No further information could be obtained.

The city administration in 1891, (which is the oldest record on file,) was as follows: Mayor, C. T. Hall; Marshall, F. M. Lewis; Treasurer, Charles W. Whisler; Police Judge, Maurice Langhorne; City Clerk, W. J. Wall; City Attorney, J. R. Buxton; Councilmen, C. R. Hadley, G. W. Skinner, H. P. Whiteside, E. E. McFadden, L. F. Furber.

Succeeding mayors were Frank J. Shields, 1892; J. P. Ellis, 1893; Roland Smith, 1894; Ole Rosten, 1895-1897; A. B. Kennedy, 1898-1899; G. P. Wall, 1900-1902; William Fowler, 1903; J. A. Veness, 1904.

Present city officials are V. O. Harkins, Mayor; George Prigmore, Jess Odoms, Laurel Gibbs, Dewey Prehn and George England Councilmen; Dale Whisler, City Clerk; and Fred Veness, City Treasurer.

Although the original townsite was platted and named in 1873, there was no grand rush to buy lots. But then, in 1883, when the town was incorporated, there were only about 100 people in town, and the platted part was intended mostly for business purposes. They all couldn't go into business; up to the end of 1886 there had been only 13 lots sold. So there just isn't very much to report on business up to this time.

Mr. George F. Dueber, grandfather of the present George Dueber, bought the first lot on April 9, 1879. This was not only the first lot sold, but it was lot #1 in Block #1 and this lot is still held by the family, and is the lot where Sammy Stewart's grocery and Ted Bitar's department store is now located.

Mr. Dueber, being quite optimistic about the future of the town, built two buildings on the lot. One was a hotel upstairs, with a dining room downstairs. The other had hotel rooms upstairs, and the downstairs for any general business. While living in these quarters, Mr. and Mrs. Dueber had a son born to them, Charles E. Dueber, and he was the first child born in Winlock.

In 1884 the Wall clan arrived, 43 strong. They rented the full upstairs of one of Mr. Dueber's buildings, and stayed there for quite sometime. They finally decided to go up to the Big Bottom country. They bought horses and wagons and started out. On the upper end of Cowlitz Prairie they met a man with a team coming this way. He was from the Big Bottom country, coming to Winlock to get supplies. That discouraged the Wall clan, and they turned a-

round and came back to Winlock. They then went out to the Buckhorn hills (so named because they found a tree where a buck deer had rubbed his horn off against the tree and in the intervening years the horn became completely imbedded in it. This then became a land mark. That tree was the buckhorn tree. A spring nearby was the buckhorn spring, and the ridge was the buckhorn ridge). In the buckhorn hill they took up some of the worst homesteads in the state. They starved out in a few years and all came back to town.

By 1886 there were three groceries, 1 hardware, 1 general merchandise store, 1 meat market, 3 blacksmith shops, 1 millinery, 1 saloon, 2 hotels, and 1 drug store. There were also two full time ministers, 1 lawyer, 1 shoemaker and 1 doctor. The little saw mill also was then operating.

From this time on, the community developed pretty fast. In 1887 more new settlers came into Winlock than to any other town in the country.

The minutes of the town council for some of these early day meetings make rather interesting reading. At one meeting in particular, in 1891, they passed a resolution allowing Jack Nealy to shoot the birds in his orchard. They also passed another resolution prohibiting keeping horses tied up to hitching racks for over 8 hours without feed and water. At one time Jack Nealy was arrested and brought into police court for racing his horse up and down the street. The Judge asked him how fast he was riding, and he, being still somewhat inebriated, replied "60 miles an hour". The Judge asked him if he didn't think that was somewhat exaggerated. Old Jack replied, "Judge, just exactly who was riding that horse, you or me"?

And that reminds me of another little incident in connection with Mr. Nealy. Some time after his wife died, he started going around a little with an old maiden lady here--a very kindly old soul, but all fired homely. One of the boys was kidding him one day about what a homely face she had. Jack, re-



plied, "Well, that's all right, I'm not going to marry her face.

By 1890 the rural area was beginning to be developed pretty well. In the St. Urban area the following settlers were located on ranches, Anton Meier, 1879; John Diekman and the Schlittlers, 1880; Joel Hamilton, 1883; Joe Bremgartner, 1884; John Meier, 1886; Joe Lachine, 1887; and Radants, 1889.

In the district North of town were Levi Rose, 1883; Jim Porter, 1889; Louie Krueger, 1889; Nels Peterson and Chris Peterson, 1889; S. P. Graverson, 1889; and Rudolph Sobolesky, 1890.

On the King road, Leslie Crim, 1887. And by the way, Leslie Crim was a prospector. He did a lot of prospecting around Sam Henry mountain, and up the East fork of the Olequa creek. A little gold was found up the East fork of the Olequa, but not enough to get excited about.

Other settlers on the King road were William Haupt and the Berstingers, 1888; Mel Lewis, 1886; and Low Baird, 1890. For many years there was only one settler on what we call Finn Hill. Billy Walters homesteaded out there in 1879. Billy was the father of Mrs. Otis Ferrier and Mrs. Herman Pierce. For many years there were only about four settlers on the Jones road. They were Mr. Jones, Father of Bill Jones, now living out there, Richard Lentz, Roland Smith, and H. C. Griffith.

The first settler in the Ainslie district was David Ainslie, in 1874. I will cover his activities in more detail in another chapter. Other settlers were Hans Yansen, 1888; William Cunningham, 1887; Pat Duffy, 1885; and John Roe, 1884; Tom Toy, Doc Carns, and Mr. Henderson, 1888.

The area East of town was the first to be settled, as all the real early settlers came in that way. Probably the first settler in that area was George Drew, in 1852. John Provo took a donation land claim just East of town in 1854. The Mannings settled on Grand Prairie about 1858. Mr. William Champ, grand-

father of Wallace Champ, settled just this side of Hillcrest service station in 1867. Jonas Pike, after whom Pikes Hill was named, came in 1859. W. C. Nevil, on the Nevil road, 1877; The Mincklers, 1883; and the Larges in 1893; A. J. Flesher, 1872. Elmer Flesher was born in 1884, and is probably about the oldest person born here and still living here, Cora Rose McNelly and C. C. Wall running him a close second.

The development of the rural community was being reflected in the business economy of the town by this time. More lots were being sold, and more buildings being built. There were about 20 new buildings built in 1887, including an addition to the school.

The Siler Brothers, Ruff and Judd, who later went to Randle, put in a general merchandise store. C. H. Casher put in a combination grocery, dry goods and hardware store. And W. T. Byham also put in a dry goods store. At about this time, 1887, Mr. Pagett sold his stock of goods to Mr. J. A. Adams, who moved it from across the railroad track in front of Ervings hatchery, to his new buildings where Phils Cafe is now located. And along with this, Mr. Adams was appointed Postmaster, and moved the post office to his location.

After retiring in 1887, Mr. Pagett went to Chehalis and stayed for a while with his daughter, Mrs. O. F. Saindon, and then on to Seattle, to spend his remaining days with his son.

August 7, 1887, was a red letter day. On that date Historian C. C. Wall was born, on Buckhorn Ridge. Things haven't been the same since. From 1887 to 1891 things really rolled. In April 1887 Dr. Whiteside bought a tract of land from Jack Nealy, in the southwest part of town and platted the first residence addition to the town. He sold all his lots in short order.

And then shortly after that Mr. E. P. McClure bought 14 acres from Mr. Pagett, just south of the business district, and platted two additions. In

October 1887 Jack Neely platted an addition on the West side of the Olequa. In 1889 he platted a second addition, and in 1891 a third addition (Great Northern).

In 1888, J.A. Adams platted Adams Addition, and in 1890 Investors Addition was platted, both being just North of the business district and on the East side of the railroad.

