

LOWER PINE CREEK SCHOOLHOUSE



The Lower Pine Creek Schoolhouse

The Lower Pine Creek Schoolhouse moved from its original location at the mouth of Cove Creek to Fossil through the efforts of a group of diligent volunteers that saw the value of renovating an old one-room schoolhouse into an interpretive site. The schoolhouse had been all but razed by looters, graffiti, and the forces of nature. We are pleased to offer an original schoolhouse for public review.

The **Schoolhouse** features a collage of one-room schoolhouses throughout Wheeler County painted by local artists. Class group photos from Wheeler County schools adorn the walls of the **Schoolhouse** along with memorabilia that one normally finds in a school.

Visitors will find information available regarding places of interest throughout the county and region to aid them locating other places to visit within the immediate area.

SHEEPHERDER CABIN

Steiwer Ranches donated their sheepherder cabin to the museum. Steiwer sheepherders used the cabin from 1930 through 1984 as a "mobile home" moving from grazing site to grazing site with their bands of sheep.

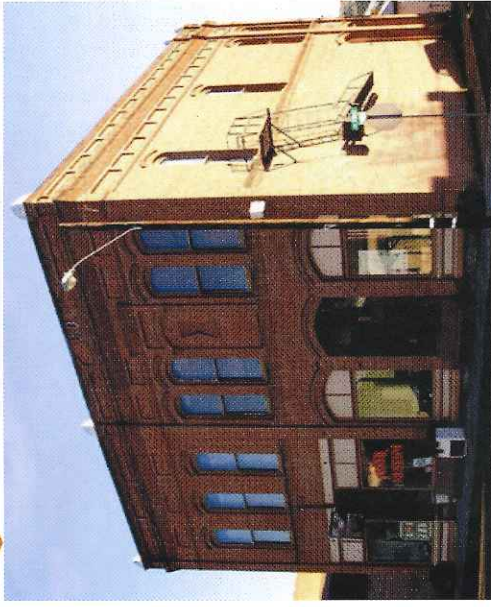


The herders lived in the cabin twelve months a year, "coming to town" occasionally to let off steam, spending their hard-earned money on family, friends and self.



Curtie

Fossil Museum



Fossil Museum, Fossil, Wheeler County, Oregon

The **Fossil Museum**, located in **Fossil, Wheeler County, North-Central, Oregon**, invites you to drop by and leisurely view the memorabilia displayed throughout the museum to provide information about our ancestors and local history. Our museum is open seasonally:

Memorial Day ~ September

Phone: 541-763-2113

FOSSIL MUSEUM

The **Fossil Museum** originated from the efforts of Lester Reinhart, Edwin Asher, Emmett Stout, Herb Wright and Jack Steiwer to coincide with Fossil's 75th anniversary in 1966. The old Club Pastime housed the original museum filled with memorabilia loaned or donated to capture Wheeler County's historic past.

In 1985 the museum moved across First Street to the I.O.O.F. Building owned by the City of Fossil. A non-profit committee dedicated to continue artifact collection and display operates the museum. Fossil Museum depends upon visitor donations, committee fundraisers and small grants for operating capital.



Fossil Museum

The museum houses the personal property of local folk willing to share their treasures with others. Prized possessions within the display cases and shelving in the museum afford visitors a snapshot into the past of an area rich in farming, ranching, commercial businesses and light industry.

Fossil Chronology

- 1854 Wasco County established
- 1862 Biffel settles near Big Bottom (Twickenham)
- 1869 J.W. Chambers and William Bigham are the first settlers in Cedar Valley.
- 1870 Thomas Benton Hoover settles 2 miles north of present day Fossil.
- 1876 He establishes a post office at his ranch, finds fossils, names the post office **Fossil**
- 1891 Fossil incorporated
- 1899 Wheeler County established
- 1900 Fossil elected county seat
- 1901 Wheeler County Court House constructed

James Washington Chambers

James W. Chambers, with William Bigham, arrived and settled in Cedar Valley in 1869. He brought his daughter's family, the Hoovers, to this location in 1870. His descendants still live in the Fossil area.



Thomas Benton Hoover
Thomas Hoover's parents, two of Oregon Territory's early pioneers, settled in the Hillsboro area in 1845. Mr. Hoover and his family moved to Cedar Valley, Wasco County, in 1870. He ranched on what became Hoover Creek, establishing a post office in 1876 to handle local mail between Hoppner and Antelope. Mr. Hoover discovered numerous fossils on his ranch and named the post office **Fossil**.



Andrew Clarno
Andrew Clarno settled in the John Day valley just north of Clarno in 1866 along with his sons, John and Francis, and a relative, William Snodgrass. Mr. Clarno was an Indian agent for the Native Americans of the area.



Henry H. Wheeler
Henry Wheeler established The Dalles-Canyon City Stage Line in 1864. Mr. Wheeler's stage provided much needed supplies and mail to Grant County where gold was discovered in 1861 along Canyon creek. "Snake" Indians attacked his stage several times, once seriously wounding Mr. Wheeler. In 1899, the state legislature honored him by naming the new county, Wheeler.



W. W. Kennedy
W. W. Kennedy, a businessman who built the Kennedy Hotel, was Wheeler County's first judge. Fossil's plat map contains W.W. Kennedy's Addition to the town of Fossil.



R.N. Donnelly
R.N. Donnelly, Grant County legislator, Richmond, introduced the bill to the Oregon State Legislature that created Wheeler County from Crook, Gilliam and Grant counties in 1899; named for Henry H. Wheeler.



Joseph F. Coleman
Joe Coleman was the first vice-president and general manager of Kinzua Pine Mills. Kinzua was home to over 500 residents that worked and lived in the company owned and operated town from 1921 until 1978.