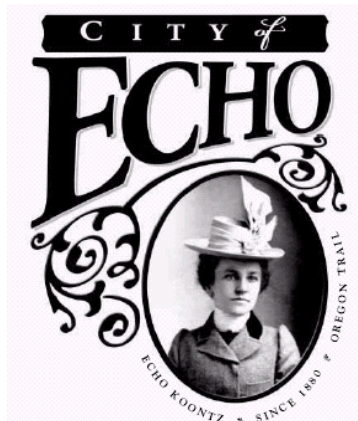


Preface

The following document is a cultural and historical inventory of Echo, Oregon. When the City of Echo started this project and asked for citizen input we were asked, “*What is a cultural inventory?*” A trip to the giant dictionary in the library was reassuring. Among the definitions of “*culture*” is the “*result of being cultivated, refinement, and improvement to man’s physical and mental condition*”. Further along were two words by themselves: “*civilization; educate;*” History was defined as “*pertaining to history or historians; containing history.*” This document is an attempt to educate, document and preserve the culture, civilization and refinements of Echo. I hope that after reading this document you will feel we have been successful.

An Arts Builds Community Grant from the Oregon Arts Commission funded this project. The goal behind this project was to create an historical and cultural inventory that could be used as a stepping stone to other projects that build on Echo’s history and culture, such as a Millennium Arts Project proposed by the city and volunteers making up the Millennium Arts Committee, which seeks funding to develop a variety of public art creations to scatter throughout the community. Another part of the grant funded the development of an Echo logo using the image of Echo Koontz. This idea sprang from historical photos of Echo on display at city hall. Echo’s image was determined to be one that would be memorable and could be used on historic markers, interpretive panels, souvenirs and city documents. Below is the logo selected by the art committee and city council.



Millennium Arts Committee Members: Ed McCallum, Richard Winter, Nellie Madison, Gayle Weatherson, Diane Berry, and Ed Longhorn.

Mayor: Jeannette Bell.

Echo City Council Members: Ed McCallum, Richard Winter, Pat Wood, Cyrus Haskett, Brad Williams, and Ed Longhorn.

**Diane Berry,
City Administrator
January 2002**

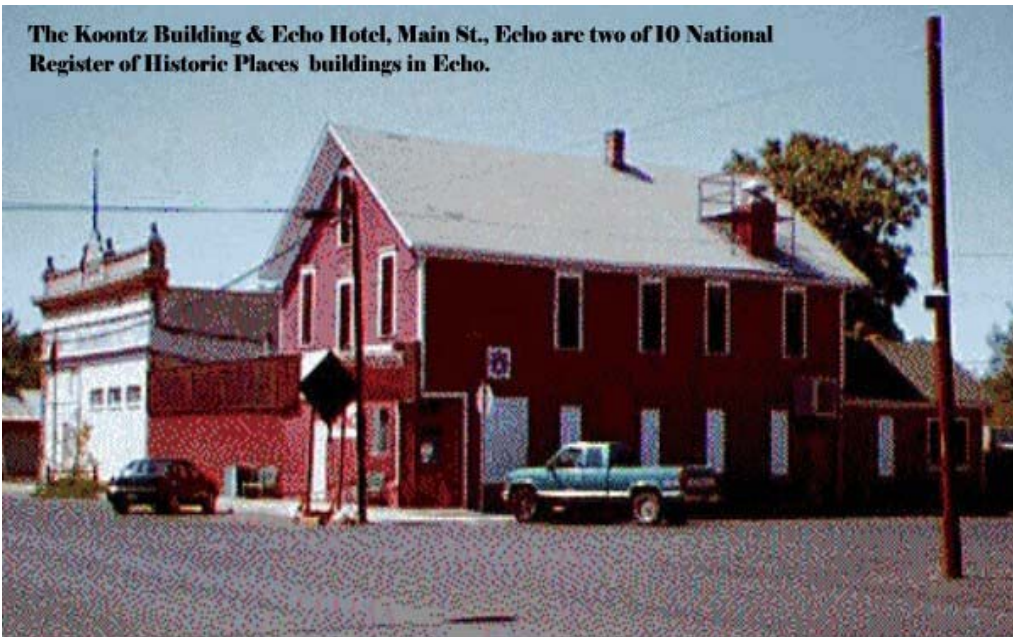
A Grant from the Oregon Arts Commission provided funding for this document.

Introduction

A cultural inventory is designed to gather a community's stories, folklore, artists, history, places and unique features together in a single document. The intent is to have this inventory do this. However, this is not a finite document. As research continues, and the public reviews this document, new information will come forward, and of course, history is not static. History is continuous, ongoing. Consequently, it is the city's intent to revise this document periodically. This document is a listing of information about Echo that only scratches the surface of the unique and diverse community that Echo is and was.

Echo, like any town, has changed over the years, but it remains a special place because of that history. More than many other places, Echo has managed to save and celebrate its past. Archaeologists have long recognized that people, whatever their culture or heritage, tend to settle in the same places century after century, decade after decade. The same characteristics attract people: waterways, easy transportation routes, etc. The valley where the town is located and the other settlement areas that make up Echo today, such as Butter Creek, are such places. Archaeological excavations from the Uvilla Indian Agency/Fort Henrietta site reveal that Native Americans began using the site over 3,500 years ago. Mary Oman, Bureau of Land Management archaeologist, discovered in her research that the Echo area has been a significant transportation hub from prehistoric times. It is a place she says where “...*literally all trails meet.*” Irrigation canals intersect the valley, which attracted settlement in the early 1900s. All of these factors, plus rich soils and waterways, makes the Echo area an attractive place to settle.

However, eventually the highway system bypassed Echo when the freeway moved a mile to the north and the railroad lost its importance as a transportation mode. Other towns became the new hubs for commerce and transportation. These factors lead to the decline of Echo's business district. There was a hidden benefit to Echo's loss of status as a transportation and commerce center. This meant that the historic buildings were not torn down and historical sites were not bulldozed. If progress and commercial development had occurred here, Echo probably would not have the 10 historic buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places today or many of the other historical and cultural assets that are what makes the town unique. The historic buildings, the National Historic Oregon Trail Site (Fort Henrietta Park) and Uvilla Indian Agency-Fort Henrietta Site are now the essence of the town.



The Koontz Building & Echo Hotel, Main St., Echo are two of 10 National Register of Historic Places buildings in Echo.

The town certainly has not been immune to many of the problems besetting rural Oregon, but it has met these changes with proactive measures that reinforce its small town cohesiveness, while welcoming visitors and new opportunities.

Few communities, especially of Echo's size, have managed to maintain such an impressive collection of historical buildings and their histories. Moreover, the intersection of the Oregon Trail, Native American trails, the Union Pacific Railroad, I-84 and the Umatilla River all add to the town's distinctiveness and character. Unlike other places that boast Oregon Trail connections, Echo's historical relevance is not restricted to that brief period of activity. Instead, the story of Echo is in many ways the story of western America. Native Americans lived here and they encountered Lewis & Clark near here. In and around Echo, the Native Americans fought the incoming Americans, making Echo witness to one of the most amazing voluntary migrations in the history of any people.

In subsequent years, Echo saw new waves of immigrants from places as unlikely as the Azores, Ireland and Italy. Here in Echo is the story of hard work and reward, of community spirit, sacrifice and the creation of a true sense of community. From the success of immigrant Joseph Cunha, to the tragic early death of Echo Koontz Miller, to the decline of the sheep industry to the tourism industry, Echo tells the story of Oregon. Echo also tells the story of what is possible in this magnificent place. Obviously, these stories can be found in other communities, but not often, and Echo is all the more significant for the careful stewardship that it has given to its past and to its future.

Here we can say the lack of progress 40 years ago has lead to a major plus for our community today. A documentary film called Silent Witnesses: America's Historic Trees is about trees alive today that were present when Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address or while Civil War battles raged. The premise is that these trees stood as silent witness to these events. They cannot tell us what they saw, but the very fact that they remain today allows us to look at them and ponder the events they witnessed. In Echo, we have many silent witnesses. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know the stories that the walls of city hall, the Echo Hotel, the hills, Picket Rock, and even the cottonwoods along the Umatilla River could tell us? If only they could talk. However, by their existence, we can stop and wonder about what happened here 50, 100, 500 or even 1000 years ago.

Setting

Echo, Oregon is located in the west end of Umatilla County, northeastern Oregon. The town sits in a small valley created by the Umatilla River. Echo is 20 miles west of Pendleton and eight miles south of Hermiston. The junction of Interstate 84 and Highway 395 is located just one mile north of the town and forms the northern border of the town's Urban Growth Boundary. Settlement is primarily on the east side of the river on a terrace about one square mile. The golf course and a small housing development sit on the hills on the east edge of town. The elevation varies from 635 feet above sea level on the valley floor to 800 feet on the golf course.

Oregon Trail Site
2.7 mi. west of
Echo, OR

When visitors come over the hill from I-84 to Echo for the first time, they often comment on the oasis-like setting that makes Echo such an attractive place. The riparian trees and shrubs combined with trees planted in Echo yards create the



setting that has led to the city's Tree City USA status since 1989. Adding to the scenic setting of the town is the view of Service Buttes and the Blue Mountains to the southwest.

The Umatilla River forms the western boundary of the town of Echo, but the area that is Echo is much more than the geographic boundaries of the town. The "Echo Area" encompasses the vast rolling hills to the northeast to Stage and DeSpain gulches and east toward Pendleton. The Echo mailing route and Echo School District stretch to within about six miles of Pendleton. The Echo area also stretches south toward Pilot Rock and into Morrow County. In fact many of the families who still ranch in northeast Morrow County attended Echo Schools until sometime in the 1960s and consider Echo their home, while their children who attend Heppner Schools, identify with the Heppner community. To the west, the Butter Creek area is part of Echo. This vast agricultural area is made up of Sagebrush Steppe, which originally was used as grazing land for horses, cattle and sheep. Eventually wheat and grains were planted between Echo and Pendleton, while alfalfa, corn and other irrigated crops and pastures were farmed on the Echo Meadows and along Butter Creek. It was not until the early 1970s that development of center pivot irrigation allowed the diversity of crops we see today. Potatoes, carrot seed, asparagus, onions, canola are just a few of the crops grown west of town. Cattle still graze on pastures along the Meadows and in the fall the bawling cows can be heard on the summer breeze. Isolated patches of grasses, bitter bush and sagebrush remain scattered throughout the area, while riparian areas are abundant with berries, cottonwood, alder and willow, along with other native trees and shrubs. Echo Meadows is a broad floodplain that originally was covered with bunch and rye grasses and swamp. Most of the swamps have been filled to create pasture and crop lands.

Col. JH Raley described the area in the late 19th century as: *"A heavy growth of cottonwood, birch, elder and willows grew on both banks of the river. There was a profusion of wild roses, currants, gooseberries and raspberries, and wild chokecherries. Heavy bunch grass on the surrounding plains came down to the tall rye grass in the valley. Many places on the Meadows were swamped and wild water grasses, reeds and tules grew... Game birds, some of the species now practically extinct, were in profusion everywhere. Thousands of wild ducks, prairie*

chickens, myriad of curlews, an abundance of sage hens and native pheasants were to be found on the Meadows. In the wintertime, especially the cottonwood trees would be covered with great flocks of wild prairie chickens. Nests of these wild birds were to be found scattered all over the Meadow.” He also said that mammals found on the Meadows included coyotes, lynx, bobcat, beaver, rabbits, deer and antelope

Residents take pride in the abundant wildlife in the area. A small herd of three to five deer roams the golf course and residential area west of town. The Ramos family owns five miles of river bottom southeast of Echo along Reith Road. They have restricted hunting on their land so it is not uncommon to see 50 to 100 deer along the river in the morning or evening. Squirrel, raccoon, and coveys of quail are common visitors to many Echo homes. Less welcome visitors are opossums, fox and coyotes.



Aerial view of Echo, Oregon.

Chapter I: ARTS, ARTISTS & ARTISANS

The following listing of art and artists in Echo is the result of public suggestions and input. The list is not inclusive, although the City of Echo hopes that it may someday approach that. To that end, the city invites residents and friends to propose additional names, places and items. If you believe a deserving person, piece of art, or local tradition should be included, please submit the information to the city manager in writing. The city intends to update the Cultural Inventory on a regular basis to make sure it remains up-to-date and relevant for residents and anyone else interested in Echo. The following inventory is the result of resident nominations presented in 2001.



1. Cunha Cross & statuary—12-foot carved granite cross with a mourning woman draped across it, in the Art Nouveau style. Cunha purchased the 20-ton piece of granite in Europe and had it delivered to Portland. In Portland, the Blessing Monument Company carved the stone, which was then sent by train to Echo. The truck carrying the cross from the train station to the cemetery bogged down and a large team of draft horses had to be brought in to complete the job. This cross, because of its size and artistry, remains the focal point of the cemetery. Surrounding it are statuettes, which serve as headstones for Cunha family members. These are as much art as they are headstones.

- 2 Cemetery Gate—wrought iron gate across cemetery entry. The sign above the cemetery was installed in 1982. The construction of the gate was paid for through memorials and donations.



3. Cemetery Statuary—Numerous carved headstones and statues dating from around 1880 to 1920 remain intact at the Echo Cemetery. The prominence of fraternal emblems indicates the importance of such associations during that period. The oldest is in memory of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O.F. Thomson, dated 1868. The cemetery remains in use so modern stones are simple in style, but often have engravings that commemorate the life and hobbies of those buried there.
4. Golf Course Sign—In 2001, the city added a brick sign with letters and artwork by Hermiston metal sculptor and police officer, Chris Huffman.

5. Art and Cultural Items in Public Buildings--

- ◆ City Hall Historic Collections:
 - Native American artifacts from Ted Laughlin Collection, Uilla Indian Agency and Fort Henrietta site artifacts
 - Koontz Site excavation artifacts
 - Historic photographs (the city is in the process of scanning the collection into the computer so that these are more accessible)
 - Echo advertising items
 - Historic relics
- ◆ City Hall Art Collections:
 - art work by local artists, such as Daniel Webster Bowman, Colleen Williams Mural, Rosina Luciani (Mount Hood in library), Diane Berry (photographs and watercolors, pencil of Cunha Cross), Nellie Hoyt (Oregon Trail scene), Nellie Madison (water color in kitchen of chickens) photographs by Tri-Cities (Washington) photographer John Clement; watercolor prints by Washington wildlife artist Sherry Tolman; watercolors by Karen Cooper; watercolor by Native American Andrew Benally.
 - Native American Pictographs on basalt boulders
 - Vintage clothing—over 400 items in this collection date from mid-1800s to 1960s. Primarily women's clothing and accessories, such as hats, purses and shoes, are included. Some of the materials are museum quality, including a 1920s flapper dress with spider web lace and beading and an 1850s cape that came over the Oregon Trail. The clothing is owned by the Echo Community Boosters, Echo Public Library and private collections of Joyce Rohde and Charlotte Berry on loan to the library.
- ◆ Antique Books:
 - Large collection of historic books, most of which were donated to the library by Agnes Fredericks, a long-time resident who died in 1971. She was a Rosarian, so many of the books are poetry and nature related.
 - Zane Grey collection
 - Historical books, such as Oregon Centennial History Volumes, Life and Works of Abraham Lincoln, The Waverly Novels, collection of Mark Twain novels, Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln, Vasar's Art Collections (lives of painters, etc.), Emerson's Journals and Tennyson Poetical Works.

6. Church Windows--

- ◆ Saint Peter's Church: The stained glass windows in the church came from a Hermiston church that was demolished. Some of the windows memorialize a priest, Father Dominic, who served the Hermiston church. Although not a local, the priest was well known to Echo Catholics, who thought it fitting to preserve his memory thusly.

- ◆ Methodist Church: The stained glass windows of the church were installed in 1910. Lynn Meyers, a stained glass artist and cabinetmaker from Echo made additional ones in the 1980s and repaired some.
7. Irrigation District Headgate-- Irrigation gates on the west side of Echo retain their hand operated wooden gates. The iron machinery used to raise and lower the gates is reused farm equipment and represents a treasure of early 20th century engineering solutions, demonstrating the resourceful nature of the people who built the system. The gates and canals draw water from the Umatilla River and redirect it to farms. One of these head gates was featured on a [Cultural Resources of Echo, Oregon](#), which is a video about the geography of the area, early settlers and historic buildings, compiled by Archaeologist Dr. John Woodward. Dr. Woodward was the archaeologist who oversaw the excavation of the Fort Henrietta-Utilla Indian Agency site, Echo railroad site and several others in Echo from 1984 through the early 1990s.
 8. Catholic Church Statuary/ Altar—St. Peter’s Catholic Church’s interior houses a collection of art. Among these is the Faux Marble Alter, hand carved in Chicago. The altar is made to look like it is gray and white and gold and white veined marble. The artistry is so superb on the 14-foot high altar, that it fooled visitors for many years into believing the wooden altar was actually marble. It is graced with woodcarvings and plaster statues. The altar was donated to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cunha and Mr. and Mrs. George Higginbottom. Also, scattered around the room are plaster statues of saints, angels and Mary. At the front entry is the five-foot tall baptismal font (a lady holding a large shell, which serves as the font.) This was donated by the Joe Ramos I family in 1913 to recognize the baptism of their daughter Delphine, the first girl child to be baptized in the new church.
 9. Art in Architecture-- Historic buildings have been listed in Chapter II. However, the artistic elements of some buildings should be noted. These elements include brackets and faux masonry detail on city hall. The carvings of pinecones and papyrus leaves on the Echo Bank Building are also significant. The metal detail lettering and other detailing on the upper façade of the Koontz Building make it a unique structure. The elaborate brackets on the Koontz House are also special, as is the exterior woodwork on St. Peter’s.

Individual artists

1. Daniel Webster Bowman, 1872–1944-- practitioner of “pointillism,” mostly pen and ink drawings in this case. Featured at a variety of local sites from the 1960s forward, several in the Echo City Hall.

Visual artists

1. Diane Berry
2. Rosina Luciani
3. Judy Martin
4. Nellie Madison-- Painting: watercolor, ink; Ceramics; Expressionistic work; Author. Nellie is a member of the Eastern Washington Watercolor Society. She won an Honorable Mention award in the 1998 show, plus numerous other awards in local shows.
5. Gayle Weatherson-- Painting: acrylic, mixed media constructions, both 2D and 3D; Jewelry; former curator Betty Feves Gallery at Blue Mountain Community College, former Hermiston High School art instructor.
6. Colleen Williams-- Window advertising artist; Painting: acrylic, murals. One of her paintings of ducks was used by Ducks Unlimited for their calendar.
7. Rauch Sisters-- Elsie Rauch Middleton, Doris Rauch Pitzer, Mabel Rauch Watson, Ina Rauch and Pauline Rauch Matheny were raised on a ranch southwest of Echo and attended Echo schools. All have shown paintings in art shows around the area and were featured at most of the Fort Henrietta Art Shows in the 1980s and 1990s. Doris also quilts. Karen Beacham is Elsie's daughter.
8. Lynn Meyers—Cabinetmaker; Stained glass artist.

Musicians

1. Tom Branstetter – Raised in Echo and performed with Doc Severson in Echo, as well as with Rod Esselstyn's band for many years.
2. Rod Esselstyn: Musician, well known in the community for performing at dances and other festivities. A 1950s newspaper article described Rod Esselstyn's band as "*one of the best dance bands in the county.*"
3. Rauch Family—The Rauch family was known as artists and musicians, the brothers, such as Fred, played many instruments. Sister Doris Rauch Pitzer, raised in Echo and now lives in Hermiston, still plays the piano and organ for weddings and church services.
4. John "Happy Jack" Morton, Pryor Yoakum and other musicians-- Gathered at Nolin (then known as Happy Canyon) in the late 1800s and early 1900s along with residents from miles around to have a weekend of entertainment: dances and horse races. In reminiscences by early pioneers, these gatherings and fiddlers like Morton were often mentioned.

Crafts people

1. Jack Fitzhugh-- Woodworking
2. Eugene Berry—Woodworking, carpentry, masonry. Several homes in Echo have fireplaces built by Berry—3 Smith Drive, Cochran Home on Halstead Street, Saylor-McMahon House at Dale and Halstead Street. Built the Echo Park Gazebo and Fort Henrietta Park restrooms.
3. Marvin Laughlin-- Carpenter working in 1940s through 80s. Built or helped build many of the homes in the late 1940s through 1960s in Echo, including Beacham House on Hiestand Street, Saylor McMahon House on Dale & Halstead; remodeled Echo Golf Course Clubhouse 1979, Laughlin House on Kennedy Street (only front room is original).
4. Cliff Williams—Woodworking
5. Carol Neely—Quilting and cross stitch
6. Gayle Weatherson-- Ceramics: hand-built vessels, some with lids, and handmade tiles; Jewelry: polymar clays.
7. Mack Temple-- Wood: rustic wood furniture with limbs, branches and roots, mostly upholstered by him (settees, chairs, tables, etc.).
8. Nellie Madison—Ceramics: functional and artistic pottery; Fiber Arts: weaving.
9. Lynn Meyer—Cabinetmaker and stained glass artist. Refurbished and repaired the windows in the Methodist Church.



**A group of Echo ladies dressed for a pageant
they put on in front of the Branstetter House, Echo**

Chapter II: HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Buildings on the National Register

1. Echo Methodist-Episcopal Church-- 1 Bonanza Street, 3N 29 16BD 012 Tax Lot 2700
Built in 1886, extensively remodeled in 1910. Still used as a church. This is an example of a New England style church, built to serve the congregation. The crenellated tower added in 1910 is distinctive and a departure from the original architecture. The large stain glass windows were likewise installed in 1910.
2. Koontz Building-- 141 North Main Street, 3N 29 16BD 001 Tax Lot 3902
Built 1905, by J.H. Koontz. Served as a store for many years. Currently the building is used for storage by the City of Echo and for the annual Halloween Haunted House. The building is constructed in the beaux-arts style. When it was completed, the structure was the highest valued and fanciest commercial building in Echo. The storefront is in the classical style, and the Mission style parapet with ball finials and flagpole make the building unique.
3. Edwards Building-- 320 Main Street, 3N 29 16BD 013 Tax Lot 7000
Built circa 1860s. May have been moved from Umatilla City in 1880s. Served as home to many businesses, including restaurant, laundry and retail outlets. Most prominent and historically significant role was as home to Echo News from 1918 to 1942. Currently used as apartments. Example of Italianate style of the 19th century with a false front, exterior stairs and porch on the east side. The second story porch is circa 1910 and there is a brick chimney at the rear.
4. Arlington Hotel (Echo Hotel, Restaurant & Lounge)-- 131 West Main Street, 3N 29 16BD 002 Tax Lot 4000
Built by J.H. Koontz 1882-1886. One of the few historic, large, wood-framed commercial buildings in the county. The hotel was built in the Greek Revival style, popular at the time. A porch and balcony that once overhung the sidewalk came down circa 1949. The hotel was also home to the undertaker, whose workshop was on the third floor.
5. Cunha Farmstead-- 33263 Oregon Trail Road, 3N 29 16CB 5-7 Tax Lot 1901
Consists of 14 contributing buildings, still in the family. Home dates from 1902, but period of significance begins circa 1870. This home place boasts a Victorian style home, and its many outbuildings make the entire property significant as an example of a working ranch.

6. James H. & Cynthia Koontz House-- 210 N. Dupont Street, 3n 29 16BD 008 Tax Lot 1301
The site has four contributing buildings. Built in 1881 in the Italianate style, the house is one of the finest examples of this style in Umatilla County. The ornate brackets, wide eaves, turned posts and fancy balustrades further mark the house as one whose owner was wealthy and able. The features of the house combine to denote it as one of the finest of its time.

7. Echo City Hall-- 20 S. Bonanza Street, 3N 29 16BD 015 Tax Lot 6600
Building began in 1915, finished 1916. Designed by John Tourtellotte of Tourtellotte & Hummel of Portland and Boise. Firm designed the Astor Hotel in Astoria and the Idaho State Capital. The structure is a two-story building constructed from cast-in-place concrete. The building has many Mediterranean features, including the cupola, parapet, arched entrance, and is classed as beaux-arts style. Similarly, the stucco exterior suggests a Portuguese influence. A complete restoration of the building, including reconstruction of the old movie theater, entry façade and historic street lights was completed in 1999 and dedicated with a grand opening and ball on May 4, 1999. The ball has remained an annual tradition since. This building was the center of the community from time of construction until the late 1950s, housing the auditorium on the second floor, library, movie theater, jail, Boy Scout room and



Police Chief's office on the grand floor. The Echo Commercial Club leased the auditorium and brought in regular entertainment, such as traveling minstrels, in the days before television. The monthly fire department dances were a prominent social event that earned money for the first fire truck purchased in 1949 and are still talked about today by residents of the west end of the county. Many have told of courting or meeting their future spouse at these dances.

8. Saint Peter's Catholic Church-- Marble & Leezer Street, 3N 29 16CB 5-7 Tax Lot 2000
Built in 1913 in the Portuguese Colonial Revival style. The building has a stucco façade, but is no longer used for services. The interior includes a faux marble altar and ornate statuary, as well as a full compliment of stained glass windows. The church is now owned by the Fort Henrietta Foundation.

9. Umatilla Masonic Lodge Hall-- 200 S. Dupont Street, 3N 29 16BD 019, Tax Lot 5990
Built circa 1868 in Umatilla, moved to Echo in 1906. Two-story building, lower floor rented to businesses and top floor used for lodge. Masons in Echo around 1906 applied for and received a charter with Umatilla Lodge #40. The Echo Masons paid to have the old lodge building in Umatilla taken down, loaded on a railroad car and transported to Echo. It was erected on the north end of its current lot. The total cost was approximately \$160. In 1910, the lodge members paid to have a basement dug and the building moved to its current location.

10. Echo Bank Building-- 230 W. Main Street, 3N 29 16BD 014 Tax Lot 6500
Built 1920, opened 1921 by Joseph Cunha. Example of the Roman Classical style of the 20th century. The ornate building was designed by local architect Raymond W. Hatch. The exterior is glazed terra cotta and brick. The interior features marble flooring and iron-banking teller's cages. The bank is now a museum. The bank as a business was incorporated in 1905 by local ranchers and in 1933, though still solvent, the founders closed the bank. Echo businessmen bragged that the bank survived the depression to be sold to First National Bank of Pendleton. The building was then used as a cash exchange and later as an insurance office. In 1980, Joseph C. Andrews purchased and donated the building to the Echo Historical Museum, Inc.

Buildings eligible for the National Registry

- Liesegang Building-- 211 North Main, 3N 29 16BD 003 Tax Lot 2900
Built 1917, one-story brick building. Originally a butcher shop and grocery, now a grocery store. Built by Ed Liesegang, who was a butcher known for both his great strength and small stature.

Other Historic Homes and Buildings in Echo:

The town has a variety of buildings that are historical and noteworthy. These buildings were included in the Historic Resource Inventory created circa 1986 by Steve Randolph and the county. One interesting fact that Randolph discovered while researching Echo's Historic Buildings was that many of the early homes, such as the Liesegang, Stanfield-Ramos and Ross Houses, were in the wives' names only. He speculated that since most of these homes were residences of Echo businessmen, the husband's name was left off to avoid loss of the property in the event of bankruptcy.

