

# THE SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER



## WOMEN ON THE HOME FRONT

by Sharon Bywater

*Southern Oregon women have a multitude of choices for their careers, thanks in part to the work done by the pioneering women of World War I and World War II.*

During World War I and World War II, the whole country went into high gear. While men fought overseas, women were left to plow fields, pick fruit, drive trucks, fly planes and manage households. Southern Oregon women were no exception. They helped win the wars by working on the home front in all walks of life.

Over two million American men were sent to fight in Europe during World War I. Women were left behind to manage families, till the farms and work in factories. Members of the Women's Land Army, an organization first created in England, were known as "farmerettes." They raised food and livestock, often driving tractors and working with other heavy equipment.

The American Women's Land Army established a local headquarters at the Holloway Orchard, located between Talent and Phoenix. Young women

could stay at the camp and be sent out to work in any orchard in the area.

While some women worked on local farms and ranches, others managed them. When "Mrs. Holloway," owner

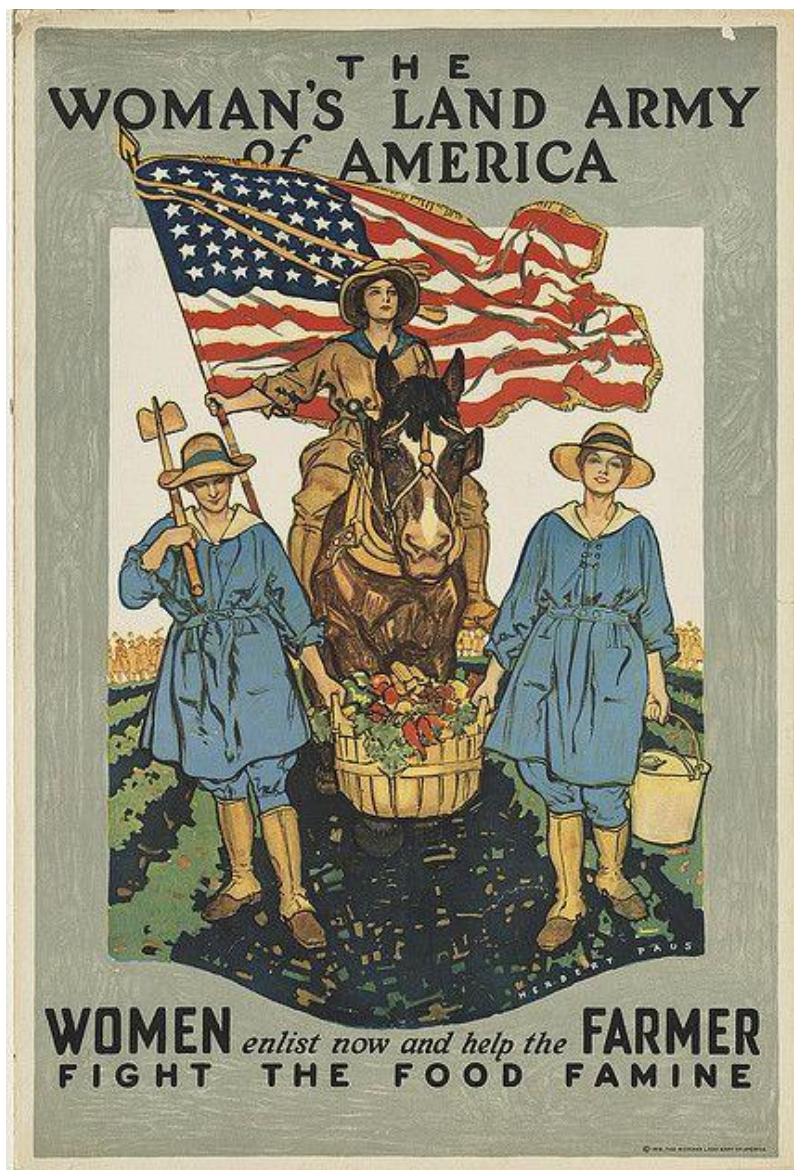
of the Holloway orchard, lost her foreman to war duty, she had to take over the job herself. At first intimidated, she later said, "Now I know that if my foreman leaves me, I can handle things myself... What I have done any woman can do with strength, good health and a love for hard work and the great outdoors."

A woman identified as "Mrs. J.E. Bodge" became known as the "barley queen" for her work managing her Jackson County farm. She did everything from milking the cows and plowing the fields to hiring and overseeing farm workers.

Similarly, Ms. Alice Hanley had managed Hanley Farm in Central Point for years, but she was short of help during World War I. Undaunted, she continued to manage the farm while raising enough cattle, pigs and

sheep to help feed the local population. Today, Hanley Farm is owned by the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

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## HOME FRONT

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In addition to farming, women were instrumental in sending clothing to European countries in need, including Belgium, where people were near starvation. They also made surgical dressings and prepared meals for soldiers passing through the area. In Jacksonville, Ruby Wilcox and Grace Kenschelow took the place of two local bakers who went off to war.

As the war progressed, more and more American women joined the military as nurses, clerical workers, and mechanics, even though they were not technically enlisted or drafted. After the war, women were expected to return to the home as men came back from the battlefield, but the war created new career opportunities for women that never completely disappeared.

During World War II, women were again actively recruited for non-traditional jobs. In Southern Oregon, women did everything from picking pears to working on road crews. Although the battles were far from their daily lives, they enthusiastically pitched in wherever they were needed. Interviews tell us that women liked

their new jobs, not only for the money they earned, but also because they wanted to help the war effort. The interviews also provide a glimpse into daily life in Southern Oregon during wartime.

Virginia Westerfield had just begun teaching band in Rogue River when the war broke out. She lived in Medford with her parents and boarded during the week in Rogue River. She remembered using rationing books to buy staples such as sugar and coffee. Gas and tires were also rationed to keep people from driving for pleasure. It was also hard to find leather, so shoes were often “soled” with cardboard. Westerfield thought that rationing kept people from hoarding and assured that everyone had a fair share.

Everyone had a role. Westerfield’s mother was a volunteer air warden who sat on top of City Hall with binoculars, looking out for enemy planes. Gardner said, “None came over, but they were ready.” Her grandmother, in her 50s at the time, worked as a “paint boss” on the Pacific Coast Highway

maintenance crew. She likened her grandmother and others like her to “Rosie the Riveter,” the WWII iconic woman who worked on airplanes.

Ashland resident Helen Gardener worked as a coach cleaner, cleaning railroad cars. She also picked pears at various orchards because of the shortage of male workers. She remembered putting dark shades over the house windows at night as practice in case of an air raid.