In August, 1890, August Mayers platted Mayers Addition, being the one in the most southerly part of town. In 1891 Smith Addition, Hinings Addition, and Harts Addition were platted. In 1889, Mallorys addition, in the southeast part of town was platted.

There are quite a number of other additions to the town, but these are the early ones.

#### THE FIRST NEWSPAPER

It was during this prosperous period that the first newspaper came to town. In 1885 Mr. Frank Owen started a little newspaper in Toledo called "The Cowlitz River Pilot." But things looked better in Winlock, so in 1888 he moved over here, but left the Cowlitz River behind, and called it the Winlock Pilot. In 1889 Mr. Owen sold the pilot to Mr. C. E. Cassel, and went to Chehalis, where he bought the Chehalis Nugget.

Succeeding owners have been, J. R. Buxton, 1890; W. B. Phillips, 1897; C. E. Leonard, 1900; G. I. Brooks, 1901; C. H. Williams, 1903; Harry Malone, 1903; I Rosenthal, 1904; J. D. and L. R. Quillen, 1905.

In 1908 the name was changed from Winlock Pilot to Winlock News. Later publishers were O. L. Isbell, M. E. Meloy, and the present Larry Alexander.

#### EARLY WINLOCK

During this period up to 1890, much of the foundation stock of Winlock arrived.



Dr. Whiteside came in 1881; Phil Erckenbrack, 1882; Walt Soaman, 1882; Gordon Sweany, 1882; A. J. Rhodes, 1879; Ole Roste, 1879; Jim Smith, 1882; J. P. Ellis, 1886; The Lewises, Link and Mel, 1886; Walls, 1884; Andy Johnson, 1885; Vic Gaume, 1890; Tom Crocker, 1888; McNellys, 1900, Joe, Arch and Charles, Joe was Howard's father; Dr. Woody, 1890; Chas Rockafellow, 1890; C. E. Leonard, 1885; H. H. Fatland, 1882; Charles Harkins, 1889; Joel Warno, 1890; Whislars, 1886; Larges, 1893; Jim Smith, 1882; George Brown, 1888; and of course many others.

#### EARLY MARRIAGES

Perhaps a few of the early marriages would be of some interest. Mr. William Boone, who was a very familiar character on our streets through the early years, was married to Sarah V. Roundtree in April 1876; James M. Champ and Mary Layton, August 1876; A. J. Flesher and Nancy Broshiers, July 1871; Jack Nealy and Gertrude Broshears, 1872; General W. W. Miller, father of Winlock Miller, to Mary McFadden of Chehalis, November 1869; Jean Baptiste Plamondon, son of Simon Plamondon, to Matilda Provost, of the provost Donation Land Claim just East of town, Jan. 1865; John Diekman and Emily Schlittler, 1881; Louis Grenier to Mary Henriot, 1887; Charles Laughlin and Mollie Gunder, July 1885; C. E. Leonard and Martha Harrington October 1887; William E. Sargent to Jennie Smith, daughter of Roland Smith and sister of Mrs. Randt, October 1887.

#### MASONIC LODGE

The Masonic Lodge #47 was organized here on June 6, 1885. Mr. William Champ, grandfather of Wallace Champ, was the first Master, with Mr. R. G. Sands, Senior Warden; C. A. Burchard, Junior Warden; Henry Metz, Chaplain; Wm D. Boone, Treasurer; and S. L. Ferrier, Secretary. They met in the Good Templar Hall until 1891, when they leased the upper story of the Christian Church. In 1909 the Lodge bought this building. In 1918 they sold this building, and bought

what was then the creamery building, and remodeled and fitted up the old creamery building into their present modern temple.

#### I.O.O.F. LODGE #36

Winlock Lodge #36, I.O.O.F. was organized on June 20, 1885. They rented quarters until 1891 when they bought the lot that the north part of the present Lewis Feed building stands on, and built a large two story hall.

The first officers of Lodge #36 were F. Gunder, Noble Grand; W. T. Byham, Vice Grand; H. C. Griffith, Secretary. Howard McNelly joined Lodge #36 in 1913. He was elected Secretary in 1917, and has held the office ever since, or over 35 years.

The hall became the social center of the town. Dances, ice cream socials, parties, etc. were held there. It was the scene of the battle of the saints and the sinners. In those days the Protestant churches didn't allow any of their members to smoke, drink, play cards or dance.

When there was to be a dance there, the church folks would say, "Those sinners are having a dance Saturday night." When the church had a social there, at which they played drop the handkerchief, and skip-to-my-lou, the sinners would say, "The saints are having their square dance Friday night."

One prominent and highly respected citizen living in town today, was dropped from the rolls of the Methodist church because, as the charge said, "for dancing in the past, and refusing to abstain in the future." Now don't ask me who it was, cause I'm not going to tell you.

About the same time the I.O.O.F. bought this lot, Mr. James Harbridge bought the lot south of it and built the first watch repair and jewelry shop in town.

#### FIRST BANK

In 1889 Rice & Campbell came in and started the first bank. Mr. Campbell

built the nicest home in town where Ed Leonard's home now stands. Mr. Rice built his home where Otis Ferrier now lives. It looked like they were to be here for many years to come. But in 1892 a Mr. Honso, who was then operating a bank in Centralia bought them out, and placed Mr. R. J. York in charge, and operated it as a branch of the Centralia bank. This was one of the early branch banks in the state.

In 1894, as the result of the panic of 1893, the Centralis bank failed, this of course took the Winlock Branch under with it.

We were without a bank then until November 1905, when Mr. A. N. Cheney came in and started the State Bank of Winlock. Mr. C. E. Leonard was the first depositor, with a deposit of \$50.90. This bank was in a small building about 10 X 20 ft., and stood on the West end of the lot where Brosey's Hardware is now.

In 1916 Mr. Cheney sold the bank to Mr. H. J. Maury. In the meantime Mr. Cheney had built the present bank building, and moved the bank to its present location.

Mr. Maury operated the bank until 1927, when he sold out to Mr. C. W. Broom. He in turn sold it in 1928, to Charles E. Walters.

In 1930, Coffman Dobson bank of Chehalis acquired ownership, and operated it until 1938, when they sold to the National Bank of Washington, which is a part of the Trans-America corporation. Fred Haines is the present local manager, having been here since 1940.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS

The first Fir street bridge, leading to the present school and gym, was built in 1893. The surveying for this bridge cost \$4.00. The fir piling supports underneath cost \$1.25 each. The total cost of the bridge was \$264.40.

In 1892, Mr. H. H. Fatland started a general merchandise store where the



present Grange store is located. A few prices at that time might be of some interest. Gingham was 5¢ per yard, socks, 4 pair for a \$1.00, mens all wool suits, \$5.00 to \$10.00, childrens suits \$1.50, and ladies or gents shoes \$1.50.

In 1894, Ben Sorenson was running a meat market where the Standard Hatchery is now located.

In 1895, Mr. F. H. Brodahl was running a grocery store. A few of the old timers will remember him.

In 1893, W. J. Wall, and G. P. started a hardware and furniture store, and UNDERTAKERS goods. In 1898, they sold out to Sam Cavanaugh.

In 1898, Mrs. G. P. Wall opened a millinery store, which she operated for many years.

Dr. Whiteside located here in 1881, and practiced here until 1903.

#### EARLY WINLOCK

Dr. N. E. Woody located here in 1890. He died in 1903, having virtually killed himself in his service to the community.

In 1900, Mr. I. Rosenthal came to town with his general merchandise store. This was one of the better stores of the day.

In 1901, Mr. C. E. Leonard started a hardware store, and Mr. John F. Fowler had also come in with a new grocery store.

In the later part of 1901, Mr. S. L. Hampson came in and bought the hardware and furniture store from Mr. C. E. Leonard. Shortly thereafter a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hampson, christened Fred. Fred is now a war correspondent, and is CHIEF of the Far East division, for the Associated Press, with headquarters in Hong Kong. In September, 1902, Mr. Hampson sold out to Sanford & Girvin.

