

# SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE

Summer 2004 Vol. 6, No. 3

*Today*



*Collectors Edition  
five dollars*

**P. BRITT**







## SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Board of Trustees

Judi Drais, *Medford*, PRESIDENT  
Yvonne Earnest, *Medford*, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
Robert Stevens, *Jacksonville*, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT  
Judy H. Lozano, *Butte Falls*, SECRETARY  
Neil Thorson, *Medford*, TREASURER

Bruce Budmayr, *Rogue River*  
Terrie Claflin, *Phoenix*  
Robert Cowling, *Medford*  
Edward B. Jorgenson, *Medford*  
John Laughlin, *Asbland*  
Kathie Olsen, *Jacksonville*  
Stephen W. Ryder, *Medford*  
Sandra Slattery, *Asbland*

### Foundation Board of Directors

Nancy Hamlin, *Medford*, PRESIDENT  
Roger P. Bernard, M.D., *Medford*, VICE-PRESIDENT  
Joe Danelson, *Medford*, SECRETARY  
David M. Thorndike, *Medford*, TREASURER

Allen Alsing, *Asbland*  
Yvonne Earnest, *Medford*  
Mary Kay Harmon, *Medford*  
Lyn Hennion, *Medford*  
Nancy McGrew, *Jacksonville*  
John C. Norris, *Medford*  
Samuel C. Whitford, *Asbland*

### Administrative Staff

Jennifer Buckner, PR/MARKETING COORDINATOR  
Stephanie Butler, EDUCATION/PROGRAMS COORDINATOR  
John Enders, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Maureen Smith, FINANCE/OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
Richard Seidman, DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

### Collections/Research Library / Exhibits Staff

Kathy Enright, LIBRARY ASSISTANT  
Carol Harbison-Samuelson, LIBRARY MANAGER/PHOTO ARCHIVIST  
Matt Watson, CURATOR OF EXHIBITS  
Steve Wyatt, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

## SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY

Published by the Southern Oregon Historical Society  
106 N. Central Ave., Medford, OR 97501-5926  
(541) 773-6536 • [www.sohs.org](http://www.sohs.org)

### Magazine Staff

Editor, John Enders  
Designer, Photographer, & Production Coordinator, Dana L. Jackson  
Assistant Photographer, Maggie James  
Advertising, Jennifer Buckner  
Editorial Assistant, Sharstin Brannock

Printing, CDS Publications

Copyright 2004 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.

Author's Guidelines available upon request.

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONAL FACTS

Spring 2004 Vol. 6. No. 2

1. A photo caption on page 4 mistakenly listed the owner of the *History of Aviation* beacon. It is on loan to SOHS from the Oregon Aviation Historical Society.
2. In the "From the Director" note on page 8, the text regarding Bill Gates' philanthropy read "much unlike" when it should have read "not unlike." Unfortunately, the error completely changed the meaning of the sentence. Our apologies to Mr. Gates.
3. On page 13, Marjorie O'Harra's name was misspelled.
4. A photo caption on page 17 incorrectly identified a machine as a printing press. As any old ink-stained wretch will tell you, it was a linotype.



## From the Director

### DEAR SOHS MEMBER:

Greetings from the staff and volunteers of the Southern Oregon Historical Society! When this special edition of *Southern Oregon Heritage Today* reaches your hands, we will be poised to hold a special All-American celebration at our historic Hanley Farm. Please join us for this second of four "First Weekends" at Hanley Farm.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 3-4, the farm will open and feature an exact replica of the Wright Brothers' flying machine that first rose into the air at the North Carolina coast community of Kitty Hawk. "Orville Wright" actor Jim Spence will be there to tell us all about this first manned powered flight, which we've been celebrating for the past few months with our *Celebrating Flight: A History of Aviation in Southern Oregon* exhibit at the History Center in Medford. Fourth of July weekend offers families throughout the region and visitors alike an opportunity to celebrate flight, our national heritage and the pristine pleasures of life at a Century Farm just a few miles west of Medford. It should be a great weekend.

We are so pleased to be able to reopen Hanley Farm, and the Beekman House Living History program, to the public. We've done so with the support of individual donors and volunteers, corporate and community assistance. We thank our supporters.

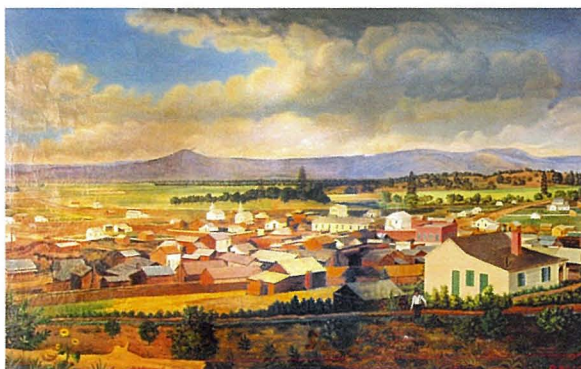
Your Historical Society is building new bridges, forging new partnerships, making new friends and seeking new and broader sources of support. Can you help? If there are ways you think you might assist the Historical Society in fulfilling our ongoing mission of protecting and promoting our region's heritage, please feel free to see, call or email me.

We forge ahead with plans to sell our downtown Medford headquarters. There was no news to report at press time regarding our proposal to turn the downtown Medford Carnegie building into a cultural center, but that should change soon.

We also have big plans for a major new Peter Britt exhibit to open later this year at the Jacksonville Museum, and other plans we will be announcing soon. Stay posted.

In the meantime, have a great summer. Come see us! We are *your* Historical Society.

John Enders  
Executive Director



### ON THE COVER

Painting by Peter Britt shows Jacksonville in 1856. Note the front cover shows the right half of the painting, while the back cover shows the left side with the original Jacksonville Courthouse before it burned.

SOHS #B330 (DETAIL)





Peter Britt, Jacksonville  
photographer (1819-1905).  
A major exhibit on his work  
and life is planned for later  
this year.

SOHS #1969

## C o n t e n t s

### *T h e n   a n d   N o w*

CRATER LAKE: August 1874 and 2003 • 4

### *C o l l e c t i o n s*

HISTORY OF THE BRITT COLLECTION

*by Steve Wyatt • 5*

### *E x h i b i t i o n s*

PETER BRITT: The Man Beyond the Camera • 6

### *F e a t u r e*

PETER BRITT: Man of Culture, Man of Commerce

*by Dawna Curler • 8*

FIRE AT THE BRITT HOME

*by Carol Harbison-Samuelson • 13*

### *H i s t o r y   T o d a y*

HISTORY OF THE BRITT FESTIVALS • 14

VALLEY VIEW WINERY: From Southern Oregon to Slovenia

*by Patricia Parish Kuhn • 15*

### *P r e s e r v a t i o n*

PRESERVING THE PAST: Jacksonville's Chinese Heritage

*by Eric Peters & Jayme Neil • 16*

PRESERVATION OF THE JACKSONVILLE WOODLANDS • 19

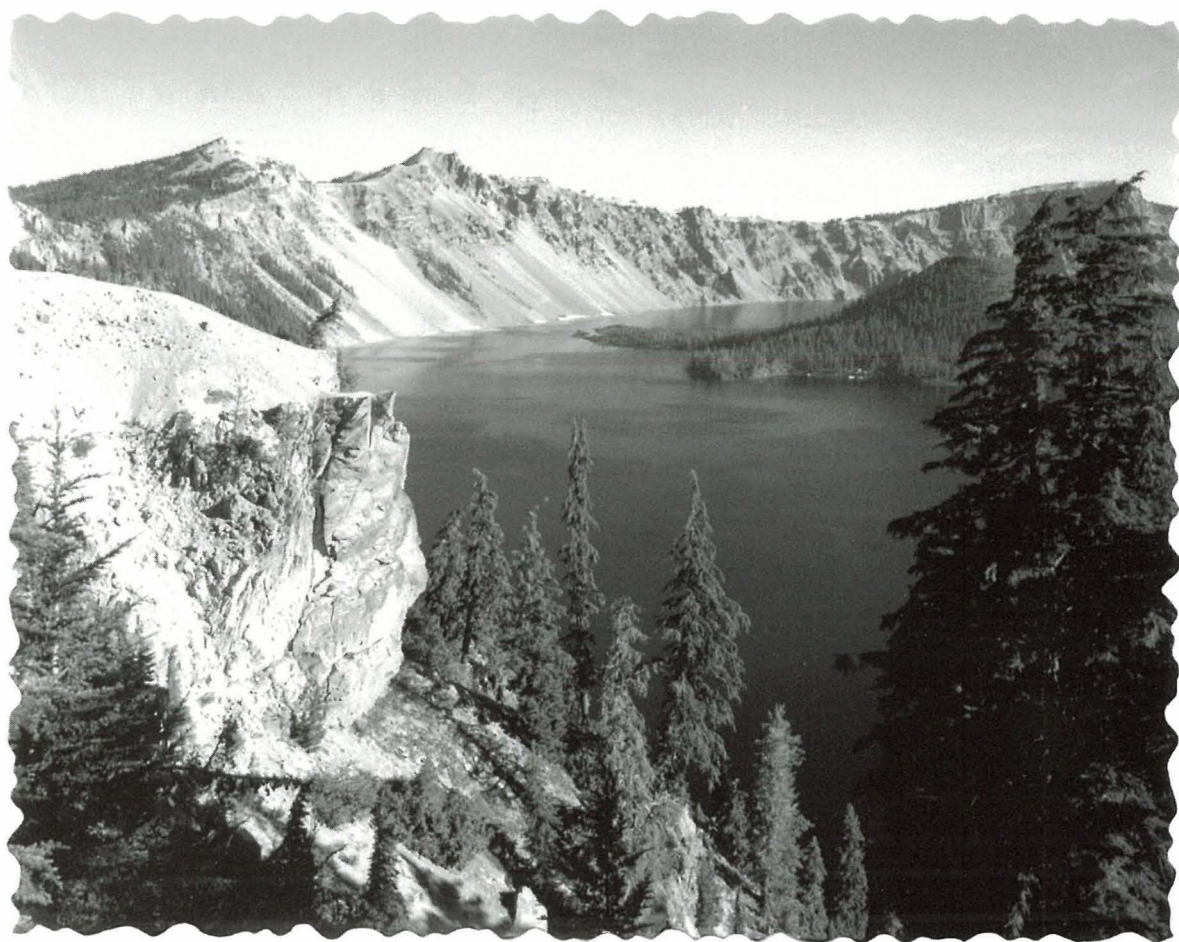
MEMBERS/DONORS • 20 & 21

SPONSORS/SPECIAL EVENTS • 22

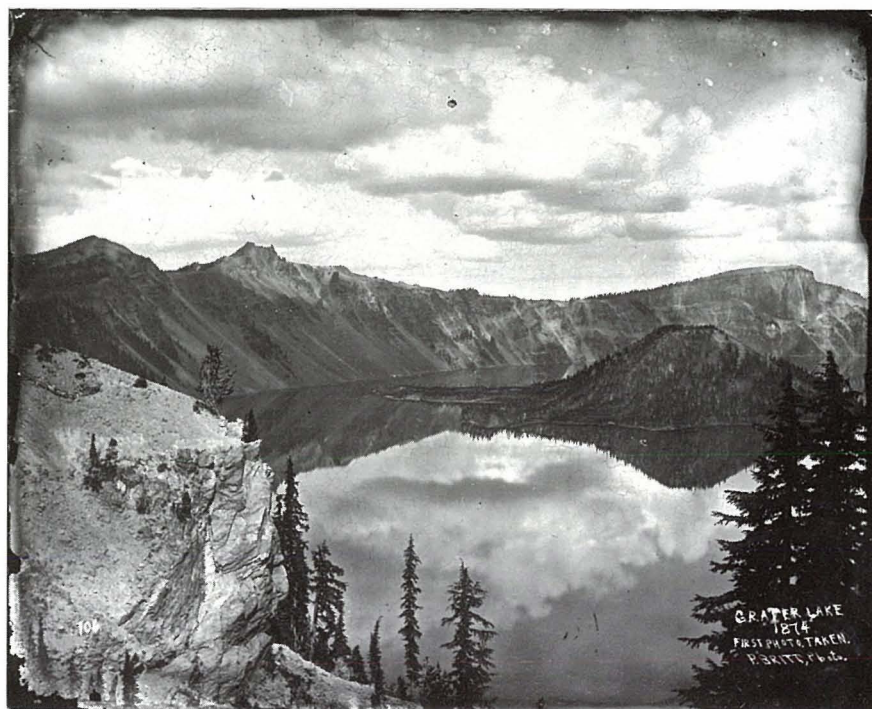


THEN AND NOW

# Crater Lake: August 1874 and 2003



*R. Moore*



Above, Crater Lake today as seen through the lens of contemporary Jacksonville black-and-white photographer Ron Moore. Left, Crater Lake as seen through the lens for the first time in 1874 by pioneer photographer Peter Britt.

SOHS #740



# History of the Britt Collection

By Steve Wyatt

Something for free can be too expensive.



A few seldom seen items from the "Britt Collection." The contents of Britt's photo studio make up the largest and best known part of the collection. Clockwise from above: clock, cigar wrapper vase, glove box, and sewing machine.

