



Highlights of the Archives

This collection was prepared for the 50th anniversary of the Oregon State Archives (1947-1997). The State Archives preserves and provides access to permanently valuable records of the three branches of state government- legislative, executive and judicial.



Cecil L. Edwards Archives Building, 800 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon. Public Entrance on Summer Street. [Oregon State Archives building Map >](#)

The oldest record in the Archives is the [agreement establishing the Willamette Cattle Company, 1837](#).

Frequently used records at the Archives include minutes and exhibits of legislative committee hearings and 19th century county records such as probate case files, marriage certificates, and naturalization petitions.

Highlights

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Credits

Civilian Conservation Corps: Mary Beth Herkert

Copperfield Controversy: Layne Sawyer

David C. Duniway, State Archives Founder: Julie Yamaka

Earl Snell, Oregon's 23rd Governor: Tim Backer

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John McLoughlin: David Wendell

Oregon Environmental Legislation: Mary Beth Herkert

Prison Breakout: Layne Sawyer

Prohibition in Oregon: Todd Shaffer

Whitman Massacre Trial: Layne Sawyer



1952 School for the Deaf Typing Class

Additional assistance from Ruth Backer, Dan Cantrall, Gregg Spooner, Malcolm Hutchinson, Al Jones, George Strozut, Bernie McTeague and Dr. William E. Snell



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Civilian Conservation Corps

In response to the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created programs to put America back to work. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), one of the first emergency agencies, was established in 1933. The CCC's mission was two-fold: to reduce unemployment, especially among young men; and to preserve the nation's natural resources.

President Roosevelt recommended that the CCC operate in cooperation with and under the technical supervision of the War Department, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Labor. Other agencies like the Office of Education and the United States Veterans Administration also played a role. CCC projects centered around forestry, flood control, prevention of soil erosion and fighting forest fires.

Silver Creek Falls and the Civilian Conservation Corps

In 1940, Oregon had 61 CCC camps statewide and employed over 2000 men. It ranked 2nd only to California in states west of the Mississippi for the number of camps. One of these camps was Silver Creek Falls, located east of Salem.

 [Distribution of CCC Camps in States West of the Mississippi, March 1940](#) (Boardman Records, Box 1 - 92 A 31.)

Among the projects completed by the CCC at Silver Creek Falls was the renovation of buildings, installation of bathrooms, creation of picnic areas and the development and improvement of trails including the construction of bridges across rivers in the park. CCC camps in Oregon also worked on forest fighting crews and forest reclamation projects.




The Civilian Conservation Corps poster. (OSA, Parks and Recreation Department Records, Boardman Collection, Box 2)



Silver Creek Falls Bridge (Highway Division photo #2569)

While time was set aside for fun, these camps had strict rules of behavior. Work was closely regulated. Reports on progress were expected regularly. And costs were carefully documented.

 [Blueprints of Silver Creek Falls Camp Plan \(Boardman Records, Box 1 - 92 A 31\)](#)

 [Silver Creek Falls State Park Completed Work \(Boardman Records, Box 2 - 92 A 31\)](#)

 [Monthly Distribution of Encumbrances, July 1939 \(Boardman Records, Box 1 - 92 A 31\)](#)

 [Roster of Workers at Camp Silver Creek Falls \(Oregon State Library\)](#)

Thousands of young people from across the country were employed in Oregon CCC camps over nearly ten years. The CCC ended in 1942 when the United States became fully involved in World War II. Oregonians continue to enjoy the products of their hard work at parks and forests around the state.

Learn More

Books

Hill, Edwin G. *In the Shadow of the Mountain: The Spirit of the CCC*. Pullman, Wash.: Washington State University Press, 1990.

Lacy, Leslie Alexander. *The Soil Soldiers: The Civilian Conservation Corps in the Great Depression*. Radnor, Pa.: Chilton, 1976.

Salmond, John A. *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1967.

Online

[Oregon Public Broadcasting - Oregon Experience: Civilian Conservation Corps](#)

[National Archives Guide to Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps](#)

[Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni](#)

[James F. Justin Civilian Conservation Corps](#)

Next: [Copperfield Controversy >](#)



Copperfield Controversy

Martial Law Declared

Reform-minded Governor Oswald West once declared his ambition to "shoot a bartender." Although no shots were fired, actions he took toward Copperfield, a small town northeast of Baker County, earned him a reputation for being tough on liquor. In response to complaints from residents about lawless behavior, West signed a proclamation declaring martial law on Dec. 31, 1913:

 [Proclamation declaring martial law, 1913](#)

He then attempted to void the incorporation of Copperfield:

 [Letter from Gov. West to Attorney General, 1914](#)

His actions caused such a furor that newspapers as far away as New York City covered it on their front pages. Meanwhile, West's demands for local assistance proved fruitless:

 [Telegram from Oswald West to Sheriff Rand, 1914](#)

Fern Hobbs Takes on Copperfield

Governor West sent Fern Hobbs, his personal secretary, with a detachment of 5 National Guard troops to Copperfield to demand the resignation of city officials.

 [Telegram from Governor West to Mayor of Copperfield announcing Fern Hobbs, 1914](#)



Gov. Lister of Washington and Gov. West, Celilo Falls, 1912 (Oregon State Library photo)


The mayor and most of the city council were involved in the saloon business. City officials refused to resign and were arrested by the National Guard.



Heavily armed frontiersmen lined the walls as the young woman marched across to the platform to read proclamation

Cartoon of Fern Hobbs reads, "Heavily armed frontiersmen lined the walls as the young woman marched across to the platform to read proclamation" (Oregonian, April 5, 1936).

The diminutive Miss Hobbs, only 5'4" tall and weighing less than 100 pounds managed to subdue wide-open Copperfield in a matter of hours. Her effectiveness amazed one local observer:

 [Letter to Attorney General Crawford from town doctor](#)

Although she left town by train the same day she arrived, the National Guard remained in Copperfield for several months bolstered by an additional attachment of 20 men. A morning report of the Copperfield Detachment displays early troop movements:

 [Morning report of Copperfield Detachment](#)

A later report shows a routine setting in as the occupation continued:

 [Morning report of Copperfield Detachment reads "No change"](#)

In March the National Guard commander turned over the keys of the city to a civilian acting mayor. More than a year later on Jan. 21, 1915, Governor James Withycombe officially revoked the declaration of martial law.

Governor's Actions Challenged in Oregon Supreme Court

State officials criticized Governor West for sending Miss Hobbs, since she was only his personal secretary. Lawsuits against the Governor and several of the "principals" including Miss Hobbs were filed by William Weigard, a Copperfield city council member and saloon proprietor.

The suits challenged the Governor's authority to declare martial law. The Baker County Circuit Court found that powers granted to the governor "cannot be taken away from him by the court, even should he abuse powers." It also maintained that the National Guard assumed the position of peace officers in Copperfield and that the governor could "act in his own discretion" as head of the executive branch of state government.



The case eventually went all the way to the Oregon Supreme Court. The Supreme Court upheld the lower court rulings that found the Governor had acted within his authority as Chief Executive.

Fern Hobbs: *Oregonian*, 1914.

Learn More

Article about Governor being upheld by Baker judge from Jan. 20, 1914 newspaper: [Historic Oregon Newspapers](#).

Books

Holbrook, Stewart Hall. *Wildmen, Wobblies, and Whistle Punks: Stewart Holbrook's Lowbrow Northwest*. Corvallis, Oregon: Oregon State University Press, 1992. Newspaper article on Copperfield controversy: *Baker Record-Courier*, August 5, 1965. "The Affair at Copperfield." *Woman's Day*, January 1952.

Next: [David C. Duniway, State Archives Founder](#) >



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David C. Duniway, State Archives Founder

David C. Duniway served as Oregon's first State Archivist from 1946-1972. He was an avid historian, prolific writer and activist for Salem's historical community.

Early State Government Archives

Prior to 1946 there was no unified approach for preserving historical state records in Oregon. The Secretary of State had custody of the Legislative Assembly and the Governor. Other agencies cared for their own records. Some records of defunct agencies were deposited with the Secretary of State or the State Library, but some were destroyed. The Oregon Historical Society in Portland held the Oregon provisional and territorial government records due to a lack of storage space in Salem. Many records documenting state government in the late 19th and early 20th centuries disappeared over the years, and the fire at the state Capitol in 1935 consumed additional records.

In 1942 the Board of Library Trustees asked the State Librarian to develop a strategy to improve the archival situation. A committee studied the problem for a year before submitting a report to the Board. Research into how and where records were housed showed that many records were in danger of destruction due to neglect.



"History is always treacherous. There is what the papers were willing to print and families to furnish, but there is always the possibility of making assumptions that may not be true when checked against better sources." - David Duniway, "Glimpses of Historic South Salem," 1982

First State Archives Budget


A provision of \$15,000 for the State Archives was part of the 1945-1947 State Library budget. State Librarian Eleanor Stephens painted the budget in rosy terms in a letter to a prospective candidate for the State Archivist position, "Because office and storage space will be furnished the Archives in the Oregon State Library Building without expense to the archival budget, this provision is even more liberal than it appears."¹

Eventually, the Board of Library Trustees approved the appointment of David Cushing Duniway as State Archivist:

 [Resume of David Cushing Duniway, Jan. 5, 1946](#)

Open for Business

The State Archives opened its doors in the basement of the State Library Building in January 1946. From 1946 to 1972 Duniway worked to improve record keeping practices for Oregon's historical documents. He established rules for retention and destruction, streamlining the process of deciding how long to keep various records. He introduced the first Records Management Manual in 1959.

To learn more about the history of the State Archives see:  [The Duniway Years at the State Archives, 1946-1972.](#)

Notes

1. Eleanor Stephens to John E. Dethman, October 3, 1945, Oregon State Library Records, Box 27, Oregon State Archives.

Next: [Duniway's Contributions to the Local Community >](#)



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Duniway's Contributions to the Local Community

From the day he arrived in Salem in 1946, David Duniway gave time and energy to the local historical community. His retirement as State Archivist in 1972 only served to increase his focus on other projects that became cornerstones of the historical community. Duniway helped to organized and became the first director of the Mission Mill Museum Association. He retired as director in 1976 to spend more time writing books about Salem history. Duniway was a founder of the Marion County Historical Society and the Salem City Club and served as a member of Salem's sesquicentennial committee. His connection to Oregon history was strengthened by the fact that he was the grandson of famous pioneer and equal rights champion, [Abigail Scott Duniway](#).





Deepwood Estate

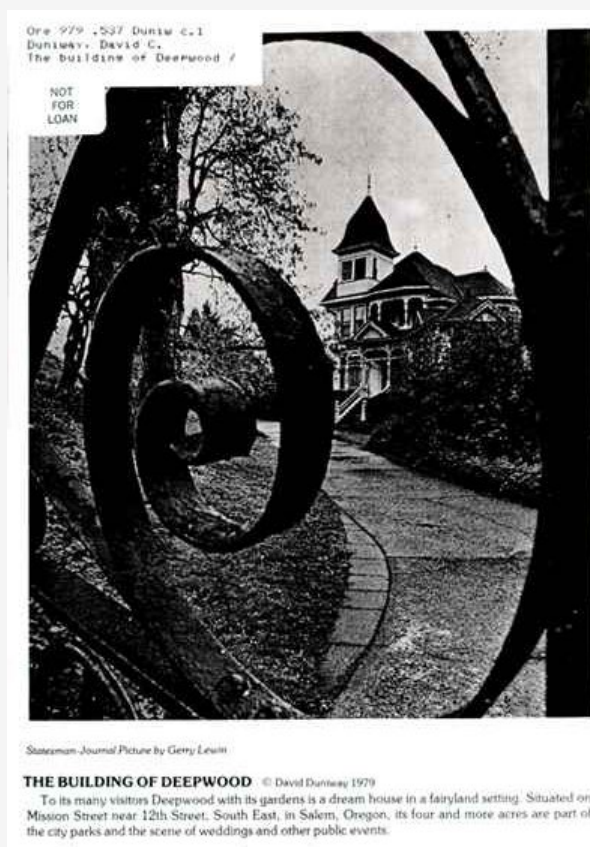
Duniway was instrumental in several local historic preservation projects such as the Bush House in the 1950s and Deepwood Estate in the early 1970s.



Bush House

Publications By Duniway

1. Salem Guide (1959)
2. How Laws Affect Libraries (1961)
3. How Laws Affect Records (1961)
4. An Institute for Training in Librarianship: an institute in archival librarianship held at University of Oregon, Eugene (Sept. 22 1969-Aug. 14, 1970)
5. Coos County Election Precincts, 1854-1880 (1948)
6. The Oregon Archives, 1841-1843 (1971)  [Cover of The Oregon Archives, 1841-1843](#)
7. Have you an Oregon Ancestor? (1950)
8. What You Can Write About the History of Your Home Town (1948)
9. Your State Archives and Its Services To You (1971)
10. Histories Relative to Heritage Village (1990)
11. Dr. Luke A. Port, Builder of Deepwood: an urban report from England to Salem, Oregon and San Diego, California 




Cover of book: The Building of Deepwood. Caption reads, "To its many visitors Deepwood with its gardens is a

(1989) [Cover of Dr. Luke A. Port, Builder of Deepwood](#)

dream house in a fairyland setting. Situated on Mission Street near 12th Street, South East, in Salem, Oregon, its four and more acres are part of the city parks and the scene of weddings and other public events."