In 1903, Mr. George Penny came in with a new General Merchandise store. In 1904, he also added a line of groceries.

In 1908, a fruit canning association was formed by some of the local fruit

and vegetable growers, headed by Dave Caron. They sold stock among themselves, and built a cannery building at the southwest end of the Walnut street bridge. However, they had so many difficulties getting started, that they finally gave up, and rented the building to Frank Miller, where he started the first laundry in Winlock. The laundry operated there until 1914, when it, together with all the dwellings on that street as far west as the Methodist church, burned.

Mr. Miller went back to Chehalis, and we had no laundry until 1924. In 1923, Mr. A. P. Perkins came in and started to set up a laundry in the building where the Gem Cafe used to be. But he ran out of money and had to quit. It was then that Frank Miller came back and took over, and they have operated the laundry ever since.

The first photograph gallery in Winlock was started by Ole Hong, (not a Chinaman), in 1888. He operated it until 1902, when he sold out to Mrs. George Hall, who continued to operate it for quite a number of years.

In 1895, Mr. Ed Powell started a pottery. He didn't make pots. Pottery was the name given to a clay products plant. He made brick and tile. He operated here for a good many years.

#### THE ALASKA GOLD RUSH.

Winlock furnished its quota of gold seekers to Alaska during the big rush. The big rush, to the Yukon, was in 1898. Some had gone earlier, and struck it, and that started the big rush. Howard Darrah, and Cap Watson and his Brother Jim, were among the early birds. They went up in July 1895. They packed over Chilcoot pass, and into the Yukon country. Didn't strike anything there so went on through the Eldorado area, Dawson, and on to Nome.

Roland and George Darrah went up for a season, but that was enough for them.

Howard accepted a position as deputy U.S. Marshall at Nome, and served in

that capacity until 1914. He then accepted a position as Field Manager for the Lomen Reindeer Corporation, which he held until 1918. In 1911, he met and married Emelia. John and his sister Sidney were born in Nome.

In 1898, Walfred Carlsen went up. He too packed over Chilcoot pass, through the Yukon, and finally to Nome. Romance bloomed again, and he got married in Nome. Denny Carlsen, and Eddie, now running the Ford Agency, were both born in Nome.

A. W. Peterson also went up about this time. No details on his adventure.

Charles Randt and Leslie Crim went up in 1898, although not together. They later got together and teamed up together. They didn't have much luck with gold, but they did discover the richest tin mine in Alaska. A large syndicate looked it over with the intention of buying it. They made a very substantial down payment on it, and then something happened. They were unable to complete the deal. Mrs. Randt still holds the mine. They built a cabin on the property, and Mrs. Randt then went up, and was there for several years. Margaret Randt (Gibbs) was born up there.

In 1908, Quevy Thomas and Christine went North. They stayed 4 years, in and around Nome.

In 1910, Wilbert Warne went up, but only for the one season.



## CHAPTER VI

## INDUSTRY

The first industry in the community, although not inside Winlock, was the Ainslie Lumber Co.

In 1874, Mr. David Ainslie came here, looking for a location for a small saw mill. He bought 80 acres of land 4 miles south of town, a part of which is now the Haapala farm, and built a small mill there. This was pretty much a family affair, as Mr. Ainslie had several boys.

In 1884, this mill burned down. With plenty of timber available nearby, and a growing demand for lumber, Mr. Ainslie floated a large loan with the Ladd & Tilton Bank of Portland and went in for a greatly expanded program. He built a large mill, about 100,000 feet capacity per day, built a railroad with a regular rod engine for bringing in the logs, built a large hotel, a general store, established a post office there named Ainslie, and was in the process of establishing a bank there, when they went under, another victim of the panic of 1893, which was a bad one.

## DOERNBECHER FURNITURE COMPANY

Along with the Ainslie mill came the Doernbecher Furniture Co. Mr. Doernbecher built a small plant alongside the Ainslie mill and started the manufacture of furniture, getting his raw material from the Ainslie mill. The initial personnel of this plant was Mr. Doernbecher himself, and one cabinet maker. But before many years, he had a very large plant there.

When the Ainslie Mill Co. went broke it dried up the source of supply for the Doernbecher plant. He then moved the plant to Chehalis, where they remained for several years, and then moved to Portland.

Today the Doernbecher Manufacturing Company is the largest furniture plant in the Northwest. And it started at Ainslie, with 1 employee.

Mr. B. P. John, who started the B. P. John Furniture Company in Portland was an employee of Mr. Doernbecher at the Ainslie plant, and gained enough experience there to start his own plant in Portland.

#### THE FIRST SAW MILL IN WINLOCK

On May 7, 1877, Mr. Andrew J. Miller and Mr. Eugele L. Finch bought 7.65 acres of land from Jack Nealy. They built a small saw mill, operated by water-power from Olequa creek. Logs were hauled to the mill by ox teams.

The mill had a hectic existence its first few years, changing hands numerous times. From Finch and Miller it went to Dan Council, then to A. J. Rhodes, then to Pennington & Stevens. Then Roland Smith was a partner. Then back to Rhodes, then to Prescott and Furber, then J. A. Veness in as a partner and in 1892 to Mr. Veness as sole owner.

Mr. Veness increased the capacity of the mill, and put on a steam logging engine. In 1907 he sold out to M. T. O'Connell as associates. Then followed more expansion, but the history of saw mills is one of fires. The hazard is great. On May 16, 1911 the big O'Connell mill burned.

In 1915, Mr. J. H. England acquired the mill site. Over a period of years he built back a large modern mill, but on April 20, 1951, this mill too was burned. After this fire Mr. England liquidated all his holdings and retired. And why shouldn't he. He WALKED into this town in 1900 with 20 cents in cash in his pocket. He retired with slightly over one million.

#### CAPITOLA

In 1889, Mr. E. A. Andrews came here from Kansas. He bought a small tract of timber 1 1/2 miles south of town and started to build a little mill.

In 1890, the Gubser Bros, David and Andrew, bought him out, and finished the mill, started doing business under the name of Capitol Lumber Company called the new little community Capitola, later Veness, and that venture added

much to the economy of this community for many years afterward.

It changed hands several times, and expanded many more times. It was sold to Chris Genrich and associates from Centralia, to J. A. Veness, to Menefree Lumber Company, to F. E. Veness, and now to J. H. Millman.

#### SHIP KNEES.

In 1885, Mr. Andrew Johnson came to Winlock, and soon afterward started in the ship knee business. Many of you today would not know what a ship knee is.

It is a brace for a ship, hewn out of the root of a large stump, where the root bends. It is selected because of the very great strength. This developed into a very large business, but with the coming of steel ships and steel braces, the ship knee business went the way of the old harness shops.

#### SASH AND DOOR FACTORY.

In 1890, Colbath and Son came in from Salem, Oregon and started a sash & door factory in the southwest part of town, just West of the present home of Otis Ferrier. They had quite a large plant there, but it too fell a victim of the 1893 depression.

#### FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP.

In 1905, Staples and McKinnon built a foundry and machine shop just north of Johnny McNelly service station. They operated it for only a few months, and sold it to Mr. E. P. Dove, who operated it for a number of years.

#### BRICK & TILE PLANT.

In 1913, a Mr. G. W. Daniels came here with a new idea on making brick and tile in an open fire pit instead of the old conventional oven. His estimate for a pilot plant was \$30,000.00. He sold as much stock as could be sold, and Mr. J. A. Veness put up the balance, a plant was built, near the Veness saw mill at Veness. The idea wasn't practical. \$30,000.00 lost.



## GROCERY STORE.

In 1920, Alec Ursin started a little rural grocery one mile south of town. In 1925, he sold it to Sarvela & Son, who have operated it ever since.