**Ginger Rogers sells War bonds.**

Celebrities, including Central Point ranch owner Ginger Rogers, sold war bonds. Those who didn’t have enough money to buy a bond could buy a few cents’ worth of stamps until they had enough for a bond.

In addition to filling civilian jobs left vacant by the war, some 350,000 American women served in the armed forces during WWII as nurses, and in organizations such as the WACs (Women’s Army Corps), WAVEs (Navy Women’s Reserve), and WASPs (Women Air Force Service Pilots). In Southern Oregon, many women joined these new organizations.

Mary Jean Barnes Sturdevant, of Phoenix, Oregon, joined the WASPs in 1944 after learning to fly at Medford airport. Subsequently, she trained male Air Force recruits to fly fighter planes in battle. Of the more than

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1,000 WASP flyers during WWII, 38 died while flying on the home front. One, Paula Loop, died when her plane crashed shortly after taking off on a transport mission in the mountains just north of Medford.

Perhaps the biggest change to the Southern Oregon home front during WWII was the construction, in one year, of Camp White. Completed in August 1942, Camp White was a training facility for soldiers going to fight overseas. It contained 1,300 buildings and housed nearly 40,000 soldiers, nurses, employees and volunteers from all parts of the country.

One can only imagine the effect Camp White had on the city of Medford, whose population was only 11,000 at the time. The *Medford Mail Tribune* reported that “abnormal demands upon Medford’s water supply, due to the needs of Camp White, should be taken into consideration by victory garden planters.”

While they provided jobs for the local economy, the sheer number of soldiers was a challenge. They reportedly walked four and five abreast on city sidewalks, making

local foot traffic difficult. Miles of open fields became firing ranges and military parade grounds.

Nurses were among the first women to arrive at Camp White. They were given basic military training in everything from firing a gun to crawling on their stomachs under barbed wire. In 1943, the first WACs arrived at Camp White doing a multitude of jobs from driving trucks to working in the Post Office. Many local women worked at Camp White doing everything from repairing uniforms and making sandwiches to boosting the morale of convalescent soldiers.

After the war, Camp White was slowly dismantled, rationing disappeared, and soldiers returned home victorious, thanks in part to the job done by women working behind the scenes. As in World War I, the women of World War II all took part by working in jobs outside the home, many for the first time. As historian Stephen Ambrose put it, “The contribution of the women of America, whether on the farm or in the factory or in uniform, to D-Day, was a sine qua non of the invasion effort.”

Although many women either had to or were expected to give up their jobs after WWII, the American workforce had changed forever.

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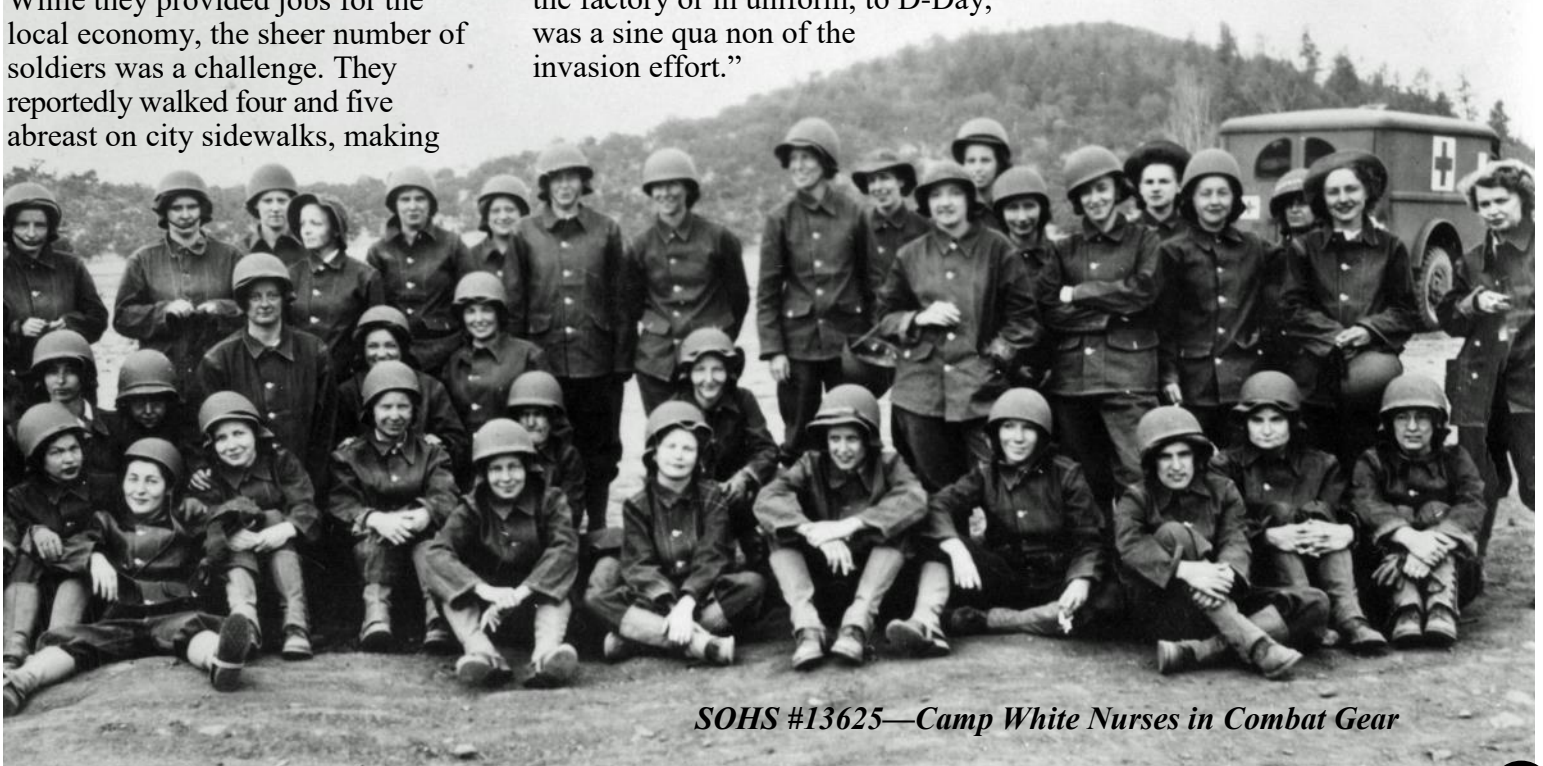
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*SOHS #13625—Camp White Nurses in Combat Gear*



# PEARS AND POWS

*By Lina Cordia*



It's harvest time in the Rogue Valley! Hemp and marijuana may be taking over from some of the Valley's more traditional crops, but when the United States entered World War II, pears, apples, and food crops prevailed. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, most of the harvest labor force was called into military service. However, crops still needed to be reaped, and the nation and Oregon struggled to find replacement workers to ensure the country's food supply and help supplement that of our military allies.