SOHS Acc #B506, #B152, #B980, #B610.1



Nearly fifty years ago, the Southern Oregon Historical Society reached this conclusion after it was offered the bulk of Peter Britt's estate. But the estate came with strings attached. If the Society were to accept Britt's estate it was mandated to operate Peter Britt's house as a museum. This was in the 1950s when SOHS was a fairly young organization in a quiet town of about 1,200 people. Jacksonville's historic renaissance and the onslaught of tourists that followed was still a decade or so away.

The fate of Peter Britt's estate first became a concern when his daughter Amalia passed away in October 1955. She was Peter Britt's last surviving descendant. Her will stipulated that the family's land, house, its contents and a trust account go to SOHS if it agreed to operate the house as a museum. For many years Amalia and her brother Emil offered tours of their home, displaying their famous father's cameras and photographs.

Amalia must have sensed that the newly formed SOHS might not be able to take on the added responsibility of operating a new museum at the Britt home. (SOHS already operated the Jacksonville Courthouse museum). A proviso in her will stipulated that if SOHS were unable to operate the house as a museum, the trust fund would be added to the \$50,000 scholarship fund her will created for Jacksonville High School graduates.

After detailing many other small gifts, Britt's will stipulated that what remained of the estate go to the "State Board of Higher Education of the State of Oregon" to support Southern Oregon College of Education (now Southern Oregon University). Because SOHS was unable to accept the donation, ownership of the estate went to the state.

Fortunately, the state board of education recognized that the real worth of the Britt estate was its historic, not monetary, value. It had the foresight to loan SOHS whatever it deemed appropriate for its museum. Curator of Collections Mary Hanley selected hundreds of objects ranging from Peter Britt's buggy to everyday household items. Pictured are a few seldom-seen items from the "Britt Collection." The contents of Britt's photo studio make up the largest and best known part of the collection.

SOHS has been caring for, storing, displaying and conserving artifacts from this collection since 1956. The loan agreement with the board of education stipulated that SOHS could keep these items as long as it carries out the "intent of the will of Amalia Britt in maintaining, using and displaying the items it received by it from the estate."

What was not selected by SOHS was sold at auction by the board of education. In 1957 a fire swept through Britt's home. Luckily, most of its contents were safe with SOHS. The future of the severely damaged house then became the subject of much debate, until 1960 when another fire made the Britt home uninhabitable.

Jacksonville and all of Southern Oregon are indeed fortunate this collection did not suffer the same fate as the house. Nearly fifty years after the death of Amalia Britt, the Britt Collection remains intact and accessible to the public. ■

*Steve Wyatt is the curator of collections of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.*





# Exhibitions

## History Center

106 N. CENTRAL AVE., MEDFORD

### NUESTRA GENTE: OUR PEOPLE

SOHS's newest exhibit includes a travelling component created by the Oregon Historical Society's Folklife Program. It highlights many facets of the history and culture of Mexicans in Oregon over the past four centuries. The exhibit includes samples of Mexican art, such as mosaics, weaving, and beadwork, and illustrates how Mexicans in Oregon contributed to early invention and agriculture.

The Mexican presence in Oregon dates to the 1600s with the early Spanish explorers, who introduced mule pack trains and trained Oregon's early buckaroos. In 1821, the northern limit of Mexico's claim was established at the 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel, the present Oregon/California border. In the past century, Mexican workers helped us alleviate the labor shortages brought on by World Wars I and II. Now, Latinos compose more than eight percent of the state's population, with people of Mexican heritage the largest segment.

The Society has supplemented the Oregon Historical Society's exhibit with traditional costumes and artwork from the local community. "Nuestra Gente" will be on display through August.



Dagoberto Morales, in traditional Pürepecha clothing, holding his hand-woven statue of Virgin of Health.

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### CELEBRATING FLIGHT: A HISTORY OF AVIATION IN SOUTHERN OREGON

The Society's major exhibit, "Celebrating Flight" opened in December to coincide with nationwide centennial celebrations of the Wright Brothers' first powered flight at Kitty Hawk. Come see airplanes and models, historic photographs and vintage film clips, a real flight-simulation trainer, oral histories of local aviation pioneers, and much more. Admission by donation; free to members.



### LASTING IMPRESSIONS: THE ART AND LIFE OF DORLAND ROBINSON

Artist Dorland Robinson (1891-1917), a Jacksonville prodigy, produced an exceptional body of work. The diversity of media she worked in, from charcoal and pastel to oil and watercolor, is presented in this largest-ever exhibit of her work, which continues in the History Center mezzanine.



## Jacksonville Museum

5TH AND C STREETS, JACKSONVILLE

### HISTORY IN THE MAKING: JACKSON COUNTY MILESTONES

An abundance of artifacts and photographs, from Chinese archaeological material to an early cellular telephone, tell the county's story. Not everything is behind glass – a working 1940s jukebox plays vintage automobile songs; a DVD player shows historic film clips.

### CRATER LAKE: PICTURE PERFECT

Can the majesty of Crater Lake be captured on film? In honor of park's 2003 centennial, the Jacksonville Museum presents an exhibit of attempts to capture the lake's essence. Peter Britt's 1874 photo of Crater Lake, the first recorded, marks the beginning of this exhibit. Other sections include early colorized photos, picture postcards, and park improvements. Of special interest is the most controversial Crater Lake image, believed by many to document a visit by President Theodore Roosevelt. See how the Crater Lake name and image have been used to sell products ranging from butter to a hospital.

### MINER, BAKER, FURNITURE MAKER

Explore the development of the Rogue Valley and the impact of the industrial revolution on the settlement of Oregon.

## Children's Museum

5TH AND C STREETS, JACKSONVILLE

Everyone enjoys exploring home and work settings from the 1850s to the 1930s through "hands-on-history." Come see the Society's new exhibit, "The Celestials of Golden Mountain," focusing on the history of the Chinese in Southern Oregon.



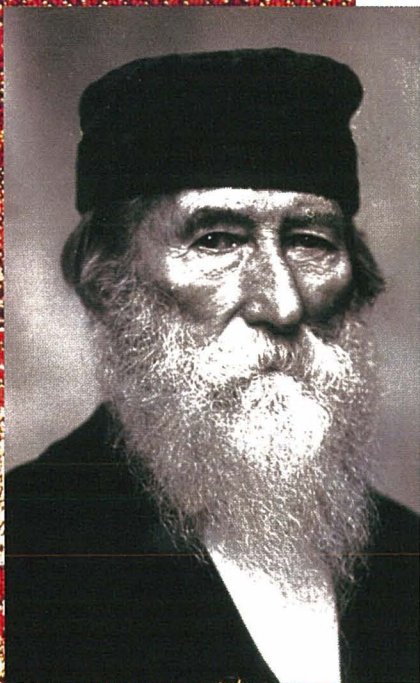
# New Exhibit!

## PETER BRITT: THE MAN BEYOND THE CAMERA

Many members, patrons and friends of the Society remember the Peter Britt exhibits we've had at the Jacksonville Museum. Photos, paintings, and furnishings from Britt's studio and his home's parlor all served to delight visitors to the museum. In recent years, however, the Society's only Britt Exhibit was at the History Center in downtown Medford, part of a larger interpretation of the history of photography in Southern Oregon. SOHS is bringing Peter Britt back to Jacksonville!

Later this year, the Society will open a new Peter Britt Exhibit on the first floor of the Jacksonville Museum where the "Politics of Culture: Collecting the Southwest" exhibit was housed. The new Britt exhibit will feature the best of the pioneer photographer's work, his cameras, glass plates and other tools-of-the-trade, his parlor and photo studio, and newly designed displays that show just how amazing the life and work of this "Renaissance man" really were. The exhibit will portray Britt as a genius well before his time in the fields of not just photography, but horticulture, viticulture, meteorology and others.

In the future, a new Native American exhibit will be developed to include more of the Native artifacts from this region that are part of the Society's permanent collection. *History Matters!* and the Society's quarterly *Southern Oregon Heritage Today* magazine will keep members and friends of the Society updated on progress toward this exciting new exhibit.



Above and below, items from the Britt collection.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT WATSON

Much work goes into the construction, and deconstruction of exhibits. Here SOHS employees and volunteers remove false ceiling panels in the Jacksonville Museum in preparation for the Society's major new Peter Britt exhibit, to open in the fall or winter.

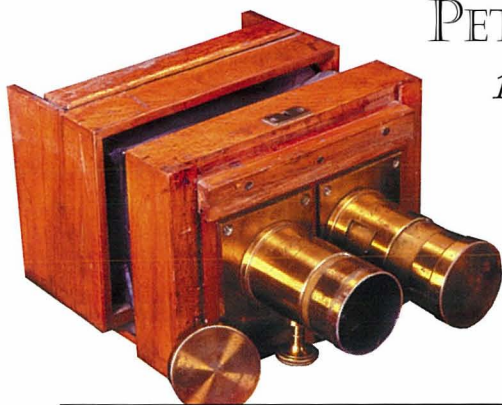




# MAN OF CULTURE, MAN OF COMMERCE

PETER BRITT

1819 - 1905



By Dawna Curler

Once described as “a most cultured and interesting gentleman, always courteous and entertaining,”<sup>1</sup> Peter Britt embodied a unique blend of rugged individualism and Old World graciousness. As a pioneer photographer he counts as a folk hero, partly for his rich photographic legacy, and partly for his strength of character. Nearly a century after his death, Britt is remembered as a man of honor, kindness, industry, and intellect.<sup>2</sup>

In the East, this ambitious Swiss immigrant learned the practical trade of photography, then headed for the goldfields of Jacksonville, Oregon where he tried his hand at prospecting and mule packing. As the town’s first and most distinguished photographer, Britt captured with his camera the spirit of the muddy mining camp and documented its growth into a commercial center. From 1852 to 1900, he photographed the people, activities, and landscapes of his adopted Southern Oregon home. Once established, Britt married and raised a family. He pursued a range of additional interests including horticulture, beekeeping, and meteorology. He invested wisely and acquired large tracts of land where he managed ranches, orchards, and vineyards. When Britt died at 86 in 1905, he had endeared himself to his community as a man of accomplishment, wealth, and integrity.

Britt trained as an artist in his native Switzerland, where he traveled from hamlet to town as a portrait painter. In his home village of Obstdalen, he courted Amalia Grob, the schoolmaster’s daughter. The match, apparently, was disapproved by the young woman’s father, so in 1845 the

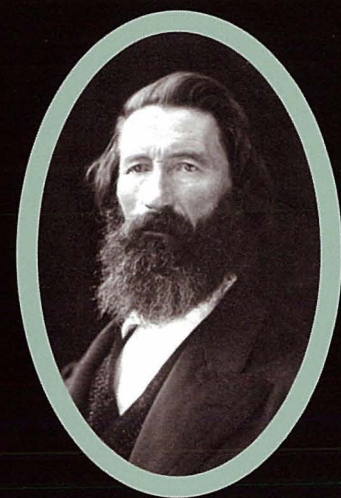
26-year-old bachelor immigrated to America with other family members and neighbors, leaving behind his beloved.<sup>3</sup> Settling in the Swiss community in Highland, Illinois, Britt continued his trade as an itinerant artist but faced competition from the newly invented daguerreian photograph. Setting his sights on the future, Britt embraced this new technology and quickly learned the chemistry and science of the photographic process from an eminent St. Louis daguerreian, J.H. Fitzgibbon.<sup>4</sup>

In Fitzgibbon, Britt found a mentor who not only showed him how to operate a camera, but also taught him to achieve the best images through skilled workmanship and the use of top-quality equipment. With these first steps, Britt set a life-long pattern of continually seeking the latest technical and scientific information to help master his varied pursuits.

The town of Highland, where Britt worked as a photographer for about five years, was situated on a highly traveled westbound route. There Britt undoubtedly heard enticing stories of the western frontier. “I have always loved nature and when I heard of the beauty of Oregon I resolved to go West,” Britt reminisced to journalist Fred Lockley years later. “I believed I could make a good living in the daguerreotype business in the Oregon Country, so in the spring of 1852, I loaded my equipment in a covered wagon and started West.”<sup>5</sup>

## BRITT ARRIVES IN OREGON

It was in early November of that year when 33-year-old Britt arrived in Jacksonville,



*Peter Britt  
was one of  
Jacksonville’s best  
known and respected  
pioneers.*

*He is remembered  
today for the pictures he  
took, the plants he grew  
and the music festival  
that bears his name.*

SOHS #18679

then known as “Table Rock City.” According to local lore, he had \$5 in his pocket. He selected a site on a hill with a magnificent view where he built a small log cabin.<sup>6</sup> Presumably, he began taking photographs immediately, though the oldest known surviving image of Jacksonville wasn’t taken until 1854.<sup>7</sup> Like almost everyone else, Britt was stricken with gold fever and took his turn in the “diggings,” yet soon recognized that mule skinning was more of a sure thing, and potentially profitable. Britt purchased a string of pack mules and for several years made the rigorous ten-day trek hauling foodstuff and mining tools from the California seaport of Crescent City. By 1856, Britt had made a sizeable grubstake and gave up that arduous occupation.<sup>8</sup> He bought a new state-of-the-art camera in San Francisco and turned his energy back to his photographic trade.<sup>9</sup>





Gold had been discovered in Jacksonville just nine months before Britt arrived. It was a time when the population of the small mining camp, not much more than a scattering of tents and crudely constructed shacks, was beginning to swell. The promise of adventure and economic good fortune drew an assortment of people from many parts of the world, including the American states, Canada, the British Isles, Europe, Mexico, the Hawaiian Islands, and China. Within a few years immigrants from Austria, Germany, Prussia, and Switzerland made up a large enough German-speaking minority that Britt's guttural accent and foreign ways would not have been an oddity.<sup>10</sup>

Within this Germanic group, Britt formed life-long friendships and associations. Kaspar Kubli and Frederick Ruch hailed from Glarus Canton, the same region of Switzerland where Britt had lived, and they were known to the Britt family there. It was Kubli, Bavarian-born Viet Schutz and two others named Wolters and Hesse that Britt traveled with during his mule-packing days, and it is probable that Britt, Schutz and Kubli also held a joint mining claim known as "Dutch [a corruption of Deutsch] Gulch."<sup>11</sup>

Later, Schutz built an impressively large brewery at the foot of Britt's estate and Britt made numerous notations in his diary referring to money exchanges or the receipt of beer from "Viet."<sup>12</sup> It was at Kubli's home in the Applegate that Britt chose to be married, and after Frederick Ruch and his wife Anna's tragic deaths,

This simple wood-frame house, built on what is now the Britt Festivals grounds, replaced Britt's first log cabin and served as both home and studio. After marrying Amalia Grob (pictured at left) in 1861, Britt remodeled this house into a style-setting two-story Gothic cottage.