12. A Study of the Nuremberg Chronicle (1941)

13. South Salem Past (1987)  [Cover of South Salem Past](#)

14. 1859-1959, Salem State Centennial Guide (1959)


15. Observations on the Character of the Westward Movement (1947)

16. Notes on the History of Wasco County (from a speech given to the Wasco County Pioneer Association, May 4, 1946)

17. The Eugene City in 1860 (1947)

18. Spinning and Weaving Wool: the men and women of the mill [text by Harry H. Stein; introduction by David Duniway; research by Anna Hawley, book design by Katherine Valentine Hannon] (1985)

19. Oregon Statesman Index, 1850-1866 [indexed by W.P.A. Newspaper Index Project; sponsored by Oregon Historical Society; Society editors, David Duniway, Barbara Elkins (1982)

20. Glimpses of Historic South Salem (1982)  [Cover of Glimpses of Historic South Salem](#)

21. The Building of Deepwood (1979)

Next: [David Duniway Memorial](#) >



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David Duniway Memorial

By Roy C. Turnbaugh, State Archivist

David C. Duniway, first State Archivist of Oregon, died September 12, 1993, in Salem. He was born in Missoula, Montana, July 9, 1912, and graduated from Carleton



Photograph courtesy of Al Jones.

College, Northfield, Minnesota. He held a master's degree in history and a library certificate, and worked in various capacities for the National Archives, from 1937 to 1945.

David came to Salem to launch Oregon's archives program on a rainy New Year's Eve in 1945. He retired as State Archivist in 1972. When he began work in 1946, David collected records from the basements of state buildings and institutions, from courthouse attics, and from individuals who had been holding them. No environment was too daunting for him. He separated mummified cats and rodents, for example, from records he found in the basement of the State Hospital.

David loved every aspect of being an archivist. He enjoyed field work, and difficult conditions only served to spur him to greater efforts. He enjoyed providing reference

services to the records he had acquired. He enjoyed the whole process of bringing records under control, preparing finding aids, and readying them for use. He enjoyed teaching others to do the tasks of archivists, and he served as visiting professor of archives at the University of Oregon and at Western Washington University. David established Oregon's records management program as a part of the State Archives, and he opened the state's first records center. He was a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, and the Oregon State Archives received the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 1972.

David believed that all history is local. He was a founding member of the American Association for State and Local History, and he wrote prolifically and well of the history of his beloved south Salem. His home was a house that he had rescued from destruction, moved, and restored. When he retired as State Archivist in 1972, he turned his energies to establishing a museum at Salem's Mission Mill, and he became its first director. Many of Salem's historic homes and buildings owe their continued existence to David's efforts.

David looked the part as well. He was tall, and in later years, his mane of white hair made him easy to pick out on a Salem street or at Salem's annual Art Fair, which, again, he helped found. He loved stories and he loved jokes, and he had the gift of total, detailed recall of events that happened forty years ago. He remained strongly supportive of the State Archives without ever being intrusive, and he must remain one of the few state archivists who did research in his own holdings.

Next: [Earl Snell, Oregon's 23rd Governor >](#)



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Earl Snell, Oregon's 23rd Governor

Earl Snell was born in Olex, Oregon on July 11, 1895. He served in the Army during the World War I, coming back to Gilliam County at war's end. He tried the newspaper business before entering the automobile business in Arlington and Condon.

Snell began his political career in 1927 when he was elected state representative. He remained in the Legislative Assembly until 1934, when he left his position as Speaker of the House to take the elected position of Secretary of State. He served as Secretary of State from 1934 to 1942, when he was elected Oregon's 23rd governor. Governor Snell was re-elected in 1946 and served until Oct. 28, 1947, when he was killed in a plane crash in the wild terrain east of Klamath Falls along with Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr., President of the Senate Marshall E. Cornett and pilot Cliff Hogue.

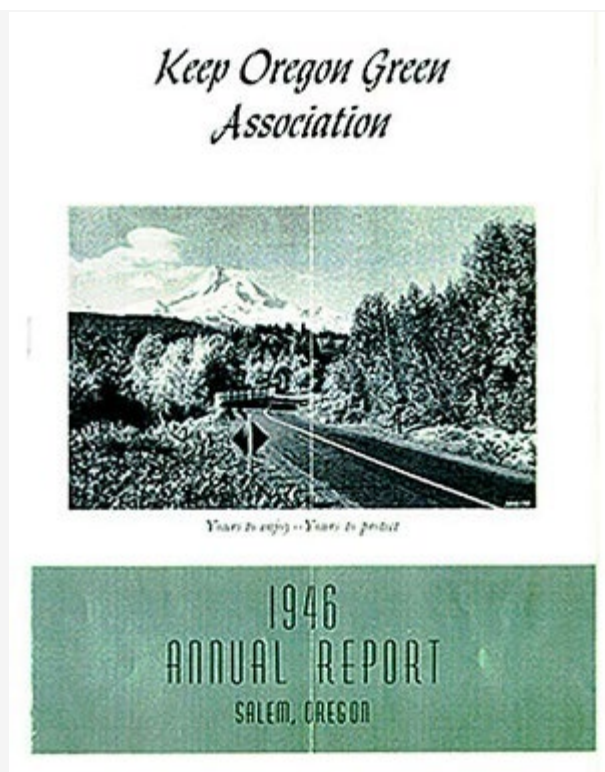


Governor Earl Snell

 [Oath of Office](#)

 [Oath of Office Transcript](#)

In addition to his environmental legacy, Snell campaigned for old-age relief without increasing taxation; post-war aid in education; home ownership; and liberalization of unemployment compensation. Governor Snell emphasized improving winter travel by developing and improving roads and resorts. He wanted Oregon to be the winter wonderland for vacationers, and expand tourism to become more than a summer industry. A state employees' retirement system was also adopted during Snell's tenure as governor.



Cover of the 1946 Annual Report of the Keep Oregon Green Association. Part of Governor Snell's Records at the Oregon State Archives.

Environmental Legacy

Snell was vitally interested in Oregon's forests and the problems facing the state in managing forest lands, including the effects of the 1933 Tillamook Burn, which devastated 240,000 acres. He charged a Special Forestry Committee with the responsibility of making a complete survey and analysis of Oregon's forestry program, with emphasis on the Tillamook burn, fire prevention and reforestation. The lumber industry consistently occupied first or second place in the commercial activities of the state's economy and Oregon's forestry laws and policies were recognized as outstanding in the nation.

The Keep Oregon Green committee, established in 1940, continued to serve as the Oregon Forestry Department's de facto publicity agency for forest fire safety and prevention.

The End of World War II

Governor Snell expressed the relief and hope that Oregonians shared at the final defeat of Hitler and Nazi Germany. On May 8, 1945 he proclaimed Victory in Europe Day, otherwise known as "V.E. Day." This proclamation called for a period of "prayerful thanksgiving and determined rededication" to peace.

 [May 1945 Proclamation of Victory in Europe Day](#)

The final allied victory of World War II was secured a few months later with the defeat of Japan. On August 14, 1945 Governor Snell proclaimed August 15 and 16 as Victory Days, on the announcement of final victory for the Allies, and ordered all public buildings, state stores

and agencies closed. His proclamation expressed hope for a lasting peace throughout the world and welcomed returning veterans.

 [August 1945 Proclamation of Victory Days](#)

Next: [A Tragic Death and a Grieving State >](#)



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A Tragic Death and a Grieving State



Oregonian newspaper, October 31, 1947: "Bodies of Snell, Cornett and Farrell Carried From Scene of Airplane Wreck"

On Oct. 28, 1947 Governor Snell was killed in a plane crash in the wild terrain east of Klamath Falls along with Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr., President of the Senate Marshall E. Cornett and pilot Cliff Hogue. The plane crash stunned and grieved the people of Oregon. The editorial from the Portland Oregonian expressed the depth of the loss:

"Ours is a state that bows its head in grief, though yet the semi-anesthesia of shock retards perhaps the fullest realization of Oregon's great loss. Our beloved governor, Earl Snell, is gone. And with him Robert S. Farrell Jr., the brilliant young secretary of state. The able president of the senate, Marshall E. Cornutt, died beside them. And with these public officers died Cliff Hogue, the pilot of the ill-starred plane which crashed in the night flight over the wild terrain east of Klamath Falls. No sister state, we think, ever was visited at a single stroke, in its official family, by such great loss as this. For these were men who had been held in more than usual affection. The airman, not less than the three state officials, had the gift of making friends, we are told. And so it can be said that each was well companioned when his hour struck.

Earl Snell, essentially friendly and boyish, found it easy to make friends. Able executive though he was, his gift of the common touch never forsook him. He smiled his way into the hearts of the people of Oregon. Yet his work was so near him that when he traveled he carried his problems along - to mediate upon at odd moments. There was none that surpassed him in a thorough knowledge of the state, for Oregon was his constant textbook -

and the text was never forgotten. Those who knew him intimately will recall how swift the facial transition from laughter to gravity when something challenged his thought."



Oregonian Newspaper, November 4, 1947: "Earl Newbry Takes Oath as Oregon Secretary of State"

Government officials quickly moved to fill the void left by the deaths of three of its leaders. Two days after the crash John H. Hall took the oath of office as Oregon's new governor. Within a few days he named a new secretary of state as the government attempted to return to normalcy.

Read more about Gov. Snell and Gov. Hall in [the Governor's Records Guides](#).

Additional Resources

Turnbull, George S. *Governors of Oregon*. Portland: Binfords & Mort., 1959.

Oregon newspapers, Oct. 29 through Nov. 3, 1947.

The Oregon State Archives holds approximately 9.25 cubic feet of records from the office of Governor Snell. These include speeches, proclamations, press releases, correspondence, photographs, extraditions, and related records dating from 1924 through 1947. Additionally, the records of Governor John Hall include a report of the investigation of the plane crash by the federal Civil Aeronautics Board.

 [Earl Snell Certificate of Death](#)

[Earl Snell Record Summary and Descriptions](#)

[John H. Hall Record Summary and Descriptions](#)

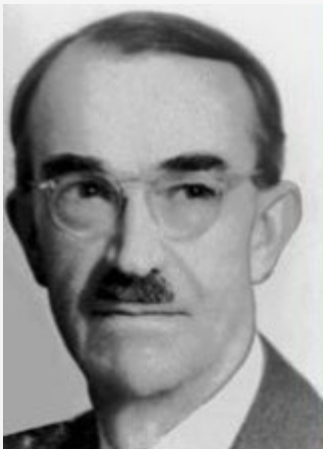
Next: [Graphic Art Drawings >](#)



"All the People of Oregon" from the Quincy Scott Collection: University of Oregon, Knight Library, Special Collections.



Graphic Art Drawings Bring Ideas To Life



Frank G. Hutchinson photograph
courtesy of Malcolm Hutchinson.

Some of Oregon's most noteworthy public works projects first saw life on the drawing tables of Frank G. Hutchinson and Harold L. Spooner. Other drawings by the men were destined to remain dreams. The works shown here represent a portion of the 110 drawings they produced from 1935 to 1957. Their subjects include landscapes and buildings but most often relate to transportation projects such as bridges, tunnels and highway interchanges. While modern public works projects are planned with computer-aided design and 3D computer modeling, the drawings of Hutchinson and Spooner rely on artistry and painstaking attention to detail.

Frank G. Hutchinson (1872-1973) studied at the Boston Drawing School from 1891 to 1893 before working as an architectural draftsman and teacher. He joined the Oregon Highway Department in 1935 and worked past his 80th birthday until his retirement in 1953. The Highway Commission paid tribute to Hutchinson's contributions in 1972 in celebration of his 100th birthday. His most noteworthy accomplishments were drawings of 5 major Oregon coastal bridges, 4 of which are represented here.

Harold L. Spooner (1912-1979) studied at Oregon State University and the University of Oregon before joining the Highway Department in 1941. After a period of work in the Bridge Section, he became a landscape architect for the department. According to his wife, Spooner was a perfectionist: "He would work on a drawing until it was right, whether it took a day or a month." His dramatic 1950 drawing of Multnomah Falls (featured in the Columbia River Highway exhibit case) typifies his best work.

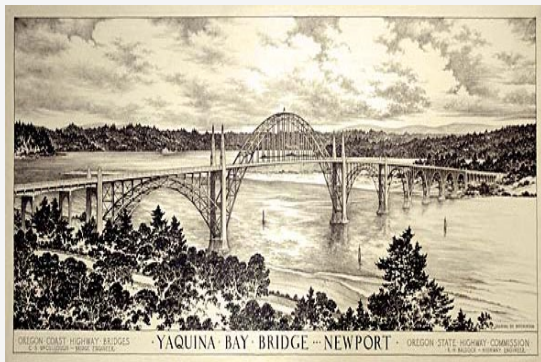


Harold L. Spooner photograph

Oregon Coast Bridges: Spans to the Future

courtesy of Gregg Spooner.

Hutchinson's renderings of coastal bridges employed considerable use of topographical features and foreground detail. A comparison of the Yaquina Bay Bridge drawing with a photograph from a similar perspective displays the accuracy of his work:



Drawing of the 3,260-foot-long Yaquina Bay Bridge by Highway Department graphic artist Frank Hutchinson. Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #30. [Enlarge drawing](#)



Photo of Yaquina Bay Bridge. Highway Department engineer Conde McCullough designed the bridge, which opened in 1936. Highway Division Records, Tourism Photographs, #141. [Enlarge photo](#)

His drawings heralded the 1936 completion of the toll-free bridges that opened up 400 miles of unbroken highway along the Oregon coast. The new, more accessible coast road boosted tourism and commerce and took its place as one of the most beautiful drives in the world. Ferries, which regularly crossed the rivers or estuaries before the completion of the bridges, were soon a fading memory.

