



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

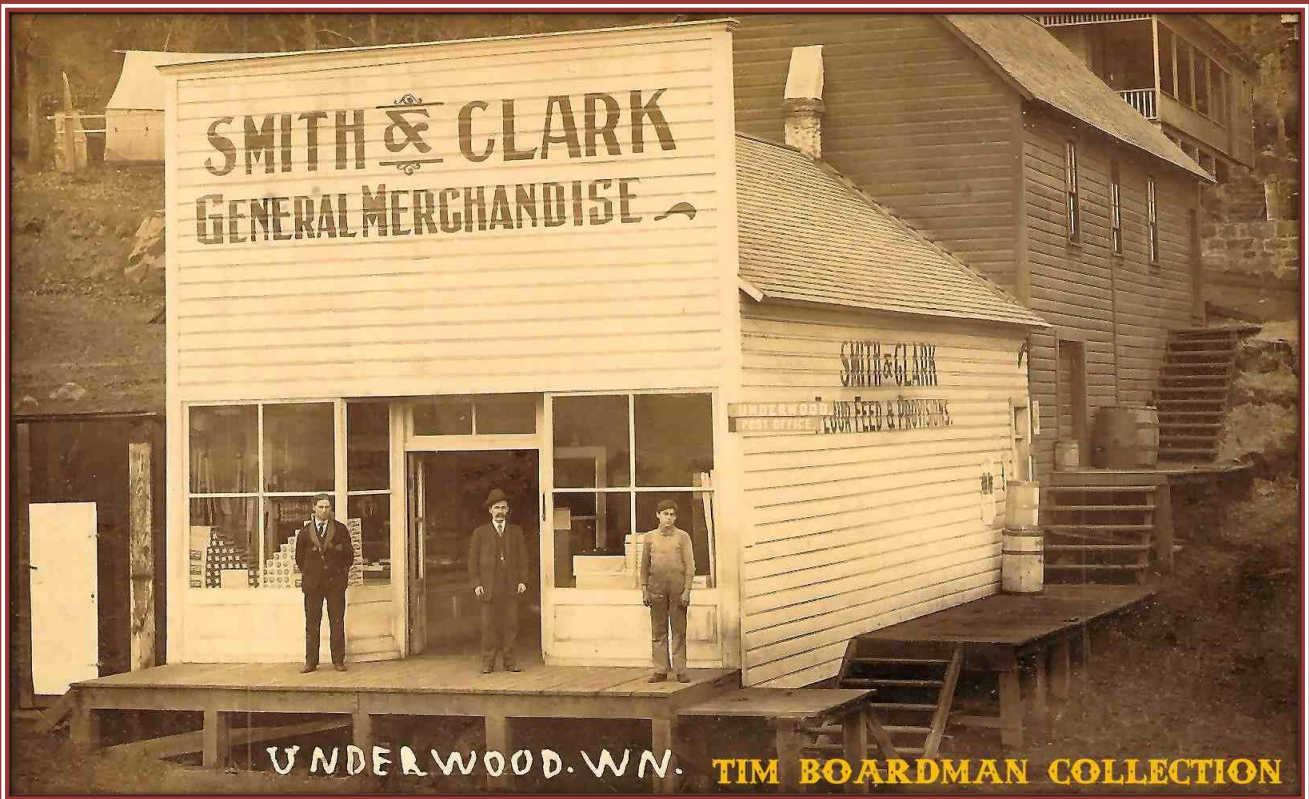
JUNE 2026

CELEBRATING

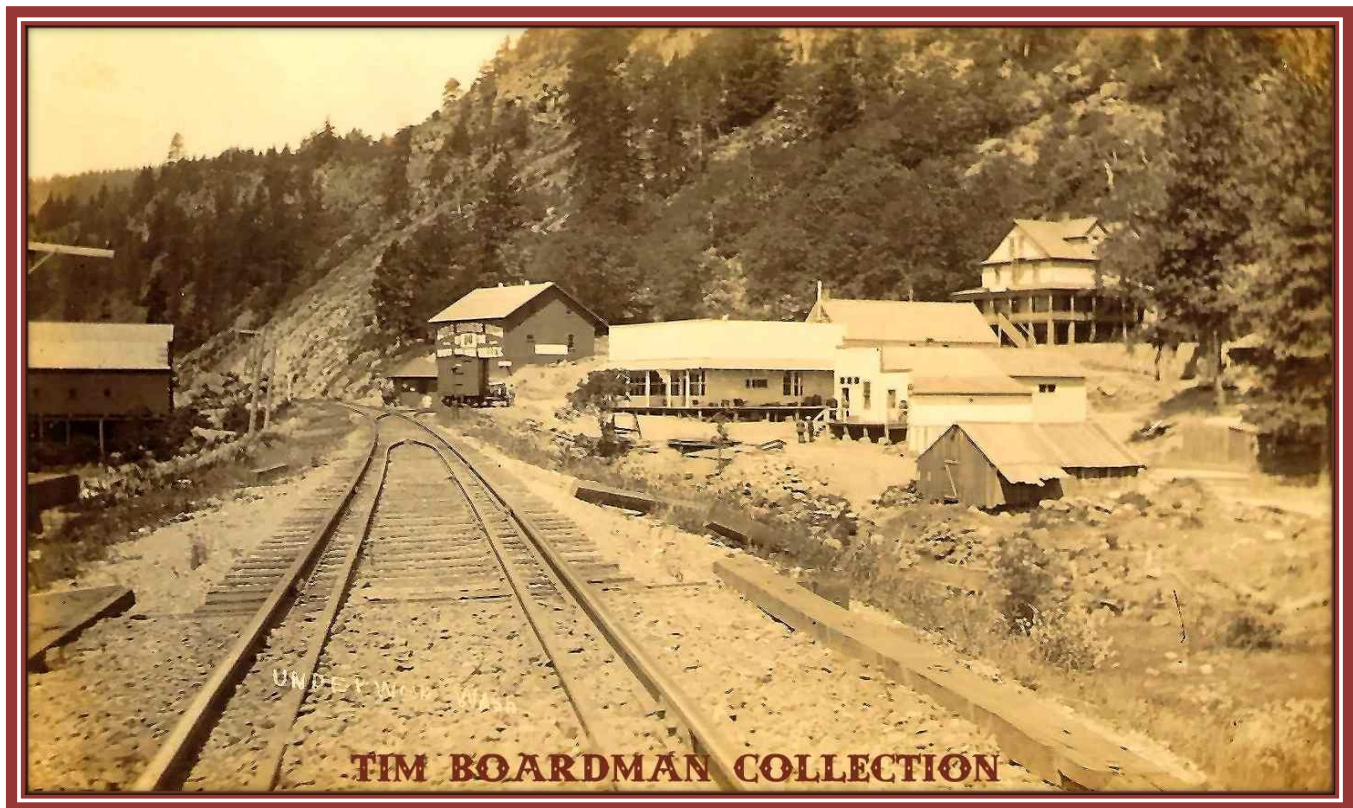


1966-2026

A HISTORY OF UNDERWOOD, WASHINGTON



