

# THE TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Exhibit in  
Costume Room at  
Jacksonville Museum

JUNE 1987





Photograph by Natalie Brown

Nancy Larson, Exhibits Assistant, was photographed just as the Exhibits Department was putting the finishing touches on the refurbished Costume Room in the Jacksonville Museum. Either the mannequin has told her a joke or she certainly enjoys her work.

Jime Matoush, Coordinator of Exhibits, and her staff have redone the exhibit space with an eye towards showing the visitors how the Godeys fashion plates really looked. The room has been divided into two sections: one featuring fashions from 1879/80; the other displaying gowns from around 1855.

Dresses now on display are some of the most charming in the collection and represent examples of the sophistication of the gowns made in the east in contrast with those made here in Oregon.



In keeping with our established policy of never getting the name or date correct if it's possible to blow it, we wish to correct the error made on page 17 of our last issue. The picture shows Ashland Creek babbling away in the foreground. Quite naturally we called it "Lithia Creek."

#### THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## PROFESSOR IRVING E. VINING ASHLAND'S SILVER-TONGUED ORATOR

CHARLES SWEET

**T**he July, 1984, *Table Rock Sentinel* told the story of Mary Hoffman Vining and her husband George. At the time of George's tragic death, their eighth and last child, Irving, was one year old. This son was destined to have a prominent role in the history of southern Oregon and the City of Ashland. To the best of our knowledge no comprehensive biography of Irving Vining has ever been written, and the following report represents only a small portion of his life history. To make the story complete much more research needs to be done.

When Irving's father was lost at sea near the mouth of the Columbia River in November, 1875, thirty-eight year-old Mary Vining was faced with the awesome task of raising and providing for the eight fatherless children, the oldest of whom was a girl of seventeen. George Vining lost not only his life, but most of his capital which went down with the ship. At the time, the family had been living in Tacoma, Washington, where George had a couple of stores. Mary rose to the challenge facing her; she sold their Tacoma properties, and returned to Jacksonville. Mary and the children lived with her father, Squire William Hoffman,

for a short period until she could find a means of support and a suitable place to bring up her large family. There are some indications that she may have tried operating a boarding house in Jacksonville during this period. Then, in 1877, Mary Vining used the money that she had realized from the sale of the Tacoma properties to purchase a small hotel building in Ashland and turn it into a boarding house. Young Irving was now three years old.

**N**ot much is known of Irving's childhood up until the time that he attended the State Normal School in Monmouth, Polk County. The records show that he was in the first graduation class of the Ashland Normal School in 1896 and that one of his classmates was Susanne Homes. At age 18, in 1897, he accepted a position as teacher at the Ashland Normal School. This was a two-year college to train teachers and consisted of one building set on 24 acres of meadow and madrone trees where Southern Oregon State College now stands. Professor Vining taught there for seven years and for a few of those held the chair of elocution and literature. By now he was acquiring quite a reputation as an orator and apparently would

address an audience at the drop of a hat. At the end of the century Ashland gave a reception for Company B of the Oregon Volunteers as they passed through town. A special banquet was held in Chautauqua (Lithia) grove and, along with the feasting and the music, Vining recited "The Mothers of Men."

He decided to expand his education and, along about 1900, headed for New York City where he studied for a doctorate in psychology. In 1903 the *Ashland Daily Tidings* reported that he then held the position of instructor of elocution at Columbia and was "doing nicely." He also became an instructor in "character delineations" for a short time at Charles Frohman's Empire Dramatic School. Presumably the character delineations meant that the professor was discussing and analyzing the character of famous theatrical roles such as Hamlet or Macbeth. Vining remained on the Columbia University faculty for eight years. During one of these years he also held the position of private tutor for the son of a wealthy eastern lumberman. Apparently he returned to Ashland frequently while teaching in New York City, and it was during one of those years that he made local history by putting on the production "Hiawatha" in his home town.

By 1913 Irving was spending most of his time in the Rogue Valley, although he continued to



George  
Vining  
#7983



Mary  
Hoffman  
Vining  
#11065



maintain a headquarters in New York City for several years. The *Daily Tidings* reports that he was invited to be the principal speaker at the 37th annual meeting of the Southern Oregon Pioneer Society held in Ashland's Chautauqua Tabernacle on August 28, 1913.\* Irving told an audience of 200 to 300 people about the pioneers of history and introduced his subject by referring to the statue of Columbus in New York's Central Park. A few months before, Joaquin Miller had died, and Vining paid special tribute to the "Poet of the Sierra's" by reciting his poem "Columbus." He also paid tribute to his pioneer mother, who was in the audience that day and who, like her son, was an active member of the society for many years. The speaker must have made a hit with the audience because he would be asked to address the Pioneer Society many times over during the next three decades.

**A**bout ten days prior to his appearance at the Society's annual meeting, Professor Vining had dislocated an ankle and broken a small bone in his foot while hiking in the Siskiyou wilderness with three Boy Scouts. Although the accident didn't deter him from attending the meeting, he announced that the injury would delay his proposed trip around the world that year. The hiking accident had occurred when Vining was using a rope to pull a log out of a creek, and he fell when the rope broke. At the time the hikers were afoot, many miles from the nearest habitation. Lacking an animal to carry their injured leader out, the three Scouts found the situation desperate but they rose to the occasion. Irving's companions on this trip were Fay Phillips, Arther Maxedon and Paul Winter. Like true scouts they were prepared, dug out their Scout Handbook, and treated the injured foot so successfully that, when help reached the patient about a week later, the doctor declared that they had done everything he could have done.

While waiting for help to arrive, the campers found their grub supply was getting low. Paul Winter managed to catch some trout, and four times the boys made the 25-mile round trip to a sheep camp for provisions to add to their diet of fish. Finally young Maxedon was able to reach a point where he could get word to Vining's relatives, and they dispatched Dr. Jarvis to the

\*The Pioneer Society was organized in 1876 and met annually for the next 90 years. Professor Vining's grandfather, William Hoffman was the first secretary of the society. At the 37th annual meeting, Jacksonville's Cornelius Beekman was elected president.



*Robert Vining and a young friend on a packing trip. #531*

rescue. Maxedon guided the doctor and some horses through the rugged country to the Vining camp near Red Mountain, located between Mt. Ashland and the California border. When they reached the injured professor, they loaded him on one of the horses for the trip back to Ashland. Where the trail was too steep, Irving had to dismount and hobble for a ways on a pair of crutches that the Scouts had made. Eventually they arrived at home to much acclaim by the local press, and Vining voiced the opinion that his young companions should receive medals. He also publicly thanked Dr. Jarvis and stated that never again would he go deep into the mountains without taking along pack animals for use in emergency.\*

Professor Vining was one of the organizers of the Boy Scout movement in Ashland after it was founded in 1908 and remained active in this organization for many years. The 1913 hike was the first of many in which he escorted boys into the wilderness areas. Once he and two youngsters took burros on a 70-mile trek into the Little

\*Dr. Jarvis was an ideal man to send on the 1913 emergency because he had been an experienced mountain climber in the Allegheny Mountains. At one time he had held several world's records as an intercollegiate runner and walker, according to the *Tidings*.

Applegate Country and brought back a five-point buck plus a live, rambunctious three-month old bear cub. The cub was on exhibit at Harry Hosler's cigar store in Ashland for a time. On another occasion Vining and ten boys went on a two-week camping trip to the Oregon Caves. Here they encountered a large group of Grants Pass campers who invited the hikers to join them for dinner. Knowing Vining's reputation as an orator the Grants Pass people persuaded him to deliver one of his addresses that evening. This hike must of taken place in the early spring because Irving reported that the hikers had encountered steep snowbanks in the mountains as well as wild flowers in bloom.

**W**hen Vining returned to Ashland in 1913, he joined his brother Robert in constructing a theater on East Main Street adjacent to the Elks Building. (Robert had owned a theater in Fairbanks, Alaska). Soon to be known as the Vining Theater when it opened the following summer, the theater became a landmark in Ashland and was operated under the brothers' ownership until World War II.

The grand opening of the Vining Theater was a brilliant social event and took place on May 14, 1914, with a performance of Gounod's Opera *Faust* presented by the New York Grand Opera Company. The leading role was sung by a protegee' of Enrico Caruso, Salvatore Giordano (formerly of the Metropolitan Opera). Faust played to a capacity audience that had shelled out two to five dollars for the seats. The boxes were filled with men and women decked out in all their finery. Those who attended were enthusiastic about the new theater, which the *Daily Tidings* described as a "Modern playhouse complete in beauty and detail." The paper went on to rhapsodize, "When the house was opened Thursday night, exclamations of delight were heard on every hand. Few had an adequate conception of the beauty they were to behold when they entered and stood in wonder and astonishment when they beheld the 'little beauty' as some expressed their surprise." \*

Following the gala opening, the Vining Theater

\*The following night the opera company played "Faust" in Medford's Page Theater. It is interesting to note that the *Medford Mail Tribune* carried not one word concerning the performance in their neighboring community. Presumably higher-class opera buffs may have been at the Vining Theater because seats at the Page Theater were advertised at only fifty cents to two dollars.

was open every night, sometimes for live performances on the stage but mostly for showing motion pictures. The movies in those days were called "photo-plays" and the first photo-play to be shown starred the noted stage actress of the day, Mrs. Minnie Fiske. This was soon followed by a Mary Pickford tear-jerker titled "The Bishop's Carriage." Photo-play tickets at the Vining were 10 cents in the gallery (5 cents for kids under 10), 20 cents on the lower floor and in the balcony circle, and 30 cents for box seats.

A few days after the theater opened, Professor Vining was called upon to give the commencement address at the Ashland High School held in the Chautauqua Building. Earlier that year, he had presented a talk to the Boys' Vocational Club. Titled "Character and Character Delineations," the talk was based upon the character Macbeth. When the 39th meeting of the Pioneer Society was held on September 19, 1915, in Ashland (the 38th had been held in Jacksonville), the literary and musical program took place in the Vining Theater, and the banquet that evening was held next door in the Elks Lodge. Jacksonville attorney Evan Reames had been scheduled to address the Society but was unable to attend, whereupon Professor Vining was recruited to be the principal speaker. At this meeting a tribute was paid to Cornelius Beekman, who had died earlier that year and Emil Britt was elected president of the Society. (That night the Vining Theater was showing a "Paramount Masterpiece," Blanche Sweet in "Stolen Goods"—a story of a nurse in war-torn Belgium).\*

**W**hen a statewide referendum failed to pass just prior to World War I, the Normal School in Ashland had to close. To offset this loss to the community of 4,000, some of the local businessmen thought that Ashland could be made into a tourist center by developing a health spa utilizing the mineral waters found in this area. The voters approved a bond issue of \$175,000 for this purpose, and mineral waters were piped from the springs into Lithia Park. However, travel restrictions during the war discouraged tourism and the project proved unprofitable.

