

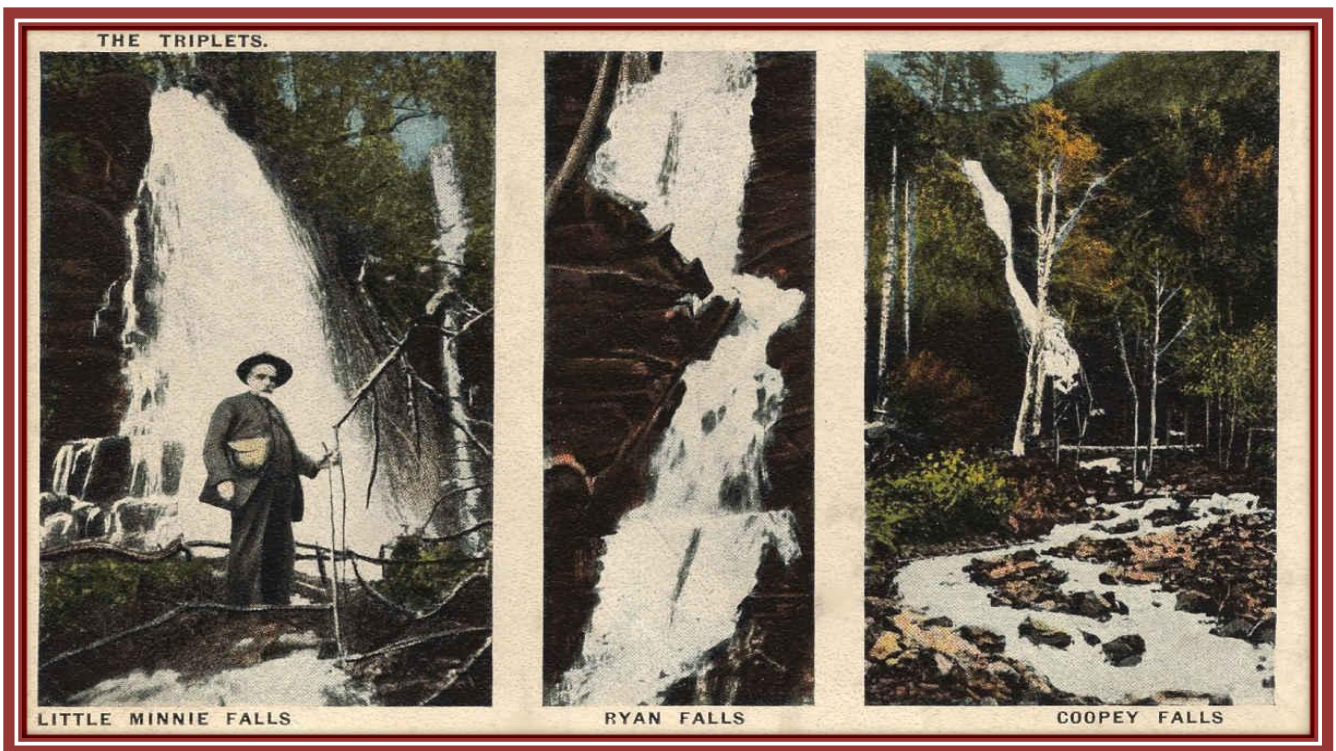


WEBFOOTER EXTRA

AUGUST 2025



GOOPEY FALLS, OREGON CHARLES GOOPEY'S DREAM

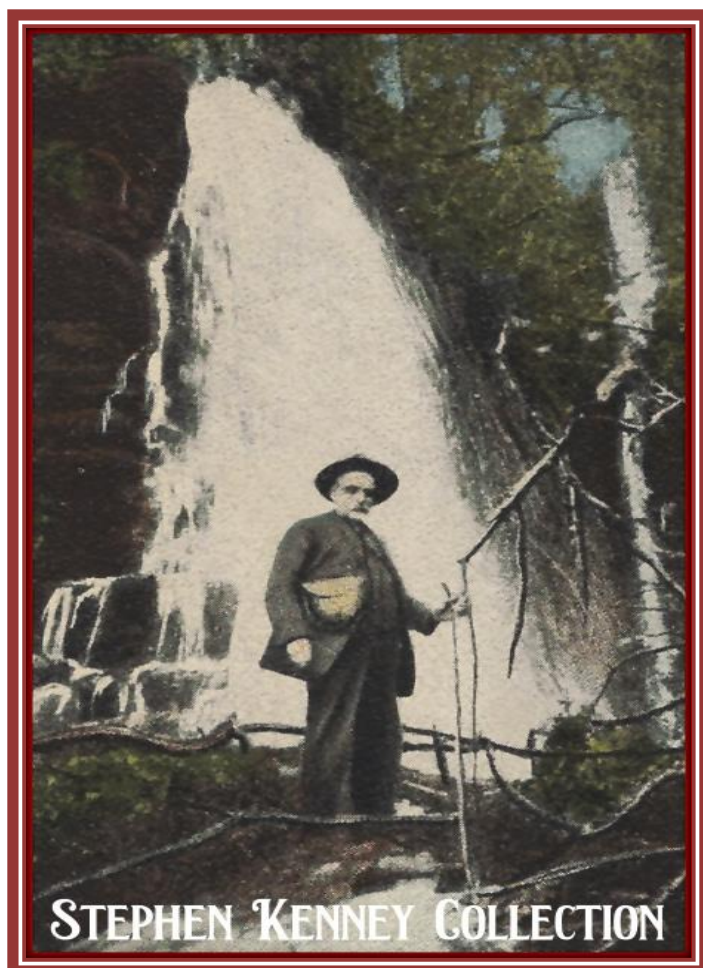


Lithographed multi-view postcard of Columbia River waterfalls "The Triplets," circa 1915. Postally unused, Stephen Kenney collection.

The first photo is Charles Coopey at Little Minnie Falls which was named after Minnie Franklin Coopey, his second wife. Coopey's first wife, Margaret Moriarity Coopey died in Portland of pneumonia at the age of 42 on Feb. 11, 1908. The second photo is of Ryan Falls, named after Coopey's best friend, Judge Thomas F. Ryan. The third photo is of Coopey Falls, named for Charles Coopey.



