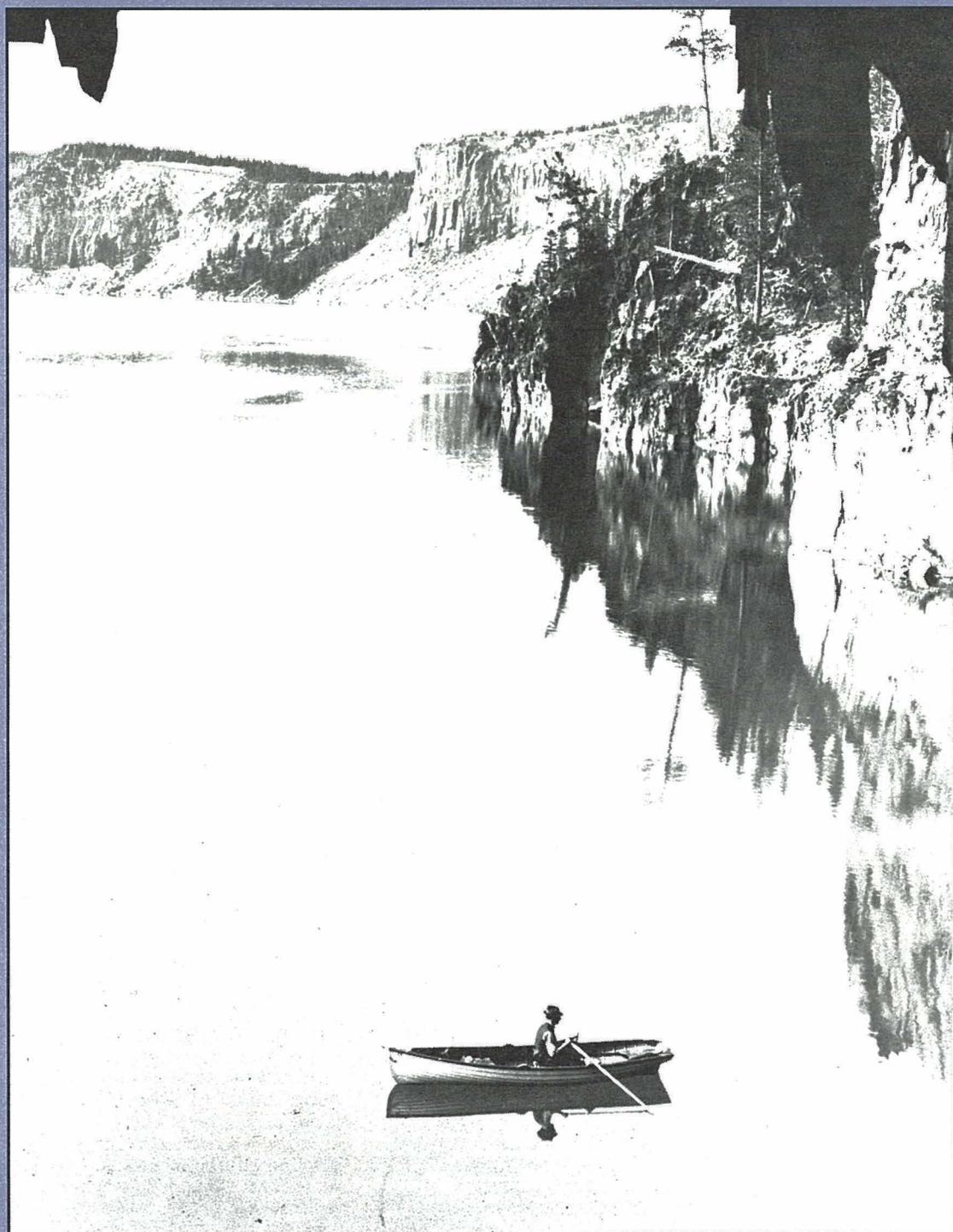


TABLE ROCK

\$2<sup>50</sup>

# SENTINEL

FEBRUARY 1988



The  
Magazine  
of the  
Southern  
Oregon  
Historical  
Society

The December 1987 issue of the *Table Rock Sentinel* reported on the Board of Trustees approval of a five-year long-range plan. Approval is only the first step. Now the plan must be executed and its recommendations put into effect. We will be reporting in future issues of the *Sentinel* as progress and developments occur. Already several things have happened.



The Board of Trustees have established ad hoc committees to make recommendations as outlined in the long range plan. The **Properties Committee** will establish guidelines for determining whether the Society should accept offers of property management. The committee will also determine which properties the Society will continue to manage, how those properties should be used and what to do with properties which we no longer need. The **Willows Committee** will look exclusively at the Willows Farm Museum property to determine whether it is economically feasible to operate, and, if so, how it should be developed and interpreted.

The Board also authorized a standing **Development Committee** to analyze current and potential sources of funding. Specifically, this committee will review all existing fees including membership dues, donations, Gift Shop income and other revenues, and explore other sources of income such as grants, contributed and earned income and potential fund raising activities which will provide a broader base of support for the Society in future years.

The Board also authorized a survey of membership and of the general public of Jackson County concerning the quality and effectiveness of current programs and services as well as suggestions for the future. Simply put, we are interested in how much people know about the Society and what it offers, how well the Society is doing what it does, and what else the Society should be doing now and in the future.

The survey will be conducted this spring by the Southern Oregon Regional Services Institute, Ashland. The results will be extremely valuable in determining the Society's future and how it can best serve the needs of its membership and the general public. When the time comes I urge you to give careful consideration to the survey. Here is your chance to let us know what you think.



Samuel J. Wegner  
Executive Director



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The **Table Rock Sentinel** is published monthly by the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Administrative and membership offices are at 205 N. Fifth St., Jacksonville, OR 97530-0480. Subscription is free with membership. Single copies and back issues are available for \$2.50 each.

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

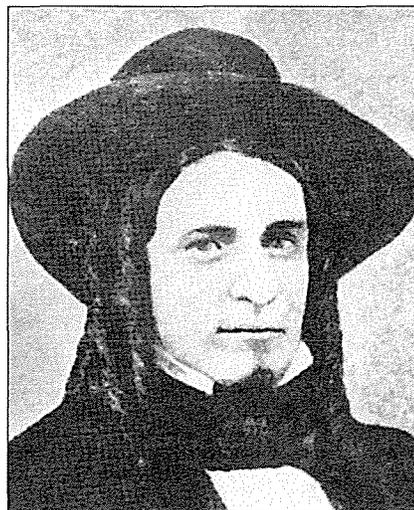
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CONTRIBUTIONS: Address all editorial communications to **Table Rock Sentinel, P.O. Box 480, Jacksonville, OR 97530-0480**. We are happy to consider queries and contributions. All material must be identified with the sender's name and address, and will be returned if sent with sufficient postage. Care is taken with contributions, but we are not responsible for damage or loss. The Society disclaims responsibility for facts or opinions expressed in signed contributions.



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*by Roger Love*

Plagued by adversity throughout its history, Crater Lake Lodge still stands on the rim of the caldera and the edge of controversy.

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Both Indians and settlers suffered during the Indian wars in southern Oregon and northern California. Benjamin Wright lived and died in the violence of the times.

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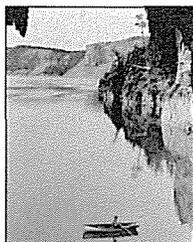
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**cover:** A solitary rower glides across the pristine waters of Crater Lake. This photograph was taken in 1912 by the Miller Photo Co., Klamath Falls. SOHS #7600.



photo by Natalie Brown

**Perched on the rim of the caldera, Crater Lake Lodge overlooks the wild beauty of Crater Lake while awaiting decisions regarding its future. (opposite:) Details such as dormers and shingle siding are characteristic of the Rustic style of architecture.**

## Time is catching up with



photo by Natalie Brown

# Crater Lake Lodge

*by Roger Love*

Long neglected, denied needed rehabilitation, the aging structure stands perched on the knife-edged rim of Mt. Mazama's blue caldera groaning under a winter snowload. Roof shingles are missing. Paint is peeling. A third-story door leads into thin air where a rusty fire escape once hung.

The lodge has been in trouble since workers first laid the cornerstone in 1911. For three-quarters of a century, the rambling, rustic building has weathered Crater Lake's gale-force winds and fifty-foot annual snowfalls. And as might be expected, the years and the elements have taken their toll. Even so, the lodge remains a monument to the vision of the park's founders and to the pioneers of the American conservation movement.

The history of Crater Lake National Park is tightly interwoven with the history of our national park system. Crater Lake's preservation was a direct result of the awakening conservation movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, which sought protection for America's scenic natural wonders. Pioneers of the movement soon discovered, however, that preservation often boils down to a question of economics. Scenic sites often had to be purchased before they could be preserved, and even more capital was necessary to develop and maintain a new park.

This notion to develop a national park system coincided with a rapidly developing tourist industry within the borders of the continental United States. Prior to 1915, the bulk of tourism money was spent in Europe. World War I changed that. Suddenly travel abroad lost most of its appeal. Further, San Francisco would host the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915, drawing thousands of visitors to the West Coast. The time was right to promote Crater Lake National Park as a tourist attraction of national stature.

Established in 1902, Crater Lake was among the earliest of America's national parks, even predating the formation of the National Park Service. The original plans proposed by the Department of Interior called for minimal park improvements including a road system, a network of hiking trails, and several campgrounds. It was not until two of the most influential figures in Crater Lake's development, William Steel and Stephen Mather, began improvement plans that the idea evolved of building a hotel or lodge as the park's centerpiece.

Steel, often called the "father of Crater Lake," was the earliest supporter of the creation of Crater Lake National Park, having begun his campaign for the park in 1885. After Crater Lake officially became part of the park system, Steel turned his attention to devising methods to make it more accessible to visitors. Mather,



Crater Lake Lodge under construction, ca. 1913. SOHS #4469

the director of the newly formed National Park Service, agreed with Steel that in order for the park to succeed, an economic base had to be created—and that base would be income derived from tourists. To Mather, park development and the resulting revenues would make possible his vision of an expanded park system throughout the United States.

To encourage park development without having to lay out large sums of money, Congress made available franchises for private companies to improve park sites, especially by erecting hotels and creating road and rail systems. The railroad companies often took the lead in establishing these facilities. Parks such as Yellowstone, Mt. Rainier, and Yosemite were adjacent to rail lines and thus were more easily developed.

Crater Lake was an exception. Because it was far from an existing railroad track, it was left to private individuals to improve the site. William Steel formed the Crater Lake Company with two other men in May 1907, and immediately began selling stock throughout Oregon to raise development capital.

Steel had been looking for a way to build a hotel on the rim since 1903, but it was not until February 1907, that he actually petitioned the Department of Interior for the rights to construct the lodge and begin transportation services to and from the park. The government stopped short of agreeing to any major construction, reasoning that the poor roads approaching the park would doom the success of a hotel on the lake rim.\*

Steel's company, however, was given the right to take groups of people into the park, and establish "tent

cities" within the park boundaries during the 1907 season.

It was that summer, near a tent city on the lake rim, that Steel chose the site of the Crater Lake Company's future lodge:

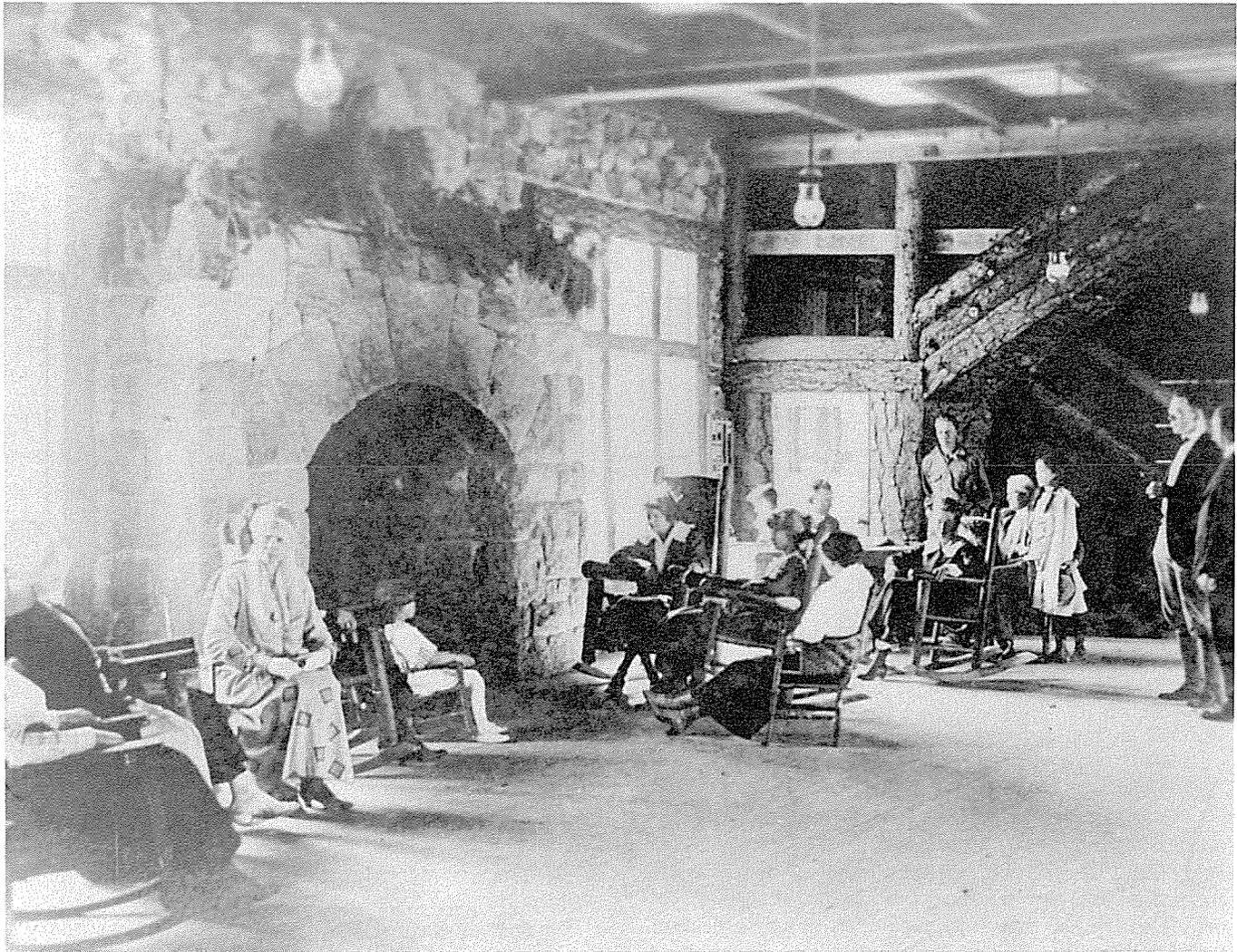
on the divide over which the road from Klamath reaches the lake's brim. A spring on the mountain side above will furnish plenty of water. It is the company's intention to erect an elevator down the precipice leading to the water's edge, so that tourists can avoid taking the 1,500-foot climb from the water to the hotel.<sup>1</sup>

At this point the situation looked good. It was obvious Crater Lake was a tourist attraction. As the Crater Lake Company continued to add overnight accommodations and serve meals, tourists flocked to the lake, only to find that all the tents were full. The demand was there and it was only a matter of time before a full-service hotel could be justified. Indeed, Steel's company must have realized this; they began constructing a log cabin kitchen in 1907, projecting it to be the nucleus of a hotel to be built the next year.

Steel may not have realized it at the time, but the deck was stacked against his company and the future of Crater Lake Lodge, even as his plans for rim

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\* This seemed reasonable at the time. It was not until 1907 that the first automobile made it all the way to the lake's rim. However, nearly all the traffic to the park, an arduous twelve-hour journey from Medford, continued to be horsedrawn vehicles until 1916.



Visitors circle the stone fireplace in the lodge lobby, 1917.

photo courtesy of National Park Service

development were put into motion. The spring of 1909 found the proposed kitchen structure as yet unfinished, most likely because it, along with several other company buildings, was demolished by the winter snow. At an elevation of 7,200 feet, almost 1,000 feet higher than Mt. Hood's Timberline Lodge, the proposed hotel would have to endure severe weather nearly nine months in twelve. At this elevation snowfall is measured by the foot, not by the inch, and wind gusts as high as ninety miles per hour toss snowdrifts around like ocean waves.

Nevertheless, Steel was determined that the lodge would be built, at an estimated cost of \$5,000, on the western edge of Crater Lake. In the summer of 1909, he convinced Alfred Parkhurst, a Portland businessman, to take charge of the Crater Lake Company, making him responsible for the construction of the hotel, the installation of a water system, and the building of an electrical generation plant. Parkhurst immediately initiated work on the lodge and completed the foundation that same year.

In addition to the lodge, Steel prepared to build what he considered would be the flagship of Crater

Lake Park: a \$100,000 hotel on the east rim of the lake. This hotel, which Steel planned to start building in 1912, would accommodate affluent passengers from a proposed railroad spur out of Klamath Falls. Steel got as far as gaining concession rights for the structure and retained Klamath Falls architect I. Jay Knapp to assemble the plans. However, the project progressed no further for a very good reason; the railroad into the park was never built. Just what affect the concept of a "grand hotel" had on Crater Lake Lodge is unclear. Certainly, the Crater Lake Company did not plan to make the original lodge a first-class hotel. Rather, the plans called for a relatively modest facility that would serve middle-income families arriving by automobile or horsedrawn vehicle.

By 1911 the progress on the lodge construction had slowed dramatically, while the cost estimate spiraled upward from the original estimate of \$5,000 to more than \$30,000. At summer's end, the stone section of the structure was still incomplete owing to the short building season and the time-consuming task of quarrying the rock for the walls and hauling it by wagon

up to the rim. Lumber had to be transported from beyond Fort Klamath. In January 1912, as part of an application letter for a new lease on the Crater Lake concessions, Parkhurst noted that during the entire year there had been only one month when the road to the rim was open and free of snow or ice. Further, materials that had been hauled from Klamath Falls had to be stored at extra expense until the next year. "The lodge is ...3,000 feet above and 66 miles distant from the nearest base of supplies, Klamath Falls," wrote Parkhurst.<sup>2</sup>

The frustrations of 1911 aside, the Crater Lake Company maintained its optimism, still confident it could open the lodge, even if unfinished, in the summer of 1912. A brochure advertising the park facilities included a description of the new accommodations:

It will have a commodious assembly hall, and a dining room of sufficient size to seat 100 guests. There will be massive stone fire-places in both these rooms, and an immense one will be constructed on the outside of the Lodge, to be used for campfires...A frame building, 30x40 feet, is now complete on the rim of the lake. It is equipped as a culinary department, and will be used, pending the completion of the Lodge. First-class meals are served in a comfortable dining room, and sleeping accommodations consist of good beds in floored tents...the Lodge, when completed, will have sleeping accommodations with all modern conveniences for a large number of guests.<sup>3</sup>

Once again, the Crater Lake Company was too optimistic: the lodge did not open for the 1912 season. July found the building less than half-finished, and the cost estimate higher yet. That fall Edward W. Dixon, on behalf of the secretary of interior, made an inspection tour of the park. In his report he wrote, "It is estimated that the stonework, which is the slow and expensive part of the construction, is ninety percent completed, and that the entire structure is forty percent completed...The approximate cost of the hotel completely furnished is \$40,000."<sup>4</sup> Parkhurst and the Crater Lake Company were now in a race with time. They desperately wanted to open for business no later than 1915, when San Francisco would host the Panama-Pacific Exposition and tourists from across the country would flood the West Coast.

The stonework for the first floor of the lodge was finally completed in 1913 and, through the summer of 1914, the wooden upper section was assembled as quickly as could be expected. A slight setback, in hindsight perhaps a portent of future structural problems that plague the lodge even today, occurred in early 1914, when heavy snows collapsed part of the building's roof. Carpenters repaired the damage, and by the end of the construction season the lodge was about ninety-five percent complete.

But why did that roof section collapse? Was it because it was unfinished? Was it because of unusually heavy snowfall that winter? Or was the damage caused by improper building methods? The answer is unclear. We only know that there was a problem with the roof.



Ski meet at Crater Lake, ca. 1930.

The builders regrouped, repaired the damaged section and continued construction.

The answer may not really matter. In today's debate over Crater Lake Lodge's fate, the major expense in restoring the lodge is the need for structural remodeling. That the lodge has withstood the cumulative effects of seventy-three winters is in itself a

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**...Parkhurst noted that during the entire year there had been only one month when the road to the rim was open and free of snow or ice.**

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wonder. The building's basic load-bearing elements were grossly inadequate to resist the pressure exerted by the snow that accumulates against the front and rear walls and on the roof.

Where to place the responsibility for this design error is unclear. Very little is known about either the lodge's architect or its original plans. Crater Lake Company commissioned Raymond N. Hockenberry, a Portland architect, to design the building, probably in 1909. Aside from the lodge, the only known examples of



photo courtesy of National Park Service

Hockenberry's work are several Portland residences. The blueprints for Crater Lake Lodge were submitted to the Department of Interior in 1911, but apparently no copies of the plans exist today. In fact the only known illustration of the lodge prior to its completion is a line drawing that appeared in the *Klamath Chronicle* on May 21, 1911. Thus, it is difficult to determine whether Hockenberry's structural design of the lodge was appropriate prior to its construction.

Even though Crater Lake Lodge may well have been designed with less fundamental structural support than other similar lodges of its time, the original plans may have been altered during construction. There is no general contractor of record for the lodge project. Apparently, the Crater Lake Company acted as its own contractor and builder, hiring its own work force and subcontractors. In addition Parkhurst apparently underestimated the construction costs, not foreseeing how difficult it would be to erect the lodge at Crater Lake.

Hockenberry's structural design resembled that of a typical residence at lower elevation, but he probably planned the structure to have more integrity than the building that resulted. For example, where heavy load-bearing beams might have been called for, the builders used the alternate method of nailing together 2x10 inch or 2x16-inch planks to form the beam--certainly less expensive, but also weaker. In forming the roof section, logic suggests the use of heavy roof trusses. However,

carpenters chose a different, less stable method resulting in incomplete trusses, The list goes on. It may have been ignorance of good building practice. Perhaps it was the lack of the proper materials. Maybe it was the pressure to finish the building on time or the lack of money to hire the right people and purchase the right materials. The result was inevitable. Crater Lake Lodge was born with serious defects.

The final push to finish the interior in the spring of 1915 was successful. The lodge was ready for the 1915 summer season even if some of the rooms were not finished. Oregon's Governor Withycombe attended the formal opening on June 28, and Crater Lake trout (most likely descendants of the trout William Steel planted in the lake in 1885) was the main course at the first dinner served at the lodge.

If a hotel's occupancy rate is any measure of its success, Crater Lake Lodge was booming. From the day it opened, its owners had no trouble filling the lodge's sixty-eight rooms, nor was there often a vacancy in the nearby wooden-floored tents which could accommodate 100 more visitors. The new lodge was certainly popular.

Perhaps too popular. Overcrowding became an issue over the next few years. One overnight visitor wrote in 1919;

This is the only building here and able to accommodate only about 200 guests. The management provided a number of tents where the chauffeurs and some of the men were obliged to sleep. Others slept on the floor of the lodge while some occupied chairs.<sup>5</sup>

This is probably not what the owner had in mind when they wrote in their brochure, "...the Lodge...will have sleeping accommodations with all the modern conveniences for a large number of guests."<sup>6</sup> Yet another guest that same year was even more critical:

...there was absolutely no system at all to the scheme for assigning rooms. In fact, there wasn't even a scheme. The man in charge did not place a number after your name on the register when the room was assigned. He wrote it on a piece of paper and afterwards scratched it out. He seemed to be playing one old cat.

