

SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE

Today



RUNNING OUT OF ROOM FOR READERS

The Libraries of Jackson County

YELLOW BLOSSOMS LIFTED PIONEER HEARTS

A Rose by Many Names

A FASCINATION WITH FLIGHT

**Seely Hall, Father of Jackson
County Aviation**

**APRIL 2000
Vol. 2, No. 4**

Volunteers Answer Society's Call

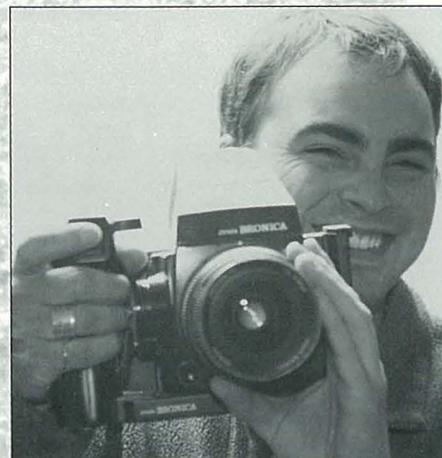
by Dawna Curler



Driving the tractor is Jerry Doran's reward for the many hours of yard work he puts in at the Hanley Farm.



Arlene Wolfe, who portrays Mrs. Beekman, also inventoried the clothing collection early this year.



Lucas Cox gained and gave much as a college intern in the photography department.

National Volunteer Week will be celebrated April 9 to 15 by people all across the country. It is a time to recognize the importance of volunturism and salute those who give so much of themselves back to their communities. The staff at the Southern Oregon Historical Society also want to take this time to express their appreciation for the valuable contributions that Society volunteers make.

At different times throughout the year, large groups, small teams, or individual volunteers answer the Society's needs for extra helping hands at the museums in Jacksonville, the History Center, Hanley Farm, and the Ashland branch. Volunteers work directly with the public, provide support services, or assist with special projects.

Some volunteers donate their time and/or expertise on a limited, or one-time basis. Others become an integral part of the Society by making a long-term commitment and working a regular schedule as unpaid staff. Volunteers also serve as members of the Society Board of Trustees and as members of the Foundation Board of Directors. College students provide service as interns through specifically directed educational programs, and still other volunteers support the Society by joining one of the volunteer auxiliary groups: the Gold Diggers' Guild and the Jacksonville Museum Quilters.

The volunteers' contribution to the Society is significant. In fiscal year 1998-99 alone, 326 volunteers donated 11,646 hours to the Society.

These volunteers range in age from elementary school students to senior citizens and bring with them a willingness to learn and an eagerness to share their skills and experience. Whatever the task, whatever the length of service, Society volunteers are necessary and appreciated and deserve the spotlight during National Volunteer Week. 🍷



Lana McGraw Boldt, left, and Ann Moore served as volunteer judges for the annual History Day contest.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Southern Oregon Historical Society, contact Dawna Curler, manager of volunteer resources, at 773-6536.



From left, Lauren, Stuart, and Allegra Fety gathered historical information for their junior docent activities.

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.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society secures rights to full and final editing of all manuscripts, layout design, and one-time North American serial rights. Authors will be notified of acceptance of manuscripts within ninety days of receiving materials. In most cases, payment is upon publication. *Southern Oregon Heritage Today* takes great care with all submitted material, but is not responsible for damage or loss. Only photocopies of irreplaceable original historical documents should be submitted. Facts, views, and opinions expressed in signed submissions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or opinions of *Southern Oregon Heritage Today* or the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE Today

FEATURE:

Make Room For More Books

A Brief History of the Libraries of Jackson County

by Alison Baker p. 8



SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #6175 (DETAIL)

DEPARTMENTS



SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #17033

THE PIONEERS:

Seely Hall: Father of Jackson County Aviation

by Bill Alley
p. 14



SOHS #12553

OUR OWN VOICES

Volunteers Answer Society's Call by Dawna Curler... p. 2

SOHS News and Notes

Exhibits and program updates and calendar p. 6

MEMBERS AND DONORS

p. 15

SUNDAY DRIVING

Schroeder Park: Cool Place Along the River

by Molly Walker Kerr
p. 4



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

FROM THE LIBRARY

The Table Rock Question

by Bill Miller
p. 5



POSTCARD COURTESY OF JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARIES (DETAIL)

ON THE COVER

Medford's Carnegie library, before all the trees, circa 1913. At right, this yellow rose was a beloved sight wherever pioneers settled.



PHOTO BY DONN L. TODT

ROOTED IN HISTORY

A Rose By Many Names

by Donn L. Todt and Nan Hannon
p. 16



PHOTO BY DONN L. TODT

Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees

- Allen Alsing, Ashland, PRESIDENT
- Cheryl Breeden, Medford
- Judi Draits, Medford, TREASURER
- Chuck Eccleston, Medford
- H. Walter Emori, M.D., Jacksonville
- Jim Fety, Rogue River
- Joyce Halicka, Butte Falls
- Nancy Hamlin, Medford, SECRETARY
- Reeve Hennion, Jacksonville
- Lawson Inada, Ashland
- Nancy McGrew, Jacksonville

- Ann Moore, Medford, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
- Alice Mullaly, Central Point
- Marjorie Overland, Medford, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Administrative Staff

- Brad Linder, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- Maureen Smith, FINANCE/OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
- Amelia Chamberlain, PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
- Susan Cox-Smith, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Southern Oregon Heritage Today is published monthly by the Southern Oregon Historical Society, 106 N. Central Ave., Medford, OR 97501-5926. (541) 773-6536

Magazine Staff

- Cynthia Wicklund, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
- Bill Powell, GUEST EDITOR
- Dana Hedrick-Earp, PHOTOGRAPHER

ART DIRECTION BY Daeryl Lewis

Collections/Research Library Staff

- Mary Ames Sheret, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS
- Jacque Sundstrand, LIBRARY/ARCHIVES COORDINATOR
- Carol Harbison-Samuelson, LIBRARY MANAGER/PHOTO ARCHIVIST
- William Alley, ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN
- Bill Miller, LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Southern Oregon Heritage Today is produced using Quark XPress on Macintosh computers and is printed by Ram Offset Lithographers.

Copyright 2000 by Southern Oregon Historical Society, ISSN #1082-2003. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be printed or electronically duplicated without the written permission of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

Schroeder Park: COOL PLACE ALONG THE RIVER

by Molly Walker Kerr

Cool, shady banks and up-to-date boat ramp invite visitors to enjoy the Rogue River at Schroeder Park just downstream from Grants Pass.

If you long for a day in the great outdoors, but don't want to be too far from civilization, hitch up your boat trailer and head for Schroeder Park—a stone's throw west of Grants Pass.

Located down a quiet country lane, the 24-acre park stretches along a serene portion of the Rogue River. Visitors can fish, swim, hike the trails, picnic, or just spread a blanket on the soft grass beneath the trees and watch nature go by.

Locals are grateful to farmer Paul Schroeder who deeded five acres of prime riverfront property to the county on December 31, 1941, with the condition that the land be used for a park. Because of its close proximity to town, it quickly became a favorite spot for picnickers, and the county and state cooperated to put in an access road, picnic tables, a well, and a boat ramp in 1956. In 1963, the county

Redwood Lions Club offered to plant seventy trees to enhance the area and shade summer picnickers.

The park's narrow boat ramp proved inadequate to handle the boating traffic. When the former Oregon Game Commission decided to build boat ramps at three-mile intervals along the river to replace the cramped, older ones, Schroeder Park was chosen as one of the sites, with a new ramp scheduled to be installed in the fall of 1964 about 500 feet upstream from the existing ramp. According to Jack Sim, Josephine County parks director at the time, "The contract was given to an avid fisherman who had never built a boat ramp. When the river flooded in 1964, it chewed up the concrete ramp and spit it out in four- to five- foot pieces!"

The Lions Club had completed its tree-planting project only one month before the great flood of December 1964 washed all the trees away. "It was as if they'd never been there," said Sim. "All that remained was a huge 40-by-100 foot lake four feet deep." He said the county parks board took one look at the mess and decided to abandon the Schroeder Park project, placing it on lowest priority.

But in 1965, Schroeder Park was given another chance. The California-Oregon Recreation Development Association hired Chuck Collins, former Douglas County parks director, to chair an organization to help develop and publicize recreation in the area. Sim said this move fit the grant criteria of the newly passed federal Land and Water Act, and as a result, Josephine County was awarded a grant of \$58,000 to be used for public recreation improvements.

Schroeder Park became one of the first areas in Oregon funded by a Land and Water Act grant, and the funds were matched by the state Parks Department. Grant money was used to hire youth work

crews to clean up the area, and the park was restored. The state Marine Board provided money to rebuild the original boat ramp, widen it to twenty feet and extend it into the river. Today, it's a good place to learn to put a drift boat into the water. It's wide enough to accommodate most mistakes.

Picnic tables now dot the grass along the river—a perfect spot to watch boat-launchings, swimming kids, wild volleyball games, or jet boats skimming past on their way to Hellsgate Canyon. A fishing platform offers a place to catch dinner for a barbecue in the Healy Shelter, donated by Jeffrey Healy, of Austin Healy auto fame, who loves to fish in Southern Oregon.

