

## Discover Stories on the Land

This is excerpt 13 from the unpublished 1996 book, *Stories on the Land: An Environmental History of the Applegate and Upper Illinois Valley*, by George McKinley and Doug Frank. This passage is from pages 71-72.

### Stopping Places

Along the gradually improving roads of this era (1857-1900), communities began forming around services that could be provided to travelers and miners. These communities also served the social and commercial needs of the growing body of more permanent residents. Many of these were first established in the early period of our study but took on greater permanency as settled communities during the last decades of the century. Some of them barely made it into the twentieth century, however, before they disappeared altogether.

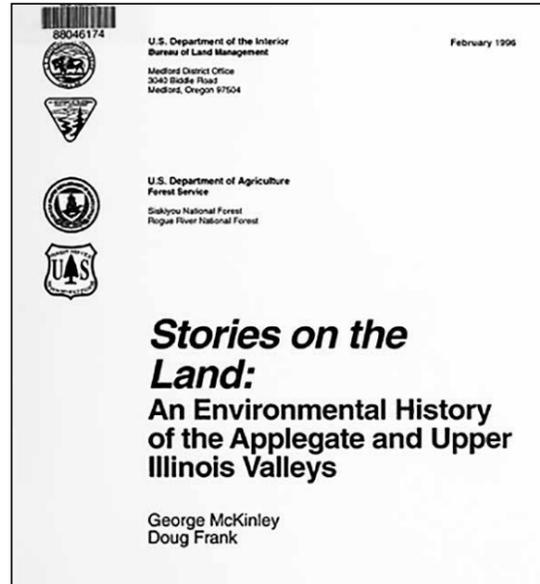
The first house in the Illinois Valley was built near the mouth of Democrat Gulch by Walling, Northcut, and Ball in 1852. Known as Walling's Ranch, it sold supplies to miners in the Sucker and Althouse drainages. On Deer Creek, the DLCs (Donation Land Claims) of Henry Wixom and Samuel Mooney were among the earliest examples of an established community. Wixom and Mooney operated

"Mooney's Place" on Wixom's land, where they provided accommodation to early travelers. William Hay's DLC, on what is now called "Hayes Hill," became a stopping place midway from Waldo to the ferry at Fort Vannoy. During the Indian Wars, it was known as "Fort Hay"; its stockade-style architecture was intended for defense against the natives.

In the lower part of the Applegate Valley, Alexander Jess operated a ferry at the mouth of Slate Creek. Just upstream was Junction House, built in 1857, a stopping place and store that became the foundation of Wilderville. In 1858, Hugh Heaps opened "Prospect Ranch on Applegate Creek" in the vicinity of Bernard Murphy's DLC, with overnight accommodations. (When Hugh's cook married, he advertised in the Crescent City newspaper for one who might "contract a partnership with him for life.") Later, Lewis Hayes bought the property and "set himself up in the freighting business, while travelers were accommodated at the hotel-home." His barn held 80 horses.

Hayes's son, David, remembered the tenor of life in those early days, which Olga Weydemeyer Johnson paraphrases this way:

"Trips to the Provolt store upriver were undertaken only at long intervals.



Applegate River, and erected a spacious two-story building with an upstairs dance hall. John and Marguerite Black tell us:

"Rose's Hall became famous for miles in every direction. Orlando helped organize the Bridge Point School District in 1872. He was postmaster of the Applegate Post Office in 1895, at which time the post office was in his home. Eventually his property was sold and the buildings removed."

Other stores opened at the mouth of Thompson Creek during the 1860s and 1870s. One of the most prominent was built of "hewed square logs" by William W. Pemoll, in

1874, on the north side of the Applegate River a couple of miles west of Applegate Crossing. Pemoll stocked a supply of basic grocery items, clothing, shoes, hardware, drugs, and whiskey. Six miles up Thompson Creek, the Bingham brothers ran a stopping place on their adjoining ranches, where they raised feed for livestock.

By 1860, travelers could count on finding shelter and food within a half day's journey at any point from Waldo to Jacksonville along the Jacksonville-Crescent City road. By 1870, general stores in the area were catering to the needs of an increasingly settled agricultural community.

