

# THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



LAYING CORNER STONE  
AND DEDICATING  
ELKS TEMPLE  
OCT. 15, 1910  
ASHLAND,  
ORE.

# Director's Corner

It is with much excitement that I announce that SOHS's latest publication is coming off the press even as I mention this fact to you. In 1980 we published *The Jacksonville Story* by Richard Engeman. This year we have just printed *Ashland, The First 130 Years* by Marjorie O'Harra. Mrs. O'Harra is a well-known local writer who was Regional Editor of the Medford Mail Tribune for ten years. Her works have appeared in many newspapers and magazines. She is the author of the booklet, *The Ashland Story*, and co-author of *The Applegate Trail*.

Well aware of her great interest in southern Oregon history in general and in Ashland history in particular, SOHS made a contract with her for the research and writing of the book. The project fortunately proved to be a labor of love for Mrs. O'Harra who discovered the study in depth of Ashland's beginnings and its first 130 years to be most exciting. In this book, as in her other historical works, Mrs. O'Harra has emphasized accuracy. Some writers may find research an honorous task, but she has eagerly accepted the challenge, and her volume will be a valuable addition to the reference shelf.

The financial rewards for writing local history are not great. The writer may spend as much effort and dedication on a book of local interest as he would on a national best seller. The publishing business is one of fierce competition with large overhead costs. An author's royalties are sometimes doubtful. The reward often comes with the critical acclaim he receives.

We hope you will invest a little toward your understanding of our local history and purchase Mrs. O'Harra's book. The 200-page publication is not a picture book, but it does contain many photographs very carefully selected to support the written material. The book will retail at local bookstores for \$8.95; SOHS members will get a 15% discount if they purchase the book from the Society's bookstore located in the museum annex in Jacksonville.

I would like to take space here to thank Jackson County Federal Savings and Loan Association for their generous grant to SOHS which made the book a reality. This locally based institution, having been in business in the area for nearly 75 years, is vitally interested in the history and the future of southern Oregon. Thank you, JCF; we hope you will continue to support historical projects.

To members of SOHS I have this comment, "Your order, please."

Bill Burk

# SEASON'S GREETINGS

## THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*A Merry Christmas*



*A Merry Christmas*

## LAST CHRISTMAS, NINETEENTH CENTURY

*These items are from the southern Oregon Democratic Times, published during the holiday week, 1899. They were contributed by Ida Clearwater.*

**T**he City Drug Store is displaying a large assortment of handsome goods for Christmas and New Year's presents, consisting of Sterling Silver novelties, clothbound books from 25¢ up, children's books, fine perfumes, toilet cases, albums, berry dishes, purses, etc. Everything is up to date and very reasonable.

GIVE DR. ROBINSON A CALL!

**A** Grand Ball will be given at Rose's Hall on Applegate Monday night on December 25, 1899. Music will be furnished by Prof. Barndt's celebrated orchestra, while Mrs. Rose will provide one of her popular suppers. Tickets, including horse feed, \$2.00.

**R**affle for \$100 in U. S. Gold Coin will take place at the Banquet Saloon in Jacksonville, Saturday December 23, 1899. The person throwing

the highest number of dice will get \$75 and the lowest throw takes \$25. Chances will range from 1¢ to \$1. A fine turkey supper will be set after the raffle.

FOLLOW UP, *Democratic Times*, Dec. 28. First prize was shared by J.W. Bybee and W.C. Deneff; each threw 46. J.C. McCully was low man with 19 points.

**T**he Presbyterian Church, on Saturday evening, was well attended by a large crowd who came to witness the exercises which were well rendered.

Prayer.....S.H. Jones  
Anthem .....Mrs. Beekman's Class  
"A Christmas Greeting"..Vance Colvig  
"Why Do You Like Christmas?".recitation in concert..Miss Prim's Class  
"A Christmas Hymn"..Sweetie Robinson  
"The Advent Night".....Verne Whipp

CHRISTMAS TREE: W.M. Colvig, acting as Santa Claus, gave out sweetmeats.



## MARJORIE EDENS, HISTORIAN AND EDITOR

**M**arjorie Edens was born in West Virginia but when she was six her folks brought her to southern Oregon, the Land of the Pear and the Pine. At the time she just came along for the ride, but since then she has come to realize the move was a profitable and eventful step. She was graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1958, a member of the next to the last graduating class from those hallowed halls. After high school she attended Lewis and Clark College, majoring in business law.

In 1961 she emigrated to Nashville, Tennessee, where she became secretary to the Registrar of the College of Arts and Sciences at Vanderbilt University. From there she moved to Dallas where she accepted a secretarial position at SMU.

She happily returned to southern Oregon in 1976 and began her association with the Southern Oregon Historical Society as a volunteer worker. She joined the staff as a part-time weekend receptionist, and in July, 1977, she became a full-time museum aide. She assumed her present position in May 1978.

In addition to being editor of the SOHS newsletter, *The Table Rock Sentinel*, Marjorie is, technically speaking, the Field Representative and Researcher of the Society. This grand title means that she interviews people with historically interesting and important backgrounds, makes tape recordings of their statements and prepares transcripts of the interviews for the permanent files. The extensive library of tapes now includes significant oral contributions made by early southern Oregon citizens such as Seely Hall, Dolph Phipps, Vance Colvig, Jr., Mary Mathes Van Dyke, Clarence Lane and Will Warner.

"Meeting these interesting people is a great pleasure," Marjorie said, "and recording their first hand reminiscences of southern Oregon is both intriguing and rewarding." Preserving our heritage is a vital and growing program, she feels, and the history of early southern Oregon is no less important than the history of early America.



Charles A.S.Vivian  
Founder of the Elks

## The B.P.O.E.



CHARLES A. S. VIVIAN  
Was Talented Entertainer

### ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDFORD TEMPLE

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks had its beginning in November 1867. At that time a young actor from the music halls of London, Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, hoping to find fame and fortune in America, secured his first professional theatrical booking in New York City. For the first few days of the week Vivian found his engagement at the American Theater highly entertaining and profitable. Then Sunday rolled around. Under New York's Blue Laws every place of relaxation and amusement in the city was closed and dark. Sitting in his room, staring at four boarding house walls, was a pastime that held little appeal for the youthful, energetic Vivian. Just one Sunday spent with no social diversion, he decided, was quite enough. For the next Sunday he secured the attic of the boarding house and invited several of his theatrical friends to join him for a social afternoon and evening. This was the first of what became a regularly scheduled convivial meeting. Those attending the weekly all-male get-togethers waggishly called themselves the Jolly Corks and elected Charles Vivian, as leader, their Imperial Cork.

When the Jolly Corks, with a membership of 15, became too large an organization for the boarding house attic, they rented permanent quarters on the Bowery and continued holding their Sunday activities there. The members eventually came to the conclusion that, although their original purpose of meeting for good fellowship was commendable, they should perhaps adopt in addition a somewhat more worthy cause. When one of the group died and left his family destitute, the other members resolved that their association should become a service organization that would come to the aid of others who were in distress.

Selection of a name brought about a great debate. Vivian, who had belonged to the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes in England, suggested "Buffaloes" but others wanted something more original. They hit upon the elk, as "strong in defense of its own, timorous of wrong-doing and possessing other qualities that man might emulate to his benefit." The Elk won over the Buffalo by a vote of 8 to 7.

