

SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE

Today



FROM THE COLLECTIONS
**Stereoscopes: Views Through
the Twin Lenses**

EARLY SOUTHERN OREGON ENTREPRENEURS
The Zigler-Plymale Story

SNOWBALL FIGHTS INSIDE THE HOUSE
Growing Up in the Woodville Museum

**JANUARY 2000
Vol. 2, No. 1**

The Magazine of the Southern Oregon Historical Society



Eagle Point Historical Society and Museum

by Barbara Hegne

In the past, when families moved or children got out of school, one-room schoolhouses were hitched to horses and moved to more populated areas. The one-room Long Mountain schoolhouse was moved twice. The school was built in 1925, as a local community effort, three miles west of Eagle Point on Long Mountain. In the early years, it served children from five or six families. The school's bell could be heard around the countryside ringing the children to school. About 1945, the school was hauled from

became the home of the Eagle Point Historical Society and Museum.

The museum started with a few display cases and donations from the community. However, the first few years, money was scarce and times were hard. The old roof leaked and there were no funds to pay the electric bill. It took a few years, but once the Society began to receive county funds, success followed. The schoolhouse was repaired and soon so many artifacts were donated, there was no more room. In 1993, a 1,200 square-foot addition was built. More donations from the community soon filled that space to overflowing. In 1996, another 1,200 square-foot addition was built.

The Eagle Point Museum has the second-largest artifact collection in Jackson County. It boasts a variety of display categories from jewelry to tools to arrowheads, and also features a special children's section. In addition, the Society has an extensive collection of photographs of the area and of local families.

The research center is well-stocked with census, birth, and cemetery records and other material to help trace family roots. The membership has grown to almost

The former Long Mountain School, moved from its original location, is now home to the Eagle Point Historical Society and Museum. The old school bell still hangs in the belfry.

400. Members receive a bimonthly newsletter, filled with local history stories and museum news.

The Eagle Point Historical Society also owns and maintains the Antelope Cemetery, located on Riley Road, the resting place of many pioneer families.

The museum is located on North Royal, in Eagle Point's historic district, between the Antelope Covered Bridge and the Butte Creek Mill, which is on the National Historic Register. In the summer the museum is open daily from noon to 4 p.m. In winter, it is closed on Sunday and Monday. However, the museum will open at other times if prior arrangements are made. 📖



PHOTOS BY MAGGIE JAMES

The musical instruments above were all donated by Eagle Point pioneer families.

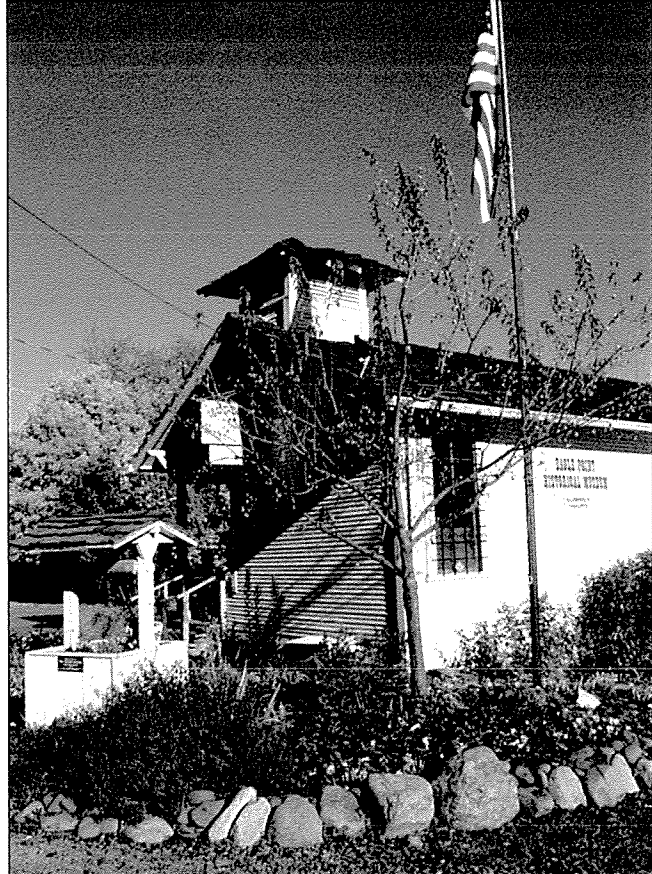
Long Mountain to the east side of Little Butte Creek in Eagle Point. There it was used as an extra classroom by the Eagle Point School District. Later it became just a storage facility for mops and tools. In 1977, the schoolhouse was moved back across Little Butte Creek to the west bank of the creek, on land donated by Ed Dahack. It now had a new purpose.

The old school bell still rings, but now children come to learn about local history. In 1978 the little schoolhouse officially

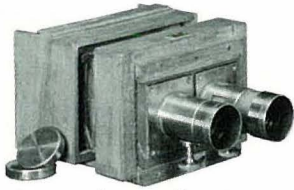


Irma (Ash) Cushman's storybook doll collection (only partially shown) was donated to the museum by her daughters.

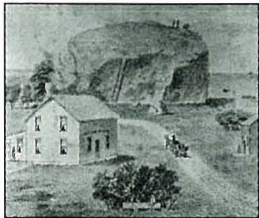
Eagle Point Museum curator Barbara Hegne descends from a pioneer family who settled on Little Butte Creek in 1853. She has written twenty-five books and booklets about the area.



SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE *Today*



From the Collections
Two lenses make a
stereo view



BANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sunday Driving:
Bandon's Tupper Rock



PHOTO COURTESY
OF BENE SHEPARD

The Pioneers:
Gordon Hatch

SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY Editorial Guidelines

Feature articles average 3,000 to 4,000 (pre-edited) words. Other materials range from 500 to 1,000 words.

Electronic submissions are accepted on 3-1/4-inch disks and should be accompanied by a hard-copy printout. Cite all sources and construct endnotes and cutlines using the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The author is responsible for verification of cited facts. A selection of professional, unscreened photographs and/or line art should accompany submission—black-and-white or color. The Southern Oregon Historical Society reserves the right to use Society images in place of submitted material. All material should be labeled with author's name, mailing address, and telephone number. Manuscripts will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope stamped with sufficient postage. Authors should provide a brief autobiographical note at the end of manuscripts.

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ON THE COVER

Photographer Peter Britt used this twin-lensed camera to record the double images used to make "views," which gave the illusion of depth when looked at through a stereoscope, a popular accessory in Victorian parlors.

Southern Oregon Historical Society



DOUGLAS COUNTY MUSEUM #3074

Feature: Zigler family left its
mark on Southern Oregon

Our Own
Voices:
Eagle Point
Historical
Society and
Museum

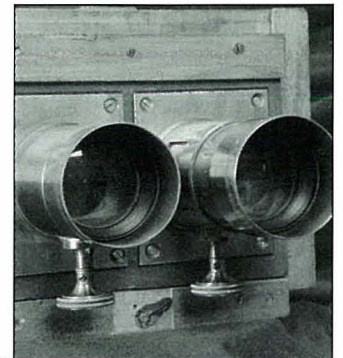


PHOTO BY MAGGIE JAMES



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE KRAMER

Preservation Profile:
The Whittle Garage



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Southern Oregon Heritage Today is published
monthly by the Southern Oregon Historical Society.
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Southern Oregon Heritage Today is produced
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SOUTHERN
OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Tupper Rock at Bandon-by-the-sea

by Doug Foster

Bandon-by-the-sea is one of the most scenic towns on the Oregon Coast; the lighthouse on the jetty at the mouth of the Coquille River is one of Bandon's most photographed sights. Few visitors, though, know the history of this much-admired vista.