After the war ended, interest was again shown in developing a spa, but promoters soon realized that considerable outside capital would be needed to rejuvenate the defunct Lithia Springs project

\*Blanche Sweet was no relation to the researcher for this article. Chances are that her real name was something like Ophelia Zivnуска.



*Interior of the Ving Theater on opening night, where Ashland music lovers, dressed in their best, await the opening operatic blast. #4327*

and convert the Ashland Hotel into a fancy health resort as proposed. Here is where Irving Vining enters the picture. Vining was back in New York late in 1919 and addressed the Advertising Club of New York City. In the course of his talk he extolled the beauties and opportunities to be found in southern Oregon. Attending the meeting was Jesse Winburn who was then president of the Associated Advertisers of America. Winburn had become a millionaire in the advertising field in New York but was considering retiring to another part of the country. After the meeting Jesse had approached Vining, and Irving urged him to visit Ashland, which he promised to do after making an eight-month trip to the Orient.

Winburn kept his promise and arrived in Ashland on February 12, 1920. He was given a deluxe tour of the area by Professor Vining. Community leaders, including Bert Greer, were on hand to show Jesse the Lithia Mineral Springs and to explain how the springs might be developed if sufficient capital became available. Greer was the owner of the *Ashland Daily*

*Tidings* and one of the town's most aggressive promoters for the health spa project. When the millionaire was shown the upper reaches of Ashland Canyon, he decided that he probably had found the ideal spot in which to retire. After two weeks in the Rogue Valley he returned to New York, where he soon sent a telegram to Vining asking him to come east for more consultations about Ashland. In the course of the discussions, Winburn empowered Irving to take out a \$60,000 option on the Lithia Springs and to deposit an additional \$40,000 to be used for building a large new resort hotel.

Professor Vining suggested the organization of an Ashland Development Company to be headed by Winburn and backed by his personal funds. The company officers would include Vining, City Attorney E.D. Briggs, E.V. Carter and other community leaders. Irving was predicting that Ashland would become the Saratoga Springs of the west. During the period while the company papers were being drawn up, Winburn fell ill and was confined in a New York hospital. When he

finally saw the contract terms, he didn't like them. This was the first of several disagreements between Winburn and the local people over the next couple of years. Negotiations involving considerable controversies continued until 1923, when the New York millionaire finally shook the dust of Ashland from his polished shoes and returned to the big apple, leaving behind him a legacy of both bitter disputes and civic largesse. It is not clear just where Vining stood on the many controversies that arose during the few years that Jesse Winburn made Ashland his home.

S ometime during the early 1920s, Irving Vining became president of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce and, by 1924, he had been elected president of the State Chamber, a position he was to hold for four years. In this latter capacity he was asked to address the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce in 1924 and, along with two companions, barely escaped death or serious injury enroute from Medford. He was riding with Messrs. Ness and Swigert, officials of the California-Oregon Power Company,, when the first of two accidents occurred. Ness was driving, traveling about 25 miles per hour (because of heavy fog along the South Umpqua River) as they came upon a Highway Department truck cross-wise on the road dumping a load of gravel.

Not seeing the truck until almost on it and rather than running head-on into the truck, Ness elected to go over the bank. In doing so, the Copco car turned over and pinned all three passengers underneath, but highway employees extricated them in about ten minutes. Ness and Swigert were uninjured and Vining sustained only minor injuries. A passing auto volunteered to take them into Roseburg but, near Myrtle Point, it was sideswiped, nearly resulting in a second accident. Upon arriving in Roseburg, Irving was examined by a doctor, then attended the banquet and, with some difficulty delivered a 60-minute address.

Ashland's most popular orator continued to be active in the Pioneer Society and was the principal speaker at many of the annual meetings. He was called upon to speak at numerous other affairs, including the dedication of the Jackson County Courthouse in Medford. While serving as Oregon Chamber of Commerce President, Irving was the main speaker at a national convention of state presidents held in the east. In Pittsburg, at a banquet given in his honor, Vining's address was heard on radio throughout the nation. To the best of our knowledge no record was kept of any of

Professor Vining's stirring addresses (the tape-recorder and video tapes had not come into existence in those days), and the newspapers rarely quoted more than brief excerpts from his many talks. One exception to this was on the occasion of his address delivered when the Jackson County Courthouse was dedicated in 1927. In part the speaker said:

The impressive natural beauty of our alluring southern Oregon homeland has over-shadowed in the minds of our home folks the romance and historical lore which so richly abounds in the annals of Jackson county's early epoch.

Today the dedication of our new courthouse makes a real milestone in our county's history and progress...

While attending a lecture at Columbia University, New York, it was my privilege to hear a statement from that renown socialist, Franklin H. Giddings, whose publications are standard authority the world over, that in his study and survey of world's progress in social organization and achievement, that justice and equity meted out by the Alcades during the vigilante regime in an old mining camp in southern Oregon, called Jacksonville, were the finest examples of human justice and right being in its approach to legalized society, that he had found in his entire study of world history. Not Greece, not Rome, not England with its Blackstone, these countries pioneered the intricacies of organized and legalized society, but here in southern Oregon during the early 50s where gold seekers had gathered from every land; where human passions burned unrestrained, where the power of might sought to throttle the right, there developed a leadership through vigilante organization that placed such Alcades as U.S. Haden at the bar of justice. Men who were brothers to the great Lincoln in their estimate of human right: Men who were animated and impelled by the justice of the heart and the impulses of the soul with no legal technicalities, to ensnare the mind.

My Fellow Citizens, before this new citadel of justice let us stand in reverent admiration. While the spirit of the early fifties brings to us the justice of a mining camp and a pioneer trail. Let us dedicate this building to the world-renown spirit of the Alcades. A spirit unhampered by legal phraseology, where conscience was guide, where human rights and privileges were sacred trusts and where a man's fitness to live depended upon his attitude towards the society he served.

On the statehouse grounds of Salem there has been erected an imposing statue to the circuit rider of early Oregon. In justice to the pioneer spirit of Jackson county, there should be erected upon these grounds a statue to the Alcade of the mining camp, a true symbol of human rights



and human privileges based upon men's confidence and men's innate spirit of fair play.

My Friends, time will not permit a review of the early institution of legalized society in southern Oregon. It was in September 1853 that Judge Matthew P. Dedy, U.S. district judge for the territory of Oregon first held court in Jacksonville. The courtroom was next to the state saloon. A dry goods box covered with a blue cloth served as the Bench and there appeared in court at that time such well-known pioneer characters as Judge Prim, Orange Jacobs, and others whose names are linked with the history of the great Northwest.

Vining served on the State Game Commission for a number of years. In 1934 he represented Oregon at the annual conference of the American Game Commission held in New York. While back there he went to Washington and presented President Franklin Roosevelt with an Oregon Fishing License. He also invited the president to fish the Oregon streams. When Irving attended the 59th annual meeting of the Pioneer Society in 1935, he delivered a beautiful and stirring eulogy for Bill Hanley, who had died earlier that year while attending the Pendleton Roundup. (As a matter of interest musical numbers at the Society's 59th meeting were given by a five-year old pianist named Paulena Carter.)

At the 1936 meeting of the Pioneer Society (the 60th), Irving Vining was elected president, an honor long-overdue for a man who had given so much to the Society. During World War II he spent two years speaking before various service organizations along the Atlantic seaboard. It was during this period that he turned the managing of the Vining Theater over to his sister Emma's husband, Ray Minkle. Later it would be renamed the Lithia Theater. By 1950 the Lithia Theater had become the property of the Lippert Motion Picture chain which also owned and operated the newer Varsity Theater on the other side of Main Street. The 570-seat Lithia Theater

was closed in 1951. At the time Angus Bowmer, founder of the Ashland Shakespearean Festival, was looking for a suitable auditorium in which he could stage winter repertory plays, and the Festival organization arranged to use the vacant theater.

Bowmer named the new acting troupe "The Vining Repertory Company" in honor of Professor Vining, who not only had built the theater but had also taught Shakespeare as well as directing acting in some of the Bard's plays at the Ashland Normal School. The repertory company put on four productions in 1951, the most popular of which was Agatha Christie's *Ten Little Indians*.

The initial season proved very successful, and the new company opened the second season in the fall of 1952 with four more plays. Then, at 2 a.m. on November 19, the old Vining Theater came to an inglorious end when it burned to the ground. With it went the demise of the Vining Repertory Company, all the stage scenery, the actor's wardrobes, and even some of Gertrude Bowmer's family heirlooms which had been used as properties by the company. In addition to these serious losses, Angus Bowmer would later write that what grieved him most was "...the agonizing death of the gracious little old lady of a theater." Irving Vining did not live to see his theater go up in flames.

At the conclusion of World War II, Vining had stayed in the east and worked briefly in charge of the Vocational Department of the New York Re-employment Bureau but he was back in Jackson County in time to attend the 70th reunion of the Pioneer Society held in the old courthouse building in Jacksonville in 1947. Once again Irving was the speaker of the day. Two years later he spoke at the 72 meeting and was reported as having recited the poem "Mother of Mine." Two months after this appearance, on December 22, 1949, Vining died at his Ashland home on Granite Street. He had lived seventy-five exciting, interesting, and productive years.

#### SOURCE MATERIAL:

1. SOHS Biographical File, Vining family.
2. SOHS MS 137, Vining scrapbook.
3. Oregon Historical Quarterly, Dec. 1963.
4. Marjorie O'Harra, *Ashland, The First 130 Years*.
5. Franklin D. Mahar, *Jesse Winburn Comes to Ashland*.
6. Franklin D. Mahar, *A Study of Jesse Winburn's Life and Contributions in Ashland*.
7. Miscellaneous news items in the *Ashland Daily Tidings* for the years 1913 to 1949.
8. Angus Bowmer, *As I Remember, Adam*.



