INTRODUCTION

The following information is intended to be a general, preliminary guide for those persons conducting research on Coos County and south coast history and genealogy. Operating hours for libraries, courthouses, and museums vary, so call ahead for the latest information. Native Americans lived on the Oregon South Coast for thousands of years establishing a culture that continues today. Starting in 1542, European explorers began sea exploration of the area. A Hudson’s Bay Fur Company explorer, Alexander McLeod (1827) and an American fur trapper, Jedediah Smith (1828) became the first Euro-Americans to explore the region by land. The wreck of the Captain Lincoln occurred on the North Spit of Coos Bay in 1852; the following year, Empire City on Coos Bay was established as the first townsite. By December 22, 1853 Coos County was formed by the Oregon territorial legislature. The county, river, and bay took their name from the native Coos Indians and first appeared in print in the Lewis and Clark journals as “Cook-koo-oose”. The Coos County Historical Society was formed in 1891. Empire City served as the county seat from its founding until 1896, when citizens voted to move the county seat to Coquille. At various times the county economy has thrived on mining (gold/coal), shipbuilding, lumbering, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism.

HERITAGE MUSEUMS

There are many good museums on the South Coast. Most have very limited research capability for patrons, however. Call ahead for information about exhibits, hours of operation, and services.

Bandon Historical Society Museum
270 Filmore (PO Box 737), Bandon, OR 97411. Phone: 541.347.2164 (www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org) Open daily in the summer, 10am-4pm. Closed Sundays, September-May, and closed each January.

Bandon’s Historical Society Museum collects and shares the stories of a town blessed by water and cursed by fire. Shipbuilding, shipwrecks, Indian artifacts, the beach, disastrous fires, festivals and celebrations, trees, cheese and cranberries are just some of the subjects we exhibit to tell the story of life in Bandon and life along the lower Coquille River.

Cape Blanco Heritage Society
98331 Coast Guard Road (PO Box 1132), Port Orford, OR, 97465. Phone: 541.332.0521 (www.capeblancoheritagesociety.com) The Heritage Society operates the Hughes
House, Cape Blanco Lighthouse, and the Port Orford Lifeboat Station Museum. Open April-October, Wednesday-Monday, 10am-3:30pm.

The barracks building of the former Port Orford Lifeboat Station, in Port Orford Heads State Park, houses the museum with the stories of the courageous Coast Guardsmen who risked their lives to save those in distress at sea. Also on display is the former 36-foot motor lifeboat used in the daring rescues.

**Chetco Valley Museum**
15461 Museum Road (PO Box 2004), Harbor, OR 97415. Phone: 541.469.6651 (www.chetcomuseum.org) Open May thru October, Saturday and Sunday, noon–4pm.

The museum is located in the Blake House, built in 1857 - the oldest remaining home in southern Curry County. The home has had many uses including originally being used as a way station. Oregon's largest Monterey Cypress, a designated Oregon Heritage tree, is located on the property. The house and annex building have displays, pictures, and artifacts featuring local history including regional Native American tribes.

**Coos History Museum**
1210 North Front Street, Coos Bay, OR 97420. Phone: 541.756.6320 (www.cooshistory.org) Open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday, 10am–5pm.

Located on a four-acre waterfront site on Coos Bay's historic Front Street, the CHM features a variety of programs and special events for people of all ages. Two floors of exhibits explore the geography, history and economics of the South Coast and the people who live here. Complete your experience with a visit to our museum store, which specializes in regional gifts and books. Visit us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**Coos County Fairgrounds Museum**
770 4th Street, Myrtle Point, OR 97458. Phone: (541) 824-0154. Open May through late September, Thursdays 1pm-4pm or by appointment, and open every day of the Coos County Fair in July.

The museum displays exhibits that illustrate Coos life in areas such as logging, trains, the Coast Guard, schools, and past Coos County Fairs.

**Coos County Logging Museum**
705 Maple, Myrtle Point, OR 97458. Phone: 541.572.1014. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, Monday-Saturday, 10am-4pm and Sundays 1pm-4pm.

A unique museum in a unique building with tools, equipment, and photos on display showcasing the South Coast forest products industry. Included are many large sculpted myrtlewood panels of the Warneke Collection depicting logging scenes.

**Coquille Valley Museum**
153 N. Central Blvd, Coquille, OR 97423. (www.coquillevalleymuseum) Phone: 541.824.0076 Open May through September, Tuesday through Saturday, 11am - 4pm. Open October through April, Tuesday through Saturday, 11am- 3 pm.

The museum collection consists of roughly 10,000 artifacts reflecting the social, industrial, and domestic artifacts of the Coquille Valley, from its prehistory to the modern age. Thousands of archives, genealogical resources, photos and library books on the area and its residents makes it a researcher's destination.
Curry Historical Society Museum
29419 Ellensburg Avenue, Gold Beach, OR 97444 (on Hwy. 101 across from the fairgrounds). Phone: 541.247.9396 (www.curryhistory.com) Open March through December, Tuesday-Friday, 10am-4pm.

The Curry Museum is housed within a vintage Gold Beach home. We address the famous Rogue River as well as the Mary D. Hume, a historic ship that was built in Gold Beach in 1881. You will find displays of ocean vessels, fishing, timber days, military, along with many pioneer displays including local Indian artifacts. Our gift shop features books and historical photos.

Marshfield Sun Printing Museum
1049 Front St. (PO Box 783), Coos Bay, OR 97420 (www.marshfieldsunprintingmuseum.org) Open summer, Tuesday-Saturday, 1pm-4pm.

A fully intact 19th-century frontier weekly newspaper and job printing shop with all presses, type cases, and other printing equipment as they were in 1944 when the printer died, ending the last hand-set newspaper in Oregon and one of the last in the United States. Upstairs are exhibits depicting life in Marshfield in early 1900s, a collection of early office copying technology, and a repository of all the weekly newspapers printed in what is now the City of Coos Bay.

Oregon Coast Historical Railway Museum
766 South 1st Street, Coos Bay, OR 97420. Phone: 541.297.6130 (www.orcorail.org) Open year-round, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9am-3pm.

The display area has historic railroad and logging equipment that worked in the region, including two locomotives and three cabooses that can be boarded. The museum has railroad artifacts and memorabilia, "hands-on" exhibits, and hundreds of photos.

Oregon Coast Military Museum
2145 Kingwood Street, Florence, OR 97439 (PO Box 2040), Florence, OR 97439. Phone: 541-902-6150. (www.oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com) Open year-round, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 10am-4pm.

Life-size dioramas of WWI thru Vietnam; scaled diorama of Desert Storm; personal artifact displays; library and gift shop. We honor all eras of military heritage and all disciplines of military service. "Honoring our Veterans by Educating our Public."

Siuslaw Pioneer Museum
278 Maple St., (PO Box 2637), Florence, OR 97439. Ph: 541.997.7884 (www.siuslawpioneermuseum.com) Open daily, May through September, noon-4pm and open October thru December and February thru April, Tuesday-Sunday, noon-4pm.

The museum is home to historic displays, pictures and other information about the Siuslaw River area including the pioneers, Indian tribes, and the City of Florence. A research library is on site.

Umpqua Discovery Center
409 Riverfront Way, Reedsport, OR 97467. Phone: 541.271.4816 (www.umpquadiscoverycenter.com) Open every Sunday, noon-4pm. Open June 1–September 30, Monday–Saturday, 10am-5pm, and October 1–May 31, 10am-4pm.

Travel back in time to life in a tidewater town and hike the indoor nature trail. Educational and fun for all!
Umpqua River Lighthouse Museum
1020 Lighthouse Road, Winchester Bay, OR 97467. Ph: 541.271.4631
(www.umpquavalleymuseums.org) Open every day May–October, 10am-4:30pm and
November–April, Friday thru Monday, 10am-4:30pm.

Inside the museum you’ll find hundreds of documents, photographs, and artifacts that
illustrate the story of the nearby Umpqua River Lighthouse from its early existence as a
Lifesaving Station to the U.S. Coast Guard station that sits on the same site today.

Wagner Pioneer House
500 1st Avenue (P.O. Box 250), Powers, OR 97466. Phone: (City of Powers)
541.439.3331. Open by appointment and every other Saturday or Sunday in the summer
from noon-3pm.

The Wagner Pioneer House was built in 1872 of split-beam construction. It contains
exhibits and photos depicting rural life in an Oregon logging and farming community
during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

GENEALOGY
The Family History Center at 3355 Virginia Street, North Bend, OR 97459 (Phone:
541.756.3575) has a large collection of genealogical material related to Coos County in
this LDS library including: The Oregon Biography Index; the Coos County Ancestor File;
Coos County territorial and federal census records; cemetery and obituary records;
marriage, birth, and death records; land and probate records; tax and military records;
and various directories. Open Tues (10am-9pm), Wed (10am-6pm), Thurs (10am-9pm),
Fri (10am-4pm). Their website is www.familysearch.org.

INTERNET

General South Coast
• The Oregon Encyclopedia is an excellent internet based resource that has many articles
related to the South Coast written by local historians: www.oregonencyclopedia.org

• The state government has a very good website for historical information that includes
much information on Coos and Curry counties: www.oregonheritage.gov You’ll find
historic buildings, cemeteries, trails, parks, archaeological sites and other historic places

• The state government also has a website on Coos County at the Oregon Blue Book
This site gives great information on record locations for Coos County.

• See www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/References/History/index.html for history
references about the Elliott State Forest.

• The Oregon Historical Society has a page about Coos County "century farms" at this
site: www.ohs.org/education/folklife/Coos-County-Community-Profile.cfm
Personal Records

• Genealogy: Roots Web for Coos County has links to birth & death records, census records, biographies, cemetery and obituary information, maps, links to family webpages, old Coos County post cards, general history, and other resources. Another site for county genealogists is: http://coquillevalley.org/CoquilleValleyPioneers.html

• The Coos County Home Historian website has links for those people interested in finding more information about a particular home, or any other building, in the County.

• A site that contains many links about Coos County history and genealogy is: http://rebelcherokee.labdiva.com/cooscoor.html

• You can learn about the pioneer cemetery near Marshfield High School by visiting this website: cbcemetery.home.att.net/

Research Materials

• Many Oregon newspapers, including some in Coos County, are now available online at a website called Historic Oregon Newspapers: http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/. Previously microfilmed newspapers are being digitalized through a program at the University of Oregon Library. Key word searches are made available at the site. Also see the list of local newspapers on microfilm at the end of this document.

