

More Than Just the Oregon Trail: Oregon's Untold History

Timeline of Oregon's Racial and Education History

8,000 BCE (*Before the Common Era*) The first record of ancient human activity in Oregon came from archaeologist Luther Cressman's 1938 excavations at Fort Rock Cave in Central Oregon and radiocarbon dating of 10,000 year old sandals now on display at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Eugene

7,300 BCE A 9,300 years old nearly complete skeleton found on the banks of the Columbia River on the Washington-Oregon border in 1996 was dubbed the Kennewick Man and battles between Indian tribes and scientists for jurisdiction over the skeleton spawned lengthy court battles.

1513 CE (*In the Common Era*) Spanish Explorer Balboa Vasquez de Nunez solidified Spain's claim to the west coast of North America by claiming the Pacific Ocean and all the lands it touches.

1543 Spanish explorers sight the Oregon Coast north of the forty-second parallel near the Rogue River. Indian-white relationships in the Pacific Northwest were generally peaceful contacts. Euro-American diseases afflicted native societies, but there was no sustained effort to drive out the newcomers or dispossess Indians of their land until after the Whitman tragedy of 1847.

1788 Marcus Lopez, cabin boy of Captain Robert Gray, becomes the first person of African descent known to have set foot on Oregon soil. He was killed by Indians near Tillamook.

1805 York, William Clark's slave, comes west with Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery

1842 Wealthy Oregonians could attend Willamette University after a private grammar school education.

1843 Champoege territorial government adopted a measure prohibiting slavery" required slave holders to free their slaves with the added requirement that all Blacks must leave the territory within three years.

1844 Slavery is declared illegal in the Oregon Country. The infamous "Lash Law," requiring that blacks in Oregon – be they free or slave – be whipped twice a year "until

he or she shall quit the territory.” was passed in June. It was soon deemed too harsh and its provisions for punishment are reduced to forced labor in December.

1848 Oregon’s Provisional Government passes the first Exclusion Law in the Oregon Country, forbidding blacks to settle.

1848-1879 Three decades of continuous conflict between whites and Indian tribes from the Cayuse War until the region’s Indian tribes were forced onto and confined to reservations. Anson Dart, Oregon Territory’s first superintendent of Indian affairs organized reservations on remote, semiarid land east of the Cascades. But tribes of the coast and Willamette Valley balked at the move. Efforts to obtain reservation land west of the Cascades ran afoul of the Oregon Donation Land Claim Act which sanctioned homesteading without regard for the legal obligation to extinguish Indian title to the Land. Only a few remote parcels of land not yet encumbered by white claims were procured as reservation land.

1849 Federally-appointed Governor Joseph Lane arrives to proclaim that Oregon is now a Territory of the United States.

1850 The Oregon Donation Land Act enacted by the U.S. Congress to promote homestead settle in the Oregon Territory; swelling the ranks of emigrants on the Oregon Trail. It granted free land to “whites and half-breed Indians” in the Oregon Territory. (The language of the act prevents non-Whites from claiming land in Oregon even if they had already settled there.)

1850’s Mexican mule packers dominated the overland trade routes between northern California and Southern Oregon. They supplied the Second Regiment Oregon Mounted Volunteers during the Rogue River Indian Wars.

1851 Jacob Vanderpool, a saloonkeeper living in Salem, becomes the only person known to have been kicked out of the Oregon Territory because of his skin color.

1854 Oregon’s Exclusion Law is repealed. Following the gold strikes in southern Oregon, pro-slavery forces advocate forming a new state in southern Oregon and northern California, but the movement fails when Californians reject the idea of reducing the size of their state.

1856 Rogue River Indian wars end with surviving Native Americans sent to two newly created reservations: the Siletz and the Grand Ronde.

1857 The pro-slavery separatists in southern Oregon bring an amendment to vote but again fail to carve a new federal Territory out of the southwestern region of the Oregon Territory. Although slavery is illegal in the Territory, a bill to protect slave property in Oregon is proposed in the Territorial Legislature. It is voted down on the grounds that it would grant special rights to slave owners. Meanwhile, a new exclusion law is added by popular vote to the Oregon Constitution's Bill of Rights.

1858 Just prior to statehood, Oregon elects its first state officials. Governor "Honest John" Whiteaker, as well as many lesser officials, were well known for their pro-slavery views.

1859 On February 14, 1859, Oregon becomes the first state admitted to the Union with an exclusion law written into the state constitution.