More Bridges by Hutchinson

[Alsea Bay Bridge, Waldport](#) (Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #28)

[Coos Bay Bridge](#) (Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #44)

[Siuslaw River Bridge at Florence](#) (Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #116)

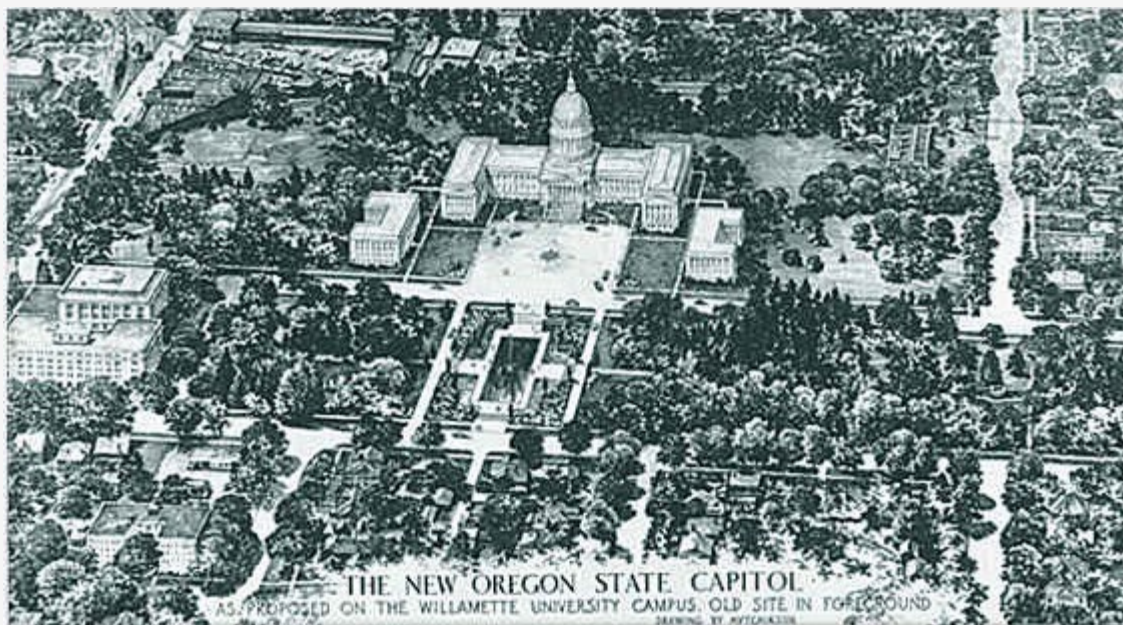
Next: [The Oregon State Capitol Drawings >](#)



Oregon State Capitol: What Could Have Been

Some drawings of Hutchinson and Spooner did not become reality. After the Capitol burned to the ground in 1935, officials quickly began to plan for a replacement. They discussed many locations and architectural designs in the months after the fire. Three alternatives to the present Capitol are represented here.

One plan called for the purchase of the entire 18 acre Willamette University campus which, with the addition of adjacent land, would have provided 28 acres for the Capitol grounds. Busy State Street would have closed. Willamette University would have moved to the site of present-day Bush's Pasture Park:



Willamette University Campus: Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #65.

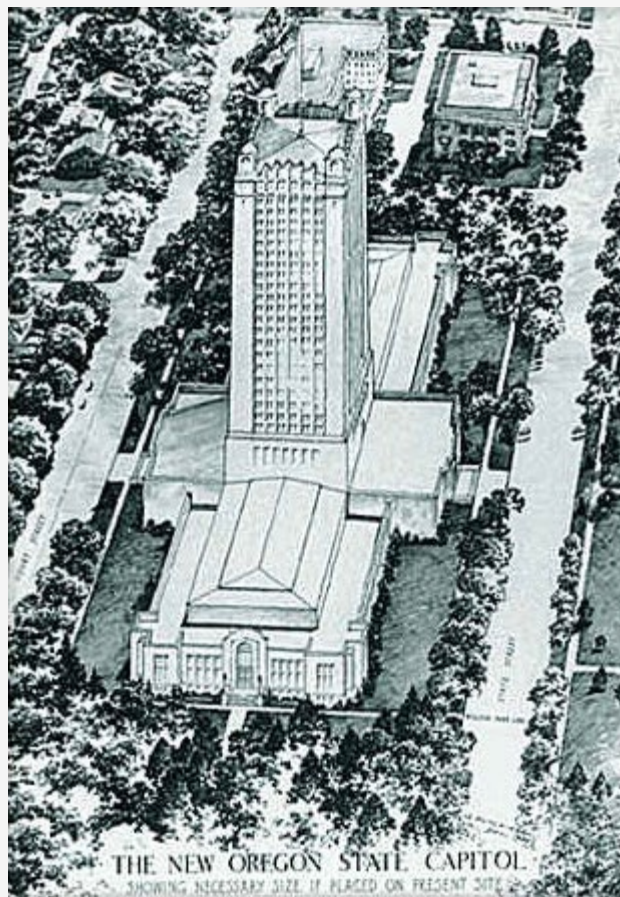
Governor Charles Martin promoted an expansive 94 acre tract on the top of Candalaria Heights, two miles south of the center of Salem, as an alternative Capitol site. It would have afforded dramatic views of the Cascade Mountains, the Coast Range Mountains, and the

Willamette Valley. The site could have been purchased for approximately \$100,000:



Candalaria Heights: Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #66.

The final alternative attempted to plan for the office space needs of a growing state government within the existing grounds of less than five acres. This was obviously portrayed as the least desirable alternative:



Tall State Capitol: Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #16.

Next: [Oregon's Natural Beauty: Expanding Access >](#)



Oregon's Natural Beauty: Expanding Access

Columbia River Highway

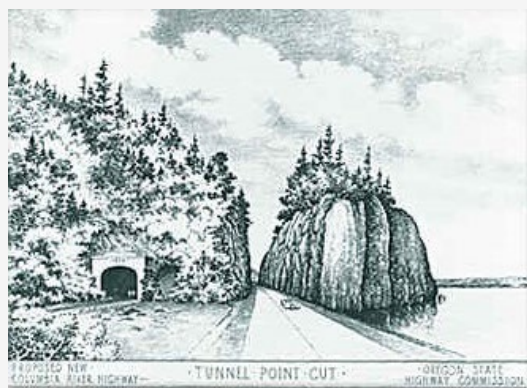
Many of the Hutchinson and Spooner drawings depict a futuristic highway system such as this proposed new Columbia River Highway. The vision was in stark contrast to the narrow dirt, gravel, and macadam roads that were so common.

[See how this section of road looks today on Google Maps >](#)

Silver Creek Falls State Park

The new highways created much easier access to Oregon's recreational destinations, which were highlighted by the ever-expanding state parks system. Silver Creek Falls State Park was seen by many to be the crown jewel of the system. It featured a variety of attractions including the increasingly popular trailer camping.

Next: [International Expositions >](#)



Tunnel Point Cut: Highway Division Records, Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #103.



Silver Creek Falls: Highway Division Records,
Hutchinson and Spooner Drawings, #81.



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International Expositions

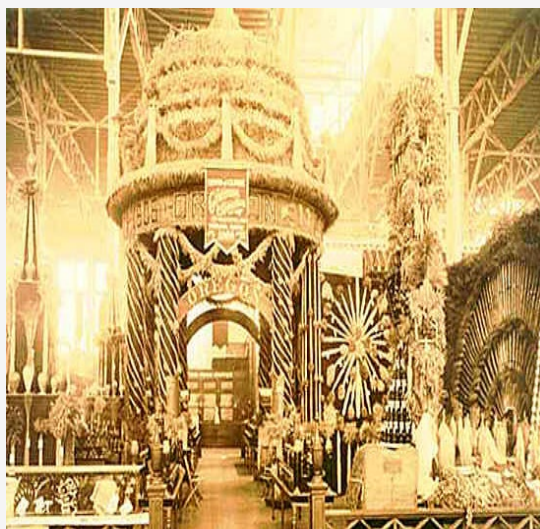
Oregon has participated in international fairs and expositions since the late 1800s. Shown here are items related to the state's role in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 in St. Louis; the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905 in Portland, Oregon; the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco; and the Golden Gate Exposition of 1939 in San Francisco.

1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition

Exhibits displayed products chosen to highlight the growing importance of Oregon's contributions to the nation's economy and culture. They often promoted industry by featuring products made from the state's forests, agricultural fields, fishing grounds, or mines. Photographic exhibits revealed Oregon's great scenic beauty to an American population increasingly interested in tourism.



Mining exhibit: Louisiana Purchase Exposition Records. [Enlarge image >](#)



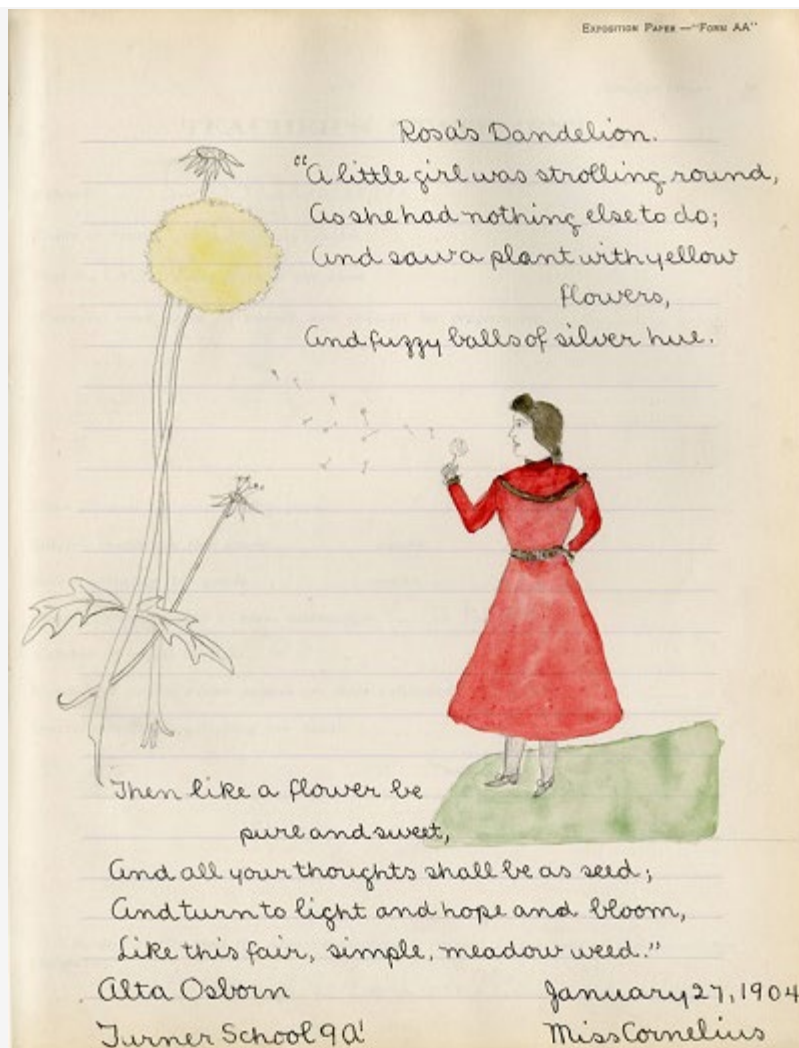
Agricultural exhibit: Louisiana Purchase Exposition Records. [Enlarge image >](#)

1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition

The strength and resourcefulness of Oregon's people figured prominently in the expositions. The state proudly submitted examples of the academic and artistic talent of its youth. In the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905 these included samples from all grade levels in subjects such as history, language, arithmetic, geography and creative writing. They featured sketches, maps, diagrams and illustrations produced by students. A few schools submitted photographs of students using the most up-to-date academic or physical education drills.

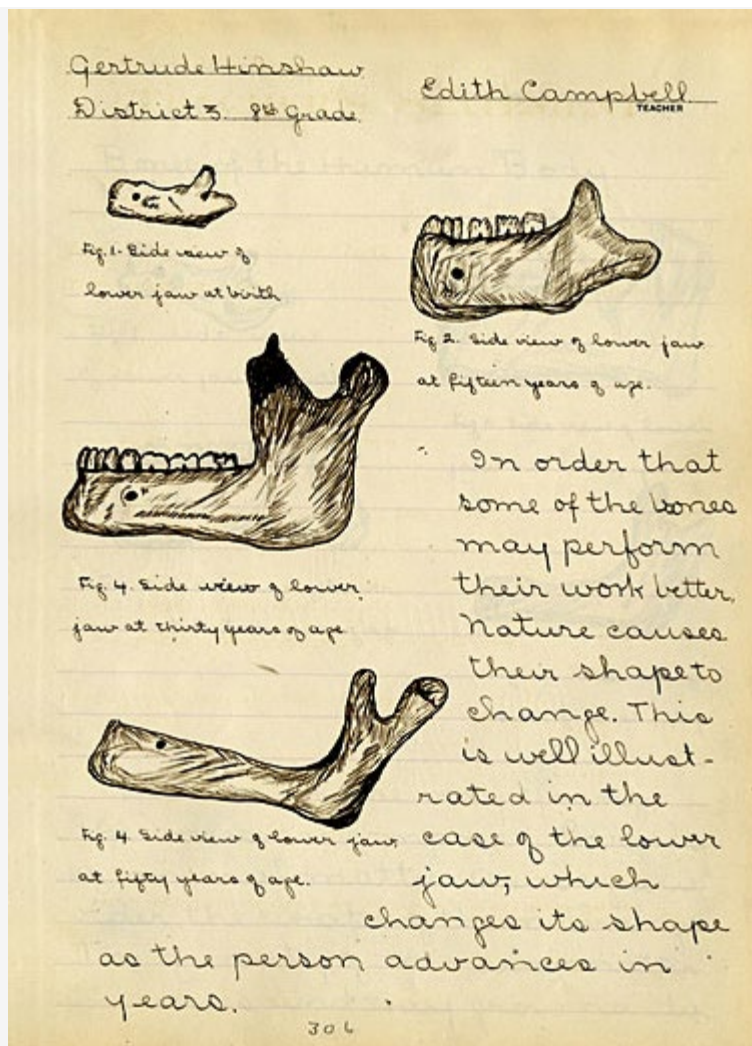


Watercolor landscape
Marion County Records, Educational Exhibits,
box 8, volume 10.



