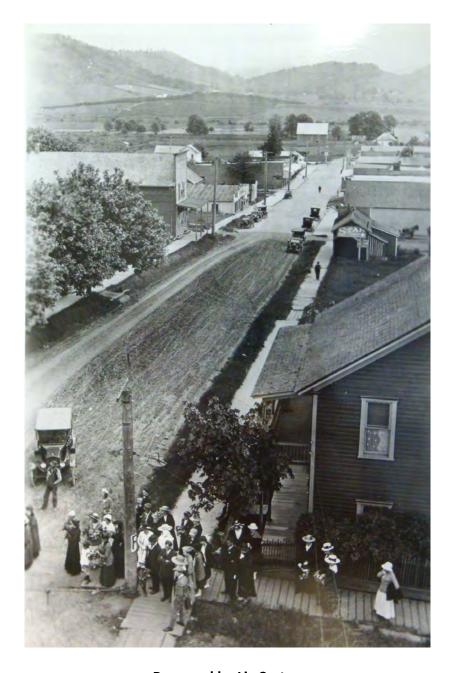
YONCALLA

Historical Timeline

1848-1960



Prepared by Liz Carter for North Douglas Betterment Feburary 2014

This document was prepared with grant funding from North Douglas Betterment as part of the Yoncalla Log Ponds Project.

The intent of this timeline is to provide a brief historical background of the community of Yoncalla leading up to and including development of the Yoncalla Log Pond site.

Sources have been noted, and an annotated bibliography follows the main portion of the document.

This document provides an outline of Yoncalla history, and is not intended to be comprehensive. One obvious gap is the relationship between early settlers and the native people. Because others are engaged in the Native American history of the area, this work does not include extensive reference to that important aspect of Yoncalla history. Another study focused on the Log Pond site itself, and references to milling and lumber sites in this timeline are to serve as contextual background for the development of that site.

Research included careful review of existing primary and secondary documents. The 2001 publication *Yoncalla Yesterday* provided a great deal of background information, as did Stephen Dow Beckham's book *Land of the Umpqua* and A.G. Walling's 1884 work on the history of southern Oregon. Newspaper research was conducted to the degree possible, and historical maps from the General Land Office, as well as Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and Metsker's Atlas maps were also reviewed. Historic images from the Douglas County Museum (as well as other sources) provided images of the community from the late nineteenth century onward, while aerial photographs from the 1940s to the 1960s presented broader photographic views of Yoncalla and its environs during the middle years of the twentieth century. Additional research material such as copies or scans of historic photographs, newspaper articles or clippings, maps and aerial photographs are included in the accompanying material.

The limitations (time and budget) of this project did not allow for full research and analysis of all source materials. Because of these limits, the following resources, which are time-intensive to research, were not visited or comprehensively studied, but may provide additional information relevant to the Log Pond Project.

- Newspapers: Internet sites such as Oregon Historic Newspapers and Genealogybank.com made key-word searching of some select newspapers very straightforward. However, these sites do not include the smaller community newspapers that are likely to have more detailed stories about Yoncalla and the North Douglas region. The smaller publications are available on microfilm at the University of Oregon, and can be researched in the library page-by-page/issue-by-issue (i.e. no index or word search is available).
- Historical Societies: The Oregon Historical Society website was reviewed for potential
 information pertinent to this project, but no visit was made to the archives for in-person
 research. Communication with the Yoncalla Historical Society was challenging (2-month
 wait for response), and it appears that the Society has no research-able holdings.
 Several photographs were emailed to the author, but little more was achieved. The
 Douglas County Museum may have additional information if searching expanded
 beyond the "Yoncalla-Drain Area."
- University of Oregon Special Collections: The University's collection of letters and other unpublished documents was not researched, but likely hold information relevant to the development of the town and the various lumber interests.

- Frustratingly, no city directories for the town of Yoncalla were discovered, although several were referenced in secondary source material. Review of directories would aid in clarifying the overall makeup of the business and industrial communities in Yoncalla, as well as identifying specific occupants and their locations.
- Oral Histories: Beyond the information in the publication Yoncalla Yesterday, this
 timeline does not incorporate any oral history testimony. Future, more comprehensive
 work would certainly benefit from the use of oral histories and family reminiscences.
 Inquiries of a number Yoncalla citizens regarding their own family collections of
 photographs and documents could also help fill gaps in the his timeline.

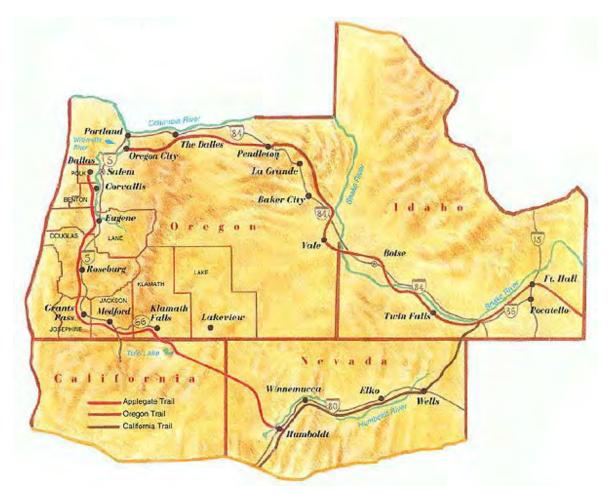
Given the relative brevity of this work, it is not surprising that a number of potential future research projects emerged in the process of researching the town and the log pond site itself. These may include the following:

- A detailed deed records search for the ownership sequence of the log pond site
- A more comprehensive search in Oregon newspapers for stories related to Yoncalla community history and mill-specific events.
- A more intensive historical study of the history of the timber and milling industry in and around the Yoncalla area, including information on the earliest mills in the community, and its impact on the community
- A more intensive historical study of the history and impact of transportation development in and around Yoncalla
- Research on the housing that was constructed by ESSCo on the Yoncalla Lumber Company site, including analysis of the remaining house that was moved off of the Company land and survives at a new location
- The preparation of a complete, chronological historical context for the town of Yoncalla, which would aid in future planning, research, and identification of historic sites in the community
- A re-survey of the historic buildings and sites in and around Yoncalla, which would update the existing data that was gathered in the 1980s and did not address sites built after about 1940

The history of Yoncalla is full of personalities and events that are sometimes typical and many times unique, all certainly deserving of more detailed attention than could be paid in this brief document. Nonetheless, it is hoped that this cursory view into the town's development will be helpful in the future work and planning related to North Douglas Betterment's efforts to develop the Yoncalla Log Pond property.

YONCALLA TIMELINE (late 19th century - mid-20th century)

Year	Event
1843	The first major migration to Oregon, which included future Yoncalla residents the Applegate families (of Charles, Lindsay and Jesse), Robert Smith, William H. Wilson, and possibly others, traveled overland into the Willamette Valley.
1846	The "Applegate Trail," also known as Southern Route, was scouted and opened to emigrants by a party including Jesse and Lindsay Applegate, Robert Smith, Levi Scott and others.



