

Fig. 27

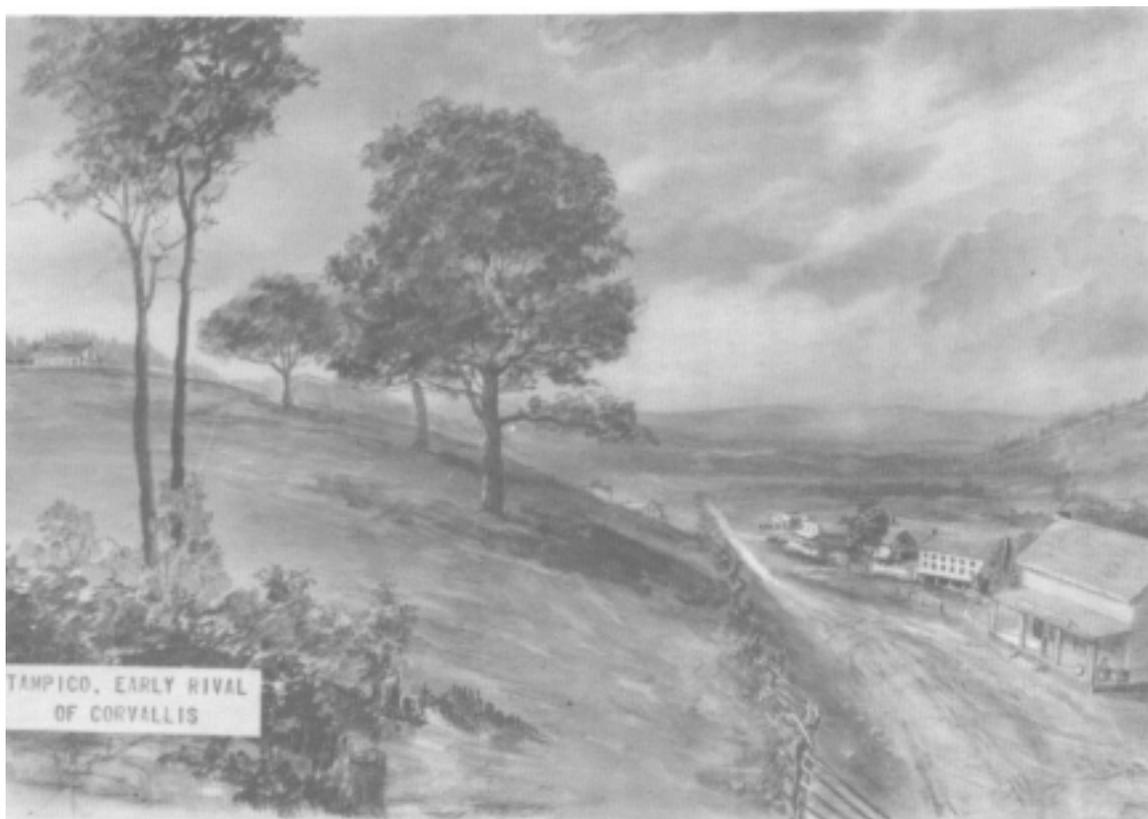
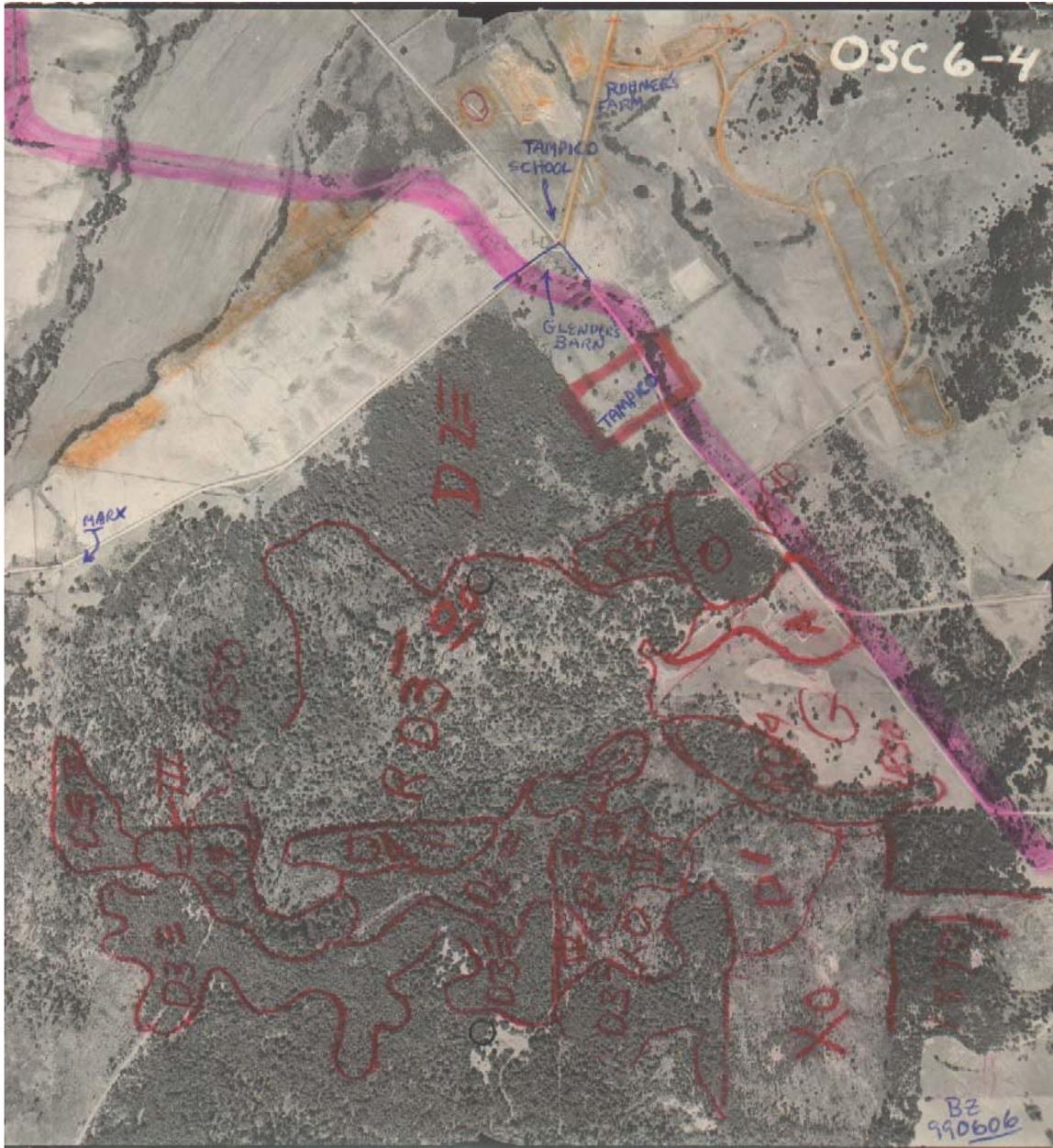


