

A Selective Timeline of Oregon South Coast History

by Steven Greif, Coos History Museum

Many of these entries have been adapted from Nathan Douthit, *A Guide to Oregon South Coast History*, (Oregon State University Press, 1999) and Douthit, *The Coos Bay Region: Life on a Coastal Frontier* (Coos County Historical Society, 2005). Other important sources of information are Emil Peterson and Alfred Powers, *A Century of Coos and Curry* (Coos-Curry Pioneer and Historical Association, 1952); Orville Dodge, *Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties, OR.*, (Coos-Curry Pioneer and Historical Association, 1898), Lionel Youst, *She's Tricky Like Coyote: Annie Miner Petersen, an Oregon Coast Indian Woman* and *Oregon Geographic Names*. A series of books called *Images of America* have also been printed and are referenced as well. Other events can be researched by looking at old local newspapers found online and at local libraries. Source notes within entries below reference these publications and others and give readers a start on more South Coast research.

15,000-13,000 before present (bp)

An ice dam that blocked the Clark Fork River in western Montana and created 2000-foot deep Lake Missoula, burst. Over 500 cubic miles of water (a rate ten times the combined flow of all the rivers of the world) thundered toward the Pacific Ocean with flood speeds of approximately 65 miles per hour. The ice dam eventually reformed and the flooding sequence may have occurred an additional 40 different times on an average of 50 year intervals. Huge amounts of soil were stripped from lands east of the Cascades and deposited in the Pacific. Currents and winds eventually deposited massive amounts of sand along the South Coast from the Coos River north to the Siuslaw River.

8560 (+/-?) years bp

The earliest radiocarbon dating of human habitation on the South Coast, done by Oregon State University in the 19980s at Marial on the Rogue River, indicate that a human culture developed on the South Coast at least by this date. (*Guide*, p 9)

8000 (+/-) years bp

University of Oregon archeologists found a shell midden with artifacts from this time period at Tahkenitch Lake. (*Guide*, p 9)

5000-4000 years bp

Radiocarbon dating of Native American artifacts from Bullards State park excavations.

3000 years bp

Oregon State University archeologists found a number of Native artifacts dated from this era at the Umpqua-Eden site near the mouth of the Umpqua River (*Guide*, p 10)



Native American artifacts displayed at the Coos History Museum in Coos Bay

1542-1543

The earliest recorded approach by Europeans to the South Coast occurred when Spanish sea captains Juan Rodriguez and Bartolome Ferrello explored what is now the coastline of Curry County. Cape Ferrello, near 42° latitude, is the first point of Oregon land named by the Europeans. (*Guide*, p 4)

1579

English explorer Sir Francis Drake, with his ship the *Golden Hinde*, possibly took shelter in the South Cove of Cape Arago. In 1977, a commemorative plaque honoring Drake was placed at the cove. A replica of his ship (see photo right) entered Coos Bay in 1987. (*Guide*, pp 4 and 115)



1597

Cape Blanco, the furthest point west in Oregon, appeared on a map. Spanish explorer Martin Aguilar explored the South Coast by sea and confirmed the site of Cape Blanco in 1603. (*Guide*, p 4)

1700

Between 9-10 a.m. on January 26th, a 9.0 earthquake rocked the west coast of the Pacific Northwest. The quake, from the fault line of the Cascadia Subduction Zone, created a tsunami that inundated the bays and sloughs of the Oregon Coast. (www.pnsn.org)

1778

On March 12, Captain James Cook of England sailed along the Oregon coast and named a bluff Cape Gregory near the mouth of the Coos River (later changed to Cape Arago.) (*Century*, p 2 and *Guide*, p 6.)

1791

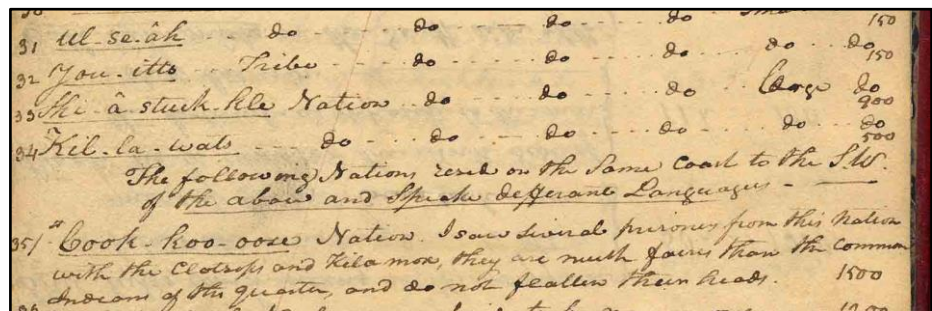
The first known contact with South Coast Indians by coastal fur traders occurred when American Captain James Baker's *Jenny* entered the mouth of the Umpqua River and traded with the Natives for a period of about twelve days. (*Guide*, p 6)

1792

British Captain George Vancouver anchored his ships south of Cape Blanco. Natives approached his ships for trade and uttered the first Pacific Northwest Native phrase recorded by Euro-American explorers: Slaghshee ("My friend"). (*Century*, pp 5-6 and *Guide*, p 7)

1806

On February 8th, William Clark, wintering at Fort Clatsop near the Columbia with Meriwether Lewis and the Corp of Discovery, reported the existence of the "Cook-koo-oose nation". His journal entry (see image) says: "I saw



several prisoners from this nation with the Clatsops and Kilamox, they are much fairer than the common Indians of this quarter, and do not flatten their heads." This is the first written mention of the Coos Indians by Euro-Americans. (*Guide*, p 8)

Patty Whereat Phillips, a Coos linguist, suggests the name comes from the Coos word for the bay region: *kuukwis* or *kuukuus*. The words mean "south" as the Hanis and Miluk peoples were south of the Lower Umpqua tribe.

1824

Hanis Coos Indian villages at Tenmile Lake were entirely wiped out by smallpox. Some villages around Coos Bay were also depopulated. (*Tricky Like Coyote*, p 8)

1826

Hudson's Bay Company's Alexander McLeod explored from the Umpqua River region south through Coos Bay, up the South Fork of the Coquille River (Powers Valley area). He was assessing the potential for fur trade in the area. (*Century*, pp 9-10 and *Guide*, p 8). That same year, David Douglas, a British botanist for whom the Douglas fir is named, discovered and described the myrtle tree as he found it along the Umpqua River. (*Guide*, p 94)

1827

On January 11th, Hudson's Bay Company's Alexander McLeod explored the mouth of the Rogue River. (*Guide*, p 40)

1828

Jedediah Smith, an American fur-trapper, led an expedition of nineteen men and about 300 horses north from California along the beaches of Oregon's South Coast to the Umpqua River. They were the first white Americans to travel by land through the South Coast. His expedition reached the Chetco River on June 23rd. Along the way, journals indicated a very rough passage thru ravines south of Charleston known as the "Seven Devils". Due to poor relations Smith's party established with the Indians, all but Smith and two of his men were attacked and killed by the natives at current day Bolen Island at the Umpqua River on July 14th. (*Century*, pp 11-18 and *Guide*, pp 29 and 169)

1836

A measles outbreak struck Indian villages on Coos Bay. Native population declined from over 2000 at its peak to about 800 by the time of white settlement in 1853. (*Tricky Like Coyote*, p 9)

1850

On August 2nd, a party of San Franciscans called the "Klameth Exploring Expedition", led by Capt. Albert Lyman, established a townsite they called Umpqua City on the north spit of the Umpqua River entrance. That same year a businessman named Levi Scott established a White settlement 26 miles up the Umpqua River that was called Scottsburg. (*Guide*, p 158)

In October, a two-masted brig named "Kate Heath" became the first U.S. ship known to cross over the Coos River bar and enter Coos Bay. It had mistakenly entered Coos Bay on its way to deliver immigrants and supplies to a new settlement on the Umpqua. Upper Hanis Coos villagers abandoned a

plan to ambush the ship when other native leaders talked them out of it. When word reached Patrick Flanagan about the location of the ship, he followed the beach route south from the Umpqua to Coos Bay to direct the ship north. Flanagan later decided to settle in south Coos Bay and became one of the most important pioneers of Marshfield. (*Tricky Like Coyote*, p 14)

1851

Captain William Tichenor landed a party of men at Port Orford to establish the first White coastal settlement. Later that year a skirmish with Indians occurred at nearby Battle Rock. The sketch is from Harper's Magazine, 1856. (*Guide*, pp 63-65, *Pioneer History*, pp 21-31, *Century*, pp 37-40 and *Images: Port Orford*, p 12-13)

1852

On January 3rd, the schooner *Captain Lincoln* wrecked on the North Spit of Coos Bay. 52 U.S. soldiers from the ship established "Camp Cast-A-Way" on the spit while awaiting rescue. They met and traded with local Indians, and explored what they called "Kowes Bay". Upon their rescue about four months later, they brought attention to the resources of Oregon's South Coast. (*Century*, pp 44-45 and *Guide*, pp 133-135)

1853

In May, nineteen men led by Capt. William H. Harris and Perry B. Marple formed the "Coose Bay Commercial Company" and established the first White settlement in Coos County on the bay, calling it Empire City. (*Century*, pp 45-48) Captain Harris was the first citizen to file a land claim at Empire City: the first land filed upon in the county under any land laws of the United States. (*Pioneer History*, pp 131-132 and *Tricky Like Coyote*, pp 17-19). Awhile after Empire City was established, Mrs. Ester Lockhart was among the first three White women to settle in the county where she started the first school. (*Century*, pp 213 and 272-273)



Empire City on Coos Bay, 1884 [CHM 009.16.6213]

In July, gold was discovered at Whiskey Run beach north of the mouth of the Coquille River. A camp called Randolph was soon established there. The boom town existed only a year or two as stormy weather and heavy seas eroded the black sand beach by 1855. (*Guide*, pp 112-113)

The first Catholic priest for Coos County, Fr. James Croke, arrived in Empire and established a mission.

The first sawmill in Coos County, most likely to supply the Randolph miners, was built by George Wasson and partners near Bullards on the lower Coquille River. It was powered by an undershot water wheel. A small schooner was also built near Randolph to haul supplies between the mining camp and Empire City. This may have been the first boat building by Whites along the South Coast. (*Guide*, pp 112-113)

J.C. Tolman from the Coose Bay Commercial Company built a cabin on upper Coos Bay at a place he called Marshfield after his old home in Massachusetts. (*Century*, p 100)

The county's first water-powered sawmill, the Stacy-Fundy-Wasson Mill, was built on the Coquille River near the Bullards Ferry crossing. (*Images: Coos County*, p 15)

On December 22nd, Coos County was officially established by the Oregon Territorial legislature. Empire City on Coos Bay was designated as the first seat of county government.

