

THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Supplement



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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

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❁ The collection of Peter Britt photographs of people and scenes of early day Jacksonville is a priceless treasure. Stories of the people who were prominent in southern Oregon are made more exciting by the inclusion of their portraits. But, although Britt kept a remarkably complete collection of photographs of those who sat for him, he failed to identify many of them, and this omission leads to frustration and deep regret. From time to time, however, visitors identify a photograph or two and the library staff is always on the lookout for a researcher who can recognize a face or two. The little girls in the photograph above are among the unnamed. They are dressed in their Sunday best, all starched and ironed, and are wearing their new high-top buttoned leather boots for the photographer. If any of our members can give information about them, we would be beholden.

❁ A temporary but total suspension of the cerebellum was responsible for mislabeling the cover of our last issue. As everyone knows, it should have read Phantom Ship rather than Wizard Island.

❁ COVER: This photograph, by Patterson, was brought to light during the preliminary preparations for Medford's Centennial celebration. It was surely taken from the bell tower of the Washington School that stood on West Main and Oakdale, where the County Court House now stands. The two storey building in the left center eventually became a three story building -- with Copco on the first floor, St. Mark's parish hall on the second, and the Masonic Temple on the third. It was pulled down in 1971 to make room for the Oregon Bank and the PP and L building. Some of the historical structures are concealed behind the trees. The picture was taken around 1925.

THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Disappearance of B. B. Bakowski

*M*rs. Howard Arant, who supplied documentation for the story of W. Franklin Arant, which appeared in our last issue, also furnished a file on B. B. Bakowski, a photographer who perished in the snows of Crater Lake in the winter of 1911. His story, written by Eva Hamilton, was presented in the Medford Mail Tribune in May of 1976. At that time Mrs. Arant hoped that the publication of Bakowski's story might "stir up a memory which would throw some light on the fate of such a fine young man who seemed to just drop out of sight." Unfortunately the actual facts of his disappearance remain unrevealed.

The Historical Society in Klamath Falls has a collection of post cards made from photographs of various southern Oregon scenes. The pictures, commendable for 1910, were taken by this photographer, who produced the postcards as a business venture. There are examples of his work in private collections.



Found in the papers of W.F. Arant, the superintendent of Crater Lake National Park from 1902 to 1913, was a postcard from B. B. Bakowski, dated February 2, 1910. On it was the message: "Am sending you a few of my Crater Lake cards. In about a week--as soon as I catch up with my orders--I shall send you a whole lot of views."

A second card, made by a Klamath Falls photographer, is illustrated with a picture of a campsite in the snow. The inscription reads: "Camp outfit of Bakowski who perished at Crater Lake."

The first report of the tragedy appeared in the *Tribune* of February 22, 1911, under the head: "Photographer Lost in Snows of Crater Lake." The story notes:

According to the Fort Klamath correspondent of the *Klamath Chronicle*, B. B. Bakowski ... who left here three weeks ago to secure photos of Crater Lake in mid winter, has been lost in the deep snows that now surround the crater.

Last week Frank Burns and Albert Gipson started out to try and locate the adventurer. They returned and reported having found Bakowski's sled and shovel. The sled was found 1½ miles this side of the rim of the crater. It was completely hidden under the snow that has fallen. All of the outfit that Bakowski had taken was missing.

He had evidently taken a Kodak and other supplies from the sled and carried them to some other spot but where could not be located.

The March 1 issue of the *Mail Tribune* carried another brief story that the "Medford Explorers" had reached Crater Lake on snowshoes in the search for Bakowski. In the party were B. F. Heidel, engineer, M. L. Erickson, first supervisor, and Harry H. Hicks.

These men found Bakowski's camera

The pictures at the left have been reduced from postcard size. The top photograph of the covered wagon is labeled "Homesteaders of Central Oregon, a Heated Prairie Schooner." (Note the smoke coming from the chimney.) The second picture of girls galloping their horses across the plain was apparently taken in the area around Bend, Oregon, where B. B. Bakowski lived. The Klamath agency is the subject matter of the third postcard, and the fourth is a shot of Crater Lake, the beauty of which fascinated Bakowski and led to his untimely death.





B. B. Bakowski in an unidentified location

cases at the hotel building on the rim of the lake, but his supplies, including bedding and food were missing. According to the report "This leads the men to the belief that he is still alive and probably camped on the other side of the lake."

