

Echo Heritage Trail

A series of interpretive panels with information on Echo's History were developed in 2009. Below are the panels and a listing of where they can be found. 1. Echo Church on Church N. Bonanza; 2. & 3. Railroad & Commerce & Echo Commodities on Echo Fire Hall, Main St. 4. Edwards Building on Fife Apartments, Main St. 5. Ripper Store on H & P Café, Main St. 6 & 7. Echo Bank & 1908 Business Roster on Echo Bank, Main St.; 8. Teel Building on 210 W. Main; 9. Echo Mercantile on post office; 10. Arlington Hotel on Echo Hotel, Main Street 11. Liesegang Building on Red Express, Main St., 12. Koontz Building, Main St.; 13. Jack Dempsey, Fort Henrietta Park; 14. Koontz House @ Fife House 210 N. Dupont; 15. Masonic Lodge, 20 S. Dupont; 16. City Hall @ city hall, 20 S. Bonanza; 17. Dorn Building on building, Bridge St.;

Railway Depot
Stockyards
Gillette's 3 Story Hotel
L.B. Wells Racket Store,
Paper Hanger, & Painter
3 Real Estate Offices
Jeweler
Feed Mill
L.A. Esteb, Lawyer
Baker
Bank of Echo
Blacksmith
Undertaking Parlor, Furniture Store
Stanfield Irrigation Office
Western Land & Irrigation Office
I.O.O.F. Hall
Masonic Hall
George & Miller, Grocery, Dry Goods,
Men's, Ladies' Suits & Dresses
Echo Community Church
Pool Hall & Ice House
Amos & Jane Hammer,
Carpent Weavers
2 - Grain Elevators
Echo Hotel
Hoskins Rooming House
2 - Drug Stores
5 - Saloons

1908 Business Roster

Laundry
Bonney's Harness Shop
Meat Market
U.S. Post Office
3 - Grocery & Dry Good Stores
Dairy
Tum-a-Lum Lumber Co.
Stevens Lumber Yard
2 - Barbers
Newspaper
Millinery Shop
Creamery
City Hall, Jail, Pump House
Henrietta Flour Mill
Wool Scouring Mill
Tom Dewees, City Express & Drayman
Telephone Office, Telegraph Office
2 Stages Pass Through Echo, Twice a Day
2 - Hardware Store 1 w/ Farm Implements
Second Hand Store
2 - Livery Barn & Feed
Dentist
Echo School
Fire Department
Frank Spike Veterinary Supplies
Cigar Factory
2 - Confectionary Stores
Boot & Shoe Repair Shop
4 - Doctors

6.



Arlington Hotel

Built by J.H. Koontz, 1883. Greek Revival style. The building was originally called the Arlington Hotel, later the Echo Hotel. It is still known locally as the "Hotel" even though rooms have not been let since the 1960's. It is one of the few historic, large, wood-framed commercial buildings remaining in the county. The one story addition was added in the 1980s. A porch and balcony that once overhung the sidewalk came down in the early 1950's when a horse tied to a pillar was spooked. The hotel has been the center of commercial social activity in Echo for generations. When the sliding window was installed a board bearing a bullet hole was found verifying one of the local legends about the wild west days in Echo. Some people believe the building is haunted. The third floor originally housed an undertaker and furniture maker. In the 1940s the Harlem Globe Trotters stayed here when Pendleton hotels refused to house them. National Register.



10



Echo City Hall

Built in 1916. Renovated in 2000. John Tourtellotte of Tourtellotte & Hummel, a Portland & Boise Architectural firm, was the architect. This firm designed the Astor Hotel in Astoria and the Idaho State Capital. The style is Beaux-Arts style with Mediterranean features including cupola, parapets, arched entrance; The exterior suggests Portuguese influence. The Echo Commercial Club leased the auditorium and brought in regular entertainment, such as traveling minstrels. The monthly Fire Department dances were an important social event that earned money for the first fire truck purchased in 1949. Many "old timers" have told of courting or meeting their future spouse at these dances. National Register.