• The Southern Oregon Digital Archives at http://soda.sou.edu/ brings together books, maps, government documents, oral histories, correspondence, and miscellaneous materials that document the unique historical experience of Southern Oregon, including Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties.

• www.cooshistory.org (Coos County Historical Society) has a timeline of South Coast history, a short history of the Coos Bay area, and other history links.

• Many Oregon newspapers, including some in Coos County, are now available online at a website called Historic Oregon Newspapers: http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/ Previously microfilmed newspapers are being digitalized through a program at the University of Oregon Library. Key word searches are made available at the site. Also see the bandonhistoricalmuseum.org site for a history of Bandon.

Native American

• www.orww.org/Coquelle_Trails/index.html is a research project report (PDF) by Bob Zybach with Don Ivy. Zybach also has historical tribal accounts at www.orww.org/Coquelle_Trails/History_1826-1875index.html and tribal maps at www.orww.org/Coquelle_Trails/Maps_1856-2012/index.html

• See a Marshfield High School website for information on researching Native Americans: Coos County Native Americans
AT THE COURTHOUSE
Coos County Courthouse 250 North Baxter, Coquille, OR 97423 Phone: 541.396.3121 or the annex in North Bend at 541.756.2020

• Land Records
Index to Deed, Mortgage and Misc. Records available from 1854 to present in the office of the County Clerk. Part one, an alphabetical list of all grantors and grantees, provides the index number for part two which abstracts all documents related to the individual or family represented by that number. Deeds are available from 1854 to present. Books 1 - 16 are available at the Family History Center and the CB Public Library.

• Marriage Records
Marriage certificates, consent notes are available from 1854 to present in the office of the County Clerk. Records are arranged chronologically. Microfilm copy of the early records has an alphabetical index. Remainder is indexed in each volume by first letter of the surname only. Prior to 1899 records were indexed for the groom only.

• Naturalization
Records available from 1850's to 1906, mostly at County Clerk’s office. Some records may be found in County Court minute books or in the Circuit Court Journal. After 1906 records are available from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

• Miscellaneous Records
County Commissioners Minutes: 1854 to present in office of the County Clerk. Contains early jury lists, road orders, accounts, etc. County Law Packets: early cases of minor infractions heard by County Court. Road Cases: Contain petitions, reports, road surveys and other data dealing with construction and maintenance of county roads. Birth & Death Registers: Several registers cover the time span of 1903 - 1929. Not all events recorded. Also available: Women’s Separate Property; Authority to Solemnize Marriage; Peddlers Licenses 1909 – 1917; Record of Registered Nurses; Medical Licenses; Warrants; Mechanics Liens; Mining Claims

• Probate Records
Available from 1854 to the present located through the Court Administrator for Coos County Circuit Court. Have been microfilmed, but some of the early packets are unreadable. Packet may contain petitions for probate, lists of heirs at law, sometimes wills, inventories, guardian records, accounts, receipts, etc. Original wills are in the probate packets. The first book of recorded wills is labeled Will Book "B" and begins in 1870. Circuit Court Journal contains many early naturalization records. Circuit Court Record packets have divorce actions and other civil court cases, many dealing with probate and land disputes. Packets contain petitions, answers, depositions, motions, subpoenas, etc. Criminal Packets contain indictments, depositions, etc.
LIBRARIES
For access to the vast library resources of Coos County or the Oregon South Coast visit www.cooslibraries.org. Area libraries have published material available for check out with additional rare or out-of-print resources available for reference use in the library only. Some also house microfilm for newspapers and oral histories (see below).

- **Coos Bay City Library**, 525 Anderson, Coos Bay, OR 97420. Phone: 541.269.1101
- **North Bend City Library**, 1800 Sherman Ave., North Bend, OR 97459. Phone: 541.756.0400
- **Coquille Public Library**, 105 Birch Street, Coquille, OR 97423. Ph: 541.396.2166
- **Bandon City Library**, 1204 11th St. SW, Bandon, OR 97411 (PO Box 128). Phone: 541.347.3221
- **Myrtle Point Public Library**, 435 5th Street, Myrtle Point, OR 97458. Phone: 541.572.2591
- **Lakeside Library**, 915 North Lake Road, Lakeside, OR 97449. Phone: 541.759.4432
- **Hazel M. Lewis Library**, 302 Fir Street, Powers, OR 97466. Phone: 541.439.5311
- **Dora Public Library**, 56125 Goldbrick Road, Myrtle Pt, OR 97458. Phone: 541.572.6009
- **Southwestern Oregon Community College Library**, 1988 Newmark, Coos Bay, OR 97420. Phone: 541.888.7270
- **Reedsport Public Library**, 395 Winchester, Reedsport, OR 97467. Ph: 541.271.3500
- **Curry Public Library**, 29775 Colvin, Gold Beach, OR 97444. Phone: 541.247.7246

MAPS AND GEOGRAPHY
Maps provide a context for the study of historical sites and events. *Pioneer Trails of the Oregon Coast* by Samuel Dicken (1971, reprint 1978) is an important work showing Native American and pioneer routes. Samuel and Emily Dicken also produced *The Making of Oregon: A Study in Historical Geography* (1979). This text covers the entire state but includes information, maps, and photos of south coast. *The Atlas of Oregon* by William Loy (2001) is a revised atlas of the entire state. Also consider *Historical Atlas of the Pacific Northwest* by Derek Hayes (1999) or *Resource Atlas: Coos County, OR* by Oregon State University (1973). Information about the origins of place names is found in *Oregon Geographic Names* by Lewis McArthur (7th edition, 2003). Fire insurance maps like those from the Sanborn-Perris Map Company, located in local libraries and on-line at the Coos Bay Public Library website (www.cooslibraries.org) are good sources for determining which buildings stood in the cities at various times in their history.

ORAL AND VIDEO HISTORIES
A “Living History Series” is held at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay. The impressive, indexed oral history collection has over 250 interviews on taped cassettes of long-time county residents relating their memories. There are also videos on various aspects of Coos County history in the county library collection.
PHOTOGRAPHS

• The Coos History Museum in Coos Bay has over 250,000 images including approximately 3000 historic negatives from the Jack Slattery Collection; about 50,000 images from past issues of The World newspaper; over 50,000 images from the Victor West maritime collection; and another 7000 prints, postcards, glass plates and other negatives. The Society’s images are being digitalized and indexed and will eventually be available for the public to browse and purchase. Researchers should note that The World images have not yet been indexed but are currently arranged by their date of publication. There is a research fee for digital reproduction of the museums images.

• The Coos County Historical Society and The World newspaper jointly published three volumes of Coos County historic photographs: Coos County: The Early Years (1998) and Coos County: The Glory Years (2000), both edited by Kathy Erickson. Another volume of photos they co-produced is Coos County Memories: The Early Years (2016).

• Other collections of photos are found in the Images of America series. Images of America: Coos County, by Lisa Hull (2007) has photos almost exclusively from the collection of the Coos County Historical Society. Images of America: Lighthouses and Life-Saving on the Oregon Coast by David Pinyerd (2007) has sections on the Umpqua River, Coos Bay, Coquille River, and Cape Blanco lights. Images of America: North Bend by Dick and Judy Wagner (2010) uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs with extensive captions to show the history of the city of North Bend, Oregon. Images of America: Shipwrecks of Coos County by H.S. Contino (2011) uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs with extensive captions to show the history of local shipwrecks. Images of America: Reedsport by Jim Akre, the Umpqua Discovery Center, and the Douglas County Museum (2011). This volume has many captioned photos about the town on the lower Umpqua River. For additional pictures of early Reedsport see Pictorial History of the Lower Umpqua an official Bicentennial project of the Lower Umpqua Historical Society (1976). Images of America: Coos Bay by Andie Jensen (2012) uses many CCHS photos to show the history of the city of Marshfield/Coos Bay. Also see Images of America: Bandon by Robert Miller and Reg Pullen (2013) and Images of America: Myrtle Point and Vicinity 1893-1950 by Chuck King, Linda Kirk, Carolyn Prola, and Mary Ellen Robertson (2014). Images of America: Shipwrecks of Coos County by H.S. Contino (2017) is her latest volume in the collection.

• The Bandon Historical Society Museum in Bandon also has a large collection of digitalized images, many of which are available for sale. A volume that has many historic photos of Bandon, contrasting them with more modern photos of the same places, is Bandon Then & Now, by the Bandon Centennial Committee (1989). See the Langlois Centennial Committee (1981) for an album of that Curry County town called Langlois: 1881-1981.

PUBLISHED MATERIAL: GENERAL SOUTH COAST HISTORY

The Coos History Museum, and local bookstores, are good sources for books available for sale. Currently the museum stocks a number of modern titles in the museum store. Many of the volumes below are out of print although most may be found in special reference sections in local public libraries.
• The standard beginning place is: *A Guide to Oregon South Coast History: Following the Jedediah Smith Trail* by Nathan Douthit (self-published in 1986, revised edition by OSU Press, 1999). This is the best modern general history of the South Coast from the Chetco River to the Umpqua River. The book traces the 1826 route of Jedediah Smith, the first American to explore the south coast by land, and also tells the story of each locality since the Smith expedition.

• *History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties* by A. G. Walling (1884), with valuable biographies, is out of print but can be found in Oregon reference sections of local libraries.

• Another very early regional history that includes material on the South Coast is *The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft* by Hubert H. Bancroft and Frances F. Victor (1888). It is out of print but can be found in Oregon reference sections of local libraries.

• *Pioneer History of Coos/Curry Counties: Heroic Deeds and Thrilling Adventures of the Early Settlers* by Orville Dodge (1898, reprint 1968). This history was commissioned by the Coos-Curry Pioneer Association which was formed in 1891. It was the predecessor to the current Coos County Historical Society. The book has stories of the very beginnings of white settlement on the South Coast and is largely a compilation of pioneer narratives.

• Another early important standard is *Destination West: A Pioneer Woman on the Oregon Trail* by Agnes Sengstacken (1942, reprinted 1972). This is the narrative of Esther Lockhart, one of the first three Coos Bay region pioneer women, who came to Empire City in 1853.