## ***Medford's First City Hall***

### ***Mark Wolfe***

*Mr. Wolfe came to Medford four and a half years ago, fresh from the University of Oregon Law School. For four years he has been affiliated with the law offices of Robertson, Huycke and Wolfe. One of his current interests is the preservation of historic structures centered around southern Oregon. He has been a volunteer at the SOHS library for a number of years, and we are proud to present his well-documented story.*

**T**he story of the founding of Medford and its struggle to become the largest city in southern Oregon has been told in these pages before, generally through the story of a pioneer family whose members contributed the elements for a growing community. But there is no better way to understand the history of a city than to become familiar with its structures. Medford does not enjoy the historical ambience that Jacksonville and Ashland have achieved. Its growth was dramatic in the early 20th century, and most of the early landmarks were destroyed. After World

War II, much of what remained in downtown Medford made battle with the cement mixer and trowel, and lost. The brick and stone work so carefully created at the turn of the century gave way to a stucco look as block after block of downtown Medford was smoothed into a concrete corridor. A few landmarks survived, generally because they were off Main Street and not subject to the newest trend in building materials. Some, like the Sparta Building at East Main and Riverside or the brick building at the corner of 8th and Central, can only be recognized as survivors of an earlier time if one looks past the

tile, concrete or artificial stone on the building's first floor, up to the second story which has survived in its original design. Less visible to passing motorists, and often not a part of the commercial space below, the second stories of many buildings reveal what years of changing tenants and architectural ideals have managed to conceal on the first floor.

One building that shows the scars of having passed through many hands, not all of them gentle, is the Central Fire Hall, Medford's first real city hall, which stands at the southeast corner of 6th and Front Streets. Many Medford residents are not aware that this structure was ever in city ownership, yet it served its purpose well for nearly 25 years before being converted to commercial use. Since that time it has done duty in a multitude of purposes, from restaurants to retail. This is one story that has to start at the beginning. Medford's very beginning.

It was on March 28 of 1885 that the first board of trustees of the City of Medford met at the office of J.F. Howard to hold their organizational meeting. A follow-up meeting was held April 1, 1885, at the office of Rufus North. It was immediately clear to this esteemed body that they could not continue to change meeting places week after week; a regular meeting place would be necessary. The minutes of their meeting of April 20, 1885, state that a committee was appointed:

To secure suitable rooms for the occupancy of the Board of Trustees...and to furnish the same with suitable furniture and fixtures for the accommodation of said Board. Also to procure a place for a Lock-Up or Jail.

The committee must have been unsuccessful, for in October of 1885 the city corresponded with the Oregon & California Railroad in an attempt to secure a lot for erection of a town hall and jail. In the meantime, the Board met in the recorder's personal office, which changed with each election year. Then, in 1890, a room was rented from Adkins & Webb, local hardware merchants, and this remained the location of the city council's meetings until August of 1894. At that time, the Board accepted the proposition of Mr. G.H. Haskins to rent the hall in the second story of his general mercantile store at 214 East Main Street for a price of \$42 per year. It may be of interest to note that the Board's decision to rent the hall might have been affected to some extent by the fact that Mr. Haskins was also the city's mayor. In all fairness, Haskins served as mayor only until 1898, but the Board continued to meet at his hall until 1906.

In the meantime, by 1890, a small jail had been

erected on the south side of 6th Street toward the rear of the property on which the Central Fire Hall would later be built. By 1893 a small wooden hosecart house had been built beside the jail to hold the city's firefighting apparatus. Within five years the jail had been replaced by a new hosecart house complete with a 20 foot bell tower, and in March of 1898 Art C. Nicholson submitted plans and specifications for a new brick city jail. The contract for construction of the new jail, to be built next to the new hosecart house, was awarded to B.F. Crouch for the sum of \$334.50. The building was small and was completed by May 10, 1898. Unfortunately, there are no surviving pictures of these earliest of Medford's civic structures. As the city grew, its needs were being met, but the city still had no offices and the Board was meeting in a rented room.

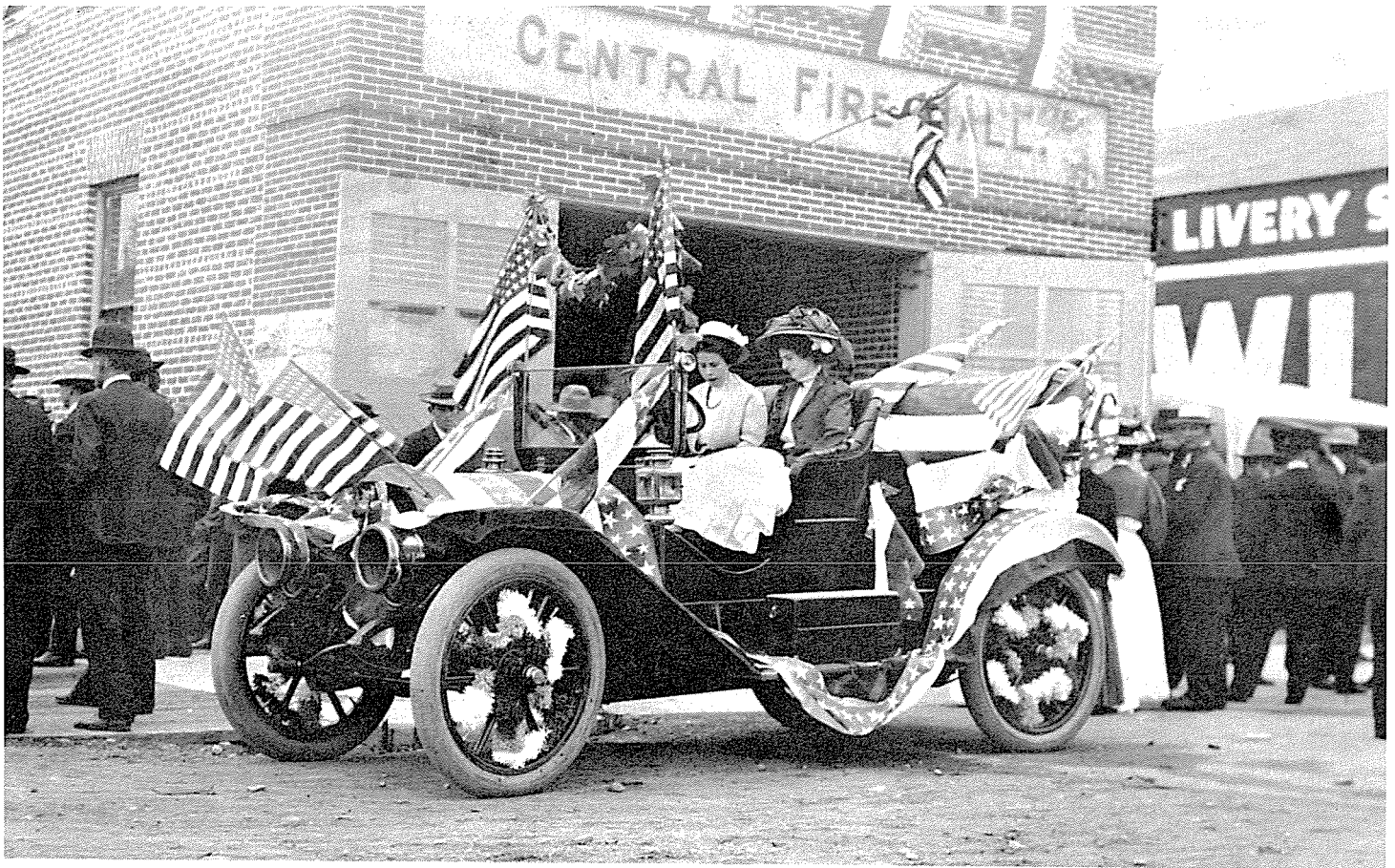
In February of 1906 (just a few months before the earthquake and fire in San Francisco if that helps to put events into an historical context) a decision was made to move the meeting place of the Board to the Bradshaw Building on the north side of 6th Street between Central and Front, which was rented for a period of two years.

As the end of their second year drew to a close, the Board once again faced the need for a regular meeting place that could serve the many needs of a burgeoning city. On July 29, 1907, it agreed to hire the services of a young Medford architect named John A. McIntosh to draw plans "For a fire barn and office rooms for the city officials, etc." McIntosh had moved to Medford from Ashland where he had lived with his mother Emma, his brother Henry and his sister Eleanor. His father was deceased. McIntosh arrived in Medford in December of 1905 and opened his office early in 1906. In March of that year he designed a residence for C.W. Lawton and in June he drafted plans for a one-story brick store building for C.W. Palm. Nothing else is known of his early career.

McIntosh was instructed to prepare two sets of plans. One set would provide the city with an idea for a one-story building. The other would present an option for a structure with two stories. The plans were finished within two weeks and were accepted by the city council on August 14, 1907. The recorder was instructed to run the following ad for bids:

Notice to contractors.

Sealed proposals for the erection and completion of a brick or concrete fire hall will be received



*The automobile, decorated for the Fourth of July, appears to be blocking the exit of the Fire Hall. The ladies would like to start the motor, but the men aren't very helpful. In fact they've turned their back on the problem. #920*

at the office of the city recorder of the City of Medford up to 12 A.M. of September 3, 1907.

Plans and specifications of the work can be seen at the office of J.A. McIntosh, Architect, Medford, Oregon, on or after August 20, 1907.

The bids shall be accompanied by a certified check for 5% of the amount of the proposal and the successful bidder shall be required to give a surety bond for the faithful performance of the contract.

The council reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

By order of the city council, Medford, Oregon at a meeting held August 14, 1907.

Benjamin M. Collins, Recorder.

Bids were opened the following September, but all further action was immediately deferred by the mayor, presumably because the bids were larger than the budget could bear. McIntosh was consulted in hopes that some alterations could be made and he developed new plans and specifications which were accepted by the city in October, 1907. Once again bids were solicited, but only two were received. The lowest bid,

\$8,140.24, was submitted by A.S. Moyer based in substantial part on the \$4,569.50 bid he had received from G.W. Priddy & Co., which was awarded the subcontract for the cement and brick work.

The hosecart house had apparently already been removed when the brick jail was torn down in late October of 1907, and construction of the new city hall was begun. Additional changes in the plans were approved by the city in January 1908 and in his "State of the City Address" delivered in January 1908, Mayor Reddy reported:

The new City Hall and Firehouse is nearing completion, and when completed will furnish the city with headquarters at a less expense than at present, as well as supplying suitable housing for our fire apparatus.

The building would also serve as housing for the new public library. The Greater Medford Club had formed the library late in 1907 with 200 books donated by the Medford Library Association, a subscription library located, coincidentally, at G.H. Haskins Drugstore. On



February 25, 1908, members of the Club approached the city council with a request for the use of the council room as a reading room for the public library, and their request was granted.

Construction of the building continued. Jail cells were purchased from the Pauly Jail Building Company of St. Louis. Council room furnishings came from the Medford Furniture Company.