1854

On January 28th, about 40 gold miners from Randolph killed at least 16 Miluk Coos Indians near the mouth of the Coquille River. The event is known as the Nasomah Massacre. (see *Tricky Like Coyote*, pp 21-22, *Images: Bandon*, p 16-17 and *Guide*, p 107))

In June, a local election formally established Coos County government officials. On July 3rd, the new Coos County Board designated the first official county road. "The Beach Route" started at the Empire City wharf, also called "The Hollering Place". After yelling for transportation across to the North Spit, passengers would take a horse-drawn wagon up the beach, cross the mouth of Tenmile Creek and go to the Umpqua River. There passengers could get river and stage transportation inland. For several decades, beach travel was one of the few available routes across Oregon because the landscape made road and rail construction difficult. (*Century*, pp 480-481, *Guide*, pp 163-165, and *Images: Coos County*, p 97)



Emily Oregon Noble was first Euro-American child born in Coos County. She later married William Saunders. They took a claim at what later was named Saunders Lake. (*Oregon Geographic Names*)

Patrick Flanagan, Amos Emerson Rogers, and Samuel Stillman Mann began mining coal at the Newport Mine in an area later called Libby. (*Images: Coos County*, pp 13 and 30)

1855

The townsite of Halls Prairie was established on the Coquille River downstream from Myrtle Point. In 1886, a post office there was named Arago by pioneer Henry Schroeder (*Oregon Geographic Names*)

During the summer, Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the Oregon Territory, conducted treaty talks with tribes on the South Coast. Although virtually all tribes signed the treaty, it was never ratified by Congress. (*Tricky Like Coyote*, pp 24-25) The Rogue River Indian War broke out in October 1855. (*Guide*, pp 45)

1856

Henry Luse and Asa M. Simpson began operation of the first sawmills on Coos Bay by this time - Luse at Empire City and Simpson at North Bend. (*Century*, p 426, *Pioneer History*, p 463 and *Images: Coos County*, pp 44-45)

In late February, Lower Rogue Indians attacked settlers near Gold Beach killing Indian Agent Ben Wright and 22 others and burned 60 cabins/houses. Among the victims was the Geisel family. A surviving group took refuge at Fort Miner on the north bank of the Rogue River near its mouth. (*Guide*, pp 30 and 44)

In May, after the Battle of Big Bend on the Rogue River near the mouth of the Illinois River, the Rogue River Indian coalition collapsed. On June 19th, the steamer Columbia arrived at Fort Orford and took over 700 native refugees to the newly established Great Coastal Reservation on the mid-Oregon Coast. (*Guide*, pp 44-45)

1857

Following the Rogue River Indian War, Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians were held temporarily at a reservation near Ft. Umpqua on the north shore of the Umpqua River. Lower Coquille Indians were removed by ship to Portland and then, in 1859, marched to the Great Coastal Reservation near Yachats. (*Guide*, pp 17-18 and *Tricky Like Coyote*, p 42)

Perry Marple of the Coose Bay Commercial Company was elected to be the Coos delegate to the Oregon Territorial legislature. (John Whitty, *Coos County: Bench, Bar, and Beyond*)

The brig *Blanco* was the first ship built on Coos Bay at North Bend. (*Century*, p 106)

The first lighthouse built on the Oregon coast was constructed on the sandy south beach of the Umpqua River. However it was washed away by a storm in 1861. The current Umpqua Lighthouse, on the cliffs above the river's mouth, first flashed its light in 1894. (*Guide*, p 155)

1859

Oregon became the 33rd state on Valentine's Day, February 14th.

The Baltimore Colony, led by pioneer Dr. Henry Hermann, settled in the upper Coquille Valley near Broadbent. (*Century*, pp 48-53 and *Guide*, p 100)

The Port Orford Meteorite was discovered by government geologist Dr. John Evans, but its location was soon "lost" when Evans died. (*Century*, pp 504-505)

Coos and Lower Umpqua Indians were removed from Ft. Umpqua to Yachats Prairie on the central Oregon Coast. (*Tricky Like Coyote*, pp 33-41 and *Guide*, p 18)

1860

The first pioneer to commercially fish the Coquille River was John Flanagan (the brother of Patrick Flanagan). (*Images: Coos County*, p 91)

1861

Henry Meyers platted the first town site in the Coquille River Valley and called it Meyersville. It was later called Ott and finally Myrtle Point when it was incorporated in 1887. (*CB Region*, p 31 and *Oregon Geographic Names*)

1863

A post office by the name of Ellensburgh (later Ellensburg) was established on the south side of the mouth of the Rogue River on March 3rd. On March 25, 1890, the post office was changed to Gold Beach. (*Oregon Geographic Names*)

1866

Acknowledging the ever-growing ship traffic along the South Coast, the Cape Arago Light on Gregory Point, near Sunset Bay, began operation. This was the first permanent lighthouse established on the Oregon Coast. A new lighthouse was built on the cape in 1908 and then a third version was erected in 1934. (*Century*, pp 119-121 and *Images: Coos County*, p 68)



The first Cape Arago light [CHM 992.8.0620]

1867

John Pershbaker established a sawmill and store at Marshfield. (*Century*, pp 100-101).

1868

A huge Coos County fire burned 90,000 acres of forest in what is known thereafter as "the big burn". (*Tricky Like Coyote*, p 53) The fire caused massive environmental damage.

One of the earliest hotels, the Blanco Hotel, was built in downtown Marshfield near Front and Market Streets. Two years later the Central Hotel was built nearby. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 36)

1869

The Major Morton Tower House, in the Empire District of Coos Bay, was constructed. It is the oldest home remaining in Coos County.

1870

The Coquille post office was established on July 1st. (*Century*, p 119)

The Cape Blanco Lighthouse began operation. It was illuminated in 1875 (making it the longest running illuminated light) and is the most westerly lighthouse on the Oregon Coast. (*Guide*, p 68)

1871

The Marshfield post office was established. (*Century*, pp 100)

T.M. Vowell built a store on a farm owned by Titus B. Willard and began platting the town of Coquille. town would be incorporated by 1885. (*CB Region*, p 31)

1872

The Coos Bay Wagon Road was built, connecting Coos County with the Roseburg and Umpqua River valley areas. (*Guide*, pp 88-94 and *Images: Coos County*, p 98-99)

David Wagner, his family, and other North Carolinians settled the upper south fork of the Coquille River. The Wagners built the "Pioneer House" at Powers. The Tower House in Empire City was built. These are currently two of the oldest structures in Coos County. (*Century*, pp 126-127 and *Guide*, pp 100-102 and 137)



Brewster Canyon on the Wagon Road, 1913 [CHM 992.8.0005]

A new Coos County courthouse was built in Empire City at a cost of \$4000. A small jail was also built just north of the courthouse.

Nels & Ben Monson homesteaded the Templeton Arm of Tenmile Lakes. Other Scandinavian families soon followed. A post office was established there on June 21, 1898 (*Oregon Geographic Names*)

1873

Lord George Bennett arrived in Coos County from Bandon, Ireland and purchased ocean-front land near the mouth of the Coquille River. He is considered to be the founder of Bandon, OR. (*Images: Bandon*, p 29)

Norway, a village between Coquille and Myrtle Point, was established by Captain Olaf Reed and Oden Nelson. Nelson built a general merchandise store there in 1873 and a post office was established in 1876 (*Images: Coos County*, p 17 and *Oregon Geographic Names*)



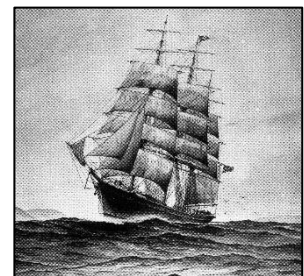
George Bennett

1874

Marshfield became the first incorporated town in Coos County. (*Century*, pp 101) The town had been platted the year before by town founder Charles Merchant.

The first oyster bed on Coos Bay was planted at the mouth of South Slough by James O'Shin. (*Pioneer History* quoted in *Guide*, p 130)

Master ship builder John Kruse of North Bend finished the *Western Shore*, a three-masted wooden clipper ship that was one of the largest tall ships ever built on the Pacific Coast. In 1876 the *Western Shore* made a record run from Portland, Oregon to Liverpool, England in only 101 days. (see *Century*, pp 416- 417 and *Images: North Bend*, p 26)



A painting of the Western Shore [CHM 992.8.3039]

The Isthmus Transit Railroad (ITRR) was established on the range between Isthmus Slough and Beaver Slough. A small, ten-ton engine called the *Isabella*, the first true locomotive in Coos County, was soon towed up Isthmus Slough to Utter City to put freight over the divide. (William Lansing, *Can't You Hear the Whistle Blowing*)

Dora, a small community and post office on the Coos Bay-Roseburg Wagon Road, was established and named for the daughter of the first postmaster.

The Coos Bay Coal Company opened the Henryville mine on the eastern side of Isthmus Slough near the mouth of Davis Slough.

1875

The federal government closed the Great Coastal Reservation. Many Coos, Umpqua, Siuslaw, and Coquille Indians drifted back to their South Coast homelands only to find White settlement everywhere. (*Images: North Bend*, p 11)

The Southport Mine on Isthmus Slough opened. It proved to be one of the most successful mines of the region, producing coal through World War II. (*Guide*, p 148) The miner's lantern (right photo) is an artifact at the Coos History Museum.



The first cheese production in the county was going strong on the Anson Rogers farm on the South Fork of the Coos River. (*Century*, p 341)

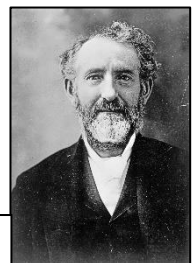
The first meeting of the Coos Bay Literary Society was held on August 9th. Freeman Lockhart presided over the meeting and his daughter, Lillie, was elected secretary. (Stephen Dow Beckham, *Coos Bay, The Pioneer Period: 1851-1890*)

Oregon's oldest chapter of the Order of Knights of Pythias, Marshfield's Myrtle Lodge No. 3, was organized. This was a fraternal order to promote friendship among men and relieve suffering. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 94)

1876

Captain Judah Parker started Parkersburg on the lower Coquille River. He built a sawmill and shipyard at the site. The post office there started in 1977 (see *Guide*, p 84 and *Oregon Geographic Names*)

Robert D. Hume and his brothers had developed a process for canning fish in tins in 1864 and had operated on the Columbia River thereafter. After the death of his first wife, moved to Rogue River in 1876 and started the first salmon cannery there. Hume purchased land on both sides of the mouth of the Rogue to discourage other fishermen and imported Chinese labor. (*Guide*, pp 49-50)



Robert Hume (OHS)

1877

The first brewery in Coos Co. was established in Coquille: the William Mehl Brewery. (*Century*, p 474)

The Bandon post office was established on September 12th. The first settlement had been called Averrill but was changed to the name of George Bennett's hometown in Ireland. (*Century*, p 111, *Images: Bandon*, p 28, and *Oregon Geographic Names*)

1878

Oregon's first U.S. Life-Saving Service station was built at Cape Arago. (*Images: Coos County*, p 72)

In August, the murderer Sevier Lewis was the first to be legally executed (hanged) at the courthouse at Empire City. (Andie Jensen, *Law on the Bay: Coos Co. Sheriffs*)

Nicholas Lorentzen, a Dane, founded the community of Denmark two mile south of Floras Creek. (*Images: Port Orford*, p 37)

1880

Curry County's first newspaper, the Port Orford *Post*, was published.