Lithographed postcard of Charles Coopey's dream of a woolen textile manufacturing village on the south bank of the Columbia River circa 1916. Published by Charles Coopey, postally unused.



Charles Coopey was born in England and he became a military tailor. He moved to Portland about 1889.

Coopey Falls is a waterfall on Coopey Creek in the Columbia River Gorge, on the Historic Columbia River Highway in Multnomah County, Oregon.

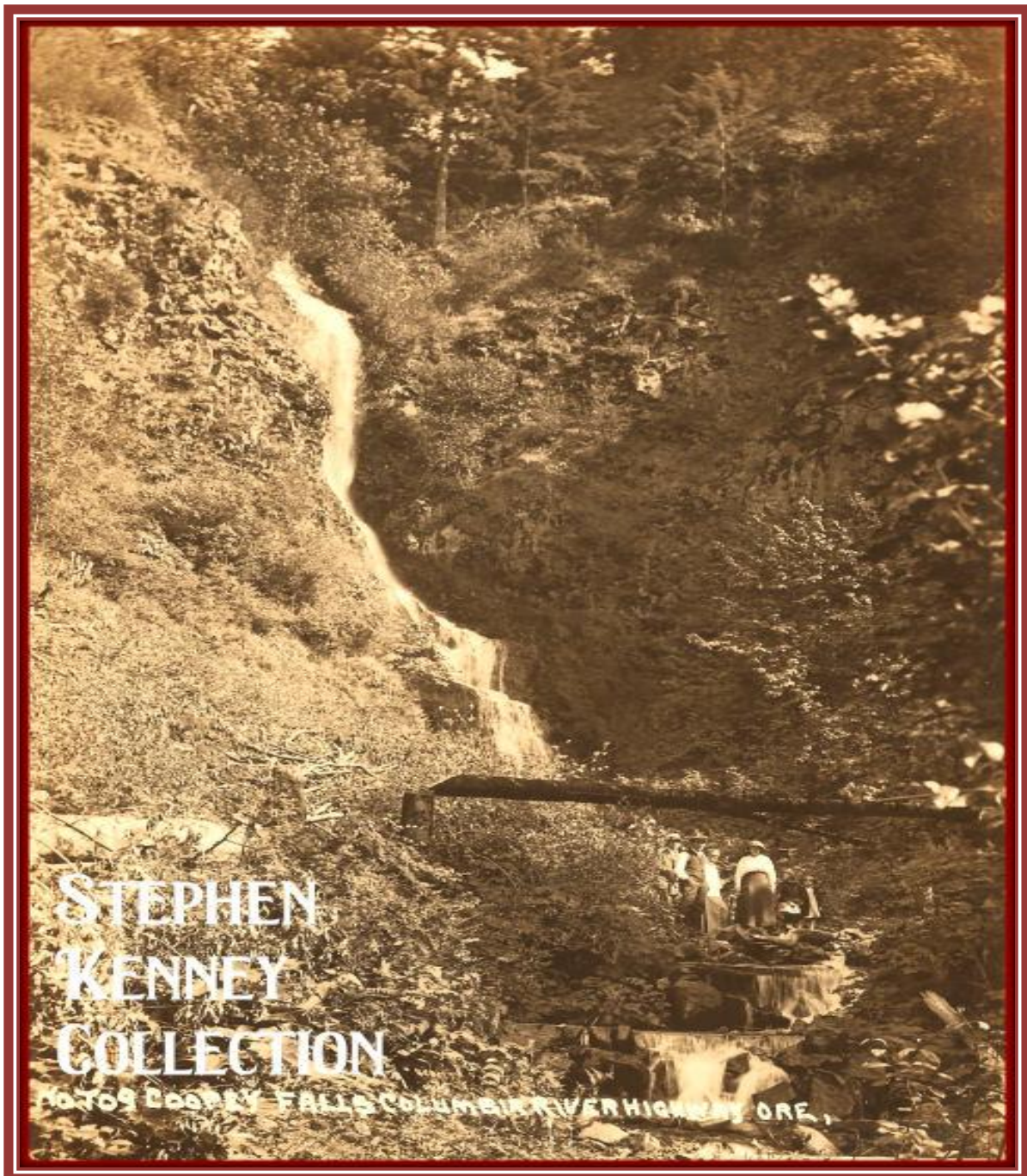
The falls is a horsetail waterfall with a drop of 150 feet.