Echo Library/Star Theater

Prior to building the Echo City Hall in 1916, the only library was a small circulating library in the building where the museum park is now. W.H. Cray, city treasurer & newspaper publisher, suggested that room be provided in the new building for a library. Mayor Hugh Smith appointed a librarian and board of directors. The library was in the room where the library circulation desk is now. To finance the library the Star theater, which took up the entire west side of the ground floor, was leased to the library for \$20 per month. RB Stanfield fronted \$640 to purchase theater furnishings and Cray operated the projector for free until the debt was paid. He then received \$2.50 per week. When the theater closed c. 1950, the theater facade was removed and a garage door was installed and it was used as a fire hall. During renovation in 1998-99, the bay window and columns were recreated based on the photo of the exterior from a 1927 I.O.O.F. convention. National Register.



16.



Dorn Building

Built 1905. This is a traditional Western-Style false front commercial building with drop lap siding. An additional Building was moved onto the site and attached to the original building. This was the office of Dr. Frederick Dorn (1871-1934) for several decades and it later became a Dorn family residence as was the house to the west.

The Dorn brothers: John, Frederick, Henry, and Frank came to Oregon from Minnesota. John was Echo postmaster for 17 years. He also worked as a farmer, druggist, and grocer. John married Arvilla Mendenhall. The Mendenhalls were among the earliest settlers on the Meadows, having first settled in the Willamette Valley in 1853. The Dorn brothers built several buildings around Echo c. 1910-20 including the George and Miller & Spinning Drug Buildings located east of this building, which was gutted by fire in 1959.

17.



Echo Bank Building

Built in 1920 for \$58,147.68. Century Roman Classical style. Raymond W. Hatch, architect. Parker & Banfield Contractors. The exterior is glazed terra cotta and brick. The interior features marble flooring and wainscoting and iron teller's cages. The bank was incorporated in 1905, operated in a building next door until 1920. Local ranchers formed the bank which closed in 1933.

The bank survived the depression to be sold to First National Bank of Pendleton. A letter from the State Banking Department dated October 26, 1933, praised Joseph Cunha for his ethics & protection of banking customer's assets. Joseph Cunha arrived in Oregon as a stowaway from the Azores in 1883; He arrived in Umatilla County in 1885 and became one of the most prominent and successful ranchers & business men with 14,000 head of sheep, 500 head of cattle & 64,000 acres of land by 1951. In 1981, Joseph C. Andrews purchased and donated the building and funds to establish the Echo Historical Museum in the bank building.

Bank Robbery

In 1926 Nona McFaul was working as a clerk when the bank was robbed. A stranger came in and asked for change for a \$10 bill. When she turned around with the change the man was pointing a gun at her. When she refused to give him the bank's money, he tied her arms behind her with baling wire and fastened the wire to the grating on the teller cage door. When she worked herself loose, she ran upstairs to the dentist's office to get help. Men from town followed the car and stopped it, but the driver did not fit the description provided by McFaul, so he was allowed to go. Later that day, the same car came back by the bank and McFaul recognized it. The city marshal stopped it and found a well-dressed man, not one wearing old clothes. The car was the same as one owned by Arnold Lane, the mail carrier, and he came to examine it. He noticed it was different than his car, and found a false bottom and stacked in it was the money from the bank. National Register.



7.



Echo Methodist-Episcopal Church

Constructed May 1886. New England Church-style. Remodeled & expanded in 1910. JH Koontz donated land for the church. Before 1883 services were held in Spikes Grove south of town whenever a circuit rider minister came to town. Whole families would come, bringing food and camping along the river for a week or so. During the day the men would

ride home to their farms to do chores, returning later to the camp. The I.O.O.F. Overland Lodge was moved to Echo from Umatilla Landing in 1883 and until this church was built, services, box socials, basketball games, dances, weddings and funerals were held there. The church basement was dug by Rev. Jewell Roork (June 1947-1950) with help of partitioners. The Ladies Aid Society raised money for the front stained glass window which was set in 1945 and cost \$400. National Register.



1.



Echo Commodities 1906

Alfalfa Hay, 60,000 Ton, \$6/Ton = \$360,000
Honey, 77,000 lbs., 7 Cents/Pound = \$5,390
Lambs, 75,000, \$3/Head, = \$225,000
Wheat, 30,000 Acres, 700,000 Bushels, 75 Cents/
Bushel = \$525,000
Poultry Value \$10,000
Dairy Value \$7,500
Wool, 1.5 million Lbs., 18 Cents/Pound = \$270,000
Swine, 500
Fruit & Garden Produce, \$10,000
Steers, Fed Through Winter Value = \$127,500
8,000 Acres Summer Fallow

Alfalfa or "Chili Clover" as it was originally called, was first planted in Echo in 1880. In 1904 Echo grown Alfalfa won the Gold Medal at the World's Fair in St. Louis.