• The CCHS published *A Century of Coos and Curry: History of Southwest Oregon* by Emil Peterson and Alfred Powers (1952, reprint 1977). This text sketches the Indian-White encounters and white town developments in the 19th century up to about 1950 and includes a compilation of short essays by local writers on various subjects like culture, agriculture, and industries.

• *Roadside History of Oregon* by Bill Gulick (1991). A general history of the state as one drives the main roads, including a good section on Oregon’s South Coast.


• Also explore issues of the *Coos Historical Journal* found in the Coos Bay City Library and a collection of Southwestern Oregon Community College student research papers in that library titled “History of Southwestern Oregon” (1974).

• *Images of America: Coos County* by Lisa Hall (2007). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs with extensive captions to show the history of Coos County, Oregon. There are Images of America books on several other specific topics and localities (see below).
• No Place Like Home: The Unincorporated Towns and Communities of Coos County, Oregon by Andie E. Jensen (2017). The title tells it all: the history of specific localities in Coos County that are not the major cities.

PUBLISHED MATERIAL: SPECIFIC LOCALITIES

Bandon
• See the website www.bandonhistoricalmuseum.org for a history of Bandon.


• Wooden Ships and Master Craftsmen by Ernest Osborne (1978).

• Life of a Cranberry Grower by Ethel Reichenbach (1981) tells the authors life story and gives information about the cranberry industry, especially in the Bandon area.

• Bandon Then & Now by the Bandon Centennial Book Committee (1989).


• Bandon By-The-Sea by Dow Beckham (1997).

• Bandon Tales by Carol Fanning (1997).

• Bandon Tales: Stories of Country Life by Granny Abbott [i.e. Carol Fanning] (1997).


• Images of America: Bandon by Robert Miller and Reg Pullen (2013). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs from the Bandon Historical Society, with extensive captions, to show the history of the Bandon region.

• Welcome to Rural Coos County by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including Randolph, Parkersburg, Prosper, and Riverton.

Beaver Hill
• Gone But Not Forgotten: Beaver Hill, Oregon by Andie Jensen (2015). Much primary source material, and photos, of the community with the most productive coal mine in Coos County.
Charleston
• *Blood on the Half Shell* (1983) and *Romance on the Half Shell-- and More* (1990), both by Alfred Qualman, tells of a Coos Bay oyster business by a local oysterman.

• *Ojiisan: oh gee saan, the Life and Times of Al Qualman* by Alfred Qualman (1989)


• *Welcome to Rural Coos County* by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including Charleston and South Slough.

Coos Bay
• “An Historical Sketch of Coos Bay” [manuscript] by William T. McLean (1966)

• *Life and Legends in the Coos Bay Area: A Story of the Indians and the Pioneers Who First Settled on Coos Bay*. This was a typed manuscript (undated) by Coos Bay elementary teachers Elizabeth Coover and Ellen Garner.

• *Coos Bay, the Pioneer Period (1851-1890)* by Stephen Dow Beckham (1973)

• *First Baptist Church of Coos Bay [Marshfield] 1879-1979* by Anna Beckham and Everett Curry (1979)


• *And Everybody Knew Everybody: Life in the Coos Bay Region in the Years from World War I through the Depression* by Deanna McDaniel (1986).


• *History of the Public Library of Coos Bay, Oregon* by Jon Littlefield, Ellen Thompson, and Carol Ventgen (2009) is a centennial publication.
• **Law on the Bay: Marshfield, Oregon 1874-1944** by Andie E. Jensen (2010). The author shares extensive newspaper research about the crimes and law enforcement officers in old Coos Bay.

• **Fifty Years, Honoring Our Past, Lighting the Future: The Story of Southwestern Oregon Community College** by William Lansing (2011). Richly illustrated with key documents, this volume describes the founding, development, funding issues, and programs associated with the first 50 years of SOCC.

• **Images of America: Coos Bay** by Andie Jensen (2012). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs from the Coos County Historical Society, with extensive captions, to show the history of the city of Marshfield/Coos Bay, Oregon.

• **My Memories** by Philip A. Matson (2012): “A collection of memoirs of growing up and beyond in Marshfield, Oregon during the mid-twentieth century”.

• **O Pilot! Historical Sketches of the Coos Bay Bar Pilots** by Capt. Steven E. Woods and Jeanne Woods (2013). Sea stories from 1850 to the present are told through the biographies of the men who were bar pilots on the Coos Bay Harbor. There is also a first person account of the attempted rescue of the New Carissa.

• **Paper Fight: The Coos Bay Times and the Ku Klux Klan** by Jon Littlefield (2014). Discusses the competition of the two leading newspapers in Marshfield in the 1920s and the influence that KKK activities had on local and state politics. Good biographies of the Maloney brothers (who ran the Times), Charles Hall (businessman who ran for governor), and other local businessmen and politicians.

• **Between Two Worlds: Chinese of Marshfield, Oregon** (3rd edition) by Jon Littlefield (2016). Chinese immigrants came to Coos County to build the railroads, work in the mines and canneries, serve as cooks in lumber camps, and operate stores. This is the story of several Chinese families in the Bay Area from about 1880 to 1940.

**Coos River**

• **Coos River Echoes** by Charlotte Mahaffy (1965). Mahaffy collected biographical sketches of people who lived on the river valley and clipped short news articles from local newspapers to illustrate river community life in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

• **The Goulds of Elkhorn** by Aileen Barker Rickard (1982). This is a family history, centering on George Gould’s settlement near the center of the “Big Burn” of the Coos County forest fire of 1868 and what it was like to raise a family in a wilderness homestead from 1885 to 1912.

• **Above the Falls: an Oral and Folk History of Upper Glenn Creek, Coos County, Oregon** by Lionel Youst (1992, 2nd edition 2003). This detailed book tells about the wilderness homesteads on a tributary of the East Fork of the Millicoma River.


• **In the Shadow of Sugarloaf** by George H. Whitney, compiled and edited by Carolyn Whitney Prola (2012). Memoirs of a Myrtle Point area resident who also spent a part of his early life up Coos River.

• **Welcome to Rural Coos County** by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including Coos River, Allegeny, and Dellwood.

**Coquille**

• **Landis: Pillar of the Church, Hypocrite and Murderer** by Marilee Miller (1982). The true story of a businessman in Coquille who was found to be a murderer in the late 1920s/early 1930s.

• **Bits and Pieces of Coquille History** by Curt Beckham (1985)

• **You Are the Stars: History of the Coquille Area** by Boyd Stone (1995)

• **Coos County Courthouse: 100 years, 1896-1996** by the Coquille Valley Sentinel

• **Memories from Out of the Past** by Boyd Stone (1999)

• **My Valley** by Boyd Stone (2008). “A history of the Coquille River Valley, its outlying areas, and more.”

• **The Coquille Valley** by the Coquille Valley Historical Society, edited by Patti and Hal Strain (2009) is a comprehensive two-volume genealogical work.

• **Welcome to Rural Coos County** by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas near Coquille including Fairview, Dora, and Riverton.

**Curry County**

• **Pioneer History of Coos/Curry Counties: Heroic Deeds and Thrilling Adventures of the Early Settlers** by Orville Dodge (1898, reprint 1968). It has stories of the very beginnings of white settlement on the South Coast and is largely a compilation of pioneer narratives.
• The CCHS published *A Century of Coos and Curry: History of Southwest Oregon* by Emil Peterson and Alfred Powers (1952, reprint 1977) that is still available for sale at the CCHS bookstore. This text sketches the Indian-White encounters and white town developments in the 19th century up to about 1950 and includes a compilation of short essays by local writers on various subjects like culture, agriculture, and industries.


• *Tall Tales from Rogue River: The Yarns of Hathaway Jones* edited by Stephen Dow Beckham (1974) is an important folklore collection from the Rogue River area as presented by famous local miner and mail carrier Hathaway Jones.

• *The People and the River: a History of the Takelma Indians of the Upper Rogue River Country* by Elizabeth Heckert (1977)


• *Then Until Now: A Social History of the Brookings Harbor Community* by Edward G. Olsen (1979) and the Brookings Rotary Club. “This account tells something of how the Brookings Harbor Chetco communities originated and have grown into the present stage – from the native American inhabitants, the first white settlers, their early struaggles and later efforts, to the present day and a hopeful future.”

• *A Guide to Oregon South Coast History: Following the Jedediah Smith Trail* by Nathan Douthit (1986, revised 1999) tells about each campsite of the Smith expedition on their Oregon trip and has been one of the most popular recent local history books.

• *Battle Rock: The Hero’s Story* by Bert and Margie Webber (1992).

• *Settling the Rogue Valley: the Tough Times and Forgotten People* by Barbara Hegne (1995)

• *The People and the River: a History of the Takelma Indians of the Upper Rogue River Country* by Elizabeth Heckert (1977)

• *Silent Siege* by Bert Webber (1984) describes WWII Oregon coastal defense systems and Japanese attacks against the Oregon South Coast in WWII.

• *Lakeport: Ghost Town of the South Oregon Coast* by Bert and Margie Webber (1990) At the turn of the 1900s, Lakeport became a town of over 400 people when a proposal was made to make Floras Lake a seaport with a canal to the ocean. The book also discusses a famous shipwreck, a murder, and WWII defenses against a Japanese invasion.
• *Whitewater Mailmen: The Story of the Rogue River Mail Boats* by Gary and Gloria Meier (1995)


• *Until the Last Arrow, A True Story of the Indian Wars and Gold Rushes that Opened the...Rogue River Valley* by Percy T. Booth (1997)

• *They Found Gold on the Beach: a History of Central Curry County, an Oregon Documentary* by Walt Schroeder (1999).

• *Fujita: Flying Samurai* by Bert and Margie Webber (2000). The story of the WWII aerial bombing of the continental United States by a Japanese pilot launched from an off-shore submarine.


• *Lighthouses of the Pacific Coast* by Elinor DeWire (2010). Stories about 64 lighthouses from southern California to northern Washington including local lighthouses at Cape Blanco, Coquille River, Cape Arago, and the Umpqua River.


• *Images of America: Port Orford and North Curry County* by Shirley Nelson (2010). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs, with extensive captions, to show the history of northern Curry County.

• *Images of America: Gold Beach and South Curry County* by Meryl Boice (2012). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs, with extensive captions, to show the history of southern Curry County.

