

# TABLE ROCK SENTINEL

\$2<sup>50</sup>

DECEMBER 1987



The  
Magazine  
of the  
Southern  
Oregon  
Historical  
Society

# Commentary

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There's a new look to the *Table Rock Sentinel*. With this issue we introduce a new format and design which we know will make the *Sentinel* even more enjoyable and informative.

The *Sentinel*, a monthly publication of the Society since October 1980, will continue to carry popular articles on the history of the southern Oregon region. In future issues you will also see works by other members of the Society's staff, as well as historians and writers from throughout the region and Oregon.

**Society Update** will carry news, information and in-depth features on Society programs, exhibits, projects and other activities. Members will find this section particularly interesting with its increased coverage of membership benefits, services and volunteer opportunities. This issue also see the debut of **Regional Digest**. Here you will read about what's going on in the history field (history, archaeology, historic preservation and other related areas) in communities, museums and historical societies, and elsewhere throughout the region.

We know you will enjoy the new look of the *Table Rock Sentinel*. If you are currently a Society member, or even if you aren't, we invite you to read and discover more about the Society and the rich and varied history of southern Oregon. Let us know what you think. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.



Samuel J. Wegner  
Executive Director

**The Table Rock Sentinel**, Jacksonville's first newspaper, was published from 1855 to 1859. After a name change to the **Oregon Sentinel**, it continued printing Jackson County news until 1888.



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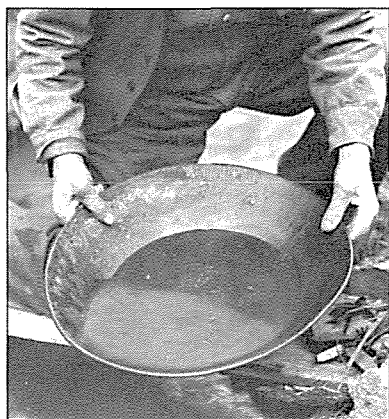
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The **Table Rock Sentinel** is published monthly by the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Administrative and membership offices are at P.O. Box 480, Jacksonville, OR 97530-0480. Subscription is free with membership.

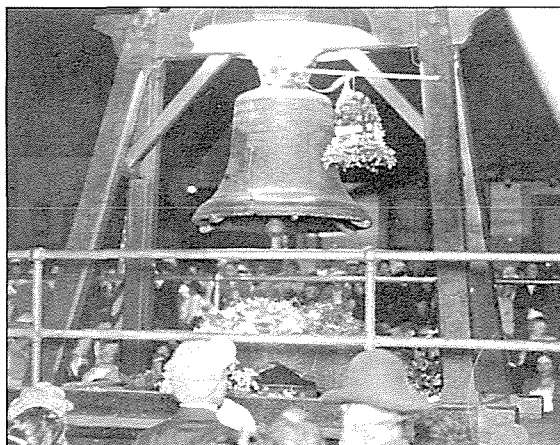
**POSTMASTER:** Please send Change of Address (form 3579) to Southern Oregon Historical Society, P.O. Box 480, Jacksonville, OR 97530-0480.

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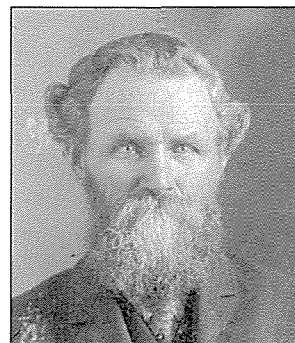
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**cover:** Pioneer photographer Peter Britt made this photograph of an unidentified Chinese couple in traditional clothing. SOHS #1143.

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Gin Lin (opposite) posed for pioneer  
photographer Peter Britt.

SOHS #10551

# Gin Lin and the Mountain of Gold

*by Chuck Sweet*

**T**oday there is very little physical evidence that more than 100 years ago large numbers of Chinese men were living and working in southern Oregon. The only reminders of this history are place names like China Gulch and China Ditch found on maps of the Applegate Valley, a few artifacts on display in the Jacksonville Museum, and the presence of many Trees-of-Heaven (ailanthus) that the Orientals had brought from China and planted in the Rogue Valley. Fortunately several researchers have unearthed much of the story of this facet of our history, and we discover that the Chinese played a significant role in the development of the West.

When gold was discovered in the Sacramento Valley by James Marshall in 1848, news of the find reached China almost as soon as it got to the Atlantic Seaboard. The Chinese were soon referring to the west coast of America as "Gum Shan," the Mountain of Gold. During the mid-nineteenth century, conditions were about as bad as they could be in China. The country was overpopulated and torn by civil and foreign wars. Most peasants and unskilled laborers found it almost impossible to eke out a living. As soon as word of the American gold strike crossed the Pacific, the first Chinese sailed for California. By February, 1849, as many as fifty-four of them had landed in San Francisco, and for the next three decades hordes of men from China swarmed into Pacific Coast ports.

Most of the early arrivals were poor peasants from Kwangton Province in southeast China. They probably boarded ship in Canton, the river port and capital of the province, and they became known as "sojourners" because, for the most part, they were destined to be only temporary residents in America. These Chinese considered their overseas stay solely as a means of economic survival and not as an opportunity to start a new life on foreign soil. Here they differed from the immigrants from other lands, who accepted life in the United States as permanent. When a sojourner had acquired a little money, he returned home where, more often than not, he would be considered a wealthy man in his im-

poverished native village. Often these returnees would be expected to finance huge feasts, schedule fireworks, and sometimes stage several days of theatrical performances for the less fortunate villagers. Some returnees invested their gold mining earnings in projects to benefit their communities.

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Upon arrival in the United States, most sojourners would be met by a Chinese "boss" who had contracted for their labor. The boss then farmed them out to mine owners and employers in California and, later, Oregon. These bosses not only provided this cheap labor but also had exclusive rights to sell supplies to the Chinese workers. An employer would periodically pay a lump sum to the Chinese boss, who would then pay each of his workers, after first deducting any amount that the worker still owed on his transportation across the ocean.

Section 1. March 1, 1858. *No Chinaman shall mine gold, trade, sell or buy goods, chattels, or any property whatever, for the purpose of maintaining a livelihood in this territory, unless licensed to do so as provided in this account.*

The above legislation made it impossible for a Chinese miner to stake a claim. Any gold he was able to find was at the sufferance of some prospector who thought he was leaving an exhausted claim and didn't care much who moved in. Anyone was welcome to his tailings. With painstaking diligence, often using tiny brushes and small spoons, Chinese miners went after colors which impatient prospectors had overlooked. Many of them eked out a living, getting by on 25 cents a day, but many of them managed to take significant sums of money home with them. In America they operated under the authority of a "boss" who found jobs for them and extracted some of their pay for his services. Gin Lin was just such a personality and he made a fortune from his efforts.

Soon following the 1852 discovery of gold in the Jackson Creek area, the first Chinese workers began arriving in southern Oregon. Although a few may have come on their own, most were under contract to a Chinese boss. One such boss was an extraordinary man by the name of Gin Lin. There appears to be no record of when Gin Lin first arrived in the Rogue Valley, but we do know that by the early 1860s he was working his own mining claims in southern Oregon. Lin was treated with respect by some of Jacksonville's early business leaders such as Peter Britt, C.C. Beekman, David Linn, and Charles Wesley Kahler. Cabinetmaker David Linn's son Fletcher, in his "Reminiscences," tells how his father often was called "Cousin" by Gin Lin because of the similarity in last names.

Chinese miners weren't permitted to locate claims, but they could purchase them from other miners. When the Jackson County gold fields started to play out, the Caucasian miners moved on to richer areas and were more than willing to sell their claims to Chinese companies or individuals. Many such claims changed hands in the 1860s and 1870s. In the mid-1850s Jackson and Josephine counties began levying a \$50 monthly fee on Chinese businessmen who were mine operators, restaurant owners, or laundrymen. Individual Chinese miners were taxed \$2 a month starting in 1857, and the fee was doubled the following year.\* By 1861 the fees collected in Jackson and Josephine counties indicated that there were about 900 Chinese prospectors mining gold in these two counties. By 1870 as many as 300 to 400 Orientals were living in the crude shacks of Jacksonville's Chinatown, located across California Street from David Linn's cabinetmaking shop.\*\*

With this abundant labor supply Gin Lin had no difficulty in recruiting men for his own mining ventures. In Gin Lin's case, the law forbidding the Chinese to own property must have been construed with considerable flexibility, or else he was able to circumvent the legislation. In Jacksonville a Chinese boss who had

accumulated significant wealth apparently was entitled to more respect than that offered a "Coolie" with a flat purse. His first gold-mining operation of which we have a record commenced in 1864. That year he purchased land known as the Wilson Ranch near the settlement of Buncom at the confluence of the Little Applegate River and Sterling Creek. He paid Wilson \$900 for the property and placer mined at this site until the early 1870s. In the meantime he had gradually acquired other parcels of land down the Little Applegate and had his Chinese crews construct a ditch starting near the mouth of Yale Creek and running four and a half miles to his downstream diggings. This ditch carried a large volume of water to the diggings and is still known today as the "China Ditch." Eventually the Orientals would dig hundreds of miles of these water-supply ditches along the slopes of the upper Applegate Valley.

