

FREE LOCAL INFORMATION GUIDE

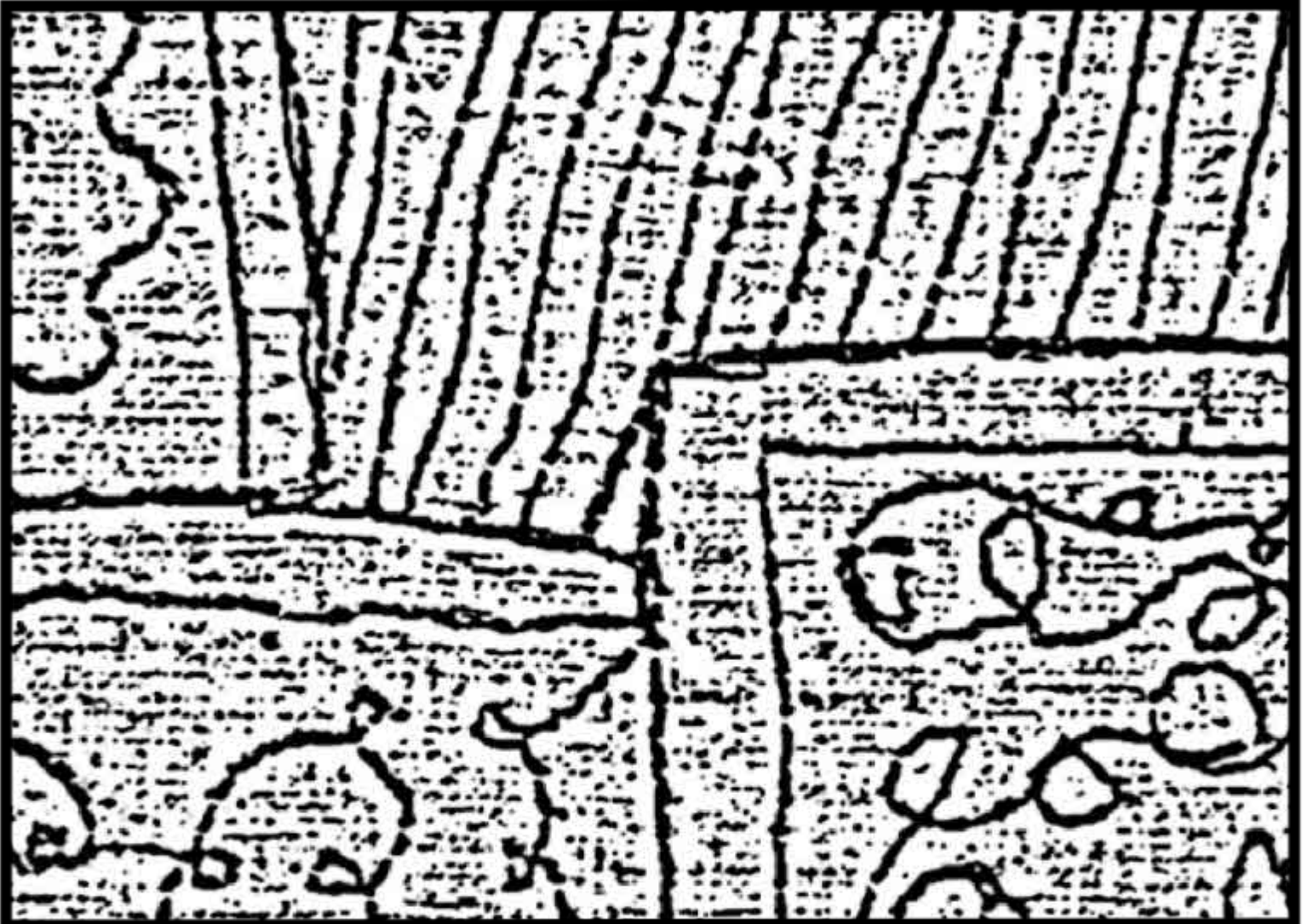
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BACKROADS**

A Happy Little Publication

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MARCH 2016**



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DUNSMUIR EVENTS 2016



2nd Saturday Openings 5-7 pm

Feb. 6 - Railroad Days
Coyote Chili Cook-off

Mar. 26 - Easter Egg Hunt

TBD - Dunsmuir Citizen of the Year

April 30 - Fishermen's Breakfast

May 21 - Dunsmuir Chamber of
Commerce Business
of the Year Award

May 27, 28, 29, 30 - City Wide Yard Sale
Memorial Day Weekend

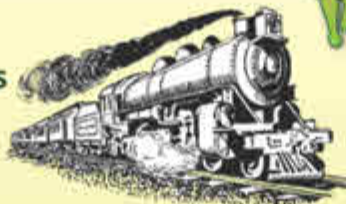


May 28 - Dogwood Daze

June 2 - Grower's Market Opens

June 10, 11, 12 - Railroad Days

June 18 - Tribute to the Trees



June 18 - Big Fish Event Opens

TBD - Jazz in the Canyon

Aug. 5 & 6 - State of Jefferson
Brewfest

Aug. 6 - Metal in the Mountains

TBD - Tinman Triathlon Rotary
Fundraiser

Oct. 8 - Autumn ArtWalk & Botanical
Gardens Photo Show

Oct. 29 - Halloween Festival

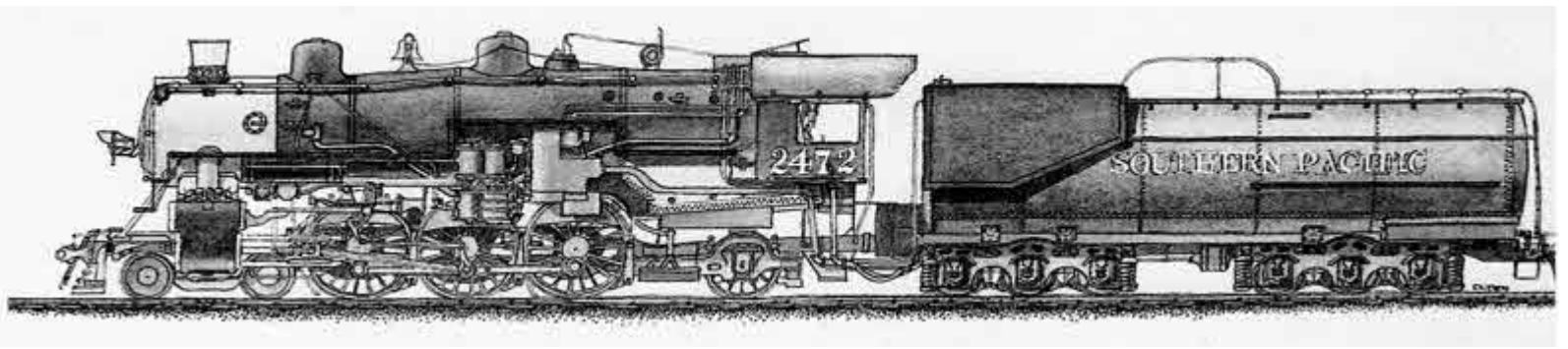
Nov. 12 - Holiday Crafts Faire

Nov. 19 - Science Fiction Film Festival

Nov. 20 - Global Thanksgiving

Dec. 3 - Candles in the Canyon





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DUNSMUIR MUSEUM OPENS APRIL 2nd
The Dunsmuir Railroad Depot Historical Society will open the Dunsmuir Museum on Saturday, April 2nd, from 10 am to 2 pm. The Museum and its Railroad Display Room are located on Sacramento Avenue, adjacent to the Amtrak Depot.

Thanks to volunteers from the Depot Society we are excited to have the Museum open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays monthly, as well as during town events.

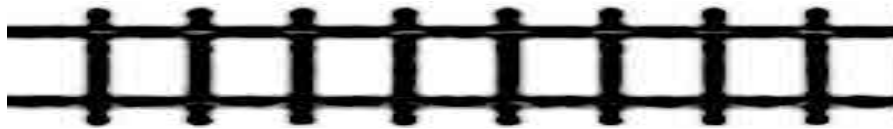
Do come to celebrate Dunsmuir's rich history with the Indian era, the renaming of Pusher, the coming of the railroad and its railroad facilities. The Elinore Van Fossen Harrison Native American Basket collection is of special interest.

