

3/81

THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

JOURNAL OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PHOTO IDENTIFICATION ON THE BACK PAGE

Director's Corner

The Jacksonville Museum has for over thirty years displayed many historic artifacts. While antique firearms, china, and furniture are typical of the items exhibited, the Southern Oregon Historical Society's collection also includes many fine art pieces.

A good example is the Dorland Robinson Collection, much of which is on permanent loan from the University of Oregon Art Museum. This fine collection is currently undergoing extensive restoration.

Miss Robinson, a native of Jacksonville, Oregon, began demonstrating her talent as early as 1900 while a student at St. Mary's Academy in Jacksonville. For the next 17 years, until her tragic death, she developed her talent. The work she left is truly significant. Not only does her work reflect what was happening in the art world during the early 20th century, it also tells us a great deal about life in a small, isolated Oregon town.

Most of her remaining works are oil paintings, but she left a wonderful collection of charcoal drawings, pastels, watercolors, and pencil sketches.

Perhaps later this year a special showing of her works will be displayed at the U. S. Hotel Ballroom in Jacksonville. We intend to arrange for a state-wide tour of the collection, and to produce a catalog of her work along with a biography.

To prepare for these activities we are seeking your assistance. If you have work done by Miss Robinson or if you knew her personally, we would like to talk with you. Please contact me or Marjorie Edens.

Miss Robinson produced portraits as well as still-life work and landscapes. This photograph is a charcoal sketch of Albert Mitchell who was born in Jacksonville in 1899. From an oral history interview with Mr. Mitchell in 1980, we know that Dorland Robinson had requested him to pose for her when he was peddling from door to door. (The numbers on the photograph are for museum identification purposes.)

Miss Robinson is an example of the many-talented women of her time who had to struggle against the conventions of that era. Seeking to satisfy a creative mind, she explored many facets of painting which, at the time, were considered a virtual male monopoly.

Perhaps by exhibiting her work we can recognize her and her sister artists who have yet to receive the recognition their contribution to Oregon's culture deserves. That Miss Robinson, the artist, developed in a small, isolated mining and agricultural community makes her contribution all the more inspiring. You will see and hear more about Dorland Robinson, if only from us.

Bill Burk



THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Higgins President
Maxine Jameson . . . First Vice President
L. Scott Clay . . . Second Vice President
Al Thelin Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF OF THE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM

Director C. William Burk 899-1847
Administrative Assistant . Dottie Ellen Bailey 899-7222
Librarian Margaret Haines 899-1847
Restoration Coordinator . . . Ruth Preston 899-1847
Historian/Newsletter Editor . Marjorie Edens 899-1711
Registrar of Collections . . . Greg Gualtieri 899-1847
Curator of Exhibits Jime Matoush 899-7522
Programs Director Joy Nagel 899-8203

HISTORY PERFORMERS HAVE BUSY SCHEDULE

The SOHS's Museum Oral History Performers, under the direction of Elizabeth Bickerman, now has sixteen members who sing, play musical instruments and give readings in oral interpretation. Their repertoire is based on Oregon history stories.

During this month they are working on an original play about Hathaway Jones, the "Paul Bunyan of the Rogue River area." Jones was a mail carrier from Grants Pass to Agnes, Oregon, who frequently told his patrons tall tales of his experiences, and included those of his father and grandfather as well. The play, which is being written as the cast rehearses, is taken from the book about Hathaway Jones by Stephen Dow Beckham. Shown here are (left to right) Gail Caperna, Ilma McKern, Madonna Stapleford, Elizabeth Vickerman, and Kathryn Sutherland (partially hidden behind Elizabeth).



The company, with a rotating cast of eight, is currently presenting a fifty-five year old play, "Father's Surprise," to convalescent homes in the area.

Ms. Vickerman, who received her degree in theatrical arts from the University of California, teaches creative dramatics in the schools. At present she is holding classes at Trail.