Real photo postcard of the Underwood Post Office at the Smith & Clark General Merchandise Store, circa 1909.



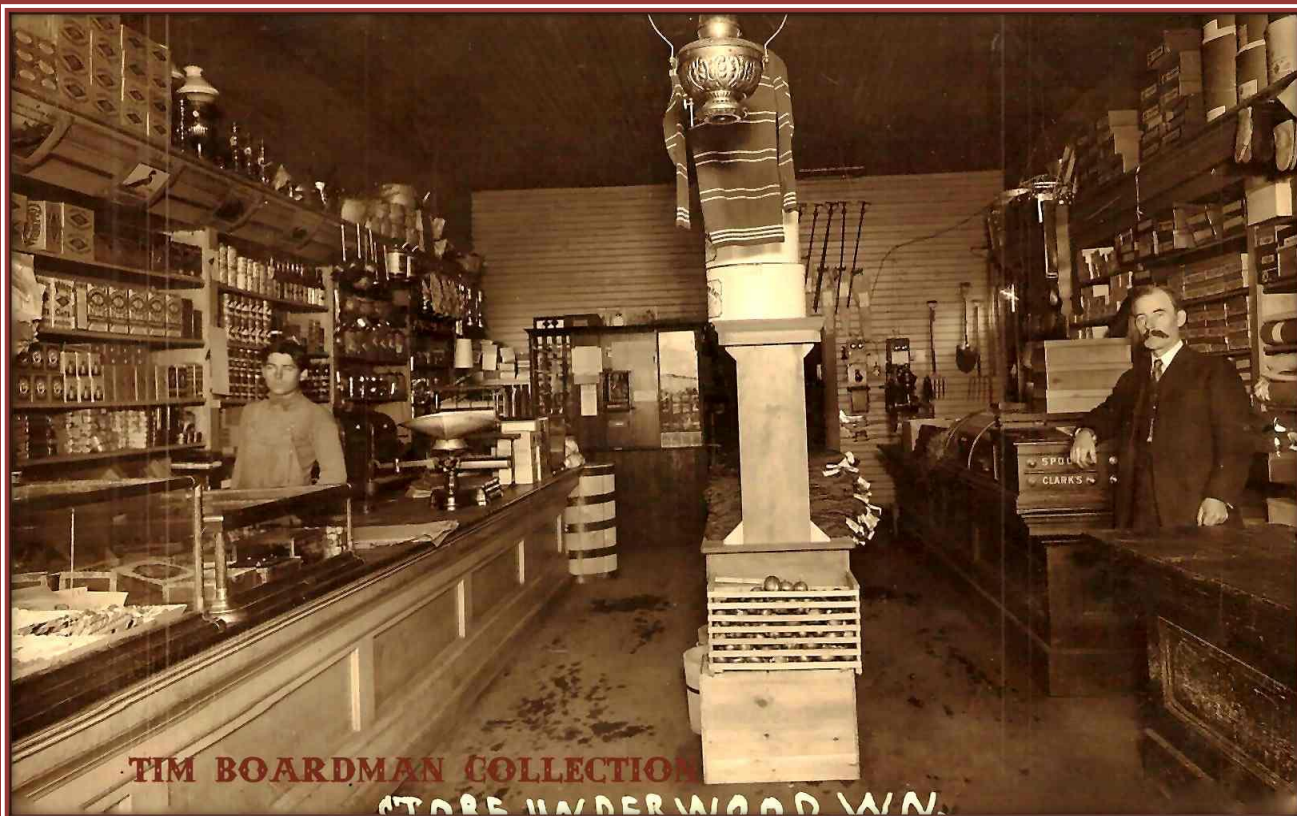
Real photo postcard of Underwood, Washington and the depot, circa 1908. Postally unused.