Men were told to go to the top floor and take a room and put their names on it. When asked what particular room to take they were told to take any that was vacant.

Women must have had some other instructions, for they were notorious claim jumpers. Most of the rooms on the top floor were...assigned to half a dozen parties. There were no keys to the doors....

The confusion never seemed to worry the landlord a bit. He told all comers that they would be taken care of and then sort of washed his hands of the whole matter.<sup>7</sup>

Unfortunately, the circus-like atmosphere was the least of the lodge management's troubles. From the first season on, the company found itself in financial trouble. In 1918, after the lodge's fourth season of

operation, Parkhurst wrote, "...we have had a very good season in attendance...but because of the high prices of everything in the food line and for the help we had to pay out most every cent taken in."<sup>8</sup>

Short on capital, barely able to pay the daily overhead, the company had yet to face up to its biggest task: completing the lodge. The guest rooms remained unfinished with tar paper covering the walls. The water supply was undependable, sanitary facilities were often deemed unhealthful and the anticipated electrical lighting system--when it finally appeared--was unsatisfactory. Furthermore, it appears little consideration was given to fire safety prior to opening. In the summer of 1916, Oregon Congressman Nicholas Sinnott received a letter saying:

I would not have my family stay in that hotel again under present conditions. It is illuminated above the first floor by kerosene lamps and candles, and its imperfect water supply and lack of fire escapes make a dangerous situation.<sup>9</sup>

This issue, which has never really been resolved, was partly due to the interior design and partly due to the owners' inability to complete the structure. The only interior escape route was a central staircase which served all three upper floors, a natural route for any major fire to follow. Any occupants trapped upstairs would be forced to exit through upstairs windows and down a very steep roof. The inadequate water supply and the primitive lighting system increased the fire hazard.

A major blaze never occurred, but Parkhurst was under fire, the object of a barrage of criticism from Mather, the National Park Service director. The Crater Lake Company fell deeper into debt, even though records show it turned a modest profit in 1920. The company ceased making lease payments, and the amount owed to creditors ballooned. Mather, never really satisfied with Parkhurst's performance, stepped up his campaign to oust him and his company. Following Mather's announcement that he intended to replace Parkhurst, the majority of lodge employees resigned and left the company with a skeleton crew to operate the lodge. Parkhurst finally surrendered in 1921, a victim of impossible circumstances. A new company, the Crater Lake National Park Company, assumed control of the concessions operation and was able to buy out Parkhurst at relatively little cost.

In the coming years fate would be no kinder to the Crater Lake National Park Company than it was to its predecessor. During the next sixty-five years the operators of Crater Lake Lodge walked the tightrope between remaining solvent and maintaining the lodge to the point where they could keep it open.

On July 11, 1922, perhaps knowing by then that William Steel would not succeed in his plan to build a hotel on the eastern rim of the lake, the company embarked on an improvement program. Scheduled for completion in 1929, the program included an eighty-room wing at an estimated cost of \$80,000, construction

of more housekeeping cabins, landscaping and a veranda on the lake's edge. Of course, the construction season would disrupt the tourist season, leading to further criticism by the Park Service and by customers. When the depression struck in 1929, the building program, still unfinished, was stalled until 1936.

Oddly enough, the Crater Lake National Park Company showed enough profit in 1934 to retire nearly all its \$20,000 debt. But the reason for this was apparent in a letter to the director of the Park Service:

...in bringing about this better financial status, the operator has been giving curtailed and poorer service. For example, the dining room in the main lodge building has been closed and is now used for the storage of automobiles. There is no table d'hote meal service available...<sup>10</sup>

Over the next thirty years it became apparent that the cost of proper maintenance and repair of the lodge precluded any owner-operator from making a profit. Certainly a succession of groups tried after the Crater Lake National Park Company sold out in 1948, a victim of the roller-coaster ride between the depression, World War II and the great surge in public attendance after the war.

The government continued to demand, as it had since the first concerns arose soon after the lodge

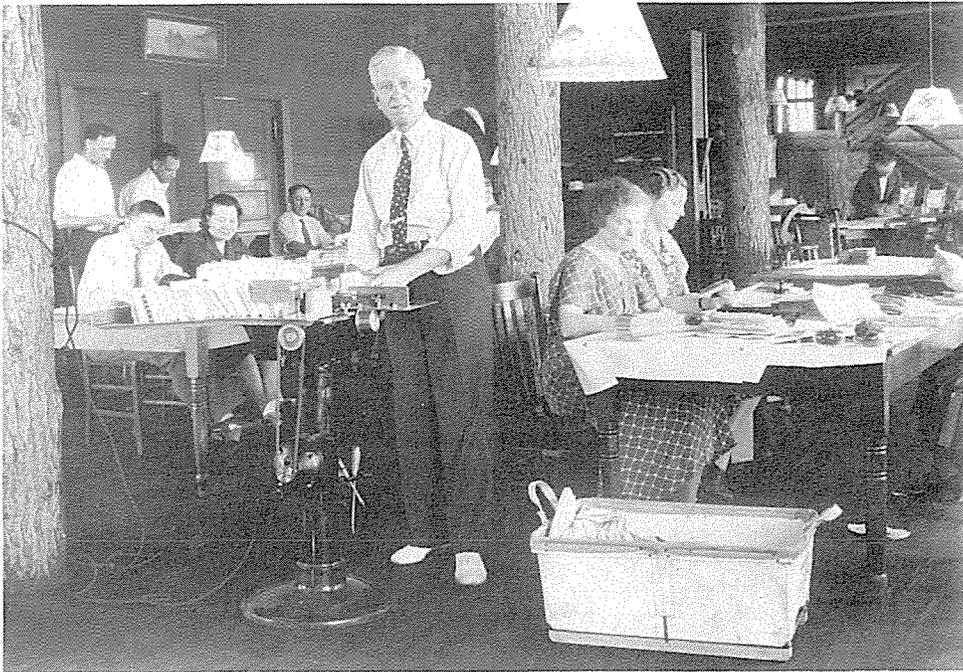
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**"...the dining room in the main lodge building has been closed and is now used for the storage of automobiles..."**

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opened, that the owners be responsible for fire safety. However, even though certain stop-gap improvements were made periodically, nothing substantial--or expensive--had been done. In 1941 the government requested the installation of a sprinkler system if the Crater Lake National Park Company were to continue renting out rooms above the second floor. The company balked, pointing out that the estimated cost of installing sprinklers was about \$60,000 which was \$13,000 more than the book value of the entire lodge. The automatic sprinkler system was finally added to the lodge twenty-six years later. This basic conflict between profit margin and lodge maintenance would not begin to be resolved until the Park Service purchased the lodge in 1967 from Crater Lake Lodge, Inc., and in turn leased the business back to that company.

The Park Service did not appear any more able to ensure public safety. In 1975, sewage contaminated the lodge's water system and 1,500 employees and patrons became sick. Although the concessionaire was ultimately deemed responsible for the accident, the defense



**Unidentified employees sort mail in the lodge dining room.**

photo courtesy of National Park Service

attorney argued that the government must bear part of the blame. Less than a year later, Crater Lake Lodge, Inc., sold its lease to the present operator, Canteen Corporation of Oregon. In 1979, the first fire safety inspection in a quarter-century revealed that the exterior and interior lodge walls were not fire-resistant throughout, the fire exits were insufficient and the automatic sprinkler system was inadequate. These deficiencies were corrected by the Park Service over the next several years.

The fact that Crater Lake Lodge needs a complete overhaul is no secret. Over the years, more and more reinforcement has been required to keep the building standing until the spring snow melt. Even some of the extra support the lodge has received in the form of temporary braces after the fall closures has further weakened the structure. Just prior to the Park Service's purchase of the lodge in 1967, Crater Lake Lodge, Inc., pledged to renovate the lodge, saving only the original stonework, in a \$2 million, nine-year project. Thirteen years later, a Park Service report stated, "If the intent is to continue occupancy of the lodge over the long term, the structural system should be completely rebuilt..."<sup>11</sup> Unfortunately, the Park Service's \$4.9 million project was put on indefinite hold when it was discovered that the earth under the lodge was unstable and would require much more extensive foundation work than first thought.

Crater Lake Lodge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in May 1981 based on its significance "as an example of the architecture associated with the early twentieth century movement for development of the western national parks." Regardless of its problems, the lodge remains a nearly unaltered example of an early national park resort. It played a major part in the development of tourism in Oregon, and has certainly added to the depth of public support for national parks and the preservation of

scenic wonders. Part of the lodge's--and the park's--appeal is its breathtaking location on the rim overlooking the lake below. This is how our parks historically were developed: other lodges contemporary with Crater Lake Lodge were built to be a significant part of the landscape. This vision, a vision William Steel had while standing on the rim of Crater Lake at the turn of the century and imagining what could be, is part of the history of Crater Lake and of Oregon.

For tourists today, the drama of the lodge is not its lack of adequate trusses or its weak beams. The drama is that of place and setting, of a grand old lodge reclining at the edge of a precipice. It is the drama that Steel had in mind all along, and it leaves an impression that makes a visit to the lodge unforgettable.



#### ENDNOTES

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2. Staehli, Alfred. Crater Lake Lodge: Additional Notes on its Architectural Significance and about its Architect. The Historic Preservation League of Oregon, 1988, p.8.
3. "Crater Lake National Park, Oregon," pamphlet issued by the Crater Lake Company, ca. 1912, in Steele Scrapbooks, v.II.
4. Arbogast, David, et al. Historic Structure Report, Crater Lake National Park, Crater Lake Lodge. (Denver, Co.: National Park Service,)1982, p.38.
5. *ibid.*, .50.
6. "Crater Lake National Park, Oregon," Crater Lake Company.
7. Arbogast, David, et al. Historic Structure Report, p.51.
8. Mail Tribune (Medford, Ore.), September 25, 1918, in Steel Scrapbooks, v.III.
9. Arbogast, David, et al. Historic Structure Report, p.45.
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11. *ibid.*, p.129.

*Roger Love has lived in Ashland for seventeen years. He has been an English teacher, a librarian, a photographer. He likes to find out new things about old things.*



Soldiers stand for a photograph behind graves of four Modoc chiefs at Ft. Klamath. SOHS #11533

# Ben Wright, Indian Fighter

*by Charles Sweet*

**O**ne of the most colorful and controversial figures in the early history of southern Oregon and northern California was mountain man and Indian fighter Benjamin Wright. His short career in this area lasted less than six years, but he nevertheless played a prominent role in the Indian wars of the 1850s.

Wright's story is difficult to piece together. Various historians give somewhat contradictory versions of his activities. Even among Wright's contemporaries, some thought him a hero and others thought him a scoundrel.

Historian A.G. Walling, who it appears had no great love for the Indians, described Wright as a courageous scout and skilled mountaineer in the same mold as Kit Carson. But other historians including Keith Murray have portrayed him more as a violent outlaw who surpassed his opponents in both cunning and a willingness to spill blood.

Throughout the history of the West, the instances of Indian treachery often were matched by whites. This

was particularly true in the rowdy mining camps with their populations of lawless men. Many of the tales of Indian atrocities undoubtedly stemmed from lurid rumors started by Indian-haters to justify their claims that the race should be exterminated. It was in just such a mining camp environment that Ben Wright found himself in the spring of 1851.

Wright is reported to have been born in Indiana about 1828, the son of religious parents. One source claims he came from a Quaker family, while another says he was the son of a Presbyterian minister. He apparently left home at about eighteen years of age when his mother died. After a fight with an employer, he traveled to Leavenworth, Kansas, and joined a wagon train heading for the Oregon Territory.

On the way west, Indians attacked the wagons and killed the daughter of the wagon train captain. Perhaps it was this incident that transformed Wright into an Indian-hater. More probably, he was just another of

those restless young men who headed for the frontier and took pleasure in living a lawless and sometimes violent way of life.

The young Wright rode into Oregon City during the fall of 1847 shortly after the missionary Dr. Marcus Whitman was murdered. The Whitman Massacre precipitated the short-lived Cayuse Indian War. Wright took part in the fray, joining in the fighting along the Columbia River. It is possible he received his first training in cruelty during this campaign.

After hostilities ceased, he tried farming. This proved too tame an occupation, however, and he spent several years hunting beaver and Indians. By now, he was beginning to resemble an Indian both in appearance and habit. He let his naturally curly hair grow long and he dressed in buckskin. He also had learned to fight like the Indians, using what some whites would call treachery, taking scalps and mutilating the dead. Wright was known to display the fingers and noses he had taken as trophies from dead or wounded adversaries.

In March of 1851, prospectors discovered gold in Northern California, and gold-seekers rushed to the area. With news of the gold strike, Wright, who had spent three years fighting and living among Indians in northern Oregon, headed south and commenced mining on the Scott River. He also began living with a Shasta Indian woman.

**B**ecause his reputation as a fierce Indian fighter had preceded him, the local tribes already regarded Wright as a brave and fearsome warrior. Only weeks after he had arrived in Scott Valley, a roving band of Modocs stole some stock from a pack train. A search party was organized in Yreka under the leadership of John E. Ross, who would later become prominent in Jacksonville. Wright joined the party of vigilantes set on securing the stolen stock and punishing the Modocs. Some of the miners wanted Wright as their leader, but because he was new to the area and because of his youth (he was only twenty three), he deferred to Ross.

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**Because his reputation as a fierce Indian fighter had preceded him, the local tribes already regarded Wright as a brave and fearsome warrior.**

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When the party came upon a Modoc village near Tule Lake, they camped close to the Indians and pretended to settle down for the night. But while the Indians slept, a group under Wright's leadership quietly surrounded the village. At dawn, they attacked, catching the Indians completely by surprise. The women and children were captured, and the men who weren't captured or killed were driven into the swamp around the lake. The Modocs caused no further trouble during the remainder of 1851.

**T**hat summer, however, a Shasta Indian named Scarface<sup>1</sup> murdered Calvin Woodman on a tributary of the Scott River. Wright served as an interpreter for a posse of volunteers headed by Yreka attorney Elijah Steele which was formed to hunt down Woodman's killer. In the search for Scarface, the posse split into two groups. Steele's group went north into Oregon to investigate a report that Scarface had joined a band of Rogue Indians under Chief Sam. Wright led the other group to search for Scarface in the Klamath River country. On the Salmon River, they finally captured Scarface and an accomplice named Bill. Both Indians were hanged, but only after a lawful trial rather than the lynching that was so common in those days.

For the immigrants traveling through Modoc territory along the Applegate Trail, 1852 turned out to be a dangerous year. The Modocs ambushed several wagon trains in the vicinity of Bloody Point and Tule Lake. Estimates of the number of white men, women and children killed by marauding Modocs that summer vary between sixty and one hundred.

In response to the threat, a party of thirty to forty Yreka men under Charles McDermit had gone east to the hostile Modoc country for the purpose of escorting wagon trains bound for Yreka. While the McDermit party was busy elsewhere along the trail, though, Modocs attacked and killed seven men near Bloody Point. An eighth man escaped and managed to reach Yreka with word of the massacre. Wright, then mining on Cottonwood Creek, promptly raised a company of volunteers to reinforce McDermit. If there was going to



**Ben Wright** photo courtesy of National Park Service

be trouble along the Applegate Trail, Wright wanted in on it.

By the time Wright's party reached the Tule Lake area, some of McDermit's men already had died in clashes with the Indians. His remaining force was defending a wagon train under siege by the Indians. The

defenders were almost out of water and ammunition when the rescue party arrived. Wright's men managed to kill several of the attacking Indians as they fled. The rescued immigrants were loud in their praise of the Indian fighter as they rode into Yreka.

After escorting the wagon train beyond danger, the Wright party returned to Tule Lake. Here, they came across the mutilated bodies of the seven men mentioned earlier as well as three of McDermit's men who had died at the Modocs' hands. These killings prompted Wright to attack the Indians in their stronghold on the shore of Tule Lake. In the ensuing encounter, thirty or more Modocs were shot down and the remaining warriors escaped to an island in the lake.

Trying subterfuge, Wright unsuccessfully attempted to lure the Indians off the island. When this failed, he returned to Yreka and had boats built for use in storming the island. This maneuver failed as well, and the Modocs managed to withdraw from the lake and retreat into the inaccessible lava beds made famous twenty years later during the Modoc War. But Wright did find evidence on the deserted island that many immigrant captives had been tortured by the Modocs before they were murdered.

**W**ord of the renewed Indian hostilities on the Applegate Trail had also reached the rapidly growing southern Oregon settlement that gold-seekers called Table Rock City and which soon would be known as Jacksonville. Upon learning of attacks on wagon trains, the miners in town immediately organized a volunteer company of twenty-two men to help convoy Jacksonville-bound immigrants through the dangerous Modoc territory. John E. Ross took over command of the volunteers and headed for the Applegate Trail.

This company arrived in the Tule Lake Basin shortly after the Yreka volunteers under Wright had reached there. The two groups joined forces and on a few occasions were able to attack and rout Indians just as they surrounded hapless wagon trains. As the volunteers scouted the immigrant trail, they discovered many bodies of slain victims and the remains of burned wagons stripped of their cargo. Whenever possible, the volunteers buried the victims where they found them.

Wright and his men had been further infuriated when they came upon the mutilated corpses of women and children. They were determined to punish the Modocs and try to recover stock and property taken from the immigrants. With the Applegate Trail well-patrolled, no further attacks occurred that fall and the Jacksonville contingent under Ross returned home.

Wright, however, did not wish to leave the Tule Lake area without avenging those murdered by the Modocs. When some of his men began drifting back to Yreka, Wright felt it was imperative that he punish the Indians before winter set in and his force became too small to strike. By November he was running low on supplies and sent four of his crew back to Yreka for food and ammunition. The four men happened to ride into town on presidential election day. After casting their votes for Franklin Pierce they proceeded to celebrate by going on a drinking spree that lasted several

days. When they finally got back with the provisions, Wright's men were so hungry they were considering butchering a horse.

As winter fell upon the volunteer company, their numbers dwindled to eighteen men. At the same time, however, the Modoc camp had grown to the point where the warriors outnumbered the volunteers by as much as three to one. Wright realized he had to act soon.

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**After casting their votes  
for Franklin Pierce  
they proceeded to celebrate  
by going on a drinking spree  
that lasted several days.**

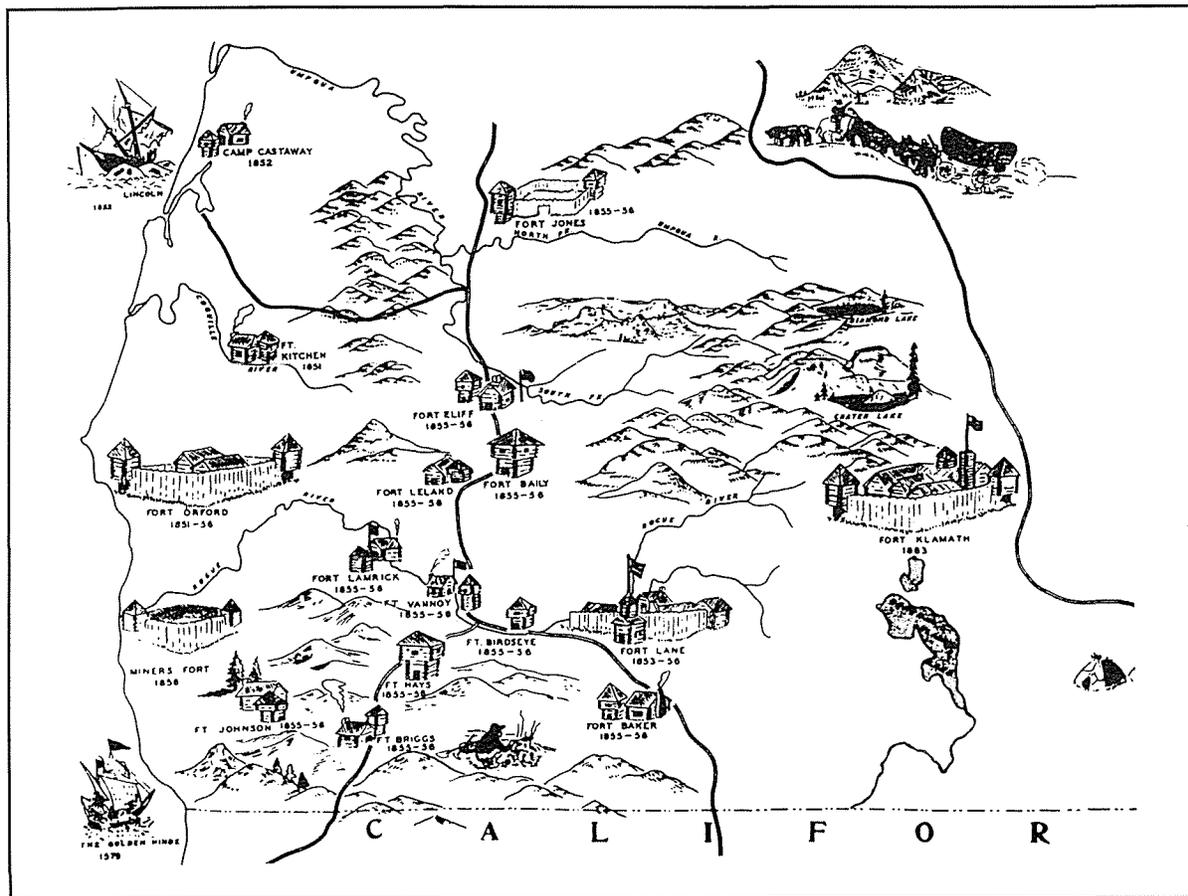
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Versions differ as to what happened next. With the arrival of provisions from Yreka, the Indians were invited to a feast and a peace parley. One story has it that only two Modocs showed up. Another version claims that a friend of Wright purchased strychnine from a Yreka doctor and that the poison was to be added to the Indians' beef at the feast. Most historians discount this allegation, but during the 1872 Modoc Wars, those who favored the Indian case repeated the story. Yreka volunteers who were members of the expedition later admitted to their planned treachery, but insisted the intent was to use bullets rather than poison to exterminate the Modocs.

**W**hat actually happened at the proposed feast may never be known, but both sides are in agreement as to what occurred next. Early one morning soon after the feast, Wright quietly stationed well-armed men at strategic locations around the Modoc camp near the natural bridge on Lost River. According to a plan, the Indian fighter strode into the enemy camp wearing a blanket for an overcoat and carrying a pistol underneath. He would make one last demand for the return of captives and stolen property. If the chief refused, he would shoot him and fall to the ground immediately. This was the signal for his men to open fire while he scrambled to safety.

The plan worked. The chief refused the demand and Wright fired through the blanket, killing him. The volunteers then opened fire, and shot down all but five of the forty-six warriors who tried to escape into the sage. Only four of the whites were wounded during the skirmish. At that point, the volunteers' blood lust got the better of them and they scalped and mutilated the Indian corpses before returning to Yreka for a triumphant drink. The company was disbanded on November 29, 1852.<sup>3</sup>

An uneasy peace followed and held throughout 1853, with relatively few incidents of hostility reported in northern California. No record exists of Wright's activities during the year, but it was a significant one for



Map of military forts and camps, 1851-1880. SOHS #11532

Indian affairs. President Pierce appointed Joel Palmer as superintendent of Indian affairs for the Oregon Territory, and Palmer set about to resolve Indian problems by conciliation and resettling tribal groups on reservations. Palmer reasoned that the Indians' material wants could be supplied at less government expense than the cost of endless warfare.