The falls were named after Charles Coopey, who once owned the land adjacent to the falls.

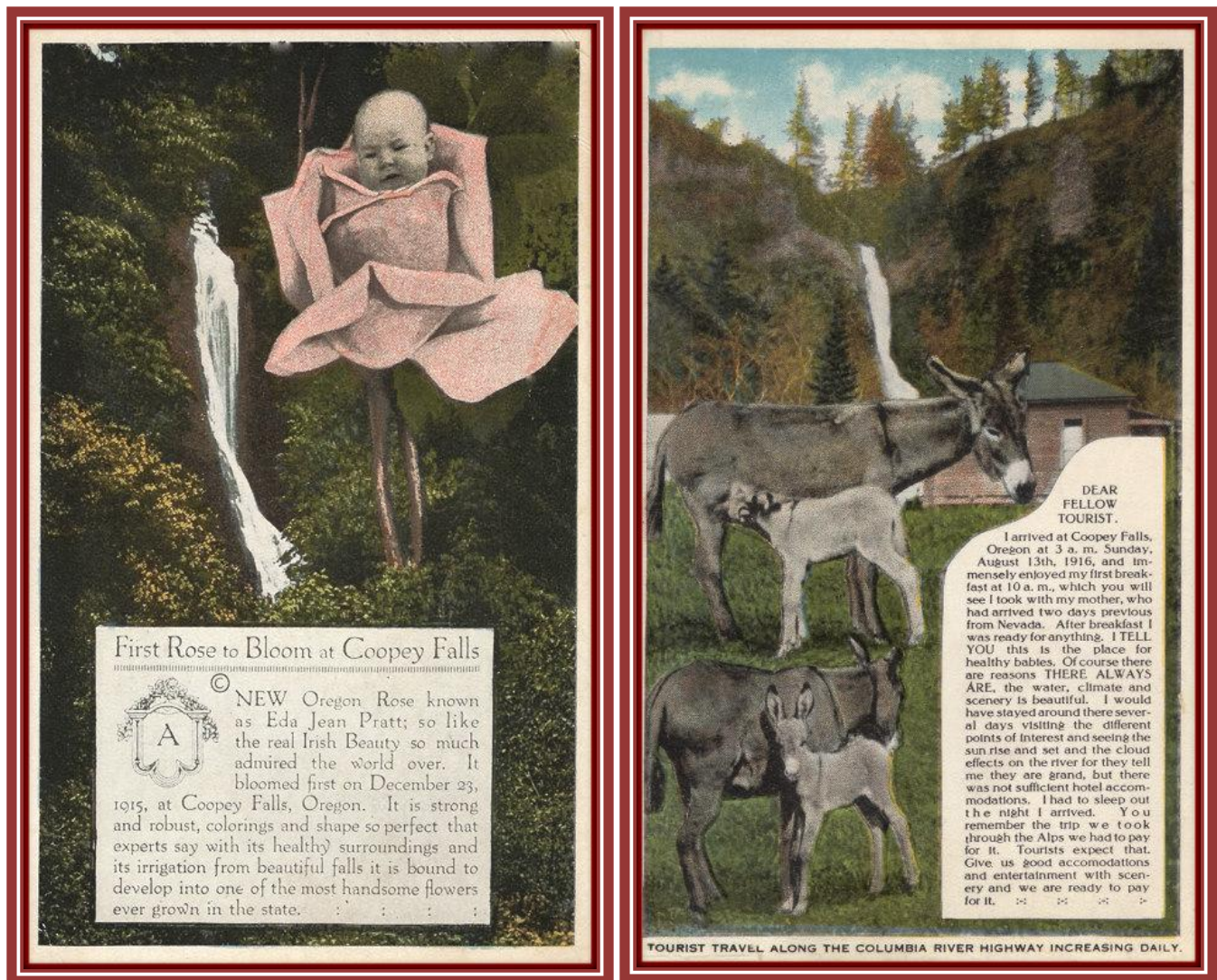
Simon Benson later bought Wahkeena Falls from Coopey who had wanted to use the water from Wahkeena Falls to power a woolen mill for spinning and weaving, and for wool scouring.

