

5/81

THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Cover story begins on page 8.

Director's Corner

As another summer season approaches with the expected increase in visitation, I again wonder how the Southern Oregon Historical Society used to cope with a smaller budget, limited exhibit space, and fewer staff members. Since 1950 the Society has offered a public museum to any and all. In 1946 the Society was organized; this year we will have our 35th birthday. While this fact is impressive, I must state that another organization predates the Society.

In 1876 the Southern Oregon Pioneer Association was formed to keep alive the memory of the area's history and the people who made it. Originally its membership was limited to those people and their descendants who arrived in the Oregon Territory before 1855; this date was later changed to 1858, and again to 1860.

Marjorie O'Harra, Ashland author, wrote a history of the Pioneer Association in which she stated, "There are newspaper clippings that tell of reunions attended by as many as 800 persons; ...clippings that tell of reunions attended by 200 or more. Then there is a clipping, dated January, 1978...that tells of the Association giving its treasury balance of \$400 to the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation fund."

In 1964, several years before the Association's final dissolution, the remaining members had agreed to close the Association because of lack of membership. We have been unable at the present time to discover the actual final dissolution date. If anybody knows this fact we would greatly appreciate receiving the information. Records were given to the Southern Oregon History Society, and each member was given the opportunity of becoming a member of SOHS in a Pioneer membership category.

It is important to note that members of the Pioneer Association helped to establish SOHS. While the purposes of the two organizations were not exactly the same, it is a fact that the Pioneer Association set the wheels in motion that developed the public's awareness of the need to preserve the history of southern Oregon.

In today's mobile society it was inevitable that the Pioneer Association would not continue to exist. Fewer people could qualify for membership as descendants of the pioneer families moved from the area.

The lasting value of the Pioneer Association will always be that it set the precedent of preserving southern Oregon's history.

In a very real sense SOHS has evolved as an extension of the Southern Oregon Pioneer Association. The Pioneer Association's papers are now part of the Society's records, giving proof that our roots as an historical agency go back 105 years. To those former Pioneer Association members who read this, I want them to know that we appreciate that they showed us the way. Bill Burk

Notice to Librarians

With the January change of format and title of this newsletter, all 1981 issues became Volume I, and each issue is designated with a number 1, 2, 3, etc.

Although this is the first such numbering of the paper, the Southern Oregon Historical Society has published the periodical since 1971 under the name Newsletter.

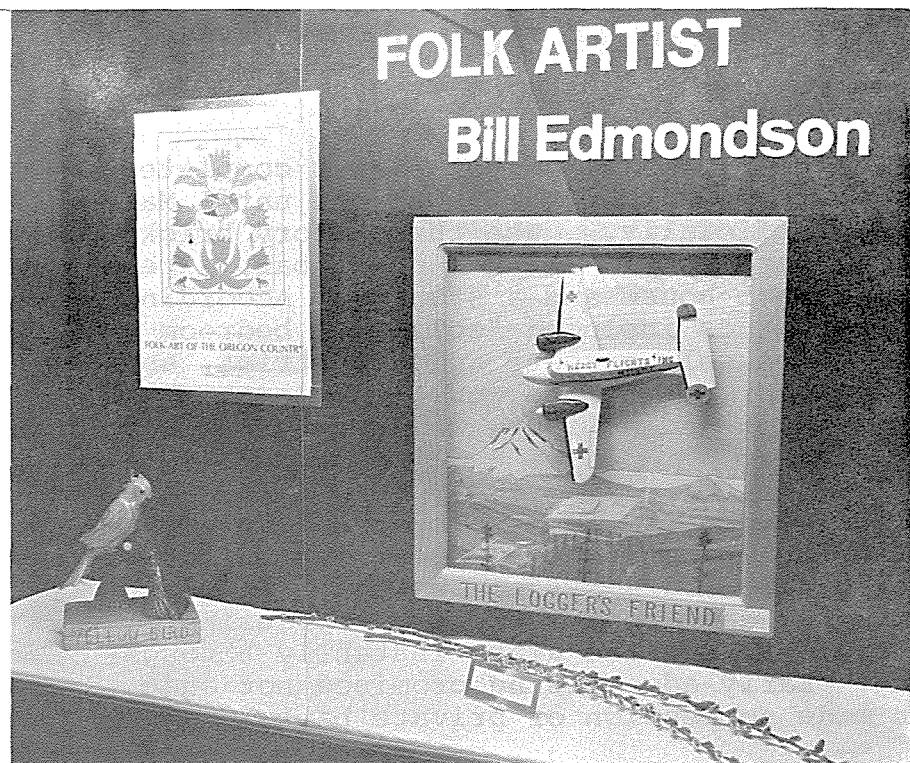
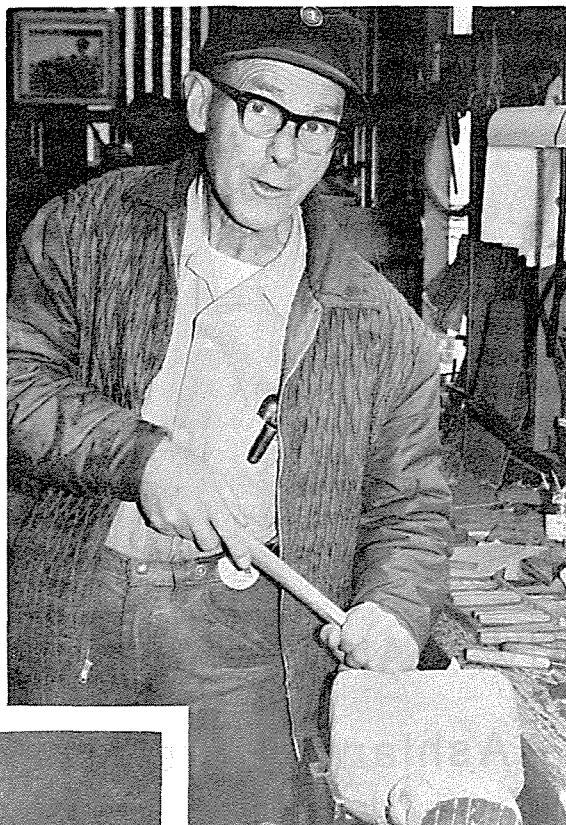
THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES		STAFF OF THE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM	
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Sculptor Represented in Folk Art Exhibit