Congress appropriated money for a jetty at the mouth of the Coquille River.

The Myrtle Point Brass Band was founded. (*Images: Myrtle Point*, p 26)

1881

The settlement known as Dairyville took on the official name of Langlois after the name of an early settler and current postmaster. (*Century*, p 443, *Guide*, p 74 and *Images: Port Orford*, p 37))

1883

The first salmon cannery on the Coquille River was established near Parkersburg. It was operated by the Gatchell family. (*Century*, p 443)

1884

The first splash dam in the Pacific Northwest was built by Charles Granholm on the North Fork of the Coos River. (Dow Beckham, *Swift Flows the River*, pp 31-32)

The First Baptist Church of Marshfield, the first church building in Marshfield, was dedicated on August 5th. (info from Peggy Ahlgrim and First Baptist Church of Coos Bay records)

With the arrival of so many Scandinavian workers in the lumber, fishing, and shipbuilding industries, the first Swedish Lutheran Church was established in Marshfield on Sept. 8th.

1885

Coquille was incorporated as a city. (*Century*, p 119 and *CB Region*, p 31)

Charles McFarlin purchased 55 acres at the North Slough near current day Hauser and introduced cranberries to Coos County by using cuttings from his original home at Cape Cod, MA and some native berries. His new variety soon became a national standard. (*Images: Coos County*, p 86 and *Images: Bandon*, p 84)



McFarlin's cranberry bog, 1890s
[CHM 995.17.8b]

Binger Hermann, son of Baltimore Colony leader Dr. Henry Hermann who had pioneered Broadbent, began service as a U.S. Representative to Congress. He served 16 years and is the only Coos County citizen to ever serve in that capacity. (*Images: Bandon*, p 40)

1887

On February 20th, the city of Marshfield illuminated its first street lights. (*Coos County – The Early Years*, p 97)

Myrtle Point was incorporated as a city. (*Century*, p 116 and *CB Region*, p 31)

The South Jetty at the mouth of the Coquille River was completed. The North Jetty would be completed several years later. (*Images: Coos County*, p. 67)

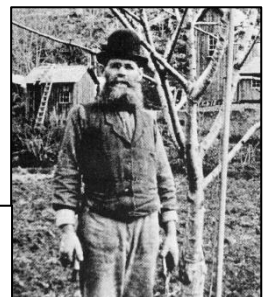
1888

The *Louis* was constructed in North Bend under the guidance of John Kruse. It was the first five-masted schooner built in the U.S. (*Century*, p 411)

The Lee Valley post office was established. (*Images: Myrtle Point*, p 99)

On July 14th, the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery was created on property sold by Charles Merchant to International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F). The cemetery was officially dedicated in 1891. Over 2000 were buried there up until WWII. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 49)

In the October 17th edition of the *Coos Bay News*, nurseryman Anton Wirth was quoted: "A new apple, from the seed of the Gurney seedling has been raised on the north fork of the Coos River. I give it the name Coos River Beauty as it is a beauty in the true sense of the word."



Anton Wirth, in Stephen Dow Beckham,
Coos Bay, the Pioneer Period

In December, the first skating rink opened in Coquille at the Masonic Hall. (*Images: Coquille*, p 122)

1889

E. Westen laid out the town site of Riverton on the Coquille River in the fall. The post office was established the following year. Coal mining soon developed there. (*Century*, p 123 and *Oregon Geographic Names*)

A telephone line was created between Marshfield and Coquille. (*Images: Coquille*, p 63)

Patrick Flanagan founded the Flanagan and Bennett Bank, Coos County's first bank, on Front Street in Marshfield. (*Images: Coos County*, p 19 and *Images: Coos Bay*, p 56)

On Friday, December 13th, the second (and last) public execution was held in Coos County at the Empire City courthouse. (Andie Jensen, *Law on the Bay: Coos Co. Sheriffs*)

1890

The post office of Libby was established, south of Marshfield, on June 11th. The area was named for a beloved Indian woman who lived in the area. Libby Tomlin had been hidden by the Flanagan family during the Rogue River Indian Wars of the late 1850s when natives had been rounded up for removal to the Coastal Reservation. (Dow Beckham, *Stars in the Dark* and *Oregon Geographic Names*) Ellensburg became known as Gold Beach and a wagon road was completed to Coos County.

Thought to be extinct in North America, a Red Tree Mouse was found near Marshfield. News of the discovery made the journal published by the U.S. National Museum. (*Century*, p 503)

Thomas and Leticia Symons platted "Yarrow" on the southern end of the North Bend peninsula. It failed as a "commercial metropolis" and would later be purchased and incorporated by Louis Simpson into the city of North Bend. (*Images: North Bend*, p 17)

The 1st Presbyterian Church of Coos Bay was chartered on August 5th at a meeting held at Sengstacken Hall. A church was built at 4th & Highland in Marshfield in 1893. The church was dissolved in 2012. (*Presbytery of the Cascades*.)

1891

On February 18th, the City of Bandon was incorporated. (*Oregon Geographic Names*)

The first electrical plant opened in the county at Marshfield in April (*Century*, p 458)

Congress approved a U.S. Life-Saving Station in Bandon and it was completed this year and opened on Front Street. (*Images: Bandon*, p 40)

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers began construction of the North Jetty at the mouth of the Coos River. It was completed two years later. In order to stabilize the sand dunes, Holland Grass and Scotch Broom were planted on the North Spit. (*CB Region*, p 16)

The Sun newspaper and job printing shop opened for business on Front Street in Marshfield. It moved to its present location in 1911. When editor Jesse Luse died in 1944, it was the longest running weekly newspaper in the state. In the mid-1970s, the Marshfield Sun Printing Museum was established. (*Guide*, pp 144-145)



In September, a post office was established in Eastside. (*Images: Coos Bay*, pp 71 and 73)

The first tracks of the Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Eastern Railroad (CBR & E RR) were laid on October 12th from the Marshfield end.

The "Coos County Pioneer Association" was established on November 5 at Coquille. Esther Lockhart served as first president. This was the founding of the current Coos County Historical Society, the second oldest local historical society in Oregon. (*Century*, pp 318-319, *Pioneer History* pp iii-iv)

1892

The Coos Bay Creamery Association, later called the Coos Bay Mutual Creamery, was formed on Coos River near the Dan McIntosh Ranch. A photo of sample milk bottle caps in Coos County is courtesy of the Coos History Museum.

(*Century*, pp 342
and *CB Region*, p 7)

Coos milk bottle caps
[Coos Hst. Museum artifacts]



On May 31st, a fire devastated the commercial center of Coquille. Completion of the CBR & E RR from Marshfield the next year helped Coquille rebound. (*Images: Coquille*, p 49)

A post office called Lake was established on Tenmile Lake. It was changed to Lakeside in 1908.

1893

By August, the Coos Bay, Roseburg, and Eastern Railroad line connected Marshfield with Coquille and Myrtle Point ... but it never made it to "Roseburg and Eastern" (*Guide*, p 148). It did become an important link between north and south Coos County and the first telephone line between Myrtle Point and Marshfield was completed alongside the railroad tracks as well.

J.S. Kanemetz and E.S. Spurgeon founded the Southern Oregon Silk Station in Coquille to encourage local silk production. Over 2,300 mulberry trees were planted over the next few years but the industry died by the late 1890s. (*Century*, pp 336-337).

On August 8th Adam Pershbaker, who founded the town of Prosper on the lower Coquille River a year earlier, established the town's post office and became its first postmaster. The Emil Heuckendorff shipyard was established soon thereafter. (*Guide*, p 83 and *Oregon Geographic Names*)



The CBR & E RR at Davis Slough
[CHM 992.8.0284]



Adam Pershbaker
CHM 992.8.1902]

The Bandon Woolen Mill opened. It was in business until the early 1920s (*Images: Bandon*, p 48)

1894

The second Umpqua River Lighthouse (the present one) began operation near Winchester Bay.

The Beaver Hill mine opened on the hillside above Beaver Slough and the northwestern end of the Coquille River valley. Dr. Everett Mingus arrived there three years later to serve as the company doctor. (*Coos Bay Region*, p 5 and *Images: Coos County*, p 31)

Splash dams began to be built on the Coos and Coquille Rivers to hold back logs cut in the summer, fall and winter. The dams released logs each spring that eventually wound up in mills at the mouths of each river. At least 25 splash dams were eventually built on the Coos and Coquille Rivers. The last splash dams were removed in the 1950s. (*Images: Coos County*, pp 57-59)

The Bridge post office was established on July 6th in the Hill and Murphy General Merchandise Store near Big Creek in south Coos County. (*Images: Myrtle Point*, p 90)

August 18th: Congress appropriated \$13K for the first dredging of Coos Bay. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 27)

1895

On June 14, Elijah Price became a mail boat pioneer on the Rogue River when he made the first 40-mile mail boat trip upriver in an 18-foot wooden boat. His boat was pushed, pulled, and carried upstream with the assistance of sail, poles and oars. It took four days.

J.H. Timon opened a successful coal mine at Riverton. Some of the first African-Americans to move to the South Coast came to work as Riverton coal miners. (see *Guide*, pp 84-85)

1896

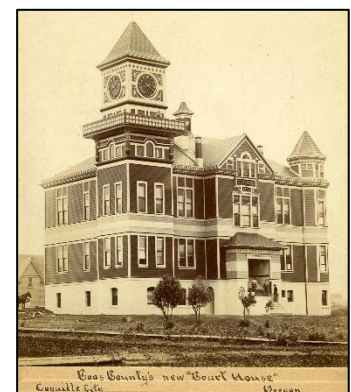
Beaver Hill, an important coal mining community, was incorporated as a city on January 11th. By 1926 it was practically a ghost town and 15 of the 16 remaining voters chose to dis-incorporate the city. (*Century*, pp 135-136)

In May, 57% of the citizens of Coos County voted to move the seat of county government from Empire City to Coquille where it remains today. (*Century*, p 119)

The Bandon Lighthouse at the mouth of the Coquille River was completed. It was the last of eight Oregon Coast lighthouses to be built. (*Guide*, p 109, *Images: Coos County*, p 67 and *Images: Bandon*, p 44)

1897

The Guerin Hotel was built in Myrtle Point by George H. Guerin. It became an important stop on the Coos Bay-Roseburg stage route. Writer Jack London once stayed there. (*Images: Coos County*, p 25)



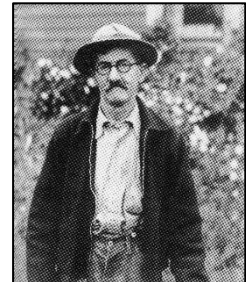
Coquille courthouse,
1898 [CHM 975.111 i]

A post office was established up the Rogue River, near the mouth of the Illinois River, named Agness, on October 16th. It was named for the postmaster's daughter. Robert D. Hume built a branch of his salmon cannery operation at Agness. (*Oregon Geographic Names*)

1898

Orville Dodge, the Coos County Pioneer Association's first secretary, printed the first written history of the South Coast: *Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties: Heroic Deeds and Thrilling Adventures of the Early Settlers*.