Using a grant for funding, a consultant was hired to conduct the research and prepare the nominations forms for the National Registry. Several of these buildings may be eligible for nomination to the registry, but funding was only available for ten of the buildings. The ten buildings include the following:

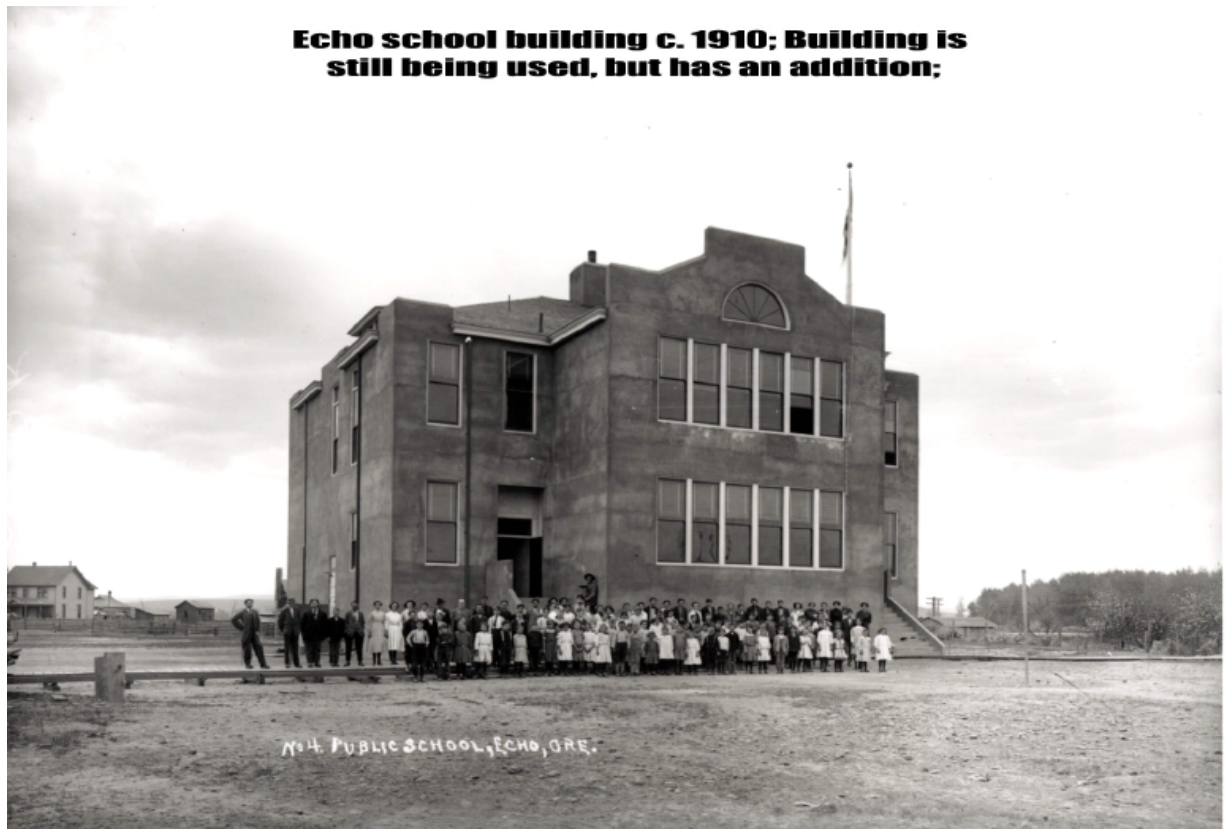
1. Thomson-Cunha House, 100 N. Dupont Street, Tax lot 1200 – built circa 1915. Dutch Colonial House with Gambrel roof. Echo Historic Building Guide #8
2. Smith House, 11 W. Main – reputed by some to be oldest building in town
3. Liesegang House, 10 N. Dupont Street, Tax lot 4100 – built 1917 by the Lewis, who ran the hotel next door. This is a middle-class Bungalow: exposed rafter ends, projecting bay and triple windows are typical of this style. In 1910, the shed behind was the Chinese Laundry Building. Katherine Liesegang remembered this building being on the site when the house was constructed. Echo Historic Building Guide #7
4. Stanfield, Ramos House, 110 N. Dupont Street, Tax lot 1300 -- Craftsman Bungalow with rich woodwork, French windows. It was the most expensive home in town in 1938, built 1917. Echo Historic Building Guide #9
5. Loveridge House, 120 N. Dupont Street, Tax lot 1400 – built 1884. This was one of the largest homes of the 1880s in Echo. Although it has been remodeled, the original form remains including pediment window crowns. It was built by Newton Loveridge and later owned by Anna Dickey, whose family ran a saloon, probably in the Edwards Building. Echo Historic Building Guide #10
6. Caroline Stitton Rogers House, 200 N. Dupont Street, Tax lot 600 -- built 1886
7. Dorn Building, 210 W. Bridge Street, Tax lot 9400 – built 1905. This building was Dr. Dorn's office for many years and his shingle still hangs from the bracket in front. It was later a residence used by Dorn family members, and is now owned by Fred Dorn, Dr. Dorn's nephew.
8. Frank Spike Building, 120 W. Bridge Street, Tax lot 10300 – built circa 1886. Home and business for Frank Spike, Echo veterinarian. Bennie Tolar's book claims it was part of the old Teel School (listed below, #9), but Mildred Berry, Frank's granddaughter, believed it was moved from Umatilla. The original elements, such as window pediments, are not the same as the very plain school building.
9. Teel School Building, 220 W. Main, Tax lot 6300 – built circa 1870, moved 1883
10. Echo Mercantile Building, 120 & 130 W. Main, Tax lot 5800 – built circa 1910. One of the earliest reinforced concrete structures in the area, it has little style except for the attempt to form the concrete to look like classical fluted columns between store fronts. Hugh Smith built the building and had a tin shop, a hardware store and a farm implement store in it. Echo Historic Building Guide #3
11. Ripper General Store/Echo Café, 231 W. Main – built 1904. This building dates from Echo's second building boom. It was first a general store, but has been a restaurant for over 50 years. Echo Historic Building Guide #18
12. Thompson House, 301 N. Dupont Street, Tax lot 120 – built c. 1905 and moved from Thomson ranch on Butter Creek c. 1979 to save it from destruction. A grand Colonial Revival with some Queen Anne elements for the architecture. The dormer on the third floor is not original; it would have had a hipped roof. Echo Historic Building Guide #12

13. Janet Ross – Dr. Marvel Laird House, 111 N. Dupont Street – built 1910. This home is interesting because of the blend of styles, indicating that it may have been a custom built home by a talented designer, carpenter. It has many gables of various heights, and elements from Greek Revival, Queen Anne and Victorian eras. Echo Historic Building Guide #14
14. Sullivan House, 211 Garden Street – built circa 1884. Echo Historic Building Guide #13
15. House, 201 Garden Street -- built 1920. Echo Historic Building Guide #13
16. Young House, 231 Garden Street – built circa 1884. These three homes (Sullivan, Edwards, and Young) were all originally identical. The fourth identical home on the far corner burned before 1920 and was replaced with a simple home with little style. Only the Young home shows any of the original elements, such as the turned porch columns. The porches on the other two have been either filled in or altered. These Greek Revival style hall and parlor style homes were typical of the first homes built by Echo residents in the period from 1880-1910. Others around the community have been also been significantly altered, so much so that most people do not realize the original house is more than 100 years old. Sullivan, Edwards and Young were all early Echo business people. Echo Historic Building Guide #13
17. VFW Lodge, 210 W. Bridge Street – built c. 1900-1909. This building housed a confectionery shop, barbershop and bathhouse over the years.



18. Scholl's Building, 300 W. Bridge Street – built circa 1904. The storefront windows were filled in when the building was made into a residence (see above). It is an example of a simple Western False Front building, which housed Louis Scholl, Jr. Real Estate Office.

19. Fred T. George / Sloan-Thomson House, 310 N. Bonanza – built circa 1918. Gambrel roof, Craftsman Bungalow with lots of woodwork and decorative elements typical of the style. The large trees and being set back on the large lot add to the attraction of this historic home. George was the owner of the George and Miller Store. Sloan Thomson, who later owned the home, was the son of O.F. Thomson, one of the county’s pioneers and second sheriff. Sloan ran the family farm.
20. Esteb House, 640 S Kennedy – Craftsman Bungalow. Home of Lemeul Esteb one of Echo’s first mayors, who was an attorney by trade.



21. Echo High School Building -- reinforced concrete completed in 1909 in Colonial Revival style. The addition in the front was constructed in 1980.
22. Wattenburger House, 211 Dale St.-- built in 1908 by William Jackson Wattenburger. The house has been remodeled extensively; originally Queen Anne style.
23. Oliver-Laughlin House, 310 W. Kennedy -- built c. 1885 by Bill Oliver. Alta Laughlin lived in it for many years and then her son Marvin remodeled the house in 1980, adding a basement and several other rooms at the rear. The porch, living room and cellar are original. It is a Hall and Parlor with Greek Revival elements and Victorian columns like the Sullivan, Young and Edwards houses. The two homes located to the east of this house originally looked nearly identical from the exterior, but the porches have been removed and now only roof lines reveal the original layout of the houses.
24. Bull Durham Barn, 401 S. Dale-- advertising barn on Halstead Street, Halstead-Grossmiller-Wood property. One section of advertisement is missing.

25. Frendig-Luciani House, 310 N. Thielsen -- built in 1887. This house was built by early Echo blacksmith Frederick Frendig, a German immigrant. At the time, it was one of only a few homes on the east side of the tracks, therefore it was oriented with the front of the house toward the railroad tracks, while the back faces the road. The multi-paned windows and porch help date this home as Greek Revival style architecture. It is still owned by the Luciani family. Echo Historic Building Guide #15
26. Koontz Cottage, 221 W. Sprague -- built c. 1881. One of several homes that remained in the Koontz Family for several decades. The porch has been enlarged, but still retains the Victorian look. It also has its original hipped roof. This house is pictured in a 1905 picture of Echo taken from the golf course hill.



27. Koontz Cottage, 211 W. Sprague -- built c. 1881. This is another of the homes that belonged to the Koontz family and descendants for several decades. This one once served as the Methodist Parsonage, but was owned by Koontz's granddaughter, Edna Hendley Mathes, until her death in 1965. Echo Historic Building Guide #15
28. Meyers House, 130 S. Prescott – built c. 1910. Bungalow style with historic owners being Watenburger, Hale and Meyers.
29. Dorn House, 10 S. Prescott – built c. 1910. Built in the Bungalow style by one of the Dorn brothers as a rental.
30. Dorn House, 330 S. Thielsen – built c. 1910. Constructed as a rental and build in the Bungalow style by one of the Dorn brothers. Formerly had an orchard associated with it.
31. Spike-Ebert House, 300 W. Buckley – Queen Anne style with a prominent bay window.
32. Spinning House, 200 S Bonanza

Historic structures outside of the city limits

The community has a variety of important historical buildings that are not located inside the city limits. These buildings were included in the Historic Resource Inventory created circa 1986 by Steve Randolph and Umatilla County. These buildings include the following:

1. Whitworth Barn, also known as the Painted Barn-- 3N 2916 5-1 Tax lot 2200

This barn still sports the Dr. Pierce Golden Medical Discovery advertisement painted on it more than 80 years ago. It is located just south of town along Kennedy Street and is visible from Reith Highway.

2. Joe Ramos, Sr. House-- 34890 Reith Rd, 6 miles out Highway 30/ Old River Road, 3N2926 5-4 Tax lot 11100.

Dates from 1915 and is distinguished by its shingle siding. The house was part of the dueling

house construction race between Ramos and Frank Correa.

3. Joe Ramos, Sr. House-- 75303 Ramos Lane, 1 mile out Highway 30/ Old River Road, 3N2926 5-4 Tax lot 9000.

Built circa 1915-1920.

4. Cunha Family Farm-- 75041 Snow Road, 3N2927 5-7, Tax lot 7200.

First farm established by Joe Cunha. Several historic buildings c. 1890, including a pegged barn, farmhouse, sheep shed. Now owned by Tony Kay and Ron Holeman.

5. Atwood House-- 73422 Hwy 207, 2N271 5-4 Tax Lot 100 or 300.

Colonel Buel Atwood began construction of this log house with a basement and hard pan foundation in 1864. The logs were hewed to make puncheons, pegged together and chinked with straw and mud. Door and window mullions were hand carved from mountain ash. The Atwoods bought the property in 1864 from Hamlin. The property had a cabin on it, but after it flooded, the new house was constructed further from Butter Creek. This later became the Stanfield Ranch, operated by R.N. Stanfield and Phoebe Atwood Stanfield. The puncheons are no longer visible, nor are the rifle slits, because in 1870 the house was covered with



clapboard siding. The building has since been re-sided and added onto. There was a secret room constructed to hide from Indians. The property is now Hale Farms.

6. Frank Correa St. House-- 76317 Echo Meadows Echo Meadows, 3N29-8 5-3 Tax Lot 2000. Built circa 1915, this house is similar to Ramos house (Tax Lot 11100) and was part of the unstated dueling house contest between Correa and Ramos. Now owned by the Muller Family.
7. Spike Home-- 33047 Oregon Trail Road.
French-Country farm house with pyramidal roof. Owned by Elmer Spike and his wife Pamela Teel Spike, it is part of the farm established by Pamela's parents, Dr. John and Elvira Willson Teel, in the 1860s. The ranch has been recognized by the Oregon Historical Society as a Century Farm. It remains in the family today. Elmer was a butcher, rancher and early city council member and Mayor in Echo. His father, Frank Spike, was a veterinarian from New York and came to Echo around 1885-86. Land owned by Ella Mildred Spike Berry on the east side of the Umatilla River (now belonging to her granddaughter Teresa Berry Greer) was originally part of the Teel Parcel, it is the site where a vigilante party lynched a woodcutter named Smith who was accused of stealing water. It was also the site of an early orchard and a natural spring. A log cabin mentioned in several historic references on pre-Echo activities in the valley may have been the old dilapidated cabin Mildred, born in 1904, remembers her mother saying was located in the orchard. Pamela was born in 1870 in Echo and saw the remains of Fort Henrietta and the Umatilla Indian Agency site. One of the few remaining sheep shed barns in the area remains on the Spike Ranch, but is in very poor condition.
8. Andrews House-- 75944 Echo Meadows Rd.
Built c. 1905, two-story Victorian farmhouse.
9. Manuel Correa House-- 76175 Echo Meadows Rd.
Built c. 1910, one-and-a-half-story Bungalow style home.
10. Saylor House-- 75794 Hwy 207.
Craftsman Bungalow with brick pillars and a wrap around porch. Classic example of c. 1915 bungalow: lots of wood trim, wood pocket doors separate the den from large living/dining room, two stories with basement.
11. Wattenburger-Billing House-- 33228 Oregon Trail Highway.
Built c. 1910 by William Jackson Wattenburger upon his retirement from ranching. The wrap around Victorian porch is one of the most attractive elements of this house. It also has Greek Revival, as well as the Victorian elements. The house has been beautifully maintained with little alteration over the years.

Further resources

Anyone interested in additional information about these structures has several places to find that data. The city maintains a file box full of information regarding the National Register nominations. The nominations include histories and associations with historic events. The folders also include details on architectural style, known builders and floor plans. The city also has a box of historical documents on each historical building in the Echo area compiled by Steve Randolph, Umatilla County Planner in the mid 1980s as part of a historical survey for the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). The city publishes a walking tour guide to historic buildings in Echo, which includes many of the historic homes with a brief discussion of each. Also available is the “Echo Guide to Oregon Trail Sites”. This guide notes many of the historic buildings and sites in the Echo area as well as the trail sites.



Chapter III: HISTORY

Geological history

The area around Echo is part of a larger region that has produced fertile farming and grazing land. While the community and surrounding environs are scenic and desirous, the geologic history is not unique to the community. Therefore, any number of texts and articles that focus on the Columbia River Basin and the region can introduce the geological history of Echo. One such example is the Roadside Geology of Oregon.

A very good primer that emphasizes the unique and more recent geological history of the region surrounding the Columbia River is the following: Allen, John Eliot, Marjorie Burns, with Sam C. Sargent, Cataclysms on the Columbia, (Timber Press: Portland, OR, 1986).

Native American history

Echo and the Meadows were important sites for Native Americans and seasonal migration patterns. Consequently, the Echo Cultural Inventory includes information and sources about the tribes that inhabited the area. In particular, the Cayuse Tribe dominated the region and they, along with the Umatilla, have a long history in the Echo region. Although somewhat dated, the best general history of the Cayuse is the following: Ruby, Robert H. and John A. Brown, The Cayuse Indians: Imperial Tribesmen of Old Oregon, (University of Oklahoma Press : Norman, 1972).

Where Echo is now located was a seasonal camp for Native Americans and the area was crisscrossed by major Native American trails. Mary Oman, BLM Archaeologist at the Baker Office, researched these trails for a recent historical survey and indicated that she was amazed by the number of trails that intersected in Echo Meadows and where Echo is now located. The rich grass on the Meadows made a good late fall and winter grazing land for Native American horses. Ranchers have continued this tradition, grazing first sheep and then cattle on the pastures in fall through early spring and then herding and now trucking livestock to summer pastures in the highlands of the Blues and Wallows. As a result, it has been common for ranchers to find signs of the Native American occupation over the years. By the time of white contact, three tribes claimed the area: Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla. These three tribes now form the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Dr. John Woodward, in the “Historical Survey of the Echo Area” in 1985, writes, *“the presence of a system of Indian Trails near the present site of Echo noted by Chapman (1859) indicates significant Native utilization of the area’s resources. The Indian Trails in the Echo Meadows also may reflect the mobility of the Cayuse bands after obtaining the horse. Single individuals could own up to ‘2000 head,’ (Nixon 1896:93). Conditions in the meadow were favorable to seasonal grazing of horses. The relatively low elevation of the meadows with less snowfall than areas south and east and available water provided the conditions for both mid winter and late*

summer-early fall occupation. During the early historic period, the Cayuse followed the emigrants for the purpose of trading.

“It was not uncommon during the immigrant season—late summer and early fall—for the Cayuses to ride along the Immigrant Trail, sometimes as far east as Forts Hall and Boise, to trade their horses for worn-out cattle. Sometimes they exchanged fresh oxen for twice as many jaded ones. Often along the trail, the Cayuses, some of them speaking English, bartered fish from late Umatilla River runs and vegetables from late harvests for calicoes, nankeen cloths and clothing. They continued to trade with immigrants after the latter reached the Willamette Valley.” (Ruby and Brown).

Excavations at the Fort Henrietta-Utilla Indian Agency Site found at least seasonal occupation going back over 3500 years. Accounts by Indian Agents at the fort described Native Americans camping around the agency building. The excavations in the 1980s found evidence supporting this near the agency site. A gaming piece, beads, arrowheads and other Native American artifacts recovered from this site are displayed at city hall.

The reminiscing of an Ella Ann McClain Allphin Burbank can be found on the Internet at <http://mexia.com/mcclain/MOplat01.htm>. She discusses her early life as an Oregon Pioneer including in 1858 when her first husband Marion Allphin and she ran a station on the Umatilla River “*where old Fort Henrietta stood...*”

“The Indians, in the main were very good while we were there. They would camp near by, but would not bother us even by coming up to ask for anything. The Umatillas were always good, but the Snake Indians [traditional enemies of the local tribes] sometimes made trouble. Once we had to ‘fort up’ for a night, but the soldiers came from Walla Walla and chased them off...”

Prudence Lisle Young, who was born south of Echo in 1875, recalled memories of interaction between whites and Indians in Echoes from the Past. Emigrants were still traveling by covered wagon to Oregon when she was small and she remembered them resting for a few days at Echo. The Lisle place was a regular campsite for Indians enroute to Umatilla or fishing along the Columbia. She said as many as “*50 Indians often camped on the Lisle property—ate the fruit from the orchards and visited the family.*” When two young Indians got drunk one night and started fighting, Mr. Lisle locked them up until morning. “*One day an old Indian came to the house carrying a bolt of heavy duck materials and asked Mrs. Lisle to make him a tent. She got out her sewing machine and sewed up the tent, all the while singing, ‘Shall we Gather at the River’ and in jargon the old Indian sang along with her. When she had finished he said, ‘Glory to God,’ and went on his way.*”

Mildred Spike Berry recalls her mother, Millie Teel, telling of Indians camping on the family farm in Spike’s Grove. “*She would ride up on her pony and not realize anyone was there and she said she didn’t know who was more scared, her or the Indian women who were often picking fruit from the orchard.*” She also recalls while her father was alive waking up to the house full of Indians, who had come to visit her father, Dr. John Teel. Her mother would give them bread she had made, which they loved.

Native American sites in the Echo area are summarized below, but specific locations are not given as there is a need to protect these sites.

1. Berry farm-- Probable seasonal camp, sweat lodge, Woodward site survey. Elmer Berry recovered a flint spear point from the old riverbank on the same site.
2. Echo Meadows-- Numerous artifacts have been recovered over the years near swamps and springs on the Echo Meadows that indicate seasonal campsites.
3. The Wells-- Marsh Meyers said his home was full of mortars and pestle and other Native American tools when he was a boy. His father and grandfather plowed the tools up, but by the time he was old enough to appreciate the artifacts, they had disappeared. He saw evidence of old campsites near the spring, which was used as a campsite and watering hole by freighters and travelers along the stage route in the 1860s until early 1900s.
4. Flint Bed-- Echo kids growing up in the 1930s and 40s, if not before, knew that they could find arrowheads and debitage on the old sand blow near Butter Creek, where Native Americans would have made the tools.
5. Bannock War Gravesites-- North of Echo was located a burial ground, where Echo children found beads and other artifacts from at least the 1920s through the 1960s. A skull was found by boys, c. 1958, and taken to school. It caused quite a ruckus and ended up with the State Police coming to investigate. It is believed to have been a burial ground for several Bannock Warriors killed during the 1878 War. Bennie Tolar in her book Echoes from the Past sites a Native American source claiming five Bannock Indians were killed and buried there probably from the war of 1878. Dr. Woodward concluded in his Echo survey that the information he gathered on the burials indicates that without further data, it is not possible to conclude which tribe, but the burials are consistent with Plateau burial practices.
6. Railroad site-- Paul Oliver, an Echo resident that worked for the railroad until his retirement, often told of a site near the railroad bed north of town where beads and other artifacts eroded from the bank. This entire area is now heavily overgrown with Native trees, shrubs and blackberries.
7. Gravesite-- In the late 1990s, a Native American grave was found along a road on the hills south of Echo. The grave was believed to have been uncovered by wind erosion. Representatives of the Confederated Tribes claimed and reburied the skeleton at an undisclosed site.

Two other good general overviews that place the Cayuse in an ethnographic context are:

- ◆ Hunn, Eugene S. Nich' I-Wana "The Big River:" Mid-Columbia Indians and Their Land, (University of Washington Press : Seattle, 1990).
- ◆ Ramsey, Jarold, ed., Coyote Was Going There: Indian Literature of the Oregon Country, (University of Washington Press : Seattle, 1977).

Other resources include the following:

- ◆ James B. Kennedy, The Umatilla Indian Reservation 1855-1975: Factors Contributing to a Diminished Land Resource Base, Ph.D. Thesis in Geography. Pages missing in the Echo Library copy.
- ◆ Webber, Bert, Indians Along the Oregon Trail, (Webb Research Group : Medford, Oregon, 1989).
- ◆ Hines, Donald M., The Forgotten Tribes: Oral Tales of the Teninos and Adjacent Mid-Columbia River Indian Nations, (Great Eagle Publishing : Issaquah, Washington, 1991).
- ◆ Beal, Merrill D., I Will Fight No More Forever: Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War, (University of Washington Press : Seattle, 1966).
- ◆ Josephy, Alvin M., Jr., The Nez Perce Indians and the Opening of the Northwest, (Mariner Books : New York, 1997).

General US exploration and migration history

The community of Echo does not necessarily figure prominently in general histories. The brief existence of Fort Henrietta accounts for the bulk of the attention given to Echo. The Umatilla Indian Agency is also mentioned, but because of the similarities of names between the Umatilla Indian Agency at Pendleton and the town of Umatilla, the references often give the wrong location for this site. Indeed, the wide swath cut by the Oregon Trail in various places at various times means that the trail was at times dispersed. Moreover, the heaviest traffic on the trail changed from year to year and month to month depending on weather, military action and degree of use. With these factors in mind, the books noted below are excellent sources for information about migration and travel through the region in the 19th century.

Despite the relatively few references, the place we now call Echo played a significant role in the historic trails and early transportation. Historic maps show that, as well as the Oregon Trail, four major Native American trails intersected at Echo. One of the Indian trails became the Oregon Trail. The stage and freight road from Umatilla Landing to Echo was built over another. The first county road overlaid much of this historical road. Eventually old Highway 30 or Reith Road, as it is now known, follows closely the Oregon Trail route from Pendleton to Echo. The railroad and the original route of Old Hwy 30 continued to make this area a transportation hub for many years. Before the area was known as Echo, Umatilla or Fort Henrietta, it was noted in many Oregon Trail diaries from the time the trail began bypassing Whitman Mission on. It was often noted as the “Lower Crossing,” with the crossing where Pendleton is now located being the “Upper Crossing.” Emigrants would usually camp either at Echo or one of the three other sites near Echo, although they will not be called by the names we use today: Corral Springs, Echo Meadows BLM Site and Ewings Crossing (Butter Creek). The travelers also tended to note the lush grass on the Meadows and the heavy sand west of modern Echo.

Dr. John Woodward in his “Historic Survey of the Echo Area 1985” notes the historic importance of the area. *“The site of Umatilla Agency-Fort Henrietta is highly significant to regional and national history as well as providing a potential source of new data about the protohistoric Cayuse.”*

One of the most significant facts about the Oregon Trail near Echo is a modern one according to the Oregon California Trail Association (OCTA) web site. The loss of several miles of trail west of Echo led to the creation of this organization. Since its formation, the OCTA has become noted for its grassroots efforts to preserve, protect and promote the Oregon and California trails: *“Echo Meadows had no real significance to the emigrants. It was only about four miles into the stretch between the Umatilla River crossing and Well Spring. The intervening camp was a few miles further on at Butter Creek. It is significant to modern trail historians because of the ruts. In 1971, when Gregory Franzwa first wrote The Oregon Trail Revisited, there were several miles of pristine, untouched ruts. On a trek 10 years later, Franzwa noticed that most of them had been plowed under. This led him to gather a dozen friends to form some sort of organization to recognize the significance of these trails and preserve them. That organization is the Oregon-California Trails Association, begun in 1982.”* The ruts Franzwa observed stretched from Whitehouse Road approximately five miles west to Highway 207. Now only the ¼ mile stretch on each side of Whitehouse Road and the ¾ mile segment on the BLM Echo Meadows site remain. What makes this particularly tragic is that the land that was plowed was state and federal government land in 1971. Both governments already had the obligation to preserve the trail under federal guidelines and the ruts showed on the National Park Service mapping of the trail. However, no one in the state or federal agencies that controlled these properties paid attention to the fact that the ruts were there and consequently they sold the property.

Once the Umatilla Indian Agency was built in 1851, diaries often noted the agency. The interpretive panels at the Fort Henrietta Park feature some of the quotes. A Fort Henrietta Newsletter outlines diary references about the agency and crossing. The Stephen Dow Beckham book referenced below has numerous diary entries on the Echo area Oregon Trail sites. Emigrants during the early years (1848-52) had a choice of taking a branch of the trail at Echo. A little used branch followed an Indian trail before it crossed the trail north toward Umatilla, where it then followed a route across the Umatilla Army Depot. Few followed this route as the sand in North Umatilla and Morrow counties was so hard to traverse. This later became the stage-freight route used to carry supplies to miners. Dupont Street and Hwy 395 are over top of part of this road. A common theme in the diaries was the agency being the first frame building or first sign of civilization since Fort Laramie, Wyoming. Items available for purchase at the agency and even trade with Native Americans was noted. The emigrants arrived usually in late August to mid September, so they often commented about the dry Umatilla River and stinking water.

The Fort Henrietta Park is located on the site of the Lower Crossing as described by emigrants who settled in Echo. They noted that it was near where Bridge Street now crosses the river or near where Well House #1 was constructed. The well house was constructed in 1904 on the south edge of the Bridge Street right-of-way. The National Park Service (NPS) named the park a National Historic Oregon Trail Site in 1993. The park has a number of historic displays. The displays include a replica of a typical log blockhouse and interpretive panels adjacent to the blockhouse provided by NPS. There is also an Oregon Trail Covered Wagon museum with a panel listing the items an emigrant packed. Nearby is the Antique Fire Equipment Museum circa 1904-10, with a human powered hook and ladder, hose cart wagons and chemical wagon. Also near the park are various Oregon Trail markers, Echo history storyboards and the original

Umatilla County jail moved from Umatilla Landing to Cunha Farmstead. The jail was subsequently moved from the Cunha Farmstead to Echo in 2000.

Ezra Meeker traveled the Oregon Trail through Echo in 1852. There he said he abandoned an oxen yoke. In 1907 Meeker retraced his route along the trail and erected markers along the way. Marshall Lou Warnock helped him place one where the city trailer park is now. Fred Dorn, one of the early residents who remembers the marker, does not know what happened to it. Meeker was one of the first to recognize the historical importance of the Oregon Trail. Besides his 1907 trip, he traveled it again by car and plane. He lobbied to make legislators on national, state and local levels recognize the importance of preserving the trail.

B.B. Middleton dug up an oxen yoke in 1926 near the Fort Henrietta Park. This may have been the one Meeker lost. It is now in the Echo Historical Museum. The huge yoke was 58 inches across and weighed 75 pounds. Could this have been Meeker's yoke?

Oregon Trail Sites in Echo Area

- ◆ Corral Springs-- five miles southeast of Echo on Old Reith Road (Old Hwy 30). This site is privately owned, but the Ramos family has granted permission for visitors wishing to see the ¼ mile of wagon ruts remaining here. An interpretive panel inside the gate tells about the site and flora of the desert steppe. By the time of white contact, three tribes claimed the area: Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla. Echo Oregon Trail Sites #1



Wagon Ruts at Corral Springs site, 5 miles west of Echo

- ◆ David Koontz Grave-- David Koontz, an Oregon Trail emigrant, was buried just south of the Echo city limits between the road and railroad tracks. The Oregon California Trail Association (OCTA) has installed an interpretive panel with information about Koontz. Note: he is no relation to the Koontz family that platted Echo. Echo Oregon Trail Sites #3
- ◆ Oregon Trail Marker-- 3/4 mile west of Echo. The age of this concrete marker is unknown, but is believed to have been one of the earliest. It is located several hundred yards off the road and across a ditch, so it is hard to reach east of the main canal below Echo Meadows road. Echo Oregon Trail Sites #8
- ◆ Echo Meadows site-- 2.7 miles west of Echo. Short segments of wagon ruts remain on both sides of Whitehouse Road, about 100 yards north of Hwy 320. Ruts on the east side of the road are on Eagle Ranch and the west side belongs to the Correas. The ruts can be viewed from the road, but there is no permission to trespass. No markers. Echo Oregon Trail Sites #10

The bluff in the background forced the Oregon Trail to the north through this field. Despite years of plowing, one of the places where the trail came out of the river is still visible if the light is at the right angle early in the morning. At the base of the bluff is the Spike Ranch sheep sheds and corrals. The first irrigation ditches dug by The Flow Bros. for Dr. Teel came from the river near the left background. Notice the Cannola at the right.



- ◆ Echo Meadows BLM Site-- 5.5 miles west of Echo on Hwy 320, then ½ mile north on private road. Turn is marked on highway. Nearly one mile of wagon ruts remains on this 320-acre site managed by the Bureau of Land Management. There is nearly a ½ mile hike from the parking area, interpretive kiosk to the ruts. BLM has installed paved paths to the trail. A pond along the path usually is a good wildlife viewing area. A hike up the path to the top of the hill provides a good view of the entire area. Echo Oregon Trail Sites #11

- ◆ Butter Creek Ruts-- These are located on Madison Ranch and permission must be obtained from Kent Madison before visiting this site. There are two parallel sets of ruts, among the deepest remaining in the area.
- ◆ Oregon Trail Marker-- A marker has been erected along Highway 207 to commemorate the Butter Creek Oregon Trail crossing, campsite and graveyard nearby. This is not on the actual site. The site is on private property and the change in the creek over the years, has obliterated the original crossing. Echo Oregon Trail Sites #9

Journals of Lewis & Clark. There are several different editions:

- ◆ DeVoto, Bernard, ed., The Journals of Lewis & Clark, (Houghton Mifflin Company : Boston, 1981). One of the most well reviewed volumes, available at the Echo Library.
- ◆ Nisbet, Jack, Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America, (Sasquatch Books : Seattle, 1994).
- ◆ Schwantes, Carlos, ed., Encounters With A Distant Land: Exploration and the Great Northwest, (University of Idaho Press : Moscow, 1994).
- ◆ Unruh, John D. Jr., The Plains Across: The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-1860, (University of Illinois Press : Chicago, 1979). This book remains the best single volume source about the Oregon Trail.

General US regional history

Much like the general history of exploration and migration, the general regional histories of the Pacific Northwest include little mention of Echo, but they do inform on the events and happenings in Echo. Some of the best regional histories include the following:

- ◆ Clark, Robert, River of the West, (Harper Collins : New York, 1995).
- ◆ Dodds, Gordon B., The American Northwest: A History of Oregon and Washington, (Forum Press : Arlington Heights, Illinois, 1986).
- ◆ Johansen, Dorothy O., Empire of the Columbia, (Harper & Row : New York, 1967).
- ◆ Schwantes, Carlos, The Pacific Northwest: An Interpretive History, (University of Nebraska Press : Lincoln, Nebraska, 1989). In particular this book is notable because it is available in the Echo Library.

Local history

- ◆ Beckham, Stephen Dow, In Their Own Words: Diaries and Reminiscences of the Oregon Trail in Oregon, 2 Volumes, 1991. Spiral bound paper.
- ◆ Pioneer Ladies Club, Pendleton, Oregon Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers, (East Oregonian Publishing Company : Pendleton, Oregon, 1937).
- ◆ Macnab, Gordon, A Century of News and People in the East Oregonian, 1875-1975, (East Oregonian Publishing Company : Pendleton , Oregon, 1975). No "Echo" entry in index.

