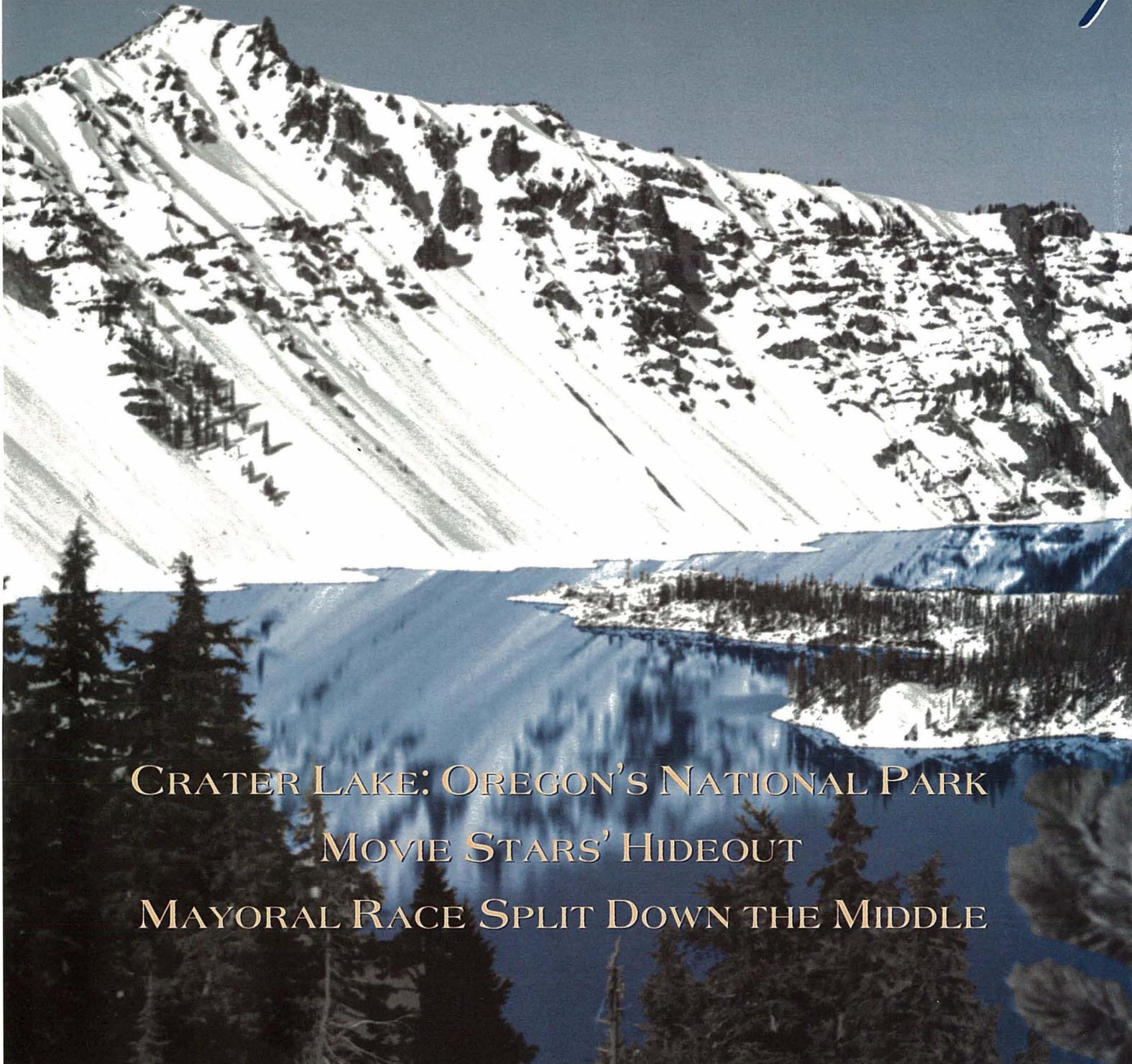


SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE

January 2001 Vol. 3, No. 1

Today



CRATER LAKE: OREGON'S NATIONAL PARK
MOVIE STARS' HIDEOUT
MAYORAL RACE SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE



Volunteer Needs for 2001

by Dawna Curler, volunteer manager

Many volunteers will be needed to help with public programming this coming year. Does something on the following lists interest you? Can you help? If so, please contact Volunteer Manager/Programs Associate Dawna Curler at 773-6536. The Society counts heavily on its wonderful core of volunteers to accomplish all its activities, events, programs, exhibits, workshops, etc., during the year.



CHILDREN'S HERITAGE FAIR serves approximately 2,600 fourth graders over a four week period. Volunteers are needed one day a week from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to guide youngsters through hands-on activities. Heritage Fair dates are Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, February 21 through March 16.

ON-SITE SCHOOL PROGRAMS will be offered this spring. Enthusiastic volunteers with good communication skills and ability to work well with children will be trained to lead interpretive programs for youth at the museums in Jacksonville. Must be available during weekdays. Scheduling is flexible.

BEEKMAN LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM needs volunteers to give historic house tours while portraying characters who lived or worked in the house during the summer of 1911. Volunteer costumed greeters are also needed to welcome visitors and prepare



them for the house tour. This is a fun and creative way to share local history while meeting many interesting people. Recruitment begins in February. Evening training sessions begin in April. The Beekman House will be open 1-5 p.m., five days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Volunteers are asked to give a minimum of two afternoons a month (one afternoon a week is preferred). Schedules can be adjusted for those with short vacation plans.

THE HISTORIC HANLEY FARM will open again this summer Friday through Sunday, Memorial Day through mid-September. Lots of volunteers will be needed to help with ticket sales, house tours, grounds tours, activities, and demonstrations. This is a great opportunity to get in on the ground floor of an exciting new program. Training will begin in April or May. Volunteers are also needed at Hanley Farm to help with landscape maintenance. This is an ongoing need and volunteers can start at any time. Other volunteers may find a niche doing Hanley Farm research.



(continued from Members and Donors, page 15)

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SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY

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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 outlines 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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SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE Today



OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #23267

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PHOTO COURTESY OF FAVELL MUSEUM



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PHOTO COURTESY OF WEASKO INN



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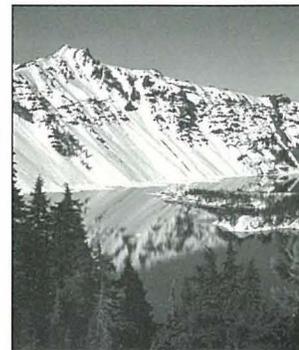
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SOHS #18009 (COLORIZED)

ON THE COVER

Oregon's only National park captivated early visitors, who vowed to protect its beauty.



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The Favell Museum



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAVELL MUSEUM

by Doug Foster

From left, stone mortars, Klamath grinding stones for preparing “wocas” meal, and Native American basketry from the Southwest are among the many artifacts on display at the Favell Museum.

MORE THAN 100,000 INDIAN artifacts, including 60,000 arrowheads, are on display at the Favell Museum of Western Art and Indian Artifacts in Klamath Falls. In one wing, visitors can see 5,000 Columbia River “gem points,” ranging in size from tiny, delicate arrowheads to large spearheads and knives, all of them finely crafted from agate or jasper. These artifacts are presented as works of art: many are laid out on milky glass illuminated from below, so the partially translucent stones from which the artifacts were made reveal mottled patterns: stripes and swirls of red, orange, ochre, white, and brown.