Pie makers and Pie lovers note that the 8th ANNUAL PIE SOCIAL is scheduled for May 28th this year. Mark your calendars!

See you at the Dunsmuir Museum.

2016 Events – Mark your Calendar

- April 2 & 16: Museum reopens
- May 28th: 8th Annual Pie Social
- June 10 - 12: RAILROAD DAYS



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DunsmuirDepot.com

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and during town events.

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email: JeffersonBackroads@gmail.com

Michelle Fain
Owner-Editor

Ralph Fain
Side Kick

www.JeffersonBackroads.com

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HAPPY 6 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TO JEFFERSON BACKROADS!!

Cover Image - Close up of Free Motion Quilting
Quilting and Image Created by M. Fain

JEFFERSON BACKROADS is proudly published for the Hard Working, Old School & Patriotic Rebels who live in or travel through our Rugged & Beautiful State of Jefferson. We focus on the positive, the fun, the amazing local businesses, the history and THE ADVENTURE!!

Our papers are distributed in the first week of each month throughout Siskiyou County and surrounding counties.

Deadline for ads, articles or events: 10th day of the month.

Subscriptions are available by mail within USA for only \$36 per year which covers postage and handling. Please mail check payable to Jefferson Backroads: P.O. Box 344, Grenada, CA 96038. Include your full name, mailing address and a phone number. FYI: Our publications can be read ONLINE 24/7/365. Thank You!

| | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------|
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| Printed by: | Cascade Printing, Klamath Falls, Oregon | |

Jefferson Backroads started up in April 2010. Anyone can read our publications each month FREE via our website.

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2016 SSCC

Autocross Schedule

**Jackson Sports Park
White City, Oregon**

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Spring Enduro | March 25-27 |
| Event #1 | April 15-17 |
| Event #2 | May 20-22 |
| Cascade Lakes Hillclimb | June 10-12 |
| Event #3 | June 17-19 |
| Event # 4 | July 15-17 |
| Event # 5 | August 12-14 |
| Event # 6 | September 9-11 |
| Fall Enduro | October 7-9 |

www.sccmedford.org

Siskiyou Sports Car Club

by Andrew VanBortel

I was first introduced to the go-cart/auto-x track in White City, Oregon after I moved up to Siskiyou County from Redding in 2012. I was at work when a fellow employee asked me if I owned the S2000 in the parking lot. After I told him yes it was my car, he told me about the Siskiyou Sports Car Club and their awesome track. This wasn't like the typical auto-x events held in a parking lot with cones defining the course. This track was special because it was like a mini road course with some banked turns and curbing instead of a flat parking lot. Previously I had never tried autocross because of the 'sea of cones' which I figured I would get lost in and not find very enjoyable. So I gave it a try even though it was the last auto-x of the season with only the Fall Enduro left in October. Needless to say I was instantly hooked. I ran in those last two events and in January of 2013 I joined the SSCC, bought some R-compound tires (also known as 'slicks') and did every event the club offered that year... I even won class champion in B Stock!

I think what is most attractive about this form of racing is that it is very inexpensive to get into. The vehicle you drive on track can stay in stock form and be competitive or it can be upgraded as far as you want to take it. The car you auto-x in doesn't even have to be a sports car. I remember one event where two young women brought a Toyota Camry to race in. I've seen a family team where the parents would come every race weekend, trailering an old Datsun so their teenage sons could dual drive it in competition. Many husband and wife teams frequently attend the SSCC events also. I have found the club to be very welcoming and helpful to both new folks looking to have some safe, legal racing fun as well as the

History of Siskiyou Sports Car Club

by Cari Hinesly

Started in the 50's by a group of sports car enthusiasts. Held autocrosses in parking lots around the area. Rallies were very popular back then. The picture below was taken during an autocross on the parking lot in front of the Medford Armory, circa '62 or '63.

When we joined in 1973, the club was using the "Peanut Track" near the Medford Armory. They shared it with the Go-Karters.

August of 1971, Pat Nixon presented a section of Federal land to the county for a Sports Park, as a noise facility. One part of the park was specified for a Go-Kart/Autocross track.

A member of SSCC, along with a Go-Kart member, helped design the track, making it acceptable for use by the largers. At that time, the track was named "Agate Raceway."

SSCC had its first autocross on the new track at the September 1974 event. The season ended after using the track for the October event. During the winter, the idea of a Rogue Challenge Series for the 1975 season was incorporated. The Series would include 7 events with participants accruing points and it would end with championship observances at an annual Fall Enduro weekend. This has been an annual event since that year, however, running the same course did not start until the third or fourth Enduro. Spring Enduros started in 2003. ♦



more seasoned racer types looking for some solid competition as they push themselves and their machines to higher speeds.

If you are a 'Car Guy' or 'Car Girl' you owe it to yourself to attend an autocross at the Jackson County Sports Park in White City. Even if you are not racing you should come to check out some of the awesome cars that are participating. From Porches, Z06 Corvettes, BMWs, Subaru, Miatas, Hondas, Mustangs, a fresh off the showroom floor SRT8 Challenger, older American Muscle Cars to Kit Car Cobras and a GT40, Sports Racers, Dwarf Cars and even a Tesla! Of course the owner/drivers are always interested in talking about their cars because they are just as crazy about cars as you are! Some folks come to the track on practice day just to go on ride-alongs in some of these great vehicles. ♦

SENIOR & VETERAN SERVICES



SENIOR SERVICES

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Happy Camp Family Resource Center

Happy Camp, CA (530) 493-5117

Happy Camp Senior Center

Happy Camp, CA (530) 493-2508

Madrone Hospice

Yreka, CA (530) 842-3907

Meals on Wheels and Veteran's Services

Dorris, CA (530) 397-2273

Mt. Shasta Senior Nutrition

Mt. Shasta, CA (530) 926-4611

Scott Valley Community Lunch Program

Valley Oaks Senior Center: 468-2904

Etna United Methodist Church: 467-3612

Scott Valley Family Resources: 468-2450

Scott Valley Berean Church: 467-3715



3rd Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day BBQ

Date: Saturday, March 19th
Time: 10 am thru 2 pm
Place: Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds
in the Winema Hall.

Serving FREE tri-tip and chicken to all who show up. There will be a POW/MIA ceremony, a speaker (yet to be determined), the reading of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Proclamation, a reading of the names of our KIA from Siskiyou County, and raffle. Should be a good time for all our Vietnam Veterans, their family, and friends.

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Siskiyou County Veterans Service Office

105 E Oberlin Road - Yreka, CA 96097

Phone: (530) 842-8010 Fax: 841-4314

FORT JONES COFFEE CONCERT

The Historic Fort Jones United
Methodist Church presents their
14th Annual Coffee Concert



Date: April 16, 2016

Time: 7 to 9:30 pm.

Place: At the Fort Jones Community Center

Info: Call (530) 468-5211 or 598-9191



A donation of \$10.00 will buy you a ticket to enjoy music and refreshments. Tickets available March 15. Limited Seating...



Fresh homemade pies will be sold by silent auction from 6:30 to 7:00 pm.

Fort Jones United Methodist Church will be presenting the 14th annual Coffee Concert on April 16, 2016 at the Fort Jones Community Center.

The evening will start with a silent pie auction at 6:30 pm with program at 7:00. For those who are reading about this for the first time, our pies are home made. Scott Valley women are known for their baking prowess.

Many musicians, from the Valley and surrounding communities will be participating, so you don't want to miss a really good show.

The first Concert was held in the main room of the Church. We stacked pews at the back of the room and set up card tables for our guests. Refreshments were served with glass tea sets on white tablecloths with a centerpiece in the middle. We continued to use the tea sets until we moved to the Community Center and we could not get enough tea sets for everyone. We have tried to set a nice table with really good refreshments.

We would like to thank everyone who has come to these Concerts in the past and we hope many more of you will be coming to this Concert. We appreciate your support of our 142 year old Church. This year we hope to use the profits to replace the roof on the entry/front porch of the Church.