On February 16, 1868, the P.P.O.E., with a membership of 15, came into being. Its object was to promote the welfare of each other. After staging a successful public ball, the club received a flood of applications for membership. With the eventual elimination of the requirement that members be theatrical performers, the order grew rapidly. Although the New York Legislature denied them a charter in 1868, erroneously thinking the club had been formed for tax



*Top to bottom: T. E. Daniels, C. L. Reams, Frank C. Clark*

evasion purposes, a corporate charter was enthusiastically granted in 1871. On the day the governor signed the bill, the Elks began their expansion. By 1880 there were ten lodges and the membership had passed the thousand mark.

**T**he Medford Lodge, B.P.O.E., No. 1168, was instituted on September 23, 1909, in the Angle Opera House, a three story brick building which stood at the southeast corner of Main and Central on the site of the Mini Park. There were 43 charter members, each of whom, at the time, held membership in some other Elks lodge throughout the country.

Earlier there had been considerable opposition to the establishment of a Medford Lodge. Some members felt that such a move would seriously jeopardize the Ashland lodge, which was then building its own new home. Elks there had incurred a large indebtedness, and they needed a strong territory from which to draw memberships.

In spite of the opposition, several enthusiastic Elks in Medford were not to be discouraged. T. E. Daniels circulated a list for signatures to a petition to the Grand Lodge, asking for dispensation for a Medford Lodge. Ninety members from various nearby lodges signed the petition. It was discovered, however, when the petition was at last presented to the Grand Lodge, that Medford had no proper census to substantiate claims of sufficient population for a lodge. Members of the city council agreed that a municipal census was overdue, and an order was issued. The new census count revealed beyond doubt that Medford was entitled to an Elks lodge. The dispensation was granted in June 1909. Unfortunately the district deputy could not appear in Medford before the Grand Lodge convened, and Medford's dispensation expired in July. Back to square one.

In spite of this set back, that summer Daniels and J. Court Hall boarded the Portland Special Elks' Train and went to Los Angeles to attend an assembly of the Grand Lodge. While on the train the two men worked diligently to secure support from high officers in the order from the Portland area. Several influential men promised to help in the appeal. It was agreed that Ashland's territory could be enlarged to the south to make up for the loss of Medford. Thus after more than a year of continued effort, the Medford Elks succeeded in the realization of their plans and a local branch was established.

After two months of preliminary preparations the Medford Lodge was ready for its initial celebration. Elks traveled from California, Washington and all parts of Oregon to attend the institution of the lodge. The dedication was presided over by Acting District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Edgar Beard of Baker City. The first officers elected in the new

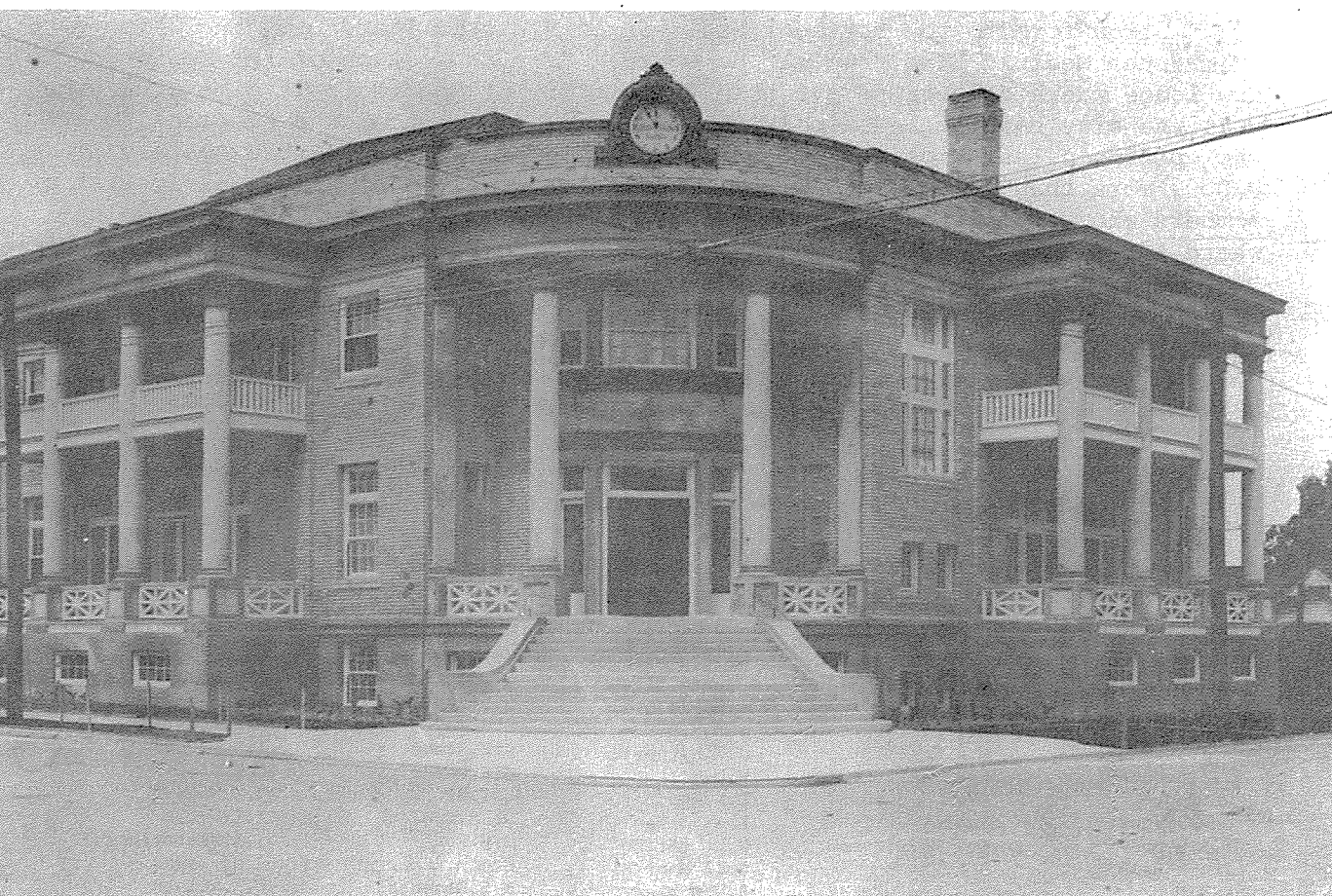


Medford Lodge were: Exalted Ruler, T.E.Daniels; Esteemed Leading Knight, W.W.Eifert; Esteemed Loyal Knight, F.W.Hollis; Esteemed Lecturing Knight, C.L.Reams; Secretary, D.B.Russell; Treasurer, John J. Wilkinson; Tyler, C.W.Palm; Trustees, I.L.Hamilton, A.A.Davis and H. Von der Hellen; Representative to the Grand Lodge, W.S.Crowell. The following men were charter members:

R.F.Antle	E.D.Elwood	W.J.Martin	M.J.Reddy
O.C.Boggs	J.E.Enyart	G.H.Merritt	D.B.Russell
C.F.Burke	Earl C. Gaddis	A.H.Miller	E.R.Seely
J.H.Cochran	J.C.Goble	H.L.Montgomery	E.R.Vandyke
F.L.Colvig	J.Court Hall	H.E.Morrison	S.G.Vandyke
R.J.Conroy	J.L.Hamilton	J.D.Olwell	J.S.Vilas
Grover Corum	J.D.Heard	John Orth	H.Von der Hellen
W.S.Crowell	F.W.Hollis	C.W.Palm	L.E.Wakeman
T.E.Daniels	P.A.Hussey	J.T.Phlegar	C.E.Whistler
A.A.Davis	J.W.Jacobs	T.E.Pottenger	John J.Wilkinson
W.W.Eifert	L.L.Jacobs	C.L.Reams	

By the next election in March 1910, the membership had grown to 103. During that year the lodge secured the site for a new Elks building. Two years later, in 1912, a Building and Financing Committee was appointed. This committee was made up of Leon B. Haskins, A.C.Burgess, L.M.Lyon, R.R.Ebel, Scott Davis, C.E.Gates, S.I.Brown, William Bates and T.E.Daniels. The architect was Frank C. Clark, credited with being the first professionally trained architect to come to the Rogue River Valley. Arriving in 1902, he brought with him the influences of the most advanced architectural styles of the time.