"Webfoots and Bunchgrassers," a folk art exhibit sponsored by the Oregon Arts Commission, which was recently on display at the state Capitol, was comprised of folk art selected from all parts of Oregon. The exhibit which had opened last year at the University of Oregon Art Museum and had been on display for several months at the Oregon Historical Society, had traveled to the Renwick Gallery, the national collection of fine arts at the Smithsonian Institution. Among the artists represented is William Edmondson, a wood sculptor from Butte Falls (pictured at right).

Bill Edmondson, who was born in 1911 in Derby, Oregon, worked in the logging industry for many years. Upon his retirement he began devoting his time to woodcarving. In an oral history interview for SOHS he said: "When I retired from cutting logs, I thought I might as well have something to do, so I tried some of these." He has been making wood carvings for the last twelve years.

Making his own designs, he works with a great variety of woods to give his sculptures the shading and color he desires. The picture below is of a special exhibit at the Jacksonville Museum. The airplane carving was commissioned by Mrs. George Milligan for Mr. Milligan, the



founder of Mercy Flights Incorporated. The bird in the display was carved from Osage orange, the eye is of ebony. Edmondson uses oak, mahogany, rosewood, and maple as well as exotic woods such as teak, basswood, Jelutong, and vermillion. Tiny wooden ropes and elk horns are whittled from white oak which he steams and bends into the desired shapes.



IV. LANDMARKS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE

Ashland Hotel Is Favorite for Travelers

The Hotel Oregon, later named the Ashland Hotel, was completed on January 25, 1889, at a cost of \$26,000. It was not until March that the hotel was opened officially. The three story brick building included several parlors, a barber shop, a bar, a reading room, a billiard salon, a wash house and a stable. According to an Ashland paper the furnishings included "solid oak bedroom suites, handsome flowered Brussels carpets and tapestries, and marble wash stands and crockery." There were 46 lodging rooms, some arranged en suite. Each had a window and nearly all had closets.

The electric lighting was greatly admired by the guests who marveled at the brilliant swinging light bulbs. The builders had installed an electric fire alarm system as well. An electric "annunciator" connected each room so that the pressing of a button by any guest would spread the alarm instantly throughout the entire building. Early advertising promised hot and cold running water but made no mention of private baths.

The dining room, under the direction of Chinese Jim, the chef, soon became famous throughout the state. Travelers arranged



their schedules so they could stop at the elegant hotel and enjoy the dining room. Among the registered guests were William Howard Taft, William Jennings Bryan, Joaquin Miller and Jack London.

For the opening ceremonies, after a street parade, "the hotel was a blaze of light from office to attic. At 7 o'clock the music of the band was the signal to assemble for the celebration." Approximately 400 guests attended. They crowded into the gold ballroom and lobby and overflowed onto the broad veranda. The program featured a "bountiful \$1 banquet served in the "beautiful and spacious dining room," and entertainment included recitations, vocal solos and dancing.

The early photograph above was taken shortly after the completion of the hotel before the palm trees were planted and the new board sidewalk was installed.

In 1961, after being in operation for 72 years, the hotel property was purchased by the First National Bank of Oregon. The building was razed, and a new bank building was erected on the site.

ELLISON-WHITE CHAUTAUQUA APPEARS

Although Jacksonville had no Chautauqua Park nor grand auditorium with an inspiring dome, there was a time when Chautauqua came to town. In 1924 and 1925 an inspired City Council, composed of Chester Wendt, G.W. Godward, G.F. Lindley and Peter Fick, fereted out sufficient guarantors among the city's businessmen to secure a week of entertainment from the Ellison-White Chautauqua Company.