A HISTORY OF UNDERWOOD, WASHINGTON

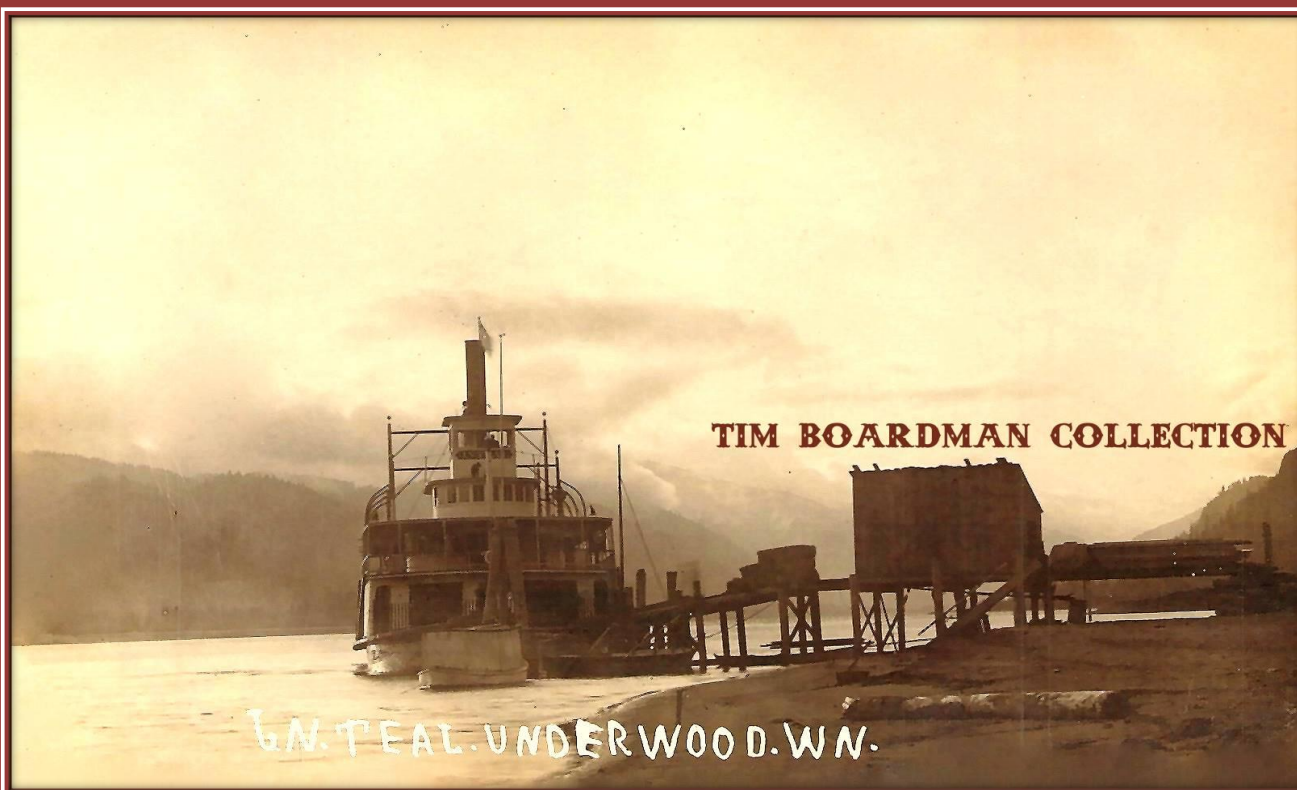
Underwood, Washington is an unincorporated community in Skamania County and it is located at the mouth of the White Salmon River where it flows into the Columbia River. It is north and across the Columbia River from Hood River, Oregon. The town was historically defined by early river commerce, a massive wooden log flume used by the Broughton Lumber Company, and thriving agricultural orchards.