At the turn of the century, the mouth of the Coquille River was dominated by a great monolith of blue stone that reared up 100 feet above the seaside bluffs. Local settlers named this landmark "Tupper Rock," after pioneer John Tupper; a local historian called it Oregon's "Rock of Gibraltar." It was known as *Sae-tsik-na*, or "Grandmother Rock," by the Coquille (pronounced Ko-Kwell) Indians, who revered it as a sacred site.¹

Geologists considered Tupper Rock a true rarity, a blueschist monolith—an exotic metamorphic rock with beautiful blue-green minerals—that was different from the basalt sea stacks offshore. According to the theory of plate tectonics, this huge block of blueschist was formed by subduction when an oceanic plate plunged under the North American plate several miles off the Oregon Coast.

Government engineers looked at Tupper Rock as a solution to navigation problems at the mouth of the Coquille River, with its shallow bar and shifting outlet. They knew that blueschist would make perfect riprap for constructing jetties to stabilize the mouth of the Coquille so that it could be deepened, allowing safe passage for ships to haul lumber from inland forests.

In the 1880s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built a quarry at Tupper Rock

The Tupper blueschist was formed in the subduction zone off the Oregon Coast, where two gigantic crustal plates collided.



This drawing shows pioneer John Tupper's "Ocean House" on the left, and Tupper Rock at the mouth of the Coquille River.

and began blasting big blocks of stone off the monolith; they built a short rail line to the river and used a derrick crane to hoist the blocks of riprap onto flat cars for transport to the south river bank. They barged blueschist riprap across the river to build the north jetty. Eventually more than a kilometer of the river's mouth was lined with riprap. The blasting continued until only a great cavity remained where Tupper Rock once stood.²

Many Coquille elders believe Grandmother Rock was their most sacred site. Some Coquille tribal members have quipped that they now have the only sacred jetty in the west. A full appreciation of such black humor requires an historic perspective. As Lynn Schonchin, former chairman of the Klamath Tribe, once said: "You have to have a sense of humor if you're Indian. ... All we have left is humility and humor; they took everything else."³

That was true for the Coquilles. On January 28, 1854, the year after gold was discovered on the Oregon Coast, forty miners attacked a Coquille village at the mouth of the river and massacred more than fifteen Coquilles. The following year, the Coquilles were forcibly removed to a distant reservation pursuant to a treaty, even though Congress didn't ratify the treaty and the government didn't fulfill its treaty promises.

In 1989, charting a new course, the federal government "restored" the



During the 1880s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers blasted and hauled away much of Tupper Rock.

Top, lighthouse at Bandon guides boats through the Coquille jetties, made of durable Tupper Rock blueschist.

Coquille Tribe, and the Port of Bandon conveyed the approximately five-acre Tupper Rock quarry site to the tribe. On this site, the Coquille people built their first business enterprise: Heritage Place, a sixty-four unit, assisted living community. The landscaping at Heritage Place incorporates large blocks of blueschist both for their striking beauty and as symbols of the tribe's historic values.

To see the jetty, the lighthouse and the former site of Tupper Rock, take First Street S.E. from old town Bandon going toward the ocean, then turn onto Jetty Road. Exhibits about the Coquille Indians and Tupper Rock may be seen at the Coquille River Museum, operated by the Bandon Historical Society at the intersection of Highway 101 and Filmore Street; open 10 to 4 Monday to Saturday and, in the summer, 12 to 3 on Sunday. ☛

Doug Foster is a writer and historian living in Ashland.

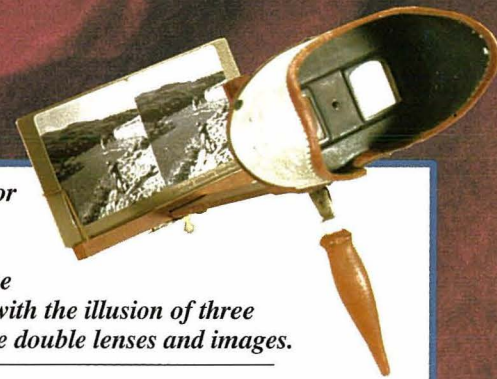
ENDNOTES:

1. Roberta Hall, *The Coquille Indians*, (Words and Pictures Unlimited, Corvallis, Ore., 1984).
2. Roberta Hall, "Survey of the Coquille Tribal Property at Tupper Rock, Bandon, Report to the Coquille Indian Tribe," a manuscript available at the Coquille Tribal Library in Coos Bay.
3. *Oregon Heritage*, Summer 1994, p. 2.

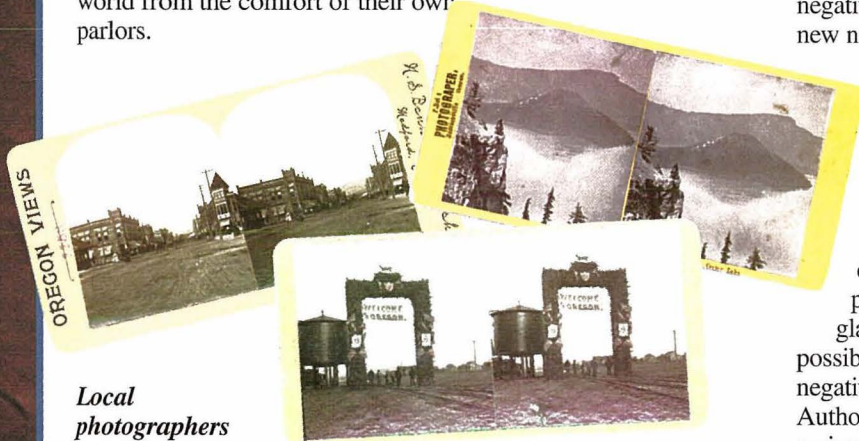
Seeing Double:

THE STEREOSCOPE BECOMES AMERICA'S FIRST VISUAL MASS MEDIUM

by William Alley



Rare indeed was the turn-of-the-century home that did not have a stereoscope and a collection of views for the family's entertainment. Stereo cards were, in their day, as ubiquitous as the television is today, and their mass production and distribution made them the first visual mass medium in the United States, if not the entire world. Mass-produced views enabled people to see the wonders of the world from the comfort of their own parlors.



Local photographers cashed in on the stereoscope craze by selling views of regional scenes, including Medford's Seventh Street, top left, by Noah S. Bennett; Crater Lake, right, by Peter Britt; and a visit by President Roosevelt by H.E. Maris.

Almost from photography's inception, systems were devised to allow people to view images with the illusion of three dimensions. Photographers soon learned that two photographs taken from a distance equal to that which separated human eyes would, when viewed through a lenticular scope having a lense for each eye, give the appearance of depth. Soon camera manufacturers were producing cameras with two lenses separated by approximately three inches, with an interior divider that would produce two images on a single

A popular Victorian parlor pastime was to sit down with a stereoscope and a stack of views, and see the photographs come alive with the illusion of three dimensions created by the double lenses and images.

negative. Local photographers were quick to pick up on the new novelty, producing local views to sell in their studios.