- ◆ Menefee, Leah Collins, Immigration Rosters of the Elliott Cut-off: 1853 & 1854 & Immigration Registration at Umatilla Agency, 1853, (Linn Benton Genealogical Services, 1984).
- ◆ Meyers, Harvey, Untitled, (Self-Published, spiral bound 1981).
- ◆ Raley, Colonel J. R., Collected Reminiscences & Articles, Available in “Historical Notebook” in the Echo Library. Collected writings also available at the Pendleton Public Library.
- ◆ Searcey, Mildred, Way Back When, (East Oregonian Publishing Company : Pendleton, Oregon, 1972). Result of Radio Program on KUMA called “The Museum of the Air,” with five pages on Echo. Stories about:
 - Echo Koontz Miller
 - Charles Miller her British Husband and dry sense of humor
 - JH Koontz
 - Joseph Cunha
 - American Hare Canning & Cold Storage Company
 - 1926 Bank Robbery
- ◆ Searcey, Mildred We Remember, (East Oregonian Publishing Company : Pendleton , Oregon 1973). Result of Radio Program on KUMA called “The Museum of the Air.” Stories in the county, a few of which happened in Echo or vicinity. Stories about:
 - Green Arnold
 - Robert Stanfield
 - Echo Judge Templeton
 - Centennial celebration at Meadows in 1876
- ◆ Tolar, Bennie Lee Middleton, Echoes From the Past, (Self Published – 1979). This is a valuable book for anyone interested in Echo, includes biographies of individuals, histories of places, events and a variety of vintage pictures.
- ◆ Umatilla County Historical Society, Umatilla County: A Backward Glance, (East Oregon Master Printers : Pendleton, Oregon, 1988). The book features seven pages of Echo pictures.
- ◆ Umatilla County: Pioneer Schools (East Oregon Master Printers : Pendleton, Oregon).
- ◆ Umatilla County Commercial Club Federation, the County Farm Bureau and the County Court Umatilla County, Oregon: A Truthful Exposition of the Facts and Future Possibilities of the Leading Agricultural County of the State, “*A land of good living and great opportunity in an ideal climate where thousands of acres of fertile land await the coming of the homeseeker,*” 1922. One page of text and one page with five photos of Echo.
- ◆ Parsons, Colonel William and W.S. Shiach, An Illustrated History of Umatilla County by Colonel William Parsons and of Morrow County by W.S. Shiach, (W.H. Lever Publisher : Pendleton? 1902). This pamphlet includes about a third of a page on Echo, although it includes extensive discussion of the area.
- ◆ Colonel JH Raley, articles, History of Umatilla county in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers, and East Oregonian Round-up Souvenir Edition Sept. 1932: “*Colonel Raley gives facts on the Settlement.*”
- ◆ Umatilla County Historical Society Publication on Early Schools

Videos

- ◆ Cultural Resources of Echo, Oregon, approximately 55 minutes of video about the geography of the area, early settlers and historic buildings. Images of the City Hall predate the restoration of the building.
- ◆ Digging Up the Past: Fort Henrietta – Utilla Indian Agency and the City of Echo Oregon, hosted by Bonnie Mills with Dr. John Woodward and Diane Berry, 1987. The tape runs 58 minutes and includes footage of the excavation of Fort Henrietta, as well as images of Echo.

Utilla Indian Agency

The US Office of Indian Affairs built a one-story frame house in 1851, which was the Utilla Indian Agency. The cost was \$3,635.39. A post office also existed at the agency, the first one in the eastern portion of the state. Some historical references inaccurately state that the Utilla agency was at Umatilla (the town). The first post office in eastern Oregon was established at the agency. *“Postal Records at Washington D.C. show that the Umatilla post office was established September 26, 1851, with A. Francis Rogers postmaster. Some sources list the postmaster as Royers. The post office was discontinued Jan. 6, 1852. See OHQ, V. 41 p. 69. This was the first post office in eastern Oregon. The Oregonian Aug. 2, 1851, says this office was at the Utilla Indian Agency 150 miles east of the Dalles, on the route to Salt Lake. This article lists the post master’s name as A. Francis Royer.”* Oregon Geographic Names by Lewis A McArthur.

The expensive, but distinct, white wood frame building was a landmark for people traveling the Oregon Trail and frequently remarked on in letters and diaries. The first agent was Elias Wampole. By 1852, there was a well and the building was probably approximately 20 feet by 18 feet. Woodward, in his historical survey of Echo, summarized the various sizes of the building recorded by emigrants in their diaries, illustrating the fact that they did not carry tape measures.

The agency was moved to the Umatilla Indian Reservation following the Treaty Council of 1855. When troops arrived at Utilla on November 18, 1855, they found the agency *“still smoldering.”* The militia accounts said it was burnt by Teninos on their way to Walla Walla, but Native American oral tradition contends that the whites, abandoning the area while seeking safety at Fort The Dalles, torched the building on their way west to keep the Indians from using the building. The militia was ordered to destroy Fort Henrietta seven months later when they abandoned it, so the Indians could not make use of it. This opens two possibilities: 1. The Indian accounts confuse the burning of the agency with the burning of the fort; or 2. The same practice that militia were ordered to use at the fort were used at the agency. The fact that at least part of either the fort or agency remained is supported by the WW Chapman 1859 survey of the area. Chapman noted a building he called the “agency” about 100 feet from where excavations pinpointed the site over 100 years later. Chapman was estimating the distance in chains from ¼ mile away.

Artifacts such as Indian tools and beads, figural tobacco pipes (believed to have been trade goods), military buttons, hundreds of musket balls and other armaments are among the artifacts recovered from the site on display at Echo City Hall. The Fort Henrietta Newsletters provide valuable information on the excavations and artifacts. The artifacts are on display at city hall.

The agency was erected by the government with the idea of relocating tribes from western Oregon to eastern Oregon, which was then considered a worthless desert. However in the interim, diseases such as measles killed most of these tribes. While there was extensive interaction documented between the local tribes and Indian agents, the primary function was to serve as a trading post. Various Indian agents, the post master AJ Royer (or Roger, as the case may be) and ranchers from the Walla Walla Valley [Brooke (Lloyd), Bumford (George), and Noble (John)-- Ulysses S. Grant was their silent partner in their cattle operation] all obtained licenses to serve as traders from the agency.

In a letter L.W. Jackson wrote on October 11, 1851, he complained to Superintendent of Indian Affairs Anson Dart. *“Wampole is engaged in trade with the Indians, he has bought and sold several horses and has a large quantity of Indian goods bought of A.F. Royer, which he is daily selling to Indians.”*

Virgil Pringle documented the trade at the agency in his diary on September 25, 1853: *“This day we traveled 17 miles and again crossed the Umatilla River which brought us to the Indian Agency where Mr. Wampole is stationed and where there is a large frame house which at this time is unfinished within, though the outside presents a fair appearance as it was painted white as snow. Here also an opportunity to procure flour. Mr. Wampole asked \$18 per hundred pounds; sugar is 37 ½ cents; coffee, ditto. A mail contractor who carries mail between the Dalles and Salt Lake City also had a trading tent and he sold flour for \$15 per hundred pounds. An Indian brought in two white looking salmon to us, for which he asked \$2 but found no purchasers. Most of the materials with which the house has been built were brought from the late Dr. Whitman’s station.”*

An important source of information on the trail and Umatilla agency is the Immigration Rosters of the Elliott Cut-off: 1853 & 1854 & Immigration Registration at Umatilla Agency, 1853. Listed are the last names of the head of each household crossing the Umatilla River at Umatilla, which was compiled by the acting Indian Agent Thomas Williams from July 20 to Sept. 30, 1853. The last name and initials of each head of household is listed, followed by notes such as “Barnes, B. S., w, 3 s” which would indicate his wife and three sons. That year is listed that 9077 oxen, 6518 cows, 2009 horses, 327 mules, 1500 sheep and 1269 wagons went by.

Fort Henrietta

Fort Henrietta is one of the historical jewels of Echo. The fort carries with it a remarkable history that is intimately linked to the place. For people or groups interested in the trail, Echo and Fort Henrietta are essential parts of the tour. However, the short tenure of the fort, and the lack of any modern vestige of the original structures make the fort less of an attraction, compared to something like Bent’s Fort on the Santa Fe Trail, or Fort Bridger on the Oregon Trail. The Fort

Henrietta/Utilla Indian Agency site is not in the Fort Henrietta Park. The site is across the river near the Catholic Church. Interpretive panels have been installed on the site. The recreation of the blockhouse and the story panels provide some important visual links to the historic structure. It is an important part of Echo and its history.

One of the compelling parts of the story about Fort Henrietta is the archeological work done to find the original site. A few of the archaeological features have been left open for visitors to see. The story is significant given the community involvement and the level of volunteerism that helped unearth the information about the fort. The Echo Library has several folders that include newspaper clippings, photographs and other information about the fort. These folders, along with the rolls of voyagers who signed in at the fort, make the story of Fort Henrietta a significant part

of the community's cultural inventory. Fort Henrietta was constructed in November of 1855 on the Umatilla River, across from where Echo is now located. The Oregon Mounted Volunteers militia force of 150 men under Major Mark A. Chinn built the fort. The construction



Ft. Henrietta Blockhouse.

was not planned.

The volunteers, whose destination was Fort Walla Walla, met up with men near Well Springs who told them that PeoPeo MoxMox had taken over that fort and it would be dangerous to go on to Walla Walla. Chinn decided to wait for reinforcements at Utilla. However, they found the agency “*still smoldering*” and decided to build a stockade. The fort was named for Henrietta Haller, wife of Major Granville O. Haller, a prominent military officer during the Cayuse Wars of 1855-1856. Henrietta Haller had donated a wagon to the under-provisioned militia. Haller served two years in the Union Army during the Civil War. He died in 1897 in Seattle, a very wealthy businessman.

The fort was constructed from split logs, nine feet long placed two feet into the ground. Two blockhouses of cottonwood logs provided an elevated view and command of all four walls. The

men also built two corrals outside the fort, as well as a subterranean magazine for storing ammunition. Archaeological excavations indicate that they probably built ranges for soldiers quarters and had a system of planks laid out as walkways across the muddy winter ground. Remnants of the lumber planks clearly showed up in the soil during excavations.

The most striking example of action at the fort came on December 4, 1855, when Private William Andrews of Company I was killed while guarding horses. The killing and reported scalping of Private Andrews is supposed to have incited the volunteers so much so that when PeoPeo MoxMox was captured, the militia killed and scalped him when he tried to escape. General Wool, commander of the US Army in the Pacific Region, used this incident to support his position that the militia only inflamed the problems and that they should not be used. In the spring, Private Lot Hollinger was killed in a horse raid. Reports suggest both soldiers were buried near the fort. The third raid on the fort was eventually attributed to whites, which used the confusion to profit from the horse trade.



Musket ball found in dig at Fort Henrietta.

A battle was never fought at the fort. Most of the fighting in the Yakima Indian Wars was in the Walla Walla Valley and Touche River Valley. However, the fort served as a major supply and relay point between Fort The Dalles and camps in the field. Sometime between May 4 and May

10, 1856, Colonel Kelly destroyed the fort upon its evacuation under orders from Colonel Cornelius. Some people argue that a brass cannon was thrown down the well to prevent its use by anyone else. However there has been no historical account of a brass cannon being brought in by militia; they did have howitzers. The only known reference to a brass cannon was from the Cayuse Wars. There was a story of that brass cannon being abandoned near Butter Creek. The shortage of horses after the third raid further supports the idea that something was dropped down the agency well, most likely a howitzer.

Other accounts suggest that a blockhouse or both blockhouses were left standing until sometime before 1883. Settlers such as Pamela Teel Spike, Lucinda McCullough (her husband had been a soldier at the fort), and Colonel J.H. Raley told of a structure remaining in the 1860s and 1870s. McCullough and Spike said early settlers used it as a meeting place and arsenal. Raley, who arrived in 1864 and lived for a few years adjacent to the site, said there were old dilapidated buildings, excavations and wells remaining.

Archaeological excavations indicated that part of the fort was probably pulled down and set ablaze, but that not all of the structure burned. Remnants of the stockade walls and one blockhouse were excavated. Artifacts recovered from these excavations are on display at the Echo City Hall. Among significant artifacts are two whole and fragments from several other figural tobacco pipes. These depict President Fillmore and a Victorian lady, possibly Queen Victoria. The quantity of the pipes found on the site and fact that they had not been smoked indicated they were probably trade goods from the agency. A Hewing hatchet head, probably used on logs at the fort, and a splitting wedge have also been recovered. Hundreds of musket balls, percussion caps and a number of gun parts representing a variety of guns used from the 1830s to 1870s were recovered. Since the militia had to provide its own equipment, this is not surprising. Also of interest is the section of a lead bar. Another such bar from "James McCullough NY" was found at Fort Vancouver. The bars were melted down to make musket balls. Pewter caps from black powder containers, numerous military buttons and even the "D" from an officer's cap show the military occupation of the site. Jewelry, glass, porcelain, and Native American artifacts have also been recovered. A splitting wedge, a military spur, a complete Victoria Pipe and a lynch pin hammer were all found in the excavation of the actual stockade trench. The hammer is an all iron hammer with a chiseled end designed specifically to knock loose the lynch pins on covered wagon wheels; another one is on display in the Lane County Historical Museum.

The following sources add to the material available:

- ◆ Fort Henrietta newsletters:
 - #1-54 emphasis on archeology edited by Dr. John Woodward
 - #45 Cultural Resources & the Oregon Trail, Part I Archeology
 - #46 Oregon Trail Symposium 1989, Part II History and Interpretation
- ◆ J.W. Reese, Compiled & Edited by John Woodward, The Exciting Story of Fort Henrietta: With Information & Drawings from Excavations of the Fort Henrietta and Utilla Indian Agency Archaeological Sites, reprinted with permission by the Fort Henrietta Foundation, March 1990.



First county jail.

Echo is Settled

While most emigrants following the Oregon Trail continued on to the Willamette Valley, by 1860 the valley was becoming too crowded for some of the immigrants. They began a reverse migration along the trail to eastern Oregon and eastern Washington. They settled on the Echo Meadows and other rivers and streams, and soon people began to join these settlers instead of continuing on to the Willamette Valley. Among these first settlers were the McCulloughs, Mendenhalls, Housers, Teels, Courtneys, Bradburn, Brassfield, White, Wilsons, Olivers, Halsteads and more. Most of these settlers settled across the river, or up river from the City of Echo today. However, it was not until 1880 when JH Koontz and WD Brassfield filed the first plat for the City of Echo that a town began to develop. Koontz had already built a general store on the corner of NW Main and Front we know, as he used it as one of the landmarks for the first plat. He built a house and the Arlington House in these early years. He later built the flour mills.

Ella Ann McClain Allphin Burbank's reminiscences describe life at the road house she and her first husband ran at the fort site. *"I used to get very weary there cooking for the emigrants day after day."* She was fifteen at the time they started the roadhouse in 1858. She said they served meals, sold supplies, catered to and maintained a "resting camp" for emigrants. All her cooking was over a fire, as she did not have a stove at the time. There were few families then and the nearest was John McCoy, her brother-in-law. *"In 1862 there was a terrible high water. All the rivers were*

flooded and bridge on the Deschutes washed out. There was no way of getting supplies except at The Dalles, one hundred and ten miles away. On January 5, 1862, my husband started with a large party for The Dalles to buy provisions." The party ran into a storm with extremely cold temperatures and snow. They became separated and *"a number of the men, including my husband were frozen to death."* She said she was alone with her two small children except for a 13-year-old nephew. She said they were out of wood, but her nephew kept finding fence rails to handsaw, which kept them from freezing. (These were probably pieces of wood and corrals from the fort and agency site.)

The first settlers noted by Raley and other Umatilla County Pioneers in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers c. 1864 include: Frank Maddock, Henry Baumgardner, E.A. Wilson, William Carter, Napoleon Evans, S. Hamilton, Jesse Benson (Mendenhall place), John Courtney (Zoeth Houser), Dr. John Teel, Robinsons, David Coffman, Alfred Job, Jesse Lurchin, McCulloughs, Bradburn, Brassfield, William White, Halsteads, Jonathan Raley, Hugh Fields, Tom Ayres and the Morris family.



On Butter Creek, early settlers were Frank Ewing (settled where Oregon Trail Crossing was located, later farmed by Allen Thomson), Colonel Buel Atwood, OF Thomson, Robert Stanfield. Early settlers at Happy Canyon were Prior Yoakum, Jack Morton, Ad Nye, James Means, Rube Oliver, Ben Mattison, RM Angel, Noll Hopper, Thomas Baker, Ben Hopper, Philip McBryan, Adams, Campbell, RG Thompson, Jerry Barnhart, and Pink Adcock.

Thomas Benson arrived on the Echo Meadows when he was 11 years old in 1864 and describes their cabin in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers. His description would have been typical of most of the cottonwood log cabins that dotted the Meadows in the 1860s. As families became more prosperous, they built bigger clapboard houses and eventually Victorian homes, such as the Cunha House.

The cabins were used as outbuildings, until finally the soft cottonwood buildings rotted away. *“During the winter of '64-'65 we lived at the Meadows in a log cabin which had a dirt roof, split cottonwood logs formed its foundations, over this tules were laid and lastly sods were added. In the spring of the year we had wild flowers growing on the cabin roof and it was a pretty sight but when there was an especially heavy rain, how the water poured through the roof. We children placed pans and kettles under the worst leaks and when they were full, what fun to empty them...With the coming of spring, my father and William White, mother's brother, entered into a partnership and raised vegetables. There was a good market for them as we sold to freighters who passed our place on the way to inland points. Many of those men had regular routes to stations as far distant as Boise, Idaho. What the freighters didn't buy we sold at Umatilla Landing to the river trade.”*

The original town site laid out by Koontz and Brassfield in 1880-1900 consisted of three plats. The plats were Echo City--Main and Bridge Streets; the Koontz Addition, Main North to the railroad, including the Koontz Home; and Brassfield, which was Bridge Street. Additional settlers added plats to the early town between 1881 and 1905. Additional plats included Koontz Second, Halstead's, Whitworth, and Gulliford. For further information, see Fort Henrietta Newsletter #52 and #53, 1992.

Koontz built a flourmill, warehouse, general store, home and the Arlington House. He is believed to have also owned other commercial buildings, which he leased to other business owners. The original mill cost \$40,000, but it was destroyed in 1888; he rebuilt it in 1889. The mill used water taken out of the Umatilla River above Echo and the water was circulated back to the river through what is now the Esther Fife land. The cement lined rapid flowing section of the Feed Canal ditch was part of the original Mill Race. Thirty men were employed there at peak business. Swift and Company bought it and later sold it to Joseph Cunha who operated it as Echo Flour Mill and then converted it to grain and wool storage

The reason that Koontz and Brassfield decided to plat the town here is that they heard the railroad would come through the valley. The railroad was the main reason the town prospered. Koontz recognized the importance of the railroad in his second addition to the town of Echo. Streets were named for important men to the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company (OR & N). Thielsen Street is named for railroad engineer Hans Thielsen; Prescott Street for Chas.

Prescott, OR & N officer; and Sprague Street for E.B. Sprague, OR & N contractor. Kennedy Street may have also been named for a railroad surveyor named Kennedy. Ranchers and farmers would bring livestock and grain to Echo from miles around. Corrals were located between the tracks and fire hall until sometime in the 1950s. The livestock would be herded in and held there until loaded into cars. The right-of-way was lined with warehouses, grain storage, a Tum-a-Lum store and the buildings associated with the wool scouring plant as shown on the 1910 Sansborn Insurance Maps.



Main Street, Echo, Oregon, circa 1910.

Historic Sketches of Walla Walla, Whitman, Columbia and Garfield Counties, Washington Territory and Umatilla County Oregon by Frank T. Gilbert has a short section on Echo in 1882. The town had a warehouse, two stores, a hotel, school, two saloons, two blacksmiths, feed stable, drug store, a livery stable, post office, boot and shoe shop, railroad station and a population of 50-60.



The Echo Commercial Club filled the role of a chamber of commerce for Echo from around 1904 through the 1920s. As such, the club strove to promote the community and attract settlers and businesses. In 1907, the Commercial Club published a booklet on Echo: "Echo Present Resources and Possibilities for the Future," which was a glowing effort to attract people to Echo. There are fascinating facts and predictions in this book about Echo and its future. *"Possibly in no section of the great state of Oregon are there greater inducements offered homebuilders, business men and capitalists than Umatilla County. ... The county as a whole is exceedingly rich, and while its present development is such as to be marvelously wonderful, its greatest riches lie*

in its undeveloped and latent resources,“ the booklet bragged. It also predicted that Umatilla County would be many times over its 30,000 population, but has only doubled in 95 years. It also predicted by 1930, Pendleton would increase from the 1907 population of 7,000 to 30,000. Pendleton has not yet reached 20,000, so the club was a little over-enthusiastic.

Echo incorporated in 1904. A number of important events happened in Echo in 1906-07. One such event was Joseph Cunha's purchase of the Henrietta Flour Mills; he increased the capacity to 500 barrels a day. Another significant event was the beginning of construction on electric lines to connect Echo to Pendleton and Walla Walla. In 1906-1907, Echo was the heaviest shipping point for fat beef and sheep in the state. The Creamery located on Cunha Ranch was completed and there were seven months and seven days without frost. By 1907, Echo had as many as five saloons including The Owl, The Louvre, The Bucket of Blood, the Idle Hour and The White Front. Echo further boasted a pool hall that sold “Near Beer.” The Hotel Echo and Arlington House probably also served alcohol.

Railroad

The main line of what is now the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) and one side track divide Echo roughly in half. The railroad owns as much as 250 feet each side of the tracks through the center of Echo. This area was once covered with businesses and warehouses, but it is now empty.

Originally the town was served by the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company (OR & N), then the Oregon Washington Railway & Navigation Company and finally the Union Pacific. The railroad was quite important, because its arrival, combined with the irrigation districts, helped make Echo a market center. The effect was so electric that the town grew from 30 in 1903 to 800 by 1910. The town's first depot was constructed in 1883. In 1904, this “old” depot was torn down and a new one built. The second depot was dismantled in the late 1950s after passenger trains quit stopping in Echo. The depot was located on the east side of the tracks at the end of Bridge Street.

In the first half of the 20th Century, Bridge Street was the second commercial street. People would get off the train and walk to the huge Echo Hotel, which occupied most of the block where the Echo Trailer Park is now. To cater to both the public and to traveling salesmen, rooms were provided on the ground floor where the salesmen could display their wares. In these ground floor rooms, residents could view miniature versions of stoves and other goods, ordered for shipment by railroad. Visitors and guests at the hotel also had a restaurant and bar available, along with rooms upstairs. To highlight the significance of the railroad, John Tourtellotte, city hall architect, called for an all white building for the hotel in the specifications. Tourtellotte thought that the all white building would be immediately visible when people stepped from the train.

Western Union operated a telegraph in the depot until 1950. To service the train, the town had a 65,000 gallon water tank, which required ten-foot long iron bars with hooks on the end to pull down the water spout on the reservoir to fill the steam trains. Children would often sneak over on hot summer days and stand under the spout while someone pulled the spout down. The water

tank and tower were torn down in 1957. The area where Oregon Trail Mini-Storage is now located was the site of the corrals where animals were held until they could be loaded and shipped out. In the days before the sidewalks and graded streets were developed, merchants would push carts or wheelbarrows through the sagebrush to the depot to load up their goods. After the streets were developed, dray wagons such as the Red Express operated by Bill Pearson were used to haul shipped goods to the businesses. In early days, the depot was the gathering place for “whittlin’, spittin’ and gossip.” In the summer, it was on the porch/overhang and in the winter, the old pot bellied stove was the attraction.

Utilities

Electricity was turned on in Echo in 1913. The sagebrush was dug out by businessmen and early residents in 1901 and boardwalks installed. The last boardwalk was still used in front of the Spinning House on South Bonanza until the 1980s. Telephone service was provided in 1900 by Butter Creek Telephone Company, which had six connections by 1907. There were 180 miles of line and 127 connections. Officers were O.F. Thomson, president; Asa Thomson, secretary-treasurer; Jesse Moore, R. B. Stanfield and J.B. Saylor.



What Echo has in the Business Line (1907)

One Bank, under state control, capital \$25,000
One Furniture Store
Three General Merchandise stores,
 handling dry goods and groceries
One Grocery Store
One Drug Store, handling stationery, school books
 and supplies
One Meat Market
One Hardware Store, carrying farm implements
Two Confectionery Stores---cigars, candy, etc.
Five Large Warehouses
Three Lawyers
Two Blacksmith shops
One Paint and Paper Hanging
Methodist Episcopal Church
Two Livery, Feed and Sale Stables
One Harness and Saddle Shop
One Feed and Custom Chop Shop
One Second Hand Store
One Boot and Shoe Repair Shop
Real Estate Dealers, Contractors
Five Saloons, paying \$600 city license yearly
One Fire Company

One Jewelry Store
Carpenters, etc.
One Billiard and Pool Room
One Millinery Emporium
Three Hotels
Two Lumberyards
Two Barber Shops
One Dairy
One Creamery
One Cigar Factory
One Flour Mill, capacity 150 lbs.
Two Doctors
One Laundry
One Newspaper

An excellent Municipal Water Sys-
 system, domestic purposes;
 fire protection

In fact every business and every
profession and tradesman usually
found in a western city were found
in Echo.

Under important facts, the 1907 Echo Commercial Club promotional pamphlet lists the following statistics:

Umatilla County:

Wheat production 5,000,000 bushel
800,000 of unappropriated public lands
30,000 cattle, valued at more than \$750,000

Echo statistics:

60,000 tons alfalfa hay, \$6/ ton \$360,000
77,000 lbs. Honey, 7 cents a pound
75,000 lambs at \$3 per head
poultry \$10,000
dairy \$7,500

Within 12 miles of Echo:

30,000 acres of wheat
over 100,000 acres of raw land that would
 become irrigated as irrigation projects
 were completed.

350,000 tons of alfalfa annually
350,000 sheep-- 3,000,000 lbs. wool

700,000 bushels wheat, 75c/bshl \$525,000
1.5 million lbs. wool, 18 cents per pound
500 swine
fruit and garden produce \$10,000
Profit on feeding 8500 steers through the
 winter \$127,500

8000 acres of summer fallow

Land in the Echo area suitable for wheat production brought \$7 to \$12 per acre as raw, unimproved land. Improved wheat farms brought \$12 to 17.50 per acre. In sharp contrast, irrigated bottomland, where alfalfa was planted, sold for \$50 to \$100 an acre and improved land \$125 to 175 an acre. Alfalfa or “Chile Clover” was first planted in Echo in 1880. In 1906, 248 cars of “fine fat steers were shipped from stock yards at Echo or approximately 7440 head...Echo has long held the distinction of being the heaviest shipping point in the state of Oregon... It is conservatively estimated that there are 160,000 sheep...” Echo took the Gold Medal for Alfalfa at the World’s Fair in St. Louis.

Excerpt from Echo Commercial Club publication, 1907



Unloading wheat onto trains at Echo.

Echo Area Post Offices and Post Masters

The first post office was Uvilla from September 28, 1851 to January 6, 1852. A.F. Rogers (Royers?) was post master.

Meadowville Post Office was closed in 1874. It was located north of Echo and east of Stanfield. Meadows was opened May 10, 1880 and closed December 19, 1882, due to the Echo Post Office. J.C. Franklin was Post Master.

Moorhouse was opened January 5, 1880 and closed in 1883, due to the Echo Post Office. Thomas "Major Lee" Moorhouse was Post Master. This post office was at the Prospect Ranch.

The Echo Post Office was opened May 31, 1881 with Moses C. Tribble, Post Master. He farmed west of Echo and Snow Ranches now farms their land. Other offices that closed due to Echo were Galloway, Alpine and Acton.

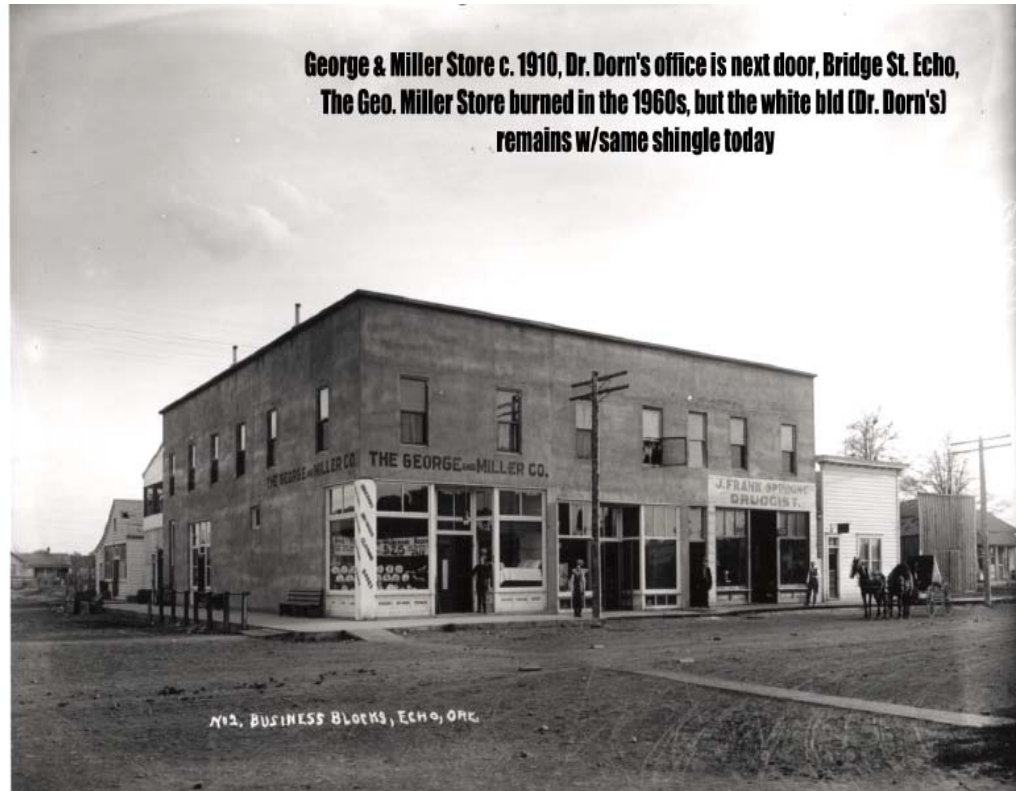
Echo post masters following Tribble were William Brownell, Clara Manela, Newton Loveridge, William Warner, William Brownell, Eben Andrews, John Dorn, E.R. Ware, A. Longwell, Roy Hale, Ralph Stanfield, Floyd Mathers, Johns "Steve" Spike, Eugene Berry, Jerrie Fife, and Linda Bunch.