Tickets go on sale March 15th, so buy early as there is limited seating. You may contact Harriet at 468-5211 or Sanova at 598-9191. ♦

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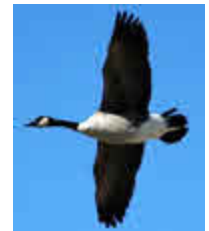


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Pioneer Country & Western Music: Billy Aseltine and the Siskiyou Playboys

Story by Hank Nelson

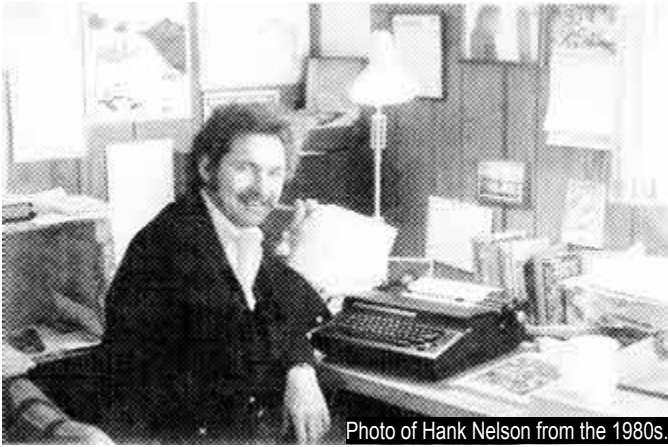


Photo of Hank Nelson from the 1980s.

History is often made without your awareness, and it isn't until later, upon reflection and introspection, that you begin to appreciate what you had unwittingly taken for granted. In 1964 I started playing lead guitar for pioneer country singer Billy Aseltine and his band, the Siskiyou Playboys. I had a chance to realize my life-long dream of playing in a country music band, and the results were 14 years of playing and a life-long friendship with Billy.

Billy was a truck driver and mostly played on weekends. He was a blue collar country singer and had a good following; people loved his charismatic stage presence. He played and sang the songs that were popular on the juke boxes, music with a good dance beat. He performed in clubs, grange halls and barn dances all over Siskiyou County, the little niches and venues where the "big stars" couldn't afford to go.

Recently I revisited times gone by when I put on an old record and listened to country great Ernest Tubb, music more difficult to play than it seems when you hear it performed by a master. Listening to E.T., as he was known throughout the world of down-home country music, brought back pleasant memories of those unforgettable years when I was fortunate enough to fulfill a dream. What an honor and privilege it was to

play for Billy. I remember them all, the places and times we cranked it up for the folks... but the most memorable times were when we really clicked and everyone knew and felt it. The audience couldn't get out on the dance floor fast enough and the applause let us know that they felt it too. You could never put a price tag on something like that.

Country music resonated, and still does in a way few musical genres ever have. It's always been for the folks who just enjoyed a good story about the bittersweet joy of just plain living—farm hands, cowboys, picking cotton, coal miners, lumberjacks, bridge builders, truckers, railroad engineers, sweethearts, the folks back home, good times and bad.

All I have to do is close my eyes and listen... and I'm transported back in time, as Billy Aseltine steps up to the microphone and says, "Hello there folks... how ya doing, how about a dance," and then belts out those first few lines of our theme song, a tune country star and legend Wynn Stewart made famous... "Well they call me a playboy..."

As one might expect, however, there's yet a bit more to the story of the Siskiyou Playboys. It was 1967, and Billy and I were across the road from the Klamath River Lodge at the Quigley Store and gas station. We were scratching our heads, wondering where we were going to find a drummer for an upcoming show, when someone overheard us and told us he knew of an old-timer, retired and living in a cabin nearby. The fellow had been a show drummer, stage hand, and director on Broadway during the late 1930's and 1940's. The man's name was Walt Fehl, and here's his story...

Walt Fehl -- a Touch of Broadway

When Billy and I met him, Walt was in his second retirement, living quietly and leisurely in a comfortable cabin overlooking the river at the Klamath River Lodge. Before moving there he'd come out of his first retirement long enough to pioneer a risqué production of "The Girl in the Red Velvet Swing" in North Beach, San Francisco.



Photo above of The Siskiyou Playboys provided by Hank Nelson.



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Klamath River, once a mecca for fly fishermen and outdoor writers, was toned down a bit then from its glory days, but it was still an ideal place to reminisce and maybe rest on your laurels a bit— if you could. How do you put a race horse, born to run, out to pasture... or old lumberjacks and old cowboys, with sawdust and sagebrush in their veins— and how are you going to keep them "down on the farm" after they've seen Broadway?

Walt was a friendly, unpretentious and soft-spoken gentleman, sharing his memoirs with us, graciously allowing our coarse and awkward fingers the liberty to browse through scrapbooks containing photographs, clippings, and the names of legendary stars of vaudeville and the Ziegfeld Follies: Fannie Brice, Ruby Keeler, Ethel Merman... and Al Jolson and the jazz era. It was an honor for us, a rare privilege, and I guess our timing was right. Walt wholeheartedly and enthusiastically jumped at the chance to play drums for the Siskiyou Playboys. Walt liked Billy, appreciating his stage presence and showmanship. Billy was also a stickler when it came to dressing neat— slacks, shirt, and ties— he figured you ought to look professional up there on the stage and Walt understood that too.

What started as a temporary fill-in soon became more... Walt Fehl became a full-fledged member of the Siskiyou Playboys, playing drums for nearly two years. Later, in 1970, Walt was asked to put on and direct a stage production for the Klamath River Gold Rush Days celebration. He cast and directed a company of actors from a pool of local talent, in a ground-breaking parody of "The Shooting of Dangerous Dan McGrew," adapted from the famous Robert Service Klondike poem, staging it at the Klamath River Community Hall. Billy and I had comedic roles as two grizzled prospectors; Walt was the story narrator. During rehearsals he drove us hard, but the night of the show, standing there as the curtains parted, butterflies running rampant in the full glare of the stage lights, the weeks of grinding it out paid off. The next morning the Siskiyou Daily News in Yreka wrote a review, and gave a thumbs up!

I guess Walt just couldn't resist giving it just one more go— he loved putting on a show that much! As a drummer, he played with more verve, character and showmanship than I have ever seen or, for that matter, thought possible. As a stage director, he was an artistè, utilizing every square inch of the stage to give depth, symmetry and definition, loving the production forward during each sequence with an illusion of vast panoramas. Walt Fehl was a real showman and genteel spirit, who truly loved putting on a show, giving it his best.

The Siskiyou Playboys were the first real country band ever to play at the Klamath River Community Hall; before that The Tip-Toppers were the main attraction, and they were excellent. They played dance music, and played the traditional Big Band sounds of the 40's and early 50's.

I remember standing by the pot-bellied wood stove in the corner and watching, and listening to the guitar player, mesmerized by how well he played. One night during intermission, he walked over to me and said, "You like the guitar, huh." I was flabbergasted that HE would take the time to talk to a kid, wet behind the ears and woefully bashful, never dreaming that someday I would be standing up there on stage, playing in a real country band. ♦



Photo above of The Siskiyou Playboys provided by Hank Nelson.



Photo of Hank Nelson taken recently in Alaska.
Photo provided by Duncan Crawford.

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HISTORY ORGANIZED BY JENNIFER BRYAN



1880s Historic Photo Provided by GSSC.
The George Dexter Family at Forest Vale: Lillian, Belle, Rosa, Philena, Minnie and George.

Did you know that Siskiyou County has a considerable number of Civil War Veterans that settled in Siskiyou County? This is the story of one Civil War Veteran that settled in Little Shasta Valley.

George Washington Deter was the fourth child born to David Eckford Deter and Susan Zeigler Deter. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio on November 16, 1845. George spent his childhood in Ohio. George's mother died in 1848 and the next year his father David Deter came down with "Gold Fever" and crossed the plains to California. George and his siblings were left with relatives in Ohio while his father David Deter ventured to California. About 10 years later George's father returned for the children, taking them to a ranch in Little Shasta, Siskiyou County. George's father had mined for a time in the Yreka area, but had turned to farming, where the real gold was in providing the miners with needed supplies.

