#### **Portland State University**

#### **PDXScholar**

**Urban Studies and Planning Faculty Publications and Presentations** 

Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning

2-17-2009

#### From Urban Frontier to Metropolitan Region: Oregon's Cities from 1870 to 2008

Carl Abbott Portland State University, d3ca@pdx.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/usp\_fac



Part of the Urban Studies and Planning Commons

#### Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

#### Citation Details

Abbott, Carl, "From Urban Frontier to Metropolitan Region: Oregon's Cities from 1870 to 2008" (2009). Urban Studies and Planning Faculty Publications and Presentations. 36. https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/usp\_fac/36

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Urban Studies and Planning Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

# Toward One OREGON

Rural-Urban Interdependence

# From Urban Frontier to Metropolitan Region: Oregon's Cities from 1870 to 2008

Carl Abbott
Portland State University
abbottc@pdx.edu

# Three Eras of Oregon Cities

• Portland ascendant: 1870-1920

• Oregon in balance: 1920-1970

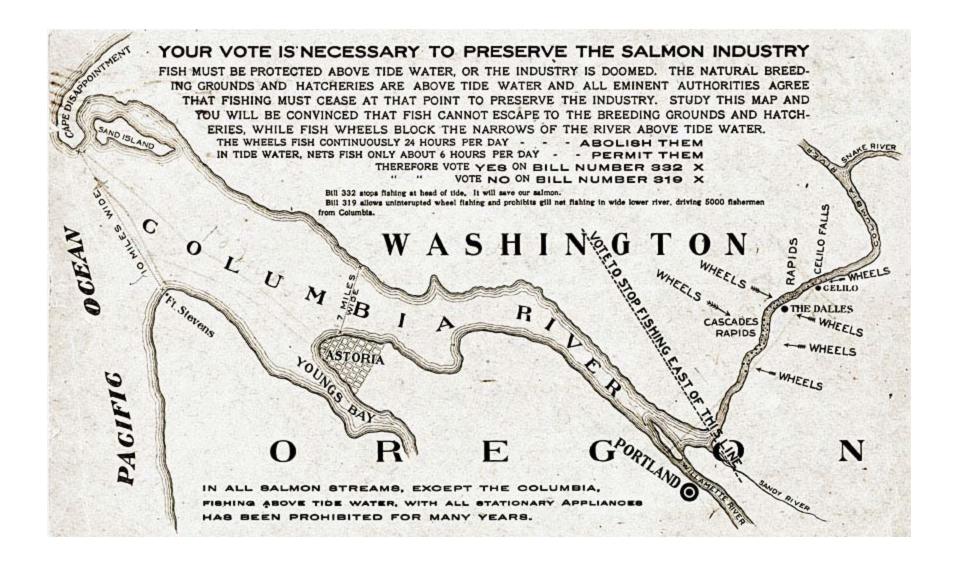
• The long arm of the metropolis: 1970-2008

#### Who's on first?

Portland has been Oregon's largest city through the entire era of statehood.

Three cities have occupied second place: Salem, Astoria, and Eugene.

Ten additional cities have traded off among the top five. In chronological order they are: Oregon City, Jacksonville, The Dalles, Albany, Baker City, Pendleton, Medford, Klamath Falls, Corvallis, and Bend.





# Portland: Gateway to the Northwest



PORTLAND, OREGON, AND ITS SURROUNDINGS, 1889

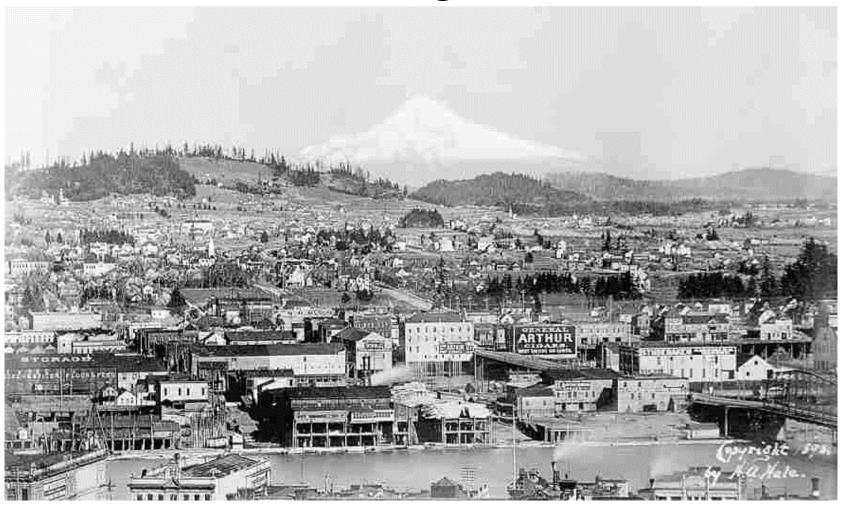
# Transportation Center



# Transportation Center



# Manufacturing Powerhouse



#### Financial Center

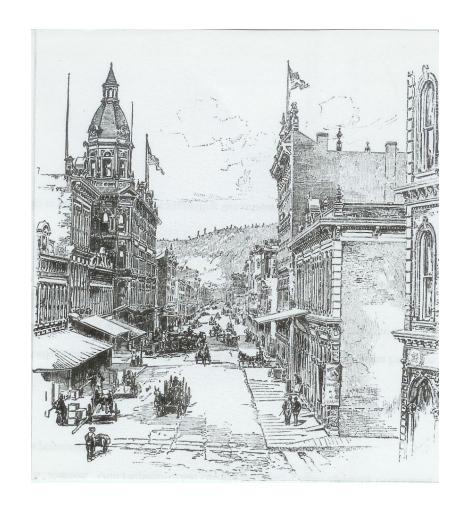
Banks across the U.S. voted in 1913 for their preferred city for branch bank of the new Federal Reserve Baking System. 191 banks in Oregon and Washington submitted their first choice.