She announces that anyone may belong to her troupe. There are no requirements and new members will be welcomed. For further information, interested persons may call 899-1711 or 772-4606.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

Rosemary Bevel of the collections department, who is in charge of the SOHS storage facility, is issuing a request for the donation of a set of used and outdated encyclopaedias. If you would like to contribute a set, please call the museum, 899-1847.

DUPLICATE EUREKA TOUR MAY BE ARRANGED

Joy Nagel, Director of Programs, reports that the Society's Eureka trip is all set with a full busload for May 2 and 3. Members of the board of the Humboldt County Historical Society will serve as guides for the tour of Victorian homes and for the visit to Ferndale. Their members will also present a dinner program at the Eureka Inn.

If any of those who are unable to make this trip would like to sign up for a duplicate tour, it may be scheduled at a later date. Those interested should call Joy at 899-8203.

COLVER HOUSE RECEIVES MARKER

On June 10, 1979, an SOHS historic marker was given to Mrs. C. G. Peebler for the Colver House in Phoenix, Oregon. The marker commemorates the historical significance of the house.

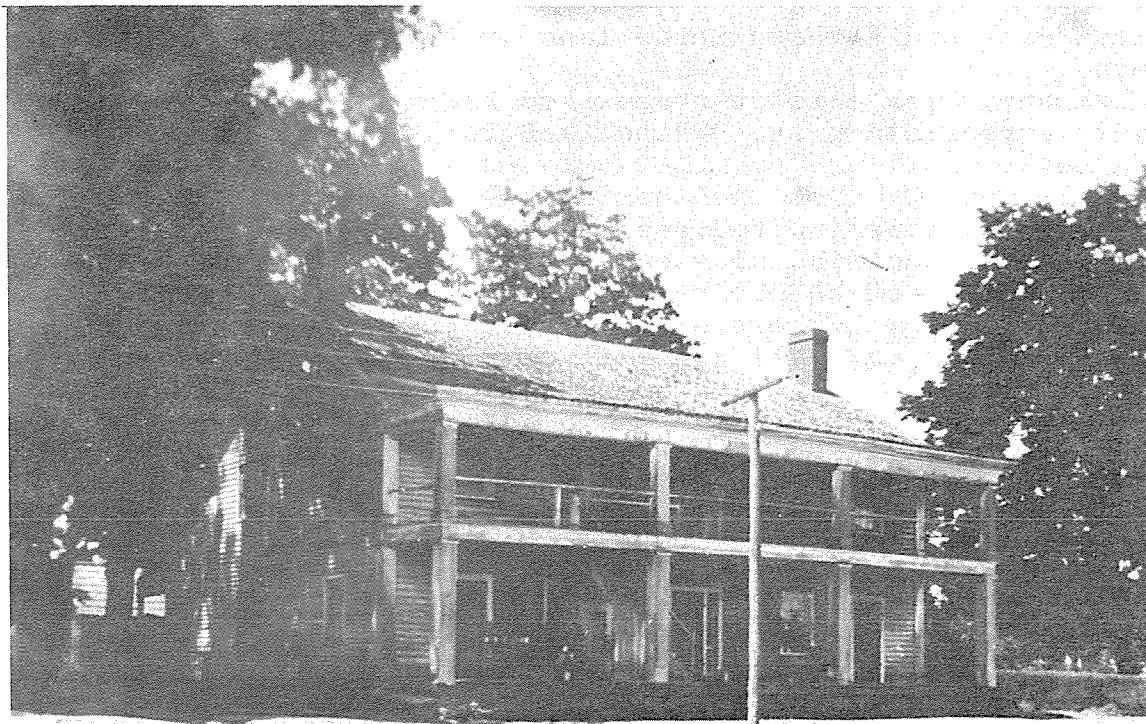
The Colvers, pioneers of 1851, came west over the Old Oregon Trail. They took up a Donation Land Claim and built the home with the idea of using it both as a hotel and as a blockhouse during Indian attacks.

It is built of 14-inch thick smoothly hewn logs, planed on the outer surface and dovetailed together at the corners. Portholes in the second story are not visible now, but early settlers fired through them at reportedly hostile Indians.