The following day, March 2, 1911, another dispatch, headlined "Perished at Crater Lake," appeared in the *Mail Tribune* with a Fort Klamath dateline.

The story announced the return from Crater Lake of two searchers, T.S. White and E. Momger, who had found the photographer's supplies and cameras but no trace of him and had decided "he is undoubtedly dead."

Near the abandoned campsite they discovered that someone had been chopping wood, which was clear evidence the young photographer had made preparations to stay there. In the snow they came upon a canvas stretched across the opening of a tunnel which extended through the snow to a depth of ten feet.

Going into the tunnel they found Bakowski's pack and all of his supplies including provisions. There were two comforters, shoes, socks, underwear, cap and extra clothing. At the mouth of the

tunnel Bakowski's pencil was stuck in the snow.

In the back pack there were papers and letters including three from Miss Georgianna McKenzie of Spokane, Washington. One had been written December 27. Also found were some 60 unexposed films and three cases of exposed films.

The paper revealed, "The camp appeared to have been occupied for two or possibly three nights and it is possible that he (Bakowski) was there but one night. 'Two green logs had been cut and taken into the tunnel,' the men were quoted as saying. 'These logs were burned probably half in two.' No cooking utensils were found."

On March 3, 1911, the *Tribune* headlined:

GALE RAGING CRATER LAKE
BLIZZARD HAS PREVAILED FOR THREE WEEKS
LITTLE DOUBT THAT PHOTOGRAPHER PERISHED
Probably Lost His Way

Whether he plunged to his death over the snowy precipices of Crater Lake or was frozen to death in the blizzard which held the lake in its embrace for three weeks will probably not be known until the summer sun has melted away



This is a shot of Bakowski's campsite. In the foreground a sled and shovel are stuck in the snow. In the background are snowshoes and an unidentified man. All photographs are from the collection of Mrs. Harold Arant.

the huge drifts of snow.

The report continued with a description of conditions after stating that Bakowski left Fort Klamath alone five weeks earlier to secure winter scenes of the lake. He had provisions for a month, and left word for some one to come after him if he did not return.

"The searching parties have been greatly hampered by the severe blizzard which is raging at the lake. It is impossible to see over 200 yards ahead and snow is drifted many feet deep. A high gale prevails," the writer stated.

"The party from Fort Klamath gave up the search leaving the Medford party to

continue it.

"Conditions at the lake are such that if Bakowski remained in the neighborhood it is impossible for him to be alive," the report concluded.

By March 9 all searching parties gave up. It was stated that the melting snows of summer would reveal the mystery and no further stories about Bakowski's disappearance appear in the *Tribune*.

When the snows had melted in the hot summer of 1911, however, there was no evidence brought to light. Bakowski's fate is still shrouded in mystery.

INVITATION

You and your guests are cordially invited to join in celebrating the first year anniversary of the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum. The gala observance will be held on Sunday, November 3, from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the Swedenburg House, 900 Siskiyou Boulevard in Ashland.

Do help us honor those who made the museum a reality and enjoy the music and the current exhibits. Refreshments will be served by the Swedenburg docents.

LESLIE GOULD, Curator

HARVEST FESTIVAL BEEKMAN HOUSE

470 EAST CALIFORNIA STREET
JACKSONVILLE

Sunday

OCTOBER 20, 1985
1:00-4:00 PM

SEE

1. NICK CLARK making apple butter
on the Beekman wood range;
2. RANDALL ALEXANDER making 19th cen-
tury firearms;
3. JOHN ALLEN demonstrating wood
carving;

HEAR

4. MARK NELSON and NANCY SPENCER
playing the dulcimer
at 3:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of
old-fashioned fun
No admission



SOUTHERN OREGON ARCHIVE DEDICATED

The new Southern Oregon Archive, a joint project of the Southern Oregon Historical Society and Jackson County, was dedicated in ceremonies held at 2:00PM on Sunday, September 29, 1985

Robert Butler, president of the society officiated at the ribbon cutting ceremonies attended by about 50 members and guests. President Butler said he was pleased that the new facility had become a reality and that the written history of Jackson County would be preserved in a professional manner.