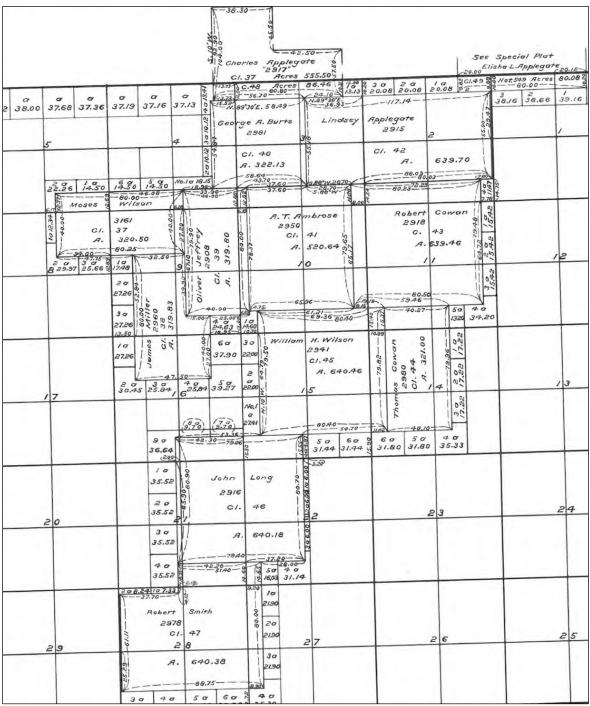
Modern map showing Oregon, California, and Applegate Trails. Courtesy http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ortttp/History/Trails/Applegate-Trail/applegate.htm

10/10	Levi Scott & sons and brothers Robert and Thomas Cowan settled in Scotts Valley &
1848	Yoncalla areas (Walling 400-401)

Jesse Applegate, J.T. Cooper, and John Long arrived in the Yoncalla area. The Applegates relocated from claims they had made in Polk County.

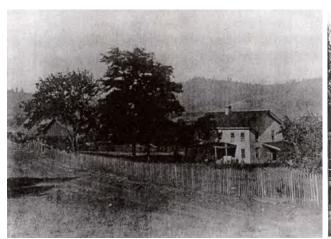
1849

"In the Spring of 1849 Jesse Applegate took his homestead in Yoncalla Valley, near by, his brothers, Charles and Lindslay [sic], soon following. Then came other pioneer families... [who] settled on adjoining farms." (*Plaindealer*, 2/22/1903)



1857 General Land Office map showing donation claims in the Yoncalla area.

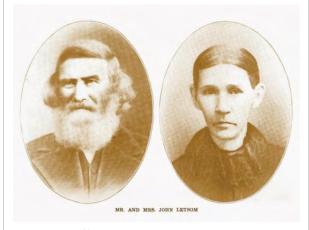
1849	John Jay Kellogg established a sawmill mill at Kellogg, about 20 miles west of Yoncalla; this was one of the first (or the first) saw and gristmill in the northern part of the county. "In the summer of 1857, John Hay Kellog [sic] fell into the mill penstock and drowned. Sons, Barney and Lyman, continued to operate the mill until it was carried away by the high water of 1860-61." (Guyer, 98; Moulton, Ch. 10, p 5)	
1850	Charles & Melinda Applegate and family, Robert Smith and William Wilson settled in the Yoncalla area	





Left: Robert & Susan Applegate Smith House (Image scanned from *Yoncalla Yesterday*)
Right: Charles and Melinda Applegate House in 1955 (Oregon State Library image)

Early 1850s John Letsom opened a blacksmith shop "...on the old Oregon and California Stage road where he took care of all repair work on the stages as well as shoeing the horses." (Kruse, 4)



Courtesy http://oregongiftsofcomfortandjoy.blogspot.com/2011/02/early-oregon-john-letsom.html

1850s

Scottsburg, known for some time as the "metropolis of southwestern Oregon" was founded in 1850. The community was the head of Umpqua River navigation and therefore an important regional shipping center. By 1852 Scottsburg was the location of 15 businesses, wharfs and warehouses, many established for the purpose of shipping supplies to miners in California. The *Umpqua Gazette* started in Scottsburg in 1854 before being sold and shipped to Jacksonville where the name was changed to the *Table Rock Sentinel* in 1855. (Beckham, 140)

1850	Members of Winchester Exploring Expedition felled trees for use as ship spars and pilings, resulting in the first export of wood products from the region (Beckham, 216)
	Early Umpqua Valley settlers had to "make due initially with their whipsaws." A lack of adequate means to transport lumber & wood products "seriously checked potential sales and expansion of the industry" in Douglas Co. until the mid-1870s.
1850-53	In the northern part of what is now Douglas County, early sawmill developers included (in addition to John Kellogg), Newton Mulvaney and Felix Starr. Mulvaney erected a "sashtype sawmill on Pass Creek north of Drain about 1852-53. This site was subsequently developed as Hudson, or Leona, Oregon." (All from Beckham, 216-218)





Left: A whip, or pit saw. (http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/98/Whipsaw2-1898.jpg)
Right: An up-and-down, or sash saw. (http://www.pbase.com/image/93225422)

1851	Thomas Smith & Calvin C. Reed built a sawmill near Winchester, on the North Umpqua River, about 23 miles south of Yoncalla. (Evans, 396)
	Lindsay Applegate and sons operated a water-powered grist mill on Halo Creek. (Moulton, Ch 7, p8)
	The 1 st mercantile in Yoncalla valley was a small "store kept by Jesse Applegate on his donation land claim north of the present town" (Kruse, 48; Beckham, 143)
	The first Yoncalla Post Office was sanctioned on March 14, 1851, but not opened until September 1851 at Jesse Applegate's house north of the present town. (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxiv and 504)
	The 1 st school house in Yoncalla "was of logs built in the northwest part of the Charles Applegate claim where the Herman Theil house now stands. The first teacher was James Applegate, seventeen year old son of Charles." (Kruse, 52; <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 468)



Detail of 1856 General Land Office map with 1st schoolhouse indicated.

1851-52	Gold was discovered at Rich Gulch in southern Oregon, and the mining town of Jacksonville (Jackson County) was established.
1852	In 1852, Moses True Dyer was one of the first to build a sawmill in the Umpqua watershed, at Myrtle Creek. The mill had a water-powered "up-and-down" saw, also known as a sash saw. (Beckham, 218)
	Jesse Applegate operated a mill on Salt Creek (Moulton, Ch 7, p 8)
Circa 1853	David Ransome and possibly Josiah Knott - operated the first sawmill in the community of Canyonville. (Beckham, 218)
1853	George Burt settled his Donation Land Claim at what is current town of Yoncalla (Genealogical Forum)





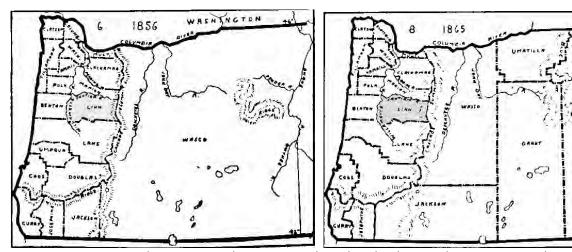
Left: Undated portrait of George Burt, courtesy findagrave.com
Right: The George Burt House, courtesy University of Oregon's "Building Oregon" website.