1908 Census

A report in the city history file lists Echo businesses c. 1908 and lists the population as 800. Other businesses and points of interest included the following:

- Railway: depot, 2 grain elevators, stockyards
- Two hotels: 2-story hotel, Gillette 3-story hotel; Hoskins one large rooming house
- Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Wells Racket Store, paper hanger and painter
- Louis Scholl, Real Estate Office, Coe & Furnish Real Estate, J. Frank Spinning Real Estate
- John Dorn Drug Store, J. Frank Spinning Drug Store
- Dr. Fred Dorn, Dr. F.M.Ackley, Dr. Irving, Dr. Alexander Reed, later Dr. Van Gesner
- One dentist
- Five saloons
- A.D. Knight, jeweler
- One laundry
- Bill Barker Livery Barn and Feed, Dick Jones Livery Barn and Feed
- H. Ben Gillette Feed Mill, C. H. Bonney's Harness Shop
- L. A. Esteb, lawyer
- Chas. Lisle, hardware store
- One meat market
- U.S. Post Office, Post Master John Dorn
- Bakery
- Bank of Echo (new one built one year later)
- James Hoskins grocery store

- Undertaking parlor, furniture store by Chas. Hoggard and Ed Ware
- Two blacksmiths
- One dairy, owned by Jerome Gulliford
- Two lumber yards: Tum-a-Lum Lumber Co., Stevens Lumber Yard (both sold fuel)
- Western Land and Irrigation Office, Stanfield Irrigation Office
- Two barber shops: R. H. Brundage, Burt Mullins
- Newspaper, owned by R.B. Brown
- W. H. Boyd Grocery & Drygoods
- George & Miller, grocery, dry goods, men's, ladies' suits and dresses
- I.O.O.F. Hall
- Masonic Hall
- One church: Echo Community
- Mr. Ripper's groceries and City Pound
- Jack Young Pool Hall & Ice House
- Millinery shop, city hall, jail, pump house
- Amos & Jane Hammer, carpet weavers
- Creamery, Henrietta Flour Mill (later Echo Flour Mill)
- Thomas Ross, wool scouring mill
- Echo School
- Two stages passed through Echo, twice a day (at a later date)
- Tom Dewese, City Express and drayman
- Fire Department, baseball and football field
- Telephone office, telegraph office
- Frank Spike Veterinary Supplies



George & Miller Store c. 1910, Dr. Dorn's office is next door, Bridge St. Echo, The Geo. Miller Store burned in the 1960s, but the white bld (Dr. Dorn's) remains w/same shingle today

112. BUSINESS BLOCKS, ECHO, ORE.

Agriculture

Wheat. Wheat farming in Umatilla County has been attributed to various people over the years. The W.W. Chapman Survey (1859:33) describes a "Switzlers Field" located east of the Umatilla River on the line dividing sections 16 and 21 Township 3N Range 29 E. This would be just south the city limits.

The Switzler brothers owned several thousand head of horses, derived from Cayuse Stock. The Switzler name shows up quite often in the early history of Oregon. Switzler Island was named for this same family. Dr. Woodward speculates that the reference to “Switzlers Field” could indicate an early attempt at growing wheat. William Switzler is attributed as unsuccessfully attempting

to
grow wheat
near
Pendleton in
1876. In
This was
Wheat
Farming, by
Kirby
Brumfield,
he states:

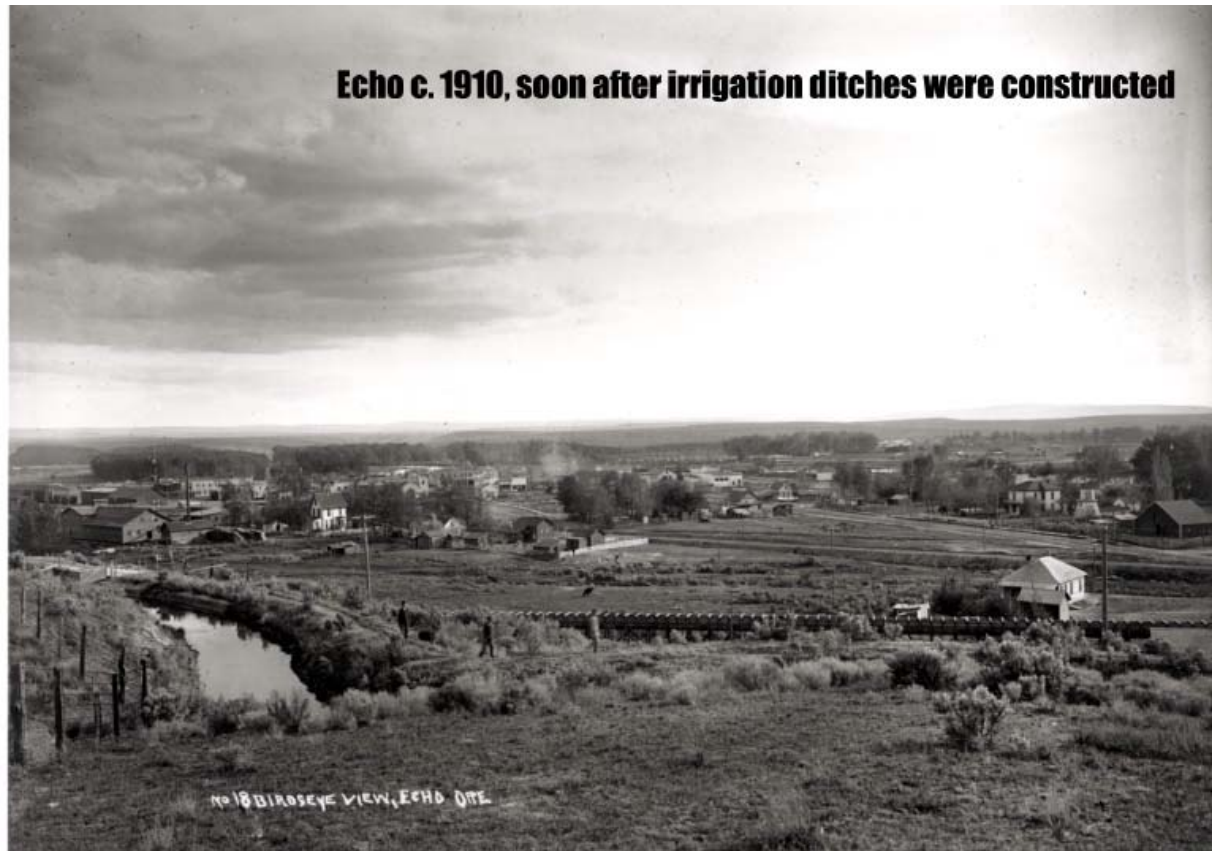
*“Wheat
Growing in
Oregon’s
Umatilla
County is
reputed to
have had its
beginnings
in the early
sixties when
two sheep
men, a Mr.
Thompson
and Jerry
Barnhart
were*



bringing their flock back from summer range in the Blue Mountains. They discovered an excellent stand of wheat had grown and matured in their sheep corrals. The plants had sprouted from kernels which spilled onto the ground from feed bunks earlier in the year.” Thompson and Barnhart’s operation was located in Happy Canyon, between Echo and Pendleton. Marshall E. Meyers farmed 4,400 acres of wheat between Echo and Stage Gulch beginning in 1913. He was attributed as being a leader in soil conservation. The light soils on the hills around Echo have a tendency to blow with the wind. He started strip farming, leaving wide swatches of stubble then farming the next strip to help fight the erosion. He also was an early leader in no till farming. He took the moldboards off his plows, which left the stubble on the ground to hold the soil. These practices soon became the norm.

Irrigation. Early irrigation projects were started by EA White and Dr. John Teel. Teel was among the first to bring water from the Umatilla River to irrigate his crops. This first ditch came out of the west side of the river, where the Hunt and Allen ditch comes out now. Bob Spike, Teel's grandson, said that Teel would hire two brothers, the Flow Brothers (appropriate name) to dig the ditches in the winter. The brothers were miners in the summer.

The Teel Irrigation Project has long been identified as a brilliant engineering design. O.D. Teel, son of Dr. John Teel, designed the project to take water from the Blue Mountains



through a tunnel to irrigate thousands of acres of land along Butter Creek and then east to Echo. Teel and Frank Spinning, along with other Echo men, packaged and sold the concept. Bonds were sold to fund the project. Construction, including part of the tunnel, had already started when it was discovered that the money had been embezzled. This ended the dreams of many Echo area farmers. Indeed, most of the hill country between Butter Creek and Echo remained free of cultivation until technology for drilling deep basalt wells and center pivot irrigation made it feasible in the early 1970s. The concept of the Teel project would still be viable today, but the environmental and water issues prohibit its development.

Grazing Land. The valleys around Pilot Rock and Echo were known for their mild winter climates and common Chinook Winds that allowed for grazing of livestock over the winter. Indians first recognized the milder winter climate and next the settlers. Early histories describe the teamsters, packers and freighters arranging to graze their horses and mules around Echo. The 1870 census lists most of the teamsters and packers, such as Beagle Bros., Mike Castle, Mike Deboise, Andrew Jansen, William Parks, John Boyce, Thomas Malarkey, and Washington Palmer, living at precinct numbers for the Echo area. They are usually listed as residing with

some of the farm families, which implies that they rented grazing land and accommodations from the farm families.

Echo Industry in the Early 20th Century

At the start of the 20th Century, Echo was a bustling little community, whose future was indeed bright. The telephone directories and business listings show the number of commercial concerns growing from year to year and the population moving steadily upward. By the end of the century's first decade, Echo could boast a diverse range of agricultural products, along with a wide assortment of supporting services and civic organizations. A roster of products from 1907, for example, includes honey, alfalfa, wheat, wool, hogs, poultry, cattle, horses, dairy products, lamb, fruit from 219 acres of orchards, along with berries and garden products.

When the 20th century was young, the citizens of Echo were firmly in the vanguard of American agriculture and nowhere is this more apparent than in the area's embrace of the rhetoric of the Reclamation Age. Reclamation, or irrigation, was championed at the federal level with the creation of the forerunner to the Bureau of Reclamation and at the local level with the East Umatilla Government Irrigation Project. The Umatilla Project built a dam and reservoir eight miles from Echo that promised new productivity. Three dams were installed above or south of Echo and one below town to divert water into these ditches. All but one of the dams remains. Other private irrigation companies existed in 1907 too, and in that year, 9,000 acres of irrigated farmland was in production, with ditches under construction to eventually irrigate more than 38,000 acres. The Hinkle Ditch Company and the Inland Irrigation Company operated near Echo in 1907 and by 1920 approximately 24,500 acres of irrigated land were in production. The government project alone accounted for 10,500 acres.

Not surprisingly, with the agricultural production from the nearby fields, the town of Echo boasted a wide assortment of services. The 1910 roll of businesses includes two livery stables, a blacksmith, an amusement parlor, two barbershops, notary-surveyor-insurance shop, and a furniture store. In addition the small city boasted a jeweler and optician, grocery and dry goods store, a lumber company, four general stores, a hardware store, a cigar factory, two attorneys a doctor, butcher and a drug store. Also critical to a town's ability to attract interest and capital, Echo boasted an active newspaper and the Bank of Echo. Finally, a hotel offered only the best accommodations to travelers on the railroad or the state roads.

Century Farms

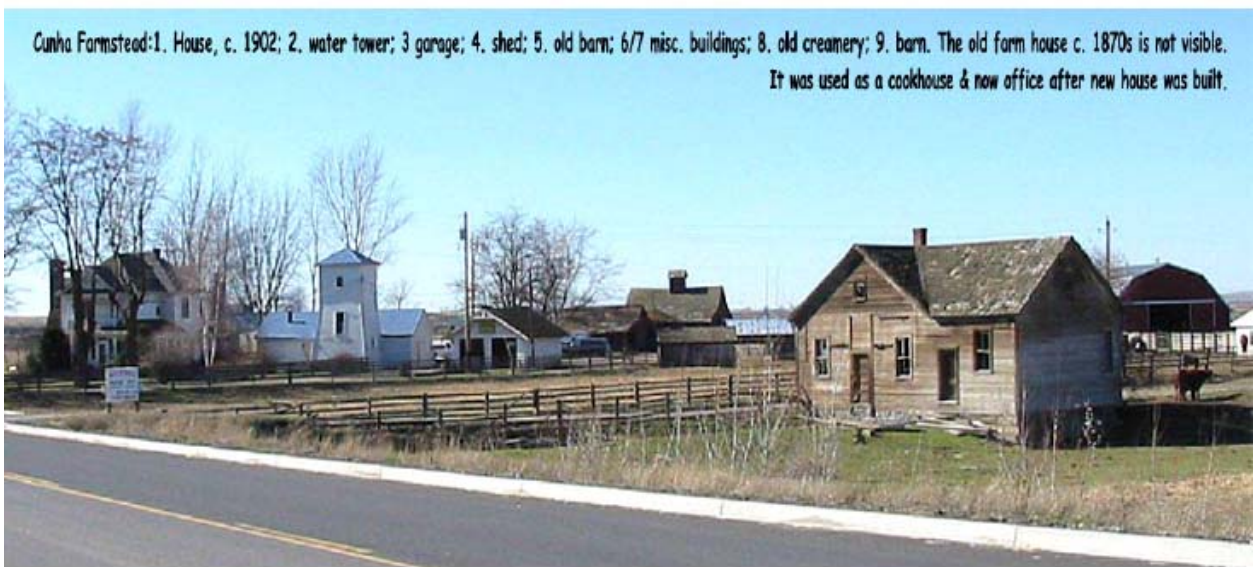
This list of "Century Farms" is based on the listings of the Oregon Historical Society. There are likely other farms that have been operated by the original family for 100 years, and if so, they should be nominated for inclusion on this list.

- ◆ McCarty Ranch, currently operated by Mike D. McCarty. Established in 1878 by David and Elizabeth McCarty.

- ◆ Prospect Farm, currently operated by G.M. Ransier. The John R Foster Company bought the ranch, c. 1876. Noted Umatilla County photographer Lee Moorhouse was superintendent of the ranch for four years, c. 1882.
- ◆ Spike-Teel Ranch, currently operated by Jeff Spike great grandson of Dr. John and Elvira Teel, who established the ranch in 1893 and grandson of Elmer Smith Spike and Pamela Teel Spike who operated it.
- ◆ Vey Farm, established in 1861 by Antone and Mary Vey.

Other Early Farms

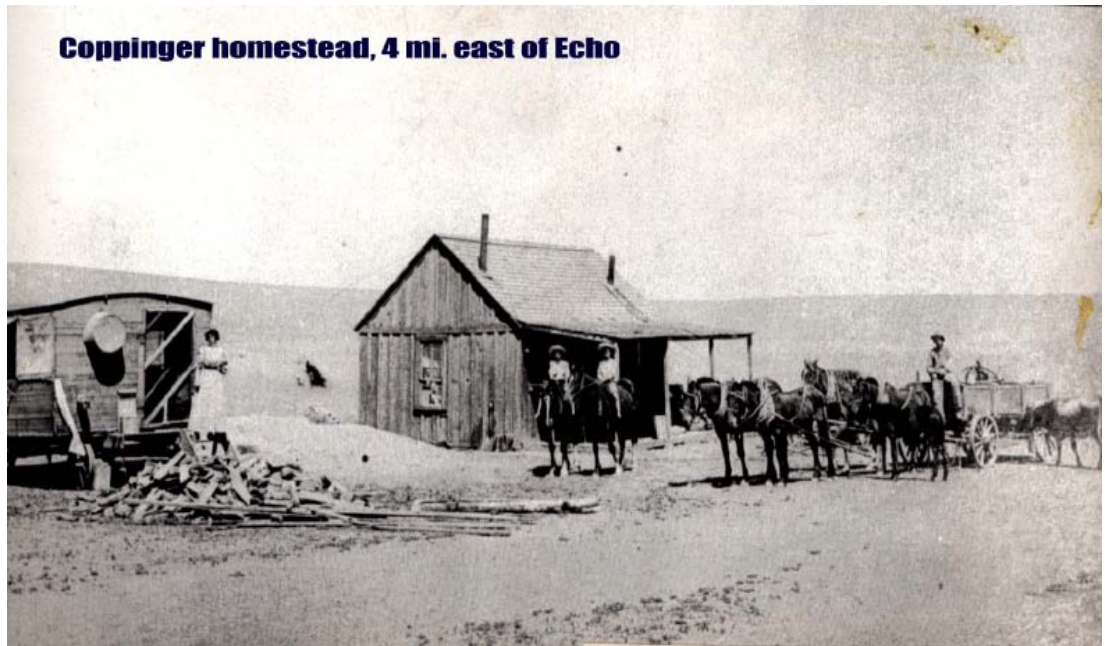
- ◆ P.J. Rohde Ranch, NE of Echo operated by Glenn Rohde and family.
- ◆ Reese Ranch, operated by Sherman Reese.
- ◆ Thomson-Myers, started by OF Thomson. His son Sloan operated it and now, two other descendants, Jerry Myers and his son John, continue the operation. Jerry Myers' mother, Lila, was daughter of Phoebe.
- ◆ Temple Ranch, wheat farm between Echo and Pendleton, just off I-84.
- ◆ Frank Correa, Sr., Echo Meadows. Manuel Correa's son David continues to farm part of the ranch.
- ◆ John B. Correa Farm, still owned by son John "Jack" Correa and wife Jean.
- ◆ Ramos Farm, nearly five miles of land following the Umatilla River south from Echo is owned by the Ramos families. Both range land on hills and bottomland used for alfalfa, primarily from the original farm that Joseph Ramos, Sr. bought from WW Whitworth. Later, land was bought from Pedro's and the Lisle-Young place. Two historic homes remain and three new homes have been constructed on the ranch. It is



now divided into two parcels. John “Cowboy” and Charles “Swede” Ramos own the northern section and Joanne “Sis” Ramos Harris, Jeanne Ramos West and Sam “Coke” Ramos own the southern section on which the Corral Springs Oregon Trail Site is located.

- ◆ Cunha Bros. (now Snow) Ranch, Cunha Farmstead is on the National Register. Bottomland across the river from Echo used for alfalfa and wheat. Large wheat and range land acreage west of Echo and south of Hwy 320. The ranch also owns mountain range in the Blues.
- ◆ John Correa Farm, Echo Meadows
- ◆ Manuel Correa Farm, Echo Meadows
- ◆ Thomson-Bartholomew-Myers Farm, located along Highway 207, about 10 miles southwest of Echo. Phoebe Thomson Bartholomew, daughter of O.F. Thomson recalled that her father and his brother-in-law Robert Stanfield, Sr. purchased the first two harvesters, self-bindings ones, in eastern Oregon in 1878. This farm, which is operated by Phoebe’s grandson Jerry and great grandson John Myers, was one of the first to use a gas pump to irrigate from Butter Creek.
- ◆ Madison Farms, started by Gaylord Madison, then farmed by son John, and now operated by grandsons Kent and Scott. Kent and Scott has expanded the farm considerably using new technologies, such as application of sewer sludge hauled by truck from Portland and pumping potato waste water into a large reservoir along Highway 207 from Lamb-Weston potato processing plant. The water is used to irrigate crops. Gaylord started the farm with 500 old ewes in 1927. He was one of the last to

raise sheep in the area and the last to stop herding the sheep to the Wallowa Mountains range land. He had as many as 2400 breeding ewes.



Bennie Tolar in her book states that the Madison sheep would be herded to the sheep sheds on Cunha farms and Jake Wattenburger would bring in a crew of 40 to shear the sheep. This attracted kids from town to see the sheep sheared and to watch when they were herded through Echo en route to the mountains.

- ◆ Coppinger Farms, east of Echo along Highway 320, primarily wheat.

- ◆ Cunningham Sheep Ranch, based at Nolin. This huge operation was established in the 1880s by Charles Cunningham. An 1893 biography states: *“Not only has he the distinction of raising more sheep than any other farmer in Oregon, but is one of the largest sheep owners in the United States. Owned 18000 sheep that now owns most of what was Happy Canyon. The vast holdings extend south and southeast toward Pilot Rock. One of the few operations to still run sheep. Wheat, hay and pasture as well as livestock.”* The ranch is owned by the Corey and Levy families and is a leader in rambouillet sheep production.

Schools

No discussion of a small town like Echo can be complete without addressing the importance of schools. Echo is no exception. Despite its small size, Echo residents have fought many attempts over the years to consolidate the school with a larger district. Echo’s long-time residents have seen too many other small towns die after the school leaves the community. The school is often the glue that holds the community together. It is the center of social activity and pride. In 1978 and 1979, Echo residents narrowly voted to try a two-year trial merger with Stanfield. The school operated as Oregon Trail Schools and the mascot was the Trailer Blazer. The high school students went to Stanfield, Junior High to Echo and grade schools stayed at home. When it became time for the final vote to merge or not, it was a hard battle that left hard feelings on both sides for many years, but the majority finally determined that they wanted the school back in Echo. A building program was approved in 1980 and the section north of the 1909 cement school building was added. Two classrooms were added to the grade school and new locker rooms added to the gym.

The importance of tradition to Echo Schools is illustrated by the pictures of graduating seniors dating back to the Class of 1945 that still hang above the lockers in the hall. This tradition is also illustrated in the fact that the Class of 2000 had two cousins, Ashley Berry and Chris Marcum (Morton, Spike, Teel), who represented the sixth generation to attend Echo Schools. Their third cousin Casey Spike (Teel, Spike) was the fifth generation. Kyle Fife boasted being the fourth generation to attend Echo Schools. Several other classmates have had at least a parent graduate from Echo. This almost unbelievable tradition comes from a class of less than 20 students. The Class of 1999 had a similar makeup with family names representing descendants of Ramos, Berry, Spike, Teel, Morton, and Madison families.

Because of the small size and family continuity, school athletes and the teams (1950’s state football champions) become legends that are remembered generations later. The phenomenal success of the Class of 1952 in winning the state basketball tournament, as well as defeating much bigger schools in the area, is still discussed.

As important as the sports team were in the 1940s and 50s, the Echo Girls Pep Club, a marching band, was also an important club. Warren Center, who served as a teacher, superintendent and wonderful music teacher, led the pep club. The club was well known around the state and was even invited to play at the Lilac Festival in Spokane and Portland's Rose Festival. The all-girl marching band was also invited to march in the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, but was unable to attend.

School Mascot: Echo
Cougar

Colors:

2002: dark blue, gold, white

1970s: Columbia blue, white with blue accents

1950s: navy blue, white

School Song: "Our Director"

Fight Song: "On Wisconsin"



1950s football program

Pioneer one-room schools in the Echo area merged into the Echo School District over the years. According to Echoes from the Past, the first school was on the Frank Correa place on the Echo Meadows and the teacher was a Mr. Beasley, followed by Mary Oliver. Another school was built on the Gillander place closer to town. The third was the school on the Teel place, less than a mile west of town. This building has been moved into town, as is (historic building #9). The Echo School District School Board was meeting as early as 1890. Kim Morton, son of Jack Morton, was the first chairman and director, and John Vinson was secretary and board member. John Dorn and Mamie Leonard were the first teachers for the newly formed School District #5. Around 1900, the first two-story school building was constructed on land donated by Wilson Whitworth. This building was located where the school playground is today. The school was an

attractive wood frame building that housed all grades. The community continued to grow, so a high school was needed. In 1910, the new cement 2.5-story building that remains on the site was constructed. Members of the first graduating class (1911) from the new school were Charles Hoskins, Eva



Dunning Bard, Ruth Clark Hoskins and Audrey Wattenburger Stapish. The Colonial Revival Building is one of the most attractive on the campus with its half-moon oval window, dormers hipped roof and parapets. Unfortunately the original windows were replaced with smaller aluminum windows. The original window outlines remain, so that the windows could be restored. Before the new addition was added there was a stately approach to the building that featured a long sidewalk that came up to a wide set of stairs at which point the sidewalk split to form a half moon shape. A fountain was at the head of the stairs and each walk lead to one of the long double staircases that provided access to the main floor.

The “new gym,” which is now the cafeteria, was completed in 1924 and the current gym in 1949. The elementary school building was constructed in 1952.

The original school building was used as a club meeting place. Besides spelling bees, singing trees and box socials, the school also hosted an annual May Day celebration that brought the community together each year and, until the late 1960s, there was a Mother-Daughter Tea in May. Children would also make paper cones to hold fresh flowers and these would be delivered to neighbors and friends, especially the elderly each May Day. May Day celebrations died during the “Cold War,” as May 1st was a Russian holiday. Patriotic Americans did not want to celebrate something the Russians also celebrated.

All the early one-room schoolhouses in the Echo area eventually closed and moved their students to the Echo School District. Those schools, in addition to the ones listed previously, were Pine City (Butter Creek), Thomson (Butter Creek), and Nolin. In the early years, teachers boarded with families. A story about the “Singing School” competitions is in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers.

Chapter IV: PEOPLE

Process by which list was generated and will be amended

This chapter, much like the earlier chapters, is the result of individual input and local participation, along with researching historical materials. The individuals listed on the cultural inventory are here largely because they were nominated by Echo residents for inclusion or because biographies were found in existing publications. While some people are inexorably linked to Echo's history, such as Echo Koontz Miller, others may be less well known. Regardless, so long as a clear relationship exists, there are many good reasons for the following individuals and organizations to be a part of the inventory. Indeed, the purpose of the inventory is to identify people, institutions, events and places that have helped to shape Echo.

Amending the list, or adding people, organizations and events to the list is a straightforward process. Anyone wishing to suggest additions, be they residents or not, should contact the City Manager. The City of Echo intends that the inventory be a document it regularly updates and modifies to suit local needs and changes. Therefore, suggested amendments will be added to the inventory at regular intervals depending on the number of pending modifications and other ongoing events. Biographical information on the included people will be gladly accepted. More detailed biographical sketches on many of these individuals are available at the library in historical notebooks and the biographies listed below.

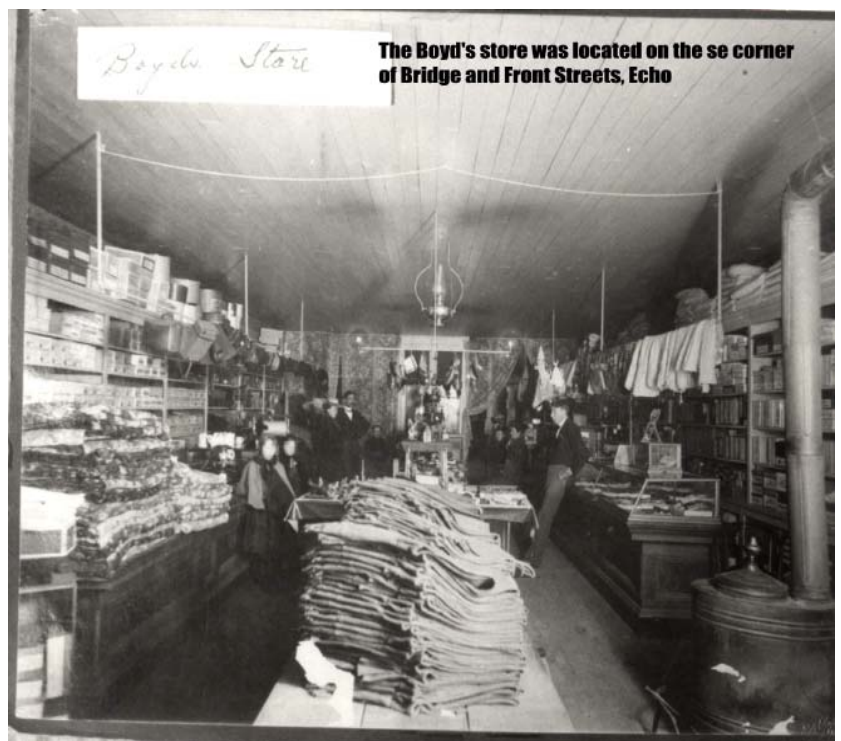
Significant historical people

* Denotes their biography is available in Centennial History of Oregon

Denotes their biography is available in History of Oregon

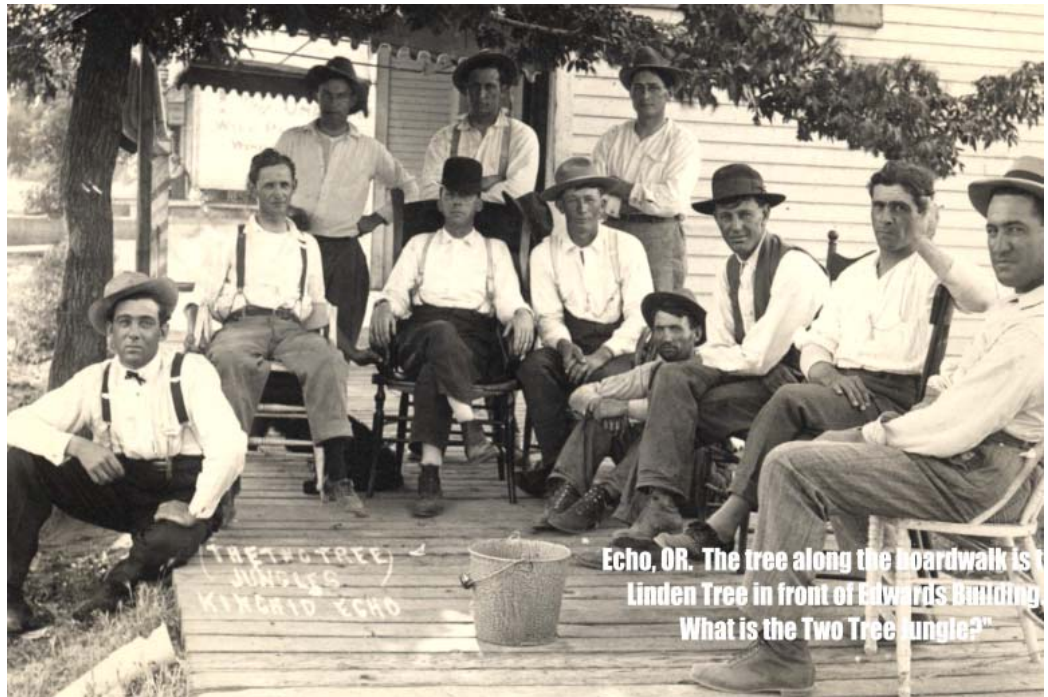
- ◆ Joseph C. Andrews, 1905-1975. A rancher and patron of the Echo Historical Museum. Andrews donated the money to purchase the Echo Bank building for use as a museum; he also donated funds for perpetual care of the facility. The Echo Alfalfa Feed Mill operated on the Andrews land about three miles west of Echo on the Meadows. The Echo Meadows Oregon Trail site, 2.7 miles west of Echo, was originally on the Andrews Ranch.
- ◆ Frederick Andrews Sr., 1864-1945. Early rancher on Echo Meadows. Operated Alfalfa Seed Mill on Meadows. Sons Frederick Jr., Harry and Joseph continued farming on the Meadows. Barbara Andrews was the third generation of Andrewses to operate the farm.
- ◆ Colonel Buel Atwood, 1812-1879, buried at Echo Cemetery. Pioneer rancher on Butter Creek. Husband of Lucy Miriah Tyler and father of Susan Atwood Thomson and Phoebe Atwood Stanfield.
- ◆ Jesse B Benson, b. 1823 in Maryland, d. 1885 in Pilot Rock. One of the early settlers on Echo Meadows, arriving in 1864. County Commissioner 1878. Captain of the wagon train on which the family came to Oregon.

