FREE LOCAL INFORMATION GUIDE

JEFFERSON BACKROADS

A Happy Little Publication

www.JeffersonBackroads.com



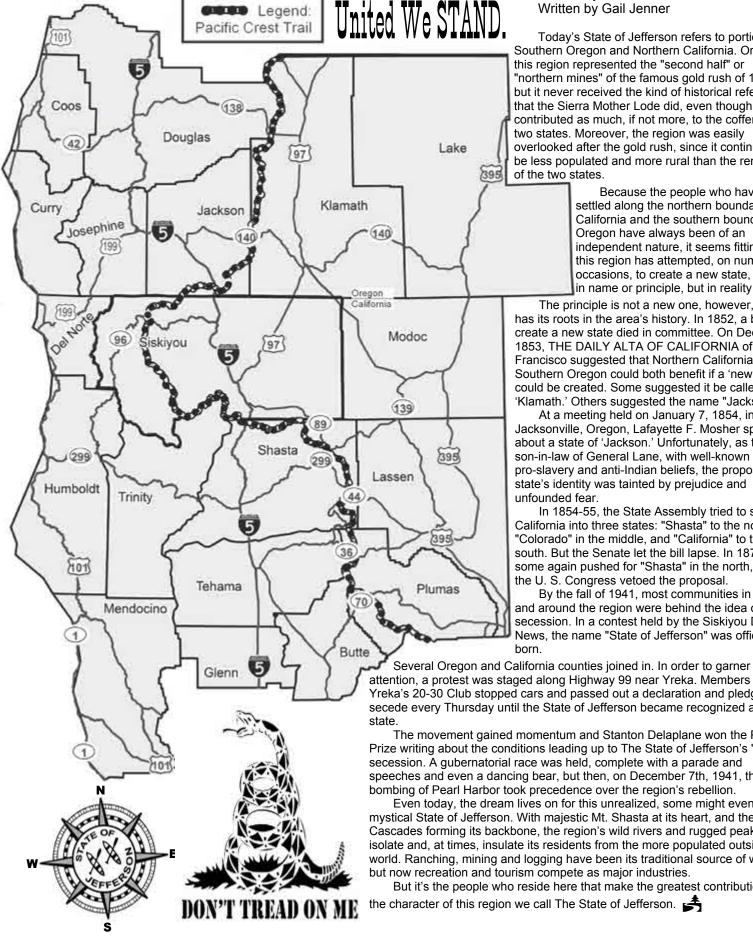
GOD BLESS AMERICA
MAY 2016





Our State of Jefferson is Old School America

Legend:



A Brief History of The State of Jefferson Written by Gail Jenner

Today's State of Jefferson refers to portions of Southern Oregon and Northern California. Originally this region represented the "second half" or "northern mines" of the famous gold rush of 1849-50, but it never received the kind of historical reference that the Sierra Mother Lode did. even though it contributed as much, if not more, to the coffers of the two states. Moreover, the region was easily overlooked after the gold rush, since it continued to be less populated and more rural than the remainder

> Because the people who have settled along the northern boundary of California and the southern boundary of Oregon have always been of an independent nature, it seems fitting that this region has attempted, on numerous occasions, to create a new state, not just in name or principle, but in reality as well.

The principle is not a new one, however, but has its roots in the area's history. In 1852, a bill to create a new state died in committee. On Dec. 19, 1853, THE DAILY ALTA OF CALIFORNIA of San Francisco suggested that Northern California and Southern Oregon could both benefit if a 'new state' could be created. Some suggested it be called 'Klamath.' Others suggested the name "Jackson."