## EARTHQUAKE.

Most of you remember the earthquake of April 14, 1949, in which eight people in this part of the state were killed. On April 30, 1882, there was a very severe earthquake that lasted for 15 minutes, but there wasn't much at that time to shake down. Not much damage done.

## POPULATION.

In 1900 we had a population of 655. In 1910, with several large sawmills and logging camps, we had a population of 1140. By 1920 our lumber and logging activities and pretty much faded out, and our population had dropped back to 832. It has remained fairly close to that ever since. In 1930, 864, 1940, 861, 1950, 878.

## OUR CONNECTION WITH THE EARLIEST PIONEERS.

About the year 1818 or 1819 the Hudson Bay Company sent one of their employees up the Cowlitz River to explore it for its trapping possibilities. Their employee, Simon Plamondon, a French Canadian, paddled up the Cowlitz to the present site of Toledo. He discovered the Cowlitz area, explored it thoroughly, and then returned to Vancouver to report that trapping possibilities on the river were very good, and also that there was a most excellent farming area all ready to be plowed. As a result of this report the Hudson Bay Company established a large farm on the Cowlitz in 1824, but Simon Plamondon returned to the prairie in 1820 or 1823, and settled on the land now owned by Floyd Henriot, Herb Leonard, and others at Cowlitz Corner.

He was the first and only white man to set foot upon this part of the country, up to that time. There being no white gals around, he took the Indian

Chief's daughter to be his wife.

In 1834, Mr. Michael Cottonware, who was also an employee of the Hudson Bay Company, settled on a piece of land, a part of which is now the farms of Stan Henriot and Sam Woody. He married Simon Flamondons oldest daughter. This Michael Cottonware was the great great grandfather of Polly Cottonware, who has lived here in Winlock for many years. We thus have a direct connection to the first white man to set foot on this county.

In 1844 a large party of 80 wagons, headed by Colonel Michael Simmons crossed the plains, headed for the Great Oregon country. They reached the Columbia at Washougal in late 1844 and held up there for the winter, and in the spring went up the Cowlitz landing, and then on to Tumwater. In this party was Mr. Joseph Broshears. About 1860, Mr. Simmons and Mr. Broshears moved down to Grand Prairie to make their future home.

In 1872, Jack Nealy rode his horse into Winlock, all the way from Georgia. It wasn't very long before he was riding his horse out to the home of Mr. Broshears on Grand Prairie. In 1872 he was married to Gertrude Groshears. Mr. A. J. Flesher had previously married another daughter, Nancy, on July 23, 1871. We thus have a connection there with the first large wagon party to settle north of the Columbia River. Another Broshears girl, was married to Mr. L. M. Hughes. She died in 1878, and was buried in the local cemetery. Mr. Will Flesher says that she was the first person buried in the local cemetery. He also said that Mr. Hughes then owned the land, and is very sure she was the first one buried there.

However, there is a stone in the cemetery showing the date of death as 1872. No information could be obtained as to whether this burial was made in 1872, or whether her body had been transferred here at a later date, with the actual date of death inscribed on the stone.

The first of the Roundtrees crossed the plains in 1852, and settled at Boistfort. In 1859, some more of the Roundtrees came. In this party, when they left Missouri, was Mr. T. J. Spooner. Romance has no particular time or place for budding. In this instance it budded right on the old Oregon Trail, and somewhere along the line in the month of April, 1859, Mr. Spooner's daughter, Susan, and A. J. Roundtree were married. They came on across the plains and settled at Boistfort. Then in 1899, Mr. T. F. Spooner came to Winlock and bought the Jack Nealy home. He lived there until 1910, when he moved to Portland.

The Spooners had twin sons, Lloyd and Langdon. After moving to Portland they joined the Oregon National Guard, and both made the Guards' Rifle Team. They helped shoot the rifle team to national championships several years in succession, and one of them won the individual rifle shot championship for the U.S.

#### ROADS

Roads were the big headache in the early days. For many years the only road into Winlock was from Toledo. The first road was not much more than a dirt trail through the brush.

The next improvement was to make it a punchion road. Small poles were split in the middle and placed side by side, with the flat side down, so they wouldn't sink into the mud so easily. This kept the wagons from sinking deep into the mud, but it had the effect of riding on an exaggerated washboard.

The next improvement was to plank the road. This was done in 1895, mostly as a community project. A goodly sum of money was raised by public subscription and the Prescott, Veness and Company furnished the lumber, 3 X 13 X 8 feet long, for \$3.25 per 1000.

This was then figured to be the best road in the county, but plank roads



just don't last long. By 1902 it was the worst road in the county. Then they tore out the plank and gravelled it, again mostly as a community responsibility, but the county did help some on the gravel. They then had a fairly good road for the traffic of the day.

In 1905, Fred Veness brought the first automobile into town, a Winton, and between the narrow rocky roads, and the frightened horses, Fred really had his troubles. The automobile age was upon us.

In 1920, they started construction of the present concrete road between Winlock and Cowlitz Corner. This road cost \$140,000.00, and was built under the Donahoe road law. This was a sort of L. I. D. arrangement whereby all the cost was born by the abutting property and semi abutting property. The plan was so unsatisfactory that only two roads were built in the state under this law.

#### THE BEGINNING OF EGG DAY

The above mentioned highway was completed and dedicated on August 13, 1921. There was a big celebration commemorating the event, and since Winlock was becoming quite a famous poultry center, they decided to call the celebration "Winlock Poultry and Egg Day." There were about 1,000 people present at the celebration. Otis Roundtree was the General Chairman for the event. After the celebration it was decided to make this an annual event, which was done. This year's EGG DAY will be held on June 14.

#### THE BIG EGG AT THE DEPOT

On October 23, 1923, the Pacific Highway bridge over the Columbia river at Vancouver was completed and opened. A huge caravan of cars and floats, representing the various communities of Western Washington, started at Olympia, and drove to Salem, Oregon, where they had a huge celebration, commemorating the opening of through travel from Capital to Capital.

John C. Lawrence, manager of the Co-op, suggested that Winlock should be represented in the caravan by a huge egg, mounted on a truck. This was one. A wood frame was made in the shape of an egg. A canvas was stretched tight over it, and painted white. This attracted so much attention, that on their return they decided to place it on a platform near the depot where it has since remained.

The canvas, of course, wouldn't last very long, so they plastered it with ordinary plaster. This didn't stand up. In 1944, when Johnny Simpson's Plastic Company came to town, they made it over with this plastic material, which has stood up pretty well.

#### SERVICE CLUBS

The first service club was organized in Winlock in February, 1906. It was called "The Winlock Improvement League". Mr. J. D. Quillen, Editor of the Winlock Pilot, was the first President. Mr. A. L. Raught was Vice President, George W. Penny Secretary, and A. N. Cheney, Treasurer. Their motto was "For The Good of Winlock". No record was kept of how long it lasted.

Next came the "Bungalow City Club", organized in December, 1915. C. C. Wall was President and George W. Ruhl, Vice President. There were approximately 55 members. Another unreported demise.

In November, 1921, the Winlock Commercial Club was organized. H. J. Maurv was President and M. E. Meloy was Secretary. It had a very sick spell in 1923, but John C. Lawrence took over as President, with Dr. H. R. Marsh as Secretary, and pulled it through.

In 1947, the Lions Club absorbed the old Commercial Club, and is still serving the community.

## Chapter VII

## AGRICULTURE

## THE COMING OF THE FINNISH SETTLERS.

The first Finnish settlers came to town in 1903, quite by mistake. There were a lot of Finlanders working in the coal mine at Carbonado. A few of them decided they wanted to get out and set a little ranch somewhere. They had heard that the Boistfort valley was good farm country, so Nick Kolanen, Charles Martalla and Henry Pistenen went down there in the early part of 1903 to look it over. They found the good farms there in the valley too expensive for them to buy. They had walked out to Boistfort from Chehalis, but it was a little closer to walk over the hill to Winlock to catch the train back, so they came here. They had to stay overnight here, and they learned that the logged off land here could be bought pretty cheap, so the three of them bought tracts.

