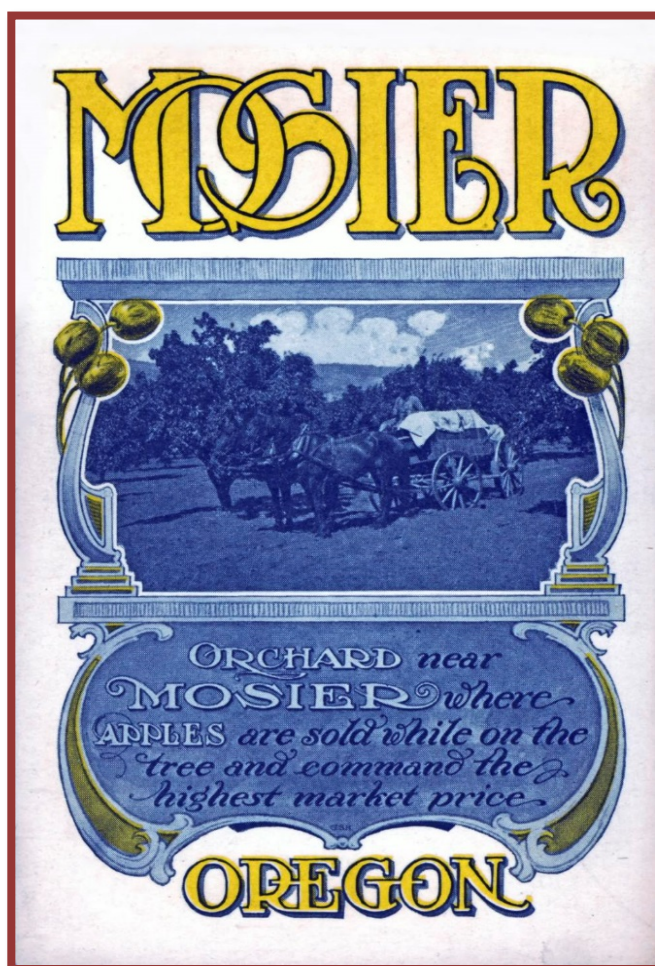




WEBFOOTER EXTRA

January 2022

Mosier: Oregon's Cherry City



Postcard promoting the ordering of apples from Mosier.

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Mosier: Oregon's Cherry City



Patton Post Card view of Main Street looking north toward the Columbia River ca. 1910. The first house on the left was once my grandmother's home. In the second house on the left lived Lenora Hunter, the postmaster of Mosier prior to my Uncle Willis Gholston being postmaster.

By Norm Gholston

Mosier, Oregon is a city of 476 souls on the Columbia River in Wasco County seven miles east of Hood River and fourteen miles west of The Dalles. The region was occupied by indigenous peoples for millennia. The area was described in the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805. The hills and valleys surrounding Mosier are ideal for growing cherries, peaches and prunes.

In 1854, Jonah Harrison Mosier arrived from California and in 1855 with his wife Jane Rollins staked a Donation Land Claim on 644 acres including Mosier and Rock creeks. Jonah built a lumber mill at Mosier Creek, a steamboat landing, and a stage rest stop.

In 1878, Amos Root established the Rosedale Fruit Farm, the first commercial orchard in the area. The railroad came to Mosier in 1882. The Mosier Fruit Growers' Association, located in the center of town, was established in 1907. Since then, cherries have become the desired tree fruit in the valley, with many new varieties being marketed locally and internationally.



Mosier's Main Street Business District looking south, ca. 1910. Many of these building succumbed to fire in 1919. Patton Post Card Co.

Parcels of land were sold and in 1884, a post office and store were established by the first postmaster, J.J. Lynch. Jonah Mosier passed away in 1894 and his son Jefferson Mosier platted the town, and like his father, he became active in local and state affairs. The city was incorporated in 1914.

On November 26, 1919, at Mosier's peak population of 500 persons, a fire destroyed much of commercial Main Street. Mosier was slow to recover. Long-established organizations include the Mosier Community School (a charter school), a post office, the Mosier Grange #234, the First Christian Church, the American Legion, and the 4-H.