• *Chetco* by Mike Adams (2012) is the story of the history and growth of the Chetco Valley and neighboring areas in Curry County.

**Eastside/Catching Slough**

• *A Man from Eastside : the Autobiography of James Hubert Whitty* by James H. Whitty (1975)

• Yester Years by Gordon Ross (2001)

• Welcome to Rural Coos County by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including Sumner, Catching Inlet, and Eastside.

**Elliott State Forest**


• The Goulds of Elkhorn by Aileen Barker Rickard (1982). This is a family history centering on George Gould’s settlement near the center of the “Big Burn” of the Coos County forest fire of 1868 and what it was like to raise a family in a wilderness homestead from 1885 to 1912.


**Haynes Inlet**

• Haynes Inlet Memories: 1870-1940 by Ines Nelson (no publication information). 40 pages of history of the inlet on Coos Bay based on oral histories and local government records.

**Kentuck Inlet**


**Lakeside**

• Heart of Lakeside by Edna Skinner (1978)

• Some History of Ten Mile Lakes by Katz Moffitt Gary (2010) This spiral bound booklet was written by a native of Lakeside. Her father was town preacher and founder of Ten Mile County Park. It has historical photos and stories of places and people of the Lakeside area over the past century.

• Welcome to Rural Coos County by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including Tenmile and Hauser.

**Myrtle Point**

• The Baltimore Colony and Pioneer Recollections Taken from the Original Notes of the Honorable Binger Hermann by Binger Hermann and the Baltimore Colony Centennial Committee (written in 1916; published in 1956)
• *After the Covered Wagons: Recollections of Russell C. and Ellis S. Dement*, by E.R. Jackman (1962). In 1934, at the age of eighty-three, Russell C. Dement recorded some of his early day experiences in his exact words, except for some explanatory material, so indicated, supplied by his son Ellis.

• *Pioneers and Incidents of the Upper Coquille Valley* by Alice Wooldridge (1971). Biographical sketches of people who lived on the river valley and clipped short news articles from local newspapers to illustrate river community life in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

• *Remember When* by Nellie Palmer (1983).

• *Myrtle Point Beginnings* by Curt Beckham (1986). Written to commemorate the centennial of the town, the book chronicles the settlement thru 20th century history of Myrtle Point.

• *A Love Affair with Oregon* by Dee Jamison (1989).


• *As I Remember* by Kenneth Peel (1993).

• *Seventh Son* by Aileen Barker Rickard (2001). The author was an English teacher at Myrtle Point High School. Her book is the story of the author’s grandfather, John Ledston Barker.

• *In the Shadow of Sugarloaf* by George H. Whitney, compiled and edited by Carolyn Whitney Prola (2012). Memoirs of a Myrtle Point area resident who also spent a part of his early life up Coos River.

• *Replica: The Dement Booklet and Backstory: The Dement Booklet* both by Steven S. Means (2013). The first volume offers every page of a booklet kept by the family of Sam Dement whose ancestors crossed the Oregon Trail and developed a ranch in the Upper Coquille Valley near Eckley. The second volume is a more extensive investigation of that booklet and family history.

• *Images of America: Myrtle Point and Vicinity 1893-1950* by Chuck King, Linda Kirk, Carolyn Prola, and Mary Ellen Robertson (2014). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs, with extensive captions, to show the history of the city of Myrtle Point, Oregon.

• *Reminiscing: One Man’s Recollection of Logging in the Golden Years* by Glen Olson (2014). A history of South Coast logging by one of the strong supporters of the Coos County Logging Museum located in Myrtle Point.

• *Military History of the Myrtle Point / Powers, Oregon, Area* by Alice DeSoto (2014)

• *History of the Upper Coquille Valley* by Darrell Gulstrom (2014). This volume includes the history of Myrtle Point, Arago, Dora, Bridge, Broadbent, and Powers.
• *Welcome to Rural Coos County* by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including Bridge, Broadbent, Gaylord, and Arago.

**North Bend**
• *Vern C. Gorst: Pioneer and Grandad of United Air Lines* by Wilbur Gorst (1979). This book by Gorst’s son has the history and photos of how early pioneers coped with transportation issues in the Bay Area and the West Coast.

• *Louie Simpson’s North Bend* by Richard Wagner (1986) includes photos, a map, and descriptions of key buildings in the early days of the city.

• *In A Small Puddle* by Nellie Ripper (1987)
  
  “North Bend’s Depression Issue Myrtlewood” by Patricia Choat Pierce (1993) is a brief pamphlet about how the city creatively dealt with the closure of its only bank in 1933.

• *Birth, Boyhood and Beyond* by George E. Gebhardt (1994) is the autobiography of an important North Bend businessman.

• *And Afterward: a Sometimes Every Now & Then Journal* by Nellie Ripper (2002)

• *The Uncommon Life of Louis Jerome Simpson* by Judith and Richard Wagner (2003) is the best biography about the life of the founder of the city of North Bend.

• *North Bend Between the Wars: 1919-1941* (2005) by Richard and Judy Wagner continues the North Bend story with more photos and description of the growing city.

• *Vern Gorst and the Pacific Air Transport Air Mail* by Ron Bartley (2006). Chronicles the life of an important pioneer in the transportation industry that lived in North Bend.

• *Stories of My Life* by Frank B. Rood, Jr. (undated, probably post-2008). The autobiography of the life of a North Bend area farmer/rancher and includes four stories by his wife, Mavis Black Rood.

• *Instigator: the Troubled Life of Lorenzo Dow Kinney* by Richard and Judy Wagner (2008) is the study of one of North Bend’s most flamboyant promoters.

• *Images of America: North Bend* by Dick and Judy Wagner (2010). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of CCHS photographs, with extensive captions, to show the history of the city of North Bend, Oregon.

• *Extracurricular: a History of Athletics and Activities at North Bend (OR) High School* by Steven Greif (2016). This is a history of the high school from the early 1900s to 2016 focusing on athletics, sports venues, campus construction, and other school activities.

**Norway**
• *Years ago at Norway* by Mrs. Roy Robison (1983)

**Powers**
• *The Powers Story* by Victor Stevens (1979)

• *A Love Affair with Oregon* by Dee Jamison (1989) who was a cook in a logging camp above Powers.

• *History of the Upper Coquille Valley* by Darrell Gulstrom (2014). This volume includes the history of Myrtle Point, Arago, Dora, Bridge, Broadbent, and Powers.

• *Welcome to Rural Coos County* by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including Bridge, Broadbent, Gaylord, Powers, and Eckley.

**Reedsport/Gardiner**
• *Land of the North Umpquas* by Lavola J. Bakken (1973). Although most of the focus is on the Umpqua tribe in the upper reaches of the river, the book does describe Umpqua Indian culture.


• *Umpqua: The Lost County of Oregon* by Jerry Winterbotham (1994)

• *Gardiner, Oregon: 1850-2000* by Patricia Rohde and E. Lorraine Potter (2001)

• *Images of America: Reedsport* by Jim Akre, the Umpqua Discovery Center, and the Douglas County Museum (2011). This volume has many captioned photos.

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**PUBLISHED MATERIAL: SPECIFIC TOPICS**

**Agriculture**
• *Life of a Cranberry Grower* by Ethel Reichenbach (1981) tells the authors life story and gives information about the cranberry industry.

• *$10,000 or Ten Years: Memoirs of the Brelage Family* by Herman Brelage (1991) known for his family dairy.

• *Curry County Agriculture: the People and the Land - an Oregon Documentary* by Walt Schroeder (1998)
• Pacific Northwest Cheese: A History by Tami Parr (2013). The author traces the development of cheese-making in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho from the times of the earliest pioneers to the present. There are several good sections on dairies and cheese-making on the South Coast.

• Coos County Agriculture: A Short History by Bill Mast (2014) Short chapters on practically every crop grown or animal husbandry venture in Coos County. Also good material on rural farm life.

Animals
• Clam Digging & Crabbing in Oregon by John A. Johnson (1990)

• Birding the Southern Oregon Coast by Stephen Brown (1996)

• Curry County Agriculture: the People and the Land - an Oregon Documentary by Walt Schroeder (1998)

• Birds of Coos County, Oregon: Status and Distribution by Alan Contreras (1998)


• Springer's Quest: Life of a Chinook Salmon by Nina Foran Gee (2009). After naming a fictional salmon, the author weaves the story of the entire lifestyle of this amazing fish.

Athletics/Sports
• Pre: The Story of America’s Greatest Running Legend by Tom Jordan (1997) is the story about the career of Marshfield High School and University of Oregon track star, Steve Prefontaine.

• Steve Prefontaine: Rocketman by Bree Donovan and Linda Prefontaine (2008). This story of Pre is specifically written for young people. Rocketman is told through the eyes and voice of fictitious a literary conduit through which the entirely factual events and characters are presented. The stories are of the people who knew and loved Steve Prefontaine, and the people Pre loved.

• Steve Pre: The Unfinished Story of Running Icon Steve Prefontaine by Golden Krishna (2009). This is a short account of Prefontaine's life told through the viewpoint of his former coach, Bill Bowerman.

• The Pre Log: To Becoming a Better Runner by Linda Prefontaine (2011). This is a journal where runners can keep track of their training while reading quotes from the famous track star Steve Prefontaine or from others who knew him. Readers also learn about local training routes.
• Extracurricular: a History of Athletics and Activities at North Bend (OR) High School by Steven Greif (2016). This is a history of the high school from the early 1900s to 2016 focusing on athletics, sports venues, campus construction, and other school activities.

Biography

• The Travels of Jedediah Smith by Maurice S. Sullivan (1934).


• Destination West: A Pioneer Woman on the Oregon Trail by Agnes Sengstacken (1942, reprinted 1972). This is the narrative of Ester Lockhart, one of the first three Coos Bay region pioneer women, who came to Empire City in 1853.

• The Lady and the Lumberjack by Olive Barber (1952) is an autobiography written by the wife of a lumberjack who worked in Coos County.


• After the Covered Wagons: Recollections of Russell C. and Ellis S. Dement by E.R. Jackman (1962). In 1934, at the age of eighty-three, Russell C. Dement recorded some of his early day experiences in his exact words, except for some explanatory material, so indicated, supplied by his son Ellis.