The gold deposits found along the banks of streams were soon worked out and new methods of mining had to be developed in order to move away from the steams and excavate older streambeds on the hillsides. Hydraulic mining proved to be the solution, and Gin Lin was the innovator in developing this method of mining in the Applegate area. Hydraulic mining consisted of diverting water from the ditches into a penstock made of riveted steel pipe. The penstock ran downhill and discharged the water into a large iron nozzle that the miners called the "Giant." The drop in elevation from the ditch to the nozzle resulted in the water being sprayed out of the nozzle with terrific force as it was directed against the gold-bearing deposits on the hillside. The loosened material would be washed through sluice boxes which trapped the heavier gold dust and nuggets. Large cobbles would be deposited in piles known as tailings. Much of the early mining equipment used by the Lin Company was brought in by pack train from Crescent City by another Chinese boss, China Bow. Before the end of the century, hydraulic

\*In addition to these local mining fees, the state adopted a poll-tax law in 1862 which directed that "...every Negro, Chinaman, Kanaka (Hawaiian), and Mulatto" residing in Oregon must pay an annual \$5 poll tax.

\*\*The area referred to as Chinatown (or the Chinese Quarters) occupied part of the original business section of Jacksonville

in the early 1850s when it was known as Table Rock City. The Chinese moved into this area after the business center shifted east to the new, fireproof, brick buildings on California Street. Over the succeeding years fires destroyed many of the pioneer wood-framed structures, and by 1900 the last of the Chinese shacks had been destroyed.





SOHS #11508

**Hydraulic mining operations such as this displaced tons of earth in the search for gold. An interpretive trail maintained by the U.S.D.A Forest Service at the site of one of Gin Lin's mines in the Applegate Valley provides a glimpse at the extent of these operations.**

mining had been banned because of the damage done to the terrain and the deposition of silt downstream.

Gin Lin's mining operations on the lower Little Applegate River were known as either the Uniontown Diggings or the Cameron Diggings. The latter designation resulted from the fact that the diggings were in the proximity of Robert Cameron's trading post at the confluence of the Applegate and Little Applegate Rivers. Most of the time Gin Lin had between 15 and 20 Chinese and a few whites working for him. The white miners may have been employed in the hope of retaining the goodwill of local residents. Lin was aware that the Orientals were resented by many of the Americans and was careful to remain on good terms with them. As an example, he was known to halt his mining operations for short periods during the summer so that the Uniontown ranchers could use his ditch water for irrigating their pastures. One bit of local folklore told of the time when mining operations exposed an old Indian

burial ground and Gin Lin ordered the area left untouched. The by-passed "island" remained intact until a local resident supposedly mined it during the 1930s.

After the high-value placer deposits on the Little Applegate had been nearly exhausted, Gin Lin acquired more mining claims in 1881 in the Palmer Creek watershed further up the Applegate River (beyond where the McKee covered bridge was built). He then proceeded to have a ditch excavated to carry Palmer Creek water to gold-bearing soils there and in adjacent Flumet and China gulches. The remains of some of these diggings can be seen today along the Gin Lin Trail constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and now under the jurisdiction of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service in the Rogue River National Forest. A hike over this three-quarter mile trail (with its numbered stations) provides the visitor with an insight into hydraulic mining operations.

**B**y the mid-1880s placer mining in the Applegate Valley no longer was proving profitable even to the hard-working Chinese, and in 1885 Gin Lin bought another large hydraulic mining area near Galice on the Rogue River. After this move to Josephine County, there was very little mention of him in the Jacksonville press. It was reported that the enterprising Gin Lin had deposited more than a million dollars worth of gold dust in Jacksonville's Beekman Bank by the time he had pulled out of the Applegate Valley. Over the years the successful Chinese mine owner and businessman had made several trips back to his native land. Each time he was supposed to have brought back a new wife. He was reported to have had four wives, but only one at a time -- selling each previous wife to one of his men. The 1880 Jackson County census lists his current wife as Gen Shen, age 36. This spouse bore Lin's son, Gin Wye.

Apparently Gin Lin's last voyage to China was made in October 1894. According to attorney Wes Kahler, who was administrator of Lin's estate, Gin Lin was supposed to have died in his native land about June 1, 1897. It was rumored in southern Oregon that before he embarked on his last trip, he had hidden much of his wealth on his person. On his return to China he had resolved to stay in the land of his birth, retire into venerable old age and bask in the respect and affection of all who knew him. According to the story, renegades who may have known of his hidden wealth held him up, robbed him and, to silence him, beat him to death. There have been accounts of concerned people who contemplated taking a trip to China to investigate this story and either verify it or put it to rest, but to this day the story remains only a rumor. At the time of his death, Gin Lin still owned several parcels of land in southern Oregon, which his son would have inherited. Gin Wye also had gone to China in 1894, and Kahler, in trying to settle the estate, made an attempt to locate the son after his father's death. If he was successful in finding the heir and closing the accounts, the fact is not in museum records.

**I**n the 1880s another group of Chinese were working in the Applegate Valley for Henry Ankeny's mining company on Sterling Creek. At one time these miners had acquired new trousers that were so long the legs had to be rolled up. Ankeny became suspicious and ordered the Orientals to roll down the cuffs. After the mud had been scraped off the cuffs, it was panned and found to contain an average of \$1.50 in gold per man. From then on they worked in cuffless pants. On another occasion a Chinese employee of the Sterling Mining Company accidentally fell into a flume in which a heavy head of water was rushing. Before he could extricate himself he was swept out on the tailings dump one-half mile distant. A white miner ran down to assist the unfortunate man, but arrived only in time to see him shoot twenty feet out from the end of the flume. The unlucky man was out of breath but managed to gasp, "Chinaman him go too fast, no likee, too muchee wet."

Local history records the names of two other pioneer Chinese men who became fairly prominent in southern

Oregon. Lin Wang was a Jacksonville laundryman whose age was listed in the 1880 census as 50 years. His laundry was located in a little white building on California Street between 3rd and 4th streets. The story goes that Wang just walked out of the laundry one day, left his customers' finished wash ready to take home and presumably returned to China to die. The other Oriental was one of the few Chinamen who lived out their lives in Jackson County. This was Wah Chung, a Southern Pacific Railroad boss who had a house and store alongside the railroad yards on A Street in Ashland. Later he operated a store and restaurant at 82 North Main Street. Chung had a wife and two children. He was considered a perfect gentleman by those who knew him. He frequently passed out candy to Ashland children and gave away dozens of Chinese lily bulbs to many Ashland families.

Like many Chinese women of that period, Wah Chung's wife had bound feet and could walk only with considerable difficulty. She dressed in beautiful garments of silk and brocade. People recall seeing her husband, with his queue and long fingernails, carrying her when she had to walk any distance. The Chungs had an adopted daughter, or ward, named Jennie, who became a girlhood friend of Mable Roach Dunlap.\* After Jennie grew up, Wah Chung sold her as a bride to a wealthy San Francisco merchant.

**M**ost Chinamen in America at that time retained their native dress, consisting of a skull cap, blue trousers, a long blue coat, white stockings, and shoes with paper soles. They kept their heads shaved except for the long queues that hung down

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### **He frequently passed out candy to Ashland children and gave away dozens of Chinese lily bulbs to many Ashland families.**

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their backs. Although opium was readily available, few of the Chinese miners were actually addicted to the drug, and many apparently never used it. In the Rogue Valley, Orientals who died were interred in the Jacksonville Cemetery in a special area located to the east of the I.O.O.F. section. Their funerals were dignified and reverential but a source of amusement to many in the community.

A typical Chinese funeral service would start with the cortege proceeding up the road to the cemetery and distributing small strips of yellow and red ceremonial papers upon which Chinese characters were inscribed. As the procession reached the gravesite, a ritual of "feeding the dead" would take place. Tea would be

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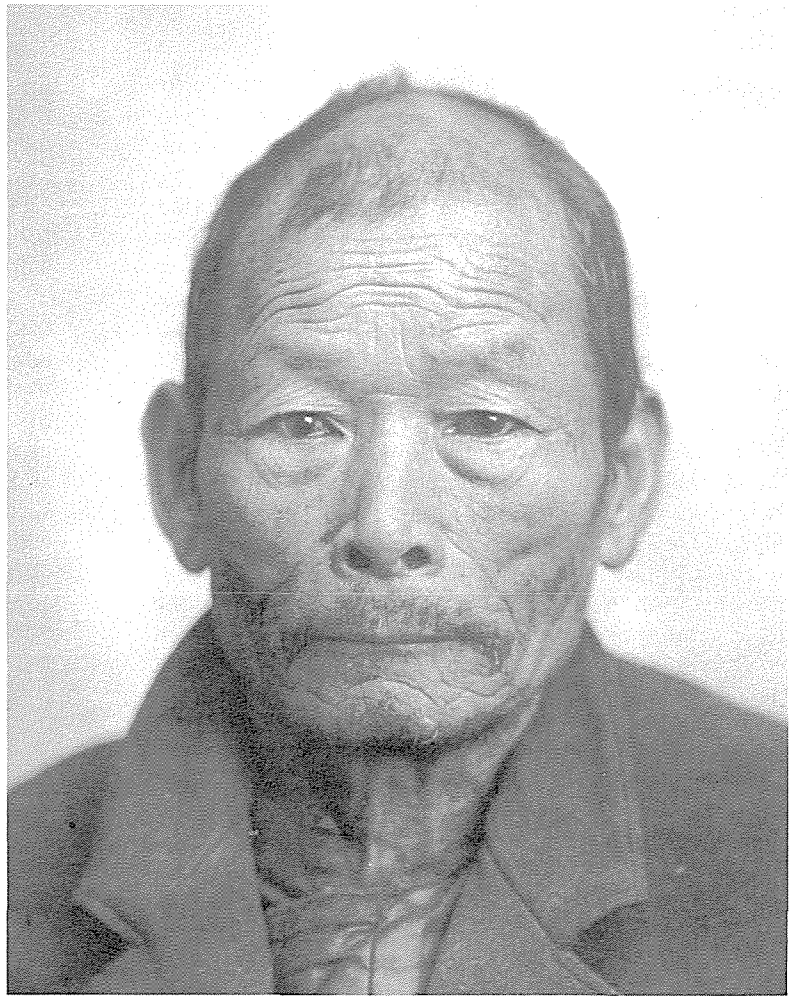
\*Mable was the granddaughter of Hiram and America Roach, who came to Ashland in 1875.





