



Springfield Mill Race

Oral History Project



SPRINGFIELD MILL RACE

Oral History Project

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to describe and evaluate the Springfield Mill Race Oral History Project's interview data completed for the City of Springfield Public Works Department. The project was undertaken by Kevin Donald, Public Works Intern.

The main goals of this project were to:

- Create and design methodological processes for the Springfield Mill Race Oral History Project
- Develop an interview format and questionnaires for the Springfield Mill Race Oral History Project
- Implement techniques of analysis (Thematic Analysis) to the raw interview data
- Complete a technical report on the findings presented in the interview data

METHODOLOGY

The Maintenance Manager, Maintenance Supervisor and Public Works Intern reviewed existing technical reports on the Springfield Mill Race and discussed long- and short-term strategies pertaining to the major goals of the project.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

A preliminary literature search was conducted to establish a context for the interview data. A recruitment script, consent forms and questionnaires were developed to guide the interview process. Interviews were audio-taped and data from the interviews was transcribed. Transcriptions were analyzed using the technique of "thematic analysis." The results of this analysis are presented in the following report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made to support and continue developing the work completed on the Springfield Mill Race Oral History Project:

- Request that Federal, State and Local agencies become more involved in establishing the historical and cultural significance of the Mill Race and Mill Pond as resources for the community of Springfield
- Conduct more public outreach activities concerning knowledge about the existence of the Springfield Mill Race
- Improve water quality to avoid the construction of fish screens at the inlet and delta of the Mill Race
- Prepare a long-term Master Plan for the enhancement and management of the Mill Race
- Use the Mill Race and Mill Pond as cultural, biological, and environmental resources for community education and enhancement
- Collect additional oral history information on the Mill Race and Mill Pond

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 8 |
| Environmental Setting | 10 |
| Existing Data and Literature | 12 |
| Inventory Methodology | 17 |
| Inventory Data | 20 |
| Inventory Analysis and Results | 22 |
| Recreational Uses of the Springfield Mill Race/Mill Pond Identified by the Research Population | 22 |
| Economic Uses of the Springfield Mill Race/Mill Pond Identified by the Research Population | 26 |
| Thematic Analysis of Use Categories..... | 29 |
| Photographs and Maps..... | 30 |
| Conclusion and Recommendations..... | 31 |
| Bibliography | 32 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Con't)

Appendices 35

Included in this publication is Appendices A & R

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Appendix—A: | Project Area Maps |
| Appendix—B: | Genealogical Cards on the Briggs Family |
| Appendix—C: | News Clip on Inlet Purchase |
| Appendix—D: | Recruitment Script |
| Appendix—E: | Interview Consent Forms |
| Appendix—F: | Signed Consent Forms |
| Appendix—G: | Interview Questionnaire |
| Appendix—H: | Interview with Mr. Steve Moe |
| Appendix—I: | Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Clearwater |
| Appendix—J: | Interview with Mrs. Dorothy Velasco |
| Appendix—K: | Interview with Mr. Graydon Lewis |
| Appendix—L: | Interview with Mrs. Jo Anderson and Mrs. Jane Brown |
| Appendix—M: | Interview with Mr. Robert Edmiston |
| Appendix—N: | Photos take during untaped interview with Mr. Steve Moe |
| Appendix—O: | Interview with Mr. Leonard Clearwater and Mr. Node Palanuk |
| Appendix—P: | Interview with Mr. Everett Chetwood |
| Appendix—Q: | Interview with Mr. Ed Harms |
| Appendix—R: | Photos from Archieves and Personal Collections |

Published under separate cover are Appendices B-Q. Copies of Appendices B-Q are located in the Springfield Public Library, City of Springfield Museum, City of Springfield Environmental Services Division, and City of Springfield Maintenance Division.

INTRODUCTION

At the request of Ed Black, Maintenance Manager of the City of Springfield Public Works Department, a Public Works Intern (Kevin Donald) was employed to conduct an Oral History Research Project on the Springfield Mill Race.

The objective of the Springfield Mill Race Oral History Project is to document the historical roles and uses of the Mill Race and Mill Pond since it was constructed nearly 150 years ago. The City of Springfield Public Works staff determined that the best way of achieving the project objectives would be to apply principles and techniques of oral history research.

Of particular interest is the collections, recording and analysis of personal experience stories which portray the cultural, social and economic uses of the Mill Race and Mill Pond, as well as the significant water features that contributed to the development of Springfield as it is known today.

Oral histories, in general, can be defined as spoken documents, such as songs, speeches, legends, folklore, interviews, and formal and informal conversations. These types of historical documents, unlike church registers, deeds or tax records, have their origins in speech. Oral histories are based on documents that are spoken, like interviews.

Information in interviews has natural relationships and continuing values, wherein the collective consciousness of all the interviews always exceeds the sum of a particular individual interview.

As a consistent principle governing the collection of information in interviews, close attention was paid to the interviewee's words concerning their actual experience as well as their perception of that experience.

Application of the Oral History Interview Guidelines (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: 1998) to the information from interviews conducted with Springfield residents during the Summer of 1999 by the Springfield Mill Race Oral History Project will provide meaningful accounts of the uses of the Mill Race and Mill Pond over time.

The Mill Race and Mill Pond were of particular historical (constructed in 1852) and economic (powered Springfield's first grist and saw mills) interests to individuals in the community and the community as a whole in the past. Finally, the information contained in the interviews has implications for the future of Springfield.

The waterway functions as a municipal, agricultural, and industrial resource for the community. As suggested by Graydon Lewis, an interviewee of the project, the cultural and historical importance of the Mill Race and Mill Pond may potentially lie in their ability to instill pride and identity in present and future generations of Springfield citizenry.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Willamette Valley has no ecological parallel anywhere else in the Northwest. It is classified as a “grassland zone”, expansive and well-watered. It shares a common border with other major environmental regions of Oregon, including the Northern Plateau, Northern Great Basin, Lower Columbia River, Oregon Coast, and Southwestern Mountains.

Evidence from prior geological studies indicates that in late glacial times, at least one of the Glacial Lake Missoula catastrophic floods surged up the Willamette Valley. This cataclysmic flood left large deposits of silt. It even left rocks that had been embedded in glacial ice carried by the floodwaters.

In more recent times, the Willamette Valley and its tributaries have been subject to local flooding, which has laid down thick alluvial deposits along all the floodplains (Baldwin 1976).