On September 23, 1915, the \$50,000 building was ready for its dedication. It was designed to reflect Greek Corinthian architecture, which was considered as particularly appropriate for a men's club building. "Massive, substantial



and magnificent, the building, a fine example of early Twentieth Century "neo-Classic Revival" architecture, (was) a credit to the artistic yet practical ideas of the architect." The corner lot enabled him to design an impressive circular stairway approach to the entrance on the second floor. Immense concrete pillars were designed to support large open verandas on both floors.

Particularly splendid were the marble wainscoted vestibule, the reception hall, which featured a 17 foot wide fireplace reaching to the ceiling, the library, the writing room, the main parlor and a dainty rest room for ladies, tastefully decorated by the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of the membership; the ladies provided the money for the furnishings. The building also featured a billiard hall with the most modern equipment, a card room, finished in scorched native fir wainscoating and a grill room.

A special Elks edition of *The Medford Sun*, celebrating the grand opening, states that after "leaving the club rooms one passes up a wide stairway to the lodge room or third floor. This floor is given over entirely to lodge and social purposes." The room "75 feet long by 55 feet wide with a ceiling of 23 feet in height" was designed to impress visiting dignitaries as well as to delight local members. Space was provided for an organ loft which was "to be furnished later with a magnificent musical instrument." A large banquet hall, waiting and ante rooms occupied the rest of the third floor space.

The basement floor was planned for a gymnasium, bowling alleys and shower baths. A private inter-communicating telephone system, automatically operated, connected all departments. The exalted ruler could communicate from his station to any part of the building. Seven removable flagpoles were provided for decorative purposes. Long streamers of electric lights and pennants could be suspended from them if the importance of a party called for spectacular effects.

**R**od Reid, at the request of the Medford Elks recently completed a nomination form to the National Register of Historic Places for inclusion of the Medford Elks temple. He wrote: "The dedication of the Medford Elks' new lodge was a celebrated event in the history of Medford. It came at a time when the city had reached a peak in its social and economic development." At the opening celebration, when the population of Medford was approximately 9,000, more than 1500 Elks and their ladies attended. This is an early list of members who were living in or near Medford in 1915. Names which appear elsewhere in the story, are not included here.

O. Arnspiger	W. T. Dozier	Otto C. King	J. E. Olmstead	B. S. Stancliffe
Bert E. Anderson	J. F. Donnell	I. R. Kline	A. P. Olson	C. F. Schieffelin
O. Allendorfer	R. B. Dow	Sam Kroschel	A. E. Orr	O. F. Schmidt
C. W. Ashpole	Alex Duff	F. Karl Knapp	J. S. Orth	W. C. Schmidt
Wm. Blake	Dr. J. J. Emmens	A. L. Lawrence	L. M. Osborne	W. H. Singler
John Barneburg	M. J. Emerick	E. H. Lamport	M. Ottoman	W. H. Smith
S. P. Barneburg	M. L. Erickson	George Lindley	G. T. O'Brien	J. A. Slorah
James W. Bates	Glen Fabrick	Harry D. Ling	Chas. Paul	A. W. Stone
H. G. Bates	I. R. Fridegar	A. L. Loomis	H. F. Platt	E. Soutter
J. E. Barkdull	Fred Fick	W. H. Lydiard	O. J. Patton	J. T. Sullivan
J. H. Bellenger	R. H. Foster	P. J. Maloy	John Perl	C. Y. Tengwald
Jas. D. Bell	Elmer T. Foss	John C. Mann	G. E. Pierce	Perry Terwilliger
W. T. Beveridge	Guy L. Ferguson	H. C. Mackey	W. E. Phipps	C. E. Terrell
Tyson Beall	Thomas Fuson	Claud Metz	Ben Plymale	H. A. Thierolf
N. S. Bennett	Chas. B. Gay	J. F. Meader	G. W. Porter	W. B. Thompson
Louis Bennett	C. C. Garrett	G. F. Merriman	Geo. Putnam	E. G. Trowbridge, Jr.
R. J. Brevard	Basil Gregory	Walter Merrick	Mahlon Purdin	F. L. TouVelle
P. C. Bingham	W. S. Goudy	Claude Miles	W. F. Quisenberry	B. P. Theiss
L. R. Bingham	W. A. Gates	G. H. Millar	R. L. Ray	Earl Ulrich
S. A. Brown	Henry T. Haswell	F. L. Minear	C. R. Ray	Louis Ulrich
W. J. Burgidge	M. K. Hanna	J. W. Mitchell	A. E. Reams	V. H. Vawter
J. J. Buchter	E. B. Hanley	W. O. Miller	J. F. Reddy	L. B. Warner
Wm. Budge	Carl J. Hansen	H. N. Moe	S. T. Richardson	M. W. Wagner
Chas. S. Butterfield	Seeley Hall	K. A. Morgan	Dr. E. G. Riddel	A. S. Wells
F. E. Bybee	C. W. Heilbronner	H. D. McBride	J. E. Ross	J. A. Westerlund
Frank Bellinger	J. L. Helms	Emil Mohr	Geo. M. Roberts	Fred Weeks
E. N. Bunce	O. C. Henlein	B. L. Morser	A. S. Rosenbaum	E. M. Wilson



W.H.Canon  
John Carkin  
C.D.Campbell  
W.H.Crawford  
J.H.Carlton  
Donald Colvig  
George Coddling  
Guy Conner  
G.T.Collins  
ED.H.Cummings  
Dr.A.W.Deane  
J.L.Demmer  
Fay E.Diamond

E.G.Henselman  
J.F.Hittson  
Jesse Houck  
I.L.Hamilton  
L.B.Haskins  
A.F.Hazelrigg  
A.L.Hill  
F.S.Johnson  
W.L.Judkins  
E.E.Kelley  
H.C.Kentner  
H.C.Kentner,Jr.  
C.M.Kidd

B.F.Mulkey  
M.McDonald  
C.A.McArthur  
Paul McDonald  
W.H.McGowan  
Ralph McKay  
M.McGuirk  
R.H.McCurdy  
E.J.Neff  
Porter J.Neff  
Gus Newbury  
C.T.Noel  
Wm.O'Hara

Lawrence Rukes  
C.V.Strang  
G.L.Schermerhorn  
R.W.Sterns  
Orvis Stephenson  
W.H.Stewart  
Miles Stewart  
J.E.Stewart  
H.A.Schell  
S.S.Schell  
John Sheridan  
A.F.Slennett  
Rudolph Scholz

C.A.Weintrout  
E.W.Wilson  
George T. Wilson  
J.W.Wilson  
Edward Wilkinson  
Scott Woolf  
B.G.Worthington  
E.A.Welch  
Jonas Wold  
D.R.Wood  
C.F.Young  
W.A.Young

The Medford Mail Tribune, reporting on the event, stated: "Main avenue was a blaze of color and light Wednesday night from the street decorations of the lodge. The roof of the new home was decorated with flags and the lodge colors, and two searchlights played in the sky over the city. The scene was brilliant." And at a little later date the paper added, "The lodge is now established in its new \$60,000 home." (There's inflation for you: the total cost of the building went up \$10,000 in four paragraphs.) "The home is rated as the finest Elks building in the state and stands as a credit to the city and the Rogue River Valley.