Each room on the first floor has a fireplace. A large room on the second floor was used for dances, school, spelling bees, church service and meetings. Lecturers brought information on temperance and one of them was Abigail Scott Duniway, who brought her crusade for women's suffrage to the Colver House after natives in Jacksonville had pelted her with eggs and burned her in effigy.

Sam Colver, who had been a Texas ranger under Sam Houston, was an Indian agent, a signer of the Table Rock Treaty of 1853, an importer of blooded horses, and one of the founders of the Oregon Republican party.

Colver lost his life in a storm he was either drowned or frozen while attempting to cross the ice of upper Klamath Lake on horseback.



In 1923 the house was sold to Edith Prettyman who opened it as the Blue Flower Lodge. The Peeblers purchased the property in 1949 and operated a dinner house there until gas and food rationing of World War Two forced them to close. They then turned the house into a complex of six apartments, rented to wives of soldiers at Camp White. After the war the house became a museum and antique store. It is now the residence for Mrs. Peebler.

LIBRARY SEEKS PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION



If any reader recognizes this house, please telephone Peggy Haines or Ida Clearwater in the Society's research library.

PLACE NAMES HAVE INTERESTING ORIGINS

The publication, *Oregon Geographic Names*, edited by Lewis McArthur, gives the following on southern Oregon place names:

Ashland: named in 1852 either by early settler Abel Hellman whose birthplace was Ashland County, Ohio, or in honor of Henry Clay's birthplace, Ashland, Virginia.

Butte Falls: early settlers referred to Mount McLoughlin as Snowy Butte, and the two streams northwest of that mountain were known as Big and Little Butte creeks. The settlement at the falls on Big Butte took its name from that feature.

Dead Indian Creek: it is said that about 1854 some settlers found two dead Rogue River Indians in some wigwams near the creek. They named the stream for their discovery.

Eagle Point: just east of the town is a rocky cliff which in pioneer days was a nesting place for eagles. It was called Eagle Point. The post office, established in 1872, took this name.

Medford: named around 1883 by David Loring, a civil engineer for the Oregon and California Rail Road Company. Although he was a native of Medford, Massachusetts, he claimed that he chose the name Medford because it was situated at the middle ford of Bear Creek. People in Jacksonville referred to it as Chaparral City.

DR. ROBINSON STORY CONTINUED

were no phones and the families would wait and send the hired men after the day's work was done. It was no fun but I was young and ambitious and never turned back on the job if I was able to go. Now I feel that I was faithful and helped to make some homes happy."

In 1938 Dr. Robinson died. Pallbearers at his funeral were Emil Britt, T. J. Kenney, Gus Newbury, H. K. Hanna, John Orth, and F. H. Luy.

