Cutler City

By Roger Hull

Cutler City, the southernmost neighborhood of Lincoln City on the Oregon coast, was established in
the early twentieth century as an independent townsite on land previously owned by Charley
DePoe, a Siletz Indian. It comprises 393 tax lots on some 178 acres on the southeast edge of Siletz
Bay between Schooner and Drift Creeks. “Uncle Charley” DePoe, who also owned land at
present-day Depoe Bay, sold his Siletz Bay property to his friends George and Mary Ann Cutler in
1913. They established a townsite and sold the first lots to Frank Gibbs of Portland, who built a
summerhouse in 1913. For a time, the area was known as Gibbs Point. The Cutlers built a cabin for
themselves in 1913, but George Cutler died in 1914 and Mrs. Cutler moved to the Willamette
Valley. Their son Arthur inherited the property and spent summers at the townsite selling lots.

The townsite developed as an unincorporated resort village of small cottages and, after the
completion of modern highways to the coast in 1927, the Siletz Bay Auto Camp, a popular
destination. The town was officially named Cutler City in 1930. Though platted, much of the
townsite remained densely covered with pine, huckleberry, manzanita, and rhododendron. The
North Lincoln Rhododendron Society, organized in 1938, selected Cutler City as its rhododendron
capital, and Rhododendron Days were celebrated there during blooming season from 1938 to 1941.

Following World War II, much of the undeveloped land in Cutler City was cleared for new, generally
modest, housing, and most of the wild rhododendrons were removed. Some still thrive in the Cutler
City wetlands on the southeast edge of the district. In December 1964, Cutler City voted to join
Oceanlake, Delake, Nelscott, and Taft to form the municipality of Lincoln City, incorporated on
March 3, 1965. The estimated population of 2000 is a variable figure that includes permanent
residents and second-home owners who are part-time residents.

Sources

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