- ◆ Phoebe Ann Thomson Bartholomew, 1874-1976. Daughter of O.F. Thomson and Susan Atwood. Raised in Echo Meadows and became a major source of information on Echo since she spent most of her 102 years living here witnessing the earliest settlement to modern times. She and her husband Charles operated the Thomson farm, then their daughter Lila Myers and her husband took over. Son Jerry and his son John are the fourth and fifth generation to farm the same land. She attended Monmouth College and graduated in 1895. She taught three years at Thomson School and two years at Pine City.
- ◆ Thomas C. Benson, son of early Echo settler Jesse B. Benson. Wrote description of area in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers. Elected County Assessor 1876. Butcher with a circuit from Echo to Umatilla Landing, c. 1875.
- ◆ Ella Robbins Benson, wife of Thomas Benson, daughter of pioneer Jacob Robbins, sister-in-law of early Umatilla County businessman Newton Loverridge. Her family started a butcher business in Umatilla County in 1873 and moved to the Meadows from Mollalla.
- ◆ Eugene “Gene” Berry, b. 1929. Echo Postmaster 1958-1992 . Son of Murl and Mildred Spike. In 1958, stamps were 3c and mail came by train. Chickens and bees came by mail, once even a baby crocodile.
- ◆ Murl Berry, 1905-1979, born in Greely, Colorado; came to Echo in 1917. Married Mildred Spike, granddaughter of Dr. John Teel. Operated the gas station on the corner of Main and Dupont for almost 39 years. Berry was the town marshal in 1952 and fire chief for 39 years.
- ◆ Bernard Berger, Mayor 1950-1951.
- ◆ Daniel Webster Bowman, 1872-1944, artist, rancher. The Bowman place was located north of town near the Echo sewer lagoons. Grandson Dale Fife owns the Koontz House.
- ◆ Hannah Bowman, 1875-1968, wife of Daniel Bowman.
- ◆ William H. Boyd, 1853-19???. Mercantile businessman, he operated the Boyd Store on the SE corner of Bridge and Front streets. He was the first city treasurer.*
- ◆ John A. Bradburn Sr., born 1830, died 1891. He ran a hotel, ferry and ranched near Echo. The date of his ferry operation is often listed as circa 1851. However, this date may well be a typo perpetuated by his biography. The soldiers at the fort do not mention this, although they mention McKay’s place near the mouth of Birch Creek. The emigrants’ diaries also



- do not mention this. Correct date may well be 1861. The Chapman Survey of 1859 notes Switzler's Field and "*the agency*" in the Echo area, but not Bradburn's farm or ferry. Raley lists the date he was given a license for the ferry and trading post as 1867. He may have had the business earlier and it was licensed through Wasco County, or perhaps he ran it without a license. Other reminiscences support him being there before 1867, but not as early as 1851. #
- ◆ Thomas H. Brassfield, 1831-?, farmer and sheep man. The family was among the earliest settlers in the area, arriving in 1861. The winter of 1861-62 killed 65 to 75% of the cattle in the area. Thomas bought the ferry and roadhouse at the river crossing in Echo from John Bradburn in 1867 and operated it for a year. The family later moved to Pilot Rock. Mary Brassfield owned the house, which remains on the Southwest corner of Dupont and Kennedy streets. Martha Jane Brassfield married Frances "Marian" Scrivener; he operated a machine shop on the Northeast corner of Buckley and Bonanza Street. The name often is spelled with one "s."*
 - ◆ W.W. Brassfield, descendant of Thomas Brassfield. Owned part of land on which Echo was platted and partnered with JH Koontz to plat the town. Brassfield Addition is named for him.
 - ◆ Haigler "Haig" Burnett, owner/operator of the Echo Hotel Tavern in the 1940s and 50s along with his wife Gladys Hale Burnett. Assistant Fire Chief for many years. A sign on the Echo Hook and Ladder used for parades humorously announces in case of fire "*call or write*" Echo Tavern. The fire phone rang into the "Hotel" for many years, at least two decades before 911.
 - ◆ Douglas Clement, Echo Mayor in the late 1980s and early 90s. Clement was a businessman in Echo who developed the Echo Tavern from a local tavern to a very successful tavern and pool hall. Clement then converted it to a restaurant called the Echo Hotel Restaurant and Lounge, which attracted customers from throughout the region for its famous prime rib dinners. Clement was instrumental in getting the city's successful Tree Program started and for having the city pursue nomination as a Tree City USA.
 - ◆ Jerry Coppinger, b. 1852 in Tennessee, d. 1921 in Echo. Established Coppinger Ranch with wife Kate Crawford (1851-1906). Son George Harvey Coppinger (1874-1932) was the second generation to farm east of Echo. Homer Coppinger and Margaret "Ann" Coppinger were the third generation. Homer was an avid hunter traveling all over the US and overseas after big game. Son Kenny Coppinger still lives on the family wheat farm, but has leased out the operation since his retirement.
 - ◆ Frank Correa, Sr., born in Portugal/Azores 1878, died 1968. Came to Echo in 1909, where he raised sheep and then cattle. The home he built on the Echo Meadows is on the historical building list. His sons, Frank and Manuel, continued to farm on the Meadows and retain historic homes on the properties. Son of John Pestano Correa and Verista Silva. His sons were Manuel, Frank Correa, Jr., and John B. Correa. Manuel's son David still farms on the Meadows, and Frank did until his death. John B. owned land on Butter Creek.
 - ◆ Jess Antone Correa, Sr., 1880-1949. Brother of Frank Correa, Sr. and father of Jesse Correa, Jr.; wife Argentina Silva. Four generations of this branch of the Correa family have lived in Echo with two grandsons David and Richard "Skeet" remaining, along with great grandson Jeff.

- ◆ John Machado Correa, born in Portugal/Azores 1888, died 1975, nephew to Joe Cunha. Left the Azores when he was 13 and came to the US as a stowaway on a ship bound for the East Coast. He and his brother, Joseph “Shorty” Correa, started as sheep tenders for their uncle, Joseph Cunha, according to his daughter Estephana “Estie” Correa Billing. Eventually he acquired his own farm on the meadows which his son John “Jack” Correa and wife Jean still own. John Machado’s mother was Joseph Cunha’s sister, Maria Madelina Cunha Machado. His wife was Estufania Silva. Jack has been a school board member and cemetery board member. Jack and Estie, as well as their families, have been involved in most community activities from Echo Boosters to St. Peter’s Church and the school. [Jess Antone Correa, Sr., b. 1880 Azores, Portugal, d. 1949. Wife Argentina Silva (1894-1968). This branch of the Correa family took the name of Correa after arriving here, thus they are not related to the other branches.]
- ◆ W. Crary, editor and publisher of the Echo News starting in 1918 for over two decades. He was also City Recorder. He and his wife Nan were active in efforts to improve the community. They led efforts to create the public library in 1912 and make room for it in the new city hall. Proceeds of the operation of the Star Movie Theater went to fund the library, so Crary donated his time as the project operator until the theater was making money. The historic Linden Tree in front of the Edwards Building was planted by the Crarys. The newspaper was published here and the Crarys lived above the newspaper office for many years. The family finally acquired a home directly



- behind the Edwards Building on Bridge Street. Their house, which originally had been a commercial building, was torn down in 1999.
- ◆ Joseph Cunha, born in Azores, 1855-1950. Joseph arrived in America as a stow-away on a boat bound for Boston. He worked his way across the country to California. There he heard of the Vey brothers who were sheep ranchers between Echo, Pilot Rock and Heppner. While working for the Veys, he began buying old ewes from them; he said because they were cheap and already knew how to lamb. This way he quickly built up his flock. He became one of the richest and most prominent men in

the Echo and in the county. Children: Manuel “Doc”, Alfred (Pendleton attorney), Frank, Joseph Jr., Antone “Tony,” Reta (died as an infant), Mary, John, and Clara Stevens.*

- ◆ Charles Cunningham, born in Ireland 1846. His biography is in the Illustrated History of Oregon, published in 1893. Cunningham was the original owner of Cunningham Sheep Company in Nolin. He came to America in 1864 and started the ranch in the 1880s.
- ◆ Jack Dempsey, the heavyweight champion, spent time in Echo living in the hobo jungle along the Umatilla. Dempsey worked on Echo irrigation canals and as a bouncer in Pendleton. His wife, Addie Cates, lived in Echo when she was a young girl. They married in 1916, divorced in 1918.
- ◆ Tom DeWeese, 1873-1935, mayor 1931-1933.
- ◆ John Dorn, 1862-1919. He moved to Echo circa 1882; farmed, taught school and bought a grocery store on the corner of Bridge and Bonanza. The store included the Post Office and he was postmaster for 17 years. Called “Honest John” by residents. Dorn journeyed west from Minnesota by taking a ship around the Horn to San Francisco, and from there by ship to Seattle. A storm off the coast of Oregon wrecked the ship. He swam ashore with others and walked to Seattle. From there, he headed for Walla Walla, because he knew someone there. He walked to Walla Walla, by crossing the Cascades in a foolhardy venture through the snow. He likely would have perished if not for the snowshoes he rigged from tree boughs. He went to Umatilla County from Walla Walla and worked in many jobs including as a teacher for \$30 a month. He also operated a drug store in Echo. He married Arvilla Mendenhall, daughter of Thomas Mendenhall one of the early settlers on the Meadows.
- ◆ Dr. Frederick Dorn, 1871-1934, brother of John Dorn. He was a doctor in Echo for several decades. His shingle remains on the Dorn Building on Bridge Street, owned by his nephew and namesake, Fred Dorn.
- ◆ Mildred Dorn, b. 1915. Mildred served as Echo School cook in the 1960s, and was an organizer and cook for the Echo Senior Center during its operation in the 1970s and 80s. Sister to Murl Berry. Local Historian, Cemetery Board Member and organizer of the Echo All School Reunions that were held every 5 years for over 30 years. She and her husband Fred are two of the longest tenured residents of Echo as of 2002 and are considered a source of information about the town’s early history.
- ◆ A.C. Ebert, 1882-1950, mayor 1943-1945.
- ◆ C.H. Esselstyn, mayor 1933-1943, 1951-1953.
- ◆ Lemuel A. Esteb, 1853-1916. He was first mayor of Echo, 1904-1907; lawyer and businessman. Esteb Street is named for him. He owned the property from Esteb Street south to the city limits at one time. He was born in Indiana and attended Columbia College in Missouri. He was admitted to the bar in 1872. In 1880 he moved to Montana and bought 1/3 ownership in a mining company that when it sold grossed one million dollars. He came to Echo, presumably a well-to-do man in 1903 when there were only 46 residents according to a special edition of the “Echo Register” of 1907. He bought lots for \$100 each that sold for \$1000 in 1907.
- ◆ Jo Fullerton, instrumental in developing the Echo Historical Museum during the 1976 Bicentennial, as a temporary display. It was so successful that she and Bennie Tolar

were able to obtain displays and support for acquiring the Echo Bank Building and developing the permanent display. She compiled the Echo Cemetery Book, Silent City.

- ◆ W. J. Furnish, organizer of the Furnish Ditch Company. The Furnish Ditch comes out of the Umatilla River about 3 miles south of Echo and travels north into Stanfield, where it runs down Stage Gulch through the city limits. He was one of the leaders who helped bring irrigation to the west end of Umatilla County. His biography is in History of the Columbia River Valley, The Dalles to the Sea.
- ◆ Ben Gaskill, 1889-1968. Echo Marshall for many years; considered an old school marshal.
- ◆ Fred T. George, 1876-1930.# He came to Echo from Arlington in 1906 and partnered with Charles Miller, husband of Echo Koontz Miller, in the George and Miller Company Store for two years. He then bought out Miller in 1908, but kept the name. George was a civic booster and popular community member who extended credit and helped greatly in improving Echo. In 1922, he was President of the Commercial Club and on the school board and city council. He married Marian King and they built the



historic home on S. Bonanza in 1918. Mrs. George came to Echo from Michigan to visit her brother and stayed to teach and marry George. A fixture of the community was a German-made Christmas Tree that the Georges installed in the window of the store each year. The tree revolved and played Christmas Carols. It is mentioned in Echoes from the Past and long-time Echo resident Phoebe Sheriff recalled looking forward to seeing the tree each Christmas. The Echo City Park was established by Mr. and Mrs. George around 1909. The Georges and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spinning, who ran the drug store on Bridge Street next to the “new” store building, would carry buckets of water across the street to the three lots where they had planted locust trees. While used as a city park for several decades, the park was not formally donated to the city until 1967. A monument in the park commemorates this donation.*

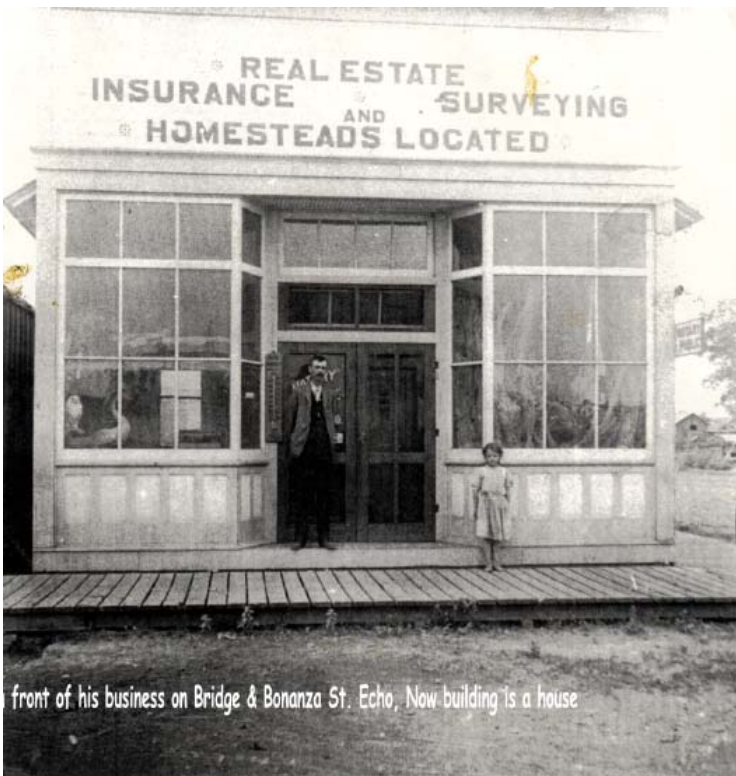
- ◆ Carl Gilbert, Echo barber in early 1900s and organizer of Echo Volunteer Fire Company.
- ◆ C.L. Gray, mayor 1945-1949.
- ◆ C.J. “Jerome” and Kate Gulliford, filed plat in 1904 for Gulliford Addition to the City of Echo located on the east side of the railroad. He owned a livery stable and was a partner with his brother-in-law Ed Hammer in an Echo hardware store in 1912. He also farmed 65 acres of alfalfa land, a portion of which is within the city limits. He was a City Council member at one time. He came to Oregon in 1855. His wife was the daughter of James McCullough.*
- ◆ Joel Halstead, 1836-1922. One of Echo’s earliest settlers according to a 1907 special publication of the “Echo News.” Halstead Street and Halstead Addition are named for him. His house remains on the southwest edge of Echo on the Southeast corner of Halstead and Dale Street. The house was expanded by current owner Pat Wood in the late 1970s. The Grossmiller and Irvine families ran a dairy here for many years in the 1940s until sometime in the 1960s. The Bull Durham Painted Barn remains on this site.
- ◆ Amos Hammer, 1849-1929. Echo businessman and civic leader; his wife was Sarah Jane Mendenhall.
- ◆ Ed Hammer, brother of Amos. Partner with brother-in-law Jerome Gulliford in hardware store. His wife was Emma McCullough (1879-1922), daughter of James McCullough.
- ◆ Hendley, Frederick and Elizabeth Ann Koontz, operated businesses in Echo and Umatilla Landing for her father JH Koontz. All were active in early civic affairs.
- ◆ Noah Hiestand, operated Hiestand & Loveridge General Store in the 1880s in partnership with Newton Loveridge. Hiestand Street is named for him. His wife was Jessie May Bean. They were married in 1881 and she may have been the daughter of Pendleton merchant John Bean.
- ◆ Joseph T. Hinkle, 1867- 19??, lawyer and rancher, irrigation system designer. Hinkle Ditch is named for him.*
- ◆ Zoeth Houser, 1852-19??, farmer, butcher, county sheriff, cattleman. Elected county sheriff in 1888 and again in 1894, resigning in 1897 to become a US Marshall. He farmed on the Echo Meadows and married the daughter of another pioneer family, Melvina Mendenhall. *
- ◆ W.A. Jones, 1872-1946, livery operator. *
- ◆ W.H. Jones, 1872-1946, ran livery stable in Echo. *
- ◆ James H. Koontz, born 1830, died 1912. Came to Oregon in 1862, worked as a carpenter in Portland and came to Umatilla Landing c. 1862. He then established several businesses there: freighter, storekeeper, postmaster for 17 years. Moved to Echo 1880, town founder. His wife Cynthia Ann Hyatt died in 1930.
- ◆ Marvin Laughlin, 1910-1985. Echo Mayor for two terms, council member, organizer of Echo Fire District, local carpenter and organizer of the “Over the Hill Construction Company.”
- ◆ Mrs. WJ Leezer, daughter of EA White. The Leezers owned the land on which part of the Fort/Agency Site is located, along with St. Peter’s Catholic Church. They created a subdivision called West Lawn in 1905. One of the streets is named Leezer Street. Leezer was a businessman in Umatilla, Pendleton and Heppner over the years.

- ◆ R.R Lewis, mayor of Echo 1913-1915. He was a cattle rancher on Butter Creek and owner of RR Lewis and O.B. and Bob Mercantile—same business, different name—operated in Koontz Building.
- ◆ Edward Carl Liesegang, 1890-1973, butcher. German immigrant who arrived in Echo in 1913. He first worked for a Mr. Reep at the Echo Meat Market, then bought him out in 1917. He built the historic brick building that now houses the Echo Grocery in 1919. City Council member, 50-year member of the IOOF and Masonic Lodge. He married Katherine Bottger, daughter of James Bottger, whose land wrapped around the golf course north and east of Echo. Picket Rock was in what was Bottger field, now Hale Farms.
- ◆ Charles Lisle, born 1873-1946. Farmer and rancher, operated a hardware store and Young and Lisle Pool Hall. #
- ◆ Arunah Longwell, 1871-1921. Early Echo postmaster and civic leader. His wife Cora Perry (1871-1946) was a charter member of the Echo Needle Craft Club and active in other Echo organizations in the early 1900s. Her sister was Carrie Willis. The sisters and their husbands built twin houses, which remain today on South Dupont Street.
- ◆ Newton Loveridge, early Echo stockman, post master and businessman. The Loveridge-Cunha House is #10 on the Echo Historic Building Tour Guide. He was a partner with Noah Hiestand in the Hiestand & Loveridge General Store.
- ◆ John Luciani, 1885-1967. Born in Italy, he was the foreman of the section crew on the Union Pacific Railroad at Echo for 39 years. A local fixture, he came to Echo in 1921 and was dubbed “*The Grand Old Man of the Railroad*” by residents.
- ◆ Gaylord Madison, 1894-1984. Came to the area in 1912 as an engineer surveying the Teel Irrigation District. He farmed on Butter Creek and worked for irrigation districts. “*The most persistent single voice in the long struggle to turn the dry, sandy soil into productive land,*” according to Gordon Macnab’s book. Gladys Denney came to Echo to teach school at Alpine School. In Echo two years, she met and married Gaylord Madison. Gaylord was quite proud of being a dyed-in-the-wool republican. Daughter Phoebe once said that her father was probably “*rolling in his grave*” when she voted against George Bush for President.
- ◆ Frank Maddock, first Umatilla County Sheriff 1864-68. Farmed area where Fort Henrietta Site was located. He had a log house where the Joseph Cunha place is now. Maddock was shot through the face and head, breaking his jaw, and one deputy was also killed while both were trying to arrest well-known Umatilla County outlaw Hank Vaughn and another outlaw on the Burnt River. The county awarded him \$1,000 for his bravery and disabilities.
- ◆ Alexander Malcolm, 1855-1933. Flora Belle Koontz, 1865-1944. Early Echo business people and civic leaders. Flora was daughter of JH Koontz. Their son Archie (1889-1948) committed suicide in what was the original men’s restroom at city hall. The Malcolms and sons Archie and Delbert are buried in the Echo Cemetery.
- ◆ Machado, born in Portugal/Azores.
- ◆ David McCarty, 1832-1915, born in Ireland. He came to the Echo area in 1877. He was a carpenter and farmer. Fourth generation great-grandson Mike McCarty still operates the Century Farm. David purchased land from OF Thomson on Butter Creek to establish this farm.

- ◆ Nona Houser McFaul, 1887-1973. City treasurer, worked at Echo Bank and later ran a money exchange in the Bank Building after the bank sold. Daughter of Zoeth Houser and Melvina Mendenhall. Her son Wayne McFaul operated the farm until selling it to Spike Ranches in the 1990s.
- ◆ James McCullough, born 1832, soldier at Fort Henrietta and later a farmer on Butter Creek. His son Ben was one of the first boy children born in the county. Wife Lucinda Johnson (1844-1921) told of the location of Fort Henrietta. The McCullough's had 11 children and many of them are buried in the Echo cemetery. *
- ◆ C. James Meechan, an Echo resident, who in 1977 was awarded the Oregon State University Distinguished Service Award.
- ◆ Thomas Mendenhall, 1830-1895. Mary Alizabeth Templeton, 1831-1898. Settled on the Echo Meadows in 1871. Thomas had a wanderlust that took him across the Oregon Trail, then to the valley. When the Willamette Valley became "*too crowded,*" he started for the Palouse Country, but when they arrived at Echo, Mary put her foot down and refused to follow him further. They either brought an extended family, or wrote to family members encouraging them to come, because an entire clan settled here, too: Saling, Templetons, Hammers and in-laws. Son James married Minnie Brassfield and daughter Arvilla Vellora married John Dorn.
- ◆ Echo Koontz Miller, town's namesake, 1877-1908. Echo was a talented musician studying in Portland and at the Boston Conservatory of Music. She met her husband, Englishman Charles Miller, in Boston and they moved back to Echo.
- ◆ Charles Miller, husband of Echo Koontz. Miller was a partner with F.T. George in the George and Miller Store, which first operated in the Koontz Building. Later, circa 1910, they built a two-story 100-by-80-foot cement store building on the corner of Bridge and Bonanza streets.
- ◆ G.J. Mitchell, mayor 1929-1931.
- ◆ Jesse Moore, 1840-1910, born Jamestown, Missouri. He ran pack trains; rancher and farmer on Butter Creek. He acquired the first 160 acres for ten tons of hay, a saddle, a horse and \$100 cash. His farm was the first on Butter Creek to be irrigated. He raised race horses, draft horses, cattle and alfalfa. His wife was Avarilla Mitchell. Daughter Kate Moore Robertson (1887- 1971) ran the ranch.
- ◆ Adam "Ad" W. Nye,* early settler c. 1860s in Nolin-Happy Canyon area. One of the county's colorful characters. County Sheriff 1872-74; named Nolin area Happy Canyon. His wife was Harriet Switzler, daughter of John Switzler of the Switzler family for which Switzer slough, ferry, field, etc. were named.
- ◆ Bill Oliver, 1873-1938. Echo Marshall and life-long resident. Son of Happy Canyon pioneer Reuben Jesse (1827-1905) and Margaret Templeton (1835-1912).
- ◆ Frank Pedro, born in Portugal/Azores 1866. He moved to Umatilla County 1883, owned 13,000 acres with brother Manuel *
- ◆ Manuel Pedro, born in Portugal/Azores 1864. He moved to Umatilla County 1885, owned 13,000 acres with brother Frank .*
- ◆ Chet Prior, Echo farmer since early 1970s. Owns Eagle Ranches just west of town. Started out growing wheat and potatoes, but has been a leader in irrigation technology and diversification. Now grows wine grapes, grass seed, lima beans, green peas, carrots, and sweet corn.

- ◆ Colonel JH Raley, came to Oregon by wagon in 1862 with his parents and siblings. They lived on the Echo Meadows, renting Frank Maddock's place in 1864 while Maddock was sheriff. Elected county surveyor 1878 and 1880, noted county historian.
- ◆ Joseph Susa Ramos, Sr., born in Portugal/Azores, 1876-1944. He was a rancher and father of six, who died when struck by a train. Ramos came to Echo in 1902 and bought most of the Whitworth farm where he raised alfalfa and cattle. He married Mary Higginbotham. Mary was the daughter of early settlers on the Echo Meadows. Joseph Jr. ultimately ended up with all of the farm and his descendants still own the ranch. Joe Jr. was active in county and local politics. Helen Brinker Ramos, Joe Jr.'s wife, was killed by a train at the same crossing as Joe Sr.
- ◆ Perry Ripper, Perry's parents Edwin and Ella McFaul Hemstitch "Mamie" built the building c. 1907 on the NW corner of Main and Bonanza Street (H & P Café) and operated a store there. Perry grew up collecting arrowheads around Echo and became so interested that it became a life-long hobby. His extensive collection, which includes rugs, baskets, clothing, tools and hats, was given to the Echo Museum by his sons upon his death.
- ◆ Bonnie Roger, police chief of Echo. At the time (1975), she was one of two women in the country holding the position of chief.
- ◆ Lewis Cass Rogers, 1850-1901, farmer, stockman, businessman. Rogers and wife Caroline Sitton Rogers and sons Doc, Fields, and Harry Cass are buried in the Echo Cemetery. Both Lewis and Caroline came to Echo from Yamhill County. Caroline Sitton's family was one of first to come over the Oregon Trail and settled in Yamhill County where they became prominent farmers and statesmen. Caroline's parents were Nathan Koontz Sitton and Priscilla Rogers. Priscilla's father Lewis Rogers came to Oregon in 1846. Nathan came in 1843 and worked for the Hudson Bay Company before settling in Yamhill County. Liz Lorenzen of Pendleton descends from this family. Caroline moved into town after husband died and rented out the farm. Her Rogers House is located on Dupont Street. Although it has been remodeled many times, the original section was constructed in 1885. Their grandson Harlie B Rogers (1906-1965) farmed 100 acres of the original 160-acre Baumgardner Homestead, which is now owned by Wendell Lampkin. Harlie's mother was Grace Baumgardner and his father was Harry Cass Rogers. The Baumgardners were early settlers on the Echo Meadows and the cemetery at the corner of this property is known as the Baumgardner Cemetery. *

- ◆ Louis Scholl, Jr., born 1867. Mayor 1907-1911, city treasurer and Justice of the Peace. Louis Scholl, Sr. was a German emigrant and civil engineer. He came to



Oregon in 1852. He drew up the plans for Fort The Dalles. Louis Jr. raised livestock and was a surveyor before coming to Echo in 1904. He operated a real estate office in the historic building on Bridge Street. He married M. S. Jones in 1909. *

- ◆ Peter Sheridan, 1883-1930, born in Echo on the family farm, farmer. Son of James (1842-

1899) and Anne Kennedy (1842-1913). James Sheridan homesteaded 80 acres c. 1877, which was the start of the 500-acre farm managed by Pete. In 1912, half of the farm was alfalfa. He also raised draft horses and Poland China hogs. *

- ◆ Phoebe Frances Madison Sheriff, art supporter, historian and keeper of Echo stories, daughter of Gaylord Madison and Phoebe Gladys (Denney) Madison of Echo, one of the first female executives with Bethlehem Steel, PA. Upon retirement and return to Echo, she was active in most community organizations and the Red Cross and the Umatilla County Historical Society. Echo Mayor and City Council Member throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s. Gourmet Chef, who taught classes in her Echo business/home on Main Street; cookbook author, produced and narrated radio show in 1980s and 1990s called "Country Almanac" on KUMA Radio each week. She was awarded a National Citizenship Award by Wal-Mart posthumously in 1999 and a \$1000 prize for the Echo City Hall Renovation. The kitchen at the City Hall Community Center was named "Phoebe's Kitchen" in her honor.
- ◆ John Silva, 1899-1976, born in Azores.
- ◆ Charles Edward Sitton, 1848-??. #
- ◆ Frank Sloan, 1869-1963. Early Echo farmer, husband of Nettie Atkinson Sloan (1881-1976), taught in Echo. His brother Claude (1876-1928) and wife Ada Myrtle McCullough (?-1901, daughter of James McCullough) were Echo pioneers.
- ◆ Nettie A. Sloan, 1881-1976, taught in Echo.
- ◆ Hugh Smith, mayor 1915-1917.