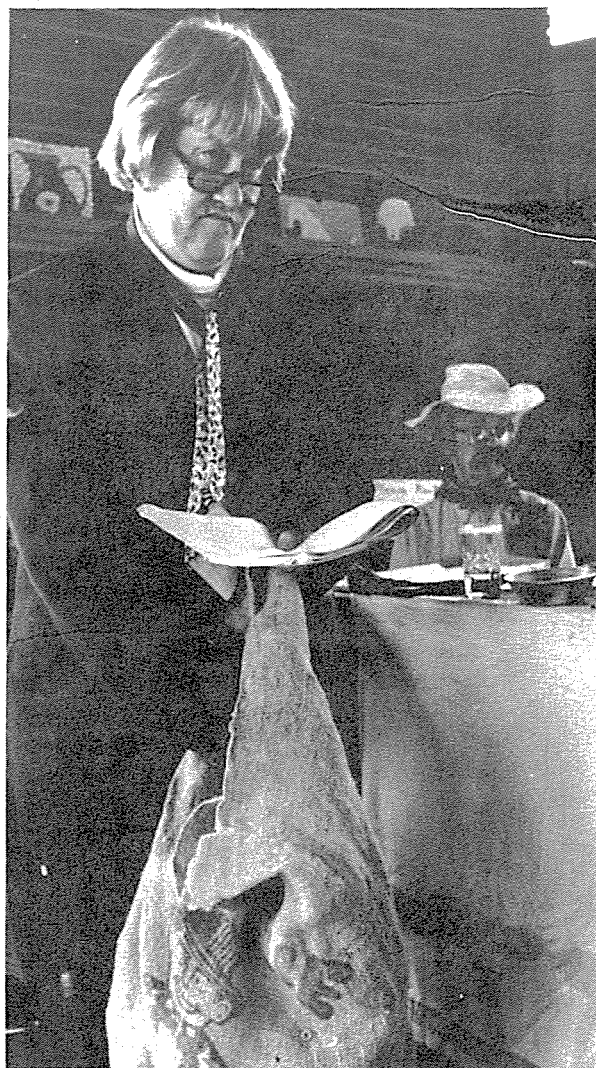
## MUSEUM PLAYERS PRESENT HOLIDAY SHOW SEEK NEW MEMBERS

Members of the Jacksonville Museum Performers, directed by Elizabeth Vickerman, are shown in the photograph at a performance they recently gave at the Linda Vista Care Center in Ashland. The play, written by the group, is based on a story by Stephen Dow Beckham, "Samson Jones, the Jerky Man." In this scene Ilma McKern (in the foreground) appears as attorney for the defense for Samson Jones, played by Dora Scheidecker (at the table) who is being charged with peddling jerky out of season in Gold Beach.

During the holiday season the group is presenting their version of Dickens' *Christmas Carol*. At the same time they are preparing an original melodrama burlesque of vignettes of well known women who "touched ground" in Jacksonville: Abigail Scott Duniway, Ann Haseltine Hill Russell, Grace Wick-Merritt and Lotta Crabtree.

They are also considering the presentation of their version of scenes from the play, *The Black Crook*, which was possibly presented in southern Oregon by the touring Lotta Crabtree company.

Mrs. Vickerman, the director of the group, welcomes anyone who is interested in any facet of creative dramatics to join her group. There are no requirements for membership. Please call 772-4606 or 899-1711 for additional information.



Photograph by Jacqueline Moreau-Taylor

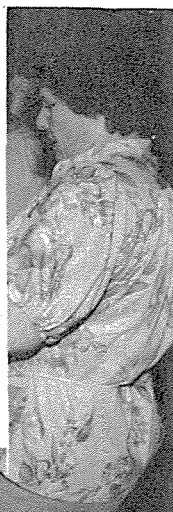
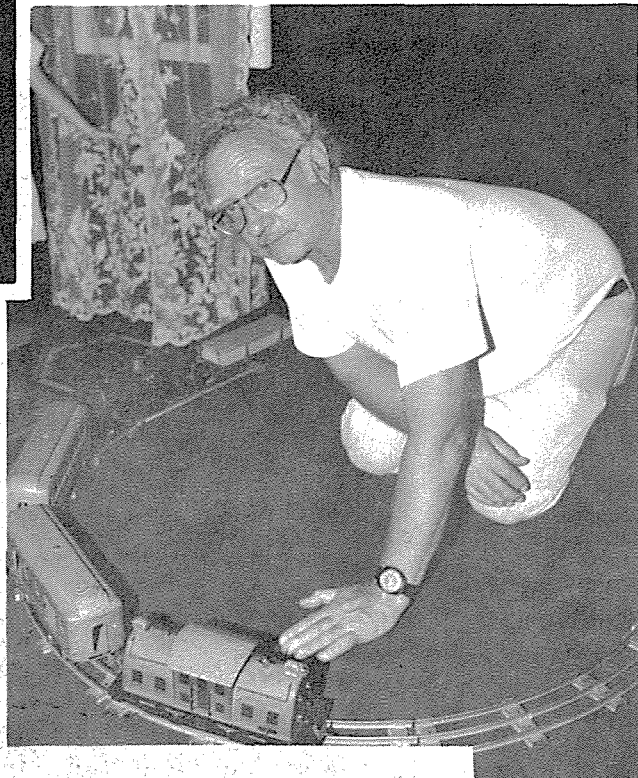
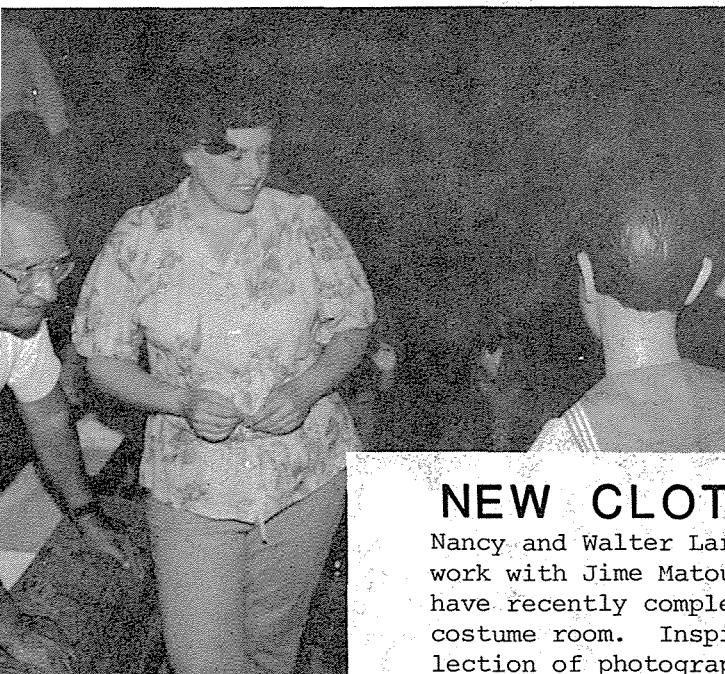


# JACKSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The church was organized in 1857 and the building was dedicated in December 1881. It was made possible by the generosity and dedication of C. C. Beekman and Squire William Hoffman. The first pastor was the Rev. M. A. Williams.