1854	Felix Starr constructed a sawmill about 12 miles above Oakland on Calapooya Creek. The length of the sawmill operation is not known, and Starr died in 1871. At least one source (Gaston) named this the first sawmill in Douglas County. (Beckham, 218; Gaston, 344)
Mid-1850s	The U.S. government attempted to forcibly move the original residents of the Yoncalla region, members of the Komemma tribe, to reservations. Camafeema, also known as Chief Halo, resisted, and Lindsay Applegate, with help from his brothers Jesse and Charles, intervened. As a result Camafeema and several members of his family remained on their ancestral land near Yoncalla.
1856	Robert Cowan purchased rough-sawn lumber to begin building a lumber house. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 22)
1857	The 2 nd school in Yoncalla, also of log construction, was built on one acre of land that George Burt donated specifically for school and county purposes. (This property, part of Burt's donation claim, was on the corner of Douglas St. and Cemetery Rd.)" (Beckham, 144; Kruse, 52; <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 468)
1858	"Yoncalla Institute was charteredby E.L. Applegate, Lindsay Applegate, John Long, W.H. Wilson and James Miller. The school was to have power to confer academic and collegiate degrees and such honorary degrees as are conferred by colleges in the United States." (Pemberton, 240)
1859	A new wood-frame, two-story school building was constructed with school rooms below and a courtroom and county offices above. The building contractor was Elisha L. Applegate. This school stood until 1884 when it was replaced with a smaller one-story, one-room building. (Kruse, 52; <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 468)
1860	The A.T. Ambrose House was completed in 1860. The two-story house was built with lumber hauled by ox team from the Mulvaney mill (near Drain). Located along the stage route (later Highway 99) the Ambrose house was used also as stage stop. The house burned in 1946 and the barn was also lost to fire in 1995. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 131-133)



The Alfred T. Ambrose House in the mid-1930s. Courtesy Historic American Building Survey.

1860	John Letsom moved from his claim in Scotts Valley to Yoncalla, where he opened a blacksmith shop and served as postmaster. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 342)
	Population of Yoncalla are was about 250. (Douglas County Museum, "Timeline")
1860s	Early roads into the Yoncalla Valley bypassed the current site of the town altogether. "By a united effort of the settlers a better road was built from Drain to an above Boswell Springs, through the Charles and Jesse Applegate farms and over the Burt hill in to Yoncalla, then south through the Ambrose, Wilson, Long and Smith farms. It became the Oregon and California Stage road." (Kruse, 54-55)
	Horse-drawn farm equipment arrived, and hand scythes ceased to be used for large crop harvests. The first threshing machine was brought by John and Albert Applegate, a Buffalo Pits purchased from the Burrell Company of Portland. (Kruse, 20)
1860s	In the 1860s, "local mills proliferated rapidly." (Beckham, 218)
1861	The Yoncalla post office moved to Conrad Snowden's residence from Jesse Applegate's; later in the year it moved back to Applegate's. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 504)
	The town of Scottsburg was mostly destroyed by flood.
1862	Umpqua County merged with Douglas County. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 475; Oregon Historical County Records)



Oregon Historical Society maps showing county boundary development between 1856 and 1865.

1862-63	Yoncalla was the governmental seat of Umpqua Co (later merged with Douglas County) with both the county court and the Yoncalla school located in the 3 rd schoolhouse in town (at Douglas St. and Cemetery Rd). (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 475)
1863	At the town of Gardiner, Gardiner Chisholm, David Morey, John Kruse and George Bauer erected a sawmill on 9 acres; the mill was framed with timbers from the old Fort Umpqua blockhouse. (Beckham, 218)
1865+	William B. Clarke was heavily involved in sawmilling in the north Douglas region, starting in the mid-1860s. (Beckham, 218)

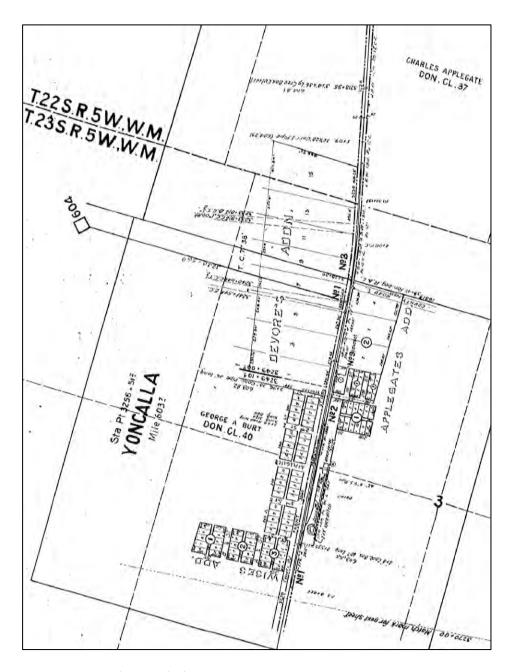
1869	Asa M. Simpson of San Francisco purchased the sawmill at Gardiner (Simpson also had milling interests in Astoria, Port Orford, North and South Bend, Crescent City California, and in Washington state). (Beckham, 218)
Circa 1870	About ten miles east of Yoncalla, a mine was discovered and mining and production of mercury (among other minerals) began at what became known as the Elkhead Mine. (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxviii; Elkhead Mine Reports)
1872	The Oregon & California Railroad was built through Valley; station established called Yoncalla on DLC of GA Burt "who gave 48 acres to the railroad company in consideration of building the depot on his land." (Walling, 433)



Yoncalla Depot, no date. Source?

1872	"In 1872 George Burt gave the O&C [Oregon & California Railroad] 48 acres on the condition that the company erect a depot on his farm. The town grew on the Burt property to the west of the railroad right-of-way. Among the early merchants were Robert A. Booth and Caleb E. Tracy." (Beckham, 143) The town of Yoncalla was officially platted and recorded. (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxv)
Circa 1872	The Barnard Building, built by Alexander McClellan Applegate to house the Bernard Brothers' general merchandise business, was moved from its original location to a site close to the new railroad tracks where it continued to be used as a general store. (Kruse, 48)

	The first warehouse in Yoncalla was constructed, built by George Applegate & Frank Andrews, and owned by Applegate brothers. The second warehouse was built by George A. Burt, and the third for and by W.W. Smith. All of these buildings have since been destroyed by fire. (Kruse, 49)
1874	Conrad Snowden & Dr. Daniel Payton created Snowden's Mineral Springs Resort, located on Snowden's land north of Yoncalla, where they built a large, two-story hotel. In 1877 Snowden bowed out, but Payton continued with the business. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 516)
	The Yoncalla United Methodist Church Sunday School was organized in 1874. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 572)
	"Oregon Hotel" building on Eagle Valley Road was constructed. (Design attributes of the building suggest that the actual construction date may have been earlier.) (SHPO Inventory)
1875	Circa 1875 the Reverend Abbott L.J. Todd, a donation land claimant, extracted clay from his clay pit site about six miles east of Yoncalla, which he formed into brick and fired. (SHPO Inventory)
	Yoncalla had a grange organization (Yoncalla Grange No. 78) by 1875. (Note that a Secretary of State Biennial Report of 1878 stated that this grange was incorporated in 1877.) (Willamette Grange National Register nomination form; Sec. of State Report 1878)
1876	In Gardiner, Asa Simpson purchased a second, competing sawmill and consolidated it with his first. "At Gardiner as well as his other sawmills and shipyards, Simpson operated a company town. Workers labored in the Simpson mills, purchased their groceries and dry goods at the Simpson store" (Beckham, 219)
	According to newspapers, 3,425 acres were sown to grain in the Yoncalla Valley and vicinity. (<i>Plaindealer</i> , nd; Oregon State Journal, 4/15/1876)
1878	The first prune orchards were planted in Douglas County. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 20; Weber, 8)
	"While [C.E.] Tracy served as the Wells, Fargo & Company agent in the 1880's [sic], Robert Booth was Yoncalla postmaster, merchant, and sawmill owner." (Beckham, 143)
	"From his modest business beginnings in Yoncalla, Booth became one of Oregon's wealthiest lumbermen." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 221)
1880s	The town had two general merchandise stores, one run by Robert A. Booth and another by Cecil E. Tracy. (Walling, 433; <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , xxvi)
	The production of wheat, a dominant crop in the mid-nineteenth century, declined by end of 1880s due to soil depletion and fungus. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 19)
	John Walter "Walt" Cowan "transferred his blacksmith operation [from the Scotts Valley area] to the more populated village area of Yoncalla." The shop was adjacent to the stage road (the current Highway 99 route). (Yoncalla Yesterday, 23)



Early plat map (undated) of Yoncalla showing plats, road and railroad alignments. Courtesy Douglas County Assessor's website.