SOHS #11757 & #18678



Britt often photographed children in imaginative poses. Here daughter, Mollie, and son, Emil, depict childhood innocence.

SOHS #768

Kubli assumed guardianship of their girls and Britt did the same for the boys.<sup>13</sup>

The German-speaking citizens of Jacksonville and the surrounding area had a decided influence over the cultural and social development of the emerging frontier community. They engaged themselves in productive occupations, involved themselves in civic groups and government, and integrated a number of their institutions and customs into the mainstream society of their non-Germanic neighbors. Through Harmonie, a musical association, they sponsored the development of several musical groups, including a silver cornet band and a singing club. The Turnverein or "Turners" promoted gymnastics and daily exercise.<sup>14</sup> In 1863, the *Oregon Sentinel* reported, "The Turn Veriens has become a thriving, permanent institution of our town."<sup>15</sup>

The German-Swiss citizens of Jacksonville also created institutions that were, by nature of their common language, more exclusive to their native heritage. They established a German-speaking chapter of the Independent Order of Redmen, known as the Stamm 149, which was separate from the English-speaking

Improved Order of Redmen Pocahontas Tribe No. 1.<sup>16</sup> Britt's name appears among the records of the Stamm, though not as often as some of his contemporaries.<sup>17</sup> He may have taken a more active role in the Eintracht, a mutual-aid association that assisted new immigrants and also sponsored social events for the German-Swiss community such as picnics, field trips, and dinners. Correspondence indicates that Britt frequently provided information or assistance to other Swiss countrymen coming to Southern Oregon.<sup>18</sup>

Although Britt gained U.S. citizenship before coming to Oregon,<sup>19</sup> and he must have mastered the English language to some degree, he continued to read and write in German throughout his life. While adopting many American methods and values, he maintained a strong connection to the "Old Country,"<sup>20</sup> keeping ties to his homeland and the Swiss colony in Highland, Illinois through newspaper subscriptions and letters.



Botanical specimens like this blooming cactus made intriguing subjects for Britt's dramatic still-life images.

SOHS #10515





Britt welcomed many visitors to his estate. He was quick to share his wine and hospitality with guests whether they were local friends or visiting dignitaries.

Right, besides documenting the lives and activities of his Southern Oregon neighbors, Britt often used his own home and family as photographic subjects. This photo taken after his 1883 house remodel captures the density and diversity of his expansive gardens.

SOHS #8267 & #760



### A FAMILY IS BORN

It was through such correspondence that he learned his former sweetheart, Amalia, had become a widow after immigrating to New Glarus, Wisconsin with her husband and young son. Britt sent some money and a choice. She could return to her people in Switzerland, or join him in Jacksonville.<sup>21</sup> A brief entry in Britt's diary tells the story, "May 11, 1861 Amalia arrived." Three months later on their wedding day Britt wrote, "One wreath, one song, a blooming wife has shown you the way to happiness."

Amalia and Peter had ten years together before she died in 1871. During that time Britt took Amalia's seven-year-old son Jacob as his own. The couple had three more children, Emil, born in 1862, Arnold, who died in infancy in 1864, and Mollie, born in 1865.<sup>22</sup> After Amalia's death, Britt raised the children alone. The family was close-knit and none of the children married. As adults, Mollie took over the household management, Jacob tended much of his father's agricultural affairs, and Emil joined his father in the photography business.

Prior to his marriage, Britt had converted his log cabin into a storage shed and built a simple but larger structure that served as house and studio. It started as a plain, one-story building similar to other early Jacksonville houses. Britt's house differed with the innovation of a north-facing skylight that illuminated his studio. In the late 1850s, he added decorative "gingerbread" trim, introducing the fashionably new "cottage gothic" architectural style to the still primitive frontier setting.<sup>23</sup>

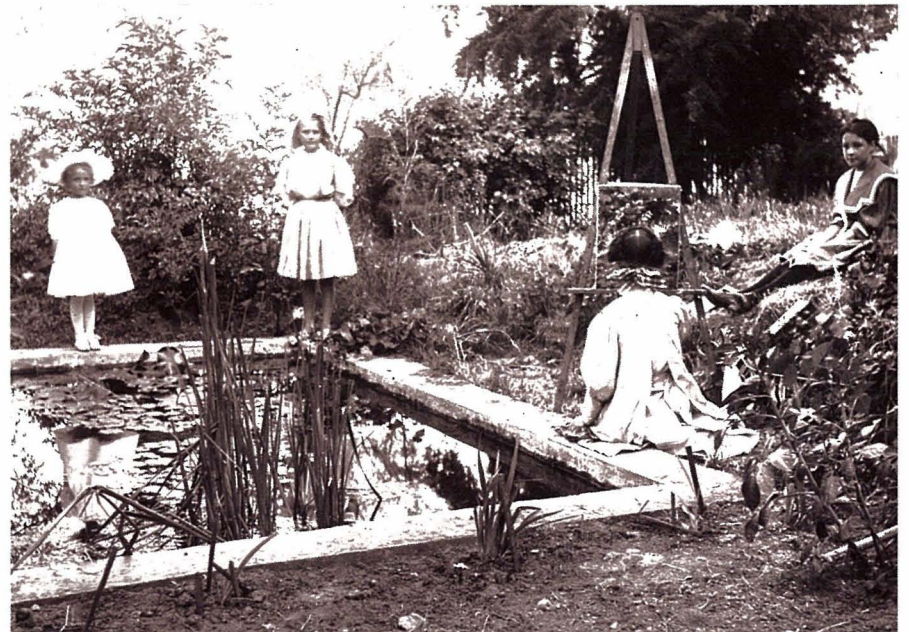
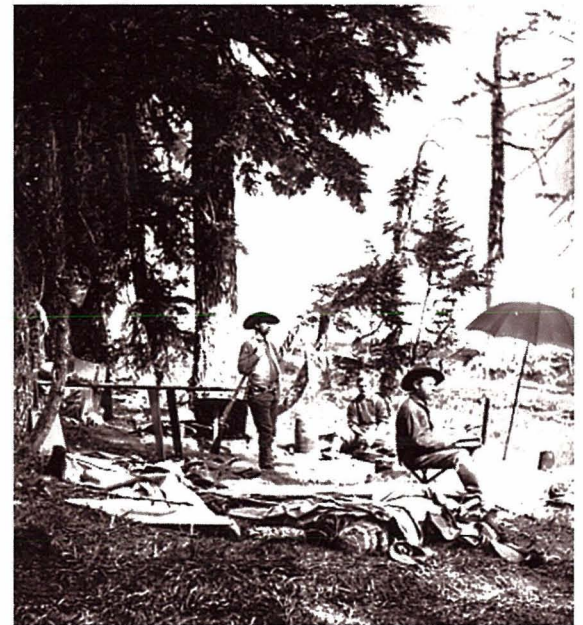
This early house was too small for Britt's expanding family, so in 1862 he enlarged the floor plan, built a second story and moved his studio to the top floor.

Progress on the house can be traced through Britt's diary entries from that year. On November 21, he made the first picture in the new house and November 23, eight months and one day after Emil's birth, the new family of four

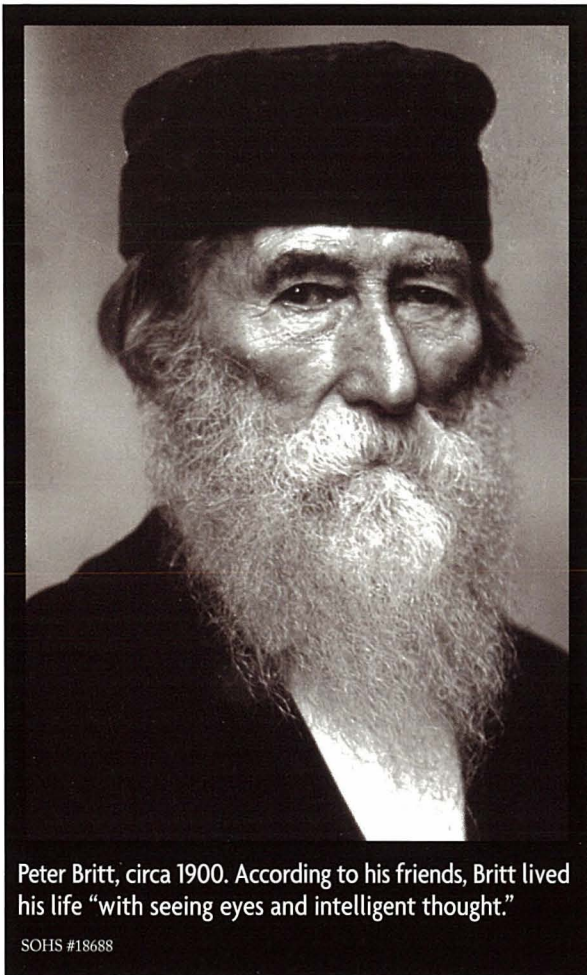
During a photograph outing, Britt documented nationally renowned artist James Everett Stewart as he paints. Emil Britt leans against a tree while an unidentified friend looks on.

Below, promising young artist Dorland Robinson posed with three other girls around the lily pond in Britt's elaborate garden. Like Britt, Dorland's maternal grandfather, "Gunsmith Miller," was part of Jacksonville's early German-speaking community and the Britts, Millers, and Robinsons were close family friends.

SOHS #18680 & SOHS #6704







Peter Britt, circa 1900. According to his friends, Britt lived his life "with seeing eyes and intelligent thought."

SOHS #18688

moved into the house. Compared to other houses built in Jacksonville at that time, the structure was impressive. Situated on a hill overlooking the town, surrounded by unique landscaping, the Britt home became the "show-piece" of the Rogue Valley. Years later, in 1883, another two-story wing was added. By then, Britt's home boasted spacious living quarters, a wine cellar, a solarium and two sky-lit studios on the second floor.<sup>24</sup>

#### BRITT'S PHOTOGRAPHY MATURES

While Amalia tended their small children, Britt expanded his photography business and made the technical transition from the outdated single-image plate process of the daguerreotype, ambrotype and tintype to the progressive-multiple image paper prints made from glass-plate negatives.<sup>25</sup> A wide assortment of Jacksonville residents and travelers passing through found their way to Britt's studio. Little wonder everyone knew Britt. At one time or another, just about everyone crossed his threshold to have his or her picture taken. With his intuitive artist's eye, Britt had a knack for posing his subjects in a relaxed manner. He used props that emphasized the sitter's personal interests. The child posed with a toy, the musician with an instrument, the miner with a pick. Britt's work was favorably compared to the famous Civil War photographer Mathew Brady. While doing business on the East Coast, Jacksonville resident Benjamin Dowell wrote to

his wife, "I am delighted with the [photograph] you sent me of Anna on a stool. Get Britt to print me a dozen of the same ... and send them by mail to Washington. ... They are considered here as good as any made by the celebrated artist Brady."<sup>26</sup>

Britt also photographed away from the studio, taking panoramic views of Jacksonville, documenting bridges and roads, shops and farms of nearby communities. He traveled to the Pacific coast, Eastern Oregon and Northern California. Britt sought the beauty and solitude of the natural landscape, often taking members of his family on photographic outings. In 1874, he successfully captured the first-ever images of Crater Lake.<sup>27</sup> The Crater Lake photographs became famous. National magazines published them and they were widely distributed as stereoscope views.



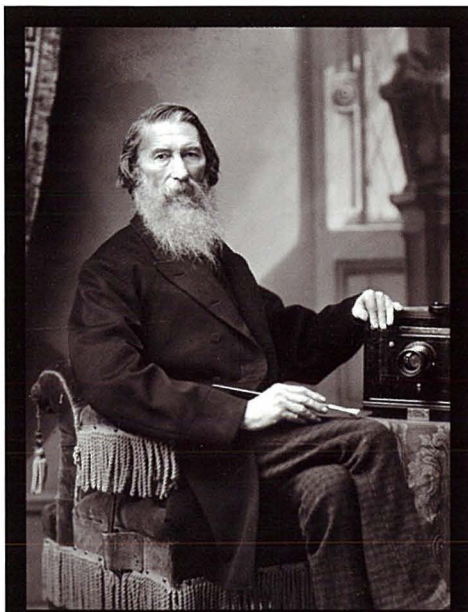
William Steel, who successfully lobbied to designate Crater Lake a national park, used Britt's photographs to build his case, writing to the photographer: "During the past summer I enjoyed a trip to Crater Lake and since my return have started a movement to have the surrounding country withdrawn from the market and made a national park. ... When talking with Governor Thompson I expressed a desire to obtain photographs in duplicate of the lake and surroundings and stated that I could find none. He gave me your name and address and advised me to write to you at once."<sup>28</sup>

Passionate about his garden, Britt experimented with many semi-tropical botanical varieties including his renowned Abyssinian Banana tree. Among the surviving specimens planted by Britt is a giant sequoia redwood, planted in 1862 to mark the birth of his son, Emil.