The U.S. began food rationing in 1942. That same year, it signed the Mexican Farm Labor Agreement creating the Bracero Program to bring Mexican workers to the U.S. to fill agricultural labor needs. In April 1943, Congress passed legislation to create the Emergency Farm Labor Program which allowed a variety of groups to work the land, including prisoners of war from Italy and Germany, people from the Caribbean, students, and women.

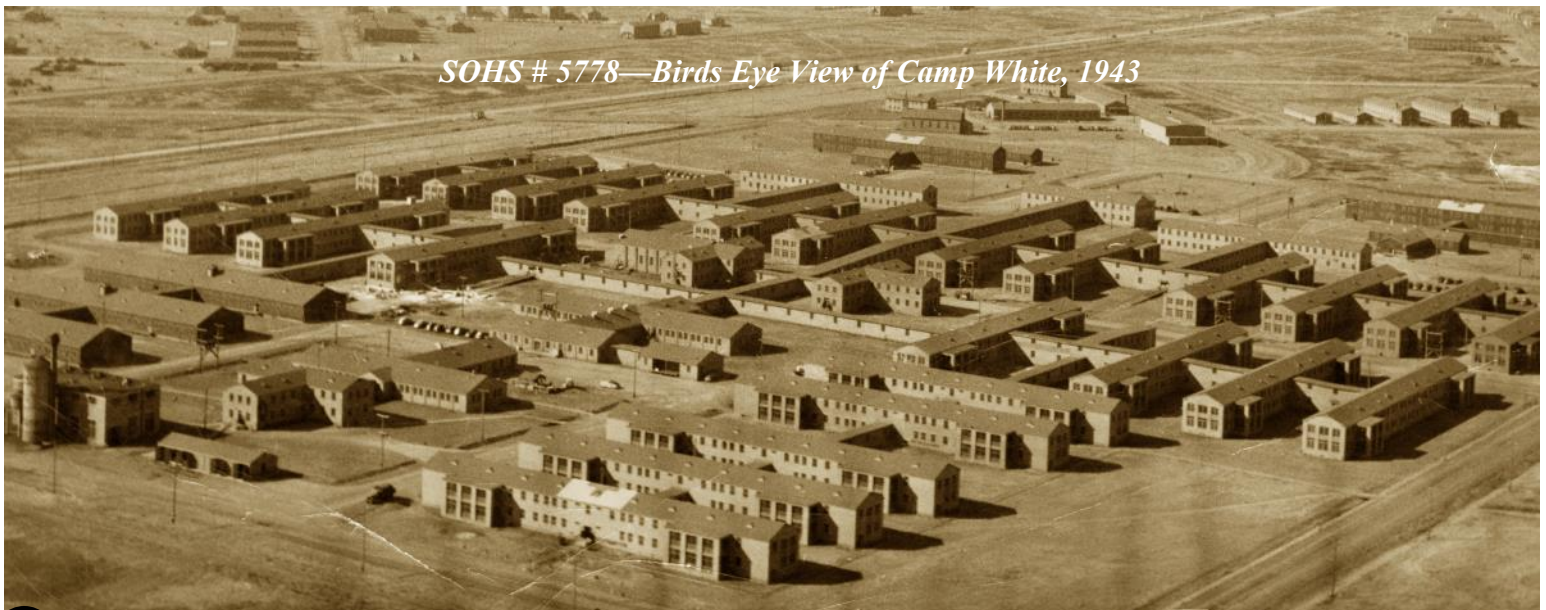
The Women's Land Army employed women to work on local farms. They learned on the job, spending anywhere from two-week vacations to summer seasons to full years on the job. They hoed, weeded, thinned, and harvested

crops of all kinds; supervised youth platoons; worked on poultry and dairy farms; and worked in canneries. Nearly 135,000 placements of women were made in Oregon from 1943 through 1947.

Youth 11 to 17 years of age, known as Victory Farm Volunteers, constituted another one of the largest single groups in the Emergency Farm Labor Service work force. Farmers would work with their county extension office's emergency farm labor assistant to get the necessary workers required. During the program's four and a half years, over 270,000 youth placements were made on Oregon's farms and in its food processing facilities. Farm work had an added benefit – the Extension Service's 1943 annual report stated that "the Victory Farm Volunteers' movement has been pointed to by juvenile officers as having a very direct and beneficial effect upon juvenile delinquency problems."

From 1944 to 1946, over 3,517 prisoners of war, mostly Germans, were utilized on Oregon farms. Although they constituted a small percentage of the total number of farm  
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*SOHS # 5778—Birds Eye View of Camp White, 1943*



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labor placements, they provided valuable assistance throughout the state. In 1945 they harvested nearly a half million bushels of pears in Jackson County.

Camp White, today's White City, served as one of over 150 prisoner of war (POW) base camps in the United States during World War II and was one of the first POW camps on the West Coast. The massive complex contained more than 1,300 buildings within a nearly 44,000-acre cantonment. Dedicated in 1942, Camp White's purpose was to train Americans for European deployment. As recruits were shipped overseas, barracks were converted to house POWs. Little changed, except the addition of a double row of barbed-wire fencing.

Camp White's first 400-man POW contingent arrived on April 16, 1944. Camp White ultimately housed about 2,000 German POWs, out of approximately 425,000 Axis prisoners in the U.S. The War Department separated card-carrying Nazis, perceived as threats, from those who were less risky—compliant and ideologically malleable. Real Nazis, and officers, were segregated in secure camps elsewhere. Camp White held only enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

The War Department, principally responsible for POW oversight, sought clear guidelines to confront the challenges of administering their first large-scale POW program. The 1929 Geneva Convention served as a roadmap for POW policy, addressing the men's safety and their status as soldiers. This was key, because if German POWs suffered in American hands, the Germans would have reciprocated in their treatment of American soldiers. Under the Convention, neutral, civilian observers from the Swiss Legation had access to POW camps to ensure their proper treatment. POWs could also wear their uniforms, insignia of rank, and decorations, as well as send two letters and four postcards per month.