An advance agent, Miss Gladys Sargent, was provided by the company, and she made an extended stay in Jacksonville to oversee the sale of tickets and to set up a bouquet on the stage of the school gymnasium. For the second season the ball room at the U.S. Hotel served. At that time the building was pretty shabby, but the accoustics were better than those at the gym so a rope was extended across the bandstand and a temporary curtain was draped over it.

Season tickets sold for two dollars, which certainly was as much as most of the entertainment-seekers could afford, but which unfortunately did not secure the services of William Jennings Bryan or Madame Schumann-Heink. It did, however, bring wholesome college-type entertainers with genteel program material.

Advance advertising in the November 14, 1924, Jacksonville Post, announced the arrival of Harriet Baughman and Thelma Pfefferle, two beautiful, versatile college-type girls who featured cornet solos, piano solos, soprano solos, recitations and skits. Baughman was a "finished artist on the cornet and her double mouthing [produced] most inspiring effects."

This musical duo was followed by a group of four musicians, the Leake's Orchestral Entertainers, who offered "a lot of things musically, and [did] everything well. Vocal work, piano, drums, flute, saxaphone, marimbaphone and other musical features" were enjoyed.

A third program was given by Dr. Robert Parker Miles, an inspirational speaker. His lecture was entitled "Tallow Dips or Candles" and was a guide for those who desired to live useful lives.

The last program of the first year's season was the All-Sisters Quartet -- four good girls from Iowa who entertained with their saxaphones. The ladies, clad in fur coats, arrived a little late and hastened into the hall, down the center aisle, awash on a cloud of exotic perfume and -- horrors -- cigarette smoke. They were fun-loving girls, however, especially the smallest who played a little soprano saxaphone. She was exceptionally jolly and made faces at the others when they weren't looking. She probably didn't smoke. In fact she probably tried to get the others to stop, and, being such a mischievous, even hid their matches.

The first year of Chautauqua ended with a deficit which had to be met by the guarantors. Another group of public-spirited citizens, however, feeling that they could correct the management errors made by the first group, volunteered to serve for a second season. Programs for the second year proved to be as outstanding as those for the first, and the long anticipated week began with a magician. He was followed by another lecture.

The third program was a play, "Cappy Ricks," which came "directly from Chicago." It was a good, wholesome, clean comedy about a "rough old sea dog with a heart of gold."

The final program was presented by a family of three: a mother, a father and a son. Their program included a one-act play about ghosts. The mother unpinned her hair, which she could have sat upon, and drifted around the stage making whooshing sounds and looking

IN JACKSONVILLE IN 1924, 1925

THE ALL SISTERS QUARTET COMING

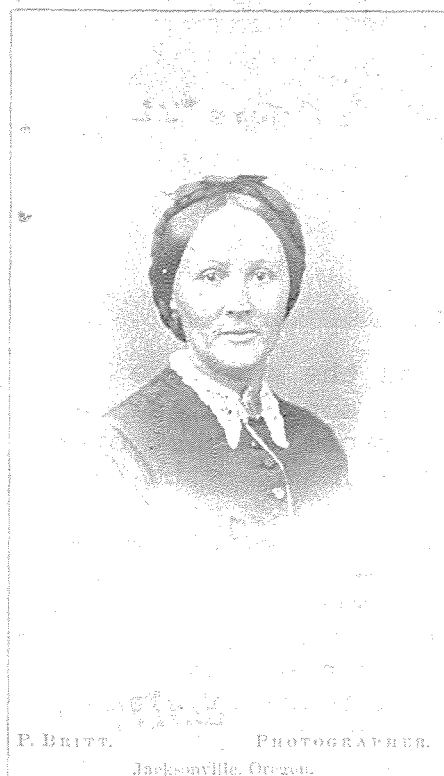
A Really Truly Family Affair for
Chautauqua Festival



spectral. The father sang "Asleep in the Deep" and the audience leaned forward to help him make the low notes. The son, who accompanied all the songs, was very accomplished. He draped a sheet over the keyboard and played "Mama Loves Papa, Papa Loves Mama" with hardly any mistakes at all.

1925, the second year of Jacksonville's chautauqua experience, was the final one. The second season may also have ended with a deficit. A campaign by Medford business interests for the removal of the courthouse was underway, and most citizens were more concerned with acquiring the necessities than with acquiring culture. Even so, the Ellison-White Company had brought to Jacksonville a touch of glamour for a brief period. Those who attended may still remember that touch of sadness when the doorman took the membership card and tore off the fourth and final perforated stub.

HELMS FAMILY BECOMES INTEGRAL PART OF E German Immigrants Make Permanent Home



Not every family of southern Oregon's sturdy pioneers left multitudes of descendants in its wake to continue its heritage and record the growing family tree. Not until the turn of the century had medical science developed sufficiently to fight the diseases which took a large toll of the younger family members. An authority of the Victorian era has stated, "Our grandparents never doubted that the coming of ten to fourteen children was the will of God and the loss of almost all of them...was equally his will." Many cemetery plots which were once lovingly tended and embellished are now hidden beneath moss and ivy and, except in burial records, can no longer be found.