SOHS #14240 & # 18681







A carefully posed Peter Britt as artist and photographer.

SOHS #725

Lower right, Peter Britt's tombstone located in the Jacksonville Cemetery.

PHOTO BY RON MOORE

#### BRITT: RENAISSANCE MAN

With so much photography business, it's hard to think that Britt had time for anything else, but his interest and energy took him in many directions.

An avid gardener, Britt surrounded his home with ornamental shrubs and exotic trees, which he started planting in the 1850s. Among Britt's most unusual botanical specimens was an Abyssinian banana tree which, when it was small, had to be dug up and taken indoors each winter.<sup>29</sup> Rhododendrons, palms, cypress and wisteria also graced his gardens. Towering over the grounds today is a giant sequoia, said to have been planted by Britt to honor the birth of his son Emil. Fieldstone steps and terrace walls, a bubbling fountain and goldfish-filled lily pond added a touch of romance to the park-like grounds. To keep his garden watered, Britt installed an innovative irrigation system fed by a mile-long ditch that ended in a system of underground pipes. Several out-buildings, including a carriage shed, water tower, dog house, and winery, were located close by.

According to an old family story, in 1854 an Italian peddler from California sold Britt his first fruit tree and grape cuttings. When he planted these in his garden he laid the earliest foundation for Southern Oregon's wine and orchard industries. As Britt acquired more property, he developed a twenty-acre commercial orchard and expansive grape vineyards on a ranch about a mile outside

of Jacksonville. Britt was acquainted with knowledgeable horticulturalists throughout the country and stayed well informed on the latest cultivation methods. In his orchards he used smudging techniques to protect his trees from frost and raised bees to improve pollination. Not one to miss an entrepreneurial opportunity, Britt marketed the honey from his bees as a sideline.<sup>30</sup>

Notations in his diary indicate Britt planted many grapes in 1861.<sup>31</sup> By the 1870s he was marketing wine under his Valley View Vineyard label. Because of his knowledge and experience, agriculturists frequently sought his advice as they established their own commercial fruit crops.<sup>32</sup>

It is fitting that Britt, so keenly interested in plant life, would pay close attention to climate and weather conditions. He was already in the habit of recording weather observations in his personal diary when, after an official weather service was established within the Army Signal Corps in 1870, Britt agreed to be a volunteer civilian observer. The corps provided him with sophisticated instruments that were kept in a regulation weather shelter near the house. Britt made regular weather reports to the service until turning the duty over to Emil in 1891.<sup>33</sup>

Photography, horticulture, and meteorology weren't Britt's only pursuits. He made personal loans and invested in real estate. He had a number of rental properties and ranches that were run by tenant farmers or hired hands. Britt was more willing to do business with the Chinese in Jacksonville than were many residents. He had a number of Chinese tenants and made loans to Chinese miners. In the late 1850s, he allowed a group of Chinese to mine gold on his property for a percentage of the profits.<sup>34</sup>

Art and music also had a place in the Britt household. Peter Britt continued to paint Southern Oregon landscapes for his own pleasure and shared a mutual interest with the nationally renowned artist James Everett Stewart. The two traveled together on at least one occasion with camera and paints in the Cascade Mountains. A letter from Stewart to Britt indicates Stewart also used Britt's photographs as subjects for his paintings. "I received the photos of the falls and Mt. Shasta they are good. The Bridal Vale [*sic*] falls are very pretty dry plate is a good thing. I have finished one small Painting of a Bluff and a glimpse of Crater Lake ... but have not put it out on Exhibition yet. Will have another done in a few days."<sup>35</sup>

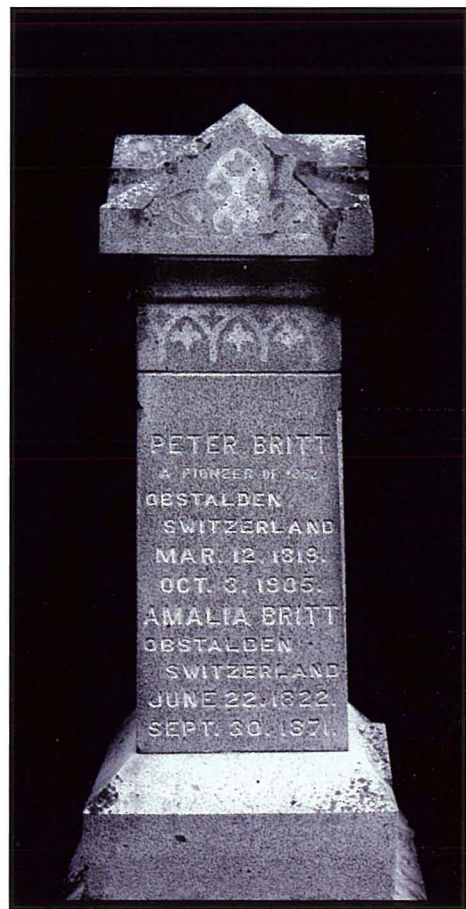
Little is known about Britt's musical abilities, but he did encourage the musical talents of his children. His sons spent

summer evenings at a "singing school" when they were boys, and Mollie played the beautifully carved Steinway piano that her father bought for her when she was twelve.<sup>36</sup> Musical instruments, phonograph records, and figurines of classical composers were among the Britt household possessions.

Britt's children Mollie and Emil continued to live in the ornate Victorian house after Britt's death in 1905. Jacob died earlier, in 1896. They kept their father's studio as a museum – a tribute to an extraordinary photographer during extraordinary times. In the 1940s, Britt's fame came to the attention of Universal Studios and a short subject film, "Picture Pioneer," was made that featured Britt's studio and camera equipment.

When Peter Britt died, the community where he had lived for 53 years felt the loss deeply. He was eulogized with the following words: "He was a gentleman of perfect honor, and perfect kindness of heart. ...he lives in the noble deeds of a well-spent life; in the forces which his intellect set in motion while here... His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, that Nature might stand up and say: 'This is a man!'"<sup>37</sup> 🏠

*Dawna Curler is a programs associate and volunteer coordinator for the Southern Oregon Historical Society.*





# ENDNOTES

1. Fletcher Linn, *Reminiscences of Fletcher Linn*, unpublished manuscript, Southern Oregon Historical Society.
2. Southern Oregon Pioneer Association Records, *Resolutions on Deceased Members*, [Vol. II, pp. 140-141. Subject: Peter Britt, authorized by committee members Wm. M. Colvig, J. Cameron, C.C. Beekman] SOHS MS 517.
3. Alan Clark Miller, *Peter Britt: Pioneer Photographer of the Siskiyou*, Master's thesis, Trinity College, 1972, pp. 29-30.
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 11-13.
5. Fred Lockley, "Peter Britt: Photographer," *Oregon Journal*, 5 March 1939. In his article, Lockley quotes from a personal interview he conducted with Peter Britt some time before Britt's death.
6. Miller, op. cit., p. 18.
7. The earliest known image of Jacksonville in the Southern Oregon Historical Society collection, SOHS #727, shows the Methodist Episcopal Church without its steeple. This structure was under construction in 1854.
8. Miller, op. cit., pp. 21-27.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 52.
10. The 1860 U.S. Census indicates there were over 200 German-speaking immigrants in Jackson County at that time. Twelve on the list, including Peter Britt, were from Switzerland. United States Census of Jackson County, Oregon 1860.
11. Southern Oregon Pioneer Association Records, *Resolutions on Deceased Members*, [Vol. I, pp. 181-184. Subject: Viet Schutz, authorized by committee members Wm. H. Parker, Peter Britt and H.V. Helms] and [Vol. II, pp. 56-58. Subject: Kaspar Kubli, authorized by committee members Mrs. W.J. Plyale, Peter Britt and David Linn] SOHS MS 517; Miller, op. cit., p. 22.
12. Handwritten translations of Peter Britt's diaries 1859-1890, SOHS MS 170, Box 1.
13. Although Britt assumed legal guardianship of the Ruch boys, they apparently did not live with Britt. *Jackson County Wills, Probates, Guardianships, Estate Files*, #1048 Ruch, Minors Guardianship; Kasper Ruch Obituary, *Jacksonville Post*, 13 June 1930; United States Census of Jackson County, Oregon 1880.
14. Miller, op. cit., pp. 37-48.
15. *Oregon Sentinel*, 15 August 1863.
16. *Oregon Sentinel*, 27 May 1871; Alan J. Schmidt, *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Institutions, Fraternal Organizations* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1980), p. 289.
17. SOHS MS 293; and SOHS Acc. 1994.78.3, Independent Order of Redmen, Stamm 148 records.
18. Miller, op. cit., pp. 40-46.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 15. Reference cited: Madison County Naturalization Records, 1:124, Madison County Courthouse, Edwardsville, Illinois.
20. Surviving Britt diaries from 1859 to 1905, the year of Britt's death, are written almost entirely in German and much correspondence in this collection to Peter Britt from Swiss relatives and associates are written in German. One letter written 6 October 1883 from Emil Britt to his father Peter is written in German, although it does not appear to be from Emil's own hand. SOHS MS 170.
21. Miller, op. cit., p. 30.
22. *Ibid.*, p. 32.
23. Two photographs, SOHS #11757 and SOHS #8249, show this first house before and after the addition of gingerbread trim; Peter Britt diary, 1859, SOHS MS 170.
24. Miller, op. cit., pp. 70, 84.
25. Robert Weinstein, and Larry Booth, *Collection, Use, and Care of Historical Photographs* (Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), pp. 5-6.
26. Letter from Benjamin Dowell. Dowell, Benjamin Letter Book, 1866-1874, Ax 31, Vol. 14, letter No. 20, July 1867. University of Oregon, Special Collections.
27. Peter Britt diary, 13 August 1874, SOHS MS 170.
28. Letter from W.G. Steel, 9 October, 1885, SOHS MS 170, Box 1.
29. Letter from F.M. Hexamer, editor of *American Agriculturalist*, to Peter Britt, 18 January 1890, SOHS MS 170, Box 1.
30. *Ibid.*, pp. 76-83.
31. Peter Britt diaries, 1861, SOHS MS 170.
32. Miller, op. cit., pp. 76-79.
33. *Ibid.*, pp. 81-82.
34. *Ibid.*, pp. 89-91, 94.
35. Letter from J.E. Stewart to Peter Britt, 20 March 1883, SOHS MS 170, Box 1.
36. Miller, op. cit., p. 43.
37. Southern Oregon Pioneer Association Records, *Resolutions on Deceased Members*, [Vol. II, pp. 140-141. Subject: Peter Britt] SOHS MS 517.

## FIRE AT THE BRITT HOME

By Carol Harbison-Samuelson

On Monday night, January 27, 1941, Mollie and Emil Britt discovered fire issuing from the roof of their home. They watched as firemen cut a hole in the roof in an attempt to extinguish the flames burning near the chimney. Firefighters were successful in saving the residence as well as the Britt's priceless belongings. This was the first of a series of fires that would eventually consume the home built by their father, pioneer photographer Peter Britt.

In April 1957, a flu fire sparked a blaze that damaged about fifty percent of the historic Britt home. When the alarm was sounded, most of the roof was engulfed in flames. The upper story, including Peter Britt's photographic studio, was destroyed. Water and smoke damage was extensive on the lower floor. Jacksonville's Volunteer Fire Department, with the assistance of firefighters from Central Point and Medford, fought the fire for several hours before bringing it under control. High winds fanned the flames and firemen had difficulty getting hoses through the dense shrubbery and hedges. Coincidentally, Jacksonville's Volunteer Fire Department had been conducting a business meeting in the fire hall at the time the alarm was received. If the firemen had not responded so quickly the building would have been a total loss. One volunteer fireman was seriously injured when he lost his footing on the slippery roof and fell through a second story skylight. Fortunately,

under terms of Peter Britt's will, the Southern Oregon Historical Society had removed Britt's photographic equipment and many valuable antiques including the parlor furniture and the parlor carpet.

Disaster struck again, however, on Wednesday, March 16, 1960, when another fire swept through the Britt home. The blaze torched the first floor and roof of the residence. A faulty fuse box was believed to have caused the fire that finally ruined the Peter Britt home.

Carol Harbison-Samuelson is the Society's library manager and photo archivist.

April 30, 1957 fire damage to second floor of Peter Britt home.

MMT  
MAY 1, 1957





# History of the Britt Festivals

Courtesy of the Britt Festivals

## Forty-two years ago,

conductor John Trudeau and several friends were visiting Southern Oregon and stumbled upon the former hillside estate of Jacksonville pioneer Peter Britt. Being musicians, they immediately noticed an amazing resonance to the hillside's acoustics. Combined with the gorgeous view of the valley in the distance, they decided the hillside would be the perfect site for concerts.