The Springfield Mill Race is a part natural, part artificial waterway located in the southern-most portion of the Willamette Valley, T. 17S & R.3W and T.18N & R. 2-3W (see Appendix A - USGS Springfield, Oregon and USGS Eugene East, Oregon 1967/1986, Series V892, Scale 1:24,000, SW Section 50, NE Section 6, SW Section 66, SW Section 83, SE-NW Section 39, SE-NW Section 83, SE Section 62. Also see USGS 1909 Topographical Map, the Eugene Chamber of Commerce Map 1955, Map of Millrace LCHM, Map of 1852/1853, Map of 1872, Koch Map of 1892, Simon Klov Dahl Map of 1902, and Unidentified Topo Map, Circa 1910).

The general project area is the site of the convergence of the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette River, the convergence of the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers, and the convergence of the Mohawk and McKenzie Rivers.

Fall Creek and Hills Creek are two of the major tributaries upstream from the project area. This environment has the distinction of supporting one of the largest heron rookeries in the state.

Predominant floral species typical of the Willamette Valley area are: Big Leaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*), Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*), Oregon Ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*), Slough Sedge (*Carex obnupta*), Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpos*), Soft Rush (*Janus effusus*), Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), Rice Cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*), and Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*).

The region is traversed by the Pacific Migratory Flyway, which annually attracts numbers of duck, geese and swans. Osprey, hawks, eagles, Great Blue Herons, pigeons, doves and quail are also present in the region of the project area. Other faunal species typical of the area are: elk, deer, black bear, cougar, beaver, raccoon, squirrel, and fox. Anadromous fish found in the area include Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*).

The Springfield Mill Race was hand-dug and completed by the father-son team of Elias and Issac Briggs in 1852 (see Velasco 1985, Walling 1884 and Appendix B—Briggs' genealogy cards). The Briggs, more than likely, followed an existing floodplain slough and used it as a guide for the Mill Race's course. The Springfield Museum maintains an informative display on the origins of the Mill Race.

The Springfield Mill Race is 3.5 miles long and flows along the southern edges of the City of Springfield. Elevations of riparian slopes are gentle in the immediate area of the Mill Race, but Mt. Pisgah, Springfield Butte and Kelly Butte provide regional elevation gains of up to 1,500 feet.

Presently, the Mill Race and Mill Pond function as:

- Drainage—a receiving stream for urban stormwater
- Wetting of logs in storage
- Municipal water supply for the Springfield Utility Board (SUB)
- Water for fire control auxiliary pumps
- Gravel and rock washing
- Agricultural irrigation
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation

EXISTING DATA AND LITERATURE

References in the bibliography were consulted to aid field-work data planning, collecting, assessment, and interpretation of transcripts obtained during the collection of oral histories. The entire literature search yielded only one previous professional oral history document of the Mill Pond and Mill Race, which was written in 1884 by A.G. Walling, and entitled The Illustrated History of Lane County.

When Elias M. Briggs, in 1849, located his claim, where the village (of Springfield) now stands, he chose as the site of his dwelling a spot convenient to a spring of water that sent up its little bubbles with ceaseless energy. A portion of the prairie where stood this fount in due time was fenced in the enclosure becoming known as the Spring-field—hence the name of the town. Here for two years dwelt the Briggs family, the father and his belongings removing at the end of that time to a farm about a mile and a half from their original location. The Briggs, father and son, conducted the ferry where the fine bridge spans the Willamette, and which is so well remembered by all old residents (Walling 1884:452).

Walling used **memories and old stories** and pieced them together to illustrate a historical perspective of the development of Springfield, in particular, and Lane County as a whole. In spite of his use of **memories and old stories**, his comprehensive history of Lane County is one of the first recorded uses of oral history techniques applied in a systematic manner to gain an understanding of Springfield's past.

It was after almost 150 years that David W. Clarke, working with the Springfield Historical Commission, wrote "The Springfield Millrace and Early Mills" (1983). This work represents a "composite history of the development of the town's (Springfield's) milling operations". It draws from a variety of sources (i.e., poetry, deed books, etc.) to illustrate the significance of the Mill Pond and Mill Race as developmental resources for

the Springfield area. One of the most noteworthy comments of Clarke is his observation that “No detailed, comprehensive studies have been done on the historical development of the Springfield mills and Mill Race (1983:5)”.

What appears to exist in this almost 150 year gap of neglect are bits and pieces of information scattered throughout archives (Lane County Historical Museum, UO Library and Archives), news clippings (The Springfield News, The Register-Guard), museums (Lane County Historical Museum, The Springfield Museum), historical society journals (Lane County Historical, Oregon Historical Quarterly), and technical reports (The Otak reports, Slotta Report, Emcon reports and reports prepared by the City of Springfield).

In 1982, The Springfield Utility Board announced that they would seek to evaluate and potentially use the Mill Race as a small-scale micro-hydro electric resource.

Much of the recent information on the Mill Race and Mill Pond, primarily generated during the late 1980's and the 1990's, resulted from the consideration of local government to enhance public awareness about the historical significance and the utilitarian resource benefits of the Mill Race and Mill Pond.

After Georgia-Pacific donated the Springfield Mill Race to Springfield, five days before Christmas in 1985, local officials' next step was to assume the responsibilities of managing the waterway. For example, pursuing clarification of water rights. In 1992, MSS, Inc. prepared a report for the City of Springfield entitled, “Water Rights and Pumps on the Millrace and Connected Waterways.” In 1990, Slotta Engineering produced the “Water Resource Assessment for the Springfield Millrace.” This report is a well-documented water resource study. Its purpose was “to evaluate the assets and liabilities of owning and operating the Springfield Mill Race.” Prior to the 1909 Water Right Act, proven consistent use of a particular water source was the legal determinant of who had water rights over that particular water source. In the 1940's, the legislation of the Office of Reclamation introduced an adjudication process to resolve issues of water rights of a particular waterway. After Georgia-Pacific donated the Springfield

Mill Race to Springfield in 1985, involvement in the adjudication processes began formally in 1992. On December 14, 1992, the City of Springfield filed a registration statement with the Oregon Water Resources Department for its 1909 surface water rights and currently seeks to gain first rights of the use of water from the Middle Fork of the Willamette.

The inlet of the Springfield Mill Race requires periodic maintenance due to sediment deposition upstream from the inlet. Previously, Georgia-Pacific used heavy equipment to dredge the inlet and maintain the Mill Race's flow. Once becoming aware of the methods of inlet maintenance, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) determined that in-stream dredging practices of the City are potentially detrimental to fish habitat.

