
Three Pines Timber Company

1903 THREE PINES TIMBER COMPANY

INCORPORATED¹ The Three Pines Timber Co. was incorporated last week in Medford. The incorporators are: A. E. Reames president; Geo. E. Howland vice president; J. D. Cook, secretary; W. I. Vawter, treasurer. The principal place of business of the Three Pines Timber Company will be in Medford, the company having secured rooms in the Palm Lodge building which they will soon fit up for offices. The company has extensive timber holdings in both Jackson and Josephine counties and will probably develop a big timber industry during the present season.

1913 WILL COMMENCE CUTTING LUMBER IN TEN DAYS - PORTLAND MAN IN CHARGE² “Contract With Railroad for Ties and Bridge Timbers That Extends Over Three Years”

The Three Pines sawmill, will commence the manufacture of lumber again within the next ten days after having been idle for many months. The plant, one of the best known in the southern Oregon country, has been taken over by A. B. Frame of Portland, and will be operated by Buckley Bros., late of Silverton. The Messrs. Buckley were in Grants Pass Thursday arranging for help and supplies. The mill will employ from forty to fifty men, and will run on full time from the start. A contract for railroad material that will cover a period of three years has been entered into by the new people, and they will supply large orders for ties, bridge timbers, etc. Logs to keep the mill in operation will be cut at the head of the long flume by which it is carried to the mill, and will be largely fir with some sugar pine.

Financing Problems: 1915 - 1917

HYDRAULIC MINING CO. V. SMITH This case is a famous Oregon Supreme Court case about loans, collateral, and foreclosure sales.

1902 On March 28, 1902, Jefferson D. Cook: and G. E. Howland were engaged in a placer mining enterprise in Josephine County, Oregon, operating the mine and holding title through the Hydraulic Mining Company. About this time they conceived the idea of embarking in certain timber and lumbering enterprises, and to that end desired to acquire timber lands and carry on a saw-milling business. In order to finance their operations, they procured Elizabeth A. Smith to loan them the sum of \$12,500 with which to acquire timber lands from the Oregon-California Railroad Company, and otherwise to finance their operations.

1915 Interest on the loan was deficient as well as the loan being in arrears. A suit to foreclose began in 1911 and evolved into a foreclosure suit in 1913.⁴ The proceedings did not pass to a decree until 1914. Interest paid was in arrears from 1915. However, the company, town, and the Three Pines Fruit Tracts were still being heavily promoted.⁶

1917 W. I. Vawter, Treasurer, died in 1916. Execution was issued on the decree of foreclosure April 28, 1916 and a sheriff's certificate of sale for \$83,000 was issued, but no sheriff's deed was ever issued. Delinquent taxes accumulated against the property. Another suit was commenced in 1917. It was affirmed in 1921 in favor of Smith.

Endings: 1920

1920 SEATTLE PEOPLE OPERATE SAWMILL⁵

The Columbia Mining company composed of a number of gentlemen from Seattle, has lately purchased the timber holdings of the Three Pines Lumber company, including 50 million feet of standing timber, and will soon have their mill ready to saw lumber. They have purchased the Presley & Hackett mill located on Sardine creek, and are now transferring it to Jump-off-Joe creek, somewhat above the former location of the Three Pines mill. The mill will cut 30,000 board feet daily, and will be in operation in about a month.

The purchase of the timber holdings, all patented land, and of the mill and other equipment, has been in the hands of A. C. Stewart, who has been here since last fall. Interested with him in the project are F. Goetz, W. O. Wolbro, L. P. Tunstad and Chas H. Green, of Seattle. A number of mining properties are now being investigated by the company, and further investments and activities in this district are contemplated by the gentlemen.

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

1. *Rogue River Courier*. April 30, 1903. [Three Pines Timber Co.](#)

2. *Rogue River Courier*. February 7, 1913. [To Run Sawmill At Three Pines](#)

3. *Hydraulic Mining Co. v. Smith* (196 Pac. 811). Argued March 4, affirmed April 5, 1921

4. *Vawter v. Three Pines Timber Co.*, filed February 11, 1913.

5. *Rogue River Courier*. March 26, 1920. [Seattle People Operate Sawmill](#)

6. Hugo Neighborhood. 2008. *Three Pines Timber Company: Promotion*. Hugo, OR.

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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THREE PINES TIMBER COMPANY'S ENDINGS

Brochure 396 Of Hugo's Early
Settler Brochure Series



Three Pines, Oregon: ca 1918 - 1920

Courtesy of Helen
(Garner) Fields

Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society

Three Pines, Oregon: ca., 1920
Mt. Sexton in Background

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Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society