

SUMMER 2006



SOUTHERN OREGON

HERITAGE

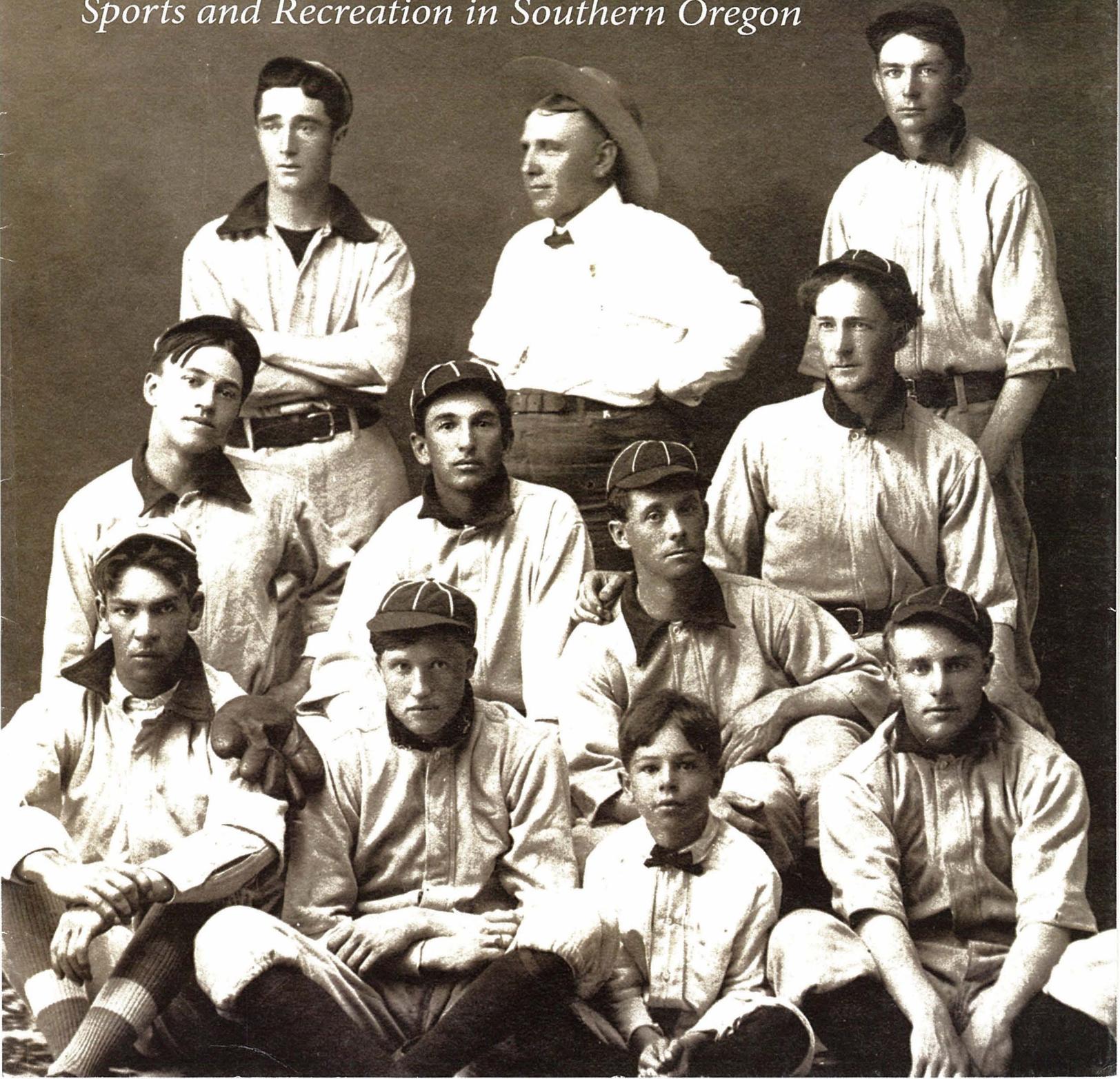
VOL.8, NO.3

Today

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Sports and Recreation in Southern Oregon



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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 Photo Archivist, Carol Harbison-Samuels
 Photographers, Anthony DiMaggio
 and Harley Patrick
 Editorial Assistant, Margaret LaPlante

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 106 N. Central Ave., Medford, OR 97501-5926
 (541) 773-6536 • www.sohs.org

Dear SOHS members and friends:

Our seasonal activities at Hanley Farm and at the Jacksonville Museum complex are well underway by now, so if you haven't visited either this summer, now is the time. Hanley Farm is open the first weekend of each month from June through September, and both museums are open Wednesday through Sunday. Come see us!



I want to personally welcome our newest SOHS employees, Suzanne M.M. Warner, who recently took over as Curator of Exhibits and Collections; and Kyle Riggs, who will take over as Hanley Farm Manager on July 5. Both are highly experienced professionals who bring a great deal of enthusiasm and a depth of knowledge to their areas that will readily become obvious in coming months. They will round out our professional management team.

The SOHS Annual Meeting in June was a tremendous success, with the largest turnout in recent memory for a membership meeting. SOHS announced the recipients of the Southern Oregon Heritage Award this year – and we awarded two. The first went to author and historian Kay Atwood of Ashland, and the other posthumously to Bert Webber of Medford. Both have added so much to our knowledge and awareness of Southern Oregon history.

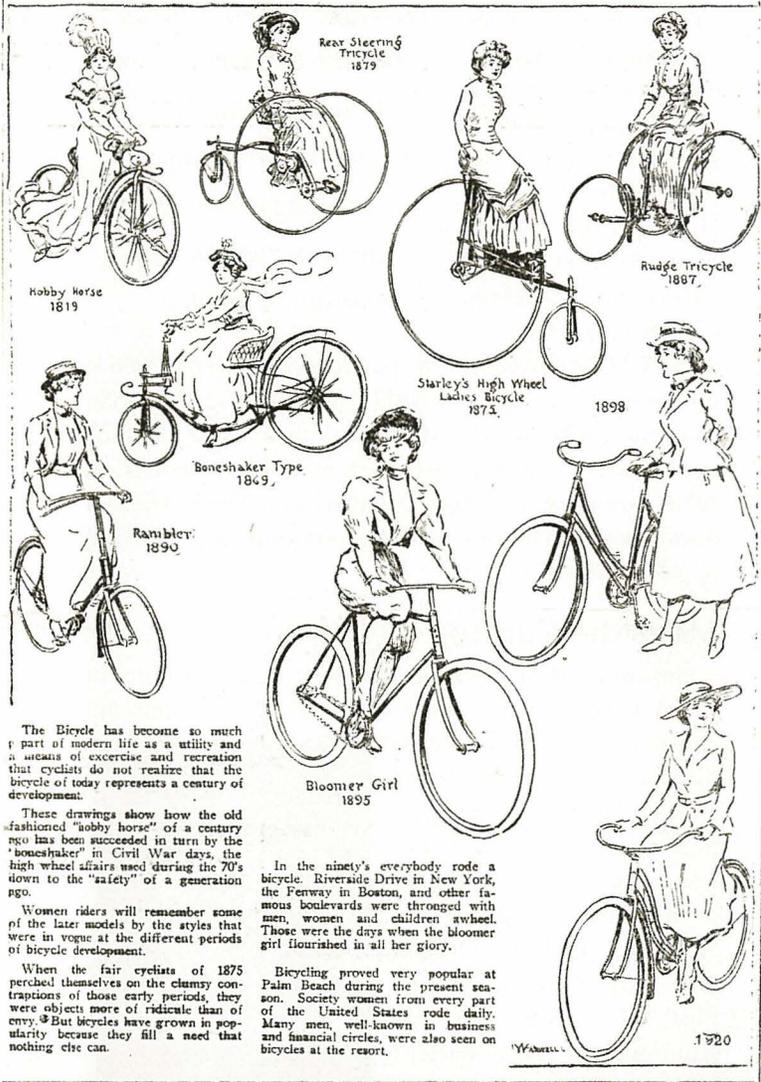
Meanwhile, the SOHS summer membership drive continues. I encourage you to give a gift membership or to encourage your friends and associates to join. In coming years, we truly will rely on our members for financial and other support. Membership matters!

And finally, the SOHS 60th Birthday Bash on the grounds of the Jacksonville Museum a few weeks ago was a great celebration. We had live music and dancers, free birthday cake and face-painting and fun and games for the kids. Thanks to all those who helped to make it possible.

We hope you will enjoy this sporting edition of Southern Oregon Heritage Today.

JOHN ENDERS
Executive Director

Century of Cycling Brings Style Changes



The Bicycle has become so much a part of modern life as a utility and a means of exercise and recreation that cyclists do not realize that the bicycle of today represents a century of development.