Brothers Amos and Edward Underwood established the settlement at the mouth of the White Salmon River in 1865. Amos was a veteran of the Yakima Indian wars who served as a corporal in B Company of the Oregon Volunteers, and he established Underwood Landing, a bustling dock and local refreshment spot. He married the daughter of the local Native American Chief Cheniwith. The community was named to honor Amos and his early pioneering family. The official post office was established on June 30, 1900. The first postmaster was Grace Dark.

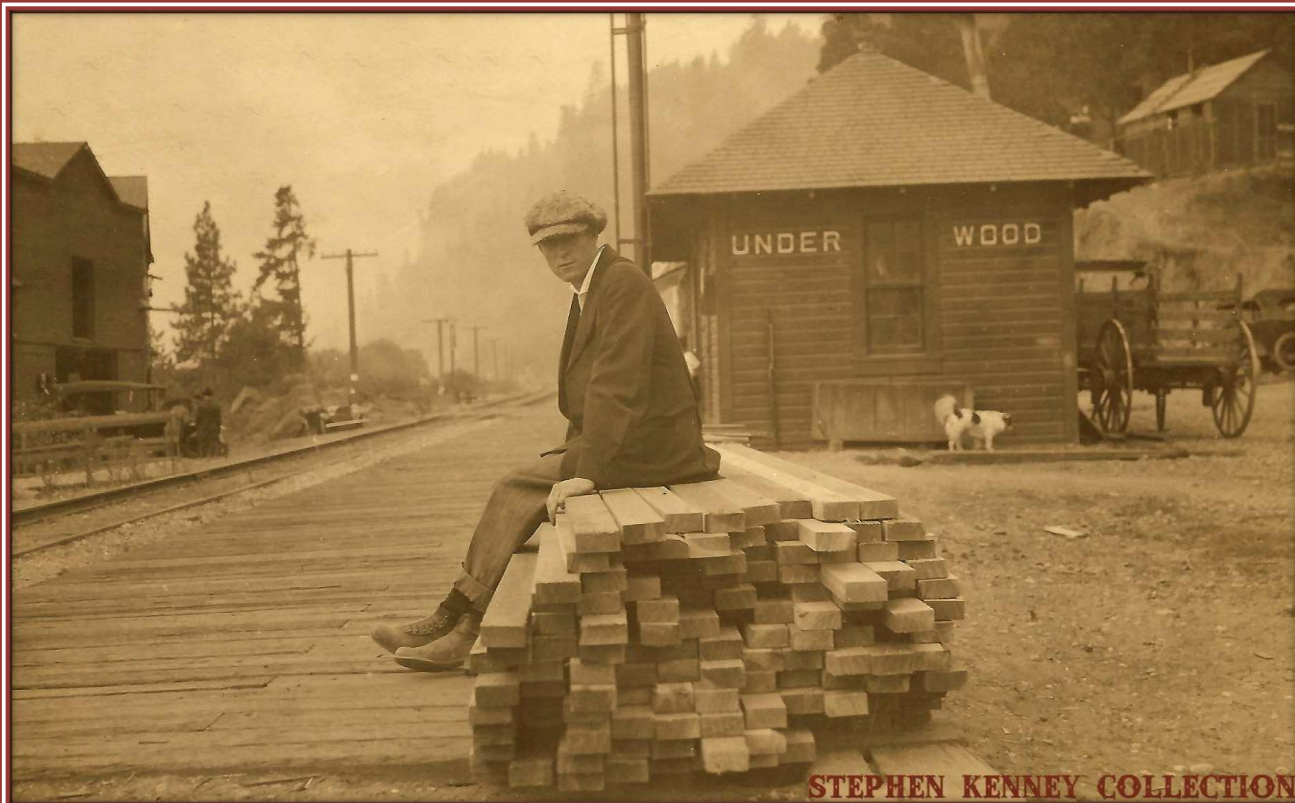
The Broughton Lumber Company in Underwood operated a major combination sawmill and shingle mill from 1923 until the logging operations closed in 1986. When it closed, the Broughton Lumber Flume was the last operating log flume in the United States. It was a nine-mile wooden chute that transported lumber from Willard, Washington down 1,000 feet to the Underwood mill. Flowing at about nine miles per hour, the flume could carry rough-sawn timber to the mill in 55 minutes.



