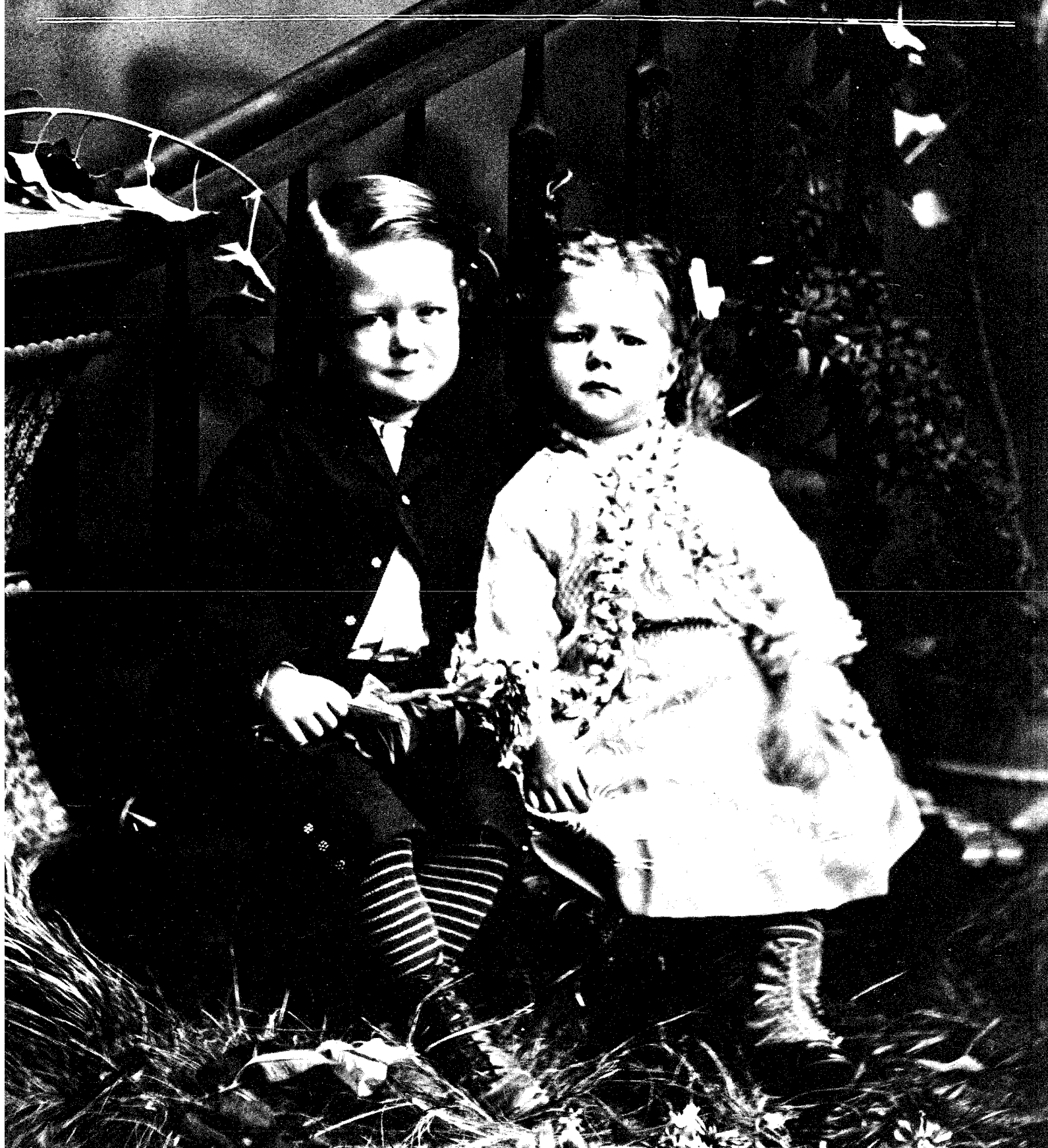


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THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

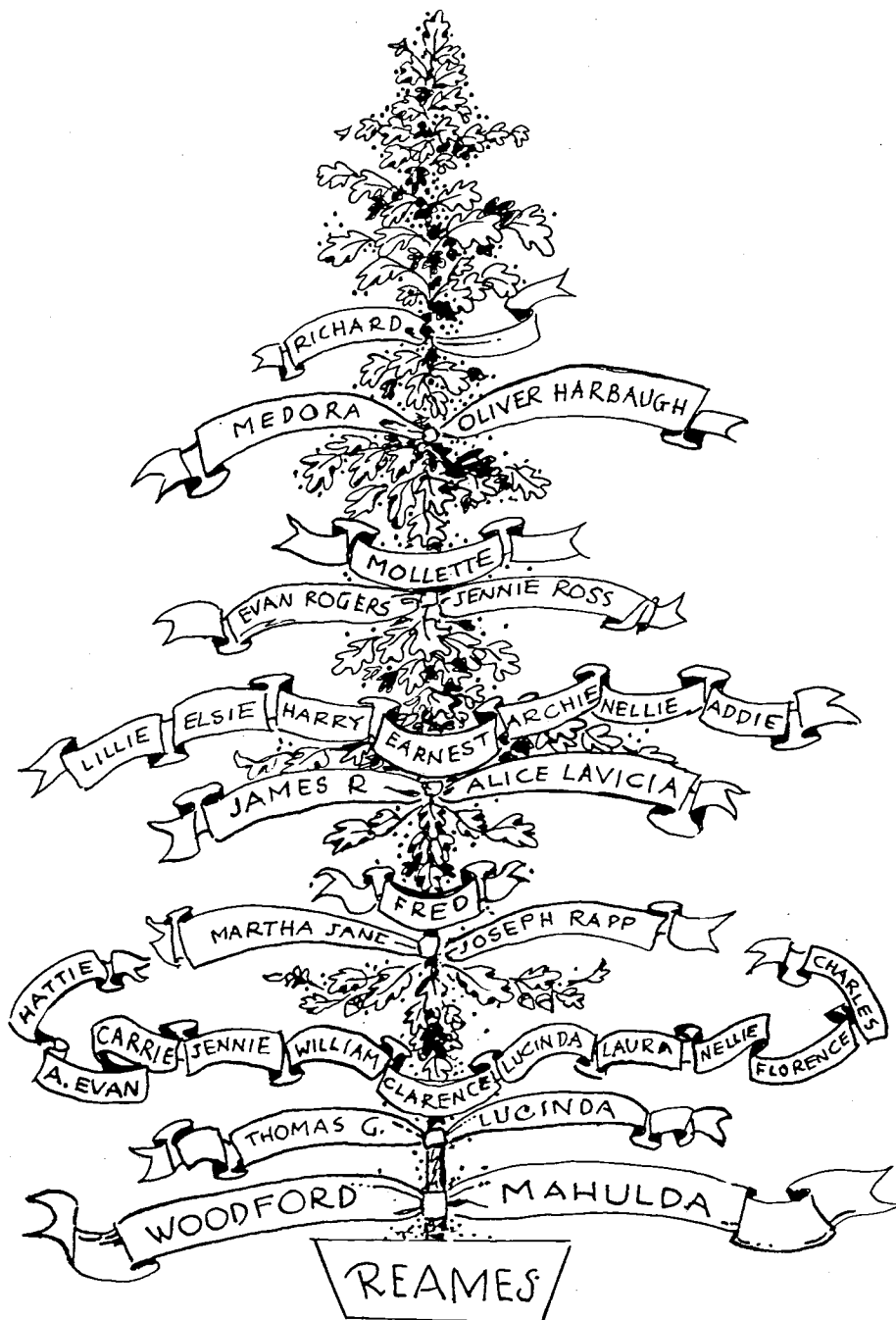
NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY



The children in the cover photograph are Charles and Lucinda Reames.

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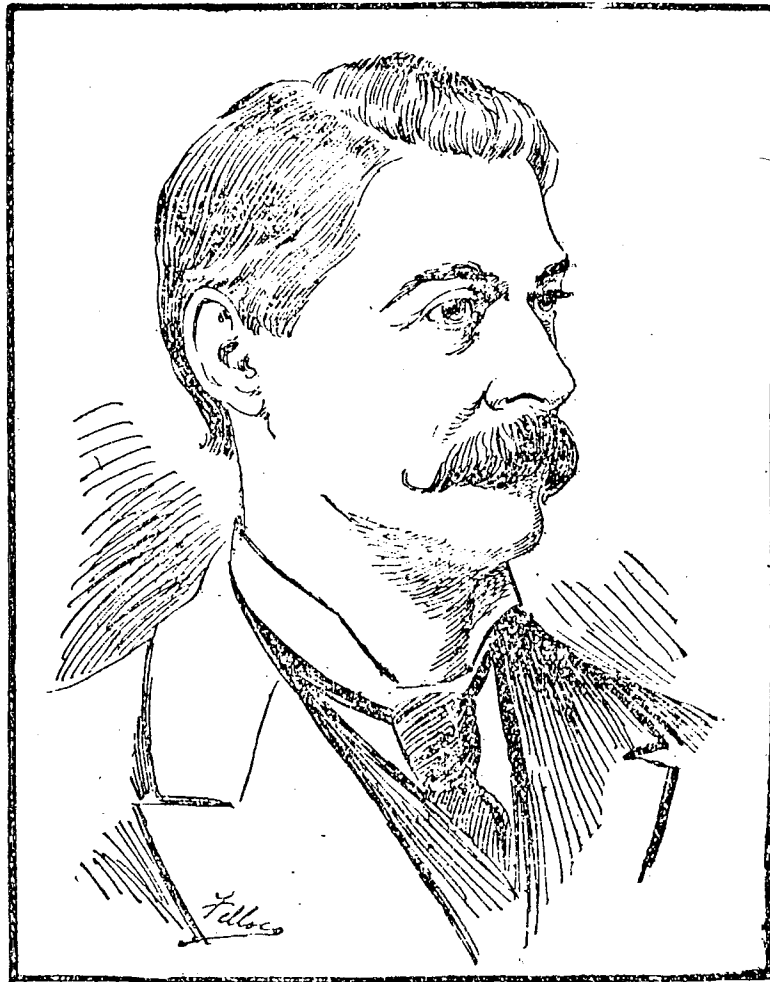
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GENERAL THOMAS B. REAMES.