A focal point is an American flag made of round, painted river rocks. It rests against the grassy hill leading to the park's upper level. Sim said, "It seemed like a good way to express how we feel about our country."

For an overnight stay, you can camp on the upper level amidst flowers and shade trees. Winding paths lead to a playground with a bright red slide, restrooms with showers, laundry facilities, and beyond to the beckoning baseball diamond, basketball hoops, tennis courts, and soccer fields.

At day's end, the park is peaceful. Smells of burgers linger in the coals and soft laughter drifts from fifty campsites. Ducks settle down, the frog chorus takes over, and moonlight spills across the wide river that never sleeps. ☪

Molly Walker Kerr is a Medford free-lance writer.

ENDNOTES

- 1. Jack Sim, "Parks History," manuscript, Josephine County Parks Department, Grants Pass, Ore., n.d.
- 2. Author interview with Jack Sim, May 1999.

DIRECTIONS: To reach Schroeder Park, take Highway 199, cross the Rogue River and bear right onto Redwood Avenue. Go two to three miles and turn right onto Willow Lane. Follow to the end.



Painted rocks form a mosaic of Old Glory beneath the landscaped canopy at the park, which was scrubbed to bare gravel by the 1964 flood.

purchased an additional 10.3 acres from the state, and bought another 9.6 acres in 1966 from Edith Parkhill.¹

Tourists attracted by the Rogue River's feisty and abundant steelhead fishing poured into the park each season. Soon it had to be updated to accommodate them. Workers removed an eight-foot-high jungle of blackberries along the river banks and planted grass. In 1964, the

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

The Table Rock Question

by Bill Miller

“WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE ARMY FORCING THOSE INDIANS OFF TABLE ROCK?”

That question, which remains one of the most frequently asked of the Southern Oregon Historical Society's Research Library staff, has many variations. Sometimes instead of soldiers, it is gleeful settlers with blazing rifles annihilating Indian women and children, then fiendishly throwing their bodies over the cliffs. Sometimes the Indians commit suicide by jumping off of Table Rock to avoid capture. Whatever the details, the tone of the question nearly always assumes that it really did happen. But just because you believe it happened—did it? That is the question that has survived for nearly a century and a half.

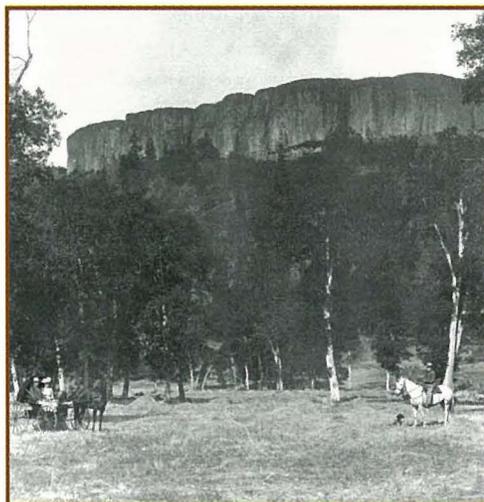
Near the Table Rocks, the Rogue Indian Wars of 1853-1856 were fought with the Takelma tribe. Although the conflict was not constant and peace treaties suspended hostilities at times, the terror felt by both sides engendered stories of atrocities, some well documented and others embellished rumor.

John Beeson gave the story credibility when he included it in his 1858 book, *A Plea For the Indians*. Beeson, who lived near Talent, was staunchly defensive of the Takelmas' right to live in the valley and openly critical of the war being waged against them. "From another source I learned the following almost incredible atrocities: ... Two women and a man who had taken refuge upon Table Rock, which is high and very precipitous were pursued; and it was reported that they had killed themselves by jumping down its steep and craggy sides. But Dr. Ambrose, who lived in the vicinity, informed me that they fell because they were shot, and could not avoid it." Beeson recounted many atrocities in his book, but this report has lasted the longest.¹

Nearly thirty years after the wars ended, the question was still alive and being asked of General John E. Ross, who as a colonel had commanded volunteers during the wars. During negotiation of the 1853 peace treaty, Ross was the only translator acceptable to the Takelmas. In 1886 he told a news reporter "there was no battle fought by the whites against the Indians on the summit of Table Rock. ... Capt. Taylor was killed by the Indians back of Table Rock, but no battle was ever fought on the rock."²

By the early 1900s, the scope of the Table Rock atrocity was nearing legendary proportions. With the help of the Ashland militia and several hundred valley residents dressed as Takelmas, Medford dentist Dr. Louis Bundy proposed a motion picture, with the plot described in a news story: "He will have the Chief John Indian war of fifty years ago reproduced in which the redskins were driven over the edge of Table Rock by the Indian fighters." At the film's brutal conclusion, the deaths of the Takelmas would be accomplished

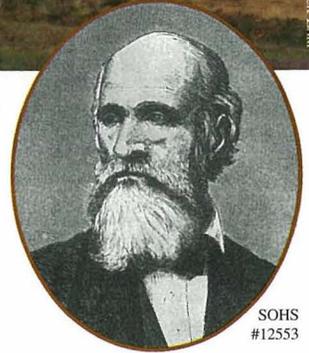
The imposing heights of the Table Rocks have long defined the Rogue Valley landscape, lured visitors such as these in the 1880s, and stirred local imaginations.



SOHS #12832

Lower Table Rock was an important landmark in the Rogue Indian Wars of 1853-56, fought between the Takelma tribe and local settlers and soldiers.

At right, John Beeson was an early defender of Indians' rights, but his account of atrocities at Table Rock is short of verifiable facts.



SOHS #12553

by tossing hundreds of dummies over the cliffs. No one knows if the film was ever made, but if it was, surely nothing would have added more believability to the story.³

Doubts and denials persisted. Rezin Packard had settled on the banks of Bear Creek in 1853, building his cabin just east of where East Sixth Street ends in Medford today. In the summer of 1908, his son, who had been a teenager during the wars, returned to Medford and friends asked him what he knew of those events. The *Medford Mail* reported his answer. "He denies the oft rehearsed tale of the government troops forcing the red man on to Table Rock and then pushing him off the perpendicular side to death, but recalls that many Indians were shot on the waters of Rogue river."⁴

So, is the subject of the question fact or folklore? Remember, there is no shortage of documented atrocities during the Rogue Indian Wars, most supported with enthusiastic bragging by participants, who soon became heroes to some of their peers. Their perceived "glory" in battle would have been celebrated by many and retold countless times. However, no one claims credit for driving any Indians over the edge of Table Rock, and no names or evidence have ever been found to confirm the story. So, while we may never know for sure, the answer is probably that

the Table Rock massacre is folklore. The excitement of history is the quest for truth, tempered with the realization that the truth may never be found. 🏠

Bill Miller is a library assistant for the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

ENDNOTES

1. John Beeson, *A Plea For the Indians*, 3rd ed. (New York: John Beeson, 1858), p.53.
2. A.G. Walling, *History of Southern Oregon ...* (Portland: Walling Publishing Co., 1884), p. 538; *Ashland Tidings*, 25 June 1886, p. 3:3.
3. Newspaper clipping, "Put Table Rock in Movies," Southern Oregon Historical Society Thomas Collection, scrapbook, n.d.
4. *Medford Mail*, 21 August 1908, p. 2:5.



Things To Do in April

PROGRAMS: *(see listings below for complete descriptions)*

	<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
April Craft of the Month Conversations with . . .	Museum hours Sat., April 1, 1:00 p.m.	Children's Museum Ashland Branch	"Psyanky Eggs" coloring sheets, Free Jan Wright: Ashland's Oak Street neighborhood, Free
Easter Egg-Citement	Wed., April 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.	Beekman House	Egg dying-ages 3-6
Easter Egg-Citement	Sat., April 15, 10:30 -11:30 a.m.	Beekman House	Egg dying-ages 6-12
Exploring Oregon's Courthouses	Fri., April 14, 2:00 p.m.	Jackson County Courthouse auditorium	Courthouses as living museums, Free

National Volunteer Week
April 9-15

Program Details

For times and locations, see schedule above.

APRIL CRAFT OF THE MONTH
"Psyanky Eggs" Coloring Sheet
Color a beautiful Psyanky egg to decorate your home. Families. Free.

CONVERSATION WITH...
Pioneer families at one end; slaughterhouse at the other; Ashland's Oak Street has always been a significant thoroughfare. Jan Wright, curator of education for the Society, will share her research about the intermingling of neighbors and the community along Oak Street. Come and learn how to explore your own neighborhood.

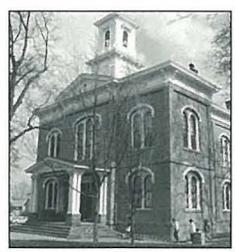
EASTER EGG-CITEMENT
Add a little egg-citement to your Easter celebration with naturally dyed Easter eggs. We'll be dipping and dyeing at this special workshop **just for kids ages 3-6**.
Fee: \$3.00 members,
\$4.00 non-members.



MORE EASTER EGG-CITEMENT
Join us for more egg-citement for older kids (ages 6-12) as we make more naturally dyed Easter eggs. Fee: \$3.00 members, \$4.00 non-members.