These drawings show how the old-fashioned "hobby horse" of a century ago has been succeeded in turn by the "boneshaker" in Civil War days, the high wheel affairs used during the 70's down to the "safety" of a generation ago.

Women riders will remember some of the later models by the styles that were in vogue at the different periods of bicycle development.

When the fair cyclists of 1875 perched themselves on the clamsy contraptions of those early periods, they were objects more of ridicule than of envy. But bicycles have grown in popularity because they fill a need that nothing else can.

In the ninety's everybody rode a bicycle. Riverside Drive in New York, the Fenway in Boston, and other famous boulevards were thronged with men, women and children a-wheel. Those were the days when the bloomer girl flourished in all her glory.

Bicycling proved very popular at Palm Beach during the present season. Society women from every part of the United States rode daily. Many men, well-known in business and financial circles, were also seen on bicycles at the resort.

Medford Mail Tribune, Tuesday, May 4, 1920

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On the cover:

Medford's baseball team, 1904. The young boy seated third from the left, is Rudy Schultz, the team's mascot. Rudy grew up to become quite a ball player in his own right, playing on the American team at the Olympics. SOHS Photo #3456

SOHS' 60th Birthday Bash

The weather was perfect and the crowds were big as SOHS celebrated its 60th anniversary on Saturday, June 17. There was plenty of birthday cake to go around and admission to both museums was free.



Entertainment was provided by Journey's End Jazz Band and Ballet Folklorico Ritmo Alegre. Our thanks to the following sponsors for making the event possible: Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville Mercantile, Jacksonville

Woodlands Association, Terri Gieg, and Willoughby Hearing Aid Centers.

First Weekends at Hanley Farm

Our popular summer program at Hanley Farm continues through the first weekend of September. On August 5 and 6, it's

"Fiddles 'n Vittles: Old Time Music and Food Fair" featuring great live entertainment from a variety of musicians and locally-produced food for sampling and buying. On September 2 and 3, it's



the Ground Up: Heritage Harvest Festival with threshing, baling and hay pressing demonstrations, vintage tractors, wagon and miniature horse cart rides, Hanley house and garden tours, and much more. Gates are open from 11am to 4pm. This year, Beekman House will be open for tours the same first weekends as Hanley Farm.

2006 Membership Drive

Last summer we gained more than 400 new members during our "Let's Make History Together" membership campaign, so we're doing it again. Only this year, we have two great offers for new members. Join SOHS between now and Labor Day (September 4) and receive either \$10 off or 2-memberships-for-the-price-of-1. While this doesn't apply to renewals, it does afford you the opportunity to give a unique and cherished gift to family or friends. For more information, call Richard Seidman at 541-773-6536, ext. 226.

Southern Oregon Heritage Awards

At the SOHS Annual Meeting in June, the 2006 Southern Oregon Heritage Award was given to two local historians/authors: Kay Atwood and the late Ebbert "Bert" Webber.

Kay Atwood has lived in and studied the history of Southern Oregon for over 35 years. From 1976 to the present, she has worked independently as a local history consultant and has designed exhibits for the Southern Oregon Historical Society and prepared local history curriculum for Jackson County IED (ESD).

The Southern Oregon Heritage Award is given annually by SOHS to those individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the preservation and promotion of history.

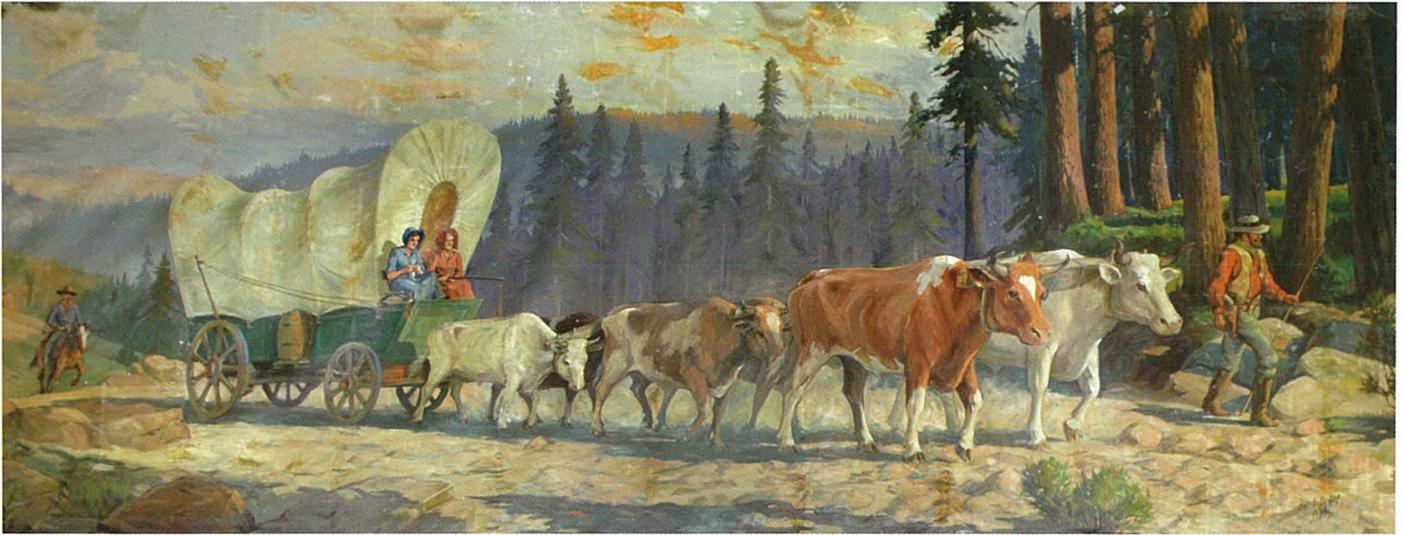
Ebbert "Bert" Webber, who passed away in March 2006 at the age of 86, was a prolific author and noted local historian who, along with his wife Margie and their Webb Research Group, wrote and/or published more than 100 books on subjects ranging from Japanese attacks on North America during WWII to histories of the Applegate and Oregon Trail to gold mining in Oregon.

Meet the Curator

Suzanne M.M. Warner is our new Curator of Collections. She comes to us with 14 years of museum experience, most recently as director of the Yellowstone County Museum in Billings, Montana. For Suzanne, her return to Southern Oregon is a homecoming as she attended Southern Oregon University where she received Bachelor's degrees in Art and Anthropology and a Master's Degree in Art History/Photography. Her professional experience includes museum administration, art instruction, exhibit design and construction, artifact care and curation, art appraisals, and historical research. She did her Master's thesis on late-1800s Klamath Falls' photographer Maude Baldwin. Before her museum career, Suzanne was a graphic designer and sign maker. She and her son have lived in Montana for the past 11 years. She also is an artist and has been very active in the art of bead weaving.



NOW AT THE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM



PAINTING BY HAL BISHOP

Toward the Setting Sun: Traveling the Oregon Trail

Our newest exhibit is now open. It's filled with artifacts such as pioneer diaries, clothing, tools, and furniture, as well as photos, interactive components, and a documentary entitled "A South Road to Oregon: The History of the Applegate Trail," produced by Southern Oregon Public Television. Don't miss it!



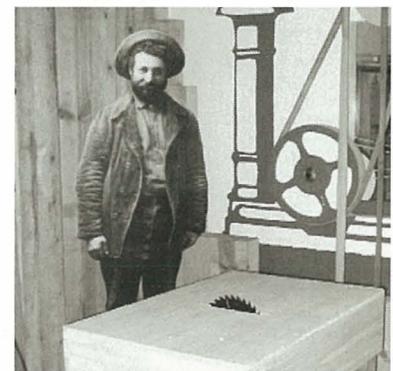
Peter Britt: The Man Beyond the Camera

Come experience our most innovative exhibit to date, featuring nearly 400 artifacts and images from the Society's extensive Peter Britt collection, many of which are on public display for the first time. See the many interesting facets of Peter Britt's life in a contemporary, entertaining format with items ranging from Britt's personal diaries, which date from 1859 through 1905, to some of his earliest oil paintings, photographic gear, and the 1872 Steinway square grand piano he bought for his daughter Mollie.



Jackson County Milestones

They came to Jackson County looking for treasure, and carrying some with them. In this fascinating exhibit, you'll discover how immigrants to this area changed it forever and see many of the artifacts that they brought with them. You'll also get to know the farmers, miners, loggers, merchants, and railroad workers who fueled the growth of towns such as Ashland, Phoenix, Jacksonville, and Medford. It truly is "history in the making."



Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker

Upstairs in the former courtroom of the Jackson County Courthouse, underneath the soaring 20-foot ceilings, you'll discover an adventure of yesteryear. MBF, as we often call it, is more than just an exhibit—it's a portal waiting to transport you to an earlier time when life was a bit rough around the edges and work called for strong backs and calloused hands. Discover the tools, architecture, agriculture, and fraternal organizations that shaped Southern Oregon.