Despite wearing swastikas, few Camp White POWs identified as Nazis. They came from the North African and European fronts. They had fought in the Luftwaffe (air force), the Wehrmacht (army), and other specialized units. Thirteen, like 18-year-old Ernst Kuhn, hailed from the 999<sup>th</sup> Afrika Korps, which included concentration camp inmates. Their ages also varied, from 16 to 48, although the average POW was 27.5. While Camp White represents a typical camp structure, "there was really no such thing as the 'typical' prisoner of war experience," according to historian Arnold Krammer.



The men's diverse backgrounds led to remarkable interactions between POWs and their guards, and a cultural exchange between Jackson County residents and German prisoners. While wartime propaganda inspired a general fear of Nazi Germany and German soldiers, prisoner-resident interactions tended to be friendly. Germans shared their cultural traditions, food,

and history with their captors—regardless of their "enemy" status. Residents learned that despite differences in language and nationality, they were not so different.

An important piece of the Geneva Convention facilitated this cultural exchange. Camp White encouraged prisoners to engage in both education and sports, provided ample opportunities, and the German High Command supported these productive diversions. Some POWs gardened, cooked, painted, and even befriended the guard dogs. Many took English and other classes. YMCA-donated books, *The Oregonian*, *Life*, and the German-language *New Yorker Staats Zeitung* informed the men's understandings of the war and life in both Germany, and the U.S. Camp White's POWs produced their own journal as well, *Heimat*, meaning "homeland."

Though not required, hundreds chose to work, harvesting pears, potatoes, and more in local agriculture. Work

(PEARS AND POWS, continued on page 6)



## PEARS AND POWS

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brought the POWs into direct contact with locals beyond camp staff. Although POWs remained prisoners, most lived with relative freedom in their daily activities. Guards enforced security was lax. For example, a guard handed his gun to a POW to climb onto a truck transporting POWs to their work site, trusting his prisoner to safely return his rifle.

Another resident remembers being a teenager, harvesting pears, and hearing POWs working nearby singing German songs with armed soldiers watching, standing at ease. In Jackson County, 77 Germans helped harvest crops in 1944. In 1945, 300 harvested “nearly half a million bushels of pears” in the valley—close to 29 million pounds!

In a 2015 Oregon Public Broadcasting interview, Zaviye “Zee” Minear recalled contracting for POW labor for their pear harvest. In 1945, she and her husband Don tended 100s of acres of pear trees around Medford. “We were looking for laborers because so many of our young men were gone to war. We got the notice in the paper that we could use POWs to help in our harvest. Of course, they had never picked pears before, but that didn’t matter; we could teach them. So we signed up with the government for 12 prisoners of war to come and pick our pears.”

When it was time to get their assigned workers, Zee remembered a large group of men with POW clothes on. “The first one I saw was a huge German, and I laughingly said to my husband, ‘Oh, honey, I hope we don’t get that one in our group!’ They had a loudspeaker and called out ‘Don Minear—12 POWs.’ And guess what—the first one was that big red-haired man! But he was the best worker we ever had!”

Zee wasn’t afraid of the prisoners, and she thinks they felt the same. She recalls that the American guard who watched them didn’t even load his gun. In fact, the guard

only lasted one week. After that, the Minears just picked up the POWs every morning themselves.

“They were hard workers, and they turned out to be just people. We cried with them when they told us how they lost their families and their businesses. One young man had been shot twice and we talked him into letting us see his scars. They were just people like us.”

Between 1944 and 1946, over 3,000 POWs worked in Oregon agriculture. While POWs never represented the majority, their farm placements helped fill in critical shortages at peak harvest times. Per 1929 standards, POWs who chose to work earned \$0.80 per day, paid either in canteen coupons or deposited into trust accounts for after the war. In some cases, POWs left Camp White unaccompanied to work in Medford, with only the PW” on their outer clothing marking them as unfree. Some ventured farther, to harvest hops in Grants Pass, or to Klamath County to harvest potatoes.

Overall, Camp White’s POWs seemed pleased to spend the rest of the war in sleepy Southern Oregon. Some gave residents gifts or became postwar pen-pals. Their time here, however, was comparatively brief. The last POWs left in May 1946. They traveled first to Seattle, then New York, and finally embarked on ships to Europe.

Some eventually returned. Heinz Bertram, Otto Scholand, and Gerhard Wagner, for example, fled the descending Iron Curtain to settle permanently in the U.S. after living as POWs in Camp White. Bertram returned to Medford where he eventually established his upholstery business in a relocated Camp White building. According to historian George Kramer, when Bertram was asked if it wasn’t a little weird having his business in a building that could have once served as his own prison, he replied, “Well, at least I knew it was well-built!”

The hospitable treatment experienced by the German POWs stands in stark contrast to the brutal war that precluded their

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 presence. Their story allows a glimpse into some otherwise unlikely contacts between people from half a world away. At their core, ideologies such as Nazism did not necessarily define the men fighting under the fascist flag, and Camp White's POWs are better placed within the context of the men's humanity and adaptability, rather than the national ideologies of the time.

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# It's the 2019 SCARECROW FESTIVAL

October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
 11:00am-4:00pm

Hanley Farm, 1053 Hanley Road, Central Point



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 SOHS Members and Children 12 and under, \$3

#### Make A Scarecrow!

Decorate your yard or protect your garden! Build a full-size, straw stuffed scarecrow! All materials provided. SOHS members, \$10. Non-members, \$15.

#### Food & Drink

Available for purchase

#### People's Choice Awards

Vote for the best-looking scarecrow. Voting results announced: 3pm, October 6th.





# “FOLLOWING THE FLAG”

by Carolyn Kingsnorth

*Alice Applegate Sargent was a soldier's wife. Where “the flag” took her husband, Col. Herbert Howland Sargent, she followed him.*

Alice and Herbert had met and married in Klamath Falls in 1886. He was 28; she was six years his senior and had been married before. He was a newly commissioned Lieutenant fresh out of West Point, and Fort Klamath was his first posting. She was the daughter of pioneer explorer Lindsay Applegate and had grown up in the toll station on the mountain road over the Siskiyou. (See “Oregon’s Main Street” in *SOHS 2019 Summer Quarterly*.)

Alice had always found life exciting, but she had expected to find that excitement in Oregon and had vowed as a child never to leave it. As a military wife, life took her over much of the U.S. and many parts of the world. It was 32 years before she saw Oregon again.

She followed Herbert on all of his assignments—a rarity given that most military wives did not accompany their men. Her memoirs, *Following the Flag*, chronicled her experiences.