Just such a situation exists with the family of Herman (Von) Helms, a native of Jacksonville in the early days. He was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1832 and at the age of 21 immigrated to San Francisco. Three years later, in 1856, he arrived in Jacksonville.

In 1862 he married Augusta Englebrecht, a native of Hamburg, Germany, who with her mother and father had settled in Yreka, California, the year before. Herman was nearly 30; Augusta, 17. They were married the day after her arrival in Jacksonville and as a bride she moved into the house where she lived until her death, fifty years later. The photographs at the left, from the Britt collection, may well have been their wedding portraits.

In the succeeding years nine children were born to the couple.

CHILDREN OF HERMAN AND AUGUSTA HELMS:

<i>Elizabeth "Lizzie"</i>	<i>Ed</i>	<i>Minnie</i>	<i>Amonda</i>	<i>Matild</i>
1863 1933	1865 1921	1867 1868	1869 1923	1871 1889

Herman Helms
Augusta Englebrecht Helms

EARLY JACKSONVILLE LIFE

Not uncommon in pioneering families three of the children died before reaching the age of 20. One daughter, Minnie, died when she was less than two years old, and two teenaged daughters, Matilda and Birdie, died within two weeks of one another in an 1889 typhoid fever epidemic.

ELIZABETH, the oldest daughter, married "Judge" James M. Cronemiller. The son of an early day Jacksonville blacksmith, Cronemiller served as County Assessor and as County Treasurer. Records list one son, David, born to the couple. "Lizzie" was active in Jacksonville's community events, and she was frequently named in the social columns of the Medford and Jacksonville papers. Their house, next to the Beekman house, became one of Jacksonville's landmarks until it burned to the ground in the 1930's.

EDWARD, the first son, was unmarried at the time of his death from a sudden heart attack. A Jacksonville native, who was a little girl at the time of Ed's death, saw the excitement on the street and ran to find out what was happening. Ed was dead on the sidewalk by the old City Hall and, according to the report, a lady, later greatly admired for her benevolent acts, had first reached the scene, was cradling his body, and "had her hand in his pocket."

Bertha "Birdie"	Emma	Anna	Harry
1873	1876	1878	1881
1889	1907	1939	1959

Elizabeth
Edward
Anna, Harry, Emma





Matilda



Amonda



Bertha

Helms Family - Continued

MINNIE, the third child, lived only a year and ten months. There is a story that she haunts the Helms house, although the present owners have not heard her knocking. One visitor to the house reported that he had seen her briefly on the stairs. A rumor persists that she was buried under the house. A member of the family, perhaps, who later exchanged her first memorial stone for a newer one, stored the first marker under the house. Doubtlessly, someone, seeing it placed against a foundation post, started the tale.

AMONDA, the third daughter, never married. She lived in the family home until her death in 1923. The citizens of Jacksonville held her in high regard, and she was quite famous in the community for her cooking and baking. She became a member of the Southern Oregon Pioneer Society.

ANNA, the beauty of the family, married Fred B. Martin of Portland and moved to that city. The marriage was an unhappy one, and the couple soon separated. In order to support herself, Anna purchased a boarding house and sent for her sister, EMMA, to help her with its operation. Still deeply in love with his wife and obsessed with the idea that Emma was instrumental in Anna's leaving him, Mr. Martin purchased a revolver and went to the boarding house where he shot both Emma and Anna and killed himself. Emma died almost at once, but Anna recovered from her bullet wound. A note left by Mr. Martin requested that he and Anna be buried "side by side as far as possible from Emma." Anna returned to the family home in Jacksonville where she lived until she married a second time.

Except for their obituaries little information exists about MATILDA and BERTHA. Apparently both were beloved by their friends and acquaintances, and "Birdie" had developed a marked singing ability. At the time of their deaths Matilda was 18, Birdie, 16.

HARRY, the younger son and last of the children, is remembered as a handsome and popular young man in Jacksonville in the early part of the century. He married twice and was living in the Applegate area at the time of his death in 1959.