SOHS #1151

Lin Wang (right) operated a laundry in Jacksonville during the late 1800s. Jennie Wah Chung (above) was photographed with her doll on the porch of their Ashland house, ca.1910.



SOHS #1154

sprinkled among the graves along with a liberal scattering of cigarettes. Then a roasted pig would be placed amid the graves with proper ceremony. Meanwhile joss sticks had been lit and stuck into the ground.\* At the close of the ceremonies the mourners would blow three times and touch their foreheads on the ground several times. The "offerings" to the dead would be left at the cemetery, except for the roasted hog, which would be taken back to Chinatown, "leaving only the tempting aroma with the dead" wrote an editor.

The Chinese believed their souls would not go to Paradise unless their bones finally rested in their homeland. The *Oregon Sentinel* of August 21, 1878, reported that a number of Chinese had spent several days exhuming the bones of about 50 Chinese buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery. The paper declared that it would rather see live Chinese shipped to China than dead ones. During the early 1920s a mortician came from China, dug up the remaining bodies in the cemetery, and took the remains back to China for reburial. Because the mortician was being paid \$20 per set of bones, some local wags wondered whether there

may have been a few Rogue Indians laid to rest in Asia.

The Chinese were resented by many Americans, and this was true particularly in the western gold-mining areas. Aside from the usual prejudices one ethnic or religious group had for another, the greatest resentment against the Chinese miners probably stemmed from the flow of their money from America to Asia. In other words, many Americans felt that, "If you make it here, spend it here." The anti-Chinese attitude in southern Oregon developed almost as soon as the first Orientals showed up. On September 1, 1866, Jacksonville's *Oregon Sentinel* probably expressed the sentiments of most of the community when it printed:

We hope that during the present legislative session, the very important questions of taxing the Chinese miners will not be overlooked. It seems an unwise policy to allow a race of brutish heathen who have nothing in common with us, to exhaust our mineral lands without paying a heavy tax for their occupation. These people bring nothing with them to our shores, they add nothing to the permanent wealth of this country, and so strong is their attachment to their own country they will not let their filthy carcasses lie in our soil. Could this people be taxed to exclude them entirely, it would be a blessing.

The 1870s was a decade of increasing violence against the Chinese on the entire Pacific Coast. The *Democratic Times* of that period probably echoed the views of most voters in Jackson County. The paper was not only anti-

\*In August, 1871, the *Democratic Times* carried a news item about a grass fire started by burning joss sticks around the Chinese graves.

Chinese, it was also anti-Negro, anti-Indian, pro-Southern, and anti-women's rights. Early issues carried articles defending the KKK and rationalizing vicious attacks on the Chinese. In 1878 bigots made two attempts to burn Jacksonville's Chinatown. Had they succeeded, the entire town might have gone up in flames. Chinese miners often were robbed and beaten by white thugs. Sometimes, when a group of Chinese miners made a big gold strike, they would be driven off their claim by their Caucasian neighbors. Yet despite these abuses, many Orientals continued to live and work in the Rogue Valley.

The stock picture of the cunning, deceitful, pig-tailed Chinaman soon found a place in the lower levels of American fiction and even appeared in the Horatio Alger novels. Alger's path probably never crossed that of the Chinese immigrants and he undoubtedly was drawing upon the popular stereotype of the time. On the other hand, more responsible (and talented) writers such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Mark Twain, and Bret Harte, all of whom had direct contact with the early Chinese in America, pictured them as personable and likeable human beings. Persons who had close contact with the Orientals and got to know them discovered that they were a patient and hard-working people. Although sometimes quarrelsome among themselves, they usually were docile, peace-loving, and respectful toward others. They did not object to being limited to working mining claims abandoned by others, and they would work on old gold diggings as long as any pay dirt appeared. When a Chinese miner left a diggings, it was indeed worthless.

Except for isolated instances, the Chinese were not run out of the mining areas as some claimed. The fact

was that by the 1880s the mines were paying so poorly that most Chinese miners quit mining and went to work helping build wagon roads and railways (for wages as low as 60 cents to \$1 per day). By 1890 the few remaining Orientals in Jackson County were usually found running laundries or cooking for hotels or wealthy families.

Although the Chinese sojourners maintained their traditional customs and refused to be assimilated into American culture or to adopt the customs and mores of the host society, they did make substantial contributions toward the economic development of the West. They provided an inexpensive source of dependable labor, and their purchasing helped many American merchants survive. They also introduced "Chinese" cooking to the white population. It is only proper that we pay tribute to Gin Lin and his fellow sojourners for their contributions to our heritage.



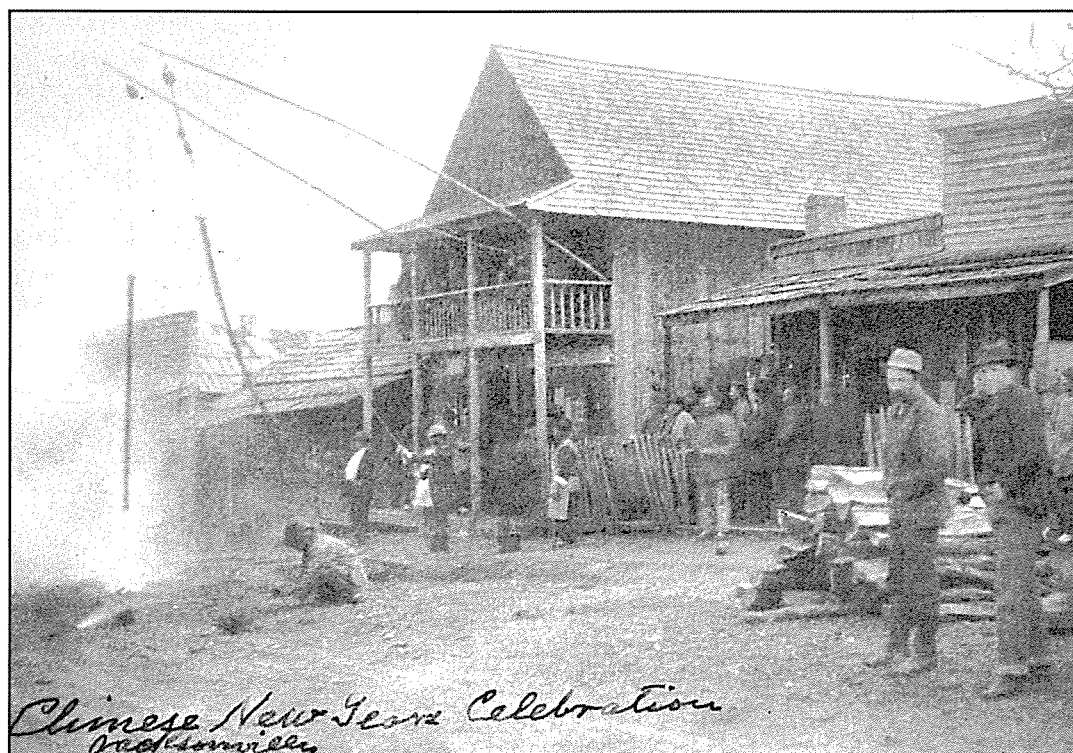
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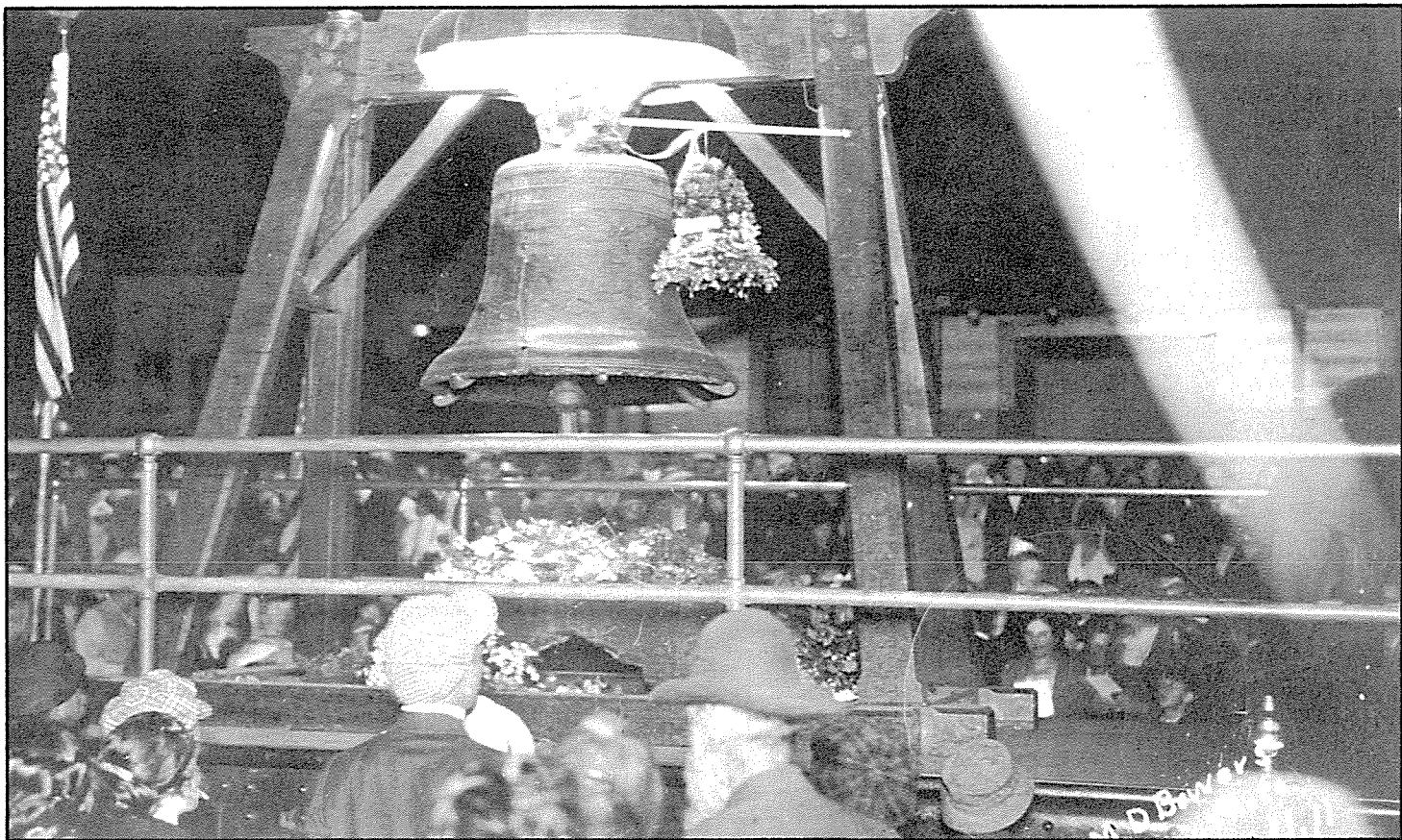
1. Willard and Elsie Street, *Sailor's Diggings*.
2. Jeffery M. LaLande, *Sojourners in the Oregon Siskiyou*: Adaption of the Chinese Miners in the Applegate Valley.
3. SOHS files on Gin Lin and the Chinese in Oregon.
4. Joan Hanbury, *The Chinese in the Rogue Valley, 1850-90*.
5. Viola Noon Currier, *The Chinese Web in Oregon History*.
6. Kay Atwood, *Minorities in Early Jackson County*.
7. U.S. Forest Service brochure, *Gin Lin Trail*.