The library board visited the new city council and reading room in April, 1908 and found it to be "well lighted, ventilated, and centrally located."

The council held its first meeting in the new city hall on May 1, 1908.

The building as it originally appeared was exactly one-half of its present size, standing at the very corner of 6th and Front Streets extending 25 feet on Front Street and 100 feet on 6th Street. The Front Street side was the building's front. A pair of tall swinging doors took up the better part of the building's front with a doorway next to them leading to a stairway to the second floor. Inside the swinging doors was the fire fighting apparatus. Behind it, with an entrance off 6th Street at the east end of the building was the city jail. The city council room and library were upstairs in the front of the building. The rest of the upstairs served as housing for the firemen.

The building bore a sign identifying it as the Central Fire Hall which was quite appropriate as in August, 1908, the city had set up three substations to provide further protection for the rapidly growing community. Fortunately, there was little activity in the jail, and the council room was used infrequently at first, so the building was more than adequate in size. But the fire department was growing by leaps and bounds. The mayor's address of January 1909 reported:

The Central Fire Station is equipped with a first-class combination chemical engine, a good team of horses, hose and other equipment, and comfortable quarters for the men on duty in the engine house.

It was said that Charles Stowe, driver of the horses in early 1909, quickly "won the affection of the fire team, both of them following him like a dog, and will heed his slightest word. He can get them out of the station in exactly 11 seconds from the time the gong taps until the hind wheels clear the station door."

As the city's bureaucracy increased, the size of the building seemed to decrease. Less than two years after the City Hall opened, the city council began to consider building an addition on the vacant lot adjoining the new building, and adding a third story to both structures. The newspapers

were supportive:

Such an addition would give room for the other city offices. The city engineer needs offices, as do the mayor and treasurer. Aside from this, the city would probably have a ground floor front which it could rent.

But the plan was not implemented at that time.

**S**kinny and Rastus, the city's fire team, were retired to the water wagon in August, 1910, and were replaced by Tom and Jerry who were purchased from W.H. Venable in Applegate for \$675. The use of horses in firefighting would last only a few more months. In fact, at this time, Medford was known as the Auto City, claiming one car for every 25 men, women and children, more than any other city in the world according to the local papers. The city also claimed over 1,000 telephones.

By December of 1910 the fire department was planning to purchase automobile trucks to replace the horse drawn carts. A formal request for a combination hose and chemical wagon was made in February of 1911. The department reported that a hook and ladder truck was needed because several three story buildings were under construction and there was only enough hose to reach a two story building. The department's request was a reasonable one in light of the incredible development that had siezed Medford. In 1900 the city's population was 2200. By 1910 it had increased more than 400% to 8900. It was reportedly the third fastest growing city in the United States after Oklahoma City and Muskogee, Oklahoma. In January of 1911 the local paper reported that 98 buildings were under construction within 8 blocks of the intersection of Front and Main Streets. Extreme measures were necessary to decrease the possibility that the new development would suffer a major fire. In August of 1911 the city decided to purchase a 55 horsepower Pope Hartford Chemical Truck from Valley Auto Company for \$5,250. The truck was delivered in February, 1912, and was housed at the Central Fire Hall. Tom and Jerry were used only in cases of emergency. The department's sleeping quarters were remodeled to double the capacity. At this time, members of the department were being paid \$1.00 for each call they responded to. When the new chemical truck arrived the city was required to hire six fulltime firemen "in as much as the new fire wagon gets away from the fire hall so rapidly as to make it almost impossible for the fire boys to board it after it starts, as was the custom with the team-drawn chemical."



*The above photograph shows the break-neck speed of the traffic at Main and Central.  
The Central Fire Hall can be seen in the background, center right. #6455*

So the mechanization of the fire department created a need for a larger city hall.

**T**he possibility of adding on to the city hall was raised again in the mayor's address in January, 1912. Architect Frank Clarke was hired to prepare plans for the addition. Clarke was the architect of many other important structures in Jackson County including several now on the National Register. Clarke was paid for his work, but the city's finance committee decided that the plan was unadvisable and the city was required to make do with the limited space it had.

In February of 1912 the Public Library was moved into its new Carnegie sponsored building which was designed by John McIntosh. This relieved the space problem to some extent, but an addition was still required. The idea was raised again in 1915 and received the wholehearted support of the local paper:

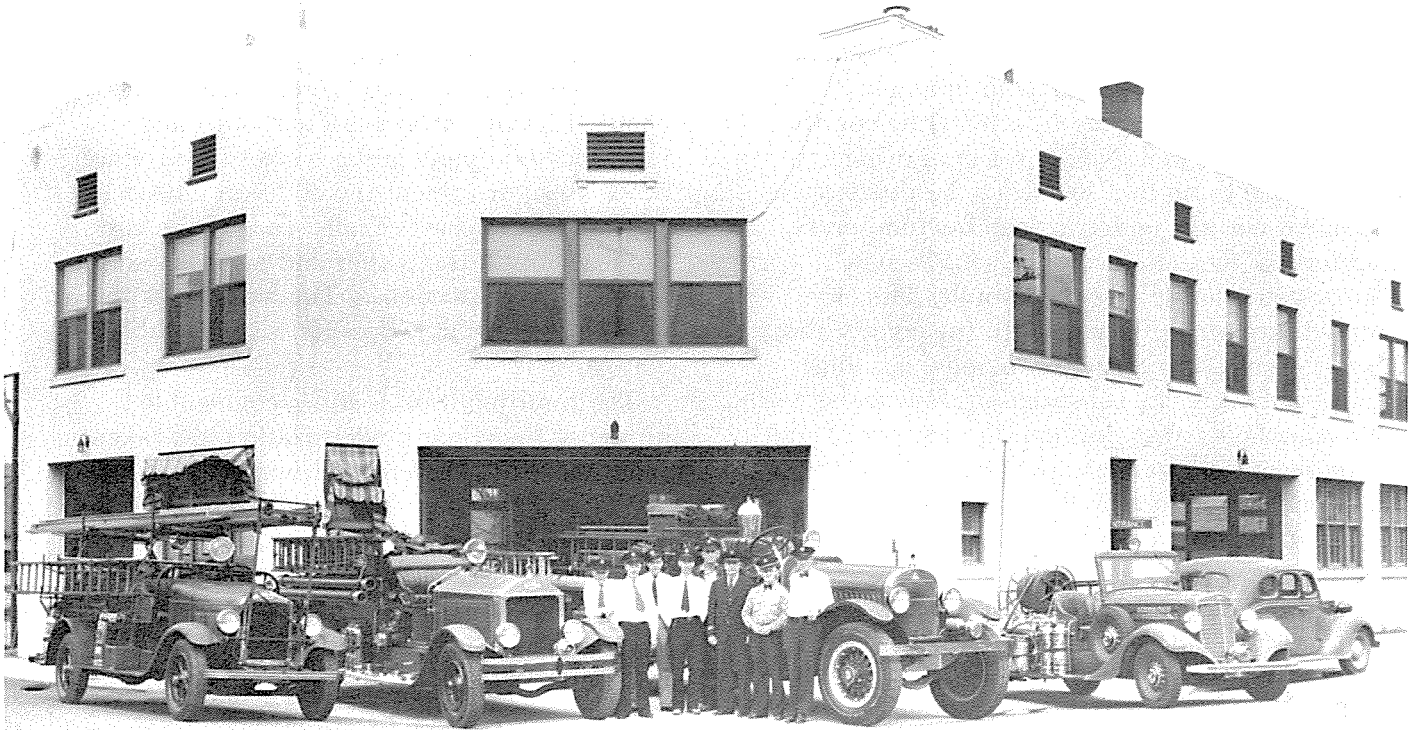
In planning the enlargement of the City Hall, the council is fulfilling a long felt want. Public necessity demands better facilities for conducting the public business and the imperative need of additional office room is apparent to everyone familiar with the situation.

When the present City Hall was built, Medford had 2,500 population, no paved streets, no adequate water system, few municipal improvements and no paid fire department. Facilities ample for the time were provided by the new building. The city's business has increased manifold, not only by the growth of population but by the extensive public improvements.

The improvements planned are not costly or elaborate, but such as the occasion demands. A creditable business structure will result. This modest expenditure for a necessity cannot be called an extravagance, but along progressive lines. If the present city administration is wasting any money, no one has heard of it. Indeed, the complaint has been that it leaned toward parsimony.

When times are dull and work is scarce is the proper time for public improvements. The work can be done for less and the city should do its share in providing employment for the idle.

The city council voted to instruct Clarke to prepare detailed working plans and specifications for the addition in June, 1915, but then tabled their decision until the next election to determine the voters feelings with regard to the addition. On January 11, 1916, the addition was voted down by the general public by a margin of 4 to 1.



MEDFORD'S NEW FIRE HALL WITH FIREMEN ON THE READY.  
#5827

By March of 1917 Tom and Jerry, who had seen little service since the arrival of the chemical truck, were no longer needed and they were sold to Charles Magerle of Rogue River. They were soon replaced by a secondhand Thomas car purchased from Mrs. Ida Stewart for \$225.

The city worked as well as it could in the cramped quarters until January of 1921 when work finally began on the foundation of the city hall addition. There is no indication that any new plans were drafted so it is to be assumed that the building as constructed was based on the designs drawn by Frank Clarke in 1912. The framework of a 10 foot by 20 foot reinforced steel concrete vault was completed January 29.

The need of this vault to replace the present meager vault was one of the reasons which necessitated the new building. The main other reason was the crowded office condition of the present building...When the addition is completed the city hall will have a 50 foot frontage on Front Street, and as now a 100 foot length back to the alley. While the addition will be the same height as the present structure, its second floor will not be finished until such time as the council has more funds at its disposal. No walls will have to be constructed for the addition as the wall of the present structure and that of the

brick building on the south will be used. The building was completed in the spring of 1921.

City offices spread quickly into the new space. The Water Department and City Treasurer had their offices in the upstairs of the old portion of the building where the City Council chamber had been, and the City Superintendent and City Attorney had offices upstairs in the front of the new structure. The back half of the upstairs of the new structure was used as the new City Council chambers. Offices moved from time-to-time in an attempt to discover the most compatible use of the enlarged structure. It was, however, destined to be of only temporary use.

**M**edford had continued to grow at an incredible rate. And as the city grew, the needs of its government increased. In less than 10 years the city was looking at the possibility of constructing a new building. The amount of the bond issue for the new hall was

set at \$60,000 in March of 1927. The contract was awarded the following June to R.I. Stuart and Son, and the building was built at 201 North Central.