Here in Southern Oregon, Peter Britt, Noah Bennett, and H.E. Maris soon developed reputations for their stereo views.

It took two specific technological advancements, however, for stereo photography to develop into a modern, mass-production industry. The first was the development of the wet-plate collodion process in the early 1850s. Instead of the single, direct positive images produced with daguerreotypes and tintypes, the advent of glass plate, and later flexible-base negatives, made it possible to produce thousands of identical images from a single negative. The other invention was the popular stereoscope. Author Oliver Wendell Holmes developed a simple design for a viewer which, by 1860, had become the prototype for the mass-produced viewers seen in households everywhere.

To satisfy the demand for views, several large concerns developed assembly-line manufacturing processes to produce stereo views by the millions; by 1873 one New Hampshire company was producing 3,000 views every day.

The stereograph retained its popularity well into the twentieth century. The development of newer mass media, however, specifically movies and radio, soon eclipsed the stereograph, which was seen as stodgy and old fashioned.

Peter Britt's stereo camera, pictured here, was used to record stereo images of Southern Oregon. This camera, along with the work of other photographers, can be seen in the Southern Oregon Historical Society's new exhibit, "A Century of Photography," now on display in the History Center. 📷

William Alley is archivist/historian for the Southern Oregon Historical Society.



Peter Britt used this special camera to take the double images that gave the three-dimensional illusion when viewed through a stereoscope.



News & Notes

of the Southern Oregon Historical Society

January 2000

New Exhibit!

A CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1856-1956



The Society's newest exhibit, opens January 18 in the History Center, Medford. The exhibit highlights the work of two area photographers: Peter Britt and James Verne Shangle. A variety of decorative "card photographs" also introduces visitors to an array of Rogue Valley photographers.

The exhibit also features a selection of cameras from the Society's collection highlighting a century of photography in the Rogue Valley.



From 1856-1905, Peter Britt was Southern Oregon's most prolific photographer. Britt's images captured the transformation of Jacksonville from a mining shantytown to the Jackson County seat. Examples of his cameras, studio equipment and photographs will be on display.

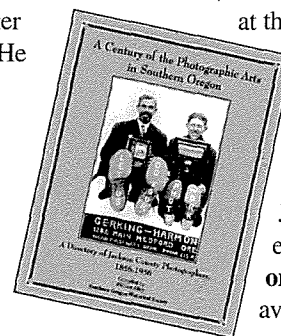
In 1928, James Verne Shangle opened a photography studio in downtown Medford and spent the next quarter century documenting the region. He snapped hundreds of photos recording groups, buildings, landscapes, celebrations and community events.

Join the Society for a free opening reception on Thursday, January 20 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. There will be light refreshments, activities for all, a

stereoscope on display, historical photo cutouts for posing—plus a "Peter Britt" presentation at 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP by January 15 by calling (541) 773-6536.

In conjunction with the new exhibit, *A Century of Photographic Arts in Southern Oregon: A Directory of Jackson County Photographers, 1856-1956*, will be available for purchase at the History Center and the

History Store in the mall beginning January 18. Member price: \$7.50; non-member, \$8.95. On January 20 during the exhibit opening reception only, the directory will be available for \$7.00.

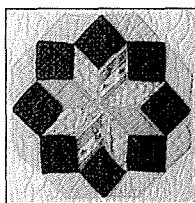


Program Schedule

JANUARY CRAFT OF THE MONTH **Paper Quilt Squares**

Children's Museum
Families; 25¢

Early pioneers pieced together scraps of cloth to make quilts to keep their families warm in the wintertime. Create a paper patchwork quilt from a variety of different quilting patterns and designs.



Ancestors, a family history series, begins on Cable Channel 33, Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., beginning January 3. Mark your calendars for the upcoming **4th Annual Genealogy Fair** at Smullin Center on February 5. All new genealogy workshops, including several on computer genealogy will be presented. Keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Willis, will lecture on a medically related genealogy topic.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE UPPER ROGUE

Traveling Exhibit: January through mid-February

Gold Hill Historical Society,
504 First Ave., Gold Hill
Phone: (541) 855-1182

Program: January 25, 7:30 p.m., free
Gold Hill Grange, 404 6th Ave.

Traveling Exhibit: mid-February through March

Lake Creek Historical Society,
1739 S. Fork Little Butte Creek Road,
Eagle Point
Phone: (541) 826-1513

Program: March 4 (time to be announced)
Lake Creek Pioneer Hall

For almost 30 years, archaeologists have studied the history of the native peoples of the Upper Rogue. The BLM and Southern Oregon Historical Society have designed a small traveling exhibit reporting this archaeology work. The exhibit is travelling to local museums over the course of the year. The BLM will

present an archaeology slide show at each site, beginning at the Gold Hill Grange and sponsored by the Gold Hill Historical Society and Museum. (Only the first two programs are listed here. Watch for further dates and times.)

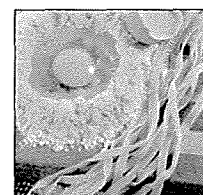
NOODLE SOUP

Wednesday, January 26
Beekman House
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Ages 3-6

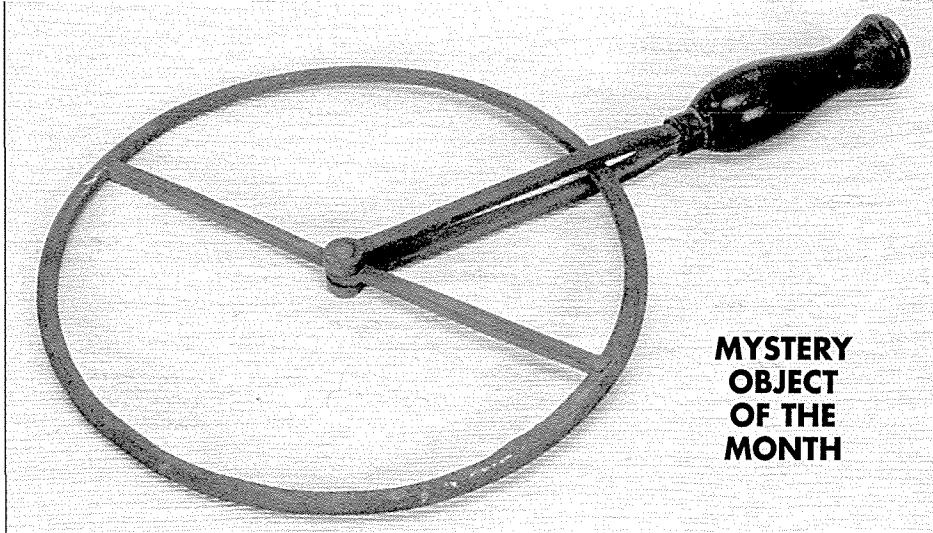
\$3.00 members/\$4.00 non-members

When family members were ill, pioneer women had to find a way to treat them. Herb teas, mustard plasters and hot soups were common remedies. Participants will create fresh noodles and sample vegetable noodle soup warm from the woodstove at the Beekman House. All ingredients will be provided but youngsters need to bring the following items: 1 large mixing bowl, 1 stirring spoon, 1 cup measure (dry), 1 rolling pin, 1 dishcloth and 1 apron (optional). Preregister by January 19.