*Chuck Sweet is a Medford resident whose interest in history has taken a variety of forms, including living history interpretation and contributing numerous articles to the Sentinel.*

The Chinese in Jacksonville during the late 19th century celebrated a traditional Chinese New Year with firecrackers and joss sticks.

SOHS #1505





A crowd of 5,000 people turned up in Medford at 2:15 a.m., July 16, 1915, to view the Liberty Bell en route to San Francisco. This trip was the first time the bell had been west of the Mississippi River.

SOHS #11139

## When the Liberty Bell Came To Town

by Sue Waldron

By 1904 the United States had finally cleared the way to finish building the Panama Canal. Millions of dollars and thousands of lives later the canal was opened to ocean traffic on August 14, 1914.

Proud as a peacock, the United States shouted to the world its great accomplishment. "At noon on Saturday, February 20, 1915, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was formally opened at San Francisco, as the official, national and international celebration of a great contemporaneous event -- the opening of the Panama Canal --the eighth wonder of the world."<sup>1</sup>

Forty-one nations were represented at the Exposition and forty-three states of the Union had an exhibit building. New Jersey exhibited a careful reproduction of Washington's headquarters just after he had crossed the Delaware to surprise the Hessians. The New York building was four stories high and the Massachusetts

and Ohio buildings were reproductions of their state capital buildings.

The Oregon building was conspicuous for its giant log pillars. Inside visitors could watch the six reel film, made by Albert Cooper Allen, *Gracie's Visit to the Rogue River Valley*. Starring Grace Andrews Fiero, the film showed scenic highlights around the valley. (The Southern Oregon Historical Society has a copy of this film in the film library.) Jackson County mounted a magnificent exhibit entitled "Camp Life on the Rogue River," and accompanied the display with fish and game from "this sportsmen's paradise."<sup>2</sup> Wonderful as many of the displays were, it was the Pennsylvania building that drew the largest crowds --Pennsylvania had the Liberty bell.

Officials in the city of Philadelphia agreed to allow the Liberty Bell to travel to San Francisco and be



## P R O C L A M A T I O N

**H**EAR YE! HEAR YE! All ye citizens of Grants Pass and vicinity!

*Inasmuch as the great state of Pennsylvania has given our people the opportunity of viewing the Liberty Bell as it is carried southward shortly after the midnight hour tonight,*

*IT IS HEREBY DECREED, That the Curfew Law shall be suspended for this night, and ye citizens, olde and young, are hereby commanded to assemble at ye Southern Pacific depot and pay due homage to this first emblem of American liberty, and by such token show reverence for the spirit manifest in 1776.*

*By order of*

*EDWARD T. McKINSTRY,*

*Burgomaster of ye Borough of Grants Pass.*

*Done this 15th day of July, 1915.*

**The mayor of Grants Pass issued in historic style this invitation to all citizens to view the Liberty Bell during its short stop in that city.**

displayed in the Pennsylvania building at the Exposition. The bell had been to New Orleans in 1885 and to St. Louis in 1904. This was the first time that it had been west of the Mississippi River.

Leaving Philadelphia around the first of July 1915, the bell traveled on a specially built steel gondola car which was electrically lighted and draped in red, white and blue. The gondola car was the last car in a seven car train. The bell traveled across the United States guarded and attended by six stalwart Philadelphia policemen and a delegation of Philadelphia officials.

When the Liberty Bell train, Train No. 53, reached the Northwest, it was joined by nine special trains. Made up of cars from many eastern lines, the specials were "bearing Shriners from their conclave at Seattle to the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco."<sup>3</sup> All regular freight traffic on the Southern Pacific lines was delayed for two days to make way for the specials.

Train No. 53 reached Portland on July 15th and stopped for four hours to allow thousands of people to pass in "an unbroken stream." Whistles blew and there was a parade of school children and military and patriotic organizations to highlight Portland's celebration.

Eugene estimated that 15,000 people would view the bell in the 35 minutes that the train would stop there. The mayor of Eugene presented the officials of the city of Philadelphia with a floral offering made of Willamette Valley flowers.

As the bell continued south the mayor of Grants Pass

reminded his citizens that here was an opportunity to "see the great bell that first rang out the glad tidings of American independence." On July 16th the *Grants Pass Daily Courier* carried the following article:

That patriotic sentiment still burns brightly in the breasts of the American citizen was evident last night when until past one o'clock the streets were thronged with a crowd that numbered thousands waiting to do reverence to that historic relic, the Liberty Bell.

The special train bearing the bell and the officials of the city of Philadelphia who are accompanying it to the Panama-Pacific Exposition arrived at 1:10 o'clock this morning and for ten minutes the people of Josephine County feasted their eyes upon the foremost emblem of American freedom and recounted the history that has made it an object of adoration...Farmers were here from miles around, some of them coming 20 miles for a fleeting view of the thing of metal about which is entwined so much of patriotic romance and the history of American independence, while the townspeople were out en masse.

The bell was mounted upon a specially constructed flat car at the rear of the special train of six cars, and was given a fitting setting among the stars and stripes with which the car was bedecked. Uniformed guards surrounded the bell and handed out cards bearing a brief history of the bell and a picture of the relic. Nearly 2,000 of these cards were given out in Grants Pass.<sup>4</sup>

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**"Sergeant Pat Mego of the police gave a demonstration of snare drum playing, and executed his ability with such unbounded fervor that he broke the drumhead."**

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Grants Pass officials maintained careful control of the large crowd gathered to see the Liberty Bell. When Henry Ahlf "opened up the throttle and got a bit too much motion on his motorcycle on Sixth Street"<sup>5</sup> he was brought before the police judge. Rollin F. Taylor remembers that "about twenty of us kids stayed at the Depot until 1:00 o'clock in the morning to get to see the Liberty Bell. Cards like this one were thrown off by the guards. The train did not stop."<sup>6</sup>

On the 14th of July the citizens of Medford were alerted that they would have only ten minutes to view the historic bell. The mayor issued a proclamation calling for all patriotic citizens of Medford and the area to come to the depot and welcome the bell.

The band will give a Liberty Bell concert in the city park and later Leader Curns with a drum and fife corps will greet the bell. The picture shows will remain open all night and there will be a dance at the Natatorium. A half hour before the arrival of the bell the fire whistle will blow to awaken those who want to sleep.<sup>7</sup>

On July 16 the *Medford Mail Tribune* estimated that 5,000 people viewed the Liberty Bell at 2:15 a.m. "Officials with the train said it was the largest early morning

gathering on the continental trip...''<sup>8</sup> The *Tribune* goes on to tell:

The Liberty Bell itself is a plain and homely piece of metal. It looks like the picture, familiar to everyone. It is closely guarded by a squad of Philadelphia policemen who distributed literature as souvenirs of their home city.

Before the arrival of the bell a holiday gathering filled the streets, many going to the picture shows, the band concert at the park and the dance at the Nat. When the fire whistle blew announcing the coming of the Liberty Bell special, crowds began to go toward the depot, with autos loaded with passengers from every direction. Over 500 autos of all kinds and makes were parked about the depot. It was the greatest gathering in the history of the city.

Before the arrival of the special train Sergeant Pat Mego of the police gave a demonstration of snare drum playing, and executed his ability with such unbounded fervor that he broke the drumhead. This incident spoiled the fife and drum corps program.<sup>9</sup>

On went the special train to arrive in Ashland at 3 a.m. While the citizens of Ashland waited for the special train there were dances at the Moose hall and the Natatorium and later an open house at the Nat. Picture shows ran late and several watch meetings were held.