In 1854, Palmer appointed new Indian agents in southern Oregon. George Ambrose replaced Sam Culver as agent in the Rogue Valley and upper Rogue area. Palmer named Wright to succeed the Rev. Josiah Parrish at Port Orford on the coast.

Wright's territory included the lower Rogue and all of the coastal area between Coos Bay and the California border. The tribes Wright was now in charge of had heard of his reputation, and feared he would continue to exterminate them. Actually, the records show that Wright carried out Palmer's orders and tried to deter both white and Indian acts of aggression. In spite of his past behavior, Wright traveled constantly, visiting miner's camps and Indian villages, urging restraint and reminding natives of their obligations under the treaties of 1853 and 1854. Wright also set up house with a common-law Indian wife named Chetco Jenny, who served as a government interpreter.<sup>4</sup>

Largely owing to Agent Wright's efforts, the south coast remained relatively peaceful through early 1855. Further inland along the Rogue, however, the fighting

renewed, and the coastal calm didn't keep worried miners and settlers from forming a company to fight Indians in defiance of Gov. George Curry's prohibition of independent civilian forces. Both Palmer and Curry believed the Indian Department and the small federal garrison at Port Orford could assure the settler's safety. Even Wright tried to convince the volunteers the government had the situation in hand.

**E**xcept for isolated minor incidents, things stayed fairly quiet and the volunteers were inactive during most of 1855. Early in November, however, hostilities erupted along the Coquille and a semi-legal company of nineteen citizens known as the Coquille Guard was organized. Under the command of Capt. William Packwood, the Guard erected quarters later named Fort Kitchen on the South Fork of the Coquille a mile below Myrtle Point. Packwood's men also marched up and down the river, skirmishing with the Indians, killing four and hanging one.

Wright, who had been away from Port Orford, did not learn of the activities on the Coquille until several weeks later, at which time he hurried north and rode into the fort on Christmas Eve. Having spent the previous three days with the local Indians, he had heard them blame the current troubles on white hostilities and promised to obey the agent's orders to remain peaceable. Wright then ordered the volunteers to cease their aggression and disband.

**A**t about the same time the Coquille Guard was organizing, a similar volunteer force was raised by the miners in Gold Beach at the mouth of the Rogue, where gold had been discovered two years earlier. Under the command of Capt. John Poland, the so-called Gold Beach Guard spent the first few weeks patrolling the Rogue below Big Bend.

Ever since a treaty had been signed in August of 1885, Wright had followed Palmer's orders and urged Indians under his jurisdiction to avoid even the appearance of collusion with the warring tribes upriver. In the course of his attempts to talk them into going to a reservation, Wright heard rumors that the coastal tribes were secretly plotting to go to war. Unfortunately for Wright and many others, he disregarded the warning.

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**Palmer reasoned that  
the Indians' material wants  
could be supplied at less  
government expense than the  
cost of endless warfare.**

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It was a half-breed, English-speaking Indian from Canada named Enos who caused Wright's efforts at peace-making to fail. Even as he won Wright's confidence, Enos was stirring up the coastal tribes with talk of destroying all the whites living along the coast and rivers.

When word of whites massacring Indians on the upper Rogue reached the coastal tribes late in 1855, Enos had no trouble persuading many that they should strike first before the whites on the coast started massacring them as well. The renegade started his war of attrition on the night of February 22, 1856, when a large number of settlers would be attending a Washington's Birthday Ball and all-night dance in Gold Beach.

At dawn on the twenty-third, while most of the revelers including Guard Capt. Poland and ten of his men were still at the ball, the Indians struck the Guard camp, killing eight of the volunteers. One of the two men to escape the slaughter and mutilations was Charles Foster, who eventually reached Port Orford with news of the uprising. When word of the attack reached those at the ball, they grabbed what food and arms they could and fled across the river to take refuge in a partially completed stockade called Fort Miner. Approximately one hundred and thirty settlers reached the stockade before the Indians surrounded it, including women still in their ball attire. They all worked feverishly to complete the crude fortification.

**B**efore the day ended, at least thirty whites had been killed and sixty houses burned along the river between Big Bend and the ocean. Most of Gold Beach had gone up in flames, as had many other homes up and down the coast.

Among the day's dead were Capt. Poland and Agent Wright. Versions of their deaths differ. In one account, the two were at the cabin of J. McGuire, halfway between the dance site and the Guard camp. That morning, Wright is said to have had a visit from supposedly friendly Indians claiming that Enos was in their camp across the river, and that they wanted him arrested. The unsuspecting Wright and Poland went to the camp and were seized and killed.

Another version, reported by eyewitnesses of the general uprising, was that the two men were slain after Indians knocked at the door of Wright's cabin along the river. When Wright opened the door, he and Poland were attacked and in the ensuing struggle, Enos split Wright's head with an axe. Both bodies were mutilated beyond recognition, and some claimed the victors removed Wright's heart and ate it in hopes of inheriting some of Wright's bravery. Legend has it that among the diners was the agent's abused common-law wife Chetco Jenny.

Thus ended the life of Ben Wright, Indian fighter. The war on the coast was far from over, however. While some of their fellow warriors continued to raid and destroy cabins and livestock, most of the band under Enos laid siege to Fort Miner in an attempt to starve out the holed-up settlers of Gold Beach. The strategy almost worked. But unbeknownst to the Indians, Foster's news of the uprising reached the federal garrison at Port Orford and eventually the larger garrison at Crescent City. Adverse winds prevented rescue attempts by sea, but after thirty-one days of siege, the stockaded settlers heard the welcome sound of the fife and drums of two companies of federal troops marching up the coast from Fort Humboldt under Col. Robert Buchanan.

Enos and his warriors were driven off and pursued up the Rogue, where the fighting finally ended. Enos himself was captured, tried and hanged in Port Orford in 1857.

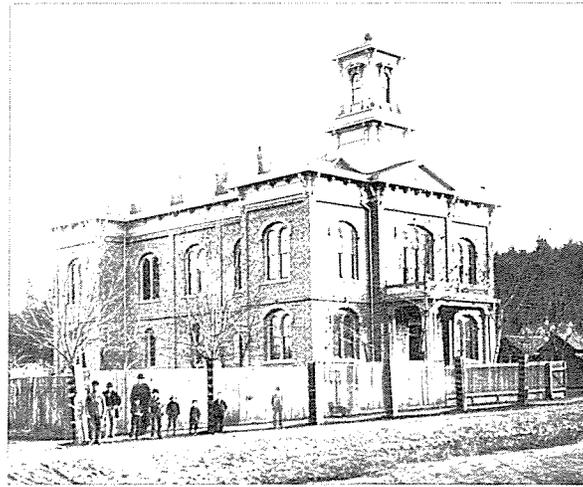


ENDNOTES

1. Some historians seem to have confused this Shasta Indian with a Modoc sub-chief named Scarfaced Charley, who was Captain Jack's Lieutenant when General Canby was murdered in the Lava Beds in 1872.
2. The Ross story appeared in the May, June and July 1982 issues of the Table Rock Sentinel.
3. An Indian account of this massacre, recounted in Jeff Riddle's book, *The Indian History of the Modoc War*, varies as to the events leading up to the shooting, but describes the same outcome. Although Riddle was born ten years after the massacre, his mother was a Modoc and may have provided an eyewitness account to her son.
4. Although Wright was credited with being a just administrator and an advocate of Palmer's plan to end Indian hostilities by mediation, the darker side of his character occasionally emerged when drinking led him to abuse Indian women. In a scandalous incident related by Rev. Parrish, Wright reportedly stripped Chetco Jenny in a drunken fury and whipped her as she ran naked through the streets of Port Orford.

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*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.*



1986/87  
Annual Report

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# Report on Financial Statements



YERGEN AND MEYER CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

36 HAWTHORNE STREET  
P.O. BOX 879  
MEDFORD, OREGON 97501  
503 / 773-8488

Audit Committee  
SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
206 North Fifth Street  
Jacksonville, OR 97530

We have examined the statement of assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the various funds and account groups of Southern Oregon Historical Society as of June 30, 1987, and the related statements of activity for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

As described in Note 1, the Historical Society prepares its financial statements on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements; consequently, certain revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned, and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Also, as described in Note 1, the Historical Society does not maintain adequate fixed assets records to determine historical cost. Because we are unable to satisfy ourselves by appropriate audit tests, or by other means, as a result of incomplete records, we are unable to express an opinion of the General Fixed Asset Group of Accounts.

In our opinion, the 1987 financial statements referred to above, other than the General Fixed Assets Group of Accounts, present fairly the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of Southern Oregon Historical Society, as of June 30, 1987, and its revenue collected and expenditures paid, and changes in fund balances for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1, which basis has been applied on a consistent manner.

*Yergen and Meyer*  
Medford, Oregon  
September 9, 1987

# Statement of Assets & Liabilities

June 30, 1987  
Cash Basis

## ASSETS

	Operating Fund	Acquisition & Building Reserve Fund	General Fixed Assets Group	Total (Memorandum Only)
Current assets:				
Cash	\$ 190,581	\$ 1,005,255		\$ 1,195,836
Inventory	25,248			25,248
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>215,829</u>	<u>1,005,255</u>		<u>1,221,084</u>
Cash held for investment	50,000			50,000
Fixed assets—Note 1			\$ 1,053,647	1,053,647
	50,000		1,053,647	1,103,647
	<u>\$ 265,829</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,225</u>	<u>\$ 1,053,647</u>	<u>\$ 2,324,731</u>

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

### Commitments—Note 3 & 4

#### Fund balances:

#### Land, building & equipment:

Assets from:				
Operating fund			698,647	698,647
Contribution			355,000	355,000
Reserved for inventory	25,248			25,248
Reserved for Wells Fargo Foundation		799		799
Reserved for Willows Memorial Fund		4,456		4,456
Reserved for Building Fund		1,000,000		1,000,000
Unreserved	<u>240,581</u>			<u>240,581</u>
	<u>\$ 265,829</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>	<u>\$ 1,053,647</u>	<u>\$ 2,324,731</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Activity

For the Year Ended June 30, 1987  
Cash Basis

	Operating Fund	Acquisition and Building Reserve Fund	Total (Memorandum Only)
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>			
Taxes	\$ 1,024,255		\$ 1,024,255
Interest	24,102	\$ 47,599	71,701
Grants	3,676		3,676
Donations	25,868	105	25,973
Membership dues	25,417		25,417
Sales shop net loss	( 12,563)		( 12,563)
Revenues—auxiliary activities	7,265		7,265
	<u>1,098,020</u>	<u>47,704</u>	<u>1,145,724</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<b>Program expenses:</b>			
Curatorial	384,022		384,022
Exhibits	39,374		39,374
Branch museums	71,331		71,331
Grants-in-aid	3,426		3,426
Public Programs	174,592		174,592
	<u>672,745</u>		<u>672,745</u>
<b>Support services:</b>			
Management and general	392,805		392,805
Contingency	56,512		56,512
	<u>449,317</u>		<u>449,317</u>
	<u>1,122,062</u>		<u>1,122,062</u>
Support and revenue over (under) expenses, before capital outlay	( 24,042)	47,704	23,662
Capital outlay—Note 1		<u>15,309</u>	<u>15,309</u>
Support and revenue over (under) expenses	( 24,042)	32,395	8,353
Transfer for building reserve	( 27,738)	27,738	
Fund balances, beginning of year	<u>292,361</u>	<u>945,122</u>	<u>1,237,483</u>
Fund balances, end of year	<u>\$ 240,581</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>	<u>\$ 1,245,836</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Operating Fund

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY—BUDGET AND ACTUAL

For the Year Ended June 30, 1987  
Cash Basis

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>			
Taxes	\$ 956,254	\$ 1,024,255	\$ 68,001
Interest	45,000	24,102	( 20,898)
Grants	250,200	3,676	( 246,524)
Donations	61,000	25,868	( 35,132)
Membership	20,000	25,417	5,417
Sales shop net loss	( 9,610)	( 12,563)	( 2,953)
Revenues—auxiliary activities	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,265</u>	<u>265</u>
	<u>1,329,844</u>	<u>1,098,020</u>	<u>( 231,824)</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<b>Program expenses:</b>			
Curatorial	389,750	384,022	5,737
Exhibits	40,844	39,374	1,503
Branch museums	78,379	71,331	7,048
Unrestricted grants	250,000	3,426	246,574
Public programs	<u>208,892</u>	<u>174,592</u>	<u>34,300</u>
	<u>967,907</u>	<u>672,745</u>	<u>295,162</u>
<b>Support services:</b>			
Management and general	411,647	392,805	18,842
Contingency	<u>60,290</u>	<u>56,512</u>	<u>3,778</u>
	<u>461,937</u>	<u>449,317</u>	<u>22,620</u>
	<u>1,439,844</u>	<u>1,122,062</u>	<u>317,782</u>
Support and revenue over (under) expenses	( 110,000)	( 24,042)	85,958
Transfer for building reserve		( 27,738)	( 27,738)
Cash and fund balance, beginning of year	<u>310,000</u>	<u>292,361</u>	<u>( 17,639)</u>
Cash and fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 200,000</u>	<u>\$ 240,581</u>	<u>\$ 40,581</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Acquisition & Building Reserve Fund

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY—BUDGET AND ACTUAL

For the Year Ended June 30, 1987

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Support and revenue:			
Interest		\$ 47,599	\$ 47,599
Grants	\$ 265,000		( 265,000)
Donations		105	105
	<u>265,000</u>	<u>47,704</u>	<u>( 217,296)</u>
Capital Outlay	<u>1,265,000</u>	<u>15,309</u>	<u>1,249,691</u>
Excess of support and revenue over capital outlay	( 1,000,000)	32,395	1,032,395
Transfer for building fund		27,738	27,728
Cash and fund balance, beginning of year	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>945,122</u>	( 54,878)
Cash and fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ ( -0- )</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Note 1—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**NATURE OF OPERATIONS**—The Society is a tax-exempt organization established in the State of Oregon under the provision of the Oregon Non-Profit Corporation Act for the purpose of acquisition by gift, purchase or other means, of real and personal property, for use in connection with the preservation of historical objects.

**METHOD OF ACCOUNTING**—The accounting records of the Society are maintained on the cash basis, whereby revenue is recorded when cash is received and expenses are recorded when paid. Effect is not given to accounts receivable, accounts payable, or other accrued items.

**FUND ACCOUNTING**—The accounts of the Society are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The Society utilizes the following funds and account groups in carrying out the financial affairs of the Society:

**Operating Fund**—Accounts for the resources relating to the daily operation of the Society. Principal sources of revenue property tax receipts, membership dues, donations and earnings on investments.

**Acquisition and Building Reserve Fund**—Accounts for resources reserved and resources budgeted and expended for the acquisition and/or repair of real property to be used for the furtherance of the Society's purpose. Principal source of revenue is the earnings on investments.

**General Fixed Assets Group**—Accounts for assets owned by the Society, whether purchased (cost) or donated (fair market value). However, adequate records are not available to establish the historical cost of these assets.

**INVENTORY**—Inventory of Sales Shop is priced at cost. Inventory shown consists of items held for resale. The cost is recorded as an expenditure at the time the inventory items were purchased. Reported inventory is recorded for informational purposes only and is offset by a reserve of an equal amount.

**FIXED ASSETS**—Adequate records are not available to establish the historical cost of fixed assets. Depreciation is not recorded on fixed assets.

Historical objects, non-historical equipment and donated real property, specifically donated to the Society, are included in fixed assets. The cost of these items purchased in the current year are included in the various departments as an expense and are also added to the balance of fixed assets as shown in the financial statements for the

prior fiscal year.

The costs of real properties purchased by the Society are owned by Jackson County. Consequently, the costs of such properties are not included in the General Fixed Assets Group. The costs of real properties are shown as a capital outlay. Capital outlay for the year represents feasibility costs and earnest money for a proposed building purchase and architectural services for other historical properties.

**CONTRIBUTED SERVICES**—The Society has chosen not to record the value of services for volunteers whom have assisted in the development of the Society's programs, since it is not susceptible to objective measurement.

### Note 2—Retirement Program

The Society participates in a retirement annuity program. Under this program, all full time employees with one year full time service are eligible to participate. Under this program, 4% of participating employees' salaries is withheld and the Society contributes an additional 8%. The Society's policy is to fully fund each year's expense, and no unfunded liability exists. Society contributions to this program for the fiscal year were \$26,797.

### Note 3—Lease Commitments

The Society leased land from Jackson County for a period of 50 years beginning October 1, 1984. Consideration for the lease was construction and maintenance of an archives building. All improvements are part of the real property and revert to the lessor upon termination of the lease.

The Society leased the first floor and basement of the Swedenburg House from the State Board of Higher Education for the period of 25 years beginning August 30, 1984. Consideration for the lease was \$100,000, which was paid in 1983.

The Society leased the museum complex and other buildings from Jackson County for a period of one year, with annual renewal beginning March 1, 1985. Consideration for the lease is maintenance and preservation of all land and buildings.

### Note 4—Purchase Commitment

The Society has offered to purchase a building located in Medford, Oregon for \$275,000. An earned money deposit of \$5,000 accompanied the offer. The purchase is contingent upon a satisfactory appraisal of the property.

# Society Update

## Discovery Walk Brochure Now Available

The Society's Interpretation Department has spent the past year developing a brochure for teachers and youth group leaders to help them lead guided walking tours of historic Jacksonville.

Information contained in "Discovery Walk" will introduce major historic sites, events, and people to students as they travel up and down the streets of this unique National Historic Landmark. The one-half mile tour highlights the gold mining era; the development of a town with its medical, dental, fire-fighting, and educational needs; the old Chinatown district; and many more fascinating points of interest.

Flyers are now being distributed throughout the Jackson County and other southern Oregon school systems announcing the availability of the "Discovery Walk" brochure. Teachers interested in obtaining a free copy should contact the Society at 899-1847.

## Society to Host Museum Association Meeting

On March 6-7, the Society will play host to museum professionals from around the state at the spring meeting of the Oregon Museum Association. This will be a rare opportunity for the Society to spotlight many of southern Oregon's fine historic sites and offerings.

The meeting will begin with an evening reception on Sunday at the U.S. Hotel in Jacksonville. Those attending are encouraged to bring examples of their publications for critiquing by professionals in the printing business.

On Monday morning, Larry Tise, newly-appointed director of the American Association for State and Local History, will address the

group. Following a brief business meeting, participants will be invited to a sneak preview and "behind-the-scenes" tour of the exhibit, "Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley," which will open in the Jacksonville Museum on March 26-27.

The afternoon session,

"Publications: Everyone Does It, Let's All Do It Better," is planned to help museums improve their printed materials. Natalie Brown, Society coordinator of photography and publications, will serve as moderator for a panel consisting of a graphic designer, printer, and promotional consultant.



photo by Natalie Brown

Tamara Griffin as the family's hired girl serves fresh bread and apple butter to visitors in the Beekman House kitchen. This year will be Tamara's fourth season participating in the Living History program.

## Wanted: Living History Actors

The Southern Oregon Historical Society invites you to become part of its Living History Program this summer. People of all ages are needed as costumed greeters or to portray members of the Beekman family, their friends, relatives, employees and music students at the Beekman House and Beekman Bank in Jacksonville.

Both volunteer and paid positions are available. Volunteers will work an average of one afternoon a week between May 27 and September 5, and participate in a thorough training program beginning mid-April. Society staff will begin arranging for costumes soon, so don't delay. Notify Volunteer Coordinator Marge

Herman or Lead Interpreter Carolyn Sharrock at 899-1847 if you would like to be part of this entertaining and rewarding volunteer experience.

A few part-time paid positions are available at \$3.50 per hour for a 20- to 26- hour workweek including weekends. If you are interested please pick up an application and job description at the Jacksonville Museum or the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum in Ashland. Applications must be returned to the Society's administrative offices in the Armstrong House, 375 East California Street, Jacksonville, no later than March 31.

## Volunteers Needed

Active involvement from members and other area residents enable the Society to provide a number of services that would otherwise not be available to the public. There is always need for individuals who are willing to commit a little of their time to help. Currently the Society's Volunteer Department is looking for people interested in the following volunteer positions:

**Docent:** Docents are volunteers who greet museum visitors, interpret exhibits, and answer questions. They also provide security for the valuable artifacts on display.

A significant expansion of the Society's Docent Program is underway for the early spring opening of "Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley." This exhibit will be far more interpretive than earlier displays in the upstairs courtroom of the Jacksonville Museum. To prepare for increased public interest, additional docents are needed.

The Volunteer Department is looking for people of all ages who enjoy history, sharing information, and meeting people. Previous experience is not required. Docent training requires attendance to three training sessions:

Thursday, March 10 or Saturday  
March 12, and

Mondays, March 14 and 21.

Each session runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with an hour lunch break. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Marge Herman at 899-1847 to reserve a space or for further information.

**Gift Shop Assistants:** The Society's Gift Shop in the Jacksonville Museum has a nice selection of books and history-related items for visitors to "take a piece of southern Oregon's heritage home with them." Assistants work 2-3 hours one afternoon each week, primarily greeting and helping customers.

New volunteers are required to

attend one general orientation. They will receive additional training as they work in the gift shop. Interested individuals should contact Volunteer Coordinator Marge Herman at 899-1847.

## Railroad Exhibit On Its Way

"Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley" is scheduled to arrive on time for its opening on March 26-27. Society staff members are working hard to put the finishing touches on what is hoped to be one of the most successful exhibits the Society has produced.

A considerable amount of effort goes into developing an exhibition of this nature: two months of

patching and painting the courtroom walls in the Jacksonville Museum, ten months of researching the subject, seven months of writing the interpretation and composing exhibit labels, nine months of identifying and gathering artifacts from the collections, eight months of locating appropriate photographs and archival materials, two months of reproducing photographs, five months of designing the exhibit, and three months of exhibit fabrication.

"Making Tracks" will be the first major exhibit to appear in the upstairs courtroom of the Jacksonville Museum since the mid-1970s. A "Members Only" opening reception is planned for Saturday, March 26, from 7-9 p.m. with a general public opening to follow on Sunday, March 27.



Quilters demonstrate their art at last January's show.

photo by Jean K. Hagen

## Quilters' Talents Uncovered

Last January the U.S. Hotel ballroom was filled with the look of yesteryear when the Jacksonville Museum Quilters exhibited a selection of quilts that the group has worked on during its eleven-year existence. Many of those featured in the display were from the Society's historic collection. Over 1,050 visitors turned out for the popular mid-winter event.

The Jacksonville Museum Quilters have the largest collection of historic motifs and quilt blocks on the West Coast, numbering nearly one thousand. The success

of their shows has resulted in statewide recognition for the talented group.

Recently, Visual Arts Resources of the University of Oregon chose approximately 100 of the Quilter's blocks to include in its traveling exhibit program. "Patchwork of History" will display each block, its pattern name and history, and several completed quilts. Once it begins traveling in September, people throughout Oregon and the Northwest will come to know the beauty and history of this traditional American craft and art form.

# Welcome New Members

## SENIOR

Daryl Ackley, *Eagle Point*  
 Edwin Hugh Barron, *Ventura, CA*  
 Vincent Claflin, *Phoenix*  
 Florence Forstee, *Medford*  
 Virginia Haycock, *Medford*  
 Edwin Jones, *Jacksonville*  
 Joan Puckett, *Eugene*  
 Raymond Shaver, *Medford*  
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Nick Clark, *Muncie, IN*  
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 Anita Niedermeyer, *Central Point*  
 Adrienne Norris, *Hubbard*  
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# Renewing Members

## SENIORS

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 Harry Chipman, *Central Point*  
 Lillian Christ, *Phonix*  
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**Become a member**—discover the history of Jackson County and the southern Oregon/northern California region.