Consequently, the City of Springfield will now pursue construction of a permanent inlet diversion structure. However, the City must address certain issues of easement along the Mill Race property line, the right to draw water from the Middle Fork of the Willamette, and issues related to the structural design of a permanent inlet system.

Water quality has become an important issue for the City of Springfield upon accepting ownership of the Mill Race and Mill Pond from Georgia-Pacific. While the presence of chemical plants, power transformers, municipal storm drain outlets, lumber yards, rock quarries, automobile wrecking yards, and farms pose threats, the documentation gathered by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) suggests that these industrial organizations adjacent to the Mill Race have been responsive to requests from the ODEQ to clean up and manage waste spills or dumpings in an effort to prevent degrading the water quality of the Mill Race and Mill Pond. Nevertheless, the appearance of occasional slicks of oil of unknown origin present a challenge for the management of "point and non-point source pollutants."

Water flow is also a major concern to the new stewards of the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond. In 1995, MMS, Inc. wrote a report entitled, "Millrace Gauging Station" in an effort to support the City's need for monitoring the flow (cubic feet per second: CFS) of the Mill Race.

With support from the 1996 hydrologic and diversion studies (see Hydrologic Study and Alternative Evaluation, Otak and the Springfield Millrace Diversion, Reckendorf and Associates), a 1997 study on the Site Characterization of the Mill Pond (see Preliminary Site Characterization of the Springfield Mill Pond, Emcon), as well as a 1999 Preliminary Restoration Plan for the Springfield Mill Race prepared by the Army Corps of Engineers, the City, this year, was able to secure funding through an appropriations bill of the Water Resources and Development Act in the amount of \$200,000 for a feasibility study to restore the aquatic ecosystem of the Mill Race and Mill Pond by improving water quality and flow management.

Presently, flow management is also consistent with predetermined outflow guidelines of the Dexter Reservoir Dam and the Fall Creek Reservoir. The City of Springfield has worked diligently, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to identify and evaluate flow management alternatives and to maintain minimum flows and prevent flooding

The City of Springfield has made steady progress in their efforts to manage the Mill Race and Mill Pond. In 1999, a 17+ acre piece of private land was purchased by the City of Springfield. This parcel of land is an important property in relation to the permanent diversion inlet (see Appendix—C).

There have been no professional oral history reports written specifically about the Springfield Mill Race or Mill Pond since 1884. However, it should be noted that an exhaustive search was not conducted due to time and budget constraints. Those sources consist of: Springfield High School Archives, Oregon Genealogical Society Archives, The Springfield News, the University of Oregon Archives, the archives of the Springfield Historical Commission, the archives of Booth-Kelly, the Northwest Archives of Lumber and Transport, The Downtown Commission's Planning Strategies for the Mill Race (circa 1980), a document concerning the Urban Renewal of the Downtown Springfield Area (Art Paz), Oregon Agriculturalist and the Rural Northwest (Williamson, ed.), Willamette Valley Oregon (Clark 1927), The Lane County News, A History of the Mohawk Valley and Early Lumbering (Polley). These sources may yield important information that was not included in this report. It is the opinion of the author that

there is little chance of locating a professional oral history report among the aforementioned sources which specifically addresses considerations of the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond.

INVENTORY METHODOLOGY

The Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond Oral History Project's investigation was conducted using a two-phase design. During Phase I, a primary literature search was conducted. This component of the evaluation included an examination of available ecological, cultural, historical and ethnographic literature pertaining to the project. Phase II research involved conducting oral history interviews with local Springfield residents using the Oral History Interview Guidelines (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: 1998). The interview strategy employed was informal and focused on personal stories and experiences of local Springfield residents who had direct or indirect knowledge about the Mill Race or Mill Pond.

To facilitate the collection of oral history data, a Recruitment Script (see Appendix—D) was created to give prospective interviewees a brief understanding of the overall objectives of the research project, as well as a clear idea of the specific roles they would play as participants. After reading the Recruitment Script, potential interviewees were asked to read a Consent Form (see Appendix—E) designed to ask the potential interviewee for permission to be audio-taped by the research assistant while being asked questions about the Mill Race and their lives as Springfield residents.

A draft of the Consent Form was submitted to the City Attorney's Office to assure satisfaction of legal and ethical obligations directly related to the collection of oral history data.

In return, two Consent Forms, A & B, were approved for use by the City Attorney's Office and Public Works Intern for research clearance for this project. However, all individuals that participated chose to use Consent Form A (see signed consent forms Appendix—F).

Participants were selected based on their willingness to par-

ticipate. A short list of participants was gathered from the Director of the Springfield Museum, Kathy Jensen, and the Maintenance Manager. It was anticipated that additional participants would be identified during the interview process. This method worked well and many of the interviews conducted later in the data collecting process were with individuals who had been named by earlier participants.

The majority of potential participants were initially contacted by phone. During this phone conversation, the purpose of the oral history research was briefly explained and individuals were asked if there was a convenient time to meet and conduct a formal interview. If they agreed, we set up a time and place where the participant and Public Works Intern could meet to conduct an interview. Many of the interviews took place in homes. Some were conducted at City offices. Others were held at the Springfield Depot, the Springfield Museum and Library, and while touring the Springfield Mill Race by automobile.

A draft of interview questions was submitted to the Maintenance Manager for review and eventually used as a cornerstone to the data collecting process (see Appendix—G). The interviews were audio-taped with a hand-held Optimus Voice Activated Cassette Tape Recorder. The duration of the interviews varied from approximately 30 minutes to 1.5 hours.

Audio-taped interviews were subcontracted to Typos, Inc., a professional transcription and editing service, to be transcribed into written conversations for the purpose of further analysis and interpretation based on the research goals of the Mill Race project.

The preferred method of analysis of the taped interviews is “thematic analysis.” Working directly from the themes addressed in the interview questions, specific categories based on themes from the questions were developed. *Uses of the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond*, and their roles as assets to the community’s development, served as major thematic categories designed to

analyze the data of the oral history project. What was of particular interest to the project's aims was to consider the Mill Race and Mill Pond and the roles they played as a community resource in the lives of the residents.

Thematic analysis is identified as categorizations of reoccurrent themes or content. The outlining of specific thematic categories is initially conceived during the formulation of the interview questions.

