

Echo, Oregon



Named for Echo Koontz. The family was among the first to settle there about 1880. Fort Henrietta was also located there.



Historic Buildings at Echo, Oregon



Masonic Lodge at Echo, Oregon



Church at Echo, Oregon



Echo, Oregon Cemetery

A Look Back at Echo in 1882

This is the name of new town growing up on the line of the O.R. & N. Co., eighteen miles towards Pendleton from Umatilla. It is on the bank of Umatilla River, opposite the old Indian agency which was established in 1851 and destroyed by Indians in 1855. This point was formerly known as Brassfield's Ferry, on the old emigrant road.

A fine Howe truss bridge has been built across the river at this place by the county. The town was laid out in the spring of 1881, and a store, saloon, blacksmith shop, and feed stable were at once constructed. Later the same year a hotel and a fine school house were built.

J.H Koontz of Umatilla, is proprietor of the town, and has this summer erected a large warehouse. Echo City now contains two general stores, a drug store, a hotel, two saloons, a livery stable, two blacksmith shops, a boot and shoe shop, school house, warehouse, post office, railroad station, and a population of fifty or sixty people. It is surrounded by many fine farms, and has tributary to it a large extent of excellent agricultural land, the greater portion of which is but just being developed. The future of Echo City as a business town and a forwarding and receiving point for freight is bright.

From "Historic Sketches of Walla Walla, Whitman, Columbia, and Garfield Counties, Washington Territory and Umatilla County, Oregon," by Frank T. Gilbert, Portland, Oregon 1882

Umatilla County, Oregon 1922

ECHO

Echo, with an altitude of 600 feet, lies nestled in a picturesque spot on the Umatilla river, with alfalfa fields and orchards stretching to the south and West, while to the east and north endless grain fields pour their wealth into the warehouses of this city.

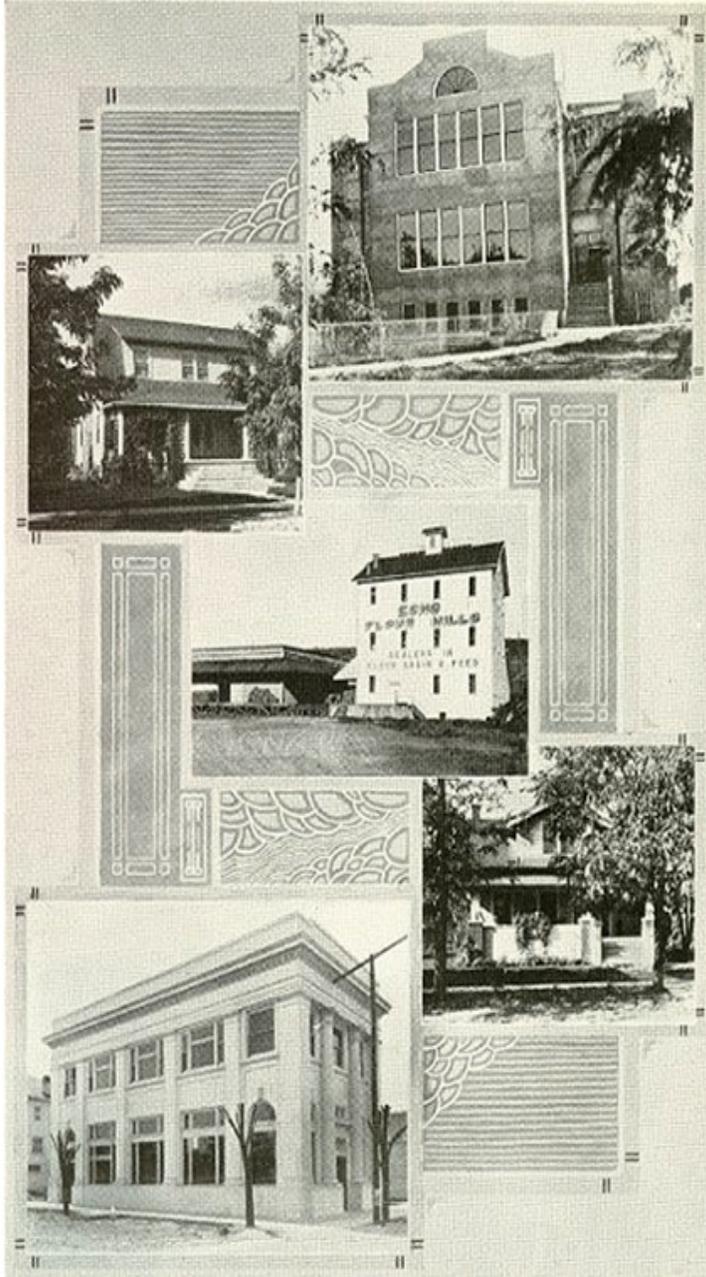
Its location on the main line of the O.-W. R. & N. railroad, also the Columbia Highway, and its proximity to the Columbia River, affords it excellent traffic facilities for its products.

With a soil that state and federal tests show ideal for alfalfa, fruit, berries, grain and every kind of vegetable, and a climate that is unexcelled for raising cattle, sheep and hogs, it is no wonder that settlers here are content to look no farther for a location.

On account of its record of 300 days of sunshine a year, and its healthful climate this section has attracted many people. The fertile meadows on the west side of the Umatilla River, and the renowned Butter Creek section still farther west, with their thousands, of tons of alfalfa hay, are the winter feeding grounds for cattle and sheep from the mountain pastures of Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Dairying and the marketing of butter and cream is an important industry in the Meadows district and there are several apiaries which produce many tons of honey.

Two thousand people are served by the Echo postoffice, there being a daily rural route covering the Meadows and lower Butter Creek, and upper Butter Creek and Lena, 45 miles away, being served by a tri-weekly start route and stage line.

The town has electric light and power, good telephone service, a municipally-owned water system, and a volunteer fire department with up-to-date equipment. Concrete walks cover all the business part



of town and the streets throughout are hard-surfaced.

Echo is one of the largest interior wool markets of the state, handling a million and a half pounds of wool annually. Shearing of the many thousand sheep of the district is done at a large power-operated shearing plant, which is equipped with every modern convenience for this work.

The mercantile business of the community is handled by three well stocked, progressive general merchandise stores, an up-to-date drug and stationery store, furniture store and undertaking establishment, hardware and implement store, a \$10,000 meat market with modern ice plant, a well equipped bakery, a flour mill with a daily capacity of 150 barrels, an alfalfa meal mill, two garages, tire vulcanizing shop, harness and saddlery shop, hotel and rooming houses, restaurants, tailor shop, two barber shops, jewelry and repair shop, shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, a lumber yard with large stock of building material and fuels, and a linotype-equipped weekly newspaper.

For the handling of the grain crop there are two large warehouses, and the big wool clip of this district is shipped from two warehouses used exclusively for handling that crop.

The Bank of Echo is a substantial banking institution with assets of \$338,690 shown in the report published September 6, 1921. It is housed in a new two-story building, constructed of white glazed brick trimmed with terra cotta. This banking house is one of the finest in appearance and most complete in equipment and fixtures in the Northwest.

Echo has handsome school buildings and grounds valued at \$50,000, a \$25,000 city hall, a municipally-owned show house, and a branch of the the 'Masonic order and one by the Odd Fellows. Two church organizations have buildings here and two other organizations hold services regularly, but have not yet erected buildings.

Photo of Echo
 A beautiful home
 Bank of Echo
 Public School
 Echo Flour Mills
 A modern residence