For more information about the Southern Oregon Historical Society, contact us at:

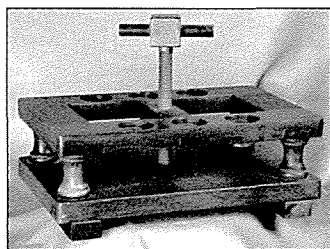
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MYSTERY OBJECT OF THE MONTH

January Mystery Object:

We've gone to great lengths with this one. The wheel turns. Do you know what for? The object measures 14.5"L x 9"W. Send your answer on a 3-1/2 x 5 card with your name, address and phone number to: News & Notes Mystery Object, SOHS, 106 N. Central Ave., Medford, OR 97501.



December's mystery object remains a mystery! We're still compiling answers and will let you know the results when the mystery is solved!

Congratulations to October's Mystery Object Winner, Betty Rose Hayes of Oregon City who identified the sewing bird.

*December's
Mystery Object:
Please keep guessing!*

BEGINNER'S WEAVING WORKSHOP

While away the winter hours learning how to weave beautiful fabrics. A workshop for beginners will be offered at the Third Street Artisan Studio, Third & California streets, Jacksonville over five days on Thursday evenings, January 27, February 3, and February 10 from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m., and Saturdays, January 29

and February 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This workshop is an introduction to hand loom weaving, including an overview of terminology, loom types, and the literature of weaving. The twill weave structure is introduced for the first project; lace weave structures are introduced for a second project. Weaving threads, a project notebook, and course syllabus will be provided for the workshop fee of \$60 for members; \$65 for non-members. Portable looms may be available for rent for \$5/month. One unit of credit is available through SOU Extension for an additional \$40; participants may register for credit on the first night of the workshop. Preregister and prepay for this workshop by Saturday, January 22. Call (541) 773-6536 for more information.

ALL Society sites will be closed the first two weeks of January to allow work on necessary projects.

The History Center and Hanley Farm will reopen January 18; Ashland branch and Jacksonville museums reopen January 19.

Southern Oregon Historical Society sites

Phone: (541) 773-6536 unless listed otherwise

HISTORY CENTER

106 N. Central, Medford
Mon - Fri, 9:00am to 5:00pm
Sat, 1:00 to 5:00pm

RESEARCH LIBRARY

106 N. Central, Medford
Tues - Sat, 1:00 to 5:00pm

JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM & CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

5th and C, Jacksonville
Wed - Sat, 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday, noon to 5:00pm

THIRD STREET ARTISAN STUDIO

3rd and California, Jacksonville
Sat. & Sun., 11:00am to 4:00pm

U.S. HOTEL

3rd and California, Jacksonville
Upstairs room available for rent.

HANLEY FARM

1053 Hanley Road (between Central Point & Jacksonville) Open by appointment.
(541) 773-2675.

HISTORY STORE

Rogue Valley Mall, Medford
Daily, Mall hours
(541) 774-9129

ASHLAND BRANCH

208 Oak, Ashland
Wed - Sat, 12:00 to 4:00pm
(541) 488-4938

Exhibition Schedule

Continuing Exhibits

HISTORY CENTER

The *Go for the Gold* exhibit from the Gold Hill Historical Society continues through January 2000.

JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM

Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker explores the development of the Rogue Valley and life in the late 1800s.

Jacksonville: Boom Town to Home Town traces the development of Jacksonville.

Politics of Culture: Collecting the Native American Experience, offers a glimpse of the cultural history of local tribes.

Hall of Justice reflects the history of the former Jackson County Courthouse.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Explore home and occupational settings from the 1850s to the 1930s through Hands on History.

ASHLAND BRANCH

The Private Life of a Non-Public Place features Dunn House of Ashland that has provided a safe haven to abused women and children in Jackson County. The exhibit continues through June 17, 2000.

Public Places and Private Lives focuses on people and landmarks of Ashland and continues through June 17, 2000.

Streetscapes and City Views explores the visual history of Ashland through the eyes of yesterday's photographers with images from the collection of Ashland resident Terry Skibby. The exhibit continues through June 2000.

Triumph & Tragedy

THE ZIGLER-PLYMALE STORY

by Rose McIlveen

There were twenty-three million people who called themselves Americans in the middle of the nineteenth century, and some of them were restless. The 1849 gold strike in California had been a magnet for the venturesome. Other Americans were attracted by free land in the West and the challenge of an untouched wilderness. Among them was twenty-year-old Lewis Henry Zigler, a blacksmith, who had learned his trade making wagon wheels while working for the Studebaker brothers in South Bend, Indiana.

The good news about abundant land and a friendly climate in the Oregon Territory had been reported by the first wave of settlers who headed west in the 1840s. Zigler, whose parents had died in 1848, chose to follow the Oregon Trail to

wherever it might lead in the years ahead. He said good-bye to his siblings in South Bend and joined one of the wagon trains in 1850.

Diaries of the Oregon Trail pioneers point up two stark realities: for some the trip brought tragedy; for others who made it all the way to Oregon, there were tales of hardship, hunger and fear. But Zigler survived the grueling trip, arriving in Portland with money in his pocket and a determination to challenge the odds.

His first venture was to invest in a piece of property in Portland. Many years later, his youngest son, Claud Austell, called "Stell" by the family, wrote that his father "bought four squares of land from Morrison Street south for \$400 and sold them for \$600 a few weeks later."¹

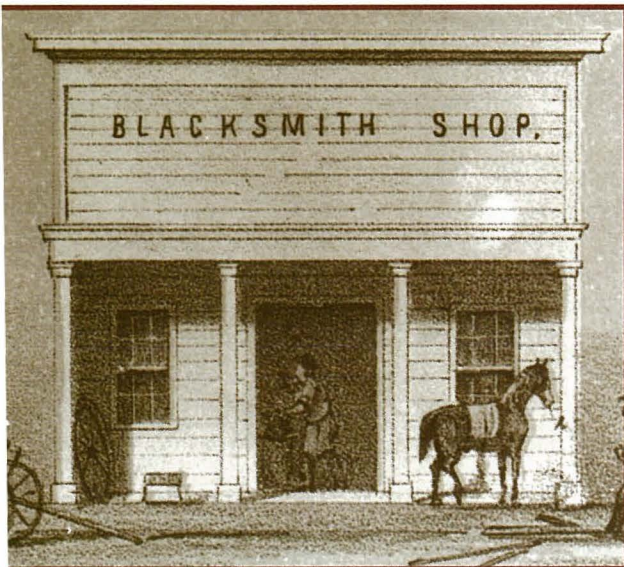
News of the Rich Gulch strike in the winter of 1851-52 represented an opportunity Zigler could not resist. He headed south to Jacksonville and joined the rapidly increasing population of miners, respectable citizens, saloon keepers, and what the history of Jackson, Josephine,

Douglas, Curry, and Coos counties politely calls "courtesans."²

The seasons are relatively kind in Southern Oregon, and the village of Jacksonville was just beginning to emerge from a forest of trees. There Zigler and other newcomers used their sweat and ingenuity to transform the wilderness into a boom town.

