

1/81

THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOTO IDENTIFICATION ON THE BACK PAGE

Director's Corner

With this issue, the journal of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, *The Table Rock Sentinel*, ceases to be a bi-monthly publication of fourteen to sixteen pages. In 1981, as an experiment, we are hoping to publish at least ten issues from eight to twelve pages each. The net result will be more information arriving in a more timely fashion.

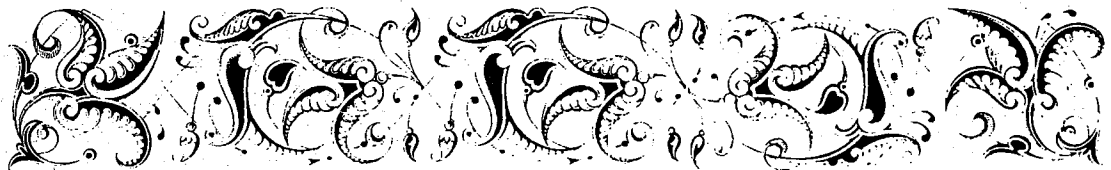


The changes also will make it possible to add some regular features. Answers to last year's membership questionnaire suggested the need for more short features on local history and for more photographs and information on miscellaneous items from the collection. To help with the increased work load, Ray Lewis (pictured here) has agreed to join the staff on a part-time basis. While we are in the process of developing our new format, the membership should let us know what kinds of information they would like to see in the *Sentinel*; the *Sentinel* is the main channel of communication from the trustees and staff to the membership. The Society and the newsletter are what the membership wishes them to be. Many of the best programs, exhibits, and tours which we offer have resulted from suggestions made by members.

It is the desire of the staff that the members really enjoy the *Sentinel* and actually look forward to its arrival. If it is not read, we have wasted our time and your money. Please send your comments; they will help make the new *Sentinel* a success.

On the sad side, Madeline Inskeep (see facing page) died on December 9, 1980. She was a valuable friend to the museum and never missed one of our bus tours. She was our best critic. I will miss our spirited conversations.

Bill Burk



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MADELINE M. INSKEEP, 1905-1980

From 1962 to 1973 Madeline Inskeep was a member of the Jacksonville Museum staff and retired as Curator of Collections. Her interest in the history of southern Oregon and her dedication in behalf of the museum were boundless. Even after her official retirement, she continued as a volunteer worker and was especially enthusiastic about the children's museum.

A co-worker, Helen Webb, recalls that as a Saturday hostess in the children's museum, Madeline would point out the bird mural in the entrance, the accompanying egg exhibit, and relate her story of how the hummingbirds would sometimes "hitchhike" on the backs of other birds.

In 1971 a stuffed loon became part of the collection, and, at Madeline's request, it is now on exhibit on the roulette wheel in the saloon display of the children's museum. The loon was affectionately nicknamed Charlie, and Madeline would point him out as an example of one of the carrier birds who might have given a ride to the hummingbirds.

Madeline's humor and enthusiasm will be missed by all who knew her.



FIRST OF HISTORIC RECIPES PRESENTED

The September-October issue of the Sentinel reported on a project initiated by Peggy Haines to compile a book of historic recipes. That story also reported that Peggy has accepted the position as interim librarian while the Society's librarian, Richard Engeman, is on leave. The cookbook project, therefore, is temporarily delayed, but Peggy has consented to the publication of some of these recipes in the Sentinel.

The ingredients or instructions in brackets for the recipe are the twentieth century conversions supplied by the testers who volunteered for this project.

Julia Hoffman Beekman's CORN BREAD

1 cup cornmeal
1/2 cup [white] flour
2 tablespoons sugar
Butter the size of an egg
[3 tablespoons, melted]
1 [2 1/2] even teaspoon-
full baking powder
[3/4 teaspoon salt]
2 eggs
Sweet milk to make batter
thin [3/4 cup]

[Instructions: Sift together dry ingredients, fold into butter, milk, and beaten eggs until just mixed: DO NOT BEAT. Pour into well greased 8x8" pan and bake in 425° oven for 20 to 25 minutes.]

