

HOWARD MOSTERT

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HISTORICAL NOTES BY HOWARD MOSTERT - 1983

The year is 1894. After seeing an ad in the Kansas paper for laborers to build the original Cascade Locks, George and Mary Doetsch and family left Idana, Kansas, and arrived by train at what is now Cascade Locks. Finding no housing available on the Oregon side, they settled in Carson, Wa., where the children attended grade school. These children were:

Gertrude, Christina, Olivia, Teresa, Elizabeth, Frieda, George and Herman. Elizabeth was my mother. She attended grade school in Carson 1894-1895.

Grandpa George Doetsch and another man rowed across the Columbia River daily to work on the Locks.

In later years the family lived on the Strong place which is now part of Skamania County.

Christina's son, Karl, drove a team at about this location, pulling seine (fishing) nets on the beach.

Christina and her husband, Ernest Haussman, lived at Skamania for many years. They cut cord wood for Shaver Transportation Co. to fire steam sternwheelers on the Columbia. Tina worked along with Ernest, falling, bucking, splitting and hauling cord wood to the beach at Butler Landing (now Skamania Landing) for \$1.50 per cord. This was a long time before chain saws.

The oldest Doetsch girl, Gertrude, worked at St. Martin's Hot Springs Hotel and later married Presque St. Martin. Together they operated a barge using sail going up river and dropping the sail into the water on the down river trip to increase the speed. They later operated a restaurant in the building next to now-known as the Ash building, next to the Post Office in Stevenson.

My mother, Elizabeth, married Edward Mostert in 1906 at Troutdale, Oregon. They lived in Portland, Oregon for many

years. During World War I we lived at Mayger, Oregon, (east of Clastkanie) on the Columbia, for three years.

In 1931, I, Howard, purchased land from Chauncey Price at Stabler, WA. My mother and father lived there for about ten years and had a chicken ranch. They had about 1,200 laying hens at one time. I ___ resided at the same location in a newer home.

Herman, the youngest in the Doetsch family, worked for a Mr. Johnson building the trail up Beacon Rock, which was called Biddle Rock at that time. Later he worked at Bonneville Dam, digging test holes before the dam was constructed. Later he was a landscape gardener on the Bonneville Dam site.