

# Crime and Punishment in Old Tualatin

BY: LOYCE MARTINAZZI

We tend to think of the Oregon Trail pioneers as stalwart, hard working honest people, the salt of the earth, so to speak. And most of them undoubtedly were just that. But the nature of man is to push his own agenda, and here in Tualatin, just like anywhere else on earth, differences of opinion often caused bad feelings, quarrels, and in some cases even murder.

**He's in the jailhouse now,  
he's in the jailhouse now,  
I warned him once or twice,  
to quit playin' cards and shootin' dice,  
He's in the jailhouse now**

— traditional old time song

By 1861 two men living in the Tualatin area were arrested for murder. Both evaded the noose. The village blacksmith, Billy Greenwood, was arrested by Isaac Ball for selling one gill of hard liquor, which was against the law. Trouble over water rights caused a court trial with the neighbors taking sides.



Dale Stone, who was a Tualatin City councilman as well as serving in the Washington County Sheriff's Reserves, takes down information from Tom Caldera, owner of the Chevron Station on Nyberg Road, site of the current Nyberg Wood shopping complex. The station had been robbed. Sitting in the squad car was Kenneth Dickson. The car was a 1960 Plymouth which had been purchased from the City of Sherwood, and according to Ken Smith, ran like hell.

George Day, father of 16 children, was a justice of the peace in the latter part of the 19th century, and held court in his house on Boones Ferry Road. Those convicted were escorted to the Washington County jail.

When the City of Tualatin was incorporated in 1913, the marshal was instructed to notify homeowners to clean up their yards and bury their garbage. Intoxication was frowned upon in the new city, and heavy fines were levied against those who partook overly of the fruit of the vine. However, if money was short, miscreants could work out their fine by cutting wood. Dow Ball and George Jurgens often cut their initials into dogwood trees as they fulfilled their civic obligation.

In 1914 the Sweek family granted the use of a house on their property to be used as a meeting place for the city council, and which could also serve as a jail cell. And of course, the 1916 double murder caused great excitement and fear in the community. City records show that a set of handcuffs were purchased for the jail cell in the new city hall which was built in 1923. Actually, it was more a holding cell till the suspect was hauled away to the Hillsboro lock up.

During the 1950s Bonnie Ladd worked at the Post Office and purchased a painting from a man who was working for Lil Harding, owner of the Sweek House. The man delivered the painting, but before she had a chance to pay him, he was arrested and taken back to the State Pen. Seems he decided to take a vacation from his jail term.

Then in the 1970s a couple of murders at The Spot Tavern caused that popular watering hole to shut down. Unsavory characters were making The Spot a dangerous place to hang out. Buzz Powell,

owner of The Spot, had been found in the rest room with his head bashed in. Detectives working on the case discarded the testimony of the folks who visited the bar the night before, as they had been drinking. The case was never solved, although there are folks today who say they know who committed the dastardly deed, and think the cold case should be re-opened. Although The Spot was closed down, it has reopened as the Country Inn, and I can personally attest that it serves the best breakfast in town.

In the 1960s four local men signed up with the Washington County Sheriff's Reserves



Roy Watson, Dale Stone, Ken Dickson and Ken Smith go over the routine prior to embarking on patrol as members of the citizens police force.



Boones Ferry Road looking north towards the railroad trestle. On the right is the frame store that was later moved east to make space for the brick store. To the left is the Oregon Electric rail. To the back and left of the two boys in the middle of the road is the house that the Sweek family allowed the new city to use for city hall meetings and a jail. We know this photo was taken after 1906 when the Oregon Electric went through, and before 1912 when the frame building was moved.

to patrol this east end of the county. They paid for their own uniforms and sidearms. Later, the City of Tualatin hired them, and several industrial businesses paid to have their premises inspected on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The fellows patrolled the Crawfish Festival for years.

Yvonne Addington was hired by the City in 1969 to serve as City Administrator and municipal judge. Young drivers who had been ticketed for speeding found their punishment in working in hospital emergency rooms when accident victims were being treated.

And now Tualatin boasts a modern efficient police station that maintains the public peace. The new station is only a couple hundred feet west of the old jail.