At a meeting held on January 7, 1854, in Jacksonville, Oregon, Lafayette F. Mosher spoke about a state of 'Jackson.' Unfortunately, as the son-in-law of General Lane, with well-known pro-slavery and anti-Indian beliefs, the proposed state's identity was tainted by prejudice and

In 1854-55, the State Assembly tried to split California into three states: "Shasta" to the north, "Colorado" in the middle, and "California" to the south. But the Senate let the bill lapse. In 1877-78, some again pushed for "Shasta" in the north, but

By the fall of 1941, most communities in and around the region were behind the idea of secession. In a contest held by the Siskiyou Daily News, the name "State of Jefferson" was officially

attention, a protest was staged along Highway 99 near Yreka. Members of Yreka's 20-30 Club stopped cars and passed out a declaration and pledged to secede every Thursday until the State of Jefferson became recognized as a

The movement gained momentum and Stanton Delaplane won the Pulitzer Prize writing about the conditions leading up to The State of Jefferson's "official" secession. A gubernatorial race was held, complete with a parade and speeches and even a dancing bear, but then, on December 7th, 1941, the bombing of Pearl Harbor took precedence over the region's rebellion.

Even today, the dream lives on for this unrealized, some might even say, mystical State of Jefferson. With majestic Mt. Shasta at its heart, and the Cascades forming its backbone, the region's wild rivers and rugged peaks both isolate and, at times, insulate its residents from the more populated outside world. Ranching, mining and logging have been its traditional source of wealth,

But it's the people who reside here that make the greatest contribution to

JEFFERSON BACKROADS REGULAR DELIVERY SPOTS

Do you ever wonder where you can find a copy of Jefferson Backroads? Here is a trail you can follow to hopefully locate a copy ... Or CALL US!!

Siskiyou County, California

Dorris

Slice of Heaven Bakery & Cafe

Dunsmuir

Burger Barn

Dunsmuir Chamber of Commerce

Dunsmuir Hardware

Etna

Bob's Ranch House Mountain Village RV Park, Store & Gas Wildwood Crossing Coffee Shop & Cafe

Fort Jones

Noah Perlman, Chiropractor/Naturopath

Grenada

3J's Deli, Market & Fuel Siskiyou Pellet Mill

McCloud

Siskiyou Brew Works

Montague

Cortright's Market, Deli & Fuel

Mt. Shasta City

2nd Chance Consignment
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Say Cheese Pizza
Weston's Quilt Shop

Weed

Dawson Wreath Barn & Gifts Montgomery's Meats & Deli

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Black Bear Diner
Collier Visitor's Center
Evergreen Dental
G&G Hardware
Don Hill Chiropractic
J & D Diner
Klander's Deli
Les Schwab Tire Center
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Klamath County, Oregon

Klamath Falls

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GOOD

OLD-FASHIONED



UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact us by the 10th of each month to place your events or classes. Call or Email Us!!

Scott Valley Theatre Co.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

<u>Acoustic Night</u> May 7th SVB @ The Avery Series To Benefit Madrone Hospice

Idance Show May 13th & 14th Community Event

**Tickets available at most Scott Valley Bank locations.

Avery Memorial Theatre
430 Main Street - Etna, CA 96027 (530) 598-0989
www.scottvalleytheatrecompany.org

Let'em Know
You Found Them
in Jefferson Backroads!

Naturopathy Chiropractic



Noah Perlman, ND, DC 11800 Main Street Fort Jones, CA 96032 (530) 468-5144

DL Trotter & Associates Construction Facilitation



664 Main Street Quincy, California 95971 530.283.9162 "We Support Amateur Radio" Sunday May 1, 2016 69th Annual Scott Valley Pleasure Park Rodeo in Etna, CA.

Friday May 6, 2016 Siskiyou County Search and Rescue Annual Tri Tip Dinner Montague, CA See AD on Page 30.

Saturday May 14, 2016 Redding Fire Festival Redding, CA www.firefestivals.com

May 14-15, 2016 Rogue Valley Piecemakers 36th Annual Starry, Starry Night Quilt Show Grants Pass, OR - See Page 20.

Saturday May 21, 2016 Salmon River Spring Bazaar Cecilville, CA (530) 462-4685 www.cecilville.com - See Page 20.

May 22, July 3, July 31, Aug 14, 2016 Butte Valley Community Arena Summer Shootout Buckle Series. Dorris, CA (530) 397-5466

Saturday May 21, 2016 Scott Valley Quilters Quilt Show Fort Jones, CA See Page 21 for info!

Saturday May 28, 2016 Art of Survival Century Bicycle Event Tulelake, CA & Klamath Falls, OR www.survivalcentury.com (541) 723-3181 See Story and info on Page 32-33.