"Rosa's Dandelion" watercolor and poem: Marion County Records Educational Exhibits, box 7, volume 1.

["Rosa's Dandelion" in the Oregon Blue Book slideshow >](#)
[See text of "Rosa's Dandelion" in .txt file >](#)



"Human Jaw" drawing: Marion County Records Educational Exhibits, box 9B, volume 28.

[See this jaw drawing in the Oregon Blue Book slide show >](#)

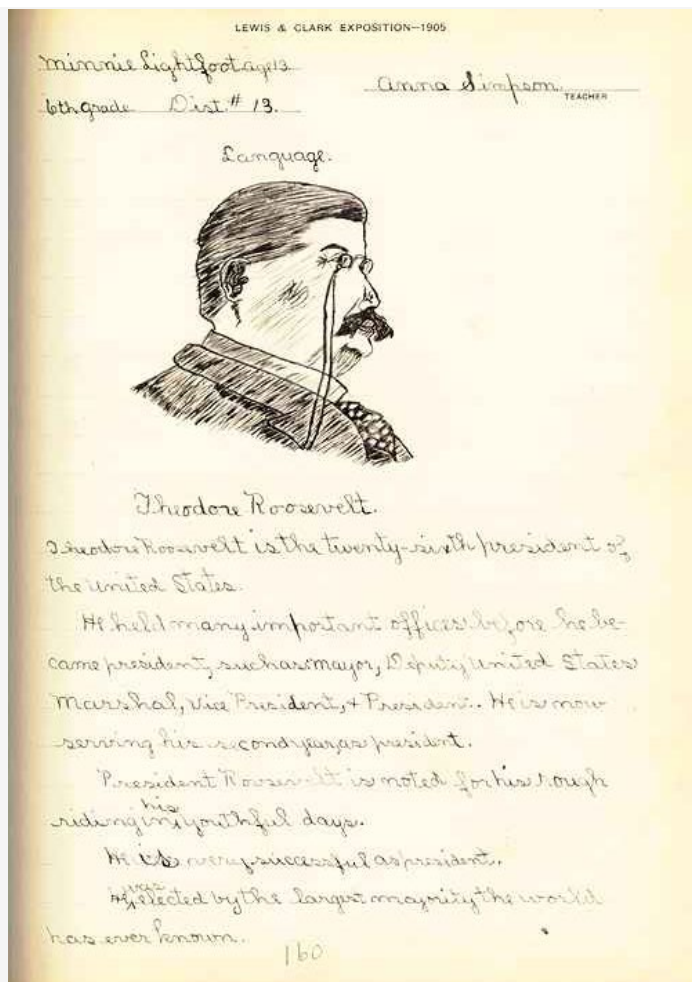
[See the text of the "Human Jaw" drawing in .txt file >](#)



A classroom under the banner "Order is Heaven's First Law"
Marion County Records, Educational Exhibits, box 9A, volume 20.
[See "Order is Heaven's First Law" in the Oregon Blue Book slide show >](#)



Girls work through a “two pointer drill” in front of a Marion County class in 1904. Drills and memorization were important educational components of the time. (Oregon State Archives)



An exposition on President Theodore Roosevelt
by Minnie Lightfoot, age 13.

President Roosevelt exposition:
Marion County Records, Educational Exhibits,
box 7, volume 7.

[See the text of Minnie Lightfoot's work in .txt file >](#)



Typical classroom scene
Marion County Records, Educational Exhibits, box 8, volume 10.

Next: [International Expositions: Commemorative Awards >](#)



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International Expositions: Commemorative Awards

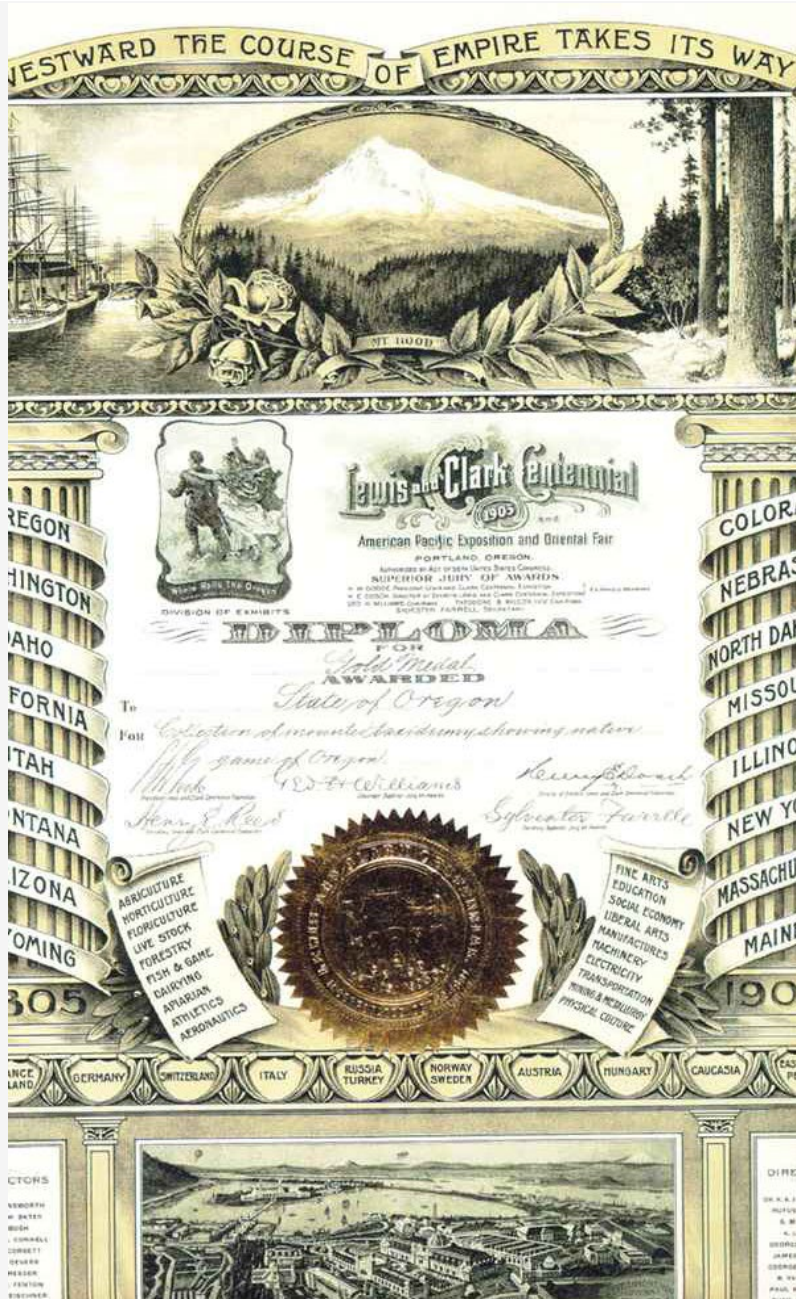
Exposition officials rewarded participants and exhibit winners with elaborately engraved commemorative certificates, diplomas or award medals. These dramatically portrayed the historical importance of such events as the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804 to 1806, and the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914.



Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 gold medal
Louisiana Purchase Exposition Records



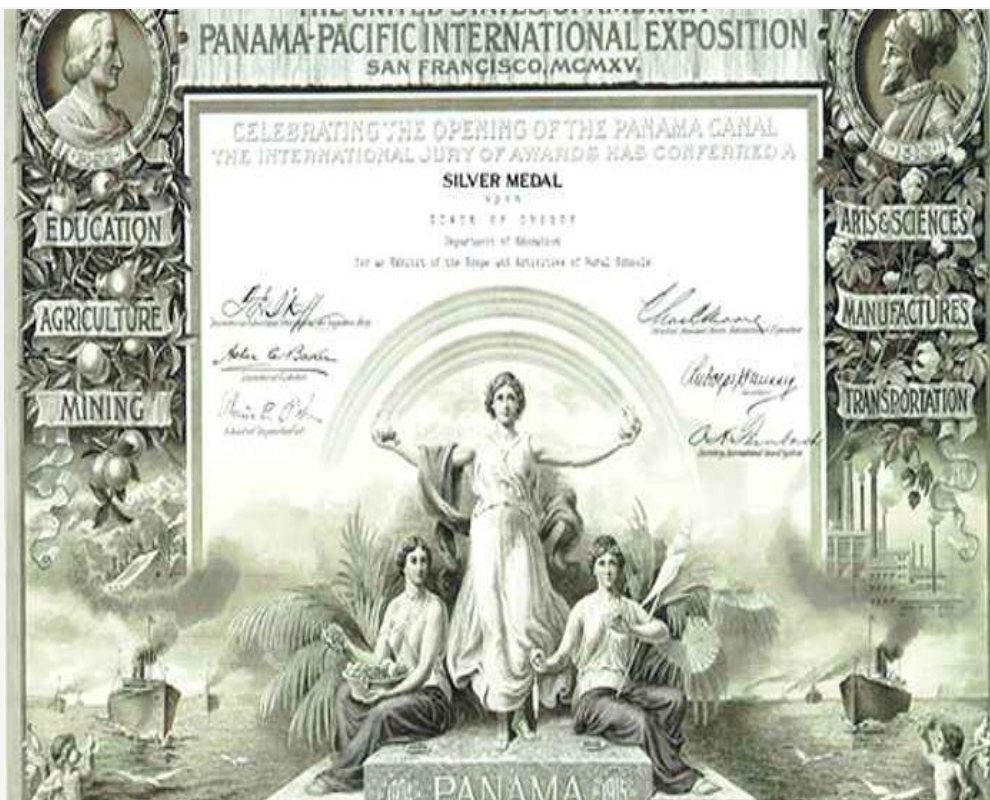
Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 bronze medal
Louisiana Purchase Exposition Records



Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905

Lewis and Clark Exposition award diploma: NPIP #25

Other views: [Top](#) | [Bottom](#)



Panama-Pacific Exposition award diploma

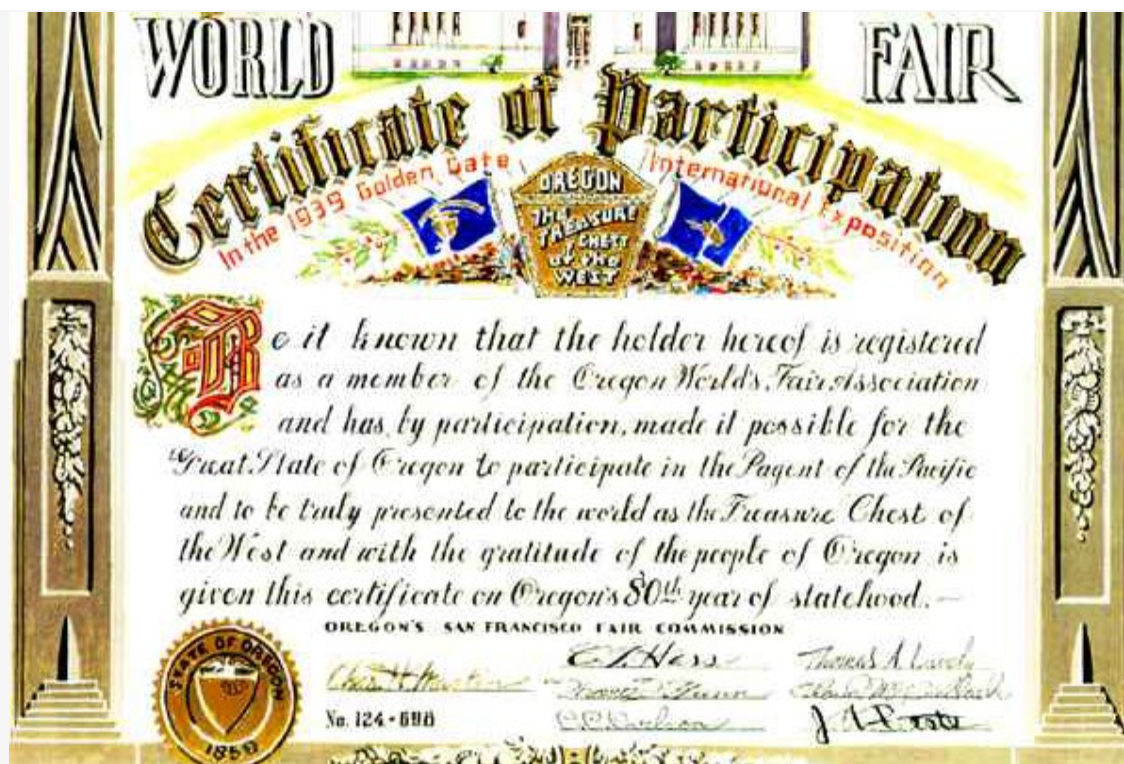
Department of Education Records, Panama-Pacific Exposition Records

Other views: [Right](#) | [Left](#)



Top half of Golden Gate certificate

[See text of certificate in .txt file >](#)



Bottom half of Golden Gate certificate

Golden Gate Exposition certificate of participation

Fair Participation Records, San Francisco and New York Fair Records, 5/001.