Hank Henry, chairperson of the Jackson County Commission, stated that the county was pleased to join the historical society in this effort. Henry said that the records had been kept in several locations in several buildings because no space had been provided for archives when county buildings were constructed. He was pleased that all would be kept in one location for now on.

Photographs by Doug Smith.

(L-R) Robert Butler cuts the ribbon opening the new Southern Oregon Archive as Commissioner Hank Henry looks on.





Kathryn and Burt Stancliffe look through marriage license records at the new archive. Burt is our society's oldest member having celebrated his 100th birthday in June of 1985. Their search was successful!



THE SOUTHERN OREGON ARCHIVE

Location: 320 Antelope Road, White City, Oregon
(Table Rock Road to Antelope Road, turn east approximately 1/2 mile. Located next to the county public works buildings.)

Hours: 1:00PM until 5:00PM Monday through Friday except official holidays.

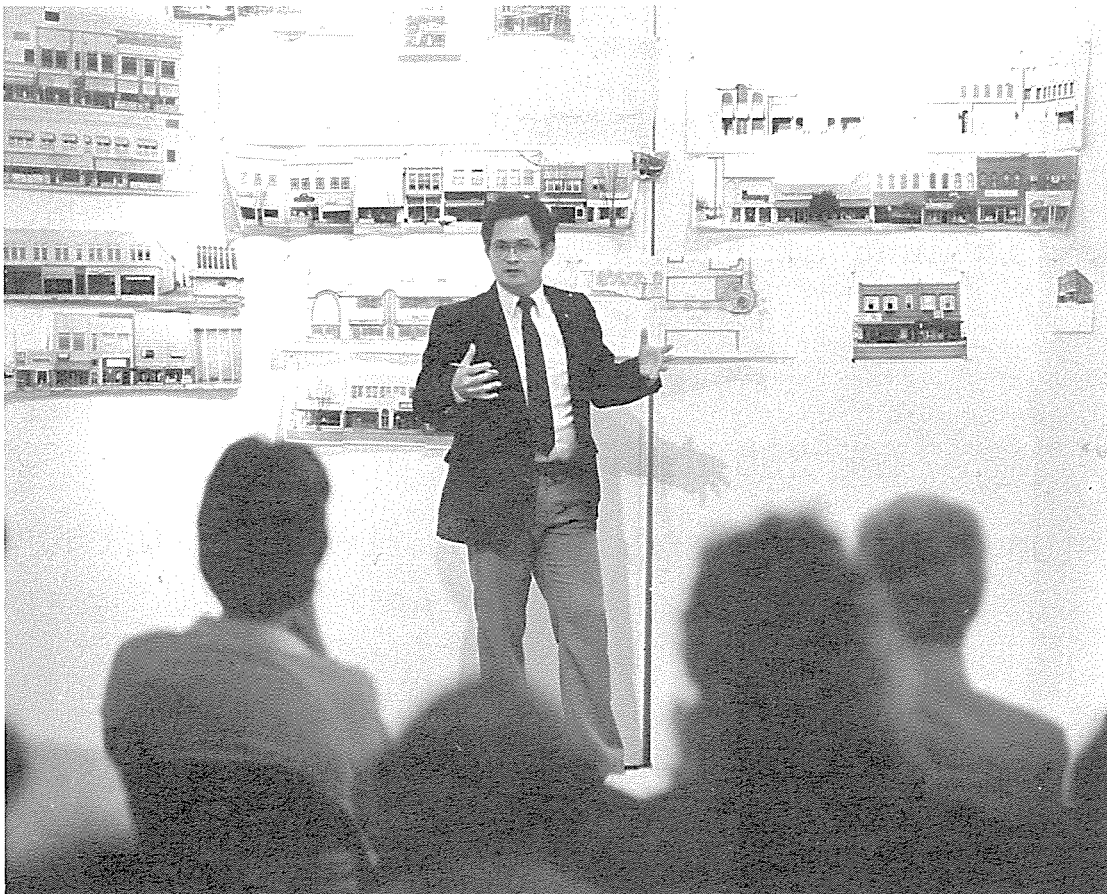
Telephone: 826-4908 Archivist: Rich Thelen