On returning to Carbonado, others were interested. They sent Gust Nisula to Winlock to see about buying some of that cheap logged off land. On arriving here he scouted the area and learned that the old Ainslie Lumber Company had quite a lot of logged off land near their old mill site, and their buildings were being liquidated. Gust bought 500 acres on the spot. He returned to Carbonado, and in May, 1903, he, together with Henry Koski, Nick Salmela, August Puranen, Jacob Orni, Elias Turula, Arvid Pakkala, and Carl Laakso returned to Winlock and divided up the 500 acres between them.

These were the very first Finnish settlers. After that they came in pretty fast. The Winlock area would not be so well cleared up and developed were it not for these hard working people coming in.

## THE FIRST COLORED SETTLER.

Mr. Tom Lynch was the first colored settler to settle in our midst. He came in 1892 and bought 80 acres of land from the Northern Pacific Railroad, one



mile north of town, and lived there for many years. This is the property now occupied by Johnny Hayes. Later more colored folks came in and they had quite a colony in that district. Doc Harp, a very respected colored gentleman, is the oldest person now living in our community. He will be 100 years old in August.

#### POULTRY.

The first commercial poultryman in Winlock was Mr. William Warne, brother of Joel V. Warne, and uncle of Wilbert and Myrth. He came to Winlock in 1887 and built a little home on the bank of the Olequa, about where the P. U. D. sub-station is now located.

His wife was a sister of Mrs. Joe Mallory Sr. who was the mother of Joe Mallory Jr. now one of the supreme court judges of this state.

Mr. Warne put in a flock of about 100 hens, and sold all his eggs to the nearby railroad men. When Uncle Billy died, the poultry business died with him, but it was born again after John Marcotte came to town in 1910 as agent for the Northern Pacific Railroad.

When John came to town he brought a brand new bride with him. Being young and ambitious to get ahead he began to figure some way he could increase his rather meagre salary. He soon saw that the ranchers who had a few barn yard hens had no market for their eggs, other than what they could trade to the local grocer for groceries. This was very limited, as the grocer would only take what he in turn could sell right here in the community. As a result, John went over to Grays Harbor, and framed up an agreement with one of the large logging companies to sell them their necessary eggs, hogs, and veal. He then announced to the ranchers here that he would take all the eggs, hogs, and veal they could produce, and pay them spot cash on delivery. This would give him two profits; one on his resale, and the other in increased express commissions. When the

ranchers saw that they could sell all they produced, naturally they produced more.

Jacob Erving was the first one to go into the poultry business on a large scale. Others followed shortly afterward.

Up to 1913 Mr. Marcott had handled all the eggs in the freight warehouse. Doing all his own candling, grading and packing at night. But in 1913 it reached a point where he could no longer do this. He then rented the Leonard building, where the Raybuck Electric Co. is now located. He adopted the name "Cowlitz Produce Co." for his business, and put a full time man in charge. Mr. Fred Wood, brother of Harry Wood, was his first manager and candler.

The business continued to grow. The first year of Mr. Marcott's business he did a gross business of \$5000.00. But in 1919, when he made his first car load shipment of eggs to New York, it was running \$80,000.00 per month.

In the Spring of 1920 the poultrymen formed a poultry organization, and considered joining up with the Washington Co-op Poultry and Egg Association. On June 1st, 1920, they did join up with the Co-op. They had no one here who could take charge of the business, so they got Mr. Marcott to take charge until they could get a manager.

John managed his own business and the Co-op too for 4 months. Then the Co-op sent in Mr. R. L. Robinson as manager. He was followed by C. W. Orsdell. In January 1922 Mr. John C. Lawrence came in as manager.

In 1921 Torgerson & Son established an independent poultry station for buying poultry and eggs.

In March 1922 the Cowlitz Produce Co. (John Marcott) established a branch in Olympia, where the poultry business was fast coming to the front. These eggs were all brought to Winlock for processing and shipment.

In 1922 a total of 141 car loads of eggs were shipped out of Winlock,

having a value of \$700,000.00.

In 1923 John Marcott sold his Cowlitz Produce Co. to Edwin Moe. John then turned to auto financing, which game he is still in. In 1944 he moved to Portland, where he has since resided.

In 1924, Frye and Company established a buying station here. They spent \$20,000.00 to outfit a station on a part of the present Co-op site. Hum Kean, who for several years past has been Mayor of Bremerton, Washington, was their first manager.

In 1929 Swift and Co. bought out Torgerson and Son, who had been operating in the Elliott building, now the Spears building. Swift and Co. then moved the business to the present sale barn location.

By 1921 the Co-op felt the need of larger and permanent quarters. They bought the Blum building, which is the one just north of the Grange store, and then all the land in that block south of this building, there being no buildings there at the time. They then started construction of a three story modern poultry plant, to be the best one in the Association. However they discovered a serious defect in the title to the property. One that would take some court action to clear up. So they gave up this project.

Jake Yansen was running a feed and produce store in the Blum Building when the Co-op bought it. He then went across the street to the north, and bought the old Dan Lee livery stable, and fitted it up for his produce business. Then the Co-op decided that if they could get that whole block they would put their new plant over there. They did, buying the south building from Jake Yansen, next one to the north from Frye & Co., and the balance of the block, on the north from V. O. Harkins. This site then was developed into one of the largest Co-op stations in the state.

After being run out of the produce business twice, Jake Yansen then bought



out the Otis Roundtree Hardware Co., and operated it up to the time of his death.

In 1920 Jake Erving decided he was going to start a chick hatchery. John Annonen decided the same thing at about the same time. They each did, and their first chicks were hatched in January 1921, at almost the same time.

In April 1923 Jake Erving's hatchery and poultry house burned down. He lost all his incubators, and 4000 laying hens. He decided immediately to rebuild both, but to have them separated. He rebuilt the poultry house on the farm. In June 1923 he received his new incubator, a 40,000 egg capacity Smith. He leased the west end of the Dueber building, where Sammy Stewart's grocery is now, and had the first up-town hatchery. In 1924 he put in a second 47,000 capacity Smith incubator. In 1925 Mr. Erving bought two lots, just north of where Stacy Lowell now lives, intending to build a modern hatchery there. Also in 1925 Leland Cattermole bought the old W.A.A.C. building, the present Erving hatchery building, intending to make it into a modern funeral home.

But about this time the Veness Lumber Co. went out of business, and Leland then bought the Veness home and office, fitting the office into the present funeral home. He then sold the old W.A.A.C. building to Mr. Erving, who moved his hatchery there in 1926, and added two more incubators, increasing the capacity to 194,000. At the present time they are the largest independent hatchery in the state, turning out about 1,500,000 chicks annually.

In 1927 the Standard Hatchery was started. Incorporators were Carl Laakso, Arvid Pakkala, Herman Haapala and Elias Turula. By 1938 all the stock had been acquired by Oliver Pakkala and Vern Zander, who still operate it. The business was first located in the Elliott building. But in 1934 the present building was bought and the operation moved there. Their present output is about 750,000 chicks annually.

In 1912 Toivo Hovila came to town. In 1921 he started a small hatchery and was the first one to produce and sell "started chicks." He later retired from the hatching business as his hatchery burned in about 1934, and he has since confined himself to straight egg production on a large scale.

After hatching with small incubators in the early twenties, Herman Haapala in 1929 constructed a hatchery building on his farm and installed a 52,000 capacity Smith Incubator, operating it with his three sons until his death in 1935. The sons continued hatching and in 1937 added a large fryer plant to their operation. This plant and hatchery is still being run on a reduced scale by one of the sons.

