

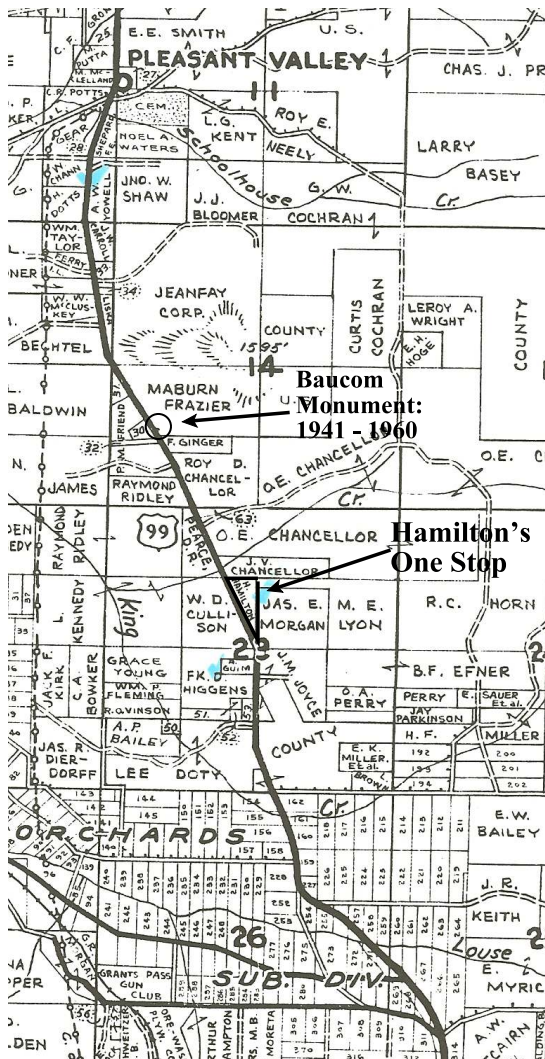
Hamilton's One Stop

By Faye (Wingerd) Poole
 Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society¹



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1913 - 1926 - A New Highway North of Grants Pass The Pacific Highway was named in 1913, the same year that the Oregon Highway Department was established. The 345 miles of



Map 1. Hamilton's One Stop: 1955

Oregon Highway represented the major north-south corridor from California to Washington. The final paving work through the Hugo area occurred in 1920 - 1921. The highway completion in 1922 gave Oregon the distinction of being the first state west of the Mississippi to have a paved highway over the entire length of the state. It was officially dedicated in October 1923. The Pacific Highway became U.S. 99 in 1926.

1933 - 1941 The Monument The Highway has a history. Oregon State Police Trooper Burrell M. "Milo" Baucom was killed in the line of duty on July 1, 1933 on U.S. 99 at Mt Sexton Pass. His fellow Oregon State Police Troopers and members of the Oregon National Guard erected a massive granite monument to their fallen comrade on the site of the fatal shooting on Sexton Mountain. Because of major changes to the highway in 1941 this monument was moved down the mountain to a location on U.S. 99 .7 miles north of Hamilton's One Stop (Map 1). In 1959 this segment of the highway was acquired by Josephine County

after I-5 bypassed it, and in 1960 this road was re-named Monument Drive in honor of Burrell Baucom and his monument that had been there along the highway for so long. The monument is now at the east I-5 Manzanita Rest Area (Photo 1).



Photo 1. Baucom Monument

The One-Stop Restaurant and Gas: 1940s The One Stop was located along U.S. 99. Hamilton's One Stop was probably built in the 1920s after the Pacific Highway was paved. Homer H. and Maude Hamilton purchased the property April 3, 1944 from W. A. Fudge and named it Hamilton's One Stop. They were probably the second or third owners. It was so named One Stop because travelers could gas up, use the restrooms and eat dinner all at one place. The Hamiltons operated it until they retired and the Wingerd's assumed management. The main floor consisted of three basic parts, the café on the right, the banquet room on the left, and the kitchen in the middle. The café had an "L" shaped counter, a table, and some booths in the back. The banquet room had a grand piano which Maude Hamilton played beautifully. The second story was all living quarters with three bedrooms, bath, and large living room all with hardwood floors.