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8-2

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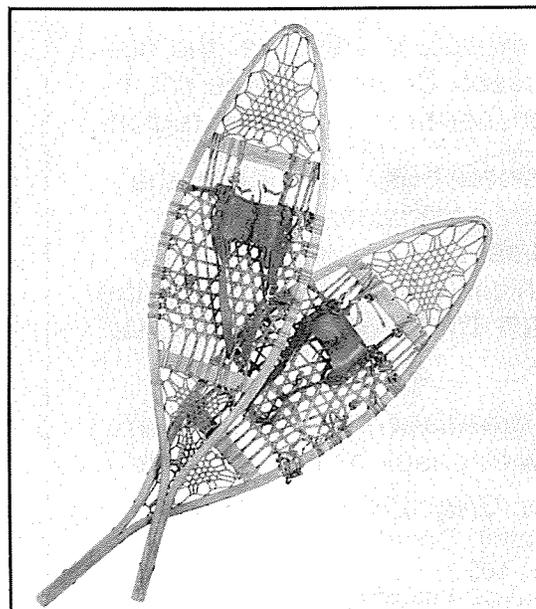
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## From the Collections

Sometimes strapping on showshoes is the only way to travel on foot across deep snow. People wearing them stay on top of the snow instead of sinking because their weight is supported and distributed over a larger area than the bottom of their feet.

Medford resident Mary Snider Greeman donated these snowshoes to the Society in 1966. The pair originally belonged to M.L. Edwards, a ranger at Crater Lake national Park in the 1910s who was one of the first rangers to stay in the park through an entire winter.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society houses numerous artifacts that, owing to limited exhibit space, are not often seen by visitors. The Society hopes that featuring an item each month in this column will provide an enjoyable and educational view of the scope of its collections.



# Regional Digest

## Modoc War Symposium to be Held at Lava Beds

Several agencies and organizations have joined forces to present a symposium of the Modoc War and its aftermath at the Lava Beds National Monument on March 27 and 28, 1988. Members of third and fourth generations of those caught in the conflict will share their stories, with war strategy and tactics interpreted at the battle sites.

In December 1872, a small detachment of troops from Fort Klamath, Oregon, attempted to

arrest and return a band of 30 Modoc families to the Klamath Reservation. The Modocs fled and safely entrenched themselves in the "stronghold" on the southern shore of Tule Lake.

The US Army made plans to surround and attack them. Thick, impenetrable fog enveloped the entire Tule Lake basin on the morning of January 17. The army attacked, moving down the bluff and across 3 1/2 mile of rugged terrain and advancing in a line.

Soldiers fired at shadows in the fog. No Indians were actually seen that day, but 37 soldiers were killed or wounded by so-called "phantoms" in the fog. The Modocs suffered no casualties.

During the following five months, 53 Modoc warriors repeatedly defeated a complement of US regulars and volunteers twenty times their strength. Their success lay in their skilled use of the volcanic terrain, the magic of their Shaman, and the fact that their enemy was unprepared for warfare amidst the jagged lava formations.

One hundred and fifty years later, the land has changed little--just as rugged, just as silent. The misery suffered by both sides can still be felt. Many names have been lost to history, but their legacy remains at the sites where they faced their enemy.

The public is invited to participate in this special two-day symposium. Registration is limited to 300 participants. For further information, write to: Modoc War Symposium, Lava Beds National Monument, P.O. Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134, or call (916) 667-2282.

## And in Ashland...

The Ashland Heritage Group has issued to the curious an invitation to join a small, informal group of individuals who share a common interest in the history of Ashland. The organization has planned several outings and activities for spring and early summer, including field trips to Hornbrook Cemetery on March 17 and Lithia Springs on April 21.

The Ashland Heritage Group is headquartered at the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum. For further information, please call Nan Hannon or Jean Vondracek at 488-1341.

## Celebrating History in Josephine County

The Rogue Community College and the Josephine County Historical Society have put together a series of events to foster public interest in the unique heritage of southern Oregon. Programs are free and will be held in the Rogue Building on the Rogue Community College campus in Grants Pass. "Oregon Comeback to the Past--Celebrate Our Heritage" will culminate in a "Pioneer Fair" on May 20-22.

**Lewis and Clark Expedition: Trade and the American Dream,** Sunday, February 21, 2:30 p.m.

Internationally known puppeteers Susan Barthel and Bruce Chesse of the Oregon Puppet Theatre will bring Lewis, Clark, and Sacajewea to life through hand and rod puppet dramatizations. Slides, music and period costumes will make this an event for all ages.

**Abigail and Others: The Northwest Women,** Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Jane Van Boskirk of the Northwest Touring Theatre will highlight the grit, humor and wisdom of women who sowed the seeds of civilization, culture and conscience in the western wilderness. Chico Schwall, master of a myriad of old-time instruments will set the stage with foot-stomping folk music and ballads.

**Colonel Leroy Heston: Letters to the Folks Back Home,** Friday,

April 15, 7:30 p.m.

In 1921 Leroy Heston graduated from Grants Pass High School and went on to a life of adventure, intrigue and success as a pilot and intelligence officer. John Cova will share the Colonel's exciting life through slides and selections from letters (part of the Josephine County Historical Society collections) written by Heston to his folks back home on "K" Street.

**Indian Heritage: A Personal Perspective,** Sunday, April 24, 2:30 p.m.

Jim Martin, great-grandson of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians, will share his personal perspective on Indian history, philosophy and legends.

**Stagecoaching in Southern Oregon,** Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Using slides and colorful stories, Gary Meier, author of *Knights of the Whip*, will discuss early public transportation via stagecoach.

# 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, Siskiyou Boulevard and Mountain Avenue, Ashland, Tues.-Sat., 1-5 p.m.

**February 23** The Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting in the conference room of Jackson County Education Services building, Grape and Fir Streets, Medford, at 7:30 p.m. Members and the general public are invited.

**March 20** "Inherit the Wind," remake of the classic starring Kirk Douglas, Jason Robards and Darren McGavin and filmed in part in Jacksonville, will air on NBC Sunday, March 20. Exterior courthouse scenes were filmed in front of the Jacksonville Museum, and downtown Jacksonville supplied a historic atmosphere.

**March 24** "Workin' on the Railroad," a children's workshop, will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the Eagle Point Library, 158 West Main Street, Eagle Point. Youngsters, ages 7-12, will construct a small scale model of the O & C Railroad using boxes and other materials. Each child will build a portion of the train. When finished the sections will be assembled together and displayed in the Children's Museum in Jacksonville. Participants also will sing railroad songs and become part of a "human train," using such props as a conductor's cap, luggage, whistles, and imagination! Admission is free.

**March 26** "Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroad in the Rogue Valley" **Members Only** reception from 6-9 p.m. Details to arrive soon in member's mailboxes, but mark your calendars now for this special event. A public opening will follow on Sunday, March 27.

All offices and departments of the **Southern Oregon Historical Society**, except the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, may be reached by calling (503)899-1847. The Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum's phone number is (503)488-1341.

**Jacksonville Museum**, P.O. Box 480, 205 North 5th Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Tues.- Sun., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Research Library** in the Jacksonville Museum, P.O. Box 480, 205 North 5th Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Tues.- Fri, 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Children's Museum**, P.O. Box 480, 206 North 5th Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Tues.- Sun., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum**, 990 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland, OR 97520. Open Tues.- Sat., 1 - 5 p.m.

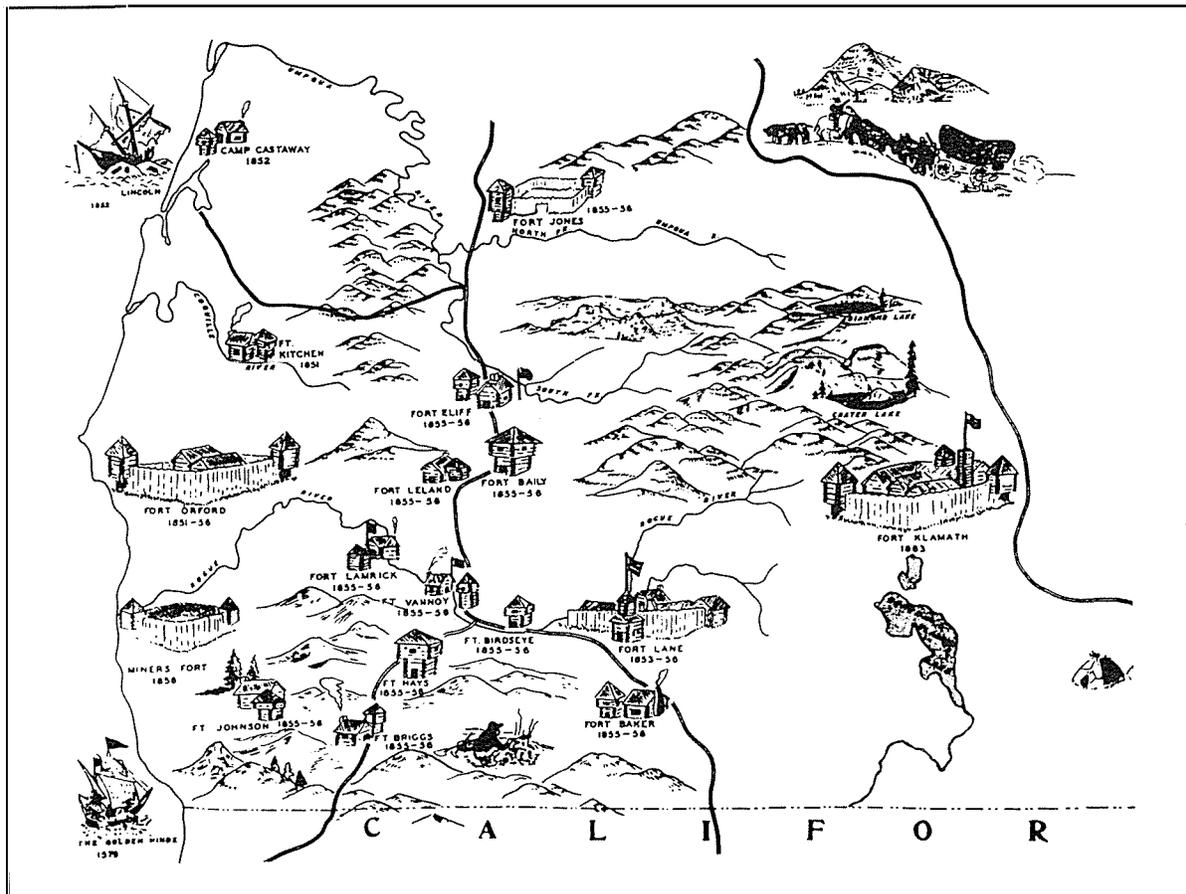
**Administrative Offices**, Armstrong House, 375 East California Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Mon.- Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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Map of military forts and camps, 1851-1880. SOHS #11532

Indian affairs. President Pierce appointed Joel Palmer as superintendent of Indian affairs for the Oregon Territory, and Palmer set about to resolve Indian problems by conciliation and resettling tribal groups on reservations. Palmer reasoned that the Indians' material wants could be supplied at less government expense than the cost of endless warfare.

In 1854, Palmer appointed new Indian agents in southern Oregon. George Ambrose replaced Sam Culver as agent in the Rogue Valley and upper Rogue area. Palmer named Wright to succeed the Rev. Josiah Parrish at Port Orford on the coast.

Wright's territory included the lower Rogue and all of the coastal area between Coos Bay and the California border. The tribes Wright was now in charge of had heard of his reputation, and feared he would continue to exterminate them. Actually, the records show that Wright carried out Palmer's orders and tried to deter both white and Indian acts of aggression. In spite of his past behavior, Wright traveled constantly, visiting miner's camps and Indian villages, urging restraint and reminding natives of their obligations under the treaties of 1853 and 1854. Wright also set up house with a common-law Indian wife named Chetco Jenny, who served as a government interpreter.<sup>4</sup>

Largely owing to Agent Wright's efforts, the south coast remained relatively peaceful through early 1855. Further inland along the Rogue, however, the fighting

renewed, and the coastal calm didn't keep worried miners and settlers from forming a company to fight Indians in defiance of Gov. George Curry's prohibition of independent civilian forces. Both Palmer and Curry believed the Indian Department and the small federal garrison at Port Orford could assure the settler's safety. Even Wright tried to convince the volunteers the government had the situation in hand.

Except for isolated minor incidents, things stayed fairly quiet and the volunteers were inactive during most of 1855. Early in November, however, hostilities erupted along the Coquille and a semi-legal company of nineteen citizens known as the Coquille Guard was organized. Under the command of Capt. William Packwood, the Guard erected quarters later named Fort Kitchen on the South Fork of the Coquille a mile below Myrtle Point. Packwood's men also marched up and down the river, skirmishing with the Indians, killing four and hanging one.

Wright, who had been away from Port Orford, did not learn of the activities on the Coquille until several weeks later, at which time he hurried north and rode into the fort on Christmas Eve. Having spent the previous three days with the local Indians, he had heard them blame the current troubles on white hostilities and promised to obey the agent's orders to remain peaceable. Wright then ordered the volunteers to cease their aggression and disband.

**A**t about the same time the Coquille Guard was organizing, a similar volunteer force was raised by the miners in Gold Beach at the mouth of the Rogue, where gold had been discovered two years earlier. Under the command of Capt. John Poland, the so-called Gold Beach Guard spent the first few weeks patrolling the Rogue below Big Bend.

Ever since a treaty had been signed in August of 1885, Wright had followed Palmer's orders and urged Indians under his jurisdiction to avoid even the appearance of collusion with the warring tribes upriver. In the course of his attempts to talk them into going to a reservation, Wright heard rumors that the coastal tribes were secretly plotting to go to war. Unfortunately for Wright and many others, he disregarded the warning.

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**Palmer reasoned that  
the Indians' material wants  
could be supplied at less  
government expense than the  
cost of endless warfare.**

---

It was a half-breed, English-speaking Indian from Canada named Enos who caused Wright's efforts at peace-making to fail. Even as he won Wright's confidence, Enos was stirring up the coastal tribes with talk of destroying all the whites living along the coast and rivers.

When word of whites massacring Indians on the upper Rogue reached the coastal tribes late in 1855, Enos had no trouble persuading many that they should strike first before the whites on the coast started massacring them as well. The renegade started his war of attrition on the night of February 22, 1856, when a large number of settlers would be attending a Washington's Birthday Ball and all-night dance in Gold Beach.

At dawn on the twenty-third, while most of the revelers including Guard Capt. Poland and ten of his men were still at the ball, the Indians struck the Guard camp, killing eight of the volunteers. One of the two men to escape the slaughter and mutilations was Charles Foster, who eventually reached Port Orford with news of the uprising. When word of the attack reached those at the ball, they grabbed what food and arms they could and fled across the river to take refuge in a partially completed stockade called Fort Miner. Approximately one hundred and thirty settlers reached the stockade before the Indians surrounded it, including women still in their ball attire. They all worked feverishly to complete the crude fortification.

**B**efore the day ended, at least thirty whites had been killed and sixty houses burned along the river between Big Bend and the ocean. Most of Gold Beach had gone up in flames, as had many other homes up and down the coast.

Among the day's dead were Capt. Poland and Agent Wright. Versions of their deaths differ. In one account, the two were at the cabin of J. McGuire, halfway between the dance site and the Guard camp. That morning, Wright is said to have had a visit from supposedly friendly Indians claiming that Enos was in their camp across the river, and that they wanted him arrested. The unsuspecting Wright and Poland went to the camp and were seized and killed.

Another version, reported by eyewitnesses of the general uprising, was that the two men were slain after Indians knocked at the door of Wright's cabin along the river. When Wright opened the door, he and Poland were attacked and in the ensuing struggle, Enos split Wright's head with an axe. Both bodies were mutilated beyond recognition, and some claimed the victors removed Wright's heart and ate it in hopes of inheriting some of Wright's bravery. Legend has it that among the diners was the agent's abused common-law wife Chetco Jenny.

Thus ended the life of Ben Wright, Indian fighter. The war on the coast was far from over, however. While some of their fellow warriors continued to raid and destroy cabins and livestock, most of the band under Enos laid siege to Fort Miner in an attempt to starve out the holed-up settlers of Gold Beach. The strategy almost worked. But unbeknownst to the Indians, Foster's news of the uprising reached the federal garrison at Port Orford and eventually the larger garrison at Crescent City. Adverse winds prevented rescue attempts by sea, but after thirty-one days of siege, the stockaded settlers heard the welcome sound of the fife and drums of two companies of federal troops marching up the coast from Fort Humboldt under Col. Robert Buchanan.

Enos and his warriors were driven off and pursued up the Rogue, where the fighting finally ended. Enos himself was captured, tried and hanged in Port Orford in 1857.

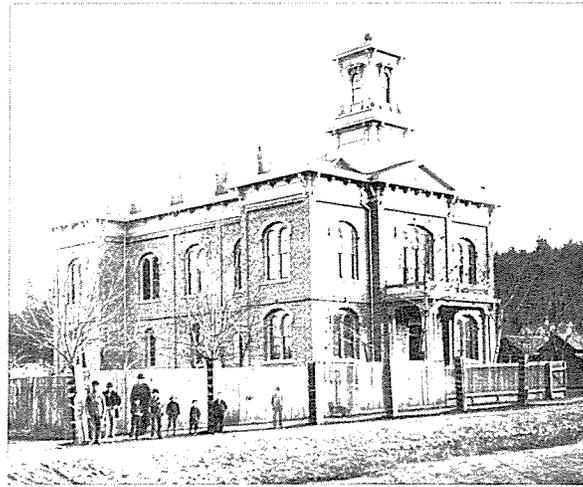


ENDNOTES

1. Some historians seem to have confused this Shasta Indian with a Modoc sub-chief named Scarfaced Charley, who was Captain Jack's Lieutenant when General Canby was murdered in the Lava Beds in 1872.
2. The Ross story appeared in the May, June and July 1982 issues of the Table Rock Sentinel.
3. An Indian account of this massacre, recounted in Jeff Riddle's book, *The Indian History of the Modoc War*, varies as to the events leading up to the shooting, but describes the same outcome. Although Riddle was born ten years after the massacre, his mother was a Modoc and may have provided an eyewitness account to her son.
4. Although Wright was credited with being a just administrator and an advocate of Palmer's plan to end Indian hostilities by mediation, the darker side of his character occasionally emerged when drinking led him to abuse Indian women. In a scandalous incident related by Rev. Parrish, Wright reportedly stripped Chetco Jenny in a drunken fury and whipped her as she ran naked through the streets of Port Orford.

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*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.*



1986/87  
Annual Report

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# Report on Financial Statements



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Audit Committee  
SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
206 North Fifth Street  
Jacksonville, OR 97530

We have examined the statement of assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the various funds and account groups of Southern Oregon Historical Society as of June 30, 1987, and the related statements of activity for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

As described in Note 1, the Historical Society prepares its financial statements on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements; consequently, certain revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned, and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Also, as described in Note 1, the Historical Society does not maintain adequate fixed assets records to determine historical cost. Because we are unable to satisfy ourselves by appropriate audit tests, or by other means, as a result of incomplete records, we are unable to express an opinion of the General Fixed Asset Group of Accounts.

In our opinion, the 1987 financial statements referred to above, other than the General Fixed Assets Group of Accounts, present fairly the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of Southern Oregon Historical Society, as of June 30, 1987, and its revenue collected and expenditures paid, and changes in fund balances for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1, which basis has been applied on a consistent manner.

*Yergen and Meyer*  
Medford, Oregon  
September 9, 1987

# Statement of Assets & Liabilities

June 30, 1987  
Cash Basis

## ASSETS

	Operating Fund	Acquisition & Building Reserve Fund	General Fixed Assets Group	Total (Memorandum Only)
Current assets:				
Cash	\$ 190,581	\$ 1,005,255		\$ 1,195,836
Inventory	25,248			25,248
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>215,829</u>	<u>1,005,255</u>		<u>1,221,084</u>
Cash held for investment	50,000			50,000
Fixed assets—Note 1			\$ 1,053,647	1,053,647
	50,000		1,053,647	1,103,647
	<u>\$ 265,829</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,225</u>	<u>\$ 1,053,647</u>	<u>\$ 2,324,731</u>

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

### Commitments—Note 3 & 4

#### Fund balances:

#### Land, building & equipment:

Assets from:				
Operating fund			698,647	698,647
Contribution			355,000	355,000
Reserved for inventory	25,248			25,248
Reserved for Wells Fargo Foundation		799		799
Reserved for Willows Memorial Fund		4,456		4,456
Reserved for Building Fund		1,000,000		1,000,000
Unreserved	<u>240,581</u>			<u>240,581</u>
	<u>\$ 265,829</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>	<u>\$ 1,053,647</u>	<u>\$ 2,324,731</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Activity

For the Year Ended June 30, 1987  
Cash Basis

	Operating Fund	Acquisition and Building Reserve Fund	Total (Memorandum Only)
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>			
Taxes	\$ 1,024,255		\$ 1,024,255
Interest	24,102	\$ 47,599	71,701
Grants	3,676		3,676
Donations	25,868	105	25,973
Membership dues	25,417		25,417
Sales shop net loss	( 12,563)		( 12,563)
Revenues—auxiliary activities	7,265		7,265
	<u>1,098,020</u>	<u>47,704</u>	<u>1,145,724</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<b>Program expenses:</b>			
Curatorial	384,022		384,022
Exhibits	39,374		39,374
Branch museums	71,331		71,331
Grants-in-aid	3,426		3,426
Public Programs	174,592		174,592
	<u>672,745</u>		<u>672,745</u>
<b>Support services:</b>			
Management and general	392,805		392,805
Contingency	56,512		56,512
	<u>449,317</u>		<u>449,317</u>
	<u>1,122,062</u>		<u>1,122,062</u>
Support and revenue over (under) expenses, before capital outlay	( 24,042)	47,704	23,662
Capital outlay—Note 1		15,309	15,309
Support and revenue over (under) expenses	( 24,042)	32,395	8,353
Transfer for building reserve	( 27,738)	27,738	
Fund balances, beginning of year	292,361	945,122	1,237,483
Fund balances, end of year	<u>\$ 240,581</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>	<u>\$ 1,245,836</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Operating Fund

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY—BUDGET AND ACTUAL

For the Year Ended June 30, 1987  
Cash Basis

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>			
Taxes	\$ 956,254	\$ 1,024,255	\$ 68,001
Interest	45,000	24,102	( 20,898)
Grants	250,200	3,676	( 246,524)
Donations	61,000	25,868	( 35,132)
Membership	20,000	25,417	5,417
Sales shop net loss	( 9,610)	( 12,563)	( 2,953)
Revenues—auxiliary activities	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,265</u>	<u>265</u>
	<u>1,329,844</u>	<u>1,098,020</u>	<u>( 231,824)</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
<b>Program expenses:</b>			
Curatorial	389,750	384,022	5,737
Exhibits	40,844	39,374	1,503
Branch museums	78,379	71,331	7,048
Unrestricted grants	250,000	3,426	246,574
Public programs	<u>208,892</u>	<u>174,592</u>	<u>34,300</u>
	<u>967,907</u>	<u>672,745</u>	<u>295,162</u>
<b>Support services:</b>			
Management and general	411,647	392,805	18,842
Contingency	<u>60,290</u>	<u>56,512</u>	<u>3,778</u>
	<u>461,937</u>	<u>449,317</u>	<u>22,620</u>
	<u>1,439,844</u>	<u>1,122,062</u>	<u>317,782</u>
Support and revenue over (under) expenses	( 110,000)	( 24,042)	85,958
Transfer for building reserve		( 27,738)	( 27,738)
Cash and fund balance, beginning of year	<u>310,000</u>	<u>292,361</u>	<u>( 17,639)</u>
Cash and fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 200,000</u>	<u>\$ 240,581</u>	<u>\$ 40,581</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# Acquisition & Building Reserve Fund

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY—BUDGET AND ACTUAL

For the Year Ended June 30, 1987

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Support and revenue:			
Interest		\$ 47,599	\$ 47,599
Grants	\$ 265,000		( 265,000)
Donations		105	105
	<u>265,000</u>	<u>47,704</u>	<u>( 217,296)</u>
Capital Outlay	<u>1,265,000</u>	<u>15,309</u>	<u>1,249,691</u>
Excess of support and revenue over capital outlay	( 1,000,000)	32,395	1,032,395
Transfer for building fund		27,738	27,728
Cash and fund balance, beginning of year	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>945,122</u>	( 54,878)
Cash and fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ ( -0- )</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>	<u>\$ 1,005,255</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Note 1—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**NATURE OF OPERATIONS**—The Society is a tax-exempt organization established in the State of Oregon under the provision of the Oregon Non-Profit Corporation Act for the purpose of acquisition by gift, purchase or other means, of real and personal property, for use in connection with the preservation of historical objects.