In the meantime, Annonen's Must-Lay Hatchery has kept their production up to demand. The total annual output of baby chicks in Winlock is now about 4,000,000.

In 1937 Gordon Egbert started in the fryer business. He takes day old chicks from the hatchery and raises them up to fryer size, from 1 to 2 pounds, or even larger, depending on demand. He markets about 6,000 fryers per week. To do this he has to maintain a constant pool of about 40,000 birds. He has a modern quick freeze plant, cold storage facilities and an ice plant. Most of his output is packed in ice and sold fresh. The balance is frozen and packaged ready for the pan. He has about 25 employees and his gross business runs between \$370,000 and \$400,000 annually.

#### DAIRYING

By 1903 the rural area was still further developed. All ranchers had at least one cow and possibilities for more. They began to discuss the possibility of a creamery. In 1904 Mr. Clarence Brewer, a buttermaker, came along and decided to start a creamery here. He bought what would now be about the center of the school athletic field, built a small building, about 20 by 30 feet, and

started a creamery,

It proved very successful from the start and the farmers soon decided they had better take it over and make it into a Co-op. In January 1906 they did just this. They paid Mr. Brewer for his investment, took it over, and named it the "Winlock Co-operative Creamery." It operated as such until 1946, when the Darigold corporation took it over.

The officers of the first creamery were J. C. Christensen, President and Manager; C. M. Nelson, Vice President; Frank Caron, Secretary; Nels Peterson, Treasurer; and Herman Schmidt, a member of the board.

They occupied the original site until 1907, when they bought the lot now occupied by the Masonic lodge, and built a larger and modern plant there. By 1923 they were making over 250,000 lbs. of butter per year, and were in need of more room. In September 1923 they bought the property where Gordon Egbert's cold storage is now located, and built the building now occupied by Egbert. They continued to grow. Soon they were making over 500,000 lbs. of butter annually.

Then something happened. A large milk condensing plant was built in Chehalis. They established truck routes and picked up whole milk at the farmer's door. The farmers found this much easier and more convenient than separating, and taking their cream only to the local creamery. Production at the local creamery started down and down. In 1946, after being in business for 42 years, they were absorbed by Darigold, and ceased operation.

#### FILBERTS

Rex Smith made the first planting of filberts in 1920. Other plantings were soon made by Henry Prechel, Herb Leonard, Pete Prechtel, Sam Leathers, Bill Boreen, August Lanmeyer, and others. There are now approximately 60 acres in filberts in our area. They marketed their filberts at the Washington Nut Growers Association, at Vancouver, Washington.



## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPEMENT:

## HOPS:

Hops were one of the big early day crops. The Henriots, who came to Cowlitz Prairie in 1866, had the largest acreage in our immediate vicinity. David Motter also had a planting at the foot of Pikes hill. And the Wallers had a planting at St Urban. Herman Klaber had the largest field in the county, at Boistfort, or Klaber, as it was called then. Herman Klaber went to London in 1913 to sell his 1912 hop crop. He was returning on the Titanic when it hit an iceberg and sank. Mr. Klaber went down with the ship. In 1910 there were 900 acres of hops in Lewis county. Now there are none.

## STRAWBERRIES:

First commercial strawberries were grown in Winlock in 1889. Mr. Julius Krebs came to town at that time. He bought the property now occupied by the Union Oil Co. Bulk Plant, and the Erik Soderberg home. He set up a shoe repair shop in his home. He put most of the ground space to strawberries. He peddled the strawberries from house to house in the community. When Mr. Krebs passed on, so did the strawberries. In 1911 Mr. Otho McLaughlin moved here and bought the ranch now occupied by their daughter, Mrs. Ralph Seely. Coming from Puyallup he was quite berry minded. He set out one acre of strawberries, one acre of raspberries, one acre of logan berries and one acre of goose berries. The McLaughlins remained there for 20 years, during which time their chief support was from these berries.

By this time it was very evident that the most demand was for strawberries, and there followed some rather heavy plantings. The early growers were Bud Jones, A. W. Peterson, Henry Prechel, Fred Roth, Fred Lund, and numerous others. There were over 100 acres in strawberries at this time.

In 1922 the Cowlitz Produce Co. shipped 11 carloads of strawberries. Then

followed the barreling plant, now occupied by the Lewis-Pacific dairymens Ass'n, and the berries were processed there and hauled to Tacoma and Puyallup by truck, and placed in storage. However, some years ago, the canning companies established canning and processing plants at Chehalis and Grand Mound. Now all the berries from this area are trucked there for processing.

#### GRANGES:

Agricultural development of the community naturally brought the Granges.

#### HOPE GRANGE:

The first grange to be organized was Hope Grange #155, which was chartered in 1904. Charter members of Hope Grange were Frank Caron, Mose H. Wilson, E. J. Lentz, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Graverson, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Nelson, F. E. Welton, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Antrim, Otto Hansen, and David Caron. They soon arranged for the building of Hope Grange hall, which they have maintained ever since.

#### ST. URBAN GRANGE:

The second grange to be organized was the St. Urban Grange which was chartered in 1917. One hundred years from now some one might want to know just who the charter members of St. Urban Grange were.

They were H. W. Paschke, F. Brautigan, Joe Fischer, R. K. Owens, Perry Grove, W. P. Graham, G. M. Van Gorkom, William Chezek, J. Van Gorkum, Lizzy Brautigan, Mrs. Alvin Schoeggl, Mike Schoeggl, Frank, Harry and Mary Chezek, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Weigand, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Styskal. St. Urban Grange also soon built their own hall, and have maintained it ever since.

#### COUGAR FLAT GRANGE:

The Cougar Flat Grange takes in all the territory South of town. It was chartered on May 3, 1920.

Charter members were L. Minche, M. A. McLarty, M. M. Dobbins, J. M. Jackson, J. A. McLarty, J. A. and S. Erickson, Wm. Hogan, W. J. Bogart, H. E. Dobbins,

G. S. Conley, N. De Briae, F. Faltinot, W. H. Booth, D. W. Booth, A. H. Booth,  
J. Branneman, F. E. Branneman, E. Ellender, B. Aust, H. Curtit, J. Schaefer,  
F. Aust, J. Rose, Mrs. H. Hogan, O. Jones, C. V. McLarty, J. Davis, M. Lane,  
Mrs. M. Lane, Mrs. J. A. McLarty, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Enyeart, Mr. and Mrs. D.  
W. Roberts, B. Rowland, T. Toomey, Mrs. A. H. Booth, Mrs. W. H. Booth, Mrs. M.  
M. Dobbins, and Mrs. N. De Briae.



## CHAPTER VIII

## INTERESTING EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

## THE DARK DAY OF 1902

In early September, 1902, some settlers were clearing and burning off a homestead near Yacolt, northeast of Vancouver. They let the fire get away from them, and it swept into the green timber near by. About 150,000 acres were burned over, and an estimated 7 billion board feet of timber destroyed. There were few roads in the area at that time, and the fire started on the exit end of them. As a result practically all the settlers in there burned up. They never got an accurate check, but figured there were about 30 lives lost.

On the night of Sept. 11th, atmospheric conditions were such that the smoke from the fire, which had then been burning for several days, settled down into a thick pall, so thick that on the morning of the 12th it did not get daylight. It was just as dark at 11 A. M. as it was at midnight.

This condition prevailed as far north as Bucoda, but no one knew what was causing it. The smoke was high enough that it did not interfere with breathing and no one even suspected that the condition was brought about by smoke.

My Grandfather, Bryson Wall, wanted to telegraph to New York to see if it was dark there. Some one asked him what he thought of it, and he replied, "Well, I think we've just been living too fast, and God Almighty is putting on the brakes."