Gladys Bartelt of Ashland who tested this recipe reports that this cornbread is not really high and light, but that it is good.

EARLY USE OF ELECTRICITY FEATURED

Another feature story prepared especially for the Society by Lee Dufur.

These proud pole planters were photographed in Central Point about 1904. They are, from left to right, Frank Foley, Earl Obenchain, unidentified, Ray Cochran, and Clarence Pankey. At the time this picture was taken, electricity was considered a wondrous thing, to be viewed with awe and to be used sparingly. The Ashland Plaza had been lighted in 1889 by an arc light which had been hung in a doorway of the Ashland Flour Mill. This was the first electric light in Jackson County.



Medford received its initial electric power in 1894 from a wood burning steam plant on the west bank of Bear Creek. The owner of this plant was R. A. Proudfoot. Four arc lamps were installed on Main Street near Riverside Avenue.

In 1900, the City of Medford purchased Proudfoot's electric power plant for \$8,000. City officials also paid out \$794 for 311 cords of wood with which to operate their plant. To make certain, perhaps, that they received some financial return on their investment, they passed an ordinance in 1901 which made it unlawful to light any place of assembly with hanging oil lamps; only electric lamps could be used.

When private home owners began using electricity, a bulb was hung from the ceiling of the room. No meters were installed, and customers were charged by the size of the bulb they used and by the length of time they left the light on: to 9 p.m., to 10 p.m., or to midnight. For years, street lights were not turned on if there was a full moon.

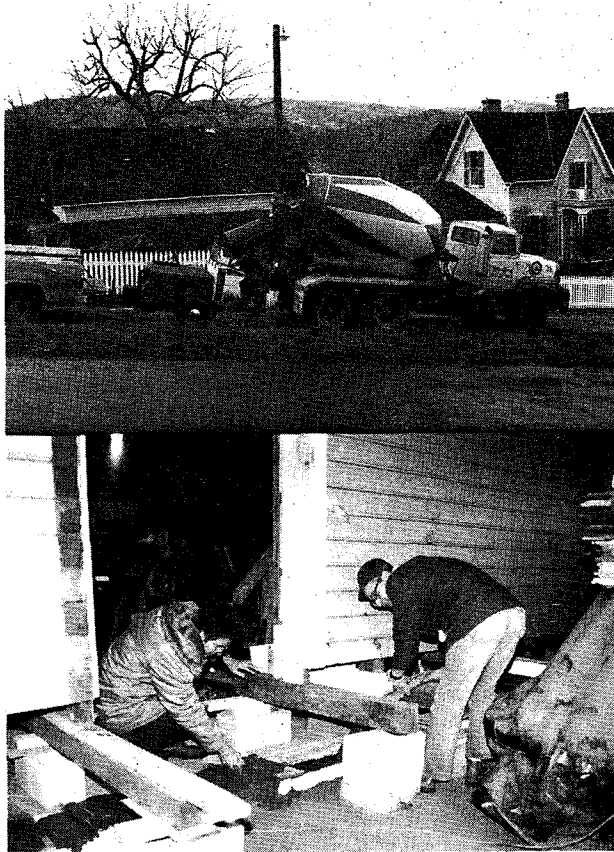
In 1904 a power plant dam was completed on Rogue River, 12 miles northeast of Medford. The Gold Ray dam was built by the Ray brothers to provide irrigation for farms around Tolo and to give power for gold mines near Gold Hill. At that time, it was thought that this plant was large enough to produce more power than the valley could ever use. By the very next year, however, it became apparent that a greater capacity was required, and construction was begun on the Condor Water and Power Company, which became a direct predecessor of the present Pacific Power and Light Company.

SADDLE TO BE DISPLAYED IN U.S. HOTEL ROOM

This saddle, which is a recent donation to the Society, is reported to have been used twice in the 1850's in crossing the Oregon Trail. The saddle will soon be on display in the saddlery exhibit in one of the Third Street rooms of the U. S. Hotel. The exhibit rooms will include a millinery shop, Dr. Phipps' dental office, and the saddlery shop. The project is being coordinated by Ruth Preston. Watch for the opening of these exhibits in future issues of the Sentinel.