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1880s	By the later years of the nineteenth century, "the large [original donation claim] landholdings were breaking up, the first owners gone, many of the heirs, disposing of their inheritances, were going into business or professional enterprises." (Kruse, 54)
1882	"A saw mill was erected [at Yoncalla] in 1882, by R[obert] A. Booth, with a capacity of 10,000 feet per day." Booth was the postmaster, a local merchant and the sawmill owner. "Booth had contract with O&C RR to "cut ties and timbers for bridges and tunnel shoring along much of the route south of Yoncalla and Roseburg." (Walling, 434; Yoncalla Yesterday, xxvi-xxvii, 221) This mill was purchased in 1883 by Thomas and George Applegate, who ran it for two years before selling to Jim Chenoweth. Chenoweth moved the mill to Oakland. (Moulton, Ch 7, p 8)
	Last Oregon-California Stage run. (Douglas Co. Museum, "Timeline")
	According to A.G. Walling, in about 1884 Yoncalla was described thus:
1883	"This is the general shipping and receiving point and has become a town of considerable importance. It has two general merchandise stores, kept by R.A. Booth and C.E. Tracy. Mr. Booth is postmaster and Mr. Tracy is agent for Wells, Fargo & Co. A school and church organizations are well supported. A sawmill was erected in 1882, by R.A. Booth, with a capacity of 10,000 feet per day. In the north end of the valley and but two miles from Drain are the celebrated Payton mineral springs. Much attention is now being paid to stock, though the valley is the best wheat land lying south of the Calapooias, and probably no section of the state can present so great a proportion of well-to-do, and even wealthy citizens." (Walling, 433-434)
1884	A new one-story, one-room school, the community's fourth, was built to replace the 1859 building. This 1884 building was built on the location of the two preceding schoolhouses, and it was eventually replaced in 1894. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 468 and 475)
1885	The Gardiner Mill Company was incorporated. This company marketed to California, sending lumber for construction of the southern California towns of Pasadena, Glendale, and Los Angeles during the turn-of-the-century building boom of 1885-1915. (Beckham, 219)
	Douglas County mills were located in Roseburg (flouring), Myrtle Creek (grist and planing mill), Riddle (sawmill), Canyonville (two sawmills and two gristmills), Oakland (flouring mill), Drain (two sawmills and a flouring mill) and Yoncalla (sawmill). (West Shore, 4/1/1885, 117)
Early 1890s	A California realtor purchased part of the old George Burt claim in west Yoncalla, and brought "a railroad carload of prune treesdestined to be planted on the hills surrounding Yoncalla. Soon a boom was underway. The local prune industry grew in the 1890s and matured in the 1900s. It began to phase out by the end of the 1930s." (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxvii-xxviii and 422)

1890s

Snowden's Mineral Springs Resort was purchased and further developed by Capt. Benjamin Boswell and wife. The name was changed to Boswell Mineral Springs Resort.



Advertisement for Boswell Springs Resort. Courtesy http://oregongiftsofcomfortandjoy.blogspot.com/2012/10/boswell-mineral-springs-resort.html

1891	The city expanded with the annex of DeVore Addition. DeVores Addition was "a realestate promotional scheme to sell planted orchard tracts. The subdivided tracts lying west of the city were being planted primarily as prune orchards, and thosenorthwere planted as an apple orchardno longer maintained after the mid 1920s." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 427)
1892	The City was again expanded with the annex of Shutrem's Addition. (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxvii)

1892	The Methodist Church building was completed at Applegate and A Streets, and was the only church building in Yoncalla at the time. Sadly, it was destroyed by fire, along with all church records, in 1914. (Kruse, 55; <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 572)
1894	A new school building was constructed, described as an "ornate, two-story building that cost the outrageous sum of \$4,000." Located at Cedar and Main, this building was moved in 1912 to make way for new brick school house. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 468 and 471)



The fifth school building for the Yoncalla community, built in 1894. Courtesy Yoncalla Historical Society.

1895	The Yoncalla Post of Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was established in 1895. (<i>Plaindealer</i> , 1/28/1895, p 3)
1896	Yoncalla was described in an article in the <i>Plaindealer</i> : "Yoncalla has a \$3000 school house, Presbyterian and M.E. churches, and Baptist and Christian organizations. It has the A.O.U.W. lodge, G.A.R. Ppost and Women's Relief Corps, and a social intelligent people garnered from all parts of the Union.
	"It has four general stores, two hardware stores, one drug store, millinery and racket store, a furniture and harness shop, blacksmith shop, meat market, two hotels and livery, and postoffice, telegraph and Wells Fargo offices.
	"It has three grain warehouses with an aggregate capacity for 43,000 bushels of wheat, oats and barley, which are the chief crops of the region The orchards, chiefly prune, are young and promising, and pears, peaches and plums are likely to reward the owners Timber, fir and oak, is plenty and hundreds and hundreds of cords are piled along the railway track." (Roseburg <i>Plaindealer</i> , Sept. 10, 1896)

1897	The Exchange Sawmills Sales Co. was established in Kansas City, Missouri, by John Barber White. White would later own the Yoncalla Lumber Mill. (Missouri Sec. of State "Filed Documents," https://www.sos.mo.gov/BusinessEntity/soskb/Corp.asp?9714)
1898	The local phone company was started by W.W. Wilson, who installed the first phone in Yoncalla. The company was later sold to Lucy Samler in 1900; Hazel Samler Peret inherited the company from her mother and operated it until 1943. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 343)
1899	Yoncalla had a "Steam Roller Grist Mill" operating in 1899. It is not currently clear when the mill was established or how long it operated. (Moulton, Ch 7, p 8)
Early 1900s	"Yoncalla was a late bloomer. Even though the town was platted in 1872, it did not develop substantially until the turn of the century. Development hinged on agriculture, the railroad and lumber." (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxvi)



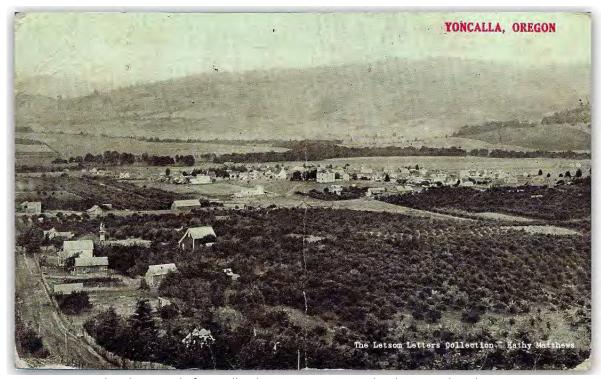
Looking west on Main Street, 1908. Courtesy Douglas County Museum.

