

Accidental Death At Mill Pond

George Reiber

Born:
Birth Place:
Father's Birth Place:
Mother's Birth Place:

1903 Three Pines Timber Company Incorporated

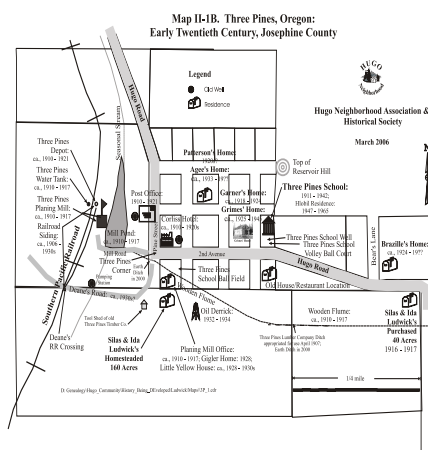
The Three Pines Timber Co. was incorporated in 1903.¹

1906 Howland & Cook are making preparations to start their saw mill on Jump-off-Joe. They have a lumber yard at Three Pines spur from which their lumber is shipped.²

1908 It is expected that the work on the flume of the Three Pines Timber Co. will commence again in a few days, and many of the boys have already secured work on it for the winter.³

1909 Flume of the Three Pines Timber Co. was built to Three Pines from Mountain, Oregon.

1911 The Three Pines Lumber company now has on its pay rolls at this point 18 men.⁴



Three Pines, Oregon: ca., 1910s

George Reiber

1912 Three Pines was a going concern in 1912 with over a hundred citizens; a brand new one-year old school, Three Pines Elementary; two stores; the Corliss Hotel; a post office; a planing mill that was connected by a 11.5 mile flume to the upper reaches of Jump-off Joe Creek and the lumber town of Mountain; and a railroad siding and small depot. The town was platted and there was the Three Pines Fruit Tracts just to the east.

1913 GEO. REIBER, MILL EMPLOYEE MET ACCIDENTAL DEATH. WATER SIXTEEN FEET DEEP⁵

Unfortunate Man Was 86 Years of Age, and Had Been at Mill Two Months

George Reiber, an employee of the Three Pines sawmill company was drowned in the mill pond Friday, the body being recovered within a very short time after the accident, and though every effort was made to resuscitate the man, he was past human help.

The mill of the Three Pines Lumber company is located on Jump-Off-Joe creek, several miles above the town of Three Pines. The mill pond being about 16 feet in depth. Friday Reiber went out on the logs in the pond to sound the depth of the water with a spike pole, and it is supposed that the log turned with him, as H. Williams, another employee, hearing Reiber call, saw him floundering in the water 25 or 30 yards from the shore. Williams and others rushed to Reiber's assistance at once, but he had gone down for the last time, and when the body was recovered a few minutes later life was extinct.

Three Pines Sawmill Company

Mill Pond Working on a log drive or in a mill pond is hard dangerous work.



Reiber, who was 86 years of age, had been with the mill since it commenced operations a couple of months ago. He came from Portland with Superintendent Frame, with whom he had worked in other mills for several years past. He had no relatives in this vicinity so far as known. The body was brought to this city on the train Friday evening, and is held at Hall's undertaking establishment pending arrangements for the funeral or for shipment to friends elsewhere.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community history and land use.

1. *Rogue River Courier*. April 30, 1903. Three Pines Timber Co.
2. *Rogue River Courier*. March 23, 1906. Hugo.
3. *Rogue River Courier*. December 25, 1908. Merlin Department.
4. *Rogue River Courier*. March 13, 1911. Three Pines
5. *Rogue River Courier*, May 2, 1913. Three Pines Man Drowns In Pond.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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Brochure 336 in Hugo's Early Settler Brochure Series
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GEORGE REIBER DROWNS IN THREE PINES TIMBER CO. MILL POND: 1913

Brochure 336 Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



*Three Pines Timber Company's
Mountain Saw Mill: 1910*

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Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society