Watch for a four-week lecture series to begin in May at the Ashland Branch on the history of Southern Oregon.

EXPLORING OREGON'S COUNTY COURTHOUSES



Courthouses are often overlooked as significant cultural sites, despite their eminent place in our communities. "Classic Columns and Simple Chambers: Exploring

Oregon's County Courthouses," will be presented by author Kathleen Wiederhold (below), who will analyze and interpret these "living museums" as places reflecting the pride, ideals and history of Oregonians through slides. This free program is made possible by the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. (Jackson County Courthouse auditorium, 10 S. Oakdale, Medford). Call 773-6536 to sign up for this program or for more information.

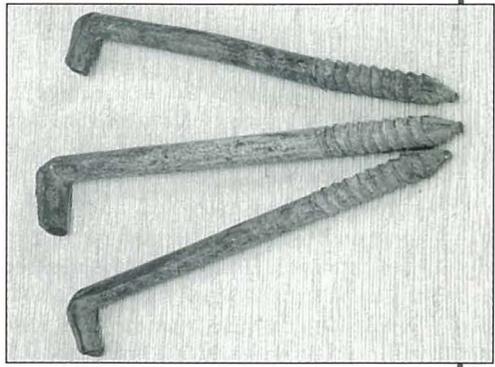


Do you enjoy talking to people? Have you always wanted to act?

It's not too late. Volunteers are still being recruited for this year's **Beekman Living History Program** to greet visitors or play the part of the senior Mr. or Mrs. Beekman; middle-aged daughter, Carrie; their hired girl, Louise, or a teen-aged piano student. Training starts soon, so don't wait!

Call Jan Wright at 773-6536 to volunteer for a summer of fun.

MYSTERY OBJECT OF THE MONTH



April Mystery Object:
These items helped "Ma Bell" get a leg up. Do you know what they are? They are 9" long. 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, or by email to info@sohs.org.



March's Mystery Object: Camera self timer

March's mystery object was a camera self timer. The cable release was slid onto the top. Congratulations to January's Mystery Object Winner, Allan Wehco of Medford, who correctly identified the mystery object as a traveler that measured the circumference of a wheel.

EXHIBITS: *(see listings below for complete descriptions)*

	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MUSEUM HOURS</u>
Century of Photography: 1856-1956 Ernest Smith, Butte Falls Photographer	HISTORY CENTER	Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Sat. 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker Jacksonville: Boom Town to Home Town Politics of Culture: Collecting the Native American Experience Hall of Justice Yesteryear's Children's Playroom: One Hundred Years of Toys (1890-1990)	JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM	Wed. - Sat., 10:00 am.-5:00 pm Sunday, noon - 5:00 pm
Ongoing 'hands on history' exhibit	CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	Wed. - Sat., 10:00 am.-5:00 pm Sunday, noon - 5:00 pm
The Private Life of a Non-Public Place Streetscapes and City Views	ASHLAND BRANCH	Wed. - Sat., 12:00 -4:00 pm
Putting a Spin on Fibers	3RD ST. ARTISAN STUDIO	Saturdays, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Archaeology of the Upper Rogue	EAGLE POINT HIST. SOC.	call 826-4166 for hours

Exhibit Details

For times and locations, see schedule above.

CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1856-1956

Highlights the work of two area photographers Peter Britt and James Verne Shangle, with cameras from the Society's collection.

ERNEST W. SMITH, BUTTE FALLS PHOTOGRAPHER

The Butte Falls Historical Society exhibit features Ernest W. Smith, Butte Falls photographer and surveyor (north window, History Center). A portion of his office has been recreated for the display and includes a free-standing photo reproduction of Smith with his camera.

MINER, BAKER, FURNITURE MAKER

Explores the development of the Rogue Valley and the impact the industrial revolution had on the settlement of Southern Oregon.

JACKSONVILLE: Boom Town to Home Town

Traces the development of Jacksonville.

POLITICS OF CULTURE: *Collecting the Native American Experience*

Cultural history of local tribes and discussion of contemporary collecting issues.

HALL OF JUSTICE

History of the former Jackson County Courthouse.

YESTERYEAR'S CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM: *One Hundred Years of Toys (1890-1990)*,

This Southern Oregon Antiques and Collectibles Club exhibit will run through May. One hundred years of childhood memories as antiques and collectibles fill the playroom.



Delightful toys on display include a 1920s doll swing, a child's rocker, pull toys, and a hobby horse on springs.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Explore home and occupational settings from the 1850s to the 1930s through "hands on history."

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A NON-PUBLIC PLACE

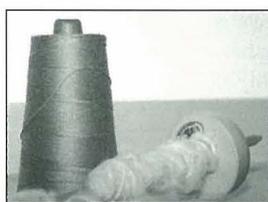
Features Dunn House: a safe haven to abused women and children in Jackson County.

STREETSCAPES AND CITY VIEWS

Explores the visual history of Ashland through the eyes of yesterday's photographers.

PUTTING A SPIN ON FIBERS

Rogue Valley Handweavers, Far Out Fibers and the Saturday Handweaving Guild will present a handspinning exhibit. Various fibers used in



handspinning, tools and finished articles will be displayed. There will also be spinners

demonstrating this traditional artform and some hands-on experience for the public. The exhibit runs through May 31.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE UPPER ROGUE

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 traveling to local historical societies over the course of the year.

SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SITES

Phone: (541) 773-6536

unless listed otherwise

Fax (541) 776 7994

Email info@sohs.org

Website www.sohs.org

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, 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.

ASHLAND BRANCH

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

JACKSONVILLE HISTORY STORE

Watch for May reopening

Share your memories & treasures!

Do you have a collection—buttons, stamps, war memorabilia—you would like to share? The Ashland Branch has space available for community members to display personal collections.

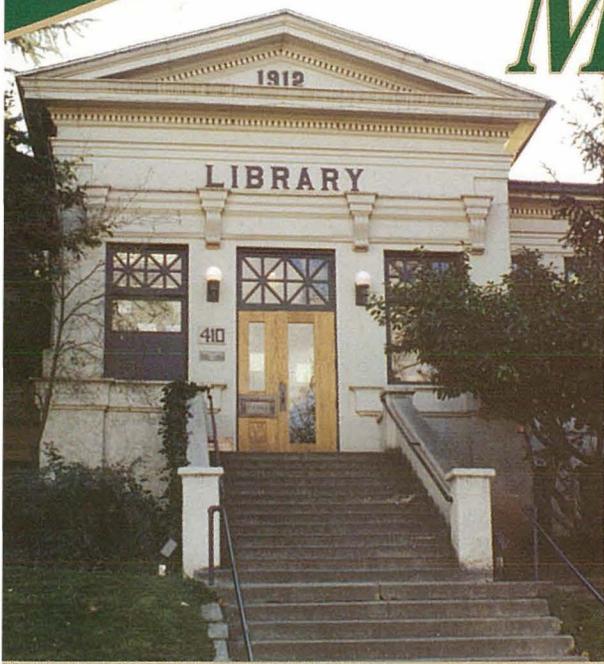
In preparation for an exhibit titled "High Water," to open mid-June at the Ashland branch, we would like to gather your memories of Jackson County's floods during the 20th century. Do you also have photos of Ashland "under water," or the resulting flood damage that we could borrow to copy for the exhibit?

Please contact Ashland Program Associate Jay Leighton at 488-4938.

MAKE ROOM FOR MORE BOOKS

A Brief History of the Libraries of Jackson County

by Alison Baker



Ashland's beloved but now-cramped Carnegie library is due for expansion, instead of replacement, as Ashland voters made clear when they approved a bond issue last fall to renovate and preserve the structure. The library's exterior has changed little since this image at right was taken just after it was built in 1912.



SOHS #3657



SOHS #8625

Medford's Carnegie library, also built in 1912, dominated the park-like plaza at Main and Oakdale, where people gathered to hear band concerts at the gazebo in this 1924 photo, above. Today, it is not just the mature trees that make the Medford Library seem smaller.



COLOR/CONTEMPORARY PHOTOS BY DANA HEDRICK-EARP

If you grew up in America in the twentieth century, chances are there was a building in your home town that you regarded with something like reverence. It wasn't your church, or your school, or even the candy store on the corner; it was a public library.

It's not hard to understand why libraries inspire great affection, even passion. From the time a toddler climbs the steps for her first storytime, through the school years when reference books and databases help with homework, on to the "serious" information needs of adulthood—help with resume' writing, investment information, 1,001 hamburger recipes—every library user believes that the library

belongs to him or her. It's one public institution that doesn't exist to regulate, to punish, or to tax; it is perceived as being *on our side*.

Of the millions who have a place in their hearts for the public library, many love not just libraries in general but a particular library building. In Jackson County, the beloved library may be a pillared, high-ceilinged Carnegie or a tiny storefront tucked in next to a pharmacy. It could be a remodeled fast-food restaurant, a former credit union, or even a well-preserved nineteenth-century trading post. Even a little shack once used for weighing logs is now a public library that has become part of hundreds of personal landscapes.

These are just a few of the fifteen branches of the Jackson County library system, a tremendously busy system that has won national recognition for its innovative programs. The branches share a 1,500,000-item collection, and work together to provide services to more than 170,000 people spread out over a county larger than Delaware.