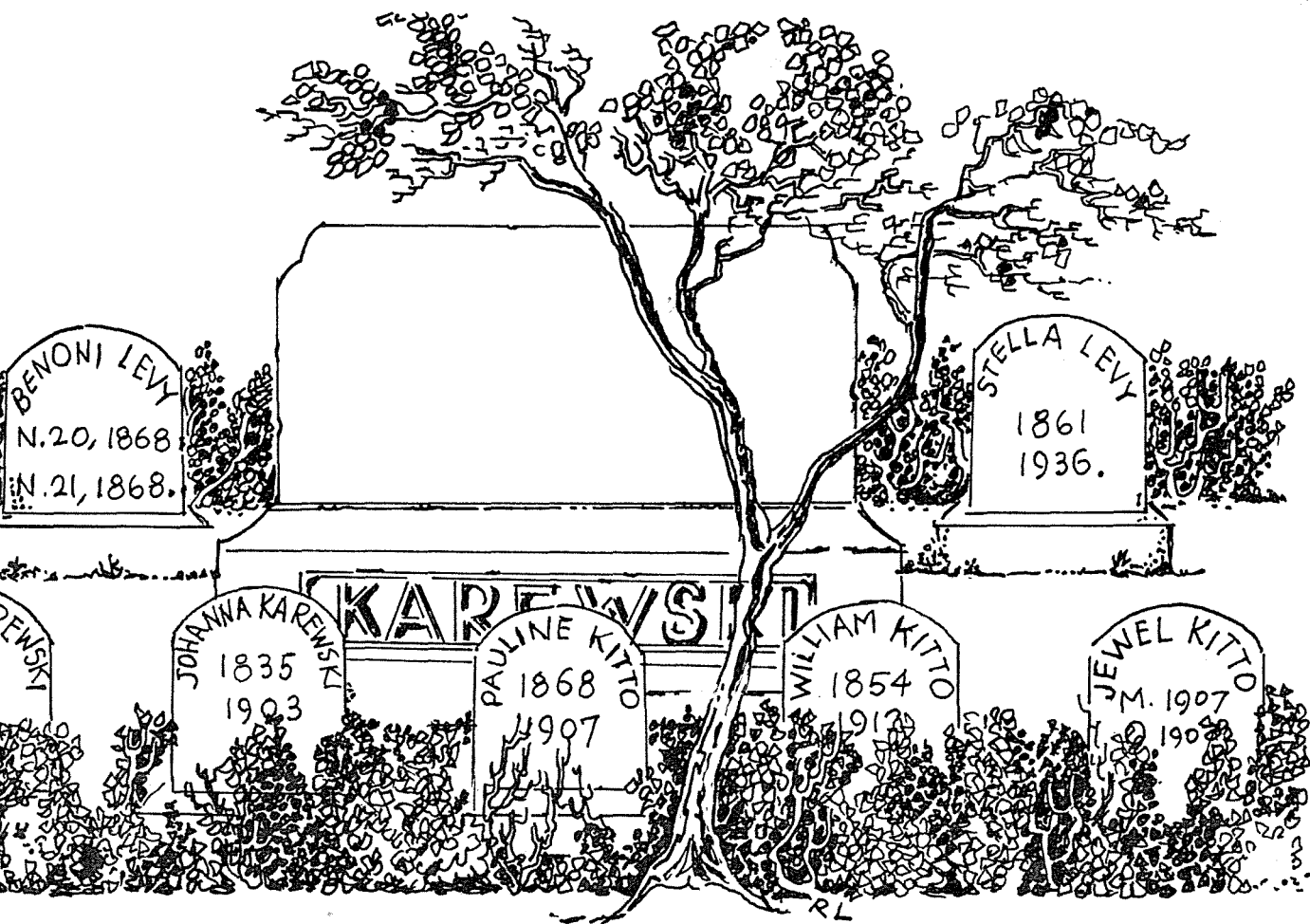
## NEW CLOTHING EXHIBIT

Nancy and Walter Larsen, museum volunteers who work with Jime Matoush, Curator of Exhibits, have recently completed a new display in the costume room. Inspired by the Society's collection of photographs of children from 1895 to 1920, Nancy and Walter have featured attractive arrangements of mannequins and toys on each of the six staging levels in the display room. There are eight mannequins, seven children and one adult, dressed in freshly starched and ironed garments from the museum collection of clothing for that period. The toys include a rocking horse, sled, tricycle, train set, a china tea set and other authentic pieces from the collection. Walter has made extensive repairs on the mannequins and Nancy has dressed them and posed them in pleasing vignettes.

It is an exhibition particularly suited to the holiday season.

*Photographs by Doug Smith*





## GUSTAF KAREWSKI, PIONEER MERCHANT

When the liberal revolutions of Central Europe failed in 1848, they were followed by a period of political reaction which re-established harsh measures against Jewish people and led again to persecution. Many who had obtained some freedoms and civil rights during the Napoleonic era and had begun to enter the professions and to seek education decided to emigrate to the United States. They hoped that in this vast new country, far removed from age-old malice and bigotry, they would surely be rid of harsh prejudice forever. Among the newcomers was young Gustaf Karewski from Posen, Germany, who came to America to shuck off traditional restrictions in a country where he could become as important as anyone else. Shortly after his arrival in New Orleans, he was employed as an agent for Benit Brothers, merchants.

New emigrants, however, had no sooner disembarked from their crossing than they were regaled with exciting tales--some fact, some fancy--of the discovery of gold in California. Like others whose roots in eastern America had not yet gone very deep, they set out for the West to begin new lives as miners or merchants. Gustaf Karewski, resigning his position in 1850, joined the cavalcade. Youthfully optimistic and adventurous, he surely found his life as agent for a merchandising firm pretty humdrum. One would have had to be firmly established financially and socially to ignore the enticement of the West. He reached the Sacramento Valley in 1851. There is no record of Gustaf's experiences in California. He probably tried his hand at gold panning although he may have found employment in a general store serving the miners.

When gold began giving out in California, shortly after Gustaf's arrival, new stories of nuggets to be found in southern Oregon encouraged the miners--and Gustaf--to follow the crowds who found the thought of unworked claims irresistible. He arrived in Oregon some time before 1855 and first settled in the Applegate country where he acquired some property. In addition to a brief experiment in farming, he tried panning for gold. Becoming aware eventually that his earlier experiences in merchandising would bring greater rewards than digging for the elusive nuggets, he moved, sometime in 1860, to Jacksonville, which by then had developed into a permanent town with several large and prosperous stores, including Sachs Brothers' Temple of Fashion, J. A. Brunner and Brother, Wells and Friedlander, A. Fisher and Brother, Morris Mensor's New York Store and several other thriving establishments.

One might wonder how a town with a population of a little over a thousand could manage to support all the shops and retail stores. Jacksonville was a stagecoach stop on the line from San Francisco to Portland, and was an important commercial trading center. In the twenty years after James Cluggage's discovery of gold in Jackson Creek, over twenty million dollars worth of gold dust was taken out of the area. There was no shortage of money.

In Jacksonville Gustaf Karewski soon joined the group of town merchants. Friends whom he met at religious observances held in McCully Hall helped him get his start. He was in his mid-thirties and no doubt had come to the conclusion that he had already spent enough time dabbling at a variety of occupations. It was time to concentrate on the permanent career. He re-entered the mercantile world with enthusiasm and dedication. In a short time he became an established and active citizen of the town. In 1864 he was registered in the county military roll although there is no record he was ever called to duty. He became active in the Masons and participated in town civic affairs.

