

Love May Make the World Go Round, but Commerce Greased Old Time Tualatin's Wheel

Little known facts about Tualatin's old businesses

BY LOYCE MARTINAZZI

Over the many decades that have elapsed since Tualatin's beginning in 1887, many entrepreneurs made their living selling goods and services in the Tualatin area. Pictured are some of those businesses.

In 1879 George Saum built a water powered sawmill on Saum Creek and supplied lumber from local forests for many settlers to replace their log cabins with fine homes. Local lore tells that his oxen were so well trained he could direct them by saying "gee" or "haw."

John L. Smith's sawmill and lumberyard by the river at the city park site provided the area's first payroll starting in 1892. And John Nyberg developed an open pit mine on his property, crushing local rock into good Oregon gravel to provide gravel to replace the log "plank" roads that were dusty in summer and muddy in winter. The machinery required to turn trees into boards and solid rock into gravel was large, heavy and swift. The cost of progress was at times quite high and dangerous and one Charles Casteel lost an arm at the Smith mill, then lost two fingers on his other hand at the Nyberg quarry.

Sagert's "custom farming" business moved from farm to farm threshing grain and baling hay, while hop growing and harvesting provided work. In late summer many Tualatin families camped out to pick hops and socialize. The ITEL family had a huge farming business and also ran the local school bus business.

While there were early grocery stores both at Bridgeport (by the Tualatin River bridge) and old town, (by the golf course) the two main stores from the 20s on were the brick store and the white store. One block apart, both stores were originally owned by the Robinsons. Newt Robinson and his wife Lizzie (Smith) owned the brick store and Edward A. Robinson, (unrelated to Newt) and his wife Grace owned the white store. So when someone mentions Robinson's store, many of we old timers wonder "which one?"

With the advent of automobiles, blacksmith shops slowly went out of business and were supplanted by gasoline service stations. In their turn Frank Hanegan, his son Vic, and his grandson Rick all operated the station on the corner of Boones Ferry Road and Nyberg, each generation providing service with a smile.

All these busy entrepreneurs and their local customers needed food. Mae's Cafe served the best hamburgers in town, and then of course there was the mother of all Tualatin's old businesses—Blue Mountain Pet Food, whose motto was: Tualatin Oregon—Going to the Dogs.

Many of Tualatin's early inhabitants had visions, took risks, and put their nose to the grindstone, so to speak, to make sure that the thriving town's inhabitants had gravel roads, wooden houses, a variety of groceries, great hamburgers and commercial buildings—and happy hounds. Mills and mines, diners and dog food, horse shoes and gasoline—they may not be the most elegant of industries, but they were the most needed. Our early inhabitants rose to the challenge.



Gerald Avery ran a first rate White Leghorn chicken hatchery on Avery Road.



Tualatin Milling Company at the site of City park. John L. Smith and his family moved to Tualatin in 1892 and took over.



The Robinsons brick store, built in 1912. The wood frame building was moved east and turned into a feed store. Many old timers remember Slim and Laura Kamp running the feed store. At one time the post office operated at the south end of the brick building.



This building housed many different business ventures. A variety store; radio repair shop, and finally Mae's Cafe. It was next to the post office on Boones Ferry Road. On the corner was, and is still, the brick store.



Most folks got their groceries and paid their light bill at the "white store" on Seneca and Boones Ferry Road.



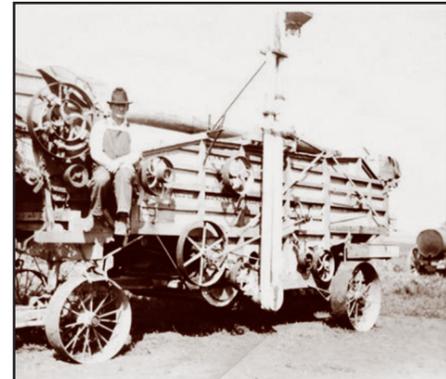
A curious business to say the least. This little repair junkyard was located along Boones Ferry Road just before crossing onto Tualatin Sherwood Road. Notice the odd assortment of vehicles, including an old horse drawn buggy. Yvonne Addington took this photo years ago.



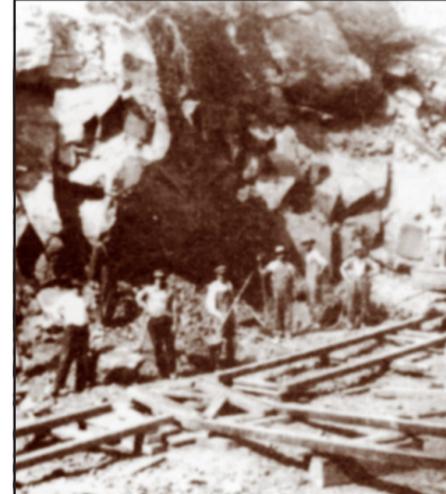
Elwert's hop yard and barn.



George Saum sawmill just east and south of Bridgeport School.



Sagert's threshed grain all over the country.



Gravel from Nyberg's rock quarry covered the roads in the Tualatin area.

Welcome to TUALATIN
 Pet Food Capitol of the Northwest

THE HERVIN COMPANY
 Caters to Pets

MAE'S PIONEER CAFE
 Fifth Anniversary
 FREE COFFEE FESTIVAL DAY
 Our Specialty is
Home Made Pies → **Home Cooked Meals**
Tasty Hamburgers
 Mae Meinecke, Prop. Tualatin, Oregon

Mae's Cafe and Blue Mountain Pet Food Company advertised in the Tualatin Crawfish Festival brochure.



The Spot Tavern in 1948. Now under new management as the C. I. Still the best breakfast in town.



Vic Hanegan's service station on the corner of Boones Ferry and Nyberg Roads. Three generations of Hanegans ran the station through the years.

The Perfect Gift!
 Books on Tualatin history, as well as our famous preserves, can be purchased at the Tualatin Heritage Center, and make perfect gifts. For more information, please see
www.tualatinhistoricalsociety.org