

ELMER AND DORIS CRISPIEN

Letter from Doris August 7, 1994

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Seventy five years ago this coming Sept. 2nd, my husband's parents, William and Anna Crispian and their family, moved from Rose Lodge, Or. to Cape Horn, WA. Elmer's father had seen a farm advertised in a weekly Oregonian and was interested in acquiring some acreage where the majority of the land was level. The property for sale was the Jack Haffey Place, which originally was part of the John W. Stevenson Land Claim. They paid a certain amount down and owed the balance in the form of a mortgage payable to Jack Haffey. Jack Haffey sold the mortgage to The Bank of Stevenson, which, in turn, sold it to Sam Angelo. When a buyer was finally found for their home at Rose Lodge, the Crispiens were paid in cash. Thus they were able to pay off the mortgage to Sam Angelo. Then they took out a Land Bank Loan, enabling them to consolidate their debts in such a way that they could make it financially. William and Anna had 5 children to raise, ranging from ages 2 to 11. Elmer was the oldest.

There are 3 of the offspring left — Louise Born of Milwaukie, OR, Bill Crispian of Portland, OR and Elmer and I live in Washougal, WA.

by Doris Crispian

Please note: The above was written over 4 years ago. Elmer and I lived at Cape Horn,

WA for 28 years & 5 months and have lived down here at this address for over 28 years, Elmer's parents & family came to Cape Horn Sept. 2, 1919.

Elmer Remembers:

Before Elmer came to Cape Horn with his parents and siblings, there was an old school house by sharp turn past an old barn now gone on Dugan — then Angelo place — later Robsons lived there. It was a one room school with 40 students. It was still there in 1919 and used for a Catholic group to hold Church services. Then, later a Mr. Graham would dry cascara bark in the building. It was dismantled around 1924 or '25. The old Cape Horn School where Ronald & Hazel Ruede's girl lives was built in 1911.

At one time, there was a log cabin school on Canyon Creek. There was an old store on Canyon Creek, also. At one time Elmer saw an old grocery record book that Bill Zawistowski had of items sold at the store, which was run by a brother of Fred Froeschle.

The first Cape Horn Grange Hall was built on a small parcel of the Nevin's property, across the road and next to the Jack Haffey property, which was later called the Lesch place; then became the William & Anna Crispian's place. Fred Froeschle had photos of it. His collection is in an Oregon Museum.

Sharon Tiffany
Skamania County Historical Society:

Dear Sharon,

You may already have the information I am enclosing; but if not, we thought you might be interested. So much history has been lost, because people wait too long to record it.

Sincerely,
Doris Crispian
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