At the start of the Civil War, George felt the need to fight for his county. In 1861 he traveled to Pennsylvania, home of his grandparents, and enlisted in the 18th Volunteer Regiment, Pennsylvania Calvary. His Regiment was involved in several major battles including Manassas, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the siege on Richmond that resulted in General Lee's surrender. He mustered out in August 1865.

It is unknown exactly when George returned to Siskiyou County. It is known that he was in Siskiyou County by 1868, since that was the date of his marriage to Philena Eliza Burr. Philena Burr's family had also crossed the plains from Ohio and settled in Little Shasta Valley.

George and Philena were parents to five children, Carrie Bell, Lillian May, David Milton, Rosie Georgene, and Minnie Alice. They purchased land in the eastern edge of Little Shasta Valley. After a few years he sold that farm and moved the family to the foot of Goose Nest Mountain. He built a lovely home that he named 'Forest Vale.' He built large barns and corrals to accommodate the freight trains and stage coaches that traveled past his ranch. When there was a need for a saw mill, he built the mill on his property and built a water wheel to power the mill. George also built a hotel and dance hall on the property. After operating the saw mill and hotel for 14 years, George and Philena sold the operation and retired to Montague. George died in 1926 and Philena passed away in 1930. ♦

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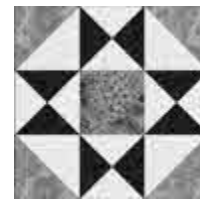
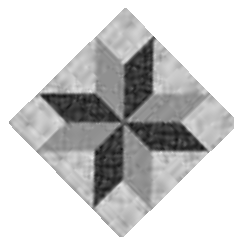
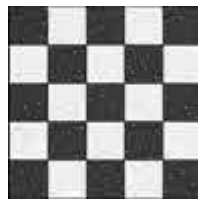
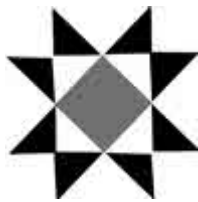
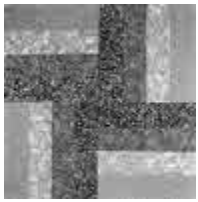
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A FEW UPCOMING EVENTS & CLASSES

Siskiyou Sports Car Club Spring Enduro
March 25-27, 2016 - See AD on Page 6

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans BBQ
March 19, 2016 - See AD on Page 7

Siskiyou Sportsmens Expo
March 12-13, 2016 - See AD on Page 30
Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, Yreka, California
Call (530) 842-2767 for all the great information!!

Spring Quilting Retreat 2016
April 15th, 16th and 17th
Running Y Resort, Klamath Falls, Oregon
An opportunity for you to do a little "Spring Cleaning" and finish up
a project or two. Call Tater Patch Quilts at (541) 798-5955.
See their AD and other quilting info on Pages 15-16.

Fort Jones Coffee Concert
April 16, 2016 in Fort Jones
See Page 8 for all the juicy details.

Scott Valley Quilt Guild - Quilt Show
May 21, 2016 - Etna, California

For More Quilt Shows and Quilting Workshops see Page 16.

Always contact our Chambers of Commerce for ALL the upcoming local events!!



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EVENTS & CLASSES



Old Time Turkey Shoot

Klamath River Community Hall
19716 Hwy 96, Klamath River, CA

Sunday - March 20, 2016
OPEN AT 9AM

50/50 Drawing ~ Splatter Boards ~ Dice Games

Be sure to bring **ALL** your guns to compete in every shoot
Black Powder, Pistol (15 & 25 yd), Open Sight,
Benchrest, Freestyle or Standing (50, 100 & 150 yd),
Offhand, Running Deer, Rim Fire, Youth (16 & under)

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For event info call JoAnne Benson 465-2029

Breakfast 8-10:30AM

Lunch 11:30-3pm



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Just a half hour from Yreka on Highway 96 along the scenic Klamath River, the downriver KR Community Hall is preparing to host the annual *Spring Turkey Shoot*.

We feature four canopy covered shooting stations with custom concrete benches that have adjustable seats to accommodate all shooters. Our 50, 75, 100 and 150 yard targets along with the

Running Deer and Pistol (15 and 25 yard) areas allow more events to happen at the same time.

This year's Spring Turkey Shoot will take place on March 20, the Sunday before Easter. The shooting starts around 9am. Non-shooters can play dice games and buy splatter boards circles (no shooting skills required) and win the same great prizes as the shooters: turkey, ham, bacon, salami and cheese. Come enjoy a home-cooked breakfast and/or lunch or just hang out by the bonfire and watch the fun. The Community Hall has an enclosed swing set area for children.

The KR Community Hall hosts the Turkey Shoot twice a year, Spring and Fall. The purpose is twofold: to provide a safe and fun outlet for people who enjoy shooting competitively and to raise funds for our non-profit Community Hall. We rely on donations and our fundraising events to keep us afloat!! The local Turkey Shoot tradition that began in the 1940s continues with us into the 21st century and we are growing and getting better every year.

Check us out on Facebook: Klamath River Old Time Turkey Shoot.



RMEF Upcoming Big Game Banquets State of Jefferson Region

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Contact Phone</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Roseburg, OR | 3/19/16 | (541) 459-8800 |
| Fortuna, CA | 4/2/16 | (707) 764-3325 |
| Grants Pass, OR | 4/2/16 | (541) 660-8822 |
| Medford, OR | 4/2/16 | (541) 878-3699 |
| Weaverville, CA | 4/9/16 | (530) 515-3321 |
| Yreka, CA | 5/14/16 | (530) 340-0667 |
| Crescent City, CA | 6/4/16 | (707) 951-4332 |

Contact Mike Ford for more info at 888-771-2021

BITS AND PIECES:

QUILT SHOWS OF 2016

March 19-20: Adventures in Quilting, Yuba City

April 22-24: Quilters Sew-ciety of Redding, "Feather Your Own Nest with Quilts," Shasta District Fairgrounds, Anderson; note, sub group of Art Quilts

May 21: Scott Valley Quilt Show, Etna, "Gotcha Covered," Featured Quilter Kathy Durret

August 12-14: Hayfork Log Cabin Quilters, Trinity County Fairgrounds, Featured Quilter Angenett Taft

September 3-4: Shasta Lily Quilt Guild, "Quilting Around the Mountain," Mt. Shasta High School Gymnasium, Featured Quilter Don Linn

October 1: Pacific Flyway Quilters, "Farm + Fabric = Family," Colusa County Fairgrounds

October 1-2: Oroville Piecemakers

UFO Challenges

Both the Scott Valley Quilters and the Shasta Lily Quilt Guild are embarking on a mission to root out unfinished projects. The idea here is to complete said projects so that they can finally be used and enjoyed. To count as completed, projects must be entirely finished. That includes the bindings and labels, ladies. Make your lists and submit them to your respective Quilt Guild Enforcers. Jeanne Welch is heading up this mission in Scott Valley, while Judy Hughes leads the Lilies.

Scholarships, Anyone?

The Shasta Lily Quilt Guild is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior of any Siskiyou County high school who is pursuing a career in the fields of quilting, fabric art, fiber art, graphic design, studio art or related fields. Scholarship forms are available from any of the county high schools. Completed applications and portfolios must be postmarked by March 30.

Potholder Queen of Siskiyou County

Jeanne Welch holds this title, though I'm told that she has Brownies (called Koblode in Germany) to remove the basting. Now tell me, is that fair? Be that as it may, 729 potholders were made and distributed to food banks in Yreka, Etna, Fort Jones, Greenview and a few other small food distribution centers. Jeanne has added Hornbrook and Montague for the 2016 season, which will require an additional 210. That totals 939, so let's make it an even 1,000. Jeanne is still collecting batting scraps that are at least 8" square and orphan blocks to help make this project easier. Good job, Jeanne!