Memorial Day Weekend Saturday May 28, 2016 Dogwood Daze in Dunsmuir, CA www.dunsmuir.com (530) 235-2177 See Page 24 for details.

May 28-29, 2016 McCloud Mushroom Festival McCloud, CA www.mccloudchamber.com (530) 964-3113

May 30, 2016 Memorial Day Services See Schedule on Page 7.

June 2-5, 2016 Mendocino Film Festival Mendocino, CA www.mendocinofilmfestival.com (707) 937-0171

Saturday June 4, 2016 WEED FEST 2016 Musical Event in Weed, California See Page 13 for story and AD. June 4-5, 2016 3rd Annual Salmon River Disc Golf Tourney, Cecilville (530) 462-4685

Saturday June 4, 2016 Redding's Reggae Fest 2 Redding, CA www.sightnsoundpro.com

Saturday June 4, 2016 Rogue Brews, Burgers & Bluegrass Medford, OR www.roguebbb.com (541) 897-0612

Saturday June 4, 2016 Scott Valley Giant Yard Sales Event Call Scott Valley Chamber of Commerce

Sunday June 5, 2016 Portuguese Holy Ghost Festival Hawkinsville, CA See Page 28 for details.

June 9-12, 2016 Mt. Shasta Longrifles Trout Creek 40th Annual Rendezvous McCloud, CA See AD and story on Pages 10-11.

Saturday June 11, 2016 Klamath River Community Hall Klamath River Vol. Fire Dept. Happy Camp - Flea Markets, Feeds & Rummage Sales Up and Down the Klamath River - Highway 96 See AD on Page 38.

June 11-12, 2016 Seiad Valley Volunteer Fire Department Rummage Sale & Chili Feed Seiad Valley, CA - AD on Page 38.

Sunday June 12, 2016 10th Annual Taste of Redding Redding, CA - Info: (530) 224-9292

Saturday June 18, 2016 Tribute to the Trees in Dunsmuir, CA See Ad and Story on Page 23.

Sunday June 19, 2016 CHVA Car Show - Box Car Races & Father's Day Breakfast in Yreka, CA See AD on Page 22.

June 22 thru July 19, 2016 Siskiyou County Fiber Arts Show Snow Creek Studio Mt. Shasta City, CA - See Page 19.

Saturday June 25, 2016 Afterglow - A Musical Homecoming The REC in Fort Jones, CA See Pages 16-17 for story and Ads.

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

WE LOVE OLD SCHOOL AMERICA

34

Welcome Aboard!

We love to surround your business ADs with cool local information, amazing events, interesting histories and stories of our many Mom & Pop businesses operating here in our Extreme Northern California and Southern Oregon "State of Jefferson" region.

DISCOVER THE ADVENTURE SIDE OF THE STATE OF JEFFERSON

Check out our friendly AD rates below. Give us a call or send us an email to get YOUR business AD and events into our next issue of Jefferson Backroads... Welcome to The Happy Little Publication.

THANK YOU!!

This happy little local publication is made possible ONLY thanks to our Honored Advertisers who graciously place their ADs with us. Our beloved writers, readers and subscribers complete the circle... Please take a moment to let these generous businesses know you saw their Ads and stories in Jefferson Backroads. It really DOES make a difference!

2016 Advertising Rates

AD SIZES & RATES PER MONTH - 3 month AD run

CARD B/W $2x3 \frac{1}{2}$ only \$50/mo SMALL B/W \$85/mo 4x4 only HALF PG B/W 4x8 only \$150/mo 8x10 **FULL PG B/W** only \$200/mo

