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

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

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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.
Your vote is necessary to preserve the salmon industry.

Fish must be protected above tide water, or the industry is doomed. The natural breeding grounds and hatcheries are above tide water and all eminent authorities agree that fishing must cease at that point to preserve the industry. Study this map and you will be convinced that fish cannot escape to the breeding grounds and hatcheries, while fish wheels block the narrows of the river above tide water.

The wheels fish continuously 24 hours per day — Abolish them in tide water, nets fish only about 6 hours per day — Permit them. Therefore vote Yes on Bill Number 332 X. Vote No on Bill Number 319 X.

Bill 332 stops fishing at head of tide. It will save our salmon. Bill 319 allows uninterrupted wheel fishing and prohibits gill net fishing in wide lower river, driving 5000 fishermen from Columbia.

In all salmon streams, except the Columbia, fishing above tide water, with all stationary appliances has been prohibited for many years.
Portland: Gateway to the Northwest
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 Spokane
- 18 picked other cities
Oregon Cities in 1920: Rank Size Model and Actual Populations

Figure 1
Oregon’s Largest Cities: 1940 and 1960

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population 1940</th>
<th>Population 1960</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>305,294</td>
<td>728,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>30,908</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene</td>
<td>20,838</td>
<td>162,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klamath Falls</td>
<td>16,497</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medford</td>
<td>11,281</td>
<td>24,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corvallis</td>
<td>20,669</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>1,050,750</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>1,734,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene</td>
<td>275,226</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>378,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>249,895</td>
<td>Eugene</td>
<td>343,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medford</td>
<td>132,456</td>
<td>Medford</td>
<td>202,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bend</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bend</td>
<td>160,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corvallis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Corvallis</td>
<td>78,153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Metropolitan Counties
Oregon catches up in the 20\textsuperscript{th} century

- In 1920, Portland was \textit{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?

• Portland’s fundamental services for Oregon were the same in the 1870s, the 1920s, and today.

• What’s changed?

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