It wasn't the city's intention to move into the building immediately upon completion. Medford had been trying to attract the county seat away from Jacksonville for many years, and the one thing that seemed to be delaying the move was the county's need for temporary quarters to house their offices while a new county court house was being built. The city entered into an agreement with the county that permitted the county to use the new city hall temporarily after its construction. When the new courthouse was finished, the county would move out of city hall and the city would transfer into the new building. In fact, it wasn't until late in 1932 that the old city hall was vacated.

The fire department had moved out of the Central Fire Hall in 1929 when a new fire hall was constructed at the corner of 3rd and Front Streets. That fire hall and the city hall that served until the present city hall was built have both been destroyed.

In May of 1933 the city gave the use of the upper floor of the old city hall to the Civilian Conservation Corps for use as a base for its activities in southern Oregon and northern California and that organization remained in possession until World War II put an end to the program. In 1936 the city performed an unfortunate remodelling job on the corner of the old building. In an effort to make it more attractive to merchants as possible commercial space, members of the council had the corner, which consisted of a stone column, removed and cut back to make a corner doorway. The Front Street elevation of the old part of the building was converted into display windows. The newer part of the building had been designed to resemble a commercial structure, so no alteration was necessary.

Since that time, the upstairs of the two buildings have been used as architect's offices and attorney's offices. A portion of the upstairs at the east end of the old part of the building has served as administrative offices for the Britt Music Festival since 1974. The rest of the upstairs is vacant, including the city council chamber with its dramatic skylights, now boarded up. The light fixtures purchased by the

CCC and installed by the city in 1938 are still intact.

The street level of the building has been the location of a secondhand store, an electric appliance repair shop, a furniture store, the Busy Bee Cafe, a candy store, a real estate office, attorney offices, a shoe shop, an insurance company and a barber shop, among other uses. At present the addition houses the offices of Wilderness Trails, Inc. There is a barber shop in the corner and a trophy shop where the jail once was. The balance of the old structure serves as offices for a small publishing company.

The building itself is still recognizable although first floor modernization has taken its toll. The original storefront windows are intact in the addition, among the very few remaining in Medford. They are almost invisible behind the heavy wooden slats which were apparently erected to keep out the afternoon sun. The corner where the jail was located has suffered the most, covered with stucco and modernized out of compatibility with the rest of the building. But if one looks upstairs, the building's age and the beauty of its simple design are still obvious.

The building's architect went on to design three buildings for the area's Catholics including the original St. Mary's School, the Church of the Nativity and the clergy's residence of which only the latter remains. He designed the brick school in Jacksonville and a private residence for Bert Anderson in Medford at the corner of West Main and Orange Streets. He was the architect of the Rogue River Valley Electric Building which stood on the present site of the Pacific Power and Light Building on East Main Street. The building featured a roof garden and had a restaurant in the basement with an elevator connecting the two. As was mentioned earlier, he designed Medford's Carnegie Library in 1911. McIntosh's residence still stands at 56 North Orange Street. While I have been unable to confirm that it was his own design, a comparison with pictures of the Anderson house make it fairly clear that it was.

The old City Hall, as Medford's first City Hall and oldest surviving public structure, is quite worthy of preservation, as are many of Medford's other remaining landmarks. The history of these buildings is the history of the city itself, and as long as they survive we can





*The Medford City Hall  
This was the building which temporarily housed the county offices and  
the court house while they awaited their move to the "new" courthouse. #6173*

feel ourselves to be a part of something larger than just here and now. Drive by the old City Hall and consider for a moment the men and women who worked there and the decisions that they made, many of which we continue to live with today. We should be proud that we

have outgrown this building, but we should also remember that unless buildings like this are preserved we will have nothing on which to base our comparisons of success. A community without its history is rootless and can never know if it has achieved its ultimate goals.

## *Historic Bridge to be Moved*

The Antelope Creek Covered Bridge No. 202, built in 1922, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The Eagle Point Community Development Committee has been working to raise the more than \$200,000 needed to fund the relocation of this historic bridge. The bridge is under threat of destruction if it is not moved.

The actual dollars needed to complete this project have been significantly reduced as a result of an unprecedented cooperative effort involving the Southern Oregon Historical Society, county

government, local government, the Eagle Point School District, private industry and individual community members. There is, however, a need for \$15,000 to be raised prior to August 1.

The Society has always maintained a commitment to the preservation of the bridge and to that end the Society has granted \$20,000 to the project. If you are interested in contributing to this cause, send your tax deductible donation to: Bridge 202 Fund, Eagle Point City Hall, Eagle Point 97524.



## AMERICAN POPULAR SONGS

America's popular songs are the source of her richest folklore; they are in truth a never-ending treasury of national possessions. The lyrics have captured the changing spirit of each period more accurately than anything else has done. Every era in American history has its own characteristic songs, from the earliest times when patriotism was the leading theme with *Yankee Doodle* and *Hail, Columbia*, through the Jazz Age when the pursuit of pleasure and the smashing traditions were uppermost in the minds of the flapper and the collegiate sheik, as they sang *Doo Wacka Doo* and *There'll Be Some Changes Made*. In the depression folks in the breadlines, to screw up their courage, hummed *The Best Things in Life Are Free* and *We're in the Money*. When the despair of the thirties gave way to the complacent forties, the big bands arrived with such euphoric songs as *Deep Purple* and *Tonight We Love*. Today, at the end of the 1980s, as America faces new challenges, and as the entire world in uneasy with the threat of violence and dissention and we're not exactly sure just where we're heading, what direction will popular music take? With emphasis at last beginning to be placed less on teen-age

tastes and more on mature preferences, will it veer away from rock and again become mellow and nostalgic? Might we go back to the period around the turn of the century, when life was less complicated and the pace was slower? We could do worse.

Around 1890 the piano in the parlor became a necessity. By 1899 the 75 million Americans owned a million pianos. Pianos were increasing five times as fast as people and they were even packed into rustic camps in the still primitive mining areas. When anyone was invited for a social evening, he was told, "Bring your music." Even those who didn't play bought sheet music so folks could gather round the keyboard and sing up a storm of catchy melodies and sentimental lyrics—songs whose titles, strung together in the right sequence, could almost make a history lesson.

Since popular songs reveal the nature of the age in which they were sung, the songs of the last decade of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century clearly demonstrate some things that weren't so bad -- and some things that were pretty deplorable -- in those less hectic times.



## AT THE TURN OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

The dominant note was the moral code: women were the guardians of morality; they were created of more angelic stuff than that which made up the susceptible male. The young lady expected to make a tenderly romantic love match and live happily ever after. Until Mr. Right appeared no unchivalrous swain could be allowed to kiss her. Of course there were those men who indulged in a bit of hanky-panky but only with girlies who were flip and footloose, giddy creatures who smeared rouge on their cheeks and smoked cigarettes.

The chief model and prime object of devotion was Mother. Her outstanding musical tribute was *M is for the Million things she gave me*. *Mother Machree* and *No One Loves You Any Better than Your M-A-Double M-Y* were close behind although the latter was a late bloomer (1923) *Always Take Mother's Advice* and *Though You're Going Far Away, Lad, I'm Still Your Mother Dear* were reminders that her influence was boundless and sonny wasn't likely to



escape from the silver cord. *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* (Rules the World) spelled Power with a capital P. And there was *I'd Love to Fall Asleep and Wake Up in My Mammy's Arms*. The less analysis of that little number the better.

*Daddy, You've Been a Mother to Me* was a kind of backhanded compliment to daddy while it boosted mother's standing. The title indicates that daddies were second in importance, but this daddy was such a super-daddy, he was really a mommie. Dear old dad may have considered himself a first class parent, but he probably hung around at the saloon on the way home so he didn't earn first billing. It is clearly sexism in reverse. Today it would be *Mother, You've Been a Daddy to Me*. That has to be the end of this exchange of family members. When you get to *Brother, You've Been a Sister to Me*, you've gone too far.

Even when Mother went to her reward she still wielded considerable influence from beyond. *My Mother's Old Red Shawl* and *Hello, Central, Give Me Heaven Because My Mother's There* are solid proof. Although it was enormously popular in 1915, *My Mother's Rosary* is possibly the silliest of the Mother songs:

*There's an old time melody I heard long ago;  
Mother called it The Rosary; she sang it soft  
and low:*

*..Ten baby fingers and ten baby toes,  
She'd watch them by the setting sun  
And when her daily work was done,  
She'd count them each and every one.  
That was "My Mother's Rosary."*

One would think that after she'd watched those toes and counted them several hundred times, she'd know there were ten. Perhaps she fretted that some of them might have dropped off while she wasn't looking.

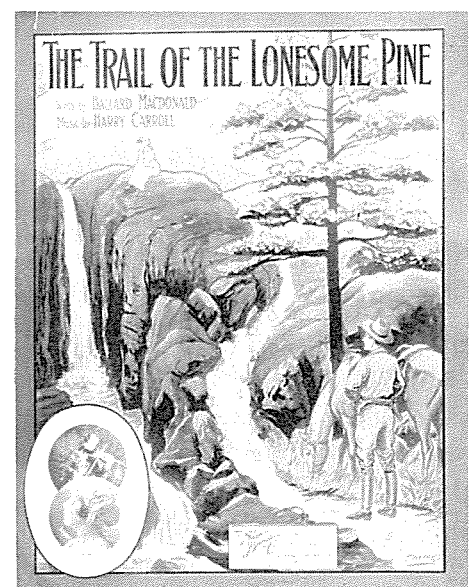
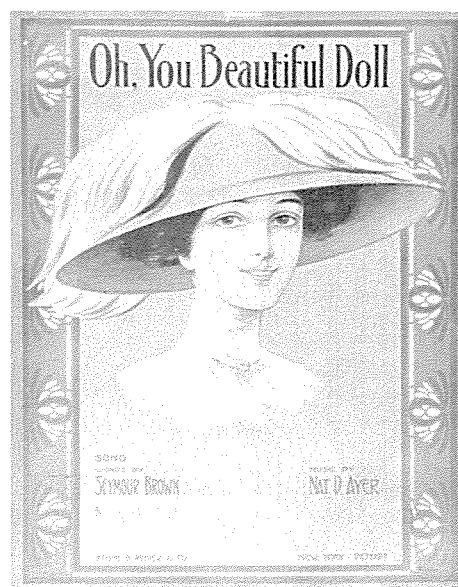
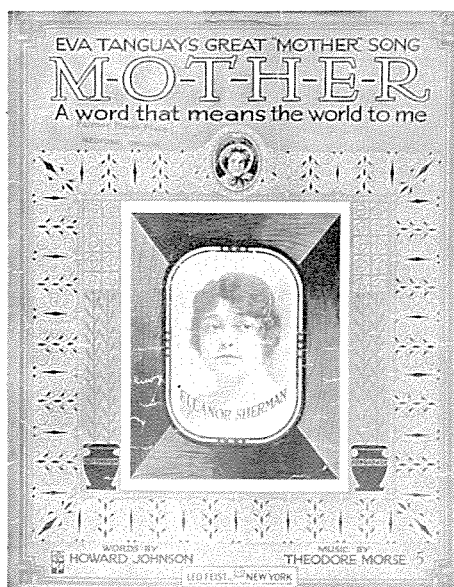
**T**he object of a fellow's romantic affections was a clever minx. She was wholesome, demure, modest, dimpled, blushing, dainty and smelled of freshly starched linen, soap and lavender water. The gents adored her. She was *The Sunshine of Paradise Alley*, *Sweet Rosie O'Grady*, *Annie Rooney*, *Daisy Bell*, *Cecelia*, *Bedelia*, *Sweet Marie*, *My Gal Sal*, *Sweet Adeline*, *Rose of Washington Square*, *Pretty Baby*, *Mary with a Grand Old Name*, *Ida*, *Sweet as Apple Cider* and *Oh! You Beautiful Doll*. She was no more sophisticated than a bunny and she had no women's wiles -- on the surface. Yet the little dickens wore a beguiling sash to show off her tiny waist, she twirled her underflounces to reveal her trim little ankles and she added a few perky ruffles where nature hadn't been quite generous enough.