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JEFFERSON BACKROADS A HAPPY LITTLE PUBLICATION

PO Box 344 Michelle Fain Ralph Fain Owner-Editor Side Kick Grenada, CA 96038

(530) 640-0100 www.JeffersonBackroads.com

email: JeffersonBackroads@gmail.com

- ADVERTISING Rates and Publication Information
- 29 BREW PUBS - Breweries, Tap Houses & Pubs in The State of Jefferson
- **BUTTE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Local Businesses**
- Calendar of Some Local and Area Upcoming Events
- 23-25 **Dunsmuir Local Upcoming Events**
- 25 Dunsmuir Railroad Depot & Museum News & Events
- 32-33 EVENT: Art of Survival Century Bicycle Event on Memorial Day Weekend
- EVENT: C.H.V.A. Car Show, Box Car Races & Pancake Breakfast
- 24 EVENT: Dunsmuir's Dogwood Daze Memorial Weekend
 - EVENT: Jefferson State Roller Derby Event Schedule
- 38 EVENT: Klamath River, Happy Camp, Seiad Valley Events June 11
- 28 EVENT: Portuguese Holy Ghost Festival coming to Hawkinsville in June
- 21 EVENT: Scott Valley Quilters 2016 Quilt Show May 21st in Fort Jones
- 19 EVENT: Siskiyou County 2016 Fiber Arts Show June 22-July 19
- 6 EVENT: Siskiyou County Armed Forces Day event
- 30 EVENT: Siskiyou County Sheriff Search and Rescue Tri Tip Dinner
- 35 EVENT: Siskiyou Sports Car Club - Auto Cross Racing Schedule
- 16-17 EVENT: The REC in Fort Jones has a variety of events coming up!
- EVENT: Tribute to the Trees event coming to Dunsmuir in June 21
- 13 EVENT: WEED FEST 2016 - Live Music Event
- 16 Gazelle, California Businesses
- 23 Introducing: MEET ME IN KLAMATH!!
- 18-21 Quilting & Hand-Crafting Stories, Quilt Shows, Local Shoppes & Classes
- Senior Services & Information
- 14 STORY: "Discovering The State of Jefferson" by Gail Jenner
- 8 STORY: "Siskiyou Playboys Story Part 2" by Hank Nelson
- 18 STORY: "Stitching in the Ditch" Quilting Story by Judy Sartor
- 16 STORY: "The Resource & Event Center is Open" by Patrick Desmond
- Veterans Services & Information Memorial Day Services

Cover Photo - A Simple Birdhouse in our Pear Tree by M. Fain

Jefferson Backroads is proudly published for the Hard Working, Old School & Patriotic American 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, California and in 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!

Michelle Fain Side Kick: Ralph Fain

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Gail L. Jenner Ron McCloud Jean Nels Judy Sartor Mickey Weston Bill Wensrich Cascade Printing, Klamath Falls, Oregon

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SENIOR & VETERAN SERVICES



SENIOR SERVICES

Greenhorn Grange Yreka, CA (530) 842-0622

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



MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Monday May 30TH
Callahan Cemetary at 10 AM
Etna Cemetary at 11 AM
Fort Jones Cemetary at 12 noon
For more info, call: 530-467-4067

Veterans Services & Benefits Include:

Compensation/Disability Pension/Aid & Attendance

Medical/Healthcare Vocational Rehabilitation

Educational benefits Burial/Death benefits

Home Loan Eligibility Obtain Military Records/Medals

Siskiyou County Veterans Service Office 105 E Oberlin Road - Yreka, CA 96097 Phone: (530) 842-8010 Fax: 841-4314















Siskiyou County Armed Forces Day May 21, 2016 Siskiyou County Fairgrounds

The community of Siskiyou County has planned this county-wide event to honor our military personnel. Veteran's families, and the public are invited to come and express their support of our service men and women as we provide Veteran's services, a venue of displays, resource booths, entertainment, and a ceremony to honor their service to our Country.

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Entertainment

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Resource Fair

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Appreciation Ceremony

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Event Ends







For more information, please contact:

Tim Grenvik Siskiyou County Veterans Leadership Council e-mail grenvik@sisqtel.net

> Robert Ballesteros Marine Corps League (530) 643-2851

Find Us on Facebook



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



Photo of Hank Nelson from the 1960s







Story by Hank Nelson

Part-2 - A continuation of the series:
"Pioneer Country & Western Music...
Billy Aseltine and the Siskiyou Playboys.

IF you owned a television set with a set of rabbit ears way back in the early 1950's, if you were lucky, and if there weren't too many mountains in the way, you might have been able to catch a glimpse now and then of the Rainbow Valley Ranch Boys. They were aired live from Klamath Falls, Oregon and beamed into Siskiyou County every Saturday morning.