Next: [John McLoughlin >](#)



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John McLoughlin

John McLoughlin was one of the most influential figures of the fur trade and settlement periods of Pacific Northwest history. Chief Factor of the Columbia District of the British Hudson's Bay Company, he reigned as a benevolent autocrat, befriended Americans, and eventually became an American citizen at Oregon City. This exhibit provides glimpses of McLoughlin's life through documents held by the Oregon State Archives.



Career With Hudson's Bay Company

McLoughlin was born in the province of Quebec in 1784 to an upper class family. After a brief medical practice in Montreal, he became a partner in the North West Company. Soon after a merger with the Hudson's Bay Company, McLoughlin was made chief factor of the Columbia District and was stationed at Fort George from 1821 to 1825 and Fort Vancouver from 1825 to 1846.

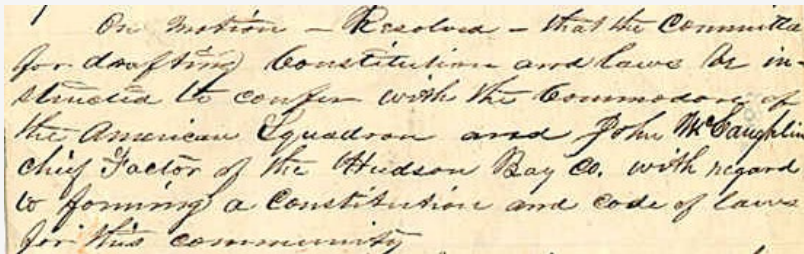
Around 1830 he erected a new Fort Vancouver, a mile from its first location. McLoughlin established a farm of about 3,000 acres and grew quantities of grain, principally wheat. He developed a herd of cattle, constructed saw and flour mills and yearly shipped lumber to the Hawaiian Islands and flour to Sitka. McLoughlin also founded the first school in the Oregon Country in 1832. By 1839 he had established about 20 trading forts and posts in the territory. The Hudson's Bay Company district under his management became the most profitable of all the company's enterprises in North America.

McLoughlin's entire period as head of the Hudson's Bay Columbia District was free of Indian disturbances. His dealings with the natives were generally successful and to them he

became known as the "White Headed Eagle." As chief factor of the Columbia District, McLoughlin's duties were to monopolize the fur trade of the region, impose peace on the numerous tribes, and prevent agricultural settlement of the region. He succeeded for a time, but the gradual decline in fur trading due to over trapping and the incursions of white settlement overruled his power and conscience. McLoughlin's friendliness to incoming missionaries helped open the way to settlement.

Early efforts of settlers to form a provisional government in Oregon recognized McLoughlin's power as the following 1841 resolution reveals:

1841 Resolution

A photograph of a handwritten document on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "On Motion - Resolved - that the Committee for drafting Constitution and laws be instructed to confer with the Commodore of the American Squadron and John McLoughlin Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Co. with regard to forming a Constitution and Code of laws for this community".

"On Motion - Resolved - that the committee for drafting Constitution and laws be instructed to confer with the Commodore of the American Squadron and John McLaughlin Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay

1841 resolution transcribed at right. [Enlarge image >](#)

Co. with regard to forming a Constitution and code of laws for this community."

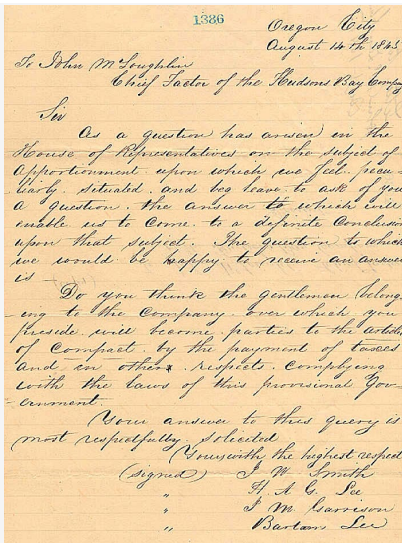
The United States formally won control of Oregon by signing a boundary treaty with Great Britain in 1846. The treaty set the current U.S./Canada boundary at the 49th parallel and reduced geographic and political uncertainties that had caused tensions.

Tensions were apparent in communications between members of the provisional government of Oregon (formed in 1843) and McLoughlin in the period immediately before the boundary treaty. The provisional government attempted to assert power in 1845 through the "articles of compact." However, its correspondence with McLoughlin shows a continuing respect for McLoughlin.

Because of the rapidly increasing population of American settlers in the area, McLoughlin saw that the Hudson's Bay Company would have to avoid inflaming the anti-British attitudes of Manifest Destiny and leading proponents such as President James K. Polk. He therefore agreed that the company would pay taxes on all goods brought to Oregon for resale. The following three letters reflect the ongoing negotiations made largely moot by the treaty:

1845 Letters

Oregon City
August 14th 1845
To John McLoughlin
Chief Factor of the Hudson Bay Company
Sir

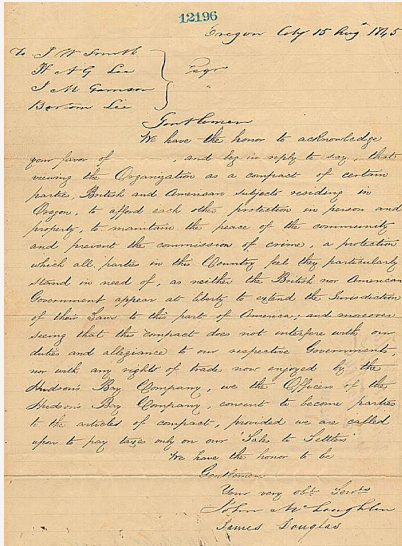


Letter to McLoughlin concerning articles of compact. [Enlarge image](#)

As a question has arisen in the House of Representatives on the subject of Apportionment upon which we feel peculiarly situated and beg leave to ask of you a question, the answer to which will enable us to come to a definite conclusion upon that subject. The question to which we would be happy to receive an answer is -

Do you think the gentleman belonging to the company over which you preside will become parties to the articles of compact by the payment of taxes and on other respects complying with the laws of this provisional government.

Your answer to this query is most respectfully solicited.
Yours with the highest respect
(signed) J W Smith, H A G Lee, J M Garrison, Barton Lee



McLoughlin's response concerning articles of compact. [Enlarge image](#)

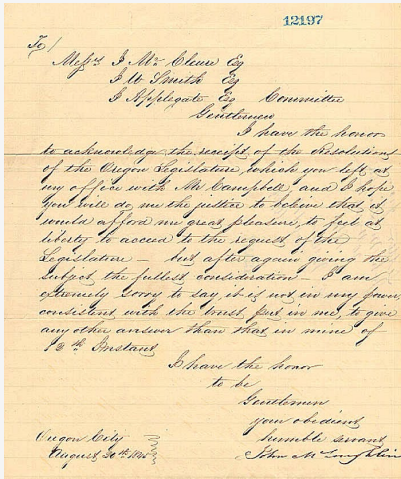
Oregon City 15 Aug 1845
To J W Smith, H A G Lee, J M Garrison, Barton Lee
Gentleman

We have the honor to acknowledge your favor of, and beg in reply to say, that viewing the organization as a compact of certain parties, British and American subjects residing in Oregon, to afford each other protection in person and property, to prevent the commission of crime, a protection which all parties in this Country only feel they particularly stand in need of, as neither the British nor American Government appear at liberty to extend the jurisdiction of their Laws to this part of America; and moreover seeing that this compact does not interfere with our duties and allegiance to our respective Governments, nor with any right of trade now

enjoyed by the Hudson's Bay Company, we the Officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, consent to become parties to the articles of compact, provided we are called upon to pay taxes only on our "Sales to Settlers"

We have the honor to be Gentleman
Your very obt Servants
John McLoughlin

James Douglas



Letter from McLoughlin regarding provisional government.

[Enlarge image >](#)

To Messrs. J. McClure Esq
 J. W. Smith Esq
 J. Applegate Esq Committee
 Gentleman

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Resolution of the Oregon Legislature, which you left at my office with Mr. Campbell, and I hope you will do me the justice to believe that it would afford me great pleasure to feel at liberty to accede to the request of the Legislature - but after again giving the subject the fullest consideration - I am extremely sorry to say, it is not in my power, consisting with the trust put in me, to give any other answer than that in mine of 12th Instant

I have the honor to be Gentleman your obedient humble servant

John McLoughlin

Oregon City August 20th 1845

[Next: John McLoughlin's Eventful Second Career >](#)



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John McLoughlin's Eventful Second Career

Upon retirement from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1846, McLoughlin moved into the Oregon City house pictured here. He remained a prominent and hospitable figure while operating a milling and merchandise business. Other than serving as mayor of Oregon City in 1852, he didn't take part in politics. But, he couldn't avoid the political storm forming over his land. The dispute originated in 1829 when McLoughlin first claimed land. By 1842 he had platted out and named the town of Oregon City. Several politically strong opponents sought to gain title to his valuable property near Willamette Falls. They succeeded in adding a clause to the Donation Land Act of 1850 that forced him to forfeit much of his land claim. Tragically, he died in 1857, broken in spirit and fortune.

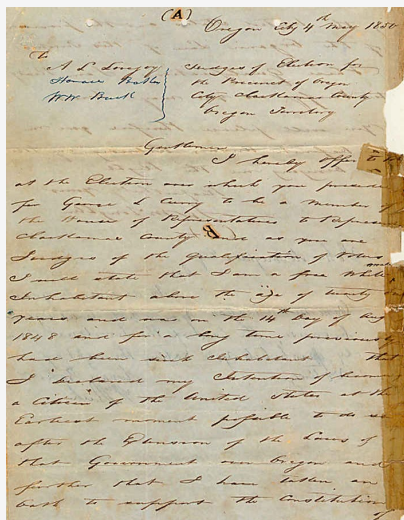


The McLoughlin House in Oregon City can be access by guided tour. Learn more at mcloughlinhouse.org.

In at least partial recognition of the injustice of his treatment, the State of Oregon released the property to his heirs in 1862 after payment of a nominal sum. In a 1907 eulogy at the dedication of the McLoughlin Institute at Oregon City, Oregon Historical Society President Frederick V. Holman had strong words for those who opposed McLoughlin: "I shall merely mention that conspirators against Dr. McLoughlin took for themselves parts of his land claim and, by means of malicious misstatements, caused Congress unjustly to deprive him of all the rest of his land claim, and thus humbled and humiliated and impoverished the grand, the noble, the generous Father of Oregon."

McLoughlin attempted to defend his holdings and influence as the petition shown below illustrates. The response of the Legislative Assembly was cold:

Text of McLoughlin's Petition to Vote



McLoughlin's petition to vote.
Transcript to right. [Enlarge image >](#)

Oregon City 4th May 1850
 To A J Lovejoy, Horace Baker, Wm Burk
 Judges of Election for the Precinct of Oregon City
 Clackamas County Oregon Territory
 Gentleman

I hereby offer to be at the Election over which you preside for George L Curry to be a member of the House of representatives to Represent Clackamas County and as you are Judges of the qualification of voters I will state that I am a free white male Inhabitant above the age of twenty one years and was on the 14th day of Aug 1848 and for a long time previously had been such inhabitant that I declared my intention of becoming a citizen of the United States at the Earliest moment possible to do so after the

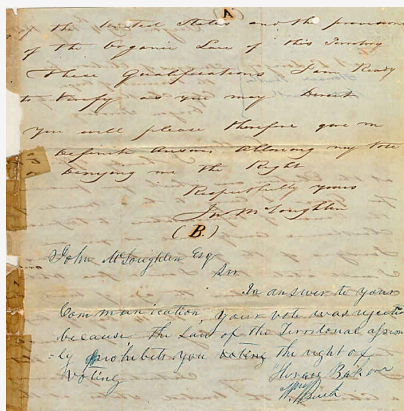
Extension of the Laws of that Government over Oregon and further that I have taken an Oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the provisions of the Organic Law of this Territory.

These qualifications I am ready to verify as you may direct.

You will please therefore give me definite answer allowing my vote or denying me the right.

Respectfully yours
 John McLoughlin

Legislative Assembly Response



Response of the Legislative Assembly.
Transcript to right. [Enlarge image >](#)

John McLoughlin Esq
 Sir

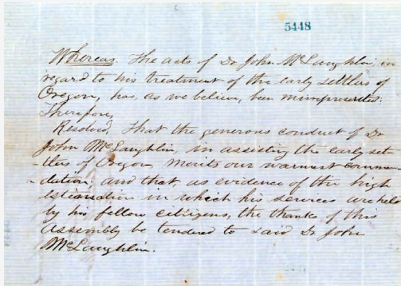
In answer to your communication, your vote was rejected because the Law of the Territorial assembly prohibits you the right of voting.

Horace Baker

Wm. Burk

Thanks to McLoughlin

Apparently soon after his death the members of the Legislative Assembly were remorseful over their treatment of McLoughlin. They passed the following undated resolution of thanks:



Resolution of thanks to Dr. McLoughlin. Transcription to right.

