

## C.C. (Charles) Maling

Grizzly: 1877-1906

Charles Maling (almost always referred to as C.C. Maling; quite often Maling is misspelled as Mailing), entered Crook County in 1877. At this time in the region's history, settlements existed on Mill Creek and Grizzly. A few families lived at the site that would become Prineville, but Grizzly had more residents—and it had sawmills.

There is little doubt that Maling was one of the first sawmill operators in the region but the exact date when Maling started his sawmill is not recorded. The first reference to the Maling mill that I can find was in the May 5, 1885 issue of the *Ochoco Review*. It was an advertisement and looked like this:

### 300,000 Feet of

**Dry Lumber on Hand**  
(any kind required)

To be sold for CASH, CREDIT or  
TRADE ON REASONABLE TERMS

Sawed Pine Shingles \$3.50 per  
Thousand at the Willow Creek  
Saw Mill, situated 16 miles north  
of Prineville.

Orders for lumber left at Hamilton's plan-  
ing mill or sent through the mail will receive prompt attention.

**C. C. MALING**

*Ochoco Review*, September 5, 1885; p.3, & September 19, 1885, p. 3.

The first description of Maling's efforts appear in a newspaper article written by Evada R. Power. The date and newspaper is not known. Miss Power wrote,

**[The Maling] sawmill was the first to be set up in Jefferson county and was built three-fourths of a century ago. The Mailings, aunt and uncle of Jack, had many experiences of hardships here. They were determined people of dauntless courage. For instance, when Mrs. Mailing did not**

have underwear as the first cold winter came, she wore her outing flannel night-gowns on a two-shift basis.

Relieved of the operation of the mill the Mailings moved to Prineville and opened a furniture store. They also built one of the first brick buildings there and ran a lumber yard, which was supplied with lumber from the Grizzly mill. Mailing died 44 years ago and at the time had accumulated great wealth and property. He left \$100,000 in cash to a brother in Australia. When a fire gutted the business section of Prineville a quarter of a century ago [1922], the Maling buildings were the first to go and Mrs. Maling lost 70 tenants in one night. The Ochoco hotel was built on the site.

This mill which turned out lumber for all early building in this section, was run by a steam boat engine which had been used on the Mississippi river. Maling bought it in New York and brought it with him around the horn. The mill was first set up in San Francisco before it was brought here. Lumber was sawed and sold as fast as it came from the saw. When the timber gave out, the Malings, accompanied by Charlie Cooper, an uncle of Mrs. Maling, and Charlie Durham, an English friend, came to Grizzly. Durham helped select the mill site. Jack's father and Durham formed a partnership and another mill was set up on Trout creek....

In a scrapbook (#14, p. 20) held by the A.R. Bowman Memorial Museum is an article written by someone that seemed familiar with the history of sawmills at the time of Mr. Maling's efforts. The source and author are not identified. The article contains this quote:

**The first planing mill in Prineville was build in 1875 by John Hamilton on the corner which the Prineville creamery now**

occupies. Here was made the finishing lumber for the first courthouse and, the first schoolhouse as well as many other buildings. Hamilton sold this planing mill to Maling who later sold it to me.<sup>1</sup>

In the July 2, 1887 issue of the *Ochoco Review*, we can see a connection between Maling and Hamilton in the advertisement that Maling placed. It is most curious that Maling's name is repeatedly misspelled not only in newspaper stories but also in the advertisements. The ad looked like this:

**C.C. Maling**

— DEALER IN —

All kinds of  
**BUILDING MATERIAL,**

— ALSO —

**FURNITURE**  
of every description.

— 0 —

SEASONED LUMBER of all kinds constantly on hand.

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WILL ALSO KEEP THE  
**PORTABLE PICKET FENCE.**

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Delivery Wagon at Lumber Yard to deliver material to any part of town.

*All lumber accounts will be collected monthly.*

Lumber Yard, at Planer.

*Ochoco Review*, July 2, 1887, p. 4, and again on July 30, Aug 6, and October 16, 1887.

Mr. Maling placed a lot of classified advertisements but there is not a lot of news in the papers about him. But on May 3, 1890, the *Ochoco Review* (p. 3, c. 1)<sup>2</sup> reported: "The road to Maling's saw mill is in repair, in fact, is the best road across McKay mountains. The mill will begin sawing next Monday." This would appear to be the official opening date of the Maling mill.

But by August of the same year the *Ochoco Review* (p.3, c. 1) on August 9, 1890, reported that "C.C. Maling wants to trade his sawmill on Willow creek for stock." Nothing can be found to suggest why Maling wanted to leave the timber industry. But it is known that the lumbermen of the Grizzly area were having difficulty in obtaining sufficient timber to keep their mills operating (see chapter on Charles Durham). There could have been other factors.