CREW REPAIRS BEEKMAN CARRIAGE HOUSE



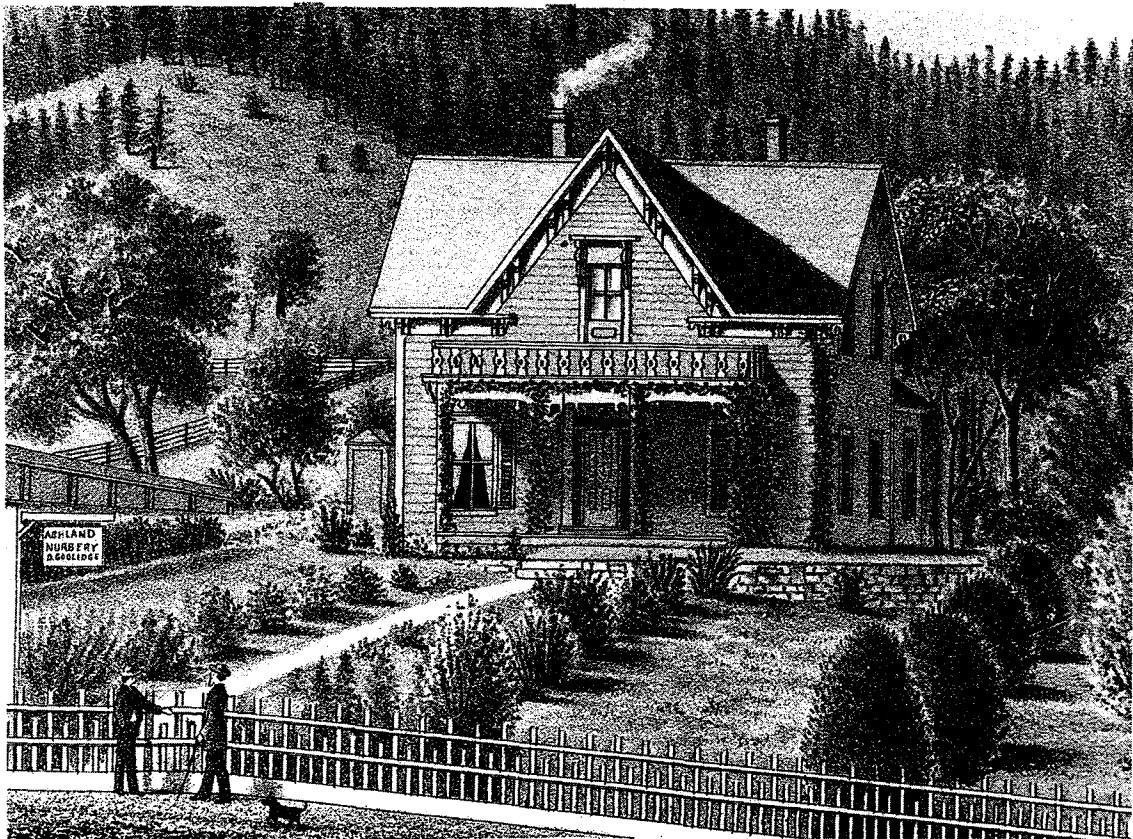
An examination of the Beekman Carriage House revealed that its perimeter beam had settled into the dirt, and that the corner posts had been attacked by carpenter ants and dry rot. This had caused the back of the building to settle some three to four inches. The decaying beam was recently removed and a concrete foundation has replaced it. The project was coordinated by Jack Stater with help from John Hood, Byron Ferrell, and Bill Burk. Shown here are Bill Burk and Jack Stater during the pouring of the concrete footing for the new foundation.

It is hoped that sometime in the near future the Carriage House will be refurnished so that it will resemble a carriage house interior and will include a buggy and harness and other carriage equipment of the period.

