

PREFACE

I undertook research into the *Pioneer Doctors of Coos County* in order to capture the history of the trained medical doctors (and other “doctors”—since some never had a medical degree!) who found their way to Coos County in the early years of the area’s development. A few came to settle for the long term, making a career out of serving the communities of our county and retiring after decades of practicing medical science; while others came and then, for numerous reasons, left the region after a few short years.

This book brings into focus those who stayed longer, with only passing references to those doctors who did not. To qualify as one of my “pioneer doctors,” I set an arbitrary number of ten years minimum that each stayed in the county. It wasn’t a hard and fast rule, however: some doctors stayed a shorter time, but were actively involved in the development of the area, so they were included. Others who did not make the main cut are mentioned in the Appendix.

It became quite a puzzle as to how to piece together the relevant facts from different sources about these early pioneer doctors. It wasn’t easy, and I know that many holes remain. Even some of the best sources didn’t always include the basics, like dates. Thus, many of the photos I include remain without an identifying date, and readers may occasionally see a question mark or a blank where a relevant date would typically be.

My main sources of information were local newspapers and medical journals that often carried brief articles about and ads for local physicians. (Doctors and lawyers advertised in local newspapers as early as the 1870s, but stopped about 1915. Dentists, however, continued to advertise their services up to 1920s.) How I wished they were alive today so that their real stories could be captured with in-person interviews. I’m sure they had many interesting tales to tell!

Hoping I could uncover some interesting tidbits about medicine in the old days, I interviewed a few of the “old-time doctors” (though they’re “too young” to qualify as a pioneer doctor in the book) who still lived in our area. The stories about how they