Circa 1900

The Daugherty Store building on Main Street was constructed. At various times in its history the building was occupied by a cobbler, a creamery, a grocery warehouse, and a meat market, among other businesses. This building may have been one of the "new brick buildings to be erected" that was mentioned in a 1905 Roseburg *Plaindealer* article (see below). (SHPO Inventory)

The Davis and Stenseth Feed Store building, at 44 Main Street, was constructed. Davis & Stenseth operated at this location until sometime prior to 1928. (SHPO Inventory)

1901	Yoncalla was incorporated on Feb. 14 th ; George Burt was named the 1 st mayor. (Beckham, 144; <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 525)
Circa 1901	The original Boswell Mineral Springs lodge building burned, and the resort business continued in a nearby building. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 517; Douglas Co. Museum files)
Early 1900s	Agricultural pursuits in the Yoncalla area in the early 1900s included dairying, turkeys, raising turkeys, sheep and goats, and fruit growing (orchards of apple, pear, cherry and prune were abundant in the area). "A number of prune dryer buildings were built to accommodate the drying of the prunes before shipping out At the north end of town, there was a packinghouse where the apples and pears were packed for shipping." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 314-315)



Undated postcard of Yoncalla, showing expansive orchards surounding the town. (http://100yearsagotoday.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/19121119b.jpg)

1903	The local I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 107 was instituted by members of Philetarian Lodge of Roseburg. (<i>Plaindealer</i> , 8/3/1903)
	M.M. Clapshaw was operating the Clapshaw Brothers Creamery Company in Yoncalla. (<i>Plaindealer</i> , 6/21/1903)
1904	Arba Stearns and Creed Chenoweth of Oakland decided to build a branch of the Stearns & Chenoweth Hardware store (which originated in nearby Oakland) on Main Street in Yoncalla. Arba's son Harry managed the store. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 317)
	The city was "soon to be well supplied with local 'phones; about 27 will be placed in the several dwellings and business houses." (<i>Plaindealer</i> , 1/25/1905)

"Yoncalla has added a new addition to be known as Applegate Addition to Yoncalla, filed in the clerk's office and dedicated by Geo. Applegate and wife. Yoncalla is growing." (*Plaindealer*, 7/24/1905)

"Yoncalla looks like a cyclone had struck it. The saloon, barbershop and butchershop have crossed the street and the residence formerly occupied by C. Ross King is being moved to the lots owned by Mrs. A.S. Peritt, to make room for the new brick buildings which are to be erected." (*Plaindealer*, 3/23/1905)

A city water system was added, fed by a nearby spring. (*Plaindealer*, 5/29/1905)

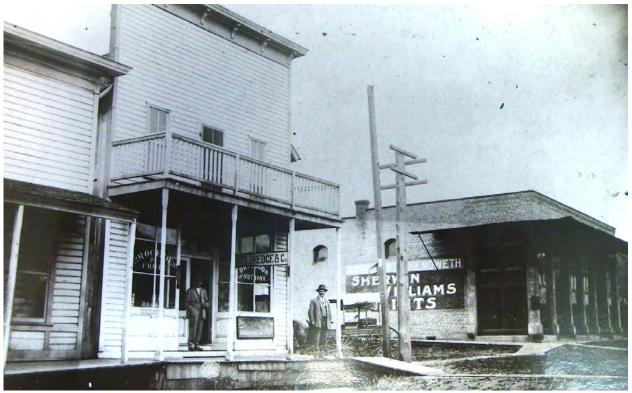
The Beckley Brothers' General Merchandise Store, at 93 Main Street, was constructed by contrators Sherman and Hunter. (SHPO Inventory)

The brick Stearns and Chenoweth Hardware Store was constructed circa 1905. (SHPO Inventory)



Yoncalla promotional sign, December 1908. Courtesy Douglas County Museum.

1905



1911 view of Main Street buildings, including the brick Stearns & Chenoweth Building, right.

Courtesy Douglas County Museum.

	The first issue of the local newspaper, the <i>Yoncalla Independent</i> , was published. (Winterbotham, 149)
	The population of Yoncalla in 1906 was about 400.
1906	"A diversity of industries contributes to the building up of Yoncalla and country tributary thereto, principal of which, are lumber, stock raising, farming and fruit growing. The soil is especially adapted to the latter, and there are many orchards and fruit dryers on the hills surrounding the town. The raising of poultry is also extensively followed. The business district with its well-stocked stores and brick buildings is witness to the prosperous condition and substantial character of Yoncalla. All the different lines of retail businesses are here. In addition, there is a box factory, large sawmill and several fruit dryers. It also contains a bank that is one of the soundest financial institutions in the county. There are Presbyterian and Methodist Churches and an opera house, excellent public schools, a Wells Fargo Express office, local and long distance telephone service. J.G. Samler is the postmaster." (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxviii from 1906 City Directory)
1907	The first automobiles arrived in Yoncalla. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 25)
	Big Star Lumber Company in Yoncalla closed "on account of lack of cars and general demoralization of trade caused by proposed increase in rail rates." (<i>Bohemia Nugget</i> , 11/13/1907, p 1)

1909

The Skelley mill, located west of Yoncalla and having operated for about five years (having been started in 1903), upgraded with installation of lathe machine, "planer, re-saw, cut off and sticker machine, in the yard at Drain, Oregon." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 543)

"In...1907, the Skelley Lbr. Co. mill was cutting 65,000 ft. daily. Lumber was successfully being flumed to Drain for planing and shipping on the railroad." (Moulton, Ch 6, p 2-4)



The Skelley Mill in the early 1900's. It was located off what is now South Skelley Road near Hayhurst Road, out of Drain and west of Yoncalla.

Image scanned from Yoncalla Yesterday.

There were two hotels in town: the Foster Hotel and the Commercial Hotel.

Two north- and two southbound trains traveled daily through Yoncalla, bringing visitors. Most local transportation was by horse and buggy on muddy roads; very few had autos. Railroad and Main Streets were not yet paved but they did have boardwalks,

Early 1910s

In addition to numerous local businesses, the town boasted Odd Fellows and Rebecca lodges, an opera house operated by Charley Summers (who also had a lumberyard in town), and two main churches (Presbyterian and Methodist).

Fruit orchards of of prune, apple, cherry and pear trees surrounded the town. A number of prune dryers were built in the vicinity, and apples and pears were packed for shipping at the packing house at north end of town. (*Yoncalla Yesterday*, 311-314)



Yoncalla street scene, circa 1911. Courtesy Douglas County Museum.