INDIAN CLUBS

by Stephanie Butler

“The popularity of club swinging in America lasted until the 1930s when they became the subject of ridicule. One such illustration shows a muscular, shirtless man swinging Indian Clubs in a circular motion. Its caption reads: ‘This fellow lost his shirt in the market and is going around in circles. Can this go on?’ ”



THE STORY OF THE INDIAN CLUB, a bowling pin-shaped exercise club popular during the Victorian era, is richly layered, and curiously relevant to the world in which we live today. Its form and purpose encompass the mythological, romantic, idealistic, sensual, and patriotic nature inherent in all of humanity.

This story begins in Hindu religion and practice in ancient India where many different gods and goddesses represent aspects of a supreme being called Brahma, the creator of the universe. A holy trinity, representing creation (Brahma), preservation (Vishnu), and transcendence or destruction of stale beliefs (Shiva), are manifested. It is with Vishnu, the preserver and upholder of the universe in the Hindu holy trinity, that our story has its roots.¹

In Indian tradition, Vishnu manifests himself in physical form on the mortal plane whenever there is great travail or when he is needed to save humankind from disaster. At these times, he appears in a form suited to the crisis at hand and thus, he possesses a divine transformational ability imbued with physical, moral, and spiritual powers. He is always depicted carrying a gada or mace (Indian Club), in his fourth hand.²

These Indian Clubs belonged to Ben Beekman, the son of prominent Jacksonville resident C.C. Beekman. They are currently on exhibit in Ben's room at the C.C. Beekman House in Jacksonville.

According to Alice J. Hoffman in her book *Indian Clubs*: “The clubs originated in India where they were adapted by the British Army for use in drills. Eventually, the clubs and exercises were conveyed to England and found favor among civilians. In the 1860s, fitness enthusiast and businessman Sim. D. Kehoe introduced Indian clubs to the American market.”³

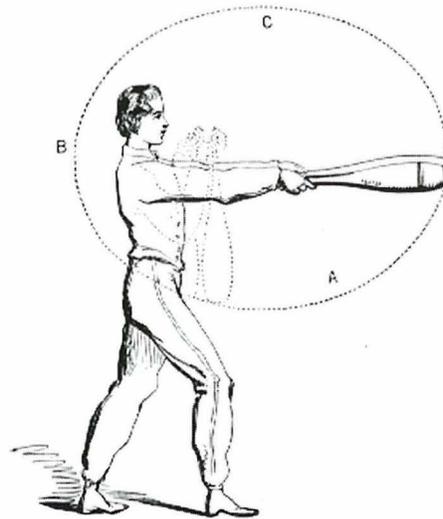
In the late 19th century, many in America believed that the country had been diverted from the democratic ideals set forth during the Revolutionary War. Some feared that the democratic model was doomed to failure if there was no effort among its citizens to improve both intellectually and physically. Industrialization and a move toward urbanization and away from agricultural endeavors led to a more sedentary lifestyle for many people. In addition to a concern over physical improvement of the body, there were many concerned over the decline in public morality as well. These concerns led to a powerful marriage between the two.⁴

The term “Muscular Christianity” first appeared in 1857 and took hold as a part of the American school system during the Civil War. It was at this time that athletics were becoming a fixture in public education and Muscular Christianity was heavily promoted by a variety of evangelical reformers. It was also at this time that the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) was allying physical and moral health in the “service of the Lord.” The belief that physical activity and team sports in particular, developed character, fostered patriotism, and instilled virtue that would serve their participants well, became firmly embedded in American society and culture, as it still is today.⁵

Manuals of all sorts were published and distributed nationwide, promoting the many health benefits accompanying this new activity as an antidote to a vast array of physical conditions and maladies. One manual boasted, “This system

of exercises will correct drooping shoulders, malposition of the head, and many other common defects.”⁶

In addition, club swinging was advertised for all ages and sexes. One such ad read: “The new system has been introduced into female seminaries with complete satisfaction. Its beautiful games, graceful attitudes, and striking



tableaux, possess a peculiar fascination for girls. Public classes, composed of adults of both sexes, elicit general enthusiasm. Children under three years of age are warmly interested, and improved in form and strength. Like air and food, its exercises are adapted to both sexes, and to persons of all ages.”⁷

Position, posture, and recommended weight for body type and sex were also included. “The starting position for the club exercises is with the clubs at ‘order’ to adopt a military term,” wrote one

author. “The hands grasp the clubs on the outside, palms turned inwards. The position is upright, the heels generally together or legs together astride.”⁸ Warnings were given such as, “Take care that the clubs neither dash against each other nor do they hurt you in any way.”⁹

The popularity of club swinging in America lasted until the 1930s when they became the subject of ridicule. One such illustration shows a muscular, shirtless man swinging Indian clubs in a circular motion. Its caption reads: “This fellow lost his shirt in the market and is going around in circles. Can this go on?”¹⁰

Today, largely collected and displayed as folk art, they are rarely understood for the transformational, social, political, and spiritual role they have played in history.

STEPHANIE BUTLER is Education and Programs Coordinator for the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

ENDNOTES

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- 3 Ibid.
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- 6 Lewis, M.D., Dio. *New Gymnastics For Men, Women, And Children*. Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1862.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Dick, William Brisbane. *Dick’s Dumb Bell and Indian Club Exercises*. New York: Dick & Fitzgerald Publishers, 1887
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Then and Now

On the Water

FROM CRATER LAKE TO BEAR CREEK to the majestic Rogue River, water—and water-related recreation—has always been part of the fabric of life in Southern Oregon. Whether it was poling on a crude log raft at Lake of the Woods circa 1910 (top right) or running the whitewater on the Rogue River today (bottom)—spending time on the water was as popular then as it is now.

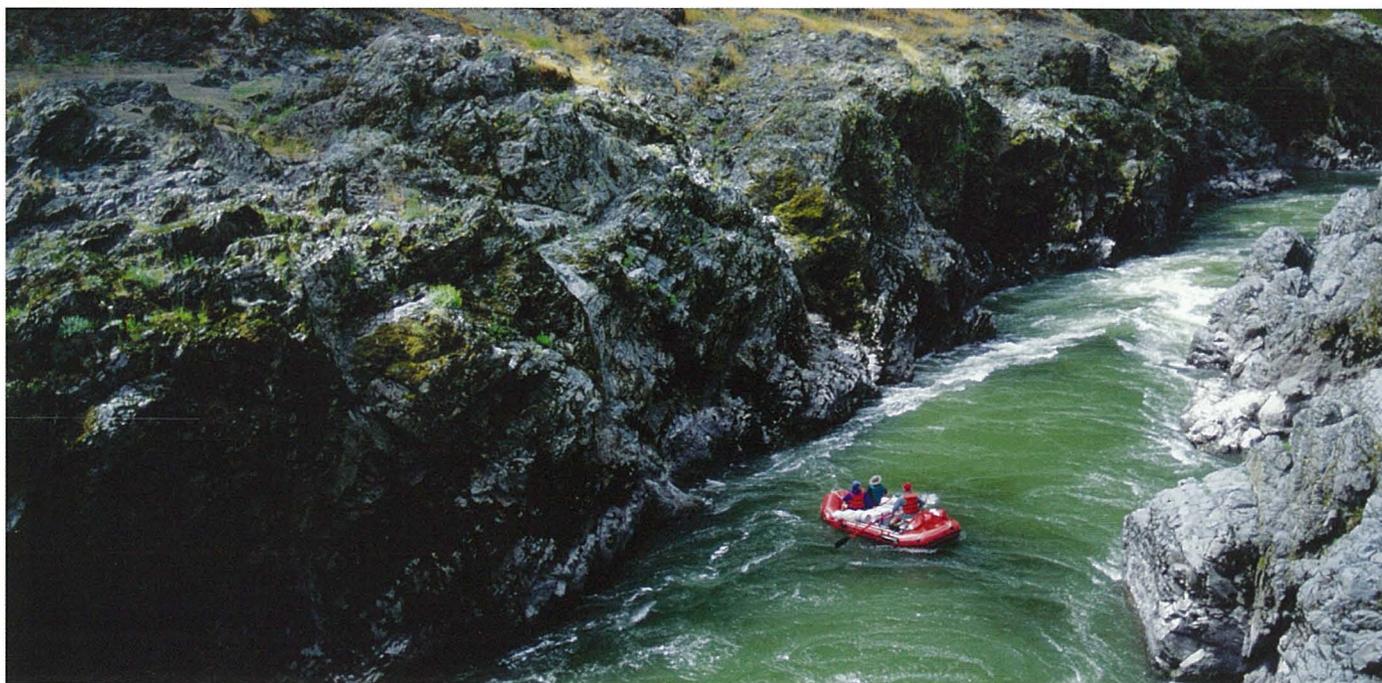


(top): SOHS Photo #8031

(below left): On the Lower Rogue. SOHS Photo #14464

(below right): SOHS Photo #20090

(bottom) Courtesy of Roger Dorband



FISHING

The following is an excerpt from the soon-to-be-published "The Rogue: Portrait of a River" by artist/photographer Roger Dorband.