1860's: Asians, primarily Chinese, started to arrive mostly to mine and work on railroad construction

1860's Mexican miners join the Oregon Gold Rush. One of the important technologies they brought with them was the arrastre, a large but inexpensive stone device for crushing quartz to remove the gold

1861 The Civil War begins in the East. The Knights of the Golden Circle, an anti-Union, pro-slavery groups, opens chapters in many Oregon communities. Their ultimate goal in the Northwest is to secede from the US and found their own Pacific Coast Republic.

1862 Oregon adopts a law requiring all Blacks, Chinese, Hawaiians, and Mulattos (an archaic term referring to people of mixed ethnic heritage) residing in Oregon to pay an annual tax of \$5. If they could not pay this tax, the law empowered the state to press them into service maintaining state roads for 50 cents a day. Interracial marriages were banned in Oregon; it was against the law for whites to marry anyone $\frac{1}{4}$ or more Black.

1864 The Knights of the Golden Circle became openly militant, but the group fell apart when it became apparent that the Union was going to win the Civil War.

1864 It becomes illegal to entice an Indian or "half-breed" to leave the reservation.

1865 The Civil War ended and the Thirteenth Amendment, banning slavery in the United states passed by referendum in Oregon

1866 Oregon's citizens do not pass the Fourteenth Amendment, granting citizenship to Blacks. The state's ban on interracial marriages is extended to prevent whites from marrying anyone who was ¼ or more Chinese, or Hawaiian, and ½ or more Native American.

1866 Oregon banned interracial marriages

1867 Even though the total Black population in Oregon in the 1860's number 128, Portland assigned black and mulatto children to a segregated school.

1868 Fourteenth Amendment passed in Oregon

1869 Mexican vaqueros drove large herds of cattle from California to Eastern Oregon

1870 The Fifteenth Amendment, granting Black men the right to vote, was added to the US Constitution despite failing to pass in both Oregon and California. This federal law superseded a clause in the Oregon State Constitution banning Black suffrage.

1872 First tax supported public elementary school program put in place throughout Oregon. While most Oregonians eventually accepted the idea of tax supported elementary schools, the idea of public high schools was slow to win popular support. Influential people like Harvey Scott, editor of the Portland Oregonian from 1865 – 1910, was a firm believer that high schools would serve only as havens for “drones”, a luxury certain to undermine self-reliance and individualism.

1877 The Nez Perce Tribe and the U.S. Army clash in their Wallowa homeland in northeast Oregon. Chief Joseph and his people refuse to go to a reservation. Instead, Chief Joseph tried to lead 800 of his people to Canada and freedom. Fighting the U.S. Army all along their 1100 mile journey, they were trapped just 40 miles from Canada. After a five-day fight, with only 431 remaining Nez Perce, Chief Joseph made his speech of surrender stating: “From her to where the sun sets, I will fight no more forever.”

1879 Chemawa Indian Boarding School founded as the second such boarding school in the nation. These schools were designed to assimilate Indian children into white culture and teach them vocational skills. Students were prohibited from speaking their tribal languages or practicing any of their traditional customs or culture.

1880 By this date, the US government had forced most Indians of the Northwest onto reservations.

1880's Chinese immigrants are driven by mobs out of Oregon City, Mount Tabor and Albina.

1881 Attempts to establish public funded colleges met with considerable opposition from those who felt that the Willamette Valley's several denominational academies and colleges provided the state with adequate facilities for higher education. The critics seemed justified. Only seven students graduated from the University of Oregon in 1881 and only four in 1885.

1882 US Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act suspending further Chinese immigration until 1892. It also made all Chinese ineligible for citizenship and barred them from several professions including mining.

1883 An attempt made to amend the Oregon Constitution to remove its ban on Black suffrage. The effort fails despite the fact that the clause in question was rendered moot following the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment. (Further attempts to remove this language prohibiting Blacks from voting were unsuccessful in 1895, 1916, and 1927)

1886 The Morrill Act of 1862 provided some federal support for colleges in exchange for providing military training to its male students and maintaining a curriculum that emphasized practical training in agriculture, home economics and engineering. It was finally used in 1886 to convert a Methodist institute into Oregon State Agricultural College in Corvallis.

1887 US Congress alters its focus and passed the General Allotment Act, the Dawes Severalty Act, which attacked traditional tribal cultures and encouraged Indians to become farmers and to fully assimilate into white society. Indians, of course, were not consulted on how their lives on the reservation were going to change.