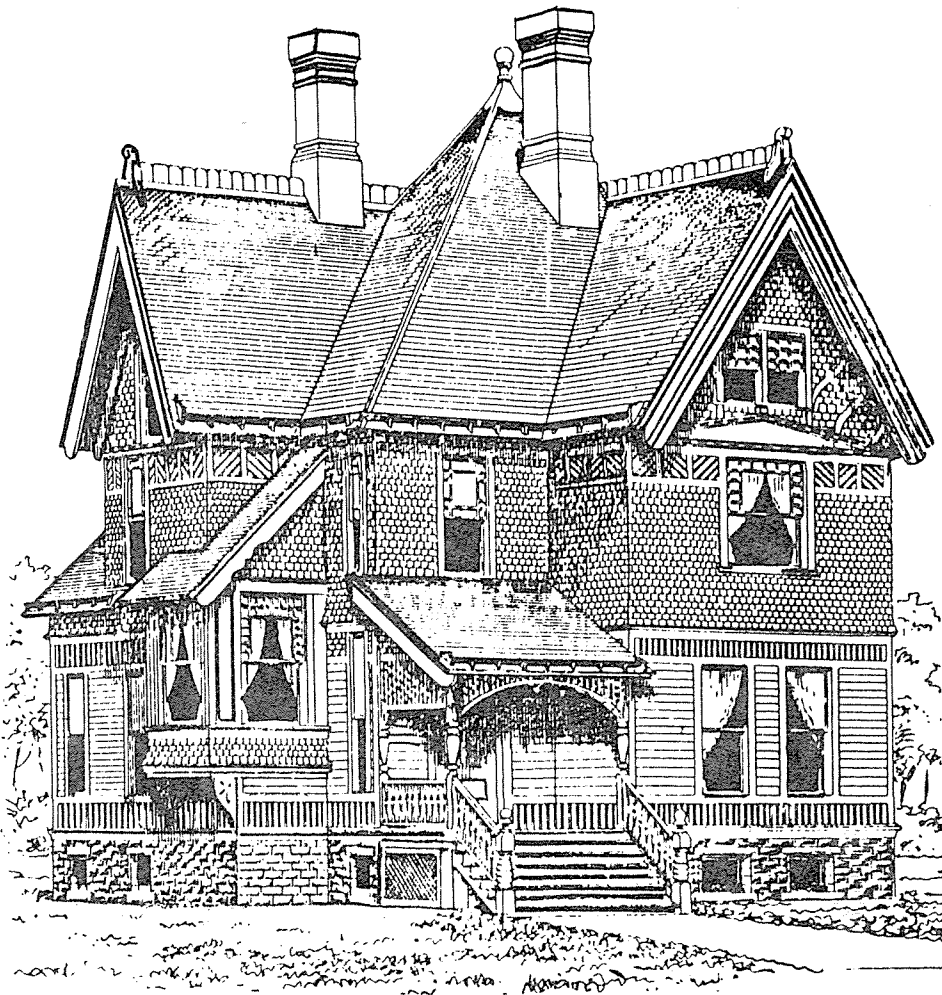


Dr. Robinson Builds Charming Home

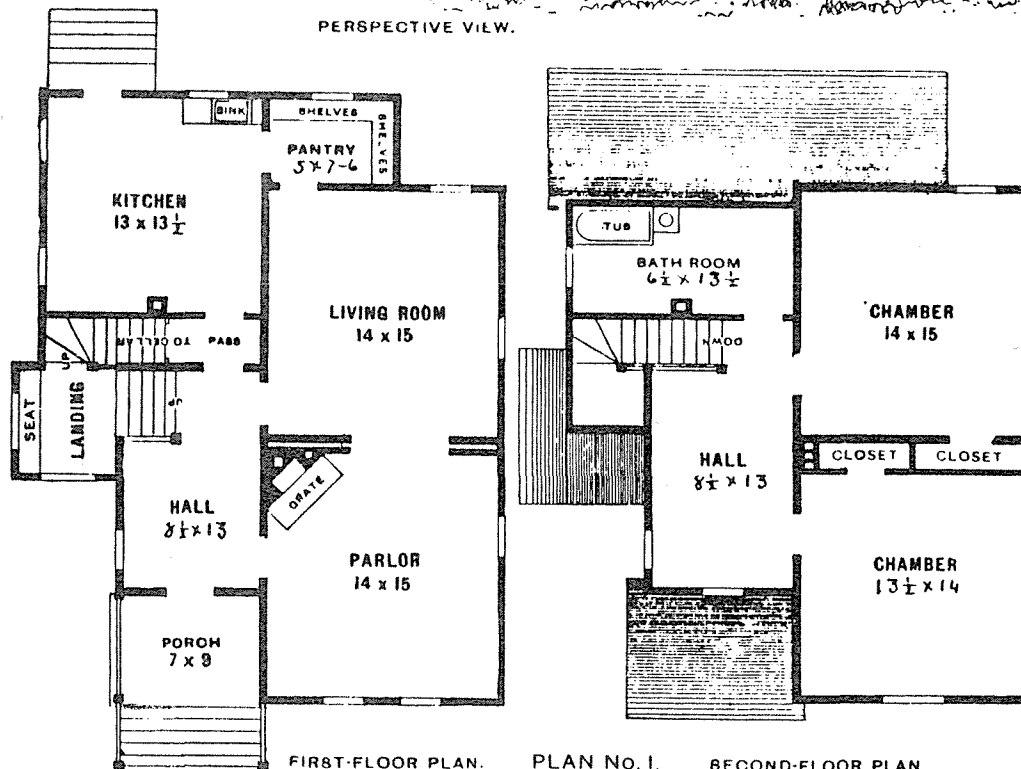
An 1879 issue of the Oregon Sentinel presented professional cards for eight doctors in Jacksonville. It has been stated that Dr. Robinson was the most popular one of them. He was able therefore to build an imposing and expensive house for his family. The picture above is a photograph of that house. The original plans and the design for the house as they appeared in an architect's catalog are reproduced on the following page. The house burned to the ground in the early 1930's.