Excerpted by Diana Coogle

### ■ GENEROUS DONORS

Continued from page 5

Wendy Towns, Applegate, OR  
Patrick & Cindy Traynor, Wilderville, OR  
Anne Uzzell, Jacksonville, OR  
Cathleen Wetherby, Grants Pass, OR

**STEELHEAD**

Anonymous, Applegate, OR (2)  
Anonymous, Grants Pass, OR (4)  
Anonymous, Jacksonville, OR (6)  
Anonymous, Klamath Falls, OR  
Anonymous, Williams, OR (4)  
Stephanie Aguirre, Jacksonville, OR  
Linda & Jim Alexander, Central Point, OR  
Applegate River Lavender Farm, Jacksonville, OR  
Donna Baird, Springfield, OR  
Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR  
Dan & Claudia Beausoleil, Williams, OR  
Teri & Geoff Becker, Applegate, OR  
Barry Bliss in Memory of Beth Bliss, Grants Pass, OR  
Steve & Shellie Boyd, Grants Pass, OR  
Kelly & Don Brandeau, Williams, OR  
James A Buck, Eagle Point, OR  
Cynthia Cheney, Jacksonville, OR  
Sara Christian, Lake Forest, CA  
Anne Clay, Williams, OR  
Richard & David Clayton, Jacksonville, OR  
Marvin & Evelyn Crawford, Jacksonville, OR  
Robert Cook, Livermore, CA  
Randy Costello, Jacksonville, OR  
Liza Crosse, Applegate, CA  
Pam D'Allura, Jacksonville, OR  
Frank Deluca, Jacksonville, OR  
Eric Donnell, Grants Pass, OR  
Dahna Dow, Jacksonville, OR  
Tom Eckert, Jacksonville, OR  
Bert Etling, Ashland, OR  
Lisa A Evans, Williams, OR  
Barbara Finley, Grants Pass, OR  
Dana Gangnes, Jacksonville, OR  
William Grimm, Jacksonville, OR  
Gayle Erbe Hamlin, Jacksonville, OR  
Connie Harris, Grants Pass, OR  
Sylvia Hatchman, Grants Pass, OR  
Susan Hedges, Grants Pass, OR

Wallace Henrich, Grants Pass, OR  
David Hill, Grants Pass, OR  
Hofstetter Family, Jacksonville, OR  
Teresa Hopkins, Jacksonville, OR  
Helon Howard, Williams, OR  
John James, Fallbrook, CA  
Jack & Carolee Jones, Jacksonville, OR  
Chris Kane & Stan Long, Grants Pass, OR  
Debra Keberle, Jacksonville, OR  
Kenneth King, Jacksonville, OR  
Kingfisher Farms, Jacksonville, OR  
Judy Krogh, Jacksonville, OR  
Wendy Kupilik, Jacksonville, OR  
Alice LaMoree & Peter Johnson, Jacksonville, OR  
Joseph Lavine, Grants Pass, OR  
Jeanette LeTourneux, Applegate, OR  
Brenda Marion, Jacksonville, OR  
McKee Bridge Historical Society, Jacksonville, OR  
Susan Miler & David Doi, Jacksonville, OR  
Janis Mohr-Tipton & Paul Tipton, Applegate, OR  
Sammy Michael Munoz, Grants Pass, OR  
Michael Murphy, Grants Pass, OR  
Ann Offenbacher & Dana Schefstrom, Jacksonville, OR  
Vernon & Gretchen Palmer, Bend, OR  
Annette Parsons, Grants Pass, OR  
Tom & Margaret Patterson, Wilderville, OR  
Alison Pazourek, Grants Pass, OR  
Raymond & Margaret Prag, Williams, OR  
Red Lily Vineyards, Jacksonville, OR  
Jody Reilly, Jacksonville, OR  
Thomas Roberts, Jacksonville, OR  
Yola Sanders, Ocean Park, WA  
Daniel & Janeen Sathre, Jacksonville, OR  
Mrs. Fred Saunders, Grants Pass, OR  
Don & Lori Sayer, Applegate, OR  
Robert Scheel, Grants Pass, OR  
Michele & Durgash Scherer, Williams, OR  
Joyce M. Schmidt, Jacksonville, OR  
Charles Seagraves, Grants Pass, OR  
Thomas E. Sharwood, Jacksonville, OR  
Pete & Shelly Smith, Grants Pass, OR