1887 A ban on interracial marriages in the Washington Territory is lifted.

1889 Washington gained statehood. The state constitution includes a ban on racial discrimination in schools.

1890's Reduction in Chinese immigration contributed to a dramatic increase in Japanese immigrants to Oregon: typically young males who arrived without families to work on railroads, in lumber and canning industries and as farm workers. It was common for restaurants and other businesses to post signs reassuring white customers that they employed no Asian help.

1897 California passes its first civil rights legislation

1898 Oregon Historical Society is formed from an association of early settlers which was a "cult" of pioneer ancestors. This organization became no less elitist and biased as the Daughters of the American Revolution with an emphasis on proving and preserving pioneer genealogy rather than focusing on research and documentation of a diverse history of Oregon.

1901 Legislature created the initial statewide system of high school education.

1910, Oregon ranked seventh among states outside the Southwest with Mexican born migrant workers. Between 1910 – 1925 Mexican workers were contracted to work on sugar beat farms and on railroads. Farm workers marked the first Mexican families to settle permanently in the state. Oregon's agriculture relied on the large numbers of Mexican resident and migrant workers until wide spread mechanization in the 1950's.

1914 The Portland chapter of the NAACP, the oldest continually chartered chapter west of the Mississippi River, was founded

1917 the first temporary worker program (part of the 1917 Immigration Act) allowed temporary workers who would be inadmissible under the 1917 Immigration "Act to be contracted seasonally to work in the U.S.

1919 Portland Board of Realty approved a Code of Ethics prohibiting realtors and bankers from selling property in white neighborhoods to people of color or providing mortgages for such purchases.

1920's KKK flourishes in Oregon. By the mid 1920's its membership was estimated between 14,000 – 20,000 with numerous sympathizers who were not official members. Oregon's Governor from 1922 – 26, Walter M. Pierce, though not a member, was overtly supported by the Klan and he promoted the Klan's agenda.

1922 Together with Freemasons, Klansmen spearheaded a drive to outlaw private and parochial schools which they viewed as primary obstacles in the drive for “Americanism.” The Klan’s weapon was an initiative that if passed by Oregon voters would require all children between the ages of eight and eighteen to attend public schools. The rallying cry of its sponsors was “One Flag! One School! One Language!” Oregonians, by a margin of 11,000 voted to make their state the first in America to mandate a monolithic school system. Opponents of the public school measure subsequently took their case to the federal court obtaining a temporary injunction. In 1924 the federal court in Portland declared this Oregon law unconstitutional. In 1925 in the case *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, the U.S. Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional as well.

1922 Japanese American Citizen’s League founded

1923 The Oregon state legislature, dominated by members of the Klan, passes a number of restrictive laws. The Alien Land Law prevents first generation Japanese Americans (those who had immigrated to the U.S.) from owning or leasing land. The Oregon Business Restriction Law allows cities to refuse business licenses to first generation Japanese Americans

1924 US Congress grants citizenship to Native Americans

1926 Oregon repealed its exclusion law, which barred Blacks from the state, by amending the state constitution to remove it from the Bill of Rights

1927 the Oregon State Constitution is finally amended to remove a clause denying Blacks the right to vote and eliminating restrictions that discriminated against Black and Chinese voters.

1930’s Depression decreased Mexican immigration and increased U.S. policies of deportation and exclusion

1934 the Indian Reorganization Act (Indian New Deal) provided some federal support. It also tried to restore some reservation lands and provide land for landless tribes

1937-1945 Oregon passes a number of laws restricting Indians, mostly concerning the possession of alcohol.

1942-1947 Mexican laborers under the Mexican Farm Labor Program (MFLP) or Bracero program (referring to brazos, arms of helping hands) come to Oregon

During WWII Portland's Black population climbed from 2,000 to 22,000. Over 7,000 "non-white" workers were employed in the Portland shipyards. Initially job opportunities were a disappointment. Many help wanted notices specified "white only." Although Kaiser had promised good jobs in the shipyards, local unions resisted integration. After pressure from NAACP, the Kaiser Brothers, a federal inspection team and a reprimand from President Roosevelt, the unions compromised and more skilled jobs were opened to Black workers, but only for the duration of the war. Blacks were allowed to work in union controlled shops and paid union dues, but were denied the benefits of union membership.