MEDFORD RENNAISSANCE EXHIBITION

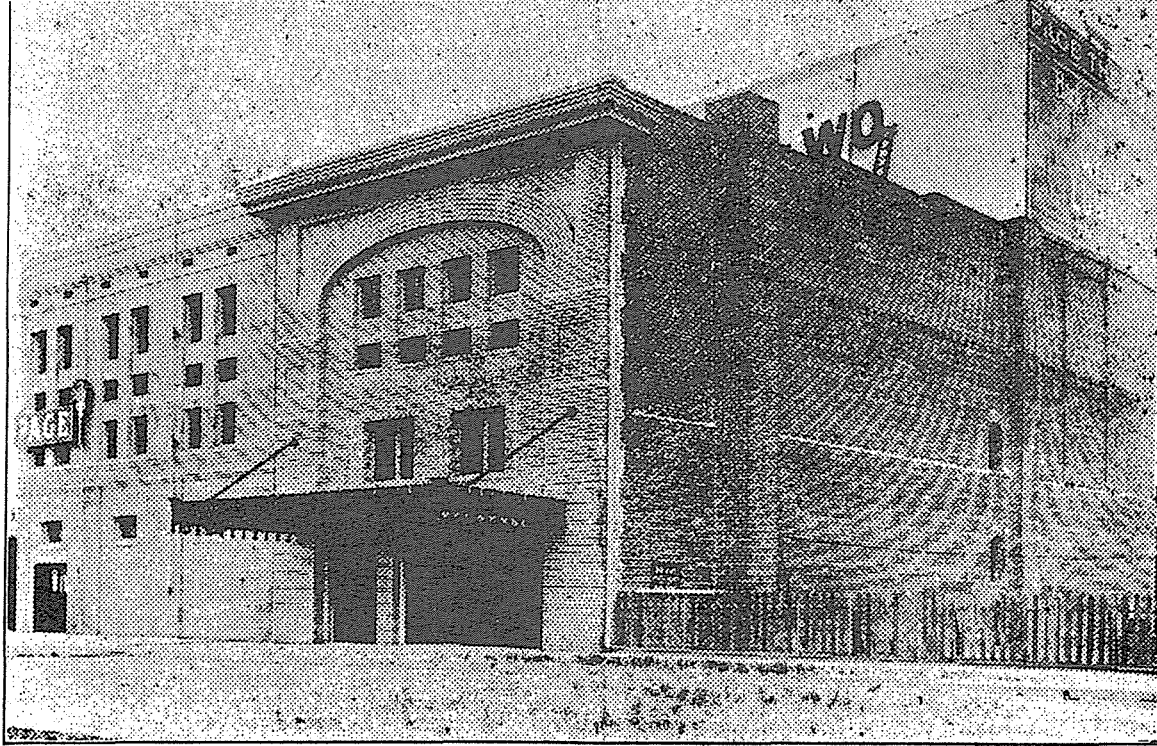
The Medford Renaissance Exhibition, bringing together Medford's past, present, and future, will take place at the Rogue Gallery from November 1 to 26, 1985.

It will be a multi-media exhibition with architectural renderings of the future vision of Medford, as well as photography of the past. Lots of interesting memorabilia and information will enhance the exhibit.

More volunteers are needed for the installation of the show. If you are interested in helping, contact the Rogue Gallery at 772-8118.



Medford architect Doug Snider discusses plans for the Rogue Valley Art Association's "Medford Renaissance Exhibit" scheduled for November at the Rogue Gallery. The Southern Oregon Historical Society has assisted in preparing the exhibit.



Above is shown the Page Theatre, the best and most modern playhouse in southern Oregon, which was completely gutted by fire early Sunday morning at a loss estimated at \$100,000, partially covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is still a mystery, but it undoubtedly started in the northeast corner of the building, partly shown at the extreme left of the picture.

Schmaltz for the Page

Ground breaking ceremonies for the opening of the Page Theatre, just west of Bear Creek bridge, were held on November 2, 1912. As an investment, Dr. Frederick C. Page had the new structure designed for films and touring shows at a staggering cost of \$30,000, but the good doctor wished to give Medford a theater of comfort and refinement which would boast an auditorium almost as large as that of the dated Natatorium and offer more comfort and style than the shabby Wilson Opera House.

The theater was a smashing success. Week after week famous theatrical performers of the day trod the boards and thrilled audiences from all of southern Oregon. On nights when no touring shows were booked, films were presented and silent picture stars emoted, cut capers and suffered on the silent screen. Everyone loved the Page.