Today, the Columbia River at Mosier is enjoyed by fishermen, wind surfers, paragliders, and parasailers. The Mosier Twin Tunnels on the Historic Columbia River Highway between Mosier and Hood River were reopened to pedestrians and cyclists in 2000. The tunnels are 280 feet and 81 feet in length and 250 feet above the Columbia River. With the town's population growing in recent years, there are plans for new housing developments.



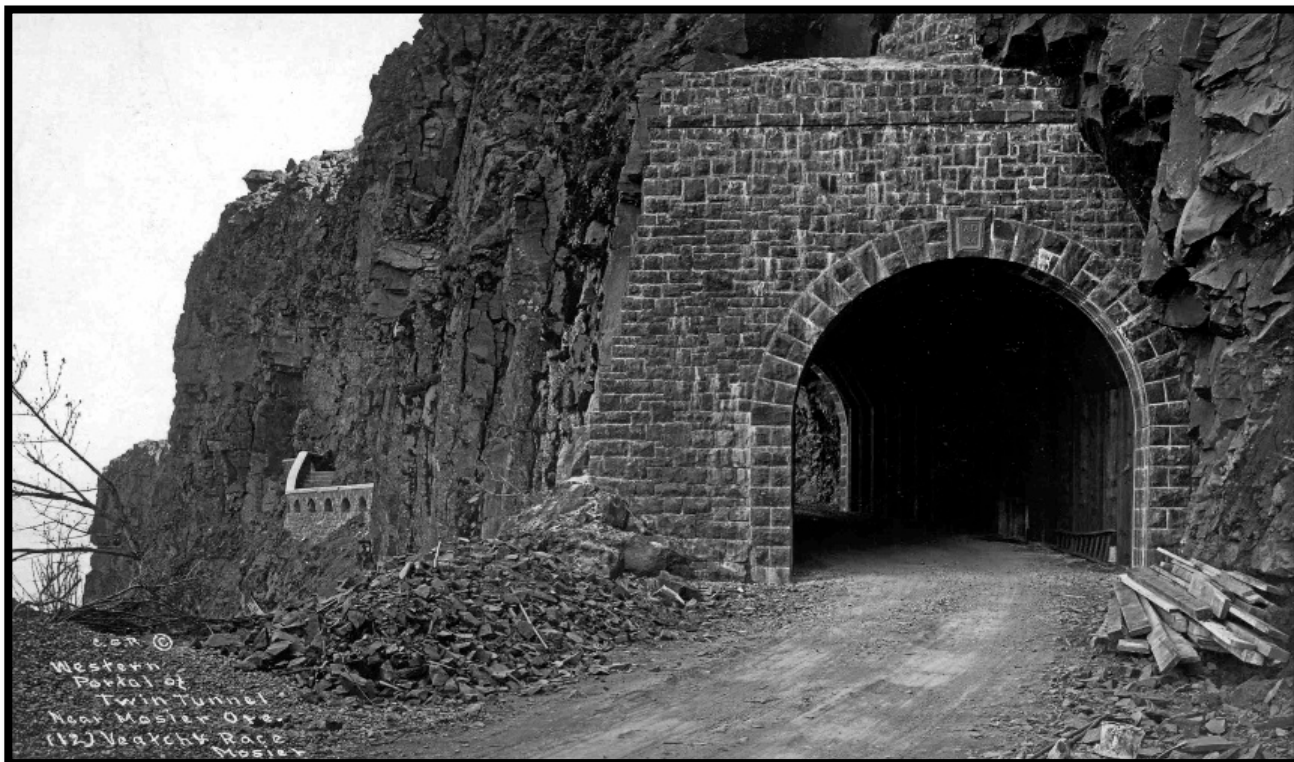
Patton Post Card of the Mosier railroad depot ca. 1920. The railroad came to Mosier in 1882 when the Oregon Portage Railroad expanded eastward. The Mosier Fruit Growers Association Building is on the left.



Bird's Eye View of Mosier, Oregon, ca. 1912, taken from the rim rock above the town. Patton Post Card Co.



Patton Post Card view of Mosier Creek Falls, ca. 1912. Local swimming hole, "The Pocket" is visible at the top.



Veatch and Race (by C.S. Reeves) view of the entrance to the Mosier Twin Tunnels looking east, near completion, ca. 1920.

Mosier, Oregon post cards are uncommon. I am always on the hunt for post cards of my father's home town.



Advertising postcard for Mosier apples.



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