1912	In a 1912 Roseburg News Review article, Yoncalla was described as having "Five general stores, one very large hardware department store, two good hotels, a meat market, printing office, lumber yard, two blacksmith shops, a livery stable, and two Real Estate offices. Plus a gravity water system, an auto garage and machine shop." Other businesses in the community included the Yoncalla State Bank, Stearns and Chenoweth Hardware and Implements (Arba Stearns and Creed Chenoweth of Oakland), the Yoncalla Orchard Company, W.R. Porter Real Estate, Holdridge and Beard General Merchandise, Holden and Son General Merchandise, and Southern Oregon Nurseries. J.G. Samler was Postmaster. The principal industries in the 1910s were agricultural: cattle raising, dairying, poultry raising, and fruit orchards. "East of Yoncalla is Scotts Valley withtwo small sawmills." (F.L. Beard, Roseburg <i>News Review</i> , April 1912 from <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , xxvii-xxviii)
Circa 1912	A new brick school building was constructed at a cost of \$25,000. (Kruse, 53)
1914+	Jacob Hans Mathis purchased and operated the Yoncalla Lumber Yard east of the railroad tracks; Mathis also built and remodeled houses in the area. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 387)
	The Presbyterian congregation built a church, which was later "traded" with the Methodists for a church in Talent. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 572)

1914	An agreement was made to proceed with the incorporation of the Yoncalla Fruit Union. The firm of Schell & Schell of Grants pass were given the contract for paving the first street(s) in Yoncalla. "This is the first paving to be done in Yoncalla and probably will be followed by more. Electric lights and city water will follow also in the near future." (Oregonian, 7/23/1914)
Circa 1915	The first street in Yoncalla was paved. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 189)
1915	Harry Stearns contracted for eight Ford Autos to start a local dealership, and the first arrived in 1915. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 319)



Image scanned from Yoncalla Yesterday.

1915	Four passenger trains per day stopped in Yoncalla in the early 1900s. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 319)
	The Yoncalla Opera House (originally the Caleb E. Tracy store and residence), which was located on the lot north of the present City Hall, was destroyed by fire. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 472; Kruse, 49)
	Jesse Lasswell established the Farmers Security Bank in the building located at 47 Main Street (which was reportedly constructed circa 1900, but may have been built earlier.) (SHPO Inventory)
	The brick schoolhouse was gutted by fire and rebuilt; replacement bricks were made by inmates of the state prison in Salem. This school was torn down in 1978. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 475)
1916	The City planned to draw water from Adams Creek for a municipal water system. (Oregonian, 2/17/1916, p 5)

1916	The last prune orchard plat was planted. "The Yoncalla Orchard Tracts located southwesterly from town were the last of the prune plantings with Plat A dedicated [in] 1911 and Plat B [in] 1916." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 422)
1917	Influenza epidemic (Yoncalla Yesterday, 321)
1917-1920	The Pacific Highway was established in Oregon. (History of State Highways in Oregon, 2011, 1-2)
1918	End of World War I
1918+	"After World War I, the Yoncalla boys came home to work the farms and build the roads." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 242)
1920	Yoncalla elected an all-woman City Council. "Almost as a joke, some women decided to run. They said the men weren't doing a good job for the city and the streets were in terrible condition. Their election was a remarkable event as it was the first all-women city council in the United States." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 522 and 525; Oregon Encyclopedia "Woman Suffrage")
1920s	"Just after World War I, in approximately 1920, the stagecoach road was eliminated by U.S. Highway 99 being put throughalong the west side of Pleasant Valley" (Yoncalla Yesterday, 331) The new Pacific Highway passed through Yoncalla "and ensured for the next thirty years a steady flow of travelers." (Beckham, 144)

The Mill Pond property was the site of an emergency landing strip in the early part of the twentieth century. (North Douglas Betterment webpage) The Yoncalla emergency airfield was about 2200' long and 1000' wide, located east of the railroad and west of Poodle Creek on land owned by Bob Thompson "who annually harvested a crop of highland bentgrass seed from it. The rotating field beacon was located on the west edge approximately 400' due east from the junction of Applegate St. and the 1920s Pacific Highway (the SE corner of the City Hall lot). Stationary field lights, located about 100' apart, delineated the exterior boundaries of the airfield at night." The field was part of a system of fields spaced at about 10-15 mile intervals, used for air navigation. The 1931-32 Oregon Blue Book indicated that the U.S. Department of Commerce, Airways Division of the Aeronautics Branch covered maintenance of the "lighting of the San Francisco--Seattle airway within the states of Oregon and Washington..." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 428)



Yoncalla Historical Society image.

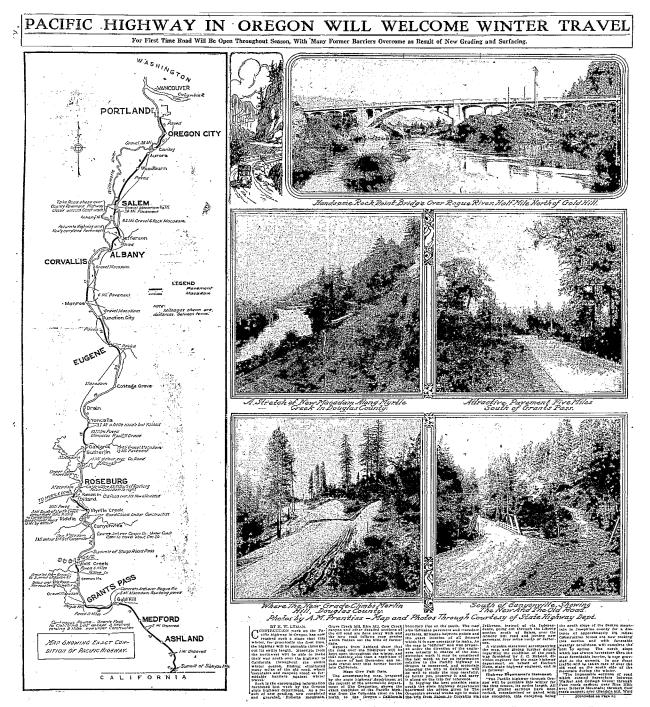
1920s	John & Annie Applegate Kruse built a house and ran a "lumber mill they built in Hayhurst, seven miles west of Yoncalla. [Sons] Elmer and Homer [Kruse] ran the mill while Fred stayed on the farm." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 150) Another mention of a Kruse mill in Hayhurst says "Herman [Miller?] and Elmer Kruse started a sawmill in Hayhurst" The Kruse-Miller mill was apparently started in the early 1920s at the Jordan place on Skelley South Road, and moved in 1923 to a site on Andrews Creek Road. In a 1928 fire the building, machinery and lumber was lost. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 169; Moulton, Ch 6, p 6)
	E.G. Whipple Mill began in Drain area. (Moulton, Ch 2, p 5)
1921	Additions/updates were made to the Methodist Church. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 572)



1920s street view of Yoncalla. Courtesy Douglas County Museum.