- ◆ Harry R. “Dick” Snow, Echo area rancher-farmer. Married granddaughter of Joseph Cunha, Shirley, in 1953. Former Echo Mayor, named Commercial Cattleman of the Year in 2002 by Saler Cattle Association at the Denver Livestock Show. Operated Cunha Bros. Ranches until it split in the 1980s.
- ◆ Elmer Smith Spike, born 1872. Farmer, butcher, mayor (1923-1929) and council member; stockman with more than 100 acres in Echo area. Wife was Pamela Teel, daughter of Dr. John and Elvira Teel.*
- ◆ Frank Spike, 1846-1926, born in New York. Veterinarian, held patents for veterinary medicine including Black Leg Cure. Mayor of Echo 1921-1923, council member and judge. Came to Echo about 1890 with his four sons and wife Ella Rackham.
- ◆ Frances Miriam Spike, 1900-1982. Graduated with a degree in Home Economics from Oregon State University in 1925 with sister Eleanor. Both were professors in the Home Economic Dept. Frances helped develop Marachino Cherries while at the college and helped orchardists along the Columbia River to develop markets. She went on to teach at a college in Santa Barbara, California. Upon returning to Echo, she bought the Echo Cash Grocery and operated it on Main Street until the late 1970s.
- ◆ J. Frank Spinning, 1874 -1946. Spinning came to town in 1908 as a pharmacist and a storeowner. He was literally a one-man commercial club and for two years (1915-1917) constituted the entire membership, but he never ceased to boost Echo. He was also active in the Teel Irrigation Project. His wife Marie Rethlefson (1880-1981) was Gaylord Madison’s aunt. She lived to be over 101 years old, so she was able to recount many stories of early Echo. Marie was active in Echo civic organizations, such as the garden club and the needlecraft club.
- ◆ Phoebe Atwood Stanfield, wife of Robert N. Stanfield, Sr. (See Susan Thomson below for more information.)
- ◆ Robert Nelson Stanfield, Sr., 1832-1896. He was a 49er to California then came to Umatilla Landing in 1861, where he ran a livery and dray business with his brother-in-law, OF Thomson. He later settled on Butter Creek, marrying one of Colonel Buel Atwood’s daughters, Phoebe (1850-1871). Upon Phoebe’s death, he married Hattie Townsend. He was Sheriff 1868-72. *
- ◆ Robert Nelson Stanfield, Jr., 1877-1945. US Senator 1921-27, rancher with 3,000,000 acres. The town of Stanfield was named for him, as he owned the land which Mr. Coe platted as the town.
- ◆ H.L. Stanfield, 1883-19??, son of R.N., rancher. *
- ◆ R.B. Stanfield, 1870-1937, son of R.N., mayor 1911-1913.
- ◆ Dr. John Teel, 1806-1880. He came to the area circa 1860, owned Lehman Hot Springs, then Teel Springs, first physician to the Umatilla Indians; instrumental in developing irrigation for Echo Meadows. A biography on Dr. Teel can be found on the Internet at <http://www.lehmanhotsprings.com/history.htm>. (The biography is mostly accurate, except the information on his children.)
- ◆ Elvira Teel, 1830-1912. She came to area circa 1860; teacher, owner Lehman Hot Springs and wife of Dr. John Teel.
- ◆ O.D. Teel, 1863-1935, born in Umatilla County. He was the son of Dr. John and Elvira Teel. Engineer for Teel Irrigation Project. *
- ◆ Twig Teel, 1860-1919, son of Dr. John and Elvira Teel.
- ◆ Asa B. Thomson, 1870-1939, mayor 1917-1921.#

- ◆ Leona Belle Shackelford Beam Thompson, 1865-1971. She lived in Echo 103 years. Wife of Elmer Thompson early Echo dairy owner; operated the Shady Nook Dairy. Elmer had the first milking machine in the area “and invited one and all to come to the dairy and see it work.” Echoes from the Past.
- ◆ Oscar F. Thomson, 1830-1909. He came to Echo area circa 1864-65, partner of Stanfield in a livery and dray business. Third Umatilla County Sheriff elected in 1868 and helped move county records in dead of night from Umatilla Landing to Pendleton. He was a 49er to California who came to Oregon; a freighter from Umatilla Landing to the mines in John Day area, along with his partner, his brother-in-law Robert Stanfield. They arrived in Umatilla Landing in 1860. He settled on Butter Creek and married one of Colonel Buel Atwood,s daughters, Susan.
- ◆ David Sloan Thomson, 1891-1956. Sloan operated the Thomson ranch for many years. He was one of Echo’s characters. Peggy, his wife, was known for her cooking skills.
- ◆ Susan Atwood Thomson, 1852-1934. Daughter of Col. Buel Atwood and wife of O.F. Thomson, she came to Oregon by wagon in 1863. Her father purchased 160 acres on Butter Creek by trading the saddle horse she and her sister Phoebe Atwood Stanfield had taken turns riding across the plains. She recalls the women and children from the area gathering at her and Oscar’s home in 1878 when the Indian War started and leaving at 4 am to travel to Umatilla Landing. They then went to The Dalles and stayed a month at the Umatilla House. When they left, harvest was ready to begin, but had been delayed by the hostilities: *“But in those days everyone joined forces and harvested in cooperative fashion.”* In Cove two of their oxen died and Jack Morton, “Happy Jack,” let her father have his cattle to continue on their way. They had only \$15 in greenbacks when they arrived in Butter Creek, so they stayed there instead of continuing on to their original destination, Roseburg.
- ◆ “Whispering” Thompson, died 1890, date of birth unknown. He was a muleskinner whom several pioneers mention in reminiscences from the late 19th century. He was called “Whispering” because in the words of Edwin Benson, *“he could be heard for a mile coaxing his mules on a hard pull.”* He had small farm on the Meadows.
- ◆ Bennie Middleton Tolar, 1906-1999. Bennie came to Echo from Texas as a teenager and remained her entire life. She served as city treasurer for many years and kept books for the cemetery district. She was a noted local historian writing a column for the Hermiston Herald for many years and writing “Echoes from the Past,” a series of articles about the people, places and history of Echo. She also was instrumental in establishing the Echo Historical Museum and many of the photos displayed there came from a collection she developed while writing about Echo’s history. People would bring her copies of their photos to use in her articles. She was chair of the board for many years and retired from her position as a board officer only after her health became too poor in the mid 1990s.
- ◆ John Lewis Vaughan, 1872-19??, mayor of Pendleton. #
- ◆ Antone Vey, Portuguese immigrant from Azores who came to Butter Creek in 1860. Established Vey Ranch with his brothers John and Joseph. The original ranch was so large it is listed in Oregon Geographic Names, which states that Joseph and Antone had a fight that lead to them splitting the ranch into distinct halves. Vey Ranch we know today is the portion owned by Antone.

- ◆ John Vey, born in Portugal/Azores, came to Butter Creek in 1860, brother of Antone and Joseph, died at age 42. He was killed and scalped in 1878 near Camas Prairie by Native Americans. The Veys had been warned by friendly local Indians of the Bannock uprising, but John ignored the warning.
- ◆ Joseph Vey, born in Portugal 1842. (See Antone Vey above.)
- ◆ A.J. "Tony" Vey, son of Antone, born 1895. Round-Up contestant 1914-1953, ranched 40,000 acres on Butter Creek and 15,000 acres on upper Grande Ronde. He ran the Vey Ranch for over 52 years. For 18 years of that time, he was a pilot, patrolling the ranch with his plane.
- ◆ Susan Amanda Lenox White, 1842-1925, buried in Echo cemetery. Daughter of David Thomas Lenox, captain of first Wagon Train 1843.
- ◆ William Jackson Wattenburger, born 1860 died 1939. Farmed and ranched 1,000 acres on Butter Creek. After retiring, he built two historic homes in Echo: the Curtis Billing House across Highway 320 from the Cunha Farmstead, and the Enright house on the Northeast corner of Dale and Kennedy Street. His father was Jacob Wattenburger.
- ◆ Jacob "Jake" Harmon Wattenburger, 1840-1922. King of Sheep shearers, ran shearing crew in Echo.
- ◆ L.B. Wells, 1851-1929. Early farmer, horse man, salesman and merchant. Bought land on Service Buttes for \$1 an acre, but he was not a successful farmer, so he sold



- his farm for a loss at 50 cents an acre. He turned his blooded horses loose on the range and moved into Echo and opened “The Racket.” This store sold paint, wall paper and novelties. His daughter, Ethel Wells Lehman, rode all her life. She was a familiar site in area parades riding her horse Danny Boy, while in her 80s. A more detailed biography is in Echoes from the Past.
- ◆ Wilson W. Whitworth, 1841-1921. He operated the Twelve Mile House near Stanfield in the 1870s, which was the hey day of the freight roads through the area. He farmed south of Echo between the Union Pacific Railroad and Umatilla River. The Painted Barn is on part of his property and the original house remains. The barn is where his granddaughter was killed as related in the story in Chapter Five under stories of Crimes and Justice. He operated a dairy there. The Ramos family acquired most of the property located further south of the barn. Whitworth donated land for the school and Whitworth addition is named for him. Clarice Stamper Dumler, his great granddaughter, still lives here as does her daughter and her grandchildren. Perry Street in Echo is named for son T. Perry Whitworth or his father, also named Perry. According to his biography, *“When Mr. Whitworth first settled in Umatilla County, Umatilla was the nearest market by freight outfits and the only one in the county. Umatilla at the time was Umatilla Landing. The twenty-five cent piece was the smallest coin in circulation in the county then and most everything was paid for in gold dust. The country was wild and rough and in 1878, a company of men formed to defend the settlers from Indian attacks, during the Bannock War of 1878, as well as assault by other desperate characters. Mr. Whitworth was among the first to offer his services in this company...”* He married Mary E. Robertson daughter of another pioneer, Sanford P. and Martha Jane Marrs. He had 7 children. #
 - ◆ EA Wilson, one of first settlers on Echo Meadows. He farmed 100 acres of bottomland. He was the first county surveyor in 1864; surveyed and laid out Pendleton. He also designed and helped develop some of the first irrigation ditches in the Echo area.
 - ◆ George Williams, mayor 1949-1950. He and his wife Catherine Meechan Williams operated the Echo Tavern and converted the Edwards Building into apartments.
 - ◆ Hubert Willis, 1883-1929. Early Council member, Fire Company volunteer and board member, and businessman. His wife Carrie A. Perry (1875-1954) was sister to Cora Longwell. The Longwells and the Willises built identical houses next door to each other in the early 1900s. Both houses remain on South Bonanza Street today; however they have been remodeled and altered so that the original layout no longer is readily visible. Steve Randolph unearthed the information about the twin houses in his survey of Echo Historical Buildings in the early 1980s. Carrie was one of the members of the Echo Needlecraft Club. The Willises and Longwells came from New York.
 - ◆ Dr. John Woodward, hired by the City of Echo in 1984 to conduct a survey of Echo’s historical sites and in particular to try to find the site of Fort Henrietta and Umatilla Indian Agency. The project was funded by a State Historical Preservation Office grant. Woodward continued to bring classes from Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon from 1984 until about 1995. He edited the Fort Henrietta Newsletter, a newsletter devoted to providing information and interpretation of findings from excavations of the Fort Henrietta/Umatilla Site and Echo History.

Petroglyphs in the Echo Public Library were donated to the Fort Henrietta Foundation by Dr. and Mrs. Woodward. Woodward and helper Ron Cummings, an amateur archaeologist with Oregon Archaeological Society, filmed and edited two videos on the history and prehistory of the Echo area. He has completed the first of a two-volume history of Echo.

- ◆ Prudence Lisle Young, 1875-1956. Daughter of Samuel and Martha Jane Lisle, sister to Echo businessman and farmer Charles Lisle and married his partner John Young. Young was a sheep man. Prudence's mother was first married to a freighter named Marr who was killed on one of his trips between Echo and Boise. Samuel Lisle had worked for the Marrs and eventually married Martha. Prudence was born in a log cabin on the farm, about three miles south of Echo along the Umatilla. While owned by the Ramos family now, it is still known as the Lisle place. Samuel Lisle raised 200 tons of hay and raised Holstein and shorthorn cattle and hogs in 1880. As one of Echo's earliest and oldest residents, Prudence often had memories to share about early Echo including the Camp Meetings at Spikes Grove when the circuit preacher would come to town.

Echo Mayors

From 1904 through 2002, Echo has had the following mayors:

L.A. Esteb	Louis Scholl, Jr.	R.B. Stanfield
R.R. Lewis	Hugh D. Smith	A. B. Thomson
Frank Spike	Elmer Spike	GJ Mitchell
Tom Deweese	CH "Brick" Esselstyn	A.C. Ebert
C.L. Gray	George Williams	Bernard Berger
Brick Esselstyn	Alfred Swales	Norm Bergstrom
Sloan Thomson	Edward Liesegang, Jr.	Louis LeTrace
Roy Ramos	Brick Esselstyn	Walter H. Hoff
Harry "Dick" Snow	William O'Brien	Burl Wattenburger
Irvine Howard	Marvin Laughlin	Marvin Storz
Darrell Power	Douglas Clement	Phoebe Sheriff
David McAuslan	Jeannette Bell	

City Recorders (in 1978 the City Administrator-Recorder position was created)

H.C. Willis	H.B. Gillette	E.H. Brown
E. P. Croarkin	E. E. Everitt	A.E. Greiner
A.C. Carden	W.H. Crary	Nona McFaul
J. W. Reese	Evelyn O'Brien	W. H. Schultze
Marcia Rockwell		

City Treasurer (eventually combined with the City Recorder)

W.H. Boyd	Louis Scholl Jr.	F.T. George
I.W. Durill	R. B. Stanfield	Nona McFaul
Marian George Berg	E.V. Correa	Frances Spike
Pansy Swales	Nancy Spike	Mary Resing
Gloria Lampkin	Bennie Lee Tolar	

City Administrator-Recorder:
Susan Schuening Diane Berry

City Marshals

Acted as policeman, water superintendent and generally maintenance supervisors for the city 1904-1952. Some served only a few months and others as long as 15 years.

Arthur Hammer	H. D. Pugsley	Jack Noble
W.C. Fitzpatrick	William Hoggard	C.N. Borland
Perry Whitsworth	N.E. Walter Thornton	A. B. Gillette
A.L. Warnock	E. N. Litsey,	William Oliver
William Sprowls	Sam Shawley	J. S Gynne
A. L. Warnock (2 nd time)	George Jines	A.L. Warnock (3 rd time)
Arthur Wolf	Harry L. Stamper	Ben Gaskill
E. J. Nieland	Ben Gaskill (2 nd time)	A. B. Swales
William Findley	Murl Berry	R. D. "Tex" Wilson
Dennis Rockwell	Otis Umphres	

Chiefs of Police

Bonnie Rogers John Rosenow Lyle Reiman

In 1980, the city discontinued the police chief position and began contracting with Umatilla County Sheriff's Department for police protection.

Community Organizations

1. Echo Cemetery District

The land for the Echo Cemetery was donated by Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Koontz on June 24, 1887. The Koontzes conveyed the land to Overland Lodge #23 of International Order of Oddfellows for \$1.00. In May 1921, the Echo Cemetery Association was formed and in 1922 received a deed for the cemetery from the Overland Lodge for \$500.

Under the Echo Cemetery Association the biggest piece of work performed was the installation of irrigation pipes in the 1920s at a cost of \$1,976. In 1929, the city took over the cemetery and maintained control until 1973. In 1973, the current Echo Cemetery District was formed; it has taxing power. Among the original board members were Mildred Dorn, Bennie Lee Tolar and Joseph G. Ramos, but the original records pertaining to the cemetery and its conveyance were destroyed by fire. A book called the Silent City was compiled by the late Jo Fullerton, which lists the names and, in many cases, the date of birth and death, marriage, place of birth and parents of those buried at Echo Cemetery. Copies can be viewed at the Echo Public Library.

2. Echo Hills Golf Club

The golf course first saw golfers in the 1920s. The clubhouse formerly belonged to the Echo Rod and Gun Club, having moved it to its current location in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. In the 1960s, the sand greens were replaced with grass and an irrigation system. Recent improvements include a new irrigation system that has softened the course, and a remodel of the clubhouse in 1980 further improved the course. Until 1979, the course was known as the either Echo Country Club or Echo Municipal Golf Course. The new name, Echo Hills Golf Club, was selected to give a more appropriate and descriptive name to the course.

3. Echo Garden Club

The Echo Garden Club has been meeting since 1938. Francis Ebert was the first President. The club meets the third Tuesday of each month, either at city hall or at a member's house.

4. Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The IOOF organized a lodge and constructed a building in Umatilla in 1868. Men from Echo were members and went to Umatilla for meetings. In 1883, with the town contracting, the members tore the two-story Umatilla building down and moved it to Echo. The building was reconstructed on Dupont Street, where Krystal Ice is today. The name of the lodge therefore became the "Overland Lodge," denoting its travel "over land" from Umatilla to Echo.

The lodge hall was upstairs along with storerooms. Downstairs a large room with a stage was used for civic and community events, affairs and gatherings. Dances, box socials and performances were held in the hall, along with weddings and church services. The building remained at the center of the community's social life until it was torn down, circa 1979.

5. Masons

The Umatilla Masonic Lodge applied for a charter on March 23, 1867 in Umatilla. The chapter was approved July 24, 1867 by the Grand Lodge of Oregon. This was the first lodge in Oregon east of The Dalles. By 1888, Umatilla did not have enough members, so the building sat idle for about ten years. Masons in Echo, around 1906, applied for and received a charter using Umatilla #40. The Masons in Echo paid to have the old lodge building in Umatilla taken down, loaded on a railroad car and taken to Echo. It was erected on the north end of its current lot. The total cost was approximately \$160. In 1910, the lodge paid to have a basement dug and the building moved to its current location. The lodge played an important role in the community's civic life and development, as is evident from some of the cemetery statuary. The lodge members were also responsible for the gravel and paving the street in front of the lodge.

6. Echo Quarterback Club

Formed in 1949, the Quarterback Club focuses on improving the experiences and opportunities for young people in Echo. The primary fund raiser since the beginning has been the Fish Feed. The club members now have both a spring (couples) and fall (stag) Fish Feed (seafood) accompanied by a silent auction and raffles. The fish feeds have become a major social event, selling over 250 tickets for each time slot. The feeds gross about \$31,000, which is used for school athletics, summer camps, musical and art programs, glasses and braces for needy children and other projects that support area youth. They have donated to help purchase community Christmas decorations, and paid for the installation of the tennis courts in 1999.

7. VFW

Established 1945, the VFW helped construct the Echo Memorial Field (school football-baseball field) and erect a flag pole and marble plaque honoring Echo's veterans of World War I and World War II who were killed. The members also constructed Veteran's Memorial at Echo Cemetery in 1999.

8. VFW Auxiliary

Established 1946.

9. Volunteer Fire Department

The roots of the Echo's volunteer fire department go back to January 1905 when a group of men met in Carl Gilbert's barbershop to organize the first company. Cloyd Oliver, J.R. Means, C.S. Mudge, Arthur Hammer, Elting Spike, and L. W. Keeler were appointed to draft the bylaws. The first president was H. G. Willis, and Carl Gilbert was the foreman. Other members of the first company reads like a who's who of early Echo. Members included Louis Scholl, Ben Atkinson, Frank Godfrey, Asa Thomson, Ace Gulliford, Walther Thornton, D. Smith, Oren Halstead, Chad Barner, Bill Prior, O.J. Prell, William Haggard, F.T. George, Bill Oliver, Perl Bonney, H.E. Stephens, Ralph Stanfield, and Bert Longnecker.

The men organized a Fireman's Ball at Christmas in City Hall to raise money. The Fireman's Ball became an event throughout the years that attracted people from far and wide. In 1907, the department bought a McChance bell for \$112.50. This bell was housed in a tower on the corner in front of city hall. When the new city hall was completed in 1916, a cupola was included for this bell, but it was not set in the cupola until several years later when the original tower became rickety. The bell remains inside the cupola.

The original company was divided into two companies in 1908. Hugh Smith was chief of Hose Cart No. 1 and C. B. Green of Hose Cart No. 2. Hose Company #1 stored their man-powered hook and ladder and hose carts in the wooden building located next to city hall. Another storage location on Thielsen Street was just south of the school tennis courts. The number of tolls of the bell told volunteers where to go. The antique fire equipment, three hose carts, a hook and ladder and chemical wagon are on display at the Fort Henrietta Park. Other interpretive materials telling about Echo fire fighting history and the fire district are being developed for completion in the spring of 2002. The hook and ladder and two of the three hose carts were purchased from A. G. Long Company of Portland in 1908. The hook and ladder was a 1/7th size and cost \$675. The chemical wagon, which looks like a giant fire extinguisher on wheels, was purchased in 1916. These were all pulled by manpower until eventually two of the hose carts tongues were altered to allow them to be towed by a pickup.

The Fire District published a directory every few years in the 1940s and 50s that provided the history. They sold advertising for the booklet to pay for printing and provide funding for the district. In this booklet, it tells that while the fire department was not able to save the 50-room Hoskin's Hotel, which burned in one hour, the fire fighters were able to save the Echo Methodist Church which was only 15 feet away. Tom Ross, president of the Wool Growers, presented the fire department with a check for \$50 in gratitude. The church remains today, and ironically, the current Fire Hall is built over the old burned-out Hoskin's Hotel site. While installing a water meter along the fire hall, City Maintenance Supervisor Arnie Neely recovered a soap dish from the hotel. The soap dish was encased in ash.

The minutes of one fire meeting help depict the circumstances the department faced. For example, one set of minutes report that the companies were called to the Stanfield House. The minutes state that the volunteers responded *"quickly, but one hose cart mistook the place of the fire and unrolled the hose at the bank corner. After the men rolled it up again and rushed to the scene of the fire 'found to their disgust and the disgust of the others' that the hose was frozen." The damage was light to this house, which remains standing. This was not the only time the hoses were frozen. Ilene Coe, who's husband Maurice was a volunteer, told of the house on the NE corner of Garden and Dupont streets burning down under similar circumstances. When the volunteers arrived and unrolled the hoses, they found the hoses had been rolled up with water in*

them and were now frozen. The bucket brigade they had to form could not keep up with the fire. Another interesting item in the 1955-56 Fire Department Directory is a list of all Echo residents by head of household. The booklets were mailed to each household at that time for a cost of 4 cents.

“In April of 1949 Marv Laughlin suggested that a Fire District be formed. Through his efforts, assisted by Haigler Burnett and Harold Laird, a petition was drawn up and circulated throughout the district and through a course of Law the District was formed.” This created a formal tax district, which encompassed the city and a vast rural area. The current fire district is one of the largest in the state. The board members for the first district were: Troy Coleman, John Pedro, Fred Andrews, Bill Adams, Lester Murray. The fire district purchased the first fire truck in 1950. The FWD is still in service. It was purchased with funds raised at the dances at city hall, organized by the volunteer firemen. Murl Berry was fire chief and held that position until his death in 1979.

10. Echo Historical Museum

This non-profit organization operates the Echo Historical Museum. There is an elected board of directors and general members.

12. Fort Henrietta Foundation

Established in 1989, this non-profit organization was formed to preserve, protect and develop the historical and cultural resources of the Echo area, in particular the Oregon Trail and Fort Henrietta/Utilla Indian Agency sites. Dr. John Woodward, archaeologist, helped establish the foundation and has served as the chairman. The Chinese House OR & N Building and St. Peter's Catholic Church are both owned by the foundation.

13. Echo Community Boosters

Established in 1984, this organization was created to put on Fort Henrietta Days, the community festival held from 1984 through 1997. The organization also acts as the local chamber of commerce, and serves the need of the community by organizing the annual Christmas Basket Program for needy families. The Boosters hold an annual Christmas Lighting Contest. They also purchase street pole decorations and other community Christmas decorations. The Boosters also conduct Christmas light tours.

14. Echo Needle Craft Club

This organization was established by a group of Echo ladies, c. 1908-10, primarily the wives of Echo businessmen. The first members were Mrs. Fred Everett, Minnie Hinkle, Nan Crary, Marie Gilbert, Marie Spinning, Cora Longwell, Marian George, Mamie Jones, Rowene Bonney, Laura Bonney, Carrie Thomson, Florence Stanfield, Carrie Willis, Janet Ross and Mrs. Alexander Reid. The organization is primarily known for its efforts to establish trees in Echo. The ladies researched what trees would be most hardy in early Echo when irrigation was a rare commodity. They sold tags to earn money to buy the Black Locust Trees that their research indicated would be the most viable tree for the area. They and their husbands planted the trees along streets, in their yards and in George Park. They packed buckets of water to the fledgling trees and thus insured their survival.

15. Echo Rod & Gun Club

This early Echo club started what would later become the Echo Golf Course. The club house was dedicated in 1926 with a Merchandise Shoot and Banquet. Speakers were “*Members of the State Game Commission and the State Game Warden and others.*” This building, which is now the golf course club house, was moved across the valley to its present location on the hills above town. The original location was near where the Brown/Britt house is now located. Reportedly, a large number of rattlesnakes contributed to the move.

The club laid out a nine-hole course with sand greens and fairways among the sagebrush in the 1930s and held shoots from where the parking lot is now to the south. The remnants of the clay pigeons littered the ground to the south until new homes were constructed over these lots in the 1990s and 2002.

16. Echo Library/Star Theater

The Echo Public Library was started c. 1912 after Nan Crary, wife of city recorder and Echo News editor W.H. Crary, suggested to then Mayor Hugh Smith that they needed a circulating library. He appointed Nan Crary, Beulah Barker, Carl Rhea, Mrs. C.J. Gulliford and Mrs. C.F. Adams to a library board. Mrs. Adams was also named librarian. When city hall was planned, Nan Crary asked for a room in the new city hall for the library, and this was provided. Until that time, the library had been in the old bank building. The Star Theater, a movie theater, was leased to the library for \$20 per month, the profits of which funded the library operations. Ralph Stanfield advanced the board \$640 to buy theater furnishings. Until the movie theater made a profit, Mr. Crary donated his services to run the projector. In the days of the silent movies, a pianist would play music to accompany the picture show. When the theater failed to make a profit in 1926, he donated his services again to operate the projector, order movies and manage the facility. A plate with promotions for upcoming movies is located in the Echo Museum. Other Librarians have been: Cora Longwell, Beda Sloan, Mrs. Warren Center, Mrs. C.C. McVicker, Patty Sue Spike, Mrs. Glenn Sherer, Illabelle Mercer, Beverly Dorn Berry, Jo Williams, Jean Day and Helen Hesterlee. In 1983, the city combined library and city operations and the city clerk served as Clerk-Librarian and the City Administrator as Library Director. Since that time, the library directors have been Susan Schuening Sperr and Diane Berry. Clerk/ Librarians have been Sue Sperr, Nola Clarneau, Joyce Henry Mackay and Melany Allstott.

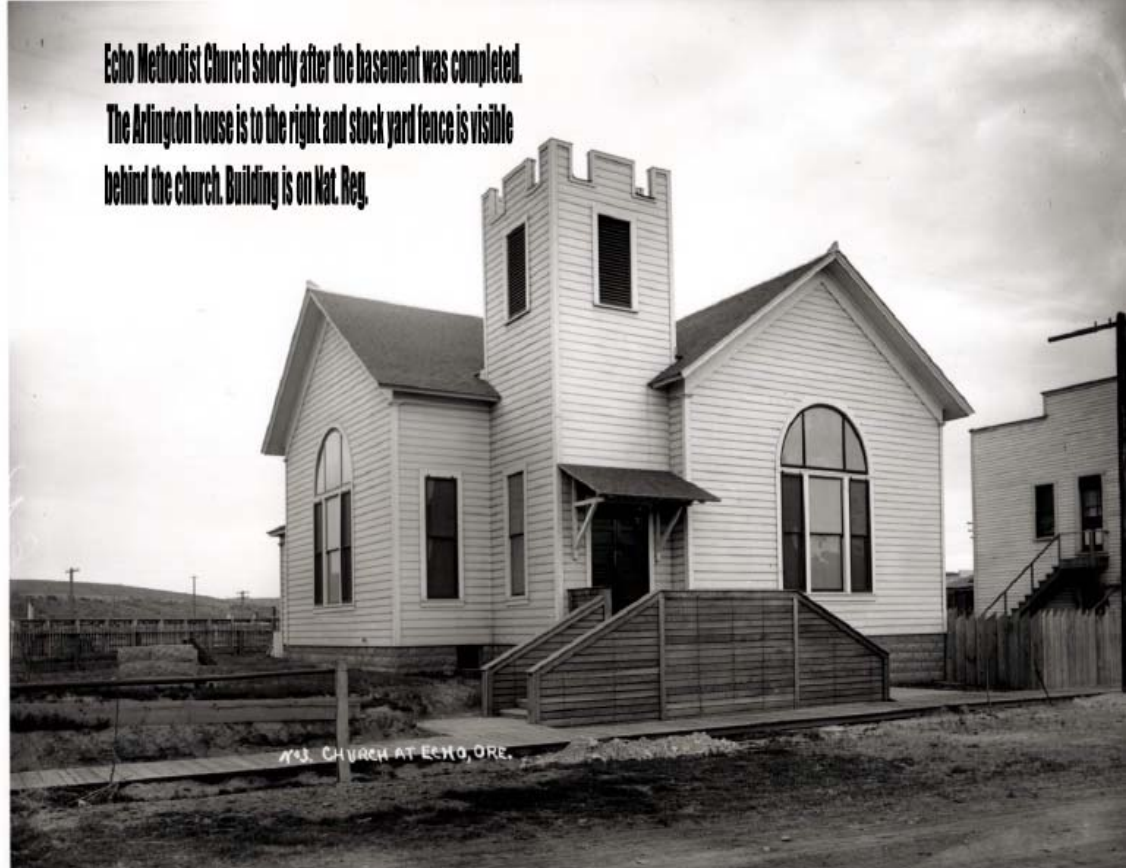
**16. Echo
Community
Methodist
Church.**

The Methodist Church was incorporated in 1886 as the Echo Methodist Episcopal Church, but in 1946, a supplementary charter changed the name to the Echo Community Church. The

church members held services before this date, relying on a circuit minister to conduct services in Spikes Grove. When the minister showed up it was an event. Families would camp along the river bringing food and bedding and stay a few days. The men would ride home to take care of chores and livestock in the evening and return for evening services. It was a chance to socialize and exchange news, recipes, patterns and make friends. From Spike's Grove the services moved to the IOOF Lodge. There they held basket socials, weddings, funerals and other social events such as basketball games and dances. The first board and trustees of the church were A. Stansbury, I.S. Lisle, W.E. Brownell, A.P. Oliver, J.J. Galloway, W.B. Hales, J.G. Garnett and J. Bitney.

JH Koontz donated the land for the church in May 1886. One of his houses on West Sprague Street was used as a parsonage. The Koontz family must have just loaned the use of the building, as Steve Randolph's historical building research found the building was still a Koontz property until his granddaughter's death. The first minister was Rev. H.F. Williams. George Strom was the first child baptized at the church in January 1887. The first wedding was the son of the third minister Rev. John LeCornu: John O. LeCornu to Halina Barnette in 1887. The first recorded funeral service was not until Mrs. M.S. White in 1909.

The Ladies Aid Club within the church has helped raise money to maintain and keep the church running over the years. The members still hold the annual Christmas Bazaar started during the early years of the church. The annual Smorgasbord brought hungry people from miles around. The church basement was hand dug by Rev. Jewell Rook and volunteers. Rook was minister from 1947-1950.



Additional Resources

For more information about the community and community organizations, especially as they existed in the 1950s, see [A Church and Community Study of Echo, Oregon](#). This study, by Burton C. Bastuscheck, Assistant Professor of Religion and Sociology Counselor in Town and County Church, Willamette University, is particularly informative. The study is an unparalleled snapshot of life in Echo that is complete and comprehensive. While the study emphasizes churches, it covers many other topics (prepared for The Oregon Town and Country Church Conference at Oregon State College in Corvallis on October 15-18, 1956). The topics covered include demographics, environment, geography, transportation, the economy and things like interfaith marriages and community participation.



