

trees so big and the work to be done so large and the facilities so small, that he decided to dig Puget Sound in order to have room enough to float his logs. He hitched Babe to this giant scoop or shovel, and in a day or two, he dug out Puget Sound and had enough water for the logs and the mill.

In the 1930s the Paul Bunyan legend expanded beyond its popularity in books and newspapers to pageants, dramas, carved statues at timber carnivals—and the 1939 World's Fairs—and local "Paul Bunyan's Day" in numerous timber towns throughout the nation. In 1934 in southwestern Oregon, the General Committee of the Marshfield Paul Bunyan Birthday Celebration authorized the publication of *The Book of Bunyan, Being the Exploits of Paul Bunyan and Babe, the Blue Ox, in Southwestern Oregon*. This is a collection of 37 Paul Bunyan yarns by men, women, and children of the Coos Bay area. Annotations next to some stories indicate that they were "Annannias Contest Prize Stories," winners in a liars' contest. While we have no evidence that any of these 1934 stories entered oral tradition in Oregon, we present several of them here as examples of how traditions are invented and how a well-known story cycle is regionalized by a southwestern Oregon logging community.

Paul Bunyan's Logging at Shoreacres

While Paul Bunyan and Babe, the blue ox, were logging around Shoreacres, Paul was puzzled as to where to put all the timber he was logging. One day while wading around in search of clams for his dinner he came upon a shallow place, three-quarters of a mile from land. Upon investigation he found it to be a sandbar. After he built his jetty there to hold his logs it formed what is now North Bay. You can still see some of the remains of his old jetty.

During his spare time from building the jetty, he taught Babe to bellow, so on foggy days he would have a way of calling the ships in to get his logs. Paul worked Babe so hard hauling out those logs that the ox became weary and restless and began bellowing continuously until the ship captains grew accustomed to the sound and would stay outside on foggy days.

If you should happen down that way now when the fog hangs over the bar you can still hear the echo of Babe's voice. (Mrs. L. W. Simmons, p. 6)

Paul's Great Auction

Paul Bunyan came to Coos Bay over the old Brewster Trail and when he landed on Isthmus Inlet he found plenty of feed for his faithful companion, Babe, the blue ox. Paul decided to wait there until spring and find a place to begin logging.