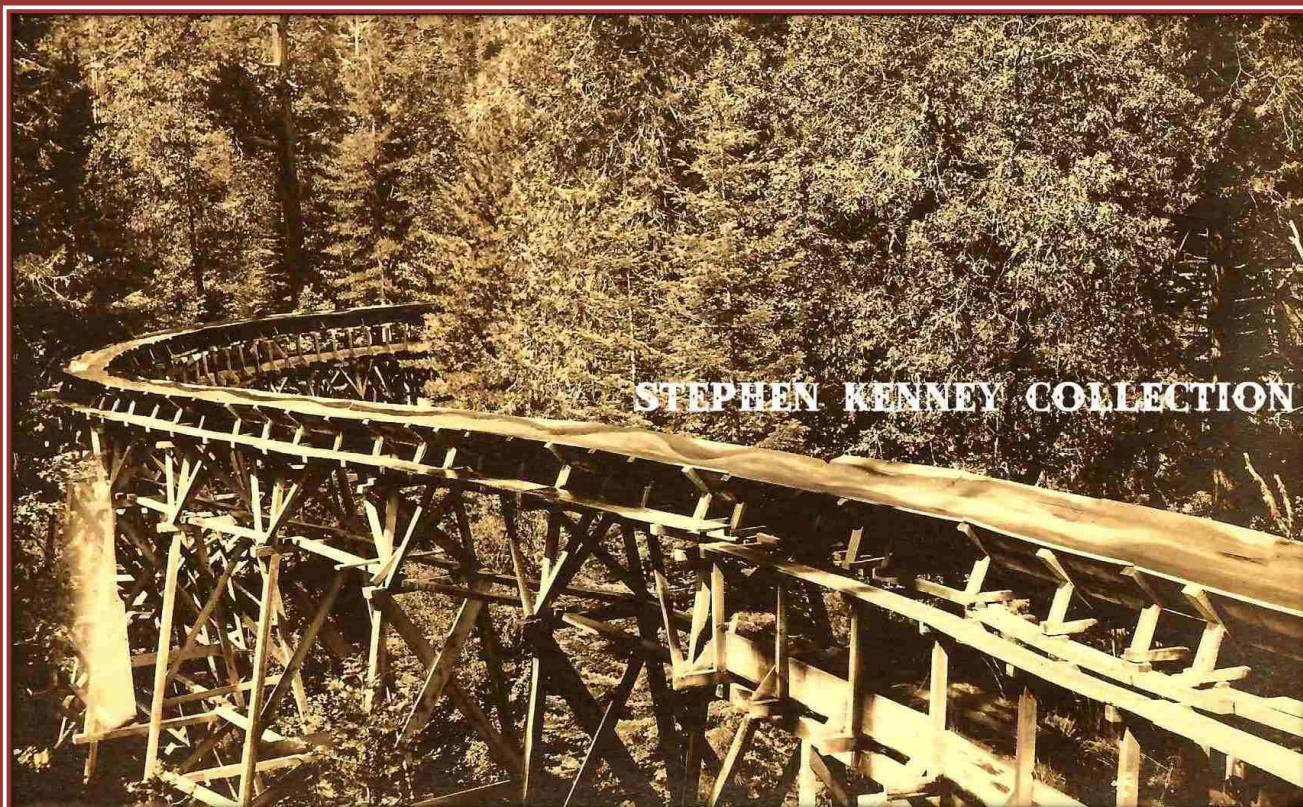
Real photo postcard of the interior of the Underwood Post Office at the Smith & Clark General Merchandise Store in 1909. Postmarked August 4, 1909.



Real photo postcard of the steamer J.N. Teal at Underwood, Washington, circa 1908. Postally unused.