For diehard country music fans back then, Billy Aseltine was a larger than life hero, but the first time I saw Billy Aseltine on stage, live and in person and up close, was in 1957 at the old Log Cabin Club located on Main Street in Yreka, California. He was charismatic and had a way with crowds, remembering names, waving at the customers as they came in through the swinging doors. For the most part he played blue-collar music for blue-collar audiences... downhome country folks. Songs about hardscrabble living, a love affair gone bad and its restoration, songs that told a story— about lumberjacks, mill hands, and railroads hands, coal miners, oil men and steel workers, cowboys and ranch hands and plain Home on the Range.

Billy's repertoire was vast, and he was gifted with the ability to learn a song with the drop of a hat, memorizing the lyrics. He paid close attention to the latest hit songs on the jukebox. Billy always liked to play songs that had a good dance beat to them. He loved his audiences and the feeling was mutual. As I leaned back against the bar that night so long-ago now... mesmerized... Billy and the band—lead guitarist Red Stihl and Harry Warren on drums—belted out song after song. Little did I know that in time I would become his

lead guitar player.

When Billy's younger brother- Bernie Aseltineknocked on the door one evening at my Uncle Fred's apartment in Hilt. California, Fred looked up from the game of solitaire he was playing and said to me, "Go see who it is." I jumped to my feet from the couch where I'd been watching TV and opened the door. Bernie Aseltine was smiling, and right behind him, larger than life, was



his older brother Billy. I was astonished as Billy walked in lugging a guitar case. Fred glanced up with a bemused look on his face and went right on with his game. Fred liked the Aseltine brothers, knew them from their log hauling days at Fruit Growers when he was head cook on the Beaver Creek Campsite. Later, when the camp closed down, Fred had been offered a job as night watchman at the Big Mill in Hilt, along with an apartment. His son Ron was in Vietnam and he was lonely. So, every now and then I stopped by for a few days.

Uncle Fred was a camp cook, renowned up and down the west coast in the timber industry, with a great reputation. Tramp loggers spread the word about him while working in the short pine during the summer season and with long logs on the Columbia River in winter. Fred had great respect and a deep appreciation for Fruit Growers Supply Company. Fred arose, put on his coat and hat and headed for the door... pausing just long enough to tell the boys hello. "Nice to see you fellas again; I got to go to work... make yourselves to home," and shook hands all the way around as he left. Fred knew the score, alright. He wanted me to relax and not feel intimidated or bashful. Besides, a half hour or so early to work, as far as Fred was concerned, didn't matter all that much. He could always commiserate and hobnob, and josh around with his friend mill superintendent Frank Graves and the boys down at the lunch-room. That was the way Uncle Fred was, always thinking of someone else's well-being and interest ahead of his own. He was just giving me a little slack. "Well hello, Gene, Bernie tells me you play the guitar." "Yeah...a little."

"Got your git'fiddle handy? I need someone to fill in this weekend and thought I'd give you a tryout ... play a couple of songs and see what you can do."

"Who... me?!"

You could have blown me over with a feather. I recalled seeing Billy Aseltine on television and another time when Mervin McMasters and I watched him play music at the Log Cabin Club in Yreka. To me he was already a country and western star. I don't know to this day how it came to be that Bernie told his big brother Billy that little Gene Nelson (as I was known back then) could play the guitar. He had driven all the way out from Yreka to Hilt to make sure. Truth was I was a rank amateur, barely able to play a song all the way through. But Billy had his back to the wall, needed a guitar player, and his bother Bernard told him that I played. I had butterflies in the pit of my stomach and was shaking in my boots. About all I could do was pick a little and stumble along putting in a few runs here and there between the chords. But, I loved country music and in particular, Ernest Tub, Hank Williams and Lefty Frizzell.