ZANE GREY AND THE ROGUE

I FIRST HEARD Zane Grey's name in the fishing stories my father told. Ordinarily a laconic and modest man, Al would drop Grey's name on occasion when some braggadocio with a spinning rod and his first steelhead cast a sideways remark about the fly rod that was Al's standard.

In accordance with the philosophy of Zane Grey, Al believed that fly fishing was the only sportsmanlike way to take a steelhead. It required discernment, finesse, skill and the ability to read the water. To hear him tell it,

there was a kind of truth and integrity to fly fishing, a Zen-like quality if you will. There was etiquette, too, proper behavior for those who practiced the art. For instance, a fly fisherman would never think of beginning downstream from a fellow fly fisherman already working a riffle. That would interrupt his progression, a serious breach. Unlike golf, there was no "playing through" either, no matter how plodding the fellow was. Above all, the true sportsman was patient, never failing to honor the sanctity and timelessness of the hours spent with a fly rod in hand.

If Al was in the mood and decided the dude needed some schooling he began with a dispassionate appraisal of the fellow's catch followed by the comment that the fishing was nothing compared to the way it had been in the early forties. If he caught the fellow's attention Dad would then recount in matter-of-fact language how while in the navy he had read of the Rogue's fantastic steelhead fishing and beautiful scenery in the writing of the famous fisherman Zane Grey. "When I retired from the navy in '39 I came here for the fishing," Al went on, "now, I guess I stay because of the weather."

Borrowing a word favored by Grey, Al proceeded to tell about the steelhead fishing during the "glory" years of the Forties when no real sportsman used anything but fly-fishing



Fly fishing on the Rogue River. Photo courtesy of Roger Dorband

"To hear him tell it, there was a kind of truth and integrity to fly fishing, a Zen-like quality if you will. There was etiquette, too, proper behavior for those who practiced the art."

gear. During that period he often caught a limit of steelhead before breakfast. The abundance kept his smokehouse going from early September until the end of fall. In October of 1941 the run of steelhead was so bountiful that Al hooked a fish on the first cast for a period of two weeks straight. This portion of Dad's dissertation was his piece de resistance, not proffered until he was sure the dude was well hooked and listening

respectfully. Though it sounded like a fabrication, particularly in light of the sorry state of the fishing during the fifties, it was not. The proof existed in the form of a small notebook Al always kept to record the day's events, a practice he had developed as a Chief Petty Officer in the navy.

The "glory" years were over by the time I was born, but I lived them vicariously through Al's stories, which I frequently recounted to my

friends in great detail down to the royal coachman fly, which was his favorite. When I wanted to impress a new kid in the neighborhood, I would lead them to the old smokehouse at the back of our property. Though it was just a dilapidated shack that had not seen significant use for a number of years, the smokehouse was the perfect setting for my endeavor. The old siding, saturated with the sweet, spicy essence of hickory, salmon and steelhead gave off a wonderful aroma.

There in the semidarkness, sitting Indian fashion on the rough plank floor, I could feel the nostalgic aura of the "glory" years sweeping over us.

At that time I had not read Zane Grey and knew very little about him. I knew he had built a cabin somewhere far downriver, where he had written a book about the Rogue. I also knew that this book and his other writing brought many other famous people to fish the Rogue. It was the fame and celebrity associated with Zane Grey that made him mythological in my estimation. A man who wrote and fished and was famous. And somehow Al and his fly rod and his son were connected with this man. We who lived modestly and had to work hard for a living, as most did in the Rogue Valley in those years, once had among us a man who was different.



RECREATION IN RETROSPECT: *A Historical Overview of the Sporting Life in Southern Oregon*

by Jennifer L. Strange

When most of us think about “recreation,” we envision a favorite activity—perhaps tossing a line in the Rogue River or jogging along backcountry roads near Jacksonville or maybe even hang gliding off an Applegate Valley cliff.

Heck, “recreation” could even evoke a spot of gardening or watching a local football game with a bunch of buddies

Whatever recreation looks like to a given person, the word’s meaning is likely a bit more complex. Literally defined as re-creating or rebuilding oneself, recreation is about revitalizing one’s sense of physical wellness and satisfaction. “It’s breaking the drudgery of plowing by going fishing or breaking the drudgery of sitting in a computer cubicle by going for a walk,” explains Jay Mullen, a professor of history at Southern Oregon University.

Although many people have their own individual ways of “breaking the drudgery,” there are much larger social and cultural trends at work that influence our recreational choices. In Southern Oregon, as in the rest of the country (and probably the world), forms of recreation are a reflection of society at large. Our region’s economics, demographics and geography all play a role in the games we choose to play. And so it only makes sense that as these societal components shift through time, so does the atmosphere of sports.



Members of the Yurok tribe of Northern California performing the Red Headed Woodpecker or Jump Basket Dance. SOHS Photo #4235

Left: Medford High School girls basketball team, 1914. SOHS Photo #4103

around permanent winter homes and villages where basket weaving and creation and repair of hunting and fishing gear took place in preparation for the food gathering seasons ahead.

The foundation of community life included intergenerational teaching between elders and youth to prepare them for the responsibilities of working communally for the benefit of all in their immediate and extended family. Social life included music, song, drumming, and elaborate ceremonies and dances to commemorate special events. In addition, there were a variety of competitions and contests ranging from intense

sweat lodges that tested endurance to footraces and intricate stone-based gambling games.

Pioneers

Along with settlers came horses, taverns, and trade. Like the Indians, these folks relied on hunting, trapping, and fishing for survival. But the pioneers also used their outdoor skills as recreation, holding contests and recording their results in newspaper columns. “It wasn’t really considered ‘work,’” says Mullen.

Pre-settler Days

Before the arrival of European-descended settlers, Southern Oregon’s Native inhabitants flourished for thousands of years following a seasonal hunter-gatherer way of life, moving throughout the region, hunting, fishing, gathering plant life, and trading northward and southward with extended tribal communities on coastal routes during the spring, summer, and autumn months. During the winter months, community life centered

“One of Southern Oregon’s most talked-about baseball moments came in 1884, when George McConnell of the Ashland Nine baseball team, threw one of the first curve balls ever thrown during a game in Yreka.”

“And so it became a sport and that’s where magazines like *Sports Afield* got their start.”

When the pioneers desired an edgier form of entertainment, they reached for a shot of moonshine. “Competitive sports of the time were usually found at taverns and were about fistfights, horseracing, and maybe horseshoe pitching,” Mullen says. Jacksonville was the main site for such activity, as it was the oldest town in the area with the most taverns.

Sporting was largely a boys’ club during this era, confirms Mullen. “It’s fair to say there wasn’t much in the way of women’s activities.”

Late 1800s and Early 1900s

Settlement gradually brought a sense of society to the wild and wooly Rogue Valley. But even as more women and families began to move to the area, early residents retained a sense of recreational adventure—both for survival and for fun.

“In those days [the 1800s], every girl and boy owned their own saddle horse,” wrote Court Hall in a March, 1930, column called “Court Hall Remembers: Recollections of Jackson County Sporting Events by Veteran Sportsman.” Tales of battles with bear, fending off cougar, and catching wagonloads of fish abound in Hall’s accounts of life on the range.

About this time, the Oregon and California Railroad line reached the Medford area. Baseball was one of the railway’s notable imports. “The Dunsmuir team would come up and play the Medford team,” says Mullen. “And



The “Ashland Nine” baseball team of 1884. SOHS Photo #12587

there was even a racial component to the game because the railroad enabled the black laborers who started a team in Weed and the black team from Yakima to come here to play.”

Baseball spread up and down the line during the turn of the century, leading to the creation of several regional teams. One of Southern Oregon’s most talked-about baseball moments came in 1884, when George McConnell of the Ashland Nine baseball team, threw one of the first curve balls ever thrown during a game in Yreka. Another noteworthy event was the 1901 visit by the Boston Bloomer Girls, a traveling ladies’ baseball team that beat a Medford men’s team.

Other team sports weren’t far behind. The first Medford High School football team was established in 1897. “The team had none of the niceties,” says a Nov. 11, 1951, *Medford Mail Tribune* article. “Equipment usu-

ally meant one balloon-shaped football that lasted all season or maybe longer.”