Ivan Hathaway Jones got a job with the newly expanded mail service up the Rogue River "hauling packages by mule along the Rogue, stopping at almost every cabin for coffee and some lies." He became locally famous for his tall tales. (Stephen Dow Beckham, *Tale Tales from Rogue River* and *Images: Gold Beach*, p 53)



Hathaway Jones
[Curry Co. Hst. Society]

The home of Patrick and Jane Hughes, immigrants from Ireland, was built near the mouth of the Sixes River. It was later restored and maintained by the State of Oregon as part of the Cape Blanco State Park. (*Guide*, pp 72-73)

1900

The Moore Lumber Company began activities in the Bandon area. It would remain a major employer in the town through the 1960s. (*Century*, p 112)

In October, murderer Coleman Gillespie became the only person ever legally executed (hanged) in Curry County at Gold Beach.

1901

The Marshfield Public Library was established in June and first opened in the Henry Sengstacken Building. In 1914 a newly dedicated library building, with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, was established in Marshfield. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 46)

The North Jetty at the mouth of the Coos River was completed. (*Images: Shipwrecks*, p 39)

1902

In September, an African-American bootblack and boxer named Alonzo Tucker was arrested for the assault of a white wife of a Libby miner. A mob of angry miners stormed the Marshfield jail, chased and shot the escaping Tucker, then lynched his already dead body from a bridge on 7th Street that spanned present day Golden Field in Coos Bay. (*CB Region*, pp 84-85)

1903

The Coos Bay area Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie 538 was formed on November 22nd. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 100)

In December, North Bend was incorporated one year after founder Louis J. Simpson purchased and replatted the townsite of Yarrow and merged it with "Old Town", the mill site of his father, Asa. Louis is considered the founder of the town of North Bend. (*Century*, p 107 and *CB Region*, pp 35-36)



Louis Simpson
[CHM 991.20.18]

1904

Agnes Ruth Sengstacken and Mrs. I.S. Kaufman formed a literary society called the Progress Club in Marshfield.

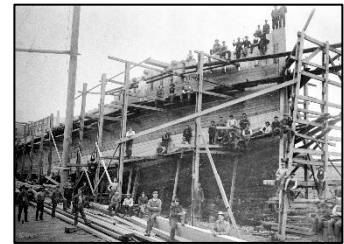
Lydia Horsfall established the Marshfield Chaminade Club: an exclusive club for women to study and perform music. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 95)

In September, Louis Simpson opened Coos County's first tennis court at the North Bend ball grounds (Simpson Park). (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 197)

1905

Dr. Walter Culin of Coquille became the owner of the first "horseless carriage" in the county. (*Century*, p 490)

K.V. Kruse and Robert Banks opened the largest ship building facility on Coos Bay at North Bend: Kruse & Banks Shipyards. (*CB Region*, p 10)



Kruse & Banks Shipyard
[CHM 009.16.85]

Mercy Hospital in North Bend, staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, was dedicated on September 14th. The land had been donated by town founder Louis Simpson. The hospital had rates advertised as "\$10 or more per week". (*Images: North Bend*, p 42)

1906

Louis Simpson, the founder and first mayor of North Bend, completed a summer house at Shore Acres near Cape Arago. The estate originally included a lawn tennis court. Then in 1915, a hard surface tennis court was added. (*Images: Coos County*, p 28 and (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 197)



A storm at Shore Acres, 1918
[CHM 010.2.16]

The first daily newspaper in the region, *The Coos Bay Times* began publication after buying out the weekly *Coast Mail*. Today it is known as *The World*. (*CB Region*, p 34).

1907

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America formed a local Marshfield union on February 19th. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 98)

In March, the Siuslaw National Forest was created by executive order of Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. (*Guide*, p 163)

A man named Cohen started the first motion picture house in the Bay Area in the O'Connell Building at Market and 2nd Streets in Marshfield. It was called The Dime. (Dow Beckham, *Encore*, p 13)

Sarah Yoakam, who ran her husband's Coos County dairy upon his death seven years earlier, was voted the first female vice-president of the Oregon State Dairyman's Association. The next year she became the superintendent of the Dairy Department of the Oregon State Fair. (*CB Region*, p 82)



Sarah Yoakam
[CHM 969.203 j]

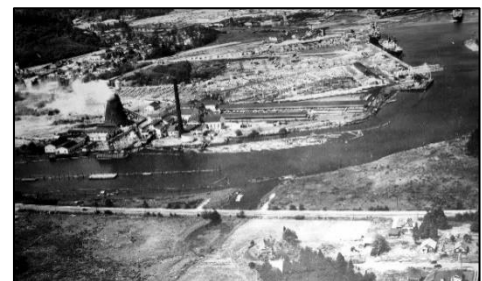
On October 19, the first high school football game between North Bend's Central School and Marshfield was played at the ball grounds in North Bend. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 15)

1908

The City of Eastside was incorporated on February 8th. Charles E. Jordan was the first mayor. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 71)

The first automobile over the CB Wagon Road took a week to travel from Roseburg to Marshfield. By 1913 a regular auto-stage was operating by the Laird family on the route. (*Guide*, pp 92-93)

On February 8th, Charles Axel Smith opened the C.A. Smith Lumber Company with its mill at the mouth of Isthmus Slough on Coos Bay. It was reported to be the largest lumber mill in the world at that time. (*Guide*, p 20 and p 145 and *CB Region*, pp 71-73 and *Images: Coos County*, pp 46-47)



CB Lumber Co. [CHM 009.16.1472]

In March, L.J. Simpson ordered six boilers to be installed at the Porter electric lighting plant near North Bend. Three miles of heavy copper wire were also ordered to connect North Bend and Marshfield with electricity.

On March 14th, Bandon High came to North Bend and played the County's first high school girls' basketball game. The game was played at the Simpson Park Pavilion. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, pp 32-33)

L.J. Simpson and Horace Byler placed the Lakeside town site on the market in April advertising it as "the most desirable tracts in the wonderful Ten Mile Country".

In May, Winnifred Rood and Johanna Volz of North Bend became the first four-year high school graduates in Coos County at Central School in North Bend. State school superintendent J.H. Ackerman was on hand to present the diplomas. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular: A History of Athletics and Activities at North Bend High School*, p 10)

The Weyerhaeuser Timber Company purchased over 27,000 acres of timberland in southwestern Oregon.

On October 23rd, the cornerstone was laid for Kinney High School near Pony Slough in North Bend. The school was named for L.D. Kinney for the first year of operation. The name was changed to North Bend High School in 1910 when it was discovered that Kinney did not have clear title to the land he had donated to the school district. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular: A History of Athletics and Activities at North Bend High School*, pp 25-29)



Kinney (North Bend) High, 1909
[CHM 989.P219]

1909

A rivers and harbors bill passed in Congress in February and included an appropriation of \$20,000 for dredging the inner harbor of Coos Bay. Port of Coos Bay was established this same year. (Images: *Coos County*, p 63 and *Coos County – The Early Years*, p 95)

The Chandler Hotel opened in downtown Marshfield. It was named for William S. Chandler, a manager of coal mining and railroad interests in the area and a major investor in the building. This marked an important shift of Marshfield's downtown core away from the waterfront. (Guide, pp 138-139 and *Images: Coos Bay*, p 51)



Chandler Hotel, Marshfield,
ca. 1910 [CHM 974.687]

On May 21st, the first annual "Coos County Track and Field Meet" was held in Marshfield. Each high school in the county annually participates in the meet which has now become the oldest continuously held track meet in the state. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, pp 50-51)

In May, Marshfield High School awarded its first 4-year diplomas in its new building on a hill above the town. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 12)

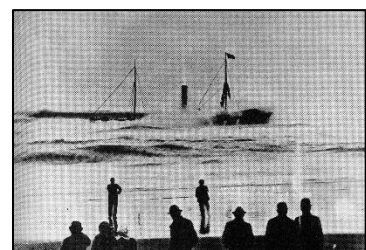
In June, J.H. Oerding established a two-lane bowling alley in the Hermann Building in Myrtle Point. In May of the next year, he moved his bowling alley to Front Street in Coquille. (Images: *Coquille*, p 123)

In November, Rev. "Cyclone" Dan Shannon and his wife were invited by several churches come to North Bend and lead a temperance revival at a specially constructed Tabernacle building. They came back for a second revival, this one at the Marshfield Tabernacle, in the spring of 1910. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, pp 40-41)

1910

The *Czarina* wrecked north of the Coos Bay bar on January 12th. 24 people were killed in one of the worst shipwrecks on the South Coast. (CB Region, pp 20-23 and *Images: Shipwrecks*, pp 25-26)

Members of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints completed the building of a round church in Myrtle Point. It would later serve as the home of the Logging Museum. (Images: *Coos County*, p 117).



Wreck of the Czarina
[CHM 007.25.540]

1911

Albert S. Kohler established Marshfield's earliest clothing store: The Hub Department Store. It was considered to be one of the finest shopping facilities on the South Coast until its demise in the 1970s. (*Images: Coos County*, p 119)

1912

Vern Gorst and Charles King established an auto stage line between North Bend and Marshfield. Cost per passenger: 25 cents a ride. (*Guide*, p 165 and *CB Region*, pp 29 and 50)

Rev. G.L. Hall came to Coos Bay and built a "minister boat" called the *Life-Line* for weddings, funerals, and general evangelistic services. (*CB Region*, p 58)

The Coos and Curry County Fair Association was established on April 19th. A horse-racing track, grandstands, and other buildings were soon constructed in Myrtle Point in a pasture below the home of R.C. Dement, who played a leading role in the fair's development. (*CB Region*, p 61 and *Images: Myrtle Point*, pp 46-58)

In May, North Bend city council approved a franchise for the Southern Pacific RR. Mayor Louis Simpson drove the first spike and christened the rails with Coos County cream. (*Images: North Bend*, p 55)

On October 12th, stunt pilot Silas Christofferson brought the first plane into Coos County. Five days of exhibition and passenger flights followed from the grounds of the Marshfield racetrack. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 54)

The first motion picture theater was established in Myrtle Point at Spruce and 6th: The Unique.