While most of the Indian artifacts in the museum are from Oregon—principally Klamath and Lake counties and the Columbia River area—the collection also includes baskets and other implements from Alaska and the American Southwest.¹

The day I stopped at the museum, visitor Susan Gleason was intently drawing sketches of obsidian arrowheads in a case. She is a “flint-knapper” who will use her sketches as patterns when she knaps her own arrowheads by hand; she’ll then incorporate the arrowheads into a line of jewelry. Gleason said that as an artist she appreciates the great

beauty and artistry of the chipped stone artifacts in the museum. But as a scientist—she is also a graduate student in archaeology—she said she disapproves of the kind of collecting the museum represents; when artifacts are taken from a site by private collectors to display as pretty objects, much valuable information is lost about native culture. (Artifact hunting on public land is now illegal under state and federal law, punishable by fines and imprisonment.)²

According to one display, the museum’s founder, Gene Favell, started collecting arrowheads in his native Lake County when he was about eight years old. Still, the bulk of the Indian artifacts exhibited in the museum were purchased from other private collectors. For example, the year it opened in 1972, the museum bought Harry Kudrna’s collection of 7,000 arrowheads found in Lake County between 1940 and 1970.

The Favell Museum is also said to have on display the world’s finest collection of contemporary Western art—art that realistically presents the scenery, wildlife, and history of the West. More than 300 artists are represented, including fourteen members of the prestigious “Cowboy Artists of America.” The collection includes paintings in oil,

acrylic, and watercolor; wood carvings; bronze sculptures; and twenty miniature dioramas of Western history by Ray Anderson. My favorites are the oil paintings of waterfowl by Oregon artist Don Hummel.

All the artwork in the museum is strategically located for good viewing, well lit and presented in a striking setting. Favell, who grew up on a Lake County ranch and operated a men’s clothing store for twenty years in Klamath Falls, wanted a museum that would “artistically complement the works of artists of past and present,” so he commissioned architect Nina Pence to design a six-sided building, laid out on the inside somewhat like a wagon-wheel. Built from 300 tons of native stone, this unique building is situated on the west bank of the Link River.³ 🏠

Doug Foster is a writer and historian living in Ashland.

ENDNOTES

1. Joe Van Wormer, “The Favell Museum: A Western Home for Western Art,” *Southwest Art*, October 1981.
2. Interview with Susan Gleason, 20 July 2000, in Klamath Falls.
3. Van Wormer, “The Favell Museum.”

Directions: From Highway 140 where it is joined by Highway 66, take the Klamath Falls exit and proceed two miles to the Klamath Falls city center and Favell Museum exit. After crossing the Link River overpass, turn left at the sign to the Favell Museum. (Open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Admission: four dollars for adults; three dollars for seniors; two dollars for children age six to sixteen; free for children under age six.)

The Favell Museum is situated on the east bank of the Link River in Klamath Falls.



Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, and Walt Disney Slept Here!

by Joe Peterson

UPON HEARING THAT CLARK GABLE HAD JUST CHECKED out of the Weasku Inn, a honeymooning bride jumped at the chance to spend the night in the same room with her new husband. There was just one condition—the sheets were not to be changed!¹ Fifty-eight years later that room in the old lodge at the head of the stairs is once again available to visitors, thanks to a five-year restoration effort by Carl Johnson of Vintage Hotels.

Nestled along the Rogue River just upstream from Grants Pass, the Weasku Inn became a destination getaway for a surprising number of Hollywood's elite in the 1930s, forties, and fifties. By then, Zane Grey had been writing about his adventures fishing on the Rogue River for years.² Construction of Savage Rapids Dam in 1921 created a bountiful fishing hole just downstream that attracted the eye of others as well. A Montana couple named Bert and Sarah Smith noted countless fishermen gleefully landing leaping salmon in the holding water downstream from the dam. The Smiths coveted this superb stretch of fishing grounds conveniently located on the new Pacific Highway and decided to buy ten acres and build a roadhouse. The Smiths were quick to grasp the reality that auto tourism was generating a whole new demand for prepared food, lodging, and recreation activities.

Bert and Sarah Smith would build the lodge and their daughter would give it its clever name (we-ask-you-in), but after three years of constant commitment the Smiths sold the lodge and six rough-hewn riverfront cabins in 1927 for \$7,500 to a couple from California, William "Rainbow" and Peggie Gibson.³ It would be hard to imagine a better match, as "Rainbow" Gibson was already a legend as a famous trout fishing expert and guide.

It was during the Gibson years that Hollywood celebrities flocked to the Weasku and the expanded riverside cabins. Clark Gable, "The King of Hollywood," led a group of stars that included Carole Lombard, Jackie Cooper, Bing Crosby, Gabby Hayes, Ann Southern, Robert Sterling, David Niven, and Walt Disney.⁴ Gable, always the lady's man, brought three different wives to the Weasku over the years—Ria Langham, Lombard, and Kathleen Williams—and dated two of the Gibsons' three daughters during his thirty years of visits.

In 1942 Gable took refuge in Room Four at the lodge after the death of the thirty-three-year-old Lombard in a plane crash during a war bond drive.⁵ Local legend has it he did not emerge in public for three weeks, simply taking all his meals secluded in his room. Clark Gable continued to vacation at the lodge until his death in 1960.

The 1960s and seventies were unkind to a succession of owners who followed the Gibsons. An interstate highway was now in place, bypassing the Weasku and bringing fewer visitors down "old" Highway 99. A grand plan to build condos and create a Sunriver-style resort lost out to the early 1980s recession and high interest rates.⁶

By 1993 the old lodge was a shadow of its earlier years—even suffering the indignity of having become a real estate office. That didn't deter Carl Johnson, a man who specializes in restoring historic hotels and owner of the Riverside Inn six miles away in



The restored Weasku Inn lodge, with its rustic gables and gracious deck, overlooks the Rogue River.

Grants Pass. Johnson couldn't resist the challenge, and by 1996 had faithfully restored the old lodge complete with its original stone fireplace, wood floorings, and of course Clark Gable's room—now featuring a raised ceiling and a bed with freshly laundered sheets. Guided fishing trips, which made the lodge famous in earlier times, are still available, and luxurious riverfront cabins were added in 1998. As one of the current advertising brochures boldly states, this is "A 1924 Lodge Brought Back To Life." 🏠

Joe Peterson is an adjunct history instructor at Southern Oregon University.

ENDNOTES

1. Laura Kath Fraser, *Weasku Inn, Oregon's Legendary Rogue River Resort* (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Vintage Publishing, 1998), p. 21.
2. Carol Barrett, *As It Was, Stories from the History of Southern Oregon and Northern California* (Ashland: Jefferson Public Radio, 1998), p. 140.
3. *Weasku Inn*, p. 15.
4. *Ibid.*, p. 25.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 20.
6. *Ibid.*, pp. 30-31.