• Coos River Echoes by Charlotte Mahaffy (1965). Mahaffy collected biographical sketches of people who lived on the river valley and clipped short news articles from local newspapers to illustrate river community life in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

• A Man from Eastside: the Autobiography of James Hubert Whitty by James H. Whitty (1975)

• Vern C. Gorst: Pioneer and Grandad of United Air Lines by Wilbur Gorst (1979). This book by Gorst’s son has the history and photos of how early pioneers coped with transportation issues in the Bay Area and the West Coast.

• Life of a Cranberry Grower by Ethel Reichenbach (1981) tells the authors life story and gives information about the cranberry industry, especially in the Bandon area.

A History of Oregon’s South Coast Vicariate by Rev. Scott Vandehey and Steven Greif (1981) chronicles the first 75 years of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in North Bend and has biographies of a number of Catholic priests in the area.

• *The Goulds of Elkhorn* by Aileen Barker Rickard (1982). This is a family history, centering on George Gould’s settlement near the center of the “Big Burn” of the Coos County forest fire of 1868 and what it was like to raise a family in a wilderness homestead from 1885 to 1912.

• *Ojiisan: oh gee saan, the Life and Times of Al Qualman* by Alfred Qualman (1989) a Coos Bay oysterman.

• *Made in Japan and Settled in Oregon* by Mitzi Asai Loftus (1990) describes a first hand account of the Japanese relocation camps of the WWII era.

• *$10,000 or Ten Years: Memoirs of the Brelage Family* by Herman Brelage (1991) known for his family dairy.


• *Birth, Boyhood and Beyond* by George E. Gebhardt (1994) is the autobiography of an important North Bend businessman.


• *She’s Tricky Like Coyote: Annie Miner Peterson, An Oregon Coast Indian Woman* by Lionel Youst (1997) is the story of the last native Coos language speaker who served as an informant to anthropologists in the 1930s.

• *Pre: The Story of America's Greatest Running Legend* by Tom Jordan (1997) is the story about the career of Marshfield High School and University of Oregon track star, Steve Prefontaine.


• *The Lusty Life of Loon Lake Lloyd: WWII Marine, Logger, and Resort Owner* by Lloyd and Ellen Keeland (2000)

• *Elegant Arches, Soaring Spans: C.B. McCullough, Oregon’s Master Bridge Builder* by Robert W. Hadlow (2001) is a good source of information about Conde McCullough and his bridges on Highway 101, including the McCullough Bridge over Coos Bay.

• *Coquelle Thompson, Athabaskan Witness, A Cultural Biography* by Lionel Youst and William R. Seaburgh (2002) is about another native who served as an informant to anthropologists.

• *And Afterward: a Sometimes Every Now & Then Journal* by Nellie Ripper (2002)

• The Uncommon Life of Louis Jerome Simpson by Judith and Richard Wagner (2003) is the best biography about the life of the founder of the city of North Bend.

• Foot prints in the Sands of Time: Autobiography of Jerry Running Foxe, Chief of the Na-so-mah Indians, the Coquilles, 'Ko-Kwel' by Jerry Running Foxe (2004). Foxe worked in the timber industry, in the coal mines, as a ship yard worker, an apartment manager, a bartender, a politician and he eventually became an executive of the Coquille Indian Tribe.

• A Star to Steer By: The Seafaring Adventures of Captain Jim Common edited by Christopher Common (2005).

• Vern Gorst and the Pacific Air Transport Air Mail by Ron Bartley (2006). Chronicles the life of an important pioneer in the transportation industry who lived in North Bend.

• Stories of My Life by Frank B. Rood, Jr. (undated, probably post-2008). The autobiography of the life of a North Bend area farmer/rancher and includes four stories by his wife, Mavis Black Rood.

• Instigator: the Troubled Life of Lorenzo Dow Kinney by Richard and Judy Wagner (2008) is the study of one of North Bend’s most flamboyant promoters.

• Steve Prefontaine: Rocketman by Bree Donovan and Linda Prefontaine (2008). This story of Pre is specifically written for young people. Rocketman is told through the eyes and voice of fictitious a literary conduit through which the entirely factual events and characters are presented. The stories are of the people who knew and loved Steve Prefontaine, and the people Pre loved.

• Steve Pre: The Unfinished Story of Running Icon Steve Prefontaine by Golden Krishna (2009). This is a short account of Prefontaine's life told through the viewpoint of his former coach, Bill Bowerman.

• The Pre Log: To Becoming a Better Runner by Linda Prefontaine (2011). This is a journal where runners can keep track of their training while reading quotes from the famous track star Steve Prefontaine or from others who knew him. Readers also learn about local training routes.

• The Coquille Valley by the Coquille Valley Historical Society, edited by Patti and Hal Strain (2009). Volume 2 of this set has extensive information about people who settled the south portion of Coos County.

• *My Memories* by Philip A. Matson (2012): “A collection of memoirs of growing up and beyond in Marshfield, Oregon during the mid-twentieth century”.

• *In the Shadow of Sugarloaf* by George H. Whitney, compiled and edited by Carolyn Whitney Prola (2012). Memoir of a Myrtle Point area resident who also spent a part of his early life up Coos River.

• *Law on the Bay: Coos County Sheriff’s Office, 1854-1897* by Andie E. Jensen (2012). This volume has biographical information on every sheriff that served Coos County as well as stories about the crimes that occurred during their administrations.

• *Replica: The Dement Booklet and Backstory: The Dement Booklet* both by Steven S. Means (2013). The first volume offers every page of a booklet kept by the family of Sam Dement whose ancestors crossed the Oregon Trail and developed a ranch in the Upper Coquille Valley near Eckley. The second volume is a more extensive investigation of that booklet and family history.

• *O Pilot! Historical Sketches of the Coos Bay Bar Pilots* by Capt. Steven E. Woods and Jeanne Woods (2013). Sea stories from 1850 to the present are told through the biographies of the men who were bar pilots on the Coos Bay Harbor. There is also a first person account of the attempted rescue of the New Carissa.


• *Paper Fight: The Coos Bay Times and the Ku Klux Klan* by Jon Littlefield (2014). Discusses the competition of the two leading newspapers in Marshfield in the 1920s and the influence that KKK activities had on local and state politics. Good biographies of the Maloney brothers (who ran the *Times*), Charles Hall (businessman who ran for governor), and other local businessmen and politicians.

• *Between Two Worlds: Chinese of Marshfield, Oregon* (3rd edition) by Jon Littlefield (2016). Chinese immigrants came to Coos County to build the railroads, work in the mines and canneries, serve as cooks in lumber camps, and operate stores. This is the story of several Chinese families, especially the family of Gow Why, from about 1880 to 1940.

• *Dealing with the Dead: Coos County Coroner’s Office, 1854-1962* by Andie Jensen (2016) provides biographical details of many Coos County coroners.

• *Coos County Bench, Bar & Beyond* by John W. Whitty (2016). A history of Coos County lawyers, judges, and their cases from 1853 to 2014.

**Business, Industry, and Labor**
• *Life of a Cranberry Grower* by Ethel Reichenbach (1981) tells the author’s life story and gives information about the cranberry industry.
• **The Company by the Bay: A Portrait of Edward S. Evans and the People of the Evans Products Company of Coos Bay, Oregon 1928-1962** by Sandra Beebe (1988) is a book about a Coos Bay company that produced, among other things, battery separators during WWII.

• **The First Fifty: from Lamplights to Satellites: Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, Inc.** by Rick Steber (1988)


• **Eagles of the West: Western Bank 1904-1994** by Jay Mullen and Joy Dunn (1994)

• **Traditions Through the Trees: Weyerhaeuser’s First 100 Years** by Joni Sensel (1999). The North Bend mill and the Columbus Day Storm are mentioned briefly in this company history.

• **Plundertown, USA: Coos Bay Enters the Global Economy** by Al Sandine (2003). The thesis in this book is that large timber corporations were ultimately harmful to the local economy.

• **Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Menasha Corporation and its One Hundred Year History in Coos Bay, Oregon, 1905-2005** by William A. Lansing (2005) is a good centennial description of the Menasha Corporation, and a very good history of other lumber companies as well.

• **A Fleet to Be Forgotten: The Wooden Freighters of World War One** by Louis A. Hough (2009) has a couple of very good chapters about the effort by North Bend and Coos Bay shipyards to produce wooden vessels during WWI.

• **The Job Messiahs** by Wim de Vriend (2011). The author's subtitle is: "How government destroys our prosperity and our freedoms to create jobs" and is a critical review of the economic activities of the Port of Coos Bay.

• **Progressive Thoughts: Essays and Reviews** by Lionel Youst (2012). Two chapters from the book deal with the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W. or "Wobblies") who fought for an eight-hour working day and better conditions in the logging camps of the PNW. Workers on the new railroad from Eugene to Coos Bay also joined the I.W.W. fight in 1913. Youst describes the storm of protest and mob action against the I.W.W. from Marshfield businessmen that ensued.

• **The Wobblies: Solidarity Forever and other Articles** by Lionel Youst (2012). The story of a union formally known as the Industrial Workers of the World which had a presence in Coos County.
Churches

• *First Baptist Church of Coos Bay [Marshfield] 1879-1979* by Anna Beckham and Everett Curry (1979)

• *A History of Oregon’s South Coast Vicariate* by Rev. Scott Vandehey and Steven Greif (1981) chronicles the first 75 years of the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in North Bend.


• *Episcopal Marriages of the Southern Oregon Coast, 1884-1940* compiled by Barbara Eakley (1997).

• *Arago Community Church History: 75th anniversary, 1923-1998.*

• *100 Years with North Bend Methodist Church* (2003).

Education

• Most of the high schools in the counties, as well as the libraries in the county, have copies of their high school yearbooks. The Coos History Museum has some copies as well (not every year, mostly North Bend High and Marshfield). These are rich sources of historical and genealogical data for researchers.

• “*Coos River School Days*” by Florence Smith (1960), is a very short manuscript.

• “*The No Beginning Possibly One Hundred Year History of Coos County School District 13*” by Nancy M. Weybright (1986) is a manuscript produced about the history of North Bend schools based upon minutes of school board meetings.

• *The Progress Club 100th anniversary, April 1904 - April 2004* commemorates the diamond jubilee of the Progress Club of Coos Bay (originally Marshfield), Oregon, a women's organization for which the original "purpose shall be the study of general and literary subjects," which also became a force for civic improvement.