The Reedsport post office was established on the south side of the Umpqua River. The Southern Pacific railroad began to be built through the area at this time. (see *Guide*, p 166)

The jetties were completed at the mouth of the Coquille River at Bandon. The Port of Bandon was established.

The Seeley and Anderson Company railroad trestle at Bill Creek, east of Bandon, crossed a ravine 100 feet deep and 500 feet wide. Unfortunately it collapsed the very first time that a Shay locomotive pulling three heavily-loaded logging cars attempted to cross it on November 25th. Six men died and one other was injured.



Bill Creek trestle
[CHM 992.8.0535]

1913

On January 2nd, a gang of 35 railroad workers near Gardiner went on strike and asked a local Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) office to represent them. On June 24th a large anti-I.W.W. mob assembled in Marshfield and "deported" the union organizers by forcing them on a ship and sending them off at the North Spit. The "Wobblies" may have arrived on the South Coast in 1911. (*CB Region*, pp 87-89 and William Robbins, *Hard Times in Paradise*)

Louis Simpson started a small resort at Sunset Bay complete with three-room cottages, large tents, and a restaurant. (*Guide*, p 119)

Vern Gorst of North Bend purchased a Glenn Martin plane with pontoons, taught himself to fly, and began passenger air service between North Bend and Marshfield. Some consider this the first regularly scheduled air passenger service in U.S. history. (*Images: North Bend*, p 58 and Gorst, *Granddaddy of United Air Lines*)



Vern Gorst with his plane
[CHM 992.8.0941]

Governor Oswald West convinced the state legislature to designate all of Oregon's beach property as public land primarily to preserve a vital north-south transportation link. He could have pointed to the precedence set by the Coos County "Beach Route" (see this timeline, 1854)

The post office at Brookings was established and took its name from the Brookings Lumber Company which began operations there about that time. (*Century*, pp 129-130)

Railroad tracks were laid along the South Fork of the Coquille River from Myrtle Point to Rural (later known as Powers). (*Guide*, p 102)

The Port of Bandon was established. (*Images: Coos County*, p 26)

In December, a gasoline-powered motor train called "The Skunk" established inter-city service between North Bend and Marshfield. The train car held 80 people and the fare was 25 cents per round trip. (*Coos County, The Early Years*, p 10)

1914

Vern Gorst of North Bend mounted a Curtiss airplane engine and propeller on a Hupmobile chassis, added pontoons, and created the first amphibious auto which he called the "Land and Water Machine" He later devised a vehicle with dual tires front and back of the rear axle...creating the first "dune buggy". (*Guide*, p 165)



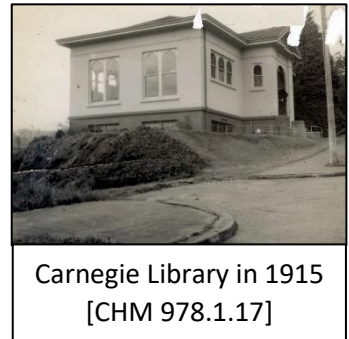
Gorst Land & Water Machine
[CHM 992.8.0939]

On June 6th, a severe fire struck Bandon and destroyed several blocks of downtown. (*Century*, p 113 and *Images: Bandon*, p 60)

Mill Slough, which divided Marshfield in two, was filled by order of the city council. (*CB Region*, p 50 and *Images: Coos Bay*, p 41)

A three-masted schooner built in 1892, the *Prosper*, was scuttled (burned) off Santa Catalina for a silent movie. The footage was re-used in 1935 for "Captain Blood", a movie with Errol Flynn and Basil Rathbone. (information from *Schooners Out of Coos Bay*.)

Under the leadership of Agnes Ruth Sengstacken, the Marshfield Public Library (first established in June 1901) moved to its new building on Market Street built with a \$12,500 grant from the Carnegie Foundation. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 46)



In November, Coos County citizens voted to go "dry" bringing Prohibition to the county. Saloon owners had until December 31st, 1915 to close. The county vote was 4,731 "dry", 2,408 "wet". National Prohibition would not come until 1920. (*CB Region*, p 49)

On December 29th, Isaac (Russ) Tower became the Ford dealer in Marshfield – a business that would last more than a century. (*Images: North Bend*, p 60)

1915

A U.S. Coast Guard life-saving station boathouse was erected at Charleston. This building will later become part of the University of Oregon Institute of Marine Biology. (*Guide*, p 123 and *Images: Coos County*, p 78)

The village of Rural officially changed its name to Powers after Al Powers who ran the logging operations there for the C.A. Smith Lumber Co. (*Guide*, p 102) On May 1st, the first passenger train arrived in Powers with about 400-500 people from the Coos Bay area. (Stevens, *The Powers Story*)

Captain Louis Knutson established the Knutson Towboat Company on Coos Bay. His first vessel was called the *Koos*. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 89)

On October 8th, a "Railroad Bridge Carnival" in North Bend celebrated the completion of the rail span across Coos Bay into the city. (*Images: North Bend*, p 63)

On November 2nd, the *Santa Clara* wrecked on the Coos Bay bar drowning fourteen passengers and crewmen. An ugly looting incident involving hundreds of people occurred during the following week. (*CB Region*, pp 91-96, *Guide*, p 127, *Images: Coos County*, p 79, and *Images: Shipwrecks*, p 122-127)

1916

On January 1st, all saloons and bars closed since Oregonians had voted for Prohibition the year previously. (*Images: Bandon*, p 116)

The first dual track and field meet held between Marshfield and North Bend high schools took place at the South Marshfield race track. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 55)

In the summer, Thomas Barklow of Myrtle Point reported in his diary: "The first circus show ever came to Coos County, Oregon. One elephant, one camel, and other animals." (from the *Thomas Barlow diaries* at the CHM)

The Southern Pacific Railroad completed a line from Eugene and the Willamette Valley to Bay Area. A "Coos Bay Railroad Jubilee" was held August 24th, 25th, and 26th with the slogan "Boost for Coos". Governor Withycombe officiated the "wedding" of Miss Coos County and Mr. Eugene Lane at the corner of Sherman and Virginia avenues in North Bend on August 24th. (*Century*, p 488 and *Images: North Bend*, p 66)

An additional side building (Hall of Records) was added to the Coos County courthouse. Cost: \$37,000

Congress passed the Chamberlain-Ferris Act wherein the Federal government reclaimed 2.8 million acres of Oregon & California Railroad lands. Over 120,000 acres of those lands were in Coos County.



CHM artifact

1917

The Kruse & Banks Shipyard of North Bend now had five shipways and employed 481 men. Business was booming because of the Great War. In December they launched *The North Bend*, the first ship built for the U.S. Emergency Fleet in the United States. (*CB Region*, p 100)

On May 31st, the post office of Leneve, on the Coquille River, was established and named for a local pioneer family. (*Oregon Geographic Names*)

In the fall, it was reported that Myrtle Point had established a tennis court and that high schoolers and adults were holding tournaments. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 198)

On November 27th, the Oregon State Highway Commission designated the construction of Highway 42 (Roseburg to Myrtle Point and Coquille) as a primary highway. (*Images: Coos County*, p 108).

1918

Nearly 29,000 army enlisted men and officers work with local citizens in Coos County during the Great War with the "Spruce Division". Sawmills, like one that formerly stood near Sturdivant Park in Coquille, produced wing-beams, struts, and ribs for WWI planes. (*Guide*, p 86 and *Images: Coquille*, p 37)



Spruce Division train
[CHM 992.8.0297]

By mid-October, the Spanish Influenza epidemic had struck the Coos Bay region. Closures of schools, churches, and theaters, the wearing of gauze masks in public, and municipal bans on public gatherings were effects of the epidemic felt in the area until early 1919. (*CB Region*, pp 101-102)

1919

In February, the closure of the C.A. Smith mills at Marshfield and the Smith-Powers Logging Company at Powers threw at least 1,200 men out of work.

The transportation company of Gorst and King installed a “new curbside gasoline vender – the only one of its kind on the bay” at their North Bend company site in April. It was now unnecessary for cars to drive into a garage to be filled up with gas.

Shipwrights from the Kruse and Banks and Coos Bay Shipbuilding companies broke away to form the Scandia Shipbuilding Company. (*Images: Coos County*, p 83)

The Nestle Company established one of the nation’s largest and finest milk condenseries on pilings over the Coquille River at Bandon. The plant was closed six years later. (*Images: Coos County*, p 125 and *Images: Bandon*, p 54)

Lands of the Coos Bay Military Wagon Road, which had been created March 3, 1869, were sold back to the Federal government. These lands, and those of the O & C, were later to be managed by the BLM.

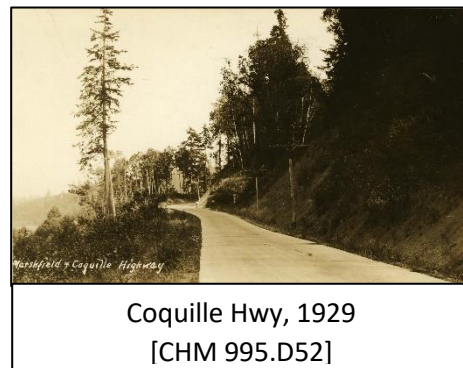
The R.C. Dement family founded Security Bank in Myrtle Point. It was acquired by Umpqua Bank in 2001.