Her entrapped suitor coyly courted her with persuasive messages: *Love Me and the World Is Mine*, *All the World Will be Jealous of Me*, *How'd You Like to Spoon with Me?*, *Be My Little Baby Bumble Bee*, *Daisies Won't Tell*, *All That I Ask Is Love*, *Cuddle Up a Little Closer and Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland*. His love was undying and would even grow stronger in their golden years when the dear old girl had silver threads among the gold and they wandered, hand in hand, down lovers' lane by the old mill stream as he reminded her of school days when she was sweet sixteen, wore a sweet yellow tulip while he wore his red, red rose.

The lady was enshrined on a pedestal and adored from a discreet distance with phrases like: *I re-a-lize I found my Par-a-dise When I looked in your wonderful eyes and I'll turn, love, to thee, my shrine thou shalt be Till the sands of the desert -- grow cold.*

**QUESTION:** What young lady would not swoon at such devotion?

**ANSWER:** Almost all of them. They couldn't wait to get down from that pedestal. In a few short years they were doing the Charleston and the Raccoon and goodness knows what else. They threw scruples to the wind. One poor deserted chap wailed: *Beale Street Mamma, why don't you come back home? It isn't proper to leave your papa all alone...Sometimes I was cruel that's true, but, Mama, your sweet Papa never two-timed you...So how come you do me like you do?* He hastened to add that there were a lot of other fish in the sea squabbling over him, but he wanted her only. *I advertised for you in the Memphis Press, and fourteen Mammams answered "Yes," So, Beale Street Mamma, come back home.* Only a few years earlier he'd have thrown her out and





turned her picture to the wall; now he's groveling. Give those girlyies a little freedom and the next thing you know they'll want the vote.

It seems, though, that even during the most prim and proper era some of the ladies, like giddy moths, couldn't resist the lights and the temptations of the city. Of course they eventually regretted their foolish misstep but wisdom came too late. In actuality, maybe fewer of them were repentant than the song titles would indicate and not one of them was entirely to blame for her shame and downfall. Always a man was the cause of it all.

*She May Have Seen Better Days, Just Tell Them That You Saw Me* and *Just a Girl That Men Forget* tell the sad story only too plainly, and *In the Heart of the City That Has No Heart* it's even spelled out:

*The current of vice had proved too strong  
So the poor little girlie just drifted along  
Nobody cared if she laughed or cried,  
Nobody cared if she lived or died;  
She's just a lost sister and no one has  
missed her;*

*She's there in the city where there's no pity --  
In the city that has no heart.*

This one is a real goner. If that wouldn't send those girlyies scurrying back to the safety of the farm, what would?

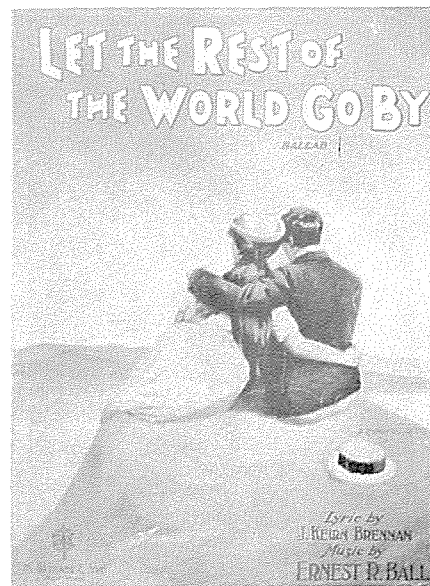
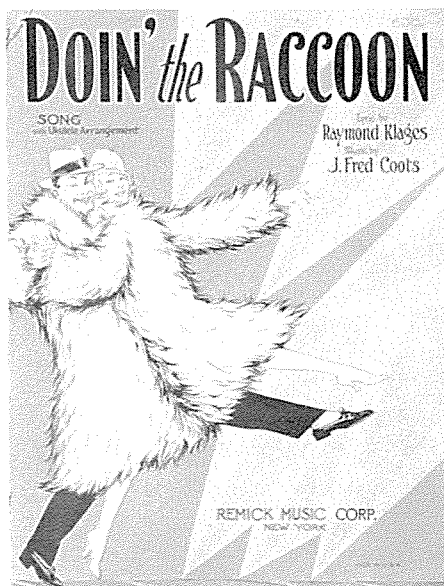
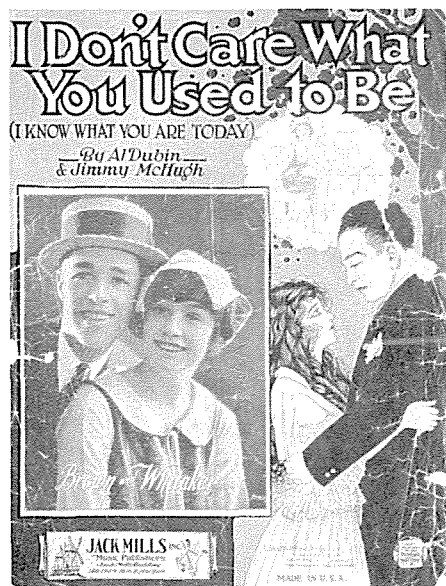
There is at least one song, popular in the twenties, in which one of these lilies of the field was salvaged from those city lights. It's called *I Don't Care What You Used to Be*, and it's a response made by a fellow who's far ahead of his time. The cover of the sheet music pictures a young lady looking demurely up at her beloved. Her hair is arranged in long curls and she is modestly clad--even a bit out of date. It seems that nice



girls were always a little dowdy so you can see at once she's a real good girl. But over her head the artist has shown her as she used to be. Wow! She's alone at a table in a cabaret, her gown, although stylish, is skimpily cut, she is obviously having a glass of spirits AND she is smoking a cigarette in a long holder. She's a real naughty, all right. This gentleman, who should be a model for all time to come, is telling her:

*I don't care what you used to be;  
I know what you are today.  
If you love me as I love you,  
Who cares what the world may say?  
I was no angel in days gone by;  
You ask no questions so why should I?  
I don't care what you used to be,  
I know what you are today.*

Lucky girl. She'd better glom onto him without delay; he's one in several million.



During this period more popular songs were produced than in any previous decade. Love, of course, was the big theme, but there were other interests that inspired the songsters. They were fascinated by the new toys: the telephone, the telegraph, the horseless carriage and the airplane. Such titles appeared as *Come, Josephine, in My Flying Machine, I Guess I'll Have to Telegraph My Baby, Come Take a Trip in My Airship, In My Merry Oldsmobile, He'd Have to Get Under, Get Out and Get Under, and Hello, My Baby. The Exposition in 1904 brought out Meet Me in St. Louis.* A waggish humor which is characteristic of all people even in times of stress, was evident in *Where Did Robinson Crusoe Go with Friday on Saturday Night?, Who Threw the Overalls in Mistress Murphey's Chowder?, They're Wearing 'Em Higher in Hawaii, Don't Go in the Lion's Cage Tonight, The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo and Mumbo Jumbo Jijiboo J. O'Shea*

Extremely successful were songs of mawkish sentimentality. It's difficult to believe that people took them seriously, but they did. Oscar Wilde once said, "Only a man with a heart of stone could read 'The Death of Little Nell' and not burst out laughing." The same is true today of *The Pardon Came Too Late, In the Baggage Coach Head, A Bird in a Gilded Cage, The Mansion of Aching Hearts, and Over the Hills to the Poorhouse.*

*After the Ball* was a smashing success yet the words of the ballad are absurd. A precious little maiden, climbing on an old man's knee, innocently asks, "Have you no babies? Have you no home?"

The old duffer tells his sad story. "I had a sweetheart, years, years ago. Where she is now, pet, you will soon know."