1921

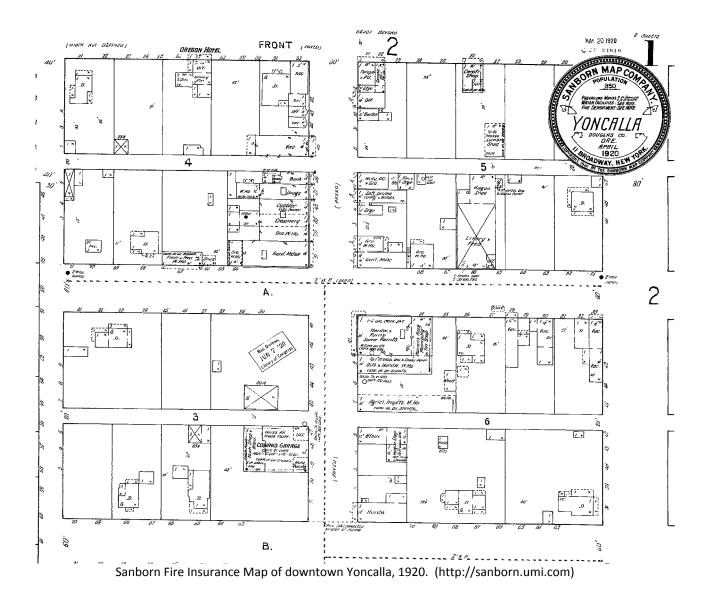
The Pacific Highway at Yoncalla was in poor shape during the late 1910s and early 1920s, with numerous complaints of mud and calls for funding to pave the road. "From Goshen to Yoncalla, 38 miles, there is no pavement except through Cottage Grove. Much of this grade is ready for hard surface, in fact, all of it will be ready for pavement in 1921." (*Oregonian*, 8/8/1920, p 4)



A November 28, 1920 Oregonian article noted that the Pacific Highway at Yoncalla is "a little rough."

1921-1927

Robert W. Davis and Erik Stenseth formed a partnership to run a feed store in Yoncalla, which was located on the north side of Main Street ½ block west of Highway 99. Davis was the owner of a grain elevator "located easterly from the SP Depot and it probably provided the incentive for starting a feed store." This partnership ended in 1927 when Stenseth purchased W.F. Ruprecht's general merchandise store, which the Stenseths (Nellie and Erik) operated until 1949. (*Yoncalla Yesterday*, 433-436)



The first gas station in Yoncalla was built by Harry Stearns at the corner of Main & Highway 99 (see Sanborn); Cleve Ambrose ran the station. (*Yoncalla Yesterday*, 319)



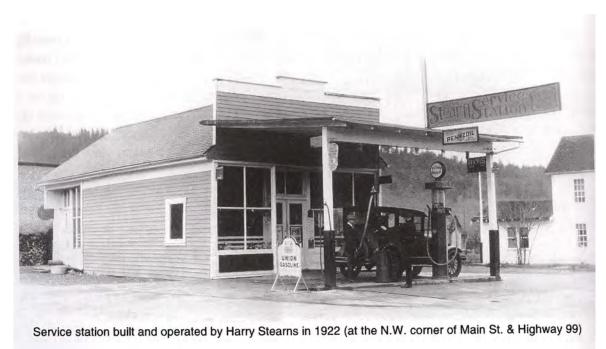
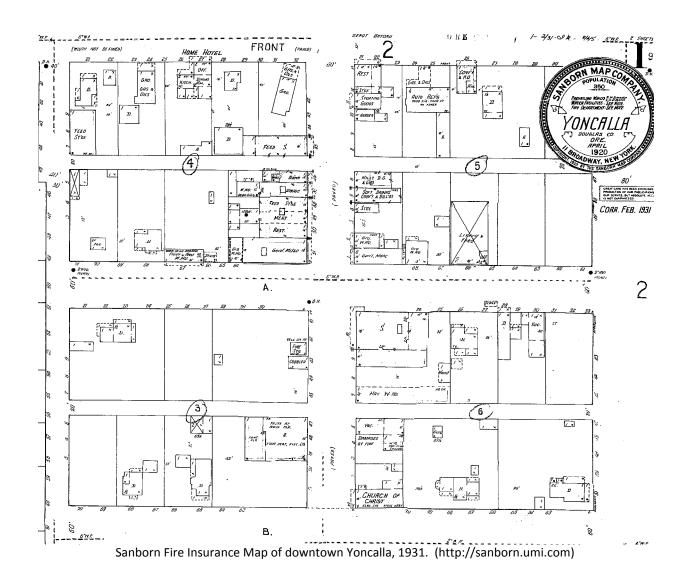


Image scanned from Yoncalla Yesterday.

1923	B.D. Boswell, proprietor of the Boswell Springs Resort, died. His wife soon moved to California and the resort was eventually sold to the Helliwells. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 517)
Late 1920s	The Ku Klux Klan showed a presence in Yoncalla (and a number of other Oregon towns) during late 1920s and early 1930s. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 243)
1928	The Yoncalla Church of Christ started. The Lauman store was converted for use as the church's meeting place for nearly 30 years. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 570)
1930s	Local logging and lumber industries "contributed to the local economy during and after the 1930's [sic] and the Depression." Yoncalla Yesterday, xxix)
	Residents recall "hobos" traveling through town via the highway or the railroad during the 1930s Depression years. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 242)



1930s-1941	The Francis Marion Bigelow mill was in operation, located east of Main Street at Highway 99. (Part of Yoncalla Log Pond property) (Moulton, Ch 6, p 5)
1932	The Umpqua region had over 10,000 acres of prune orchards, and eleven prune dryers were in operation. However, in the mid-1930s the prune industry began to decline due to low prices and crop failures, triggering the start of the removal of orchards. (Guyer, 90; <i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 20 and 422)



Historic Douglas County prune label (eBay).

1933	The Kruse Mill in Hayhurst closed due to the Depression (Yoncalla Yesterday, 169)
1936	"A company has leased the Marion Bigelow mill. It will be known as the Yoncalla Lumber company. They are building a cabin, office and cook house. Later they will build bunk houses." (Eugene Register Guard, October 12, 1936)
1939	The Schieman Bros. Lumber Company built a mill on a site "north east of Elkhead Rd. on old Hwy. 99" (Part of Yoncalla Log Pond property) (Moulton, Ch 6, p 4)
1940	Yoncalla's population was 277. (OHQ Notes and News, Vol 46, p 285) U.S. Census indicates that a vast majority of Yoncalla residents were farmers, followed by timber-industry workers (loggers, millers, truck drivers, mill engineers, etc.) (U.S. Census, 1940)
1940s	The local turkey processing plant was upgraded. "This was the only processing plant in the county at the time." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 552)
	"At that time [1940s] the main crop in the area was common and purple vetch The warehouse [across the railroad tracks] was very busy during harvest season." "During this time almost all of the grain and feed that was sold through the [Yoncalla Feed] store was ground, mixed and sacked at the warehouse." (Yoncalla Yesterday, 554)
1940-45	"During the years of World War II and on through the 1970s, there was a tremendous amount of logging in the area surrounding Yoncalla, with many sawmills and planers operating all over the northern and southern part of Douglas County. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 513-515)

1941	The Douglas County Lumber Company was established outside of Glide on Rock Creek. The business was led by Sid Comfort and Maurice Hallmark, and 100 employees lived in nearby company housing. This company is now known as Douglas County Forest Products, based outside of Winchester. (Guyer, 100)
	H.W. Kissling Lumber Company purchased the Bigelow mill. ("Kissling came from a mill operation at Reedsport. He was at the Hammond Mill in Garibaldi and also a manager of the Gardiner Lbr. Co. Mill.") (Moulton, Ch 6, p 5)
	Kruse Lumber Company purchased Schieman Bros. Lumber Company mill on Elkhead Road at Highway 99 (Southern part of Yoncalla Log Pond property) (Moulton, Ch 6, p 4)



1940s image of mill site with ponds. Yoncalla Historical Society image.