• *Remember When: Coos County Schools 1850-1940* by William A. Lansing (2008) has great photos and descriptions that chronicles 90 years of public instruction.

• *History of the Public Library of Coos Bay, Oregon* by Jon Littlefield, Ellen Thompson, and Carol Ventgen (2009) is a centennial publication that not only tells the story of the library, but of the cultural progress of Coos Bay.

• *Fifty Years, Honoring Our Past, Lighting the Future: The Story of Southwestern Oregon Community College* by William A. Lansing (2011). Richly illustrated with key documents, this volume describes the founding, development, funding issues, and programs associated with the first 50 years as SWOCC.
• *Extracurricular: a History of Athletics and Activities at North Bend (OR) High School* by Steven Greif (2016). This is a history of the high school from the early 1900s to 2016 focusing on athletics, sports venues, campus construction, and other school activities.

**Exploration**

• “Camp Sites of Jedediah Smith on the Oregon Coast” by Alice Maloney (1940) in Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. XLI, pp 304-323.


• *Men Against the Mountains: Jedediah Smith and the Great South West Expedition of 1826-29* by Alson J. Smith (1965).


• *Fort Umpqua: Bastion of Empire* by Norman D. Schlesser (1973).

• *First Approaches to the Northwest Coast* by Derek Pethick (1979).


• *A Guide to Oregon South Coast History: Following the Jedediah Smith Trail* by Nathan Douthit (1986, revised 1999) tells about each campsite of the Smith expedition on their Oregon trip and has been one of the most popular recent local history books.

• *Exploring the Far West with Jedediah Smith* by Charles George Davis (2002). The book covers Smith’s route up the coast to Oregon from California.

**Fisheries**


• *Fish or Cut Bait* by Cortland L. Smith (1977) is a publication by the Oregon State University Sea Grant program.

• *Blood on the Half Shell* (1983) and *Romance on the Half Shell-- and More* (1990), both by Alfred Qualman, tell the story of a Coos Bay oyster business.

**Geology**

• *Geology and Coal Resources of the Coos Bay Quadrangle* by John E. Allen and Ewart M. Baldwin, Oregon Bulletin No 27, State of Oregon, Dept. of Geology and Mineral Resources.

• *Roadside Geology of Oregon* by David D. Alt and Donald W. Hyndman (1978, reprinted in 2009). The book has several chapters covering south coast roadside geology.

• *Secrets of the Oregon Dunes: How Did All That Sand Get There, Anyway?* by Dina Pavlis (2008). The book is intended to provide information about the Oregon Dunes in non-scientific terminology for young and mature readers.

• *Oregon Geology* by Elizabeth and William Orr (2012). This work has information on geologic features of the state including much on the South Coast.

**Government/Politics**

• *Paper Fight: The Coos Bay Times and the Ku Klux Klan* by Jon Littlefield (2014). Discusses the competition of the two leading newspapers in Marshfield in the 1920s and the influence that KKK activities had on local and state politics. Good biographies of the Maloney brothers (who ran the Times), Charles Hall (businessman who ran for governor), and other local businessmen and politicians.


**Guidebooks**


• *Oregon’s Coos Region Canoe & Kayak Guide* by Ron Wardman (2001) for those who wish to ply the local waterways.


• Out Our Back Door by Tom Baake (2008) suggests numerous Coos County road trips by printing descriptions and road maps of various routes.


• Gerry Frank’s Oregon by Gerry Frank (2012). A guide book to seven regions in the state including the coast. Lodging, restaurants, stores, museums, and other “esoteric historic tidbits and hundreds of other Oregon gems”.

**Law/Crime**

• Landis: Pillar of the Church, Hypocrite and Murderer by Marilee Miller (1982) The true story of a businessman in Coquille who was found to be a murderer in the late 1920s/early 1930s.


• Hangman’s Call: the Executions and Lynching’s of Coos County, Oregon 1854-1925 by Andie E. Jensen (2009)

• Law on the Bay: Marshfield, Oregon 1874-1944 by Andie E. Jensen (2010). The author shares extensive newspaper research about the crimes and law enforcement officers in old Coos Bay.

• Law on the Bay: Coos County Sheriff’s Office, 1854-1897 by Andie E. Jensen (2012). This volume has biographical information on every sheriff that served Coos County as well as stories about the crimes that occurred during their administrations.

• Dealing with the Dead: Coos County Coroner’s Office, 1854-1962 by Andie Jensen (2016) provides biographical details of many Coos County coroners. Coroners were responsible to report to the district attorney any suspicious deaths.

• Coos County Bench, Bar & Beyond by John W. Whitty (2016). A history of Coos County lawyers, judges, and their cases from 1853 to 2014.

**Lighthouses** (see Maritime)

**Lumbering/Timber**

• The Lady and the Lumberjack by Olive Barber (1952) is an autobiography written by the wife of a lumberjack who worked in Coos County.

• The Woods Were Full of Men by Irma Lee Emmerson (1963) is the true story of a female cook in a Coos County logging camp. “It provides a firsthand cultural and
historical snapshot of the 1940s gender roles in addition to a number of regional issues concerning the often stigmatized profession of loggers.”


- *Gyppo Logging Days* (1978), *Early Coos County Loggers* (1988), and *Tall Timber Tales* (1989), and are all first-hand logging accounts by Curt Beckham with short biographies of loggers and information on logging companies, techniques, and equipment.


- *Swift Flows the River: Log Driving in Oregon* by Dow Beckham (1990) is a book about the unique “splash dams” used to get logs to the mills.


- *Plundertown, USA: Coos Bay Enters the Global Economy* by Al Sandine (2003) whose thesis is that large timber corporations were ultimately harmful to the local economy.

- *Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Menasha Corporation and its One Hundred Year History in Coos Bay, Oregon, 1905-2005* by William A. Lansing (2005) is very good history of the lumber industry and the Coos Bay Wagon Road history.

• *The Wobblies: Solidarity Forever and other Articles* by Lionel Youst (2012). The story of a union formally known as the Industrial Workers of the World which had a presence in Coos County.

• *Reminiscing: One Man’s Recollection of Logging in the Golden Years* by Glen Olson (2014). A history of South Coast logging by one of the strong supporters of the Coos County Logging Museum located in Myrtle Point.

• *Southern Oregon Timber: The Kenneth Ford Family Legacy* by R.J. Guyer (2015). A book about one of the largest privately owned wood-products companies in the region. The author explores the evolution of logging and the challenges faced by the men and women who plied this trade.

**Maritime**

• *Sentinels of the North Pacific* by James Gibbs (1955).


• *A Guide to Shipwrecks Along the Oregon Coast* by Victor West and R.E. Wells (1984)


• *Peril at Sea: A Photographic Study of Shipwrecks in the Pacific Ocean* by “Shipwreck Jim” Gibbs (1986) has a chapter on Oregon coast wrecks.


• *Oregon’s Seacoast Lighthouses* by Jim Gibbs and Bert Webber (1994).

• *Oregon Lighthouses* by Sharlene & Ted Nelson (1994). The first four chapters describe the “South Coast beacons”: Cape Blanco, Coquille River, Cape Arago and Umpqua River.


• *The Unforgiving Coast: Maritime Disasters of the Pacific Northwest* by David Grover (2002) has several chapters devoted to shipwrecks off the southern Oregon coast.

• *A Star to Steer By: The Seafaring Adventures of Captain Jim Common* edited by Christopher Common (2005)
• **Oregon Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival** by Rachel Dresbeck (2006) has chapters on the wreck of the *New Carissa*, the Columbus Day Storm, Brookings-Harbor rescues, and the Biscuit Fire among others.

• **Images of America: Lighthouses and Life-Saving on the Oregon Coast** by David Pinyerd (2007) is mainly a photo collection with sections on the Umpqua River, Coos Bay, Coquille River, and Cape Blanco lights included.

• **A Fleet to Be Forgotten: The Wooden Freighters of World War One** by Louis A. Hough (2009) has a couple of very good chapters about the effort by North Bend and Coos Bay shipyards to produce wooden vessels during WWI.

• **New Carissa: The Ship That Refused to Die** by Steven Michael Smith (2010). The author has illustrated a book for young readers about the story of an important 1999 shipwreck off of Coos Bay.

• **Lighthouses of the Pacific Coast** by Elinor DeWire (2010). Stories about 64 lighthouses from southern California to northern Washington including local lighthouses at Cape Blanco, Coquille River, Cape Arago, and the Umpqua River.

• **Images of America: Shipwrecks of Coos County** by H.S. Contino (2011). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs with extensive captions to show the history of local shipwrecks.

• **O Pilot! Historical Sketches of the Coos Bay Bar Pilots** by Capt. Steven E. Woods and Jeanne Woods (2013). Sea stories from 1850 to the present are told through the biographies of the men who were bar pilots on the Coos Bay Harbor. There is also a first person account of the attempted rescue of the New Carissa.

• **Images of America: Shipwrecks of Curry County** by H.S. Contino (2017). One in a series of “Images of America” books, this volume uses chapter intros and hundreds of photographs with extensive captions to show the history of shipwrecks of Curry County.

**Medicine**

• **The Doctor in Oregon: A Medical History** by O. Larsell (1947). This book was published for the Oregon Historical Society and written by a University of Oregon professor of anatomy. Pages 271 thru 281 covers the biographies of pioneer doctors in Coos and Curry counties.

• **Dealing with the Dead: Coos County Coroner’s Office, 1854-1962** by Andie Jensen (2016) provides biographical details of many Coos County coroners. Coroners were responsible to report to the district attorney any suspicious deaths.

**Military**

• **Silent Siege** by Bert Webber (1984) describes WWII Oregon coastal defense systems and Japanese attacks against the Oregon South Coast in WWII.
• Made in Japan and Settled in Oregon by Mitzi Asai Loftus (1990) describes a first-hand account of the Japanese relocation camps of the WWII era.

• Fujita: Flying Samurai by Bert and Margie Webber (2000). The story of the WWII aerial bombing of the continental United States by a Japanese pilot launched from an off-shore submarine.


• Fu-Go: the Curious History of Japan’s Balloon Bomb Attack on America by Ross Coen (2014). A detailed account of the WWII balloon bomb attack with an appendix showing places (including the Oregon South Coast) where balloon events occurred.