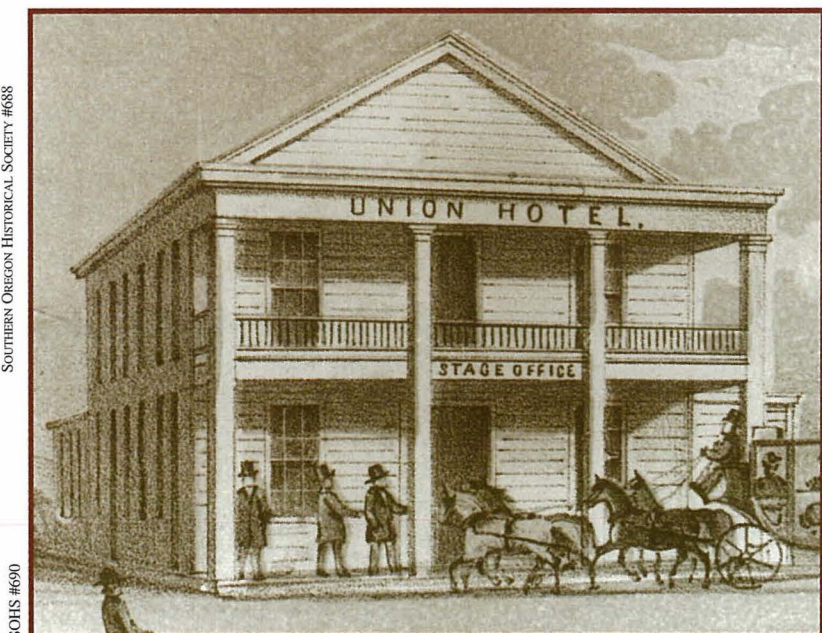
In a brief biographical sketch, Stell Zigler revealed that his father and Jacksonville photographer Peter Britt became aptners to mine a piece of land 7 1/2 acres 200 feet wide and 3/8 of a mile long along Jackson Creek. Eventually they hired twenty Chinese laborers from a pool of more than 2,000 who had hurried from California to the new strike. Stell Zigler estimated that at the height of production, his father and Britt received four ounces of gold per day per laborer. At the going rate of sixteen dollars per ounce, they would have been making up to \$1,280 per day before expenses.

For the first settlers of Jacksonville, frontier life had its opportunities as well



SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #688

The sketch at right shows the Union Hotel as it looked in 1856. Now the site of the U.S. Hotel, the Union was managed by Lewis and Sarah Plymale Zigler for more than a decade. Zigler also was a partner in the Zigler and Martin Blacksmith Shop, above, and ran gold-mining operations.



SOHS #690

as its tragedies. A shrewd entrepreneur, Zigler began to underwrite his future with several business ventures. In addition to the gold mining, he set up a partnership with Jerry Martin in a blacksmith shop, an essential service in a community of workers requiring tools and shoes for their horses.

By January of 1860, Zigler was also running Jacksonville's Union Hotel and advertising it in a newspaper.³ (Contrary to the advertisement, the 1860 census for Jackson County lists the Adams Hotel as the Ziglers' place of residence. Perhaps the name of the Union Hotel was changed. Or, perhaps Zigler was managing two hotels.) An even more important event in Zigler's life was his marriage to Sarah Mary Plymale in 1855. She, too, was a survivor of wagon train travel by way of

At the going rate of sixteen dollars per ounce, they would have been making up to \$1,280 per day before expenses.

the treacherous Applegate route. The girl's family, who came from Illinois, had not crossed the Applegate Trail unscathed. Her father, Gabriel, and oldest brother, Anderville, drank the poisonous water of Goose Lake and died of typhoid fever a month after the family's arrival in Jacksonville.

Lewis Zigler was fortunate to find Sarah Plymale among the limited number of eligible females in Jacksonville. The county's history confesses that prior to 1853 there were only three "respectable" women in town, but the arrival of 159 wagons with 400 men, 120 women and 170 children changed the odds.⁴

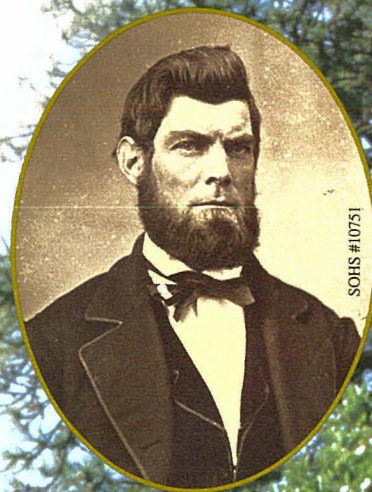
If life was good for the young Ziglers, they probably had little opportunity to think about it, since apart from gold

strikes there were few shortcuts to financial comfort on the Oregon frontier. Nor was there much time to worry about the alarms of Indian raids stemming from the wars of the 1850s.

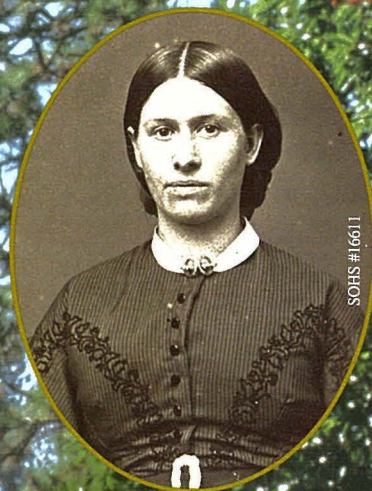
It was a colorful period in Rogue Valley history. For the morbidly curious of Jacksonville, rough frontier justice sometimes provided the spectacle of a hanging. Another everyday fact of life in a mining-based boom town was the continual litigation over land-disputes that had to be resolved in the town's fledgling court. If Zigler had written his memoirs, he would have had some interesting tales to tell.

For the Ziglers the rewards of hotel ownership may have been impressive, but the long hours of work surely must have taken their toll. A glimpse of the drudgery can be found in the letters of a woman whose husband owned a hotel in San Francisco early in 1850. She described the place as "the most god-forsaken country in the world not one redeeming trait excepting gold. ... I do not sit down until after eight o'clock at night and three nights out of the week I have to iron. I do not go to bed until midnight and often until two o'clock."⁵

By 1860, Sarah Zigler was caring for her toddler son, Charles, and a six-month-old daughter, Zelia. She was to have four more children (Katie, who died young; Frederic; Michael; and Lewis, Jr.) in Jacksonville before the family moved away. At times the demands of motherhood and her chores at the hotel must have been nearly



SOHS #10751



SOHS #16611

Lewis Zigler, top, was lucky to find Sarah Plymale, above, for his bride; there weren't many marriageable women in Jacksonville in the 1850s.

This 1856 drawing of Jacksonville shows the town taking shape in the background while miners' tents line the gold claims along Jackson Creek.



SOHS #1880A

overwhelming, but there is no evidence that she was anything but the epitome of the stalwart frontier woman.

Her husband's philosophy of hotel management included some refinements, one of which was dependent upon the literacy of customers. His advertisement in the *Oregon Sentinel* of January 19, 1860, boasts: "A supply of latest papers from all parts of the Atlantic States and this coast always kept in the Reading Room."

