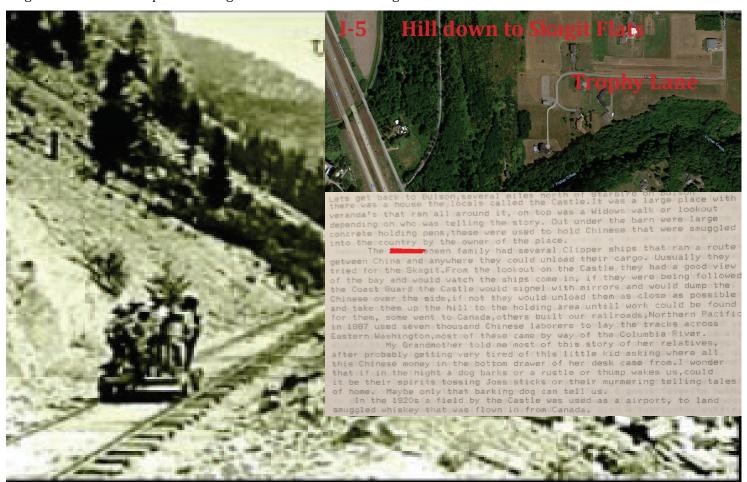
CHINESE LABORERS

History

In the mid 1800s, Chinese came to work on the railroads or seek gold. But 80 years before, they were the laborers at Nootka Sound brought in via the trade route from Cape Horn. One hundred twenty Chinese laborers arrived at Nootka Sound in 1778 where they built houses, a dockyard, and a sailing ship, the *North West America*. The next year another 70 Chinese craftsmen were brought over from Canton. Shortly after the arrival of this second group, the settlement was seized by the Spanish who used them to build a fort (twice), tear it down (twice) and build a village. Some were sent to work in a nearby mine. A 1794 agreement between Spain and England had both countries agree to leave. No records exist as to the fate of the Chinese.



Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

American Daugeaux (2) Balled Basel Part (2000) B

Legends & Lessons

After the building of the railroads, it became apparent that Chinese immigration to the West Coast might swamp that of the European. In 1882 the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed leading to a "black market" of smuggled Chinese (from Canada and Canton) arriving by ship into Milltown. Local logging companies needed track laid; Douglas Fir stumps could only be removed by hard labor. Two miles north of here stood a house called the "Castle." Ships arriving with Chinese could not see trailing US revenue cutters "over the horizon" (because of the curvature of the earth), but the Castle could!



If a light was seen burning in the Castle's 3rd floor window (mirror), a ship was scuttled to the handcuffed Chinese doom. If not, they were off-loaded and purchased for a month's serf "transportation fee" (buyers would ride down Milltown Road to a concrete pit, look down into the holding pen, and select among the huddled Chinese). Milltown Lutheran Church supported and cared for a small Tent City to its west. The "free" laborers who were in transition needed a place to live, even though, at the time, it was in violation of Law (the 1st U.S. Federal Law ever to be passed for the exclusion of a specific ethnic group) to be or assist an illegal immigrant.