A display of fireworks by the Chinese colony greeted the train. A crowd of approximately 3,000 people...paid the highest of all tributes, the "tribute of silence." For several minutes hardly a word was spoken, while the thousands gazed on the greatest of all American relics.<sup>10</sup>

At Hornbrook a delegation including the mayor of San Francisco and the governor of California boarded

the train to escort the bell into San Francisco. In San Francisco the Panama-Pacific International Exposition declared July 17th "Liberty Bell Day." The bell was transferred to a rose covered automobile truck and was paraded through the streets of that city.

Finally the bell arrived at the Pennsylvania Building at the Exposition. There it remained until December 4th, 1915, when the Exposition closed and the bell made the return trip to Philadelphia.

In the middle of the night, between July 15th and 16th, 1915, approximately 10,000 people in the Rogue River Valley got to see that historic relic, the Liberty Bell.



#### End Notes:

1. Ralph Emmett Avery, *The Panama Canal and Golden Gate Exposition*, p. 347.
2. *Ashland Tidings*, July 19, 1915.
3. *Grants Pass Daily Courier*, July 16, 1915.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. Rollin F. Taylor, letter, 1986.
7. *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 14, 1915.
8. *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 16, 1915.
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ashland Tidings*, July 19, 1915.

*Finding the picture of the Liberty Bell in the Southern Oregon Historical Society's photograph collection and then viewing the Liberty Bell flyer displayed at the Woodville Museum, Rogue River, intrigued SOHS staff researcher Sue Waldron. Further research resulted in the above story.*

## The Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell was cast in London in 1725 by order of the Assembly of Pennsylvania, at a cost of one hundred pounds sterling. It was brought to Philadelphia in that year and at the first trial was "cracked by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence."

Pass and Stow, two Philadelphia workmen, undertook the recasting of the Bell. The first trial was not satisfactory, the Liberty Bell being the result of the second effort. The cost was 60L 30s 5d (about \$303).

The Bell was hung in the tower of Independence Hall and used to convene the Assembly, call public meetings, and on July 8, 1776, it rang when the Declaration of In-

dependence was proclaimed--the Declaration having been adopted on July 2, and formally ratified as a public expression on July 4, 1776.

In 1777, when Philadelphia was about to be invaded, the Bell was taken to Allentown, Pa. It was returned in the same year and rung on every occasion of note--in triumph when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, in sorrow when Washington was buried, in joy when Lafayette revisited America. During the funeral obsequies of Chief Justice John Marshall of the Supreme Court, the Great Expounder of the Constitution, on July 8, 1835, it rang for the last time.

The Liberty Bell weighs 2080 pounds. It measures 12 feet around the lip and 7 feet 6 inches around the crown. The main lettering about the crown is in two lines reading:

Proclaim LIBERTY  
throughout all the LAND  
unto all the Inhabitants  
thereof, Lev. XXXV, 10.

By Order of the  
Assembly of the Province  
of Pennsylvania for the  
State House in  
Philadelphia.

--Excerpts from the Liberty Bell flyer displayed at the Woodville Museum, Rogue River.

*This is the third of four installments of Orson Avery Stearns' delightful diary of life in the early settlement of Phoenix, Oregon, and vicinity. The October issue of the Table Rock Sentinel featured incidents from his school days and the building of Sam Culver's blockhouse. Reminiscences of his first dance and the early days of the Civil War appeared in the November issue. This month, Stearns continues with the characters and circumstances of military life.*

*by Orson Avery Stearns*



Orson Avery Stearns

SOHS #11383

## Reminiscences of Pioneer Days and Early Settlers of Phoenix and Vicinity

**T**he raising of the Company of Cavalry in the valley sadly depleted the number of young men in the community, as well as to change the political complexion of the vote.

Jackson County for a few years had become quite a strong Republican County, but after the departure of the volunteers, followed almost immediately by a large influx of Missouri bushwackers, who had been chased out of Missouri, when Price's army was defeated and scattered, the first year of the war, it was for many years Democratic.

Among the young men who enlisted in the first Cavalry from Gassburg that I now recall were the following; Hobart Taylor, Jas. Hoxie, Jas Kimball, Robert Grey, Gus. Lavenburg, Felix & Joseph Peppoon (newcomers) and I think, John Vandyke, several others whose names I have forgotten.

As the mines were still booming, one or two other businesses that started up during the recruiting of the Cavalry, still kept up. Harry Mensor, a jew merchant of Jacksonville put up a stock of goods into the Oatman brick, and Patrick McManus put up a store farther south.

S.M. Waite, had sold his gristmill to a big german who formerly had a donation claim East of Manzanita on the desert, as it was called.

This mans name was Wm Hess, and quite a character too. Lew Colver used to tell a story of him which was rather funny as well as characteristic of the man. He had purchased some half dozen or more of geese, which





Donna Culver

SOHS #10508

**“Biddy remarked that she could not imagine how any woman could think of marrying a trifling little wiffit like him.”**

swam around in the mill race between the mill and the road, and the owner was very proud of them calling the attention of his many patrons to his new venture. Some one called his attention to the similarity of the looks of all his flock and suggested that he had been cheated, as they were all ganders. “Huh! guess I know,” quoth Hess, and proceeded to point them out to his critic in the following words, “Now, him been a goose, and him been a goose, and she been a gander, and she been a gander,” designating a different one every time. But he was much dissappointed to find later that his flock did not increase.

I forgot to mention a Dr. Hargrave, or Hargrow who came to Gassburg soon after the flouring mill was built, and remained some little time. Mrs. Waite was his eldest daughter and he had another unmarried daughter, Laura, by name, who later married Pat McManus. They afterwards moved to Yreka, where he was engaged in the mercantile business with a McConnell, under the cognomen of “McConnell and McManus.” The head of the firm married the youngest daughter of a pioneer family, Giles Wells; her name was Elizabeth, I think, tho she was always known as Bid or Biddy Wells.

While I have it in mind I will relate an escapade of hers, in Gassburg, wherein...Redlich was the victim!

This Redlich was a confirmed lady killer. He was a slight waspish formed fellow about five feet and a half high, light complected with a mop of very curly light brown hair, thick lips, which, had his complexion and hair have been dark, would have stamped him as of Ethiopian origin. He was a confirmed guitarrh player and often accompanied his playing with love songs sang in a very melodious and plaintive manner, at the same time rolling his protruding eyes around as though in the throes of colic.

He was always very attentive to the ladies, and for years was the steady beaux of Donna Colver. In fact, everybody expected them to be married, but, from some cause (probably racial and religious) they were not.

One day quite a number of young ladies, among them Bidwells, visited his store when he was engaged in his musical solos, presumably to do some shopping. They got to joking and cutting up when something was said about Samuels’ failure to get married, when Biddy remarked that she could not imagine how any woman could think of marrying a trifling little whiffit like him.

Redlich spunked up at that and asserted that tho he was not as large as some he was more of a man physically than many larger men. “Pshaw!” said Biddy. “I’ll bet I could dust your back for you myself.” “I’ll bet you

can't," said he. "How much will you bet?" said she. "I'll bet you a new silk dress against the price of it," said he. "Done," said she. So they shut the store door against intrusion and with only the other girls as audience they had their contest. Biddy went away with a new silk dress. How much the other girls got to keep the matter quiet I never learned. But it eventually leaked out, and whether that was the cause of [Redlich] leaving the country I do not know, but he left the country shortly afterwards, and I never heard of his returning. I do know however, that he would never knowingly meet any of his former acquaintances in San Francisco, where he lived later, because after the war I was in the city when I recognized him when I passed him on the street, and following behind him to a hotel found his name on the register. I left my card with the request that he call on me or give a date when it would be convenient for me to call on him, but never heard from him tho I called at the hotel again to learn if he had left any word for me.

**Q**uite a number of people who, tho not permanent residents, were occasional residents of Gassburg, working in the mines during the winters, while there was water for sluicing, and at various occupations during the dry part of the year. Among them were Dennis Crawley, and his mining partner Charles Boxley.

The latter went to school one or two terms to O. Jackbs. Crawley was sent to the insane assylum about 1863 or '64 and was discharged from there in 1865, going out to Klamath late in 1867, where he stopped over winter with Lew Colver and myself, where we were joined in January by Charles Root. Dennis died in the assylum some fifteen or twenty years later having had a recurrence of his insanity, or simply another acute phase of it, as I do not believe he was at any time perfectly sane after his first commitment.

The Goddards and several others who resided at or near the burg came into the valley some time about 1861 to 1868. The Allens settled near the Colemans, and their daughter Maria later married John Coleman.

A Mr. Ball--given name forgotten--with his two sons, Alfred P. and Rufus, came there about the same time, and Mr. B. took over the tannery that Geiger and others had established and run it for many years. He was a yankee and a very queer character. He was a small skinny man, with little beady black eyes, a hawk's beak of a nose, hatchet-faced, and a wrinkled leather (russett) colored skin. He was a very pious hypocrite, and notoriously unreliable. About that time came also the elder Thurbers, the father and mother of John Jack Thurber, or Jack of Clubs as he was called. Your mother later came into possession of his donation claim and was living there when she died. The Thurbers were Vermont Yankees, and all of them Original Characters.

## CHAPTER 6

**I**n the fall of 1864, President Lincoln issued his last call for volunteers — three hundred thousand men, and Oregon was called upon to furnish her quota which was fixed at one regiment of infantry and enough cavalry to fill the depleted ranks of the first cavalry, most of whom had been discharged by reason of expiration of their terms of enlistment.

Jackson, Josephine, Coose and Currey counties were assigned the raising of one full Company of infantry, and Franklin B. Sprague, the miller in Hess' mill undertook the recruiting of them with the assistance of I. D. Applegate, who had been in command of the "Mountain Rangers" a militia Company to which Loue Colver and many others, as also myself had belonged for nearly two years. Mr. Sprague asked me to join his Company and assist him in the recruiting office in Jacksonville but as I had a wood contract yet uncompleted for Uncle Sam Colver, it was necessary to get his consent to leaving it unfinished, which was readily granted, and on the 17 day of November I entered the service, being the first to enroll in the Company.