Besides the hotel, Zigler had another enterprise in mind. Stell Zigler wrote that his father used profits from gold mining to hire sixty Chinese laborers to build a dam near Gold Hill. "But before he got his sluice boxes in, a cloud burst up Rogue River washed out his dam and everything else down stream." The *Oregon Sentinel* of December 14, 1861, reported that "On the night of Friday, 6th inst., a heavy rain set in, and continued to pour down heavily almost without intermission, until Sunday morning. This body of water pouring into the channels which were yet full from the flood of the preceding week, was too great for the ordinary bounds of the streams, and in consequence it spread over a considerable portion of the valley. ... Jacksonville and immediate vicinity has sustained no material damage; but from other portions

In this 1860s Peter Britt photograph of Jacksonville, the long white building at upper right is the Union Hotel, run by the Zigers.

of the county we learn that the losses have been very serious."⁶

A similar storm in 1869 was described in the county history. "Suddenly the cloud burst, about a mile and a half west of town, and an immense volume of water was precipitated into Jackson and Daisy creeks ... mining apparatus and stumps were torn up and swept down stream, like reeds, cattle were borne down on the restless flood and the streets of the town could have floated a canoe. ... An immense amount of drift from the mines was washed down Jackson Creek, destroying and marring several comfortable homes, and leaving traces of devastation that may last for a generation to come."⁷

Occasional flash floods were not the only hazards. There was the smallpox epidemic of 1868, initially misdiagnosed, taking more than forty lives and cutting indiscriminately through the community, killing the prosperous as well as the poor.⁸

Nevertheless, Jacksonville was thriving. Along the main street, which could be dusty or muddy depending upon the weather, businesses were springing up to provide services and products for the community. There were three blacksmith shops, including the one owned by Martin and Zigler.

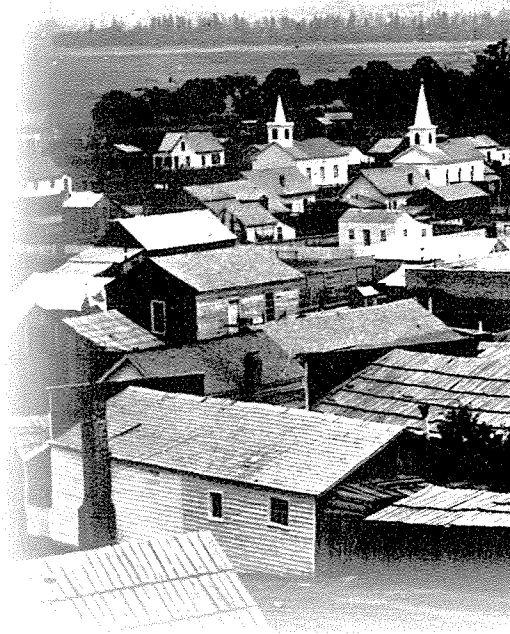
Jacksonville supported three bakeries—not surprising since bread was frequently the

main course in a gold miner's diet. The town had more than enough saloons to slake the thirst of the miners and laborers, and among the entertainments was a bowling alley.

In the years after the dam Zigler was trying to build washed away, he began to think about starting over somewhere else. His evaluation of his situation might have been prompted by the fact that gold production in the area was declining, and the newly constructed railroad creeping southward was going to bypass Jacksonville.

Roseburg seemed like a likely prospect. It had been incorporated in 1872 and the tracks of the Oregon & California Railroad were extended there in the same year. Even as Zigler was leasing the hotel to manage, he could not have anticipated that tragedy awaited him in Roseburg.

The family had scarcely gotten settled there when the new rail line cost the



This family portrait taken in 1889, five years after Lewis Zigler died in the Metropolitan Hotel fire, shows Sarah Plymale Zigler, seated left, and daughter Zelia, seated right; standing from left, are sons Frederic, Charles, "Stell", Paul, and Lewis, Jr.

The imposing Metropolitan Hotel, run by the Zigers, welcomed travelers to Roseburg. Two of the Zigler boys, Charles and Frederic, drove a coach that ferried guests from the railroad station to the hotel. Lewis Zigler died while evacuating guests from the hotel during an 1884 fire that destroyed the structure.





SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #2735A

Sarah Zigler, center, poses with daughter Zelia, left, and daughter-in-law Myra, right. Friends described Sarah, who died in 1906, as "a great pioneer lady in every sense of the word."



PHOTO COURTESY OF
ZELIA ZIGLER VON TRESS

Ziglers a child. For whatever reason—perhaps a fascination with things mechanical—little Mike Zigler found the turntable of the railroad an interesting place to play. It also proved deadly, when the boy was seriously injured in the railroad yard and died several months later, on June 10, 1873.

Roseburg reminded the family too much of the bright little boy they had lost, so they packed their belongings once again. Their next stop was Eugene, where Sarah gave birth to another son, who received the patriotic name of Paul Revere. But after only a year in Eugene, the Ziglers moved again, this time settling in the Marshfield area, later to be called Coos Bay.

Gold in small quantities had been found by the Indians in that region, and some serious gold-hunting was under way. One of the prospectors, Jim Crowley, was said to have made \$100,000 from his claim.

Lewis Zigler may have been interested in looking for gold, but he also knew that wherever there was gold, there were gold miners and a variety of others who flocked to the site. It was certainly a place of opportunity. In 1853 alone, a thousand miners were working there.⁹

Stell Zigler wrote that while they were in Marshfield, the family engaged in farming as well as mining and hotel

management. Born there in 1877, Stell was the last addition to the family.

After several years in Marshfield, Lewis Zigler learned that the Metropolitan Hotel in Roseburg was up for sale. Despite their bad memories, the family packed their things for the last time and moved back.

In an 1883 advertisement for the Metropolitan Hotel, Zigler called it "The Popular House." He boasted about the dining room that was supplied with "the best the market affords." Furthermore, no second-rate food would escape the eye of Sarah Zigler, who was in charge of the kitchen. A special feature of the Metropolitan's service was free transportation from the railroad in the hotel's coach.¹⁰

Just when things seemed to be going well for the family, the ultimate disaster happened. On August 19, 1884, a fire was discovered near the hotel stairway. In the aftermath, there was speculation that it was caused by an overturned coal-oil lamp. Zigler dashed from room to room, alerting the guests, including a family by the name of Johansen visiting from Marshfield. Unfortunately, Mrs. Johansen did not survive her injuries and died later in the day.

The Roseburg Rescue Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 did their best, with water pumped from a small reservoir on Bowen Hill, but there was no saving the Metropolitan Hotel, and the fire spread to other buildings. As for Lewis Zigler, he did not escape. His badly burned body was found after the fire had been put out. Sarah and her son, Stell, were seriously burned but survived.

Obituaries for Lewis Zigler described his efforts to save the lives of his guests as heroic. Added one obituary writer, "Mr. Zigler was a man of great energy and force of character, liberal to a fault, and one of the largest hearted men to be found anywhere; he was kind to indulgence with his family."

The husband and father was buried on Aug. 21 in the Odd Fellows Cemetery following a funeral in the Presbyterian Church. His widow, Sarah, was not without assistance in going on with her life. An item in the Jacksonville newspaper after the death of Lewis Zigler said, "F.M. (Francis) Plymale has gone to Roseburg to be present at the funeral of the late L.H. Zigler, and to assist in caring for his sister, Mrs. Zigler, who with her youngest child were quite seriously burned."

Sarah had six surviving children: Charles, age twenty-seven; Zelia, twenty-five (whom her father had called "Princess"); Frederic, eighteen; Lewis Jr., twelve; Paul, ten; and Stell, seven.