For women, these early years offered a range of ladylike recreation. Women were welcome at the first annual tournament of the Medford Gun Club, where the Booster Club’s “sumptuously loaded tables ... made a beautiful and attractive scene, and not the least handsome feature were the ladies themselves,” according to a Sept. 23, 1905, *Medford Mail Tribune* account.

A few years later, in 1909, a lady’s options expanded further

with the opening of Box Ball Alleys on Ashland’s lower Main Street. “The game is a pretty style of bowling, good for ladies as well as men; healthful and invigorating,” promised an ad in the *Ashland Daily Tidings*. “The price is only 5 cents to the person, and, two playing, the loser pays 10 cents.”

Even when the game offered a “pretty style,” betting wasn’t far away in those days.

Depression Era

Although the Great Depression challenged many Americans financially and socially, it didn’t dampen Southern Oregon’s zesty commitment to outdoor recreation.

This was the era of Bill Bowerman, the great Medford track star who later coached Phil Knight at the University of Oregon and went on to coach at the Olympic level. After his track career, Bowerman and Knight met again and the two launched Nike Corporation,



Golf tournament at Rogue Valley Country Club, circa 1929. SOHS Photo #11877

putting Oregon on the corporate map.

In the 1930s, the Rogue Valley was also on Hollywood's map. Tinsel Town luminaries like Clark Gable, Ginger Rogers, Zane Grey [see the related article on page 9], and Herbert Hoover lauded the Rogue River for its beauty and fabulous fishing opportunities.

Even theater played a recreational role during this period. Although the Oregon Shakespeare Festival seems the pinnacle of culture, its inception was a little less high-minded. Officially born on July 2, 1935, with a production of "Twelfth Night," the City of Ashland was sure that nobody would pay the admission fees just to see a play. To attract customers, Angus Bowmer was forced to feature daytime, onstage boxing matches. The first plays covered the festival's expenses, also absorbing the costs of the fistfights, which were a royal flop.

In 1938, down at the Smokehouse Lanes in Medford, Audrey Swoape and Zola Sims were hatching the region's first women's bowling league. "There weren't many sports for women then," Swoape told the *Medford Mail Tribune* in 1988. "Bowling was just for men. The bowling alleys were more like pool halls."

Purchased by Sims and husband Earl, the Smokehouse Lanes became Medford Bowling Alleys and the Medford Women's Bowling Association

was founded in 1941. Swoape piled up eight state titles between 1946 and 1968 and in 1957 became a member of the Oregon State Women's Bowling Association Hall of Fame. Both women bowled high scores of 249.

WWII Era

"In the war years, every community began to identify with schools as a source of community pride, so football, basketball, and baseball teams became a civic focus," Mullen says.

Patriotic loyalty to school teams reached such a feverish pitch that any slurs against players or sports were dealt swift discipline. Responding to opinions that Rogue Valley's high schools focused too sharply on athletics, sports columnist Arthur Perry had this to say in a 1947 *Medford Mail Tribune* column about the boys who played on the Medford High School's football team, the Black Tornado: "In areas where high school rivalry is keen and has community support, the question of the youth's eligibility to play is gone over with a fine-tooth curry comb, looking for flaws in his simon-purity. No matter how broad his shoulders, he better be up with his arithmetic, etc., etc. Under the present set-up there is not much chance for simon-skulduggery."

Not to be outdone by high school students, some businesses also started

baseball clubs, the most famous being the Cheney Lumber Company's Cheney Studs in Central Point.

Mellower competition could be found in the 1940s at the new Bowling Center in Medford, which promised "healthful, pleasant fun at reasonable prices" while playing "Duck pin bowling! ...the grandest sport of all!" Advertisements in a 1941 *Medford Mail Tribune* for this short-lived sport featured illustrations of beskirted ladies in high-heeled pumps enjoying "a game for all the family to enjoy ... in clean, wholesome surroundings!"

1950s and Early 1960s

As life in the Fifties became more regimented, schools continued to put forth increasingly competitive teams. Organized sporting events provided exercise for younger people and entertainment for the older generations, all the while instilling an attitude of home-based loyalty and rivalry.

In Southern Oregon, this meant towns pitting against one another. "The famous Ashland-Medford competition is less a sports competition and more a lifestyle competition, not that Ashland didn't have a couple tremendous runs," says Mullen. For the most part, the real school competition came from the rail-

Andy Maurer: From Quarterback to Community Leader

by Jennifer L. Strange

THE YEAR WAS 1966 when Prospect High School student Andy Maurer was awarded prep All-American honors in football and basketball. Along with the notoriety came a football scholarship to the University of Oregon, where “Big Andy” made his name as a wide receiver and tight end.

By that time, he’d heard it over and over: Could this great big guy from that tiny little town in Oregon make it as an All-American high school quarterback? Could he make it in the college league?

“The kids don’t even know I was anything,” Andy says. “Every once in a while they’ll find me on a bubblegum card or on a game site and they’re like, ‘Wow, Coach, you really were something.’”

and sensibility,” Andy says. “Then I’d go play the season wherever. That’s how we survived those pro football years.”

Upon his retirement from the NFL, Andy committed himself to getting involved in the community that had supported him. “I looked around and discovered I wasn’t a celebrity here and that it was time to earn a living,” he remembers.

Coaching football seemed a natural solution, leading Andy to Shady Cove. There, he “learned how to coach” while working with the grade school football team for three years. The experience served Andy well, landing him next at South Medford High as freshman football coach for the Panthers, where he was tutored by head coach Dennis Murphy.

“After that the Cascade Christian High School in Jacksonville decided to create a football program,” recounts Andy. “They called me up and I assumed I’d coach for a couple years, make everybody mad and they’d fire me, but I’m still there. I’ve been there for 16 years.”

During his tenure, the Cascade Challengers have grown into the team to beat. Last season, they were the undefeated Southern Cascade League champions. “We were nine and 0. That’s as humble and sweet as I can put it,” says the coach with a chuckle.

Applying the same values to his players as he does to himself, Andy holds the team up to high standards. “I measure success on how they do in their life. If they raise a good family, hold down a job, do well, that’s victory, otherwise it’s just a scoreboard thing,” he says.

To him, the learning curve, the grit and grimaces of the team sport and the life experience are worth more than a trophy. “I don’t particularly care about winning and losing,” he says. “I’ve won and I’ve lost, but the journey of taking a bunch of young kids to the end of the senior year is worth it. Every little thing you have in football—that’s what you feed on, what we live for.”

What about the fame? The celebrity? The fortune? “The kids don’t even know I was anything,” Andy says. “Every once in a while they’ll find me on a bubblegum card or on a game site and they’re like, ‘Wow, Coach, you really were something.’ But fame is fleeting. Investing in those kids and enjoying the community? That’s my life.”

“Then it was, ‘Can he make it in the big league?’ It was always the same question,” says Andy of his nine years in the NFL. “I guess the answer was yes.” From 1970 to 1978, Andy was an offensive lineman for the Minnesota Vikings, the San Francisco 49ers and the Denver Broncos. Twice – with the Vikings in 1971 and with the Broncos three years later – he played in the Superbowl, the second time marking the first winning Superbowl ever for the Denver team.

“Blocking was what I did best, getting big and being able to move big,” Andy says of his shift from quarterback to lineman. “My talents matched up with the game at that level so I played there.”

While he loved the game, Andy discovered that he wasn’t a “big city kid” while living in Atlanta during his first year in the NFL. He moved back to the Rogue Valley, setting up a home base in Medford. “It was easier to stay here and have some kind of security



Two members of the Dairy Maids getting ready for a game. SOHS Photo #20089

road town Klamath Falls, the timber town Grants Pass, and the rising industrial town of Medford, with Central Point starting to make its mark.

Since humans can’t always be contained within a set of rules, the Fifties and early Sixties also saw some rebellion—usually on four wheels. The place to go was “Avenue G,” where “on occasion the cops would cordon off the street, call it a drag strip and let the kids have it” for drag racing, said an undated *Medford Mail Tribune* story.

Racing was part of a larger societal shift that left people searching for gender roles in an increasingly industrial and regimented culture, says Professor Mullen. “Chuck Berry writes about drag racing and James Dean basically used a car to vie for Natalie Woods in *Rebel Without a Cause*. In effect, the car becomes a masculine symbol just like the horse was for knights and cowboys.”

For those who could afford it, this time period offered newly elite sports that harkened to days when an outdoor life was de rigeur. Area country clubs were visited by well-heeled golfers and tennis players. More fresh air was available at Mt. Ashland’s nascent ski slopes, which opened in the early Fifties and was officially established in 1963.

And no discussion of sports and recreation would be complete without mention of Dick Fosbury, the Medford High School sophomore who placed fourth in the high jump at the April 20, 1963,

“Although his mark was a relatively unimpressive 5'-11", how he jumped would carry him to the Olympic gold medal and revolutionize the technique of every high jumper in the world.”