Unfortunately on the last day of the year, 1923, the charming theater was gutted by fire. The Page had lasted only ten years. George A. Hunt, the manager, and R.S. Antle, his co-partner, announced that the theater would be rebuilt at once, but plywood was nailed to the door frames and windows, Keep Out signs were posted on the crumbling exterior walls

that were still standing, and rats and pigeons moved in. The theater was abandoned. For seven years the ruins stood at the Bear Creek bridge, a silent and unsightly reminder of yesterday's glamor.

By no stretch of the imagination could the blackened walls be regarded as a thing of beauty, and the citizens and public spirited groups complained loudly and long to the Medford city council to *do something*. In 1930, Fred Scheffel, the City Superintendent, condemned the building and gave orders to the owners to remove it OR ELSE.

In March the walls were knocked down, the offensive rubble was hauled away, and the protesters retired from public view until some other issue attracted their attention and they found another cause to start nagging about.

Only a romanticist of the first water could find any cause to protest the elimination of an unlovely and dangerous derelict. But Eva Nealon, a voice in the wilderness, managed to do so. She wrote a nice, schmaltzy story which appeared in the *Medford Mail Tribune* on September 1, 1930.

We unblushingly present it here because we think it will appeal to the softies on our membership list.

DOVES LIKE MEMORIES OF PAST GALA NIGHTS LOATH TO LEAVE OLD PAGE RUINS

By Eva Nealon

As feathered fantasies, memories that linger for Medford's little group of artists within the blackened walls after the final curtain was rung down by flames at the old Page theater, they came -- a flock of pigeons -- to live within the ruins.

Held by the spirit of romance left by the players, they hovered close to the wreckage that was once a stage. A stage from which *The Mikado*, *The Mascot*, and other well remembered operas were sung by a cast that once read: Ed Andrews, James Stevens, Fletcher Fish, Mrs. Ed Andrews, Edna Isaacs, Arthur Burgess, Frank Burgess, Bob Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Quisenberry, Mrs. Arthur Burgess, Leta Childers and Ed Gore.

Years after, their flock multiplied as outgrowths of beauty left within the old playhouse by the famous composers, singers and actors, who gathered there during its most festive days. [*The far-fetched thought that a flock of messy pigeons is the by-product of the music and beauty produced by performers might just be a comforting thought to fading actors and singers who find themselves ignored by a new generation. On second thought, forget it.*]

RELUCTANT TO FLY

Today they [*the pigeons*] fly with drooping wings [*a neat trick*] from jagged cornice to disappearing window sills, as reluctant to leave their haunts as the artists are to forget, as brick after brick is removed from the walls by Elmer Childers, local contractor, and his crew of men, who are wrecking the Page ruins. [*Printing the name of the villain in charge of demolition is a vindictive touch.*]

On a far corner they perch with pointed claws clinging to the crumbling mortar as evening shadows dim the walls that caught the echoes of Al Jolson's song long before *Sonny Boy* and *Mammy* brought the American public to tears.

They coo and fly again to the broken coping near the entrance through which crowds hurried with anticipation to see Maude Adams in *Peter Pan* on the opening night of the theater.

Far beneath the coping their nests lay straggled about the ground, emptied of eggs and birdlets [*nice*]. A few late members of their band of 200 fly by to coax them away to a new roosting place but the pigeons remain within the cloistered walls.

BURNED IN 1923

The stage on which May Robson enacted *The Rejuvenation of Aunt Mary* was gone. So were the exits through which the people thronged to see Kolb and Dill in *Politics* or the *High Cost of Loving*. The curtain which responded to calls to give the public another glimpse of Otis Skinner, George Arliss, Mrs. Fiske and Guy Bates Post "in person" was burned away.

...The air was still which had reverberated to strains of the many operas, sung by the Medford groups...Then the pigeons came to the Page to live and fly in and out of vacant windows. They stayed until spring, built their nests, hatched little pigeons, who learned to fly to the Phipps field near the city to feed, grow up and hatch more pigeons to join the flock, which soon reached the hundred mark. After the fire the front was boarded up...but the pigeons stayed on. They built more nests under the metal canopy and flew from the ruins to the Phipps farm and back to their nest with grains for the young squabs, year after year, oblivious to the complaints of irate citizens and the city council. Their number reached 200. The spring of 1930 grew into summer and 64 new birds were hatched. [*One wonders how Ms. Nealon came by her population statistics*].