• Military History of the Myrtle Point / Powers, Oregon, Area by Alice DeSoto (2014).

• Oregon Military by Warren W. Aney & Alisha Hamel (2016). A great arm-chair book reviewing the heritage of military service in Oregon from the beginning days of early explorers and their battles with Native American Indians, up through current times and conflict including the War on Terror. Easy summary read on our State’s military heritage.

• A Matter of Honor by Verla Shirley-Chaddick (2016). North Fork Siuslaw resident George Esgate served with the Quartermaster Corps Graves Registration unit during WWII with the grim task of recovering, identifying and burying American GI’s killed in action. In 1999, he returned to retrace some of that journey by visiting some of the graveyards he helped establish – and to find his Belgian lost love. Enjoy this riveting account of a Florence family during and after the war.

Mining
• Geology and Coal Resources of the Coos Bay Quadrangle by John E. Allen and Ewart M. Baldwin, Oregon Bulletin No 27, State of Oregon, Dept. of Geology and Mineral Resources.


• Stars in the Dark: Coal Mines of Southwestern Oregon by Dow Beckham (1995). The first important work on this topic.

• They Found Gold on the Beach: a History of Central Curry County, an Oregon Documentary by Walt Schroeder (1999)
• Can't You Hear The Whistle Blowing: Logs, Lignite, and Locomotives in Coos County, Oregon (2007) by William A. Lansing is a complete book, full of photos, about the mining and logging railroads of the area.

• Gone But Not Forgotten: Beaver Hill, Oregon by Andie Jensen (2015). Much primary source material and many photos of the community with the most productive coal mine in Coos County.

• Welcome to Rural Coos County by Gordon Ross (2017). This volume contains stories of unincorporated areas including mining areas like Libby, Bunker Hill, Beaver Hill, and Coaledo.

Native American
• The Early Indian Wars of Oregon: Compiled from the Oregon Archives and Other Original Sources, with Muster Rolls by Frances F. Victor (1894).


• Indian Battles Along the Rogue River (1855-1856) by Frank Walsh (1972).

• Land of the North Umpquas by Lavola J. Bakken (1973). Although most of the focus is on the Umpqua tribe in the upper reaches of the river, the book does describe Umpqua Indian culture.

• When Grandmother Sang Her Song by Esther Stutzman (1975).

• The Indians of Western Oregon: This Land Was Theirs by Stephen Dow Beckham (1977) is a good history and depiction of South Coast Native American culture.


• White Moccasins by Beverly Ward (1986).

• Living With the Land: The Indians of Southwest Oregon, ed. By Nan Hannon and Richard K. Olmo (1990) is a collection from the 1989 Proceedings of the Symposium on the Prehistory of Southwest Oregon that includes articles related to South Coast Indian history.

• People of the Coquille Estuary: Native Uses of Resources on the Oregon Coast by Roberta Hall (1995).


• Until the Last Arrow, A True Story of the Indian Wars and Gold Rushes that Opened the...Rogue River Valley by Percy T. Booth (1997).

• She’s Tricky Like Coyote: Annie Miner Peterson, An Oregon Coast Indian Woman by Lionel Youst (1997) is the story of the last native Coos language speaker who served as an informant to anthropologists in the 1930s.

• Changing Landscapes by Jason Younker, Mark Tveskov, and David Lewis (2001). Nine articles by scholars and cultural resource managers related to native culture on the South Coast.

• Coquelle Thompson, Athabaskan Witness, A Cultural Biography by Lionel Youst and William R. Seaburgh (2002) is another native who served as an informant to anthropologists.

• Uncertain Encounters: Indians and Whites at Peace and War in Southern Oregon 1820s-1860s by Nathan Douthit (2002). Investigates the Hudson’s Bay fur trading company and its relations with Indians on the South Coast, white exploration, conflicts with settlers, the removal of Indians to reservations, and the culture afterwards.


• “Brush Fences and Basket Traps: The Archaeology and Ethnohistory of Tidewater Weir Fishing on the Oregon Coast” by Robert S. Byram (2002). A PhD dissertation at the University of Oregon. (358 pages)

• Foot prints in the Sands of Time: Autobiography of Jerry Running Foxe, Chief of the Na-so-mah Indians, the Coquilles, 'Ko-Kwel' by Jerry Running Foxe (2004). Foxe worked in the timber industry, in the coal mines, as a ship yard worker, an apartment manager, a bartender, a politician and he eventually became an executive of the Coquille Indian Tribe.

• Oregon Indians: Voices From Two Centuries (2006) by Stephen Dow Beckham is an important collection of primary sources "that strives to let Oregon Indians tell their own story". It includes some primary sources from the south coast.

• Seeking Recognition: The Termination and Restoration of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, 1855-1984 by David R.M. Beck (2009). This volume by a professor at the University of Montana examines relationship between the Federal Government
and the local tribes from its beginnings in the 1850s, through "termination" in the 1950s, and eventual restoration of the Confederated Tribes in 1984.

• *The People are Dancing Again: The History of the Siletz Tribe of Western Oregon* by Charles Wilkinson (2010). This history of the Siletz also has excellent information about other south coast Native Americans such as the Coos, Coquelle, Lower Umpqua, and Rogue River. It also has good maps and illustrations.

• *Ethnobotany of the Coquille Indians: 100 Common Cultural Plants* by Suzanne Fluharty, Denise Hockema, and Nicole Norris and the Coquille Indian Tribe, Cultural Resources Program (2010). “This field guide is intended to assist natural resource managers, educators, and the general public to identify some of the plants and plant habitats that are important in the cultural traditions and heritage of the modern Coquille Indian tribe.”

• *Tah’s Tools: Another Picture Book for Kids* by Jon Ivy and Nicole Harris (2011). This book compares photos of Coquille Indian traditional tools with modern-day equivalents.

• *Our Culture and History: The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians* by Don Whereat, with Patty Whereat Phillips, Melody Caldera, Ron Thomas, Reg Pullen, and Stephen Dow Beckham (2011). This is a compilation of 12 years of research to write over 60 articles for the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) newsletter.

• *Ethnobotany of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians* by Patricia Whereat-Phillips (2016). This text documents the use of native plants by South Coast tribes.

**Shipwrecks** (see Maritime)

**Theater**


• *Hobblin’ In and Dancin’ Out* by Hope Cahill (1991) is a history of the RSVP follies from 1972-1976.

• *Encore: A History of Theaters and Theater on Oregon’s South Coast* by Dow Beckham (2003) is the most complete book on this topic.

**Transportation**

• *Pioneer Trails of the Oregon Coast* by Samuel N. Dicken (1971).

• *Ships and Ship-Builders of Southern Oregon* by Victor West.
- **Vern C. Gorst: Pioneer and Grandad of United Air Lines** by Wilbur Gorst (1979). This book by Gorst’s son has the history and photos of how early pioneers coped with transportation issues in the Bay Area and the West Coast.

- **Southern Oregon Mosquito Fleet: Stories About Coos County Boats, 1853 -1948** by Victor West (1986).

- **Elegant Arches, Soaring Spans: C.B. McCullough, Oregon's Master Bridge Builder** by Robert W. Hadlow (2001) is a good source of information about bridges on Highway 101, including the McCullough Bridge over Coos Bay and the Patterson Bridge over the Rogue River.

- **Oregon's Coos Region Canoe & Kayak Guide** by Ron Wardman (2001) for those who wish to ply the local waterways.

- **Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Menasha Corporation and its One Hundred Year History in Coos Bay, Oregon, 1905-2005** by William Lansing (2005) includes a definitive section on the history of the Coos Bay Wagon Road.

- **Oregon Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival** by Rachel Dresbeck (2006) has a chapter on the wreck of the New Carissa.

- **Lifting Oregon Out of the Mud: Building the Oregon Coast Highway** by Joe R. Blakely (2006) includes material about Highway 101 along the southern Oregon Coast.

- **Vern Gorst and the Pacific Air Transport Air Mail** by Ron Bartley (2006). Chronicles the life of an important pioneer in the transportation industry that lived in North Bend.

- **Can't You Hear The Whistle Blowing: Logs, Lignite, and Locomotives in Coos County, Oregon** by William A. Lansing (2007) is a book, full of photos about the mining and logging railroads of the area the Oregon South Coast.

- **Images of America: Oregon’s Covered Bridges** by Bill Cockrell (2008). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume includes a chapter on Coos County highway and railroad covered bridges.


- **Images of America: Shipwrecks of Coos County** by H.S. Contino (2011). One in a series of Images of America books, this volume uses chapter introductions and hundreds of photographs with extensive captions to show the history of local shipwrecks.

- **“A Century of Coos County Railroads”** by Steven Greif and Martin Callery (2016) is a manuscript written for the centennial of the coming of rail to Coos County.
Weather

• *The Big Blow: The Story of the Pacific Northwest’s Columbus Day Storm* by Ellis Lucia (1963)

  *West Coast Disaster: Columbus Day 1962* by Dorothy Franklin (1963). Describes the windstorm and its effects in northern California, and western Oregon and Washington. It’s a scrapbook, of sorts, with many photos and news articles about the storm.

  *The Oregon Weather Book: State of Extremes* by George Taylor and Raymond Hatton (1999) gives weather and climate records for the entire state and includes many statistics about the South Coast.

  *Traditions Through the Trees: Weyerhaeuser’s First 100 Years* by Joni Sensel (1999). The Columbus Day Storm is mentioned briefly in this company history.

  *Oregon Disasters: True Stories of Tragedy and Survival* by Rachel Dresbeck (2006) has a chapter on the Columbus Day Storm, among others.

FICION

• Zane Grey, who had a cabin on the Rogue River, is a famous western author. One novel, *Rogue River Feud*, was originally published in 1929.

• *The Lady and the Lumberjack* by Olive Barber (1952) is a partly fictionalized memoir of a school teacher who married a logger that worked primarily the Coos River.

• *Tioga Pigs* by A.E. Krewson (1955) is a partly fictionalized tale of pioneers who fattened their pigs in the remote Tioga Creek area of east Coos County and then drove them to the Coquille River for market.

• *Gold Saga of the Umpqua: an Historical Novel of Southwestern Oregon* by Harriet Ward (1966) is a tale based upon actual characters of the gold era in SW Oregon.