1920

The four-masted schooner *North Bend*, was completed at Kruse & Banks shipyard. It was the last tall sailing ship built on Coos Bay. It later became famous in a “Ripley’s Believe It or Not” story as the “Ship That Walked” in 1929. (*Images: North Bend*, pp 101-102)

1921

In April, a paved highway opened between Marshfield and Coquille. Part of the "Theodore Roosevelt Highway", it was funded by the Oregon legislature as an emergency military transportation route. "One of the great historical days of Coos County", the *Coos Bay Times* said of the highway's completion. By the summer, another link of the highway opened between Coos Bay and Lakeside. *CB Region*, p 109)



The Sandy Creek covered bridge, near the town of Remote in south Coos County on Highway 42, was completed. The 60 foot long bridge is now the county’s only remaining covered bridge. (*Images: Coos County*, p 120)

Cassie Simpson, wife of Louis, died on April 30th. On July 4th, the Simpson's home at Shore Acres burned to the ground. (*Guide*, p 117)

A silent film called *Kindred of the Dust* was made in the Coos Bay area. The film starred Miriam Cooper. It was released for viewing on February 27, 1922. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 75)

In October, an explosion 1250 feet below the ground in a Beaver Hill coal mine injured over twenty miners, four or five of them severely. (*CB Region*, p 80)

1922

A group of business and professional men started a Rotary Club in Marshfield. The first president was Ben Chandler. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 99)

The Coos Bay Pirates, a local booster club, was formed. The club's first leader was Marion S. Taylor who called himself Captain Kidd. (Richard Wagner, *Sex, Lies, and Radio*)

In May, the steam-powered side-wheeler Roosevelt began passenger and automobile service between North Bend and Glasgow across Coos Bay. Service ended in 1936 with the completion of the McCullough Bridge. (*Images: Coos County*, pp 101-102 and *Images: North Bend*, pp 84-85)

The five-story Hotel North Bend was completed at the corner of Sherman and Virginia. It was renamed the Hotel Coos Bay in 1936 and then renamed again to Hotel North Bend in 1959. (*Images: North Bend*, pp 71-72 & 108)

A large fire on July 23rd at Front Street in Marshfield destroyed a major portion of the town's business district. (*CB Region*, p 107-108 and *Guide*, p 137 and *Images: Coos Bay*, p 52)



Remains of the Front Street Fire,
1922 in Marshfield [CHM 007.11.245]

1923

Highway 38 along the lower Umpqua River opened for auto traffic. (*Guide*, p 172)

The Liberty Theater opened at the north end of Sherman Avenue in North Bend (Dow Beckham, *Encore*, p 28 and *Images: North Bend*, p 77)

The two-story Keizer Brothers Hospital in North Bend was constructed. An additional wing was added two years later. (*Images: North Bend*, p 74)

1924

Construction of Coos Bay's south jetty began at the harbor entrance. Within a year, nearby Charleston had more stores, a dance hall, and a tavern. (*Guide*, p 124)

Shortly after midnight on March 8th, the Stout Lumber Company steamer, *Martha Buehner*, ran into the first section of the Coos Bay railroad span just south of the draw. No one was hurt and the steamer wasn't badly damaged, but it took three days before SP crews had the span repaired for regular train service again. (*Images: North Bend*, p 79)

The first golf course in Coos County opened in the spring. The Coos Country Club was originally a nine-hole, member's only, course six miles south of Marshfield alongside the road to Sumner. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 203)

Cutlip's Ice Cream plant was opened in North Bend in November. (*Images: North Bend*, p 76)

The American Pacific Whaling Company ran a whale hunting operation off of Coos Bay starting on May 1st. Company boats killed 60 whales over the next two months before Judge Kendall of the 2nd Judicial District Court of Oregon stopped the company with a restraining order because of the horrible smell of the operation when dead whales were brought to the docks at Empire. (CHM's *Waterways* quarterly publication by Ann Koppy in the fall of 2001)

1925

On May 8th, Ben Ostlind became the first president of the Longfellow Club. Only men standing six feet or higher could join. The club's goal: make life more comfortable for tall men. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 97)

The Bandon Natatorium at the Wacoma Baths opened its saltwater pool. It closed in 1936. Also in 1925, the Bandon Chamber of Commerce formed the Boosting Sons of Bandon Beaches to promote the city. (*Images: Bandon*, pp 108-109)

The Egyptian Theater in Marshfield opened on November 19th. It took its decorating theme from the publicity surrounding the recently opened King Tutankhamen's tomb. (*Guide*, pp 141-142 and *Images: Coos County*, p 118)

1926

Western author Zane Grey bought a mining claim up the Rogue River on Winkle Bar and built a crude cabin. (*Guide*, pp 52-53)

1927

Louis Simpson and his second wife Lela started construction of a second mansion at Shore Acres. But the stock market crash of 1929 depleted Simpson's fortune and made it impossible for him to fully complete the home. (*Guide*, pp 117-118)

The Bandon Cheese and Produce Company was formed and sent its first shipment of cheese to California. It was the city's signature business until it closed in 2002. (*Images: Bandon*, p 100)

Bandon's first golf course, Westmost, was established in October off Beach Loop Drive. (*Images: Bandon*, p 124 and Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 203))

1928

The Evans Products Company opened a plant at Marshfield to manufacture battery separators (see photo), Venetian blinds, and other wood products. The term "Lumber Jinny" (as opposed to the male "Lumber Jack") was coined for the hundreds of female workers employed at the plant through WWII. The plant closed in 1962. (*CB Region*, pp 106 and 112, *Images: Coos County*, p 61, and *Images: Coos Bay*, p 64)



Lumber Jinney at Evans Products Co. [CHM 987.5.16b]

The South Jetty on the Coos Bay bar was completed. (*CB Region*, pp 104-105 and *Guide*, p 125)

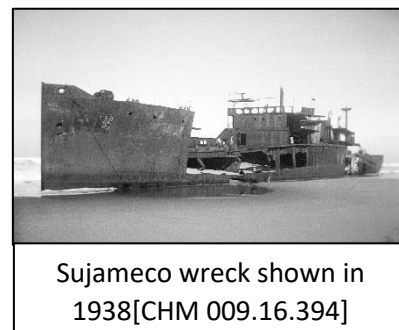
The first regular broadcasts began from KOOS radio in Marshfield. (*Century*, pp 497-498)

1929

The Elliott State Forest was created and named for Oregon's first state forester. Located on lands acquired after the "big burn" of 1868 by the state in the area south of the Umpqua River to the Coos River drainage, profits from sales of timber on the property were designated for the Oregon Common School Fund. (Jerry Phillips, *Caulked Boots and Cheese Sandwiches: A Forester's History of Oregon's First State Forest, The Elliott*)

The *Sujameco* wrecked on Horsfall Beach off Coos Bay on March 1st. The remains of the wreck still appear on the beach after winter storms. (*Images: Shipwrecks*, pp 35-38)

The construction of the tallest building on the South Coast, the Tioga Hotel, began. With the onset of the Great Depression, the owners ran out of money to complete it. It remained unfinished until 1946. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 53)



Sujameco wreck shown in
1938[CHM 009.16.394]

A twenty-year-old man was killed in April by two Prohibition agents near Floras Lake when he drew a gun on them while they were attempting to arrest him for operating a still.

D.M. Hull, manager of the Liberty Theater in North Bend, announced in May that talking pictures would soon come to the Bay Area. He had recently added a new "Vitaphone" sound system to the Liberty.

The House of Myrtlewood, one of the oldest myrtle wood factories on the South Coast, was founded in Marshfield by the Beaumont family. It later became known as the Oregon Connection. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 65)

1930

The Allegany Grange was organized by Henry Gustafson.

On September 27th, a new football field and bleachers were ready on the campus of North Bend High School in a game between NBHS and Reedsport High. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, pp 151-152)

1932

The Dora Friendly Club was established on January 20th. (*Images: Myrtle Point*, p 105)

In May, the Isaac Lee Patterson Bridge (named for an Oregon governor) opened for traffic over the Rogue River at Gold Beach. It was the first major concrete bridge built by state highway engineer Conde McCullough. (*Guide*, pp 57-58) and *Images: Gold Beach*, p 15)

The North Bend-Coos Bay Airport officially opened to the public. During WWII, the U.S. Navy used the airport as an auxiliary air station. (*Images: Coos County*, p 112)

Upon the opening of the Isthmus Slough Bridge in Bunker Hill this year, the Marshfield-Eastside Ferry route was eliminated. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 74)

1933

In March, the City of North Bend, its municipal money tied up in a closed local bank, issued some the most unique Depression Era money to pay its employees. Myrtlewood coins of various denominations were created and circulated throughout city businesses. Two issues of the coins were made. (*Images: North Bend*, p 81)



1934

Anthropologist Melville Jacobs finished interviews, and recordings, with Annie Miner Peterson of the Empire area. Annie had lived on the Coastal Reservation as a youth. She was one of the last native Coos language speakers (Hanis and Miluk) on the South Coast and new English as well. She was an important person in the preservation of local Native-American culture. (*Guide*, pp 14-15 and *Images: Bandon*, p 11)

Annie M. Peterson
[CHM 989.p209]



The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) started building Camp McKinley located about 3.5 miles up Middle Creek Road. (*Images: Myrtle Point*, p 103)

Paul Bunyan Park was created by the Marshfield Parks Commission and dedicated a year later by Oregon governor Charles Martin. It was renamed Mingus Park in 1940 after the death of long-time park commissioner Dr. Everett Mingus. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 70)

A U.S. Coast Guard Lifeboat Station was established on the high point known as Port Orford Heads above Nellie's Cove. (*Images: Port Orford*, pp 74-75)

1935

The first Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in Oregon were set up near Gold Beach in Curry County (and Benson Park in Multnomah County). Eight CCC camps were established in Coos County locations to do park work, provide fire protection, and complete other projects. Camps were at Sitkum (Brewster Valley; Coquille (Fairview); Mc Kinley; Bradford (Upper Rock Creek); 4 miles south of Bandon; Glenn Creek (east of Golden Falls); China Flats (12 miles south of Powers); and at Coos Head near Charleston where workers completed trails at Cape Arago. A CCC camp at Reedsport near the current high school worked on projects from the Umpqua River south to Coos Bay, including, in 1937, the airport landing field at Lakeside. (*Guide*, pp 173-175 and William Lansing, *Camps and Calluses: CCC*)

Several processing plants for the pilchard or sardine fishery were built at North Bend and Marshfield. The first one opening in June: North Bend Fisheries. For two years the industry brought a large fleet of about 39 purse seiners to the waters off Coos Bay. This industry ended by 1937. The first purse seiner

built in Oregon, the 86 ft. long *Sea Giant*, was constructed for the fleet at the Kruse and Banks Shipyard in North Bend in 1935. (*CB Region*, pp 115-116 and *Images: Coos County*, p 94-95)

Ron Currier, a descendant of Currier and Ives and a developer of a stomach medicine, started a resort in Lakeside called Currier's Village. It had a dockside restaurant/night club over the lake, boats and launches for hire, a skeet range, horse-riding stables, and 36 steam-heated cottages. Many Hollywood stars were attracted to Lakeside. After a fire in 1942, the resort disbanded.



Cottages in Currier's Village
[CHM 997.D17]

1936

The McCullough Bridge, named for Oregon's state highway engineer, a Public Works Administration (PWA) project on Coos Bay, was dedicated on June 6th. This marked the completion of Highway 101 (the Oregon Coast Highway). A large celebration marked the event. The Roosevelt Ferry that had transported passengers across the bay from North Bend to Glasgow was retired. (*Guide*, pp 152-153 and *Images: North Bend*, pp 88-89)



McCullough Bridge in 1935
[CHM 010.1.58]

The town of Bandon was nearly destroyed by its second large fire on September 26th. The fire destroyed almost every building in the city. One of the buildings that survived is the Masonic Temple building at 2nd Street - originally built in 1913. (*Century*, pp 113-114, *CB Region*, pp 116-118, and *Images: Bandon*, pp 59-67)

After the disastrous Bandon Fire, the 15,000 acre Coos County Forest was established.