Then Mr. Childers [*boo, hiss*] decided to rid the city of the "Page hazard" and wreckers entered the pigeons' domain. Bricks were torn from the coping, nests with them. Young squabs were caught and given away, some to be cooked in pot pies, others to find homes in pleasant back yards.

Several were taken by Dr. B.R. Elliott to the Boy Scout cabin at Shady Cove on Rogue river. But the "old birds" remain to flutter wildly about the disappearing walls. They still fly to the Phipps fields to feed and as night approaches they perch again on the jagged edge of the last remaining corner of the theater.



[*That phrase, pigeon pot pie, has a nice ring to it*]

EXPO

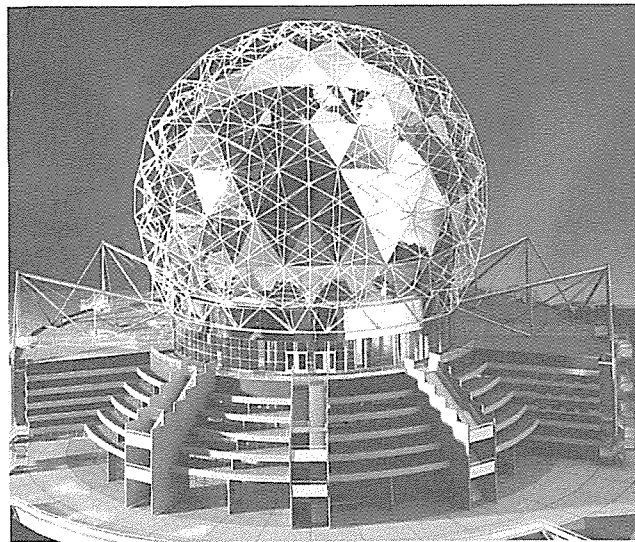
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OREGON/EXPO '86

TEN DAY TOUR

Paul Inserra, *INSERRA TOURS*, a member of SOHS, invites you to 'come-on-along' to the 1986 *WORLD EXPOSITION* to be held in Vancouver, B.C. He has scheduled two trips to the fair: June 21-30 or October 4-13, 1986.

This ten-day package starts with the first night in Olympia, Washington. The touring group, of which you will be a member, will spend four nights in Vancouver, B.C. You will have a three-day pass for the EXPO and will tour Chinatown, Gastown, Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park. You will then ferry to Swartz Bay on your way to Victoria, B.C., for two nights. Of course you will see the Bchart Gardens and of course everyone will go shopping! You will ferry to Port Angeles for your trip to Portland for two nights. While there, you will tour the Columbia River Gorge, see Multnomah Falls, have a paddle-wheel cruise on the Columbia River and finish the day with a great salmon dinner.



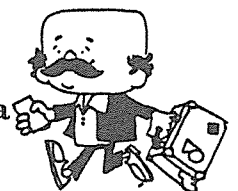
EXPO CENTRE
the 17 storey
geodesic pavillion

The cost of the tour is \$690.00. Features included are: round trip from Medford; Trailways air-conditioned coach; first class hotels; three dinners; driver and escort; city tours as indicated; ferry trips as indicated; three day pass for Expo '86; baggage service; paddle-wheeler cruise.

There will be a \$20.00 reduction in price for SOHS members. Send your name to *INSERRA TOURS*, P.O. Box 1238, Jacksonville, OR 97530, or call [503] 899-7905 for a brochure.

