Gilliam County

The way Oregon used to be...

Big, clear sky...

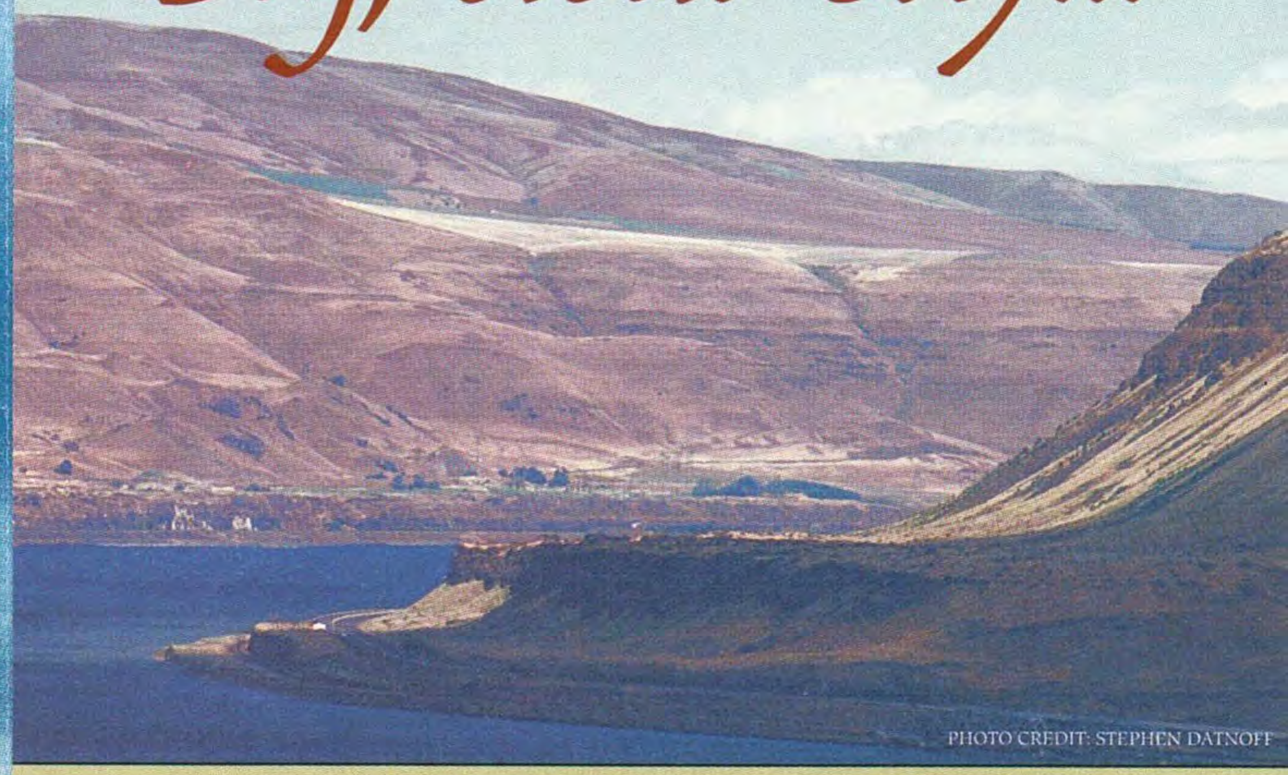


PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHEN DATNOFF

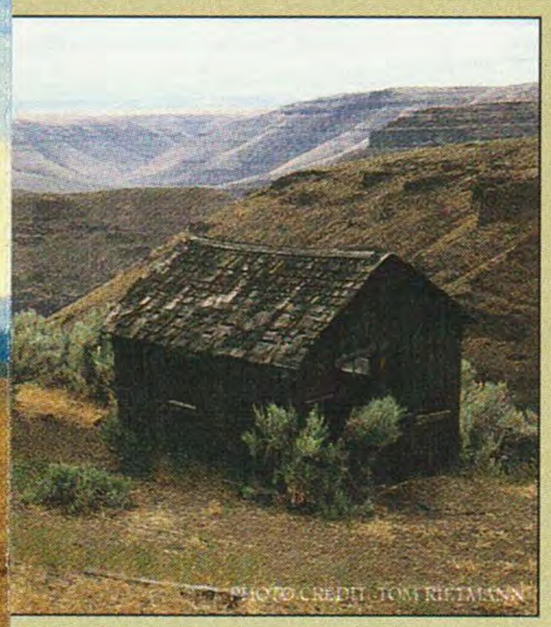


PHOTO CREDIT: TOM RIETMANN

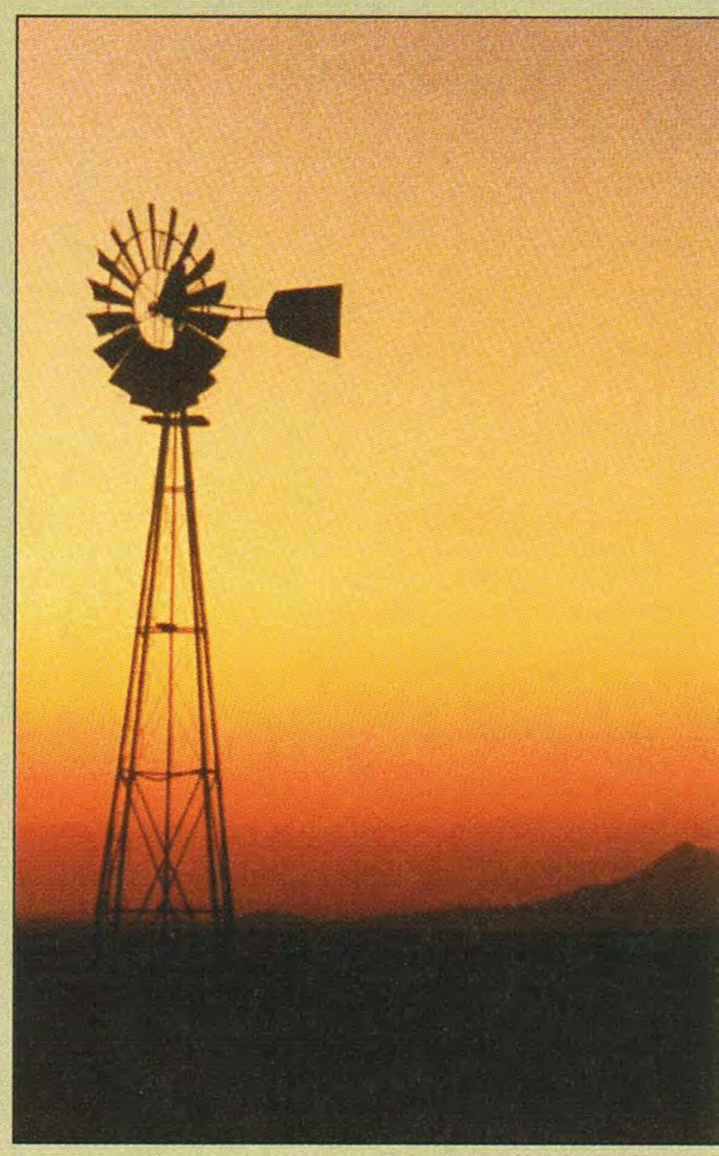
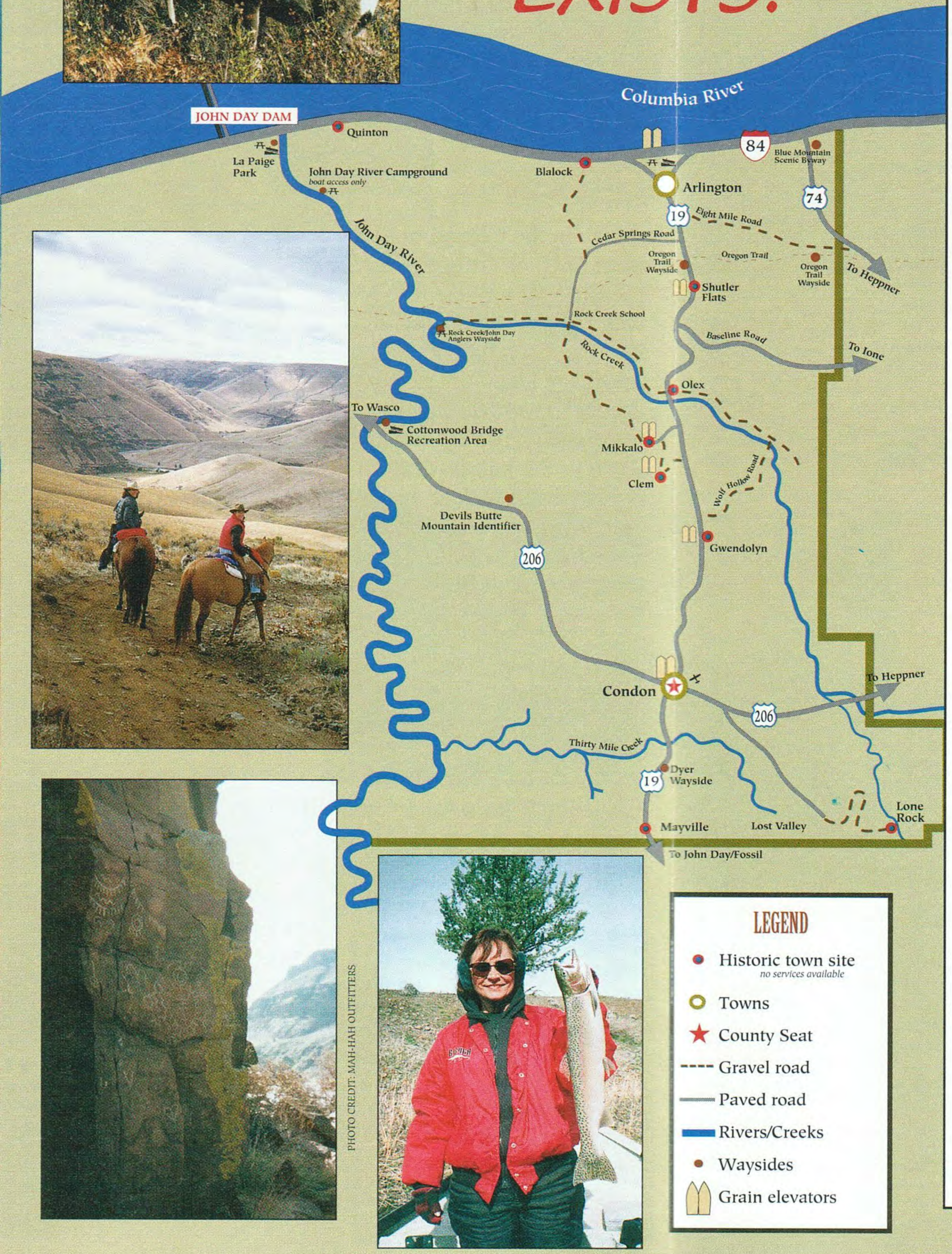


PHOTO CREDIT: TOM RIETMANN

...STILL EXISTS!