Photo 2. Wingerd Family: 1949
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole

1950 - 1954 Catherine Wingerd took over as Hamilton's One Stop café as head chef in 1950 (Photo 2, front row, left to right: Catherine "Kathy" Wingerd, Mother; B. David Wingerd, Son; Faye Wingerd, Daughter; Simon Wingerd, Father; back row, left to right: Hugh Wingerd, Son; Hugh's; Wife, Zelpha Wingerd; Wilma Wingerd, Daughter; Norm Wingerd, Son).

1951 Wilma Wingerd became a waitress at Hamiltons in 1951 -

1953 (Photo 3). Business was good as U.S. Highway 99 was very busy with lots of truckers and traffic.

1954 The 3 J's restaurant offered Catherine Wingerd the opportunity to become their manager the fall of 1954. She left the One Stop to become the manager of what became Kathy's Café just a couple miles south on U.S. 99. The following year, 15-year old Faye Wingerd got her first job, waitressing at 3 J's working with her mother. Kathy's Café is no longer there, but used to be by Brookside Boulevard next to Metro Fire Station.



Photo 3. Waitress Wilma Wingerd: ca., 1951 - 1953
Courtesy of Duane Stone

1956 Homer and Maude Hamilton wanted to retire and begged Catherine Wingerd to return. In 1956 they offered her such a good deal she accepted and went back to Hamilton's One Stop as the manager of the facility. Faye, with the rest of the Wingerd family, following her mom and was a waitress at Hamiltons until 1958. The Wingerd family became responsible for the entire operation.

Kathy's One Stop: 1956 to 1958 That fall the Wingerd's moved into the second story living facilities. David Wingerd (Photo 4) painted a sign, "Under New Management". He worked there from 1956 - 1958 as a gas station attendant after school and in the summer. He pumped gas and did whatever else was needed. The two older sons were married, living in California and Wilma was away at college. They were not involved in the restaurant and gas station at that time.



*Photo 4. David Wingerd: ca., 1956 - 59
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole*

Hamilton's One Stop became **Kathy's One Stop**, a full service establishment. Not only was gas pumped, windshield cleaned, oil



*Photo 4. Hamilton's One Stop: 1958
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole*

checked, and check the tires, but also, a customer could pull in, get out of his car and immediately go inside and enjoy the restaurant while his car was being serviced. Richfield gas (ARCO) was pumped until the Wingerd's assumed management. That same year the Shell Company contacted Catherine and offered to paint the whole building if she would change to Shell. She agreed and the building took on a new, clean white appearance (Photo 4).

The change was good for business. In addition the oil company put up a new large, Shell sign, and

refurbished the gas pumps. The change helped make the new management known, and business flourished. Truck drivers loved to stop because parking was spacious and gas sold for 23.9 cents a gallon, diesel for 19.9 cents, cigarettes were 25 cents a pack and the jukebox was a nickel a song. The café always had a 99¢ "daily" special when Catherine was in charge (Photo 5).

Catherine was not only a terrific cook, but was known for her delicious pies. She made about a dozen pies each day. They were the best pies around and sold for 25¢ a



*Photo 5. Catherine Wingerd At Hamilton's Café: 1958
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole*

slice or a dollar for the whole 9" pie. She baked a wide variety of pies, but the basics were fruit: apple, cherry, peach, loganberry, and apricot and many cream pies: chocolate, peanut butter, banana, coconut and lemon meringue. Some of the delivery vendors would order a whole pie to take home. People often drove from Grants Pass just for the food. Of course the two young single daughters (Faye and Wilma) who served as waiters provided an additional attraction for the burley loggers and long distance truck driver who frequented the establishment.