THE REAMES STORY

Reames is a name that is threaded into the fabric of southern Oregon history. From 1852 into the mid-twentieth century, for three or four generations, the name appeared prominently in newspaper stories of agricultural, merchandising, legal, political and banking activities as well as in local and personal columns. Members of the Reames family bore a name that was to be reckoned with, and for a time it looked as if they might start a dynasty. With six children in the first generation to settle in Oregon and with over two dozen more in the succeeding generations, the name certainly seemed a permanent one. Yet today that branch is all but forgotten. Not infrequently during the Victorian age, large families whose numbers seemed to guarantee the permanence of the family name have ended at last with no productive son and heir.

Faye Carver of Phoenix, a third generation descendant, said, "Everybody's gone. My uncle Tom had all those children, four sons. Three had no children, and one had one boy, and that boy has two daughters. Uncle Evan had one daughter ... An uncle ... didn't marry, one passed away, and one who did marry had one son. That son has been married twice and hasn't any children, so when you get down to it, the family's gone.

"There's nothing you can do about it, but it would be nice to be remembered."*

In the newspaper stories the names tend to become confused. Typical of the older--sturdier--generation, the boys tried their hands over the years at various professions and Reames-the-merchant or Reames-the-lawyer could apply to several members of the tribe. The Reames

*Kay Atwood, Jackson County Conversations, 1975.

Story is presented here in an effort to line up the ducks and put them in their proper place.

The name Reames (Reyms, de Ramis) goes way, way back in antiquity and a Roger de Ramis (1086) is listed in the Domesday Book of Norfolk, England. John, the first immigrant, arrived in America in 1650, and the line continues through the next century to the birth of Robert in 1762. Robert (a Virginian) was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church and a farmer, and he accompanied Daniel Boone to Kentucky when it was still a wilder-

ness. He and his wife Hedy had two sons, Robert and Aaron.

Aaron lived in Kentucky where he had a plantation well-stocked with slaves. When the question of slavery became an issue between the north and south, he liberated his slaves and took sides with the northerners. He eventually became a Colonel in the Union Army. The name of his wife has not been recorded. They had two sons, William and Woodford, and with Woodford, the first member of the family to come to Oregon, our branch of the Reames family is off and running.



Mahulda

WOODFORD REAMES was born in Hart County, Kentucky, on April 14, 1811. When he had grown to man's estate he became a blacksmith and married Mahulda Jane White, who was fourteen years younger than he. According to the dates given in family obituaries, this makes her thirteen years old when her first child was born. But if you're going to embark on begetting a dynasty, the producers on the production line should start young. By 1848, some ten years later, they hadn't set any records in procreation. One



Woodford

child died in infancy but they had acquired two healthy boys and a girl, which was not bad, not bad at all.

In that year they moved to Carlinville, Macoupin County, Illinois, where Mahulda Jane gave birth to another son. Woodford acquired a farm and some livestock and did some blacksmithing, but after a couple of years they began to hear about the wonders to be found in the far west. By 1851 there were numerous immigrant trains passing through Illinois and Woodford didn't resist the urge to join up. He acquired two sturdy wagons and six

oxen, packed up Mahulda and his four offsprings, and in the spring of 1852, joined a passing immigrant train and set forth for the Pacific coast.

The trip across the plains was not particularly eventful, and the little Reames family arrived in good shape at St. Helens, Oregon, in October. St. Helens, situated at the junction of the Willamette and Columbia rivers, showed promising signs of becoming Oregon's most important port, and Woodford and his oldest son, Tom, a boy of 13, went to work for the Hudson's Bay Company, loading and unloading boats at the dock. Pay for stevedores was good and the two worked through the winter, but, in the spring of 1853, Woodford again developed itchy feet and moved his family to southern Oregon. A few miles south of Phoenix he took up a Donation Land Claim of 320 acres, adjoining the E.K. Anderson property, raised a cabin and built a blacksmith shop on the side of the road --sort of an early day service station for travelers going north or south--and became a permanent citizen of southern Oregon. When the duties of the smithy were not so pressing he farmed his acreage or did a little entertaining. He was a talkative fellow, friendly and sociable, and as apt as not to bring some passer-by home to dinner with no advance notice to the cook.

His first couple of years in southern Oregon was a time of Indian unrest. For safety the family often found it necessary to go to Fort Wagner near Talent where stockades had been built for protection. After the final Rogue River Indian war in 1885, life and property again became safe and the family could settle down to develop a home and get on with the business of getting older and wiser.

In 1857 a daughter, Medora, was born. She was the last of the children, not a good showing for a pioneer family, but Mahulda and Woodford probably had high hopes that their five offsprings would provide them with a commendable clump of assorted grandchildren. If so, they were not far afield in their reckoning.

Woodford and Mahulda lived on the Phoenix farm until 1879, when they retired to Jacksonville, taking a large two story house just at the foot of Bingham's Knoll, the school house hill.

Woodford died in 1882. His obituary in the *Democratic Times* stated he had been suffering "for several months from dropsy of the heart, but all medical skill was unavailing, and at midnight he slipped peacefully away." Mahulda died in 1891. They were survived by their five children, and, by that time, a sizeable aggregation of grandchildren.

CHILDREN of WOODFORD and MAHULDA



THOMAS G. REAMES

The first son, Thomas Givings, was born at Litchfield, Grayson County, Kentucky, on December 15, 1839. In 1845, when he was six, his parents made the move to Illinois. The tribute committee of the Southern Oregon Pioneer Association, W.J. Plymale, H.E. Ankeny and David Linn, affirmed that Thomas G., as a boy of six "possessed sterling qualities, was industrious and energetic and worthy of all confidence." Just how these upstanding gentlemen arrived at this complimentary assessment is a bit of a mystery, but we have no quarrel with their statement.

Thomas Reames certainly evinced those virtues -- and more -- throughout his lifetime.

In 1852 when Woodford Reames decided to go west, Thomas was a lad of thirteen, but he was able to do a man's work on the trail and drive one of the wagons across the plains. In St. Helens he worked side-by-side with his father, but the gold-fields of southern Oregon attracted his interest and he no doubt encouraged his father to make the move south. The possibility of finding a treasure, however, was not the only reason for the move. The Pioneer Association's committee ex-



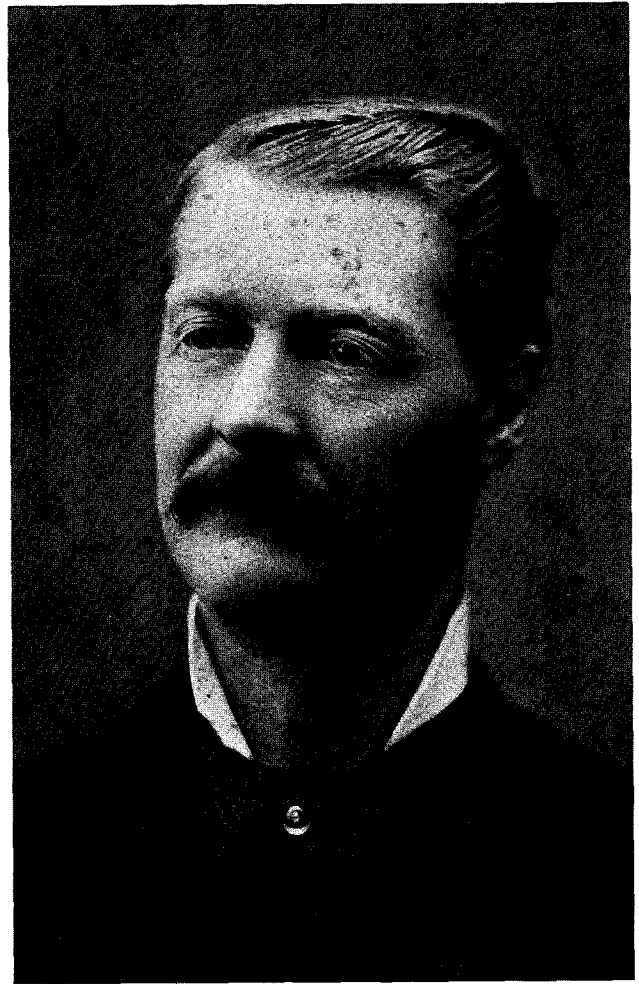
Lucinda

pounded: "Southern Oregon's rich and varied agricultural and pastoral resources had just commenced to receive attention and be published abroad." The stories were alluring. The attraction of the Rogue River Valley was not to be denied; it was a one way ticket to Eden.

On the farm Thomas helped his father with farm chores, but when he could, he mined the creeks. There is no chronicle that he ever struck it rich or that his mining became an obsession. He seems to have lost his interest in prospecting after he became a young man.

When he was twenty-five in 1864, he left the farm and moved to Jacksonville. He was a personable young man, seeking to make a place for himself in the town and eager to become an established citizen. In a short time he was appointed a deputy sheriff under William Owens.

On July 4, 1886, he married Lucinda Wallace, a native of St. Joseph, Missouri, who had crossed the plains with her parents in 1852 when she was only four years old. The Wallaces had also settled in the Eden area, and Lucinda grew up not



Thomas

far from the Reames' place. Thomas was probably her gentleman caller for several years before he found the courage to propose. She was 25 and he was 27, and both of them were getting a little long in the tooth for marriage. Perhaps he waited to be more firmly established as a wage earner or maybe she had several beaux and took her time selecting the most worthy.