Coopey Falls is on private property behind a convent owned by the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. After first asking permission, the sisters invite visitors to view the falls by following a path leading from the parking lot in front of the convent. A view of the falls is also accessible from the Angel's Rest trailhead which is about a half mile west of the convent. The falls are located one mile east of Bridal Veil Falls.

According to *The Morning Oregonian* on May 18, 1901, Charles Coopey was instrumental in the establishment of the Portland Woolen Mills in Sellwood, Oregon which opened May 2, 1902. Coopey was known for producing military uniforms and Indian robes.



Patton real photo postcard of an outing to Coopey Falls, circa 1916. Postally unused.

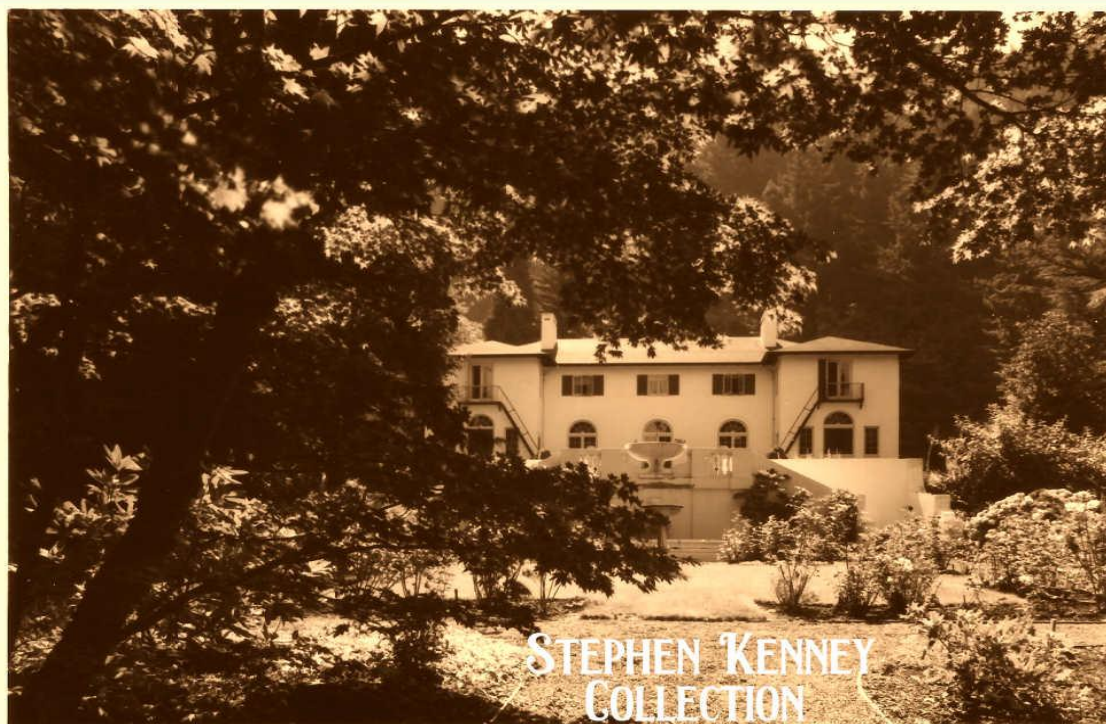


A set of lithographed promotional postcards published by Charles Coopey to promote tourism and his dream of a woolen textile manufacturing village at Coopey Falls, circa 1915. Postally unused, Mark Moore collection.