Round 'me Up

Look out for the cattle drive that has struck both ends of Siskiyou County. If you see any cows stampeding past wearing bonnets or tiaras, toting flowers, wearing silly pants, hanging out in the fields looking a bit like Frankenstein, or riding surfboards (Cowabunga!), you might want to get out of the way or at least have your head examined. The Siskiyou Country Quilters are creating a Cow-lander. They are still hunting for October. Jeanne Welch is in charge of their efforts. Their southern cousins, which would be the Lilies, got more carried away and decided not to go for a simple arrangement. At last count we had 17 cows. (Now what is that divisible by?) Anyway, we like our cows. Diana Fogle is in charge of our mutinous herd. ✂

STITCHING IN THE DITCH

By Judy Sartor of
Mount Shasta Lily Quilt Guild

PROJECT LINUS

Forget it! I'm just not going to! I intended to start this column by apologizing for writing another column about Project Linus. But I refuse to apologize. Face it, Project Linus is just too important!

Project Linus is good for the child who receives that special blanket. Project Linus is good for the family members who see the tears of joy on that child's face. And Project Linus is good for the communities or schools whose children receive those blankets.

But those quilts are also good for the women who create them, who give of their skills and time and energy for the shared goal of reaching out to children in this way. And that's what it is about.

Blankets--quilts--and the act of creating and giving them make people feel good. And isn't that something pretty important? And here's the story. On Wednesday, February 3, thirty ladies from the Shasta Lily Quilt Guild met to make thirty quilts for Project Linus. Kits had been precut, and the quilters lined up their pieces and sewed away. There were a few hiccups. Not all of us can count to 48 when flannel pieces like to stick together, but we figured it out.

The Klamath Chapter of Project Linus covers all of the State of Jefferson with a few added bulges when necessary. We are governed by a board, and two of those board members--Stephanie Sumner and Kathy Cloyd of Klamath Falls--joined in our festivities.

We broke for lunch, sharing a baked potato potluck and more toppings than could be fit in, under, or on top of a potato. Yummy! And our reward for these efforts? Our newer members discovered the camaraderie of a shared goal. Our less experienced quilters developed more confidence as they picked up techniques and tips from those around them. So really, the reward was that we felt good. Now if only we could teach politicians to quilt. That just might mend the world.

"What I make with my hands, I give with my heart."



Star Bright quilt from Feb 3 Project Linus. Photo by Sally Eagleman

Shasta Lily Quilt Guild

Project Linus - Quilting Workshops
Sew Days on 1st Wednesday of the Month

Shadow Mountain Rec Center
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www.ShastaLily.org



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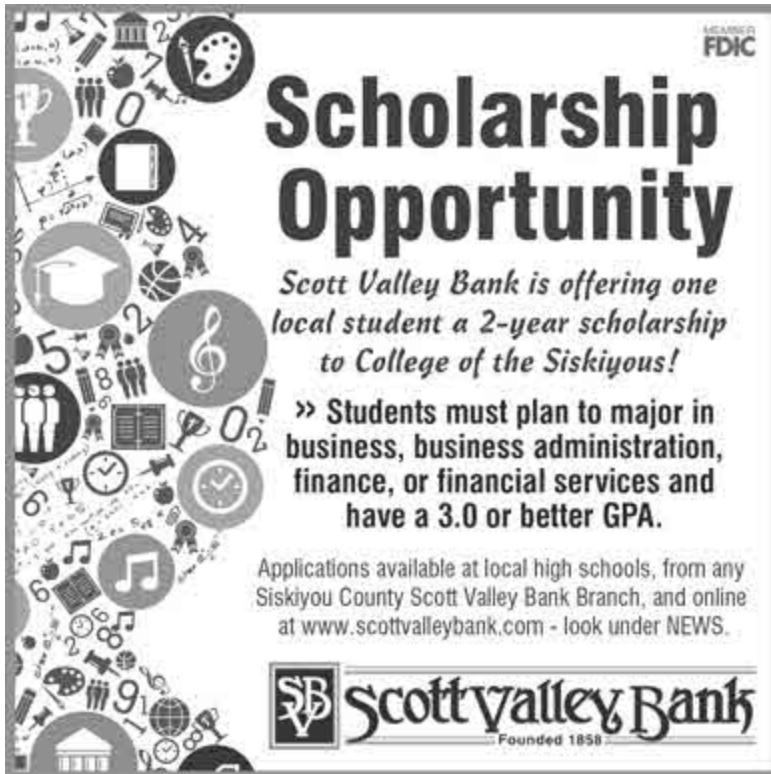


Dennis Moore
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 Yreka, California
 kendam@nctv.com

- Salmon
- Trout
- Steelhead

It's celebration time! The 3rd Annual ART OF SURVIVAL CENTURY bicycle ride will take place on May 28, 2016. Bring your friends and family and come spend the weekend with us. On the California-Oregon border, this ride passes through two states and three counties with plenty of rest stops to keep the rider hydrated and fueled for the journey. The ride is on Memorial Day weekend so plan now to celebrate with us throughout this event as we highlight the 100th Anniversary of our National Parks Service. The Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds is again the ride headquarters and finish line for post-ride activities.

Register here www.survivalcentury.com for one of the four routes offered. Our Century, 45 mile and Mountain Bike routes take the rider through the Lava Beds National Monument where amazing geology and geography abound. The 16 mile route, touted as family-friendly but available to everyone, takes the rider to the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge where there is a trail to the water front for waterfowl viewing. All ride routes pass by the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and Visitors Center where great exhibits are displayed. This is a must see!

Scholarship Opportunity
 Scott Valley Bank is offering one local student a 2-year scholarship to College of the Siskiyous!

» Students must plan to major in business, business administration, finance, or financial services and have a 3.0 or better GPA.

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Located on the Oregon/California border between Mt. Shasta and Crater Lake. Pedal through farm country, cross two states and three counties, and experience the beauty, wildlife and historical magic of the region. Choose Century (with option to add 18 mi.), 45 mi., 16 mi. family friendly route; or a 20 mi. mountain bike route through forest lands.

Come ride, play, learn, see, touch, and **Survive** with us.

www.survivalcentury.com or contact Linda at 541-723-3181

At each of the rest stops an interpretive topic will be featured.

- ◀Merrill flagpole stop will honor our Veterans and celebrate their service to each of us.
- ◀Crystal Springs stop will give riders an opportunity to engage with our amazing area youth.
- ◀Malin Park lunch stop for Century riders, plus a look at the restored Broadway Theater and Malin Historical Society Museum.
- ◀Tulelake Segregation Center rest stop where 18,000 Japanese-Americans were interned during WWII.
- ◀ Captain Jack's Stronghold, Modoc Indian War site (located in the Lava Beds National Monument) stop where host, Hutch's Bicycle Shop, will surprise riders with a treat.

Note: At this point the 45 mile and Century riders may choose whether to add an additional 18 miles to their day by climbing 1,000 feet to the Lava Beds Visitor's Center where they may overlook the Basin and take in the beauty of the area.

◀Lava Bed's Visitors Center stop will give overview of what to do in the Park and CELEBRATION time.

Note: Or continue on to the next rest stop and enjoy the waterfowl and wildlife at the Refuge.

◀Tulelake National Wildlife Refuge overlook stop, another opportunity to engage with our amazing youth, the InterAct Rotary Youth.

More than a bicycle ride, the ART OF SURVIVAL CENTURY is a story of heritage, encouraging participants to take time to enjoy the natural resources, rich history, and remarkable beauty of the area. In a land of stunning volcanic formations, rolling farmland, and spectacular high desert there are many outdoor adventures awaiting exploration.


