



Photo by Reggie Latham

By Randy Frank

# Estacada: a logging community at the foot of the Cascades

This is the story of one day in the life of Estacada, Oregon, as seen through the eyes of the Journalism and Photojournalism classes at Clackamas Community College.

This will not be your average story for it will include such information as the various aspects of the logging industry as seen through the eyes of the community, the loggers themselves and some of the major businesses, plus some of the various aspects of a small logging town such as the Forest Service, police, doctors and its major industry, the Crown Zellerbach Mill.

Nestled in the lush, green foothills of the Cascade range, Estacada is one of the most picturesque communities in Clackamas County.

Estacadians are never too far away from the hustle and bustle of the big city as they are only 40 short minutes from the heart of Portland.

However, Estacada does manage to maintain a small community atmosphere as at last count only 1,720 residents reside within its borders while the Estacada area includes around 17,000.

Estacada is a bedroom community to the Portland metropolitan area with the majority of its people commuting to and from the city for work.

The immediate Estacada area has a diverse economy with major employers being the U.S. Forest Service, Cascade Utilities, Portland General Electric (PGE), Park Lumber Company Division of Crown Zellerbach, Milwaukie Plywood Corporation, Houghton Log Company and Estacada Rock Products, Incorporated.

The Estacada school system is made up of two elementary school districts and Union High School district which provide education for approximately 2,600 students. It is also within the Clackamas Community College district.

As for transportation Estacada is located on State Highway 244 which runs to Portland and on State Highway 211 which eventually ties with I-5 just north of Warrenton.

Estacada is served daily by Tri-Met bus and is only 30 miles from Portland International Airport.

The temperature is also ideal for almost any kind of activity.

The average July temperature is 80 degrees F. and the average January temperature is 34 degrees F. Precipitation averages 57.5 inches a year and Estacada also averages around 11.4 inches of snow.

There are 16 churches in Estacada, each a different denomination. Estacada also has a theater and city library for those who enjoy the more relaxed type of recreation.

For those who prefer a little more exercise Estacada is located on the Clackamas River and is open, along with its tributaries and several high lakes, for year-round fishing. In the fall the Cascade foothills are a major site for deer hunting. Estacada is also only an hour drive from the major metropolitan areas and is approximately two hours away from the Pacific Ocean beaches.

PGE's North Fork reservoir is a popular place in the summer for water skiers, fishermen and swimmers as are the beautiful parks in the area including McIver State Park, Eagle Fern, Metzler and Barton.

Estacada also has eight tennis courts and a golf course five miles out of town.

Estacada residents are never at a loss for news as the Clackamas County News is published weekly in Estacada and the two major Portland dailies circulate in the area. Estacada is within the reception area of Portland radio and TV stations.

Estacada is also served by a four-man police force, a largely volunteer 22-man fire department and three doctors.

The small community of Estacada seemingly has not really changed since its founding back on Dec. 23, 1903, when a meeting was held at the office of the Oregon Water Power Townsite Company, First and Adams Streets, Portland. Townsite and railroad company officials suggested various names: Rochester, Lowell, Lynn and then George J. Kelly suggested Estacado.

According to legend, Kelly's name was later drawn from a hat and given to the townsite, but through an error in drafting was filed as Estacada.

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This publication was a joint production of two Clackamas Community College journalism classes: J 218, Newspaper Editing and Design, and J 134, Photojournalism.

Students from J 218 gathered and wrote the material based on interviews gathered on location.

Students from J 134 were responsible for capturing the writer's words on film and producing those pictures.

The Journalism/Publications program extends its sincere appreciation to all those who made this publication possible.