These categories function as a means of grouping specific content or themes that are present in the transcriptions of the interviews. Categories of information are then counted for their respective quantities of specific information and its thematic content. Themes relevant to this project fall primarily under recreational/economic use patterns (i.e., fishing, boating, swimming).

INVENTORY DATA

After careful review of the literature relevant to the project area, the development of a recruitment script, consent forms and research questions, 10 interviews of local Springfield residents, ranging in age from 45-70 years old, were conducted from July 30, 1999, to September 3, 1999 — approximately one month.

Interview number one was conducted at Springfield City Hall with Mr. Steve Moe on July 30, 1999. The transcription of the interview can be found in Appendix—H.

Interview number two was conducted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Clearwater. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix—I.

Interview number three was conducted at Springfield City Hall with Mrs. Dorothy Velasco. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix—J.

Interview number four was conducted at the Springfield Museum with Mr. Graydon Lewis. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix—K.

Interview number five was conducted at the home of Jo Anderson. This interview also included Jane Brown, Jo's sister. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix —L.

Interview number six was conducted at the home of Robert Edmiston. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix — M.

Interview number seven was conducted partially in an automobile and partially at various locations along the Mill Race with Steve Moe. Unfortunately, this interview was not audio-taped, but a series of photographs were taken at various points along the Mill Race (see Appendix —N).

Interview number eight was conducted partially in an automobile and partially at various locations along the Mill Race with Mr. Leonard Clearwater and Mr. Node Palanuk. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix—O.

Interview number nine was conducted in the home of Mr. Everett Chetwood. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix—P.

Interview number ten was conducted at the Springfield Depot, along the western edge of the Mill Pond and the home of Mr. Ed Harms. The transcription of the interview can be read in Appendix—Q.

INVENTORY ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The interview questions (see Appendix—G) served as a basis for organizing and applying methods of thematic analysis to the data set. Recreational and economic uses served as major thematic categories which provided the Public Works Intern with guidance.

Fishing, boating, picnicking, swimming, and hiking were some of the second-order thematic categories that helped the Public Works Intern zero in on information expected to be found, relevant to the project goals. What is of equal importance to the thematic analysis of the interview transcriptions is the potential for the emergence of relevant themes not initially identified by the Public Works Intern's predetermined categories of use.

Recreational Uses of the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond

Recreational Themes Identified by the Research Population

- Fishing
- Swimming
- Canoe/Boating
- Picnicking and Relaxation
- Ice Skating

Identified by the Research Population

Fishing—90 % of all interviewees identified the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond as containing fish. The descriptions of types of fish present in the waterway varied, but all identified the Mill Race and Mill Pond as fish waterways.

According to Mr. Clearwater, “*We used to fish the Mill Race every once in a while ... go clear down as far as where 28th Street crosses the Mill Race*” When asked what type of fish he was

catching. Mr. Clearwater replied, *“Well, a lot of cutthroat. It was fairly shaded and cutthroat like to live back under banks and [in the] shade.”*

According to Mr. Edmiston, *“You see, this, unbeknownst to most people, this Mill Race in Springfield has one of the best salmon runs in the country. People came from up to 100 miles to go fishing and in this Mill Race, we have native cutthroat trout, we have native rainbow, and then for some reason, which is beyond anybody’s understanding, the salmon came up river. And instead of staying in the Willamette River, they make a left turn and go up the Mill Race. Go over a fish ladder that’s between the old Georgia-Pacific (GP) property and the old Big M property—the old Booth-Kelly Lumber, there’s a fish ladder there. I did security on both ends of that place, off and on for seven years and one of my jobs was once an hour to police the salmon ladder to keep the poachers out.”*

Mr. Edmiston also mentions that “pond monkeys” would use their “pikes” as spears to catch salmon in the Mill Pond, *“The salmon runs used to be so prolific that as they were working the Mill Pond and they saw a salmon, they would spear it with their pike. They’d take that salmon back to the lunchroom and cut it up and come evening they would stack it in their lunch pails and go home. ...Those guys used to pull salmon by the hundreds. (see Appendix—M).*

According to Steve Moe, *“A lot of people went fishing down there.*

Swimming —100% of all interviewees identified the Springfield Mill Race as a place for swimming. Although all the interviewees did not use the Mill Race as a recreational swimming locale, they were all aware of this particular type of use the Mill Race provided for residents of the community. One of the most popular areas for swimming was at the intersection of 28th Street and the Mill Race, at Gorrie Bridge.

According to Jane Brown and Jo Anderson,

Jo: *"But we always referred to it as the Mill Race. I don't know if Mr. Gorrie tacked his name on that or not. I have no idea. Okay you're looking here ... and this was the swimming hole right here. If you went right back behind those trees ... you were there. I used to go back there all by myself ... just a little kid walking around and enjoying it. But this is ... that was THE diving board ... and you could dive in here and dog paddle or whatever you did right down here and there was a place to get out ... where it was real shallow."*

Jane: *"Well you know, somebody built that diving board—I have no idea who. Somebody built a little dressing room."*

According to Mr. Clearwater, *"... kids use to go out and swim in the Mill Race back there at 28th Street—there's a bridge across the Mill Race there—and that used to be a great swimming hole and there was kind of a picnic area there too."* He goes to say, *"A lot of the guys from the [Springfield] Plywood Plant, lunch hour or whatever—cigarette break and take a quick dip in the Mill Race."*

According to Mr. Lewis, *"I remember from swimming there (the Mill Race) that the water was kind of swift. You may have had to sometimes dodge pieces of bark."*

According to Mr. Palanuk, *"It had a good strong current. In fact, you had to swim pretty hard to get upstream."*

According to Mr. Chetwood, *"It looked like a pretty stream running out through the farming land. We called it a City Park at one place, but there was nothing there but a picnic table and a springboard for diving. It was a nice, fresh, clean swimming pool. It was beautiful."*

According to Mr. Harms, *"We used to come over to Springfield at night and go swimming down there. I haven't been back there for 60 years."*

Canoe/Boating - 20% of all interviewees took a boat, usually a canoe, down the Mill Race.