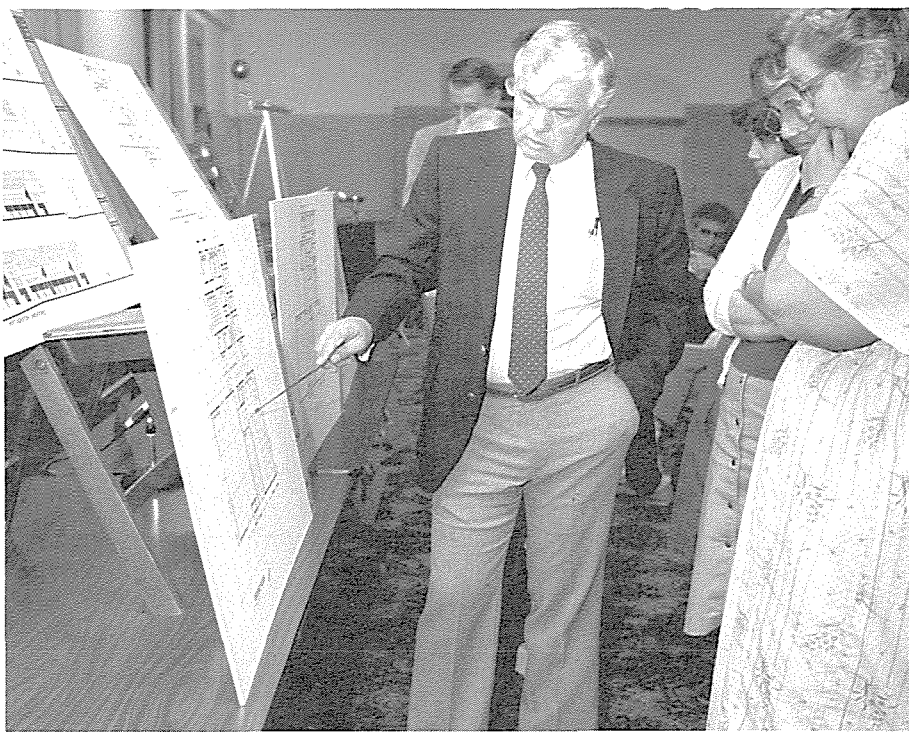
Send a deposit of \$150.00 to secure your space. Come join one of our fun groups!

Your Host,
Paul Inserra





The date of the picture above has not been recorded. The label "Autumn Scene in City Park, Medford, Ore., on 'The Road to a Thousand Wonders,'" appears on the bottom. The sixth floor of the Medford Hotel is still to be added as is the controversial neon sign which in late years has perched precariously on the roof. The fountain in the center of the park has changed considerably and the automobile parked at the hotel entrance adds an interesting note. One must admit that the new gazebo and the current landscaping have added much to the beauty of the little park.



Photograph by Natalie Brown-Geiger

Architect Lorin Jacobs shows Ruby Lacey plans for the new multi-purpose building to be built in Jacksonville during a public meeting held to gather input.

The society's Board of Trustees approved the design concept at a special meeting, September 24. The plan will now proceed to the Historical and Architectural Review Commission and the Jacksonville Planning Commission for their approval.

It is expected that construction might begin in February or March of 1986.

OREGON GENERAL STORE MUSEUM A MUST!!

Eagle Point and Jackson County have a new attraction, the Oregon General Store Museum, which is a real trip back in time. Although most of the objects in the museum were collected in Pennsylvania, they are similar to those found in most Oregon stores at the turn of the century and we think you'll enjoy this trip through "memory lane." Hours are from 12:00 noon until 4:00PM, Tuesday, through Saturday and from 1:00PM until 4:00PM on Sunday. The museum is located next door to the Butte Creek Mill and both attractions are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Crandall.

You'll find everything from casket handles for the real do-it-yourselfers, to tobacco tins and cigarette wrappers. Admission is charged.

Peter Crandall, looks at some of the many items in his Oregon General Store Museum.





Photograph by Doug Smith.



THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST ! !

Through a joint effort of Jacksonville and Rogue Valley organizations, we will be presenting The Spirit of Christmas Past on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 29, 30 and December 1 and Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8.

There will be four houses, two churches and the Jacksonville Museum on the tour which will occur from 1:00PM until 5:00PM on the above mentioned dates. Included will be the Helms House, the McCully Inn, the Catholic Rectory, the Beekman House, the Livingston Inn, the old Methodist Church (now Episcopal), and the First Presbyterian Church. Watch for more information in the November "Table Rock Sentinel."

+++++

A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME BACK TO

MARJORIE EDENS!!

Marjorie returned to work on September 1, after nearly 6 months of illness. We're glad you're home!

WELCOME LESLIE !

Leslie Gould is the new curator of the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum in Ashland. Leslie became Museum Assistant at Swedenburg on July 1 and was previously a public relations assistant for Judson Baptist College in The Dalles, Oregon.

We hope that you will take the time to drop by Swedenburg and welcome Leslie to our SOHS family!

The museum hours are 1:00 to 5:00PM, Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is closed on Monday.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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