On the 19th three other men enlisted; men returning from the Northern mines, having their blanket rolls on their backs. I was detailed to escort the recruits out to Camp Baker, about 8 miles distant over the old hill road by Hamlin's farm. A Lieutenant McGuire of the 1st Cavalry had been sent out to take charge of the old

camp and drill the recruits. He had moved into one of the cabins a few days before, and had but a meagre outfit for batching, a very few supplies of any kind to commence with.

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**"...Applegate was a man  
of strict honesty and  
unapproachable in the matter of  
bribery or favoritism..."**

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I left Jacksonville about 3 o'clock pm, with my recruits pretty well ginned up, to walk over a rough road eight miles to Camp Baker. What with the bad roads and erratic movements of my recruits, on account of an overload of spirits, it was well after dark when we reach-

**“Harrison B. Oatman was given the commission against the protests of the entire Company, most of whom knew and disliked him; a feeling that was fully justified by his subsequent military career.”**

ed McGuire's headquarters. As there was no bedding for me, and the four had to spread their blankets on the floor, I trudged on to Gassburg, and put up at Colver's.

That was my introduction to military service, and while I shall not attempt to give a history of that service but just an introductory to that part connected with the old village and those of its inhabitants who went out on the frontier to guard it against Indians, as also to account for some of them since.

I have in my possession a roster containing the names of all who joined Sprague's Company, and a very brief indication of their careers as far as known. There were 81 names on the enlistment rolls, of whom four only remain alive as far as known. After spending a week or two in the recruiting service, Capt'n I.D. Applegate was cheated out of the promised lieutenantcy and Harrison B. Oatman was given the Commission against the protests of the entire Company, most of whom knew and disliked him; a feeling that was fully justified by his subsequent military career. No plausible reason has ever been given for shelving Applegate. Only two plausible excuses, or reasons could be conjectured. One, that Oatman was a Mason, as were nearly every state official who had influence in the state. The other that Oatman was indebted to quite a few prominent citizens in Jackson County, and having no position that gave promise of his being able to liquidate in the near future, a military commission promised to place him in a position where he might favor his many creditors in securing future Contracts to furnish government supplies, while Applegate was a man of strict honesty and unapproachable in the matter of bribery or favoritism and his appointment would not benefit them.

Oatman did nothing to help raise the Company and never could drill it. My bother Newell and cousin Alonzo Williams, to whom I turned over my rental of my father's farm, that I might enter the service also enlisted during the entire time were were in the service.

Sometime in January 1865, Uncle Sam Colver came to me and said that Loue was crazy to enlist and if I would promise to act as "big brother" to him he would consent to his joining the Company. Of course I felt very highly flattered by his request as it showed me that he held me in good esteem, and I trust my promise was faithfully kept. As our Company contained many neighborhood boys, some of them pretty wild and the drilling did not occupy as much of their time as it ought, many of the neighborhood hen roost and pig pens suffered from night visits of foragers.

No one was ever arrested or punished tho the tables in several of the mess houses were loaded with food not

issued by our Commissary. One man in our Company, Stephen T. Hallack, by name would never eat of the foraged provisions and used to remonstrate with the boys against the practice of foraging with great vigor and sincerity. He was a quiet man of about forty years of age, a native of New England, a sincere christian and of strong convictions. He had a mining claim near Colemans, and had been in that neighborhood several years and was well liked. He met a sad death the winter of 1865 and 66 returning from the Valley where he had been on furlough, and froze to death in sight of the fort the morning of April 1st. His was the only death in our Company during the nearly three years of our service.

Our Company marched over the mountain to Fort Klamath by way of Green Spring mountain in May 1865, arriving there the first of June. Soon after our arrival Captain Sprague secured permission from Maj Rhineheart, our post Commander, to hunt for a more feasible wagon route from the valley than the one opened in 1863 by way of

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**“Many of the neighborhood hen roosts and pig pens suffered from night visits of foragers.”**

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Rancheria prairie and Mt. McLaughlin, when Col. Drew went over to establish the post; as that was almost impassable for wagons, and a vast amount of Army stores and supplies had to be transported over there each year.

Sprague secured the permission, and securing the services of John Mathes of Butte Creek, they put in about two weeks exploring the range from McLaughlin north easterly and finally located the route from the Rogue River road near Union Creek across by the Anne Creek gap to Wood River (the present road).

Upon making his report of the success of his explorations, Sprague received authority to take twenty or more of his Company with provisions, team, and tools and open up the road upon the route selected.

This was accomplished in about six weeks. When the road was nearly done, orders came for Sprague to take forty men of his Company and forty of "C" Company of the first Cavalry with equipment, and proceed to Steins Mountain, about two hundred and fifty miles



Eastward in the Pahute Indian Country, to meet there another Company of our regiment, and build Camp Alvord, as a base of operations against the hostile Indians of that region. As Sprague was desirous of having all his men who accompanied him to voluntarily offer to go, he had me go with him out to the road camp to get a list of the boys out there who would volunteer.

It was while we were at the road camp that we learned of the discovery of the lake, now known as Crater, by two of the road crew who were hunting deer, a few days before. We found at the road camp a party of four Jacksonville men, having come out to see the new road, and as they wanted to see the lake, they went with us on our return to the fort, when, following the instructions given us by the discoverers, we visited the lake, and myself and one of the civilian party ventured down to the water, being the first human beings to reach its waters. (As I was the first to reach the water, it was conceded to be my privilege to name the lake, which, at the suggestion of Capt. Sprague, I called Lake Majesty; and that was the name by which it was known for several years or, until James Sutton, and a party from Jacksonville, several years later paid it a visit, and having a canvass boat, visited the Island, ascended to its top and finding the depression therein renamed the lake Crater Lake after his return to Jacksonville, where he was editing the *Oregon Sentinel*, and in which he gave a glowing account of his trip.

The lake, no doubt, had been seen before, but never located definitely, nor even a blaze on a tree to indicate its having been visited by white men previous to its discovery by members of our Company. Sprague wrote an account of our visit and the name we gave it, which was the first actual location of, and naming of the lake; and to the credit of Company "I" is due the addition of this one of the Worlds greatest scenic wonders; for, had it not been for Sprague's enterprise in searching out and building that road, the lake might have remained today as it had remained for centuries before, unknown.

A few days after our return to the Fort from this trip, the boys who were opening the road finished their work and returned, and the active work for preparing for the expedition to Stein's mountains... was underway and within one week was on the road with forty Cavalry, forty infantry of our Co., three or four Army wagons and a train of fifty mules loaded with our equipment and supplies together with a small herd of beef cattle for the Commissary department.

Your uncle L. Colver did not accompany us, preferring garrison life as Quarter Masters Clerk.

After near three weeks of rather arduous travel and some few adventures, with no skirmishes, we reached our destination, Stein's Mountain, during a terrible sandstorm that obscured the sun and rendered progress against it very difficult as well as painful, the coarse sand being driven by the force of the wind cutting ones face worse than hailstones. We found Company "G" of our regiment already on the ground, having arrived from the Dalles a few days previous, and they were occupying holes dug in the sides of the creek banks

which were covered with sticks, brush and canvass to protect them from the fierce winds that seemed to prevail in that Country.

...[After] little more than six weeks stay at Alvord, and just as myself and several other "non Coms" of the three Companies had constructed ourselves a log house, covered with split rails, grass and mud, the officers discovered that there was not enough provisions on hand to carry the entire force thru the winter, hence it was necessary to send a part of the number to the nearest garrison, which happened to be Fort Klamath.

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**"The officers discovered that there was not enough provisions on hand to carry the entire force thru the winter."**

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They had sent messengers to Ft. Boise and also to Fort K, but had heard nothing from either place, so they decided to start a party of 25 men each of our Co. of infantry, "C" Company and 12 men of "A" Co. Cavalry, with the 50 mules that were hired at Fort K. to transport our supplies higher, on the backward journey to Fort K., and as the supply of officers remaining at Alvord was limited to four -- Sprague having returned to Fort K. nearly a month previously with dispatches, and had not returned, so it was feared he had been killed by Indians, they put me in charge of the outfit, and we started back about the 10th of Sept. without a tent or shelter of any kind and only 20 days rations. It was rather a peculiar situation, myself an infantry man in charge of such a force of men and animals, 37 Cavalry men, mounted, and 25 infantrymen to keep them company.

However, we made the journey in 15 days, having experienced several severe rain storms, and arriving in a severe snow storm with about a foot or more on the ground. We ate our last food the morning before we arrived, Indian dogs having raided our camp while about sixty miles up Sprague River, and eating up our bacon.

We found the Fort almost in a turmoil over the ration and work problem, and our advent only increased the discontent which resulted in what we called the "bread riot" an account of which was published in the National Tribune last fall.

...In my next Chapter will give you a brief acc of how L. Colver, Robt. Clark and myself took up claims in Klamath Country, established a road, and some incidents in the life and history of Uncle Sam Colver, who was more or less indentified with that Country for years.



*Orson Stearns' diary will continue in the next issue of the Table Rock Sentinel.*

# Society Update

## The Move to Medford

During the first week of December, the Society officially acquired the old J.C. Penney building on the corner of Central and Sixth in downtown Medford to serve as the Society's headquarters. The J.C. Penney Company signed an agreement with the Society to sell the structure for \$275,000 and donate the building site, valued at \$225,000.