Fort Klamath was followed by a year’s posting in Illinois, Sargent’s home state, and then an assignment in northern California. Next was Fort Walla Walla in Washington, 500 miles away and a three-week horseback ride. Other duty stations followed in the desert Southwest and South, including a stint at Texas A&M where Herbert

was a Professor of Military Science and Tactics.

When the battleship U.S.S. Maine exploded and sank in the port of Havana in 1898

the bodies of yellow fever victims were being cremated. Then Herbert fell ill and lay for weeks at the point of death. Alice nursed him through those “days dark and dreary.”

Once recovered, Sargent was posted to the Philippines to oversee the insurgency that resulted from the Treaty of Paris whereby Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine Islands to the U.S. Of course, Alice went with him. While there, she served as correspondent for an Illinois newspaper, documenting living conditions in Manila for her readers.

Subsequent active duty assignments were interspersed with teaching posts since Herbert was also a teacher and the author of three highly acclaimed books on military science. His history of *The Campaign of Santiago de Cuba* earned him a special commendation from President Theodore Roosevelt, whose exploits, along with those of Roosevelt’s “Rough Riders,” were detailed in the book.

Following a stint in South Dakota, time in Washington D.C. at the Army War College, and another Philippines command, Herbert and Alice retired to Medford in 1911. They became active in civic affairs, with Herbert serving as a Medford City Councilor and as Chairman of the

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killing 260 crew members, the U.S. declared war on Spain. Sargent was appointed Colonel of the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Volunteer Infantry and ordered to take an army regiment to Santiago, Cuba. Alice went with him, sleeping in a tent in the mud just like the soldiers.

The hot sun, drenching rains, steamy air, snakes and scorpions were minor inconveniences compared to the tropical diseases—malaria, typhoid, yellow fever. Alice contracted the latter from the swarms of mosquitoes, suffering with it for weeks. She was one of the lucky ones who survived, noting in her diary the dense clouds of smoke hanging over the hills where



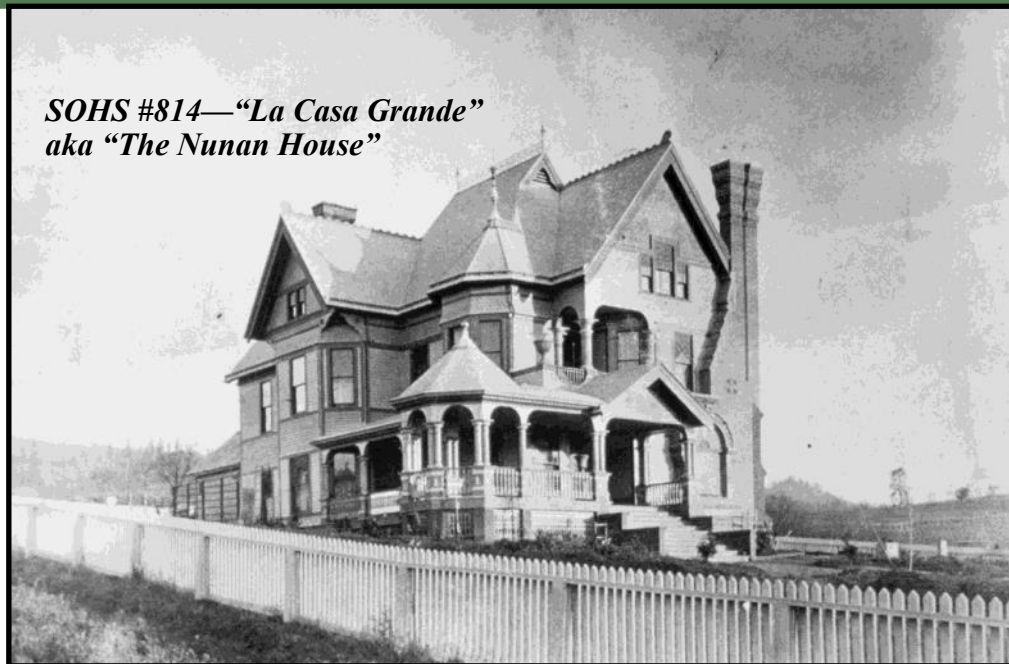
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Jackson County Progressive Party; Alice became head of the Leonard Wood Republican Club.

In 1915 they purchased Jacksonville's lovely 1892 Queen Anne-style home on North Oregon Street, best known as the Nunan House after its original occupants, Jeremiah and Delia Nunan. But to Herbert and Alice, its second owners, the house was known as "Casa Grande," Spanish for "big house," reflecting their home's imposing personality and their own history.

Then in 1916, Herbert was recalled to World War I active duty, serving in the Quartermaster Department in San Francisco, as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Princeton University, and on the general staff of the Army War College. Alice tried to enlist in the Nurse Cadet Corps but was told she was too old.

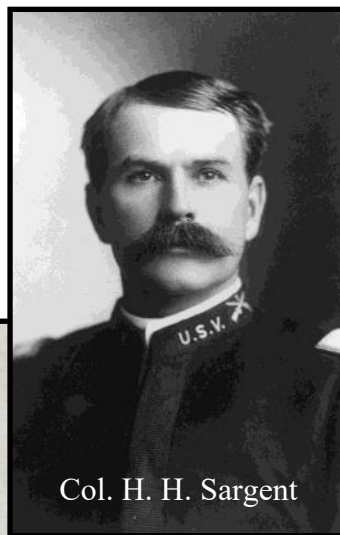
After the Armistice, they retired again to Jacksonville where they became involved once more in community



affairs. Then Herbert found he had one more battle to fight. In 1920 there was an attempt to move the Jackson County seat from Jacksonville to Medford. Herbert went to war. He planned his strategy and tactics; he wrote articles; he gave speeches. Herbert was

victorious...but it was a Pyrrhic victory. Six years later the county seat was moved.

Herbert did not live to see that. In 1921, he dropped dead from a heart attack, attributed to "exertion while fighting a grass fire on their property." He was buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery with full military honors. Two years after his death, Alice had the stone wall along Jacksonville's Cemetery Road built in his memory.

