
Newspapers Outside Grants Pass, Oregon: 1885 - 1935

Table Rock Sentinel: First Southern Oregon Paper Published 1855 - 1880¹

The large though shifting crowds that pushed in to southern Oregon following discoveries of gold in the Illinois Valley in 1851 and at Jacksonville in 1852 soon brought about a general demand for a newspaper. Jacksonville, where the gold strikes were more centralized, soon became the leading city of the entire southern Oregon district and it was naturally there the first newspaper was established in 1855. The following account is found in A. G. Walling's history of southern Oregon, published in 1884.

“The most conspicuous mark of progress this year (1855) was the establishment of the Table Rock Sentinel, by Messrs. T’Vault, Taylor and Blakely. True, the diminutive sheet did not require a double cylinder lightning press, but it was the first newspaper in southern Oregon, and as a reflex of public opinion and a record of current events it soon exerted considerable influence.”

“The initial number appeared on November 24, 1855, and the few quarts of type that spread disjointed, yet most acceptable news from the “States” and from the Willamette settlements have been replaced many times by new fonts. The first number asserted itself as ‘Independent on all subject and devoted to the best interests of Southern Oregon,’ but subsequent issues developed a tendency towards the dissemination of unqualified democracy and the bitterest hatred of anything inimical to the interests of that communion.

Table Rock Sentinel

Illinois Valley Paper Is Newest: 1935²

The latest newspaper enterprise undertaken in Josephine County of southern Oregon is the Illinois Valley News, published by E. H. Weston. The first edition was published March 7, 1935.

This paper, at present a four page publication, is mailed weekly at Cave City.

2 Editions Published Since 1929³

Since 1929 there have been published two editions of the Daily Courier [Grants Pass], the regular 4 p.m. edition and a later 9 a.m. edition, the latter delivered by mail to rural routes, late morning stage and the north bound morning mail train. The morning edition is a duplicate of the previous night's edition, except that it is bought up to date with the last minute telegraphic news.

Thus it is often able to publish and circulate to the rural subscribers news 21 hours ahead of the Portland dailies that are circulated in this district in the morning are actually printed at 6 p.m. the night previous, and have been approximately 12 hours on the road before even reaching Grants Pass. The afternoon edition is frequently 17 hours ahead.

More Information

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community's history and land use.

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1. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *First S. O. Paper Published In 1855*. Golden Anniversary Edition - - - Courier History Section. Grants Pass, OR.
 2. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *Illinois Valley Paper is Newest*. Golden Anniversary Edition - - - Courier History Section. Grants Pass, OR.
 3. Grants Pass Courier. April 3, 1935. *2 Editions Published Since 1929*. Golden Anniversary Edition - - - Courier History Section. Grants Pass, OR.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org
Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>
Edited by Karen Rose, Wayne McKy, & Mike Walker

HNA&HS Officers

Hal Anthony, Outreach Chair
3995 Russell Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Wayne McKy, Chair
6497 Hugo Road
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Mike Walker, Education Chair
3388B Merlin Rd #195
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Karen Rose, Web Master
575 Red Mountain Drive
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Not Quality Controlled, Nor Edited

HUGO NEWSPAPERS: III



Very Draft
Brochure 195 Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



Southern Oregon Newspapers

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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**