Film star Clark Gable holds a Rogue River chinook salmon in this 1937 photograph taken with the Weasku Inn co-owner Peggie Gibson. The excellent fishing helped make the inn a favorite getaway site for Hollywood luminaries.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WEASKU INN

SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Things To Do in January

PROGRAMS : (see listings below for complete descriptions)

	<u>DATE & TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
January Craft of the Month	Museum hours	CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	Optical Toys; 25¢ fee
Toys to Remember	Wed., Jan. 17, 10 - 11am and 3:30 - 4:30pm	CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	Create variety of toys; fee
"Timeless Elegance"	Sat., Jan. 27, 11am - 4pm	U. S. Hotel Ballroom 3rd & California, Jacksonville	Bridal Workshop; free

PROGRAM DETAILS

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS, SEE SCHEDULE ABOVE.

JANUARY CRAFT OF THE MONTH

Optical Toys

Families are invited to create their own optical toys to take home. Optical toys called Thaumatrope or "Wonder Turners" work on the same principles as modern motion pictures. Fee: 25¢. Children's Museum.

TOYS TO REMEMBER

Workshop for ages 3-6. Toys have always been an important part of childhood and an opportunity to prepare for the future. Children from long ago made many of their own toys and games to keep them occupied on cold winter nights. Join us as we make a variety of homemade toys using cardboard, wood, paper and other household items. Preregistration and prepayment are required by Monday, January 15. Fee: \$3 for Society members; \$4 for non-members.



SOHS #1243

BRIDAL WORKSHOP

The Southern Oregon Historical Society is proud to be one of the sponsors of "Timeless Elegance Bridal Workshop." The event is coordinated by Juanita Williams, wedding consultant. Weddings are a celebration of love, fairy-tale endings, new beginnings, and dreams come true. And while our technology may be space age, the wishes of our hearts on our wedding day hark back to the timeless traditions of romantic elegance.



SOHS #7804 (DETAIL)

The Society's U.S. Hotel Ballroom will reflect the elegance of a bygone era, offering bridal couples (and/or those with special occasions to plan), the opportunity to come enjoy the ambiance of the decorated room and meet with professional vendors in a unique workshop setting to help you plan the wedding day or special event of your dreams!

This workshop is for "Adults (18 or older) Only" to ensure the quality of time spent in the workshop. If you would like to attend, call 541/776-2442 or register on line to reserve your seat for the occasion at www.eventsnweddings.com. Must be preregistered by Friday, January 19.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

On Saturday, February 3, from noon until five o'clock, special events will be held at the Children's Museum and the U.S. Hotel Ballroom celebrating the Chinese New Year. Watch for additional information in the February issue of this newsletter.

As part of Genealogy Fair 2001,

a representative from the Molecular Genealogy Research Group will present, "Molecular Genealogy--a DNA Approach," as the feature presentation at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 3, at the Smullin Center in Medford.

The group is involved in a study of tracing families and races and where they lived through molecular genealogy. The study includes the reconstruction of ancient and modern genealogies using DNA techniques with samples from all over the world, the tracing of human population movements by following gene migrations (including both Old and New World populations), and the DNA analysis of ancient manuscripts and bringing a copy of their 4-generation pedigree charts (including birthplaces and dates), and providing a blood sample and dates).

Due to the nature of this program, and the fact that we need to ensure at least 100 participants, we are asking those interested in attending to preregister by calling 773-6536, now through January 19.

EXHIBITS : (see listings below for complete descriptions)

	LOCATION	MUSEUM HOURS
Century of Photography: 1856-1956 The History of Southern Oregon from A to Z Talent Historical Society	HISTORY CENTER	Mon. - Fri., 9:00am - 5:00pm
Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker Jacksonville: Boom Town to Home Town Politics of Culture: Collecting the Native American Experience Hannah Hall of Justice	JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM	Wed. - Sat., 10:00am - 5:00pm Sunday, noon - 5:00pm
Ongoing 'hands on history' exhibits	CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	Wed. - Sat., 10:00am - 5:00pm Sunday, noon - 5:00pm

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.



THE HISTORY OF SOUTHERN OREGON FROM A TO Z

Do you know your ABC's of Southern Oregon history? Even local oldtimers might learn a thing or two as each letter of the alphabet tells a different story about the people, places, and events that have shaped the region we live in. Before Bigfoot there was "Reelfoot," the huge grizzly bear that wreaked havoc in the Rogue Valley in the late 1800s. After that, Bozo was clowning around in Jacksonville, and how about that guy named Fosbury whose big success at the 1968 Olympics was a real flop? The History Center windows along Sixth and Central feature plenty of artifacts, photographic images, and colorful handpainted illustrations that help tell the story of our past.

MINER, BAKER, FURNITURE MAKER

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

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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

BECOME A MEMBER

Join now! Our goal is 2,000 members by June 30, 2001. Member support is more important than ever due to the 14.5% budget cut by the county this past June.

Your membership will support: preservation of Southern Oregon's rich heritage; Society exhibits and educational events; outreach to schools; workshops for adults and children; living history programs; and tours and demonstrations at historic Hanley Farm.

Members receive *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*, the Society's monthly magazine with newsletter, providing a view into the past and keeping you up-to-date on services provided by the Society.

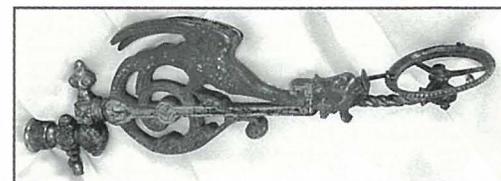
For membership info., call Susan Smith at 773-6536.

HISTORIC OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS:

- **State Historic Preservation Office**
prd.state.or.us - click on "publication"
PHONE: 503-378-4168
- **Southern Oregon Historical Society**
PHONE: 541-773-6536

Look here for November and December mystery object winners!

October's Mystery Object was a gas lamp bracket. Congratulations to Lisa Krebs of Cental Point, for answering correctly!



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unless listed otherwise

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

RESEARCH LIBRARY
106 N. Central, Medford
Tues - Fri, 1:00 to 5:00pm

JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM & CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
5th and C, Jacksonville
Wed - Sat, 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sun, noon to 5:00pm

U.S. HOTEL
3rd and California, Jacksonville
Upstairs room available for rent.
JACKSONVILLE HISTORY STORE
Wed - Sat, 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sun, 11:00am to 5:00pm
through January 15

THIRD STREET ARTISAN STUDIO
3rd and California, Jacksonville
Reopens Memorial Day

C.C. BEEKMAN HOUSE
California & Laurelwood, Jacksonville
CATHOLIC RECTORY
4th & C streets, Jacksonville

HANLEY FARM
1053 Hanley Road
(open by special appointment)
(541) 773-2675.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The History Center
will be closed

December 25 - January 15
for work on special projects.

The Jacksonville Museum
and Children's Museum
will be open

December 27, 28, 29 and 30;
then closed until January 17
for exhibit changeouts.

Crater Lake: the Campaign to Establish a National Park in Oregon

by Steve Mark

TEN TOWNSHIPS AND THE GOLDEN ARROW

The long campaign to establish Crater Lake National Park began at Fort Klamath in 1885. There two vacationers from Portland, William Gladstone Steel and J.M. Breck, met an army captain named Clarence E. Dutton who had been detailed to accompany University of California geologist Joseph LeConte on a summer trek to examine the volcanic phenomena in the region. The four men followed a wagon road leading from Fort Klamath to Jacksonville by way of Annie Spring. On the other side of the Cascade Divide they turned north along a blazed trail that ran along a creek later named for Dutton. After climbing and climbing, the men at last reached their goal, and stood upon the caldera rim enraptured by the beauty of Crater Lake.