**METHOD OF ACCOUNTING**—The accounting records of the Society are maintained on the cash basis, whereby revenue is recorded when cash is received and expenses are recorded when paid. Effect is not given to accounts receivable, accounts payable, or other accrued items.

**FUND ACCOUNTING**—The accounts of the Society are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The Society utilizes the following funds and account groups in carrying out the financial affairs of the Society:

**Operating Fund**—Accounts for the resources relating to the daily operation of the Society. Principal sources of revenue property tax receipts, membership dues, donations and earnings on investments.

**Acquisition and Building Reserve Fund**—Accounts for resources reserved and resources budgeted and expended for the acquisition and/or repair of real property to be used for the furtherance of the Society's purpose. Principal source of revenue is the earnings on investments.

**General Fixed Assets Group**—Accounts for assets owned by the Society, whether purchased (cost) or donated (fair market value). However, adequate records are not available to establish the historical cost of these assets.

**INVENTORY**—Inventory of Sales Shop is priced at cost. Inventory shown consists of items held for resale. The cost is recorded as an expenditure at the time the inventory items were purchased. Reported inventory is recorded for informational purposes only and is offset by a reserve of an equal amount.

**FIXED ASSETS**—Adequate records are not available to establish the historical cost of fixed assets. Depreciation is not recorded on fixed assets.

Historical objects, non-historical equipment and donated real property, specifically donated to the Society, are included in fixed assets. The cost of these items purchased in the current year are included in the various departments as an expense and are also added to the balance of fixed assets as shown in the financial statements for the

prior fiscal year.

The costs of real properties purchased by the Society are owned by Jackson County. Consequently, the costs of such properties are not included in the General Fixed Assets Group. The costs of real properties are shown as a capital outlay. Capital outlay for the year represents feasibility costs and earnest money for a proposed building purchase and architectural services for other historical properties.

**CONTRIBUTED SERVICES**—The Society has chosen not to record the value of services for volunteers who have assisted in the development of the Society's programs, since it is not susceptible to objective measurement.

### Note 2—Retirement Program

The Society participates in a retirement annuity program. Under this program, all full time employees with one year full time service are eligible to participate. Under this program, 4% of participating employees' salaries is withheld and the Society contributes an additional 8%. The Society's policy is to fully fund each year's expense, and no unfunded liability exists. Society contributions to this program for the fiscal year were \$26,797.

### Note 3—Lease Commitments

The Society leased land from Jackson County for a period of 50 years beginning October 1, 1984. Consideration for the lease was construction and maintenance of an archives building. All improvements are part of the real property and revert to the lessor upon termination of the lease.

The Society leased the first floor and basement of the Swedenburg House from the State Board of Higher Education for the period of 25 years beginning August 30, 1984. Consideration for the lease was \$100,000, which was paid in 1983.

The Society leased the museum complex and other buildings from Jackson County for a period of one year, with annual renewal beginning March 1, 1985. Consideration for the lease is maintenance and preservation of all land and buildings.

### Note 4—Purchase Commitment

The Society has offered to purchase a building located in Medford, Oregon for \$275,000. An earned money deposit of \$5,000 accompanied the offer. The purchase is contingent upon a satisfactory appraisal of the property.

# Society Update

## Discovery Walk Brochure Now Available

The Society's Interpretation Department has spent the past year developing a brochure for teachers and youth group leaders to help them lead guided walking tours of historic Jacksonville.

Information contained in "Discovery Walk" will introduce major historic sites, events, and people to students as they travel up and down the streets of this unique National Historic Landmark. The one-half mile tour highlights the gold mining era; the development of a town with its medical, dental, fire-fighting, and educational needs; the old Chinatown district; and many more fascinating points of interest.

Flyers are now being distributed throughout the Jackson County and other southern Oregon school systems announcing the availability of the "Discovery Walk" brochure. Teachers interested in obtaining a free copy should contact the Society at 899-1847.

## Society to Host Museum Association Meeting

On March 6-7, the Society will play host to museum professionals from around the state at the spring meeting of the Oregon Museum Association. This will be a rare opportunity for the Society to spotlight many of southern Oregon's fine historic sites and offerings.

The meeting will begin with an evening reception on Sunday at the U.S. Hotel in Jacksonville. Those attending are encouraged to bring examples of their publications for critiquing by professionals in the printing business.

On Monday morning, Larry Tise, newly-appointed director of the American Association for State and Local History, will address the

group. Following a brief business meeting, participants will be invited to a sneak preview and "behind-the-scenes" tour of the exhibit, "Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley," which will open in the Jacksonville Museum on March 26-27.

The afternoon session,

"Publications: Everyone Does It, Let's All Do It Better," is planned to help museums improve their printed materials. Natalie Brown, Society coordinator of photography and publications, will serve as moderator for a panel consisting of a graphic designer, printer, and promotional consultant.

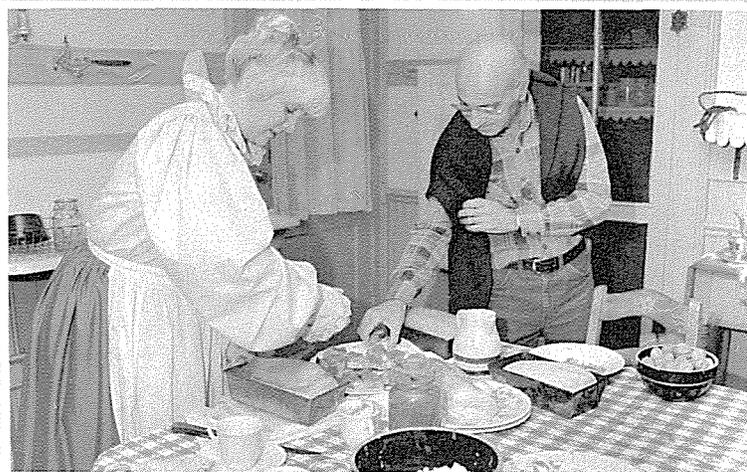


photo by Natalie Brown

**Tamara Griffin as the family's hired girl serves fresh bread and apple butter to visitors in the Beekman House kitchen. This year will be Tamara's fourth season participating in the Living History program.**

## Wanted: Living History Actors

The Southern Oregon Historical Society invites you to become part of its Living History Program this summer. People of all ages are needed as costumed greeters or to portray members of the Beekman family, their friends, relatives, employees and music students at the Beekman House and Beekman Bank in Jacksonville.

Both volunteer and paid positions are available. Volunteers will work an average of one afternoon a week between May 27 and September 5, and participate in a thorough training program beginning mid-April. Society staff will begin arranging for costumes soon, so don't delay. Notify Volunteer Coordinator Marge

Herman or Lead Interpreter Carolyn Sharrock at 899-1847 if you would like to be part of this entertaining and rewarding volunteer experience.

A few part-time paid positions are available at \$3.50 per hour for a 20- to 26- hour workweek including weekends. If you are interested please pick up an application and job description at the Jacksonville Museum or the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum in Ashland. Applications must be returned to the Society's administrative offices in the Armstrong House, 375 East California Street, Jacksonville, no later than March 31.

## Volunteers Needed

Active involvement from members and other area residents enable the Society to provide a number of services that would otherwise not be available to the public. There is always need for individuals who are willing to commit a little of their time to help. Currently the Society's Volunteer Department is looking for people interested in the following volunteer positions:

**Docent:** Docents are volunteers who greet museum visitors, interpret exhibits, and answer questions. They also provide security for the valuable artifacts on display.

A significant expansion of the Society's Docent Program is underway for the early spring opening of "Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley." This exhibit will be far more interpretive than earlier displays in the upstairs courtroom of the Jacksonville Museum. To prepare for increased public interest, additional docents are needed.

The Volunteer Department is looking for people of all ages who enjoy history, sharing information, and meeting people. Previous experience is not required. Docent training requires attendance to three training sessions:

Thursday, March 10 or Saturday  
March 12, and  
Mondays, March 14 and 21.

Each session runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with an hour lunch break. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Marge Herman at 899-1847 to reserve a space or for further information.

**Gift Shop Assistants:** The Society's Gift Shop in the Jacksonville Museum has a nice selection of books and history-related items for visitors to "take a piece of southern Oregon's heritage home with them." Assistants work 2-3 hours one afternoon each week, primarily greeting and helping customers.

New volunteers are required to

attend one general orientation. They will receive additional training as they work in the gift shop. Interested individuals should contact Volunteer Coordinator Marge Herman at 899-1847.

## Railroad Exhibit On Its Way

"Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley" is scheduled to arrive on time for its opening on March 26-27. Society staff members are working hard to put the finishing touches on what is hoped to be one of the most successful exhibits the Society has produced.

A considerable amount of effort goes into developing an exhibition of this nature: two months of

patching and painting the courtroom walls in the Jacksonville Museum, ten months of researching the subject, seven months of writing the interpretation and composing exhibit labels, nine months of identifying and gathering artifacts from the collections, eight months of locating appropriate photographs and archival materials, two months of reproducing photographs, five months of designing the exhibit, and three months of exhibit fabrication.

"Making Tracks" will be the first major exhibit to appear in the upstairs courtroom of the Jacksonville Museum since the mid-1970s. A "Members Only" opening reception is planned for Saturday, March 26, from 7-9 p.m. with a general public opening to follow on Sunday, March 27.



Quilters demonstrate their art at last January's show.

photo by Jean K. Hagen

## Quilters' Talents Uncovered

Last January the U.S. Hotel ballroom was filled with the look of yesteryear when the Jacksonville Museum Quilters exhibited a selection of quilts that the group has worked on during its eleven-year existence. Many of those featured in the display were from the Society's historic collection. Over 1,050 visitors turned out for the popular mid-winter event.

The Jacksonville Museum Quilters have the largest collection of historic motifs and quilt blocks on the West Coast, numbering nearly one thousand. The success

of their shows has resulted in statewide recognition for the talented group.

Recently, Visual Arts Resources of the University of Oregon chose approximately 100 of the Quilter's blocks to include in its traveling exhibit program. "Patchwork of History" will display each block, its pattern name and history, and several completed quilts. Once it begins traveling in September, people throughout Oregon and the Northwest will come to know the beauty and history of this traditional American craft and art form.

# Welcome New Members

## SENIOR

Daryl Ackley, *Eagle Point*  
 Edwin Hugh Barron, *Ventura, CA*  
 Vincent Claflin, *Phoenix*  
 Florence Forstee, *Medford*  
 Virginia Haycock, *Medford*  
 Edwin Jones, *Jacksonville*  
 Joan Puckett, *Eugene*  
 Raymond Shaver, *Medford*  
 Hazel Swayne, *Medford*  
 George F. Ward, *Ashland*

## INDIVIDUAL

Nick Clark, *Muncie, IN*  
 Dale King, *Klamath Falls*

Patricia Moore, *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Anita Niedermeyer, *Central Point*  
 Adrienne Norris, *Hubbard*  
 Waren Parker, *Placerville, CA*  
 Lola Saltgaver, *Central Point*  
 Douglas Smith, *Ashland*  
 Marilee Titus, *Tacoma, WA*  
 Verna Webb, *Yreka, CA*

## FAMILY

Morris and Donna Arthur, *Eagle Point*  
 Steve Gordenier, *Portland*  
 Karl and Bette Rose Hayes, *Oregon City*  
 Thomas and Bonnie Pickering, *Jacksonville*

## CONTRIBUTOR

Richard Hay, *Ashland*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Oldson, *Medford*  
 DeVere and Margaret Taylor, *Medford*

## BUSINESS

Lassman Weber  
 Communications, *Medford*

## SPONSOR

Marjorie Strober, *Medford*

# Renewing Members

## SENIORS

Frank Boothby, *Shady Cove*  
 Mrs. Albert Brown, *Charmichael, CA*  
 Helen Burgess, *Jacksonville*  
 Harry Chipman, *Central Point*  
 Lillian Christ, *Phonix*  
 Myrtle Clark, *Central Point*  
 Ollie Conrad, *Central Point*  
 Margaret Cox, *Medford*  
 Marjorie Davis, *Medford*  
 L. Dean DeVore, *Medford*  
 Edmund Dews, *Santa Monica, CA*  
 Belle Douglas, *Ashland*

O.A. Eden, *Portland*  
 Florence Fish, *Central Point*  
 Margaret Fitzgerald, *Talent*  
 Florence Forster, *Medford*  
 Lucile Galbraith, *Sonora, CA*  
 Evelyn Graham, *Jacksonville*  
 Janet Granger, *Medford*  
 Kay Green, *Central Point*  
 Wanda Hanson, *Medford*  
 Sammye Harris, *Medford*  
 Elizabeth Heckert, *Medford*  
 Mrs. Ella Hendrixson, *Ashland*  
 Mrs. Gertrude Hess, *Ashland*  
 Robert Hoefs, *Beaverton*

John Horner, *Jacksonville*  
 Don House, *Medford*  
 P.G. Humphreys, *Tigard*  
 Lucille Ireland, *Grants Pass*  
 George Jackson, *Lakeview*  
 Mrs. J.W. King, *Ashland*  
 Ynez Koenig, *Alameda*  
 Mark Lawrence, *Medford*  
 Thelma Lininger, *Medford*  
 Mrs. John Mardon, *Medford*  
 George Mason, *Ashland*  
 Erma Maust, *Beaverton*  
 Dorothy McDougall, *Central Point*  
 Carl Miller, *Ashland*

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

8-2

Doroth Rivett Miller, *Medford*  
 Helene Milligan, *Jacksonville*  
 Ruth Morris, *Ashland*  
 John Niemeyer, *Eagle Point*  
 Mrs. George Niemi, *Ashland*  
 A.D. Parr, *Medford*  
 Roberta Peck, *Medford*  
 Charles Petty, *Ashland*  
 Sybil Reames, *Salem*  
 Bob Rice, *Medford*  
 Anna Salisbury, *Medford*  
 M. Louise Scott-Solis, *Sacramento, CA*  
 Florin J. Shasky, *Medford*  
 Blanford Shores, *Medford*  
 Mrs. William Smith, *Ashland*  
 Mrs. Lloyd Staples, *Eugene*  
 Donna Straus, *Medford*  
 Edna Stoehr, *Medford*  
 Clifford Sullivan, *Medford*  
 Marian Thurston, *Jacksonville*  
 Russell Ulrich, *Penn Valley, CA*  
 Mabel Wertz, *Medford*  
 Mrs. William Wheat, *Medford*  
 Helen Wilson, *Medford*  
 Mrs. H.B. Y 'Blood, *Floydada, TX*  
 Alice Zwan, *Medford*

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 Geraldine Bird, *Tualatin*  
 Robert Blanton, *Medford*  
 Mark Boyden, *Medford*  
 Ralph Clemans, *Central Point*  
 Jane Conrad, *Spanaway, WA*  
 Karma Denton, *Medford*  
 Pauline Dickey, *Medford*  
 Col. Jerry Disharoon, *Ashland*  
 Darlene Dodd, *Phoenix*

Joseph Garzillo, *Los Angeles, CA*  
 Karen Ireland, *Portland*  
 Irving Lord, *Ashland*  
 Marjorie Martindale, *Riddle*  
 Wes Mason, *Ashland*  
 Charles Mitchelmore, *Medford*  
 J. Richard Morgan, *Medford*  
 Beverly Ownby, *Gold Hill*  
 Nina Pence, *Klamath Falls*  
 Susan Pilkington-Hayse, *Gresham*  
 Don Riegger, *Medford*  
 Timothy Root, *Medford*  
 Evelyn Sherman, *Medford*  
 Jean Smith, *Central Point*  
 Claudia Steinbroner, *Ashland*  
 Cleve Twitchell, *Ashland*  
 Cynthia Wicklund, *Medford*  
 Evert Wicklund, *Medford*

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Norman and Bonnie Alander, *White City*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Alsing, *Ashland*  
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 Wayne and Mary Chipman, *Central Point*  
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 Gene Hamilton, *Ashland*  
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 Herb and Nell Lewis, *Ashland*  
 Elmer and Marella Luschen, *Medford*  
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 Larry and Alice Mullaly, *Central Point*  
 Clarence and Alice Olson, *Phoenix*  
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John A. Redmond, *Cocoa Beach, FL*  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Hale Wheeler, *Jacksonville*  
 Robert and Marion Will, *Pacific, WA*  
 Robert Williamson, *Salem*

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 Margaret Ewing, *Medford*  
 Wesley Hoxie, *Ashland*  
 Charles and Janet Ivie, *Ashland*  
 Dorothy Mumford, *Annapolis, MD*  
 James and Suzanne Nelson, *Eagle Point*  
 Stanford and Edith Ness, *Medford*  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nurre, *Idyllwild, CA*  
 Kathis Olsen, *Medford*

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 Combined Transport, *Central Point*  
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 Pratt, Jamieson, *Medford*  
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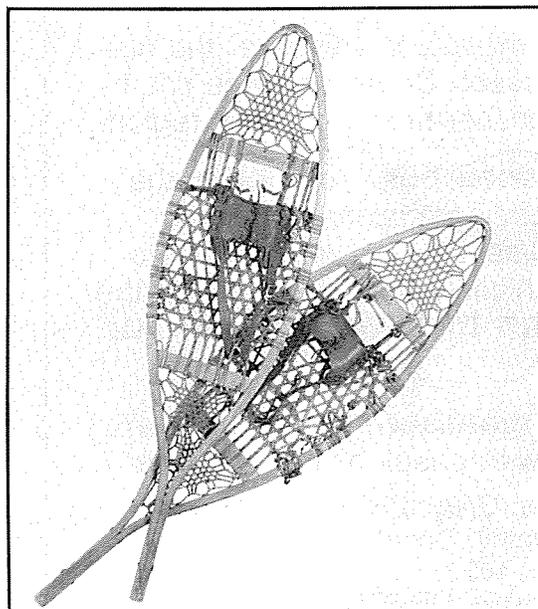
Lining and Sons, Inc., *Medford*  
 George Peckham, *Seattle, WA*  
 David and Kathleen Thompson, *Medford*

## From the Collections

Sometimes strapping on showshoes is the only way to travel on foot across deep snow. People wearing them stay on top of the snow instead of sinking because their weight is supported and distributed over a larger area than the bottom of their feet.

Medford resident Mary Snider Greeman donated these snowshoes to the Society in 1966. The pair originally belonged to M.L. Edwards, a ranger at Crater Lake national Park in the 1910s who was one of the first rangers to stay in the park through an entire winter.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society houses numerous artifacts that, owing to limited exhibit space, are not often seen by visitors. The Society hopes that featuring an item each month in this column will provide an enjoyable and educational view of the scope of its collections.



# Regional Digest

## Modoc War Symposium to be Held at Lava Beds

Several agencies and organizations have joined forces to present a symposium of the Modoc War and its aftermath at the Lava Beds National Monument on March 27 and 28, 1988. Members of third and fourth generations of those caught in the conflict will share their stories, with war strategy and tactics interpreted at the battle sites.

In December 1872, a small detachment of troops from Fort Klamath, Oregon, attempted to

arrest and return a band of 30 Modoc families to the Klamath Reservation. The Modocs fled and safely entrenched themselves in the "stronghold" on the southern shore of Tule Lake.

The US Army made plans to surround and attack them. Thick, impenetrable fog enveloped the entire Tule Lake basin on the morning of January 17. The army attacked, moving down the bluff and across 3 1/2 mile of rugged terrain and advancing in a line.

Soldiers fired at shadows in the fog. No Indians were actually seen that day, but 37 soldiers were killed or wounded by so-called "phantoms" in the fog. The Modocs suffered no casualties.

During the following five months, 53 Modoc warriors repeatedly defeated a complement of US regulars and volunteers twenty times their strength. Their success lay in their skilled use of the volcanic terrain, the magic of their Shaman, and the fact that their enemy was unprepared for warfare amidst the jagged lava formations.

One hundred and fifty years later, the land has changed little--just as rugged, just as silent. The misery suffered by both sides can still be felt. Many names have been lost to history, but their legacy remains at the sites where they faced their enemy.

The public is invited to participate in this special two-day symposium. Registration is limited to 300 participants. For further information, write to: Modoc War Symposium, Lava Beds National Monument, P.O. Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134, or call (916) 667-2282.

### And in Ashland...

The Ashland Heritage Group has issued to the curious an invitation to join a small, informal group of individuals who share a common interest in the history of Ashland. The organization has planned several outings and activities for spring and early summer, including field trips to Hornbrook Cemetery on March 17 and Lithia Springs on April 21.

The Ashland Heritage Group is headquartered at the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum. For further information, please call Nan Hannon or Jean Vondracek at 488-1341.

## Celebrating History in Josephine County

The Rogue Community College and the Josephine County Historical Society have put together a series of events to foster public interest in the unique heritage of southern Oregon. Programs are free and will be held in the Rogue Building on the Rogue Community College campus in Grants Pass. "Oregon Comeback to the Past--Celebrate Our Heritage" will culminate in a "Pioneer Fair" on May 20-22.

**Lewis and Clark Expedition: Trade and the American Dream,** Sunday, February 21, 2:30 p.m.

Internationally known puppeteers Susan Barthel and Bruce Chesse of the Oregon Puppet Theatre will bring Lewis, Clark, and Sacajewea to life through hand and rod puppet dramatizations. Slides, music and period costumes will make this an event for all ages.

**Abigail and Others: The Northwest Women,** Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.

Jane Van Boskirk of the Northwest Touring Theatre will highlight the grit, humor and wisdom of women who sowed the seeds of civilization, culture and conscience in the western wilderness. Chico Schwall, master of a myriad of old-time instruments will set the stage with foot-stomping folk music and ballads.

**Colonel Leroy Heston: Letters to the Folks Back Home,** Friday,

April 15, 7:30 p.m.

In 1921 Leroy Heston graduated from Grants Pass High School and went on to a life of adventure, intrigue and success as a pilot and intelligence officer. John Cova will share the Colonel's exciting life through slides and selections from letters (part of the Josephine County Historical Society collections) written by Heston to his folks back home on "K" Street.

**Indian Heritage: A Personal Perspective,** Sunday, April 24, 2:30 p.m.

Jim Martin, great-grandson of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians, will share his personal perspective on Indian history, philosophy and legends.

**Stagecoaching in Southern Oregon,** Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Using slides and colorful stories, Gary Meier, author of *Knights of the Whip*, will discuss early public transportation via stagecoach.