3.



Echo Mercantile Building/Post Offices

Built before 1910. One of the earliest reinforced concrete buildings in the area, it has little "style", but a hint of fluted classical columns to frame the storefronts. Built by Hugh Smith to house a hardware and implement business, it now houses the post office in one store front.

The first post office in Eastern Oregon was the Utilla Post Office across the river from Echo at the Utilla Indian Agency. It was established in 1851 with A. Francis Rogers (Royer) as Post Master. He was also a trader at Utilla. Other post offices around Echo were: Meadowville closed 1874; Meadows closed to Echo 1882; Moorehouse closed 1883; Galloway closed to Echo 1915; Alpine closed 1894; Acton closed 1888; Echo post office established May 13, 1881 with Moses C. Tribble, Post Master.

9.



Edwards Building/Heritage Tree

Constructed c. 1860s & may have been moved from Umatilla City in the 1880s. Historical businesses: Japanese restaurant - 1910; laundry; 2nd hand store; Echo News - 1918-1942; The 2nd

hand store was operated by George Baars and the Redmans Lodge was on the second floor. The laundry business ended when it's boiler blew up.

Italianate style with Western false front. The Linden Tree in front is an Echo Heritage Tree planted by Nan & W.H. Crary. Crary was publisher of the Echo News and City Recorder for many years. Nan was active in promoting tree planting in early Echo. National Register.

4.

14.



James H. & Cynthia Koontz House

Built c. 1881. One of the finest examples of Italianate style in Umatilla County. Ornate brackets, wide eaves, turned posts and fancy cut-out balustrades mark the house as one whose owner was wealthy and able. Echo was named for Echo Koontz Miller, the Koontz' daughter, who was 3 when Koontz platted the town. She was raised in the house and died there in 1908. The Koontz family came to Oregon in 1862 via the Oregon Trail, settling first in Portland where he worked as a carpenter then in 1863 they moved to Umatilla Landing. "Mr. Koontz had but seventy-five cents in his pocket on his arrival; ... finding employment ... he soon had money and built a store at Umatilla, buying for a site ten feet of frontage for \$250. Here he remained seventeen years, doing a large forwarding and commission business. In 1864 he was appointed postmaster, and held that office seventeen years also.

In 1880 he established a branch store at Echo... and built a large hotel in 1883, transferring all his business thither. In 1886 he made a further enlargement by building a gristmill of a capacity of 80 of flour per day. This, however, was burned in 1886 with 300 of flour and 32,000 bushels of wheat, at a loss of nearly \$40,000 on an insurance of \$23,000. ...still conducts his store and hotel with accustomed energy, and follows up the interests of his real estate. He owns a 1,000 acres of land near the town.

Dale & Jerrie Fife began renovating the house and outbuildings in the mid 1970's. The house is believed to be haunted, possibly by Echo Koontz herself. Echo died in the house due to accidentally drinking wood alcohol according to her obituary. Echo was a talented musician who trained at the Boston Conservatory of Music and while in Boston met her husband Charles Miller. National Register.



Liesegang Building

Built in 1920 by Ed Liesegang, Sr. Restored in 2006. Originally a butcher shop, it has been a grocery and restaurant.

Liesegang, a German immigrant, married Katherine Bottger, who's family were early wheat farmers just east of the city limits. He was a butcher known for both his great strength and small stature. He was able to handle a side of beef by himself.

11.



Railroad & Commerce

Settlement of the Echo area began in 1859-62 and the town was platted in 1880 before the railroad was constructed. The railroad opened markets for Echo commodities & attracted businessmen. The Echo Commercial Club promotional brochure from 1907 provides facts about these commodities. A 1910 Sansborn Map shows that the railroad right-of-way was lined with businesses and warehouses. The corrals

where sheep and beef were loaded for transport to markets such as Chicago were located here. The Wool Scouring Plant was across the tracks and grain and wool warehouses were located across Main on both sides of the tracks. In 1906, 248 cars of "fine fat steers were shipped from stock yards at Echo or approximately 7440 head..