Fig. 28. Tampico and California Trail traces, c. 1951. This aerial photograph was used by OSC Forestry students in the early 1950s to map forest cover patterns. Newer annotations by Zybach show the approximate locations of the 1845-1851 California Trail, 1857-1860 Tampico, 1905-1920 Marcks home (Cook 1995), 1941-1945 military traces from Camp Adair, and the modern location of Glenders' barn (Sardell et al., 1999) as reference. Note the widespread evidence of logging in the southern portion of the photograph.



Creek Valley, in 1855; see Map 13; Olson 1994), from the “old” California Trail (see Maps 2, 13, and 14: “1st St.”; Fig. 28). By 1857, this route, and perhaps the

cutoff to Kings Valley, had been used by HBC trappers for more than 30 years, by livestock owners for more than 20 years, and by Oregon Trail pioneers for more than 10 years. Unfortunately for local real estate developers, the road between Corvallis and Portland was straightened and bypassed Soap Creek Valley to the east of Tampico in the early 1850s (see Map 2: “Hwy. 99 W.”), Fort Hoskins traffic was made off limits due to Civil War politics in 1859, and the town was disbanded for economic reasons in 1860 (Zybach and Meranda 1989). By 1900, only a few abandoned buildings remained to indicate Tampico’s short and colorful history (Fig. 27; Horner 1926; Davis & Davis 1978; Zybach 1989; Zybach et al., 1990; Glender 1994).