# 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, Siskiyou Boulevard and Mountain Avenue, Ashland, Tues.-Sat., 1-5 p.m.

**February 23** The Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting in the conference room of Jackson County Education Services building, Grape and Fir Streets, Medford, at 7:30 p.m. Members and the general public are invited.

**March 20** "Inherit the Wind," remake of the classic starring Kirk Douglas, Jason Robards and Darren McGavin and filmed in part in Jacksonville, will air on NBC Sunday, March 20. Exterior courthouse scenes were filmed in front of the Jacksonville Museum, and downtown Jacksonville supplied a historic atmosphere.

**March 24** "Workin' on the Railroad," a children's workshop, will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the Eagle Point Library, 158 West Main Street, Eagle Point. Youngsters, ages 7-12, will construct a small scale model of the O & C Railroad using boxes and other materials. Each child will build a portion of the train. When finished the sections will be assembled together and displayed in the Children's Museum in Jacksonville. Participants also will sing railroad songs and become part of a "human train," using such props as a conductor's cap, luggage, whistles, and imagination! Admission is free.

**March 26** "Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroad in the Rogue Valley" **Members Only** reception from 6-9 p.m. Details to arrive soon in member's mailboxes, but mark your calendars now for this special event. A public opening will follow on Sunday, March 27.

All offices and departments of the **Southern Oregon Historical Society**, except the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, may be reached by calling (503)899-1847. The Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum's phone number is (503)488-1341.

**Jacksonville Museum**, P.O. Box 480, 205 North 5th Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Tues.- Sun., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Research Library** in the Jacksonville Museum, P.O. Box 480, 205 North 5th Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Tues.- Fri., 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Children's Museum**, P.O. Box 480, 206 North 5th Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Tues.- Sun., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum**, 990 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland, OR 97520. Open Tues.- Sat., 1 - 5 p.m.

**Administrative Offices**, Armstrong House, 375 East California Street, Jacksonville, OR 97530. Open Mon.- Fri., 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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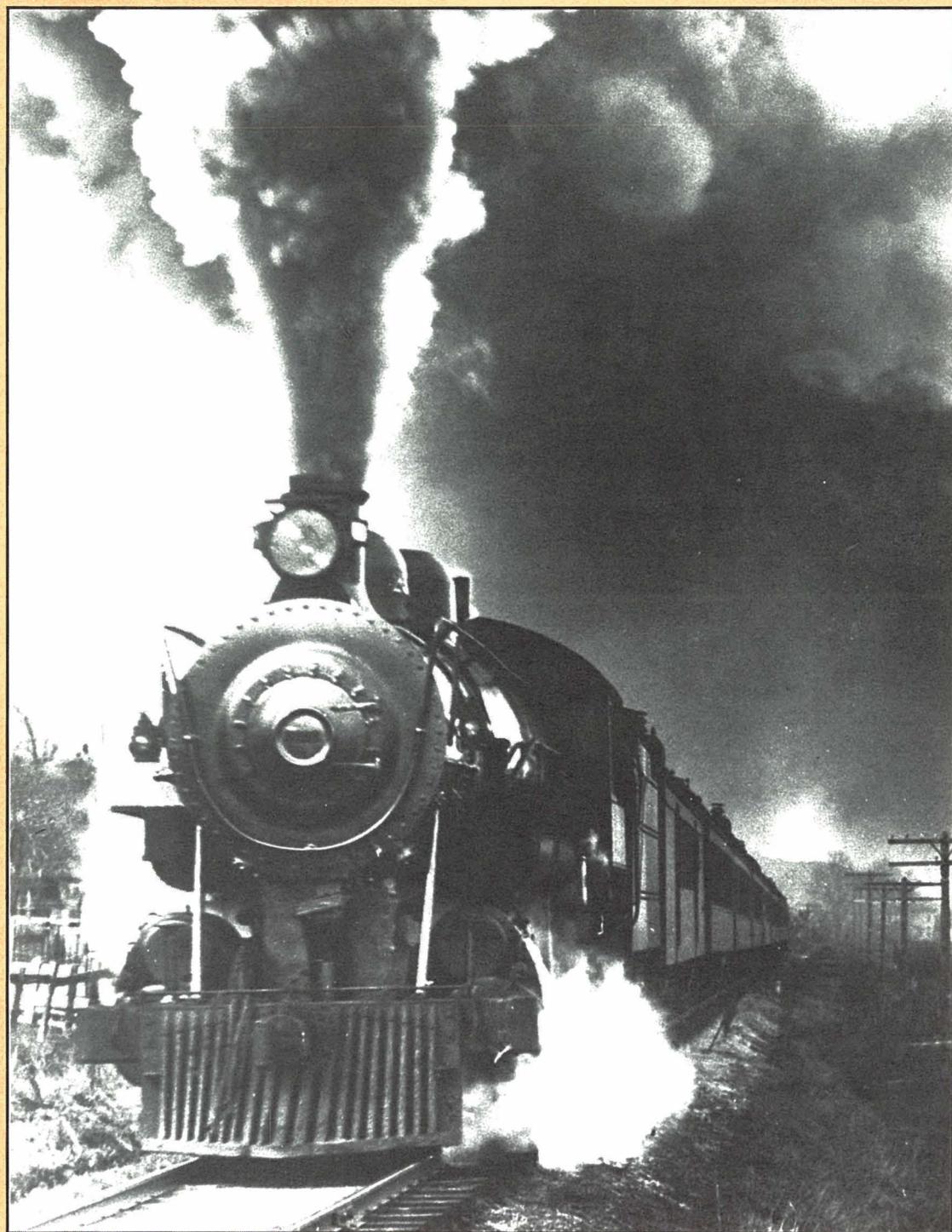
The  
**Table Rock Sentinel**  
is the monthly  
magazine of the  
Southern Oregon  
Historical Society

TABLE ROCK

\$2.50

# SENTINEL

MARCH 1988



The  
Magazine  
of the  
Southern  
Oregon  
Historical  
Society

# Commentary

It opens March 26th. And you get to see it first. I'm speaking of the Society's first major exhibit since the Magna Carta came to town in November 1986. "Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley" makes its debut in the Jacksonville Museum late this month. Society members will have the first opportunity to see the exhibit during the members-only reception on Saturday, March 26th, from 6 to 9 p.m.



This is the first large-scale exhibit change in the Jacksonville Museum since the mid-1970s. The exhibit occupies the entire second-floor courtroom and tells not only the story of the coming of the railroad but also the tremendous impact railroading has had on the growth and development of the Rogue Valley in the past one hundred years. We look forward to seeing you at the members' reception on March 26th. Just to whet your appetite and heighten your interest we are including in this issue a feature article by Society staff member Sue Waldron who conducted much of the research that helped make this exhibit possible.

The January issue of the *Sentinel* reported on an effort underway to raise funds for the repair and restoration of McKee Covered Bridge in the Applegate Valley. This significant historical landmark has been the victim of time and the elements and now is in need of major repairs.

Anyone who has lived very long in this area has heard of McKee Bridge. Most residents of the region have visited the bridge and adjacent picnic area at one time or another. But to truly appreciate the bridge today one must understand the story of its past and the people who figured in its history. To that end we present a feature article in this issue on the history of McKee Bridge written by Society Trustee Mark Wolfe.



Samuel J. Wegner  
Executive Director



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The **Table Rock Sentinel** is published monthly by the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Administrative and membership offices are at 205 N. Fifth St., Jacksonville, OR 97530-0480. Subscription is free with membership. Single copies and back issues are available for \$2.50 each.

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

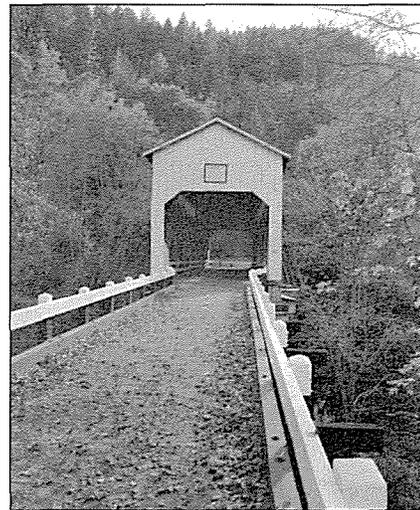
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**Features**

**4 Growing Up in Ashland's Railroad District**

*by Sue Waldron*

The railroad schedule and surprises brought on the trains governed the activities of the community which developed near the tracks. In this exciting atmosphere, opportunities abounded for children to work and play. Marie Prescott and Elizabeth Fenger remember the pranks, chores, and trains of their childhood.

**12 The Bridge at McKee's Place** *by Mark Wolfe*

The treacherous roads through the Applegate area did not provide adequate access to the Blue Ledge mines. The McKee Bridge crossing the Applegate River not only provided an easier, alternate route, but also became a favored picnic area and wayside for weary travelers.

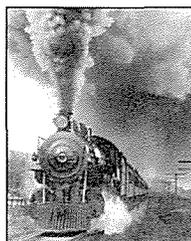
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**cover:** A "Mikado Type" 3-2-0-0 class steam engine pulls into Ashland near the Helman Street crossing in 1912. SOHS #10503.



*(opposite)* A crowd gathers to send Ashland's National Guard company off for a "secret" assignment during World War I. SOHS #6585

*(below)* Childhood chums Paul Jones (l) and Elizabeth Carter (r) show off toothless smiles. Elizabeth's brother, Wayne, joins them.

# Growing Up In Ashland's Railroad District

by Sue Waldron

Settlers founded Ashland in early 1852, and the community developed as a farm supply center and mill town. The lumber, flour and woolen mills on Ashland Creek encouraged growth and the town spread along Main Street and beside the creek. Moderate growth continued through the 1860s and '70s. But because of the Rogue Valley's isolation by the surrounding mountains, businesses found that transportation problems limited the number of potential customers that they could serve.

It was 1859 before a "good" road was built south over the Siskiyou Mountains to California. About the same time a road was opened over the Coast Mountains to Crescent City. Yet even with improved roads the only transportation in and out of the valley was by stagecoach, expensive freight wagon or pack train, or on foot or horseback. This made it difficult to import or export products or materials. The area was largely self-sustaining.

Then in May 1884, after a ten-year delay in Roseburg, the Oregon and California Railroad reached Ashland. The first steam engine and cars that rolled into town so frightened one group of people that they drove their wagon into a ditch for protection. Others were excited by the idea that they could now take the train to Portland, connect with the transcontinental rail line and get to New York City in less than seven days. It was like traveling by telegraph!

When the railroad was completed south to California in 1887, Ashland, situated at the base of the Siskiyou Mountains, was an ideal location for a division headquarters. The railroad purchased the old Hargadine donation land claim<sup>1</sup> and began surveying for a



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Fenger

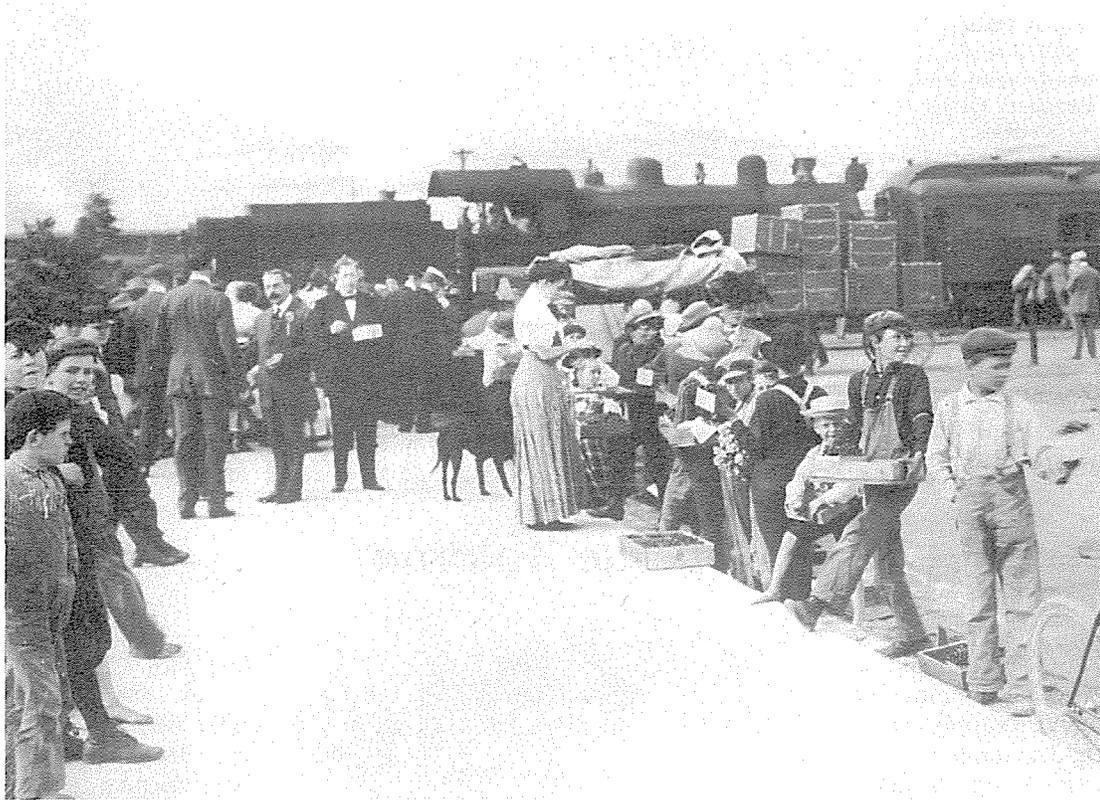
train yard.

By 1888 major building was under way in the train yard. A large depot hotel was built with sixty sleeping rooms, a dining room that would seat 200, a bar, baggage room, large kitchen and ticket office.<sup>2</sup> Across the tracks, the ten-bay roundhouse with a brick-lined turntable was built. Soon a water tank, ice storage building, car repair shop and stockyard were added. Once the train yard was established the

railroad made property west of the tracks available for homes and businesses, dividing the area into twenty-five-foot frontage lots. Contractors bought the lots and built what came to be called "railroad spec houses." Ashland's railroad district began to grow.

The district became a separate part of Ashland with restaurants, a grocery store, a drugstore, rooming houses, a bakery, an ice cream parlor, a pool hall and brothels. Livery stables, a butcher shop and a district fire department also crowded into the area around Fourth Street. It became a town within a town.

Some homes already existed in the district before the railroad came and most of those families stayed. But the railroad brought in many new families—different people. Railroaders moved often and their commitment was to the railroad, not the local community. They moved when the railroad asked them to; they had free passes to ride the trains; they were more cosmopolitan. Their rootless life kept many of them from having families. The number of single men increased dramatically in Ashland when the railroad arrived. These men did not want to own homes, so boarding houses flourished, as did the pool halls, restaurants, and Madam Eva's house of prostitution.



**Ashland children sold apples, peaches, plums, cherries and strawberries to railroad passengers at the depot. SOHS #11156**

There was an excitement about living in the railroad district, especially for children. Something was happening all the time. Trains came and went and there was noise and activity. Elizabeth Carter lived just east of the tracks on Mountain Avenue. She and her sister, Esther, and her brother, Wayne, grew up in the railroad district using the tracks to walk into town. Their father was H.B. Carter, who farmed his property, ran a dairy and worked for the railroad off and on. Marie Prescott and her brother, Glenn, also grew up in the railroad district. Clarence Prescott was Marie's father and he made his living as a carpenter. Marie was born on Blaine Street, moved to Third Street and has spent the rest of her life on B Street.

Children looked for excuses to go down to the depot. Mailing a letter was a good excuse and Marie remembers that if a kid was "real late and real brave and tall enough" the letter could be put in the slot on the side of the mail car itself. Another reason to go to the depot was to get Lithia water. In 1916 Ashland constructed three Lithia fountains, two in the park off the plaza and one north of the depot. Elizabeth's mother "...thought Lithia water was just wonderful. Mother would get a lot of lemons and we would get that darn Lithia water and she would put the lemons in it and

would think it was good and we children thought it was horrendous."<sup>4</sup>

A crowd of kids always waited at the depot when a train came in. Many were there to sell things to the passengers. They would have apples, peaches, plums and boxes of fresh strawberries or cherries. Sometimes the organ grinder would come to play a tune for the passengers. Wayne Carter sold magazines and newspapers and fresh roses were also available. With the construction of the Lithia fountain, one enterprising young man came to the depot at train time and sold paper cups. Each cup cost a nickle and allowed passengers to sample the Lithia water. After the train left, this outrageous young

man would pick up the used cups, dry them and sell them again to the next batch of train passengers.

Restaurants and hotels in the area hired young people to work as curb runners. When a train arrived, the curb runners' job was to move among the train passengers and encourage them to patronize the businesses they represented.

In the early 1900s Southern Pacific became alarmed at the number of near-accidents attributed to the antics of the boys selling at the depot. Some of them were caught catching rides of the cars as the train pulled into

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**The first steam engine and cars that rolled into town so frightened one group of people that they drove their wagon into a ditch for protection.**

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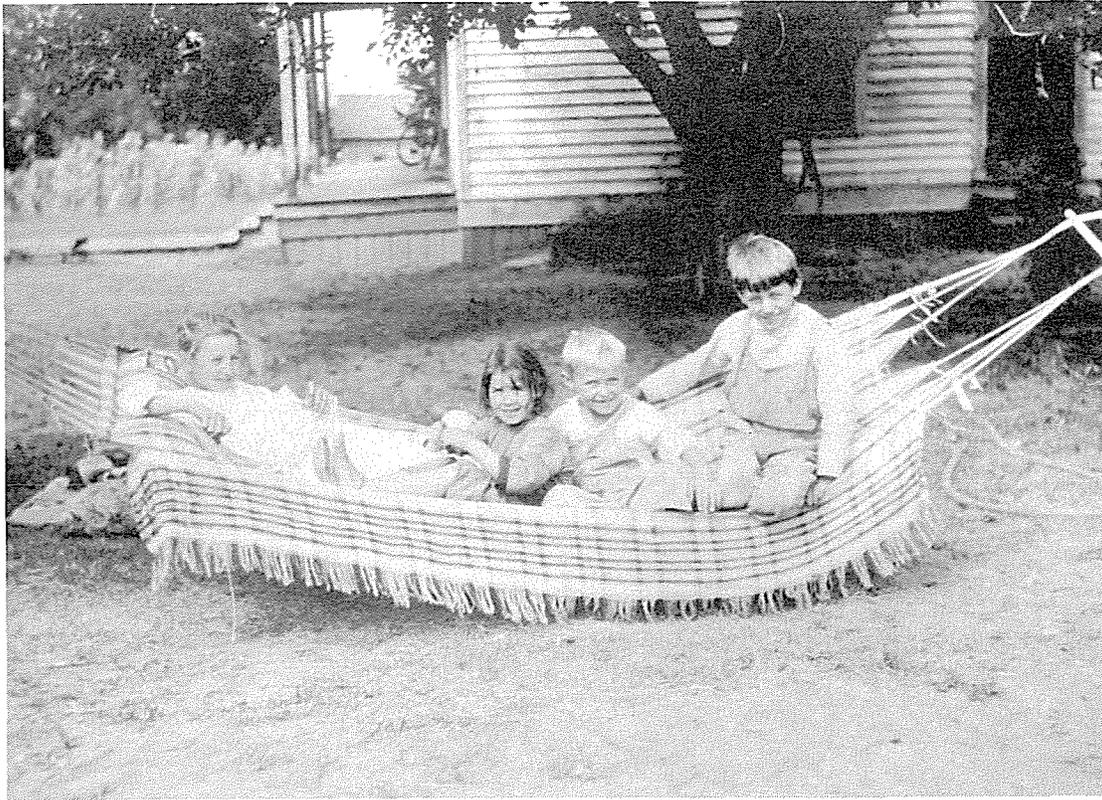


Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Fengler

Four of the Jones and Carter children squeeze in a hammock on a warm day in 1917.

the depot. In 1905 the cities of Eugene, Albany and Salem prohibited selling at the depot.<sup>5</sup> Grants Pass and Ashland tried licensing the boys and restricting them to certain areas for their selling. Ten years later Southern Pacific recommended an ordinance prohibiting all selling by children at the depot.<sup>6</sup>

Some young people, like Elizabeth Carter and her friends, loved to go down to the depot just to tease the Chinese cooks in the hotel kitchen. ‘...we had to go around to the back where all the cooks were. ...and we would holler ‘Houlama, Houlama, Houlama!’ Now we just made that word up but it sounded kinda Chinese, and they would come running out with their big cleavers and run down there after us...and we would just run for home down the tracks as fast as we could go. They were having just as much fun as we were, I’m sure.’<sup>7</sup>

Left behind when the gold rush slowed down, the Chinese turned to railroad work. By the early 1900s there were still a number of Chinese in the Ashland area. Most of them lived around Second and A Streets. Many worked as gandy dancers and on the section crews for the railroad. A number also worked as cooks and waiters at the hotels in Ashland. Since there were few Chinese women in the district, there were even fewer

Chinese children. Two well-known children were Jenny and Sammy Wah Chung. Their father was a labor contractor in Ashland and he ran a store. Elizabeth remembers going with her father and brother to the store to buy firecrackers. Sammy came to Elizabeth’s house many times to play. Marie remembers attending Jenny’s birthday party. ‘They invited everyone in Jenny’s room [in school] ...and it was a real meal—lovely food—served by Chinese men...and I can remember a salmon-type of salad that was delicious.’<sup>8</sup>

Children living in the railroad district didn’t chase the ice wagon down the street on hot summer days. Instead, they went up to the depot when the train came in. A bag-

gage cart was used to move ice from the storage building to the train yard. While the workers were busy up on the top of the train putting ice in the cars, boys would climb into the cart and chip off a piece of ice to suck on—much easier than chasing a wagon on a hot day.

The depot was the main focus of activity in the area, but there were many other things to do without leaving the district. About 1910 George Damon decided to build a merry-go-round down at the end of B Street. Marie remembers that they built an octagonal-shaped building that had a water-powered motor to make it go

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**“Mother...would get that darn Lithia water and...put the lemons in it... and we children thought it was horrendous.”**

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Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Fenger

**Five well-balanced Ashland children demonstrate their equilibrium on stilts in Ashland's railroad district, 1919.**

around. They used an Amberola music box and there were bench-type seats. "Well, then a real merry-go-round came to town, with horses. and they set up down on the left hand side of B Street on Water Street. And, of course, that just ended their fancy merry-go-round with straight bench seats. And then one older lady, Mrs. Mickelson, fell off and broke her arm....that sort of ended the merry-go-round business. The Damons cut this merry-go-round into pie-like sections and lived in about half of it and the other half became a cabinetworks."

If a young person didn't mind some religious education, the mission on Fourth Street frequently put on free magic lantern slide shows. Just walking around in the district was fun, too. There were certain areas where skating and coaster wagons were frowned on because in those houses railroad men slept during the day. Across the street from the grocery store there was a house of prostitution. The kids walked by there deliberately and as Elizabeth says: "...that was a horrible place and we would walk by there and lo-o-o-k and look and giggle. That was a Ba-a-a-d place."<sup>10</sup>

Just walking around did require some care, especially at train time. Freight wagons and buses from the hotels made Fourth Street very busy. For many

years there were two Railway Express offices in Ashland, one at the depot and one on Main Street. At train time a wagon and team drove from Main Street to the depot to pick up deliveries. For many years the train schedule didn't vary and Mr. Turner's team learned the schedule. Occasionally when the train was late and Mr. Turner did not come out to make the run at the usual time, the team would start off alone. Marie remembers, "We've seen them go down Third Street just having a good time, taking the wagon back to the depot. We were excited of course--horses without any driver."