One month after the marriage he bought a lot on California Street on the outskirts of town, and he and Lucinda probably moved temporarily into a small house on that property as they waited for the completion of their new home which was just east of the Beekman house.

After serving four years as deputy, he was elected sheriff of Jackson County in 1868, succeeding his former superior, Mr. Owens. He served one term of two years. In a brief biography written for the Masonic Lodge, the author said, "He knew what roughing it meant. He was frequently called upon to 'tussle' with law breakers of his region and it is not recorded that he ever came out second best."

One reference gives him credit for cap-

turing Black Bart, but as that gentleman bandit didn't appear on the scene until seven years after Thomas Reames had served his term as sheriff, we may assume that his part in the Po-8's apprehension was wild imagination.

After his term of office expired, he bought the Union Stables and opened a livery business in Jacksonville, but competition was heavy and procuring buggies, wagons, coaches and even a hearse required an astonishing outlay of cash. He had had a great deal of experience in his father's smithy, and could handle the blacksmithing, but buying an adequate stock of carriages for every public need was too great a strain on his resources. He gave up the enterprise and established a general merchandise business near his old home in Phoenix in partnership with Ben Sach, under the firm name of Reames and Sach. The store was in operation for a period of four years until Thomas joined forces with his brother, Evan Reames, and purchased the stock and good will of the firm of White and Martin of Jacksonville and carried on the business as Reames Brothers. They moved into the store formerly owned by Sachs Brothers known as "The Temple of Fashion."

This enterprise was extremely successful and Reames Brothers opened a branch house in Linkville (Klamath Falls). In addition they established and maintained a "Settlers' Store" in connection with the army post at Fort Klamath. From their store in Jacksonville they freighted supplies to both the Linkville store and the Settlers' store which served the soldiers. Every year, in the fall, the officers of the regiment at the fort came to Jacksonville, made their headquarters at the Reames Brothers store and purchased the supplies necessary for the coming year. These transactions took several weeks, and the army officers added glamor and dash to the social life of Jacksonville. All this merchandise was freighted to Fort Klamath by means of six-mule teams. With these outlets for farm produce through the Linkville and Fort Klamath stores, markets were brought to Jacksonville farmers as well as to the merchants. This was particularly significant as the gold mining in Jacksonville decreased to a trickle.

In 1878 Thomas G. Reames was nominated

by the Democratic State Convention for Secretary of State, but, losing out in that election by 191 votes, he was appointed as Postal Inspector by President Cleveland for the territories of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.* This political appointment was not to his liking, and after about eighteen months of service, he resigned. During the same year he was appointed Brigadier General of the first Brigade of Oregon Militia by Governor Thayer. He retained the title of General for the rest of his life. In 1902 he was a delegate to the national democratic convention. He became one of the most prominent members of the Masonic Fraternity in the state. For what it's worth he performed many important duties in the Masonic lodge. Readers who belong to that association may understand his list of credits (confusing to the layman.**)

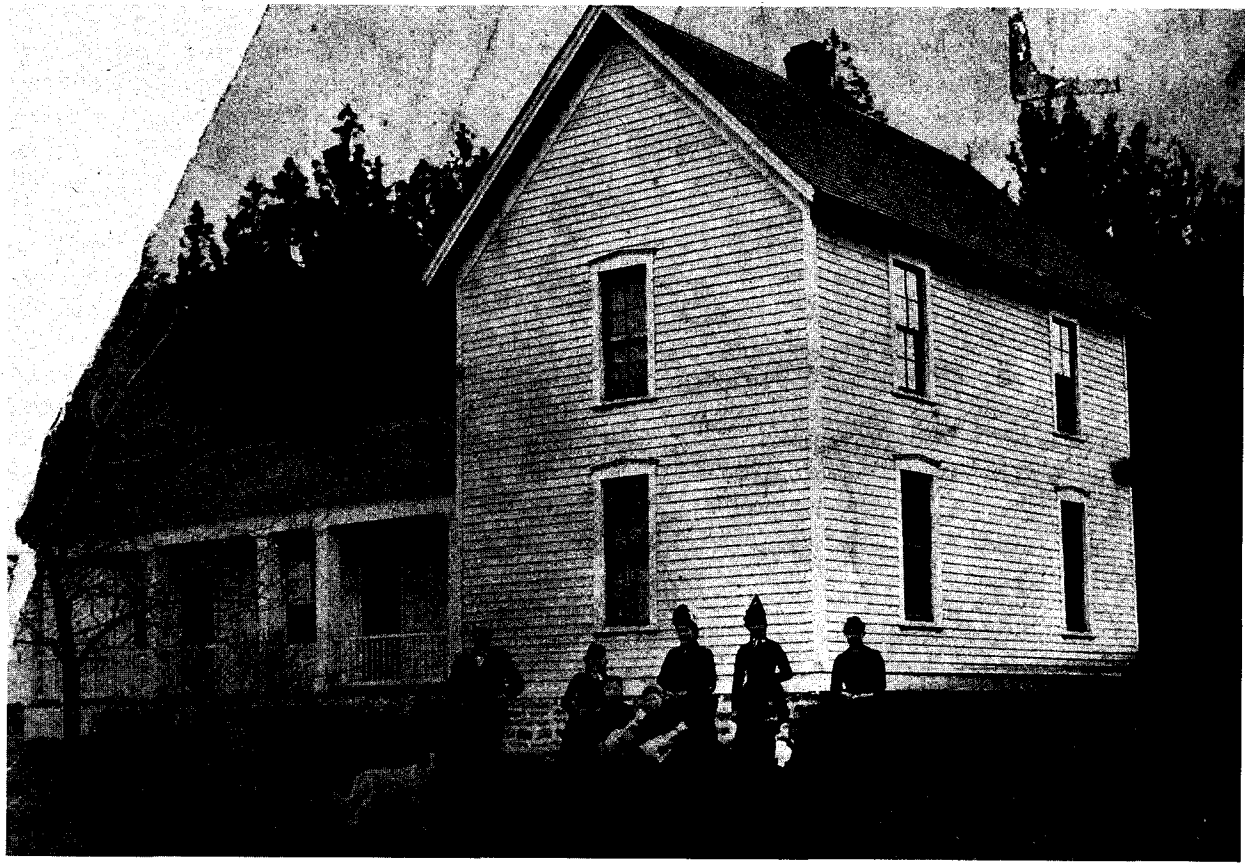
His partnership with C.C. Beekman in the banking business began in 1887. The bank had been established and formerly conducted entirely by Beekman. For years it was known as the Beekman Bank. With the association of General Reames, it became the Beekman and Reames Banking House. The relationship was a friendly, profitable one and the partnership continued for a period of about fourteen years until the death on February 21, 1900, of Thomas Reames.

Early in January of the year he had become troubled with nasal catarrh and his doctors seemed unable to remedy the stubborn condition. He went to Portland for surgery which at once relieved the problem, but, following the operation after his return to Jacksonville he

* Acting in this capacity he would have been concerned with the apprehension of Black Bart as a mail robber, but he gave up the Inspectorship almost five years before the bandit's capture.

** In 1871 to 1876 he was made a Royal Arch Mason in Oregon Chapter N. 4 at Jacksonville and became worshipful Master of Warren Lodge No. 10, continuing as its High Priest. In 1877 he was Charter member of Malta Commandery No. 4 of Ashland and its first eminent Commander. He received the 32nd degree of Masonry in Portland Consistory and was a member of Al Kidir Temple Ancient Arabic order of the Mystic Shrine of Portland. He was Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Florida, and the Grand Lodge of South Australia in Oregon. In 1895 he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon.

How about that?



As early as 1864 the first floor of the east ell of this house had been completed. One story high, it may have served adequately until Thomas and Lucinda Reames' burgeoning family outgrew it and made additions necessary. Thomas Reames lived here over thirty years.

contacted a severe cold which soon developed into erysipelas, an acute infection. For several days his condition was critical and he was attended by Doctors DeBar, Robinson and Pickel, but methods of fighting the disease were so limited at the turn of the century, "the best of medical aid failed to save his life."

His funeral was one of the largest, most imposing services seen by Jacksonville in an era of large, imposing funerals. His obituary states:

At 2:00 o'clock p.m. the friends and acquaintances repaired to the elegant home of the deceased, where services were held on the lawn, the day being warm and beautiful. The family of Mr. Reames were seated at a large open window, where they could hear the comforting words by their pastor, Rev. S.H. Jones, who gave a most eloquent text, "We all do fade as the leaf." [This was followed by the choir] who sang several beautiful hymns appropriate to the occasion.

...The procession [of 200] which followed the remains took up the mournful funeral march as follows: the public school children (General Reames was chairman of the school board at the time of his death), the P.P. Prim Cabin of Native Sons of Oregon, A.O.U.W., Jacksonville.

While the clear tones of the Presbyterian bell solemnly tolled, this long procession wended its way towards the silent City of the Dead. The band discoursed the funeral dirge and the concourse of friends and neighbors and the members of the mystic brotherhood fol-

lowed the hearse, marching along California Street to the corner of Oregon, thence down the street to the junction of the cemetery road. As they moved up the hill leading to the cemetery they presented a beautiful though mournful sight.

At the grave the Masonic burial service was read by Worshipful Master George M. Love, the committal feelingly rendered by Past Master C.C. Beekman and the Brother Masons. The floral offerings were elegant and profuse.

Thus was laid to rest the remains of a man who helped make the history of southern Oregon and whose services to the commonwealth will not be overlooked by those who come after.

Lucinda Reames lived until 1923. She was 95. During the last seventeen years of her life she was blind, but the Pioneer Association, in their obituary, praised her cheerful nature. "During her trials she was ever happy and bravely bore her affliction, being light of heart and bright in spirit." At her death she was survived by her three sons and six daughters.

MARTHA REAMES

Red haired Martha E. Reames, the second child of Woodford and Mahulda, was born in Kentucky in 1841. She was a girl of eleven when her family set out to cross the plains for Oregon and she grew to womanhood in Phoenix on her father's Donation Land Claim.