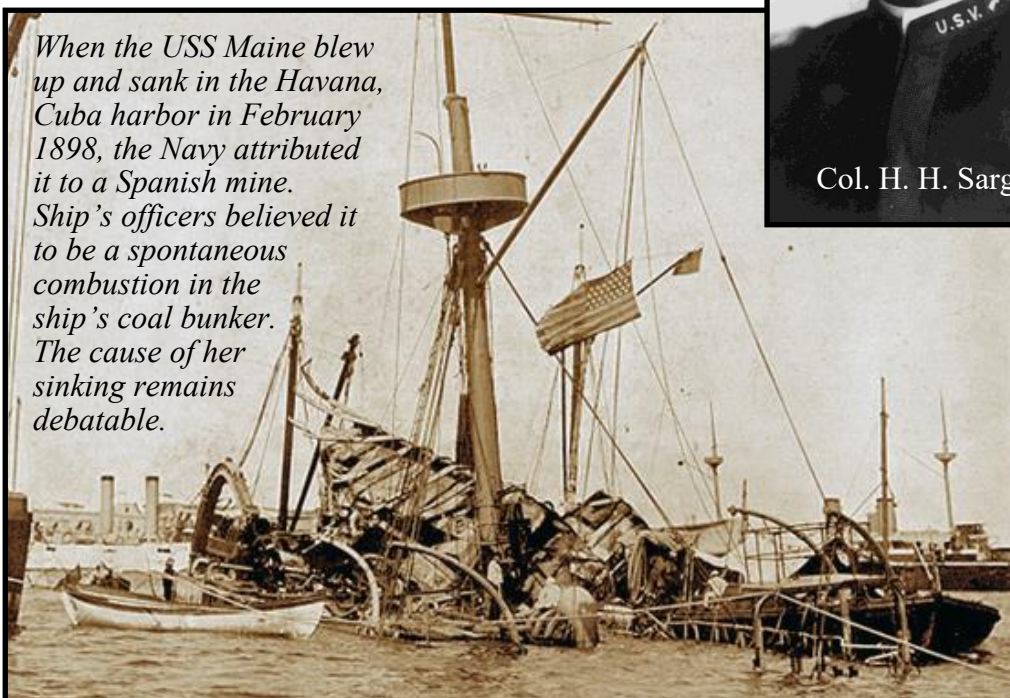


Col. H. H. Sargent

Alice lived for another 13 years and remained involved in Jacksonville activities. She was active in the Native

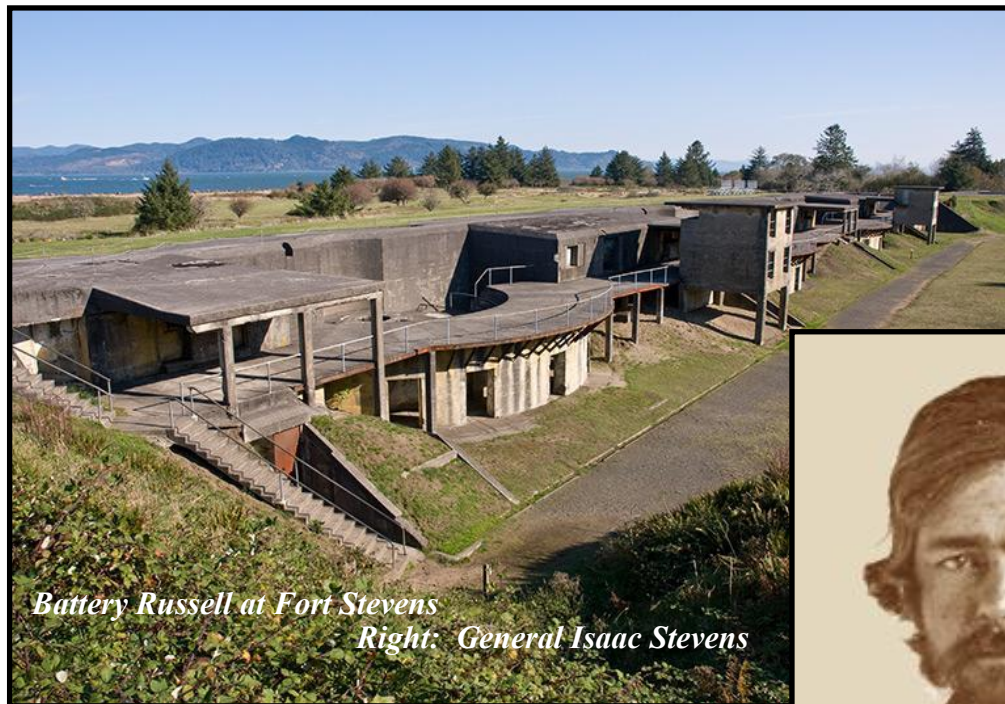
Daughters of Oregon and a founder of their Jacksonville Museum, the forerunner of the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

When Alice joined her husband in the Jacksonville Cemetery in 1934, her years of service were also recognized by the Army. The Spanish American and "Great War" veterans gave her a full military funeral—one of the first women in the United States to receive this honor.



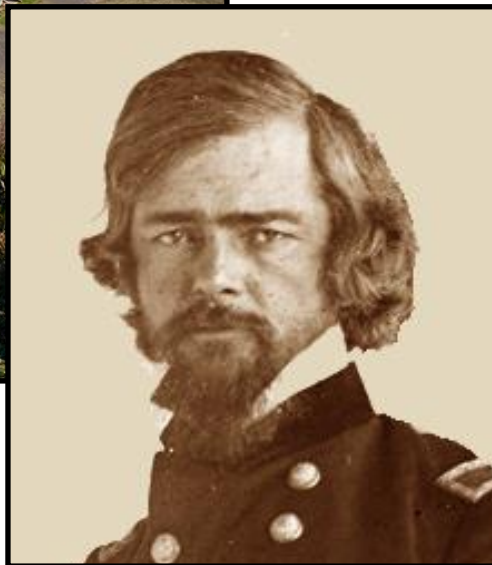
# WHAT'S IN A NAME? — "OREGON'S MILITARY POSTS MEMORIALIZE THE FALLEN"

by Jeff LaLande



*Battery Russell at Fort Stevens*

*Right: General Isaac Stevens*



border. White, having been appointed to a senior administrative position in the Oregon National Guard the year before, commanded cavalry troops along the very tense international boundary from 1916 into 1917. However, with American entry into World War I looming, White returned to Oregon, where his

main task was to bring the state's Guard units into combat readiness. Promoted to major and then, while in France, to lieutenant-colonel, George White served on the Western Front as a staff member of General John Pershing's American Expeditionary Force.