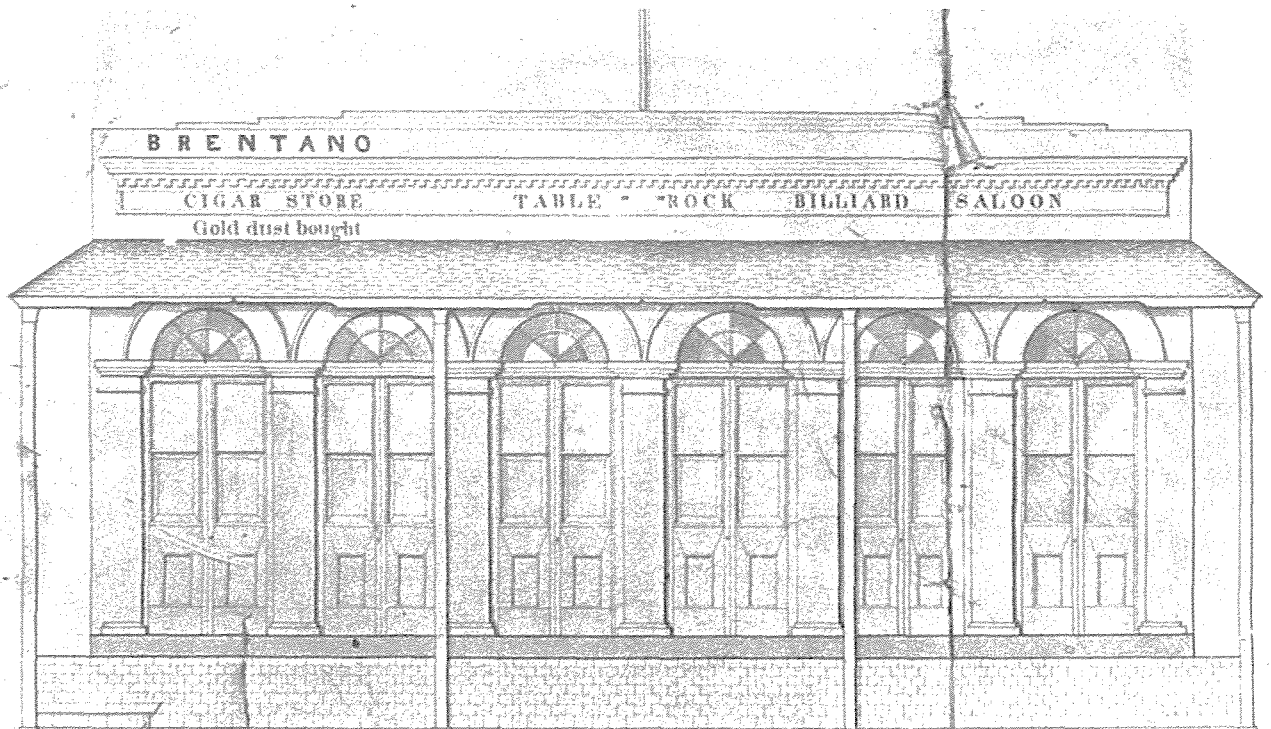
Herman, the father, died in 1899, and the mother, Augusta, lived on until 1911.

In the volume, "Portraits of a Frontier, the Photographs of Peter Britt," the author has included a group picture of the Helms family with the caption: "Six daughters without much hope of marriage." He adds, "Could this have prompted Britt's outburst to one sitter, 'Miss, if you want a beautiful face, you must bring one with you'?" This is a cheap shot. Seeing the group in the stagy pose of the period and noting a couple of unbecoming hair-do's, he assumes they are fair game. This family must not be dismissed in such a cavalier manner. They were respected and loved members of the community, deeply devoted to one another, and an important part of the tapestry of Jacksonville at an earlier and more graceful time.

Helms, Partner Construct Table Rock Saloon

In the fall of 1858 Herman Helms became part owner of the Table Rock Bakery, a small wood frame building which, since the 1850's, had been located on the present site of the Table Rock Billiard Saloon. Adjoining the bakery on the north was a cigar and tobacco shop. The proprietors of the bakery shop not only sold baked goods but provided space for a butcher shop, groceries and supplies.

By 1860 Helms and an associate, John Wintjen, had acquired the property on the north and had erected a larger, arcaded brick building on the site, adjoining the present Masonic Temple. They called



WINTJEN AND HELMS

Helms Builds Imposing Home - Story Continued

their new building the Table Rock Billiard Saloon. The name may well have been adopted from the early name of Jacksonville, when, for a brief period, it was called Table Rock City. A picture of Herman Helms behind the bar is on the cover of this issue.

The saloon soon became one of the social and political headquarters of southern Oregon; court decisions were made there, it was the scene of many trials, and financial deals were transacted there. The furnishings included a pool table which had been sent around the Horn and had been packed by mules into Jacksonville from Eureka, California. Reports indicate that the saloon offered a superior free-lunch counter. Featured also was The Cabinet, a small museum which contained a valuable collection of pioneer relics. An early inventory list included the first piece of gold found in Jackson County, Indian relics, pioneer firearms, freaks of nature, and an extensive mineral and coin collection.

At the death of Herman Helms in 1899 the management of the saloon was taken over by his oldest son, Ed, who successfully operated it until his retirement in 1914. No reason was given for its closure other than the fact that its license was due to be renewed. For many years the building stood empty. In 1960 the interior was gutted by fire, leaving only the facade. In recent years the inside has been rebuilt and the old Table Rock Saloon building now houses two shops.

In earlier years the partnership of Wintjen and Helms had prospered. Their success was evident by the large two-story residence constructed for the Helms family in 1878. It is pictured here.



In 1853 Helms had built a log cabin to which he had taken his bride, Augusta, in 1862. Retaining the cabin as kitchen and pantry, he had a large two-story addition built onto the front. The exterior has been described as "Austrian with a strong French influence." Details

of the house are on file in the Library of Congress. Upon the completion of the home, the Jacksonville Democratic Times reported, "It is one of the most elegant residences in town."