Cooperation is nothing new to the libraries of Southern Oregon. In 1920 Jackson County and the Medford Library Board signed a contract that made the Medford city library the hub of a "system of branches, deposit stations, and traveling libraries, and individual service" in rural areas; for towns that already had libraries, the system provided "books and supervision." By the end of 1920 the Medford Library was purchasing and processing books for eight branch libraries; at century's end the system had fifteen branches in buildings as varied as the communities it served.

Part of library work is repairing books to keep them in circulation. At right is a book press used until 1995 at the Medford Library.

MEDFORD

The Medford Library began as a “subscription” library in 1903, when fifty citizens donated two dollars each for books. These were located in G. H. Haskins’ Drugstore in the 200 block of East Main. Leon Haskins became Medford’s first librarian when he took on the job of checking out books and collecting dues. Borrowing privileges were an additional twenty-five cents per month.

In 1907, the Greater Medford Club, an association of civic-minded ladies, began agitating for a public library that would serve every citizen, not just paying members. The City Council approved of the idea, and in 1908 Medford opened a public library in the City Hall council chambers at Sixth and Front streets. The first 200 books were donated by none other than drugstore proprietor G. H. Haskins.

But the Greater Medford Club had more ambitious plans. The club had been instrumental in creating what is now Alba Park on a plot of land sold to the city by C. C. Beekman for \$275. (It had first been used for growing potatoes.) Beside the park stood the 32,000-gallon wooden water tank that supplied Medford’s water. The city was building a new gravity-operated water system, and the club’s members wanted to replace the tower with a public library. But in 1908, when they applied to Andrew Carnegie for a grant, the application was rejected; he considered Medford’s population—reported as 1,791 in the 1900 census—too small to support a library!

In the 1910 census, Medford’s population had quadrupled to 8,000. The next year the *Mail Tribune* would report that ninety-eight buildings were under construction within eight blocks of Front and Main streets, and said in an editorial,

“We need the library now more than ever since we are in danger of submergence in a tide of materialism.”

In a special election that year, voters approved a measure to provide 10 percent of the cost of a new library building. The Library Board applied to Carnegie for the rest, and this time the application,

along with a design by architect J. A.

McIntosh, was approved. The water tower was torn down, and Alfred Ivey, the successful bidder, built the library for \$17,298.

With a speech from Mayor W. H. Canon and music by the Medford High School Band, the Medford Public Library opened its doors on February 8, 1912. It included a museum consisting of 100 stuffed birds from Florida, Cuba, and the Philippines, donated by a Dr. Porter. Adjacent was the men’s smoking and reading room; there was no equivalent space for ladies. In fact, the library was very much an institution of its time: one morning when members of the Suffrage Club arrived to use the meeting room, they were turned away!² The *Mail*



Medford’s wooden water tower catches the eye in this 1910 view of the city. The tower site also caught the eye of the Greater Medford Club, whose members wanted to use the land for a library.

Tribune reported that “Members of the Suffrage Club are for the most part members of the Greater Medford Club which took the lead in securing the Carnegie library,” and added, “They are indignant.” Apparently the ladies later received an apology from the Library Board.

Unfortunately, the materials used in the Carnegie’s construction may have not have been the best. According to a history of the library system, the story of “the maintenance ... of the Medford Carnegie Library reads like a continual repair bill.”³ By the time the library had been open for a year, its roof needed repair, and from then on the minutes of the Library Board are a litany of leaks, crumbling walls, and eroding pillars.

Another interesting note is that many of the 1,689 libraries that Andrew Carnegie built were too small *even before their doors opened*.⁴ Carnegie used only the size of the existing community to determine whether or not to grant money for a library; future growth was not taken into consideration. Some libraries actually received grants for expansion from Carnegie himself only a few years after he built them. But many were forced to turn to their own communities for help.

Medford was one of these. In 1931 the Greater Medford Club offered \$3,000 toward an expansion that would include a larger meeting room, but

SOHS #8853



SOHS #5662

You can almost hear the quiet rustle of pages being turned in the spacious expanse of Ashland's new library in this 1912 image.

nothing happened until 1945, when voters approved a "Library Enlargement and Equipment Bonds Amendment" for \$102,000. But increasing labor and materials costs had already made the plans obsolete; when new ones were finally presented for bid, the city planning commission recommended that all bids be rejected. In 1949 a frustrated Library Board warned the mayor that the condition of the Carnegie was so acute that if action were not taken the entire board would resign.

In 1951 an addition was finally built for \$100,679, doubling the size of the Medford Public Library to 15,000 square feet. One more remodeling episode occurred in 1982, when new wiring, plumbing, heating, lighting, roof, and carpet were installed and the ramp and elevator were added.

In 1979 the city of Medford deeded the Carnegie to Jackson County, with the condition that, should the county cease to use it as a library, ownership would revert to the city. In 1981 the Medford Public Library was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ASHLAND

Ashland, the only other city in Jackson County to boast a Carnegie library, has the oldest library in the county, started in 1891 as a subscription library by the Epworth League of the Methodist Church. At the first annual meeting in 1892, there were ninety-seven paid members and 240 volumes in the collection. No "books of a controversial nature on the subject of religion" were among them; the library board had voted that they "shall be excluded." Miss Hattie Thornton served as the librarian. Donations of books and money started the library, but "the growth of the library depended largely on entertainments and subscription." These included a business carnival, a play by the "Mistic Midgets," and a concert by a Miss Yerk that brought in \$10.75. In 1898, the "Business Men in Baseball" contributed \$100.

The library was first housed in the home of E. K. Anderson. Later, T. J. Howell rented the Library Association a room at Main and Hargadine for ten dollars per month. This was too expensive; a room in the Commercial Club turned

out to be too noisy. The library at last moved to City Hall.

In 1909 the city of Ashland assumed responsibility for the library's operations. In an election to choose a site for a permanent building,

voters selected the spot where Ashland's library now stands. The building cost \$16,500, of which \$15,000 was paid by Andrew Carnegie; the City Council bought the furniture. The new Ashland Free Public Library was dedicated September 16, 1912. In 1955, a room was added to the original building.

In 1970 Ashland joined the other community libraries in becoming a branch of a consolidated Jackson County library system. During a fiscal crisis in the 1980s, Ashland was the only community able to contribute city funds to help keep open a service that its residents considered vital to civic life.

BRANCHES

Jackson County's love for public libraries isn't limited to the two Carnegie buildings. More than half the county's residents live in small towns and rural areas where finding a home for a library has often required a bit of imagination.

In 1920, when Jackson County contracted with Medford to operate libraries in smaller communities, the city of Rogue River (called Woodville until 1912) had already been operating a library for ten years. In 1910 the Woodville Women's Civic Improvement Club had organized a "book social" in the old opera house; the thirty-eight books handed over as admission became the nucleus of a public library. Its first home was a one-room building on Main Street that had been the living quarters of Sam Mathis and would later become Jackie's Restaurant. On opening day, all thirty-eight books were checked out! To raise funds, homemade ice cream and cake were sold at the library throughout the summer. In 1958, "[o]ne of the older citizens of Rogue River still fondly recall[ed] the huge plates of strawberry ice cream and wedges of coconut cake served him for twenty-five cents." The library was moved several times before moving into City Hall on Broadway Street in 1952.

In 1958, controversy over funding, fine money, and ownership of books resulted in Rogue River's seceding from the cooperative arrangement with the Medford Library. It remained a city library until the county system was established in 1970, when it became the Rogue River Branch. In 1990, the Rogue River Friends of the Library convinced the county commissioners to sell the existing library building and buy one that housed a credit union and dentist's office; even though it was far too small, it had room for both



Huddled next to the Orth Building on Oregon Street in Jacksonville, top, the tiny library still resides in a commercial building that dates to 1855. Readers browse in the back in this 1921 photograph, above, taken a year after Jacksonville's library opened.





PHOTOS: JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

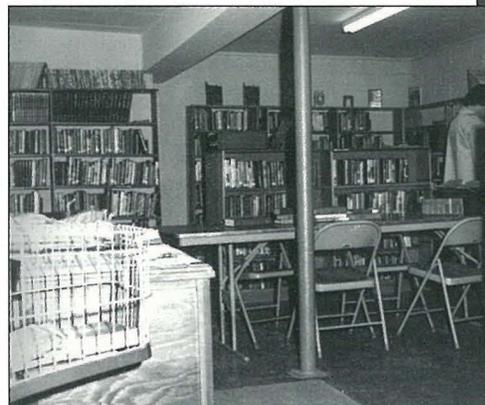


Stacks of periodicals and books await readers in both the Central Point Library, top, and the Eagle Point Library in these 1921 photographs.

expansion and parking. They had the building remodeled, and, despite a bomb threat, celebrated its grand opening on Valentine's Day 1992. In 1995 the Friends had the library expanded to 3,980 square feet. The extra space was filled to capacity by 1998, when the Rogue River Branch became the reference center for the library's western region, and additional staff and materials were moved in.