To accommodate the influx of workers, a new town was built in the lowland area adjacent to the Columbia River just north of Portland. First called Kaiserville and then Vanport, it became the world's largest housing project eventually home for 35,000 residents making it the second largest community in Oregon. With the rise in "non-white" population came signs throughout Portland: "We Cater to White Trade Only."

1942 A Japanese submarine shelled Fort Stevens near Astoria. Despite having caused no significant damage, the attack certainly raised awareness of the threat of future strikes and went into the history books as the only hostile shelling of a military base on the U.S. mainland during World War II and the first since the War of 1812. Later in the same year, a Japanese submarine launched a seaplane that dropped bombs on the southern Oregon coast. This mission was designed to drop incendiary (fire) bombs on the thick forests of the Siskiyou National Forest to cause massive fires. A second, similar seaplane attack at the end of September yielded similar results. If the forest had been as dry as normal for that time of year, the Japanese plan might have worked, leaving forest fires that could have diverted hundreds of fire fighters and large amounts of money from the war effort while triggering panic in the population.

1942 After the attack on Pearl Harbor, all persons of Japanese heritage living in the western portion of Oregon (and all western states) were forced to move to camps by the Wartime Civil Control Administration. More than 4,500 Japanese Americans from western Oregon were sent to internment camps: 2/3 of these Oregonians were American citizens.

1943 in the case *Hirabayashi v. United States*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Executive Order 9066 resulting in the relocation of people of Japanese descent.

1944 As an almost cruel and desperate afterthought to what seemed to be a lost cause, balloons launched from Japan and carrying explosive and incendiary bombs began to drift east on the jet stream to the United States. Once again, the goal was to start forest fires and wreak devastation. Oregon alone counted 45 balloon incidents. The most tragic incident involving balloon bombs also found a place in history as yielding the only deaths due to enemy action on mainland America during World War II. The events unfolded on May 5, 1945 as a pastor and his wife took five children for a picnic east of Bly. As Reverend Archie Mitchell parked the car, he heard his pregnant wife, Elsy, call out: "Look what I found, dear." One of the children tried to remove the balloon from a tree and triggered the bomb. The mangled bodies of Elsy and the children were strewn around a crater that was three feet wide and one foot deep. Elsy lived briefly but most of the children died instantly.

1944 Federal government's Public Proclamation No. 21 of December 17, 1944 ended the exclusion of people of Japanese descent from the Pacific Coast. The Oregon House of Representatives responded to the political pressure by passing Joint Memorial No. 9 on February 28, 1945. The statement called on President Roosevelt to prevent the return of Japanese Americans "for the duration of the present war with Japan." The legislators based their request on what they described as "considerable antagonism to such return" in Oregon as well as the claim that the internees would be "safer and cause less civilian disturbance in the relocation centers."

1945 The former internees who did trickle back to their old homes during much of 1945 were often met with open hostility by white neighbors. Some found their homes looted and their orchards vandalized while others endured boycotts on the purchase of their fruits and vegetables or heard racial slurs or threats. A few were assaulted physically. But along with the many instances of blatant racism, intimidation, and hatred, some Oregonians welcomed the returning Japanese Americans and publicly campaigned in support. Many church leaders and others rallied against anti-Japanese American legislation, calling it "anti-Christian and undemocratic."

1945 Alien Land Law passed to supplement the original 1923 restrictions.

1947 PL-45 the new Bracero program called for employers to pay for screening, selection and roundtrip transportation of workers from Mexico to the Northwest – previously paid for by U.S. government. Northwest growers were shocked at the terms of the agreement and along with growing anti-Mexican sentiment and anxiety about the protests mounted by Braceros, decided to no longer contract Braceros. Thus this program ended.

1947 The Urban League of Portland took the Housing Authority to task for not enforcing the official federal policy of non-discrimination in housing. The Housing Authority's local policy was to separate tenants according to race, making it impossible to serve either whites or people of color on a first come, first served basis, . Some vacant housing in Vanport and Guilds Lake were unavailable to white people because they were in an area designated for Blacks only. The Urban League' urging had little effect on the Housing Authority actions. The Portland Housing Authority did not integrate its operations until 1950 and even in 1957 was not offering housing to most Blacks.

1948 On Memorial Day, a Columbia River flood left 39 people dead and obliterated all of Vanport which had become a declining settlement as war-time workers were replaced and non-whites encouraged to leave the area. There was no direct action taken by Portland's Housing Authority to resettle flood victims do patterns of segregation were reinforced. Most displaced Blacks were forced to congregate in the Albina section of town.