Grants Pass High annual Rotary Track Meet. Although his mark was a relatively unimpressive 5'-11", how he jumped would carry him to the Olympic gold medal and revolutionize the technique of every high jumper in the world.

The “Fosbury Flop”—an ungainly display of running in a circular pattern, jumping off the “wrong foot” in the old straddle style, going over the bar head first instead of with the lead leg and with his back

parallel to the ground—netted him a winning height of 7'-4 ¼" in the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

Although there weren't many opportunities for female athletes in this era that found women embracing traditional family roles, Southern Oregon gave birth to some rebels. The Rogue Valley Dairy Maids, a women's softball team, made waves by winning the Northwest Women's League State Championship in 1958, 1961, and 1963. The team's noteworthy talent helped pave the way for future female sportsters, according to Mullen. “For the time it was uncharacteristic of the usual gender roles and we can see now that it was an expression of the changes to come.”

Late 1960s through the 1980s

Southern Oregon could apparently take only so much conformity. By the late 1960s, Rogue Valley residents were chomping at the bit for something new on the recreation horizon. They didn't have to look very far.

Within a decade, recreationists could choose from a whole scoreboard of options: Sled dog racing at the annual



Dick Fosbury performing the famous “flop” during a meet at Southern Oregon College, circa 1965. Photo used with permission of Dick Fosbury.

Diamond Lake Oregon Carpet Exchange Championship; SCUBA Diving in Lost Creek Lake; roller skating under the disco lights at Medford Skate University; playing racquetball at Medford Superior Courts and Wallbangers Raquetball Club, both opened in 1978; go-karting at a three-quarter mile track at the Jackson County Sports Park; lawn bowling for a dime on an official green in Grants Pass in 1969; sailing in the 1979 El Toro North American Championship Regatta at Howard Prairie Lake; practicing karate; or skateboarding at the Rogue Valley High Tide Skate Park in North Medford—the area's first skate park. And don't forget fencing, which took off in Southern Oregon when three of the west coast's fencing masters (Gay D'Asaro, Michael D'Asaro, and Charlie Selberg) moved to the Colestin Valley in the late 1970s.

“Dressage” – learning to ride horses with style – was popular with girls whose parents were looking to direct their daughters' attention away from boys. And for boys who liked horses, there was roping.

Then there were the cars and cycles.

Drag racing, stock car racing, and bracket racing all gained speed at Medford Raceway. Back in the Jacksonville hills, “men riding machines of all sizes, makes and colors, stormed up the hill all afternoon, presenting a scene of noise, thrills, spills and excitement,” said a March 26, 1967 *Medford Mail Tribune* article about a motorcycle “hillclimb.”

Also searching for air were the era's skysport enthusiasts. Hang gliding was launched from the top of Woodrat Mountain near

Ruch by Jeff Van Datta, a forklift driver from Grants Pass. Fascinated by the idea, Van Datta ordered some blueprints from California, invested \$300 in materials and long-distance phone calls, and built a hang glider in his back yard from duct tape, plastic, and aluminum tubing. In 1976, Van Datta started the Rogue Valley Hang Gliding Association, became a certified instructor and by 1981 had taught more than 400 people how to glide.

Closer to the ground were the runners. A trend largely credited to Medford track legend Bob Newland, who developed his revolutionary “interval training” technique as a high school track star in the Rogue Valley and then delivered it all over the world, running as a sport sprinter from the gates in the 1970s. Following the 1976 Olympics, Southern Oregon became home to the Stagecoach Road Run and the Pear Blossom Run, two races that are still growing today.

Team sports also blossomed. In 1970 alone, Jackson County had three high school football teams in state championship finals for the second successive year and two baseball clubs got state mantles. Jackson County Softball Association pres-

“As Southern Oregon’s wide-reaching baby boomer generation continues to age, there’s plenty of support for classes, books, and activities that promise greater health and longevity.”

ident Ben Fagone got permission from the Medford City Council to expand the facilities at Jackson Park to include two baseball diamonds.

The Ashland High School girls volleyball team—the Lady Bears—built an empire under coach Betty Kimball during this era, winning five titles in their first 10 years and sweeping to a 12-0 conference record in 1973, their first year. Enthusiasm for the sport spread, with Southern Oregon Volleyball Camp, founded by SOSOC volleyball program head Jo Widness. The camp, with Kimball serving as director of coaches, brought volleyball to 120 girls and women every year.

Coach Bill Riehm, who took over Southern Oregon State College’s undistinguished wrestling program in 1969, turned it into a major player, winning the school’s first “triple crown” in 1978. The sport also caught on in area high schools. Marty Ryan of Central Point’s Crater High was a standout who went on to be Oregon State’s premier 177-pounder for five years as of 1981.

Are you exhausted yet? Even famous Medford square dance caller Jerry Bradley was booked solid through the entire 1980s, for goodness sake!

1990s and the Dawn of the 21st Century

As more and more affluent people—many dreaming of a quiet life with little pollution and myriad outdoor opportunities—have poured into Southern Oregon, the region’s recreational base has become increasingly specialized and even profit-oriented. Similar to the 20th-century trend of country clubs and other recreational venues that emulated an evermore elusive en plein air lifestyle, a number of today’s hobbies are expensive undertakings such as guided fishing, luxury camping trips, and elaborate rafting adventures. “I call these recreation-based sports as opposed to



Crossing the finish line at Medford’s first Pear Blossom Run, 1977. Photo by Alton R. Hanscom. SOHS Photo #20092.

team sports and as far as what I can see today, there is this tremendous crossover to the former,” says Monty Cartwright, former athletic director and track and cross country coach at Southern Oregon University and recently retired associate professor of health and physical education. “Although there’s still fan interest in high school sports and team sports, we’ve lost our baseball club and it seems more people love to bike, rock climb, raft ... which all fall under the umbrella of what we call sport.”

This shift to more individualized recreation reflects society’s growing interest in the connection between lifestyle and wellness. As Southern Oregon’s wide-reaching baby boomer generation continues to age, there’s plenty of support for classes, books, and activities that promise greater health and longevity. In just the last quarter-century, the Rogue

Valley’s fitness awareness has bubbled over from a smattering of YMCA facilities to a fitness center popping up in nearly every neighborhood.

But all is not lost for diehard fans and players of traditional team sports. As long as the area’s middle school, high school, and college-level physical education programs continue to flourish, Cartwright predicts the grandstands will remain full. “There’s even talk about bringing a professional basketball team to the Rogue Valley,” he says.

And Cartwright knows what he’s talking about. As SOU’s Athletics Director from 1995 to 2001, he masterminded the Raiders’ most prolonged era of success. Between 1997 and 2003, each of the university’s 12 sports teams achieved top-25 national rankings, including the 2001 NAIA wrestling championship, advancing to the 1997 Final Four in women’s basketball, earning two football playoff berths, and winning a grand total of 18 conference championships. Cartwright’s induction into conference and regional Halls of Fame were due to his expertise as the school’s track and cross country coach from 1985 to 1998.

What’s he doing today? Writing a book called *Aging and The Athletic Mind Attitude* and wishing his knees felt good enough to go for a jog—hey, that’s its own form of recreation, isn’t it?

JENNIFER L. STRANGE is a freelance writer and marketing consultant.

SOCCER

by Louise A. Watson

For one month every four years, soccer fans—a least a third of the planet’s population by some estimates—stop what they are doing to watch the World Cup matches, soccer’s main event. As this is a World Cup year, we felt it only fitting to look at the ever-growing popularity of the sport here in the Rogue Valley

THE NOW FAMOUS LINE from the movie *Field of Dreams*, “If you build it, they will come,” might well describe the growth of youth soccer in the Rogue Valley since 1970.

Medford resident Aksel Andersen, a former semi-pro player, began the movement with Jim Lowrie at the local YMCA. In bad weather they played indoors and moved outdoors in the spring, playing just on the small field at McLaughlin Middle School with permission from the city. The player fee indoors was \$5 but it later went up and so Andersen and Lowrie decided to break off from the “Y” and start what would become the Rogue Valley Soccer Club (RVSC). At that time, they had just 44 kids—15 players on a team with 11 on the field at one time.¹

Andersen had already worked with Emeil Van Delden in Grants Pass in the 1950s to form the Grants Pass Soccer Club. Upon moving to Medford in 1966, he began playing with a group of kids in pickup games in Hawthorne Park. “The kids had a great time and more kept showing up all the time,” he says. “We had at least two games a week...”²

With turnout like that and more, Andersen, now retired, and his assistants could see how much regular soccer games would benefit the kids here in Medford. But he needed help and that came from parents as volunteer line-men, referees, equipment caretakers, and other jobs. In addition, community financial benefactors Jim Maddux, Dr. Robert Kaufman, Judge Loren Sawyer, Ed McIntyre, and others assisted the growing sports organization.³

Larry Crain, now an assistant junior varsity coach at Crater High School, was one of the parents who came forward to help in the fall of 1979. He characterized the group as “small to begin with but at the time we thought it was pretty big . . .



