

FREEWATER TIMES

The first paper in Freewater was the Freewater Herald, started August 7, 1890.

Three men, McComas, Freeman and J. B. Mahana, owned the paper. They ran an advertisement in the first issue that said, "Milton and North Milton-Freewater in town lots. Use the installment plan and get rich in the valley of spreading waters."

The first copy of the Herald carried wonderful, glowing accounts of the many attractions of Freewater. There were big ads of the blacksmith shop, owned by George Darting, and the tonsorial parlors of M. S. Patterson and Son, with 'cigars and confections while you wait'. The barbershop ad was illustrated with drawings of the latest haircuts, "Square, Saratoga, Elite, Pompador, Mr. Blanc, Newport and Senator".

The founders of the Herald left town around the turn of the century and the newspaper was taken over by 11 businessmen. They changed the name and sold it to George Sanderson. The sale included an old Washington hand press for \$125.

Sanderson sold the paper to his father, D. C. Sanderson in 1907. 'The Freewater Times' as it was called by that time, was operated by the elder Sanderson and another son, Bevitt, until the two died in 1919 and 1921.

The paper remained in the family operated by Mr. And Mrs. R. E. Bean until 1937. Mrs. Bean is a daughter of D. C. Sanderson.

The Times was sold to a man named McPherson who sold it to Carl Webb, now University of Oregon professor and secretary of the Oregon Newspaper Publishing Assn. Webb sold to Dale Amerman in 1943. The Times was combined with the Milton Eagle in 1951.

Early stores included Sanders and Tanke, General Merchandise; Fred Kuebler, Confectionery; Dr. Hill's Pharmacy; George Darting's Blacksmith Shop; White's Liver Stable; Al Pearson's Real Estate; and Ed White's Cigar Store. This, however, was after the turn of the century.

Freewater was also known for its saloons, six in 1902. "The OR AND N", "The Boozerino", "The Palace", operated by Taylor and Ireland, where games were played, including roulette, and horses could be ridden into the saloon; the "Ole Kentucky"; and "Gallon House", owned by Hizekiah Keyes, and the Kelly brothers, Jack and Jess.