1948 The Supreme Court declares California's law banning interracial marriages to be unconstitutional

1948 National Realtors Code (based on an earlier state law) proclaims a realtor shall never introduce into a neighborhood members of any race or nationality whose presence will be detrimental to property values.

1949 Fair Employment Act empowers the State Labor Bureau to prevent discrimination in employment.

1949 The Oregon Supreme Court struck down the Alien Land Law

1950's in Oregon and elsewhere, Operation Wetback, a program focused on preventing undocumented people from entering the U.S. led to the rounding up and deporting of undocumented people already here.

1950's and 60's Baby Boom created over-crowded classrooms and the construction of new schools especially in the suburbs.

1951 Oregon repeals its law prohibiting interracial marriages

1951 Discrimination in vocational schools was banned

1952 Hundreds of Oregon Issei, those born in Japan, applied for citizenship after Congress lifted the ban.

1953 Public Accommodation Law prohibits discrimination in hotels and other public accommodations.

1954 Congress terminated federal aid granted by treaties with 109 tribes, dissolving the Klamath, Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations and sanctioning the selling of their tribal lands

1955 Portland Catholic Archdiocese establishes a Migrant Ministry to serve the Mexican migrant population. In 1964 changes name to Oregon Friends of Migrants.

1957 The mighty and picturesque Celio Falls on the Columbia River east of The Dalles was destroyed with the construction of The Dalles Dam. The falls and a way of life for Indian Tribes who had fished there for millennia disappeared.

1957 Lawmakers passed the Oregon Fair Housing Act, barring practices that had discriminated against African Americans

1959 Oregon finally ratifies the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which provides that no government in the United States may prevent a citizen from voting based on that citizen's race, color, or previous condition of servitude (slavery).

1962 NAACP charges Portland with having racially segregated schools

1964 First Fiesta Mexicana held by the Mexican committee Pro Fiesta Mexicanas in Woodburn.

1965 Busing of African American students begins in Portland

1965 Congress finally reversed the strict and racist immigration quotas that dated back to the 1920s.

1967-69 Racial tensions escalate into riots in Portland's African American communities

1970's saw school populations decline throughout the state leaving far more school facilities than could be fully utilized.

1970's Though no concrete evidence that sundown laws actually existed on the statue books, a rich oral history describes signs and attitudes throughout Oregon well into the 1970's that warned Blacks and other people of color to be out of town by sundown.

1971 The Commission for Chicano Affairs established. In 1983 the group was renamed the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

1973 Colegio Cesar Chavez, the first Latino four-year college in the US, was created on the former campus of Mt. Angel College in Silverton. It closed in 1983.

1975 Oregon Indian Education Association was formed. OIEA works to update and help implement the Oregon American Indian/Alaska Native Education State Plan. OIEA is helping to formulate state policy to eliminate stereotypical Native American mascots in Oregon public schools.

1977 Willamette Valley Immigration Project opened in Portland then moved to Woodburn to protect and represent undocumented workers.

1979 Federal District Court in *Kimball v. Callahan* affirms Klamath Indian hunting and fishing rights within former reservation

1980's Another rise in school age children due to Baby Boomer's children and the influx of newcomers to Oregon that from April 1985 – April 1990 saw an average of 220 new people arriving each day in Oregon. The result being that 20 – 35% of all Oregonians in the early 1990's had resided in the state less than 10 years; causing an outcry of concern from many of the state's "old-timers" who valued their pioneer heritage as elite status and felt they were losing control of the state.

Until 1980, Portland employed what amounted to mandatory busing to “improve” the racial balance of its public schools. Ron Herndon, a vigorous spokesperson for Portland’s Black community and other members of the Black United Front wanted to stop busing.. They knew how to get attention. And the School Board eventually responded with a plan to desegregate Portland Public Schools “voluntarily.”: by ending forced busing; by infusing the city’s black schools with extra money and teachers, by creating additional “magnet” schools in black neighborhoods and letting black and white students transfer out of their neighborhoods to different schools—if they wanted to. For the first time in years, all students, regardless of race, could attend their neighborhood school or go elsewhere. The idea was to boost the quality of the black schools (to make those schools better and to attract white students) and to give black students the choice to move voluntarily to white schools. The goal was that out of this blender of options, equality would follow.