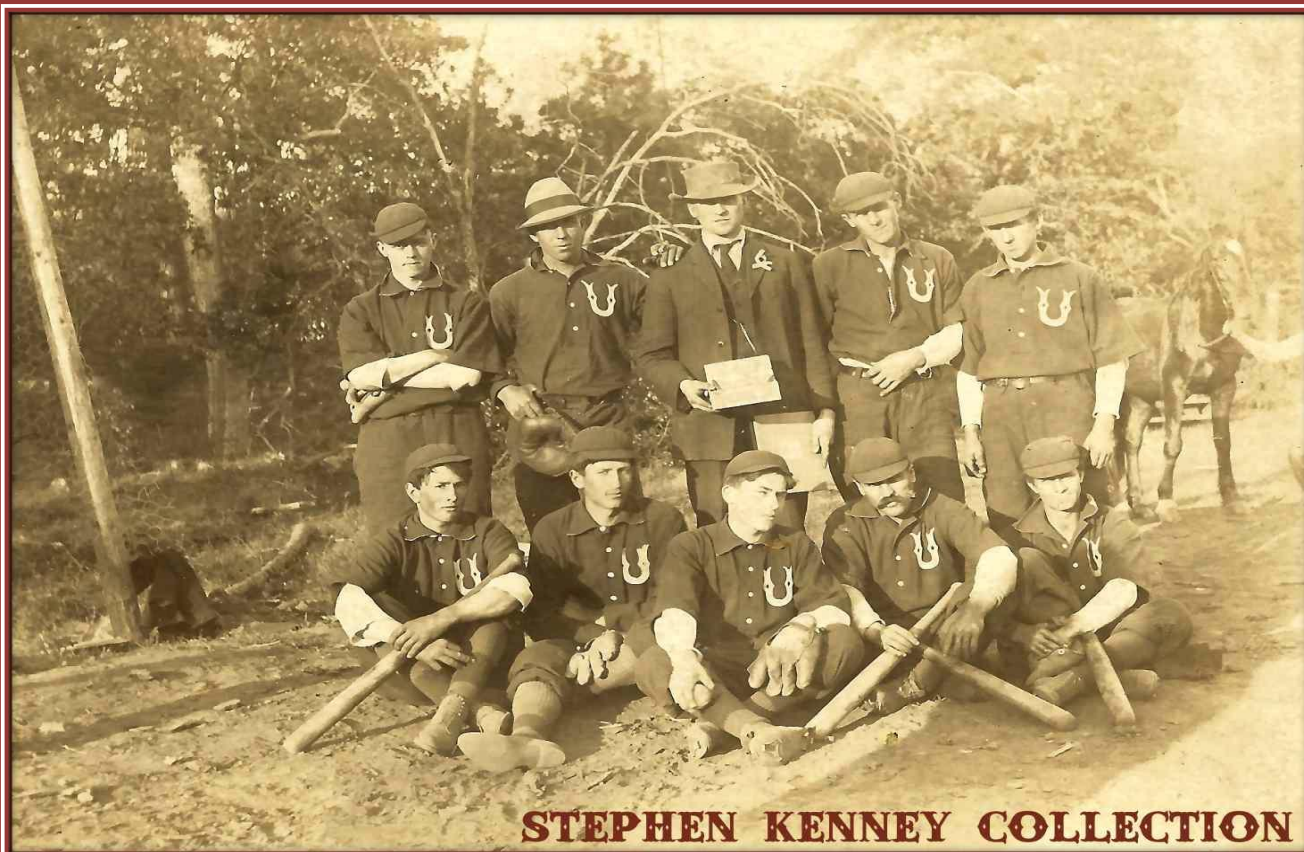
Real photo postcard of Grant Brawn waiting for the train at the Spokane Portland and Seattle Railway Depot in Underwood, Washington circa 1920. Postally unused.



Real photo postcard of the Broughton Flume at Underwood, Washington in 1925. Postally unused.



Real photo postcard of the Ball Team in Underwood, Washington in 1908. Postally unused.