Sarah remained in Roseburg for the rest of her life, which ended, ironically, twenty-two years to the day after her husband's death. Looking back at the woman's life, Dr. Myra Brown Tynan,

As for Lewis Zigler, he did not escape. His badly burned body was found after the fire had been put out.

who had lived in Roseburg, said, "Sarah Zigler was a great pioneer lady in every sense of the word. When she heard that anyone was in trouble she would ride her horse into the hills, if necessary, and take food and medicine."

Besides her children, Sarah also had other family in Oregon. Her brother Francis had taken advantage of the 1850 Donation Land Act to acquire property five miles east of Jacksonville. Several



PLYMALE HOUSE.
c.1865.

PHOTOS BY LUKE COX



Plymale House, built in 1865, stands at the corner of Oregon and C streets in Jacksonville, across from the Post Office.

The wooded banks of Jackson Creek are peaceful today, but bustling with mining activity in the 1850s.

years later, another of Sarah's brothers, William, finished a course at Willamette University and ran for political office. He was twice elected county surveyor, and in 1874 he won a seat in the Oregon Legislature. Still another brother, Sebastian, tried his hand at farming, but also engaged in some mining, clerking, and operating a livery stable in Jacksonville.

Unknown to the Ziglers of Roseburg, there were two other risk-takers attracted by the promise of Oregon.

Both were destined to be grafted onto the Zigler-Plymale family tree.

Prior to 1852, Samuel Sykes, an Englishman, had

left his native Leeds for better prospects in America. A letter from his brother, Henry, who stayed behind, indicates that the financial situation in Yorkshire was not good. In 1856, Henry Sykes wrote, "Trade is so bad that there is no work at all."

Whatever profession Samuel Sykes had in mind when he came to America, he stayed for a time in Philadelphia to learn the brewing trade. One printed biographical sketch says Sykes crossed the country in a wagon train, but family lore says

otherwise. Zelia Zigler Von Tress remembers she was told that her grandfather Samuel took a sailing ship that rounded South America's Cape Horn.

If so, the voyage wouldn't have been a luxury cruise for Sykes. Diaries of those who took the sea route to California tell some harrowing stories of storms, bad food, and misrepresentation by at least one unscrupulous sailing company. Advertisements of some sailings claimed that there would be a physician aboard, but one diarist reported that the "doctor" on the "Urania" turned out to be a former apothecary's assistant.¹¹

Immigration records reveal that Samuel Sykes disembarked at San Francisco in 1852. The arrival date of his future wife, Delia Kerrigan, is not so easy to find, and therein lies a mystery. The same biographical sketch that had Samuel Sykes arriving by wagon train listed Delia's birthplace as Liverpool, England,



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

The Martin and Zigler Blacksmith Shop, built in 1859, was one of three serving the needs of the booming mining community at the time.

MARTIN & ZIGLER
BLACKSMITH SHOP.
1859.

rather than Dublin, Ireland, and added that she worked in Chicago for a man by the name of John Wentworth before crossing the continent by wagon train. There was, indeed, such a man, but Zelia Zigler Von Tress recalls being told that her grandmother Delia took a steam-powered ship to Panama, then rode a mule and walked across the forty miles of the isthmus to board a ship for San Francisco.

It was not easy crossing the isthmus. Before a train made the trek much easier, an Englishman, Frank Marryat, described what it was like: "With our mules in a string, we plunged at once into a narrow, rocky path in the forest, where palm trees and creepers shut the light out overhead—splashing through gurgling muddy streams, that concealed loose and treacherous stones—stumbling over fallen trees that lay across our road—burying ourselves to the mules' girths in filthy swamps, where on either side dead and putrid mules were lying—amidst lightning, thunder, and incessant rain, we went at a foot pace on the road to Panama."¹²

Whatever routes Samuel Sykes and Delia Kerrigan took to arrive on the West Coast, their paths converged in Portland. They were married there on October 6, 1866. Samuel bought a parcel of land in Portland and built a brewery. Unfortunately for the family, the uninsured business was destroyed by fire in 1873.

The Sykeses moved on, first to Eugene and then to Corvallis, where Samuel operated another brewery for seven years. By 1885, they were living in Roseburg. Samuel was retired by then and died on July 17, 1893. He did not live to see his oldest child, Caroline, marry Frederic Zigler.

Thus the four families—Zigler, Plymale, Sykes and Kerrigan—who took different routes to Oregon, were joined together in

life, and later in death in the cemetery at Roseburg.

There is a happy postscript to their stories. In 1989, Jacksonville residents banded together to preserve a portion of the town's woodland setting from the threat of development. Four years later, Zelia Zigler Von Tress, the daughter of Frederic and granddaughter of hotelier Lewis Zigler, got an unexpected phone

***Diaries of those who took
the sea route to California
tell some harrowing stories
of storms, bad food, and
misrepresentation by at least
one unscrupulous sailing
company.***

call from a man she had never met. Larry Smith, a Jacksonville elementary school teacher, was calling to suggest that the long, narrow strip of land along Jackson Creek where her grandfather had panned for gold so long ago would be a welcome addition to the Jacksonville Woodlands.

Smith put two of his pupils—Dusty Studebaker and Dan Moulin—to work writing a very appealing letter to Von Tress. Unable to resist, she donated the land to the project, and was warmly greeted when she traveled to Oregon for the presentation.

There is an irony here. Her grandfather came from Indiana to Oregon to acquire the land, and she traveled from Indiana to Oregon to give it back.

Writer Rose McIlveen is a publicist for Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

ENDNOTES

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2. Walling, A.G., *History of Southern Oregon, Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties*, (Portland, Oregon, 1884) p.360.
2. Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. XLIII, No. 3, September 1942, pp. 262 and 269.
3. Alfred Powers, "Survey of First Half-century of Oregon Hotels," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. XLIII, pp. 262, 269.
4. *History of Southern Oregon*, pp. 339-340.
5. Lillian Schissel, *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey*, (New York: Schocken Books, 1982) p. 62.
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PHOTOS BY LLOYD SMITH

Zelia Zigler Von Tress, here cutting a ribbon with nephew Vern Brown, visited Jacksonville in April of 1995 to donate the land claimed in the 1850s by her grandfather, Lewis Zigler, to the Jacksonville Woodlands Association. Today, children visit the former Zigler claim to learn about the gold-rush days of early Jacksonville.



If Floyd Whittle Could See It Now

by Nancy Bringhurst

Floyd Whittle built his one-story, fire-resistant, reinforced-concrete structure and concrete floors to last. If he ever thought about how his building might be used in the future, surely a micro-brewery restaurant would not have entered his mind. After all, the date of construction was 1925, eight years before the Twenty-first Amendment repealed Prohibition. And the Amarotico brothers, responsible for converting the Whittle Garage Building into the classy Standing Stone Brewery, surely have trouble believing that Whittle built that garage for only \$6,000. It took a half million dollars for them to renovate the garage before it was suitable for public assembly in 1997.

By the time Whittle arrived in the Rogue Valley in 1909, Ashland, founded in 1850, had already developed a

were needed to accommodate the growing businesses that serviced the cars, while existing buildings were simply modified.