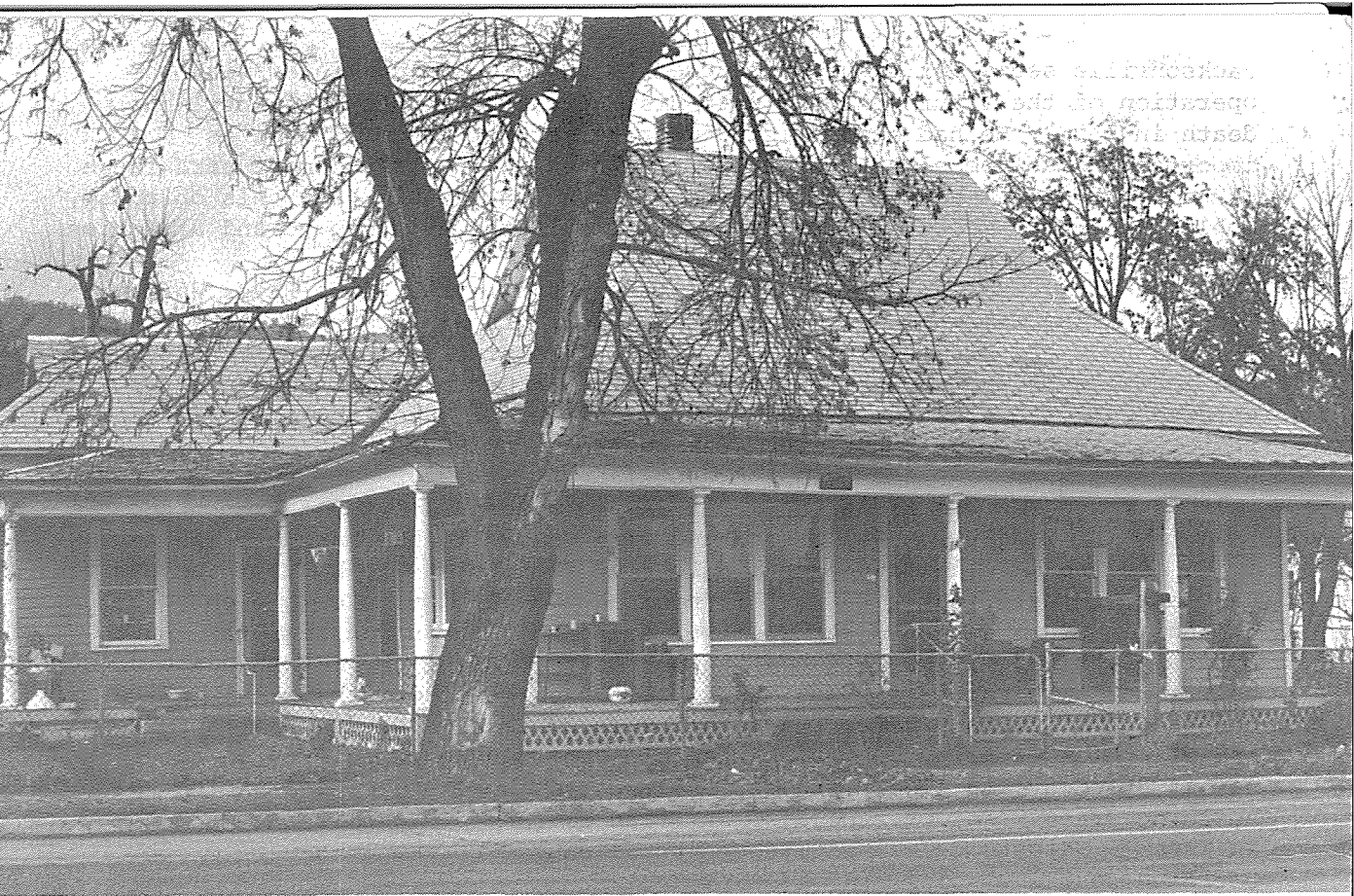
By 1869 Gustaf had acquired enough capital to open his own store. His line was primarily grocery, dry goods and general merchandise, but as gold mining faded out and agriculture became the dominant industry in southern Oregon, he began specializing in large farm machinery, becoming the only dealer in heavy equipment in the area. In the federal census for 1870 Gustaf declared personal property of \$5,000, a significant enough figure for those days. But a year later the County Assessment Roll for 1871 recorded G. Karewski with \$10,604.

In 1872 he strongly supported the candidacy of U. S. Grant in the presidential campaign. *The Oregon Sentinel* announced that G. Karewski was on the Committee of Arrangements for a ball held in honor of Grant's re-election. Gustaf's endorsement is strange in view of Grant's anti-German, anti-Jewish stand and the fact that the *Israelite*, the leading American Jewish newspaper, had come out sharply against him.

**I**n 1869 Bernard Levy, who had arrived in Jacksonville as early as 1852, and who was a close friend of Gustaf, died suddenly of heart failure. His widow, Johanna, appointed Gustaf to act as administrator of her husband's estate, and in a short time Gustaf and Johanna became romantically interested in each other. The attractive Johanna, then 35 years old, had four daughters: Jennie 10, Estella 8, Cecelia 6 and Pauline 2. A son Benoni had died in infancy.

Shortly after the death of Bernard Levy, who left a sizable estate, Johanna purchased the home of Dr. E. H. Greenman at the northwest corner of California and Fifth Streets. (The house had originally belonged to C. C. Beekman.) Before many months Johanna and Gustaf were married and the house became known as the Karewski house. It is still standing and is in good condition although it is not the lady it once was.

Like so many of the pioneer settlers, Gustaf was diversified in his activities and interests. A stone's throw from town, on the highway, he built a huge



*The Karewski House - Photograph by Gail E. H. Evans*

wooden storage warehouse. It became known as Karewski's barn and stood as a familiar landmark until some years ago. Located on the site now is a wood-yard which, incidentally, makes the entrance to the city a little less than breathtakingly scenic.

From 1870 to 1876 Gustaf leased the Brunner building for his store. It is now the Jacksonville Public Library. He purchased land just behind the building where he constructed another large warehouse of stone and brick, Karewski's Agricultural Implements Barn. In 1861 Karewski bought the Rogue River Steam Flouring Mill on South Third Street near Pest House Gulch. It had been built the year before by McKenzie and Foudrey, and it was operating at considerable profit. (Much later, around 1910, the mill building was purchased by Joseph Applebaker, moved piece-by-piece, and rebuilt on North Third Street where it became Applebaker's Blacksmith Shop. Fred Fick did the moving and rebuilding for \$275.)

*The Oregon Sentinel* in 1887 reported that Gustaf was having a ditch widened before he began his mining operations at Uniontown. In addition to all these interests, he maintained a farm at one end of town and a peach orchard at the other. In 1882 he purchased Jacksonville's first courthouse for \$116. It stood at the site of the Jacksonville Museum. Gustaf had it dismantled and used the lumber in the construction of another project.

In 1883 he put his agricultural implements and his other stock up for auction. The establishment of the Southern Pacific Railroad, so eagerly awaited by many Jacksonville citizens, brought panic to the merchants. Those who had large stocks of merchandise listed at prices which included stage or steamer costs felt they would be unable to meet the competition of goods shipped less expensively by rail.

Fearing the depression that the railroad would bring, most of the merchants left southern Oregon for more promising trade centers. The idea of leaving

Jacksonville seems not to have occurred to Gustaf. He continued with the operation of the flour mill and with his agricultural interests until his death in 1890. He had accomplished what he set out to do: to be as important as anyone else. He had participated in the development of a fresh new country and he had left his permanent mark on its history. His obituary, published in *The Jacksonville Sentinel*, reveals the high regard and affection he received from his fellow citizens.

Strangely Gustaf left many business debts from the Rogue River Valley Steam Flouring Mills as well as unpaid legacies to his step-daughters. When Bernard Levy had died, the four Levy girls were minors, and Gustaf had held the inheritance due them from their father. On Gustaf's death, the girls entered claims against his estate for \$643.28 each. The figure represented the original sum plus twenty years' accumulated interest.