75 picked Portland

40 picked Seattle 32 picked San

Francisco

26 picked Spokane18 picked other cities



# Oregon Cities in 1920:

#### Rank Size Model and Actual Populations

Oregon Cities 1920: Rank Size Model and Actual Populations

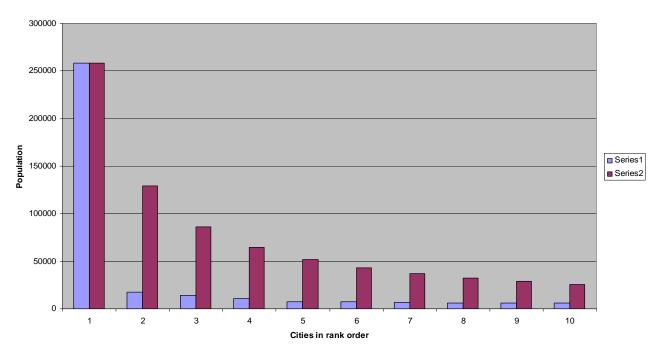
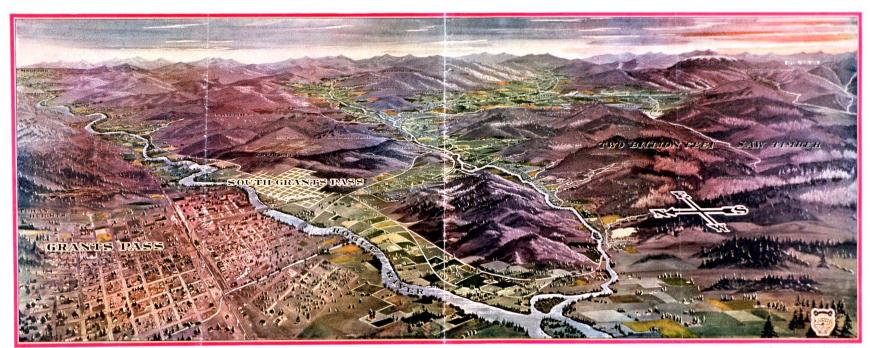


Figure 1







THE FAMOUS ROGUE RIVER VALLEY

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T

The coming full and Metropolis of Southern Diegon, GRAXIS PASS, with its Seventy Housand arris of unsurpassed apple, peach and diversibed farming lands contributory, now being tapped by rail for the first time by the GRAXIS PASS & ROCCE RADIO RADIO CONTROL reversing the already settled APPLICATE XXI WILLIAMS AUDITARS adjacent to such a retwo Billiams STAMING, ITALIAM Of assemblers, paying gold and couper nature, increasing analysis and passes they would commend Manube this, one of the Housand Woodless.

### Oregon's Largest Cities: 1940 and 1960

Portland	305,294	Portland		
Salem		728,088		
30,908		Eugene		
Eugene	20,838	162,890		
Klamath Falls	16,497	Salem		48,142
Medford		Medford	24.42	5
11,281		Corvallis	20,669	9

• Portland and Eugene 1960 are metropolitan area populations

# The Common Culture of Natural Resources: Estacada 1949 and Portland 1959





# The New Economy of Leisure:

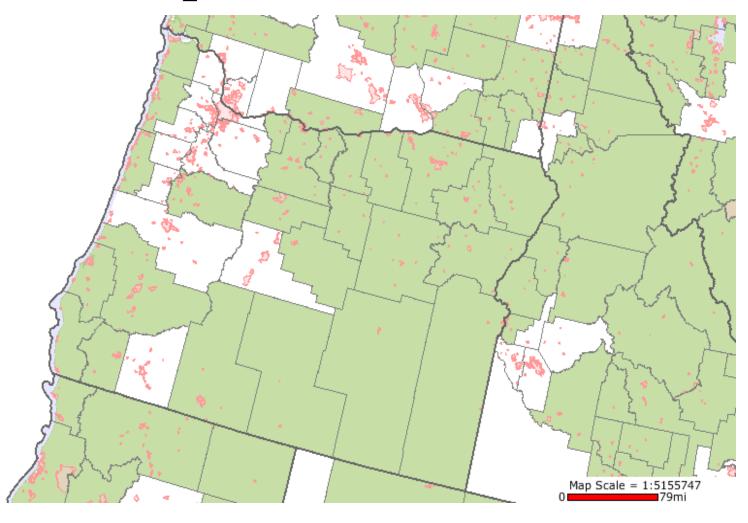
The Columbia River Scenic Highway



## Oregon's Metropolitan Areas, 1980 and 2007

Portland	1,050,750	Portland	1,734,000
Eugene	275,226	Salem	378,520
Salem	249,895	Eugene	343,140
Medford	132,456	Medford	202,310
		Bend	160,810
		Corvallis	78.153

# Metropolitan Counties



# Oregon catches up in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

- In 1920, Portland was *twice* as large as the next twenty cities combined.
- In 1960, Portland was twice as large as the next twelve cities.
- In 2007, the Portland metro area was twice as large as the next two metro areas

# Portland of the Future: 1920s Style



- Skyscrapers for finance and professional services
- Intermodal transportation hub
- Global connections and the promise of the Pacific Rim.

#### Two Conclusions

- What's stayed the same?
   What's changed?
- Portland's fundamental services for Oregon were the same in the 1870s, the 1920s, and today.

- Oregon's system of cities is far more equally balanced than it was a century ago.