

Beaver Falls

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My brother, Charlie Hanson and I came to Quincy in 1911. I was just a young girl and a flume was still being used that started at Beaver Falls. It belonged to the Oregon Lumber Co. and carried lumber from their sawmill at the falls to Inglis where the planing mill was located. The water was dammed at night into a holding pond and released in the

morning when the mill started up. The flume as I remember it was four feet high, five feet wide and had a flat bottom about a foot wide. It carried great quantities of lumber. The roads weren't like the ones we have today, and of course there were no trucks, so the flume was an inexpensive way to get lumber down from the steep hills. At times the lumber would criss-cross and jam, so a regular flume-walker walked alongside breaking and preventing jams.

My step-father Jonas Wuotila worked at the bottom end of the flume cleaning off as it came down and pushing it aside. He reported to work a half hour later than the other men & worked a half hour longer at the end of the day. Lumber falling over the side of the flume was claimed by anyone whose property it fell upon, but this was a small amount. There were many other flumes in this area but none in operation at this time. The flumes sent shingle-bolts, fence posts and cordwood down from the hills.

A favorite spot for young people for recreation on Sunday afternoons was Beaver Falls. We would walk up alongside the flume, but in the real high places, climb in and walk in the middle. No water coursed down on Sunday and walking during the work week was strictly prohibited. We gathered together under the falls, it was so pretty.



"It was so pretty under the falls."

Beaver Falls, 1899