• *The Woods Were Full of Men* by Irma Lee Emmerson with Jean Muir (1963) is a partly fictionalized memoir of a cook at a logging camp on Tioga Creek on the upper reaches of the South Fork of the Coos River.

• *Tall Tales from Rogue River: The Yarns of Hathaway Jones* edited by Stephen Dow Beckham (1974). Folklore from the Rogue River area as presented by a famous local miner and mail carrier: Hathaway Jones.


• *Coos Bay Shanghai* by Naomi Russell (1999). A pioneer family on Catching Inlet in Coos Bay experiences adventure in a maritime community in the late 1800s.

• *Katie's Gold* by Tom Mitcheltree (2000) is a mystery with a Rogue River valley setting.
• *Treasure of Whiskey Run* by Phyllis Hegland (2003). In the 1850s a young man is shanghaied from San Francisco to the Oregon Coast and shipwrecked on the gold mining sands of Whiskey Run.

• *RRR: Rogue River Roy and Young Matt McCoy* by Lewis R. Cannon (2007). A young orphan is sent to live with his uncle, a mule-skinner on the Rogue River, in 1890.

• *Lady at Midnight* by Ty Davis (2015). This is a children’s book about an adventure with animals at Mingus Park in Coos Bay.

• *Brothers in Arms* by R.C. Nelsen (2017) A military mission in Viet Nam that goes horribly wrong in 1966 has devastating consequences on a community on the Oregon South Coast in 1973 ... a murder mystery.

### NEWSPAPERS

Coos County has had an abundance of newspapers published in the past 140 years and most are available on microfilm at various Coos County libraries. (See chart below.) One ought to read *Paper Fight: The Coos Bay Times and the Ku Klux Klan* by Jon Littlefield (2014) which discusses the competition of the two leading newspapers in Marshfield in the 1920s and the influence that KKK activities had on local and state politics.

The oldest publication held is the *Coos Bay News* which reported about the Bay area starting from the year 1874. The *Marshfield Weekly Coast Mail* is on record from 1879 and the *Coquille City Herald* from 1883. Issues of the Bandon Recorder can be viewed from 1890 through June of 1916 and the *Myrtle Point Enterprise* is available from late 1895 through 1917. News of the community of Powers was reported in the *Powers Patriot* from 1918 to 1923.

The longest-running newspaper list is topped by the *Coos Bay Times* which reported for 51 years, from 1906–1957 whereupon it changed its name to *The World* and continues publication to the present.

The *Coos Bay Harbor* (actually printed in North Bend) published from 1905 – 1950s and, after changing its name to the North Bend News, continued publication until 1986 – a span of 81 years. The *Coquille Valley Sentinel* has 67 years of news on microfilm from 1915 through 1982, followed by *Myrtle Point’s Herald* which records 61 years of stories from 1928 to 1989. The *Marshfield Sun* revealed 53 years of Bay Area events from 1891 until mid-1944.

Appointments to do research in either building should be made by contacting the officials of the Sun Printing Museum: Lionel Youst, lionel@wildblue.net; Don Blom, back40four@gmail.com, or Ralph Mohr, mohr1565@charter.net.

Many Oregon newspapers, including some in Coos County, are available online at a website called Historic Oregon Newspapers: http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/ Microfilmed newspapers are being digitalized through a program at the University of Oregon Library. Key word searches are made available at the site. Sometimes news of Coos County was recorded in the Eugene Register-Guard. Online replicas of that paper, searchable by date, are at: http://news.google.com/newspapers

The most efficient search of any newspaper archive should begin with a target date: the outbreak of a major fire or other news event, a death date, a seasonal event, etc. A target date will help to determine which microfilm reel will be searched for the desired article.

The following table shows the names of city newspapers on microfilm. Following each newspaper name is the library where the microfilmed newspaper is located and the publication dates available for viewing.

**BANDON newspapers**
- **Bandon Recorder**: Coos Bay library; (1890 - Jun 27, 1916)
- **Prime Time**: SWOCC library; (Jun 1993 - Oct 1994; May 1997 - current)
- **Western World**: Coquille library; (Current 6 months)

**CHARLESTON newspapers**
- **Charleston Herald**: Coos Bay library; (Aug 1995 - Mar 1996 irregular)
- **Charleston Herald**: SWOCC library; (Apr 1995 - Mar 11, 1996)

**COOS BAY (Marshfield) newspapers**
- **Bay News Weekly**: SWOCC library; (Jun 19, 1985 - Oct 23, 1985)
- **Bay Reporter**: Coos Bay library; (Feb 28, 1979 - Sep 1984)
- **Bay Reporter**: SWOCC library; (Sep 21, 1983 - Sep 1984)
- **Coos Bay Harbor**: Coos Bay library; (1905 - 1950)
- **Coos Bay Harbor**: North Bend library; (1905 - 1950)
- **Coos Bay News**: Coos Bay library; (Aug 1893 - Nov 19, 1901; Jul 16, 1907 - Oct 1917)
- **Coos Bay News**: NB library; (1874-76; Jul 1877 - Jan 78; 1879-1901; July1907 - 1917)
- **Coos Bay Times**: Coos Bay library; (Jul 4, 1906 - Jan 7, 1957)
- **Empire Builder**: Coos Bay library; (Oct 8, 1953 - Feb 28, 1979)
- **Marshfield Sun**: Coos Bay library; (Feb 12, 1891 - Jun 16, 1944) Also check for hardcopy issues of the Sun at the Marshfield Sun Printing Museum.
- **Marshfield Southwest Oregon Daily**: Coos Bay library; (Jan 23, 1915 - Apr 12, 1940)
- **Marshfield Coast Mail**: Coos Bay library; (May 17, 1879 - 1880; 1884 - Jun 1906)
- **Southwester**: SWOCC library; (Nov 10, 1961 - Nov 1, 1988; Mar 1992 - current)
- **The World**: Coos Bay library; (Jan 8, 1957 - present)

**COQUILLE newspapers**
- **Coquille City Bulletin**: Coos Bay library; (Jun 7, 1901 - Jul 1, 1904)
- **Coquille City Bulletin**: Coquille library; (Jun 7, 1901 - Jul 1, 1904)
- **Coquille City Herald**: Coos Bay library; (Sep 11, 1883 - Oct 10, 1893)
- **Coquille City Herald**: Coquille library; (Sep 11, 1883 - Sep 4, 1917)
- **Coquille Herald**: Coos Bay library; (Sep 23, 1902 - Sep 4, 1917)
• Coquille Tribune; Coos Bay library; (Apr 1933 - Mar 1947)
• Coquille Tribune; Coquille library; (1929 - Mar 28, 1947)
• Coquille Valley Sentinel; Coos Bay library; (1917 - Nov 8, 1940)
• Coquille Valley Sentinel; Coquille library; (1915 - Jul 21, 1982)

LAKESIDE newspapers
• Tenmile Times; SWOCC library; (Apr 10, 1985 - Dec 17, 1985)

MYRTLE POINT newspapers
• Myrtle Point Herald; Myrtle Point library; (Mar 29, 1928 - Mar 3, 1989)
• Myrtle Point Enterprise; Coos Bay library; (Nov 16, 1895 - Nov 1917)
• Myrtle Point Enterprise; Myrtle Point library; (Nov 16, 1895 - Jun 5, 1908)
• South Coos County American; Coos Bay library; (Dec 1917 - Mar 22, 1928)
• With generous financial support from the Coquille Valley Genealogy Club, The Coos County Cultural Coalition, the Floyd Ingram Memorial Fund, and individual donors, the Myrtle Point Public Library Foundation was able to digitize the MP Library's 49 reels of the Myrtle Point Herald microfilm. The Herald archive is now available, and searchable at the following website: http://myrtlepoint.advantage-preservation.com/ The articles appear in .pdf format. The vendor tells us they work best in Adobe reader. The date range is from about 1899, with earlier miscellaneous issues, and some even earlier fragments, up to 2010. The archive includes the Myrtle Point Enterprise, The Southern Coos County American, and the Myrtle Point Herald.

NORTH BEND newspapers
• Coos Bay Harbor; Coos Bay library; (1905 - 1950)
• Coos Bay Harbor; North Bend library; (1905 - 1950)
• North Bend News; North Bend library; (1951 - Aug 27, 1986)

POWERS newspapers
• Powers Patriot; Coos Bay library; (Apr 26, 1918 - Apr 23, 1923)

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES HISTORICAL LIST

The following titles are in order by the oldest year listed for each. Note that on Coastline there are duplicate links to some of the directories that underwent title and publisher changes but were essentially the same publication; therefore in order to avoid duplication, dates are only listed under the title printed in the directory.
(Compiled for the Coos County Libraries by Dianne Zarder and Ann Couture, 2011)

R.L. Polk & Co.'s Coos County Directory (PUBLISHER: Portland, OR: R. L. Polk)
Coos Bay, Oregon Archive 910.25 COO, 1904, 1907
North Bend, Oregon Case 910.25 COOS, 1907

Polk’s Coos County Directory (PUBLISHER: Portland, OR: R. L. Polk)
Coos Bay, Oregon Archive 910.25 COO, 1916, 18, 24, 26, 36, 38, 40, 48, 54
North Bend, Oregon Case 910.25 COOS, 1913, 24, 38, 40, 48, 54
Marshfield and North Bend City Directory (PUBLISHER: North Bend, OR: Coos Bay Harbor) Coos Bay, Oregon Archive 910.25 COO, 1922

North Bend and Marshfield City Directory (PUBLISHER: North Bend, OR: Coos Bay Harbor), North Bend, OR Case 910.25 NORTH, 1922


Coos Bay-North Bend City Directory (PUBLISHER: Eugene, OR: Johnson Publishing) Coos Bay, Oregon Archive 910.25 COO, 1969, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 80, 87–89 North Bend, Oregon Case 910.25 COOS, 1969, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 80, 87, 88


InfoUSA City Directories cross reference directory consumer and business guide for Coos Bay - Southern Oregon Coast and vicinity. Alternate title: Hill-Donnelly cross reference directory for Coos Bay - Southern Oregon Coast. (PUBLISHER: infoUSA. Omaha, Neb.)
Coos Bay, Oregon Archive 910.25 COO, 2000–2010
North Bend, Oregon Case 910.25 HILL-DONNELLY, 1996-97, 1999–2006