If neither David nor Simon were available when a vehicle arrived for gas, Faye or Wilma grabbed the gloves and transformed from a waitress into a gas station attendant. They learned a lot about pumping gas, cleaning windshields and where to find dip sticks and checking oil.

Eighteen-year old Faye Wingerd was a waitress in 1958 and Jean Bishop was also a waitress (Photo 6). Jean was there the one time the place got robbed when the Wingerds were running the place. The crooks took all the money from the cash register.

You worked hard in the café business for not much money. You certainly did not get rich. Retailing the gasoline probably paid more. When business was slower in the afternoons, Faye would ask her Mom if she could cook and her mother let her. She learned a lot from her mother. Faye got some tips, probably about 100.00 dollars for all summer.



Photo 6. Waitresses Faye Wingerd and Jean Bishop: 1958
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole

1958 Catherine managed Hamilton's (Kathy's) until the I-5 freeway between Grants Pass and Jumpoff Joe Creek Road was completed and opened in the fall of 1958. When the I-5 freeway opened, all the heavy traffic was rerouted away from U.S. 99, and the local community was not enough to sustain the business. Catherine closed the business in the fall of 1958. The Wingerds moved back to their home on Hugo Road and the Hamiltons moved back into their place on U.S. 99.

1959 The Hamilton's continued to operate the facility on a very limited basis. Homer pumped gas and Maude sold coffee, donuts, soft drinks, and sandwiches.

In **1961** Seventy-year old Homer Hamilton passed away. By then Faye and Wilma were married, David was in college at OSU, and the One Stop had become just a private residence.

1961 - 1962 I-5 opened from Grants Pass to near Rock Point, in the Gold Hill area. Traffic through Grants Pass dramatically fell off when I-5 opened, but as the city grew local traffic increased.

1965 - 1966 I-5 was completed from Mount Sexton to Canyonville.



**Photo 7. Wingerd Kids:
Norm, Faye, Wilma, & Hugh: 2000**
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole

proud of her children and grandchildren. She is well remembered not only for her cooking skills, but for her musical talent. She had been the Pleasant Valley Community Church's pianist for about 25 years. Four years later she was followed by her husband, Simon, at age 79.

2000 The Wingerd kids get together often. One of those times was in Las Vegas, Nevada at the home of Hugh Wingerd (Photo 7, left to right: Norm, Faye, Wilma, and Hugh). They are



Photo 9. Faye & Allen Poole
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole

standing in front of a 1930 Dodge. David's

first car was purchased September 1960 from Henry W. Kile, prior owner of the Travelier Auto Court. In 1989 David gave his car to his older brother Hugh to restore, and it is still in the family

2008 At another family get together, back in Oregon, the Wingerd kids had a potluck on the Rogue River at Indian Mary Park (Photo 8, left to right: David, Faye, Wilma, & Norm).

2010 Allen and Faye (Wingerd) Poole presently live in Pottsville, Oregon (Photo 9).

1966 Oregon's Highway Department construction program hit one of its most significant milestones with the completion of Interstate 5 to four lanes. It marked the first time travelers could enter the state at the Interstate bridge in Portland and head southbound along the high-speed freeway to California without encountering one traffic signal or stop sign. The 308-mile highway was dedicated on October 22, 1966, in ceremonies at the Cow Creek Safety Rest Area in southern Douglas County.

1975 On May 5th the well beloved Catherine passed away at the age of 69,



Photo 8. Wingerd Kids at Indian Mary Park: 2008
Courtesy of Faye (Wingerd) Poole

1. Faye (Wingerd) Poole (Pleasant Valley Road, Grants Pass, Oregon) was interviewed by Mike Walker April 28, 2010 at her home concerning her knowledge of Hamilton's One Stop. The Wingerd family managed Hamilton's One Stop from 1956 through 1958. The interview notes were reviewed and edited by Faye Poole. Over time more photos were added, and highway facts became more clear. The preceding Hamilton's One Stop story is a collaboration between her brother, David Wingerd, Mike Walker, and Faye Poole from April 28 - May 29, 2010.

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