Helms had all of his household furniture packed in from Cresent City. Outstanding pieces included an organ, horsehair upholstered parlor furniture, Dresden lamps, and a unique sleigh bed.

In 1926, three years after the death of Amonda, Harry, the last member of the family to live in Jacksonville, put the house on the market. It appears that he simply packed his suitcases and walked away from the house, leaving the furnishings intact, including rugs, rare dishes and porcelain, and the pictures on the wall. A mirror from the Table Rock Saloon was still hanging in a bedroom.

Did the money run out? Did the value of the bonds tumble? Did the bottle become too attractive? The vigor and perseverance of the parents are not always apparent in a second generation. The pioneers were survivors. Remembering the hardships, were they overly solicitous of their children? In any case one must wonder just what circumstances came about to prompt the last of a family to abandon his background and an entire lifetime of memories.

Today the house has been lovingly restored by Hugh and Cathy Brown.

SENTINEL PRESENTS VIGNETTE OF LIBRARIAN



With this issue the Sentinel introduces the first vignette of SOHS employees. Ida Clearwater, the assistant librarian, has been associated with the museum for a longer term than any other staff member. She presently works with the photographic collection and does historical and genealogical research. Having served as a volunteer receptionist at the museum from 1971-1974, she became a regular member of the library staff in 1975.

Before her marriage, Ida had a brief career as a dancer in an all-Indian Girl Revue on the Orpheum circuit in Los Angeles. She attended Humboldt State University, majoring in education. In her spare time she makes dolls and has a valuable collection of antique dolls. She is a member of the Rogue Valley Doll Club. Her interests also include extensive research on Cherokee Indians, and she hopes eventually to publish a book on the facts she has discovered about them.

She has held office as the president, the vice-president, and the treasurer of the Jacksonville Booster Club. She is now on their board of directors, and is a member of the Jacksonville Preservation Committee.

McCALL HOUSE RECEIVES SOHS MARKER

The application of Phyllis S. Knecht for an SOHS marker for the John McCall House, 153 Oak Street, Ashland, was approved in October, 1980. The following information is taken from forms prepared by Kay Atwood:

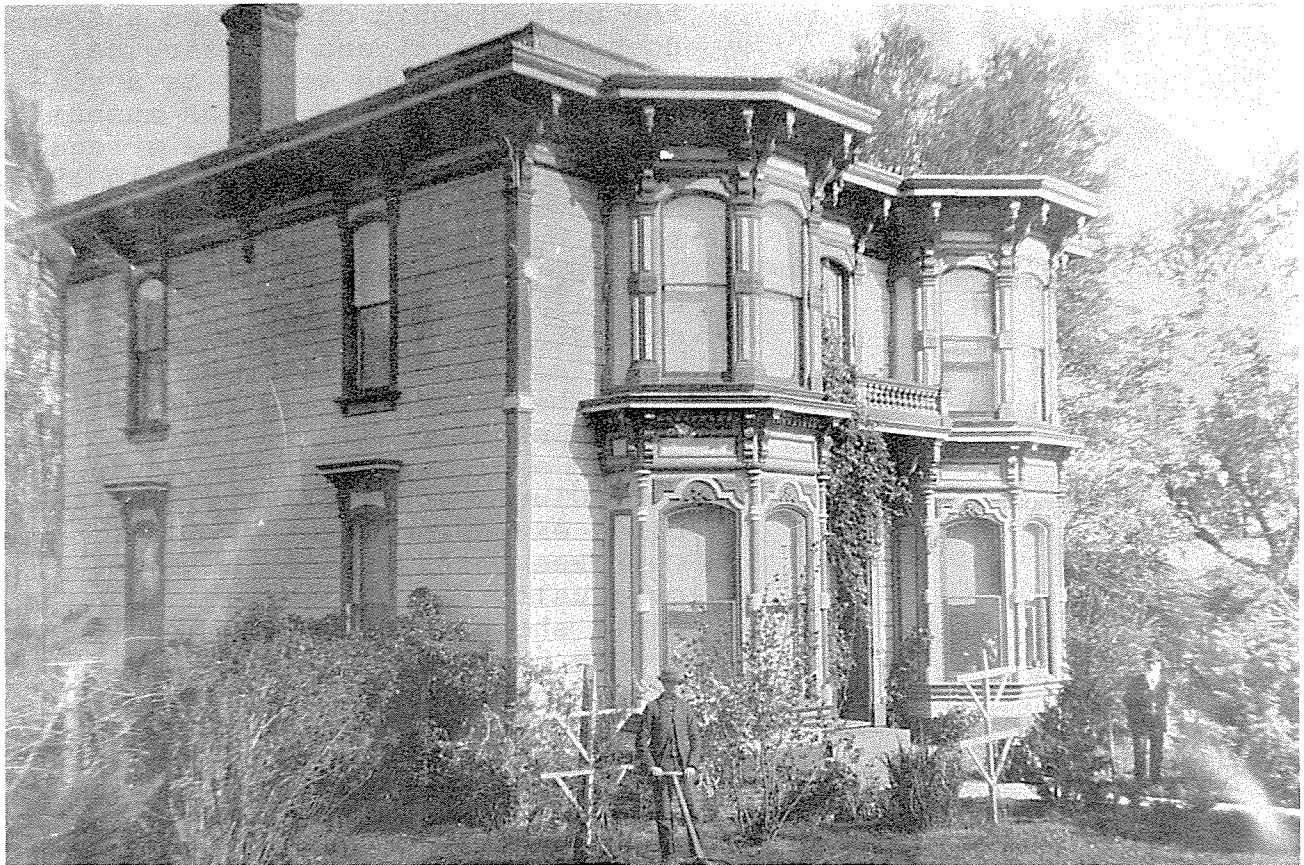
"The John McCall House is Ashland's outstanding example of Italianate architecture...[It was] completed in January, 1883...The house was associated with its original family...until 1864.