Billy auditioned me and said, "You'll do... don't worry." Truth was, his regular guitarist had left due to a family emergency, and Billy had a Gig at the Iron Rail Lounge in Hornbrook. That night, my first time as a professional, on stage in front of a crowd, I was starstruck. Bill leaned over, and told me to relax. "You're doing fine." Now, all of a sudden, in the mere blink of an eye, I was about to step out on stage with the pressure on— and make the grade. I had to! My heart was in my throat. Here was my big chance to do something I'd always wanted to do all along... play guitar in a real country band. Then Billy started to sing, opening with a song Wynn Stewart wrote and both Wynn and Buck Owens helped popularize: "They call me a Playboy." That song stuck home and eventually became our signature song, from that point on Billy always singing it to open and close the show. That was more or less when, where, and how the "Siskiyou Playboys" band was born.

I was thrilled to be playing in a real band. It was just the tonic I needed, but all the same I kept looking over my shoulder and wondering when the bubble was going to burst.







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Mountain Man Tales - Part 2

We cut a trail back to euricka and found som good canyons that helt beaver. lodges look like good pikens might be had ifin we come this way trapin. Dropped Down into a canyon and found our selves amunsked a heard of elk. Paul flung his self to the ground and got a shot oft en kilt a big bull so we scouted a place to make camp. left jake a skinnen the kritter.

That's the Biggest elk IDE seed in me life, the horns migt be as tall as I ar. Mity fine vitles toniet. (ant wate to see ifen that ship is sunk. Wonder ifen that capten is amunsked them towns people. iD like to stretch his hide like were gona Do the elks tonite. Better watch for injuns, some ire friendly but you cant count on that bein the case. Found a good place fer camp en started maken poles fer Drien meat. I thinks we can make a small fire for roasten meat.



Next Day found us headen for beaver valley an some good pelts, maybe find us a few mink and otter. Crossed Salmon Summit got a look-see at the valley an was amazed. that country was pertien than we had dreamed. We found a safe spot to hole up an set up for a trappers cabin. We whent to work huntin and trapin fer the winter. As spring brok we ran into Thumb-Trapper, Lantern Lady, Thumb-Gun and Two Bears at Ottitiewa. headen fer the rondy at Trout Creek in June 9.10.11 &12. They assertained ifen they could join up with us. We though make we wood cut a trail past Sheep Rock into Shasta Valley and pick up Ricochet Hawk at our cabin on Scare Face.



Photo of Mt. Shasta courtesy www.siskiyous.edu.

Hope to cross paths with of friens Leather Hawk and Little Finger. Wonder if we can cross Stephens pass and make run into Two Hats and Good Wife or gonna hafta go around Mt

Shasta n Pickup Yank and Quiet Woman.

That's the fun at Rondy se en of Friens and new pilgrams en se ifn thy made it thru winter with thir hair. This is our 40th year of Rendezvous at Trout Creek. Come se some of timers, Snowfox, Fiddlen Lady, Gray Beard, an Hopper. Stroll thru traders row, visit the primitive camps and smell the Black powder smoke. Se all the fun games the kids of and young have at the rendezvous. Trout Creek is just 21 miles down Pilgrim Ck RD fallow rendezvous signs.

-Papa (Ross Stixs

P.S. For more info call Tom McCulley at 530 598-7151
Or Betty Leas at 530 926-2149.

Check out the flyer on Page 11...





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June 09th 10th 11th 12th 2016

Events

Thursday Shooter's Meeting All Trails open

8:00a.m. 8:30a.m - 8:00p.m.

Friday Shooter's Meeting All Trails open

8:00a.m. 8:30a.m - 8:00p.m.

Shooter's Meeting Saturday

8:00a.m. Rifle Trail 8:30a.m. - 5:00p.m. Hawk & Knife Trail 8:30a.m. - Till Dark

PeeWee - Seneca 4:00p.m 6:00p.m. PeeWee Long Gong

Long Gong; Rifle After Pee Wee Long Gong Specialty Shoots (Squirrel Trail) To Be Announced

Sunday Shooter's Meeting

8:00a.m. Rifle Trail - Adults CLOSED Pee Wee B.B gun TBA

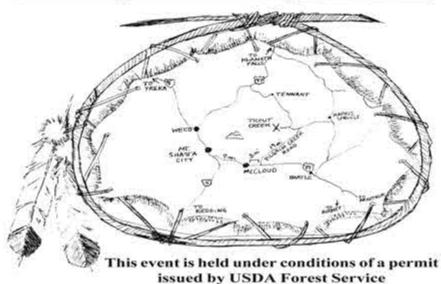
Pistol and Peewee Trail 8:15a.m. - 10:30a.m. Hawk & Knife Trail 8:00a.m. - 10:00a.m. 8:00a.m. - 10:00a.m. Shotgun (16 Birds)

Needle in Hay 11:00a.m. Awards Ceremony 12:00p.m.