The U.S. Army often chose to name its new posts for soldiers – and usually for commissioned officers – that had served in past wars and who, often, had died while on active duty during those conflicts. For example, Oregon's Fort Stevens, built in 1863-1864 to guard the mouth of the Columbia River during the Civil War, memorialized Union General Isaac Stevens, who was killed in 1862 while leading his troops during the Battle of Chantilly in northern Virginia. Stevens had been governor of Washington Territory during the 1850s and his connection to the Northwest was strong.

An even stronger Oregon connection determined the name of the Army's huge World War II cantonment (military training base) in the Rogue Valley, Camp White. Land purchases and initial construction had begun out on the desolate flats of the "Agate

Desert" in 1941, months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The new facility's name, bestowed in 1942, honored the only recently deceased General George A. White. White, born in 1880 in Illinois, enlisted in the Army in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, serving in an artillery unit. After moving to Oregon, he joined the Oregon National Guard in 1907 and soon earned an officer's commission.

White's military career stayed on a steady upward trajectory thereafter. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson, in response to Pancho Villa's murderous foray into Columbus, New Mexico, federalized Oregon's and many other states' national guard units for service along the Mexican

In 1919, while still in France, White was one of 20 officers who, during an after-hours gathering in Paris, laid plans for revitalizing a new veterans' organization – the American Legion. Returning to Oregon and its national guard, White became the Legion's first vice commander. Having formerly worked as an editor at the Portland *Oregonian* for a time, he founded the Legion's national magazine and served as its first editor. (Something of a writer by nature, White penned short stories that appeared in such magazines as the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Adventure* during the 1920s-1930s.)

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**Major General George A. White**

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As head of the Oregon National Guard during the late 1930s, Major General White commanded the 41<sup>st</sup> division when it became federalized by President Roosevelt in 1940. In mid-1941, large-scale war games pitted his troops against those under General Joseph (“Vinegar Joe”) Stilwell, who would soon earn fame as American commander of the China-Burma-India theater.

It was during this months-long exercise (which included simulated combat on Washington’s Olympic Peninsula) that White fell seriously ill. He died



**Lieutenant Henry R. Adair**

at his home in Clackamas, Oregon, in November 1941.

Elsewhere in Oregon, another large cantonment sprang up just north of Corvallis during the Second World War. Camp Adair bore the name of Lieutenant Henry R. Adair, an Oregon native, West Point graduate, and cavalry officer. In 1916 Adair was killed by Mexican troops at the Battle of Carrizal, during the U.S. Army’s unsuccessful “Punitive Expedition” to capture Pancho Villa.

Further north, at Fort Stevens, in June 1942 a large coastal-artillery emplacement, Battery Russell,



**General David A. Russell**

became the only military installation in the 48 states to be shelled by enemy fire during World War II. This episode, which resulted in no deaths on either side, occurred in June 1942. (Later that year, the same Japanese submarine that attacked Battery Russell with its deck gun would launch a small aircraft that dropped incendiary bombs on the Oregon forest near Brookings.)

Battery Russell, built in 1903, was named for a Union general, David A. Russell, killed in action in northern Virginia in 1864. Previous to the Civil War, Russell had been stationed in Oregon Territory, commanding troops at Fort Yamhill.



## Windows In Time

## Monthly Pub Talks

**Windows in Time** are free monthly lectures held at the Medford Library and Ashland Library on the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays from noon to 1pm.

**First Tuesdays’ Pub Talks** are free monthly informal presentations held at 4 Daughters Irish Pub, 126 W. Main, Medford. Talks begin upstairs at 7pm.

October 2 & 9 —*On the Home Front: Southern Oregon’s Unique Experience during World War II.*

November 6 & 13—*The Bounty of the Land: Southern Oregon Agriculture, 1850-1920*

December 4 & 11—*The Amazing and All Too Short Career of Sheriff August Singler*

October 1—*Southern Oregon Beer: Brewers Compete to Quench 1800s Pioneer Thirsts*—Phil Busse

November 5—*Mysteries from the Collection—A Tour of Curious SOHS Artifacts*—Keoni Diacampos

December 3—*Nuggets from the Jackson County Commissioners’ Minutes, 1852-1874*—Mary Tsui

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Sunday,  
October 20



**Strike It Rich** in the **Wild Wild West!**

**THE GOLD DIGGERS' GUILD**

of the

**Southern Oregon Historical Society**

Invites you to an evening of

**Gambling, BBQ, and Silent Auction**

on

**Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**3:00 to 7:00 pm**

**Hanley Farm**

Visit [sohs.org/strike](http://sohs.org/strike)  
for reservations and  
additional information.

**\$75 per person includes \$5,000 in chips,  
a full course BBQ dinner, and beverage.**





## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*It's members like you who understand the important role local history plays in the shaping of things to come. The Southern Oregon Historical Society's fabulous collection of artifacts, the second largest collection in the state, can play a key role in helping people, especially our own youngsters, appreciate history's role while shedding light on who we are and where we come from.*

Our continued talks with the community confirm that we all want a museum to showcase and share the many "hidden treasures" in SOHS's collection. Building our base and growing our network are part of our strategic plan to help us reach that goal. So naturally we're asking you to help recruit as many people as possible to join us in working toward that objective.

How? By hosting a "History Matters" house party!

Almost everybody likes a party, so what better way to build enthusiasm for history, for SOHS, and for the possibilities. And we make it easy with this step-by-step "How to Throw a 'History Matters' Party" guide created by Alice Mullaly and Mollie Owens.

**Step 1: Choose a date and time for your party**—morning, noon, or night; food or no food. Then call the SOHS office at 541-773-6536, ext. 202, to get it on the calendar. We will contact you to work out the details.

**Step 2: Invite 10-20 people to your house for that date and time.** We will send you a packet of materials that includes invitations, talking points (why they should come), and thank you notes.

**Step 3: Have fun!** On the day of your party, a knowledgeable, trained, and dedicated presentation team will come to your house. For 30 minutes they will share an amazing artifact from the SOHS collection and a short video explaining the Society. They will ask your guests to become members (especially sustaining members) of SOHS. After that, it's your party!

That's it! We think you'll find it's an easy way to make a difference, help SOHS grow, and move us closer to our shared goals.

Now it's Party Time! Will you be an SOHS "party person"?

- Doug McGeary



## From the Collection

### IF THE SHOE FITS...

Like so many other clothing categories, footwear indicates social and economic status as well as occupation or profession.

The shoes shown here belonged to two well-known entertainers with Rogue Valley connections. The pair of oversized clown shoes were worn by Vance "Pinto" Colvig born in Jacksonville, Oregon. He earned his name because of his freckles and his passion for clowning. He became the first *Bozo the Clown* for Universal Pictures and was a well-known cartoonist, gag man and voiceover artist for Walt Disney Productions.