"John Marshall McCall was involved in almost every aspect of life in his community and the region." He came to Jackson County in 1852, mined first at Yreka and later on tributaries of the Applegate River outside of Jacksonville. Until 1856 he farmed on Wagner Creek and then ran a store at Galice. In 1859 he purchased an interest in the Ashland Flour Mill. When the First Oregon Cavalry was formed in 1861, he was commissioned 2nd lieutenant of Company B.

In 1867 he founded the Ashland Woolen Mill. The following year he married Lindsay Applegate's daughter Theresa. She died six years later leaving three children. In 1876 he married Mary Anderson Brown, a long-time Ashland resident.

He was greatly involved in the community of Ashland. His J. M. McCall Company, founded in 1873, flourished. In 1879 he became a founder of the Ashland Library Association. His commission as Brigadier General of the Oregon State Militia was awarded in 1883. He was one of the incorporators of the Bank of Ashland in 1884. He became first treasurer of the city of Ashland. In 1876 he was elected as a representative in the Oregon State Legislature. In 1891 he served again as representative. In addition to these other duties he became a member of the Board of Regents of the State Normal School.

He died on November 7, 1895. "The house from which his funeral procession left was one of Ashland's finest homes."



MONUMENT WORKS SERVE SOUTHERN OREGON

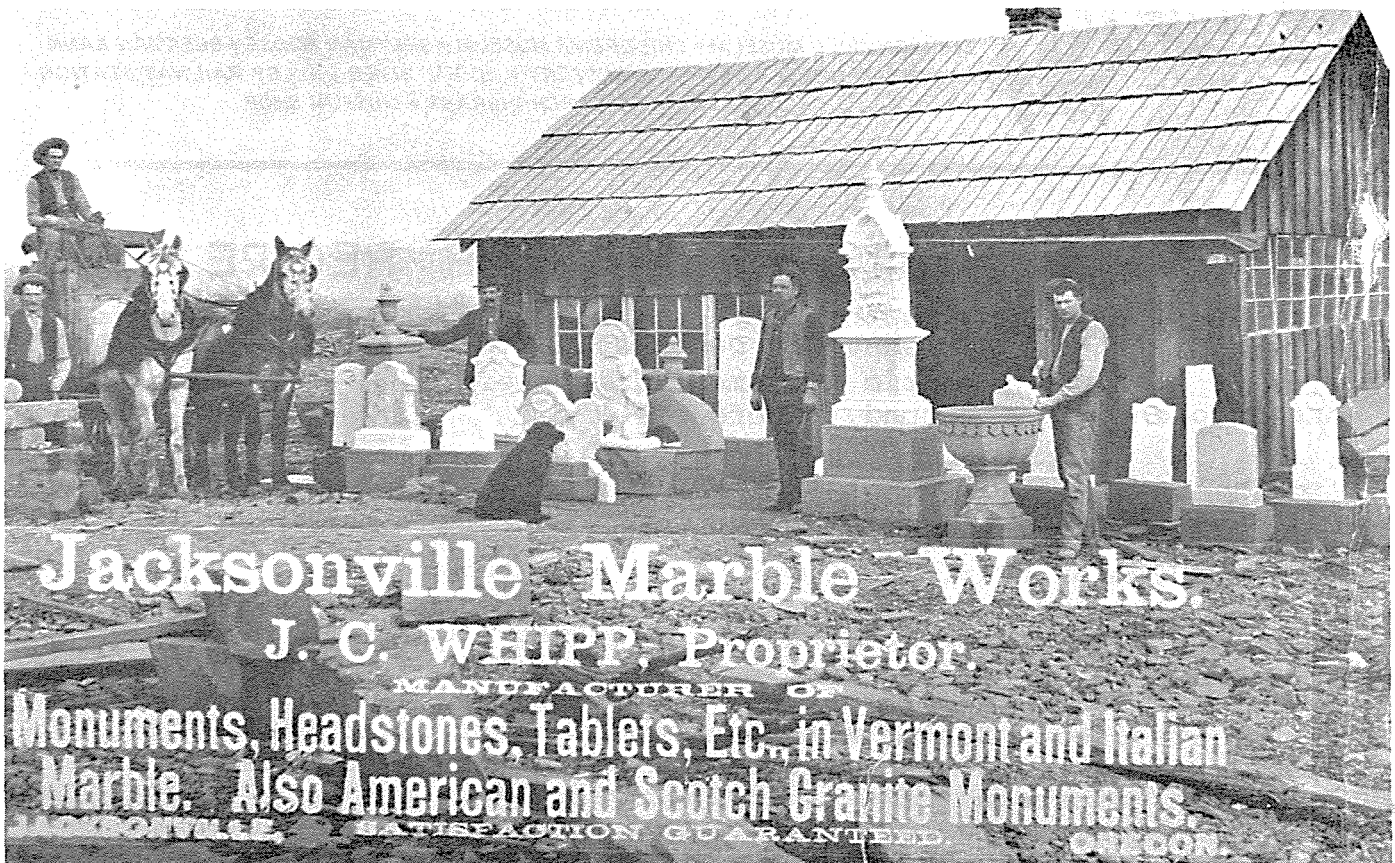
The Jacksonville Marble Works was located at the corner of Oregon and California Streets on the former site of Linn's Furniture Manufacturing Company which had burned. Today the telephone building is located on that site.