When she was 21 in 1885, Cecelia married out of the faith to Aaron H. Maegly who was associated with Gustaf in his hardware business. The marriage appears to have been the big social bash of the season. The paper reports that a number of "hoods" gave the loving couple not one but two shivarees. The groom threw silver coins to the tin can beaters, and the bride served taffy. No, not champagne. Taffy. After the marriage the couple moved to Portland where Maegly became associated with a real estate bond and mortgage business. He soon had accumulated a substantial fortune and with his partner bought a quarter block of business property on the corner of Broadway and Alder Streets. He erected there a shop and office building of six stories. He also built an elegant and spacious family home in Waverly Heights. The Maeglys had three daughters who became prominent in Portland social circles.

Jennie, the oldest daughter, married Mr. Leo Battlebaum and moved to San Francisco. They had a son, Leo Jr., but no additional information is available on the Battlebaums.

Somewhere around the turn of the century, Pauline married William Curtis Kitto. Pauline was at least 35 years of age but, because she, like Cecelia, wanted to marry out of the faith, she apparently waited until after her mother's death in 1903 for the wedding. In 1907 Pauline died giving birth to her only child, a son Jewel, who survived his mother by only five months.



*Pauline Kitto*



*Stella Levy*



*Cecelia Maegly*





Jacksonville citizens in 1888 line up for their photograph on the steps of the Jackson County Courthouse, then five years old. They are, from left to right: (top row) William Cardwell, unidentified, Judge Colvig, J. C. Whipp, Mr. Neil, Charlie Prim, John Huffer, Stella Levy and Mr. Armstrong. (Men on bottom steps, left: Mr. Taylor and Max Muller.

Stella Levy inherited the house, a seventy-two acre farm and the Karewski ware-house property which was later sold for taxes. She never married. For many years she worked in offices at the Jackson County Courthouse and was a member

of the Adarel Chapter of the Eastern Star. As she grew older, she became one of the town characters. She refused to leave her yard because she thought that, when she went up town to shop and get the mail, fresh young men made remarks about her figure. She hailed boys who passed by her gate to deliver orders to grocery stores and go to the post office. She had no difficulty finding volunteers among the schoolkids; she always included a dime with her request. There was little that occurred in Jacksonville that she didn't hear about. Although she remained in her own yard, she spent hours at the fence discussing current events and local hanky-panky with her friends who passed by.

She always had a dog, Bunny, which she doted upon. When Bunny grew over-fat and short of breath from too much tender loving care and popped off, he was planted under her bedroom window and replaced by another Bunny. She kept her own pet chickens and made chiffon cakes that almost floated out the pantry window.

There were people who said, "Poor Stella, she never married." But who is to say she was not happy? She certainly had the funds to move to Portland to be with her sister had she desired. She rarely visited the Maegly family, and when she did, was always happy to come home. Why shouldn't she have been content? She had a handsome house and a beautifully furnished parlor with large portraits of her sisters displayed on golden easels. She had many devoted friends and she had Bunny.

In 1936, at the age of 75, she died. She had lived through Jacksonville's most colorful history and had been part of an exciting young community which was gone forever. She was the last direct descendent of a Jewish family to be buried in the Jacksonville cemetery. The final High Holiday service in Jacksonville had been held in 1883 and, when Stella died, there was no rabbi in southern Oregon. Possibly at the request of the Eastern Star ladies, Reverend D. E. Millard of the Presbyterian church delivered a eulogy at her graveside. Stella Levy was the last of her family to maintain the faith; no doubt she would have been a little less than enchanted with her passing out ceremony.

## XI. LANDMARKS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE

### The Decker Store and the Town of Waldo



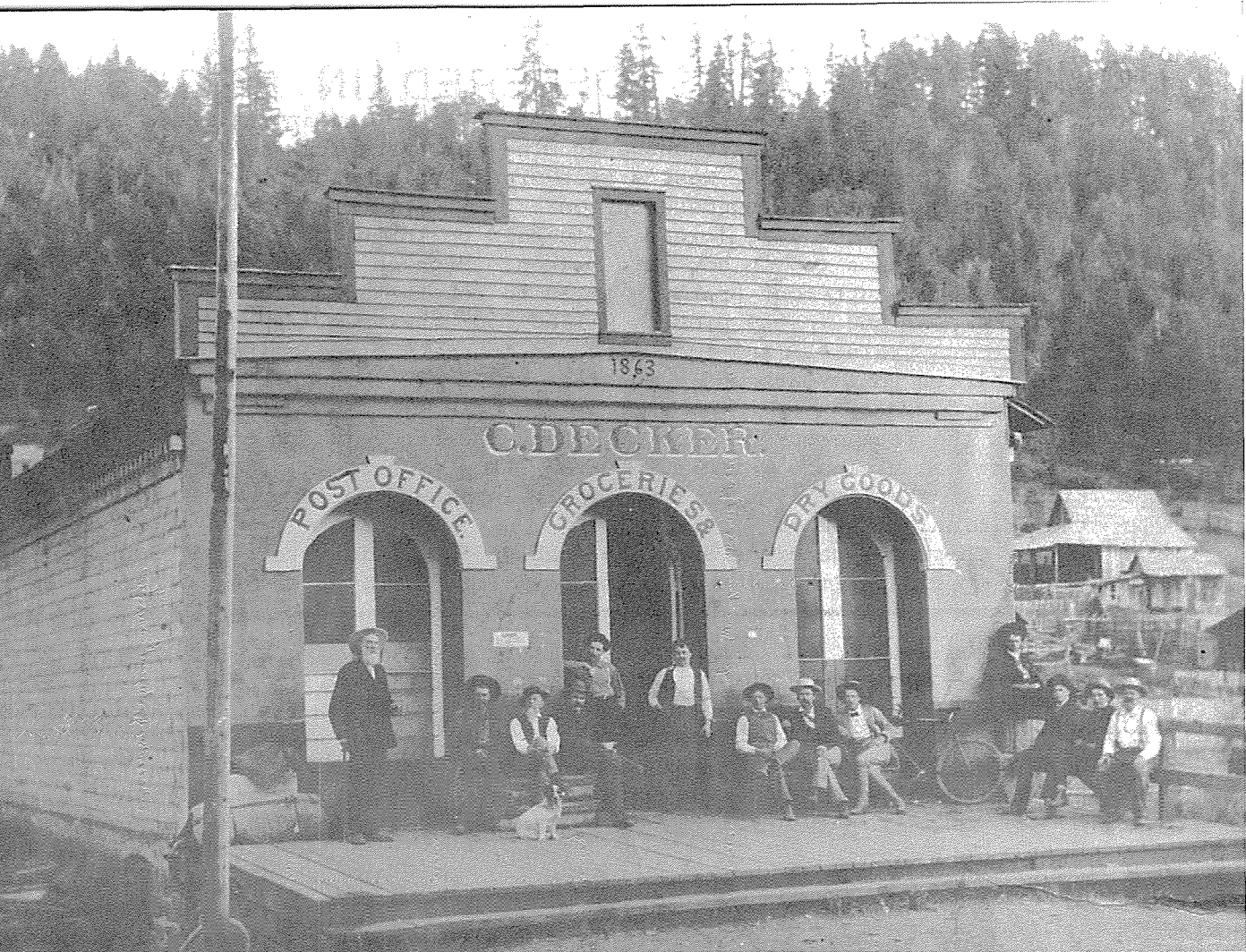
ALDO, the lusty thriving mining town of early days, has been completely erased. It is not a ghost town; nothing remains there for ghosts to occupy. Waldo owed its beginning to two British sailors who deserted their ships at Crescent City in 1851. On their way to Jacksonville, following the established trail from the coast to the Illinois valley, they discovered gold in an area which became known as Sailors' Diggings. In this area of some twenty-five square miles, a dozen settlements sprouted up overnight: Allen, Frye, French Flat, Takilma, O'Brien, Scott's, Taylor, Butcher, Shelly and several others.