About 11 A. M. the sun began to break through the screen. When it first broke through it had all the appearance in the world of a huge red ball of fire. At this time quite a few persons went on their knees and started praying. Then as the sun dissipated more of the smoke, the red, fiery condition began spreading over the heavens. It was then that several women in town ran to the mill to be with their husbands when the end came.

It certainly did look like the end. This writer was at the store with his daddy, until this red fiery situation came about, but daddy wasn't comfort and protection enough then, so I hightailed it for home as fast as I could, to be with my Mama, when the end came.

#### DOUBLE KILLING OF ROBBERS

On December 12, 1907, a couple of well dressed young men came to town, and rented a room at Harve Keithlys lodging house. That night some one broke into the post office and the bank, but they were KEY men and not POWDER men. That is, they just looted anything they could get into with a key, without the noise of an-explosion. In this case they didn't get anything of value except a few commemorative coins and a pistol, left in an unlocked drawer in the bank.

The next morning marshal Castator went to the post office and store earlier than usual, to get a pair of rubbers for his daughter Marie, before she went to school. While in the post office and Grubers store, which was then located where Egberts cold storage plant is now, he learned of the pilfering. And just at that time some one said, "There goes a couple of strangers down the track now, maybe they are the robbers." Marshal Castator and Bill Reddy and E. E. McFadden went over and stopped them, and took away a little grip they were carrying. Just as the marshal opened the grip Mr. A. N. Cheney came up.

Mr. Cheney's first remark was, "That's my pistol on top". They knew then that the jig was up, and broke and ran across the flat to about where Johnnie McNelly's service station now is. There Mr. McFadden was about to catch one of them when he turned and shot McFadden. And then he shot him again after he fell. They picked him up immediately and took him to Dr. Lueders hospital, which was then located where Orville Houghton now lives. The doctor gave him a quick once over, and said he didn't think he could do anything for him, as he seemed to be shot through and through. This infuriated the citizens, and Fred

Schaefer, who was running the hardware store for Mr. Gruber, started loading up all the rifles in the store, and passing them out for use. In just a matter of minutes the robbers were surrounded, and the battle took place just across the creek from where Frank Sager now lives. Their pistols were no match for the longer range rifles, and they were both killed right there, and fell within few feet of each other. They were never identified, and were finally buried in the potters field in Chehalis. It turned out that Mr. McFadden was not seriously hurt, and was up and around in a few days.

#### TRACY AND MERRILL.

The above incident reminds me of the Tracy & Merrill episode. In the early part of 1902, Harry Tracy and Dave Merrill were arrested in Portland on a charge of armed robbery. They were convicted and sent to the pen at Salem. They had already broken jail in Colorado, where they were accused of two murders and 44 robberies. In Portland, before being caught, they had cached away some guns and ammunition. After they were sent to the pen they immediately made friends with a convict who would be released in a few weeks. By a peculiar set-up at the prison at that time, they saw that it would be possible to have those guns smuggled in to them. And this was done. On June 9, 1902, Tracy, being the killer, shot and killed three guards, and he and Merrill made their escape.

Then came the greatest man hunt in the history of the Northwest. They crossed the Columbia at Vancouver, and headed North. They passed by through this territory via the Military road, just east of town. Merrill had some relatives near Napavine, and he wanted to go to their place. Tracy didn't. They quarreled. Tracy then shot and killed Merrill, and went on alone. In the Seattle and Everett area he had two brushes with the officers, and in the two battles he killed four officers. He then made his way over the mountains



to Eastern Washington, and got as far as Creston, where he was surrounded in a wheat field and mortally shot, and then committed suicide rather than be taken alive.

The reason this incident is included here, is the local touch it has with our community. There used to be a family here by the name of Wagoner. Two of the daughters still live here. But at this particular time they were living at Napavine. One day Mrs. Wagoner and her son George, were walking down a road near their place, and they stumbled upon the body of Dave Merrill.

Merrill had a brother in Chehalis, and he was notified and came down there immediately. In the events that followed, he and Mrs. Wagoner were thrown together quite a bit, and soon a romance developed between them. On August 31, 1905, Mrs. Mary Wagoner and Mr. Ben Merrill were married here in Winlock. They made their home in Winlock for several years afterward.

A book entitled Harry Tracy, The Desperate Western Outlaw, was written by W. N. Carter. For many years, the book was a good seller. Perhaps some of you have read it.

ED COTTREL

In 1905 Mr. Ben Sorenson, local butcher at the time, died. He left his wife \$2,000 in life insurance. She was then running the old Commercial Hotel. About this time a transient cook came along and she put him on as cook. He soon found out that she had this insurance money, and played up to her and married her. He then proceeded to have the time of his life drinking and gambling on her money. One evening Marshal Krause arrested him and locked him up for drunkenness.

He asked the marshal to take him to the hotel to get her to put up bail and get him out of jail. This, the marshal did. She refused to put up any bail for him. This made him pretty angry. He stepped over to the counter,

picked up a large butcher knife and made a lunge for her, but the marshal was right on the job. He always carried a loaded cane with him. He jumped over and whammed Cottrel over the head with this cane, knocked him down, and then took him back to the jail and locked him up.

The good citizens were getting more and more indignant over the way he was treating his wife, and this was just the last straw. That night at midnight 12 citizens went to one of the saloons and got an empty whiskey barrel. They then went to the livery stable and got a buggy tug, and then to the city jail. They broke the lock off the door, took Mr. Cottrel up on the cemetery hill to about where Oliver Pakkala now lives. There they laid him gently over the whiskey barrel, and with the buggy tug they proceeded to make mince meat out of that part of his anatomy then exposed to the moon. Then they took him back and locked him up in the jail again.

The next day he "stood" before the judge and received a jail sentence, but a couple of days later when the jailer brought his meal in to him, he slugged the jailer, took his key away from him, locked the jailer in, and went on his way. He was never seen in Winlock again.

#### ONE ON THE SHERIFF

In January 1918, a young man came to Winlock. He rented a room at the Winlock Hotel. Every day he would take a long walk--some days to Vader, some days to Toledo, and some days just a long walk on our country roads.

On the morning of January 27 he walked to Vader very early in the morning. Mr. A. N. Cheney was at that time operating the Vader Bank. This young man arrived there about the same time Mr. Cheney did. He followed him in and then proceeded to tie him up securely and scoop up all the cash in sight. He had a little black grip with him, and he stuffed the currency in to this grip, walked leisurely out, and up the railroad toward Winlock. After he got out of town

he stuffed all the currency in his various pockets, and then threw the little grip away.

Mr. Cheney soon worked himself loose, and gave the alarm, and of course called the sheriff. In his account of the incident to the sheriff he told him that the robber had the money in a little black grip.

The sheriff and a carload of deputies jumped into their car and headed for Vader. They went down the east side highway to Ainslie, as the old road used to go. As they crossed the railroad at Ainslie, they saw a man walking up the track from the direction of Vader, since he didn't have a little black grip, and kept on coming boldly toward them, he couldn't possibly be the robber. Nevertheless they waited for him to come up, and then asked him if he had seen anyone along the track with a little black grip. He assured them that he hadn't, and they then went on their way to Vader, and he, with his pockets all bulging with currency, walked on back to his room at the hotel.

He wanted to have a bath, and clean up before he left town, so he made that his first order of business when he got back to the hotel. While he was taking his bath the chambermaid came in to make up the bed. She noticed his overcoat hanging there with the pockets bulging with currency. She had heard about the Vader robbery, so she slipped out and told the proprietor. He in turn got hold of the marshal, and as soon as he stepped out of the bathroom they grabbed him. He got ten years in the penitentiary. The sheriff got the horse laugh.

#### THE EVANGELIST

In 1918 an evangelist came to town. Uncle Fuller, he called himself. He conducted a series of meetings in Nutries hall.

One night he made some very disparaging remarks about the Christian Scientists. The next day he met Harve Keithly, whose wife was a Christian Scientist, and Harve proceeded to beat him up unmercifully.