The Hallmark Fisheries Plant opened in Charleston. It mainly processed crabs. (*CB Region*, p 116)

1937

Al Qualman began his oyster business on Joe Ney Slough, near Charleston. (*Guide*, p 130)

1938

The Coquille Valley Elks Club Golf Course opened south of Coquille as a private nine-hole course. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p. 203)

1939

The Bandon Lighthouse ceased operation. (*Guide*, p 109)

Marshfield High School was expanded with a new main building on campus as well as the Marshfield Auditorium (a WPA project of New Deal).

The Sisters of Mercy took over the defunct Wesley Hospital in Marshfield which had opened in the 1920 but closed during the Depression. The renamed McAuley Hospital took its first patients in July.

1940

St. Ann and Michael Catholic Church in Myrtle Point was dedicated. Its unusual interior was fashioned from myrtlewood veneer made by Evans Products of Coos Bay. (*Images: Myrtle Point*, p 24)

1941

The State of Jefferson, a tongue-in-check state independence movement and publicity stunt to improve transportation in southern Oregon and northern California, was initiated by Port Orford mayor Gilbert Gable, on November 27, 1941. Most maps included Coos County inside the border of the State of Jefferson (*Images: State of Jefferson*)

1942

The Simpson family, who had donated a portion of their Cape Arago estate to the State of Oregon in 1932, sold the remainder of Shore Acres to the state at the outbreak of WWII. During the war, Cape Arago was cut off to the public and the used as part of the coast watch system. After the war, the 2nd Simpson home, now in disrepair, was torn down. The entire property became a state park. The pond, gardens, and gardener's cottage are part of that beautiful state park today. (*Guide*, pp 117-118)

On September 9th, incendiary bombs were dropped on Mt. Emily, east of Brookings, in Curry County by a small plane launched from a Japanese submarine off the southern Oregon coast. A second attack near Port Orford occurred two weeks later. (*Guide*, pp 70-71)

In October, the Japanese sub attacked the oil tanker *S.S. Camden* just west of Winchester Bay and the next day torpedoed the *Larry Doheny* off of Port Orford. These attacks mark the only time the Japanese directly attacked the continental United States during WWII. (*Guide*, pp 70-71)

Dogs and horses were quartered at "The Barn" in Bandon's City Park as part of the beach patrol during WWII. (*Images: Bandon*)

1944

On November 7th, Marshfield changed its name to Coos Bay after North Bend voted not to consolidate with its neighboring city the previous November. (*Century*, pp 102)

1945

Unmanned "balloon bombs", launched into the jet stream by Japan, dropped incendiary devises on Coos County and the western United States. The CCHS has a bomb ring artifact in its collection from one of the devises that fell in Coos County (see photo at right)



1946

Central Dock, at the north end of Front Street in Coos Bay, was created. By the 1960s, it had become the world's largest lumber shipping facility.

The Stankavich brothers of Bandon developed the first mechanical walk-behind cranberry picker in the U.S. It was used on dry cranberry farms. The "Bandon Cranberry Festival" was established in the fall. (*Images: Bandon*, pp 86 and 120)

1947

"The Coos-Curry Pioneer and Historical Association" opened the Pioneer Museum in Coquille. The 60 foot long, one-story museum cost \$1,695 to build. This was the first museum in the county. (*Images: Coquille*, p 68)

The Little Theatre on the Bay drama group was formed. They first started with radio shows then produced dramas at various locations. In 1959, LTOB took over productions at the Liberty Theatre in North Bend. (Dow Beckham, *Encore*)

In March, Marshfield High School won the boys' state basketball championship becoming the first team in the history of MHS to win a state title.

Clyde Allen had convinced the City of North Bend to construct the Municipal Baseball park in 1946. It was completed in the spring of 1947 and renamed Clyde Allen Park in 1987. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, pp 234 and 319)

In July, West Coast Airlines began providing scheduled airline service to Coos County at the North Bend Airport.

The cities of Coos Bay and North Bend jointly purchased a private water system and enacted charter provisions to form the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board to own and operate the system.

1948

State Park Superintendent Samuel Boardman finalized the deed for Sunset Bay to become part of the Oregon state park system on February 19th. He acquired it for the state after seeing an ad in the paper that the bay was for sale after taxes had not been paid by a previous owner. (*Guide*, p 119)

The vessel *Welcome* made its final voyage from Marshfield to Allegany. After that, commercial and passenger riverboat traffic became a thing of the past. (*Images: Coos County*, p 84)

1949

The city of Coos Bay completed construction of an outdoor swimming pool at Mingus Park. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 216)

1950

Coos County's population increased by almost 10,000 in during the last decade (from 32,466 in 1940 to 42,265 in 1950) due to an increase in war-time, and post-war, production.

Construction began in February on a 50-home subdivision in Airport Heights in North Bend.

The Motor Vu Drive-In Theater, located on Ocean Blvd. in Coos Bay, opened on June 7th with a 52 ft. square viewing screen. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 121)

The Coos Artists League was founded. This group later established the Coos Art Museum. (*Oregon Painters: The First Hundred Years [1859-1959]* by Ginny Allen and Jody Klevit)

1951

In the spring, a semi-pro baseball team called the Lumberjacks opened play at the North Bend Municipal Ball Park. The team played until 1957, folded, and then made a comeback from 1960-1964. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 235)

Brookings citizens voted to incorporate the city on July 10th. (*Century*, pp 130-131)

1952

A Century of Coos and Curry by Emil Peterson and Alfred Powers was published by the CCHS.

Weyerhaeuser opened a lumber mill in North Bend that employed hundreds of workers. (*CB Region*, p 120)

The “Pirate Palace”, a new gymnasium for the Marshfield High School campus, was opened for the 1952-1953 basketball season. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 170)



Weyerhaeuser Mill in NB
[CHM 989.p51]

1953

On June 4th, the Southern Pacific announced the termination of all passenger service on the Coos Bay Line. Freight serviced continued between Coos County and Eugene.

Frontier Day was held in Coquille in June “honoring 100 years of Coos County history.” Events included a whisker growing contest for men, a nail driving contest for women, and a pie eating contest for kids.

A lumber ship, the *Oliver Olson* struck the end of the south jetty at Bandon in November. After the crewmen were rescued and the ship's gear salvaged, what remained of its hull was incorporated into a jetty extension. (*Guide*, p 111)

1954

Congress passed the Western Oregon Termination Act which withdrew federal recognition and support of the Coos, Siuslaw, Lower Umpqua and Coquille Indian tribes.

The Bullards Bridge put an end to years of ferry service over the Coquille River near Bandon. The ferry had been established in 1897. (*Guide*, p 109)

1955

Over one weekend in mid-May during the “Baby Boom”, six girls and four boys were born in just a two-day span at Keizer Memorial Hospital in North Bend.

Fred Nelsen received a patent for a small maneuverable vessel he called a “Log Bronc”. It was designed for moving and sorting logs in log booms and rafts on Coos Bay. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 78)

1957

The largest, and last operating, splash dam in the PNW was the Tioga Dam on the South Fork of the Coos River. After Oregon legislation was passed outlawing splash dam operations, the Coos River Boom Company had its final drive in 1957. Photos of the event were published in *Life* magazine.

On October 26th, the North Bend Municipal Swimming Pool was dedicated. The U-shaped indoor pool, with access to outdoor activities, was considered one of the top pools in the U.S. when it opened. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 218)

1958

The Coos-Curry Museum was established in North Bend's Simpson Park following a fire that severely damaged the Coquille museum in 1952. The building was constructed by volunteers. (*Images: North Bend*, p 116)

Jerry's Rogue Jets was established by three brothers: Jerry, Alden, and Court Boice. Hydro-jet pumps placed in a “tunnel” in the hull. Jerry's Rogue River Jets became the first commercial jet boat tour company in the U.S.

1959

On November 6th, Senator John F. Kennedy and his wife Jackie, campaigning for the upcoming presidential election, arrived at the North Bend Airport. Among JFK's stops was visit to a Sadie Hawkins Day student assembly at North Bend High.

Filling of Pony Slough Estuary and construction of Pony Village Mall, the largest mall on the Oregon Coast, began. It was the dream of local businessman Walter Kraus



JFK at the NB Airport [CHM 009.16.16401]

1960

Land was cleared in March for the new Menasha Pulp Mill site north of the bay and just west of the Southern Pacific railroad bridge.

1961

Highway 101 was relocated between Coos Bay and Bandon. Prior to that it went from Coos Bay to Coquille and then west along the south bank of the Coquille River.

Southwestern Oregon Community College was established by a vote of Coos citizens in May. This was the first community college district in the state of Oregon. The original college campus was at the old WWII Navy facilities at the North Bend Airport. The driving force behind the founding of the Southwestern Oregon Community College District was Henry Hansen, a local retired longshoreman. (William Lansing, *Fifty Years: SWOCC*)

1962

In May, the Bay Area Jaycees sponsored a vote to consolidate the towns of Coos Bay, Eastside, Empire, and North Bend. The state law at that time required all four cities to agree in order to pass. The vote passed in three cities ... but failed in North Bend by 16 votes.

The Bandon Airport was established and dedicated. Also Bullards State Park near Bandon, on the north side of the Coquille River, was established.

The Kentuck Golf Course across the bay from North Bend was established. It was an 18-hole public course. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p. 203)

On October 12th, Oregon's worst windstorm, Hurricane Frieda (nicknamed "The Columbus Day Storm"), hit Coos County and western Oregon with winds clocked at over 180 mph.

In November, a second vote on consolidation of cities on Coos Bay was held, since the vote in May had been so close. This time North Bend voted "no" by a larger margin (100 votes)

1963

Weyerhaeuser opened a plywood plant at their North Bend mill.

In the spring, construction began on the Empire Lakes campus of Southwestern Oregon Community College. By 1964 two buildings had been completed: Umpqua and Randolph Hall. A "Name the Buildings" committee decided that campus structures would all bear the names of old post offices that were no longer operational in Coos County. (see history and photo – right – in William Lansing, *Fifty Years: SWOCC*)



1965

The City of Empire voted to consolidate with the city of Coos Bay.

1966

The Coos Art Museum was established. In 1984, the museum moved to the former federal post office building in downtown Coos Bay (a building constructed in 1936). The Coos Art Museum is the third oldest art museum in Oregon. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 122)

1967

The Sawdusters Theater group produced their first performance on Memorial Day weekend in Coquille. The melodrama *Drusilla of the Gold Country* began a long run of successful summer theater fun. The founders of the Sawdusters were Dorothy Boskill Sanford Lee and John & Karen Moore. Until 1994, the shows were performed at the Roxy Theater. (Dow Beckham, *Encore*, p 113)

The Marshfield High School girls' tennis team won the co-state championship becoming the first girls' state championship team in any sport from any South Coast high school.

A fourth vote attempt to consolidate the Cities of North Bend and Coos Bay was defeated.

1968

Senator Robert F. Kennedy, who was running for President, visited the Bay Area in April and made a speech in the Southwestern Oregon Community College gymnasium. He would later be assassinated in Los Angeles in June.