The Marble Works was established by J. C. Whipp who left England in 1866 where he had served in the British Navy. In Jacksonville he married Florence (Hoffman) Shipley who with her family had crossed the plains in 1852.

In an age when death was commonplace, and a weekly trip to the cemetery was an obligation, memorial stones were virtual necessities. Those who could afford them purchased marbles engraved with eloquent verses and lavish embellishments. Whipp was able to hire expert sculptors and marble workers. Stones in the photograph attest to their skill in carving. In the center of the display appears the sculptured angel which Dr. J. W. Robinson purchased as a memorial for his two children who died in 1890 (see March issue). An item in the Oregon Sentinel of September 4, 1886, states that, "Whipp is doing a rushing business. He has just returned from Josephine County where he set up a large number of tombstones. [In Jacksonville] he is putting up a handsome enclosure for C. C. Beekman."

The business was in existence for less than 15 years, but during that time Whipp provided many memorial stones which are still standing in the cemeteries of southern Oregon.

In 1903 he closed the marble works, and, with his family, moved from southern Oregon. He was apparently a man of varied interests: before coming to Jacksonville he had been one of the builders of the famous Tillamook lighthouse; after leaving Jacksonville he became a rancher in Fallon, Nevada. He died there at the age of 81.



SOHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The following became members of the Southern Oregon Historical Society in the month of March, 1981, and we welcome them.

Albert & Gladys Case, Grants Pass
Stanton & Ruth Culp, Winslow, Wa.
Bruce Kyle, Anchorage, Alaska
Margaret Ann Cole, Willow, Ca.
Stuart E. Foster, Medford
Franklyn D. Mahar, Arcata, Ca.

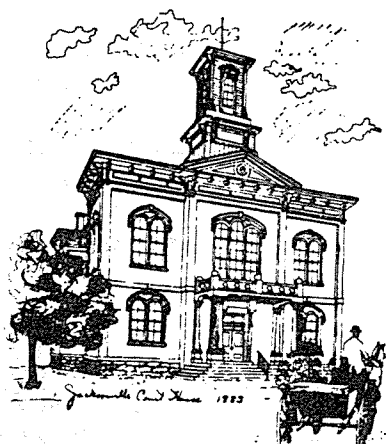
Mr. & Mrs. Orie S. Moore, Medford
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Denman, Medford
Lana Draisner, Jacksonville
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Fenger, Jacksonville
Robert & Marsha McBaine, Ashland
Mr. & Mrs. John Darling, Ashland

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ARMSTRONG HOUSE • CATHOLIC RECTORY • ROGUE RIVER VALLEY RAILWAY STATION
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NEWSLETTER FEATURES PIONEER RECIPE

THE recipe for May -- a month with no R's -- is for Escalloped Oysters. It is taken from the Jacksonville Democratic Times, January 30, 1880. The recipe is for a romantic twosome, dining before the fireplace. [Pioneer voice in background, "Where else?"]

Escalloped Oysters

2½ cups crushed oyster crackers
2 10-oz. jars of fresh oysters
1½ cups of milk

1 egg beaten
salt and pepper
¼ cup butter

Poach the oysters in their own juice until they are firmed-up -- about 5 minutes. Drain and reserve the juice. Cover the bottom of a buttered casserole with 1/4 inch of cracker crumbs. Next put in a layer of oysters. Dot with butter. Repeat layering until all ingredients are used. Season with salt and pepper. Stir the beaten egg into the milk and oyster liquor and pour over the casserole. Dot the top with butter and bake it in the oven.

The recipe was tested by Sherry Brown of Jacksonville who added the instructions: Bake it at 350° for 25-30 minutes, until brown on top.