

History of Springbrook began long before resort plans

Although not an incorporated town, Springbrook was a hub of activity

By SCHELLENE CLENDENIN
NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

Jan. 11, 1917. "It's another beautiful day with the men-folk pruning in the orchard and ... hens laying eggs and cackling." Emma Kincaid diary, 1917-1918.

Kincaid, once a resident in the community of Springbrook, wrote about the weather, "it was very cold and windy all day. We registered 40 this a.m.," and talked about her neighbors: "Fred and the family motored into town today." And included bits and pieces of her life: "I cleaned house and burnt trash from the woodshed today."

As Austin Industries begins its plans to develop Springbrook Village — an amalgam

of single family homes, condos and townhouses, shops, a resort, as well as parks and green spaces on much of the property that was once called Springbrook — The Newberg Graphic decided to revisit the old community.

Pioneers first settled in Springbrook in the 1850s. Although never a real town, Springbrook — originally named Hoskins after pioneer

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Cyrus E. Hoskins — boasted many amenities available in incorporated towns: a post office, general store and from at least as far back as 1918, a telephone company.

The name of the post office was changed to Springbrook, the name of Hoskins' farm, on June 30, 1893, when it was discovered a town of Hoskins already existed in Benton County, according to the diamond anniversary edition of The Newberg Graphic.

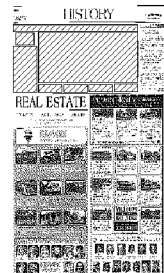
And it was a stopping place for the Southern Pacific Railroad, said Anita Linscheid, volunteer at the Yamhill County Museum in Lafayette.

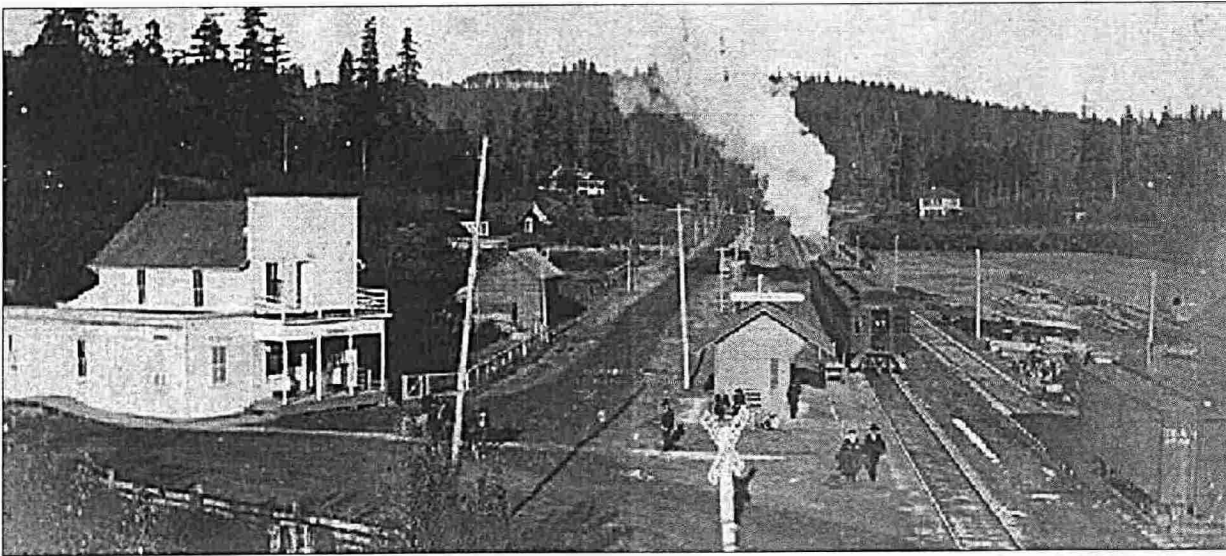
A narrow gauge track of the Southern Pacific Railroad went through Springbrook and traveled as far as Lafayette. Eventually the Red Electric, a passenger transport train that ferried community members as far as Portland, made a stop in the community. But Springbrook may have been best known for its orchards and cannery, the Springbrook Packing company cooperative plant, that was demolished in December 2005.

In its own way, the plant was internationally famous.

It was once said that before she was queen, Queen Elizabeth II requested that her canned peaches come from the Springbrook Cannery.

The post office closed in 1963 and Springbrook was swallowed up by Newberg in the 1970s.





Yamhill County Historical Society / NEWBERG GRAPHIC

The Springbrook Cooperative Cannery, which opened in 1906, was a focal point of the small, unincorporated community of Springbrook.