According to Mr. Chetwood, *"We use to go up the Race. We would steal the canoes and boats that the other kids had. Leonard Clearwater, I stole his canoe one time and it's been 65 years or so. We were talking about it the other day. It was a homemade canoe some people made out of airplane silk and ribs. I found it, so another kid and I stole it and brought it down the Mill Race. He and I were talking. He was telling me about you and I said, well, tell him about when I stole it That's the way kids in those days got their entertainment. I had it hid in the upper pond in the tulips, turned it upside down, hid it, went back with stuff to fix it in a week or two and it was gone."*

According to Mr. Harms, *"....and on at least one memorable occasion, we came down the Springfield Mill Race as far as the log pond where the people working on the log pond were going to chase us off."*

Picnicking and Relaxation - 100% of all interviewees identified the Springfield Mill Race as an area for picnicking, fireside chats, and outdoor cooking.

According to Mr. Edmiston, *"...one of the mill owners, his name was Dick Baldwin--he was going to build a picnic grounds at the west end [of the Mill Pond] where they used to keep their pond boats."*

With reference to the 28th Street swimming locale, Mr. Clearwater states that, *"there was a kind of picnic area there, too."*

According to Mr. Lewis, *"..the early cars, the front seats...the seats always came out because in the Model-Ts, as I recall the gas tank filler was under the front seat. They'd [kids] go to the Mill Race at some location and he and other guys and girls would take the front seats out of their cars and build a bon fire in the middle*

with their car seats all around. Probably make out a bit...they'd even do such things as sing songs. But, they would do this along the Mill Race as a place to go for young people. ...We used to swim in the Mill Race...."

Ice Skating — Only one of the participants discussed this topic, Mr. Everett Chetwood.

He is quoted as saying, *"You could look up the Mill Race for miles. It froze over and the people from the Midwest and whatnot brought their skates. They skated on it."*

Economic Uses of the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond

Economic Themes Identified by the Research Population

- Wood/Slab Collecting
- Log Floating
- Hop Farming

Identified by the Research Population

Municipal and industrial economic uses of the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond are well documented when compared to a lack of systematic documentation of other uses, such as historical or recreational.

Historically, the Mill Race, dug in 1852 by Elias and Issac Briggs, provided basic waterpower needs to early Springfield by powering a grist and lumber mill. In 1901, Booth-Kelly ran its entire lumber operation based on the waterpower the Mill Race provided. A Mill Pond was constructed around this time and was situated in a different location than the Mill Pond we see today (see Appendix — A and Appendix — R).

It's clear that historically and presently, the Mill Race provided significant benefits to water users. However, interview data also suggested examples of microeconomic uses of the waterway.

Wood/Slab Collecting — According to Mr. Chetwood, "*....the big pieces of bark and stuff went with it [the Mill Race current].I would take a pickaroon, pull it out and take it home and burn it. A lot of guys did that, yeah. Soaked in water and heavy, you've got to pull it out on the bank and ... When I was first married I lived in a house on 5th Street and there was a wood stove in there and we would burn that bark. Haul it home in a trailer- nobody had pickups then, everybody had a trailer or something. Took it home and it was good fuel.*"

According to Mr. Lewis: "*An interesting thing if you haven't heard of it so far, people living along the Mill Race, men in particular remember on South 2nd, there's a little bridge on the way to my grandmother's house and people would put up a boom. That is, maybe a log or 2 X 6s, 2 X 8s attached to a cable and then one end on the shore. Then as these pieces of bark and chunks of wood from the Mill Race came floating down, they would be captured by this arm which would be at maybe a 45 degree angle. So, all these chunks of wood and what then we called slab wood, would collect. Then they would pick it up and stack it up and have their winter wood supply and if they had enough they could sell it commercially. That was quite frequent with people living around it as a source of the whole winter wood. Slab wood which is not wasting...it used to be...it's when they take a log and square it off, those slabs that come off that has the bark is what we used to call slab wood. It was very cheap and we burned a lot of it in the winter because we all had wood stoves around here.*"

Log Floating — According to Mr. Chetwood's interview,

Kevin - "*So you actually remember there being a lot of water in the Mill Race? How large would you say some of the logs were that they floated; in diameter?*"

Mr. Chetwood - "*10 feet*"

Kevin - "*Huge logs then?*"

Hop Farming — Hop farms were prominent businesses in the

Willamette Valley.

While interviewing Mr. Clearwater, he states that, "*At one time they [his great-grandparents] had a hop dryer--one of the few in this area and they raised hops there [the Clearwater Homestead].*"

THEMATIC ANALYSIS OF USE CATEGORIES

When we observe the information presented in the interview transcriptions and apply the methodology of thematic analysis to their content, two major pattern statements appear:

* It is clear that the Springfield Mill Race and Mill Pond are unique cultural and historical features, with long lasting and deep ties to the community's origin.

* With the significant re-occurrence of thematic use, categories like fishing as an example of **recreational use**, log floating and other municipal uses as examples of **economic use**, the need to balance the presence of recreational uses with those defined as economic or industrial, is immediate.

These pattern statements are supported by information found in the majority of the existing literature. Furthermore, 100% of all interviewees recommended that the Mill Race and Mill Pond be environmentally managed to enhance and reflect the Mill Race's more pristine characteristics.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS

A series of maps included in this report (see Appendix - A) reveal two important pieces of information: (1) The project area maps dating to 1872 and 1892 predate all of the previous dates of construction of the Mill Pond found in existing technical reports; and (2) The project area maps dating to 1872, 1892 and 1902 all suggest a different location for the section of the Mill Race starting from the point of the Mill Pond's outflow to where it rejoins the Middle Fork of the Willamette River.

A collection of photographs gathered during the initial literature review, as well as during the interview phase of the project, are also included in the report (see Appendix - R). Some of these photographs, particularly GN3217, would seem to support the information revealed by the maps concerning the various locations of the Mill Pond and the Mill Race's outflow locale. Furthermore, these photographs will aid in a present understanding of the cultural and environmental landscape of that period in the Mill Race's history.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhanced water quality and flow management are critical elements in current discussions on the fate of the Mill Race. Based on existing water quality of the Mill Race, the ODFW and the Army Corps of Engineers suggested that the City may be required to build fish screens at the inlet and outfall of the Mill Race. Instead, the City of Springfield has requested funding from the Army Corps of Engineers to construct wetlands, improve water quality and flow, re-establish wildlife habitat adjacent to the Mill Race and Mill Pond, and to construct a permanent intake structure at the proposed inlet. The Army Corps of Engineers has completed a Preliminary Restoration Plan for the Mill Race and may fund up to \$3.5 million for improvement to the Mill Race and Mill Pond.