Waldo was named for William Waldo who was a candidate for governor of California in 1853. Most of the miners in Sailors' Diggings, believing that they were in California, voted for him.

By 1855 there were at least twenty buildings in the town and by 1856 the population had grown to five hundred. Eventually Waldo, a one-street town, had a bowling alley, a cobbler shop, a butcher shop, blacksmith shops, a brewery, stores (one of which was a Chinese store), hotels and several saloons. By 1886 it boasted a skating rink and ballroom and had Josephine County's first court house. There was a Chinatown naturally, but no church.

Pictured is the Waldo store which was built in 1862 by A. B. McLwain. It was constructed of hand made concrete brick and covered with a coating of plaster. The heavy iron doors are now installed in the American Legion Hall in Cave Junction.



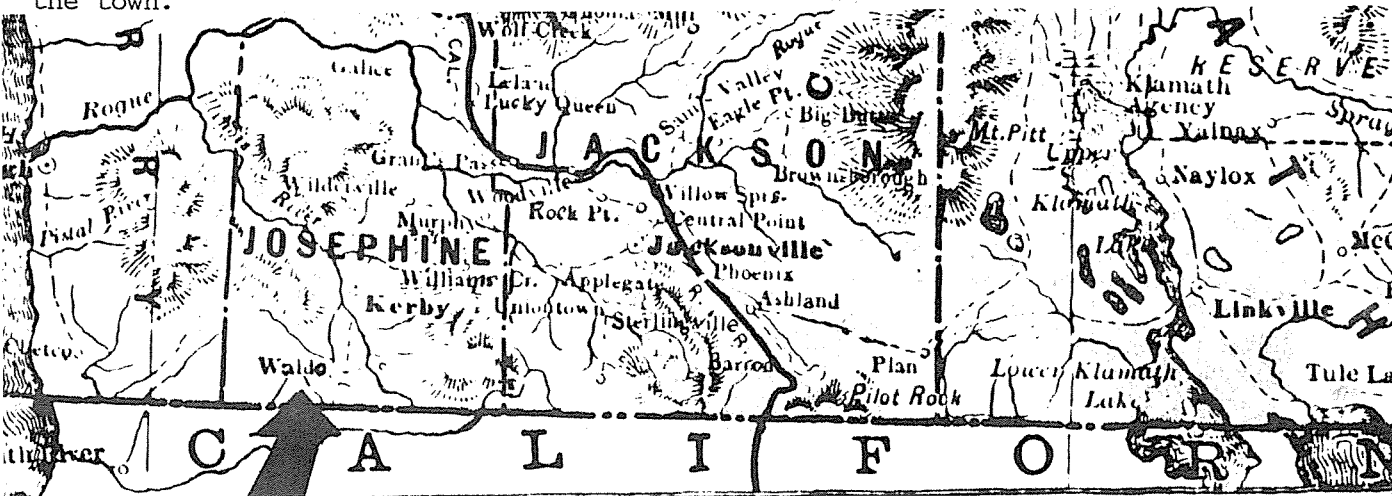


After 1888 the store was purchased by Charles Decker who operated it until his death. It was still in use as late as 1927.

In 1919 the Chicago Stock Company bought part of the townsite and started to build a large hotel. One day company representatives from Chicago appeared in Waldo and stopped the construction. Most of the French windows were in and the roof was on. Early reports indicate that the unfinished hotel "just vanished."

After the first World War the town died. Several buildings remained standing, but in 1937 hydraulic giants washed away the remnants. Seeking gold at bedrock, the miners sluiced powerful jets of water at the town. The water cut to the very base of the Decker Store, and for years it stood precariously balanced on its six-foot foundation. Today only the cellar walls remain.

The only evidence of Waldo's existence is the cemetery on a hill south of the town.



# HOLIDAY SPECIALS OFFERED IN BOOKSTORE

Mrs. Arthur Chipman has recently donated to SOHS the remaining copies of a book, *Tunnel 13*, written by her late husband. The hard-back book is a story of the DeAutremont Brothers and the West's Last Great Train Hold-Up. On the book's jacket appears the following description:

In October 1923 the last, great train hold up in the West took place on a remote mountain top in southern Oregon. High on the Siskiyou Mountains, three young DeAutremont Brothers tried to rob the Southern Pacific's *Gold Express*, and in the process killed four trainmen. Perhaps the fact that it was train #13 and took place in tunnel #13 had ominous portent. After almost four years and a massive, world-wide search, the criminals were found.

This is the true story of that crime and the aftermath of one bloody day of senseless violence which ruined the lives of three young men, in addition to shattering lives of innumerable innocent people connected with the criminals or their victims.

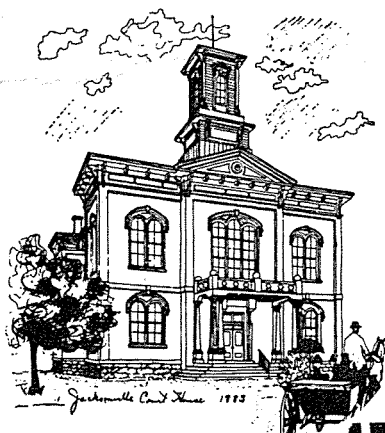
Mrs. Chipman's generous donation enables the Society to offer the book as a holiday special. It will sell to members for \$4.50.

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

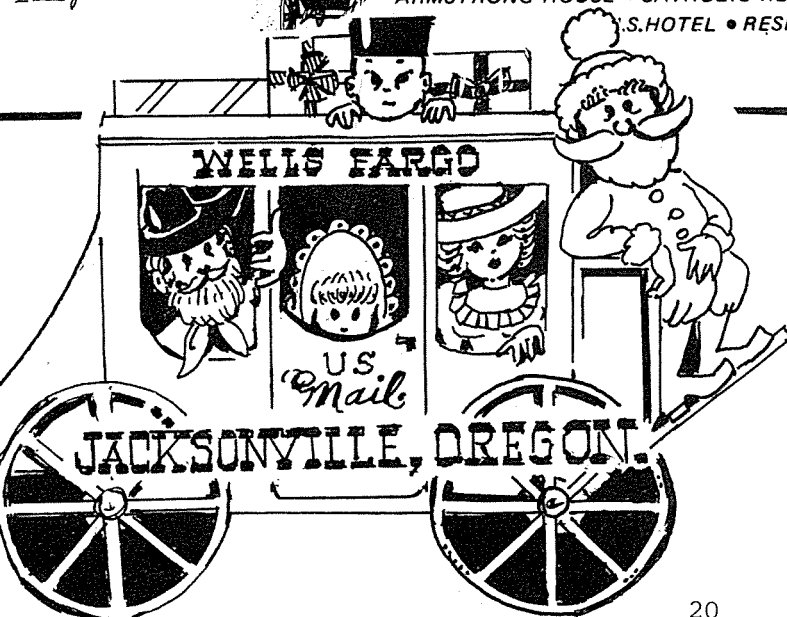
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Esther Hinger, manager of the Bookstore, is also featuring many other attractive books with historical themes for holiday gift giving. Also on display are Christmas ornaments made by Ray Lewis and Harvey Barrows. Their collection includes historic buildings, antique cars, stage coaches (sketch at left), covered wagons and other colorful designs.

Stop in and shop for unique gifts.