Making Crater Lake a national park seems to have been first discussed at their campsite in what is now Rim Village, but the idea became Steel's primary focus for the next seventeen years. He stopped in Roseburg on his way home to discuss the idea with Oregon Congressman Binger Hermann, and began organizing a petition drive. The public support Steel wanted came with no difficulty and by the beginning of 1886, the petition had arrived in Washington, D.C. The petitioners sought to have the president withdraw the lands surrounding Crater Lake from settlement and from land claims arising from mining or timber values while Congress considered the merits of establishing a national park.¹



PHOTO BY STEVE MARK

Below, sheep graze in a fragile high country meadow in this early 1900 photo. Damage from grazing and "range improvement" fires led national park advocates to seek legal protection for Crater Lake, and the forests and watersheds of the high Cascades.

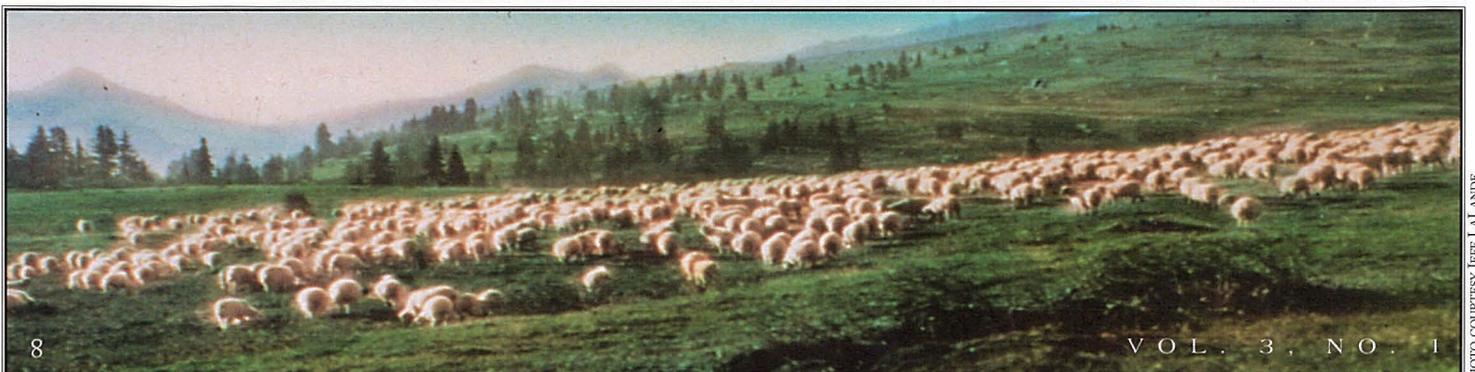
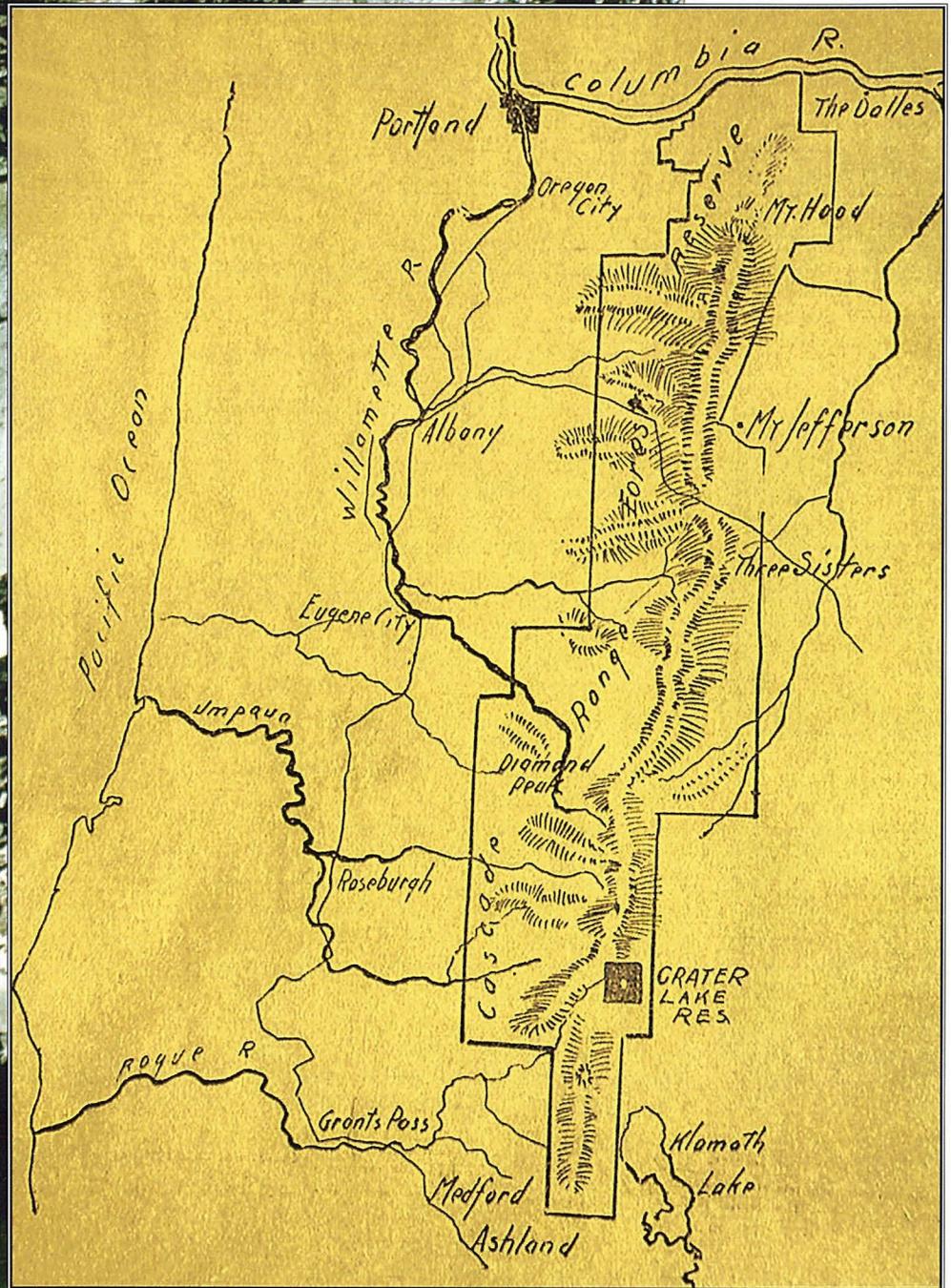
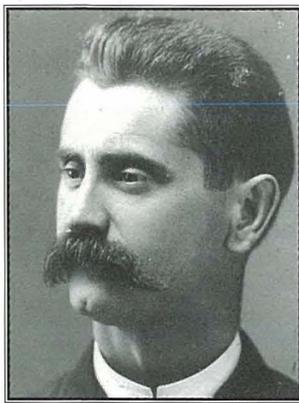


PHOTO COURTESY JEFF LALANDE

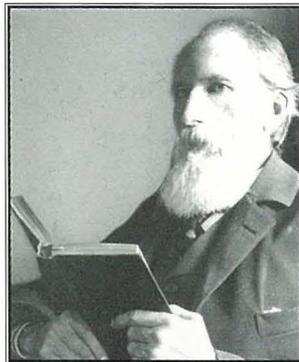
William Steel led the fight not only to preserve Crater Lake, but to establish federal protection for the entire Cascade Range, as outlined in this 1898 map that appeared in the Oregonian. This Cascade Range Forest Reserve formed part of what became the mount Hood, Willamette, Deschutes, Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema national forests.





OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #23267

William Gladstone Steel: Crater Lake's foremost advocate.



OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY #64412

Judge John Waldo: Encouraged Steel to seek protection for the Cascades.

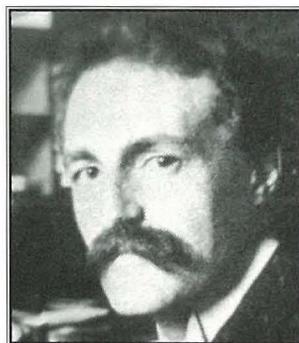


PHOTO COURTESY JEFF LALANDE

Gifford Pinchot: Theodore Roosevelt's forestry advisor.

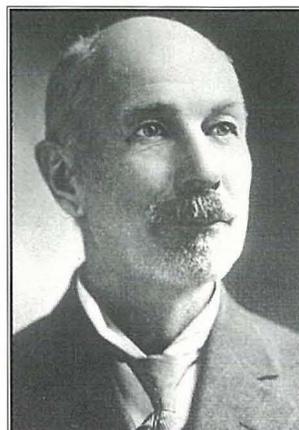


PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

J. S. Diller: the geologist who first unraveled the story of how Crater Lake came to be.

President Grover Cleveland ordered that ten townships of unsurveyed public domain adjacent to the lake be withdrawn from all forms of entry on February 1, 1886. This reservation was larger and slightly different from the actual park boundaries set in 1902. Only two townships wide, the withdrawal stretched from Union Peak in the south to well beyond Mount Thielsen. It simply represented a guess at what might be suitable for a national park, but the administration wanted to avoid infringing on the Fort Klamath Military Reservation to the south and the Klamath Indian Reservation to the east.

Crater Lake and its surroundings needed to be examined in greater depth, so Dutton headed a government-sponsored expedition during the summer of 1886. He needed civilian assistance for the procurement of boats and supplies, so Steel landed that job (he and Breck had hauled a canvas vessel to Crater Lake in 1885) and oversaw construction of three boats in Portland. The largest, Steel named the "Cleetwood" because of a dream he had had while traveling. In the dream, his deceased father joined Steel and both of them saw the heavens. As Steel's father waved his hands above his head and told his son to look, the sky became filled with golden arrows, called "cleetwood" in the dream.²

Steel put the completed boats on a rail car in July 1886 and took the train to Ashland. From there, Steel and an expedition of thirty-five men loaded the boats on wagons and made their way to Crater Lake by way of Fort Klamath. Most in the party were soldiers, but some were United States Geological Survey personnel.

While some of the expedition's members began mapping the topography around Crater Lake, others took on the challenge of measuring the lake's depths. They had to use triangulation to pinpoint the boat's position on the water, so as the two fixed points they used their camp (later called Rim Village) as one, and the Watchman (so named for the party of engineers stationed on the summit to receive signals) as the other. The great depths recorded by the party astounded the men, and they soon realized that Crater Lake was the deepest fresh water body in the United States. Several measurements (the party took 168 readings over a three-week span) exceeded 1,500 feet, with the deepest at an incredible 1,996 below the surface. This reading stood as official until soundings taken in 1958 established the maximum depth at 1,932 feet.³

This so-called "Cleetwood Expedition" generated considerable publicity in Oregon and elsewhere, but seemed to have little effect on Congress. Bills introduced by the Oregon delegation in 1886 and 1887 died in committee because of considerable opposition. The issue was not Crater Lake's worthiness, nor even the exploitation of natural resources, but the fear of many in Congress that national parks threatened to become a drain on the Treasury. It did not help that the administration of Yellowstone during this time had become so problematic that it required Army intervention.

*L. R. C. Lawrence
Secretary of the Interior
Jan. 30/86*

Recommends temporary withdrawal of certain public lands in Oregon pending legislative looking to the creation of a public park which shall embrace Crater Lake.

*Executive Manuscript
February 1, 1886
Let the withdrawal be made as recommended
Grover Cleveland*

With this handwritten executive order, President Grover Cleveland in 1886 withdrew from the public domain ten townships that would form the nucleus for Crater Lake National Park in 1902.

Alternatively, bills introduced in 1888, 1889, 1891, and 1893 would have conveyed Crater Lake to the state of Oregon in much the same way that Yosemite Valley had been given to California in 1864.

These bills died, too,

amid suspicions among House members that legislation providing for a state park would simply bring about the momentum needed to make Crater Lake a future national park.⁴

Steel opposed the state park bills and worried that Cleveland's withdrawal could be reversed by a future president on the advice of his secretary of the interior. To buy time, Steel wanted a more permanent form of withdrawal. This would keep Crater Lake National Park, when finally established by congressional act, from being compromised by speculators having title to lands that should belong to the people. He had become a convert to the cause of forestry by 1889, and, with the help of a friend in Salem, started to think in terms encompassing the entire Cascade Range in Oregon.

THE JUDGE AND A FOREST RESERVE

With efforts to establish a national park around Crater Lake effectively stymied by 1889, Steel began looking for other ways to gain the protection he sought for this area. An acquaintance of his, Judge John B. Waldo, advised Steel as early as 1885 that he ought to petition for reservation of the entire Cascade Range in Oregon. Although Steel opted for only ten townships around Crater Lake at first, he remained open to a more ambitious reservation once a national movement to retain federal ownership of forest lands gained momentum in the late 1880s.⁵

A member of an Oregon pioneer family that settled east of Salem in 1843, Waldo served as chief justice of the state Supreme Court from 1884 to 1886, and won one term as state representative in 1888. He loved the mountains, avidly read Thoreau, and spent much of each summer in the wildest and most remote parts of the Cascades. During the summer of 1888, for example, Waldo and his companions made the first recorded journey along the crest between Mount Jefferson and Mount Shasta. They made the trip because Waldo intended to have the legislature ask Congress for a huge “public reserve or park.” It was to encompass twelve miles on each side of the Cascade Divide and run along the entire length of the range in Oregon. Settlement and logging would be prohibited and other uses regulated so that water supplies, game, and recreation could be perpetuated for all time.⁶

This memorial of 1889 met defeat in the state Senate, so it never left Salem. Congress did, however, pass legislation in 1891 allowing the president to proclaim “forest reserves” from any land still in the public domain that had trees or was covered with undergrowth. The Oregon Alpine Club, headed by Steel, now became the leading proponent of establishing forest reserves in Oregon. Their first success came in 1892, when the Bull Run Forest Reserve was created to protect Portland’s water supply. It took another year before President Cleveland acted to establish the nation’s largest reserve.