PHOTO CREDIT: MAH-HAH OUTFITTERS



LEGEND

- Historic town site *no services available*
- Towns
- County Seat
- Gravel road
- Paved road
- Rivers/Creeks
- Waysides
- Grain elevators

GILLIAM COUNTY

Oregon's heartland

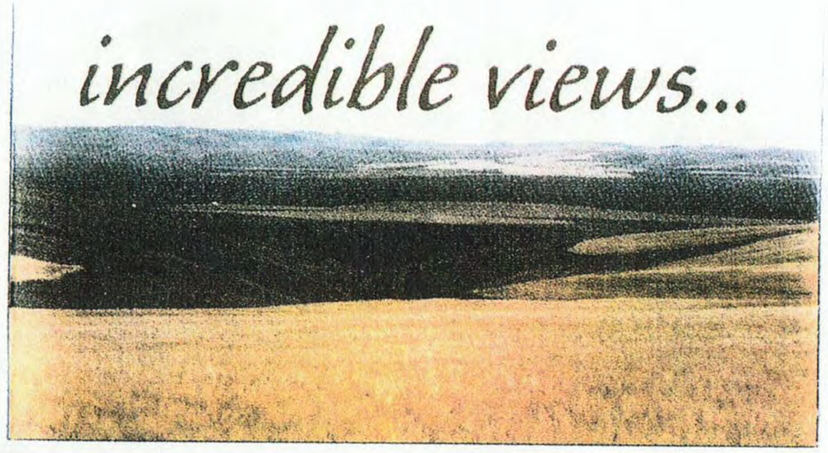
You can stretch your arms wider in Gilliam County, and you'll want to take it all in — the endless blue sky, fields of wheat folding over the horizon, rivers and streams snaking along, sometimes wild and white, sometimes slow and shimmering with salmon, steelhead, trout and bass.

Gilliam County is the heartland of North Central Oregon, its north and west borders defined by the Columbia and John Day rivers. With elevations ranging from 315 feet at Arlington to 2,840 feet at Condon — only about 35 miles apart — activities vary as much as the weather.

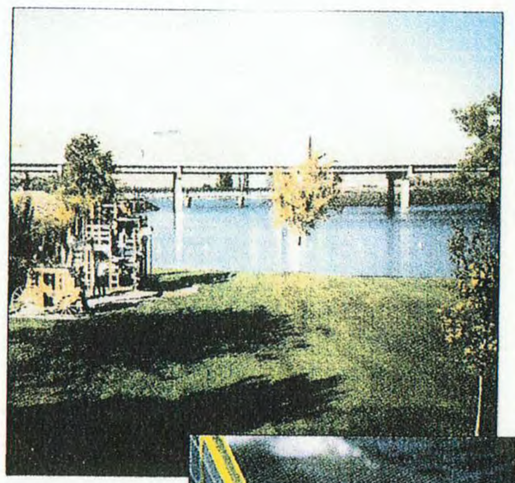
Well known are the area's riches — exceptional deer, elk, antelope, chukkar and pheasant hunting on family-run preserves, world-class steelhead and bass fishing on the John Day River.

To the locals, it's ideal ranch and farmland for wheat, barley and cattle. To the visitor, Gilliam County is a fresh-air playground of dawn-to-dusk fun. The perfect place to kick back and watch a big sky evolve like an artist's canvas.

incredible views...



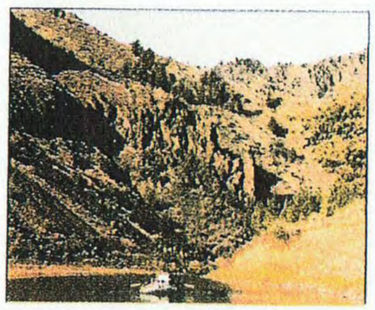
ARLINGTON — a water-lover's paradise



A stay in the Columbia River-front town of Arlington is pure pleasure for anyone who loves water sports. Lake Umatilla, a 78-mile reservoir created by the John Day Dam, offers marina access to windsurfing and waterskiing, fishing and sailing. Right in the middle of town is the beautiful waterfront park with swimming, playground, camping and picnic area. Into camping and boating combined? Then don't miss the John Day River campground located five miles up the John Day River, accessible by boat only.

Or if you're more inclined to kick back and enjoy the action from a distance, come for the annual Arlington Saddle Club-sponsored rodeo in May, or our Big River Band Festival in June.