*Rifle Trail Scorecards must be turned in by 6:00p.m. Saturday to be scored. Pistol and Hawk & Knife Scorecards must be turned in by 10:30a.m. and PeeWee turned by 11:00am on Sunday to be scored.

Rifle Trail requires rifle fire start at registration tent ****Rifle Trail is Handicapped Accessible.****

ATV on rifle Trail for Disabled shooters only. Check with Registration before taking any ATV on Trail.



On A Non Discriminatory Basis

Camping Designated camping areas: Primitive, Traders, Tin Tipi.

There is no reserving of Campsites

This is a U.S.F.S. Campground, all camps MUST be at least 50 ft from the creek. Private Land North of North Cattle Guard, No camping. Please be aware of rule 15 on reverse. Restrooms available. Bring potable water with you.

Campsites will be available Wednesday, June 6th 2016

No Inlines, No Fiber Optics

Divisions Men's Rifle Women's Rifle Tradegun, Flintlock Junior (12-17) PeeWee (under 12) Pistol Hawk & Knife

...We welcome Traders ... Check with Range Master for Trading rules Campsite Traders See Booshway

Fees

Pre-Register		At shoot
\$20.00*	Single	\$25.00*
\$25.00*	Family	\$30.00*
*PeeWee's	will need to	bring a
bl	anket prize.	
*Plus, if des	sired, a blan	ket prize
for each sho	oter for each	heategory

entered. No Alcohol. *Pre-Registration must be postmarked on or before June 2nd 2016

Location may change account of

Snow!!! Call

530-926-2149 **Betty Leas** Harry Hall 530-235-4546 530-926-6942 Dion Meadows Tom McCulley 530-598-7151





Butte Valley Establishments



Hospitality Dinner House & Pub

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A Slice of Heaven Cafe & Bakery

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Just 3 miles south of the Oregon border on Highway 97.

Visit our Chamber of Commerce Website at www.BVCC.biz for more information.

WEEDFEST 2016

Press Release:

The Siskiyou County summer concert season will officially kick off on Saturday, June 4, when the WeedFest 2016 Music and Art Festival arrives in Downtown Weed, California. Featuring 11 musical acts, arts and crafts vendors, food booths and a beer garden, the festival is a fundraiser benefitting the local civic group Weed Pride. Last year's WeedFest raised enough funds for Weed Pride to finish construction of the beautiful new Heritage Plaza. This year's event will be raising funds to complete the purchase of a new portable stage, which will be located at Heritage Plaza. Admission will be a \$10 donation, for a full day of family fun-in-the-sun.

The event will be held on Main Street, which will be closed down from Inez Street to Division

down from Inez Street to Division Street. The festivities begin at high noon. Six musical acts will perform at Heritage Plaza, and five will play inside the newly reopened Palace Theater. Headlining the event is a group from Isla Vista, in Santa Barbara, called "The Olés". They'll be performing at 7:00pm inside the Palace Theater. "A beautiful melding of reggae and hiphop, with bits of ska, folk, and classic rock influences thrown in, you can tell that these guys know how to party — The Olés' music is made for getting down." - The Indie Blender



The entire music schedule is as follows:

Indoors (Palace Theater)...

12 noon- Rockit 1:30- Blue Relish

3:15- Fabulous Blackwell Brothers 5:00- Secret Society Handshake

7:00- The Olés

Outdoors (Heritage Plaza)

12 noon- Rusty Miller 1:30- Bruno Grossi 3:00- John Abbott

4:30- TBA Band

5:30- Sundown Poachers

7:00- Ryan Marchand

There will also be a special pre-WeedFest concert Friday night at the Palace Theater in Weed... Sponsors, donors, arts and crafts vendors, food vendors and volunteers are wanted, and asked to contact festival organizer Jimmy Limo at 530-471-3423.