Upon completion, Whittle leased the garage to Sim Morris and Sons, owner of Morris's Oak Street Garage. Over the twenty years they occupied the space, Morris's garage and machine shop business expanded to include other services related to automobile repair. Eventually, they found their niche in the manufacture of welded steel tanks. No one is certain how the building was used after the Morris' relocated, but there is speculation that Lithia Motors may have used a portion of the building for repairs and storage. Regardless, the garage remained essentially unchanged for almost thirty years, until August 13, 1953, when a fire at the Busch Motors Building spread and damaged the Whittle building.

Whittle hired E.H. Nicholson and Charles Delsman, owners of the Pioneer Glass and Cabinet Shop, to repair and replace the windows, tear down the rear wing ruined by the fire, and build a

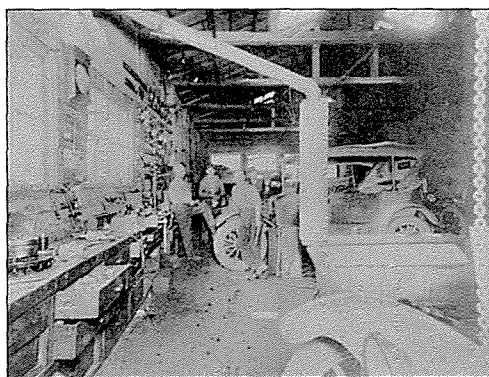


PHOTOS COURTESY OF GEORGE KRAMER

When Floyd Whittle commissioned a garage in the falsefront style during the height of Prohibition, he never guessed it might one day house the Standing Stone Brewery.

substantial industrial base. Whittle established a moving and storage operation, and in 1925 built a new industrial building in the commercial area. The plan he chose was an adaptation of the "falsefront" form used extensively in the towns of Oregon since 1850. The extended facade gave the appearance that a one-story building was larger and more formidable than it was; it also hid the simple gables and sloped roofs from public view.

During the early years of the twentieth century, the automobile became the main source of personal travel. New buildings



wooden deck for storage. Nicholson and Delsman, in need of additional space, then rented the newly repaired garage and moved their shop in November. When Nicholson died the following September, James Delsman joined his brother, Charles, to run the company. In 1977, they purchased the property from the Whittle estate, and ran the operation there until their retirement in 1994.

In March 1996, the ownership was transferred to the Amarotico brothers—Emile, Alexander, and Mark. From the beginning, they recognized the importance



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

The Whittle garage has been home to car mechanics, cabinetmakers, transients and now, restaurant customers.

of retaining the original integrity and industrial character of the building. All renovation was designed with the intent to appear as though the brewery/restaurant was simply tucked into the open original space. Most of the flooring is still exposed concrete, though now it is sealed with clear polymer. The original or similar raw concrete and brick walls remain exposed, and the original open truss system is still apparent. Modifications to meet seismic and sanitation codes and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements were installed so as not to detract from the original interior. The wooden storage deck, demolished in the early 1980s at the city's request because it had become an attractive area for indigents to gather, has been rebuilt and now serves as an attractive, outdoor dining area.

The building was officially accepted to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. According to George Kramer, an historic preservation consultant and the preparer of the nomination, "The Whittle Garage Building, completed in 1925, remains Ashland's best surviving example of the simple utilitarian Falsefront form as it was employed in Southern Oregon during the 1920s. Substantially unaltered from its historic exterior appearance, the Whittle Garage Building retains exceptional integrity in appearance, workmanship, setting, and use of materials."

Floyd Whittle should be pleased. ☐

Nancy Bringhurst writes from her Ashland mountaintop home.

ENDNOTES

1. George Kramer, National Register Nomination Documentation for the Whittle Garage Building, Ashland, Oregon, Addendum 3-1-97, Section 7, p. 6.



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GORDON HATCH

GROWING UP IN THE WOODVILLE MUSEUM

by Molly Walker Kerr

Visitors to Rogue River would never suspect that the prim two-story Woodville Museum with its peaked cupola, wrap-around porch and manicured gardens once housed a bustling family with four active boys.

Charles Hatch, one of the town's founding fathers, built the house on the corner of First and Oak in 1909. He had emigrated from Minnesota to Rogue River (then called Woodville) to make his fortune as a blacksmith. Active in town politics, he and his wife, Elizabeth, raised their sons, Arlie, Linden, Stuart and Gordon, in what was then known as the Hatch House.

Gordon Hatch, the youngest, was born in the house in 1914. "Our home was always open to visitors and strangers," he recalled. "Neighbor kids gathered there."

His eyes filled with mischief when describing how he urged a prissy neighbor boy to venture into the pigpen. "Of course he went splat in his Little Lord Fauntleroy suit. His mother came running and I quickly disappeared till they were gone."

Hatch remembered the home as "a great place to live back then. Pine forests bordered our garden and meadows spread out behind the house. There was plenty of room to roam. And, my



PHOTO BY JOYCE HAILICKA

brothers and me were constantly putting our house to the test. Once we scraped snow off the roof for a snowball fight indoors!"

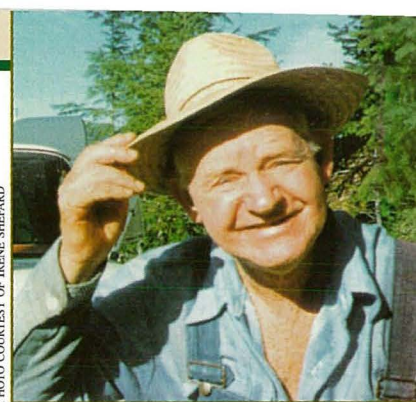
Fortunately, the Hatch House survived to become the whimsical museum visitors enjoy today. Gordon Hatch valued its preservation.

Hatch worked on Midway Island before World War II, then on the dry docks at Pearl Harbor. He and Wilda Mayfield, his fiancée from back home, were married over there. They returned to Rogue River after the war and bought a house a couple of blocks from his boyhood home. They raised four children there: Roger, Irene, Janelle, and Russell. All live nearby.³

In the early 1940s, Hatch and his father tore down the old smithy. They built a service station in its place—and the TipTop Restaurant next door. Gordon ran the service station for years, then leased it out. A man of many talents, he was a volunteer fireman, helped build Interstate 5, and logged timber with a hand saw. He and his brothers lived out their lives in Rogue River.⁴

Dale Hatch says of his uncle: "He loved to fish. He had a lot of patience.

PHOTO COURTESY OF IRENE SHEPARD



Gordon Hatch in his later years

The Woodville Museum, left, now houses artifacts from Rogue River's past, but it once echoed with the shouts of rambunctious Hatch boys.

When his boat smashed up going down Blossom Bar, he gathered up the pieces and rebuilt it. It didn't really bother him. He was that kind of guy—an extraordinary person."⁵

Gordon Hatch and his wife died within twenty days of each other in the early summer of 1999. They are buried side by side in the Woodville Cemetery along with his parents and his brothers—the boys who grew up in the Woodville Museum. 🏠

Molly Walker Kerr, a Medford freelance writer, has been a frequent contributor to Southern Oregon Historical Society publications.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DALE HATCH



The camera caught Gordon, then eleven, picking azaleas with his mother in 1925.

ENDNOTES

1. Interview with Gordon Hatch, 30 October 1995.
2. Ibid.
3. Interview with Dale Hatch, 27 October 1999.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IRENE SHEPARD

Sweethearts Gordon Hatch and Wilda Mayfield in Ashland's Lithia Park in 1940.



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