1945	Yoncalla's population was 378. (OHQ Notes and News, Vol 46, p 285) End of World War II
After 1945	"After World War II, logging and milling was in full swing for about 30 years." (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxix)

1946

The Exchange Sawmill Sales Co. (ESSCo) of Kansas City, Missouri purchased the Elmer Kruse sawmill at Yoncalla, and the mill name changed to the Yoncalla Lumber Company. The company was organized on April 10, 1946. (Moulton, Ch 7, p 4; North Douglas Betterment web page; Water Rights papers)



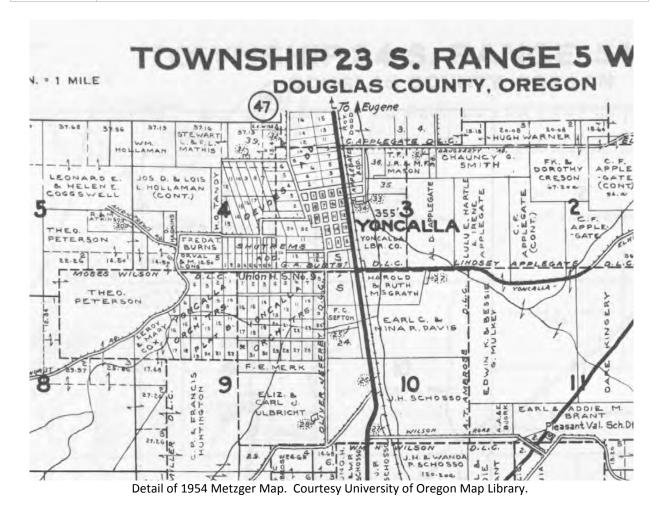
Image courtesy Kent Smith.

1950	Duncan Lumber Company established by Richard A. Duncan. It was in use until the early 1960s when the sawmill was damaged by fire. (SHPO Inventory)
	A new high school was constructed. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 54)
	"The chief industry of 1950 is lumbering. Three sawmills are within the environs of Yoncalla." (Kruse, 60)
1950s	The Yoncalla Lumber Co. ceased doing its own logging and became dependant on gyppos to supply the mill with raw material. (North Douglas Betterment web page)



Undated photo of Yoncalla log ponds. Courtesy Yoncalla Historical Society.

1950s	The price of turkeys dropped significantly, and the industry slowed to a halt. (Yoncalla Yesterday, 552)
1950s+	Investors with capital entered the lumber industry in Douglas County. They purchased large tracts, set up mills, partnered with others and reinvested the profits in timberlands, resulting in massive land ownership and large profit margins.
	"These types of lumber 'deals,' repeated over and over, often in smaller scale, characterized the bargaining and trading of outside capitalists who came, for a time, to tap the timber resources of Douglas County." (Beckham, 223)



Early 1950s	Timber/milling activity resulted in local population growth, resulting in "a new addition west of town [which] became the residential area called, "West Park." (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxix) The Yoncalla phone system was upgraded with a new switchboard & equipment.
	(Yoncalla Yesterday, 456-457)
1952	The Duncan Lumber wigwam burner was constructed (located north of Yoncalla). (SHPO Inventory)

1953	ESSCo's Yoncalla Lumber Company Mill burned (<i>Oregonian</i> , August 13, 1953) ESSCo purchased the Kissling sawmill "just to the north" of its existing holdings (Moulton Ch 6, p 4; North Douglas Betterment web page)
1954-55	The Log ponds were modified/expanded. (North Douglas Betterment web page; State of Oregon Water Rights paperwork)
1955	Automatic dial telephones were activated in Yoncalla. There were no more party lines, and the town had eight pay-phone booths. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 343)

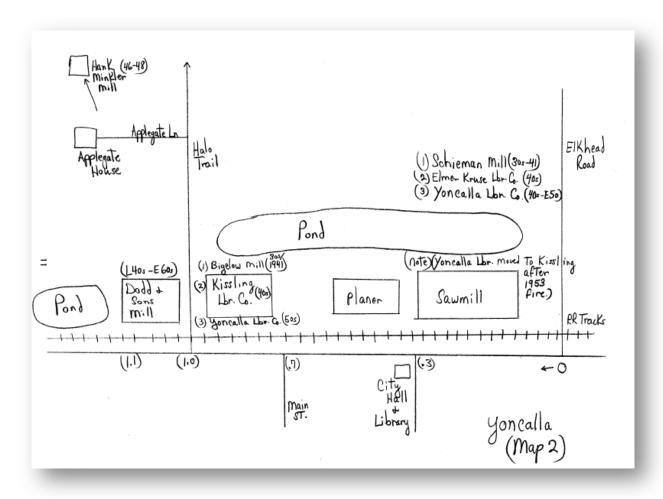


Main Street in Yoncalla, circa 1955. Courtesy Douglas County Museum.



1950s aerial view of Yoncalla. Courtesy Yoncalla Historical Society.

1956	Yoncalla had eight operating mills shipping lumber by rail. The timber industry was economically more important than agriculture by this time. (Yoncalla Yesterday, xxix)
Mid-1950s	New Interstate 5 bypassed Yoncalla
Nov. 1957	The Yoncalla Lumber Co was the largest employer in the community; 40 men worked at the mill, plus those in the woods. (<i>Yoncalla Yesterday</i> , 551)
Dec. 1957	The announcement was made that the Yoncalla Lumber Co. was shutting operations "until market conditions improve" (Yoncalla Yesterday, 551)
1961-62	Yoncalla Lumber Company mill operations shut down (North Douglas Betterment web page)
1963	The mill and planing mill were sold to Harold Woolley and dismantled. Woolley had other mills in Douglas Co. and used the ponds for log storage into the 1970s. (North Douglas Betterment web page)



Drawing of mills on east side of Pacific Highway/Highway 99, Yoncalla. Courtesy Moulton, Chapter 6.

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10th Census of the United States, Yoncalla, Douglas County Oregon. 1880.

12th Census of the United States, Yoncalla, Douglas County Oregon. 1900.

13th Census of the United States, Yoncalla, Douglas County, Oregon. 1910

14th Census of the United States, Yoncalla, Douglas County Oregon. 1920.

15th Census of the United States, Yoncalla, Douglas County Oregon. 1930.

16th Census of the United States, Yoncalla, Douglas County Oregon. 1940.

Newspapers

Note: Newspaper research can be very time consuming. For this phase of the project, internet sites that allowed for key word searches were utilized. More intensive research using Yoncalla, Drain, Roseburg and other nearby community newspapers on microfilm (available at the University of Oregon's Knight Library) may be considered for future work.

Eugene Register Guard.

Various articles or news reports related to Yoncalla retrieved from word search on http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=4pF9x-cDGsoC

Roseburg *Plaindealer*

Various articles or news reports related to Yoncalla were retrieved from word search on http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu

GenealogyBank. http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/newspapers/explore/USA/Oregon/

Used words searchs "Yoncalla," "Yoncalla mill," "Yoncalla lumber," etc. to retrieve various newspaper notices and articles related to Yoncalla history, from several Oregon newspapers, 1849-1960.

Historic Oregon Newspapers http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu

Used words searchs "Yoncalla," "Yoncalla mill," "Yoncalla lumber," etc. to retrieve various newspaper notices and articles related to Yoncalla history, from several Oregon newspapers, 1849-1960.

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General Land Office Map, T22S R5W. 1853.

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