In the August 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Ochoco Review*, (p. 3, c. 2) we learn:

**John Dee, wife and family, late arrivals from Old England are visiting this country and if suited will probably locate here and become permanent residents of Crook County. Mr. Dee is a brother-in-law to C.C. Maling, an old-time resident of this county. We hope they may find a desirable location and thus become one of our number.**

By November Dee has become a business man in Crook County. He has taken over Maling's furniture business. The *Ochoco Review*, (p. 4, c. 4) for November 22, 1890, showed the following advertisement:

(Please see next page.<sup>3</sup>)

1. It is suspected that the person making this statement is Ed Harbin, but the source is unknown. Keith Snyder's *Prineville Business History 1868-1922* (Crook County Historical Society, 2004) covers Prineville's planing mills (pp. 358-62) but this quote is not included. But Snyder's account does substantiate the information.
2. Prineville-Crook County, starting in about 1885, had a an interesting environment for newspapers. At times two, and sometimes three, newspapers operated at the same time. New papers would appear on the scene, and others would disappear—often without warning. When there was more than one newspaper operating at the same time there were usually quite hostile to each other.
3. A word about these recreated advertisements: They have been recreated as nearly as possible to duplicate the originals. This means that the type styles and layout are as close as modern computers can get to the original. The reproductions presented here are, however, larger in size than the originals.

**JOHN DEE,**

(SUCCESSOR TO C.C. Maling)

— DEALER IN —

ALL : KINDS : OF : FURNITURE,

BEDROOMS SETS,

Lounges, Chairs, Mirrors, Etc.

ALSO: ALL : KINDS : OF : LUMBER : FOR : SALE

Agent for Willow Creek Saw Mill

*(Ochoco Review, November 15, 1890, p4; November 22, 1890, p.4.)*

But even from what we can see from the ad, comes confusion. John W. Dee (about whom you will read elsewhere) came to this area at the urging of Maling. John had a grandson, Jack. Jack is sometimes substituted for John. So in the newspapers of the day it is hard to distinguish between John and Jack—the same person. But it must be Jack's grandfather, John, that was the successor to C.C. Maling's furniture business.

The name "Willow Creek Saw Mill" presents a problem too. It is only through advertisements that one can track the apparent ownership of this mill. In 1890, when this advertisement appeared, Willow Creek Saw Mill was owned by Maling. It wasn't until 1906 that the mill was sold to Jack Dee and Sam Compton.

During the years surrounding 1890 there occurred a lot of problems with respect to ownership of timbered lands. In the story of Charles Durham we learn that he was accused of stealing timber from the government; it may have been his own timber—at least in Durham's mind. The problem of land ownership effected all the lumbermen in the Grizzly area (and elsewhere).

By 1904, progress was being made in getting the matter resolved. The *Prineville Review* for April 14, 1904 contained the following item:

**PATENTS FOR TIMBER**

The investigations which officers of the government have been conducting for a considerable period, with the view of determining the good or bad faith of claimants who have filed on timber claims in Crook county, are now resulting in the issuance of patents to those proved to be bona fide applicants. The Dalles land office has just received patents for Crook county timber lands for the following persons:...

...Annie Maling, ...

The officials of the local land office are of the opinion that other patents will be received in due course, as claims are being relieved from suspension by the Washington authorities as soon as the reports on the investigations demonstrate the good faith of the applicants.

The final piece about Charles Maling comes from the obituary printed in the September 18, 1902 (p. 5, c. 1) issue of the *Crook County Journal*. It reads:

**DIED — MALING — At his home in this city on September 15, 1902, at 2:30 P.M., C.C. Maling, aged 66 years. Mr. Maling was born near Sunderland, county of Devon, England, August 15, 1836. He left his native home in 1851 and came to America, returning there on a visit in 1869, where he was married to Miss Annie Dee in 1870, who still survives him. His only living relatives are a nephew and two nieces who reside at Port Said, Egypt.**

Mr. Maling was one of the best known men in this country, having located here in the early days of its settlement and was prominently identified with the growth of the county and was one of the progressive citizens of Prineville.

The funeral will occur from the Union church at 2:30 o'clock p. m. Thursday, September 18.

Annie Maling died later but there seems no additional Maling efforts in the timber industry of Crook County.

## ***C.C. Maling***

**DEALER IN AND MANUFACTURER OF**

**All Kinds of Building Material,  
Lumber—Dressed and Rough,**

**Splendid Line of Furniture—Bed-Room Sets,  
Lounges, Chairs, Mirrors, &c, &c.**

**Lumber accounts collectable monthly.**

**(Ochoco Review, September 6, 1890, p. 5.)**



**Early Prineville. A post card purchased on eBay.**