In the summer of 1963, volunteers erected a makeshift stage of plywood and strung tin-can lights above. A small chamber orchestra was assembled and the Northwest's first summer outdoor music festival was born. Britt offered classical music exclusively until the present pavilion was constructed in 1978. The new facility enabled expansion to the current multi-disciplinary format. Bench seats were added in 1987 and the handicapped access and restrooms were built in 1993. With a maximum capacity of 2,200, Britt is financially able to afford world-class artists while maintaining an intimate atmosphere. The Britt Park is publicly owned by Jackson County and maintained by the county parks department. The Britt Festivals Association is a non-profit performing arts organization which utilizes the Britt Park under a long-term lease with Jackson County.

Jacksonville artist Eugene Bennett captured the grand opening of the Britt Festivals in this 1963 oil painting. The same painting helped to celebrate the Festivals' 30th anniversary in a 1992 collectors poster.

COURTESY OF EUGENE BENNETT







# Valley View Winery: From Southern Oregon to Slovenia

## Literature spills over with references to it.

Societies celebrate vineyard harvests and grape crushings with festivals around the globe: Vino, vin, wine, nectar of the gods.

Today, Southern Oregon boasts and toasts its own historic vineyard in the bucolic Applegate Valley, its wine internationally acclaimed. In 1971 near Ruch, Ann and Frank Wisnovsky planted what is now one of Southern Oregon's oldest operating vineyards "as a cottage industry of sorts," recalls family friend Terri Gieg, manager of the winery's Anna Maria Tasting Room in Jacksonville. "They were a couple with four children trying to establish a cottage industry without the initial cost of high-tech. It was a family undertaking. Frank raised the old barn that was on the property, put blocks under it, and it became the winery. Very pastoral and rustic."

A civil engineer, Frank Wisnovsky came west with his family as superintendent for construction of Oregon's Astoria Bridge across the Columbia River as well as for the Bay Area Rapid Transit system in San Francisco. But the couple's dream was to have a farm, which led them to purchase a seventy-six-acre ranch from Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. Bush on Upper Applegate Road.

The vineyard's winery debuted in 1976 with the release of Valley View's 1976 cabernet sauvignon. The much-expanded list of wines offered today by Valley View also includes chardonnay, merlot, fume blanc, pinot gris, and syrah.

The Wisnovskys selected the name for their vineyard from another, much earlier vineyard in Jacksonville that was planted in 1854 by pioneer photographer Peter Britt, one of Jacksonville's most famous residents. A Jacksonville newspaper reported in 1866:

"Mr. Britt has successfully demonstrated the problem that a first quality of wine can be manufactured here and if we may be allowed to prophesy, this will be no unimportant branch of agricultural industry in our valley ere long."<sup>1</sup>

Britt's Jacksonville vineyard prospered, and he found additional markets for his grapes outside the valley. Early accounts point out that Britt was able to sell all the wine he produced, which may have led to the government's acceptance of its economic benefit to the region. In its annual report for 1890, the Oregon State Board of Agriculture noted that "Jackson County is specially adapted to the raising of grapes."<sup>2</sup> The *Medford Mail Tribune* of June 3, 1983, reported that Britt's winery "was what appears to be Oregon's first commercial winery" and became one of the largest on the West Coast.

Early vineyards also flourished in Ashland, Central Point, and in various locations in Josephine County.<sup>3</sup> However, Britt's vineyard ceased production with his death in 1905 and fell into ruin. Prohibition would follow a few years later.

One hundred forty-five years after its namesake was planted, the second Valley View Vineyard produces award-winning wines today. "One of our wines won a double gold a few years ago in competition in Slovenia, Yugoslavia," says Mark Wisnovsky. His mother, Ann, has operated the vineyard and winery since Frank Wisnovsky's accidental death in 1980. Left with four children to raise along with running the fledgling vineyard, she was committed to keeping the dream alive for her children. In 1992, her sons honored their mother's determination by choosing

By Patricia Parish Kuhn

her name, Anna Maria, for the winery's premium label.

"It was Dad's dream, but Mom kept the dream alive," Mark Wisnovsky says.

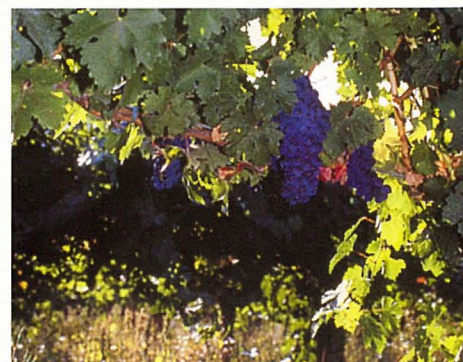
The vineyard's location at the 1,500-foot elevation in what locals call "Sunshine Valley" – free from the fog that plagues other areas of the Rogue Valley – allows the grapes to ripen to their greatest potential. That feature, along with the courage and commitment of Ann Wisnovsky and the assistance of her family, would seem to assure the winery's success into the new millennium.

To visit Valley View Vineyard, take Highway 238 through Jacksonville to Ruch, then turn left at Upper Applegate Road and proceed for one mile. The vineyard, at 1000 Upper Applegate Road, is on the right. Winery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except for major holidays. Call the vineyard at (541)899-8468 for information and directions. ☐

Patricia Parish Kuhn is a Medford free-lance writer.

### ENDNOTES

1. *The Oregon Sentinel*, 29 September, 1886, 3:1.
2. The Resources of Southern Oregon, *The Southern Oregon State Board of Agriculture* (Salem: Legislative Assembly of Oregon, 1890), p. 51.
3. *Table Rock Sentinel*, May 1988, p. 14.



PHOTOS BY DANA L. JACKSON



# Preserving the Past:

## Jacksonville's Chinese Heritage

By Eric Peters and Jayme Neil



### The American Immigration Committee

officially recorded the first Chinese immigrant to arrive in the United States in 1820.<sup>1</sup> By 1860, thirty-five thousand Chinese had arrived via the ports of San Francisco – by 1880 there were over one hundred thousand Chinese living in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

For the Chinese of this time and place – honor and a pursuit of a better life motivated them to leave the Canton province, an area riddled with political unrest and civil war, for the Americas. Their goal was to find the “hills of gold” where prosperity could be found.

By the early 1850s, the Gold Rush that had struck California in 1849 began to move north, and with it the Chinese. By 1864, there were two thousand five hundred Chinese miners working the Upper Jackson Creek southwest of Jacksonville. The average Chinese man paid thirty dollars for a claim. That came with a cabin, eight sluices, two picks, two shovels, and two hatchets. The terms were four dollars down and the balance within five days.<sup>3</sup> Some Chinese lived near their claims and others resided in a community of wood structures and shanties that came to be known as Chinatown.

It was never the intent of the Chinese to stay in this country. They were here for the prospect of gold and the prosperity and status it would bring them back home in the Canton province. With their arrival in Southern Oregon, the Chinese brought a rich social, political and personal culture that was largely unfamiliar to the settlers of the Rogue Valley. As a result, there were many discriminatory laws passed by the U.S. government (the Exclusion Act of 1882, the Scott Act, and the Geary Act) that were fundamentally designed to remove the Chinese from this country. The laws, taxes and discrimination that the Chinese faced forced many to return to their homeland.

During the heyday of the western gold rush, thousands of Chinese lived and worked in Jackson County. By the census of 1880, as the gold fields showed less and less productivity, that number had already fallen to three hundred twenty-nine; eight were women. By 1930, the Chinese population had dwindled to just five.<sup>4</sup>

We know very little about the Chinese occupation of Jacksonville and what their day-to-day life was like. We do know that most of the Chinese retained their native dress and customs and rarely lived or worked alone. They often wore simple traditional clothing such as a skullcap, a long blue coat, trousers, and white stockings. In later years some incorporated American styles such as boots and hats. The Chinese also kept their heads shaven except for a long queue, which hung down their back or was wrapped carefully around their head. The queue was of great personal importance to a Chinese man and also helped ensure his acceptance back into China.<sup>5</sup>

They ate a traditional diet and depended on items such as rice, tea, dried oysters, pork, poultry, and dried seaweed, which was imported from San Francisco and sold locally.<sup>6</sup> The Chinese worked as miners, took in laundry and worked as cooks and housekeepers in private residences and businesses such as the U.S. Hotel.<sup>7</sup> They were known for their hard work and patience. The historic record, artifacts found, and recent archaeological investigations continue to illuminate these people and their culture and continue to give us new and fascinating perspectives.

In March 2004, archaeologists with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) watched over construction on California and Oregon streets in Jacksonville. They were already aware of the Chinese occupation and the location of Chinatown and knew

there was a good chance that artifacts and other clues from the past would turn up.

Joined by archaeologists from the University of Oregon's State Museum of Anthropology and the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the ODOT team was given the unique opportunity to learn more about the Chinese and their community by conducting an excavation in Jacksonville's Chinatown. They created “excavation units” that were dug a few centimeters down at a time, with special attention paid to layers, features and artifacts. The collaborative effort uncovered broken pottery, buttons, coin fragments, cut animal bone, opium tin fragments and other cultural material. The artifacts found at the location were well documented and then sent to the State Museum of Anthropology in Eugene to be washed, cataloged and further analyzed.

Preservation of an artifact is vital to its longevity. Careful study of these artifacts along with historical research will be used to further our understanding of the Chinese occupation in Jacksonville. ■

*Eric Peters is a museums assistant and Jayme Neil is a programs associate for the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Both have professional archaeological training.*

#### ENDNOTES

1. Jeff LaLande, *Sojourners in the Oregon Siskiyou: Adaptation and Acculturation of the Chinese Miners in the Applegate Valley, California 1855-1900*, a thesis submitted to Oregon State University, June 1981.
2. Catherine Noah, “Land of Hope and Heartache,” *Table Rock Sentinel*, January/February 1993.

3. Op. cit.

4. Kay Atwood, *Minorities of Early Jackson County Oregon*, 1976.

5. Joan Handbury, *The Chinese in the Rogue Valley 1850-1890*, 1980.

6. Atwood, op. cit.

7. Richard H. Engeman, *The Jacksonville Story*, Southern Oregon Historical Society, 1990.



Above, Chinese coin was unearthed during the March 2004 excavation in Jacksonville's Chinatown.

PHOTO BY BARBARA FINNIE

Peter Britt took this and most of the extant photographs of the Chinese and Chinatown. Few Chinese women came to Jacksonville, and even fewer were photographed. Britt's documentation is critical to understanding the Chinese presence in Jacksonville.

SOHS #13222





Majority sentiment towards the Chinese is expressed in a 1878 newspaper article: " Jacksonville has its China row, and it possesses all the disgusting features of the Mongolian quarters in Portland and San Francisco, save the mission schools, where good white people strive to instruct the Joss worshippers in the principles of Christianity. During all hours of the night the Chinese of the place hold their orgies, drinking, villainous, red brandy, gambling, and indulging in all manner of vice peculiar to their race..."

DEMOCRATIC TIMES  
NOVEMBER, 1878  
SOHS #1505



Above, archaeologists in March 2004 worked hard to uncover part of Jacksonville's Chinatown. Right, photograph taken after the fire of 1888. Many buildings, including Chinese quarters, burned in the fire. At right is the Haines Brothers Building, which housed the town's first post office, a butcher shop, and other businesses. The building survived three fires and still stands today on the southwest corner of California and Oregon streets.

PHOTO BY DANA L. JACKSON  
SOHS #12590



Peter Britt photograph shows the Chinatown buildings that faced California Street before 1888, (right side). The men in the photo are standing where the March 2004 excavation took place.  
SOHS #5558







At left, Jacksonville's "Chinatown" has been of archaeological and historical interest for many years. In February 1974, an area of Chinatown, located in Jacksonville between Oregon and First streets was excavated. Local resident Marshall Lango, and Allan Lester, then curator of collections at the Jacksonville Museum, conducted the excavation. Approximately 500 Chinese and Euro-American objects ranging from glass bottles and rice bowls to leather objects and animal bones were found. Many of these artifacts are part of the Southern Oregon Historical Society's collection and can be viewed at the Jacksonville Museum.

SOHS Acc #78.106.7, #78.106.8, #78.106.20, #78.106.6A

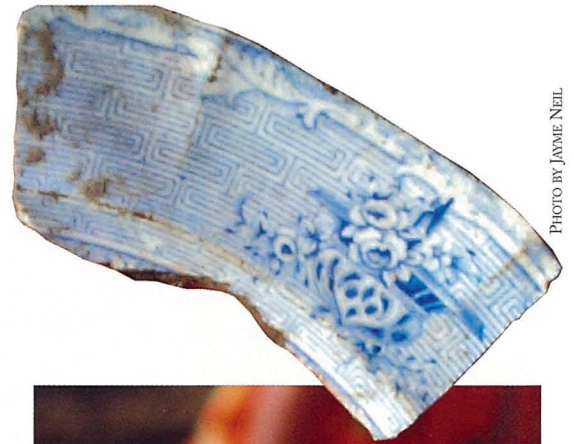
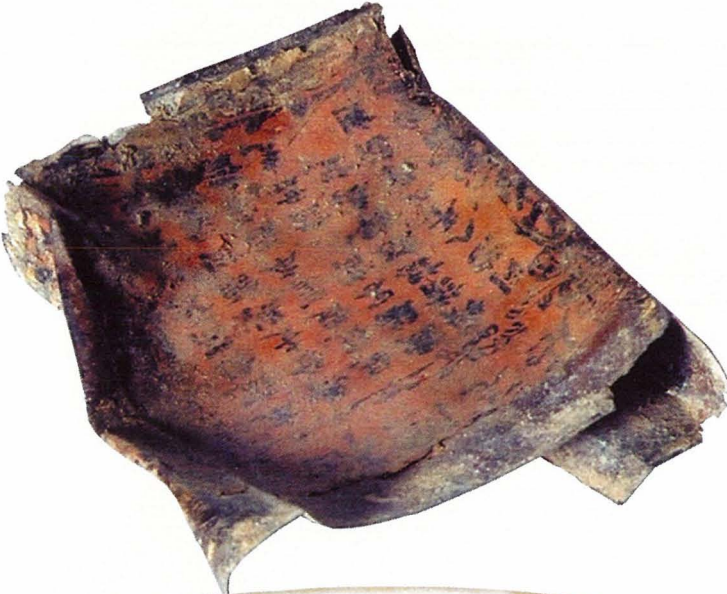


PHOTO BY JAYME NEIL



PHOTO BY DANA L. JACKSON



Right, artifacts found in the 2004 excavation included this animal bone. Below, the archaeological crew stands in March 2004 at the site of old Chinatown. The crew was comprised of staff from the State Museum of Anthropology, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Southern Oregon Historical Society. SOHS staff included Eric Peters (back row far left) and Jayme Neil (front row far left).