The move to Medford will improve the Society's ability to serve Jackson County and the entire southern Oregon region from a central location. Plans call for individual offices, currently housed in six different structures in Jacksonville, to be grouped under one roof. This will allow the Collections, Exhibits, Interpretation, Library, and administration departments to work closely together in developing exhibits and programming.

The Society will continue its commitment to the five museums and historic buildings in Jacksonville, the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum in Ashland, and "The Willows." Additional exhibit space will be included in the renovated Penney building, encouraging Rogue Valley visitors to include downtown Medford in their travel plans.

Work on the building's renovation should begin this spring.

## A Helping Hand

This year the Society set aside \$25,000 to be awarded to non-profit organizations for projects and activities that help preserve and/or promote Jackson County history. Eleven groups applied for assistance. After a thorough review by the Board's Grants-in-Aid Committee, five were granted funds. Those were:

- **City of Jacksonville**, \$3,000 to develop a plan and guidelines for the continued maintenance and

restoration of the Jacksonville Cemetery;

- **Gold Hill Historical Society**, \$866 to purchase preservation materials to safeguard city records, oral histories, and photographic collection;

- **Medford Parks and Recreation**, \$6,100 for a feasibility study and National Register application for Eastwood (I.O.O.F.) Cemetery,

and for repairs on damaged tombstones;

- **Woodville Museum**, \$1,500 to assist in the preservation of the old Rogue River jail house;

- **Central Point Centennial Committee**, \$1,500 as seed money to help match other funding sources for a major celebration of the city's centennial.

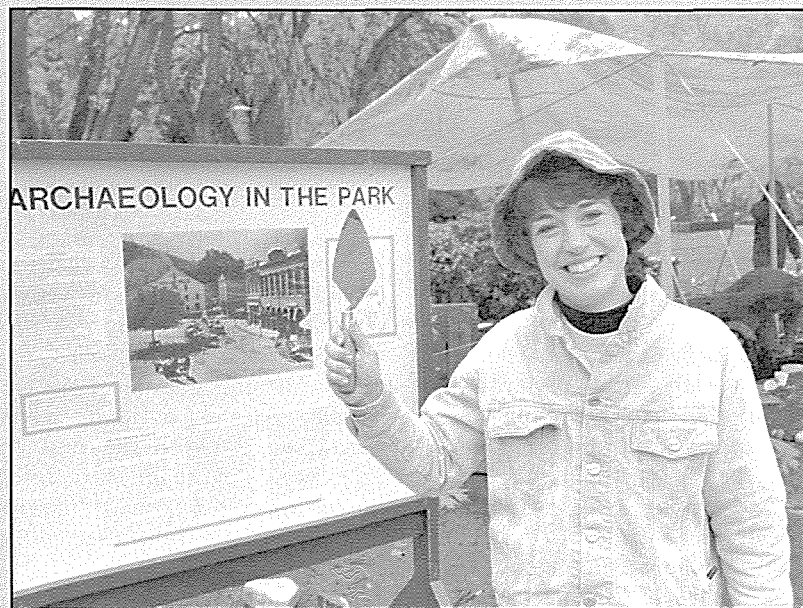


Photo by Natalie Brown

Nan Hannon displays the archaeologist's tool of choice.

## Digging Into the Past

The Society's Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum in Ashland and the Anthropology Department of S.O.S.C. worked together last month to excavate a section of Lithia Park. The project was designed to uncover the remains of the Ashland Flour Mill and, beneath that, to look for materials from an earlier Indian village.

Museum Coordinator Nan Hannon hopes the artifacts discovered long buried beneath the surface will add to the story of the Shasta Indians who built their winter camps on the site. This information and some of the uncovered

materials may be included in an upcoming exhibit on these early valley residents at the Chappell-Swedenburg House.

Before the project came to an end on November 25, S.O.S.C. students and Society volunteers had uncovered part of the mill's foundation. Mixed in with the dirt were many artifacts, including square nails, glass and crockery shards, and obsidian and jasper flakes, by-products of American Indian tool-making efforts. These objects will help archaeologists piece together the history and prehistory of the Ashland site.

## Planning Ahead

For the first time in its history, the Society has prepared a long range plan to guide the organization's growth and development through 1992.

The plan provides direction in four major areas: Governance and Finance, Physical Properties, Society Programs, and Staffing. In each, the area's current status and the Board's recommendations are defined. The last section of the plan reveals how and when the assignments are to be accomplished and by whom.

One of the primary goals for this period is to achieve accreditation from the American Association of Museums. Other objectives include establishing procedures for giving advice and technical/financial assistance to affiliate organizations, identifying sources of revenue to gradually relieve the Society's dependence on the county's historical tax, and evaluating the current staffing level in terms of future needs.

The Board of Trustees approved the Five-Year Plan—to be reviewed annually—at its November meeting. Copies are available to the public for \$3.30 and may be obtained by stopping by the Armstrong House, 375 E. California Street, Jacksonville, any week day.

## Society Jobs Filled

Marilee Winger joined the staff on October 1 as the Society's new assistant finance manager. As Assistant Director of Operations Maureen Smith's right hand, Marilee helps keep track of the Society's expenses and resources each month.

On November 2, Joy L. Comstock came aboard as Deputy Director. Formerly the curator of education for the Siouland Heritage Museums in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Joy will oversee the daily operations of the Society and coordinate its public relations efforts.

Joy earned a BS degree in social studies education from The Ohio State University and a MA in U.S. frontier history from Montana



Photo by Natalie Brown

**Jason Robards, Megan Follows, Michael Ensign and local extras await director's instructions in front of the Jacksonville Museum during the filming of the television remake of "Inherit the Wind."**

## History in the Remaking

Film crews from Los Angeles arrived in Jacksonville on November 11 to begin production of the movie, "Inherit the Wind," a remake of the popular 1960 film classic. Movie officials chose downtown Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Museum to represent the setting of the Scopes "monkey trial," held in a Tennessee county courthouse in 1925.

Although not the first time Jacksonville has hosted a major film production, the Society was pleased to be a part of this particular endeavor because of its historical relevance. The Scopes "monkey trial" had an important impact on the teaching of evolution in public schools, an historical issue which continues to provoke heated debates between opposing sides.

For two days Jacksonville witnessed the talents of Kirk Douglas, Jason Robards, Darren McGavin, and Jean Simmons. Several hundred onlookers lined the streets both days to catch a glimpse of the stars, while over 250 area residents served as extras on the set.

The film crew's decision to use Jacksonville's resources may have been based upon the town's historic charm and appearance, but it also illustrates how historic properties continue to serve today's world. Not all old buildings are movie-material, but it is nice to see a few local ones which are!

"Inherit the Wind" is scheduled for NBC's spring line-up.

State University in Bozeman. She has worked at Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, near Charlottesville, Virginia, and completed graduate-level internships at the Stonewall Jackson House in Lexington, Virginia; the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana; and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



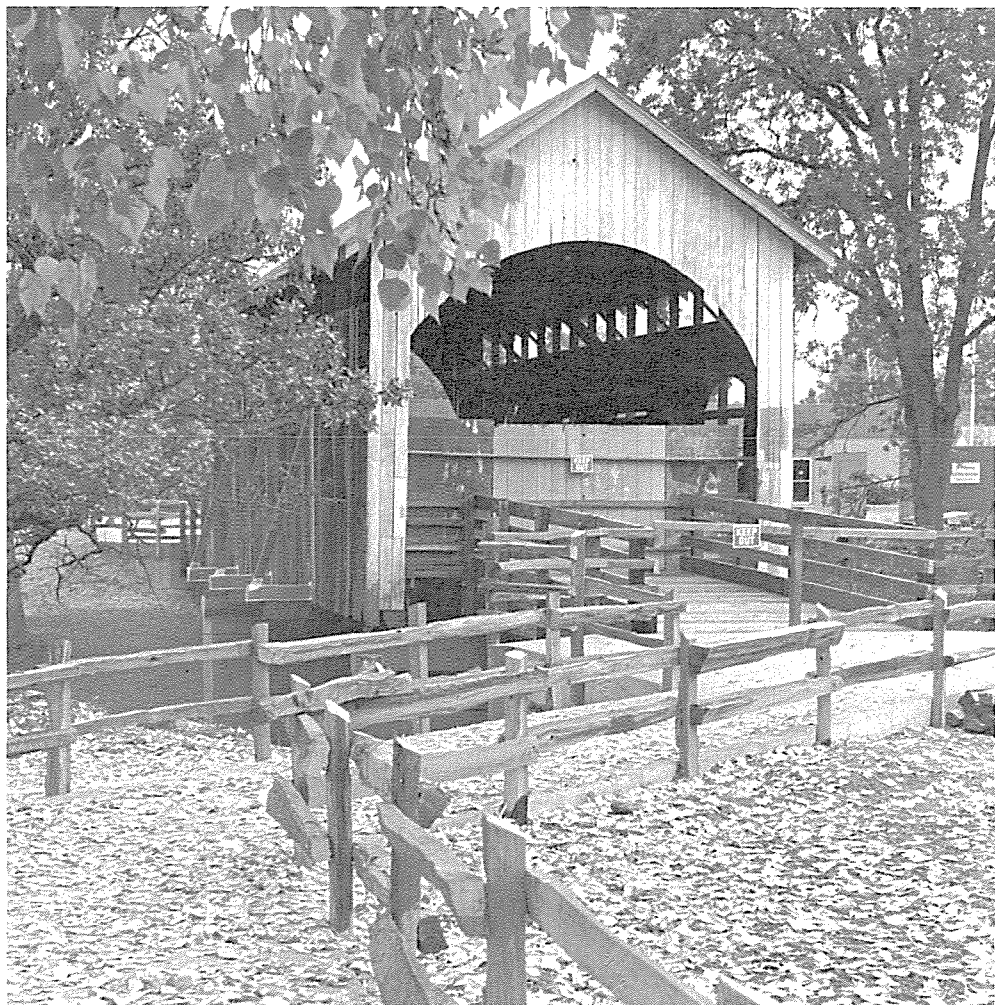
Joy L. Comstock



# Regional Digest

## Antelope Creek Bridge Dedicated

Eagle Point residents recently celebrated their successful campaign to raise funds for the relocation and restoration of the Antelope Creek Covered Bridge. On December 5 a dedication ceremony officially opened the historic bridge to pedestrians who can now cross Little Butte Creek without encountering motor vehicles. The Society contributed a total of \$22,000 toward this project.