Uncle Fuller then sent to his home in Hood River, Oregon, for his gun with which to shoot Keithly. When it came the Postmaster, G. P. Wall, suspected it was a gun, and opened it to see. Sure enough, it was. And it was all loaded ready to shoot. G. P. then held it up, and wouldn't deliver it to him. Uncle Fuller then was going to have the postmaster arrested for holding up his mail. The postmaster was going to have him arrested for mailing explosives in the mail. Finally everybody got calmed down and back to normal.

Then after all that, Keithly borrowed the postmaster's 38 one day, went on the hillside back of the business district, and shot himself.

#### SOMETHING MOST UNUSUAL

In 1906 Mr. Anton Hadaller came to Winlock. He bought a little ranch  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of town, where he lived until 1910. When he came here there was no Catholic church. He immediately went to work to get one. In the meantime, he gave Catholic instruction to the Catholic children in the community.

In 1910 he left here and moved into the Harmony district, near Mossyrock. There were 5 boys in his family. In 1922 two of the boys, Louis and Matt, went to Colton, in Eastern Washington, to work in the harvest fields. There they met the Kirpes family. There were 5 girls in the Kirpes family. And then cupid went to work.

On May 23, 1923, Louis and Minnie, and Matt and Elizabeth were married in a double wedding. And then the other boys went over to harvest. And on June 18, 1924, William and Josephine were married. On August 25, 1925, Otto and Anna were married, and on December 27, 1930, Lawrence and Gertrude were married. Thus the 5 brothers were married to 5 sisters.

#### THE McLAUGHLINS

Mr. and Mrs. Otho McLaughlin, parents of Mrs. Ralph Seeloy, came to Winlock from Puyallup in 1911. They lived here for 20 years, during which time they

pioneered in the berry business.

They left here in 1931, going back to their former home in Puyallup, where they have since resided.

Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin were married in August, 1880. Thus in August 1952 they will celebrate their 72nd wedding anniversary. Mr. McLaughlin is now 98 years old, and Mrs. McLaughlin 89.

They are in fairly good health, are living in their home alone, and doing all their own work.

Many more names could be mentioned,  
and more incidents related, but this  
in general covers the founding and  
development of Winlock and vicinity.

November 1, 1957

## Post-Facto

The foregoing history of Winlock was written in 1951, at the request of the Winlock Community Development Association. The Community Development came into existence as a result of a 21 week study of our community, under the direction of the Bureau of Community Development of the University of Washington, with Professor Dick Poston as our weekly leader and consultant.

This organization is now a regular community service organization, incorporated under the laws of the state of Washington, as a non profit organization, and working for the further development and benefit of Winlock and vicinity.

During the 21 week study period we learned all about our community, both good and bad. The good we appreciated; the bad we have tried to correct. Shame alone compelled us to take as our first project, the clean-up of our local cemetery. The first person was buried in our cemetery in 1876. Since that time new graves have barely kept ahead of new brush and trees. We put in about 8,000 man hours and machinery hours of volunteer labor. The whole area was cleared of all brush and trees. Some trees had grown to a diameter of 30 inches, these were cut into saw logs and sold to a local saw mill. One hundred graves were uncovered which were not known to exist. Nearly all stones or markers had been overturned and many had been broken. All stones were mended and placed in proper position.

There was some criticism from some local churches because most of the work was being done on Sundays. Arrangements were then made for the services of a regular ordained minister to conduct regular church service on the grounds. At 11 A. M. all work ceased, and everyone gathered around a flat bed truck where the minister conducted a regular worship service. After that the ladies served lunch, and work resumed. Later we went to the state legislature and had them



pass an enabling act, which allowed us to create a Cemetery District, roughly on the boundaries of our consolidated school district, and to levy a sufficient tax to provide for the permanent care of the cemetery.

Our next project was a clean-up and paint-up day. Trucks and volunteers first cleaned up and hauled away truck loads of rubbish from all over town and we had one big paint-up day. All of our business district had been burned in a series of fires in 1910 and 1911, and all business buildings had been replaced with fairly good structures, but upkeep had been badly neglected. Paint dealers provided paint at cost, the Mayor declared a local holiday and every business in town closed for the day. Volunteer painters swarmed over all the business buildings. The ladies had coffee and sandwiches rolling up and down the streets all day. By night-fall 22 buildings had been painted. Farmers of the community had been so good about coming in to help, that later the men from town went out and painted the three grange halls in the community.

The town owns a 30 acre tract of land just outside the city limits, which is well suited for a park and recreational area. It was decided to start a long range development of the park and considerable work has now been done. When completed there will be a large picnic area with many tables and individual kitchen units, a large community kitchen, soft ball field, trailer park and swimming and boating facilities.

We instituted a "Buy In Town Campaign", which we feel has been very very successful. Also a check was made on local prices, and were found to be in line with other communities.

We prevailed upon the city administration to change the old caucus system of nominating candidates for city offices so there would be at least two candidates for each office.

One of the first things brought out in our study period was that there was

a very great need for a new shop building at our school. An election was immediately called and \$75,000 in bonds voted for this project. The building has been built and equipped and is now in use.

The state had been bearing down on the town to build a new and modern sewage disposal plant. While there was still an aroused public interest an election was called and \$90,000 in bonds were voted for this project. It has been built and is now in operation.

Also about this time there was considerable agitation for the city to take over the privately owned water system. Negotiations were started with the water company, a price agreed upon, and an election called to vote \$70,000 in Utility Bonds for the purchase. Election carried, and the town is now operating the water system.

Shortly after this came the announcement that the Northwest Pipe Line Company was bringing natural gas to the Northwest, and would the town of Winlock be interested in being served with natural gas. A survey showed that the cost of a complete installation would be \$25,000, and that there would be potential revenue enough to retire this amount of bonds over a 25 year period. This also would be an operation of the city administration. An election was called and an overwhelming majority voted in favor of the project and the bonds to fulfill it. The present condition of the bond market is not favorable for the sale of these bonds. We still have no natural gas, but we are still hoping.

In 1953 we had an opportunity to get a new industry. But as an inducement we had to offer a free site, and necessary utilities to the site. This we found would cost \$25,000. There was no way of raising this money except right out of our pockets, and no repayment. A solicitation was made from the business houses of the town, and the amount raised. The Perma Products Company, with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio accepted our offer. The plant was built and

started operations in 1954. It is the largest and most modern plant in the United States for the manufacturing of stained and grooved sidewall shakes and panels. They employ about 100 men, have a payroll of about \$40,000 per month, have added greatly to our economy, and more than worth the inducement we gave them. They have just completed two of the finest offices in the state. One for their plant operations and one for their chief accounting office, their general office having been moved here from Cleveland,

In late 1954 we were startled to find that the Winlock High School was the only one in the county not to have a lighted athletic field. Neither did we have a grandstand. We found that \$15,000 would buy all the material for both, but complete installation would have to be on a volunteer basis. Soon nearly all organizations in town were engaged in some form of fund raising activities. By June 1, 1955 the full amount was in hand. By September 1, 1955 we had a very fine and modern lighting system installed on the field, and a 1000 seat covered grandstand.

In 1951 the J. H. England saw mill burned. They liquidated the balance of their business and did not rebuild. In 1955 a small group of local citizens bought the 8 acre site for the purpose of trying to get a new industry on it. It has just been sold to the Perma Products Company. They are now making a limited expansion of their present operations, and later expect to make a further expansion. They have also leased a portion of the tract to the L. J. Smith Lumber Company, and they now have a small saw mill in operation on the site.

These figures wouldn't be a bit impressive except for the fact that the population of Winlock is only 992.

We give full credit for these developments to the Bureau of Community Development at the University of Washington. They furnished the study program and the leadership that gave us the inspiration to make Winlock a bigger and better place in which to live.