Contact:

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Beverly Fairclo, 541-205-2104 or
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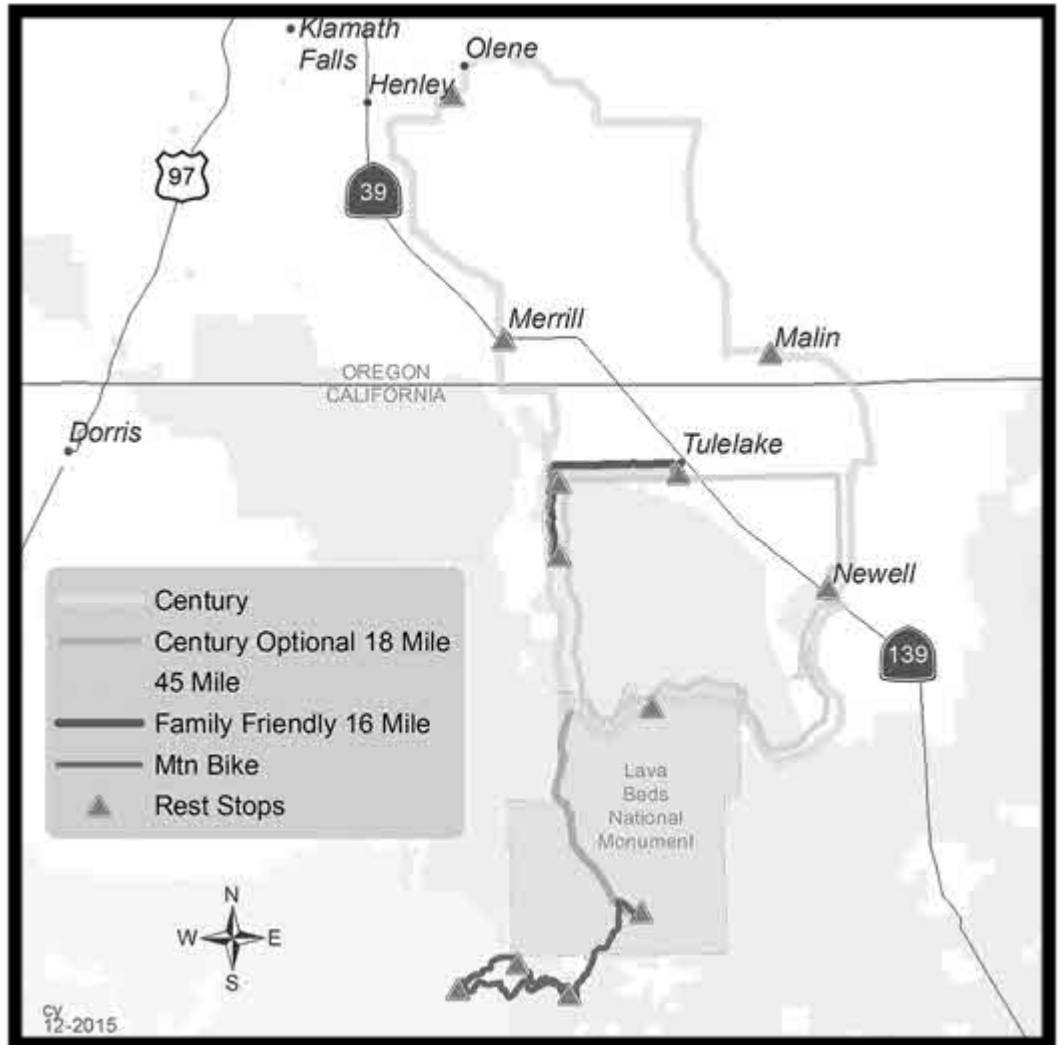


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DISCOVERING THE STATE OF JEFFERSON

By Gail Jenner – Enjoy another new story of the many historical towns and areas scattered throughout The State of Jefferson.

“African-American History in Siskiyou County”

California history recognizes the achievements of the trailblazer James Beckwourth, the son of a white man and black woman, who was not only an adventurer and explorer, but was well read and could speak a number of languages, including several Native American languages. There have been conflicting stories regarding his links to the Crow Nation, but the real story: Beckwourth indeed carved a trail into California.

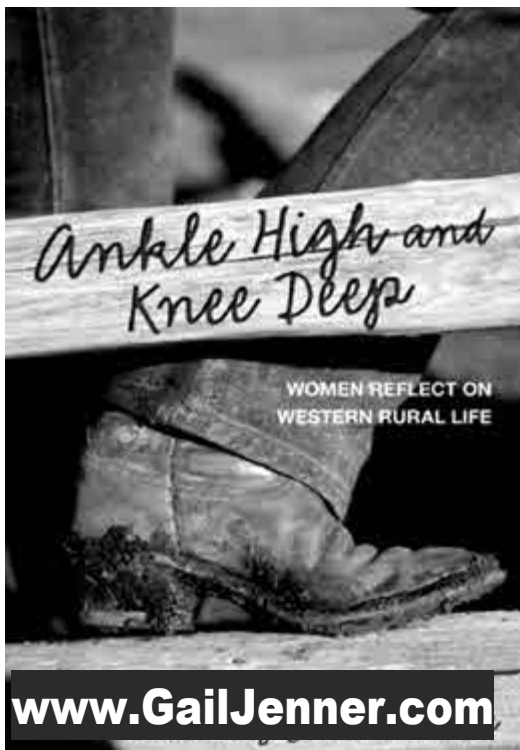
On a local level, one early local African-American packer and freighter has been identified. Jim Henderson was a successful packer, who—along with many other hardy and adventure-loving souls—traversed the rugged terrains of Trinity and Siskiyou Counties, particularly the Salmon River country.

Packing was the most significant industry in this area, apart from mining, from 1849-1856. All of the supplies and provisions miners required had to be packed in by mules. Mule trains, of 60-100 animals traveled roughly 300 miles, either back and forth to the coast or through Shasta City (located outside of today’s Redding) and over the Trinity-Salmon ranges. This made Henderson an important individual to many around Siskiyou County.

James Langford, the first Black teacher at Weed Elementary School who retired in 2007 after 33 years, compiled oral and local history on the African-American experience and history of Weed, California, in his thesis manuscript, “African Americans in the Shadow of Mt. Shasta: The Black Community of Weed, California.”

It began in the 1920s, and more specifically, in 1922 when R. A. Long of Long-Bell Lumber Company took control of Weed Lumber Company and invited Black lumbermen from the South to come work for him. Danny Piggee was one of those who came all the way from Oklahoma in search of work. In his words, he recalled, “Weed was a miracle for Black people for work...You could just almost pick your jobs when I came here. And it was a lotta, lotta Black folks here.” When Piggee arrived in 1923, there were thirty-five or forty single men staying at the “Berryville Hotel,” a boarding house, each paying \$1.10 a day for room and board. Day laborers usually earned \$3.50 a day, although Piggee was able to earn \$5.00 a day as a more skilled laborer.

According to two of Weed’s African-American residents, Rev. E. A. Mellon and Tommy Tyler, Walter Sexton, the first superintendent—who had worked at Long-Bell in Louisiana in the 1920s—eagerly recruited workers who were the “cream of the crop.” Interested workers were given \$89 for the train fare west, but were also required to repay Long-Bell after earning enough to cover the cost. By the mid-1920s, approximately one thousand African-Americans lived in Weed. J.M. White, Long-Bell’s local general manager from 1918 to 1948, is also given credit for opening up job opportunities for Black workers. In spite of these opportunities, of course, there was plenty of prejudice and discrimination and all Blacks were required to reside in their part of town.





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Throughout the 1920s, as more families arrived, African-American families were allowed to build houses on land leased from the company. Weed, most definitely segregated, was also a company-owned town and remained a company town until 1956 when it was sold to International Paper. It wasn't until 1961 that the town of Weed was incorporated. Along with the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, changes in attitudes finally began.

One area where African-Americans were accepted, however, included baseball. In 1931, a "New Ball Team for Colored Boys" was established—called the Weed Tigers. And the Italian-American community's Sons of Italy Baseball Team also welcomed African-American players. One of the team's most venerated players was Ray Brown.

James Langford concluded his thesis this way: "By the time I arrived in Weed in 1974 there were approximately 500 African-Americans out of a total population of 3,600. The 1970 census figures for Weed show a 14 percent black population, while 1980 figures show a 13 percent Black population. This percentage compares to a nationwide Black population of 11.3 percent reported by the 1980 census. In 1970, only 2.1 percent of Siskiyou County's population was Black, while 1980 figures indicate a Black population of only 1.5 percent. Census figures for the year 2000 show that Weed's population has declined to 2,978 people with 9.3 percent Black. In other words, Weed has maintained a vital African American community for nearly one hundred years." ♦

PHOTO ABOVE RIGHT: Early packers/drivers. from left to right are (back row): B. Bradley, M. Isaacs, and J. Henderson; (front row): F. Bradley, W. Balfrey, and P. Smith (a blacksmith). Courtesy Siskiyou County Museum.