The Cascade Range Forest Reserve came into being (along with a much smaller reserve near Ashland) on September 28, 1893, and encompassed 4.5 million acres that later formed the basis for several national forests. Within its boundaries was the earlier Crater Lake reservation made during Cleveland’s first term in office.⁷

Steel saw the new reserve as a way to buy time for his national park proposal, in that the proclamation was more permanent than the 1886 withdrawal of ten townships. Congress, however, still had not appropriated any funds nor provided direction in the management of forest reserves. Unregulated sheep grazing on the reserves represented an immediate threat in the eyes of many forestry advocates. They saw the animals as responsible for denuding forest cover and thereby degrading the forests’ capacity to store water for agriculture and municipal use. Many



During a visit to the park in 1931, former Park Superintendent William Steel, right, examines the lake-sounding device used in 1886.

herders burned large areas to improve forage, impairing visibility for months at a time and contributing to the loss of prime timber. When the Secretary of the Interior issued an order prohibiting grazing on the reserve in 1894, the sheep owners attempted to fight back through the Oregon delegation in Congress. The delegation led an effort to severely reduce the Cascade Range reserve while some sheepmen openly defied the secretary’s order.

Things came to a head in 1896, when Steel spent most of six months in Washington, D.C., orchestrating a lobbying campaign in defense of the reserve. After some close calls, the reserve emerged intact, so Steel returned to Oregon in June with the intention of leading a trip to promote interest in Crater Lake. He wanted to bring the Mazamas, a Portland-based mountain climbing group Steel started in 1894, to Southern Oregon for an ascent of Mount McLoughlin and some extended camping at what later became known as Rim Village. In early August a deputy U.S. marshal was sent to Crater Lake to arrest sheepherders who had brought some 2,000 sheep into the area. This resulted in four sheep owners having to appear in federal court, where charges were dropped in view of the judge’s warning to keep sheep away from Crater Lake thereafter.⁸

The Mazamas gathering that August was important in several ways. Fay Fuller, as one of the Mazamas, had the honor of christening the ancient volcano whose remnant caldera held Crater Lake. The mountain that the Klamath Indians called *gi was*, Fuller named after the climbing club—which in turn had taken its name from the Spanish word for mountain goat. Secondly, Steel had prevailed upon several government scientists



Above, 1886 expedition members row the Cleetwood on Crater Lake. At right, ropes and muscle had to be used to slide a boat down the steep slope to the lake in 1903.



PHOTOS COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

to conduct various studies of the proposed park area. The investigators presented their findings to the campers throughout the week (the first formal interpretation at Crater Lake) and subsequently published research papers in the annual journal of the Mazamas. This volume served not only as a record of the trip, but was also intended as the first guidebook for visitors to Crater Lake.

Steel had to cut short his time with the club members because he had to meet a special forest commission arriving by train in Medford and deliver the members to Crater Lake. The controversy over federal forests had by now prompted Cleveland to appoint a body to make recommendations about the number of reserves and their future management. Steel naturally thought it critical to discuss the fate of both the Cascade Range reserve and Crater Lake with the commission. He *walked* from Rim Village to the train depot in less than three days, and arranged for wagons to transport the commissioners back to Rim Village. The weather had turned wet and misty by the time they arrived at the rim, but Steel convinced commission members John Muir and a young forester named Gifford Pinchot to join him in camping at the lake shore for one night hoping to reach Wizard Island the next day. Rain and rough water canceled the boat trip, though Steel appeared to have succeeded in obtaining the commission's support for retaining the forest reserve and establishing a national park at Crater Lake.⁹

The commission's final report recommended retaining existing forest reserves and adding some new ones, but remained silent on the issue of national park status for Crater Lake. In June of 1897, Congress passed legislation giving a degree of permanence to the reserves and provided funds for their management. They provided a somewhat utilitarian direction, allowing the location of mineral claims and authorizing uses such as logging and grazing at the interior secretary's discretion. The Secretary drew up regulations to implement the legislation, and included a provision banning sheep from the area near Crater Lake. This conveyed some of the protection Steel desired, but he worried about a clause in the new law allowing the president to reduce, modify, or eliminate forest reserves at any time.

A NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF OREGON

Once Congress began appropriating money for managing the forest reserves in 1898, staff hired by the General Land Office (the Bureau of Land Management's forerunner) could patrol them. Trespass grazing consequently ceased in the area around

Crater Lake, but the few forest reserve rangers hired for that summer had several competing demands on their time. Their priorities also included preventing wildfires (a stand replacement fire that started north of Fort Klamath grew to 18,000 acres in September 1898 and gave Grayback Ridge its name) and locating the reserve's actual boundaries on the ground.

Mapping efforts in the vicinity of Crater Lake ran ahead of other areas in the forest reserve, mainly due to the U.S. Geological Survey having begun work during the Cleetwood Expedition of 1886. Geologist Joseph Diller can be credited with taking the Crater Lake topographic sheet to publication in 1898 because it helped to illustrate his study of how volcanic forces shaped the area around Mount Mazama. Among the things Diller discovered in compiling the map was that the ten townships reserved in 1886 did not extend far enough east to encompass all of Crater Lake. He and others agreed that the boundaries needed reworking, so subsequent bills aimed at establishing a national park were redrafted to reflect the dimensions of the USGS Crater Lake map. On it were features Diller thought directly related to Mount Mazama's climactic eruption and the geological story of Crater Lake. He deleted Diamond Lake and Mount Thielsen in favor of including all of Mount Scott, then went far enough south to encompass such features as Union Peak, the Pinnacles, and most of Annie Creek Canyon.¹⁰

Thomas Tongue, a congressman from Astoria, introduced a new bill containing the reworked boundaries in January 1898. Supporters took heart when the House Committee on Public Lands issued a favorable report on the proposed legislation. The report, titled "National Park in the State of Oregon," consisted of testimonials by former Congressman Hermann (at that time chief of the General Land Office), as well as Diller and the other scientists who had assembled at Crater Lake in 1896. The bill went no further, however, because of opposition from some key congressmen who still saw national parks in places such as Crater Lake as a continual drain on the Treasury, with little hope for any real return on the government's investment. Enactment of legislation establishing Mount Rainier National Park on March 2, 1899, did not presage action on the Crater Lake measure. Tongue introduced another bill in the House, identical to the previous one in December 1899. Tongue's bill and another introduced in the Senate by the Oregon delegation three months later, again went nowhere.¹¹

Only when Theodore Roosevelt arrived in the White House in 1901 did the stars start to align. That December, Tongue

Wizard Island looms in this 1910 Park Service lantern slide. Steel named the island on his first visit to the lake in 1885. Steel also planted the first fish in Crater Lake in 1888, and served as the park's second superintendent from 1913-1916. He died in Medford in 1934, and was buried in Siskiyou Memorial Park wearing his Park Service uniform.



introduced House Resolution 4393, worded identically to the bill he brought to the House almost four years earlier. The same report from the Department of the Interior accompanied it as in the previous three tries, but this time Steel acted on Tongue's advice to work up a petition and secure additional testimonials on Crater Lake. Steel collected 4,000 signatures on the petition by March and solicited endorsements from prominent figures, both in and out of government. As might be expected, the replies he received from John Muir and Gifford Pinchot differed, since their views about the use of the forest reserves had openly diverged over sheep grazing in 1897. (Pinchot believed in carefully regulated grazing, while Muir opposed it under all circumstances.) Oddly enough, Muir was noncommittal about Crater Lake's suitability as a national park. Pinchot, by contrast, expressed great enthusiasm to Steel. He also became a critical ally for the bill in his role as the new president's leading advisor on conservation and public lands.