Greg Armus uses his head during soccer practice at Jacksonville Elementary School, circa 1990. Photo courtesy of Larry Smith.

there were 200-300 kids by 1980-1981.”⁴

At that time in the Medford area, kids had the opportunity of participating in baseball, “Y” basketball, gymnastics, swimming, and/or flag football. But those activities didn’t fit all of the boys or girls who wanted to play sports. Andersen believes some of those kids were attracted to soccer for more than one reason. “I think they got to the verve of playing a full game instead of waiting as in other games,” says Andersen.

Crain agrees. “Every kid participated and got to play,” he says, “got to be in on the action. I think the one thing the kids had was an involvement the whole time.”⁵

Soccer also contributes to the emotional and mental growth of a player, Andersen says. “The game of soccer encourages kids to grow into themselves.” Crain believes the 1994 World Cup, held at several venues in the United States, mirrored the interest shown locally.⁶

In the beginning, Andersen, Crain, parents, and game volunteers worked

to get soccer into the schools but without immediate success. So, for three years, Andersen and others subsidized the costs for balls, nets, uniforms, travel, referees, goalposts, and other costs. In the fall of 1983, their quest was successful and four varsity and two junior varsity teams went into what is now North Medford High School. Although more and more kids were playing and teams were forming throughout the Rogue Valley Soccer Club, the high school affiliation really cemented the popularity here, according to Sam Reitz, former official and registrar. He helped RVSC gain official non-profit status in 1983-84 and become associated with the Oregon Youth Soccer organization.

For the past 13 years, Memorial Day Weekend here has found players, coaches, referees, parents, and other supporters participating in the Rogue Valley Cup Soccer Tournament. Mike Dunn, tournament director, got involved in soccer when he moved here in 1987. During the tournament, 150 teams from five states are on 18 fields in three venues from Medford to Ashland—almost 3,000 players in all.⁷

Today, according to Dunn, youth soccer in the valley has come into its own and now involves 185 teams playing on a routine basis throughout the year, both recreationally and competitively, with participants ranging in ages from kindergarten through 12th grade.

LOUISE A. WATSON is a freelance writer living in Medford, Oregon.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Author interview with Aksel Andersen, May 24, 2006.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Author’s phone interview with Larry Crain, June 1, 2006.
- ⁵ Ibid, May 24, 2006 and June 1, 2006.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Author’s phone interview with Mike Dunn, May 26, 2006.

GYMNASTICS

by Mercedes Binh Ly

THE SPORT OF GYMNASTICS originated in ancient Greece more than 2,000 years ago, although the exercises and some of the apparatus were used in ancient China and India for medical purposes much earlier. Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, a German educator who was known as the father of gymnastics, invented several apparatus, including the horizontal bar and parallel bars, which are used in present day competitions.

In the 1830s, immigrants Charles Beck, Charles Follen, and Francis Lieber introduced gymnastics to the United States and its school systems. The Bureau of the European Gymnastics Federation, which later evolved into the International Gymnastics Federation, was formed in 1881 opening the way for international competition. The sport was included as part of the 1896 Summer Olympics, but women weren't allowed to participate in the Olympics until 1928. The U.S. women first competed in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Women's artistic gymnastics is a discipline in which competitors perform short routines, ranging from approximately 30 to 90 seconds on different apparatuses. These include the uneven parallel bars, balance beam, floor exercise and vault. Artistic gymnastics is a more popular spectator sport than it is a popular participant sport, since performing many of the elements requires a high level of fitness, skill, and training.

The earliest champions in women's gymnastics were women in their twenties who had studied ballet for years before entering the sport. But that changed in the 1970s, when the average age of Olympic gymnastics competitors began to gradually decrease. It wasn't uncommon for girls in their teens to

compete, as the gymnastics elements grew increasingly more difficult and smaller, lighter girls excelled in the more challenging acrobatic elements required by the sport.

Despite the 1980 decision to raise the minimum age limit for major international senior competition from fourteen



The author (right) and her two sisters, Jasmine Hoa (left) and Ni (center), as members of the Ashland Stars, circa 1987. Photo courtesy of the author.

to fifteen, most of the elite competitors at the 1992 Olympics were "pixies"—underweight, prepubescent teenage girls, which raised concerns about the athletes' health. In 1997 the minimum age requirement was raised yet again to sixteen, thus enabling older gymnasts to return to competition. Although the average elite female gymnast is still in her mid to late teens and of below average height and weight, it is not uncommon to see gymnasts these days competing well into their twenties and early thirties.

The Rogue Valley's first big district gymnastics meet was held in 1972, and for the first time almost every school in Southern Oregon was represented. Phoenix High School coach Mary

Callahan, the leader in developing girls' gymnastics in Southern Oregon at the time, organized the district meet, which she said went extremely well.

In 1981, brothers Richard and Jim Bell, and Mike Zapp, all former competitive gymnasts, bought the Ashland Gymnastics Club, housed in the Ashland Armory, from Mary Dew with the intention of producing a world-class gymnast.

The three southern California men determined Ashland was the ideal place to develop a gymnastics program that was as good or better as any in the country. Some of the determining factors included having enough professional people who had the income to support the gymnastics program; the town had the right atmosphere; the kids were enthusiastic; and the recreational opportunities were readily available.

The club also played host to the Oregon State Class III Gymnastics Championships at Ashland Senior High that year where more than 100 gymnasts from 15 clubs throughout the state competed in compulsory routines on the uneven parallel bars, balance beam, floor exercise, and vault. Presently, the Ashland Family YMCA offers

the longest-standing gymnastics program in the area, according to gymnastics director Tammy Johnson.

Women's artistic gymnastics has gained popularity over several decades and continues to do so through televised coverage of the sport. No doubt, millions will tune in to watch the women's gymnastics events at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

MERCEDES BINH LY is a former competitive gymnast and freelance writer living in Ashland, Oregon.

SKIING

by Jennifer Brennock Buckner

WITH THE INVENTION of the rope tow in the late 1930s downhill skiing became all the rage and its popularity grew steadily for more than a decade. Then came World War II and recreational skiing all but came to a halt.

However, soldiers overseas were being assigned to alpine infantry units like the famous 10th Mountain Division that did its patrolling on skis. When the war ended many veterans of the 10th and others came home to become ski instructors and resort operators. They reinvigorated the sport by bringing home with them better equipment and techniques.

In the Rogue Valley in the 1950s, the “Rogue Snowmen” was a local ski club with a lot of energy and three portable rope tows. Club members would take a tow with them on elaborate trips into the surrounding woods in search of downhill thrills.

“It was really hard work,” explains Barbara Hanel of Medford, whose husband Jack was in the Rogue Snowmen and a member of the volunteer ski patrol on Mt. Ashland for 23 years. “I guess we’d probably start to ski around noon, and quit by 3:00 or 4:00 because it would be getting dark soon.”

The Snowmen were allowed to leave a rope tow post buried under six feet of snow at Crater Lake. When they arrived to ski they would have to dig it out and pack down the snow on the slope. The dues for the club were \$5. The money collected bought gas for the rope tow motor.

“[When I started to ski] there weren’t any lessons and you were successful if you made it to the bottom without falling,” says Hanel. “Because everybody

else was doing it, you had to do it too.”

Hanel, still an avid skier who can be seen at Mt. Ashland more than once a week during the season, remembers that there were also other private property rope tows at that time.

“There was a rope tow up at Union Creek that was maintained by local



Terry Tibbutt uses the towrope at Mt. Ashland, 1964.
SOHS Photo #20091

people, and in Lakeview there was an electric rope tow,” she says. “There was a private slope on the back road to Callahan’s that was known only by word of mouth.”

Of course you didn’t have to be a member of a ski club to have had great adventures in the snow. Stewart McCollom of Ashland, for example, began making his own skis in grade school, back in the 1930s.

“Sometimes we’d use barrel staves from big oak barrels,” he says. “They were about four feet long. You’d soak them, to straighten them, and make a point on the end.” For bindings, he would use bicycle inner tubes snipped in two and held behind the heel with a strong clothespin. “We fell at almost every turn,” he says.

In 1951, Dan Bulkley of Phoenix, Oregon, was the director of the Physical Education Department of Southern Oregon State College. He taught the school’s first skiing classes, which had about 12-15 students in them. They would all drive in the

back of a pickup to the Siskiyou Summit where they would set up a rope tow.

“I’d sign up the kids according to who could fit the boots,” explains Bulkley, who first skied himself as a college student in 1940.