The next stage for the City's plan to restore the Mill Race and Mill Pond will be the Feasibility Study. This phase will better define the design parameters of the project. Comments by participants in the oral histories gathered during the project support a restoration plan. The following is a list of recommendations:

- **Request that Federal, State and local agencies become more involved in establishing the historical and cultural significance of the Mill Race and Mill Pond as resources for the community of Springfield**
- **Improve water quality and avoid the construction of fish screens at the inlet and delta of the Mill Race**
- **Prepare a long-term Master Plan for the enhancement and management of the Mill Race**
- **Use the biological, environmental and cultural aspects of the Mill Race and Mill Pond for the educational appreciation and enhancement of the Springfield community**
- **Collect additional oral history information on the Mill Race and Mill Pond**

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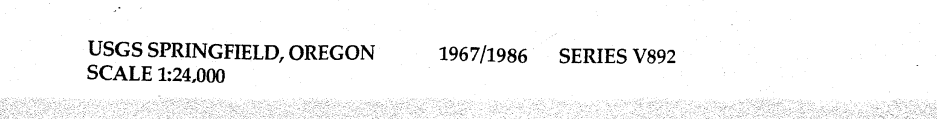
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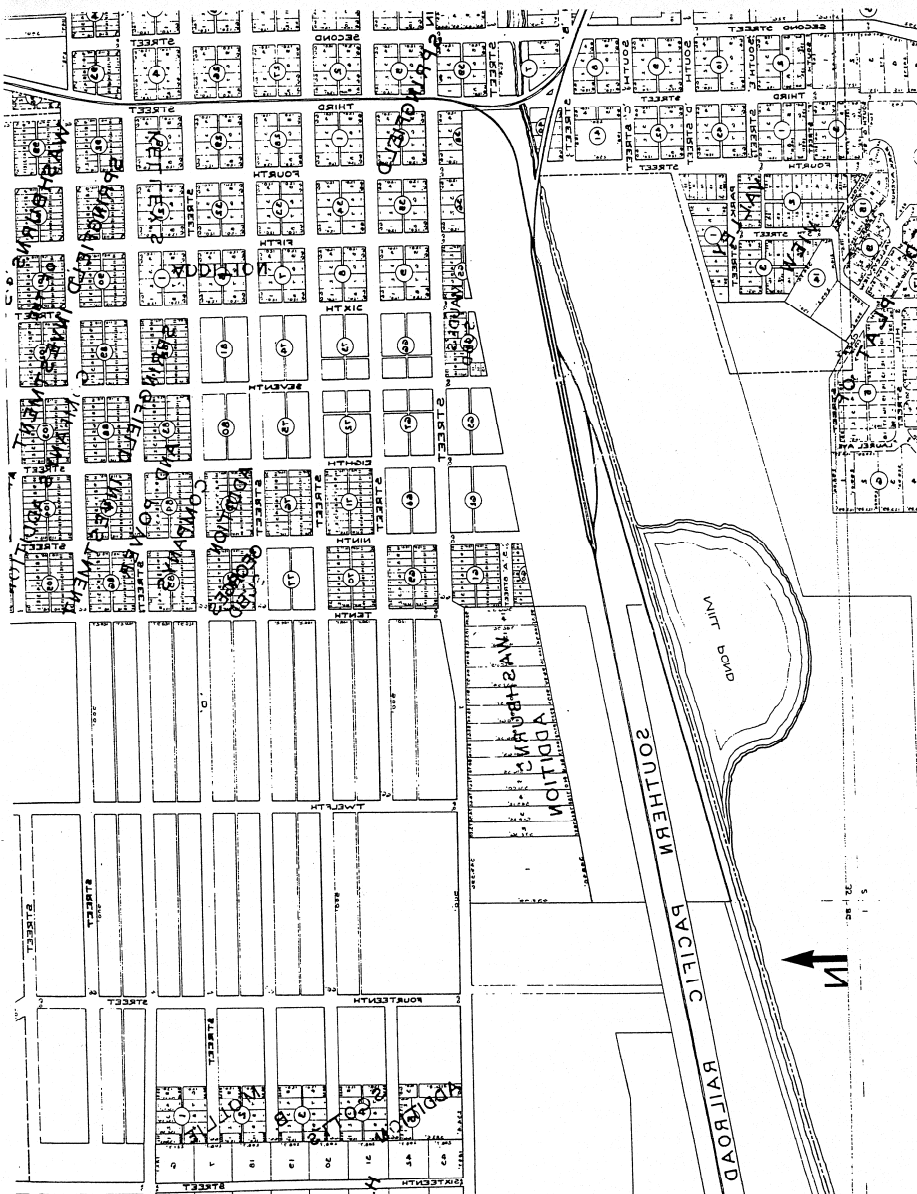
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APPENDIX—A

