

be found in the huge number of patriotic stamps that the post office has sold in the last few weeks. Van Curler has watched her supply of U.S. flag and Statue of Liberty stamps rapidly shrink as customers snap them up instead of buying other designs.

"Any patriotic stamps, anything honoring veterans are more popular," she said.

At the Junction City post office, Nancy Overcash, the acting postmaster, said the 20 employees and rural carriers working out of her office have been dealing with the pressures of the situation smoothly. She said she's seen strong awareness of safety considerations, but not high anxiety.

"Everybody is handling this thing very well," Overcash said. "The information is coming really fast. There's something new all the time. This week, we had a stand-up safety meeting every day."

Overcash said the postal system, similar to most large corporations, has a confidential employee assistance program to deal with mental health issues and other personal problems. The system has been expanded to include a special contact number for postal workers troubled by the current mail crisis. There's even a counseling number for the children of postal workers.

Expressions of support flow steadily from customers at the front counter, Overcash said. The office workers regularly are thanked for staying on their jobs and keeping the mail moving.

Sometimes, she said, those workers become counselors themselves, reassuring those postal customers who seem to be especially troubled about the possibility of danger in the mail.

In the Veneta post office, workers are no more concerned about the anthrax threat than in Deadwood, said Postmaster Andy Anderson. None of them has opted to wear the

gloves or masks shipped to them by the postal service's Portland headquarters.

"Nobody here has even tried them," Anderson said. "We're kind of way out in the boondocks out here; everything's happening on the East Coast."

Since the anthrax scare first hit America, several customers have come into Veneta's post office to reject mail bearing no return addresses. In a mass mailing to all American households, the postal service recently told residents to beware of mail lacking sender identification.

"We've had a couple of people come in with letters that didn't have a return address," Anderson said. "Once we took a look at a letter, some customers would open it themselves. Other letters were just returned to us, and we just sent them to the 'dead letter' office."

The postal service also instructed the local post office not to sell pre-stamped envelopes. Anderson hasn't been told why the restriction was enacted, but he's heard that several anthrax-infected letters on the East Coast arrived in pre-stamped envelopes.

"We're following our instructions," Anderson said. "I don't think it's going to happen here."

**Something to sell?  
Get a classified.**  
935-1882 or 998-3877

# Long Tom Watershed Council

By Cindy Thiemann

Nov 8, 01

"In the early days the tall, rank grass covered all this valley. We would turn out our cattle on the valley and they would immediately be lost in the tall grass, which reached higher than their backs. In looking for cattle it was impossible to find them by sight. It was necessary to listen for their bells, and when they were lying down to rest during the heat of the day, one might pass within a few feet without finding them." (rancher, late 1800s)

This was the experience of the first farmers who came to the Long Tom Watershed. John B. Ferguson established the first claim in the watershed in 1848 on Ferguson Creek. Within a few years, his family and other settlers had established a small farming community along the creek.

Despite the relatively cool, wet climate, wheat was the most successful crop in the watershed during the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was ground for flour, used to barter for other goods and services, and later was exported. Oats, flax, hops, potatoes, fruit, nuts and vegetables were also cultivated. In 1904, the Lane County Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association formed and began exporting fruit very successfully.

New technology also allowed vegetable canning, which meant that more food could be grown and preserved for distant consumers. Cattle, sheep, and pigs were also an important part of many early homesteads. Cattle were first brought to the Willamette Valley in 1837 and sheep in 1843; thus livestock was likely introduced into the Long Tom Watershed around the same time as the first settlers.

Grazing was generally limited to higher ground where the wide expanse of prairie and savanna provided dry, nutritious forage. Pigs were fed the acorn mast that came from the many oaks in the area. Agriculture gradually became more extensive and efficient as the local population grew and better transportation became available. Tractors began replacing horses in the early 1900s and modern agriculture was just around the corner.

The second part of this series will discuss farming in the watershed during the 1900s. The next Long Tom Watershed Council meeting will be Nov. 27 at the Veneta Community Center. More information is available by contacting Dana Erickson at 683-6578.

## Real Answers

Let's face it, insurance can be confusing. If you're like most people, you may have more questions than answers. So when you talk to someone at COUNTRY<sup>SM</sup> Insurance & Financial Services, you'll get straightforward answers and assistance.

*Real people. Real Answers. Real quick.®*

**COUNTRY**

**Insurance & Financial Services**

[www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com)

©2001, CC Services Inc.



**BOB BRONSON**  
HARRISBURG

Office: 926-4883  
Res: 995-6079

1-800-260-4883

# Papa Murphy's