In the 1890s and early 1900s, European immigrants from Sweden (Olson 1994), Germany (Glender 1994; Cook 1995), Switzerland (Rohner 1993), Russia (Rohner 1993; Glender 1994), Ireland (Rawie 1994), and Italy (Glender 1994) began to move into Soap Creek Valley, subdividing the large pasturages and property ownerships established by the pioneers of the 1840s and 1850s (Map 11) into smaller, family farms (Figs. 26, 28 and 29). As the population of the Willamette Valley continued to grow, homesteads were established on more marginal hillside lands, often for purposes of grazing livestock or clearing timberland (Olson 1994; Hanish 1994). By the 1920s, Soap Creek Valley was dominated by farming and ranching families (Table D.3), with two or more public schools operating at a time (Tampico, Soap Creek, and Wells districts: see McDonald 1983; Grabe 1990; Rohner 1993; Glender 1994; Rawie 1994; Cook 1995; Hindes 1996). In 1928, a sawmill and logging camp, complete with its own store, was established near the Soap Creek Schoolhouse (Wisner 1992; Hindes 1996). This camp (visible in the lower southeast corner of Fig. 29, marked by an asterisk) housed several new Soap Creek Valley families, generally employed to log the central portion of The Valley during the late 1920s and early 1930s (see Map 15).

The Great Depression of the 1930s temporarily ended home construction and most sawmilling activities in Soap Creek Valley (Fig 19), and horizontal landscape and development patterns remained relatively stable from the early 1930s until 1940. The establishment of Camp Adair in 1941 (Polk County Museum Association 1992; 1993) caused most families to sell their homes (Map 16), many of which were subsequently destroyed by military exercises (Map 17;

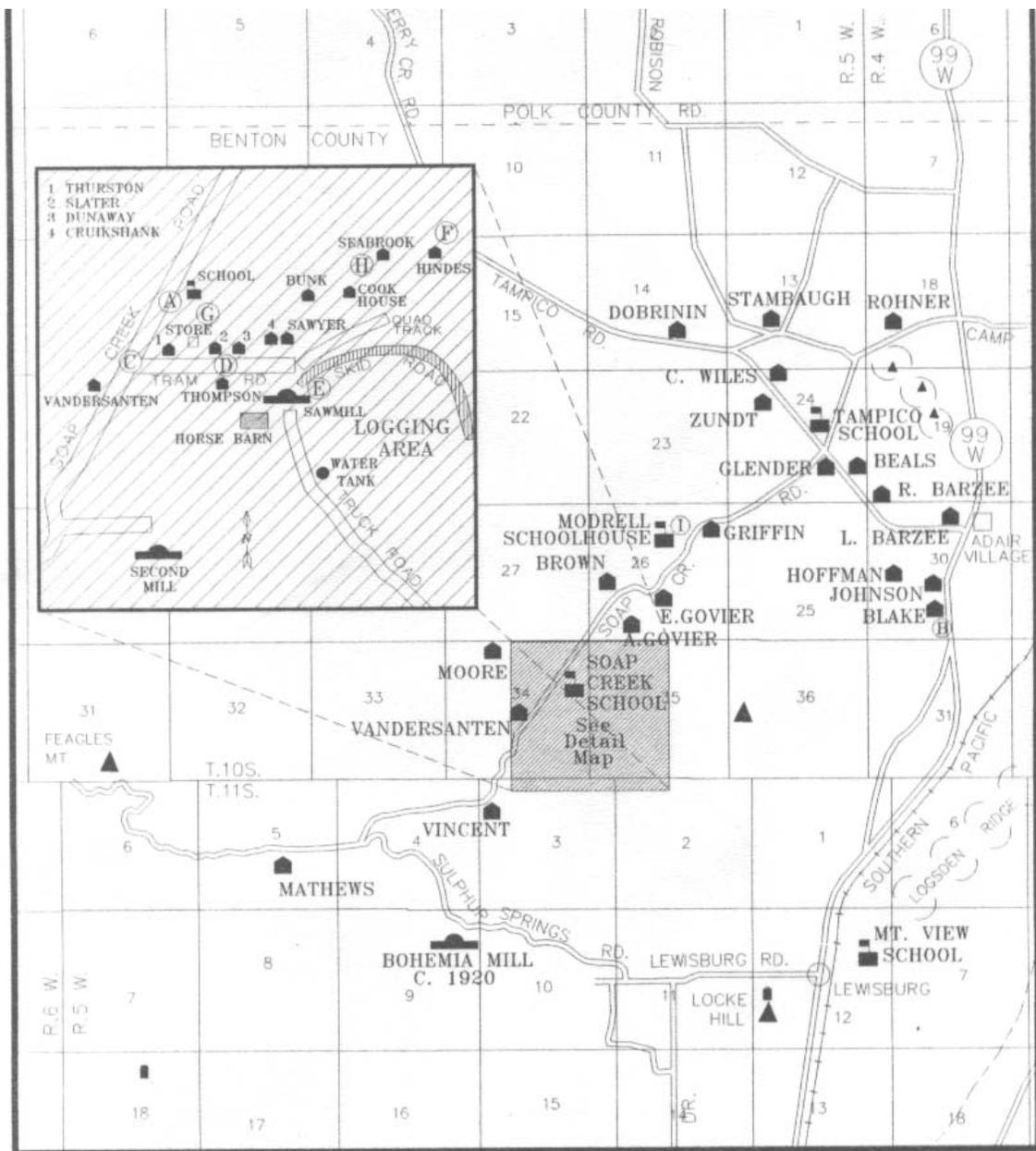
Fig. 29. Southern Soap Creek Valley, c.1936. Note locations of orchards, homes, and fenced crops in relation to pioneer land claims (Maps 2 and 11; Fig. 25). Also note location of logging camp in lower right corner and compare with Map 15. This photograph can be correlated to locations of several Soap Creek Valley oral history informants and mapped tours and to local landowners at the time the photograph was taken (Map 9; Tables 2 and D.3; Hinds 1996).



