

Lorane, More Than Just A Stop on the Road



A Well-Traveled Route

While the community was named Lorane in 1888, the valley had long been an important stop on the road. The earliest white settler recorded in the area was William Martin who arrived in 1850. The location, however, was already part of a well-established route known as the Hudson's Bay Trappers' Trail, taking travelers between Fort Vancouver and Fort Umpqua near Elkton. The trail was probably much older, likely **established** by native tribes of the area. Hudson's Bay fur trappers often used Indian routes to travel around the area and establish trade with the tribes.

Much of the Fur Trappers' route would later be used as part of the Applegate trail or the Southern Route of the Oregon Trail. The Applegate Trail ran at times through Cottage Grove and other times through Lorane, likely depending on the water levels when travelers passed through the area. The trail became a stagecoach route with the first stagecoach stop in the area established in 1853. It then became Territorial Road in 1857. Travel decreased in the 1870's when railroad travel became available, but the area remains an active travel corridor.



Originally the Cartwright Hotel and Stage Stop, later called Mountain House Hotel, this structure was the first business in Lorane. Built – 1853, Demolished - 1973.

Creating Community

The earliest settlers arriving in the area were farmers who found the soil rich and productive. The first business on record was the Cartwright Stage Stop and Hotel. The Cartwrights moved to the Siuslaw Valley in 1853 and Darius Cartwright began building the hotel the same year. Once complete the hotel included a post office, telegraph station, dining room, and bar. The telegraph was installed in 1865 with one of the first



incoming telegraphs being the announcement of President Lincoln's **assassination**. The message was relayed to Cottage Grove by horseback as Cottage Grove did not have a telegraph line installed until 1881.

Other early industries included agriculture and lumber. Jost D. Petrie opened first sawmill and grist mill in the valley in early 1880s. Lumber continued to be an important industry, but agriculture would remain king in the Siuslaw Valley. Orchards produced highly regarded fruit until many were cut down during WWII when grain became a sought-after product. In 1919 records show that most of the produce processed at the Cottage Grove Cannery was brought in from Lorane. The best of some fruits were individually wrapped and shipped fresh.

After timber died down and traditional agriculture began to **wane**, a new crop arrived in the valley. Grape fields and the accompanying wineries began to take hold, in 1979 Hinman Vineyards started the first winery in the area. Chateau Lorane began commercial operations in 1992 becoming the first winery in Lorane. King Estates opened a few years later, becoming the largest operation in the area. Lake Louise, a manmade lake and part of Chateau Lorane, was the film location for an episode of Murder She Wrote. The episode, titled A Lady in the Lake, aired in Nov of 1985. The rich soil that once nurtured fruit orchards now grow acres of grapes that produce world class wines.



Lake Louise - manmade lake created by lumber baron Don Baker in 1970, named for his mother.

Lorane for many is a simple stop on the road to somewhere else but take a minute and you will find a thriving community rich in history. Indians, fur trappers, stagecoaches, farmers, loggers, and now wine enthusiasts, have made Lorane its own destination.

Discussion Points

1. How long was the Cartwright House a part of the Lorane Community?
2. The article states that the Applegate Trail route varied depending on water levels, why would water levels cause a wagon train to change their route?

Vocabulary

Assassination: a murder, usually an official or high ranking person, by sudden or secret attack often for political reasons

Established: started, began, built, or brought into being

Wane: to decrease in size, amount, or degree: dwindle, diminish