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“On the Road to . . .”

by Bob Pasero

Bob Pasero is Orland's retired Police Chief. Orland is in Glenn County which is at the southern end of The State of Jefferson! Bob writes for the Sacramento Valley Mirror and we will be re-printing some of his fascinating articles from his column: "On the Road - Adventures in the State of Jefferson."

Bob is also the National Chaplain for an organization called The Missing in America Project, a Veteran Recovery Program. Please go to www.miap.us for more info.

ON ROAD TO “NEW HELVETIA”

As children my brother and I would play games in the “Way Back” of the family station wagon on road trips. You probably did the same thing. One of the games that we played we called the “What If” game. The “What If” game was simple enough. One of us would come up with a topic and a question, “What if “X “ never happened? We were both baseball fans and it was one of our favorite topics. Our game might start with, “What if Boston never traded Babe Ruth to the Yankees?” Our imaginations would run wild and we would come up with all sorts of scenarios to answer the questions. Today history would probably be one of the topics. But, honestly, we are both still baseball fans and I am sure that baseball would still be high on our list of topics. In a history category today my question might be something similar to, “What If Johann had never come to America?” To answer that question we will have to get On The Road To New Helvetia

In this case “Johann” is Johann Augustus Suter. Johann is often misidentified as German but, truth be told, at the time of his birth in 1803 “Germany,” as we know it, did not exist. Johann was born in the “Germanic” city of Kandern. Had his marriage been a happy one he might never have come to the United States. But good business decisions and wedded bliss were not his and in 1833 he left his homeland and came to the United States to get away from crushing debt and an unhappy home life.

Johann eventually “Anglicized” his first name to “John” and changed both the spelling and pronunciation of his last name. He added a second “T” to his last name spelling it Sutter, and began to pronounce his last name as “SUT-TER” rather than the more proper pronunciation, “SUIT – ER.” The bottom line is that Johann did come to America. He found his way cross country to Alta, California and secured a substantial Mexican Land Grant. The community started by Johann was one of the largest Anglo settlements in the entire central region of the future state, larger even than the sleepy coastal community of Yerba Buena, now known as San Francisco. It was settled essentially by one man with some Hawaiian conscripted workers along with Native American forced labor. Johann named the community after his home nation of Switzerland (Helvetia) and called his new settlement, “New Helvetia.” Today we call New Helvetia “Sutter’s Fort.”



By 1847 New Helvetia was the western terminus of the “Coloma Road” which led from New Helvetia to Sutter’s sawmill in the foothills at Coloma. It was at the Coloma sawmill site in January of 1847 that a mill-right working for Johann, James Marshall, would discover a small, shiny, yellow colored pebble in the mill race. It is no exaggeration to say that the small pebble which Marshall discovered changed the course of western history and forever altered the good fortune that Johann Augustus Suter had enjoyed in Alta, California.

Johann’s business ventures in Alta, California had proven quite successful. In 1841 he hired an enterprising young man as his business manager. The young man secured the Russian holdings at Fort Ross making Johann even wealthier and making his compound much more secure. Cannons from Fort Ross were transported inland to New Helvetia and were used to secure the Fort. They were imposing enough that they were never fired in defense of the fort. They were fired only occasionally during celebrations. That enterprising young man would go on to secure his own Mexican land grant. His influence politically was such that he personally delivered the articles of impeachment to President Andrew Johnson. That young man was Chico’s founding father: John Bidwell.

Johann’s generosity was well known. By 1846 settlers had begun making their way westward overland to California. One ill fated wagon party, “The Donner Party” found themselves stranded and starving in the Sierra Nevada Mountains between October 1846 and February 1847. We know the history of the Donner party and the drastic steps some had to take to survive that horrible ordeal. But lost in the sensationalism of the tragedy is that Johann, upon hearing of their plight, immediately and personally outfitted, funded and dispatched a rescue party.

Eventually Johann’s poor business decisions and the discovery of gold would lead to the loss of his beloved New Helvetia compound. He was forced to dispose of New Helvetia to settle bad debts. He returned east to Pennsylvania where he would live out his days. He died there on June 18, 1880 in near poverty. His grave in the Monrovia Cemetery in Lititz, Pennsylvania is on the national historic registry.

But let’s get back to our “What if” game. “What if” Johann had never come to the United States? It is safe to say that gold would have eventually been discovered here...but when? There is little doubt that California would eventually become a state. However, if not fueled by the discovery of gold would it have occurred as early as 1850? “What if” Johann had not settled at his “New Helvetia” and secured a 42,000 acre land grant?

Would Sacramento, the community that grew up on that land grant, be there today if not for Johann? “What if” the capitol of the future state was never seated in Sacramento? “What if” a young enterprising John Bidwell had not polished his business skills at the desk of Johann? Would he have secured his own land grant? Would Chico even exist today? “What if” Johann had not been in California in 1846? Would the entire Donner Party have perished in the Sierras? To answer some of these questions I believe a road trip is in order. Perhaps we will see you when we get ON THE ROAD to New Helvetia, Sutter’s Fort in downtown Sacramento. ♦

Photos Above Right:

First is the sign identifying the Sutter's Fort and below that is a typical "Farm Wagon" that many pioneers came west in. It is quite small and has no seat...the pioneers had to walk along side the wagon. Courtesy Bob Pasero.



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An Untouched Wilderness?

Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum is installing a new exhibit, "Fire! Fire! – The Many Faces of Flame." This exhibit will be a local history on how fire has shaped this region. Opening night is April 1. Researching this exhibit has been very interesting. All of us at the museum learned many things about the history of fire in our area. This article gives an idea of what was occurring in the late 1800s, early 1900s.

Much of the landscape that so impressed the early writers, photographers and landscape painters was not the wilderness they imagined. When the first Europeans visited California, they saw a carefully tended "garden" that was the result of thousands of years of selective harvesting, tilling, burning, pruning, sowing, weeding, and transplanting by California Indians.

The California Indians were aware of the danger of uncontrolled fires. They wanted to protect their villages and places where they gathered food and weaving materials. They regularly set fire in the forests. It kept the brush down and promoted the growth of wildflowers and grasses. They also burned to ensure superior material for weaving baskets, to collect insects, to improve pasture for game, to thin forests, to make travel easier, and to produce more seeds and berries. Many anthropologists witnessed this frequent burning of the area; some of the areas were burned annually, some every 3 or 4 years.

When the miners and settlers arrived in the area, they were amazed at the amount of timber that was available in the forests. There was so much of it they could not foresee a use for all of it. Some of these early settlers were fascinated with fire, its beauty and its destructive power. Louise Clappe, writer of The Shirley Letters (1851 letters from the gold fields) said, "We set fire to some fir trees. Oh, how splendidly they looked with the flames leaping and curling amid the dark green foliage like a golden snake, fiercely beautiful." William Downie, a prospector, wrote in 1849, "The 'boys generally invented some kind of sport, and it was a common thing to see them set fire to the moss on the bark of trees and watch the blaze run up to the top of the mighty trunk." The fires would burn through the seemingly limitless forest, and did not threaten their towns or possessions.

Carelessness caused many forest fires, as did lightning. However, most fires in the forests were deliberately set for practical reasons. Prospectors were said to burn brush to uncover underlying layers of rock in their search for gold. There was widespread burning of forests and brush lands by lumbermen, stockmen, and settlers. These people had seen the way the California Indians used fire to keep the meadows large and the trees from taking over. They had also witnessed how burning of the grasslands kept the brush down and the new growth of grass each year was better for the sheep or cattle.

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Many mountain residents supported this "light burning," to reduce the threat of intense wildfires. H. J. Ostrander of the San Francisco Call, wrote on September 23, 1902, "The practical mountaineer says, 'Burn and burn often, so this accumulation of debris in the forest shall not become so great as to cause the destruction of the trees when a fire sweeps through the mountains.'" Some of the early Forest Service people as E.A. Sterling disagreed, "Fire is the greatest of forest evils." The summer of 1910 was a turning point in the decision about whether to allow light burning of the forests. Extremely intense fires had burned three million acres in Idaho and Montana. 85 people were killed, 78 of them firefighters. California's forests were also ablaze. Because of this increased fear of fire, most people did not want fires to be set, and they wanted all forest fires to be put out quickly.