On July 15, 1908, it was announced that Charles Coopey and his financial partner, Judge Thomas F. Ryan, had purchased 840 acres at Gordon Falls, 28 miles east of Portland, where they planned to build the Gordon Falls Electric and Manufacturing Company which was incorporated with capital stock of \$225,000. The property was located one and a half miles east of Bridal Veil Falls on the south bank of the Columbia River along the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company line with three miles of water-frontage rights on the river where they planned to build a new woolen worsted and shoddy textile manufacturing village.

Coopey had supplied uniforms to the Oregon National Guard in 1909 and later to the Washington National Guard. In 1911, Coopey struck a deal with the Portland Railway Light and Power Company to provide uniforms for motormen, conductors and agents on all their lines.

Speaking at the Oregon Woolgrowers Association Convention in December 1914 in Pendleton, Charles Coopey of Charles Coopey & Son, a clothing manufacturer of Portland, advocated for the protection of the wool industry by compelling honest brands to be put upon all textile products. Coopey went on to become a postcard publisher and promoter of the newly-opened Columbia River Highway.



Real photo postcard of the convent owned by the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist at Coopey Falls, circa 1930s. Postally unused.

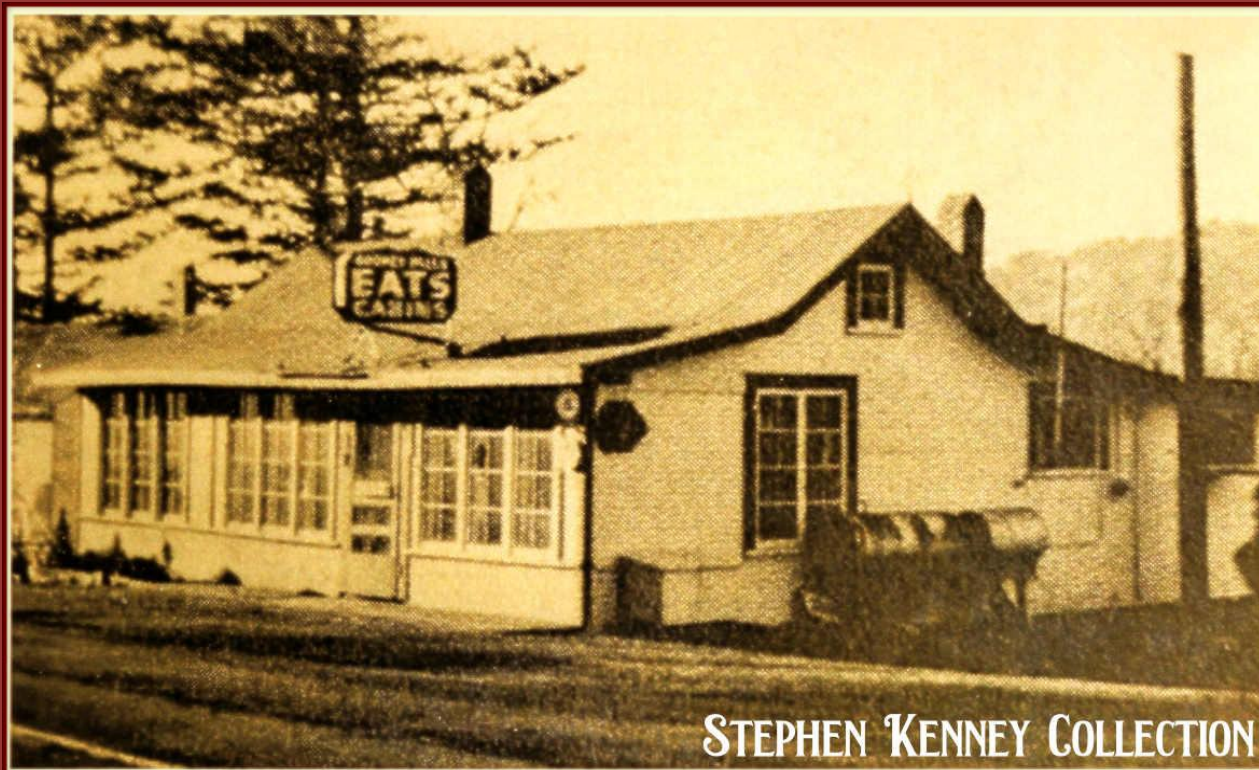


Photo of the Coopey Falls Tavern and Café which operated from the 1930s to the 1960s.