PHOTOS BY JAYME NEIL





# Preservation of the Jacksonville Woodlands

By The Jacksonville Woodlands Association

**"There are few places where history and modern life are so linked as Jacksonville."**

*George Kramer, 2001*

In the spring of 1989, as Jacksonville emerged from beneath two decades of state imposed building moratoriums, "for sale" signs began to sprout up on empty land around town. A potential building boom was threatening to destroy the town's historic open spaces! Alarmed by what was about to happen, a group of Jacksonville citizens founded the Jacksonville Woodlands Association. The newly formed association opened negotiations with the University of Oregon, which resulted in the purchase of the Beekman Woods.

The dream of preserving a "woodlands necklace" of open space surrounding Jacksonville gained momentum with the purchase of the 80-acre Peter Britt Estate three years later. Twenty other contiguous properties have since been added to the Woodlands system.

A cooperative partnership has been established among the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, the City of Jacksonville, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Jackson County Parks, the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land and several private and public foundations.

Nine miles of recreational and interpretive trails have been built.

The Jacksonville Woodlands Association has set the standard for community land preservation in Oregon by protecting the natural and cultural heritage of historic Jacksonville.

## THE BLM'S ROLE

Although the BLM is known for managing the wildest of wild public spaces, on December 4, 1990 the Medford District of the BLM and the City of Jacksonville joined in a special partnership. The original 70 acres that the BLM managed within Jacksonville's urban boundary presented the opportunity to help preserve the rural flavor of the Jacksonville area and to work with the City of Jacksonville to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Medford District of the BLM is responsible for managing five parcels of public land within the Jacksonville Woodlands, totaling 105 acres. Three parcels, one 40 acres, one 20 acres, and one 10 acres, have been in federal ownership for over 100 years. Two parcels, the Frontino parcel and the Knoll property, recently have been acquired by the BLM.

The 40- and 20-acre BLM parcels are lands that were originally given to the Oregon & California Railroad in 1896 and 1901. After the O&C Railroad failed, these parcels were reverted to the United States in 1916, and have been under the jurisdiction of the BLM or its predecessors since that time.

The 10-acre BLM parcel (Chinese Diggings) is public domain land that was at one time included in the Bernard Lorraine placer mining claim, which was located in 1884. The claim originally covered 20 acres. The presence of the Lorraine claim made

this land unavailable for conveyance to the O&C Railroad. An 1884 mineral survey of the claim indicates the majority of the east half was in vineyards and the excavated area was mostly in the western half, which is now the 10-acre site. The claim was later abandoned and the eastern half was successfully homesteaded with title conveyed to the homesteader in 1896.

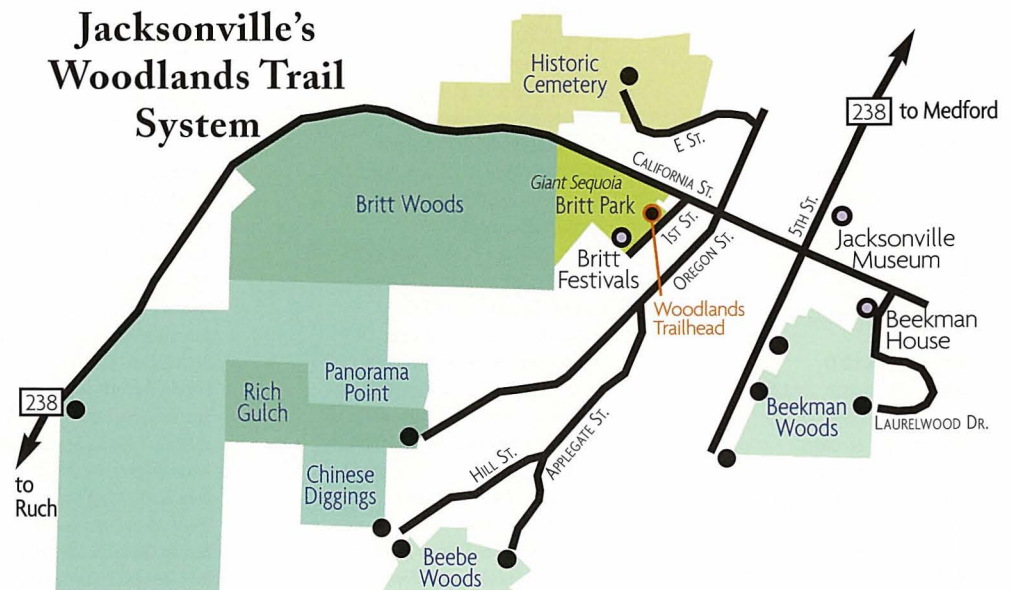
## ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

The 27-acre Frontino property, along Jackson Creek, was previously owned by Frank and Helen Frontino and used for recreational purposes with a dream of someday building a home on the property. In 1999, the BLM purchased the property for inclusion in the Jacksonville Woodlands. The Frontino property contains a portion of the 1860 mining ditch that carried water from Jackson Creek to the hydraulic mining operation in Rich Gulch.

In 2001, BLM acquired an additional 7.5 acres known as the Knoll parcel. The property was purchased from Mark Burkhalter, Thomas Parks, and Michael and Victoria Korpa by the Trust for Public Land and subsequently sold to the BLM for protection and inclusion in the Jacksonville Woodlands. This parcel provides additional public access for trails and offers one of the best scenic vistas in the entire trail system.

The Jacksonville Woodlands Association signed the original cooperative agreement with the BLM in 1990. BLM helped to acquire two additional parcels, develop a General Management Plan and cooperates in the maintenance of the trail system.

Call The Jacksonville Woodlands Association for more information (541) 899-1231. ☎







## Honorary Lifetime

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent L. Armstrong, *Medford*  
Francis and Mary Cheney, Ben B. Cheney  
Foundation, *Tacoma, WA*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Heffernan, *Medford*  
Ms. Jean W. Jester, *Sandy*  
Marjorie O'Hara, *Ashland*  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Rowlett, *Ashland*  
Mrs. Mary Tooze, *Portland*

## Lifetime

Kay and Al Alsing, *Ashland*  
Connie Battaile, *Ashland*  
Bruce and Vicki Bryden, *Medford*  
Mary Delsman, *Riverside, CA*  
David & Gladys Fortmiller, *Talent*  
Patricia Cook Harrington, *Central Point*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. DeArmond, *Central Point*  
Judi Drais, *Medford*  
Yvonne Earnest, *Medford*  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Walter Emori, *Jacksonville*  
Gladys A. Fortmiller, *Talent*  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gardner, *Canyon City*  
Mr. and Mrs. John Hamlin, *Medford*  
Mr. Tom Hamlin, *Medford*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hight, *Medford*  
Mr. Robert A. Johnson, *Medford*  
Edward B. Jorgenson, *Medford*  
Robert L. Lewis, *Jacksonville*  
Dr. Eugene I. Majerowicz, *Los Angeles, CA*  
Alice Mullaly, *Central Point*  
Zoe Dell Nutter, *Xenia, OH*  
Ram Offset Lithographers, *White City*  
Marilyn L. Sibley, *Gold Hill*  
Davis Young, *Medford*

## New & Rejoining

**MARCH 1, 2004 - MAY 31, 2004**

### BUSINESS • \$250

Security Insurance Agency, Inc., *Medford*  
Evergreen Federal, *Grants Pass*  
Eden Valley Orchards, *Medford*

### CURATOR • \$200

Bryan & Stephanie DeBoer, *Medford*  
F.A. & Evelyn Schaefer III, *Medford*

### CURATOR/PIONEER • \$200

Robert & Jean Cowling, *Medford*  
Bob & B.J. Reed, *Medford*  
John & Janie Stewart, *Talent*

### PATRON • \$100

Sol & Virginia Blechman, *Ashland*  
Pat & Gayle Clason, *Medford*  
Jack & Nancy Day, *Medford*  
Michael & Marie Donovan, *Ashland*  
Gerald & Stephanie Hellinga, *Medford*  
Tom & Evelyn Hennion, *Medford*  
Allan & Charlotte Henry, *Medford*  
Dick & Marilyn Henselman, *Medford*  
Richard & Ann Hensley, *Medford*  
Florence Inman, *Ashland*

Jeff LaLande, *Ashland*  
Margaret McGeary, *Medford*  
Eugene & Barbara Monroe, *Jacksonville*  
Matthew & Carla Morey, *Shady Cove*  
Dorothy Parke, *Medford*  
Dr. Tony & Jo Ramsey, *Medford*  
Shane Reed, *Jacksonville*  
John & Joanne Retzlaff, *Medford*  
Richard & Mary Schultz, *Ashland*  
Jim & LaVonne Stumbo, *Jacksonville*  
Elizabeth Udall, *Ashland*  
Robynne & James Whitaker, *Ashland*  
Virginia Younger, *Medford*  
Barbara Zollinger, *Ashland*

### PATRON/PIONEER • \$100

H.L. Bush, *Medford*  
Ace & Margaret Carter, *Central Point*  
Dr. A.L. & Duane Clay, *Medford*  
Dorothy Cook, *Medford*  
Sandy & Joe Dowling, *Central Point*  
Larry & Julia Ann Horton, *Medford*  
Chuck & Mary Jones, *Medford*  
Charles & Evelyn Sears, *Medford*  
Dalton & Ruth Straus, *Central Point*

### FAMILY • \$50

Kenneth & Marjorie Adams, *Talent*  
Alex & Virginia Austin, *Grants Pass*  
Tom Bradley, *Ashland*  
Jennifer & Michael Buckner, *Jacksonville*  
John Carbone & Sally Rasmussen, *Ashland*  
Vincent & Betty Claflin, *Phoenix*  
James & Mary Lou Clark, *Medford*  
Robert & Susan Clark, *Grants Pass*  
Dr. James & Mary Cruickshank, *Medford*  
Dan & Helen Daniken, *Gold Hill*  
The Davis Family, *Eagle Point*  
Robert & Kathleen DeWitt, *Ashland*  
Leota Frakes, *Ashland*  
Mary & Tom Glatte, *Medford*  
Katie Gomez, *Ashland*  
Elizabeth Green, *Medford*  
John & Beth Hallett, *Medford*  
Raymond Hanosek, *Medford*  
Wes & Lily Hartley, *Ashland*  
Felicia & Tom Hazel, *Talent*  
James & Chris Hess, *Jacksonville*  
Ted & Therese Hoehne, *Eagle Point*  
Phil & Juliann & Watashi Hofmann, *Ramona, CA*  
William & Luisa Hollowell, *Medford*  
Dennis & Patricia Hyatt, *Eugene*  
Radley & Betty Hyde, *Medford*  
Richard & Andrea Igl, *Rogue River*  
Joanne Johnson, *Talent*  
Oscar & Gail Johnson, *Ashland*  
Marianne Keddington-Lang, *Portland*  
Warren & Nancy Knox, *Ashland*  
Rosalie LaFleur, *Medford*  
Alfred & Barbara Larson, *Medford*  
Ronald Loveness, *Klamath Falls*  
David & Caroline Lowry, *Talent*  
Claudia Mansfield, *Mt. Shasta, CA*  
Diana & Jerry Marmon, *Medford*  
Ron & Judy Martinson, *Central Point*  
Dr. Larry & Cathy Maukonen, *Medford*  
Verner & Donna McCall, *Eagle Point*  
Bruce & Judith McGarvey, *Medford*  
Dusty & Top Miller, *Ashland*  
John & Nancy Miller, *Talent*  
Dr. Frank & Marty Moore, *Medford*  
Jay & Nancy Mullen, *Medford*  
Dr. James & Elizabeth Patterson, *Medford*  
Warren & Bettie Paul, *Medford*