Running errands to the grocery store was a kid's chore. Since the Loomis and Nelson Grocery Store was on

the corner of Fourth and B Streets, just up the street from the depot, going to the store was not completely disagreeable, especially since Loomis and Nelson had a cat. George was the store cat and for a number of years the store could have been called "George's Store," at least by the children. George inspected all customers and might allow his fur to be stroked while the clerk filled your order. Loomis and Nelson was not a self-serve grocery store; a clerk waited on you. Most orders were charged, as railroad people were considered good credit. And if you lived near the store, Loomis and Nelson

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**"And then one older lady,  
Mrs. Mickelson, fell off and broke  
her arm...that sort of ended  
the merry-go-round business."**

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**Albert Powell, the "bearded cideman," grew and pressed his own apples near his home on A Street. He was a familiar sight at Ashland's depot. SOHS #4733**

would make home deliveries. George made the store special for kids but there was one regular lady customer that George did not like, a woman who always brought her dog. Marie tells about one day when the dog got loose and chased George. Luckily there was a glass case in the middle of the store with a door open. George jumped into the case, lay down in the middle of the razor blades and scissors display and began to wash ...after all it was his store.

Going to get milk was a chore Marie remembers. She went to Powell's Confection Store which was just behind the depot on A Street...you could get ice cream there too. Albert Powell started in business selling apple cider at the depot. He grew his own apples and using a cider press behind his home further up A Street, turned apple cider into a comfortable living. He was a familiar sight to the kids at the depot, who called him the "bearded cideman."

One of the advantages of living in the district was that many of your friends were from railroad worker's families. Elizabeth's best friend and next door neighbor was Paul Jones. Paul's father was C.R.D. Jones, an engineer assigned to a helper engine that assisted trains up the mountains to Tunnel 13. "He would take the engine up and then he would get up to the top of the

mountain...there was a turntable and he would turn the engine around and he'd deadhead back on it...When we would go up on the engine with Mr. Jones...we would get out and play...at the tunnel. One time we were going to run clear through it. ...and we got way back in there [the tunnel is 3,100 feet long] and we got scared because we thought a train would come. We turned and we ran

like crazy kids just as fast as we could go down that dark tunnel to get out of it. It was a beautiful ride up the mountain and to see those long, long freight trains."<sup>12</sup>

Exciting things happened down in the railroad district, especially when the circus came to town. The circus train would be pulled onto a siding south of the station and begin

to unload. Marie remembers one year when the circus arrived in the rain. The wagons that hauled the heavy equipment from the train to the set-up site got bogged down in the mud, so they unloaded the elephants. Despite the rain there was quite a crowd of townspeople watching the whole proceeding. Elizabeth's brother Wayne did more than just watch. When the circus train parked on the siding it stopped right next to the Carter house. "It was the most exciting thing. We kids would get up there and we would watch them unload the elephants and all the animals. And my brother hauled

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**If a young person didn't mind some religious education, the mission on Fourth Street frequently put on free magic lantern slide shows.**

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## Marie Prescott

Marie Prescott was born and has lived her life in Ashland's railroad district. Her father, Clarence Prescott, married Anna Austin in Grants Pass, Oregon after she came west from Minnesota. The Prescotts' first home was on Blaine Street in Ashland. Marie's father earned his living as a carpenter and was a member of the Ashland Fire Department.

Marie went to East Side School in Ashland. She was thirteen when her father died and the family moved into the house on B Street where she now lives. Her mother wanted to be at home to care for the children so she took in boarders. For the next several years the house was filled with students, boarders or renters.

Marie was too young to get a teaching certificate upon graduating from Ashland High School, so she went to Monmouth Normal School for one term. When Marie turned eighteen, she taught at Antelope School near Eagle Point for a year and a half and then was able to return to Ashland and attend Normal School.

Evans Valley School was Marie's first teaching position after graduation. She then moved closer to home and taught at the one-room schoolhouse at Neil Creek. Marie taught twenty-eight students in eight grades for one year then moved to a school in Phoenix, Oregon. Returning to Ashland, Marie taught second grade at Washington School and then "I finally taught first grade which was my joy. That was what I wanted to do." Marie taught school for forty-six years, twenty-six of those years at Briscoe Elementary School. In 1964, she was honored as Oregon's Teacher of the Year. Marie retired in 1971 and still lives on B Street in the railroad district of her childhood.

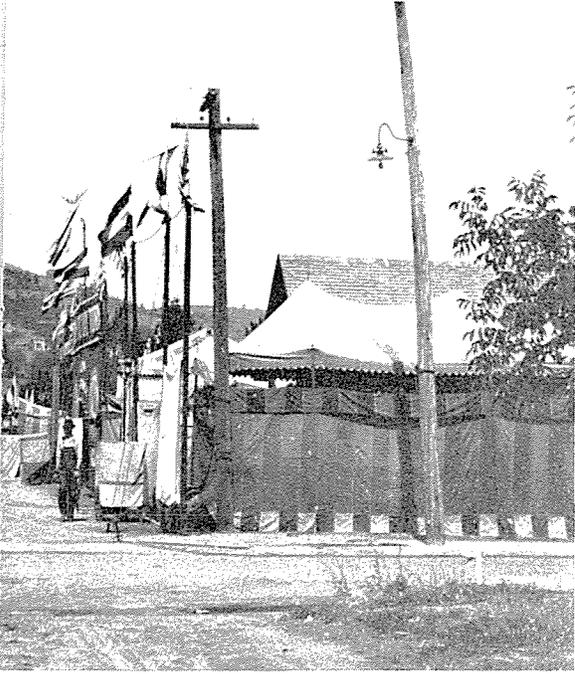


The circus' arrival caused great excitement among t  
tickets to the shows by hauling water for the anim

water...buckets and buckets and buckets of water. I couldn't do it because I wasn't big enough...or strong enough...and then we would get tickets into the circus free. It was the most exciting thing you ever saw." The circus would then march up Mountain Street to B Street, go all the way down and cross over to Main Street and come back to where the tents were set up.

Marie remembers July 29, 1917. That was the day the local Oregon National Guard company, assigned to guard the railroad trestles and tunnels around Ashland, was transferred to Ft. Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River. For weeks before there had been rumors that the company, made up mostly of Ashland men, was to be moved. That Sunday morning at eight o'clock the train headed north. "That was the last time our boys as a group...went about the same time. And I can remember that we all went down early in the morning to see the boys off." When the trains began bringing the men home, Marie says, "They allowed us to come from school and go to the train in case anybody's big brother or uncle or daddy was on the train."<sup>14</sup>

The railroad district was a special place in Ashland for forty years. Then the Natron Cut-off was completed in 1927 and rail traffic was routed through Klamath Falls. Suddenly things changed in Ashland. From as many as a dozen trains a day, the schedule dropped to ten or twelve trains a week. Passenger traffic was all local people. The railroad families moved away. "People were so disappointed," Marie remembers. "We felt it. I think it was more of an emotional feeling with us rather than a financial sort of thing because there was a kind of a tradition about the railroad that was special. I know people said 'well, grass will grow in the streets when the



Children growing up in Ashland. Some youngsters earned SOHS #5317

railroad goes,' and it did. There were hollyhocks growing up out of the cracks of Fourth Street."<sup>15</sup>

#### ENDNOTES

1. *Circuit Court Record*, Volume 3, p. 468. Donation Land Claim 42, the Hargadine claim, was sold to Lindsay Applegate, December 19, 1862.
2. *Ashland Daily Tidings*, May 18, 1888.
3. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 378C*, February 15, 1988, Marie Prescott, untranscribed.
4. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 431B*, February 15, 1988, Elizabeth Fenger, untranscribed.
5. *Rogue River Courier*, August 25, 1905.
6. *Grants Pass Courier*, April 16, 1915.
7. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 431A*, November 23, 1987, Elizabeth Fenger.
8. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 378A*, July 25, 1985, Marie Prescott.
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 431B*, November, 23, 1987, Elizabeth Fenger.
11. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 378A*, July 25, 1985, Marie Prescott.
12. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 431A*, November 23, 1987, Elizabeth Fenger.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 378C*, February 15, 1988, Marie Prescott, untranscribed.
15. *Southern Oregon Historical Society Oral History 378B*, January 1987, Marie Prescott, untranscribed.

*"I enjoyed writing this article," says Sue Waldron, Southern Oregon Historical Society researcher. "After working for the last ten months on the railroad exhibit, Making Tracks, writing about young people was fun. Living in the railroad district in the early 1900s must have been exciting."*



### Elizabeth Carter Fenger

Elizabeth was born into Ashland's noted Carter family. Her great-grandfather, Henry Beech Carter, left Boston, sailed around the Horn, and arrived in Ashland where he went into the banking business. Enthusiastic about Ashland, Carter sent to Mexico City for his son, Frank, who was a paymaster for the Mexican Central Railway. In 1883 Frank, his wife, and three sons came to Ashland where Elizabeth's father, Henry B. Jr., his twin brother, George, and older brother, Fred, grew up.

Henry B. Jr. married Mary Louella Grubb and they moved to Eugene where Henry went into partnership with Fred in an ice cream plant. Eugene is where Elizabeth was born. In 1917 her father brought the family back to Ashland and went to work for the railroad in the roundhouse.

Elizabeth grew up in Ashland and attended Hawthorn School. After graduation from Ashland High School she entered the two-year degree program at Ashland's Normal School. During her first year at the Normal, while she was working at the Lithia Hotel, Elizabeth met David Rosenbaum. He worked for Western Union. A few months later they were married and Elizabeth's traveling life began.

After several years David became a lineman for Union Pacific Railroad and they moved to Omaha, Nebraska. David died in February 1965. In 1967 Elizabeth married Frank Fenger. Growing tired of the winters in Nebraska, Frank and Elizabeth moved to Mountain Home, Arkansas. In 1980 Elizabeth and Frank returned to Ashland.

Elizabeth has worked at the Jacksonville Museum since 1981. She has been involved with the Jacksonville Museum Players, the Jacksonville Museum Quilters and is now a docent at the museum. For the last four summers she has portrayed Mrs. Beekman in the living history program at the Beekman House in Jacksonville.



**Pedestrians can still cross the seventy-year-old McKee Bridge which served the travelers and laborers of the Applegate area. In need of repair, the bridge is one of the few covered bridges remaining in Jackson County.**

Photo by Douglas R. Smith

# The Bridge at McKee's Place

*by Mark Wolfe*

**W**hile the first world war was blazing in Europe and the automobile was taking America by storm, residents of southern Oregon had something more basic on their minds: mud.

Some city streets were paved before 1910, and some heavily used county roads had been surfaced, but a trip in the country in the late teens was no joyride. And in areas where touring cars and horse-drawn farm wagons shared the road with logging trucks and ore wagons the problem was even more acute.

Such an early-day traffic jam was occurring in the Applegate Valley in 1917. South of Ruch, two roads stretched into the virgin timberland of southern Oregon and northern California eventually merging to trace their way up the forested cliffs to the Blue Ledge Copper Mine.

The single road from Ruch south followed the Applegate River along its eastern bank much as it does

today. At Cameron Bridge the road divided into the Eastside Road, which continued on the east side of the Applegate, and the Applegate Road, which ran along the west side of the river until just past Palmer Creek, where it crossed the Applegate to intersect with the Eastside Road and continued on into the communities of Watkins, Copper and Eileen.

The road system connecting the Applegate area to Jacksonville was of major concern to the county commissioners. The Blue Ledge Mining Company had been organized in 1898 after discovery of a copper vein in the mountains some three miles south of the Oregon-California line, south of the present-day Applegate Reservoir. The California mine owners, infused with capital from Washington state investors, were preparing for major development. But transporting ore to the railroad terminal in Jacksonville was a long, difficult and dangerous project. In 1905, New York investor Robert S.

Towne purchased the claims and extensive development began. Although production began to decline after 1909, there were still seventy-five men on the company payroll in November 1917. Two cars of ore were being shipped every week, more than 2,500 tons per year with a value in excess of \$100,000.<sup>1</sup>

The timber industry also was picking up and better access to the forests of the upper Applegate was needed.

It is probably fair to say that for the most part the Applegate Road was favored over the Eastside Road. It had an easy, gentle slope. The Eastside Road on the other hand was chiseled into a rocky cliffside. Even today, the Eastside Road requires skill and determination to navigate. But the Applegate Road was impassable during the rainy season because of the mud that sucked down wagons and automobiles alike. The ideal alternative was to redesign the Applegate Road to make it usable year-round. Such a plan would require constructing a bridge across the Applegate River that would be high enough and long enough to stay intact through the floods that occasionally inundated the valley before the Applegate Dam was built.

**Adelbert and Leila  
McKee and family**  
SOHS #343



**O**n August 15, 1917, the commissioners directed the county clerk to publish a notice for bids to be submitted in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the state Highway Engineer's Office for construction of a covered bridge across the Applegate River at the McKee Ranch.<sup>2</sup> The state's specifications had been published in 1916 in an effort to standardize and reduce the cost of bridge design. The *Jacksonville Post* was pleased that the county was taking this initiative.

"The County Court has plans for a new bridge across the Applegate River near Deb McKee's ranch, which when built will eliminate one of the worst hills on the road to the Blue Ledge. Two other bridges farther up the stream are to be built next year."<sup>3</sup>

The selection of the McKee Ranch as the site for the bridge was certainly based in part on engineering

concerns, but also may have had some basis in the significance of the site in local transportation history. Adelbert McKee, also known as Delber or Deb McKee, was born March 15, 1852, in Dullivan County, Missouri, the eldest son of John and Maryum McKee. He accompanied his family on their journey west in 1853 and settled initially on a donation land claim east of the present site of Medford. John became involved in mining in the Applegate Valley and the family soon settled in Logtown where their thirteen children were born.

Deb McKee did some hydraulic mining on McKee Creek, later called Jackass Creek and now known as Forest Creek. He married Leila Luella DeLong, and during his mining days Mrs. McKee ran a kitchen for the miners. The McKees later purchased a ranch approximately two miles above Star Ranger Station. The location was a strategic one. Being approximately half way between the Blue Ledge mines and Jacksonville, McKee's Ranch became a stopping place for the stages that were running between those points, and presumably for other travelers as well. At first, there were no bridges for vehicular traffic across the Apple-

gate, and such travelers simply unhooked their horses and swam across the river. But even after the Palmer Creek Bridge was built, McKee's Ranch remained a favorite stopping place. Relief horses also were kept there so that those weary from the uphill journey from Jacksonville or the treacherous downhill journey from the Blue Ledge could take a much-deserved rest. The location was a perfect site for the new bridge.

When the county commissioners reviewed the bids on September 17, 1917, only two of the three bids employed the state's specifications. R. I. Stewart and S. T. Howard, Jr., both of Medford, followed the state's specifications and entered bids of \$7,480 and \$6,992.80 respectively. The third man, J. Hartman of Jacksonville, submitted his own plans and specifications together with his winning bid of \$6,482. Hartman also offered to construct an additional transverse frame or "bent" that would strengthen the bridge approach for

an extra \$40.00.<sup>4</sup> His offer was accepted. The *Jacksonville Post* reported as follows:

“Monday morning the County Court opened the bids for the construction of the new bridge across the Applegate River at Deb McKee’s place. Only three had been filed—one by Jasten Hartman of this city and the others by Medford parties. The Court decided that Mr. Hartman’s bid was best and he was awarded the contract at \$6,300. The timbers for the bridge are ordered and work will be commenced Monday and pushed rapidly to completion as the building of this bridge will obviate the using of a piece of road that is almost impassable in the wintertime.”<sup>5</sup>

been estimated that the cover increased a bridge’s useful life by 500%.<sup>6</sup>

Covered bridges, thought by many to be an East Coast phenomenon, were common in Oregon in the late 1800s and again when the steel shortage caused by World War I was having serious effects. Hartman’s design also employed a shingled roof, narrow vertical weather boarding, narrow daylight windows above the truss tops, and flying buttresses or angled side supports to stabilize the bridge from forces imposed by wind currents and the vibration caused by passing traffic. These features became the Hartmans’ signature and they appear in the Antelope Creek Bridge and the



This photograph from the early years of this century clearly shows the treacherous roads along the Applegate River. SOHS #4400

**H**artman, referred to variously as Jasten or Jason, had come to the Rogue Valley from Ohio in the 1890s. In his native state he had been an oil derrick builder, but on his arrival in Oregon he began the construction of barns. Here he married an Eagle Point area schoolteacher, and settled on a 116-acre farm between Coker Butte and Roxy Ann where three sons were born: Wesley, Lyal and Homer. In 1910, the family moved into the Benjamin Dowell house in Jacksonville which is currently being restored by Homer’s son Wesley Hartman and his wife Mona.

Hartman senior taught his three sons the bridge-building trade. Homer eventually moved to Idaho to pursue other opportunities, but Wesley and Lyal continued to build bridges in Jackson County for many years.

The design submitted by Hartman employed the use of the Howe truss suggested by the state’s plans. The Howe truss was developed in 1840 by William Howe. It employed steel rods which passed through the wooden truss members to provide needed support. The rods were threaded on each end and secured by bolts that could be adjusted to tighten the truss joints. The bridge was covered to protect the truss members and it has

Wimer Bridge, both constructed by the Hartmans, and in many other bridges that are no longer standing.

Jason Hartman’s plans proposed a 126-foot span and promised completion by January 1, 1918. The contract was signed September 19, 1917, and Hartman posted the necessary \$3,261 bond. In late September the *Jacksonville Post* reported:

“Jasten Hartman is busy as a bee this week getting things shaped up to begin work on the new bridge at McKees.”<sup>7</sup>

On October 4, 1917, a supplemental agreement was signed shortening the span to 112 feet with the end of the main span to rest on “double bents” for extra strength. No change was made in the contract price.

On October 20, the *Post* reported:

“A couple of cars loaded with timbers for the bridge at McKees were unloaded here this week. Contractor Hartman is pushing the construction work as rapidly as possible while the good weather lasts.”<sup>8</sup>

Jasten Hartman served as contractor and foreman of the bridge building crew. His sons Wesley and Lyal assisted. It is not known whether Homer participated. The Hartman sons had worked on other projects with

their father, but later recalled that the McKee Bridge was their first real "man's work." Their equipment included a one-ton, horse-driven pile driving rig and a huge wheel wrench that took four or five men to operate. The wheel wrench was used to tighten the nuts on the steel braces that were a part of the Howe truss. They also used a hand-operated boring tool to drill holes in the timbers for the steel rods and to cut mortise joints.

Jasten Hartman continued to do construction work for Jackson County until 1929. Wesley and Lyal Hartman went on to perform many years of service for their communities. Wesley was elected mayor of Jacksonville in 1929. He became supervisor of the county's Bridge Department and spent forty-four years in county service. Lyal took a job with the county's Road Department in January of 1919 and retired as Jackson County bridge foreman fifty years later. The two brothers estimated that in that period of time they had built about seven hundred bridges for Jackson County.<sup>10</sup> The Medford Main Tribune reported:

"In spite of their swarthy appearance, one couldn't hope to meet any pleasanter chaps than the Hartman brothers, who have made their living by honest, hard work, with a cool head for the rough, sometimes dangerous job they chose as a profession."<sup>11</sup>

By 1919 ore production at the Blue Ledge mines no longer provided the financial incentive they once had, and as methods of transportation were improved the McKee Ranch probably became less important as a stopping place. But the area continued to serve as a community center for the local residents who built the

Upper Applegate Grange at the bridge about 1935. The bridge itself was commonly referred to as McKee Bridge and it also continued to attract a crowd. It was a natural location for the campground and picnic area constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937 or 1938. That park rarely has a vacant table during the summer months and many local residents have fond memories of a swing on the rope that hangs from a tall tree above the deepest pool in that part of the river.

The Grange Hall burned in 1950. The McKee house is no more. But the McKee Bridge remains.



#### ENDNOTES

1. *The Medford Sun*, September 20, 1817, p. 2.
2. *Jackson County Commissioners' Journals*, vol. 6, p.428.
3. *The Jacksonville Post*, August 11, 1917, p. 3.
4. *Jackson County Commissioners' Journals*, vol. 6, p. 450.
5. *The Jacksonville Post*, September 22, 1917, p. 3.
6. Nick and Bill Cockrell, *Roofs Over Rivers: A Guide to Oregon's Covered Bridges* (Beaverton, Oregon, 1978), p. 9.
7. *The Jacksonville Post*, September 29, 1917, p. 3.
8. *The Jacksonville Post*, October 20, 1917, p. 3.
9. *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 19, 1959, p. 12.
10. *Medford Mail Tribune*, June 13, 1980.
11. *Medford Mail Tribune*, July 19, 1959, p. 12.

*Mark Wolfe is a Medford attorney with a long-standing interest in historic preservation. In addition to his legal practice with the firm of Robertson, Huyke and Wolfe, Mark researches historic structures and volunteers in the Society research library.*

Closed to vehicle traffic in 1956, the McKee Bridge has survived damage by floods, snow storms and wind storms for more than seventy years. It has, however, undergone some structural changes.

The openings on either end appear to have been enlarged at some time, and if other Hartman bridges are any indication the original rounded openings have been squared off. Small windows on the upstream side of the bridge were added in 1951 and enlarged to their present size in 1955. Some maintenance has been done since that time, but once the bridge was closed to vehicle traffic it was a very low-priority item on the county's agenda.

When a three-foot snowfall collapsed a large portion of the bridge's roof in 1965, the county questioned its role in providing funds to repair the damage. The Talisman Lodge, Knights of Pythias, initiated a repair effort and were quickly joined by the Upper

Applegate Grange. With assistance and contributions from a number of local companies and individuals, the bridge was repaired and rededicated on October 17, 1965.

Despite public awareness and appreciation, Oregon's covered bridges are still in danger. In 1936 there were three hundred covered bridges in this state. Now there are approximately fifty-four. As recently as 1959 there were eight covered bridges left in Jackson County. Now there are only four.

McKee Bridge is Jackson County's oldest and longest covered bridge and the fourth oldest in the state. It is the only covered bridge in Jackson County utilizing the Howe truss. Because the McKee Bridge is a historically significant structure, the Southern Oregon Historical Society strongly supports its restoration. But the bridge is in danger of collapse. In late November 1987, temporary repairs made in part with a grant from Southern Oregon Historical

Society funds have stabilized the structure, but more extensive work is required. Two of the floor beams show extreme deterioration and there is decay in other major structural components.

A group of concerned individuals comprised of county employees, service club members and area residents have pledged support of a fund-raising effort to restore the bridge so that it can continue to support foot traffic. Approximately \$50,000 must be raised, or McKee Bridge will join the ranks of the twenty-three other covered bridges this county has lost over the years. Your contributions may be sent to:

Rogue Valley Foundation  
304 S. Central Avenue  
Medford, OR 97501

Checks should be made payable to the Rogue Valley Foundation with a notation that the contribution is for the McKee Bridge Preservation Project.

# Society Update

## Bank Supports Society Project

The Society has received a grant for \$2250 from the U.S. National Bank to help print the gallery guide for *Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley*. This exhibit will open at the Jacksonville Museum on Saturday, March 26 for members, and Sunday, March 27 for the general public.

A business member of the Society, the U.S. National Bank has long maintained an interest in historic preservation in southern Oregon. The bank's support helped complete the 1964 restoration project at the U.S. Hotel. This historic building in downtown Jacksonville houses the Jacksonville branch of the U.S. National Bank, a restored ballroom and two barrooms used for public meetings, exhibits, and programs.

Sponsorship from the business community enables the Society to continue its efforts to preserve, interpret, and promote Jackson County history. The U.S. National Bank has displayed over the years the kind of support that is needed and very much appreciated.