RFK at SWOCC
[CHM 009.16.23087]

1969

The nine-hole public Sunset Bay Golf Course opened for play near Cape Arago. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p. 203)

1970

A "Single A" professional baseball farm team of Oakland began play at Clyde Allen Field in North Bend on June 23rd. The "Athletics" played through the 1972 season before moving the team to Lewiston, ID. (Steven Greif, *Extracurricular*, p 235)

1971

In May, a large and successful parade was held in Coos Bay for Stuart Roosa, an Apollo 14 astronaut. Roosa chose Coos Bay for his "home town" parade because he had met two local business men, Phil Waters and Bob Perkins, who invited him to the area. The success of the parade helped to spark the Bay Area Fun Festival. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 117)

The Oregon Coast Trail (OCT) was formally established along a 425 mile route that includes Coos and Curry counties.

1972

Congress established The Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. The Oregon Dunes spread over 38 miles in length along the coast from the mouth of the Coos River to the mouth of the Siuslaw River. Some dunes reach heights of over 300 feet. Thousands of visitors explore this unique landscape every year. (*Guide*, pp 162-163)



OR Hwy Commission
photo [CHM 991.2.32]

1973-1974

The first female, Tricia Streeter, served as ASB President of Marshfield High School.

1974

The largest ship to ever enter Coos Bay to that time docked at the Fibrex Dock in North Bend in February. *World Wood* was 675 feet in length. It took 60 hours to load it with wood chips.

On February 27th, Bay Area Hospital held an open house and dedication for the new medical facility. The Bay Area Hospital officially opened its doors for business on May 19th.

The South Slough National Estuarine Sanctuary was established. This was the first-ever federally reserved estuary. It was formed from a combination of federal, state, and private lands. (*Guide*, p 128)

The City of Lakeside was incorporated.

1975

Steve Prefontaine ("Pre"), who had attended Marshfield High from 1965-1969 before running for the University of Oregon, died in a car accident at the age of 24 on May 30th. At one point in his career, Pre held every distance running American record. He ran in the 1972 Olympics. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 123)

Coos County acquired North Bend's closed Keizer Hospital and created the Coos County Annex.

In the year following a grand celebration of Coos Bay's centennial, the Bay Area Fun Festival was organized. The annual event has occurred on the 3rd Saturday of September ever since.

1976

The Bandon Historical Society was founded. Eventually the Society established a museum in the former Bandon City Hall on Highway 101. (*Images: Bandon*, p 2)

1977

The Coos-Curry Historical Society changed its name when Curry County formed its own historical society and museum in Gold Beach.

1979

The Oregon Coast Music Association presented its first annual concert series in July.

1980

In September, a 10K run in Coos Bay was started in memory of one of America's greatest distance runners: Steve Prefontaine.

1983

A fifth vote to consolidate the cities around Coos Bay was held. North Bend again voted "no". A change in the state law, however, allowed the City of Eastside to consolidate with the City of Coos Bay.

The Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge was established near the mouth of the Coquille River.

1984

On October 17th, members of the Coos, Siuslaw, and Lower Umpqua Indians regained federally restored status and sovereignty as the Confederated Tribes with the passage of Public Law 98-481.

1985

Choshi Garden (photo, right), in Mingus Park, Coos Bay, was created and named for the city's sister city in Japan.

**1986**

The City of Coos Bay began building a boardwalk on the waterfront.

(*Images: Coos Bay*, p 124)

Gaye Knapp, a 1968 Marshfield High graduate and teacher and administrator at Bandon High School from 1974-2013, became one of the first women, and possibly the very first in the state of Oregon, to earn a Coast Guard license designating her a Master of Inland Waters. This enabled her to run tug boats in all U.S. waterways except the ocean and the Mississippi River. (provided by Mary Paczesniak)

In late November, the first Shoreacres Christmas light display was opened at the gardens.

On December 4th, the ship *Elgaren* did not lower its roll-on ramp on the stern and it collided with the roadway of the McCullough Bridge. The Hwy 101 bridge over Coos Bay was closed for several days. T-shirts appeared with slogans "Oh Ship!" and "The Ship Hit the Span". (*Images: Shipwrecks*, pp 56-58)

1987

The Port of Coos Bay received a grant, under a special state highway program, to construct a road on the North Spit of Coos Bay. The road was called the Transpacific Parkway.

1989

Weyerhaeuser Company closed its large North Bend mill.

On June 28th, members of the Coquille Indian tribe regained federally restored tribal status. (*Images: Bandon*, p 21)

The Doerner Fir, the world's tallest non-redwood tree at 327 feet, was discovered in the Coast Range of Coos County northeast of Sitkum.

1990

The Georgia-Pacific mill (formerly the C.A. Smith / Coos Bay Lumber Company) at Isthmus Slough on Coos Bay closed.

1992

Joanne Verger was voted to be the first female mayor of Coos Bay.

1994

Paula Bechtold became the first female judge in Coos County.

1995

The Coquille Indian Tribe started the first legalized gaming establishment in the county, The Mill Casino, along the waterfront in North Bend. (*Images: North Bend*, p 124)

Curry County was annexed into the Southwestern Oregon Community College District.

1996

The highest one day rainfall total ever recorded at an official Oregon weather station (11.65") fell on November 19th at the Elk River near the border of Coos and Curry counties.

1997

A new Sawduster's Theater in Coquille became operational after the organization recovered from a fire that destroyed the Roxy Theatre in 1994.

1998

The Coquille Forest was established. This 5,400 acre forest, managed by the Coquille Indian Tribe, is located near Bridge in the south part of the county.

1999

On February 4th, the 639-foot freighter *New Carissa* grounded off the north spit of Coos Bay. The propeller now rests at the parking lot of the Coos History Museum. Because it was so hard to salvage, it came to be known as "The Ship That Would Not Die." (*Guide*, p 127 and *Images: Shipwrecks*, pp 30-32)

The Bandon Dunes Golf Resort opened just north of Bullards St. Park. The 18-hole Bandon Dunes course was soon recognized as one of America's premier public courses. (*Images: Bandon*, pp 121-123)



The Coos County Historical Society turned over historic locomotive No. 104 to the Oregon Coast Historical Railway group on October 29th. The locomotive was moved to south Coos Bay. By 2001, a railroad museum was established there. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 124)

2001

A second golf course, Pacific Dunes, opened at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in July.

A \$20 million investment by Bay Area Hospital in Coos Bay yielded more than 40,000 square feet of additional space along with remodeling of another 23,000 square feet, and \$6 million in technology upgrades. The latter include a \$1.5 million linear accelerator for radiation therapy.

2002

The 13-hole Bandon Dunes course, Sheep Ranch, opened.

The Coos County Airport District was formed by vote of citizens in November. The name of the airport in North Bend was changed to "Southwest Oregon Regional Airport" in the spring of 2006. The airport had been a naval military facility during WWII. (*Images: North Bend*, p 124)

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw opened Three Rivers Casino in Florence.

2003

For the sixth time, a vote to consolidate the cities of North Bend and Coos Bay was defeated. This time North Bend citizens voted “no” by 70%.

2004

Construction of a natural gas pipeline was completed between Roseburg and Coos County.

2005

The Bandon Trails golf course, the fourth one at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, opened in June.

Pony Village Cinema opened an 11-venue motion picture theater at Pony Village in North Bend.

2006

Mayor Rick Wetherell and the City of North Bend acquired the “40 and 8” railway car, sometimes called a “Merci Boxcar”, and placed it in Simpson Park. During the First World War, those boxcars had been transport vehicles holding up to 40 soldiers or eight horses. After World War II, the grateful government and citizens of France sent every state in the U.S. a boxcar filled with gifts to thank Americans for their wartime help. (*Images: North Bend*, p 122)



The Coquille Tribe opened a large recreational RV park at their property in North Bend near the casino. (*Images: North Bend*, p 124)

2007

Rex and Carla Smith opened Bandon Crossings Golf Course south of town. (*Images: Bandon*, p 125)On

On September 21st, rail service on the Coos Bay rail line was abruptly suspended by the CORP Railroad (formerly Southern Pacific) which embargoed the line from Vaughn, near Eugene in Lane County, to the North Spit of lower Coos Bay and filed for discontinuance of service on all connecting spurs.

2008

The final remains of the shipwreck of the New Carissa were removed from the sands of the North Spit of Coos Bay by the company Titan Marine. (www.OregonEncyclopedia)

2009

In March, the Port of Coos Bay finalized the purchase of 111 miles of the CORP Coos Bay line for \$16 million using a mix of state and federal grants and loans.

The Sawmill & Tribal Trail was established. The 5.6 mile urban trail approximates an old route first used by Native-Americans and later used by white travelling from Simpson's lumber mill in North Bend to the old Luse Mill in Empire. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 126)

2010

The Coos Confederated Tribe opened its Tribal Hall Cultural Center in Empire. (*Images: Coos Bay*, p 13)

In June, the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort opened its fifth course: Old Macdonald.

2011

The Coos Bay rail line returned to service as the Coos Bay Rail Link in early October with weekly freight service between Eugene and the North Spit. CBR service commenced in Coquille (the southern end of the line) by April of 2013.



2012

In January, the Curry Campus of the Southwestern Oregon Community College District opened for classes. The campus was established just north of Brookings.

A par-3 short course, called Bandon Preserve, opened at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort.

In July, an archeological team led by Mark Tveskov of Southern Oregon University found the site of the 1852 Camp Castaway on the North Spit and explored its remains.

2013

The City of Bandon and local developers opened Face Rock Creamery, a handmade cheese factory in the former Bandon Cheese site which had closed in 2002. (*Images: Bandon*, p 106)

The U.S. Coast Guard, using an act of Congress transferred title of Chief's Island, the home of the Cape Arago Lighthouse, back to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Siuslaw, and Lower Umpqua.

Another major expansion of the Bay Area Hospital created a new four-story wing offering all private rooms. Other improvements included a new Intensive Care Unit and cardiovascular services including a cardiac catheterization lab.

2014

Another 18-hole golf course, called The Punchbowl, opened at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort.

2015

In September, Oregon's Governor Kate Brown dedicated the new Coos History Museum on Front Street in Coos Bay during its grand opening. The 11,000 square foot building, financed entirely by donations, had two floors of exhibits, spaces for public rental, offices for staff, and a public research room



Confederated Tribes of Coos, Siuslaw, and Lower Umpqua opened their second casino near tribal lands in the Empire District of Coos Bay.

2016

The Charleston Marine Life Center, operated with the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB) opened to visitors.

2020

In March, a world-wide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic forced the closure of schools, churches, theaters, and many non-essential businesses across the nation and the South Coast.

Bandon Dunes Golf Resort opened another 18-hole golf course: Bally Bandon Sheep Ranch.