1981 Two police officers dump dead opossums at an African American-owned restaurant in Portland leading to citizens committee to review police

1981 El Hispanic News begins publication

1981 Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh establishes Rajneeshpuram

1982-84 Congress restored Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Indian Community and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

1985 Rajneeshees largely left Oregon when several leaders of the group, including Rajneesh's secretary Ma Anand Sheela, were indicted and convicted of serious crimes, including immigration fraud, wiretapping, first and second degree assault (poisoning) of two public officials, and the attempted murder. Sheela was imprisoned for these crimes, as well as for her role in infecting a salad bar in The Dalles with salmonella, sickening over 750 (including several Wasco County public officials) and sending 45 people to hospital. Known as the 1984 Rajneeshee bioterrorist attack, the incident is regarded as the largest germ warfare attack in the history of the United States. Rajneesh himself was accused of immigration violations, to which he entered an Alford plea. He was subsequently deported and eventually returned to Pune, India.

1986 The legal standing of Rajneeshpuram remained ambiguous. In the church/state suit, a federal judge ruled against Rajneeshpuram in 1985, a decision that was not contested, since it came too late to be of practical significance. The Oregon courts,

however, eventually found in favor of the city, with the Court of Appeals determining in 1986 that incorporation had not violated the state planning system's agricultural land goals. The Oregon Supreme Court ended litigation in 1987, leaving Rajneeshpuram empty and bankrupt, but legal within Oregon law.

1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act passed by Congress allowing Native Americans to operate casinos on reservation lands. There are benefits for the tribes that operate casinos. One huge benefit is that if the tribe is a sovereign nation they can operate with a tax exempt status. This tax exempt status allows more money to stay in the hands of the tribe. The idea is that the wealth that is earned from the casino operation can be used for the common good of the tribe such as building schools, offering employment and other important community resources. The sad fact is that casinos aren't always a business venture that benefits the average tribal member. Too often there are only a few members who actually profit. Investors who are generally not tribe members are usually the ones making the big profits from the casino operations. This means the vast majority of the profits are never filtered back into the community.

1988 Congress approved Civil Liberties Act paying \$20,000 to each surviving interned Japanese-American

1990 Oregon voters pass Measure 5 property tax limitations that capped spending for public schools

1991-2001 Oregon School Boards Association commissioned report finds that Oregon's national ranking based on per student expenditures dropped from 15th to 20th. K-12 spending as a share of Oregonians' personal income fell from 4.6 percent to 4.2 percent while total personal income in the state increased at an average annual rate of 5.7 percent (12th highest) between 1990 and 2001.

1995 The Chicano/Latino Studies Program is established at Portland State University

1996 CAUSA, Oregon Immigrant Rights Coalition is formed

1997 Nez Perce Tribe buys 10,000 acres and returns to Wallowa County

1999 The Oregon state legislature held a Day of Acknowledgement to recognize the past discrimination earlier legislatures had sanctioned.

2000 Oregonians finally voted to remove all racist language from its Constitution which still had a clause that read: "No free Negro, or mulatto, not residing in this state at the time of the adoption of this constitution, shall come, reside, or be within this State, or hold any real estate." Though this and other discriminatory language was rendered unenforceable by federal laws and amendments to the U.S. Constitution it was not until this election that removal of this example of institutional racism and oppression was removed from the Oregon Constitution.

2000, The Oregonian reported that Ron Herndon arranged a mock casket demonstration in front of the Portland School Board and orchestrated an earsplitting band of demonstrators - complete with a drum and tambourine - shouting, "We're all fired up! Can't take no more! No more promises! No more lies!" The mock coffin, Herndon and his supporters said, symbolized the "death sentence" Portland Public Schools handed to low-income and minority students because of the achievement gap between them and white students in reading, math and writing. Herndon and the demonstrators accused the district of being too slow to respond to the problem.

2005 Native Language Preservation and Instruction Partnership was formed through a collaborative effort between Oregon's nine federally-recognized tribes and the Oregon Department of Education to support implementation of endangered American Indian language and culture instruction programs in Oregon schools.

2006 Thousands of Latinos and supporters rally in Portland, Salem and Hood River to protest a federal proposal that would make illegal immigration a felony.

2008 Chemawa Indian Boarding School continues as the oldest continuously operating boarding school in the United States. In 2005 the death of a student who died of alcohol poisoning after she was locked in a cell when intoxicated caused great controversy and launched a probe by the US government. Other allegations including child molestation by staff have arisen.

2008 Eugene, Oregon's 4J school district is considering retooling its decades-old open-enrollment policy because schools there are becoming socioeconomically segregated.