Thus, the action to put out all forest fires was the result. This decision changed the forests, as shown by this quote from Nellie Lavell of the Mono tribe, "In previous times, the fire would creep along because it was late in the fall when the winds have stopped. The fires would just go out. It wasn't covered like it is now with pine needles, old limbs, brush, and stuff that is all dry. Every year fires were set, and they never got hot enough to burn the big trees. Then they came with their fire restrictions."

The current Forest Service agrees that annual burning, as practiced by the early California Indians, has been shown to be a wiser way to manage the forests. ♦



Mount Shasta from a meadow - used by permission of Mt. Shasta Sisson Museum - This photo was taken in 1920, showing the expanse of meadows at that time. "As the U.S. Forest Service began to suppress fires, meadows that had been burned by California Indians began to fill in with brush and trees. Open areas like meadows are needed, so water can go into the ground to replenish the streams and ground water." (Klamath Alliance for Resources and Environment, 2015)



"Shasta Peak" by A.T. Agate - A member of the Wilkes Expedition in 1841 that explored this area. Much of the landscape that so impressed them was not the wilderness they imagined. They were seeing a carefully tended "garden" that was the result of thousands of years of burning and gardening by California Indians. Image used by permission from College of the Siskiyous.




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One BADASS Musher!!

Stories by April Cox

I was jolted back into reality by the sound of snowmobiles. I hadn't realized I was daydreaming. Not the smartest thing to do when running a team of dogs in a blizzard. I was on the way back to the finish line during the 12th Annual Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race. 100 Miles with 8 dogs in the Eagle Cap wilderness in far Northeast Oregon near the town of Joseph. Yes, named after Chief Joseph. Love that town. Anyway, I didn't realize I was that close to the snow-park as I had just passed by the 75 mile trail marker. I figured I still had a ways to go before getting there.

This was my third attempt at this race. The first year, I was 22 miles into the race and realized my sled was broke, so I pulled into the next checkpoint and scratched. That was 2014. Last year, 2015, the morning of the race, I woke up very sick. I didn't even start the race. I was determined this year to finish it! We made it into Ollokot (the halfway point). No incidents and a very fun trail. But then on the way back, it started snowing and that wind was blowing! Probably the worst I had been in with my team, on a sled anyway. I had been in bad storms on training runs with the quad, but not on a sled.

I could see there was a right-hand turn in the trail ahead. (see photo on Page 29) The trail we were on continued straight but there was the nifty yellow sign with the orange colored arrow on it, pointing to the right. I called out the command to my leaders, "GEE." They turned right without hesitation and the trail ahead went straight up a pretty steep hill. It seemed odd to me as I didn't recall coming down anything that steep on the way out. The dogs headed for it as if they were up for the challenge. After all that is where the snowmobiles must have come from, as the tracks were fresh in the drifting snow. But just that moment I saw the red 'W' marker. Wrong way.... "ok," I thought. "Where's the trail?" I looked around and to my right off about 100 yards was another yellow/orange arrow pointing the way to go and just beyond that, I could see the trail in the trees. BUT there was no "trail" to speak of. Somehow, we had to get over there.



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I gave the command to my leaders, "GEE," but they were determined to go straight. So, I set my snowhook and walked up to the leaders. The fresh snow was pretty deep. I wasn't sure exactly where the trail was but as I got up there, I could see a slight curve. So I took hold of the leaders' neckline and started walking them over to the right. I sank knee deep into the drifting snow. I got up and went again. After getting them pointed the direction I was hoping to go, I went back to my sled and called up the team. At first they started to go back towards the other trail, the easy looking one. I hollered out a sharp, "NO, GEE!" and this time they followed and headed towards the real trail. We managed slowly to get over to where we needed to be and as we neared the end of the drift I could see there was a pretty good drop off as I watched the dogs go down. The tip of my sled neared the edge and yep, it was about 3 feet down. "Here I go," I thought to myself.



Somehow I managed to get the sled down without crashing, stopped the team, set my hook and went up thanking all 8 of them graciously... shortly after we got going again is when I saw the 85 mile trail marker. Just 15 miles to go. (to be continued)

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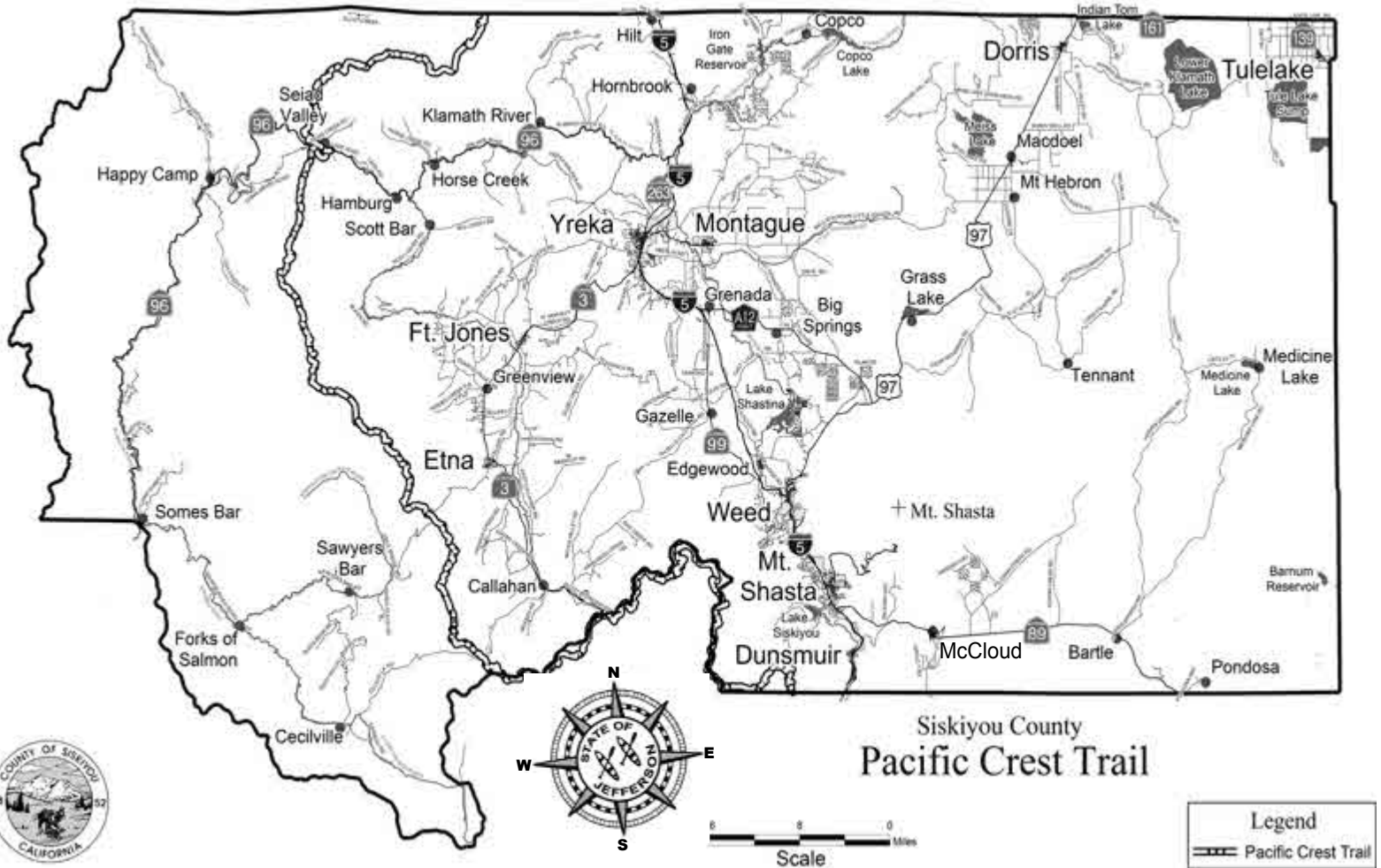
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