[Enlarge image >](#)

Whereas The Acts of Dr. John McLoughlin in regard to his treatment of the early settlers of Oregon, has, as we believe, been misrepresented,

Therefore,

Resolved, That the generous conduct of Dr. John McLoughlin, in assisting the early settlers of Oregon, merits our warmest commendation; and that, as evidence of the high estimation in which his services are held by his fellow citizens, the thanks of this assembly be tendered to

said Dr. John McLoughlin.

[Next: John McLoughlin's Legacy >](#)

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John McLoughlin Legacy

McLoughlin has been honored in many ways for the role he played in Oregon's early history. In 1905 the Oregon Legislative Assembly renamed the 9495 ft. Mount Pitt in southern Oregon to Mount McLoughlin. Other Oregon features named after McLoughlin include McLoughlin Boulevard, a major north-south thoroughfare in the Portland area; McLoughlin Elementary School in Oregon City; McLoughlin Middle School in Milwaukie; and Camp McLoughlin, a Boy Scouts camp in southern Oregon.

In 1909 McLoughlin's house in Oregon City was dedicated as a permanent memorial. He is also one of two Oregonians honored in the Statuary Hall in Washington D. C. (the other being Rev. Jason Lee). The U.S. Postal Service honored McLoughlin and Lee in 1948 with a 3¢ stamp celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Oregon Territory. And, in 1957 the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed the following resolution recognizing McLoughlin's contributions to the early development Oregon and naming him "Father of Oregon."



Statue of John McLoughlin given to the [National Statuary Hall Collection](#).

Text of House Joint Resolution Number 38

Whereas the year 1957 marks the centennial of the death of Dr. John McLoughlin, he having died at his home Oregon City on September 3, 1857; and

Whereas Dr. John McLoughlin came to the Northwest region in 1824 as a representative of the Hudson's Bay Company, and occupied the position of Chief Factor from 1825, when the

regional headquarters of the company was moved from old Fort Astoria to Fort Vancouver, until his retirement in 1845; and



House Joint Resolution 38 filed in the office of the Secretary of State May 17, 1957.

Whereas, in his capacity as Chief Factor, Dr. John McLoughlin directed the far-flung operations of the fur trade in all the country west of the Rocky Mountains and north of the California line, as well as the more localized activities of agriculture, livestock raising, sawmilling, flour milling, dairying and salmon fishing; and

Whereas, from 1825 until 1843, when the provisional government was first established by the settlers in the Willamette Valley, Dr. John McLoughlin was the undisputed governor of the vast area bounded by the Rocky Mountains on the east, Mexican territory (California) on the south, the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Russian settlements on the north; and

Whereas Dr. John McLoughlin exercised a paternal control over the Indians of the region, welcomed and provisioned missionaries and settlers, encouraged schools and church instruction and for a number of years was the only medical practitioner in the region; and

Whereas the many contributions of Dr. John McLoughlin to the development of the Northwest region in general and the Oregon country in particular make him truly deserving of the title by which he is often referred to, the "Father of Oregon"; now therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, the Senate jointly concurring:

That the Forty-ninth Legislative Assembly hereby officially confirms and bestows upon Dr. John McLoughlin the honorary title of "Father of Oregon" in recognition of his great contributions to the early development of the Oregon country and in commemoration of the centennial year of his death; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be suitably and prominently displayed in the Dr. McLoughlin Home located in Oregon City, Oregon.

Further Reading

[John McLoughlin Chronology of Events](#)

[Related Documents at the State Archives](#)

Next: [Oregon Environmental Legislation >](#)



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Oregon Environmental Legislation

Early Legislation

Oregon draws national attention for its environmental legislation. Forest management practices are key. Four significant pieces of Oregon legislation impacted the forest industry.



Lost Lake in the Cascade Mountains. From the [Oregon Scenic Images](#) collection.

1929

The 1929 Oregon Reforestation Law was considered one of the most progressive pieces of forest legislation for its time. The law provided for the forestation and reforestation of Oregon lands; provided a classification system for these lands; created an annual forest fee and yield tax on forest lands and the crops yielded by these lands; and penalized violators of this law. The act triggered a great deal of interest in the region:

 [Letter from West Coast Lumberman to State Forester, 1933](#)

 [Response letter from State Forester, 1933](#)

 [Page from 1929 Oregon Reforestation Law](#)

1940

In 1940, Gov. Charles Sprague "set in motion a movement to develop a well coordinated program of forestry and land use." The Governor's program was enacted by the Legislative Assembly and included measures to strengthen the fire protection system, improve forest land acquisition laws, establish a research division to promote the use of wood wastes, and set minimum standards for cutting timber for commercial purposes. The 1941 Forest Conservation Act built on the last of the Governor's recommendations by recognizing the impact that the forest products industry had on the state. Provisions were included in the Act to "encourage forest practices that maintain and enhance such benefits and such resources, and that recognize varying forest conditions."


 [Page from 1941 Forest Conservation Act](#)

1971

Thirty years later the 1971 Oregon Forest Practices Act became the first law of its kind in the United States to allow and regulate forest operations while protecting the environment. After considerable debate, the Legislative Assembly passed this act established rules for timber harvesting, the use of chemicals, slash disposal, reforestation, road construction and maintenance, and other activities impacting the forest environment. The State Forester could issue citations to violators who could then appeal to the Board of Forestry or a local circuit court. A primary goal was to reduce incidents of pollution.

 [Page from 1971 Oregon Forest Practices Act](#)

 [March 10, 1971 House Subcommittee on Natural Resources minutes](#)

 [1971 Flow Chart showing the State Forester could issue citations \(1971 Legislative Exhibits, Natural Resources Committee, HB 1624, 1/29/71\)](#)

1987

Oregon's evolving environmental legislation continued in 1987 when after numerous committee public hearings and work sessions the Legislative Assembly passed HB 3396. This latest Oregon Forest Practices Act was amended to include all regulation of forest and land use practices.

 [Page from June, 1987 House E&E Committee Minutes](#)

 [Page from 1987 Oregon Forest Practices Act](#)

Forest practices have not been the only area of innovation by the Legislative Assembly. Other notable environmental bills passed in Oregon include:

- Aerosol Spray Ban, SB 771 (1975) ([List of records at OSA pertaining to SB 771](#))
- [Beach Bill, HB 1601](#) (1967)
- [Bottle Bill, HB 1036](#) (1971)
- Field Burning, SB 311 (1975) ([List of records at OSA pertaining to SB 311](#))
- [Land Use, SB 100](#) (1973)
- Hazardous Waste Cleanup-Super Fund Bill, SB 122 (1987) ([List of records at OSA pertaining to SB 122](#))
- Oregon Recreation Trails System Act, SB 126 (1971)
- [Willamette River Greenway Act, HB 2497](#) (1973)
- [Park System, HB 1770](#) (1967)

Next: [Prison Escape >](#)



Prison Escape

Opened in 1851, the Oregon State Penitentiary has been the site of many escapes and attempted escapes. One of the more dramatic



Oregon State Penitentiary, 1890. Photo from the [Oregon Historic Photograph Collections](#).

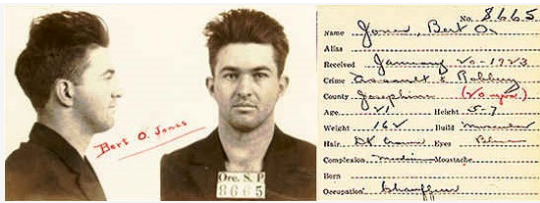
escapes occurred shortly after 6 p.m., Aug. 12, 1925. Detailed newspaper accounts describe a hail of bullets that left an inmate and two guards dead, one guard seriously wounded and another badly beaten.

Backgrounds of the Escapees

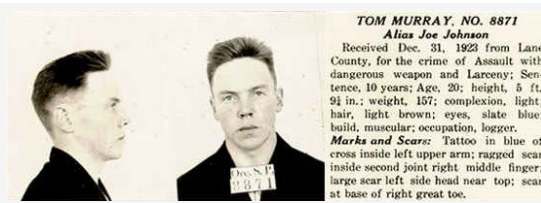
The convicts involved in the escape were Bert "Oregon" Jones, Thomas Murray, James Willos, and Ellsworth Kelley. Each had a long history of run-ins with the law.

Jones had previously served time in the Oregon State Reform School and the Oklahoma State Reformatory. He had been sent to the penitentiary to serve a twenty-year term for assault and armed robbery. Jones had escaped from the penitentiary in March of 1924 and had been at large for more than a year before he was identified in custody in Sacramento and was returned in April 1925.

Thomas Murray had previously served time at San Quentin. He was serving a ten-year sentence for larceny and assault with a deadly weapon.



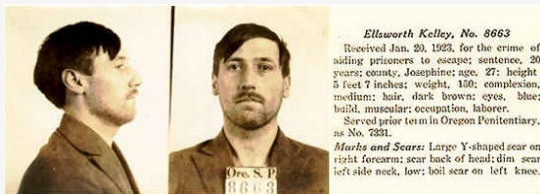
Mug shot of Bert Jones: Department of Corrections Records, inmate case file #8665.



Mug shot of Tom Murray: Department of Corrections Records, inmate case file #8871. [Text of Murray mug shot in .txt file >](#)

Ellsworth Kelley had previously served a two-year sentence at the penitentiary from 1915 to 1917, as well as time in various county jails. A partner of Bert Jones, Kelley was serving a twenty-year sentence for aiding prisoners to escape. He had escaped from the penitentiary and been recaptured twice before his 1925 escape.

James Willos had served time in San Quentin and the Oklahoma State Reformatory before being sent to the penitentiary from Umatilla County. He was serving a seven-year term for burglary.



Mug shot of Ellsworth Kelley: Department of Corrections Records, inmate case file #8663. [Text of Kelley mug shot in .txt file >](#)



Mug shot of James Willos: Department of Corrections Records, inmate case file #8956. [Text of Willos mug shot in .txt file >](#)

Next: [Life in the Pen >](#)



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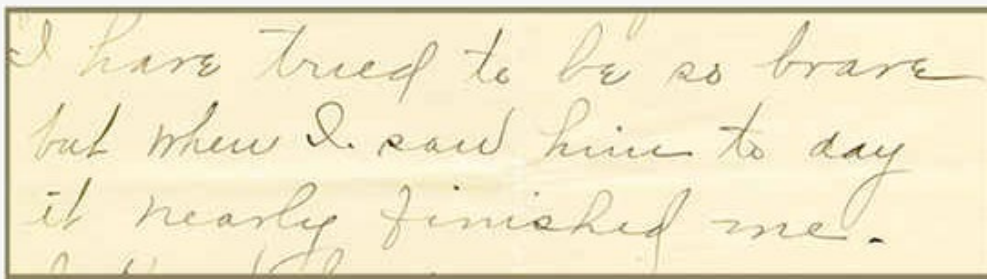
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Life in the Pen

Work, Defiance and Desperation

Judges
sentenced
convicted
felons to the
Oregon
State
Penitentiary
for a variety
of crimes.
Punishment
and



Excerpt of letter from Ellsworth Kelley's mother to the warden after visiting her sick son in the penitentiary. Dec. 7, 1926, page 2: Department of Corrections Records, inmate case file for Ellsworth Kelley #8663. "I have tried to be so brave but when I saw him to day it nearly finished me."

rehabilitation were the main goals. The inmate was to "pay his debt to society" and learn skills and habits necessary to succeed as a law abiding citizen upon release. For most of the approximately 500 inmates at the penitentiary, this strategy was a qualified success. Convicts were required to work at tasks designed to make the penitentiary as self sufficient as possible.

[Daily Report of Prisoners and Where Employed](#)


Department of Corrections Records, inmate case file for Tom Murray #8871.

The prison farm, kitchen, and laundry occupied many of them. Also, prison industries such as flax manufacturing employed many of the convicts.

Records of Discipline

But parallel to this world of work and rehabilitation ran a bleak reality of harsh rules, intimidation, brutality, defiance and desperation. It was in this context that Bert "Oregon" Jones, Thomas Murray, James Willos, and Ellsworth Kelley struggled with prison authority and eventually conceived their plan for a breakout. The inmates were disciplined for refusing to work, agitating and tunneling in an attempt to escape. In at least one instance,

Willos was put in the "dungeon" at his own request, presumably to escape from a worse fate in the prison yard:

 [Records of Discipline, Oregon State Penitentiary](#)

Testimony given by Willos and Kelley at their trial indicated that being confined to the "bull-pen" and dungeon made them fear for their lives. They heard stories of guards randomly shooting into the cells in this area. Prisoners had circulated the story of one inmate confined to the bull pen who had been shot by a guard and then to cover up the incident the guards placed the body outside the prison walls to make it appear as an attempted escape. The testimony apparently was intended to make the jury believe the two men were in such fear for their lives that escape was a rational response to this threat.

After Kelley's capture, he was returned to the penitentiary to await trial, appeal and finally, execution. His mother visited him late in 1926 and witnessed his condition. Her plaintive letter to Warden Lewis displays her mother's love, sense of failure and deep disappointment:

 [Letter from Ellsworth Kelley's mother, Dec. 7, 1926](#)

Next: [Escape and Capture >](#)

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Breakout! The Escape and Capture

The four convicts prepared for their escape by cutting a hole through the roof over the north wing of the cell house. Later, when the cell doors opened to allow inmates to march to the mess hall for the evening meal, the four instead climbed to the top of the cell block. They went through the roof and walked above the main office where they fastened a rope and climbed down a brick wall to the front of the administration building. During this time they remained completely hidden from the view of all guard towers. The group ran to the turnkey's office which held an arsenal of all guns not in use by guards.