**Odd Fellows (L.O.F.) convention
at city hall 1927; City Hall was
renovated 1999-2000 and is on the
National Register**

Chapter V: FOLK HISTORY

Explaining stories, such as how things were named or discovered

The name of the community. This story is available in a variety of places listed in Chapter III under local history. The sources agree the town was named after J. H. Koontz's daughter, Echo.

The name of Fort Henrietta. The history of the fort is available in Chapter III under Fort Henrietta. The sources agree that the fort was named for Henrietta Haller, who lent the volunteers her wagon.

The Meadows. The importance of the meadows to the original inhabitants of the region is reflected in a variety of sources listed in Chapter III and in the bibliography. The meadows represented an important camping site for Native Americans and it was both a hunting area and a place for families to gather, compete and trade. The Meadows also feature prominently in the diaries of emigrants coming over the Oregon Trail. The Meadows offered feed for livestock, water and wood. The emigrants often used this area to get ready for the hot and dusty trek to The Dalles.

Portuguese Immigrants. Part of Echo's culture is a result of the large population of Portuguese immigrants from the Azores Islands. Most of the Portuguese were from Graczones and were related. The Azores is situated off the coast of Europe and is a Portuguese possession. Antone and Vey were the first men from the Azores to settle on Butter Creek and Joseph Cunha, Sr., came to Echo because he had heard of the Veys. He worked for them while buying ewes and land from failed homesteaders. Cunha became one of the largest landowners by compiling 64,000 acres and more than 14,000 sheep by 1943. Cunha apparently wrote home about Echo and this attracted other settlers. These immigrants became the second wave of settlers in the Echo area, arriving in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

The first wave of settlers were Oregon Trail immigrants, most of whom had come from Missouri and Tennessee and other mid-western points. The Portuguese in particular arrived with knowledge of sheep and a strong work ethic. The Cunhas, Veys, Pedro, Correas, Machados, Ramos and Silvas have certainly influenced the community, including the current residents and the buildings. Buildings such as City Hall, the high school building and St. Peter's Catholic Church all have Mediterranean architectural elements, which are attributed to Portuguese influence as this style is not typical of eastern Oregon architectural. A glance through the Echo-Hermiston-Stanfield section of the phone book will show that there remain many Portuguese names, in particular Correa and Ramos. Also of importance is the fact that so many of these early Portuguese families have added to the stability of the Echo area, retaining the family farms and a place in the community after 90 to 100 years.

Traditions

What is it that makes one community unique from another across the state or even three miles away? Because communities sharing the same geographical setting can be so different in philosophy and personality setting is not the answer. It has to be the people. While some of the traditions listed below may not be unique to Echo, and may in fact be shared by people in other small communities, they are mentioned here because future generations may no longer recognize these traditions as life continues.

Pulling Together. Many Echo residents, whether of two-year or 50-year duration, will tell you one of their greatest sources of pride is how the community comes together in a time of need. An example of this was the February 2002 fund-raisers for two Echo girls. Patsy Seifer recently had a kidney transplant, faced long-term medical care and expenses, and is on the list for a pancreas transplant. Kelly Browning was burned in a New Year's Eve fire. Kelly spent six weeks in a Portland hospital. The volunteers from most Echo organizations met and planned fund-raisers ranging from a telethon on KOHU radio in Hermiston to a steak feed. Many volunteers worked over 11 hours the day of the steak feed and raised over \$7000 on the meal and \$5000 on the telethon.

More important than the amount that was raised by these events was the number of people who helped. The Echo Quarterback Club purchased the steaks as a donation, the Echo Boosters purchased condiments and paid for box holders, copies and stamps. Echo Boosters, Methodist Church, Echo schools, VFW and Auxiliary, and PTA brought salads, desserts and bread. While many businesses and individuals from surrounding communities provided donations and help, the organization and labor commitment was by Echo people who took pride in their ability, as one volunteer said, *"to look out for our own. It is what Echo does best."* This is not the first time the community has done this. If someone has a tragedy or death, they know that Echo people will show up with food and condolences.

Echo Cooks: There has long been a tradition and a pride in the cooking and baking ability of Echo cooks. Dinners organized by Echo cooks, whether a potluck, monthly garden club potluck, a post-funeral dinner or a fund-raiser, are bound to bring compliments galore from newcomers or visitors. Many of the well-known recipes of some of Echo's cooks were featured in the Fort Henrietta Cookbook. This book was produced by the Echo Boosters, compiled, and edited by Phoebe Madison Sheriff, circa 1989. The family of Mable Lambirth Hiatt has a cookbook handwritten in a 1930 yearbook. At the time Mable was moving away from her lifetime home in Echo, so the ladies of the community put their favorite recipes in the book, many of which were closely held secrets. Some of these are also enclosed in the Fort Henrietta Cookbook, along with a section of Portuguese recipes.

The Portuguese recipes made the cookbook unique and are helping to preserve some of the favorite recipes of Echo areas Portuguese families. Estie Correa Billing helped Phoebe Sheriff compile this section of the Fort Henrietta Cookbook by calling every Portuguese family in the area. *"To everyone's dismay, it was discovered that very few of the recipes had ever been written down."* Most of the recipes were resurrected from memory and scraps of notepaper. Both Estie and Irene Correa *"believe that the Sweet Anise, which grows rampant in the area, may have started from wind-flung seeds...from clumps of anise planted in every Portuguese grandmother's garden."* Anise looks like dill, but has a licorice-like, sweet flavor. It is used in

Portuguese dishes, such as fuches (pronounced “fooch”), which is beans with sweet anise, and salads and soups.

Dorothy Howard Helmick was so well-known for her pies and baked goods that she was not only “well-known” in Echo but elsewhere, too. Her church, the nursing home and other organizations in Hermiston called on her repeatedly to bring her pies for baked food sales and meals. Dorothy was in her 80s when she died and until her sudden illness and death was still baking. Suzanne Nye Spike is also known for her baked goods. Although Suzanne is now 80, she still donates baked goods for community functions. One of her grandsons knew that when he had a cake raffle at school, he could just go to grandma’s freezer and help himself.

When the Echo Senior Citizen Center was operating in the Echo Masonic Lodge in the 1980s, the cooks took great pride in the compliments they received. The seniors from Morrow County and other Umatilla County communities often told them they put on the best meals. Mildred Berry Dorn, who had cooked for the school cafeteria first as an assistant and then head cook for many years, was the head cook for the center. Mildred, along with a group of friends did the work while they themselves were senior citizens cooking for the “*old folks.*”

Another school cook who is well known for her abilities and her cake decorating skills is Merle Green. When mentioning Echo food, Glenn Rohde’s coleslaw served at the annual Quarterback Club Fish Feeds cannot be left out.

The cooking tradition of course goes back to the pride women took in putting food on the table for their families in days when they usually did not work outside the home. It also goes back to the farm tradition where the farmer or rancher’s wife had to feed the farm hands or harvest crew as part of the wages. The homemaker took a sense of pride in providing an excellent meal for her family and the crew. Big “*outfits,*” such as Cunha Farms, had so many workers that they hired a cook. Myrtle Berry was a cook for Cunha Farms in the 1940s and 50s. Not only was she a good cook, but she had a reputation such that not even the boldest or biggest man on the crew wanted to mess with her. Myrtle Berry had worked as a cook for mines in Alaska and learned to be tough. Gene Berry told of sleeping in one day and arriving late. He was going to head straight out and skip breakfast at the cookhouse, but Myrtle (his father’s cousin) called him and told him to eat. He said you didn’t argue with Myrtle, so he sat down and ate. Whether or not she actually ever took her frying pan to anyone is unknown, but it was a source of intimidation.

The Thanksgiving Dinner put on by the Echo Catholic Church ladies was an annual attraction. The oyster stuffing made by Ada Cunha was remembered as one of the highlights. These dinners raised money for the Church Altar Society, which for many years helped maintain St. Peter’s Catholic Church.

Charlotte Berry helped make her peach pie famous. Soon after Fort Henrietta Days was started, a reporter from “Sunset” magazine came through on a promotional tour for historic tourism in northeast Oregon, organized by the state tourism office. The Echo visit concentrated on the annual Fort Henrietta Days including the pie sale, which had become a major attraction and moneymaker for the event. Dorothy Helmick was the chair of the event until the last two years. Charlotte provided her peach pie she made each year for the tour. The reporter was so impressed by the pie and piecrust, she had Charlotte give her the recipe and did a side bar on it. Berry had been taught how to make her flaky crust by her grandmother Mable Hiatt. She happened to be at the Pie Sale when a man came up and asked who made one of the pies. The visitor reported “*it tastes just like one of Mable Hiatt’s.*” Berry told him she was Mable’s

granddaughter. Mable had operated restaurants in Echo and in Redmond for many years and baked her own pies.

Other noted Echo cooks and their recipes: Della Bartholomew (Egyptian Nougat cake), Katherine Liesegang, Pamela "Millie" Teel (Fruit and Hot Applesauce Cakes and Green Tomato Relish), Emma & Becky Geizler (Ranger Cookies & Araby Spice Cake), Velma Hiatt Laughlin (Dill Pickles, Butterscotch Pie & Zucchini Bread), Charlotte Berry (Chocolate & Peach Pies), Dorothy Helmick (Sour cream Lemon and Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie), Myrtle O'Brien (Sour Cream Pie), Margaret Berry Wolf (Mincemeat & Chess Pies), Phoebe Sheriff (Baked Alaska Pie and Caviar Pie), Suzanne Spike (cream puffs, lemon pie, maple bars), Ada Ward Cunha, Lois Hiatt Parrish (Prune Cake).

School: One of Echo's traditions is its heartfelt commitment and support of the school. Some of Echo's third, fourth and fifth generation families have made sacrifices, have given up much better paying jobs elsewhere because of their commitment to the community, the family and school. They say they were willing to make these sacrifices because it is so important to their children to have a sense of community and tradition. The feeling of connection and continuity is also important. The school is also the way new residents "*break into the community.*" Like many small communities, some residents feel it is "*cliquey.*" However, if you attend school functions such as PTA book fairs, ball games or potlucks you will find residents who have been there two years working along side ones who have been there three generations or more. The thing that binds them and makes them part of the community is often their commitment to their children and the school.

Echo WWII Bombing. The "Eardley Bird," a column in the East Oregonian, recalls the finding of one of the Japanese balloons by Ralph Saylor near Echo on March 13, 1945. Saylor said two ranch hands, Lee Finley and Clark Cable, tied up the balloon after finding it one cloudy day.

"About 3 p.m. two of the ranch hands on our farm saw a balloon under the clouds drifting slowly to earth. They drove out toward where it appeared to land to investigate and found it to be one of the incendiary balloons that had been made and released in Japan with the intention of starting fires especially in the forests of this country. It had landed in open range about 8 miles southwest of Echo and three miles east of the Saylor Buttercreek Ranch. The men tied the balloon to a fence, but a breeze came up causing it to drift, so they threw a hay hook at the bag to deflate it. I saw it from a distance, but it was on the ground when I arrived," Saylor told Eardley. *"The balloon was 35 feet tall and 20 feet in diameter and tan color. A network of quarter-inch rope attached the basket and in the basket was a black box that looked like a storage battery. To this box was fastened a sand ballast weight about 12 inches long by three inches in diameter and a bomb about 18 inches by three inches. The bomb was designed to explode on impact and start a fire. Fortunately, this one malfunctioned. Saylor said that guards from the Pendleton Air Base guarded the balloon until a bomb squad arrived from Fort Lewis to remove it. Saylor said the Army was glad to get the balloon as it was the first intact one they had found at that time, so they planned to study it."*

Character stories, such as who or what defines Echo

The Giant Oil Company. The company formed in Echo in 1912 to stimulate the local economy, cash in on available resources and demand, as well as to bring new industry to the area. Head of the board was Jack “Rattlesnake Jack” Able. The plan was to catch rattlesnakes and extract oil for various industrial or medicinal purposes. The company also planned to make snakeskin hatbands to sell at the Pendleton Round-Up and to use the meat to make sausage, which would be sold as “Genuine Pendleton Round-up Snake Sausage.” They even reported that they had a contract for “*snake ears.*” The company did not prosper. Whether or not this was a serious pursuit, a tongue in cheek article or a con, we do not know.

Echo Cigar Factory. In the 1907 Echo Commercial Club promotional flyer there is an ad for the Echo Cigar Factory owned by the Fitzpatrick Brothers. The ad states “*Echo can boast of one of the most complete Cigar Factories in the country, and a good one, which has a wide and splendid trade.*” Dr. Woodward, a collector of tokens, found a token from the cigar factory, which he donated, to the Fort Henrietta Foundation. It is on display at city hall. The factory produced 1000 cigars a day. Their best seller was Illando, a Havana cigar.

Jack rabbit drives and American Hare Canning and Cold Storage Company. At times, the community of Echo, like many others in the American West, faced problems with jackrabbits. One popular story involves a game warden stopping two farmers for hunting jackrabbits out-of-season. The farmers noted that a big sign in town invited participants to the great Jack Rabbit Drive and that everyone in town was involved. The warden decided not to press the issue.

The drives were advertised in the paper and 400-500 people would show up, many riding the train from as far as Pendleton for the free meal that they would receive afterward and the socialization. The drives occurred primarily from 1910 through the 1920s. Oscar McCarty, who was raised in the Butter Creek area, recalled the drives: “*The rabbits literally ate settlers out of house and home. Many homesteaders had 160 acres, so it really wasn’t worth their while to invest in rabbit-proof fencing.*” He said in the years when the rabbits were so numerous the eagles were thick also. They would swoop down on the rabbits and fly off with them.

The drives would be in the winter to take advantage of the rabbits clustering in the sagebrush to avoid the eagles, McCarty said. The places where they usually held the drives included the Sloan Thomson place, Service Canyon, Sand Hollow, and Mud Flats. McCarty said they would build a v-shaped wire covered corral at the end of a canyon with a catch pen. The volunteers would stretch out with clubs and begin beating the brush and herding the rabbits toward the corral. There they would be clubbed in the head said Fred Dorn who participated in the drives. “*You couldn’t drive those rabbits too far. They spooked like sheep. They would jump clear over your head trying to get away,*” said McCarty. To demonstrate how thick the rabbits were, McCarty said that one farmer spread poisoned alfalfa across his field; the next day the farmer found 1500 dead rabbits. The newspapers would report on the number of rabbits killed, which could be over 3,000.

Dorn said, “*At first the rabbits were good eating, but they were diseased in later years. Some people back in the hills lived off rabbits during the hard times when their crops dried.*” The slaughtered rabbits were shipped on trains to Portland for the soup lines. They also were sold for 10 cents each to Mr. Hackbarth for his mink and fox farm. Dorn and McCarty said they had fun at the drives, not because they were blood thirsty, but in those days “*before television*

any excuse for a gathering was welcomed.” McCarty said the rabbit cannery operated for a short time until they went broke. It was located on land near the Echo tennis courts.

According to the 1956 Church & Community Study of Echo, the community had a Jack Rabbit Cannery that operated for many years. Mildred Searcey also writes of the cannery in her book Way Back When. A Mr. Shaffenberger thought this would be a good way to get rid of all the rabbits killed in the drives. The cannery was not successful. One explanation for the failure is that a batch was spoiled in the canning process with adverse effects on the cannery. Another explanation is that the rabbits were diseased, and these diseases, not the drives, lead to the decline in the rabbit population. The Church & Community Study of Echo, quotes a verse from the Oregonian that commented on the cannery:

“Run, Jack Rabbit,
Run like sin;
Echo has a factory,
And will pop you in.
Run, Jack Rabbit,
Run like the devil;
Hit only the high spots, -
Never touch the level.”

Mink Farm. Another of Echo’s unusual businesses was a mink farm operated across the river from Echo near St. Peter’s and the Fort Henrietta Site. Young Echo men often found employment feeding the mink, which by all accounts was a “pretty stinky job.” The mink meat was used to make pet food, and the furs were used for coats and stoles.

Kangaroo Court. “Echo poked fun at its residents, but loved them all. Even Bill Oliver for a short time city Marshall was once tried in kangaroo court for being so short-legged that the seat of his britches pulled the nails out of the board walk.” Echoes from the Past.

Bill Jones’ Long Johns. Bennie Tolar tells the story of Marie Jones buying her husband a new pair of long johns. At noon he came home “mad as a wet hen” and yelled at her, “Don’t you ever buy me anymore of that J.C. Penney underwear – all day I have been stooped over because the neck is too tight and pushing up the sleeves that are too long.” Marie took a look at him and fell over laughing. Bill had put them on upside down. Bill also wore a toupee. One day when he bent to scoop ice cream, his wig fell off in the bucket of ice cream. He nonchalantly scooped it up and put it on sideways.

Fred Olson. Fred Olson advertised in 1922 that his Sure Cure for Distemper was for sale. He guaranteed that if it failed to cure the dog, when used directly, he would pay the dog.

Record Car Sales. In July 1923, the Echo Auto Company boasted record sales. Twenty-four vehicles were sold to the following people: Sloan Thomson, Tom Able, Joel and Orian Halstead, Mrs. Arthur Finley, Leo Root, Loyd Thompson, J.D. Lee, J. B. Hamilton, Arthur Schmidt, Barney Doherty, Ed Garner, William Garner, Charles Bartholomew (2), C. Melville all of Echo; and Bud Knapp of Stanfield. Second hand vehicles were sold to E. B. Pierson, Hermiston; P. W. Allison, Lexington; W. O. Wright, Irrigon; Mr. Whitney, Echo; Charles and Elsie Smith, Echo; J.

G. Strader, Umatilla; This information was printed in the Echo News and reprinted in Echoes from the Past.

Tree City USA. In 1989, the City of Echo first became a Tree City USA. The National Arbor Day Foundation organizes this program with assistance of state forestry offices. In order for a community to become a Tree City, they must spend \$2 per capita on tree care, have a tree ordinance, a tree board and an annual Arbor Day Celebration.

Mayor Douglas Clement found out about the program at a League of Oregon Cities meeting and urged the city council to commit to the program. He said after hearing about the program, he felt that Echo was the perfect place for it. Clement had heard comments from visitors in his restaurant for years commenting on how surprised they were when they topped the hill from the freeway and saw this oasis of green in the middle of the desert. He felt it was a natural progression from the efforts of the Echo Needlecraft Club. The club members had nurtured baby Locust trees and their work would be memorialized and furthered if Echo became a Tree City. Unfortunately, most of the old Black Locust had to be removed because of age and damage from locust borer. The city's tree program is re-establishing the city's forest with a variety of new trees that will insure a healthier forest.

The Oregon Trail Arboretum was an outgrowth of this program. The city has received several awards from the Oregon Urban Forestry Council awards and Tree Growth Awards from the National

Arbor Day Foundation for special programs and commitment to tree care.

Echo is the smallest Tree City in Oregon and is often touted by state urban foresters: "If Echo, with a population of 650 can do it, you can."



Stories of jokes, pranks and fun

The 1945 Halloween Outhouse Tip-Over. In 1945, Jim Meahan organized the event. Before Halloween, Jim mapped every outhouse in town and organized two teams of outhouse "tipper-overers." Each team had a map of half of the outhouses and when done they met at the railroad

outhouse. The railroad outhouse was large and had both a men's privy and a women's privy in a single building. The railroad apparently sent out detectives to investigate; they interviewed people at the school and badgered folks to confess. Finally, the principal told the detectives they were wasting their time. When the railroad rebuilt the outhouse, they set railroad ties at each corner.

(Jim later became a rocket scientist and worked on the space program. His brother Bob became a doctor and was head doctor at Dornbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. Their mother ran the Echo Hotel.)

How-lish-wam-po's Pinto & the Horse Race. Recounted in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers, by Leila C. McKay. The story of how Cayuse Chief How-lish-wam-po cleaned up on a horse race is significant, because the Echo area was traditionally host to many such races. The story is that Joe Crabb "borrowed" or stole one of the Chief's horses to run secretly against one of the Chief's other horses to determine which was faster. Learning his own horse was faster, Joe goaded the Chief and other tribal members into betting everything they had in the race. At the end of the race, How-lish-wam-po's horse won. The Chief then suggested to Joe Crabb that "the next time you steal my racing horse, try him out to be sure you get the right horse."

Spinning's Rock. Another annual Halloween prank in the 1940s was to move Mr. Spinning's rock. Frank Spinning, Echo's druggist and booster, took a rock at the corner of his property on the SW corner of Bonanza and Buckley Street quite seriously. He would constantly remind children walking by that the rock was a survey monument and wasn't to be touched, stood on or other such juvenile pursuits. So of course, kids could not wait for an opportunity to roll the rock out of its resting place. Mr. Spinning would try to out wait the kids, but eventually some time on Halloween night they would usually manage to roll it loose. This big square rock remained on the corner through the 1960s.

Whispering Thompson and his Flute-like Voice. Whispering Thompson is considered one of the colorful characters of early Umatilla County. Perhaps the most interesting thing about Whispering is the colorful stories early settlers tell about him, as it illustrates how important folklore and story telling was in those early days before television. Tales of Whispering are reminiscent of the exaggerated but humorous tales of Paul Bunyon. John E. Bean in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers recalled, "it was his fog horn voice and bells on his mules that won him distinction. You could hear him yelling at his mules sometimes miles before they hove into sight."

The Pendleton Record of 1962 quotes an earlier source: "He [Whispering] was his own loudspeaker. It was said that when Whispering left Meacham, at the top of the Blue Mountains, you could hear his voice clear down in La Grande and Pendleton. Each of his 14 mules was supposed to be able to understand every word he bellowed and responded at once, not only to the jerk line but to the pebbles he carried in a bucket and pitched at them with 'unerring aim.' His cry of 'Gee-e-e-e Nig' was recognized as a signal by old timers that he was within a three mile radius."

In an 1881 East Oregonian item: "Last Wednesday the flute-like voice of Whispering Thompson could be heard about two miles away. We went to see what was the matter and found his 14 mules in front of a house which had been moved a fourth of a mile in four hours with Thompson gently encouraging the mules." T.G. Smith of Echo worked for Whispering on his

Echo farm. Smith said Whispering could put his head out the kitchen window and call instructions to Smith working a mile and a half away.

The Saving of Ad Nye. In Mildred Searcey's book Way Back When, she tells a story relayed by Bishop Wells of the Pendleton Episcopal Church of his first male convert, Ad Nye. "Ad was a candidate for sheriff, caused by the death of the former incumbent. I thought, and Ad agreed, that he would be elected and should set an example of Christian conduct to the young men of the community who would look up to him as a leader and hero. At first, Ad refused. He said he drank too much; he cussed and gambled and he did nearly everything else, and all in all, he would make a mighty poor Christian. Finally however, he said that he would be baptized, and would try to be a good Christian on condition that I would be responsible for any 'outbreak' on his part. The cowboys who attended the services when Ad was baptized shook their heads and said that the sheriff had gone back on them. A little later, however he became a hero when in a gun battle with cattle rustlers, he came out the winner, even though he did have a broken nose and lost the sight of one eye."

Murl Berry. For over 39 years, Murl Berry was a fixture of Echo Main Street, where he operated his service station. Until his death in 1979 kids in town knew that if they stopped by his station to fill a tire or get an ice-cold pop from the water-filled pop dispenser that they were in for a teasing. He was also known for his pitching ability on the local town team baseball team. One story is that when one of the catchers complained about how much his hand hurt from Berry's pitch, butcher Ed Liesegang give him a steak to put in his glove to see if Berry could shred it. When the game was over it was hamburger. The service station was a gathering spot, especially on Friday afternoons when farmers and farm workers would wander into town early. Unfortunately, no one was able to record the tall tales told by old timers such as John McCarty. Johnny Pedro was another fixture of the station after his retirement from farming. Murl pitched for the Purple Giants, Echo's town team, for 15 years, until 55 years old.

Dr. John Teel. Among the early settlers who made a lasting impression on his contemporaries, Dr. John Teel has to rank high. His size and appearance alone helped make him memorable; he was 6'4" tall with a shock of white hair that stuck up on the top of his head and long locks and a beard. Many of the early Oregon Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers vignettes mention Dr. Teel as a memorable figure. His story was told on an early radio show "Pacific Power Land" and several articles in the East Oregonian told about him.

Teel came to Oregon in 1860 with his third wife Elvira, infant son Twig, and Bruce and Nancy, children from a previous marriage. Nancy later married Olney McCoy, a freighter murdered at Dead Man's Pass during the 1878 Bannock War. The Teels went to Lebanon first but by 1861 traveled to Umatilla County, where he was hired to serve as the first Indian doctor for the Walla Walla, Umatilla and Cayuse tribes. A letter he wrote about conditions on the reservation is in the National Archives. The letter is reprinted in Way Back When and Echoes from the Past. He and Elvira settled on the Echo Meadows and began to farm there, although Elvira, who was a schoolteacher, was actually the force behind the success of the farm. Since Teel was the only doctor between The Dalles, Walla Walla and south to John Day in those early years, he spent much of his time as a circuit doctor.

"Dr. Teel was beloved by all who knew him. His house was often filled with Indians and whites alike and one of his best friends was the Cayuse Chief Howlish Wam Po. When Dr. Teel

first came to Eastern Oregon and was administering to the Indians he was taught the Indian language by Donald McKay, brother of Dr. William McKay.” Way Back When. Early settlers recalled how much they looked forward to seeing Dr. Teel coming down the road. He brought news as well as a small store of medicinal and other goods, which were very welcome to isolated settlers, especially the ladies, who did not often have the opportunity to travel. They all seem to recall his prodigious appetite. One account said that when they saw him coming, they began pulling out food to cook. Another claims he ate a whole suckling pig in one sitting.

Charles Miller and the Magpie. Echo Koontz’s husband, Charles Miller, “was “veddy veddy” British and ignorant of life in the “Wild West” according to Way Back When. Westerners, of course, cannot resist and chance to give someone who seems a little uppity a bad time, so “one day he and a friend were out riding. The roads were deep with dust, the sun beat down on the buggy. As they traveled along the dust got deeper and the sun got hotter. A magpie flew up from the side of the road. ‘What sort of bird is that?’ asked the Englishman. His friend thinking he would have some fun said, ‘Why that’s a bird of Paradise. Charles Miller didn’t say anything for quite awhile and then he dryly commented, ‘He’s a long way from home isn’t he?’”

Stories of crimes, justice and related topics

Fate, Death and The Fox: Edward Hickman

On December 15, 1927, Marion Parker, the 12-year-old daughter of Perry Parker, a prominent banker in Los Angeles, was abducted from her school. A man had appeared at the principal's office and said that her father had been injured in a terrible accident. Letters demanding money were sent to her father for several days. All the communications, which often taunted the parents, were signed with names such as, "Fate," "Death," and "The Fox." Negotiations with the suspect continued until a price was agreed upon and a meeting was set. Mr. Parker placed the ransom money, \$1,500 in cash, in a black bag and drove off to meet "The Fox." At the rendezvous, Mr. Parker handed over the money to a young man who was waiting for him in a parked car. When Mr. Parker paid the ransom, he could see his daughter, Marion, sitting in the passenger seat next to the suspect. As soon as the money was exchanged, the suspect drove off with the victim still in the car. At the end of the street, Marion's corpse was dumped onto the pavement. She was dead. Her legs had been chopped off and her eyes had been wired open

to appear as if she was still alive. Her internal organs had been cut out and pieces of her body were later found strewn all over the Los Angeles area.



William E. Hickman

A massive manhunt for her killer began that involved over 20,000 police officers and American Legion volunteers. Huge cash rewards were offered to anyone who could provide information that led to the identification and capture of "The Fox." Suspicion quickly settled upon a former employee of Mr. Parker named William Edward Hickman. Several years before the abduction, Hickman was arrested on a complaint by Mr. Parker regarding stolen and forged checks. Hickman was convicted and did prison time. Investigators compared his fingerprints with prints found on the ransom note. They matched. Hickman's photo was plastered all over the newspapers and sent to every police department on the west coast.

Only a week after the kidnapping murder, two officers who recognized him from the wanted posters, found Hickman in Echo, Oregon. He was conveyed back to Los Angeles where he promptly confessed to another murder he committed during a drug store hold-up. Eventually, Hickman confessed to a dozen armed robberies. "This is going to get interesting before it's over," he told investigators. "Marion and I were good friends," he said, "and we really had a good time when we were together and I really liked her. I'm sorry that she was killed." Hickman never said why he had killed the girl and cut off her legs. Though his attorneys attempted

to plead insanity for Hickman, the jury wouldn't buy it. He was convicted of murder and hanged at San Quentin prison in 1928.

The Marion Parker case shocked America and inflamed the public's feeling for vengeance against child abductors. The case subscribed to a pattern of kidnappings during that era and intensified the dread that parents felt toward the possibility of losing their own children. But the most famous child kidnapping case was still yet to come. The victim was the son of a true hero, a man who was revered throughout the entire world and who became one of the icons of American culture.

Elza Kenison's Murder

In 1908, on July 29, Elza Kenison was murdered by Grover Stoffel, who professed to love her, although she did not return his affections. Stoffel then hung himself in the Whitworth Barn, which is also known as the "Painted Barn." Hunted by a posse, Stoffel's body was shot by a member of the posse who thought he was standing. Famous Umatilla County Sheriff, Til Taylor led the posse.

Vigilante Justice

Cattle Rustling. In case you might forget that the Wild West was not just places like Tombstone, you can find stories of this area that are just as wild. One is the story of the lynching of a cattle rustler who lived at Echo near the Painted Barn. In 1864, William Stoten was lured from his home by a vigilante group of 15 to 20 men who believed he rustled cattle from Birch, Butter and Wild Horse creeks.

Col. Raley related the story thusly: "A search disclosed a number of hides buried under his cabin which was located about a half mile above where Echo stands and late at night a rap came to his door. He went to the door and was informed that a neighbor further up the river was sick and needed assistance. Stoten dressed, told his wife he would be back in the morning and disappeared into the darkness next to be seen swinging between three rails, a little southeast of Echo but still in plain view of where Echo now stands. The identity of the vigilance committee or particularly those taking part in the execution was never revealed though all old timers pretty generally knew of what persons the committee was composed." Dr. Eli Alderman was tried for killing Stoten, but acquitted.

Water Rights Execution. There is also the murder of a Mr. Smith in 1920, who lived on the Spike Ranch on the east side of the River, which became the Berry Place. Mildred Berry was the daughter of Elmer Spike and she recalls that her family did not farm this part of the ranch, since the river separated it from the main part of the farm. Her father Elmer let a Mr. Smith live there and he sold firewood to people in town as his livelihood. The Wilson Ditch, which has one of the oldest water rights in the area, travels through the farm where any remaining water drains back into the river. There had been disputes over the water rights for many years. While her

father was away, a posse got together after one of the farmers accused Smith of stealing water and then shot Smith. When Elmer Spike found out about the murder of Smith, he was furious and tried to get law enforcement to investigate. A newspaper article called Smith a “bad man.” In this version, Smith was stealing water and threatened to kill one of the posse. Smith is buried in the Echo Cemetery.