INTERIOR.

Hall and parlor are finished in oak; balance of rooms to be finished in paint, three-coat work. Plastering, three-coat work, hard finish. Plumbing consists of sink and pump in kitchen, bath tub and bowl, with connections, gas throughout.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW.



FIRST-FLOOR PLAN.

PLAN NO. 1.

SECOND-FLOOR PLAN.

DESIGN No. 24.

SIZE.

Plan No. 1, 29 feet x 38 feet, exclusive of stair landing and steps outside.

OUTSIDE MATERIALS.

First story clapboarded, second story and gables shingled, belt wainscoted, slate roof. Painting, three-coat work. Outside blinds throughout.

NEWSLETTER PRESENTS MILLER RECIPE

Cauliflower

This is the third in the Sentinel's series of recipes from historic sources. It is from the Saturday Afternoon Club Ashland Cookbook, published in 1903, and it was contributed by Mrs. John F. Miller of Jacksonville whose home was featured in last month's newsletter.

The original recipe:

1 cauliflower	1 cup milk
2 tablespoons butter	salt, papper
2 tablespoons flour	nutmeg

Directions: Boil cauliflower in salted water until tender.

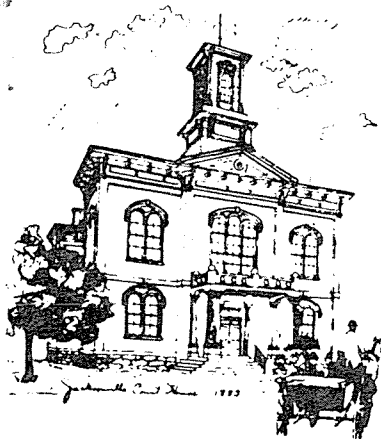
Tester of the recipe was Justine Emmens and she has added these comments: "I broke the cauliflower into flowrets. In the sauce, I used about 1/2 teaspoon of nutmeg and poured it over the cauliflower. I think it is good, and it's a change from the usual cheese sauce."

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O.Box 480-206 N. Fifth St. Jacksonville, Or. 97530 (503) 899-1847

Volume I, Number 3, March 1981

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 13
Jacksonville,
Oregon 97530



JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM • CHILDREN'S MUSEUM • BEEKMAN HOUSE • BEEKMAN BANK
ARMSTRONG HOUSE • CATHOLIC RECTORY • ROGUE RIVER VALLEY RAILWAY STATION
U.S.HOTEL • RESEARCH LIBRARY • MUSEUM SHOP

GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM FEATURED ON COVER

As high school basketball season is winding down for the year, it seems appropriate to picture on the cover of the Sentinel the Medford High School Girls Basketball Team for the year 1914. The coach, proudly taking the star position of the pose, is Don Rader. The two girls in the back row are Mildred Bliton and Ersul Stuart, center Helen Purucker, and front row, Nellie Cowan and Louraine Lawton. There seems to have been no substitute members of the team. The item in front is apparently a mascot.

The girls were district champions, having beaten the Grants Pass High School Girls 12-10, the Central Point girls 31-2, and the Ashland High School girls (2 games) 5-1 and 12-3. (It occurs to us that a basketball game in which one team scores only one point is certainly no cliff-hanger.)