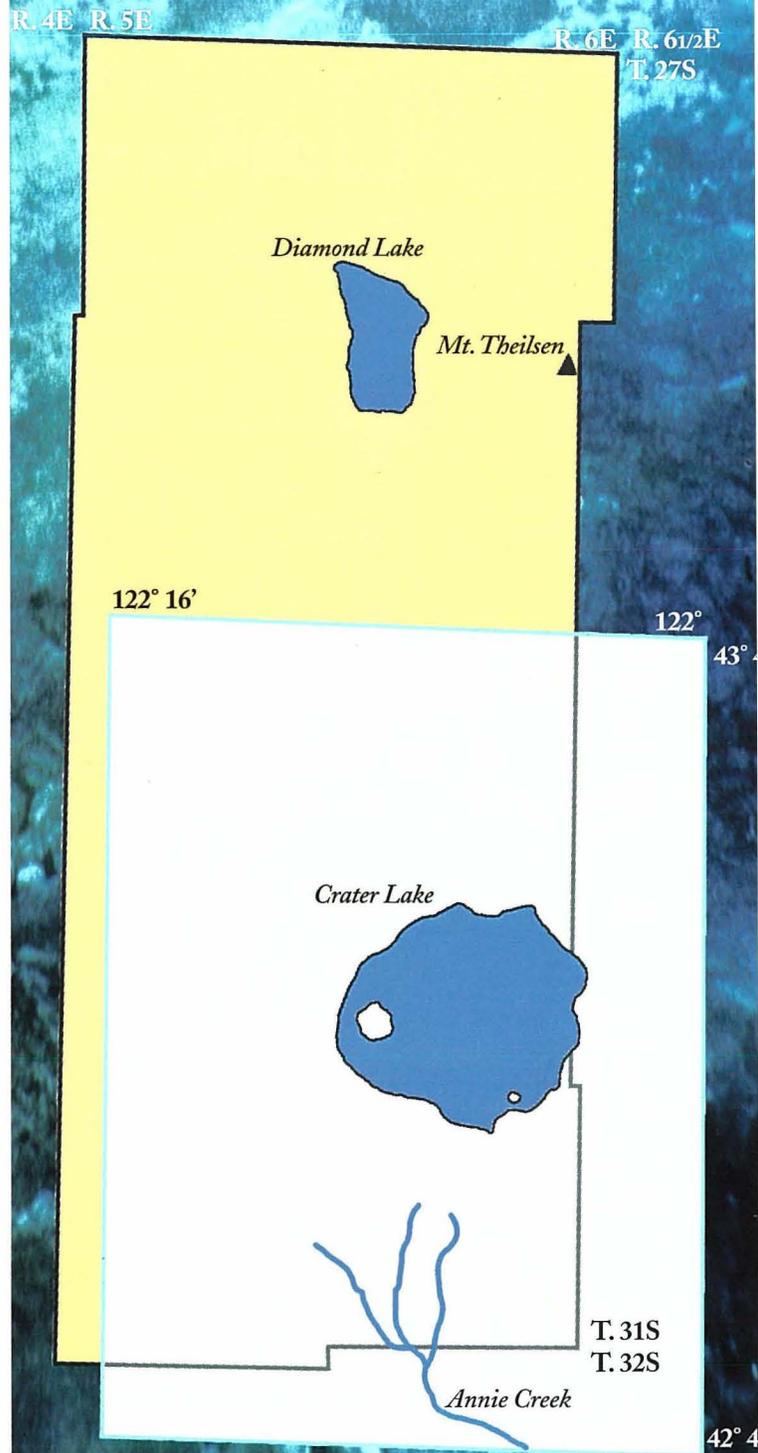
Pinchot went to Roosevelt about the Crater Lake bill, and the president had a word with the House speaker, who objected to letting the bill out of committee for debate on the house floor. This kept the bill alive to be debated, but Tongue still had to negotiate with congressmen who could block any further progress. The House passed it on April 19, but with an amendment that allowed the location and working of mining claims. Three of the bill's six sections were deleted, though none of these (appointment of deputy marshals, payment of court costs, and authorization to deploy troops) constituted crucial sticking points. The House version was referred to the Senate committee on April 21, and its members reported favorably on it later that month. Passage of HR 4393 by the Senate came May 9, without debate or amendments. It became law on May 22, 1902, when Roosevelt signed the bill.¹²

Steel wrote to the president the day after Senate passage in order to obtain the pen Roosevelt later used in signing the bill. Pinchot, Diller, and Tongue also received letters from Steel expressing his gratitude for their part in the long campaign to establish Crater Lake as a national park. Almost a century later it stands alone in Oregon, even though national park proposals involving at least ten other areas within the state have been made at one time or another. Those efforts have so far failed for a variety of reasons, with perhaps the most important one being timing—though the story of how Crater Lake National Park came to be also includes no small amount of perseverance and good fortune. ■

Steve Mark is the park historian for Crater Lake National Park and Oregon Caves National Monument.

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2. "Surveying Boats," *The Portland News*, 28 June 1886.
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12. Mark, pp. 11-12; Unrau, pp. 98-111.



■ Ten townships originally set aside by President Cleveland in 1886 missed the east edge of the lake, but stretched north to include Mount Theilsen.

□ The actual boundaries of the park established in 1902 follow J.S. Diller's 1889 topographic map outline based on Diller's geologic interpretation of the area.

DIAGRAM DERIVED FROM U.S. FORREST SERVICE BASE MAP.



Aloha, Medford!

by Bill Alley

Martin Jensen gained fame coming in second in a 1927 race from Oakland, California, to Honolulu, Hawaii, in his monoplane the Aloha.

THROUGHOUT THE 1920S AMERICANS WERE fascinated with aviation. Rarely a day went by without some new record, stunt or other aeronautical achievement appearing on the front pages of the nation's newspapers. Whenever a celebrity pilot and his ship made a public appearance, a large crowd was almost guaranteed.