She vividly remembered the first strenuous pioneering years and the fear of the Indians during their rebellion. Having a knack of relating stories in an exciting way, she often told of her early experiences when there was constant fear of an attack or an ambush if one strayed too far away from home.

When she was twenty-one, in 1860, she married J.K. Ashley who died a few years later. The date and cause of his demise are not known and his burial plot is not listed in southern Oregon cemetery records. How long they were married is not revealed, but in January 1876 she made a second marriage to Joseph Rapp, known by the nieces and nephews as "Uncle Rapp." The newspapers announced the birth of a son, Edward W. Rapp, in June 1878, but in August of the same year reported his death. In July 1880 a son Fred was born and he lived to maturity.

It is unfortunate that so few facts are available about Martha Reames Rapp. A great niece of the third generation, Mrs. Roberta Gregory, said Martha was an independent soul, "a woman born before her time." Like her mother, Mahulda, she had a profound interest in politics, world wide and local, and read avidly. C.C. Beekman, who made frequent business trips to San Francisco, generally stayed



Martha

with the Rapps in Talent on his return, and always brought a complete supply of Bay area newspapers to Martha so she could keep up with international events. For a woman to be so interested in world affairs at that time was unique and particularly exceptional for one with a limited education. In her lifetime a woman's realm was the kitchen and the laundry, and the lady of the house had to do something explosive to be mentioned in the papers. At an age when women couldn't vote and the very idea of a female's running for vice president would have been completely hilarious, most of the gentler sex, who fit in the vast range between sainthood and deviltry, didn't command much newspaper coverage. It is our loss.

In 1897 Joseph Rapp died. A sketchy obituary reveals that Martha lived in Ashland with a niece until 1915 when she returned to the family home in Jacksonville. She died in 1916.

JAMES R. REAMES

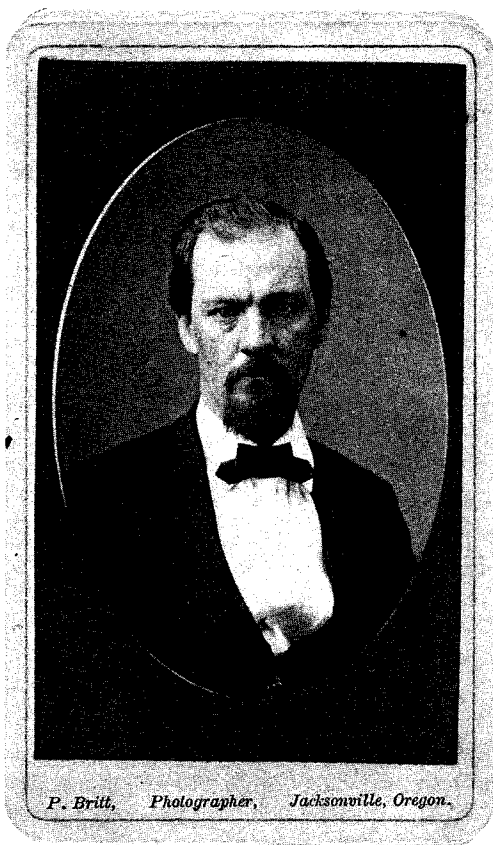
The second son, James Robert, was born in 1844 in Grayson County, Kentucky. He was eight years old when the family came west.

Until 1869, when he became 25, he lived on the home farm. Hoping to improve his prospects, he joined his brother Thomas in the Reames Livery Stable in Jacksonville, but the business failed to prosper and after two years was sold.

James then clerked in the Phoenix store operated by Thomas and his friend and partner, Ben Sach. James was a valuable employe for five years, and, at the end of this period, in company with C. S. Seargent, he purchased the business, which they continued to conduct profitably.

In 1874 he married Lavicia Alice Strong. She was born in Sigourney, Iowa, in 1857 and had come west with her parents, arriving in Redding, California, in 1874. From Redding the family journeyed by team to Phoenix where she eventually met James Reames. They were married in 1875.

In that same year Reames and Seargent's general store burned. Soon afterwards James opened a business of his own which he conducted for five years. He enjoyed working with general merchandise and devoted at least ten years to that line of work, but his real interest was in farming. After Woodford and Mahulda retired,



James

from their claim and moved to Jacksonville, James took his family back to the old place where he lived for the rest of his life. From time to time he took an active interest in local politics and for eighteen successive years was a member of the school board. He died in 1906 at the age of sixty-two.

After his death Lavicia Alice Reames continued to operate the farm until 1912 when she sold it and moved to a small house in Phoenix where she was active in civic and social affairs. She and James Reames had seven children; five of them survived her.

EVAN R. REAMES

Evan Rogers Reames, the third son, born in Litchfield, Illinois, in 1850, was a toddler of two when his parents crossed the plains. He attended the public school at Phoenix and at the age of nineteen entered upon a six years' clerkship in the general mercantile store of Major James T. Glenn.

His employment with Major Glenn was interrupted by the Modoc War, and he enlisted in 1872, as a lieutenant in Company A, First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry. After six months of fighting, he was wounded in the leg. His injury was not serious -- just a flesh wound --



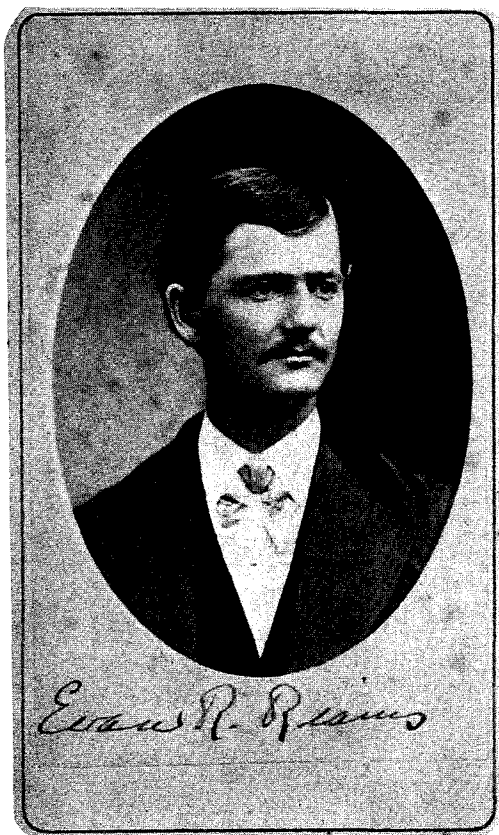
Lavicia

but by the time the leg had healed, the war had come to a close, and he returned to his job with Major Glenn.

Sometime during his early young manhood, perhaps while he was a dashing lieutenant in the Cavalry, he met Jennie E. Ross, the pretty young daughter of Colonel John E. Ross, the best known of the northwest Indian fighters, whose marriage to Elizabeth Hopwood was the first wedding ceremony to be performed in Jacksonville. Jennie was a popular young lady and had many suitors, but Evan Reames was an intelligent, ambitious fellow and was no doubt considered a good catch. They were married in 1873 when Jennie reached the age of eighteen.

Shortly after the marriage, Evan became a partner with his older brother, Thomas, in his store in Jacksonville, and the name became Reames Brothers' General Mercantile Emporium. The business was one of the most successful supply houses in southern Oregon and when the Reames brothers branched out and opened a settlers' store at Fort Klamath and a general merchandise establishment in Linkville, Evan and Jennie moved to Klamath County so he could supervise the Klamath branches.

Eventually Thomas and Evan took into partnership Alec Martin and Rufus and Charles Moore. Under the name of Reames,



Evan



Jennie

Martin and Company the store became even more profitable and was the biggest general merchandising establishment in southern Oregon.

In 1886 Evan sold his interests to the other partners and engaged in stock raising. He acquired a "splendidly appointed ranch"* of two thousand acres just south of Klamath Falls. This venture did not last long although it was an extremely profitable one. After two years Evan took Jennie and their daughter Mollie to San Jose, where he conducted another general merchandising store. *The Portrait and Biographical Record* states that the stay in California was principally to make use of the superior educational facilities at San Jose for Mollie.

He and Jennie both had put down their roots in southern Oregon and in 1890 they returned to Klamath Falls where Evan became a partner with George T. Baldwin in the general hardware business. All of Evan's endeavors made profit, and he, Jennie and Mollie lived on a large, elegant estate on Conger Avenue. The house was one of the show homes of the country and the landscaping, under Jennie's direction, was spectacular. Strutting peacocks and tame deer added

Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon, pp.924,925, Chapman Brothers, Chicago.

to the charm of the extensive gardens. In addition they took a summer home on Wagner Creek near Talent where they could be closer to their families.

Although the Baldwin store remained in operation for many years, Evan left it in 1898 and with some associates organized the Klamath County Bank, afterwards the First National Bank. He was head of that institution for many years. During that time he was instrumental in establishing the Midway Telephone and Telegraph Company, which was the first institution of its kind in the Klamath Basin. He was one of the builders of the water system and the electric light system at Klamath Falls, selling these interests later to the California Oregon Power Company along with his palatial home.

Evan Reames did not actively enter politics but when Klamath County was cut off from Lake County he was appointed by the governor to be County Treasurer and subsequently was elected to that office.

In all his endeavors, however, he sustained his interest in the fields. During haying seasons he would leave his store or the bank and work right along with the other field hands. He was a generous, civic minded fellow, and his gift of the Reames Golf and Country Club to the city of Klamath Falls is only one example of his public spiritedness.

Jennie Ross Reames became ill several years before her death. Evan took her to many different areas, seeking a climate which would be beneficial to her health. He had given up his presidency of the bank to be at her side and Mollie was also in constant attendance, but her health continued to decline. She died at her home near Talent in 1927. The Klamath Falls Chapter EOS was in charge of the services at her grave in the Jacksonville cemetery.

