
Pacific Highway: 1913; U.S. 99: 1926; I-5: 1959¹

Pacific Highway: 1913 - 1926 The 1922 completion of the 345 mile Pacific Highway in Oregon came with the distinction of being the first state west of the Mississippi to have a “paved highway” the entire length of the state.

In 1926 J. B. Hicks constructed Hick's Auto Camp which was located on the Pacific Highway²⁻³ (i.e., today's Oxyoke Road).

1933 Owen Conway and Lena E. Downs were married June 19, 1933 in Bakersfield, California. They had two children: Danny Conway born 1927 and Connie Conway born 1937.

U.S. 99 The Pacific Highway became U.S. 99 in 1926. It was rerouted to a new location east of the old highway and Hick's Auto Camp ca., 1941 - 1942.

1944⁴ The Conways purchased Hicks the fall of 1944. It was 10 miles north of Grants Pass at the south foot of Mt. Sexton. They named it "Court Conway". The court had a restaurant specializing in grilled food, tavern, Mobil Service Station, small grocery section, and several small cabins to house travelers. The Ox Yoke Service Station was south just down the highway a quarter mile; however, it was closed and a family lived there.

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. March , 2006. *Auto Camps In Northern Josephine County: 1910 - 2001*. Hugo, OR.

2. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. April 2010 *Hick's Auto Camp: 1926 - 1944. Brochure 12A*. Hugo, OR.

3. Atwood, Kay. 1983 - 1984. *Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory*. Developed for the Josephine County Planning Office. Volume I. Grants Pass, OR.

4. Walker, Michael. 2002. Draft *Connie Conway's Oral History: 1937 - 2002*. Prepared for the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. Hugo, OR.

Hugo's Regional Auto Camps¹

Court Conway: 1944 - 1965⁴ The auto court had electricity and two outhouses, one for the men and one for the women. Owen put a sign on the wall in the restaurant that legal venison was 35¢ a pound, illegal venison was \$1.35 a pound. He had quite a sense of humor when it came to entertaining the public. However, the income was not enough for the family to make ends meet and Owen went to work in the woods as a faller. Lena ran the business by herself while Owen was gone. It was soon decided that she could not stretch herself far enough and they gave up the liquor license and restaurant, and specialized in groceries and the gas station.

The outhouses were replaced with indoor plumbing within the year. Daughter Connie Conway thought, “It was not that long, but it was too long, way too long.” She just hated those outhouses. The two pumps were the gravity hand pumps where you pumped the gas up into a glass cylinder until you reached the magic five gallon order amount. After that you put the pump nozzle into the vehicle and let gravity transport the gas into the vehicle. Connie's dad made her work in the store and pump gas. It hurt her hands to pump the gas and she would get so mad at her folks when they said, “Go out and pump the gas for that car.”

The family remodeled two of the little cabins into a house which it remains to this day (2010). They added a "feed and seed" warehouse at one point in time and also built a laundry mat (“*North Pacific Launderette, Never Closed*”) south of the store.⁴

Court Conway 1944 - 1965

1949 “Court Conway Grocery Pac Hy N, 2842” (*Grants Pass and Vicinity Telephone Directory by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company*. July 1949).



North Pacific Launderette
Courtesy of Connie Conway

1965 The Conways sold the court ca., 1965 and retired.⁴

1984 - 2002 Owen passed in 1984 and Lena passed in 2002 at the age of 95.⁴

2010 The dilapidated court is still there. The cabins, with the exception of one decomposing in the brush, are gone.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood*.

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.

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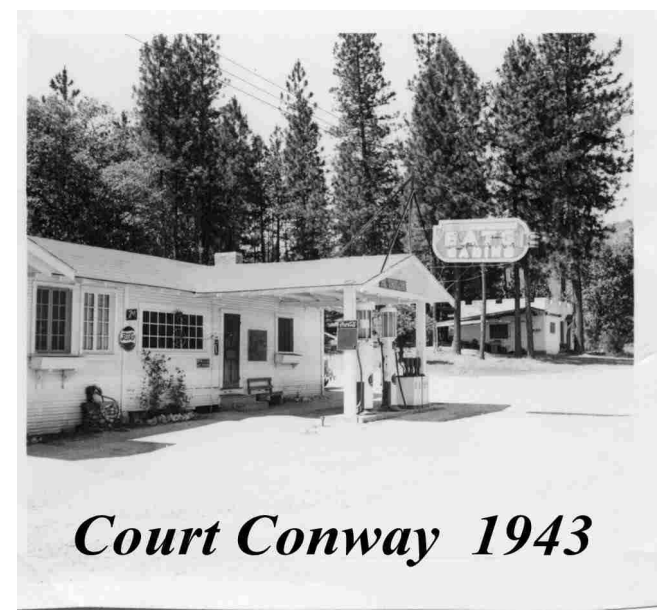
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Tom Walker, Chair, Hugo Sign Committee

Brochure 12B of Auto Camp Series - HNA&HS 2009 - 52B
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COURT CONWAY: 1944 - 1965

Brochure 12B of Hugo's Auto Camp
Brochure Series



Court Conway 1943

One Of Court Cabins - Middle Right
Courtesy of Connie Conway

April 23, 2010

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society