The Antelope Creek Covered Bridge photographed shortly before its dedication.

## Historic photos available

Reproductions of photographs published in this magazine or housed in the Society's extensive photo collection are available to individuals or commercial businesses. Rates start at \$4 for one 8x10" print, \$2 for one slide.

For fees and information contact:

Library/Archives  
Southern Oregon Historical Society  
P.O. Box 480  
Jacksonville, OR 97530-0480  
(503) 899-1847

Or examine photographs in the library located in the Jacksonville Museum, 206 N. Fifth Street, Jacksonville, OR.



SOHS #1770

## Gold Diggers Donation

The Gold Diggers, an auxiliary organization of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, has donated \$2,250 toward the purchase of a stat camera and diffusion processor. This equipment will enable the Photography Department to produce various sized positive images for publications and exhibits. In addition it will help create a catalog of the Society's historic photograph collection so researchers will no longer have to sort through and handle original materials. Many thanks to the Gold Diggers for their generous donation!

## A Lasting Donation

Last month several families requested memorial gifts be made to the Society, in lieu of flowers, to honor a deceased loved one. The Society wishes to thank the families and friends of James R. Tungate and Herman L. Homler for their generous and thoughtful contributions. These memorial gifts allow the Society to continue its efforts to preserve, interpret, and promote Jackson County's rich and varied history.

## Welcome New Members

### SENIOR

Julian Ager, Klamath Falls  
Joseph Bowdoin, Shady Cove  
Verna Brophy, Medford  
Elizabeth Grieve, Shady Cove  
Ilene Grimes, Cottage Grove  
Earl Harnish, Eagle Point  
Phillip Holt, Jacksonville  
Basil Kelso, Eugene  
Billie Milford, San Diego, CA.  
Donald Richardson, Portland

### FAMILY

Frank and Barbara Mania,  
Phoenix, AZ

### SPONSOR

Ralph Wehinger, Eagle Point

### INDIVIDUAL

Aloha Adams, Eagle Point  
Dennis Boren, Eagle Point  
Joy Comstock, Medford  
Sandra Dill, Portland  
Miles Everett, Canoga Park, CA.  
James Farmer, Ashland  
Cherie Hargett, Medford  
Elmer Harnish, Eagle Point  
Marjorie Hornecker, Gold Hill  
Mary Jane Moffat, Los Altos, CA.  
Maxine Peile, Eagle Point  
Ruth Keizur Sherman, Columbus, OH.

**Become a member**—discover the history of Jackson County and the southern Oregon/northern California region.

**Become a member**—you'll enjoy the lively monthly magazine the *Table Rock Sentinel* and the numerous programs, exhibits and publications of the **SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**.

**Become a member**—fill out this form and mail with check or money order

to: Southern Oregon Historical Society  
Membership Coordinator  
P.O. Box 480  
Jacksonville, OR 97530-0480

Please check category desired.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$8 Jr. Historian (18 & under) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Business    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Senior (65 & over)        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Donor       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual                | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Family                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Contributor               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Grantor    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000 Lifetime  |

## Welcome!

name \_\_\_\_\_

amount  
enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

## News From Rogue River National Forest

The Rogue River National Forest had a very busy summer controlling recent fires. Forest archaeologist Jeff LaLande is working on the history of the 1987 Silver Fire (Siskiyou National Forest), one of the largest and longest-burning fires in Oregon's recorded history...Society members interested in the archaeology and history of the Westside/Old Stage Road area north of Jacksonville should visit the J. Herbert Stone Nursery on Old Stage Road, where an exhibit of artifacts and historic photographs from the Nursery are displayed. Nursery tours also are available by calling 776-4281. Winter is a good time to hike the ¾-mile Gin Lin Trail in the Applegate Ranger District at Flumet Flat Campground. (Brochures can be obtained from the Forest Ser-

vice offices in Medford or on the Upper Applegate Road.) The Gin Lin Trail is an interpretive tour of an 1880s Chinese hydraulic gold mining site.

## History Class Offered

The Division of Continuing Education at Southern Oregon State College is offering a 10-week course, "History of the Pacific Northwest," on Thursday evenings, 7-9:45 p.m., beginning January 7, 1988. Jeff LaLande, local archaeologist, author, and historian will help students answer "What really happened at the Whitman massacre?" and other intriguing questions. Participants may preregister or sign-up the first night. For details and fee information contact: Division of Continuing Education, S.O.S.C., at (503) 482-6331.

## Woodville Museum Holiday Open House

The Woodville Museum, located at 1st and Oak Streets in Rogue River, Oregon, is hosting a series of holiday open houses from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on December 16-20, and December 22-24. Special displays will include antique cast-iron and tin toys and banks; a live Christmas tree decorated by local school children; and a Santa Claus exhibit.

## Historic Church Restoration Completed

Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville recently saw the completion of the extensive renovation and painting of their historic 1884 church. The Society donated \$1,000 toward this project which took several years to complete.

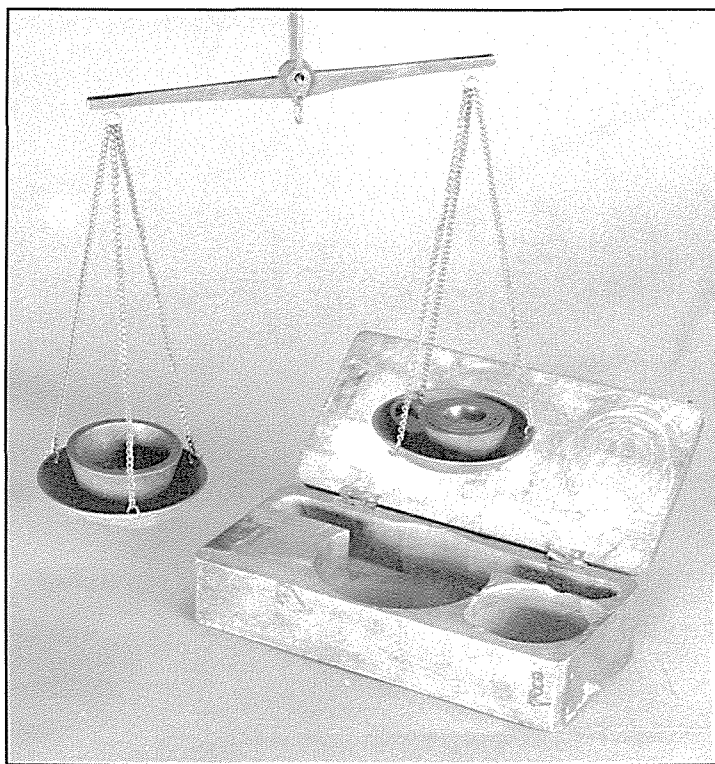
## From the Collections

Scales, possibly the first machine made and used by man, date back at least to ancient times where references can be found in Egyptian tombs. They remained useful through the centuries for measuring the weight of goods in barter and trade economies.

When gold was discovered in the southern Oregon hills in the mid-1800s, miners, typically with little money, used the precious ore they labored to find as their means for buying goods. Banks used scales to exchange gold dust or nuggets for minted coinage, while miners traded directly with shopkeepers for supplies and food.

James P. Tuffs and James N. Vannoy bought these scales in 1850. The two men ran a freight and packing business between Crescent City and the mines in Josephine County. James T. Tuffs donated the scales to the Jacksonville Museum in 1949.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society houses numerous artifacts that, owing to limited exhibit space, have not been accessible to the public. The Society hopes that featuring an item each month in this column will be an enjoyable and educational view of the scope of its collections.





# Calendar of Events

## Through March 1988

"Ashland's Railroad Centennial," an exhibit celebrating the completion near Ashland of the circuit of railway around the United States, is open at the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, 990 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland, from 1-5 p.m., Tues.-Sat.

## December 11- January 5

"O & C's Fifty Years: The Land, the Law, the Legacy" commemorates the 50th anniversary of the O & C Act. The exhibit is located in the main lobby of the Justice Building, 100 S. Oakdale, Medford, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

## December 12, 13, 15-20, 22, 23

"Nana Claus Visits the Children's Museum!" Share your Christmas wishes with Nana Claus and make ornaments to decorate the tree. Children's Museum, 5th St., Jacksonville, from 1-5 p.m., tel. 899-1847.

## December 19

"Origami Christmas Ornaments" is the theme for a children's workshop at the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, 990 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland from 1-2:30 p.m. Tel. 488-1341 to pre-register. Free admission.



Children enjoy Nana Claus' yearly visit to the Children's Museum.

## January 16

"Yarn to Cloth," a children's workshop for ages 8 and over, will teach basics of weaving on table and frame looms. Children's Museum, 5th St., Jacksonville, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. To pre-register for this free workshop, contact Stacey Williams at 899-1847.

## January 9-17

"Heritage Quilts," an exhibit representing eleven years of quilting, is presented by the Jacksonville Museum Quilters at the U.S. Hotel, California St., Jacksonville, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free Admission.



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Permit No. 13  
Jacksonville  
Oregon 97530

The  
**Table Rock Sentinel**  
is the monthly  
magazine of the  
Southern Oregon  
Historical Society