The violence began when the four surprised the arsenal guards, captured the arsenal and took all of the guns and ammunition they thought they would need for the escape. The convicts began to fire at the guards at posts one and seven who returned fire. Guard John Sweeney was shot through the head and killed instantly on post one. Guard J.M. Holman suffered a wound while on post one and was moved by another guard to the west outside of the base of the post. Guard John Davison, who had already fought with the convicts in the turnkey's office, rushed to tower one and armed himself for an opportunity to fire on the four who had taken cover.

The convicts then succeeded in capturing post one. They jumped to the ground outside of the west wall where they immediately shot and killed Guard Holman. The unfortunate Holman had been sitting on the ground suffering from wound he had already received. From his position of advantage in tower one, Guard Davison shot Bert "Oregon" Jones, the leader of the outlaws, through the hip as he jumped to the ground. According to statements made by guards and later accounts from the escaped convicts, Jones then shot himself in the head. Convict Thomas Murray was also wounded in the arm and hand during the escape. Guard Lute Savage was shot just below the heart by one of the convicts as he approached tower

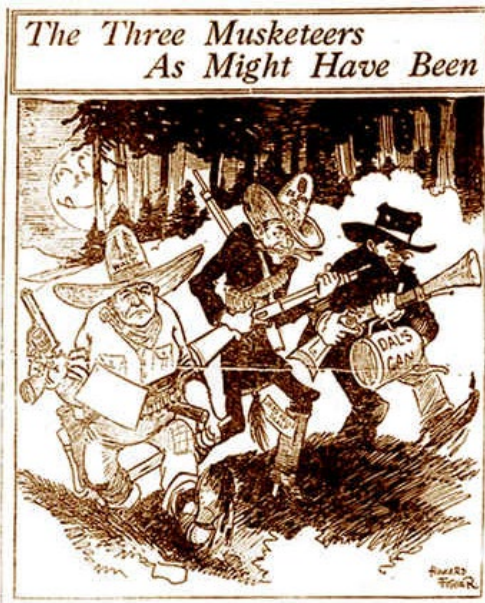


Mug shot of Ellsworth Kelley:
Department of Corrections Records,
inmate case file for Ellsworth Kelley
#7331.

one from the west. Another guard, James Nesmith, was overpowered by the convicts and suffered numerous injuries including a broken jaw.

Guard Davison continued to fire on the remaining three escapees as they ran to the nearby Oregon State Hospital. The group managed to commandeer a vehicle and sped out of Salem in the darkness. They drove to a thickly wooded area near Silverton.

 [Proclamation by Governor Walter Pierce offers \\$1000 reward for escapees, dead or alive.](#)



Oregon Journal newspaper Aug. 20, 1925

Posses numbering more than 150 men combed the countryside for the escapees. Governor Walter Pierce was quoted in the newspapers as saying "While I have no longing to see men hung, I would be pleased to come out here and witness the execution of these fellows if they are caught." Former Governor Oswald West was quoted in several Portland newspapers criticizing Governor Pierce and Warden A.M. Dalrymple. He blamed them for poor security at the penitentiary and mismanaging the search for the convicts. At one point he was reported to have issued a challenge to the governor and warden to join him in the search for the escapees.

Kelley, Willos and Murray eluded posses for more than 10 days. Kelley and Willos were captured together near Goldendale, Washington. Murray was captured in Centralia, Washington and returned to Salem. Newspapers portrayed him as a dangerous criminal and the ring leader of the escaped men. Bert "Oregon" Jones' body was transferred to a local funeral home awaiting transfer to his home town of Grants Pass. Newspapers reported approximately 7000 curiosity-seekers came to view his body.

Next: [Justice is Served >](#)

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Justice is Served

The three escapees were tried for murder in Marion County Circuit Court and convicted on Oct. 21, 1925. They were sentenced to die by hanging, with the

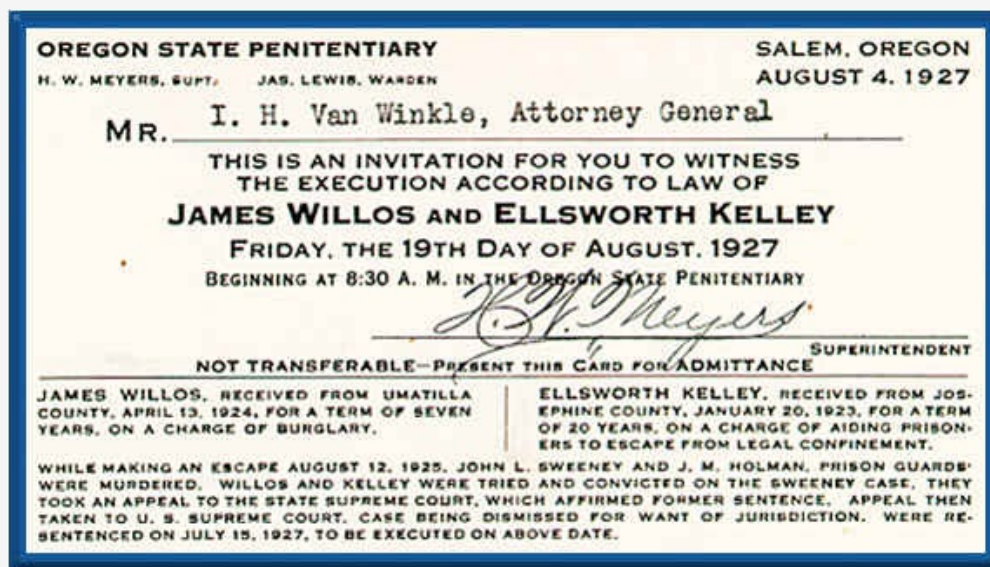
execution scheduled for Jan. 8, 1926. The inmates appealed their sentence, first to the Oregon Supreme Court and then to the U.S. Supreme Court:

 [Petition for Rehearing: State of Oregon vs. Ellsworth Kelley and James Willos](#) (Oregon Supreme Court Case Files # 5448)

 [U.S. Supreme Court dismissal for want of jurisdiction](#) (Oregon Supreme Court Case Files, State of Oregon vs. Ellsworth Kelley and James Willos # 5448)

In May of 1926 Thomas Murray committed suicide by hanging himself in his cell with a bed sheet. Newspapers reported that a note was found stating: "I killed Sweeny, Jones killed Holman. Kelley and Willos shot no one or even at anyone."

April 20, 1928



Invitation to the execution: Dept. of Corrections Records, Ephemera.

[Text of invitation in .txt file >](#)

After more than two years of appeals and the cancellation of two previously scheduled hangings, Kelley and Willos were executed the morning of April 20, 1928. The attorney for Willos claimed his client became insane while his case was being appealed. Before execution he was examined by physicians and declared sane. Newspaper accounts report that the execution was witnessed by approximately 50 spectators. Willos told the crowd before the hood was placed over his head: "Well, I hope you are all satisfied."

Oregon City Oregon
Aug 24 1925-

Mr. Sam Kozar,
Query State of Oregon
Dear Sir:

I understand the state is responsible for all bills incurred by convicts so I send you the following bill incurred by convicts on their forced sojourn at my ranch, also for some clothing taken at same time.

1 Pair New shoes	6.00
2 pair " Silk socks at 50 cts each	1.00
1 Pair Overhauled pants	3.00
1 Pair new car tires	.50
Board for convicts for 3 meals	4.50
" " 4 men brought by convicts	6.00
	\$21.00

Yours truly
C. L. Newman
11-4-25 G

In the aftermath of the escape rancher C. L. Newman promptly sought justice by appealing for financial compensation from the state for his losses. His ranch served as a resting place for the escapees as well as a resting place for the convicts on their "forced sojourn." Mr. Newman petitioned by letter to Secretary of State Sam Kozar for payment of his expenses.

The escape was an embarrassment to the governor and cost the warden his job. Governor Pierce appointed a commission to investigate conditions at the Oregon State Penitentiary that allowed the break to occur. The commission recommended a new guard tower be placed in front of the administration building since that section could not be seen from existing vantage points. It recommended a wire fence several feet high be added to the top of all

prison walls. The commission also advised that a large siren be installed to warn people living in the surrounding area of a prison escape. Finally, it suggested more guards should be employed so all posts would be fully manned.

On Sept. 30, 1926 the new warden reported that "each of these recommendations have been fully carried out to the letter. It of course means a little more expense for guard hire, but that is considered better than taking unnecessary chances."

Additional Records

Board of Control Records, Biennial Reports.

Board of Control Records, Minutes.

Circuit court records related to the escape and prior convictions of the four convicts may be found in records at the Oregon State Archives and/or individual counties (e.g., Marion, Josephine). Consult the "[Oregon Historical County Records Guide](#)" for inventories of circuit court records.

Oregon Supreme Court Case Files, State of Oregon vs. Ellsworth Kelley and James Willos #

5448.

Salem Statesman Journal: August 1925, May 1926, April 1928.

Next: [Prohibition in Oregon >](#)



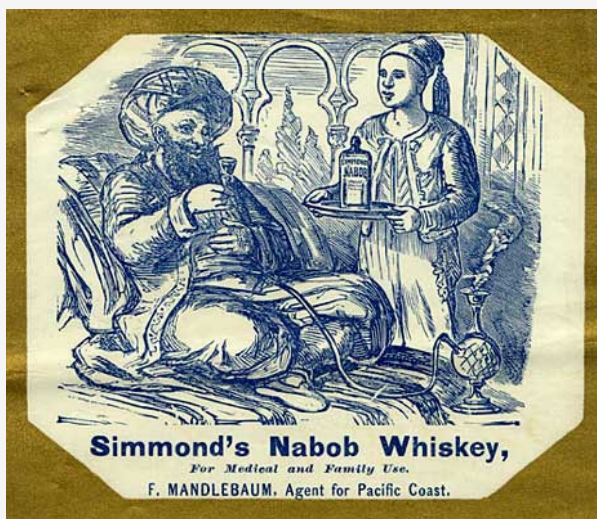
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Prohibition in Oregon

Even before Oregon became part of the United States its citizens tried to control the manufacture and sale of liquor. In spite of this effort, a thriving commerce developed to import, brew, distill and dispense a variety of products. By the late 1800s the temperance movement forced the question of a ban on liquor to the forefront of the nation's social debate. By 1916 Oregonians began to live with prohibition. The state law took effect 3 years before the ratification of the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution that banned liquor nationally. But soon enterprising individuals -and organized crime- filled the void with illegal stills, rumrunning and speakeasies. Oregon law enforcement geared up to respond to the challenge but couldn't keep up. Eventually, Oregon and the rest of the nation tired of the experiment. By 1933 voters repealed both the state law and the national constitutional amendment.



Simmond's Nabob Whiskey label 1879. See more labels in the [Liquor and Beer Trademark Gallery](#).

A Thriving Liquor Commerce

In the decades before prohibition Oregonians slaked their collective thirst with local brews and spirits. They also chose from a variety of concoctions imported from other states and countries. The freewheeling capitalism of this period created a need for liquor manufacturers to differentiate their products from those of competitors. To do this they turned to artists who designed colorful bottle labels meant to evoke the beauty of the location or the romance of an imagined time or place. The tired and thirsty were enticed to leave troubles of the day behind.

See trademark labels held by the Oregon State Archives in the [Liquor and Beer Trademark](#)

[Gallery >](#)

Liquor Control, Temperance and the Call for Prohibition

Most early laws relating to liquor control were intended to prevent Native Americans from possessing liquor. In June 1844, Oregon's provisional government enacted a prohibition law designed to "prevent the introduction, sale and distillation of ardent spirits in Oregon." This law remained in effect until September 1849, when the territorial legislature repealed it:

 [Oregon Provisional Government enacting prohibition, 1844](#)

Rather than total prohibition, Oregon passed laws to regulate liquor sales. These tended to specify licensing criteria for the selling of liquor, and in some cases banned the sale of alcohol in areas near construction projects and churches, or to minors and the intoxicated.

The last decades of the 1800s saw the temperance movement gain attention in the United States. Led by the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and the Anti-Saloon League, public displays against establishments that sold liquor (particularly saloons) became commonplace. The fame of such figures as the hatchet-wielding Carrie Nation, who entered saloons and smashed liquor containers and other paraphernalia, brought the temperance movement to the attention of the nation, including the citizens of Oregon.



A Women's Christian Temperance Union axe breaks through a door in an attack on the liquor industry, represented by Oregon agricultural products that would be harmed by prohibition. This portion of a 1913 cartoon is from a Salem Welfare League broadside opposing prohibition. (Colorized. Original image courtesy Oregon State Library)

The temperance movement was joined by the equal suffrage movement in an attempt to enact both as needed social reforms. But the two movements were unable to divide their focus between the issues. Each viewed the other as inhibiting their adoption in Oregon and the nation. In Oregon, Abigail Scott Duniway blamed the prohibitionists for many of suffrage's defeats at the polls. By 1912, when women's suffrage was enacted into law in Oregon, the movements were split.

