

Pacific Highway: 1913 - 1926¹

In **1904** John H. Williams was to have the distinction of owning the first automobile in Grants Pass.

1908 Model T The automobile changed life in rural Hugo, Oregon, at first for the rich and later for everyone. The Model T, according to Henry Ford, was available "in any color you choose, so long as it's black." The Model T greeted the masses in 1908 and revolutionized American society. It gave the people the freedom to roam. Magically feeding on each other, the Lizzie and the Pacific Highway jointly came on-line full steam in the late 1910s and early 1920s.

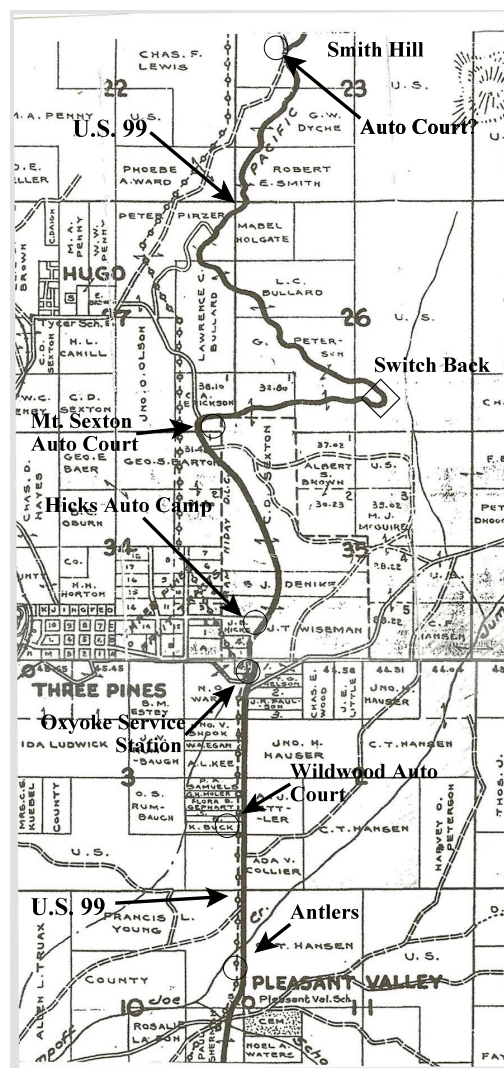
In **1909** Hugo's Mrs. Caroline Sexton took her first automobile ride as the guest of Sheriff Russell. At 81 years old Caroline was one of the oldest "Indian fighters" in Josephine county.

With the slogan, "*Get Oregon Out of the Mud,*" the **1913 Oregon Legislature** established the Oregon Highway Department (OHD). The state had no oiled or paved roads. In Hugo the OHD identified the Pacific Highway by four segments from Wolf Creek to Grants Pass.

1. **Wolf Creek to Grave Creek**
2. **Sexton Mountain** (from Grave Creek to the foot of the south slope of Sexton Mountain): 7.48 miles in length
3. **Sexton Mountain to Pleasant Valley**
4. **Pleasant Valley - Grants Pass**

In the **1910s** Ashland, Medford, and Grants Pass competed with each other for the tourist trade by providing free auto camps.

"Get Oregon Out Of The Mud"



Auto Camps/Courts & Gas Stations: 1932

First Paved Highway Through Northern JO CO: 1921 - 1922

1921 - 1922 Paving The Sexton Mt section was paved with type "C" pavement which consisted of a 5" bituminous pavement 13' wide, with 7" thick concrete shoulders 2½ feet wide. The concrete shoulder design is relatively rare in the state. The Sexton Mt - Grants Pass section was paved 16' wide, 3" bituminous base covered by a 2" bituminous wearing surface. Rock shoulders were 2' wide.

Pacific Highway: 1922 The completion of the Pacific Highway in 1922 gave Oregon the distinction of being the first state west of the Mississippi to have a paved highway the entire length of the state. There was a total investment of \$900,000 in 1,496 automobiles and trucks in Josephine County. The automobile created a new courtesy which insisted autos not frighten horses, and eventually the populace agreed to locate their autos on the right hand side of the road.

In the **early 1920s** the shift from free to pay camps was important for the small-scale entrepreneurs in Josephine County. Pay camps favored rural property owners away from the cities. More important, now there could be several camps within a given area rather than one per town. This is certainly true of northern Josephine County which would soon have over a dozen auto camps/courts, stores, and gas stations strung like popcorn on the string of the Pacific Highway/U.S. 99 between Merlin Hill and Grave Cr.

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

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

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Brochure 1D of Auto Camp Series - HNA&HS 2009 - 41D
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Pacific Highway: 1913 - 1926

Brochure 1D of Hugo's Auto Camp
Brochure Series



zone on Sexton Mtn., Pac. Hwy. S. in Josephine Co. Show combination type pavement. HP-2 #839
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South Sexton Mt. Pacific Highway: 1921
Courtesy of Oregon Department of Transportation

May 14, 2010

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society