In June 1931 Evan Rogers Reames died at the summer home. Mollie was at his bedside. He was 81. A Klamath Falls editor wrote, "He was not only a pioneer merchant, manufacturer, livestock grower and farmer, banker, organizer and builder of public utilities, but successful in them all ... He was one of the most respected, successful and best loved men of southwestern Oregon."

MEDORA REAMES

There is an impressive collection of newspaper clippings about each of the three boys in the first Reames generation, but a pitiful few about the girls. Medora's life is no better documented than the life of her older sister, Lucinda. There are of course occasional notices of Medora Mae Reames in the *Democratic Times* -- she was one of the guests at a party at the David Linn home, she met with the sewing circle -- but her participation in this social stuff tells nothing about her nature and her capabilities and her emotions. She surely faced minor and major crises, just as everybody, but they are not handed down to us.

Mrs. Roberta Gregory tells an interesting little tale about Dora's husband, Oliver Harbaugh. He was getting on in years and was thirty years older than Dora when he married her. His advanced age didn't seem to dim his verve, and when he was reminded that he had passed the mid-century mark, he let it be known that he intended to live to be a hundred. Alcohol would pickle his innards and to insure his longevity, he kept a bountiful stock of whisky in his cellar. Unfortunately prohibition came in, his supply was outlawed, and he made it only to ninety-nine.



Medora

Dora Reames was born in Phoenix in 1857 and spent her entire life in southern Oregon. She was educated at the Old Academy in Ashland and married Harbaugh at Jacksonville in 1882 when she was twenty-three. He was from Switzerland but had fought in the Modoc War. He mined in Australia, Nevada and California but in the 1880 census he was listed as a farmer. By 1900 he had shifted to real estate and had become "a capitalist." His obituary declared he was "generous and obliging and had an abundance of this world's goods." He died in 1921.

The Harbaughs had no children but sometime after her husband's death, Dora took into her home a young man, John B. Renault, known locally as Johnnie Reno. He was from a French family, spoke with a heavy accent, and ran a second hand shop in Jacksonville. He let it be known that Dora had adopted him although no adoption record or papers were ever discovered. When the fact was revealed that Johnnie Reno was selling some of Dora's furniture in his second hand store, Dora's nephew Charles made a thorough investigation of the matter, and he and Johnnie Reno feuded considerably over the case, but the young man steadfastly stuck to his story. He must be credited with staying with her when she grew old

and frail and during her last illness he attended her faithfully.

After she died in 1943 he stayed on at the house until his own death in 1948. Two ladies, claiming to be his sisters, then appeared in Jacksonville at the Harbaugh house and, fortified with a proper will drawn up by John B. Renault, they packed and shipped away two truck loads of furnishings. Charles Reames and some other members of the family protested, but could do little when faced with the statement:

"She *wanted* Johnnie to have this." Thus much of the Reames memorabilia which might have been treasured by the family was hauled away.

Medora Harbaugh is buried in the Jacksonville cemetery. Like the rest of her family she was an active member of her lodge; she was Past Matron of the Adarel Chapter, OES.

RICHARD REAMES

Dickie Reames, born in 1866, died in infancy.

THE SECOND GENERATION



CHILDREN of THOMAS and LUCINDA



HATTIE REAMES

Hattie Reames was born in Phoenix in August 1867. She was the first child of Thomas and Lucinda, the oldest of a family of ten children. Most of her life was spent in Jackson County.

In January 1892 she married John Fulton White, who had come west in 1883 from Kentucky. He was a handsome

young man with a well-combed mustache, and Thomas generously took him into his mercantile business and gave the bride and groom the plot of ground and the honeymoon cottage where he and Lucinda had first lived after their marriage. Today it has been restored and embellished and proudly bears the plaque, *The Hattie Reames White House*.

Actually Hattie and John White lived in the house for only a short time. Not



John White

long after their marriage, they moved to Kentucky for a few years. Their daughter Zela was born there. Zela, who was described as delicate, revealed considerable musical talent and took advanced training in San Francisco. Her instrument is not on record but she probably studied voice or piano.

John F. White was a good manager and apparently a resourceful and sober husband, and in those days sobriety was a great virtue in a husband, and he saved his money carefully until he could buy a store of his own in Medford in 1898. Along with his in-laws he was enthusiastic about the Masonic Lodge and was past master of Warren Lodge No. 10 in Jacksonville. In his later years he became affiliated with the White and Trowbridge Real Estate at Sixth and Fir.

A few months shy of his golden wedding, John White died suddenly from a heart attack. Hattie lived until 1953, twelve years later. She was 86. Her daughter, Zela, had died in 1918 when she was still a young lady. Hattie was survived by two granddaughters, Dorothy Sanborn and Margery Garr whom she had raised after the death of their mother.

A. EVAN REAMES

Alfred Evan Reames had an extremely distinguished career. The first of the children to enroll in college, he became an attorney and one of Oregon's most illustrious citizens, prominent both locally and nationally. His sense of humor was said to be akin to Mark Twain's and he was one of those gifted few who could hold his listeners spellbound with his stories, a raconteur whose every word, even his instructions to the housekeeper, should have been recorded for permanent proof of his wit and wisdom. Perhaps, like his Aunt Martha, Evan's way with a story was his most outstanding accomplishment -- among a multitude of accomplishments. He is said to have had a full repertoire of early Jacksonville and Phoenix stories, and it is southern Oregon's great loss that home recorders weren't around when he was relating his inspired narratives.

The second child of Thomas and Lucinda Reames, he was born in Jacksonville in 1870. After attending the Jacksonville public school, he enrolled in the College of the Pacific at San Jose. In 1889 he



Alfred Evan

transferred to the University of Oregon, graduating in 1892. He then entered Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and received his L.L.B. degree. Having passed the Virginia bar and the Oregon bar, he entered practice in Eugene with Judge Skipworth.

Eva Nealon Hamilton, a reporter for the *Tribune*, in an article about him published in 1934, wrote:

In 1894 he went to Portland to become associated with C.M. Idleman and remained there until 1895, when he came to Medford to become a partner of Judge [William M.] Colvig.*

Judge Colvig and Evan Reames maintained their office in Medford through 1896, then moved to Jacksonville and practiced together until 1900 when young Reames became district attorney for Lake, Klamath, Jackson and Josephine counties. For eight years he traveled the circuit by horse and buggy and had many interesting stories of his experiences to tell.

During his long years of practice in Medford he was always ready to assist other attorneys along the way, and many successful lawyers gained their start in his office, among them his brothers, Clarence and Charles Reames. Others included George Coddington, George Roberts, Frank Farrell, Kenneth Denman and Walter Looker.

In February 1938 he was appointed United States Senator from Oregon...serving with distinction and making friendships in Washington which were of great benefit [to Oregon].

He was a friend of President Roosevelt, loyal to the Democratic party, and largely

*(The move to southern Oregon was made as payment for an election bet. He had vowed that if William Jennings Bryan failed to be elected president, he would move from Portland. When McKinley won the election, Evan's betting partner said he was willing to forget the bet, he didn't want to lose a good lawyer, but Evan said, "No, a bet's a bet.")

responsible for bringing Camp White to Oregon. During the war he served on the Enemy Alien Board. A great advocate of the development of Oregon's natural resources, he was vice-president and director of the Deep Gravel Mining Company and president of the Three Pines Timber Company. At Jacksonville he built and owned the city lighting plant.

In 1895 he married Edith L. Tongue, the daughter of an Oregon congressman. She died in 1918 and in 1923 he married again, this time to Lillain Lanning Opie. She had one son, adopted by Evan, Edward Lanning Reames, who, after completing high school in Medford, moved to Washington state, married and had a family. He has not returned to Medford for any extended stay and does not appear to be a genealogy buff, at least on his distaff side.

Senator Reames died of a heart attack in March 1943. Mrs. Hamilton wrote: "With his passing, associates in many sections of the nation realized the loss of a great mind and loyal citizen, whose faith in the American way of life had never wavered. Throughout his years he was a powerful influence in the councils of the democratic party and the nation.

He was buried in the Siskiyou Memorial Park in Medford.

JENNIE REAMES



Jennie

Perhaps one day a family member or an acquaintance will appear armed with Jennie's story in detail and the files will be more complete. In the meantime her story is only an outline.

She was born in 1873 and lived until 1921, only forty-seven years. She married a retired sailor from Scotland, William Morrison, and they lived in Ruch. There were no children. Morrison, who was about twenty years older than Jennie, died in 1925 at the age of seventy. Both of them are buried in the Jacksonville cemetery.

CARRIE REAMES

Carrie Reames, born in 1872, lived only ten months.

WILLIAM T. REAMES



Willie

Willie was born in Jacksonville in 1877 and was educated in Jacksonville school.

In 1898, when he was 21, he formed a partnership with his younger brother, Clarence, in the ownership and management of a general store at Gold Hill, the Gold Hill Mercantile Company. There was a great deal of mining activity in the vicinity of Gold Hill at that time, and for a few years the store was profitable. After the turn of the century the mines became exhausted and in 1903 the brothers closed the business.

Willie departed for a more cosmopolitan area, Berkeley, California, and opened

a mercantile business there. He later moved to San Francisco but his entire life was spent in mercantile pursuits.

He died in 1937, at the age of sixty. He was survived by his wife, Gertrude, and a son Harold, who lived in San Leandro. Although Harold is a Reames and may have had a son or two to bear the name, members of the family residing in southern Oregon have not been informed and they have assumed his children, if any, are daughters.

William's obituary, written by the Pioneer Association, states:

Notwithstanding his long absence from southern Oregon he has many friends here who will be grieved to know of his death, for he was a cheerful, genial, good-natured man, upright, and he formed lasting friendships.

CLARENCE REAMES

Clarence Lester Reames was born at Jacksonville in 1879. After his graduation from Jacksonville high school, he had a brief stint in a general merchandise store in Gold Hill which he regarded as only temporary. After three years he gave up merchandising, entered the University of Oregon and studied law.