Berg 1983; Loew 1993; Rowley 1996). After the war, most Soap Creek Valley land owned by the Army was sold to OSU (Dunn 1990; Davies 1997; see Map 3) and remaining government properties were purchased by a few farmers and real estate speculators (Glender 1994). The residential population of The Valley temporarily remained lower than levels of the 1920s and 1930s.

In the 1960s, several parcels of agricultural land were subdivided and developed into residential properties, averaging 4 or 5 acres each (Grabe 1990). This practice of residential subdivision and development has continued to the

Map 15. Hides' map of 1929 Soap Creek Valley logging camp, 1994. This map was constructed from a hand drawn map by Charles Hides, a 1936 aerial photo (Fig. 27), and an on-site surface examination with two Soap Creek Valley informants who lived in the camp from 1929 until 1931 ([Hides 1996](#)).

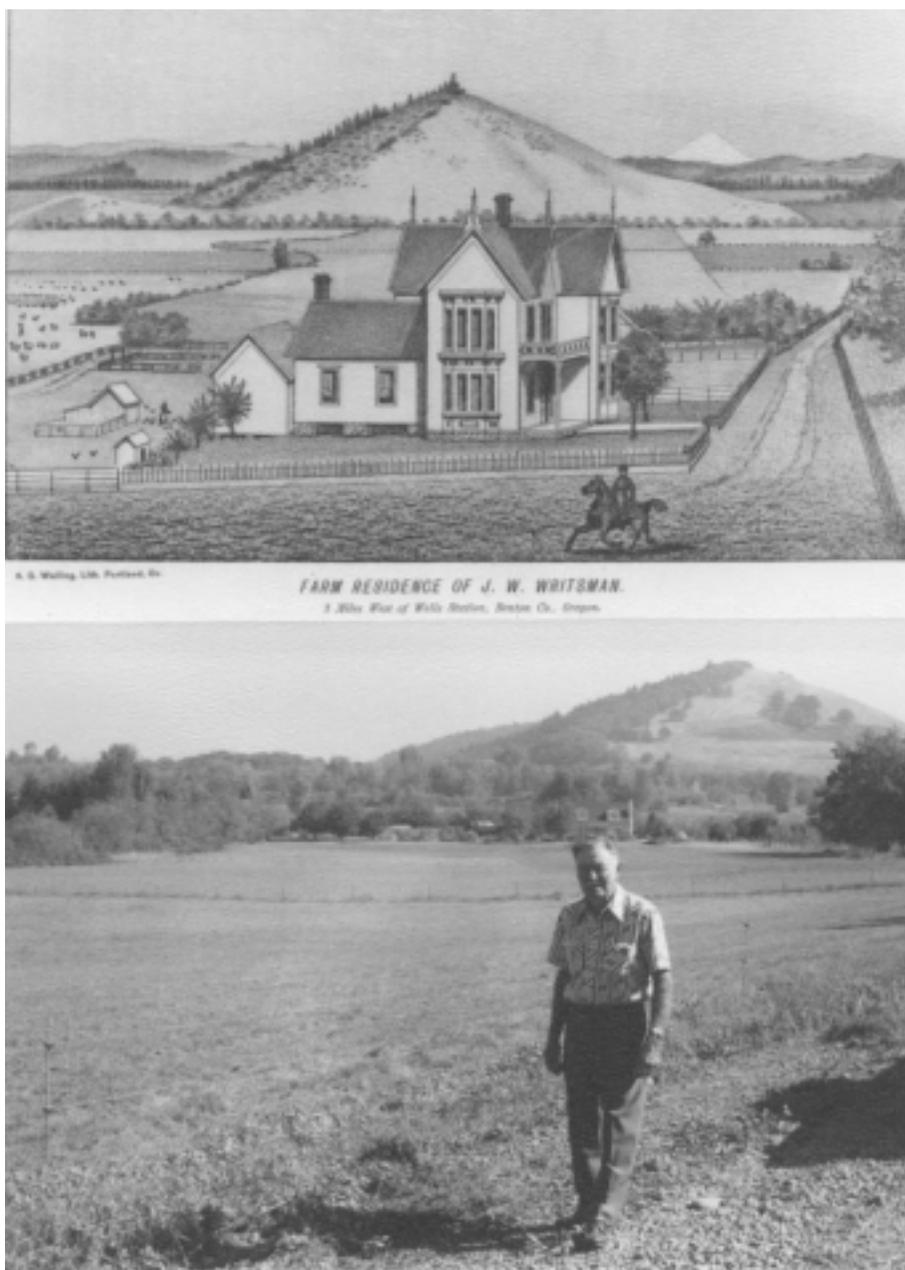


present time (see Figs. 22 & 30; Map 3; Table D.4), with dozens of new homes having been constructed in Soap Creek Valley during the past 20 years ([Grabe 1990](#); Garver 1996; personal communication). By 1990, over 200 parcels, with an

Fig. 30. Coffin Butte real estate development, 1885-1990.

Upper Drawing. Landscape drawing by Pickett (Munford c. 1993; see Fig. 17), first published in 1885 (Fagan 1885), and reprinted in 1989 (Zybach 1989). The reprint came to the attention of Jake Rohner (lower photograph), who subsequently provided significant information to this study (Rohner 1993; see Tables 1 and 2; Map 9). View is from northern base of Writsman Hill, eastward, and approximates view of Mt. Jefferson noted by Douglas (1905) in October, 1826.

Lower Photograph. Jake Rohner was born in the house shown in upper drawing (Rohner 1993). He is shown near the former site of his childhood home, in 1990. Note the new home construction in the background. Location of this photograph is near construction of three newer homes, visible in June, 1999 photograph of Writsman Hill (see Fig. 22). Photograph by author.