Dr. Doug & Molly Philips, *Medford*  
Betty & Robert Proisie, *Shady Cove*  
Robert & Margaret Reinholdt, *Ashland*  
Dr. Drummond & Deborah Rennie, *Jacksonville*  
Verne & Mary Robinson, *Talent*  
Sharon & Dr. Richard Schaefer, *Medford*  
Dee & Barbara Selby, *Talent*  
Edward & Betty Shelley, *Ashland*  
William & Judith Shrader, *Medford*  
Glenn & Kathleen Smith, *Medford*  
Edward & Sharon Snyder, *Jacksonville*  
Bob & Joyce Stevens, *Jacksonville*  
Jay & Loretta Tapp, *Medford*  
Robert & Gildee Vaughn, *Central Point*  
Thomas & Doris Walker, *Sams Valley*  
Dr. Jack & Barbara Walstrom, *Medford*  
Charles & Karin Watson, *Medford*  
Greg & Valri Williams, *Ashland*  
Ellis & Mildred Wilson, *Ashland*  
Jerry & Mary Wojack, *Central Point*

### FAMILY/PIONEER • \$50

Lloyd & Marytine Abrams, *Medford*  
Ron & Gloria Bartlett, *Medford*  
Marty & Ann Bauer, *Grants Pass*  
Arthur & Charlotte Bigelow, *Shady Cove*  
Martin & Lola Burke, *Jacksonville*  
John & Cozette Caster, *Dayton*  
Bob & Annie Dreiszus, *Talent*  
Dick Emery & Francene Bernest, *Ashland*  
Daryl & Arlene Farnham, *Medford*  
Alan & June Fleischer, *Central Point*  
Stuart & Karen Foster, *Medford*  
Jean Frazier, *Ashland*  
Margery Goodman, *Ashland*  
Dr. Keith & Patricia Harrison, *Medford*  
Jerry & Denise Hauck, *Ashland*  
James & Catherine Hayes, *Ashland*  
John & Edna Hopkins, *Applegate*  
Bob & Peggy Houston, *Medford*  
Dr. Gary & Nancy Ingram, *Medford*  
Roy & Sheila Kimball, *Medford*  
Fred & Dixie Kruggel Jr., *Medford*  
Frank & Anna Marcel, *Grants Pass*  
Lorraine & George Mattos, *Jacksonville*  
Tam & Ann Moore, *Medford*  
Melvin & Bonnie Morgan, *Phoenix*  
Christine Reising & Colin McCoy, *Eagle Point*  
Norman Robinson, *Tucson, AZ*  
Larry & Nanci Rogers, *Medford*  
Robert & Joan Sage, *Medford*  
Trish Styer & Mark Shibley, *Ashland*  
Richard & Adleen Thornton, *Ashland*  
Steve & Penny Thorpe, *Ashland*  
H. Dewey & Gloria Wilson, *Medford*

### INDIVIDUAL • \$35

Rhoda Abrahams, *Ashland*  
Loretta Adams, *Medford*  
Avis Adey, *Medford*  
Ann Aines, *Bend*  
Roberta Armstrong, *Myrtle Creek*  
Patricia Bailey, *Rolling Hills Est., CA*  
Beth Barker, *Medford*  
Harold Barrett, *Medford*  
Eugene & Barbara Beers, *Medford*  
Victor & Claudia Berg, *Medford*  
Anne Billeter, *Medford*  
Jean Black, *Medford*  
Shirley Blaul, *Jacksonville*  
Marilyn Boesch, *Medford*  
John Bowden, *Klamath Falls*  
Rebecca Bowles, *Bella Vista, CA*  
Gerald Brenneman, *Albany*

David & Melinda Britt, *Jacksonville*  
Martha Bustard, *Medford*  
Gloria Butler, *Medford*  
Mary Jane Cedar Face, *Ashland*  
Linda Chesney, *Ashland*  
Virginia Choiniere, *Ashland*  
Dorothy Claflin, *Phoenix*  
Irene Clark, *Medford*  
Glenda Cossette, *Central Point*  
Diane Cowan, *Ashland*  
Doris Crofoot, *Jacksonville*  
Susan Davis, *Medford*  
Christopher Day, *Tiburon, CA*  
Steve Decker, *Applegate*  
H.S. & Barbara Deuel, *Medford*  
Larry & Barbara DeYoung, *Central Point*  
Harriet Dorris, *Central Point*  
Richard Engeman & Terry Jess, *Portland*  
Barbara Ezell, *Klamath Falls*  
Judith Faulkner, *Ashland*  
Sharon Freeburne, *Central Point*  
Ronald Frost, *Medford*  
Gladys Greene, *Ashland*  
Carol Gutel, *Rogue River*  
Jerrold Hagstrom, *Jacksonville*  
Barbara & Jack Hanel, *Medford*  
Les & Peggy Harper, *Gold Hill*  
George Hesdorfer, *Medford*  
Shirley Houston, *Talent*  
William & Margit Howell, *White City*  
Hans Jensen, *Shady Cove*  
Willard & Flo Kemp, *Medford*  
Cindie Kitchin, *Grants Pass*  
Norma Kuyper, *Eagle Point*  
Nancy Leonard, *Eagle Point*  
Lee & Marilyn Lewis, *Jacksonville*  
D. Wayne & Fae Linn, *Ashland*  
Dorothy Livingston, *Jacksonville*  
Cynthia Lord, *Ashland*  
Marella Luschen, *Medford*  
Flora MacCracken, *Talent*  
Robert Marlow, *Phoenix*  
Donna Maybee, *Medford*  
C.L. McBeth, *Jacksonville*  
Eunice McCann, *Medford*  
Art McKee, *Prospect*  
Heidi Meyer, *Medford*  
Karen Mitchell & Robert Thompson, *Jacksonville*  
Dr. Eric Morrell & Matty McGuire, *Medford*  
Peter & Bobbi Naumes, *Medford*  
David Oas, *Ashland*  
George & Marcella Owens, *Ashland*  
Ruth Parker, *Medford*  
Judith Paulsen, *Ashland*  
Mary Ellen Pech, *Central Point*  
A. Petersen, *Medford*  
Bill Philp, *Jacksonville*  
Dale Porter, *Medford*  
Daryl & Mary Lou Proett, *Medford*  
Claudette Pruitt, *Grants Pass*  
Geri Read, *Medford*  
W.H. Reichstein, *Medford*  
Roselyn Rhinehart, *Medford*  
A.L. & Kathy Ricketts, *Medford*  
Charles & Elaine Rigby, *Cave Junction*  
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg, *Jacksonville*  
Deborah Rowland, *Eagle Point*  
James & Sharon Rowlett, *Medford*  
Bertha Safley, *Medford*  
Dorothy Satre, *Central Point*  
Barbara Schiavone, *Grants Pass*  
Maxine Scott, *Ashland*

*Continued on page 21.*



## Dear Friends,

Your membership dollars are hard at work this summer at the Southern Oregon Historical Society. They are helping to fund the reopening of Beekman House, special events on the first weekend of each month at Hanley Farm, and the creation of a new exhibit on Peter Britt at the Jacksonville Museum. Meanwhile, the Society's ongoing work of collecting artifacts and documents, offering educational programs, operating our museums and preserving our Research Library all continue apace. Thank you for making such important activities possible with your memberships and generous donations.

Speaking of generous donations, we are happy to announce that several grants were awarded to SOHS this spring. The PGE Foundation contributed \$500 to support the "Nuestra Gente" exhibit at the History Center. The Oregon Heritage Commission's Preserving Oregon program granted \$17,000 for repairs to the Hanley Farmhouse foundation. Zoe Dell Nutter contributed \$5,000 and Medford Air donated \$1,500 to help sponsor the visit of the Wright Flyer and "Orville Wright" to Hanley Farm over the Fourth of July weekend. Eastman Kodak in White City gave \$1,500, and the City of Jacksonville's Lodging Tax Grants program awarded \$1,000 to help create the new Peter Britt exhibit. Ericksen Air-Crane also gave \$1,500 to sponsor a lecture this fall by Sergei Sikorsky, son of the inventor of the helicopter. SOHS is grateful for the support these grants and sponsorships provide.

Sincerely,

Richard Seidman  
Development/Membership Coordinator

*Continued from page 20.*

Ruth Shutes, *Medford*  
Bill Sipfle & Kate Cleland-Sipfle, *Ashland*  
Lois Smith, *Central Point*  
Gordon Solie, *Portland*  
Lois Stanley, *Eagle Point*  
Carl Strand, *Ashland*  
Gary Sumrak, *Medford*  
Donald Sweet, *Ashland*  
Laurie Teply, *Medford*  
Arla Thompson, *Rogue River*  
Arla Thompson, *Rogue River*  
Colleen Tokar, *Medford*  
Peter Van Fleet & Anita Mignardot, *Talent*  
Darcy Van Vuren, *Central Point*  
Maria Vaughan, *Rogue River*  
Edie Vinson, *Grants Pass*  
GC Wales, *Yreka, CA*  
Claude-Marie Ward, *Ashland*  
Suzanne Watkins, *Chiloquin*  
Dr. John & Elizabeth Watson, *Medford*  
Dr. Robert Weiss, *Medford*  
Franz Wichman, *Medford*  
Joan Williams, *Medford*  
Edna Wolff, *Central Point*  
Gloria Wood, *Central Point*

### INDIVIDUAL/PIONEER • \$35

Eva Albert, *Trail*  
Lana & Darrell Boldt, *Ashland*  
Monte & Dave Campbell, *Eugene*  
Dale & Linda Casey, *Medford*  
Darlene Casteel, *Shelton, WA*  
Sherry Cook, *Stevenson, WA*  
Elaine Doerr, *Sacramento, CA*  
Joel & Jo Anne Elias, *Kensington, CA*  
Helen Fields, *Grants Pass*  
Marie Ford, *Talent*  
Lucile Gann, *Medford*  
Betty Gillette, *Jacksonville*  
Steve & Betty Lee Glass, *Central Point*  
Kay Green & Robert Nelson, *Central Point*  
Roland Hartley, *Salem*  
Sandra Haskins, *Woodland, WA*  
Arlene Hoffman, *Eagle Point*  
Joan & Wayne Horton, *Medford*  
Chuck Jackson, *Medford*  
Susanne Krieg, *Ashland*

Kenn Lantz, *Portland*  
Gail Orell, *La Jolla, CA*  
Cecil Owings, *Eagle Point*  
Gerald Parsons, *Rockaway Beach*  
Olivia Partridge, *Boise, ID*  
Betty Peabody, *San Diego, CA*  
Margaret Rackley, *Gold Hill*  
Pam Schiller, *Ashland*  
Martha Sheppard, *Rncho Santa Margarita, CA*  
Maureen Smith, *Gold Hill*  
Kathleen Sullivan, *Medford*  
Doris Sutherlin, *Medford*  
Anita Swogger, *Las Vegas, NV*  
Christy Van Heukelem, *Salem*  
Ted & Armella Wharton, *Medford*  
Doris Wilson, *Medford*

### SUBSCRIBER • \$35

Douglas County Library, *Roseburg*  
Univ Of Washington Libraries, *Seattle, WA*

## Donors

### FINANCIAL

Terrie & Gregory Claflin, *Medford*  
Michael Criswell, *Amity*  
Judi Drais, *Medford*  
Eloise Friesen, *Medford*  
Judy Hanshue-Lozano & Robert Lozano, *Butte Falls*  
Bob & Peggy Houston, *Medford*  
Dr. Robert & Anna Likins, *Medford*  
John & Nadine Purcell, *Ashland*  
Sharon & Dr. Richard Schaefer, *Medford*  
Bob & Joyce Stevens, *Jacksonville*

### IN KIND

Siskiyou Pump Service, *Central Point*  
Southern Oregon Visitors Assoc., *Medford*  
Spearco Graphics, *Medford*

## Southern Oregon Historical Society Foundation

### ENDOWMENT FUND

Diane Cowan, *Ashland*

## Grants and Sponsorships

Eastman Kodak, *White City*

Ericksen Air-Crane, *Central Point*  
City of Jacksonville  
Medford Air, *Central Point*  
Zoe Dell Nutter, *Xenia, OH*  
Oregon Heritage Commission, *Salem*  
PGE Foundation, *Portland*

## The Collections

*Thank you to the many people and organizations who have contributed to the collections over the last three months.*

William Alley, *Vancouver, WA*  
Vara Bailey, *Ashland*  
Frank Bash, *Medford*  
Eugene Beers, *Medford*  
Jeanette Blankenship, *Eagle Point*  
Jack Bowden, *Klamath Falls*  
Denise Brooks, *Eagle Point*  
Jack Buckley, *Medford*  
Tina Calvert, *Grants Pass*  
Mrs. Arthur Chipman, *Medford*  
Amelia Clay, *Medford*  
L. Scott Clay, *Medford*  
Robertson Collins Estate, *Monte Sereno, CA*  
Russel Davis, *Medford*  
Lois Eagleton, *Umpqua*  
Judy Gove, *Grants Pass*  
Gilbert Gutjahr, *Portland*  
Peggyann Hutchinson, *Medford*  
Jackson County, *Kathy Beckett, Medford*  
Grayce L. Jones, *Medford*  
Geraldine Kenny Kierstead, *Medford*  
Jeff LaLande, *U. S. Forest Service, Medford*  
Myrtle P. Lee, *Jacksonville*  
Dorothy Meister, *Medford*  
Don Neilson, *Medford*  
Winafred Parcel, *Auburn, WA*  
Tom Payn, *Medford*  
Jack Potter, *Woodland, CA*  
Jessy Randall, *Colorado Springs, CO*  
Herbert Clare Rodenberger, *San Francisco, CA*  
Aubrey Sander, *Medford*  
John Shoner, *Central Point*  
John Smith-Peter, *Rogue River*  
Marianne Sorem, *Jacksonville*  
Ben Truwe, *Medford*  
Stan Way, *Cornerstone Christian Church, Medford*  
Mrs. Ralph Wilson, *Medford*  
John Winkler Sr., *Medford*



## Membership Benefits

*Memberships last one year.*

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

- ❖ Free admission to SOHS museums and sites.
- ❖ Subscription to *Southern Oregon Heritage Today* quarterly magazine.
- ❖ Subscription to *History Matters!* monthly newsletter.
- ❖ 10% discount at the History Store in Jacksonville.
- ❖ Free admission card to 16 Pacific Northwest children's museums.
- ❖ Reciprocal benefits through "Time Travelers," a network of more than 100 historical societies and museums around the country.
- ❖ Discounts on workshops, programs, and special events.
- ❖ Invitations to exhibit previews and members-only events.
- ❖ Ability to vote for Board of Trustees.
- ❖ The satisfaction of supporting your historical society.