An article in the Oregon Sunday Journal on June 4, 1916 announced, "In connection with the dedication of the Columbia River Highway next Wednesday, Charles Coopey is arranging for the dedication of Angel's Rest, the commanding point overlooking Bridal Veil, to which a trail is being built leading off the highway by Coopey Falls."

According to The Oregon Daily Journal, on October 27, 1917, Coopey announced that he needed to hire 100 tailors to make military uniforms and garments for military personnel fighting in World War I.

It was announced in The Oregon Daily Journal on July 19, 1919, "after 30 years residence in Portland, during which time he has conducted a tailoring establishment specializing in military uniforms, Charles Coopey will close his factory in the Royal Building the last day of July and will engage in business at Coopey Falls on the Columbia River Highway. He intends to improve his property interests there, build a small factory for the manufacture of fancy automobile robes, publish a little newspaper, and promote a scenic railway ascending to the peak of Larch Mountain. He says he will have a store at Coopey Falls where he will sell curios to tourists and manufacture most of them in a factory of his own. He intends to be just as busy up the river as he ever has been in Portland."

An article in the January 2, 1922 edition of The Morning Oregonian announced that Charles Coopey was promoting the idea of an electrical exposition led by the Columbia Hydro-Electric League to foster and promote a movement for the holding of an international exposition in Portland in 1925, celebrating the completion of Atlantic-Pacific Highways, the electrical centennial, and the restoration of world peace and trade.

An earlier article in the Oregon Daily Journal on September 6, 1921 stated "The throngs of tourists traveling over the Columbia River Highway past the home of Charles Coopey of Coopey Falls glanced with interest at the electric sign hanging from the porch of the Coopey home. Most did not realize the sign was dedicated to the interests of the 1925 Exposition.

The figures "1925" in the sign were about a foot high and carried 38 tiny light globes. Power for operating the sign was furnished by a 20 hp plant below the highway, toward the railroad tracks, and it was built by Coopey. The water from a small artificial lake furnished this power." Due to financial circumstances, the Exposition did not come to fruition and neither did his dream of a new woolen worsted and shoddy textile manufacturing village at Coopey Falls.



Ad for Charles Coopey, Tailor, from The Oregon Daily Journal, November 14, 1902.

Sources for this article:

The Oregonian Newspaper, The Oregon Journal Newspaper, Stephen Kenney, Wikipedia

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DISCOVER A PIECE OF HISTORY AT THE ANTIQUE PAPER ROUND-UP



Join the Antique Paper Round-Up at Lloyd Center on September 19-20, 2025, in the former H&M store, one level above and slightly west of the Ice Rink.

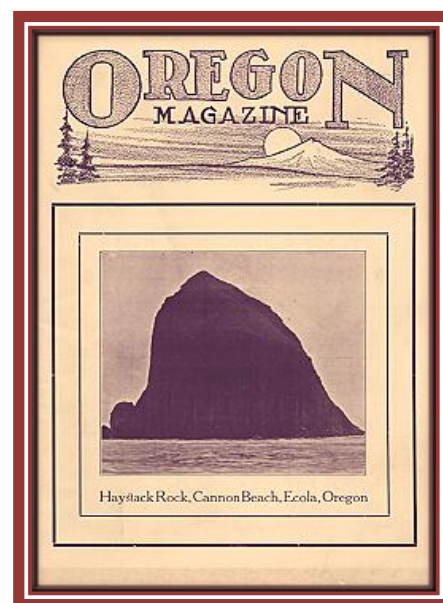
The excitement is building for our 42nd Antique Paper Round-Up at Lloyd Center. We are expecting over 80 tables of postcards, stamps, souvenirs and antique paper collectibles with dealers coming from Arizona, California, Washington and Oregon.

Come meet Janet Luty, granddaughter of pioneer postcard publisher and world-famous Oregon cartoonist, Murray Wade, who will be selling the Wade family collection of postcards, photos, sketches, books and magazines that Murray Wade published from the 1800s to 1960. At the Lewis & Clark Exposition in 1905, he created many cartoon postcards promoting Oregon for the exposition.

We are expecting members to bring displays of postcards, and we are expecting Kor Harlan from KOIN TV to broadcast live television remotes early Friday morning.



Murray Wade in 1904, Age 27



www.antiquepaperroundup.com