During the late 1800s the temperance movement continued to agitate the state government for prohibition and liquor control reform. In November 1887 Oregon voters defeated a proposed amendment to the state constitution to institute

Morals and Business

**Suffer in Every
Prohibition Town**

**Do You Want to Follow the Examples
of Eugene and Albany; Double Both
Taxes and Increase Violations of Law**

EUGENE	ARRESTS 1 to 24	TAX RATE 15 Mills
---------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------

ALBANY	ARRESTS 1 to 27	TAX RATE 13.3 Mills
---------------	---------------------------	-------------------------------

SALEM	ARRESTS 1 to 37	TAX RATE 8.2 Mills
--------------	---------------------------	------------------------------

STUB | STUB
To be torn off by the Chairman | To be torn off by the first Clerk

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
FOR
Salem No. 1 Precinct**

Marion County, Oregon, November 4, 1913

Vote for or against prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, for the entire City of Salem, consisting of Precincts Salem No. 1, Salem No. 2, Salem No. 3, Salem No. 4, Salem No. 5, Salem No. 6, Salem No. 7, Salem No. 8, Salem No. 9, Salem No. 10, in Marion County, Oregon.

Mark X between Number and Answer Voted For:

12. For Prohibition.

13. Against Prohibition.

10-3-B

SALEM WELFARE LEAGUE

Mock ballot against prohibition by the Salem Welfare League.

[Enlarge image](#) [Mock ballot transcript](#)

(Oregon State Library subject vertical files on prohibition1913)

They cited economic hardships to farmers of such crops as wheat, potatoes and hops:

[Salem Welfare League poster opposing prohibition](#) (Oregon State Library subject vertical files on prohibition, 1913)


Owners and employees of breweries, distilleries, saloons and related businesses foresaw doom. Some opponents predicted that a criminal element would fill the void left by the loss of legitimate businesses related to liquor. On Nov. 3, 1914, five years prior to national prohibition, the voters of Oregon passed an amendment to the state constitution prohibiting the manufacture, sale or advertisement of intoxicating liquor:

state-wide prohibition. Saloons were by law allowed to operate in Oregon by a measure approved in November 1889.

On June 6, 1904 Oregon voters approved the local option act. This law established that a successful county-wide vote for prohibition would make each precinct in the county subject to the ban on alcohol. In 1905 the Legislative Assembly enacted statutes enabling the implementation of the local option law. That same year the city of Hood River enacted prohibition by local option election. Subsequent challenges to the local option law during 1905-1907 resulted in local option being upheld by the Oregon Supreme Court. During the following years, various counties and cities enacted prohibition via use of the local option.

Supporters of prohibition envisioned a society with less crime, domestic abuse, neglect and accidents. They believed people whose lives had revolved around saloons and drinking would be transformed into better spouses, parents and workers. Freed from the debilitating effects of alcohol, these people would rise to a higher moral plane and become more productive citizens. As a result, the nation would grow stronger.

Industries and individuals standing to lose from prohibition mounted a spirited counteroffensive.

 [Proclamation by Gov. Oswald West](#) declaring passage of constitutional amendment relating to prohibition (Secretary of State Official Documents, Dec. 14, 1914)

In 1915 the Legislative Assembly, via the Anderson Act, enacted legislation implementing statewide prohibition. The law became effective Jan. 1, 1916. Less than a year later, in November 1916, voters defeated a proposed state constitutional amendment to permit the sale of beer. In 1917 the Oregon Supreme Court upheld prohibition in a challenge to the new law's constitutionality.

Next: [Bootleggers and the Repeal of Prohibition >](#)

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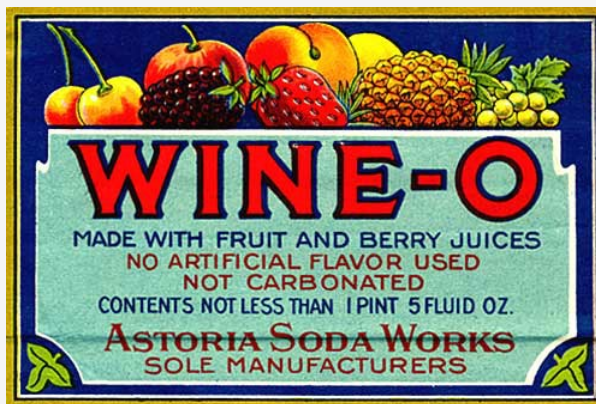
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Bootleggers and the Repeal of Prohibition

In 1919, following the passage of the federal Volstead Act, the Oregon Legislative Assembly ratified the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution; this helped pave the way for national prohibition. Local officials, along with federal revenue agents, sought out and prosecuted violators of the ban on alcohol manufacture and consumption.

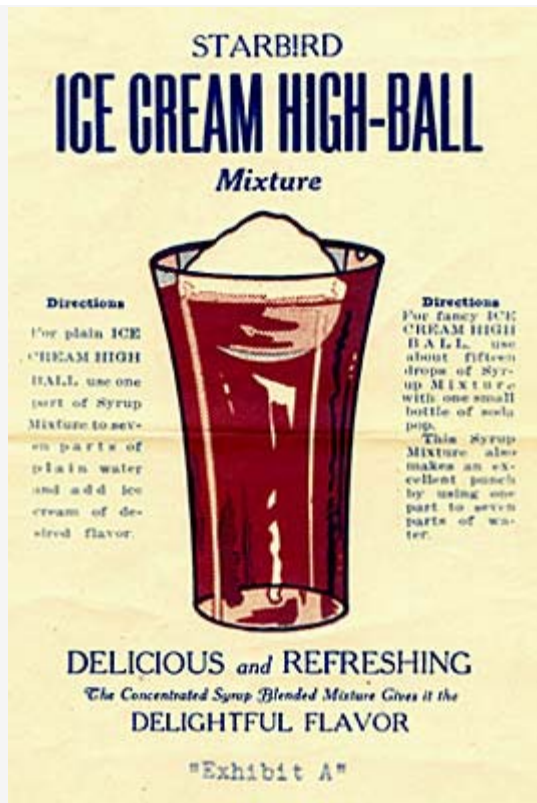


Wine-O, Astoria Soda Works, Oregon, 1918. See more labels in the [Liquor and Beer Trademark Gallery](#).

In 1923 the Legislative Assembly established the Prohibition Commission to enforce the state's liquor laws. In later years it passed laws assist public officials in the prosecution of crimes stemming from the prohibition of liquor, particularly the granting of greater powers to the police with regard to search and seizure. In 1931 the Legislative Assembly abolished the Prohibition Commission, transferring all enforcement to the State Police.

Prohibition created new possibilities for those with good imaginations. For the enterprising, determined to stay within the bounds of the law, there were commercial opportunities. Many attempted to evoke fond memories of the period before prohibition. They formulated non-alcoholic drinks that included words associated with liquor.

Businesses that had been active in the liquor industry scrambled to find new ways to stay afloat. Henry Weinhard's, a Portland brewery, bought out Puritan Manufacturing Company and thereby gained the rights to manufacture such non-alcoholic beverages



Ice Cream High-Ball, John H. Starbird, Washington, 1922

as [Ras-Porter](#), Graport, Loganport, and Cherriport. Others let their frustration show in the period just after prohibition took effect. Jesse Day of Prineville was apparently so disgusted that he registered a trademark with the title "Nothing." In what must have been a biting commentary on the times, the trademark was to apply to a "temperance beverage."

 [Application for Trademark by Jesse Day](#)

Opportunities also existed for those willing to stretch or break the law. Some were caught by law enforcement. Effects of the

ban can be seen by examining records such as still registrations:

 [Registration of Still, State of Oregon, County of Clackamas](#)


While not able to locate every illegal still, officials carefully tracked those used for legal purposes. Police reports documented extensive surveillance by state prohibition officers, sheriff's deputies and others. These often led to arrests and fines as was the case for Arthur Pedersen:

 [Arthur Pedersen Report of Violation of Prohibition Law](#)

Officials were assisted in their efforts to "stamp out bootlegging" by informants who provided details about illegal organizations in Oregon:

 [1919 Bootlegging Informant Letter](#)

An informant's tip landed Richard Sargent in the county jail, \$500 poorer. His partner, who later escaped, told deputies they couldn't go upstairs because there was a sick person there. Instead, they found Sargent with an elaborate still:

 [State of Oregon vs. Richard Sargent](#)



J.H. Starbird's trademark for Ice Cream, 1922

However, his partner may not have been lying - Sargent was released early from the county jail because he was suffering from tuberculosis.

The Repeal of Prohibition

In 1925 and 1931 the Oregon Legislative Assembly refused to pass bills that would have sent to the voters a call to reconsider statewide prohibition. "Wet" interests finally used the initiative petition to put the question before voters in November 1932. This initiative was passed by the voters, effectively eliminating the state's machinery for penalizing infringements of the prohibition laws:

 [Vote Proclamation to Repeal Prohibition](#)

In the summer of 1933, voters repealed Oregon's constitutional prohibition amendment, and shortly after Oregon ratified the 21st amendment to the U.S. Constitution, repealing national prohibition.

This did not mark the end of liquor control in the State of Oregon; almost immediately following the repeal of national prohibition, Governor Julius Meier began efforts resulting in the formation of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, or OLCC, which continues selective regulation of liquor manufacture and sales in the state.

Next: [Whitman Massacre Trial](#) >



E.G. Lyons Co. trademark for Belvista Wine (#387), 1893
([Enlarge image](#))

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Whitman Massacre Trial

The mission established by Marcus and Narcissa Whitman near present-day Walla Walla, Washington was a way station for overland immigrants to Oregon.

An outbreak of measles in


1847 ravaged the Cayuse tribe living near the mission. Although Doctor Whitman gave medicines to the Indians fatalities among the tribe grew. On Nov. 29, 1847 the mission was attacked by the Cayuse and Doctor Whitman, his wife Narcissa and 12 other whites were killed.

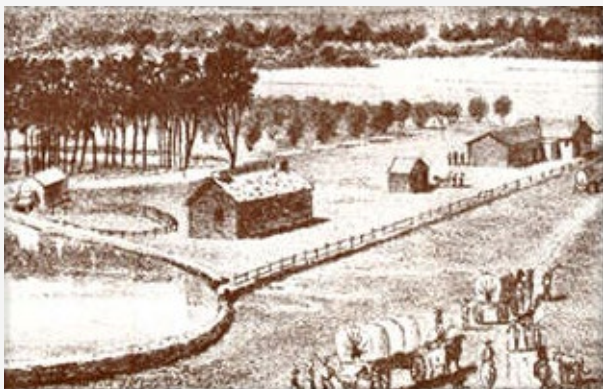


The 1847 Cayuse Indian attack on missionary Marcus Whitman. (Illustration from Marcus Whitman M.D.: Pioneer and Martyr by Clifford Merrill Drury, 1937.)

An Indictment is Issued

In 1850, 29 months after the murders, Joseph Lane, newly appointed Governor of Oregon Territory, secured the surrender of 5 members of the Cayuse tribe. The defendants were brought more than 200 miles from their homes east of the Cascades to Oregon City where they were tried in U.S. District Court. The trial records show one of the earliest and most documented murder trials in the Oregon Territory.

 [Indictment in the Whitman Trial](#) (Clakamas Co. U.S. District Court Records, U.S. vs. Telakite et al: Indictment- #16)



"Drawing of the Whitman Mission, 1884" from Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Opening of Old Oregon, vol. 1, by Clifford M. Drury, 1973.

As preparations for a trial proceeded, summons to testify were issued:

[Summons to testify in Whitman Massacre Trial](#)

The defendants' legal counsel filed a motion challenging the court's authority to hear the case, since the crime had been committed in "Indian Territory" and before Oregon Territory had been created. The defense attorneys based their arguments on the traditional Cayuse practice of killing ineffective medicine men.

[Demurrer \(objection\) challenging the court's authority](#) (Clackamas Co. U.S. District Court Records, U.S. vs. Telakite et al: Motion - #40 & 41)

[Transcript of demurrer challenging the court's authority](#)

The Trial Proceeds

Testimony from defense witnesses, Chief Stikus and Dr. John McLoughlin, reinforced the defense contention that tribal custom was to kill medicine men whose patients died. Stikus's testimony was unusual, since existing law in Oregon said an "Indian shall not be a witness in any court, or in any case against a white person." The fact that he was testifying against the government rather than a white man apparently allowed his testimony.

[Testimony of Indian Chief Stikus](#) (Clackamas Co. U.S. District Court Records, U.S. vs. Telakite et al: Testimony of Stikus #54)

[Transcript of testimony of Indian Chief Stikus](#)

[Testimony of Dr. John McLoughlin](#) (Clackamas Co. U.S. District Court Records, U.S. vs. Telakite et al: Testimony of McLoughlin #56)

A Verdict is Reached

After hearing 4 days of testimony the jurors returned a verdict of guilty. The 5 defendants, Telokite, Tomahas, Clokomas, Isiaasheluckas and Kiamasumkin were publicly executed June 3, 1850.

[Verdict in Whitman Massacre Trial](#) (Clackamas Co. U.S. District Court Records, U.S. vs. Telakite et al: Verdict - #57)

No. 17. Bill of Costs
 May 7. 1850
 U. S. v. Telakite
 et al

Clerk's fees
 Filing indictment .50
 Entering continuance .75
 1.25

Dist Atty's fees
 Drawing indictment \$30.00
 \$31.25

Bill of costs shows the total expense for the trial to be \$31.25. Despite attention received by the case, costs remained modest. ([Enlarge image](#))

After the verdict, the defense attorneys filed a motion asking for a new trial based on a number of exceptions to rulings by the judge. Particularly noteworthy was Judge O.C. Pratt's instruction to the jury that the surrender of the defendants by the Cayuse nation, "the nation knowing best who those murderers were," could be viewed by the jury as evidence of the identity of the accused. Pratt had clearly pressed the jury for a guilty verdict.

[Motion for new trial](#) (Clackamas Co. U.S. District Court Records, U.S. vs. Telakite et al: Motion by defendants - #59 & #60)



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