## Membership Categories:

### INDIVIDUAL • \$35

### FAMILY • \$50

### PATRON • \$100

### CURATOR • \$200

Includes all basic benefits plus recognition in Annual Report and *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*.

### DIRECTOR • \$500

Includes all of the above benefits plus unlimited guest privileges.

### HISTORIAN'S CIRCLE • \$1,000

Includes all of the above benefits plus invitations to exclusive Historian's Circle events, and private tours with Executive Director and exhibit curators.

### LIFETIME • \$2,500

Includes all of the above benefits.

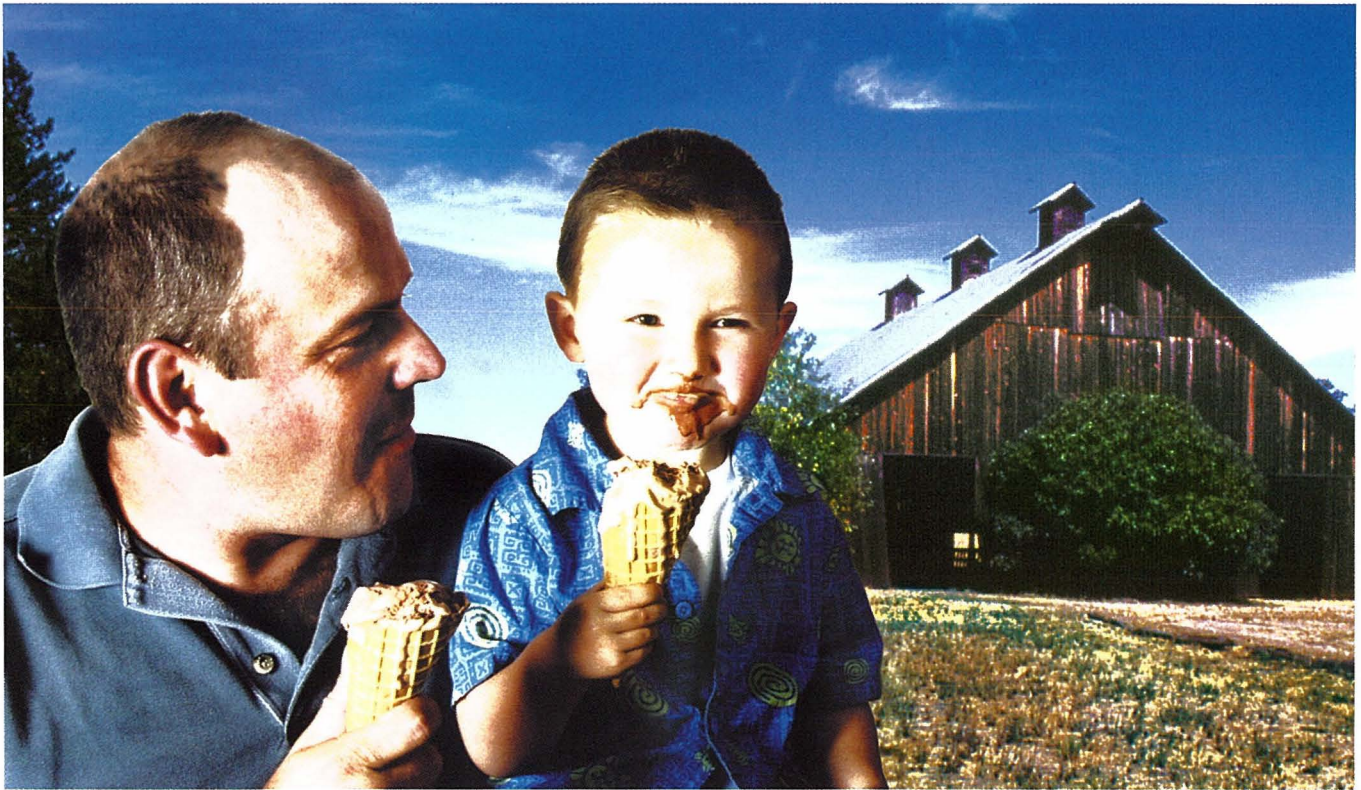
### BUSINESS • \$250

Includes subscriptions, recognition in Annual Report and *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*, and 10% discount for all employees on memberships, admissions and History Store purchases.



# Good Clean Fun!

Summer 2004



## Beekman Living History Program

California & Laurelwood, Jacksonville • NOON TO 4PM, WED - SUN

## "First Weekends" at Hanley Farm

1053 Hanley Rd., Hwy 238, Central Point • 11AM TO 4PM, SAT & SUN

*wagon rides, house and barn tours all day*

### July 3 & 4 • An American Celebration


- REPLICA OF THE WRIGHT BROTHER'S FLYER • MEET "ORVILLE WRIGHT" • ICE CREAM
- VINTAGE CARS • KITE MAKING (Wright Flyer is sponsored by Medford Air, Rogue Eagles R.C. Club, & Zoe Dell Nutter)

### August 7 & 8 • Native American Life Ways

- FLINT KNAPPING • TOOL MAKING • NATIVE GAMES • HANDS-ON ARTIFACTS • WAGON RIDES

### September 4 & 5 • Late 19th Century

- HISTORIC BALING AND THRESHING • HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

 SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY • (541)773-6536 • [www.sohs.org](http://www.sohs.org) • a member-supported organization

**Advertise in *Southern Oregon Heritage Today***

For information and rates, call Jennifer Buckner, (541) 773-6358, ext. 228



# VALLEY VIEW

THE ROGUE VALLEY'S PREMIER WINERY

*Experience the view*



## AWARDS & ACCOLADES

*"It will be hard to find a better Viognier anywhere."*

— THE OREGONIAN

*"A southern Oregon pioneer, Valley View is making consistently excellent wines."*

— WINE PRESS NORTHWEST

*Platinum Medal / Best of Show*

— GREATEST OF THE GRAPE, 2003

*"Exceptional. Superb wine from southern Oregon."*

— DAN BERGER'S VINTAGE EXPERIENCES

*"Southern Oregon's Favorite Winery, 2001, 2002 & 2003"*

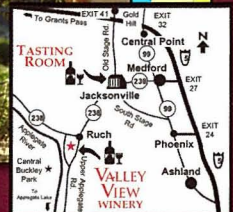
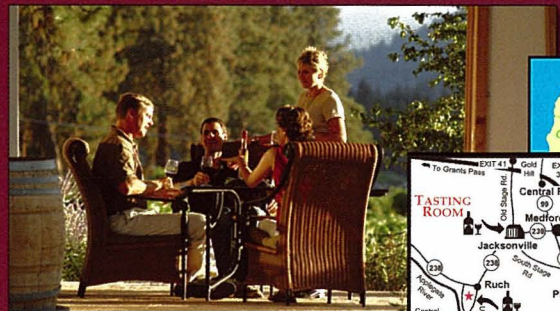
— MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE READERS POLL

## RECENT GOLD MEDALS

Dallas Morning News, Newport Wine Competition, San Diego Wine Competition, International Eastern Wine Competition, Sunriver Wine Competition, Astoria Wine Competition, New World International Wine Competition



BROTHERS  
MICHAEL &  
MARK  
WISNOVSKY,  
OWNERS,  
VALLEY VIEW WINERY



**VALLEY VIEW**  
WINERY

## WINE PAVILION

1000 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, Oregon 97530  
8 mi. west of Jacksonville on Hwy. 238, left on Upper Applegate Rd. (Ruch)

**(800) 781-9463**

[www.valleyviewwinery.com](http://www.valleyviewwinery.com) • [valleyviewwinery@charter.net](mailto:valleyviewwinery@charter.net)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID A. GIBB



*Southern Oregon Historical Society*  
(541) 773-6536  
www.sohs.org

#### **MUSEUMS AND SITES**

##### **HISTORY CENTER RESEARCH LIBRARY**

*106 N. Central, Medford*

##### **JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM**

##### **HISTORY STORE**

##### **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

*5th and C, Jacksonville*

##### **HANLEY FARM**

*1053 Hanley Rd., Hwy 238, Central Point*

AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

##### **C.C. BEEKMAN HOUSE**

*California & Laurelwood, Jacksonville*

##### **C.C. BEEKMAN BANK**

*3rd & California, Jacksonville*

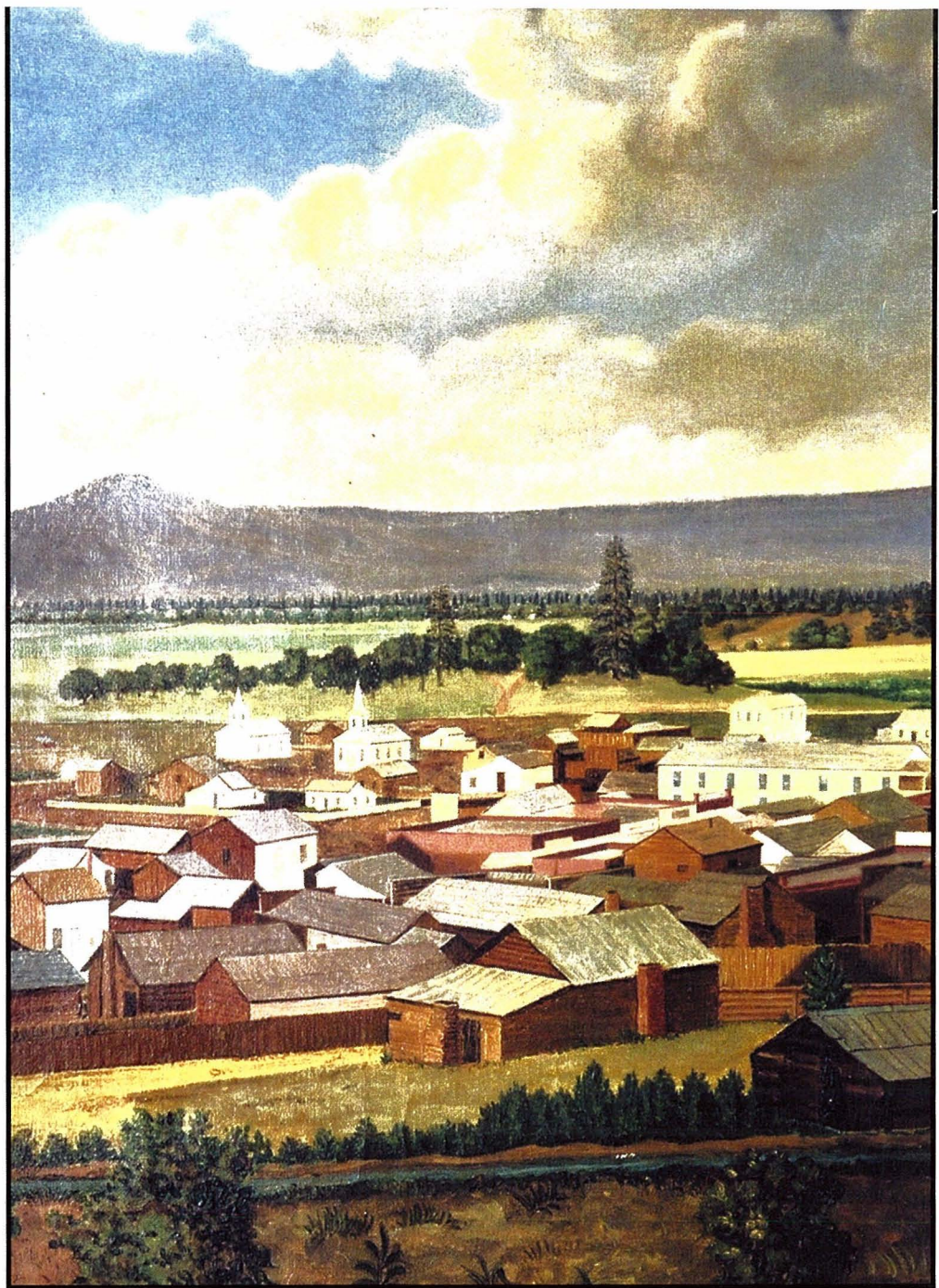
##### **U.S. HOTEL**

*3rd & California, Jacksonville*

AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

##### **CATHOLIC RECTORY**

*4th & C, Jacksonville*



**Southern Oregon Historical Society Mission:** *to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the artifacts and documents that connect us to the past. Through exhibitions, historic sites, a research library, educational programs, publications, and outreach, the Society creates opportunities to explore the history that has shaped Southern Oregon.*



A MEMBER-SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION

106 North Central Avenue  
Medford, Oregon 97501-5926

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 164  
MEDFORD, OR

S O U T H E R N   O R E G O N   H E R I T A G E   T O D A Y