Murder in the Saloons. Further evidence of the Wild West days is the number of saloons in the town during the 1900s. At one time, there were supposed to have been eight saloons or bars in Echo. Paul Oliver, lifelong Echo resident, told of a murder at The Owl. A newspaper article in the 1910 Heppner Times supports Paul’s story. The Headlines declare: “Unearth Secret in Notorious Dive—Echo Will Unravel Mystery of Bones Found by Dog; Under old Owl Saloon—Believed That Man Who Foolishly Displayed Coin May Have Been Murdered For His Money.”

The bones were believed to be that of a sheepherder, Sam Stillwell, who had disappeared two years before. Stillwell, who worked for M.S. Corgill, had drawn a year’s pay. He had arranged to travel to the Rose Festival with Jake Wattenburger. Wattenburger was going to meet him in Heppner and they would travel from there to Portland. Stillwell never showed up. The article said at that time (1908) the town was “wide open” and it was not uncommon to hear outcries from the Owl, which was called the “Bucket of Blood” because of its reputation.

Some of the people at the Owl recalled that Stillwell had thrown \$400 in gold on the bar to show he could pay for drinks. After nightfall, someone said they saw him on the railway platform and he was intoxicated. The building next door to the Owl had been a saloon operated by a Pat Kine at the time Stillwell disappeared and a butcher shop the next year. In the spring nearby residents complained about a horrible stench and the City Marshall investigated, but could not find the cause of the odor. At the time the bones were recovered, a millinery store was in the building next to the Owl. “A public house of notorious character” operated upstairs in the Owl. Two years went by before a dog unearthed human bones from under the building next to the Owl. The Owl had been owned and operated by “Paddy” Ireland and “Butch” Curry. The city finally closed them down because of the bad reputation of the establishment. The two men went to Walla Walla; their license was pulled there also. Another article stated that residents believed these two men were involved in murdering Stillwell and burying him under the neighboring building.

Echo Bank Robbery. The Echo bank was robbed in 1926 of \$1500 by a very bold and ultimately stupid crook. Nona McFaul was the only clerk; she was left tied to grill of the counter. She got loose right away and ran upstairs to Dr. Buchholz’ dental office. He was able to look out the window and noted the license number on the Star automobile. Tom Boylen and Carl Gilbert jumped in their cars and raced after the man. “Near the Cold Springs Reservoir they caught up with an automobile, make and model answering the description, and forced the driver to submit to a search. They found no money, and the man had on such dirty old clothes, they were positive they had the wrong man so let the driver go and returned to Echo.” Way Back When.

However, later that day a Star automobile drove into town. The City Marshall stopped and searched the vehicle again and was about to let him go. Lester Lane, the mail carrier, happened by and stopped when he saw all the excitement. “He meandered over and also looked over the car. Mr. Lane noticed the car was the same make as his, but there was something that was different about the chassis. Lester soon discovered a false bottom on the car and under it

found the clothing and money.” The thief was James Mayes. He received three years in the state penitentiary for the robbery.

Prohibition. The area south and west of Echo still remains a vast open area, and during prohibition it was even more so. Many Echo men did not take kindly to the idea that the government was trying to control their alcohol consumption. As a result, this vast wild country was home to many moonshine stills. Since you could not travel the roads without raising a trail of dirt during the day and at night without headlights showing for miles, it made it a perfect place for stills to be hidden. Of course there were always people who gave tips to law enforcement, so the sheriff and his deputies were able to find and destroy a number of them. This did not stop the moonshiners and when irrigation allowed this land to be plowed, a few stills were plowed up. There may even be parts of a still or two hidden in the valleys or range land to this day.

Town Team Baseball. In the 1920s through 1940s, baseball was a popular form of weekend entertainment. Each town and the Indian Reservation had their team. Families would put together a picnic and travel to the baseball field to support their team. Murl Berry played ball into his 50s and his granddaughter said that for years old timers would ask if she was related to Berry because they remembered his pitching. Baseball rivals from surrounding towns and the reservation would travel to Berry’s service station long after their playing days were over and reminisce about their baseball years.

Places and Place Name Origins

Oregon Trail Arboretum. In 1993 the City of Echo established an arboretum on property the city owns east of the Echo Memorial Athletic Field and below the Feed Canal. To name the newly developed arboretum, the city had a contest asking for Echo school children to submit potential names. The 5th grade class submitted the winning entry: Oregon Trail Arboretum. Interpretive panels provide information on the history of trees in Echo, the Tree City, USA program and native trees and shrubs. Individual trees and shrubs have markers that tell about the plants.

Hotel Echo. The Hotel Echo advertised that it was the “Largest Hotel on the U.P. System between The Dalles and Pendleton—Caters to auto tourists and commercial trade: Special rates to regulars. Farmers and Stockmen Always welcome.” The large two-story wooden building took up most of the block where the Echo City Trailer Park is located now. On the ground floor were card rooms, a restaurant and drummer’s rooms and at one time even a barber shop. The Chinese Laundry behind also catered to customers. Drummers or traveling salesmen could set up their sample cases with miniature furniture, stoves or other items early Echo residents could order and have delivered by train. The hotel was convenient not only because of these rooms, but because the drummers could easily carry their sample cases and luggage the short distance from the depot and then walk around the corner to the livery stable. There they could hire a horse and buggy for transport to surrounding farms. In 1915 Nib Ying, proprietor, was advertising “Chinese Noodles and Chop Suey. Fresh Bread for Sale Also” in his restaurant on the ground floor of the hotel. The building burned in 1925.

The Echo Bakery and Confectionery. Henry “Heinie” and Hulda (Bottger) Peters operated the bakery, which became a center for family gatherings and for courting couples. The wrought iron ice cream parlor chairs and tables and homemade ice cream made this an attractive place to meet. The smell of fresh maple bars also attracted business. They served sandwiches on homemade breads, hot chocolate, sodas and other beverages. It included a candy store with loose bulk candy and boxes of candy with fancy ribbons.

George Park. Though commonly known as the “City Park,” the park along the side of city hall is officially known as the “George Park.” The community used these three lots as a park from the early 1900s when F.T. and Marian George acquired the land for \$900. George hired Tom Able to clear the lots and plant grass. The Echo Needlecraft Club, of which Mrs. George was a charter member, planted trees. However, the city did not own the park until 1967. Marian George Berg, the Georges’ daughter, donated the land to the city. A stone monument in the park memorializes



the Georges. At the dedication ceremony, the following was read: “In their [Georges’] name we here dedicate this place as intended, for use of all, that the kindness that marked their relationship with their neighbors in the past may continue, now that they are no longer

here. Let us who are among the beneficiaries of this gift, receive it with gratitude and care for it with thanksgiving.”

The Georges would not have been pleased with the look of the park in 1983 when the grass was patchy and the old stone fireplace was falling down. In the last 20 years, there has been a remarkable transformation of this park that would make the Georges’ proud. A gazebo designed by Diane Berry and constructed by Gene Berry with help of other Berry family members and Arnie Neely and Darin Welch was constructed in the mid 1980s. Funds for materials came from a state parks grant, but labor came from volunteers. In the early 1980s, Marv Laughlin volunteered his time to help the city crew make a restroom in the rear section of the old hose cart house, which was remodeled in 2002.

A rose garden was added in the 1980s and raised gardens, fencing and other landscaping has been improved and added each year. In 2001, a courtyard with a pond and waterfall was added. Until city hall was renovated, there was no access to the park from the building. One of the prospective architects for the project suggested adding a door. He said the park was so beautiful that the building should have direct access to it. The French door from the library into the park and the courtyard and reading area sprang from this suggestion.

Tragically, the locust trees planted by the Needlecraft Club began to die back as the result of topping over the years, along with locust borer infestations and damage. In the mid-1980s through 1999, these trees were removed and a diversified forest reestablished. The park now has a variety of trees from oaks to a dogwood. The atmosphere and appearance of the park are so attractive that is often used for weddings and receptions.

Chinese House/O.R. & N. Museum. This building was originally a bunkhouse for early railroad section crews. The first crews were Chinese, so their bunk house was called the “China House.” The “White House,” which was larger, was for white crews and later the foreman and his family. Each had a separate outhouse, since in the 1880s when the buildings were constructed, prejudice kept them from sharing. The China House was moved twice before ending up on the SW corner of Bonanza and Bridge streets. At the present location, the building is now a museum housing artifacts excavated from the White House privy pit, railroad tools and promotional items and Echo historic pictures. Students from Mount Hood Community College and volunteers provided the labor for the excavations at the White House privy pit. Dr. John Woodward directed the excavations in the early 1900s. Chief in number among the artifacts excavated from the site were liquor bottles and patent medicine bottles. The lack of other entertainment must have made drinking their chief form of entertainment. Although the pit was from the White House and not the China House, Chinese artifacts, such as rice wine bottles, opium tins, Chinese medicine bottles and porcelain, were excavated. Railroad tools, railroad china fragments, and even parts of a doll were excavated from the site.

Places

Dead Dog Alley. Dead Dog Alley was a popular party location and a parking place for couples in the 1940s through 1960s. In the fall of 1946, a large dog, probably a stray or one dumped there, showed up at the Echo School. The dog stole lunches and bit some kids; Warren Center was the principal. The principal asked student Charles Daly to get rid of the dog. Many of those who could drive brought shotguns to school to hunt afterwards, so this was a reasonable request. Daly along with Bob White and Denny Jordan loaded the dog in Daly’s car and took him to Dead Dog Alley and did away with him. They left him by the road and the body was still there next spring. After that people talked about going to Dead Dog Alley and later just Dead Dog.

Echo Memorial Athletic Field/Charles Berry Stadium. The Echo athletic field started out in 1913 as the first city park. When Echo residents approved a bond in 1913, \$10,000 was provided for the construction of the city hall building and \$3,000 for purchase and development of a city park. The debate was whether to acquire this parcel or the area along the river known as Spike Grove. Ultimately, land was purchased from the Koontz family. The city later sold the field to the school district for \$150 with the stipulation that the city had the right of purchase for the

original price if the school was ever to put this land up for sale. After World War II, local ranchers, volunteers and the VFW got together to improve the field, which was dirt, salt grass and swamp. The field was then dedicated as the Echo Memorial Field; a flagpole and plaque bearing the names of Echo's veterans killed in action were added.

In 1998, a group of citizens went to the Echo School Board asking that the football section of the athletic field be named for Charles Berry. Berry was a noted Echo football player from 1975-78, All State and Shrine player and 1996-98 assistant football coach. Berry died in May 1999, 39 years of age, after fighting a battle with cancer. A large granite erratic boulder was placed near the athletic field gate as a memorial and source of inspiration for Echo athletes. A plaque with information about Berry and the Spirit Rock were purchased with memorial donations.

Happy Canyon. According to Ad Nye and related in Reminiscences of Oregon Pioneers, the name Happy Canyon applies to a portion of the Umatilla River from the Barnhart Station to the Jack Morton farm. The name was applied to the area because of communal dances held during 1868.

Col. Raley described Happy Canyon as being *"the next most important point of early day history, the Umatilla Round-up grounds being most important."* Raley wrote, *"Happy Canyon derives its name from the happy spirit of freedom and social enjoyment of the people of that vicinity and up and down the river."* There was an annual picnic. More frequently, families in the area gathered for dancing, horse racing, card games and *"general amusements."* A section of the bottom land was cleared and packed to make a dance floor. Raley said Ad Nye first suggested the name "Happy Canyon." Finally, Raley explained, *"The original Happy Canyon was and is at Nolin and the spirit inculcated at that place is portrayed in the present Happy Canyon at Pendleton and our indoor show adopted this name in commemoration of the happy pioneer days of the canyon down the river."* J. Roy Raley, Colonel Raley's son wrote the original pageant.

Spikes' Grove. Site of local picnics. One of the more notable picnics was the 1902 May Day picnic that Governor George E. Chamberlain attended; he was the honored guest. This site along the Umatilla River just outside the south city limits boundary was the site of the first church services in the town, where people would meet with circuit ministers (pre-1885). It was also the site of early Methodist-Episcopal congregation meetings before the church was built. People also gathered there for Memorial Day and 4th of July community picnics. Young people from the community would skate on the slough through the 1950s. Children would also gather to build forts, explore the river and just hang out through the 1960s, at which time the cottonwood forest was harvested. It is now an open field, and only the native trees along the slough remain. Generally the site was used before public meeting halls and other facilities were available.

Grey Back Flat. The Echo area was formerly called Grey Back Flat prior to the platting of a town and the naming of the town as "Echo." The name Grey Back Flat comes from Colonel J.H. Raley. Raley explained, *"The large flat or tract of bottomland where Echo is now...was the camping ground for pack trains, freight teams and immigrants and would often have a population of ten to thirty."*

Picket Rock. Picket Rock is a large granite erratic on the hillside approximately a mile east of town. The erratic boulder is of interest to geology students, for it is evidence of the Missoula Floods and was carried to this spot from western Montana. The name of the rock carries two naming stories and each has local proponents.

The oldest explanation asserts that the rock is so named because it was here that sentries from Fort Henrietta kept guard duty. This story is recounted in Tolar's Echoes From the Past, as well as in The Exciting History of Fort Henrietta. Given the poor visibility from the rock, John Woodward, who led the excavation of the fort in the 1980s, believes that the rock and the area around it were where soldiers from the fort picketed their horses. This site was far enough away from the fort to allow them to forage, as the grass around the fort was depleted. Most likely, the soldiers guarded the horses closely given their value.

Thomas Smith, a soldier at Fort Henrietta who later settled in Echo, recounted a story about the rock, part of which is documented in the Exciting Story of Fort Henrietta. On November 22, 1855, the horse guard at the rock was startled when a dog came up to him. He was excited at first to see the dog, until he realized that the only dogs in the area were Indian dogs. He hid behind the rock as he could see a large party of Indians on the hills within site of the rock. As soon as the Indians were out of site, he ran back to the fort. Scouts found *"a large circle marked in the sand with five smaller circles within it and a heart drawn. In two of the circles were sticking four little twigs each; in one three; in one two; and in the heart one."* An old mountaineer interpreted this to be a message to PeoPeoMoxMox, Walla Walla Chief, *"that the Cayuse numbering 400, the Yakimas, 400, the Klickitats, 300, the Deschutes, 200 and the Palouses, 200; were all of one hostile 'tumtum' and allies of HIS BIRD majesty."* The bird majesty refers to one of the translations of PeoPeoMoxMox as meaning "Yellow Bird."

Trails. Echo is significant because of the many trails that cross through the area. The Oregon Trail is one of the best known, but it is just one of many. Among the preserved sections of the Oregon Trail are Corral Springs, Echo Meadows and Ewings Crossings. The crossing of the Umatilla River afforded by the low water where the river entered the Meadows area made the area a good spot for fording the river. Emigrant Rev. John McAllister wrote that in September of 1852 the river was dry.

A prominent trail used by various tribes led from the mouth of the Umatilla River through the Meadows and toward Willow Springs and



through southern John Day River country. The Walla Walla Trail runs roughly from the site of the Whitman Mission to the area around Stanfield and on to connect with the Oregon Trail near Echo. Later trails led from the Echo area to the Blue Mountains, used for moving cattle and sheep. Doug Clement, former Echo Mayor, helped with cattle drives in the 1970s from Cunha Brothers Ranch (now Snow Ranch) to the Blue Mountains beyond Battle Mountain. He said the trail was still readily visible across the desert, and even after the drives ended some of the older cows would head toward the trail in the spring. Cattle Drive Road near Pilot Rock overlays or runs near this trail.

Umatilla Round-Up Grounds. The large relatively flat section of bottom land that is today Echo was, according to Colonel Raley, once the largest and most widely used round-up grounds in the county. Raley asserts that at least once, and perhaps twice a year in the spring and fall, the area was used to gather cattle and horses and separate them for their various owners. Again, according to Raley, *“there were no buildings on this flat east of the river, excepting a small log house [Stotens/Switzler’s field?] located at the extreme southern side of the flat and owned and part of the time occupied by G.W. Palmer, a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Frank Maddock, and who was with him at the time Hank Vaughn killed one deputy and seriously wounded Sheriff Maddock. ... At that time there were no fences anywhere in the country except some tracts along the streams and river bottoms. It was a wide open range.”* There were several of the roundup grounds over this vast range land. However, Raley notes *“the round-up at Echo usually contained the largest gathering of stock and riders.”*

At the annual Round-Up at the Umatilla Round-Up Grounds, there would occasionally be as many as 15 to 20 men and perhaps some two to three hundred head of cattle. The riders during the round-up would often ride wild and unbroken horses, but usually at camp and after the day’s work was done. From these ancient round-ups, and especially the old Umatilla Round-Up conducted where Echo now stands, the present world famous and spectacular Round-Up adopted its name, hence the “Pendleton Round-Up.”

Green Arnold’s Cabin. Now and then, there have been references to Green Arnold living in a log cabin on the east side of the river on the south end of the valley near Echo. This may be the “old” log cabin that Pamela Teel Spike described on her family place on the east side of the river. Since Pamela was born about 1870 in Echo, for her to describe a cabin as old it had to have been around for a long time. Mildred Searcey in We Remember describes how Green Arnold ended up at Utilla Indian Agency from the spring of 1854 to 1855. This building was not noted on the 1859 Chapman survey. However, Spike and her daughter Mildred Berry said it was located in the middle of cottonwood trees, in or near an orchard her family started along the slough located on the farm, so it may not have been visible.

In 1853, Green took provisions with him from Champoeg, where he had been living, with the intent of establishing a trading post at the foot of Ladd Canyon. On the way, he stopped at Utilla. While there a man named Throstle got into an argument with one of the Indians and shot him. Throstle then rode off. This of course added to already tense relations between Indians and whites. Arnold tried to act as peacemaker and convinced the Indians not to act as he would personally see that the man was punished. He sent a letter to the Indian Agent R.R. Thompson at The Dalles concerning the situation. When he received word three days later that Thompson was in Portland and to abandon the agency, Arnold ignored the reply from Nathan Olney. He invited Chief Winapsnoot to supper and told the Chief that he was in charge of the agency while Green

went to The Dalles to see Thompson. The Chief, he said, was in charge of the white men as well as provisions, so if any harm came to either, the Winapsnoot would be responsible. Thompson had promised to follow Green back, and try to resolve the situation, but he did not. Green meanwhile had his hands full trying to reassure the Indians, who were ready to go to war. Green stayed behind, but had first two men and then another three sneak away on horseback as opportunity allowed. The men told Thompson how serious the situation was at the agency and he finally returned to the agency with 75 soldiers and resolved the problem. Luckily, the injured Indian recovered, which also helped to lessen tensions.

Because of the tensions, Green did not go on to Ladd Canyon, but upon request of the Indians, he remained at Uvilla until April 1855. He remained a friend of many of the Indians even after the Yakima Indian War began later in 1855. Arnold started out as a 49er to California, like many of the settlers who came to first settle eastern Oregon. He was the first white man to settle in the Pendleton vicinity, adjacent to William McKay's claim at the mouth of Birch Creek.

David R. Koontz Gravesite. Just south of Echo, along the railroad right-of-way, is the grave of David R. Koontz. David Koontz was no relation to Cynthia and J.H. Koontz. Instead, he was a traveler on the Oregon Trail, who died and was buried. Koontz was born in 1830 in Ohio and he carved his name and the date, July 7, 1852, on the north face of the bluff near modern La Barge, Wyoming. There is no record of how Koontz died, but his brother-in-law died from cholera. Boy Scouts in 1915 found the grave, erected a headstone and built a fence around it. Circa 1990, the city helped to restore the site and place an interpretive sign.

Stage Gulch. The source of this name is unclear, but the early stage road crossed the gulch from Twelve Mile House near Stanfield, heading southwest toward the Wells or Echo. It may also come from an early stage robbery on the gulch.

The Wells or Wells Station. The Wells was a watering hole on the freight road that traveled from the Stanfield area (Twelve Mile House) overland toward Pendleton (then Upper Umatilla). According To Col. Raley, this was the only water available on the "main traveled road" between Pendleton and Stanfield. Therefore someone developed a stage stop at the site and charged a fee for watering there. This was around 1868. A wonderful artesian well was later drilled by the Meyers Family, who acquired the land in the early 1900s. Because of the spring at the Wells, Indians had camped there leaving behind tools and artifacts that Marsh Meyers remembered as a boy.

The source for the following Echo area place names is Oregon Geographic Names by Lewis L. McArthur.

Butter Creek. There are two theories: 1) The diary of John T. Kerns, an Oregon Trail emigrant says under the date Sept. 9, 1852 that Butter Creek was named because some volunteers took butter from the stores during the Cayuse War. A Cayuse Battle Field was located between Butter Creek and Wells Springs in the Sand Hollow area. The battle continued west crossing Butter Creek and the soldiers camped on the Umatilla near present day Echo. Therefore, this may be the source for this story. Lila McKay, daughter of William McKay agrees with this story, saying the

butter was taken from the officers' mess so the enlisted men could have butter for hot cakes. 2) That a group of emigrants found some stale butter on the bank of the creek.

Service Buttes. These are buttes or hills between the Umatilla River and Butter Creek about 8 miles Southwest of town. Highest elevation 1685 feet. There is Service Canyon to the southwest of the buttes and Service Creek north of the buttes. They are all named for the native plant the service berry, which is also called shadblow, shadbush or juneberry (*Amelanchier* family). McArthur says this is probably the most mispronounced botanical word in the west, "*the uneducated invariably making it sarvis berry.*" The local pronunciation for these geographic places is one of the "*uneducated ones,*" as Sarvis is the local version.



Umatilla River. Because of its Indian origin, this word has had a variety of spellings. Lewis and Clark labeled it Youmalolam. Other versions by early explorers: You-matella, Umatalow, Utalla, Utilla, Ewmitilly, Fremont: Umatilah; Irving: Eu-o-tal-la; Parker: Umatella. McArthur says he doesn't know of a reliable source for the name. One version repeated locally is that it roughly translates water rippling over sands.

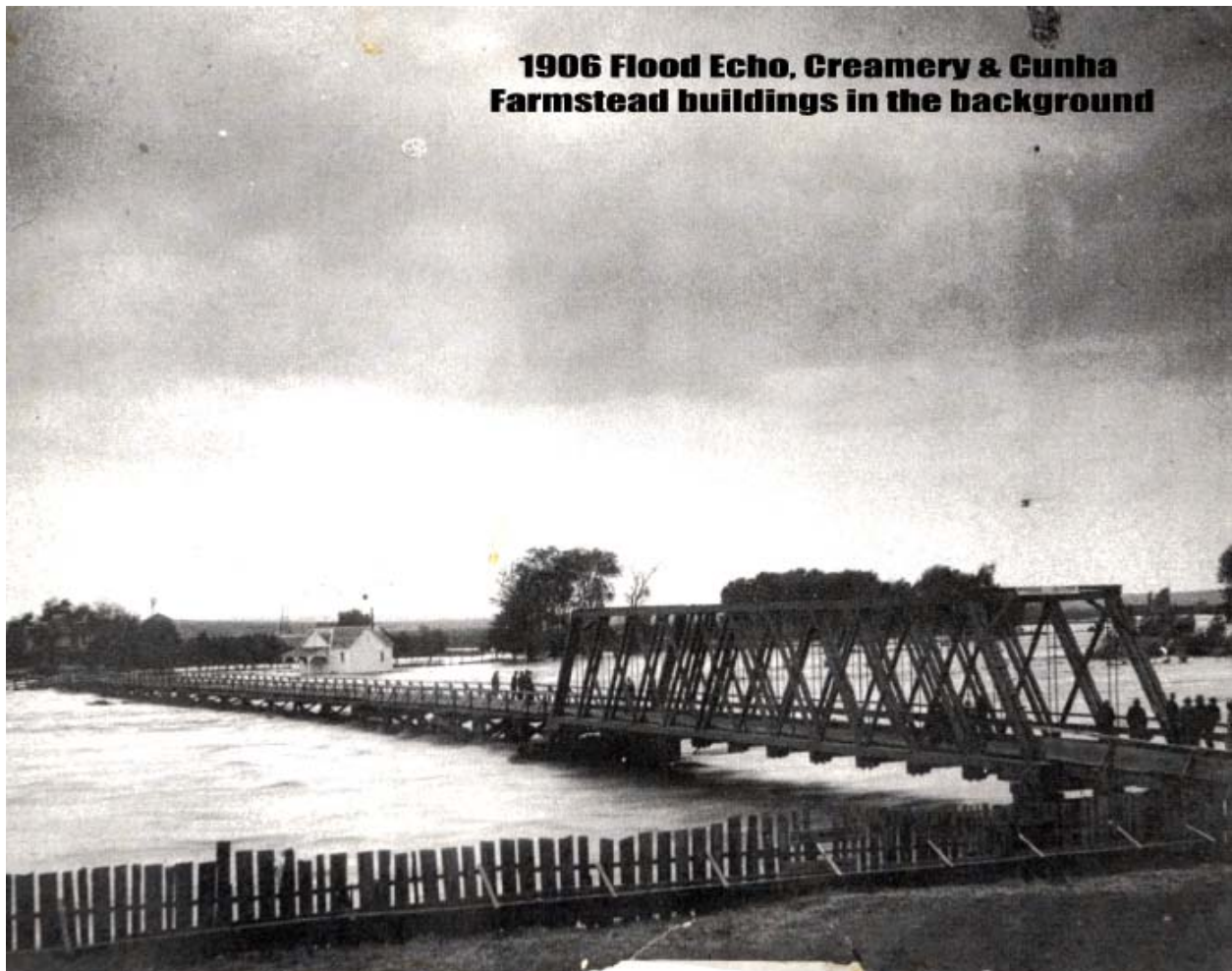
Spikes Gulch. Spikes Gulch north to Echo Meadows from Service Butte area. It is either named for Elting J. Spike, who "*took up*" land near its northern end in 1909, or for Robert and Steve Spike, his nephews who farmed it for many years.

Vey Spring. Located east of Service Buttes. Named for Joseph Vey.

Meadows/Umatilla Meadows/Echo Meadows. The area west of Echo extending north toward Hermiston was called the Meadows, *“because of its characteristic appearance and contradistinction to the canyon of Umatilla River.”*

Yoakum. Named for HG “Prior” Yoakum, who ranched ten miles southeast of Echo along the Umatilla River. He was one of the Happy Canyon settlers, fiddler and County Judge in 1867.

Ward Butte. This butte is west of Butter Creek, 9 miles from Echo. It is named for Charles Ward, an Echo settler who married into the McCullough Family. They homesteaded at its base.



Chapter VI:

EVENTS

Fort Henrietta Days

Fort Henrietta Days were held in Echo from 1984 through 1997. It was a popular event celebrating the history of the area and the Oregon Trail. The days produced a regular influx of visitors,

some tourist dollars and an outpouring of community spirit. Events included Art Show, Vintage Clothing Show, Parade, Run, Quilt and Craft Show, Blackpowder Rendezvous, Golf Tournament, and Scarecrow Contest (last three years). Materials related to the Days can be found in



Ft. Henrietta Days Rendezvous.

Chapter III, under Fort Henrietta and in the bibliography. Fort Henrietta Days and other efforts by the city to promote historical tourism won the city recognition from League of Oregon Cities in the 1980s.

Christmas Lighting

Echo residents have taken pride in and made a production of the friendly competition over Christmas lighting and decorating each year for at least the last 25 years. Christmas lighting has become a matter of pride, especially for owners of the historic buildings. In particular, the historic homes along Dupont Street (Koontz, Thomson and Ross Houses) and the Esteb House on Kennedy Street attract visitors from throughout the area each season. Visitors

often comment that when they come over the hill from I-84 its so bright it looks like the strip in Las Vegas. Long-time Echo resident, former Echo businessman and mayor Darrell Power gets credit for lighting the fire that started the Christmas Decorating efforts.

City Hall Renovation

The city and its residents raised over \$500,000 through foundation grants, engraved brick sales, donations and government grants to renovate this 8,000-square-foot building which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The project was completed in 2000. The effort was so successful that the city received a “Crown Communities” award from “American City County” magazine in 2000 and an award from the League of Oregon Cities in 2001.

Echo Quarterback Club Fish Feeds

The stag fish feeds have been held for more than 50 years to raise funds for school and community projects. While called a fish feed, the dinners are a mouth watering serving of lobster, crab, shrimp, steamer clams, homemade coleslaw and bread. The couples fish feed was added later, but has been around for over 30 years. (See Quarterback Club under organizations.)

Tree Fair

Since 1998, the city has sponsored an annual Tree Fair/Arbor Day celebration in conjunction with the school science fair. The fair promotes the importance of trees in the environment and educates the public and young people about Echo’s “urban forest.” Prizes are given to the best class project, best Arbor Day posters and best tree related science fair project. Tree City USA balloons, tree-related door prizes and refreshments are given away.

Fort Henrietta Centennial Celebration

On July 4-5, 1955, Echo celebrated the centennial of the establishment of Fort Henrietta. There was a parade with 30 entries, concession stands, and races. Mayor Terry Shrunk of Portland was the main speaker following a picnic in George Park. After lunch there was judging for a beard contest. Gaylord Madison was declared winner because he wore a top hat and tails with his beard; other winners: Bob Ramos, bushiest; Ben Krause, curliest; John McCarty, longest; Dill Penney, toughest; Verle Matheny, youngest; Floyd Abercrombie, nearest-to-nothing. Rod Esselstyn’s band provided music. Contests were also held for best old time wedding dresses and bonnets. Other events included a variety show and VFW cowboy breakfast.

Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial

The Echo Community Boosters organized Echo’s contributions to the Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial efforts. Jill Thorne of Pendleton coordinated the event for the state of Oregon and helped organize a wagon trail that traveled from Wyoming (?) to Oregon City. The train camped in Echo along the river on the Snow Ranch, about 400 feet north of the Fort Henrietta Site. Main Street was lined with Echo residents, tourists and residents of surrounding towns who greeted the wagon train as they crossed the railroad tracks. Tony Correa and his son rode with

the train from Corral Springs into town. Wagon train participants were required to wear authentic or reproduction costumes and many Echo residents also dressed up. Cowboy beans (a combination of baked and chili beans) using Shirley Cunha Snow's Portuguese recipe was prepared by the boosters and Echo ladies provided pies, cakes and salads. Many of the people on the train said they were tired of baked beans after being served them in so many towns along the trail, so they almost didn't come to the meal. The participants said they were glad they did show up, since until that point the dinner in Echo was the best they had had. The dinner was followed by speeches and Oregon Trail era and folk songs around the campfires in the camp.



Ft. Henrietta scarecrow contest.