Head south from Arlington on Highway 19, and keep an eye out for the Oregon Trail historical marker. The Oregon Trail winds its way across the northern end of our county. On down the highway take a scenic sidetrip down Rock Creek Road for a picnic at the Rock Creek Anglers Wayside where Rock Creek joins the John Day River.



CONDON — small town pleasures

Back on Highway 19 you soon arrive in Condon, the county seat of Gilliam, just 150 miles east of Portland, 130 miles north of Bend and ages away from worry and stress. Don't miss seeing the Gilliam County Historical Museum located just south of the county fairgrounds. Condon's Main Street is a registered National Historic Site, with several buildings dating to the late 1800s. Don't forget to bring a camera!

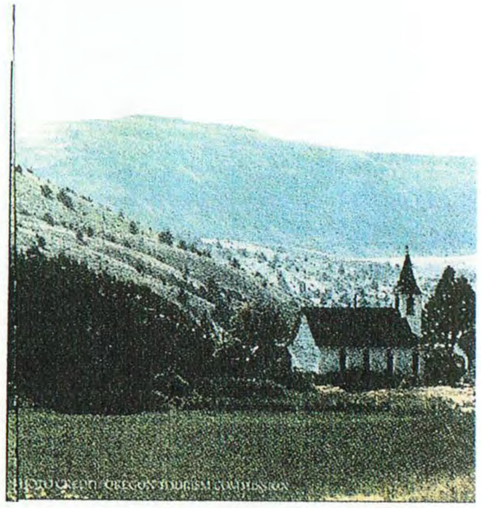
If you're visiting us in July, come join the party at our Fabulous Fourth of July Celebration, starting with breakfast in the lovely city park, tennis and golf tournaments, street dance, soap box derby, barbecue and more.

PHOTO CREDIT: MAC STINCHFIELD

The Gilliam County Fair, held over the Labor Day Weekend, draws visitors from all over to watch the high school rodeo and friendly local competition over who has the finest livestock, horses, produce, baking, and crafts.

Condon residents are happy to share their nine-hole public golf course, and if you fly here, the

LONEROCK — from boom to ghost town



Feeling more adventurous? Head east from Condon, nineteen miles to this once-booming pioneer town. You can't miss the huge rock — the town's namesake — and the town's pride: an 1898 Methodist Church, still used for weddings and other special events. You'll find the 1891 jail, 1881 school and several other originals still standing, maintained by the permanent residents.

Your stay in Gilliam County offers all kinds of possible side trips — Maryhill Museum across the Columbia River in Washington, the fossil digs at the town of Fossil, the National John Day Fossil Beds, the Painted Hills, the historic Cant Ranch, and hiking and camping in the Blue Mountains.

In fact, Gilliam County is often called the Gateway to the John Day Recreation Area. Whether you're coming or going, we'd love to have you stop by!

For information on the attractions mentioned here, as well as food and lodging, give us a call at the Pioneer Community Development Corporation, 541-384-3769.

and friendly

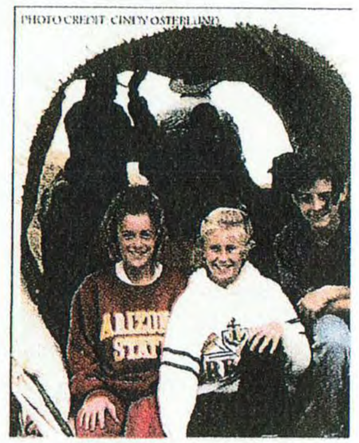


PHOTO CREDIT: CINDY OSTEPLAND

Pioneer Community Development Corporation
Post Office Box 776
Condon, Oregon 97823

For more information,
call (541) 384-3769

This project is made possible by a grant of Lottery Funds from the Oregon Tourism Commission and the USDA Forest Service Rural Community Assistance Program.

Remember to always respect private property rights - ask permission first.

The way Oregon has always been