In 1920 Jacksonville, with a population of 489, was the county seat; it was the first town to respond to the cooperative arrangement between Medford and the county by opening a new library. The town found a "suitable room," and on two afternoons and one evening each week Mrs. H. K. Hanna, the first librarian, supervised the circulation of 290 books to Jacksonville residents. The end of the twentieth century found the library squeezed into a city-owned 1855 commercial building. The oldest of the library buildings, it also has what may be the most romantic history: "Settlers are said to have taken refuge there during the Indian 'wars,' and the circulation desk ... was once a counter on which furs were traded."

Another library established under the county system was the Central Point Branch, which formally opened its doors on May 25, 1920. Located on the ground floor of a store just off Main Street, its furniture had been purchased from the Red Cross. To serve the population of 582, the library had 400 books. In 1970 it moved to a 2,600-square foot storefront on Pine Street; it was still there in 1997, when Central Point had grown to 10,750 residents.



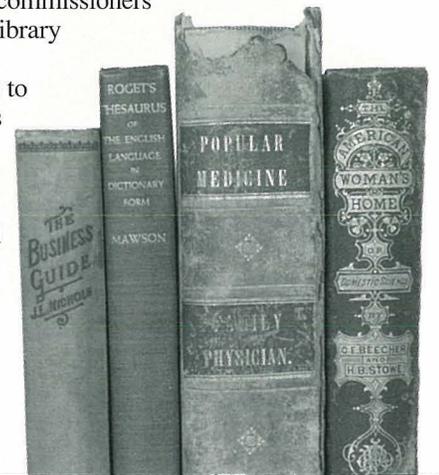
By 1965, a table and folding chairs are shoehorned into a corner of the Talent Library, at left, while books reached nearly to the ceiling of the Phoenix Library, above.

The opening of the Butte Falls branch on November 23, 1920, featured a talk by Miss Clara Van Sant, then Medford's head librarian, followed by refreshments and a social evening. Another "wandering" library, in 1958 it was sharing quarters with the fire department, and in 1983 it occupied space in the City Hall. When the city needed more room, the library's collection was moved into the elementary school library, and for the first time the county operated a joint public and school library. But the arrangement did not work out as hoped; by 1987 Butte Falls residents were ready for a separate public library building. With an economic development grant they purchased and relocated the former Casey's Restaurant, a fast-food restaurant that resembled a railroad depot, and turned it into a 1,025-square-foot public library and museum. Since railroads are important in the history of Butte Falls, they later moved a caboose onto the same property and turned it into a museum and office.

Prospect's library, at the northern end of Jackson County, opened as a station in 1955 in the home of Veda Neville. (A station was an unstaffed collection of books checked out to a small community.) In 1961 it gained branch status and was moved to a tiny building that had been used as a log scaling station. The library was enlarged the next year—by an addition larger than the original building—and there it remains today.

1970s BUILDING PROGRAM

In the early 1970s, county commissioners planned a number of new library buildings as part of a county initiative to improve services to rural communities. But plans had to be curtailed when an expected federal grant failed to materialize. Instead, the county cooperated with local communities to build libraries on a more modest scale. In 1973 the first one was completed in White City, where a library had operated since 1964. The building had been planned as a prototype, but when money got tight, architect Vince Oredson was forced to resort to "a prefabricated modular building of about 2000 square feet, to serve the



PHOTOS: JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

community until a more permanent building can be financed.”⁸ It would be twenty-six years before that “more permanent building” would be financed by the Jackson County Urban Renewal Agency, with construction due to begin as early as May.

Vince Oredson’s designs were used for several other new libraries, among them Gold Hill’s. That branch had first opened in 1921 “under very favorable conditions.” In 1931, Miss Woolsey, then head librarian at Medford, took over the Gold Hill



PHOTO BY DANA HEDRICK-EARP

branch for a few months “to demonstrate the methods of library work.” (Presumably she gave it back when the demonstration was complete.) In 1975 the library moved into its present space, 1,640 square feet at one end of a building shared with the Gold Hill City Hall.

Talent’s library, on the other hand, *started* in the Talent City Hall; on opening day in 1920 patrons checked out 37 of the branch’s 225 books. Fifty-five years later, in June 1975, the newly built Talent branch opened its doors. Talent residents continued to read; during the month of June 1999, they checked out 4,443 books.⁹

The Phoenix Library started life in April 1925 “with a formal opening and refreshments.” It was housed in the wooden structure (so tiny the librarian is said to have called it “Snoopy’s doghouse”) that is now home to the Phoenix Historical Society Museum. The library celebrated another grand opening in July 1978, in a building designed by Vince Oredson.

At the other end of the county, Eagle Point has had a library since 1921; a photograph from that year shows an unadorned book-lined room, where bright sunlight leaks through a well-worn window shade. That room was replaced in 1977 by a 3,000-square foot Oredson-designed building.

Up the road, the Shady Cove library started in 1940 as a station inside the Treasure Trove, a novelty store owned by Carrol and Evalyn Watson. In 1957 the Watsons began the custom of closing the library for the summer “because of lack of space”;

PHOTO BY JIM CRAVEN, MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



The card catalogs are gone, but computers, videos, CDs and thousands of new books and periodicals have taken their place and then some, making the Medford Library feel as crowded today as an airliner at times.

presumably they needed the space for merchandise during the tourist season. In 1966, when Steelhead Post No. 1881 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars donated a building, the Shady Cove station became a full-fledged branch. It moved to its present location, a building of the same design and size as the Eagle Point branch, in 1979.

Other branches were not part of the 1970s building program. In 1940, an Applegate station opened in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gail Buffington, but when the Buffingtons moved away in 1957, no other home was offered. The station was reopened in 1968 at the Applegate School, only to close four years later. But the third attempt worked: in 1978 volunteers opened it in a 150-square-foot rented space in the Applegate Store. And in 1996, as a full-fledged branch, the library moved to a “bigger” space (500 square feet) on the opposite end of the building.

Ruch residents began organizing their first library in 1982. The Ruch Community Library opened in 1984, moving the next year to its present location on the lower level of the Sunshine Plaza, a commercial building also occupied by a chiropractor, a beauty salon, a video rental shop, and a cafe. In January 1986, it became the Ruch Branch Library, the newest branch of the Jackson County library system.

THE NEXT CENTURY

By the end of the twentieth century, Jackson County’s population was heading toward 200,000, and every library in the system was bursting at the seams. Library users at every branch had to squeeze through the aisles between overflowing shelves and wait in line to use photocopiers and computers that early library planners had never dreamed of. Even the buildings erected in the 1970s, barely a generation ago, were sorely in need of expansion.

So in 1998 Jackson County once again began to plan library buildings—this time for every one of the fifteen communities. Some towns would need entirely new buildings; others could expand and remodel existing structures. Throughout the county, citizens held town hall meetings to discuss what they wanted in a new library.



The two Carnegie libraries were so beloved that, despite the obvious critical needs, the idea of replacing them met with resistance. When the city of Ashland sought public input on whether to build a new library or expand the cramped and leaking Carnegie, citizens refused to give up their building. In 1999, in spite of a difficult site and extremely limited parking, voters passed a city bond measure that would expand and restore the much-loved original.

Medford citizens lacked that option for their Carnegie. Expanding the building yet again would eliminate one of the west side's few parks; and it wouldn't provide the parking that a population of nearly 60,000 required. So the city looked elsewhere in downtown Medford for a site.

Just as in the early days of Jackson County's libraries, the emphasis would be on cooperation: the 78,000-square foot building would house the headquarters branch of the Jackson County system as well as library services for Rogue Community College, which would lease space in the new building. This innovative plan to share resources would benefit both the public and the college's students.

Support for a new building was widespread (especially since the plans included a parking lot); but public concern was just as great that the old Carnegie Library be preserved. An often-expressed suggestion was that it be used as a museum—an appropriate fate for a building that started out housing a collection of stuffed birds!

At the end of the planning process, Jackson County calculated the cost of building new libraries at nearly \$39 million, and prepared a public bond measure to go before the voters in May 2000. The size of the proposed bond was unprecedented in Jackson County history; but so was the number of people involved in reaching that figure. Hundreds of Jackson County residents had devoted time and energy—perhaps even some passion—to planning libraries for the twenty-first century. Their goal was clear: to build public libraries that not only would meet the technological challenges of the future, but would claim the hearts of Southern Oregonians for generations to come. 📖

Alison Baker writes fiction and book reviews and is a commentator on Jefferson Public Radio.