COOLIDGE HOUSE RECEIVES SOHS MARKER

The application of Fred and Blanche Tayler for an SOHS marker for the Orlando Coolidge House, 137 North Main, Ashland, was approved on October 19, 1979, and the following is taken from the forms prepared by Kay Atwood.

"The Orlando Coolidge House, situated on a high bank overlooking Main Street in Ashland is architecturally one of the community's finest examples of early private residences. Constructed for Orlando Coolidge, the first commercial nurseryman in the county, the home reflects both his taste and economic success. The Coolidge House, with its neighbors the Woolen and Atkinson Houses, form a collection of graceful structures which line the northern entrance to Ashland. The Coolidge House was constructed about 1875 and was the first of the homes built on the high west bank. The builder's name is unknown.



"Orlando Coolidge arrived in Jackson County to stay in 1862 and bought a farm four miles south of Ashland. On this site he planted the first fruit nursery in Jackson County. A native of Maine, Mr. Coolidge worked during his early career as a cooper. He married Mary Jane Foss, great granddaughter of Ethan Allen, in 1857 in Illinois. After seven years on his farm, Orlando Coolidge moved into the community of Ashland to property the couple purchased in December 1866. He began the nursery business in earnest. An early county historian wrote: 'The extensive nursery of Orlando Coolidge will bear special mention. It was established in 1869 and is one of the most extensive of its kind in Southern Oregon.' It contains almost all varieties of fruits, nuts, shrubs, flowers and ornamental trees to be found on the coast..." (story concluded on next page)

(HOUSE STORY CONTINUED)

"The Coolidge House has significance historically as the residence of an early nurseryman whose love of nature was widely recognized. His obituary dwelt upon this love: 'No place in Southern Oregon attracts so much attention and admiration as that of Orlando Coolidge. In wealth of fruits, flowers and nuts, and in the variety of all, it is the rival of any in the state...'"

LIBRARY SEEKS PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION



If any reader recognizes this group of musicians, please telephone either Peggy or Ida in the research library.

PACIFIC NW BELL DONATES DIRECTORIES

April Sevcik, business office manager for Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Company, Medford, has recently donated a large number of telephone directories to the Society. The books date from 1912 to 1964. April is shown here with Peggy Haines, SOHS librarian, and L. Scott Clay, SOHS board member. The donation of the telephone books had been suggested by Scott, and their value to the research library is limitless.



READER IDENTIFIES PELTON HOUSE PHOTO

The unidentified photograph on page six of the last Sentinel has been identified as the Horace Pelton house of the Pelton Orchard on the southwest corner of Pelton and Ramsey Roads, seven miles northeast of Gold Hill. The identification was made by L. Scott Clay from his Jackson County Historical Sites Survey done for the Jackson County Department of Planning and Development and completed in 1979.

ATTENDANCE NEARS TWO MILLION

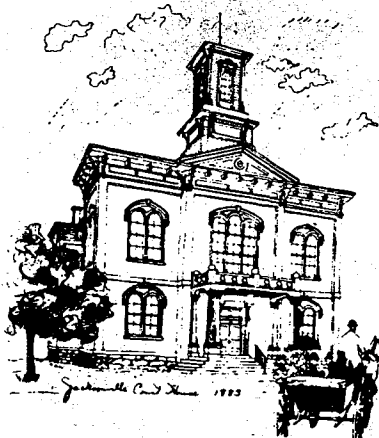
Attendance since the opening of the Jacksonville Museum on July 10, 1950, has been 1,885,917.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Volume I, Number 1, January 1981

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1904 GRADUATING CLASS FEATURED ON COVER

The cover photograph is from the collection of E. E. Washburn, who was principal of the Jacksonville School from 1901 to 1904. He had previously served as principal of Ashland's North School in 1897. On the back of the picture is the inscription: "Presented to me by the Class of 1904, Jacksonville High School, Jacksonville, Oregon. Top row, from left to right, Myrl Peter, Mary Colvig, E. E. Washburn, Leona Ulrich; bottom row, Eddie Donegan, Frances Snyder, George Birdseye." The donor was Mrs. Robert M. Fisher, a daughter of Mr. Washburn.