It seems he'd gone to the ball and there was his

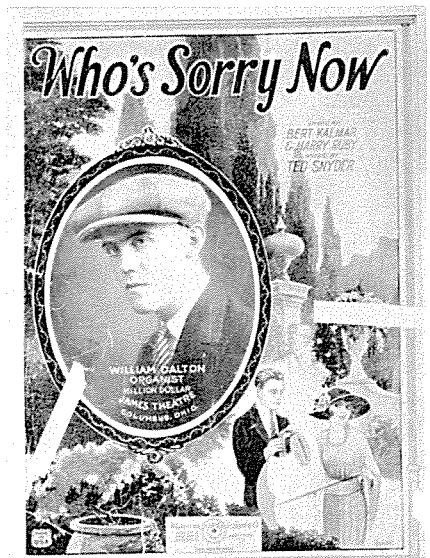
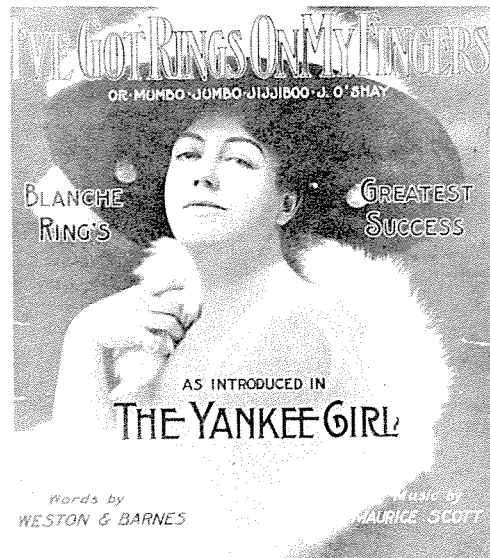
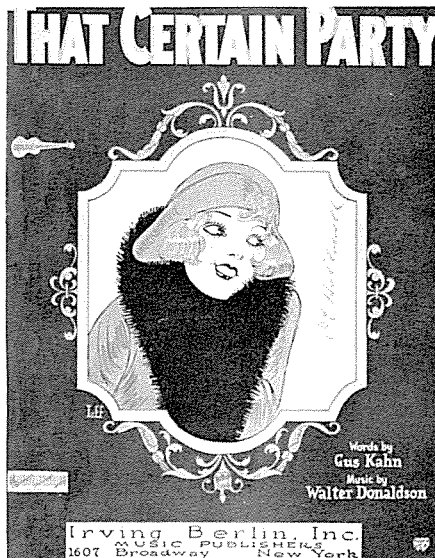
beloved. (She's apparently come early to avoid the rush.) She approached him and asked him to fetch her some water. (Although it was a grand ball, it wasn't grand enough to provide the dancers with a nice bowl of punch.) He had to snoop around and find the pump. When he returned, he found her kissing another man. "Down fell the glass, pet, broken, that's all, Just as my heart was, after the ball."

She tried to explain but all her "pleadings were vain." He left the ball, angry and in a pout, and, with the passing of the years, became an embittered, lonely old thing.

The poor girl was obviously better off without him, but she didn't know it and so she up and died. "One day a letter came from that man, he was her brother, the letter ran. That's why I'm lonely, no home at all; I broke her heart, pet, after the ball." Alas.

One shouldn't wonder that these maudlin songs were so successful. Any adult who would sing--and most of them did--*Daddy Wouldn't Buy Me a Bow Wow, I Don't Want to Play in Your Yard and Hoo-oo, Ain't You Coming Out Tonight?* has to be a little simple minded.

Not to be overlooked is the towering stack of sentimental and cutsey songs about the Irish. The multitude of pseudo-Irish folk who gathered in Pop's Saloon or Paddy's Saloon or Casey's Saloon had to have a wide repertoire of material to render with deep emotion and pathos, particularly on March 17 and other memorable occasions. America seems never to have outgrown it. Even today we're presented with songs about the auld sod and those moth-eaten little people. These titles must be included in any list of songs because of their great and lasting popularity: *My Wild Irish Rose, When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, Peg-O-My-Heart, A Little*



*Bit of Heaven, Rose of Killarney, Ireland Must Be Heaven Because My Mother Came from There* and *The Rose of Tralee*.

Overlapping the list of Irish songs are many other songs of rollicking good humor. They are songs which enliven an audience and encourage everyone to join in. The list includes *The Sidewalks of New York, While Strolling Through the Park, The Band Played On, There Is a Tavern in the Town, By the Sea, I'm Just Wild About Harry, Casey Jones, Ta-ra-ra boom der-e* and many other perennial favorites.

World War I brought a flood of patriotic compositions. Many of them will be around as long as people sing. Even today some of them deliver a sharp emotional punch. No one should expect to find glamor in an ugly thing like war, but glamor, exquisite and painful, is there in these songs. Those soldiers and nurses were too young and too naive and too beautiful; they could break your heart. The power of the songs lies in their simplicity and honesty.

There isn't any sophistication or art in the soldier's thoughts of his dead comrade: *Nights are long since you went away, I dream about you all through the day, my buddy ... my buddy, nobody quite so true*. The tribute to the Red Cross nurse is just as effective: *There's a rose that blows in No Man's Land, and it's wonderful to see*.

Both the words and the music of *Over There* were designed to help win the war. At its very first performance it was met with frenzied enthusiasm and became internationally popular. There is nothing artificial or insincere in it; it is down to earth. It brought the Congressional Medal to its composer, George M. Cohan. *There's a Long, Long Trail* must be included in any list of permanent patriotic hits as well as *You're a*

*Grand Old Flag* and *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. England sent America *Keep the Home Fires Burning* and *Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag and Smile, Smile, Smile*.

These songs ushered in the jazz age, and it's no wonder the young people in the twenties acted so brainless. Stopping to remember was too painful so they rushed to the other end of the scale. Their songs captured the high spirits of the decade: *Running Wild, Ain't We Got Fun?, Yes, Sir, That's My Baby, Hard-Hearted Hanna, There's Yes, Yes in Your Eyes* and *Everything is Hotsy-Totsy Now*.

The older generation was shocked; it always has been. A lady evangelist writing to the *Oregonian* announced: "Dancing is the first and easiest step towards hell. The modern dance cheapens womanhood. The first time a girl allows a man to swing her around the dance floor she has lost something she should have treasured."

"Her corset," added the editors of *The Fabulous Century*. Mothers insisted that nice girls wore them, but how could one dance the black bottom laced into a steel undergarment?

A bill in the Virginia legislature forbade shirt-waists and evening gowns which displayed "more than three inches of the throat," and the Ohio legislature ruled that skirts must reach "that part of the foot known as the instep." The girlyies paid no attention. They were off that pedestal for good.

The moral code was in tatters and even today the loose ends are flying around in every direction. It takes time to build up a code, and, it appears, even longer to repair one. Whatever develops tomorrow will be reflected in the lyrics of the future. And whatever the outcome, we can be certain that, come rain or come shine, the songwriters will tell us that all the odds are in our favor and everything'll be coming up roses.

## Workshops

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| June 27 | <b>CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP.</b> 10 A.M.-1 P.M. Folk Art Woodcarving. Children's Museum, Jacksonville. |
| July 8  | <b>CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP.</b> 1-3 P.M. Kaleidoscopes. Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, Ashland.    |
| July 22 | <b>CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP.</b> 1-3 P.M. Textile Weaving. Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, Ashland.  |



# Society News

## Board of Trustee Update

At the May 26 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Carl L. Shaff was elected to fill the Board vacancy created by Allen Drescher's resignation. Dr. Shaff lives in Rogue River and is the Superintendent of Schools for District #35. He brings a knowledge of education, fundraising and representation of the west side of the County to our Board.

Board members also approved the budgets from the Eagle Point Historical Society and the Woodville Museum in Rogue River. A grant of \$12,695 was made to the Eagle Point Historical Society and the Woodville Museum will receive a grant of \$17,500. Each grant carried a stipulation that the organizations submit monthly financial statements to the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

In order to provide additional revenue for the Society, our Board adopted new membership fees on May 26. These increases are listed below.

Category	Old Fee	New Fee
Junior Historian	\$ 6	\$ 8
Senior	10	12
Individual	12	15
Family	15	20
Contributor	25	30
Business	50	50
Donor	75	75
Sponsor	100	100
Benefactor	250	250
Grantor	500	500
Life	1000	5000

## Society Research Library

The library recently received an important collection of materials relating to the early history of Ashland. Donated by Charles Rush, the Jacob Wagner Papers include ledgers from the Ashland Flour Mills, business and personal correspondence, as well as ephemeral items dating to the late 1850s. Included among the materials are a public statement of opinion from the Mills concerning Reconstruction at the close of the Civil War, and what appear to be the first bylaws of the Ashland Public Library.

To date, the materials have been sorted and generally cleaned by the library staff. A

preliminary inventory was compiled with the assistance of Kay Atwood and Marjorie O'Harra, who have a special interest in and knowledge of the history of Ashland.

Before additional processing can take place to provide public access to the materials, a significant conservation efforts must be undertaken. We shall keep you posted!

## California National Historic Trail

Thursday evening, May 21, acting executive director Sam Wegner and Historic Advisory Committee members, Dr. John Welch and Jim Kuntz attended a public hearing in Roseburg on the proposal to authorize National Historic Trail Status to the California Trail. Of the four alternatives represented in the National Park Service's (NPS) Draft Feasibility/Environmental Assessment, the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon California Trails Association and the Historic Preservation League of Oregon all recommend alternative B which includes all sections of the California Trail System for research and protection. The Applegate Trail section of the California Trail is of particular importance to Oregon since pioneers settling in Southern Oregon and Oregon settlers heading for the California gold fields used the Applegate Trail as a major route of travel.

## Magical Mystery Bus Tour

There is gold to be found in Coyote Creek, east of Wolf Creek in Josephine County and 79 participants of the Society's Magical Mystery History Bus Tour traveled to Golden May 14 for a gold panning lesson of their own. In 1892 there were 150 people living along Coyote Creek, most of them miners, but two residents were preachers and they intended to save the souls of the miners for Golden had two churches and no saloons!

The community of Golden was created on the placer mining property of William and Ruth Ruble who purchased their land in 1880. After their arrival on Coyote Creek, settler families increased due to extensive hydraulic mining operations, and a store, church, school, and several homes were established. Named by the Ruble family, Golden remains a significant ensemble of 19th century structures created to serve an isolated mining community.



The Society is grateful to Wilbert and Evelyn Zabel for allowing the tour to visit the Golden School and the Lorenz Miller House. Host and hostess at Wolf Creek Tavern for lunch and a tour were Joy and Sam Angelos. Thank you! And thanks also to Jack Smith for his gold panning demonstration.



Jack Smith of Smith Mining giving gold panning demonstration. (Negative #120-571-5)



Golden Church. When the Gunsmoke TV movie was filmed in this area in 1972, the church was used in a scene. The producers of the TV show planted a dozen false grave markings next to the church. (Negative #120-569-18)



Wolf Creek Tavern, acquired in 1975 by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division, and reopened in 1979 after a complete restoration. (Negative #120-571-11)

### Affiliate Membership to the Oregon Historical Society

The Oregon Historical Society has set July 1 as the deadline for affiliate membership in their Society at a cost of \$10.00. After July 1, the cost will be \$20.00.

An affiliate membership entitles you to the following:

- 10% discount on books purchased in the OHS bookshop
- Free admission to The Oregon History Center, Research Library & Resource Center (all located at 1230 S.W. Park Avenue, Portland)
- Subscription to the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* plus six yearly newsletters.

If you are interested in joining, send your check (marked for affiliate membership through the Southern Oregon Historical Society) to: Kathy Wood, Membership Secretary, Oregon Historical Society, 1230 S.W. Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205.