## Ashland Awarded Grant

The City of Ashland is the latest recipient of the Southern Oregon Historical Society's grants-in-aid program. The city's Department of Community Development applied for funding to restore the statue of Abraham Lincoln which stood in Lithia Park until 1967.

At its January meeting, the Board of Trustees awarded \$2000 for the statue's restoration. The remaining \$6850 needed to complete the project will be raised through private donations.

The last of four major art pieces donated to the city between 1910 and 1925, the Lincoln statue represents the City Beautiful Movement which was in high gear

throughout the United States at that time. The program included improvements in sanitation, street paving, development of public parks, and the display of public art throughout cities.

During this time, four public art pieces were donated to the city:

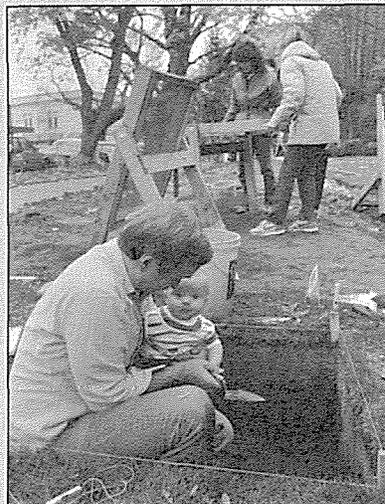


Photo by Natalie Brown

Volunteers of all ages helped at the dig in Lithia Park.

## Digging for More History

Community participation is invited for several spring archaeological projects cosponsored by the Society and Southern Oregon State College. Excavations will include a prehistoric rock-shelter near Ashland, the continuation of last autumn's salvage work along Ashland Creek, and an investigation of a possible mammoth kill-site.

The work will take place ten consecutive Saturdays beginning April 2. Participants may volunteer their time through the Society or receive academic credit through SOSC. No experience is necessary; training will be provided.

For more information, contact Nan Hannon, coordinator of the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, at 488-1341.

the Carter Memorial statue on the Plaza, the Butler-Perozzi fountain and Lincoln statue in the park, and the Mickelson Memorial statue in front of the library. Three of the four have been restored. The last project involves replacing the statue's head (lost to vandals in the 1960s) and returning "Lincoln" to his proper home in Lithia Park.

Contributions to the Lincoln statue project are welcomed and may be sent to the Planning Office, City Hall, Ashland, Oregon 97520.

## Bus Tour Season Begins

The 1988 Society Bus Tour Season begins on April 28, 1988, with a trip to Roseburg. Participants should arrive at the Jacksonville Museum by 7:30 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. departure time.

The first stop will be at Wolf Creek Tavern north of Grants Pass. Hosts Sam and Joy Angelos will serve guests their house specialty—large homemade pecan sweet rolls—and coffee.

Following the morning break, the group will proceed to Roseburg's Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History, where costumed interpreters will lead Society members through the museum's exhibits.

Most of the natural history specimens on display have been prepared in-house using traditional taxidermy and on-site freeze-drying methods. Curator Dennis Rulley will provide a behind-the-scenes look at these fascinating preservation techniques.

Lunch will follow at Tolly's in the historic town of Oakland. Buses should return to Jacksonville by 5:00 p.m.

The cost of the trip will be \$20.00 and includes transportation and the morning coffee break. Please call Susan Cox, membership coordinator, at 899-1847 for reservations.



## Gold Diggers Elect New President

The Gold Diggers, an auxiliary organization of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, recently appointed Mary Foster as president. A Society Trustee since July 1987, Foster has served on the Medford Centennial Board of Directors and currently sits on the Medford Historic Commission.

The Gold Diggers have raised over \$20,000 in the last ten years through a variety of fund raising activities. These earnings have fun-

ded a variety of Society projects, including the restoration of the upstairs barroom in the U.S. Hotel and the purchase of draperies for the Britt Room in the Jacksonville Museum and carpeting at the Beekman House. Most recently, the group donated \$2,250 toward the purchase of a stat camera for the Photography Department.

Founded in 1977, the Gold Diggers today has fifty members who help promote activities of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Through their time, energy, and support, the Society has been able to complete numerous projects and offer many educational services to the citizens of Jackson County.

## “Jeopardy” Material?

Stacey Williams, coordinator of the Children’s Museum, recently shared this delightful story which illustrates just how useful the *Table Rock Sentinel* can be:

A few weeks ago my husband and I were watching the popular television show Jeopardy. We tune

in occasionally and marvel at the speed and accuracy of the contestants as we scramble to give the correct responses ourselves.

On this particular evening, under the category “U.S. History,” this answer appeared: “It was taken to Allentown, PA, before the invasion of Philadelphia in 1777.” The contestants seemed stumped, but my husband was quick to respond—in a more than confident tone—“What is the Liberty Bell?!”

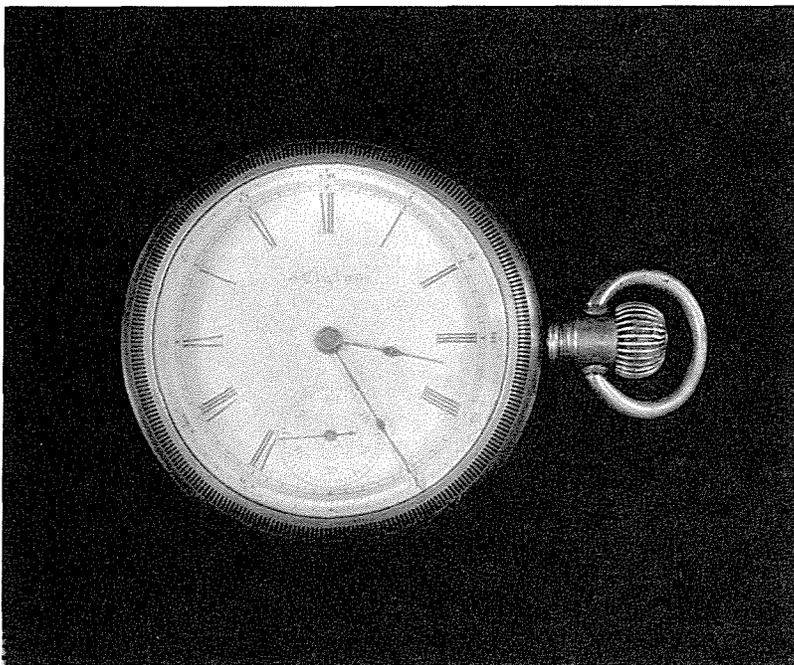
He jumped and shouted as if he just had won the grand prize. Before I could ask how he knew the question, he cheerfully explained, “I read it in the *Table Rock Sentinel!*”

## Thank You

The Society would like to extend its gratitude to the family and friends of Ella Cameron for their generous and thoughtful memorial gifts to the Society. Contributions of this type help the Society to provide services and educational opportunities for the citizens of Jackson County.

# From the Collections

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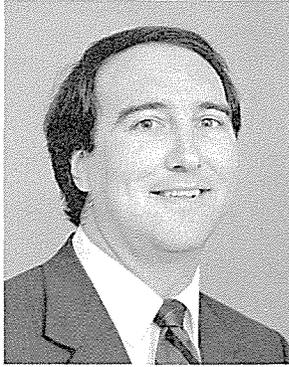
Along with the railroad engineer, the conductor has become part of railroading folklore. It was the conductor’s job to keep the trains running on schedule, and he did so by keeping a close eye on his watch.

An important tool, the conductor’s watch was often well-made. This particular timepiece, manufactured in 1898, is a seven-jeweled Elgin watch with a silver case. It has “Seely Hall” engraved on the inside of the back cover. (Hall was a prominent Medford aviator.)

Like modern wristwatches, conductor’s watches had the stem near 3 o’clock instead of the pocket watch’s usual 12 o’clock position. This convenience made the timepiece much easier for the conductor to handle and read.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society houses numerous objects that, owing to limited exhibit space, are not often seen by visitors. We hope that featuring an item each month in this column will provide an enjoyable and educational view of the scope of the Society’s collections.

# Meet the Candidates



**William R. Bagley, Medford:** BS, Oregon State University

Bill is currently a member of the Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees and is a candidate for reelection. An accountant, Bill has served on the Medford School District Transportation Committee and the Medford Chamber of Commerce Education and Leadership committees. He is a past president of the American Cancer Society and the Rogue Valley Art Association. Bill has served as treasurer of the Society's Board of Trustees since May 1986, and recently chaired the Budget Committee. Bill's family has lived in the Rogue Valley for more than 70 years.

*"The best way I can continue to serve the Southern Oregon Historical Society is in using my accounting and financial background to help the Society stay financially responsible."*

Bill is an Oregon native whose great-great grandfather Joseph Lane was among the early settlers of the Oregon Territory and became Oregon's first territorial governor. Bill has lived in the Rogue Valley for twenty-three years and is founder and publisher of Gable & Gray Publishing, Inc., an Oregon-based company that publishes a series of travel guides. He has resided in Portland and Redmond, Oregon, and San Francisco. He is a member of the Medford Chamber of Commerce and the Gold Hill Depot Task Force.

*"Of primary concern is the historical preservation of southern Oregon through the Historical Society's self-promotion in order to stimulate more local support and public interest."*

The Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees has nominated the following candidates for election to the Board for three-year terms beginning July 1, 1988. Please review each statement and exercise your right as a member to vote in the upcoming election. Ballots will be mailed the first week of May.

Other Society members can be nominated for election by petition with at least 15 signatures of members in good standing. These petitions will be available April 1 from the Society's membership department. They must be returned no later than April 15, 1988, to: Susan Cox, Membership Coordinator, P.O. Box 480, 420 East D Street, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530-0480.



**Thomas W. Pickering, Jacksonville:** BA, University of Iowa,

Tom is president and chief executive officer of Crater Bank. During his 24-year banking career, he has been involved extensively with a broad range of community activities and is currently a member of Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc.; Jacksonville, Medford and Central Point Chambers of Commerce; and Central Point Rotary. He also serves on the Government

Relations Committee for the Oregon Bankers Association.

*"We must work together to increase public awareness of the wonderful and unique history here in southern Oregon."*



**William A. Faubion, Gold Hill:** BA and MBA, Portland State University



**Jean M. Smith, Central Point:** BA and MLS, Indiana University,

additional graduate studies,  
University of Chicago

A resident of Central Point since 1971, Jean recently retired as director of the Josephine County Library System. She served as president of the Southern Oregon Library Federation, is an honorary life member of the Oregon Library Association, past-president of Zonta International of Grants Pass, and former member of the Josephine County Historical Society. Jean has established regional history libraries in several communities and conducted workshops and seminars in the mid-west, Wyoming, Nevada and Oregon. Jean and her husband, Hardin, are members of the Congregational Church in Medford.

*"The Southern Oregon Historical Society has a unique and timely opportunity to bring an appreciation of the past into the present in order to help all the people of Jackson County plan and prepare for the future of our area."*

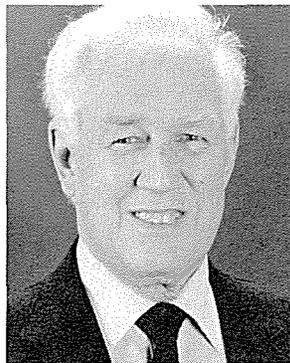


**James K. Sours, Medford:** BA, Wichita State University, MPA and PhD, Harvard

Jim is currently a member of the Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees and is a candidate for reelection. Although semi-retired, Jim is a consultant in institutional planning and development. He was president of Southern Oregon State College from 1969 to 1979 and develop-

ment director for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association from 1980 to 1985. He was a member of the Oregon American Bicentennial Commission and a board member of the Jackson County Chapter of the American Red cross. Currently he is a member of the Governor's Commission of Foreign Languages and serves on the boards of the Ashland Community Hospital Foundation and the Carpenter Foundation. Jim was appointed to the Society's Board of Trustees in March 1987, chaired the Long Range Planning committee, and is currently chairing the Development Committee.

*"I believe that the recently-adopted Long Range Plan gives the Society new purpose and direction that will enable the Society to serve all citizens of Jackson County."*

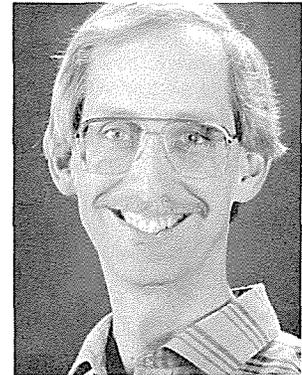


**Paul H. Wallwork, Medford:** University of Oregon

Paul is a native Oregonian. He had a private architectural practice in Portland from 1952 to 1967 and during that time contracted with the State Department on projects in Asia and South America. He was a building official for Jackson County from 1974 until "retiring" in 1988 at which time he re-established his architectural practice in Medford. A past-president of the Southern Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Paul currently serves as

secretary. He is a member of the Rogue Gallery and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

*"I think I can assist the Society in my knowledge of architecture and knowledge of structures."*



**Mark Wolfe, Medford:** BA, University of Oregon; JD, University of Oregon School of Law

Mark is currently a member of the Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees and is a candidate for reelection. A native Oregonian, Mark has a long-standing interest in local history and historic preservation. He is a member of the Jackson County and Oregon State Bar Associations. Mark is currently serving as President of the Kiwanis Club of Medford and has worked as a volunteer in the Southern Oregon Historical Society research library for the past three years. He was a member of the Society Board's ad hoc committee to investigate alternatives for the preservation and interpretation of the Fort Lane site and was appointed to the Board of Trustees in October 1987. He is currently serving the board as a member of its Grants-in-Aid, Development, and Properties committees.

*"Our Historical Society needs the support of all of Jackson County's residents, and I believe that I can help it to maintain that support on a county-wide basis."*

# Welcome New Members

## JR. HISTORIAN

Eric Peterson, *Medford*

## SENIOR

Leonard Bradshaw, *Eagle Point*  
 Ruth Callender, *Central Point*  
 Reed Charley, *Medford*  
 Genevieve Cox, *Grants Pass*  
 Alice Hornbuckle, *Roseburg*  
 Daniel Johnston, *Ashland*  
 Fern McCauley, *Yarnell, AZ*  
 Margaret Powell, *Medford*  
 Bessie Short, *Macdoel, CA*  
 Kaaren Worth, *Central Point*  
 Veva Zamzow, *Sacramento, CA*

## INDIVIDUAL

Mary Barton, *White City*  
 Margaret Carey, *Halsey*  
 Lou Ann Christie, *Jacksonville*  
 Rick Fisher, *Jacksonville*  
 Alex Hamilton, Jr., *Newport*  
 L.E. Hoyt, *Applegate*  
 Don Later, *Medford*  
 Martha I. Turner, *Ashland*

## FAMILY

Bob & Caroline Bessey, *Medford*  
 Robert Christie, Jr., *Medford*  
 Donald Fitzgerald, *Eagle Point*  
 Dave & Linda Kornstad, *Central Point*

Doug & Beth Ness, *Trail*

Alexander & Kathryn Rabchuk, *Medford*  
 Jerry Scherzinger, *Central Point*  
 Steve, Kathy, Dyan Straughan, *Gold Hill*

## CONTRIBUTOR

Burke Raymond, *Ashland*

## BUSINESS

Gable & Gray, Inc., *Medford*  
 Laurel Communications, *Medford*  
 Pulver & Leever Real Estate, *Medford*

# Renewing Members

## SENIOR

Ruth Acord, *Medford*  
 Roy Ayers, *Medford*  
 Clifford Bailey, *Central Point*  
 Mary Ballard, *Reno, NV*  
 David Barker, *Monmouth*  
 Mrs. Beth Bernheisel, *Coquille*  
 Nancy Bjorge, *Jacksonville*  
 Leonard Bradshaw, *Eagle Point*  
 Elmer Carlquist, *Medford*  
 Majorie Carlquist, *Medford*  
 Trudi Christ, *Medford*

Fay Christianson, *Medford*  
 Bernice Curler, *Sacramento, CA*  
 Mrs. Ray Drumm, *Duquoin, IL*  
 Marie Eicher, *Medford*  
 Anne Finley, *Medford*  
 Dale Flowers, *Medford*  
 L. Jeanne Frost, *Phoenix*  
 Emma Jane Graham, *Medford*  
 Lela Greenwood, *Grants Pass*  
 Henry Halvorsen, *Medford*  
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**Join** today! Fill out this form and mail with check or money order to:

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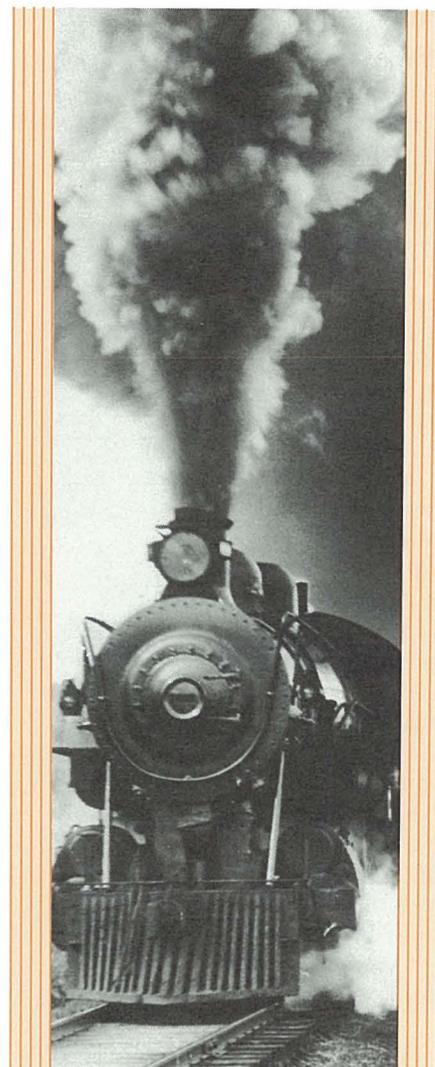
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# MAKING TRACKS



## The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley

An exhibition  
 presented by the Southern Oregon Historical Society

Members-only wine and cheese reception  
 March 26, 6-9 p.m.  
 Jacksonville Museum

Public opening reception  
 March 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Jacksonville Museum

Activities and demonstrations for the whole family!

Free admission

# Regional Digest

## Crater Lake Lodge Saved!

The National Park Service has decided to preserve the historic Crater Lake Lodge owing, in part, to an overwhelming response from the general public to save the 75-year-old structure. Park Service Regional Director Charles Odegaard announced this decision on Thursday, February 25, following a series of public hearings.

Plans now require congressional approval for financing. The \$33 million project incorporates several components of the alternatives presented at the public hearings. The historic lodge will be renovated to include 82 bedrooms with baths and a restaurant. It will close during the winter months due to the difficulty of clearing snow.

A new 60-unit lodge will be built back from the lake's rim in the Rim Village area. The existing cafeteria and gift shop will be removed and all vehicular activity pulled away from the rim as well.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society applauds the Park Service's decision and looks forward to the day when the lodge resumes its original purpose as shelter for Crater Lake's visitors.

## Emigrant Reunion Planned

Emigrants traveling to Oregon Territory 135 years ago arrived in Lane County after a circuitous route across the Oregon desert and a near-fatal journey across the Cascade Mountains. To commemorate this expedition, the Lane County Historical Museum is planning a reunion of the descendants of these pioneer families.

The event will be held September 24, 1988, in the museum courtyard. Descendants interested in attending should contact: LWT, c/o Lane County Museum, 740 West 13th St., Eugene, Oregon 97402, or call Marty West at (503)687-4239 for more information.



photo by Douglas R. Smith

Numerous examples of interesting gravestones can be found in this area.

## Gravestone Group Seeks Members

The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) is a national, non-profit organization with concern for the appreciation, preservation, and protection of all gravemarkers, especially historic ones. Through its publications, conferences, special programs, and exhibits, AGS hopes to encourage local groups to record and preserve historic gravestones, promote research into all aspects of gravestone studies, and expand public awareness.

Members encompass a range of interest from scientific research on stone repair techniques and materials to many other areas of research involving genealogy, folklore, archaeology, sociology, and history. For membership informa-

tion, contact: The Association of Gravestone Studies, 46 Plymouth Road, Needham, MA 02192.

In a related topic, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) recently published a new book, *A Gravestone Preservation Primer*, for anyone interested in practical approaches for cemetery preservation. Author Lynette Strangstad directs her advice to nonprofessionals involved in small-to mid-sized projects who are having difficulty getting started because of lack of staff or resources.

Copies are available for \$13.95 each (\$12.95 for AASLH members) from: AASLH, 172 Second Avenue N.W., Suite 102, Nashville, Tennessee 37201.

## Annual Historic Preservation Awards

Each year during National Preservation Week, the Southern Oregon Historical Society gives special recognition to specific projects, persons, or organizations that promote historic preservation in Jackson County. Restorations of specific structures or districts, educational events or projects that foster public understanding of preservation, and individuals or organizations who have worked to promote preserva-

tion issues are eligible for the awards.

The Society is seeking nominations from the public for its 1987 awards. If you know of a worthy candidate, please fill out the nomination form and return it to the Society no later than Friday, April 15, 1988. Award winners will be announced during National Preservation Week, May 8-14.

### Preservation Week Award Nomination Form

I believe the following project/event/organization/individual demonstrates excellence in the promotion of historic preservation:

Project/event/organization/individual \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person's address \_\_\_\_\_  
mailing address

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city state zip

Description of project/event/organization:

Briefly explain how this project/event/organization/individual demonstrates excellence in the promotion of historic preservation.

Please return this form together with any supplemental materials to:

Southern Oregon Historical Society  
205 North Fifth Street, P.O. Box 480  
Jacksonville, OR 97530  
All nominations must be received by April 15, 1988.

# 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., Tuesdays-Saturdays.

**March 24** "Workin' on the Railroad," a children's workshop, will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the Eagle Point Library, 158 West Main, Eagle Point. Youngsters, ages 7-12, will construct a small scale model of the O & C Railroad using boxes and other materials. Each child will build a portion of the train. When finished the sections will be assembled and displayed in the Children's Museum in Jacksonville. Participants also will sing railroad songs and become part of a "human train," using such props as a conductor's cap, luggage, whistles, and imagination! Admission is free.

**March 26** *Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley.* **Members Only** wine and cheese reception from 6-9 p.m.. Come celebrate the opening of the first major exhibit in the Jacksonville Museum's courtroom since the mid-1970s! This is your opportunity to be the first to view *Making Tracks* before it opens to the public. Admission is free.

**March 27** *Making Tracks: The Impact of Railroading in the Rogue Valley.* Opening Reception from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the general public. The whole family is invited to participate in day-long activities, including model railroad demonstrations by the Southern Oregon Live Steamers Club and the Rogue Valley Model Railroad Club, sending telegraph messages with the Medford Chapter of the Morse Telegraph Club, and much, much more! Admission is free.

**March 29** The Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting in the conference room of the Jackson Educational Service District building, 101 N. Grape Street, Medford, at 7:30 p.m. Members and the general public are invited.

All offices and departments of the **Southern Oregon Historical Society**, except the Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum, may be reached by calling (503) 899-1847. The Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum's telephone number is (503) 488-1341.

**Administrative offices**, Armstrong House, 375 East California St., Jacksonville. Open Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Jacksonville Museum**, 205 North 5th Street, Jacksonville. Open Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Children's Museum**, 206 North 5th Street, Jacksonville. Open Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Chappell-Swedenburg House Museum**, 990 Siskiyou Boulevard, Ashland. Open Tues.-Sat., 1-5 p.m.

**Research Library** in the Jacksonville Museum, 205 North 5th Street, Jacksonville. Open Tues.-Fri., 1-5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



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