Admitted to the bar in 1901, he practiced with his older brother Evan, after which, like Evan, he entered into a law partnership with Judge Colvig in Medford.

During this association, after the be-



Clarence

ginning of the Woodrow Wilson administration, he was appointed United States District Attorney for Oregon and moved to Portland. He served in this office at a time when the O & C land grant scandals and land fraud cases were tried, and much of his time was spent trying people who were prominent in community and government circles for their alleged conspiracy in these crimes. At the conclusion of the O & C trials in Oregon he was sent to San Francisco to assist in the prosecution of land fraud cases there. These trials created a great deal of interest over the entire coast and Clarence received special commendation from the government for his activities.

At the conclusion of this work he became special counsel out of the Attorney-General's office in handling alien troubles during the war. A very large force of assistants was put at his command by the government, and he worked largely through the intelligence departments of the navy and army.

His most outstanding case was one in which Skinner and Eddy Corporation, a large ship building concern of Seattle, which had been constructing ships for use in the war, entered suit against the United States for a large sum of money. Clarence was commissioned as special counsel for the government, which, in turn, demanded a large sum from Skinner and Eddy. The case, after a long fought trial, was determined for the government and Clarence again received special awards from the grateful officials in the U.S. Shipping Board.

Clarence Reames' first wife was Clara Louise Colvig, the beautiful daughter of Judge Colvig and Adelaide Birdseye Colvig. Clara, who was born in 1880, died in 1921, when she was only forty. Her death remains a minor mystery. The first newspaper reports declare she was found dead in the kitchen where she was making toast over a gas flame which had accidentally blown out. The possibility of her dying because of a malfunctioning toaster was an unvelievable story and was not pursued by reporters. A subsequent story revealed that Clarence had found a note from Clara which he declined to turn over to the police. He said, "The note was just for me. There was nothing in it for the world." He later said Clara's life was "just the story of a girl's twenty year fight



Clara

against sickness. The fight is over now." There was some speculation that the marriage may have been an unhappy one, but no additional facts appeared. Cause of her death was given as "illuminating gas poisoning" and she was buried in the Jacksonville cemetery. Her pall bearers were R. Vinton Beall, Orris Crawford, F.M. Calkins, W.H. Gore, Charles Nunan and John Wilkinson, a distinguished bunch.

Clarence died of a heart attack in Seattle. At the time of his death he was in partnership with Ben L. Moore of Seattle. The papers, in listing his credits, called him the war-time special assistant attorney-general, former shipping board counsel, and one of the most widely known and most successful lawyers of the Pacific Northwest.

A second wife, Sylvia, survived him.

LUCINDA REAMES

Lucinda II was the seventh child of Thomas and Lucinda I. She was born in Jacksonville and received her education at the St. Mary's Academy in Jacksonville. Later she studied at Mills College in Oakland.

In 1903 she married Ira Anderson who died in 1906. In 1923 she married Harry T. Hubbard who died in 1926. She wasn't particularly lucky with her husbands; both of them died after three years of married bliss. Poor Lucinda apparently decided not to go for a third try.

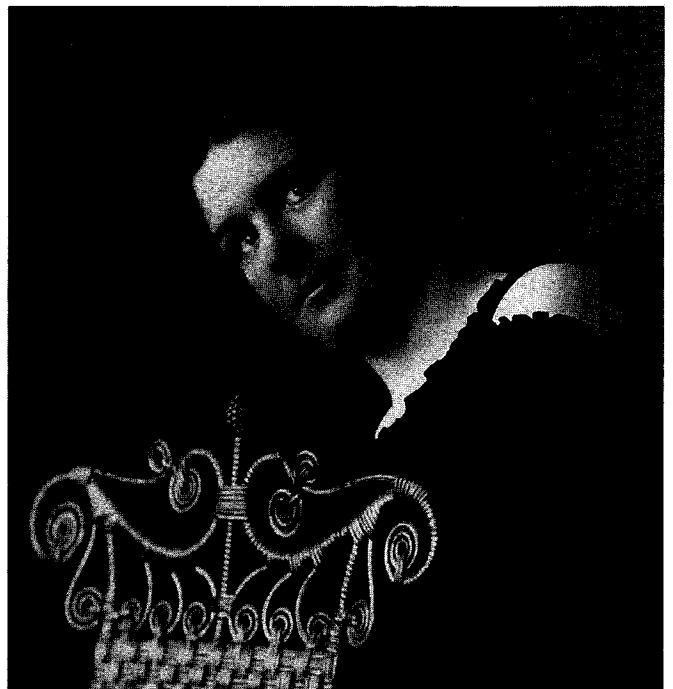
She was a socially prominent citizen of southern Oregon, a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Southern Oregon Pioneer Society, a Lady Elk, a Lady Lion and a Daughter of the Nile.

She died in 1968 at the age of 95. One son, Philip Anderson, preceded her in death in 1921. A second son is Thomas Clayton Anderson, a dentist. He lives in Medford.

LAURA, NELLIE and FLORENCE

In 1850 people made sentimental scrap books, treasured their correspondence and confided in their diaries. In 1950 they did none of these. The closer we come to contemporary times, the fewer vital statistics we find. An age in which there is a flood of diversion leaves no opportunity for making a chronicle of family facts for posterity. Alas.

We find few accounts of the lives of these three Reames girls. Laura was born in 1883, Nellie in 1886, and Florence in 1889. Laura went to Portland and became Mrs. Clark. Nellie moved to California, was married, divorced and remarried. Sometimes she was known as Nellie Lopez; sometimes, as Nellie Hearn; at other times she reverted to Reames. She had several children; part of them took the name Lopez, part of



Lucinda

them, the name Hearn, and one of them was called Reames. She died in 1874, and her ashes were sent to Jacksonville and placed in the family plot. There is no obituary. Florence died in childbirth.

Professor J.W. Merritt, who probably taught Nellie and Florence in the Jacksonville school, is reported to have said they were "fast." Isn't that tantalizing? A complete biography of these two ladies might have added some spice to the Reames family to counterbalance their sterling virtues.



Laura

CHARLES W. REAMES

Charles, born in 1891, attended grade school in Jacksonville but graduated from high school in Oakland, California. At that time his brother William owned and operated a store in Berkeley and for some reason his parents, Woodford and Mahulda, had moved to that area. Their stay was only temporary and after Charles' graduation they returned to Jacksonville.

In 1914 when Charles was 23 he married Bessie B. Myall in San Rafael. During the same year he enrolled in the Portland Law School and received his L.L.B. degree from the University of Oregon. He was admitted to the bar in 1917.

He began his legal career as chief clerk in the U.S. Attorney's office in Portland, but was soon named assistant U.S. attorney, serving in this position

during the war. In 1920 he brought his family back to Medford where he entered active practice.

In keeping with family tradition he joined the Masonic Lodge, the Royal Arch Masons Malta Commandary, Knights Templar, Hillah Temple Shrine, Jackson County Shrine Club, the Medford Elks and the Isaac Walton League. He was a member of the State and Local Bar Association.

At the age of 74, in 1965, he died. He had practiced law in Medford for almost fifty years and was known and admired by many Medford citizens. Honorary casket bearers were Judge Edward E. Kelley, Aubrey Norris, George Porter, George M. Roberts, Michael Beck and Alan Perry. Active bearers were Robert Boyer, Dr. William Barnum, Judge James M. Main, Dale Schmidt, Donald K. Denman and Dr. Warren G. Bishop.

His widow, Bessie, died in 1976. She was survived by two daughters, Mrs. Bette Gottfried and Mrs. Carvel Wall of Medford, one son, Thomas, of Eagle Point and five grandchildren.

CHILDREN of JAMES and ALICE REAMES

LILLIE Lillie Reames Carver Coleman was the mother of

Faye Carver who served on the Library Board in Phoenix and was Mayor from 1960 to 1962. Mrs. Carver was also city judge of Phoenix from 1963 to 1967.

ADDIE Addie, born in 1878, died in infancy.

ELSIE Elsie Reames was born in Phoenix in 1879 and died in 1975 at the age of 96. She married Charles Christiansen and lived in Stockton, California, for 58 years. She was survived by a son, Robert, of Modesto, and two grandchildren.

HARRY Harry W. Reames was a nice fellow. He never married and lived with his mother. He worked in the Phoenix Mercantile Store owned by Coleman and Carter and didn't stir up many waves. When he was forty-five he learned to dance and from then on was addicted. Every Saturday night, after attending Salvation Army services, he went to Dreamland and exercised his expertise until closing time.

EARNEST Earnest E. was born in 1885 in

Phoenix. He lived all his life in southern Oregon. In 1908 he married Nina May Furry, a daughter of Frederic and Mary Isabelle Furry whose name in southern Oregon is as significant as the name, Reames. Nina's maternal grand father, Milo Caton, came to southern Oregon with the U.S. army during the Indian war years.

Earnest and Nina lived near Phoenix and raised cattle. In 1919 they moved to Central Point then to the Crater Lake Highway in 1930 where they lived for thirty-three years. Nina kept a diary for fifty years, recording many of the valley's happenings -- Medford's first street lights, the building of the first bridge over Bear Creek, and the construction of the road which later became Oregon 99 between Medford and Ashland.

Earnest had a heart attack and died in 1964. He was buried in the Phoenix cemetery. His pall bearers were Fred Nelson, John Nelson, Deane Owens, Sam Graves, Kenneth Damon and Harley Dressler. His wife Nina lived until 1982 when, at the age of ninety-three, her heart gave out.

Survivors of Earnest and Nina are Eugene (he died before his mother in Rio Linda, California), Mrs. Leota Frakes (Lakeview), Mrs. Roberta Gregory (Medford), Miss Berenice Reames (Corvallis) and two grandchildren.



Mollie

ARCHIE Archie died in 1912 when he was still a young man.