Before 1965 the only automobile access to Mt. Ashland was the Mt.

Ashland Loop Road, beginning above Lithia Park. Only one-way traffic was allowed on the narrow road. Cars went uphill in the mornings and downhill in the afternoons.

“There are many happy stories of the late ‘50s--everybody stopping in the road if they got stuck on their way down,” says Ada Rivera, Guest Services Manager, Ski Ashland. “It was a social event just to get there.”

In 1963 the roof of the Mt. Ashland lodge was hoisted into place with the help of a large crane. Soon, the ski resort was up and running.

“It was a tight little group of people who really believed that having a ski area there would be a good idea. They made it happen,” says Rivera. “When the lodge was built it was very bare bones – a simple facility with a concrete floor and not much heat.”

Today, Mt. Ashland draws an average of 85,000 visits from skiers and snowboarders per season. Many of them are loyal and longtime patrons returning to its slopes.

“We have a significant number of skiers in their 70s or 80s,” says Rivera. “It’s wonderful to see these folks who skied here before the lodge was even built, still coming up today.”

“I still try to get up there a couple times a year,” says Bulkley. “I guess I got hooked.”

JENNIFER BRENNOCK BUCKNER is a freelance writer living in Jacksonville, Oregon.



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Member Profile

WHEN A.L. CLAY MOVED TO MEDFORD from Medford in 1945 (that is to say, from Medford, Oklahoma to Medford, Oregon), the Rogue Valley gained a future high school sports star.

A.L. went on to excel at Medford High School in football and basketball, and, somewhat reluctantly, track and field. Back then, coach Bill Bowerman had a requirement that if you wanted to play football, you also had to join the track team. After a disastrous attempt at the low hurdles – “I knocked down every single hurdle,” A.L. recalls – he took up the discus and shot put. “Coach Bowerman’s back yard and my back yard adjoined, and sometimes he would come by and we would put the shot together.”

Bowerman, who went on to fame as track coach at the University of Oregon and as originator of the waffle-designed running shoe that was the inception of Nike, was an innovator even back in his high school coaching days. A.L. remembers Bowerman’s experiments in designing special shoes for the high school high jumpers and sprinters.

A.L. eventually married his high school classmate, (Duane) Carol Maddox and became a dentist. His athletic interests turned to tennis and skiing, sports he enjoys to the present.

How did Dr. Clay become involved with SOHS? “By the time our son Scott was twelve years old, he knew just about every old, historical house in the valley,” according to Dr. Clay. Once, the family drove by the historic Pierce-Phipps House being torn down at the corner of Crater Lake Avenue and East Main Street in Medford. “That’s progress,” commented A.L.

“No, Dad, it’s not!” objected young Scott passionately. “They should have found a way to preserve it, or at least move it to another spot, not just tear it down.” This was a turning point for Dr. Clay. He soon joined SOHS to support the organization’s efforts to sustain our local heritage.



A.L. Clay and his wife, Duane

“When historical buildings and artifacts are lost, we lose part of our lives,” he says. “It’s very important to keep alive our past and have it be a form of guidance for the future.”

Scott Clay pursued his childhood passion in preserving old buildings, and now serves as City Planner and Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Jacksonville, where he takes a lead role in maintaining the historic nature of the town. When he was twenty-five years old, Scott joined the SOHS Board of Trustees, and served two terms. A.L.’s wife, Duane, supports history in her own right as an SOHS volunteer and a member of the Gold Diggers Guild, the organization that raises funds for SOHS.

Thanks to SOHS members like A.L., Duane, and Scott Clay, the history of the Rogue Valley is more likely to endure and provide, in Dr. Clay’s words, “guidance for the future.” What inspires *you* to support SOHS? Please let us know your story by calling Richard at 541-773-6536 ext. 226, or e-mailing development@sohs.org.

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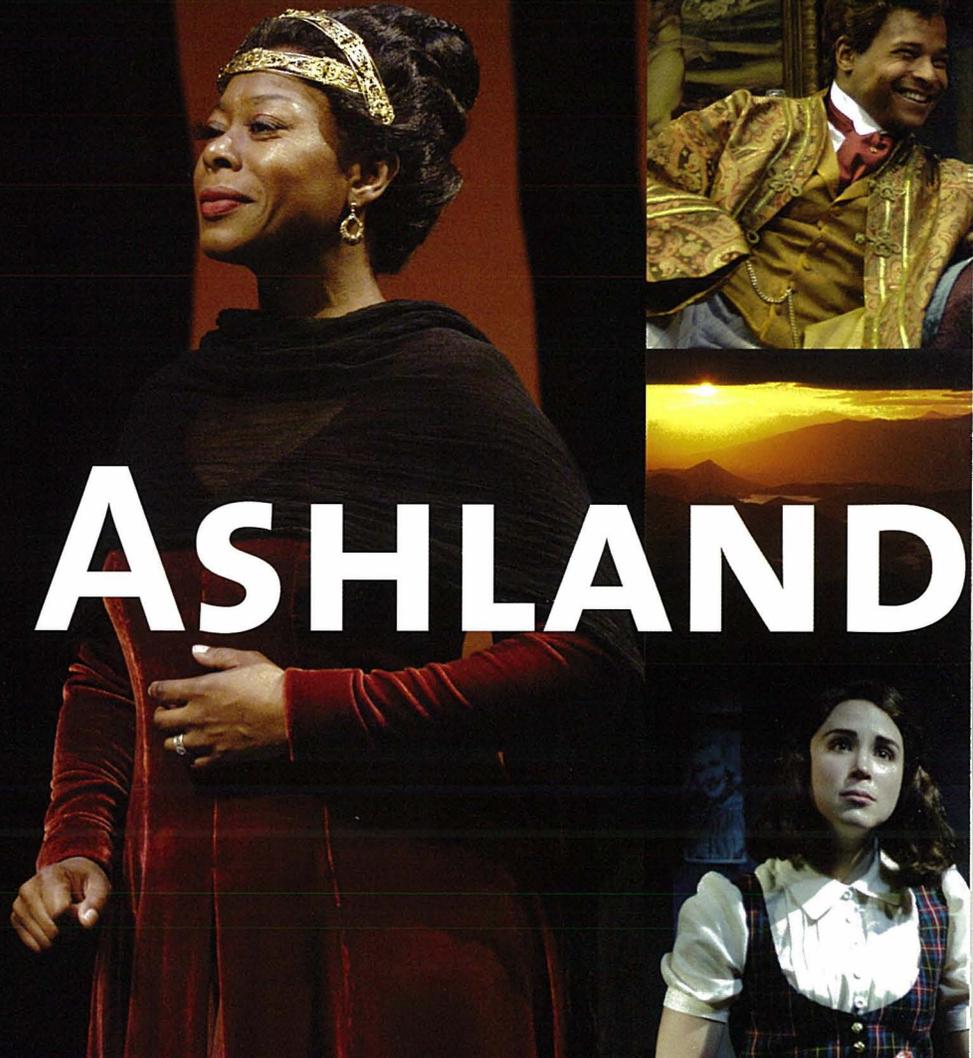
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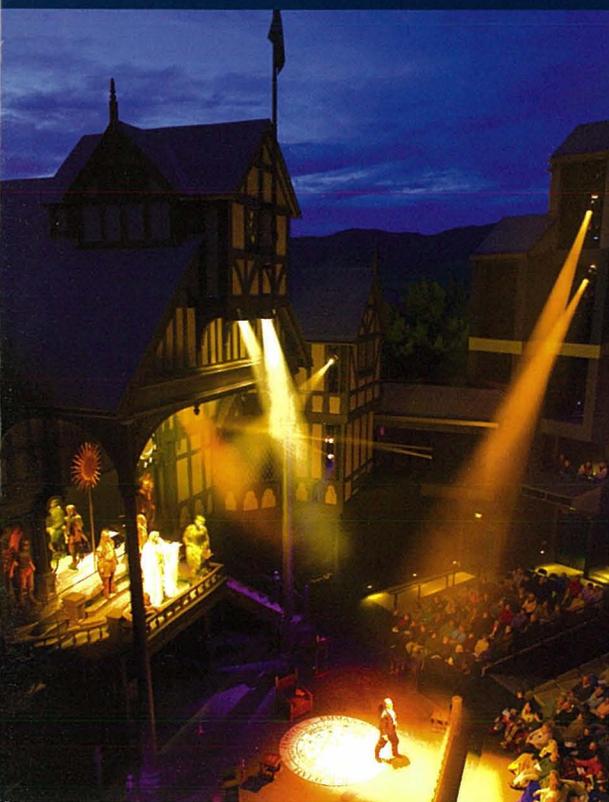
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Southern Oregon University rowers on Emigrant Lake. Photo courtesy Ashland Rowing Club

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