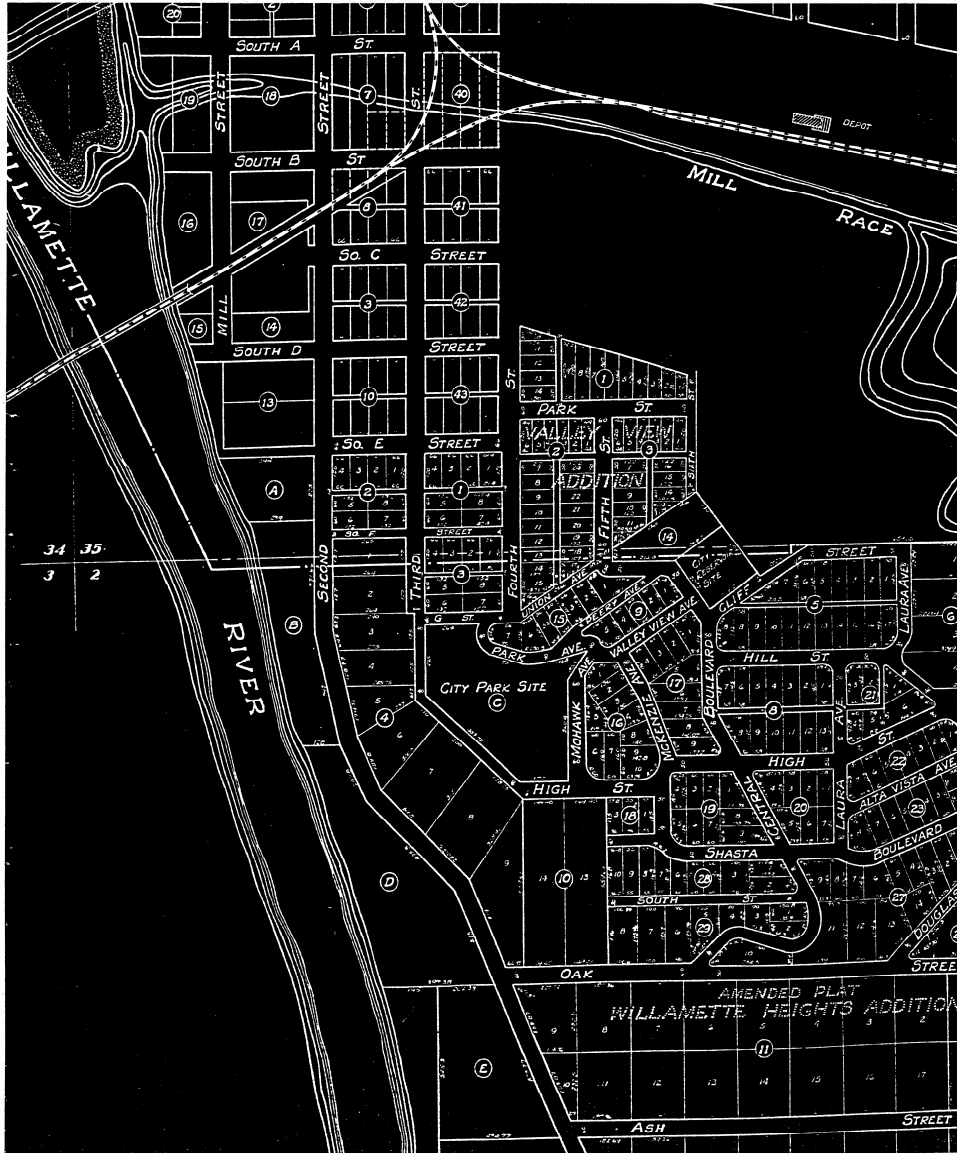
Project Area Maps





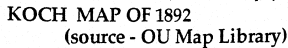
MAP BY ADRIAN W. VAALER
1" = 300'