DAUGHTER of EVAN and JENNIE

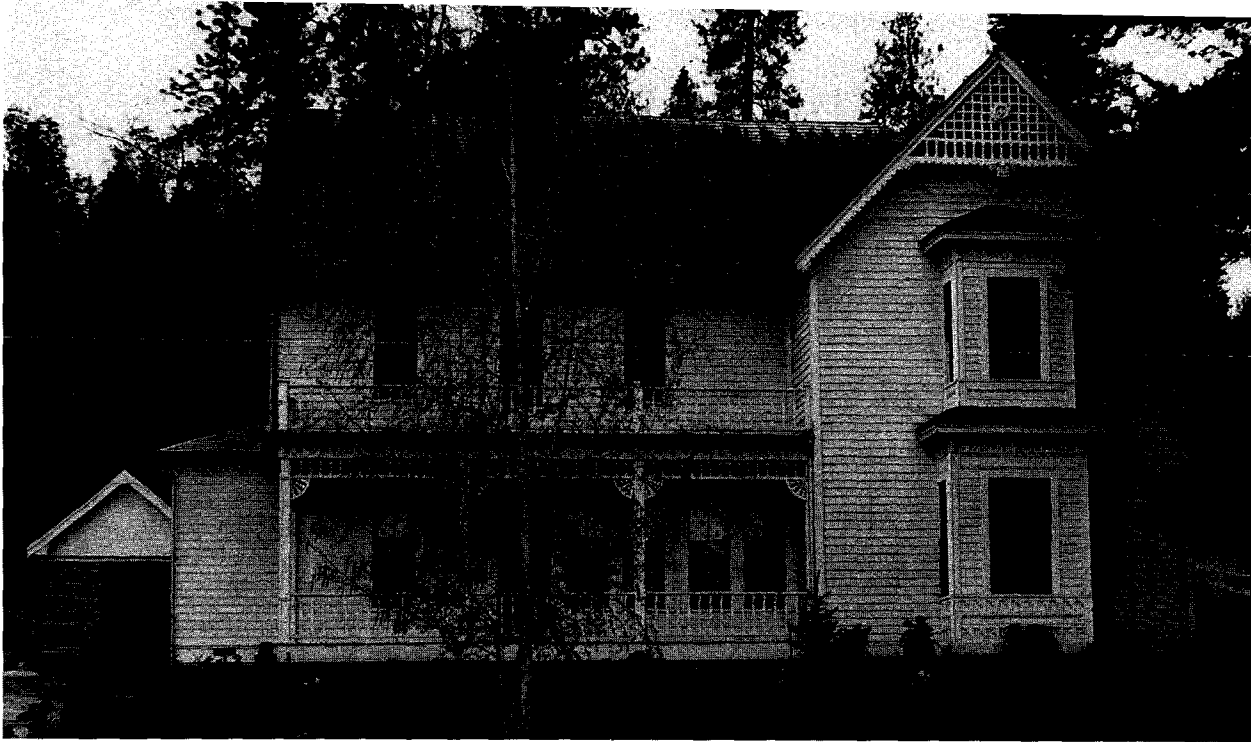
MOLLETTE Evan Rogers Reames and his wife Jennie Ross Reames, both members of pioneer families, must have hoped for a lot of children who would carry on the family name and the family traditions. They had only one child, a daughter Mollette, born in 1880. All the love and care they would have given a large family they lavished on Mollie, and as a result she was a pampered child who had the air of one who considers herself a little more aristocratic than her acquaintances.

Her husband, Frank W. Jennings, who worked for her father in his Klamath Falls store, was considerably older than she. Eventually the Jennings moved to the Hawaiian Islands where he maintained a store and owned a large plantation. They returned to the mainland frequently and Mollie was well known in southern Oregon society. Mr. Jennings made little demands on her: in 1927 she spent over a year in Talent to be with her mother in Jennie's final illness; she returned to Talent for another year in 1930 to attend her ailing father until his death. Her devotion was exemplary.

In 1962, when she was eighty-five, Mollie died in San Francisco where she had made her home during the last years of her life. She is buried in the Jacksonville cemetery. No immediate relatives survived her but several cousins attended her final rites.



For awhile the Reames family came on strong. They met the challenges and rigors of pioneer life and they triumphed during the early years. But in the twentieth century the third generation in Oregon has run its course. Like the families of Helm, Beekman and Hoffman, the name may soon be found only in the archives. Perhaps some other branch of the family is blazing trails for some other history books on another frontier. It's a vast universe.



The Reames house as it appears today with the addition of gingerbread and landscaping. It is presently being remodeled by its new owners to serve as a bed and breakfast house.

SOHS TO SPONSOR PROGRAM ON EQUAL RIGHTS



biography of Abigail Scott Duniway, *Rebel for Rights*, by Ruth Barnes Moynihan, appeared in 1893. In it the false image of Mrs. Duniway as a little old lady in a black dress and bonnet is disproved and she emerges as a fiery, courageous fighter for human rights.

Born in a log cabin in Illinois in 1834, she came west as a teen-ager. Knowing her father had stormed and raged and her mother had wept because she was not a boy, she had a life-long sense of unworthiness. She wrote several autobiographical novels and edited *The New Northwest*, a weekly publication which fostered women's rights. Her brother, Harvey Winfield Scott, editor of the *Oregonian*, continually attacked her theories and fought the women suffrage movement for forty years, carrying his opposition to the grave. Her husband was weak and ineffective and most of the men she knew were bitterly opposed to her ideas. During one of her lectures in Jacksonville she was pelted with eggs by the audience, and the editor of the *Democratic Times*, Charles Nickell never ceased his attacks. Yet she did not hate men, she merely wanted equality.

When Oregon gave women the vote in 1912, much of the credit went to her, but she had an abrasive manner and offended the more genteel suffragists and those who linked women's vote to temperance. She belongs to the first rank of American feminists and should not be ignored. She died in 1915.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society and the Medford Chapter of the American Association of University Women will sponsor "Oregon Pioneer Abigail Scott Duniway," a slide program and lecture by Kay Sweetland Bower, Director of the Northwest Women's Film Project. The slide tape production has won the University of California (Santa Cruz) Chancellor's Undergraduate Award.

The program will be presented twice on the same day, Saturday, October 6. The first presentation will follow a luncheon at Rogue Valley Manor for SOHS members and guests, AAUW members and residents of the Manor. The luncheon, a salad buffet, will cost \$5 per person and will begin at 12:00. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Reservation and pre-payment must be made by Wednesday, October 3. Please call Gladys Daugherty at 779-7910.

An evening presentation will be given to the public free of charge at 7:30 p.m. at the Southern Oregon State College Campus. For further information call Dawna Curler, 899-1847.

Society News

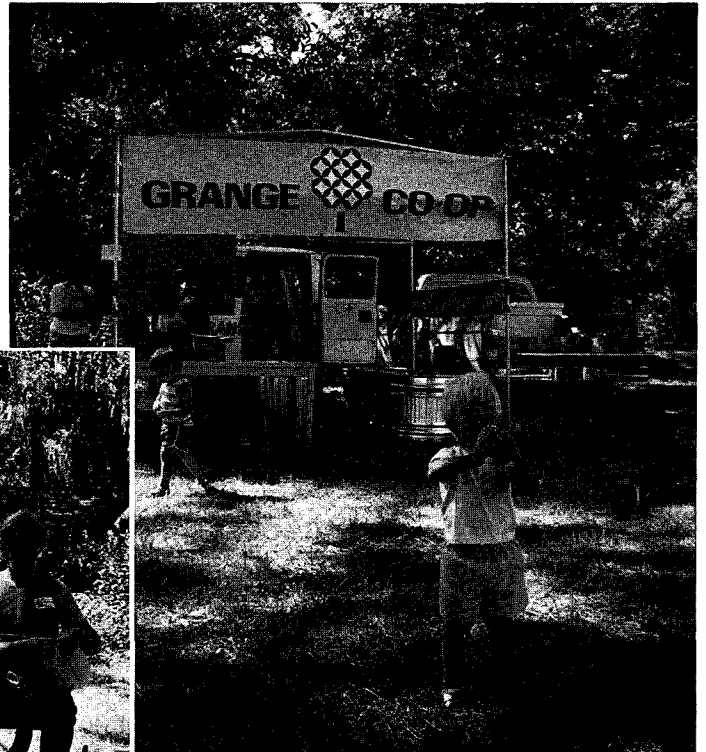
What's New Nick Clark

The Southern Oregon Historical Society has just completed a very busy month as you will soon realize by looking at the next few pages. Of course, that's the way we like it---and just because summer's over, we're not going to slow down.

