

education by attending public school in Eugene, Oregon, and later taking a course at a commercial college in Portland. After completing the course, he taught at several schools in Oregon until he married Lillie S. Harris on April 7, 1883, and settled on a portion of his father's farm in the Siuslaw Valley. William, or "Bubb" as he was called, was the first postmaster of Lorane, and his wife Lillie was the person responsible for naming the community, Lorane (see **Post Offices**, page 107). William was a farmer who raised fine Shorthorn cattle on his 400-acre property. He was also a skilled blacksmith, wagonmaker and carpenter and loved to play tunes on his dulcimer. He served Lane County as a justice of the peace for several years and was a member of the Republican Party. Lillie was a staunch Methodist and was active in the local church. They had four children, Elza H. (Harry), Elmer, Oral and Pearl. William died on June 28, 1907, and was buried in the Crow Cemetery in Lorane. Lillie passed away on February 24, 1946, in Oregon City, and is buried there.

William and Lillie's son, Elmer, married Della Sharp. He was a justice of the peace in the Lorane area and ran a threshing machine during the late summer months. He also owned and operated the E.R. Crowe Oregon Fir Lumber Co. in Lorane for a number of years. Elmer was a graduate engineer with a degree from Oregon State College. He was known to have designed many implements which were adapted for use in his own businesses and in the Lorane Valley Orchard. Della Crowe served as a 4-H Club leader during the time that they lived in Lorane. He and Della had two daughters, Lala and Lorna. They lived for 18 years on a farm located on Cottage Grove-Lorane Road on a hill east of the Duane Doughty residence (MC-L16). The barn that he built there was referred to in the valley as the "New Barn" for many years. Elmer and Della moved to Tulare, California in 1928, to join Elmer's brother, Harry, in his many ventures in the Tulare and Fresno areas where his engineering expertise was put to further good use.



*William "Bubb" Crow family. (l-r) Lillie (holding Pearl), Elza "Harry", Oral, William, and Elmer, 1896*

On November 24, 1944, Lillie Harris Crow wrote a letter to her son, Elmer, from her home in Oregon City, after he moved to California. "I suppose Della has told you all the news from A to Z – never the less I'm going to write you, stale or no stale news. Della stayed two nights with us. We surely spent half of the nights talking over old times and asking questions. She said she spent Election day at the Lorane grange hall and saw and talked with many of the old timers when they came in to vote... so much news about Lorane and the people and how it is growing in population and improvement everywhere there.

"...Well Pearl and her three girls and I spent yesterday at home. Had a fine dinner. Our turkey was a chicken. Turkeys were 50 cents a lb. If we thought about the vacant places we did not mention them to one another. We listened to several Thanksgiving programs. Also to the bombing of Tokyo. I have my radio fixed now and



*The Elmer Crowe Ranch on Cottage Grove-Lorane Road*