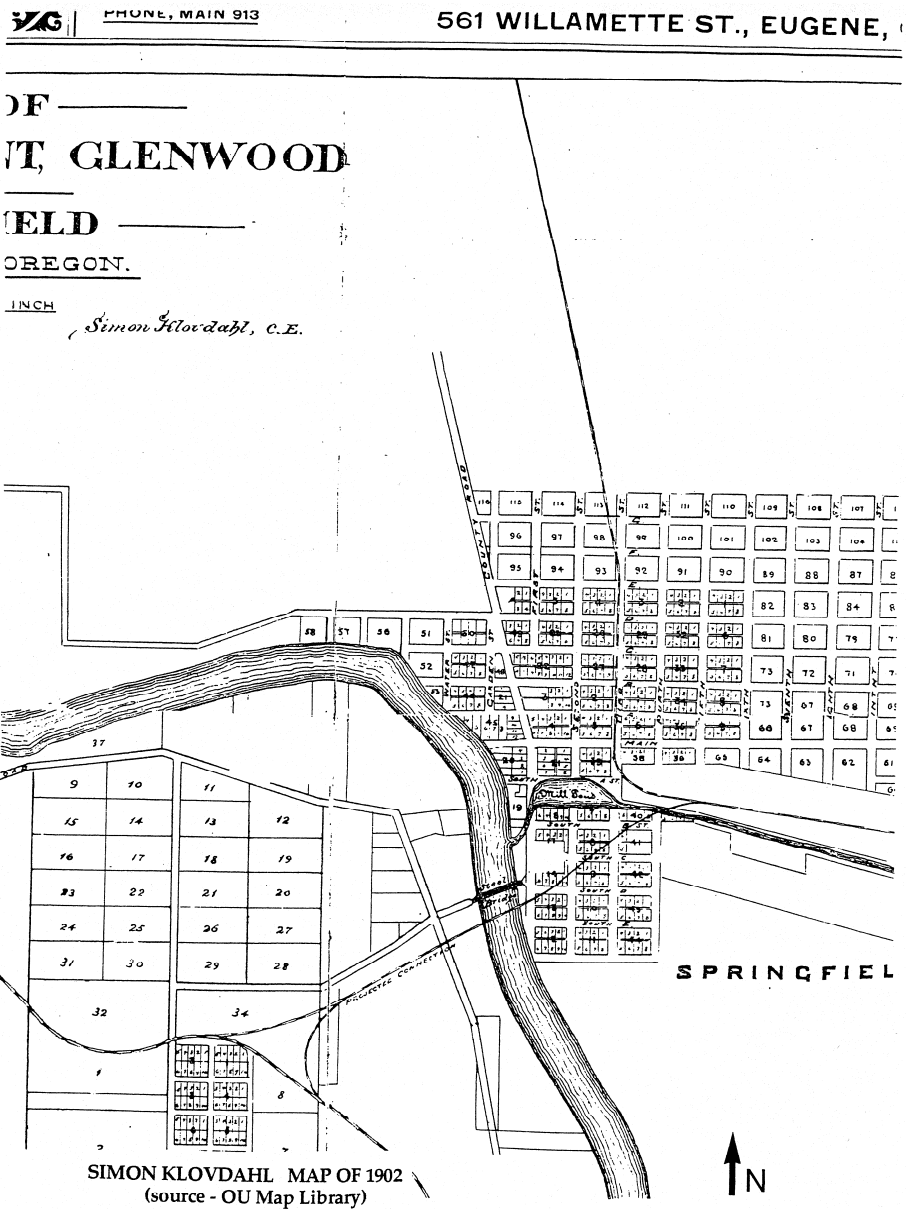
EUGENE, OREGON
1946





— 1892 —





APPENDIX—R

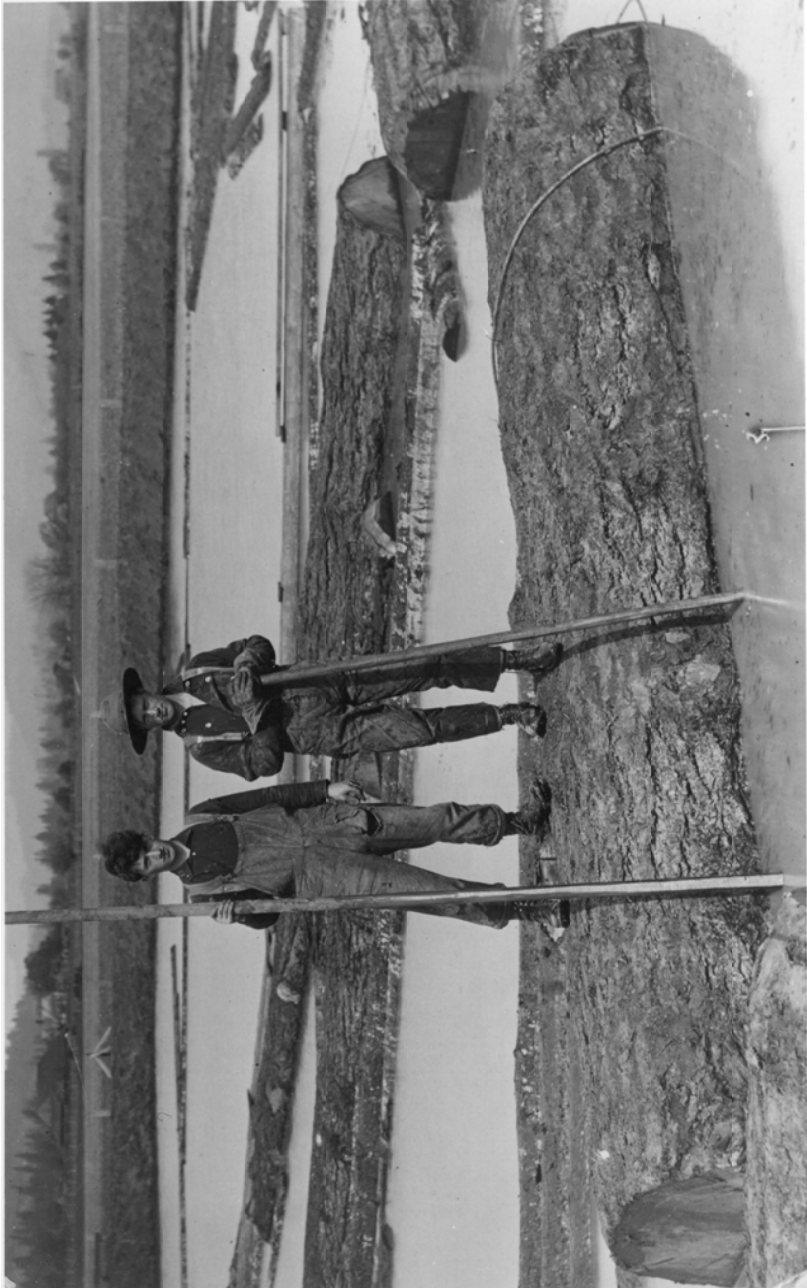


Photo of Springfield, Oregon—From Kelley Butte
Circa 1885 Southwest Facing
(source: Courtesy of Mr. Ed Harns; Private Collection)



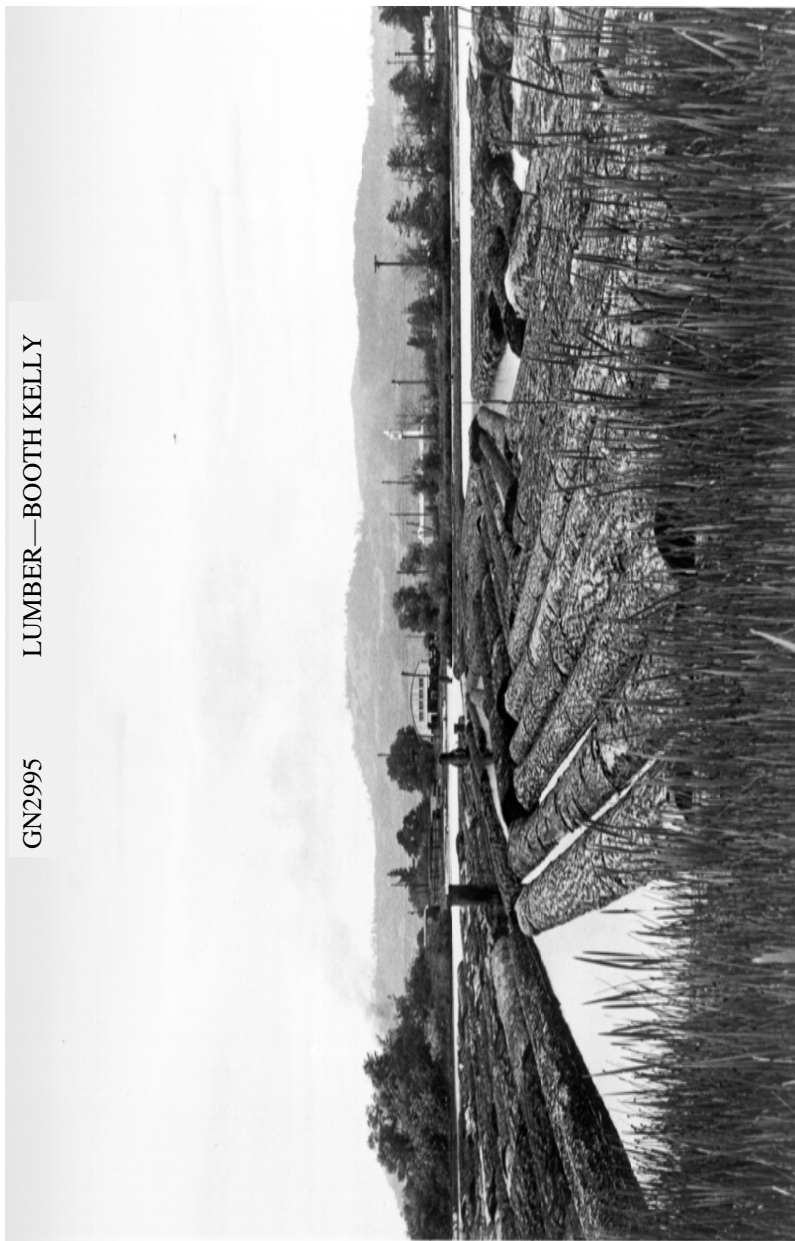
A GATHERING at the MILLRACE—CIRCA 1910
(source: Courtesy of the Springfield Museum)





GN2995

LUMBER—BOOTH KELLY



SPRINGFIELD—OVERVIEWS/STREET VIEWS

GN3060





SPRINGFIELD—INDUSTRY

GN3198