On July 11, 1928, a brightly colored monoplane, bearing the name Aloha, touched down at Medford's Newell Barber Field. On hand was a large crowd of aviation enthusiasts including the COPCO Current Events cameraman. The pilot, Martin Jensen, and his wife received a warm welcome, and the well-known aviator was invited to address the COPCO Forum at the Medford Hotel. Because of the great interest, members of the public were invited to attend.¹

Martin Jensen was best known for his achievements in the Dole Trans-Pacific Air Race the previous year. On August 16, 1927, nine aircraft left Oakland, California, for Wheeler Field on the Island of Oahu, each seeking to claim the cash prize offered by pineapple magnate James D. Dole; within the race's first few hours five of the entrants had given up and returned to Oakland.²

Twenty-six hours, seventeen minutes and twenty seconds after leaving Oakland, the first of the racers, the *Woolrac*, piloted by Art Goebel, landed at Wheeler Field to claim first prize. A short two hours later, Jensen brought in the *Aloha*, the local favorite. The dangers inherent in early aviation were brought home as spectators and officials awaited the arrival of the final two contestants. It soon became clear that they had been lost in route, and a massive search, including forty-two naval vessels, army air corps planes and even the *Aloha* was begun. Neither plane was found. One of the lost planes was the *Miss Doran*, sponsored by a group of Flint, Michigan, businessmen and, foreshadowing the tragedy of the shuttle *Challenger* in 1986, carried a passenger, a young Flint schoolteacher named Mildred Doran.³

A month after the trans-Pacific flight, Jensen again made the front pages of the nation's newspapers. While carrying a celebrity passenger from Hollywood to New York City, Jensen's plane crash-landed in Arizona, a three-day hike from the nearest ranch. After notifying authorities that he and his passenger were unharmed, Jensen returned to the crash site where his passenger, Leo, the MGM trademark

lion (whose cage luckily remained intact), gave the pilot "a thoroughly disgusted look."⁴

Jensen's visit to Medford in July 1928 was part of a nationwide tour financed in part by providing sightseeing trips aboard the *Aloha*. One of the many to fly with Jensen was Horace Bromley with his COPCO Current Events Newsreel camera, filming the Rogue Valley from the air. Another who paid the five-dollar fare for a short ride was Janet Rae Reter, daughter of Pinnacle Packing Company's manager, Raymond Reter. After her flight she was presented with this certificate (below), which is now preserved in the collections of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. ■

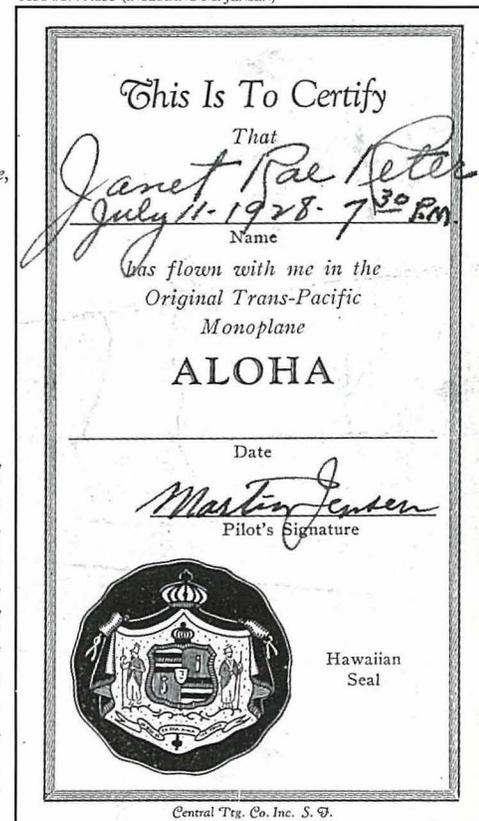
Bill Alley is historian/archivist with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

ENDNOTES:

1. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 10, 11 July 1928.
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Jensen toured the country in 1928, offering sightseeing rides to help pay for his trip, and issuing souvenir certificates like this one given to passenger Janet Reter.

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 (continued on page 2)

ELECTION RESULTS WERE MUDDLED, and even though he had just been declared mayor of Medford, Isaac Webb would have an uneasy sleep. The *Ashland Valley Record* had called Medford's mayoral race "the most hotly contested election ever held anywhere." The town was divided over one contentious issue: how to pay for civic improvements. Those who cast their ballots on January 2, 1889, had a clear choice: vote for Willard Crawford, who favored a business license fee; or choose Webb, who favored a general tax on all property owners. As the election judges began their tally they found two ballots, in favor of Crawford, stuck together. If both were counted, Crawford would win with a one-vote margin, eighty-eight to eighty-seven. To avoid the perception of a tainted election, the judges ruled that the two controversial ballots were illegal, threw them out, and declared Webb mayor by one vote. Crawford's supporters were furious and prepared to take their protests to the City Council.¹

Though Webb had supporters on the council, he knew that the majority opposed him. Just one week before the election, in a move that seemed to support Crawford, the retiring council had blatantly imposed a business license fee. By charter, this same council would either certify the election or resolve the contested results. The day after the election the council met and as Webb supporters had suspected, this was not to be their day. After hearing from both sides, the council decided that the disputed ballots had been stuck together unintentionally and, to preclude a charge of fraud, ordered that only one of them be counted. The election was tied and the choice for mayor was in the council's hands. A quick 3-2 vote and Crawford was certified as Medford's third mayor. Now it was furious Webb supporters who took their protest to the Jacksonville Circuit Court. By January 25, Circuit Court Judge L.R. Webster ruled that he had no jurisdiction and Crawford remained mayor

Sticky Ballots - Medford's Overnight Mayor

by Bill Miller

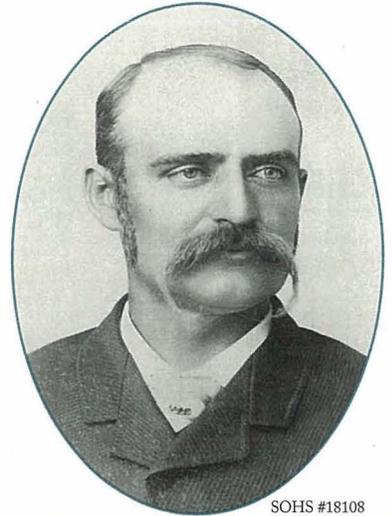
without further formal protest.²

But our story ends with a twist. In May, Crawford closed his law office, resigned as mayor, and within a week moved his family to Portland where he would practice law. He did not resign in front of the council as was customary. Why Crawford would leave suddenly, after so diligently contesting the mayoral election, was never revealed. Webb was asked if he would accept appointment as mayor to complete the one-year term, but without explanation, he promptly declined and the job eventually fell to Mahlon Purdin, a blacksmith. Webb would continue his furniture and undertaking business, holding only two subsequent public offices—school superintendent for three years starting in 1891, and most ironic, judge of elections for 1890. The election that year was conducted without controversy. 🏠

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ENDNOTES

1. *Ashland Valley Record*, 10 January 1889, p. 3:3. *Jacksonville Democratic Times*, 10 January 1889, p. 3:4.
2. *Jacksonville Democratic Times*, 27 December 1888, p. 2:4; 9 May 1889, p. 3:4. *Minutes of the Board of Trustees, City of Medford*, 4 January 1889, Vol. 1, p. 165-66. Voting for Crawford were: Dr. E.P. Geary, mayor, and Councilmen Arnold Childers and J.W. Short. Webb's support came from Councilmen C.W. Skeel and E.G. Hurt.



SOHS #18108

Undertaker Isaac Webb, lost the 1889 Medford mayoral race to attorney Willard Crawford by city council vote after a tied election.



SOHS #15764

When Crawford later abruptly resigned as mayor, the council offered the job to Webb, who wanted none of it. So blacksmith Mahlon Purdin, (above), agreed to fill the position.



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