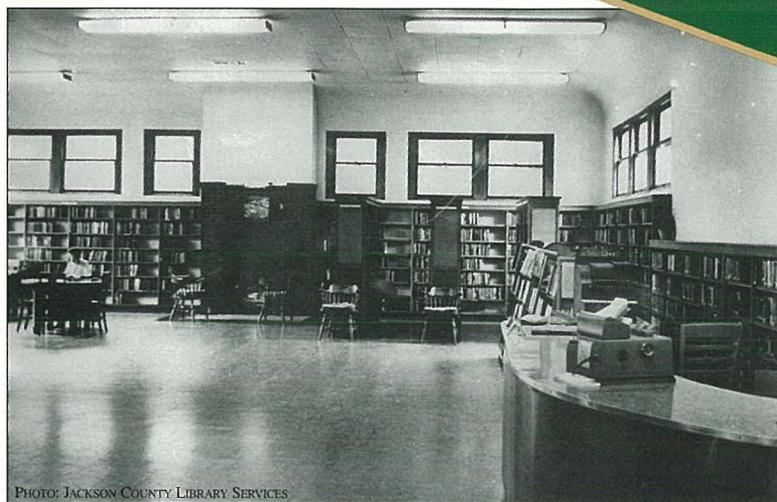


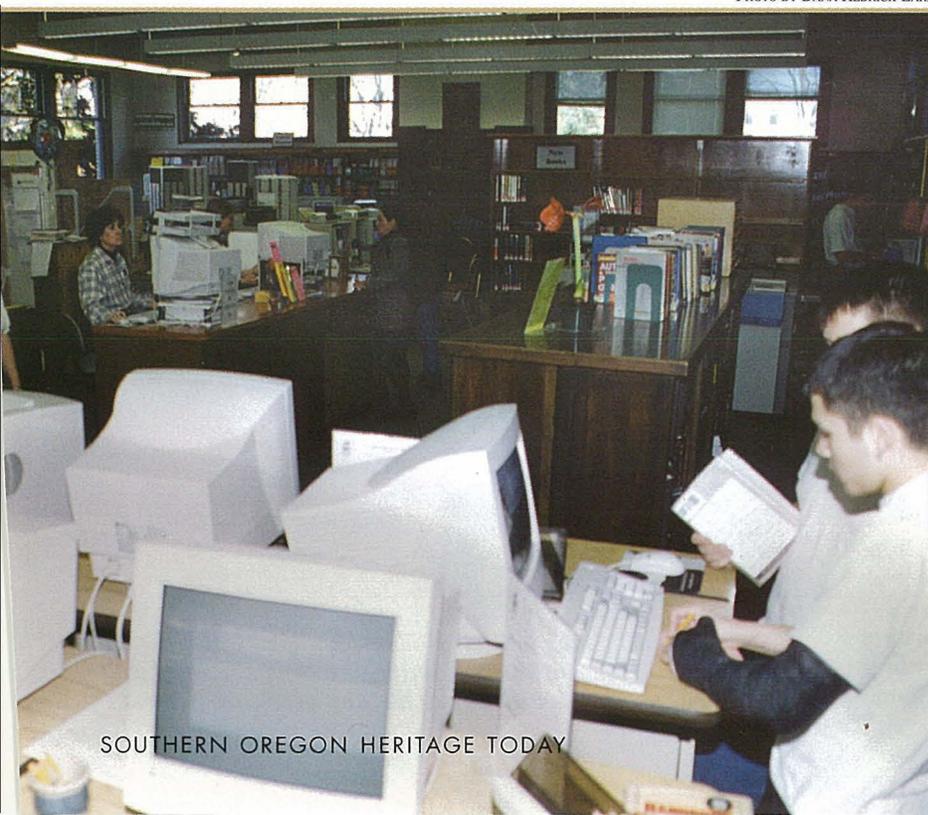
PHOTO: JACKSON COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES



SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #3731

No, this is not a ballroom with reading material, at top, but the airy interior of the Medford Library as recently as 1956. Above, the same space was getting cramped by 1980—and that was twenty years ago!

PHOTO BY DANA HEDRICK-EARP



ENDNOTES

1. Contract between the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, and the Library Board of Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, 1920.
2. Mark S. Wolfe, "Medford's Carnegie Library," (Paper prepared for the diamond jubilee of Medford's Carnegie Library), 8 February 1987.
3. Katherine J. Ledward, "The History of Library Service in Medford and Jackson County," manuscript, Jackson County Library Services, Medford, n.d., p.10.
4. Theodore Jones, *Carnegie Libraries Across America: a Public Legacy* (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1997), p. 106.
5. Katherine Ott, "History of the Ashland Public Library," unpublished manuscript, 1938, p. 2.
6. *The Rogue River Times*, 31 January 1958.
7. Author interview with Ronnie L. Budge, director, Jackson County Library Services, 10 December 1999.
8. "Fact Sheet, White City Branch Library," Jackson County Library System, 1973.
9. Jackson County Library System statistical report, June 1999.

Here's the same view as in the two photos above, this time in 1999. Although not all branches have the claustrophobic feel of the Medford Library, crowding has prompted the county commissioners to propose a bond measure to expand the county's library system to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population in the information age.

Seely Hall:

JACKSON COUNTY'S FATHER OF AVIATION

by Bill Alley

Seely Hall (1893-1984) was fondly known as the “father of aviation” in Jackson County. Hall first succumbed to the lure of the skies at the age of twelve, when his father treated the youngster to a tethered balloon ride at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland. Although he would have ample opportunities to make his mark in a number of different endeavors, nothing could overcome his fascination with the emerging aviation industry.¹

Seely Hall was born in Central Point in 1893, the son of Court and Mabel Clara Hall. Court Hall was a respected businessman in Medford, and he provided his son with several employment opportunities in the hope of setting him off on a successful career. Seely tried his hand as a projectionist at the Savoy Theater on Front Street, drove early auto taxis to Crater Lake, and sold and financed automobiles. He also played a role in the opening of Medford's first auto camp, the forerunner of the modern motel, at Merrick's Natatorium. But it was the lure of aviation that truly captured Hall's imagination and would become his life's calling. When the United States entered World War I, Hall volunteered for the Army Air Corps.²



SOHS #13121

In 1914 the Hall Taxi Co. began offering a round trip excursion to Crater Lake for thirteen dollars. Seely Hall and his passengers pose on the rim for this photograph.

In 1919 Hall, in partnership with Floyd Hart, another Army Air Corps pilot, and attorney Frank Farrell, purchased the region's first locally owned aircraft, a surplus Jenny they named the *Mayfly*. To raise the required funds, the three men sold shares in the plane for \$100 each. The stockholders list read like a who's who of Southern Oregon.³

When Vern Gorst organized Pacific Air Transport in 1925, and bid for the contract to carry airmail on the West Coast, he was ably assisted by Seely Hall. The following year, when Medford's Newell Barber Field (near the present site of the South Gateway Fred Meyer) welcomed the first airmail flights in the state of Oregon, PAT's local manager was Seely Hall. When Medford's



SOHS #15321

United Airlines introduced the DC-4, capable of carrying forty-four passengers, on the Medford run in 1950. The first passenger to arrive on the new plane was Seely Hall. Fay Flynn, wife of Medford's mayor, prepares to cut the welcoming ribbon.

first municipal airfield became obsolete, Hall served on the committee that selected the Biddle Road site for a new airport, and worked tirelessly on the campaign to pass a bond issue for construction. The bond was approved by a ratio of more than twelve to one.⁴

Pacific Air Transport eventually evolved into what is now United Airlines, and Seely Hall earned a series of transfers and promotions to the position of general manager of ground services. During World War II, Hall was placed in charge of all civilian flight operations in Alaska and the Pacific. He would retire in 1958 as United's vice president for western operations.⁵

Hall's retirement would not last long. With the airlines making the transition to jet aircraft, Hall was called out of retirement to assist United in expanding its ground facilities to accommodate the new aircraft. In 1978 he was awarded the Billy Mitchell Award by the International Northwest Aviation Council.⁶

From the days of open cockpits and canvas to the introduction of commercial jet travel, Seely Hall remained in the forefront of keeping Medford an air-minded city. He passed away in Medford in 1984 at the age of ninety-one. 🏠

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



SOHS #184

When this photograph of Seely Hall and his dog “Jinks” was taken at the close of the nineteenth century, the technology that would dominate Hall's adult life was still the stuff of science fiction.

ENDNOTES

1. Medford Mail Tribune, 8 November 1964.
2. Medford Mail Tribune, 8 November 1964, 20 November 1984.
3. William Alley, “An Air Minded City,” *Southern Oregon Heritage*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1997, p. 25.
4. Alley, p. 29; Medford Mail Tribune, 8 November 1964.
5. Medford Mail Tribune, 20 November 1984.
6. Medford Mail Tribune, 5 September 1978.