### Volunteers Needed for The Willows

During the next three months the Society must call on volunteers to help with tours of the Hanley Home at The Willows. The property will be open June 20 and 21; July 18 and 19; August 15 and 16. Tours of the home are given each day from 1:00-5:00 P.M.

Anyone interested in helping out and learning more about the Hanley family and The Willows is asked to contact Marge Herman, Coordinator of Volunteers at 899-1847 to sign up for training which will be held some time prior to June 20. Volunteers will be asked to commit themselves to one day (from 1-5) at the farm.

## Living History Program

Memorial Day Weekend found Society living history interpreters completing their first character portrayals for 1987. Attendance at the C.C. Beekman home and the Beekman Bank is listed below:

May	Beekman Bank	Beekman House
23	240	43
24	258	58
25	165	81
	<hr/> 663	<hr/> 182

## New Exhibit at Pacific University

"*Pacific University's Historical Past*" is the theme of a photo exhibit in the Kathrin Cawein Gallery of Art in Scott Library at Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon. The exhibit runs until August 23, 1987, and the public is welcome. More than 40 photos are on display. They are reproductions of photos taken from the museum collection covering the period of the 1870s to 1915 and provide ideas of what life was like 70 to 115 years ago in a small university town in the west. Summer hours for the exhibit are 1-4 P.M. Tuesdays through Fridays; closed July 27-31. The exhibit will change July 18-19 for a special two-day exhibit but will be on display the remainder of the summer.

## Centennial Poster

The first 50 copies of a limited edition of the Ashland Railroad Centennial poster being published by the Ashland Heritage Committee will be made available to employees and retired employees of the Southern Pacific Railroad at a special price of \$5, according to Terry Skibby, president of the Heritage Committee. Those who qualify may call the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, 488-1341, to place their order. The poster features a reproduction of the illustration that depicts the joining of the rails in Ashland on December 17, 1887.

Posters will be available to the public for \$10. Proceeds will help offset the costs of the 12th annual Heritage Sunday program scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 1 to 5 P.M., Fourth and "A" Streets. The theme for the event will be the 100th anniversary of the joining of the railroad lines in Ashland -- the driving of the Golden Spike that completed the circle of railroad around the United States. A picture display, slide show, and narrated walking tours will be presented free to the public.

## U.S. Constitution Bicentennial

Jackson County has been recognized as a "Designated Bicentennial Community" by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution in Washington, D.C., and the Southern Oregon Historical Society is the coordinating agency on behalf of the county. "The Society will be a clearinghouse and promoter for Jackson County events," states Marjorie Edens, Society liaison for the project. Jackson County communities will be asked to appoint someone to serve on the County's Bicentennial Commission. September 17, 1987, has been designated U.S. Constitution Day in Jackson County by the county commissioners. The task of this commission will be to plan and coordinate Bicentennial activities in Jackson County.

## From Our Readers

Attn: Raymond Lewis re: your account of the Hanna family.

During World War I I lived in Medford with my Aunt and Uncle, Will and Mamie Hanna. Aunt Mamie (Mary O'Brien of Oakland and Alameda, California) was married to William Hanna, known by all as Will.

According to your article Hiero Hanna was married: 1st to Mary Theresa Agnes, d in 1871; 2nd to Laura Overbeck, d in 1875; 3rd to Helena Brentano, married 1881. She had 2 daughters, Ollie and Rosa, from a previous marriage and four children with Hiero: William, Leon, Herbert and Clef.

If Hiero and Helena were married in 1881, I question William's birth in 1875. I have no facts to support my feelings, but when I lived with Will, I always thought that Leon and Herbert were half-brothers. They had great affection for each other.

No mention is made of a sister, Hattie. She had been married to Neuber and they had a daughter, Laura. Their pictures are in the Hanna file. Laura married a Porter and they left the area and went to Portland. About two years ago, Laura died, and there was a small write-up and picture of her on the inside of the cover page of *The Table Rock Sentinel*. Laura and Porter had a daughter, Peggy.

Though we lived in Medford, several times a week we would go to Jacksonville to see Herbert and Leona. I loved this. One reason was that Leona was a wonderful cook.

Will Hanna had gall bladder trouble. Upon Dr. Pickle's recommendation he went to Portland. A

doctor there was doing work in that field. So Mamie, Will and Herbert went to Portland and I was sent home to my brother in Ashland. Before leaving the area I stayed in Jacksonville with Leona. It was at that time that the public library was organized. It was located in the building that the Bank today has. Leona was one of the workers.

Is it possible Hattie was Laura Overbeck's daughter? Note: Hattie named her daughter Laura.

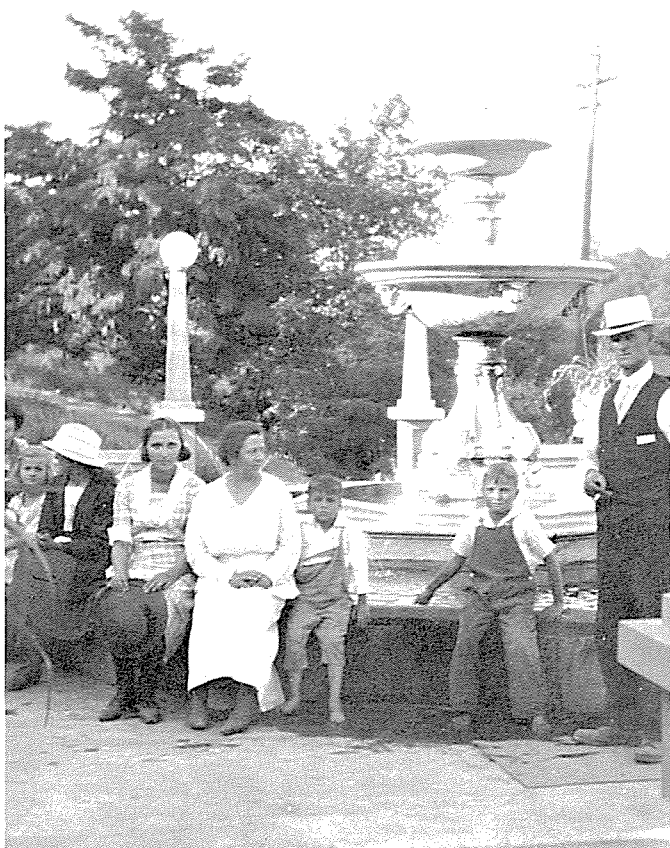
*Ynez Koenig*  
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am enclosing a photograph taken by my father in front of a fountain in the Lithia Park in Ashland. The year was either 1921 or 1922. Those shown in this picture are (from left to right): Mrs. Wisely, Verna Forncrook, Clara Wisely, Edna Wisely, my mother, Dale Forncrook (my brother), Gordon Wisely and Charlie Wisely. The three divisions of the fountain are shown although the statue on the top is not clear.

We came to Medford from Montana in 1921 and were amazed at all the wonders that Oregon had to offer. We often went to Ashland for picnics and a taste of the mineral waters at the various fountains.

*Verna Forncrook Wilson*  
Canyonville, Oregon 97417



*OPEN HOUSE AT THE WILLOWS.*

Dear Historical Society,

I would like to add some information in regard to the story on the Murphy family in your April 1987 issue.

I am the step-granddaughter of George Carl Murphy. You had very little about him and it was not all true. He worked on the family ranch a great deal. He helped in breaking and training cow ponies. He took part in local and state rodeos. I have pictures of him and his brothers on the ranch.

He did commit suicide, because he had lost his job as foreman on Jim Miller's Applegate Ranch. He couldn't face telling my grandmother. The family being Catholic would not let him be buried in the family plot.

He married Maude Purves Williams who was the grand-daughter of David E. Stearns. He took a 320 acre donation land claim on Wagner Creek near Talent on February 4, 1869. The Stearns Cemetery was part of the claim. (NOTE: By 1869 one could acquire a donation land claim only by purchasing it from an earlier owner.)

Myron Stearns mentioned on page 20 of this issue as having had his ox killed by Indians was her great-uncle David Stearns' brother. This information is from our family genealogy.

*Mrs. Maxine Crowson Kinkade*

Dear Mrs. Kinkade:

Thank you for your interesting letter and the additional information about the Murphy family. We are happy to put it in our files. R.L.

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## Society Walking Tours & Living History Tours (JACKSONVILLE)

### Guided Walking Tour of Jacksonville's Historic Business District

Available: Thursday-Saturday, June 4 - September 5, 1987

Time: 1:00-4:00 P.M. (on the hour)

Tour length: 40-60 minutes. Maximum 15 persons/tour.

Cost: \$1.00/person, age 14 and above. (Free to Society members; membership card must be presented to guide.)

Purchase tickets and depart from the Jacksonville Museum, 206 N. Fifth Street.

*View some of Jacksonville's oldest buildings including an 1881 Gothic-style church and the first bank in Southern Oregon. Learn how the early merchants, lawyers, builders, and the town banker became the civic and political leaders of Jacksonville as it changed from a rough and tumble gold mining camp to a vital Victorian community and trade center of Southern Oregon.*

**Living History Tours Available:** daily, May 23 - September 7, 1987 Time: 1:00-5:00 P.M.

**Cornelius C. Beekman Home** 452 E. California Street (30-35 minute tour)

**Beekman Banking House** Corner Third & California Streets (no time limit on tour)

*Living history characters portray prominent Cornelius C. Beekman, his family and employees during the year 1911. Chat casually with these "historic personalities" as they show you through the Beekman home and Beekman's Wells Fargo office and bank.*

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### ASHLAND

#### "Historic Ashland" Guided Walking Tour

Available: Thurs.-Fri.-Sat., June 11-27, 1987

Thursday and Saturday, July 2 - Sept. 5, 1987

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Tour length: one hour; maximum 15 persons/tour

Cost: \$1.00/person, age 14 and above. (Free to Society members; membership card must be presented to guide.)

Purchase tickets and depart from the Chamber of Commerce booth on the Plaza

*View Ashland's historic architecture while learning a brief history of Lithia Park, the Chautauqua program and Ashland's pioneers.*

#### "Ashland's Historic Railroad District" Guided Walking Tour

Available: Fridays, July 3 - September 4, 1987

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Tour length: one hour; maximum 15 persons/tour

Cost: \$1.00/person, age 14 and above. (Free to Society members; membership card must be presented to guide.)

Purchase tickets and depart from the Golden Spike Commemorative Plaque on 4th and "A" Streets (next to the Grange Co-op).

*Tour includes information about the history and architecture of Ashland's colorful Railroad Addition.*

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### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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