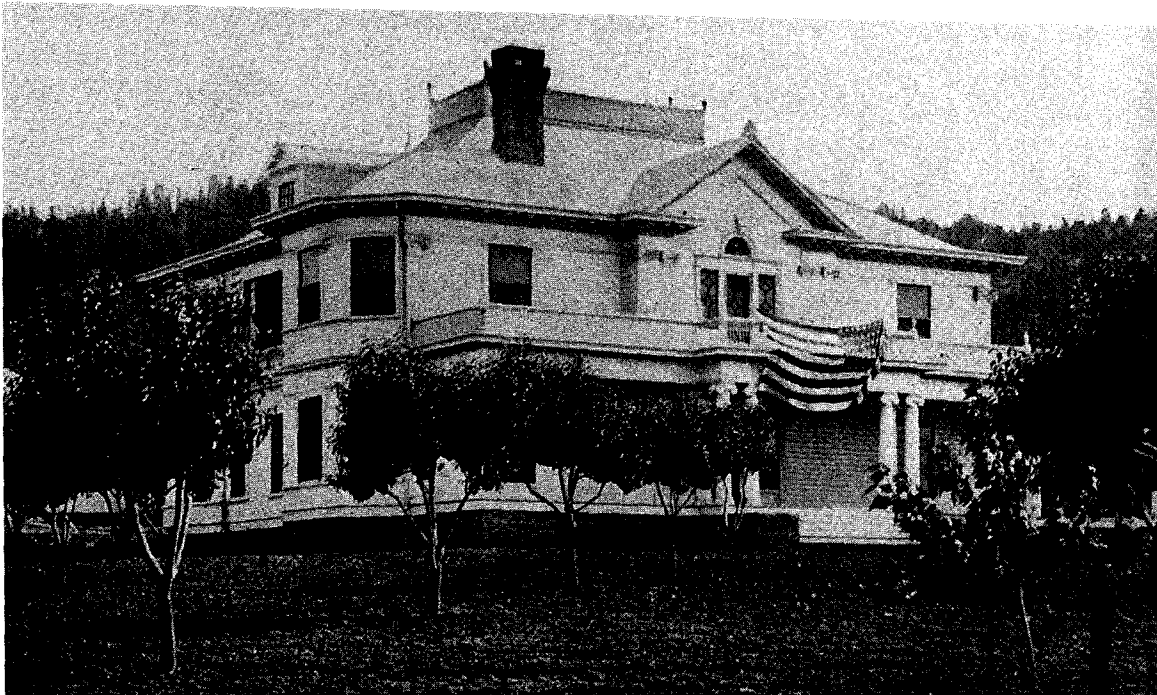
We have a full calendar of events for the fall and winter including an organ concert in September, the opening of Swedenburg House in October and a festival called, "Jacksonville Christmas Past," so don't fail to mark these important events on your calendar.

Our success is thanks to our dedicated employees and volunteers. We can plan events but these folks are responsible for making certain that they are a success. Thanks to all of you and we'll appreciate your continued support!

THE HANLEY FARM SOCIAL was enjoyed by over 900 folks on July 29. Everyone was impressed with the beauty of the farm and the potential for a fine living historical museum. The Grange Co-op gave away over 1,500 bottles of coke and demonstrations of weaving and spinning were given by the Rogue Valley Hand Weavers Guild. The Old Time Fiddlers, Quilters and steam engine added greatly to the day's festivities.



Photographs by Doug Smith



BRANCH MUSEUM TO OPEN OCTOBER 27

The Southern Oregon Historical Society's new branch museum in the historic Swedenburg House in Ashland will be formally dedicated in ceremonies at 4:00PM on Saturday afternoon October 27. The museum will occupy most of the first floor of the home which was partially restored by Southern Oregon State College after receiving \$100,000.00 from the society in return for a 25 year lease.

The society is hopeful that the Ashland museum will become a cultural resource center for southern Jackson County. There will be four exhibit areas, a public meeting room for 35 to 40 and a research library. One of the exhibit areas will be for Ashland area furnishings and antiques while a second will be used for historical photographs and other art forms. A third will show pictures and memorabilia of the Swedenburg Family and the fourth will be a "changing" exhibit area. We are hopeful that the citizens of southern Jackson County will donate items of interest for exhibit in the museum.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the operation of Swedenburg House. Although there will be one paid employee, it will be necessary to have a group of volunteers to assist with the active schedule at the museum. Watch local papers for the announcement of formation of such a group.

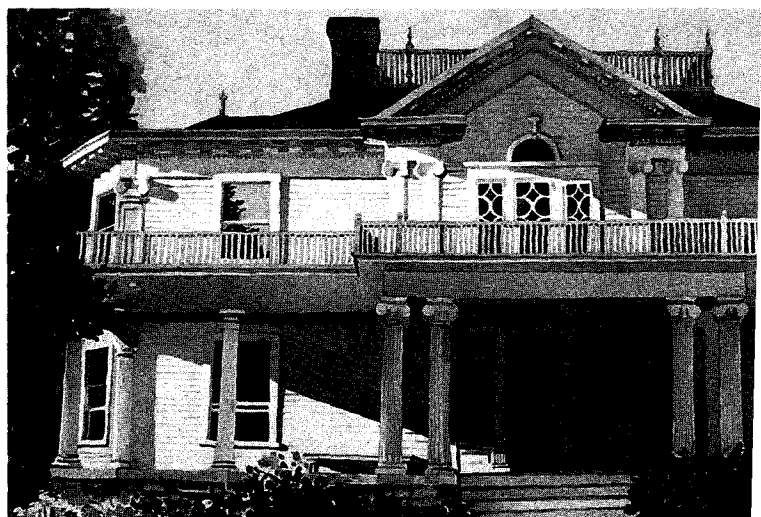
We hope to see you all at the ceremony on Saturday, October 27 at 4:00PM.

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ANNUAL SOCIETY CALENDAR TO FEATURE SWEDENBURG HOUSE

The Southern Oregon Historical Society has commissioned Ashland artist Judy Morris to render a watercolor of the Swedenburg House for the 1985 society calendar. A likeness of the painting is shown here and we know that all members are going to be pleased. All society members are entitled to a calendar as a membership benefit. You may pick your full color calendar up in the S.O.H.S. gift shop in the Courthouse Museum in Jacksonville after October 10, 1985. You may also purchase extras for Christmas Gifts. If members haven't picked up their calendars by December 8, we will mail them. We know you're going to enjoy yours.

Photograph by Doug Smith



SOCIETY CALENDAR

- Sunday, Sept. 23 - Area organists will present a one hour concert on the historical reed organ on the second floor of the Jacksonville Museum. The concert begins at 2:30PM. Watch your local papers for full details!
- October 5 and 6 Annual Tour of Homes in Jacksonville sponsored by the Jacksonville Booster's Club.
- Sat. October 6 - "Oregon Pioneer Abigail Scott Duniway" a slide/lecture program by Kay Sweetland Bower. The program will be at Southern Oregon State College in Ashland. Contact the museum switchboard for place and time by calling 899-1847
- Sat. October 27 - Dedication of Branch Museum in Chappell-Swedenburg House, Ashland, Oregon. Ceremony at 4:00PM.
- Sun. October 28 - New branch Museum in Chappell-Swedenburg House, Ashland, will be open for tours from 1PM to 5PM.
- Mon. October 29 - Branch Museum in Swedenburg House, Ashland, will be open from 1PM to 5PM daily, except Mondays. The museum will be closed on Mondays.
- November 23,24,25 "Jacksonville Christmas Past" This special festival
December 1 and 2 will feature the museum and several Jacksonville homes decorated for Victorian Christmas. Watch the October newsletter for full details but be sure and save time on these dates for a visit to Jacksonville!

ANTIQUE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS AND TOYS NEEDED

We are in need of old christmas ornaments and toys for the "Jacksonville Christmas Past" festival. We hope to decorate a 20' Christmas Tree on the second floor of the museum using old ornaments, hand-made or purchased.

The ornaments may either be loaned or donated to the museum for this occasion and will be kept out of reach of visitors. A list of those loaning or donating ornaments for this special tree will be provided visitors.

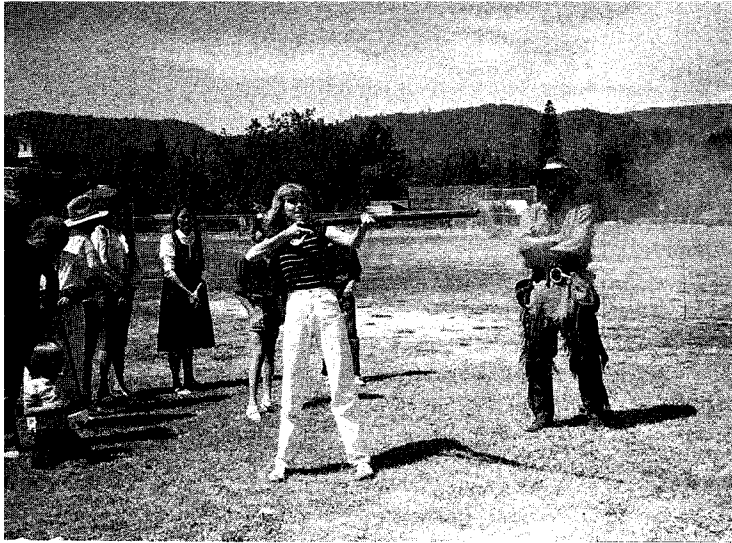
We are also in need of children's toys for this exhibit. They will be arranged on or around the tree and may be loaned or donated. Remember, if you donate items, they become available to future generations to enjoy---and they're tax deductible as well!

If you would like to participate, please call Rosemary Bevel or Jime Matusch at 899-1847. We will need them no later than November 16 so call today.



■□■□■
No---this isn't the newest dance craze in the valley, these are contestants in the "Three Legged Race" at the society's annual picnic held at Touvelle Park on Aug. 24. The team of Herb Gifford and Linda Wiesen, at left, took first place while Dottie Bailey and Nick Clark came in a poor third. The day was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Photograph by Doug Smith



Photograph by Dawna Curler

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers for nearly all of our departments, but we particularly need a volunteer photographer for the collections department. If you have knowledge of cameras and would enjoy photographing new objects coming into our collections, call Maureen Smith at 899-1847.

VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP

Very few folks in this area are aware that our Jacksonville Museum has a very fine gift shop located on the first floor at the rear of the building.

There is a wide variety of gifts ranging from real gold nuggets to paper dolls. We are carrying many fine books on Jackson County history as well as books on Oregon history, antiques and much more.

There are toys, souvenirs and a great deal more---so, visit our fine gift shop and support our museum!

THANK YOU !

A big thank you to Jim Hudson and all his helpers from the Grange Co-op who helped make our day at Hanley Farm a big success!

MOUNTAIN MEN ENJOYED BY OVER 300

The first encampment of Mountain Men sponsored by the Southern Oregon Historical Society was greatly enjoyed by visitors. The 20 enactors gave demonstrations of loading and firing black powder rifles and pistols. They also set up authentic camps of tents and teepees which were very educational.

The society hopes to make the Mountain Man Encampment an annual event in Jacksonville, and we feel it's very important to preserve this portion of our heritage.



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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