

## A Century of Connections

Connections among and between people, places, and events shape the development of a community. The sites on this trail provide insight into the connections embedded in the history of Canby as it evolved from a mid-nineteenth century pioneer farming community into a mid-twentieth century town on the urban-rural fringe.

That evolution was marked by milestone events that reset the course of the community's development. The arrival of the railroad and the platting of the original 24-block town site in 1870 laid the foundation for the emergence of a commercial and transportation hub that served the surrounding farms.

The resultant business opportunities, coupled with the incorporation of the city in 1893, prompted local entrepreneurs to establish retail, service, and financial businesses at the turn of century. In the 1930s, New Deal programs, the federal response to the Great Depression, provided Canby's civic leaders with opportunities to expand and modernize the townscape. Post-World War II growth spurred an expansion of the commercial footprint in the original town site.

**On this trail, you will meet the people and see the places that defined Canby during each of these eras.**



Hazel and Raymond Vinyard, 1914.

## A Man with Connections

The story of James R. "Ray" Vinyard, a civic and business leader, illustrates the ways in which people and places were intertwined in Canby's development. Over four decades, with direct connections to five sites on this trail, Vinyard played an important role in redefining Canby.

In 1891, at the age of four, Vinyard moved to Canby with his family from Marion Kansas. Living on a farm overlooking the Molalla River, Vinyard attended the one-room Riverside School. In 1904, he began clerking at **Wang's General Store**, a business established by Louis H. Wang in 1901. He became a partner in the enterprise in 1917 and took full ownership in 1919, operating the popular retail outlet until his death in 1948 (site 7).

In addition to running his business, Vinyard took an active role in the social and cultural life of the community. His many memberships included the **Masonic Lodge and the Oddfellows** (sites 3 and 6). Committed to the commercial prosperity of the community, Vinyard joined the Canby Chamber of Commerce and his family attended the United Methodist Church.

In 1933, Vinyard became a part of Canby's governing body when the city council appointed him mayor after the death of Mayor H.A. Dedman. During his tenure, Canby acquired a Public Works Administration grant for construction of the **Holly Street City Hall** (site 9) and initiated the early development of **Wait Park** (site 1).

## A Connected Woman

Women also shaped the development of Canby. After their marriage in 1937, Elsie and Glenn Cutsforth managed the daily operations of the family's meat market and, a decade later, expanded the enterprise into a grocery store. Over the next two decades, as the business prospered, they increased the size of the store, moving to a larger building in 1963. Elsie's business success was recognized with multiple awards, including Oregon Business Leader of the Year in 1980 and Oregon Retailer of the Year in 1978-9.

Active in the community, Elsie's memberships included Order of the Eastern Star, Willamette Valley Country Club, Canby Chamber of Commerce, Canby Historical Society, and the Canby Business and Professional Women's Club. She also served on the City Planning Commission from 1957 to 1981. In 1960, she was named Canby Junior Chamber's Citizen of the Year and the following year she received a "good guy" award from Canby High School Students.

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# EXPLORING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## The Downtown Canby Heritage Trail

A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR  
presented by the CITY OF CANBY'S  
HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD



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