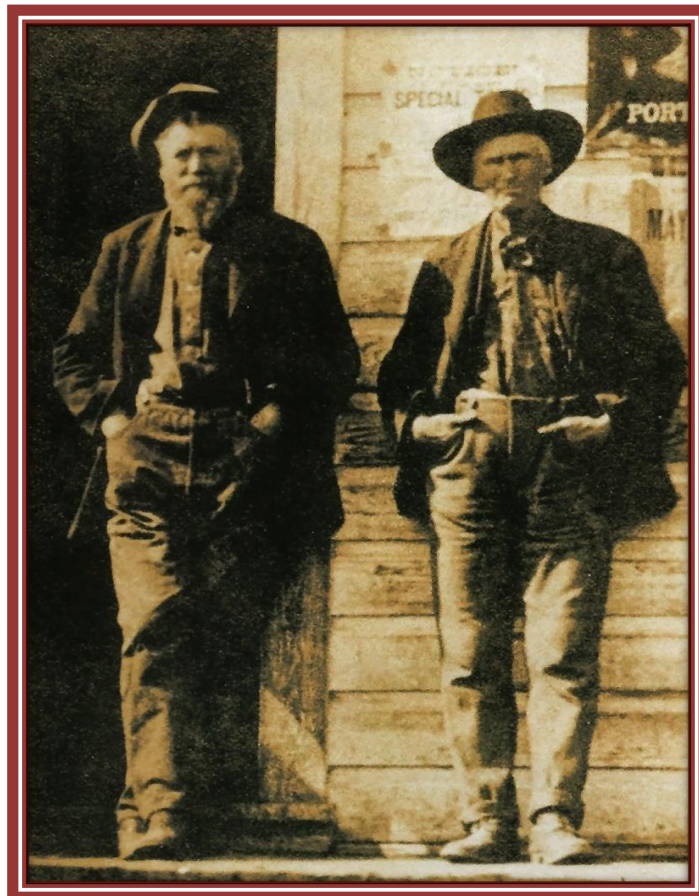


Real photo postcard of the Ball Team in Underwood, Washington in 1909. Postally unused.

The open tracts of land above the river bluffs drew pioneers who planted orchards during the regional apple boom of 1905–1920. The region's rich volcanic ash and dry farming climate fostered lasting agricultural success. Local operations like Underwood Fruit began packing and cold-storing local fruit in the mid-1900s, helping local agriculture evolve.

In 1941, Underwood consisted of a railroad depot, a few houses along the banks of the Columbia, a service station, and a large three-story hotel. The depot was closed many years ago and the fruit warehouses were moved upriver to White Salmon. There are still a few homes along the river, but most of the residential population has moved up the hill to Underwood Heights. The large three-story hotel has been turned into apartments and is significantly altered.

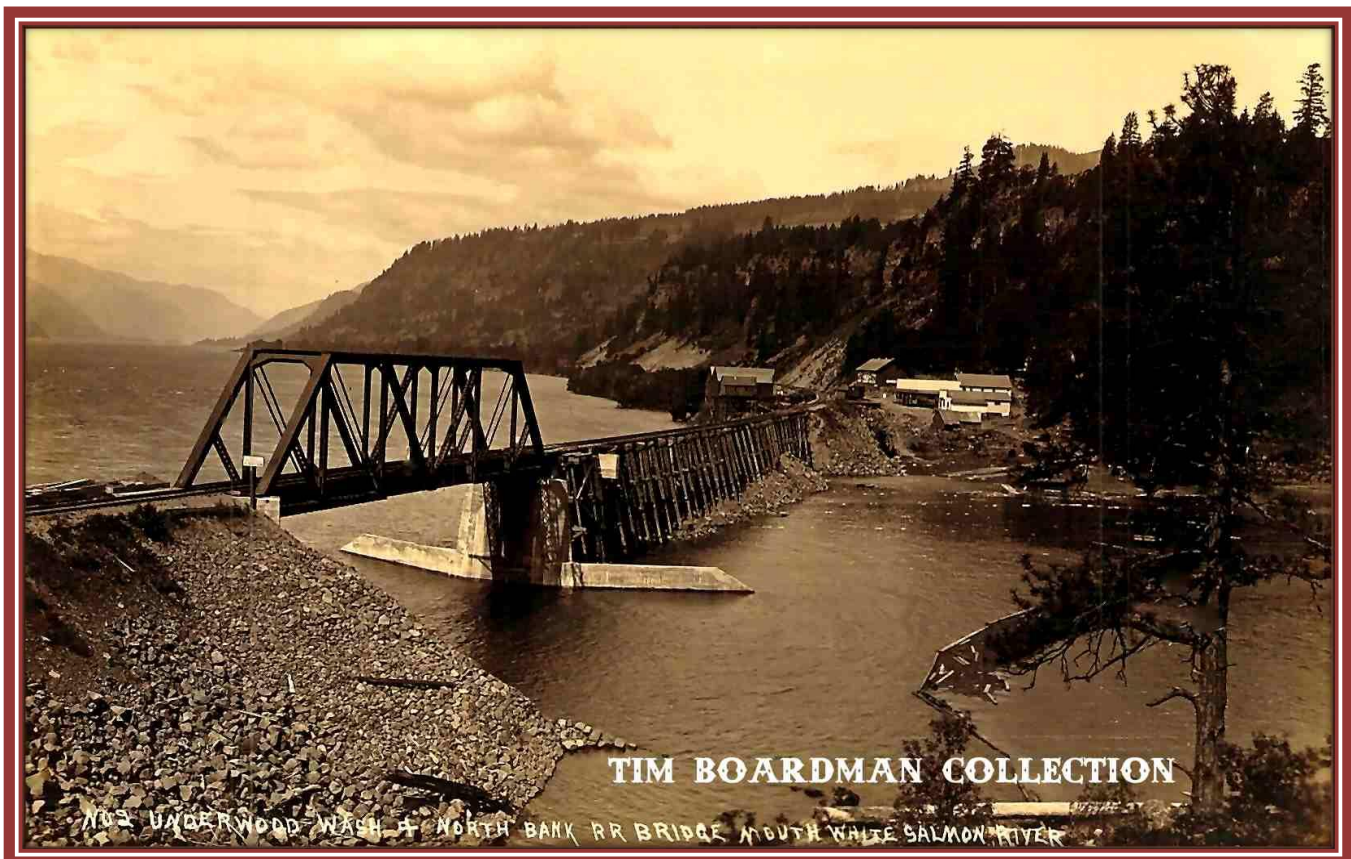
The White Salmon River joined the Columbia River at Underwood and it is so named because when salmon swim up the stream to spawn, their flesh color changes from a deep red color to a pinkish white.



