

Antelope

I am very thankful to Cheri who was the prior coordinator.

History

[Link to Antelope in Wikipedia](#)

As if it wasn't enough that their ancestors had to face all the hardships of the Oregon Trail and pioneer life, Wasco County residents more than 100 years later found themselves facing a new challenge: the Rajneeshees. In the 1980s, this area once again made history, this time by fighting in the more civilized fashion that is favored today. Followers of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh moved in to the city of Antelope government, attempting a takeover by registering to vote homeless people brought in from outside the county and state. Rajneeshpuram was developed on 64,000 acres near the John Day River, and the Rajneesh followers renamed the town of Antelope to...Rajneeshpuram.

Baghwan's organization infringed upon the tiny community in many other ways. There was a takeover of the entire culture of the Antelope area by "Rajneeshpuram." There was violence. In true pioneer spirit, local residents refused to take that while lying down, and they fought back. Law enforcement officials conducted an investigation that led to the arrest of the Bhagwan's personal secretary on charges of theft and attempted murder. The Bhagwan was indicted on federal immigration charges and deported to India. The mortgage holder repossessed Rajneeshpuram in 1989 and the little town of Antelope got back to the business of being a sleepy little town.

According to the 1910 Polk City Directory (page 122), "...for the past fiftenn years, and was incorporated as a city in 1897. This place is in the middle of a far-famed stock country, shipping annually not less than 100,000 head of sheep and a large number of horses and cattle. There is a splendid public school, employing three teachers. The town owns its own water works system, which is self-supporting and affords revenue to the city."

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