Echo has long held the distinction of being the heaviest shipping point in the state of Oregon... It is conservatively estimated that there are 160,000 sheep..."



2.



Ripper Store

Built in 1904 by Ella "Mamie" McFaul Hemstitch & Edwin Ripper. Built as a general store, then tire store, but has been a restaurant for over 60 years. Percy G. Ripper (son) grew up here collecting arrowheads

around Echo and became so interested that it became a life-long hobby. His extensive collection, which includes rugs, baskets, beadwork, clothing, tools and hats, was donated to the Echo Museum by his sons.

5.



Teel Building

Built c. 1870 on Echo Meadows and moved into town c. 1883. Renovated 2005 by Lloyd & Lois Piercy. Originally a School House on the Teel Ranch 3/4 miles west of Echo. Moved by the family and used as a commercial building. Over the years it has housed a grocery, upholstery

shop, video store, city hall/library, and ranch office; Teel was the first Indian Agency physician at the Agency in Pendleton in 1861; first county coroner & circuit doctor from Umatilla to John Day. A letter Teel wrote in Sept. 1861 about the health of Native Americans on the reservation is in the National Archives. Elvira Teel was a school teacher/ farmer/business woman.



8.



Umatilla Masonic Lodge # 40

15.

Built in 1867 in Umatilla & moved to Echo in 1901. It is an Italianate, western false front style built for \$4800. It is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Umatilla County. The ground floor housed businesses such as a billiard parlor selling near beer. The second floor is the lodge. When organized in March 1867 there were only four lodges east of the Cascades. One of the first members was Frank Maddock, the first county sheriff, who farmed on the Echo Meadows. The lodge was consolidated with the Echo Lodge #94 in 1901. The cost to move the building and reassemble it in Echo was \$1,618.27. It was loaded on two railroad cars and transported to Echo. Originally the building had two carpets that had Masonic emblems and were shipped around the Horn by boat. When the old carpet was replaced, it was cut up and pieces were donated to other lodges in the area. One piece still hangs in the building.
National Register.

12.



Koontz Building

Constructed 1904-1905. Beaux-Arts style with Mission style parapets. Built by J.H. Koontz as Koontz General Mercantile to replace his original store on the NW corner of Main & Front Streets. The George and Miller Co., Ob & Bob and RR Lewis Stores were housed in the building over the years. Usage has

included a restaurant, bowling alley, satellite dish and boat factory. With its decorative tin ceiling tiles, it once was one of the highest valued commercial buildings in the area at \$5,000 at the time of construction.
National Register.



Koontz Bld. const. 1905 in on National Reg. today, Echo, OR Main St.

13.



Jack Dempsey

Jack Dempsey, the Manassa Mauler or Nonpareil, held the heavy weight title from 1919 to 1926. However what few people realize is that as a young man he traveled the rails and lived in hobo camps such as one located along the river in Echo. The hobo camp was a work camp. Jack was a laborer on irrigation canal construction and did odd jobs around town.

"Jack walked up to the butcher shop and asked owner Bert Logston for 25 cents worth of stew meat. Mr. Logston wrapped up the meat and Jack handed him a one hundred dollar bill which the butcher could not change, so he told Jack to take the meat. Several days later Jack came for the same amount of stew meat and again presented the one hundred dollar bill and again Mr. Longston could not change it. The third time Jack tried the same procedure Mr. Longston said "Sure, I can change the bill," and Jack was quick to draw it back and exclaim "No, no, I have lived for several months on this bill." He then gave the right change for the meat.
Echoes From the Past

Where the Fife RV Park is now located along Main Street there was a pit called the "Dug Out" that was used for boxing and wrestling matches. Jack fought there while living in Echo. He also returned c. 1924 for an exhibition fight. While Jack was in Echo, Addie "Maxine" Cates lived on Kennedy and Dale Streets. Did they meet here? Later she and Jack met in Salt Lake where she was playing the piano in a saloon. Did they reminisce about Echo? They were married from 1916 to 1919 when Jack divorced Cates. One biographer lists Maxine as 10 years older than Jack, but the Census and family history show that Maxine was born in 1896 making her a year younger than Jack.