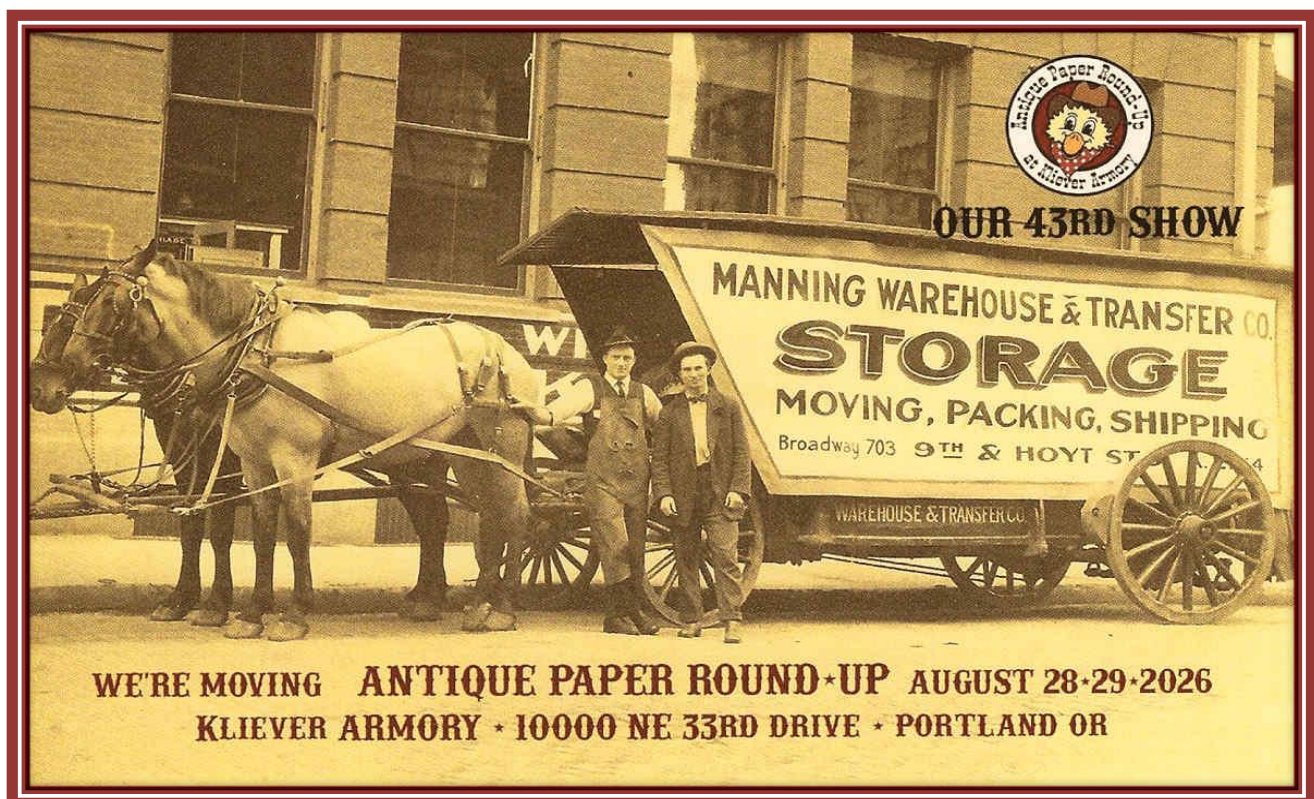
Edward and Amos Underwood - original settlers of Underwood Washington, circa 1890s. From Forgotten Washington.

Sources for this article:

Tim Boardman, brettstomps.com, Forgotten Washington, Steve Kenney, Revisiting Washington, underwoodcommunity.org, Wikipedia.



Patton real photo postcard of the North Bank Railroad Bridge at the mouth of the White Salmon River, circa 1910. Unused.



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