The lime green and clear plastic peek-a-boo heels were owned and worn by actress, dancer and singer Ginger Rogers who owned a ranch on the Rogue River. The shoes were made for the exclusive Bergdorf Goodman department store in New York City. Both pairs are part of an exhibit featuring shoes from the Southern Oregon Historical Society collection.

See these and more shoes through the ages at the SOHS Research Library. All reflect the life experiences of those who walked in them and built our community. The exhibit will run through mid-October



## SOHS MEMBERSHIP: MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER

Membership in Southern Oregon Historical Society entitles you to many benefits:

- The SOHS Quarterly Journal and monthly on-line SOHS Newsletter
- Advance notices of events and volunteer opportunities
- Discounted Member Rates at most events
- Early Admission to the Annual Heritage Plant Sale
- A 10% discount on gift shop purchases at the Research Library and Hanley Farm.
- One year gift membership to the Portland-based Oregon Historical Society.

## ADD COLOR TO OUR BLOOM: BE A SUSTAINING MEMBER.



A Sustaining Membership is an unrestricted gift to SOHS that supports our programs and services. Because your contribution is on-going, we know we can rely on your support and reduce our processing costs.

Your Sustaining Membership will automatically continue unless you choose to cancel or change it. You can increase, decrease or stop your donation at any time by calling us at 541-773-6536, x201, or by e-mailing [membership@sohs.org](mailto:membership@sohs.org).

## ☐ YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SWITCH TO A SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Go on-line to [www.sohs.org/membership](http://www.sohs.org/membership) and click "become a sustaining member." OR return this form with credit card information and we will set it up for you! The minimum contribution to be a sustaining member is \$3 a month. \$5 a month or more entitles you to a full family membership!

Bill my card this much monthly: \$3\_\_\_ \$5\_\_\_ \$8\_\_\_ \$10\_\_\_ \$15\_\_\_ \$25\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_

## ☐ I WILL CONTINUE WITH MY YEARLY PAYMENT

You can submit a check to renew your membership for one year, or you can pay with a credit card and choose to have us use it for a one-time payment.

☐ Check enclosed   ☐ Make a one-time credit payment   ☐ Automatically renew with my credit card annually

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill My Credit Card: Visa [ ] Master Card [ ] Discover Card [ ] Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Southern Oregon Historical Society, 106 N. Central Avenue. Medford, OR 97501  
[www.sohs.org](http://www.sohs.org)





# SPOTLIGHT ON YOUNG VOLUNTEERS:

*Trevor Thorndike & Kyle Stockton*

***Southern Oregon Historical Society volunteers represent a wide range of interests and talents, illustrated by the work of two talented young men, both graduates of Southern Oregon University, who play important roles in the society.***

**Trevor Thorndike** attended St. Mary's High School in Medford and holds a college degree in political science. He has been a major contributor to farm events for the last several years, and serves as "wagon master," maintaining our equipment and overseeing hay rides at public events. He also regularly contributes to setting up the signage, chairs, tables, and tents needed for these events.

For Trevor, history and service are part of a family tradition. "I was fascinated by my grandmother, he recounts. "As a girl, she witnessed the landing of Charles Lindberg at Medford airport' in 1928. He recalls stories told of his great grandfather, Eugene Thorndike, who was instrumental in the development of the Medford Community Hospital, a predecessor to today's Asante Rogue Valley Medical Center), and how during the depression patients were able to pay for care by sharing farm and garden produce. Today the Thorndikes continue to be active in local philanthropic efforts.

Trevor's contact with the farm began when he was a St. Mary's high school student and doing community service work at Hanley. A regular volunteer since 2016, he enjoys the mechanical aspects of maintaining the hayride tractor and wagon, and during public events regularly accompanies adults and children on hay rides through the fields. He describes Hanley as "a friendly environment, where people are eager to ask questions." He is always struck by "the peacefulness and beauty of the old farm."



SOHS is very fortunate that one of our youngest and newest Library volunteers, **Kyle Stockton**, is reviewing the news film clips digitized by Ben Truwe. After reviewing 1450 clips so far, Kyle has published 49 on YouTube. The clips rarely include audio, so he selects those with visual impact. Kyle does his work at SOHS on Saturdays, a time slot other volunteers cannot fill regularly.

Kyle graduated from Southern Oregon University with a history degree in 2017. He did not focus on a specific area because he finds all history fascinating. His Capstone project was a comparison of the religious policies of Charles 5, Holy Roman Emperor, and King Babur, first ruler of the Mughal Empire.

Kyle lived in Happy Camp, California, until he left for college. His parents have spent their careers there, working for the Forest Service. Kyle enjoys outdoor pursuits, but not quite like his parents do. He prefers reading, video games, and television. As an only child growing up in a small, insular, community, Kyle dealt with isolation. His high school provided opportunities, though, including computer classes and a 3-week class trip to Europe. He enjoyed the visits to historic sites and museums so much that he instigated a later family trip to Washington, D. C., and the East Coast. Both trips increased his enthusiasm for studying history, whether it is local, national, or global. We're very pleased that his enthusiasm and interest encompasses the history of Southern Oregon.



*Make a scarecrow, enjoy a wagon ride,  
bob for apples, paint a pumpkin—  
it's all part of the SOHS 2019  
Scarecrow Festival at Hanley Farm  
on October 5th & 6th!  
See page 7.*



## CURRENT RESIDENT OR

## From the Library & Archives

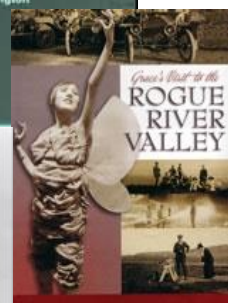


*Ben Truwe Digitizing Film*

Did you know that the SOHS Archives is home to thousands of film clips?

For the past few years, SOHS Trustee and Library volunteer Ben Truwe has been digitizing this extensive collection. You can always view them on an SOHS Library computer, but now you can also see selected film clips on our new SOHS YouTube page!

Thanks to Kyle Stockton, SOHS Library volunteer and YouTube page manager, some of our more enticing film clips are now on-line. These are videos that originally played on the evening news program of KMED/KOBI in Medford. Almost all of them are silent, so Kyle has chosen those with the most visual appeal. They include



*Created for the  
1915 Panama  
Pacific Exposition  
in San Francisco.*

parades, celebrity visits, and excerpts from daily life. See a list of all videos that we have currently digitized at <http://sohs.org/films>.