Nikki Squire, Bend, OR  
Cynthia Stevens, Jacksonville, OR  
Lillian & Allen Stewart, Jacksonville, OR  
Mark & Judi Stillwell, Fayetteville, AR  
Steven Tichenor, Grants Pass, OR  
Michael & Paula Tougher, Jacksonville, OR  
Rita & Thomas Turek, Williams, OR  
Dr. Jim & Karen Van Delden, Grants Pass, OR  
Marina Walker, Jacksonville, OR  
Geoff Weaver, Jacksonville, OR  
Christin Weber, Jacksonville, OR  
Frank & Gwen Werner, Jacksonville, OR  
John & Silvia Woods, Grants Pass, OR

### DEER

Anonymous, Applegate, OR (2)  
Anonymous, Grants Pass, OR (6)  
Anonymous, Jacksonville, OR (3)  
Anonymous, Murphy, OR  
Anonymous, Wilderville, OR (2)  
Anonymous, Williams, OR  
2 O'clock Dan, Williams, OR  
Felicia Ann Acrea, Grants Pass, OR  
Jean Ainsworth, Grants Pass, OR  
Peter Allen, Grants Pass, OR  
Linda Althouse, Grants Pass, OR  
Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR  
T. Bass, Jacksonville, OR  
Danny & Lorraine Boone, Grants Pass, OR  
Jill Brenkman, Jacksonville, OR  
Michael Brooks, Jacksonville, OR  
Cheryl Bruner, Williams, OR  
Ellen Beth Curtis, Jacksonville, OR  
Emily Demmin, Jacksonville, OR  
Mary Lee Denton, Williams, OR  
Roger & Helen Ekins, Jacksonville, OR  
Audrey Eldridge, Albany, OR  
Bert Etling, Ashland, OR  
Megan Fehrman, Jacksonville, OR  
Christopher Friend, Wilderville, OR  
Pat & Steve Gehres, Applegate, OR  
Bruce Gibbs, Grants Pass, OR  
Marie & Gary Gilbreth, Jacksonville, OR  
Thelma Goodnough, Applegate, OR  
Connie Goodrich, Jacksonville, OR  
Pat Gordon, Jacksonville, OR  
Lamar Hanson, Grants Pass, OR  
Jette & Victor Havens, Wilderville, OR

Gregory Hickey, Grants Pass, OR  
Barbara Holiday, Medford, OR  
Harold Hopkins  
Claudia Ingraham, Jacksonville, OR  
Vane & Bonnie Jones, Murphy, OR  
David Keip, Grants Pass, OR  
Gerald R Kime, Grants Pass, OR  
Jo Larsen, Williams, OR  
The Levitt Family, Williams, OR  
Bob Lieberman, Grants Pass, OR  
Gary & Dolores Lisman, Jacksonville, OR  
Ann & Bob Manes, Jacksonville, OR  
Jane Mara, Murphy, OR  
Maureen McLaughlin in memory of Walter Schmidt, Jacksonville, OR  
Karen Mitchell, Jacksonville, OR  
Sydney Mitchell, Grants Pass, OR  
Jean Mount, Grants Pass, OR  
Virginia Niebuhr, Grants Pass, OR  
Barbara Niedermeyer, Jacksonville, OR  
Carol Offenbacher, Grants Pass, OR  
Janice & Jeffrey Peacock, Lafayette, CA  
Kathie Philip, Jacksonville, OR  
Shelley Pollock, Jacksonville, OR  
Janet Porrazzo, Jacksonville, OR  
Kathleen Pyle, Jacksonville, OR  
Coenraad Rogmans, Jacksonville, OR  
Donald Rubenstein, Grants Pass, OR  
Michael Schwartz, Grants Pass, OR  
Carolyn Simonds, Grants Pass, OR  
Jeanette Stobie, Applegate, OR  
John Taylor, Grants Pass, OR  
Marilyn Terry, Williams, OR  
Glenn Thompson, Gold Beach, OR  
Renee & Larry Thompson, Grants Pass, OR  
Debbie & Don Tollefson, Jacksonville, OR  
George Trahern, Grants Pass, OR  
Terri Treat, Williams, OR  
Mike & Rhonda Updike, Jacksonville, OR  
Alan & Cindy Voetsch, Ruch, OR  
Nathan Wall, Jacksonville, OR  
David Willard, Jacksonville, OR  
Candace Williams, Ashland, OR  
Robert Wisler, Grants Pass, OR  
Pamela & Gerald Wright, Grants Pass, OR  
Rhione Zeichel, Jacksonville, OR  
Ann Zweifel, Williams, OR