Lifetime

Patricia Ingram Cook
Peter Dale and Alan Cornwell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hight
Robert L. Lewis
Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz
Alice Mullaly

New Members

BUSINESS

Mail Tribune, *Medford*

CURATOR

Betty Root, *Medford*

PATRON

Douglas G. Detling, *Medford*

FAMILY

Linda Basgen, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Champagne, *Ashland*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fasel, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hagen, *Ashland*
Carol Henthorn, *White City*
Ralph H. Hunkins, *Talent*
Dr. and Mrs. Robert G. Kaufman, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Murdock, *Medford*
Ransom H. Smith, *Hornbrook, CA*
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Thorndike, *Medford*
PIONEER/FRIENDS
Mr. and Mrs. James Akerill, *Ashland*
James Ford, *Central Point*
Martha Henderson, *Medford*
Dick Mobley, *Tigard*
Jean C. Richardson, *Medford*

FRIENDS

Richard H. Abernethy, *Central Point*
Bill Bonner, *White City*
Richard Brewer, *Ashland*
Nancy Cagle, *Jacksonville*
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Earl, *Eagle Point*
Leslie S. Edwards, *Pleasant Ridge, MI*
Janet Gotshalk, *Fulton, CA*
Mr. and Mrs. Hank Hart, *Medford*
Robert W. Kennedy, *Tacoma, WA*
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Kirk, *Medford*
Mrs. Kelly Norman Kritzer, *Chiloquin*
Marcella Lange, *Medford*
Donna Levis, *Los Gatos, CA*
Robert Lindberg, *Grants Pass*
Linda Matthews, *Butte Falls*
Alfred R. Mercer, *Medford*
Daniel G. Murphy, *Butte Falls*
Helene Salade Ogle, *Medford*
Richard Passini, *Medford*

Susan C. Penwell, *Medford*
Betty Lou Pratt, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Roduner, *Klamath Falls*
Mrs. Mike Stepovich, *Central Point*
Carol White, *Central Point*

Renewing Members

DIRECTOR

Britt Festivals, *Medford*

PIONEER/CURATOR

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry McGrew, *Jacksonville*
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Smith, *Medford*

CURATOR

Dr. and Mrs. James F. Patterson, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley L. Stark, *San Marcos, CA*
Harriet M. Winton, *Medford*
*Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Wyatt, *Sidney, BC*

PIONEER/PATRON

Janet Reter Baker, *Medford*
Margery Goodman, *Ashland*
*Wesley V. and Mary E. Hoxie, *Ashland*
*Robert W. Sage, *Medford*
Zelia Zigler VonTress, *Bloomington, IN*

PATRON

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Chamberlain, *Jacksonville*
*Tom Hennion, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Ivend Holen, *Medford*
*Ramona Kearns, *Medford*
Marjorie Luce, *Ashland*
*Dr. and Mrs. Robert McIntyre, *Medford*
*Gen. and Mrs. F.A. Schaefer III, *Medford*
*Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd H. Selby, *Medford*
Michael Smith and Nora Leestma, *Gold Hill*

PIONEER/FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. William Duhaime, *Medford*
*Marie E. Ford, *Talent*
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Ingram, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Thornton, *Ashland*
*Mr. Dale Throckmorton, *Hillsboro*
FAMILY
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Battaile, *Ashland*
Mr. and Mrs. George Bennett, *Hermiston*
Stanley M. Bennett, *Eagle Point*
Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Budge, *Medford*
*Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Clafflin, *Phoenix*
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Collins, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Foster, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ghidinelli, *Ashland*
Mr. and Mrs. Radley Hyde, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. D. Lorin Jacobs, *Medford*

*Yvonne Kitchen, *Talent*
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kuntz, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Luschen, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Ramsey, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rogers, *Ashland*
Mr. and Mrs. William Shrader, *Medford*
Lois Smith, *Central Point*
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Swartsley, *Medford*
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Thorndike, Sr., *Medford*

PIONEER/FRIENDS

Hannah N. Dalton, *Eagle Point*
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Hale, *Central Point*
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hamilton, Jr., *Bend*
Alicia Applegate Hardy, *Brookings*
Glenn Harrison, *Albany*
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Hayes, *Ashland*
Christopher S. Herndobler, *Richland, WA*
Dorothy B. Jones, *Myrtle Creek*
Lois C. Kessler, *Williams*
Kenn L. Lantz, *Portland*
Gregory Moys, *Grants Pass*
Viola L. Purrier, *Rogue River*
Kenneth Reeder, *Medford*
Leah Ritchey, *Medford*
June Slay, *Riddle*
Phoebe D. Staples, *Eugene*
Gc. Wales, *Yreka, CA*

FRIENDS

Joyce Abrams, *Cave Junction*
Hazel F. Bales, *Phoenix*
Robert W. Bowin, *Palm Desert, CA*
Verdell S. Coleman, *Medford*
Dana H. Collins, *Medford*
Crater High School Library, *Central Point*
Bernice Curler, *Central Point*
Mrs. H. S. Deuel, *Rogue River*
L. Dean DeVore, *Medford*
Bill Dugan, *Medford*
William G. Dye, *Medford*
Daniel R. Gannon, *Charleston, SC*
Mary Lou Henson, *Medford*
Hans Jensen, *Shady Cove*
Lloyd D. Kennedy, *Gig Harbor, WA*
Elsie V. Lacey, *Central Point*
Barbara L. Lewis, *Schneckville, PA*
Dr. Susan K. MacKinnon, *Medford*
Theresa Moore, *Freedom, CA*
Mildred L. Randles, *Ashland*
Mr. and Mrs. Don Reep, *Rogue River*
Carolyn Sharrock, *Medford*
John and Susan Cox-Smith, *Gold Hill*
Nancy Strahl, *Medford*
Mark Super, *Ashland*
Laurie Tepy, *Medford*
James Trecker, *Park Ridge, IL*
Gloria M. Wood, *Central Point*

*Indicates upgraded membership category or monetary contribution in addition to membership dues for Society programs.

Donors

MEMORIALS

Leona Converse
in memory of Dorothy A. Nicholson
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Green
in memory of Otto Frohnmayer

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Creighton Cramer
Brice Farwell
Ethel Hassen
In honor of the work of Judy Barr
Patricia D. and William B. Smullin Foundation
In honor of "A" Peterson's community contributions

GENERAL COLLECTION

ARC of Jackson County
Rae Campbell
H.S. Deuel
Catherine Vilas Hayes
Roy Hill
Tom Hosley
Marlene Pean
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pommarane
Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries
Doug Vargas

EDUCATION COLLECTION

Catherine Vilas Hayes
Doug Vargas

IN-KIND GOODS & SERVICES

Deli Down
MinuteMan Press
Rogue Disposal & Recycling, Inc.
Valley Web Printing

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS FUND

Kenneth F. Adams
Bill Bonner
Mary Ann Delsman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Earl
Mr. and Mrs. Don Hamann
L.D. Josephson
Linda Matthews
Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Meyerding, Sr.
Minuteman Press
Daniel G. Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Loren Pryor
Mr. and Mrs. George Schrock

SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Endowment Fund

Gregory Moys

Circles of Giving

Joyce Hailicka
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry McGrew

We invite YOU to become a member

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Friend	\$.20
Family	\$.30
Patron	\$.60-\$90
Curator or Business	\$.120-\$200
Director	\$.250-\$500
Lifetime	\$.1,000

*"To look closely at the bloom of an antique rose is, at least in some small way, an exercise of the historical imagination; you see it through your own eyes, yet also through the eyes of another time."*¹

Just as the landscape's bright shades of spring turn to the tans and harder, more protected greens of summer, an inconspicuous shrub bursts into bright, yellow bloom. When it's in flower, nearly everyone recognizes this colorful plant as a rose. Scattered throughout the rural West, it decorates the dooryards of farms and ranch houses and often colorfully pinpoints the locations of long-abandoned homesteads. The association of this rose with older dwellings gave it one of its many names: "Pioneer Rose."

This vigorous shrub, appearing more like a wildling than a domesticated, traveled to the Far West with pioneer families in the mid- to late 1800s. It accompanied Anglo settlers to the southwest as well, where it grows as "The Yellow Rose of Texas." In the Great Basin, its pioneer heritage is recognized in the name "Mormon Rose."

This rose gained popularity just in time to join the westward migration. Its original home was New York, where it was derived from a hybrid between two European roses in the 1830s.² George F. Harison, an avid rose gardener, recognized the possibilities of the hybrid. Consequently, the shrub is also known as "Harison's Rose."

Harison sold it to a nurseryman who propagated and promoted it.³ This bright little rose was so appreciated that westering emigrants brought it along as a promise of

A Rose by Many Names

by Donn L. Todt and Nan Hannon



Pioneers across the West loved this hardy yellow hybrid for its burst of color in late spring. Descendants of roses brought by covered wagon still bloom in the Logtown Cemetery near Ruch.

domesticity. When the roses were planted out beside cabin doors and along newly-built fences, they thrived, even without much moisture or attention. Unlike the hybrid tea rose, which blooms throughout summer and into fall, the Pioneer Rose opens all of its blossoms at once for a bright and glorious show of color.

Because this rose is easily propagated by division, neighbors shared it, transplanting it from homestead to homestead and ranch to ranch. Roxy Ann Bowen and her stepdaughter Maryam McKee brought the rose from Missouri over the Applegate Trail to the Rogue Valley in the early

1850s. The family eventually settled on Poormans Creek, following other miners in a quest for gold. The rose was planted, and as the clump expanded, portions were given to their Logtown neighbors.⁴ While the gold played out and the town eventually burned, a legacy of yellow roses remained. A striking display of these roses, known locally as the "Logtown Rose," may be seen in the Logtown Cemetery, on the south side of Highway 238 between Jacksonville and Ruch. The best time to see the roses in full bloom is late May or early June. A good number of the roses also found their way to Jacksonville; locally this yellow rose is often called the "Jacksonville Rose."

In downtown Bend, this yellow-flowered shrub marks the location of one of the first cabins built along the Deschutes River. In Siskiyou County, its blooms brighten the brick-strewn site where the whole town of Klamathon burned to the ground. This rose, surviving fire, drought, neglect and abandonment, truly marks history. Where it grows is a good place to look for stories. When we absorb the stories, we can look back at the rose "in some small way...through the eyes of another time." 🏡

Ethnobotanist Donn L. Todt and anthropologist Nan Hannon garden in Ashland.