average size of about 4 acres, had been created in The Valley for the specific purpose of building single-family dwellings (see Map 3; Table D.4).

Summary. Table 17 tabulates general trends of property ownership and residential occupation in Soap Creek Valley at key points in time during the past 160 years (see Appendix D). The first permanent homes in The Valley were constructed in 1846 and 1847 for the use of pioneer farming families, who lived in them year round. The residential population grew slowly and sporadically to the 1920s, by which time several dozen families lived in The Valley. Most of these families operated subsistence farms, although many family members worked as employees for other farmers, as loggers, or in local sawmills. The population generally declined throughout the 1930s until 1941, when WW II resulted in the abrupt removal of most Soap Creek Valley residents. Local residents were replaced by soldiers housed east of Highway 99 W., at Camp Adair. Following the war, the residential population began to increase slowly until the 1970s, at which time growth accelerated rapidly, in relation to the construction of numerous housing projects in the area. Today, hundreds of people live in Soap Creek Valley (see Table D.4); most adults commute to work; most homes are on lots less than 10 acres in size; and most families are not directly associated with farming or forestry practices.

Table 17. Numbers and types of landowners, 1841-1990. This table summarizes information contained in Appendix D.

<u>Landowner Type</u>	<u>1841</u>	<u>1853</u>	<u>1929</u>	<u>1990</u>
Chapanafa Kalapuyan	27	0	0	0
Luckymute Kalapuyan	18	0	0	0
Family Farm (10+ acres)	0	27	57	72
Family Housing (1-9 acres)	0	0	0	226
Corporation	0	0	3	6
School	0	2	2	4
State	0	0	0	2
Federal	0	1	1	2

Landowner Type

1841 Taken from 1860 and 1888 census records (see Table D.1; Whitlow 1988)

1853 Taken from PLS GLO cadastral surveys (see Table D.2; Hathorn 1854a; 1854b)

1929 Taken from cadastral tsp. maps (see Table D.3; Metsker 1929a; 1929b; 1929c)

1990 Taken from Benton County Tax Assessor's Office records, 1990 (see Table D.4).