ENDNOTES

1. Michael Pollen, *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education* (New York: Dell Publishing, 1991), p. 102.
2. Peter Beales, *Classic Roses* (New York: Holt, 1985), p. 24.
3. William C. Welch, *Antique Roses for the South* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1990), p. 179.
4. Marjorie O'Hara, *Southern Oregon: Short Trips Into History* (Medford, Ore.: Southern Oregon Historical Society, 1985), pp. 38-41.

PHOTOS BY DONN L. TODT



106 N. Central Ave.
Medford, Oregon 97501-5926

SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY

Non-profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 164
Medford, OR



**B.J. Reed,
Medford**

B.J. Reed retired as a classroom teacher in 1999. She attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; Southern Oregon State College; and the University of Oregon. Reed

currently serves as a member of the state cadre of Social Science Leaders and is a visiting instructor at Southern Oregon University, where she supervised student teachers. She was a division leader at both North and South Medford high schools (integrated English and social studies); served on the site council at South Medford High; implemented the Accelerated Reader program at North Medford High; is a core rider in Girls on the Move (a cross-country

bicycle ride stopping in communities to do self-esteem building with teenage girls); and volunteers at the Children's Home Society.

"Three of the absolute essentials for the growth of any community and its surrounding region are a sound public school system, a public library, and a sense of history! I believe the Southern Oregon Historical Society has the responsibility to make the last essential—a sense of history—alive and well in as many people as possible of every age. In order to do that it must continue to promote, display, and celebrate the endless supply of people, artifacts, and events that make up the history of Southern Oregon. It is especially vital that we 'hook' young people and students on history at an early age; history classes in school do not always succeed in doing that! Imagine the possibilities in a community where most citizens know, and what's more, like, history!"



**Robert E.
Stevens,
Jacksonville**

Robert E. Stevens is a retired forest entomologist. He graduated from Medford High School, Oregon State University and the University of California at

Berkeley. Stevens has been a volunteer at the Southern Oregon Historical Society since 1990, providing assistance for special events and raising vegetables in the garden at the C.C. Beekman House for the Beekman Living History program. Stevens has been a member of the Jacksonville Planning Commission for three years, volunteers with the Nature Conservancy (1992-present), and served on the Jacksonville City Council (1991-1996).

"History is being made every day, and offers continuing challenges in documentation, presentation, and interpretation. The Society has done an ever-improving job in these areas via museum displays, publications, youth-oriented programs, and living history programs. A unique opportunity now exists to record the changing nature of life in the Rogue Valley as we move from our dependence on forests and orchards into a more complex world. I look forward to participating in the Society's activities as we make the transition into the twenty-first century."

MEET THE CANDIDATES

for the 2000 Board of Trustees Election

The following seven candidates were nominated by the Society Board of Trustees for election to the Board. The slate includes incumbents Al Alsing and Marjorie Overland; other nominees include Yvonne Earnest, Hank Hart, Burke Raymond, B.J. Reed, and Robert Stevens. The candidates are running for three-year terms that will begin July 1.

Ballots will be mailed to members May 9, and must be postmarked and returned no later than June 2. Other Society members may be nominated for Board positions by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of at least fifteen members in good standing as of May 1. Petitions will be available April 24 and must be returned no later than May 8 for consideration in the election.

Voting is a benefit of supporting membership in the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Please review each candidate and exercise your right to vote. If you are not a supporting member of the Society but wish to join, contact membership coordinator Susan Smith at (541) 773-6536. You must be a member in good standing as of May 1 in order to vote.



**Al Alsing,
Ashland**

Al Alsing, current president of the Society Board of Trustees, was elected to the board in 1997 and is a candidate for re-election. A resident of Ashland for forty-nine years, Alsing

received a B.S. in civil engineering from Oregon State University and is a former public works director and city engineer for the city of Ashland. Alsing is a past member and past chairman of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission and present chairman of the Ashland Parks Foundation; director and past treasurer of the Oregon Aviation Museum; member and past chairman of the Oregon Institute of Technology Engineering Curriculum Advisory

Committee; past board member, past secretary, and current volunteer with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Association; and past board member and past chairman of the Ashland Airport Commission. Alsing also assisted the Society by leading the fund-raising effort for the Simpson-DeHaven glass plate negative restoration project.

"Our historical inheritance is a treasure which must be preserved to help future generations understand their past and connect it with their future. Southern Oregon is fortunate to have citizens who have committed public and private funds toward the conservation of its rich history. Numerous members of our communities have helped to guide the Society. As a member and current president of the Southern Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees, I understand the effort required to make the Society a success. I am willing to contribute to that effort. History is interesting and enlightening. It is also fun."



Yvonne Earnest, Medford

Yvonne Earnest is a retired teacher who earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees in elementary education at Southern Oregon State College, with endorsements in

supervision and library/media on her certificate. She also has done graduate work in children's literature at California State University, Hayward. Earnest is currently president of the Jackson County Republican Women and vice president of the Mayflower Society. She is a member of the Tudor Guild, P.E.O., Jackson County Fair Board Special Events Committee, Gold Diggers Guild of the Southern

Oregon Historical Society, Trinity Episcopal Church Altar Guild, and Pear Blossom Festival Board and is a SMART program reader. Earnest is past president of the Rogue Valley Medical Center Auxiliary, Daughters of the American Revolution Crater Lake Chapter, and Delta Kappa Gamma Epsilon Chapter.

"Jackson County has a rich and varied past. Since history provides a sense of community and identity for the individual, the focus for the Southern Oregon Historical Society is preservation, restoration, acquisition, and education of our area. The Society has done commendable work in preserving our heritage for the future. However, funding these projects remains a challenge for the Board of Trustees and the community. The opportunity to serve and assist in meeting these efforts is one I would gladly accept."



Hank Hart, Medford

Hank Hart was born in Medford, attended Medford public schools and the University of Colorado, Oregon State College, and Southern Oregon State College. He served in the

United States Air Force and participated in the Strategic Air Command's first hydrogen bomb tests. He is a former partner of Security Insurance Agency; founder and former director, Crater National Bank; and a former charter boat captain. Retired since 1988, Hart is a former chair, Jackson County Heart Fund Drive; former director, Chamber of Commerce Medford/Jackson County; former member and president of the Medford Planning Commission; and former director, Providence Medical Center and the Rogue Valley Medical Center. He has been director of the Hawaiian

International Billfish Tournament since 1980. Hart was a state representative from Jackson County (District 19), 1966-1970, and served as chair of the House Taxation and Interim Education committees. He was chair of the Oregon State Republican Committee, 1971-1973, and was a delegate to the Republican national conventions of 1968 and 1972.

"Having been born and raised in the Rogue Valley as well as spending over fifty years of my life as a resident here has made me very aware of how important our history is to all of us. All of the events of the past have played a role in helping shape our valley as we know it today, and the more knowledge we can gain about the past will certainly help shape our future as well. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, and contribute whatever I can to the future of the organization."



Marjorie Overland, Medford

Marjorie Overland was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1997 and is a candidate for re-election. Currently serving as first vice president of the

Board, Overland has been an area resident for twenty years. She received a B.A. in history from Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. Overland is currently a member of the Gold Diggers Guild of the Southern Oregon Historical Society and serves as president of the Theater Guild of the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater. She served ten years on the Jackson County Planning Commission. She is a past president of KSYS, the Medford Storytelling Guild, and the board of directors of the

Craterian Performances Company; former director of the Britt Children's Festival; former member of the Jackson County Library Advisory Committee; and has been a volunteer for SODA, the Britt Music Festivals, and Medford schools.

"In this era of doing more with less, it is essential the members of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Oregon Historical Society bring innovation, creativity and unflagging industry to the mission of the Society. Our region is a unique treasure—not only for its stunning beauty, but also for its fascinating history. The collections, publications and interpretive programs provided by the Society are a wonderful link to that history. The challenge over the next few years will be to continue to protect and promote our historical treasures, and also to find new ways to share them with the public, so that all of our citizens, and particularly our young people, will appreciate them."



Burke M. Raymond, Jacksonville

Burke Raymond, former Jackson County administrator (1986-1999), received a B.A. in history and a M.A. in public administration from the University of

Michigan. He currently serves on the boards of the Medford Rogue Rotary Foundation, Rogue Valley Health Foundation, and the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. Raymond is a past board member of the Rogue Valley Civic League and a current board member of the Gordon Elwood Foundation. He is a former western region vice president of the National Association of County Administrators and former president of the Oregon City/County Management Association.

"The activities of the Southern Oregon Historical Society are an important part of cultural and economic life of the area. As Jackson County administrator, it was my privilege to work closely with the Society. The Society has been moving in the right direction by linking up with the local historical societies in Jackson County to tell the story and preserve the artifacts of all those who graced this area before us. We have the obligation to pass on to those yet to come the intact story of the past and our contributions. History has been my life-long avocation. My father was a college history professor and he started my interest and training. Now that the enabling legislation has been passed, I am excited about the possibilities in the use and preservation of the Hanley Farm as an example of nineteenth and early twentieth century farming in Southern Oregon. History is important, and we must ensure not only the continuation of the Southern Oregon Historical Society but its growth and acceptance as a vital force in the lives of all the people of Southern Oregon."