For more information go to the concert website- www.WeedFest2016.com , or on Facebook: WeedFest 2016...

WeedFest 2016 Music & Art Festival

Saturday
June 4, 2016
Noon - 9pm
on Main Street in
Downtown Weed
11 bands
Art & Crafts
vendors
Food booths
Beer Garden
Raffle! Prizes!
Family Fun!



BAND LINEUP

PALACE THEATER STAGE

12 NOON- ROCKIT

1:30- BLUE RELISH

3:15- BLACKWELL

BROTHERS

5:00- SECRET SOCIETY

HANDSHAKE

7:00- THE OLÉS

HERITAGE PLAZA STAGE
NOON- RUSTY MILLER
1:30- BRUNO GROSSI
3:00- JOHN ABBOTT
4:30- THE TBD BAND
5:30-SUNDOWN POACHERS
7:00- RYAN MARCHAND

DANCING! Bring lawn chairs...

for more info call 530-471-3423 websitewww.WeedFest2016.com

Photo: Jacksonville, c. 1912. Courtesy Gail Jenner Collection.







First photograph of Crater Lake by Peter Britt courtesy Southern Oregon Historical Society. See Page 23 to learn more about exploring Crater Lake. Also for more information on the National Park Service 100 year Celebration, please turn to Pages 32-33.

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.

JACKSONVILLE, OREGON

Jacksonville's early wooden structures, often devastated by fire, were eventually replaced by locally fired brick buildings which have lasted 100+ years. By the 1860s, however, gold was played out. Still, for decades, Jacksonville served as the commercial center of Southern Oregon. Approximately \$10,000,000 in gold was taken out of southern Oregon between 1851 and 1860. Total gold found in Oregon prior to 1960 was \$134 million, placing Oregon 10th among the states, including Alaska.

One of those to make his home in Jacksonville was Peter Britt who shifted his focus from gold to photography, then to agriculture and a host of other enterprises. His photographs reveal life in early Jacksonville and southern Oregon. He was also known as a miner, mule train packer, beekeeper, financier, meteorologist, and the first vintner in the Oregon Territory. Many have called him the father of the region's fruit industry.

Britt was born on March 12, 1819, in Switzerland. Though his family was poor, Peter's training as a portrait artist provided him a living. After his mother died in 1845, Peter, his father and his brother immigrated to the United States and settled in Illinois, where many Swiss lived. Britt studied in St. Louis with a prominent daguerreotypist, J. H. Fitzgibbon, before opening his own studio.

Gold fever struck Britt in 1852, and he headed west with a group of Swiss-born adventurers. That November, traveling on foot and hauling a small cart containing his photographic apparatus, he arrived at Jacksonville, Oregon, which was just a mining camp. In spite of his poverty, he achieved modest success as a photographer and built a small home and studio in 1854. In 1861, he sent money to a former sweetheart who had recently widowed and Amalia Grob and her son Jacob came west too. They married and had three children—Emil (born in 1862); Arnold (1863; died in 1864); and Amalia, known as Mollie (1865). Mrs. Britt died in 1871.

Peter Britt established a vineyard in 1858 and planted orchards of pears and peaches. Though he photographed primarily portraits, he began to take photos of Jacksonville. His photography documented the world around him: local gold mining, including Chinese miners, railroad building, and other scenic attractions.

Britt also took the first successful photograph of Crater Lake in 1874. Later his images were used in the campaign to create Crater Lake National Park, in 1902. Peter Britt died in Jacksonville on October 3, 1905, and is buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery.



In 1884, a shift occurred in Jacksonville's history. The railroad was routed through nearby Medford and not Jacksonville, linking California and Oregon, and the Shasta Route was completed between Portland and San Francisco on December 17, 1887. As a result, Jacksonville's population and popularity suffered even though it remained an important agricultural center.

The region's lush and rich soil continued to attract farmers and those seeking to settle in the West. Orchards and crops thrived, including pears, peaches, and other fruit. An old song boasted: "There'll be apples on each branch in Oregon; there'll be valleys filled with golden grain. There'll be cattle on each ranch in Oregon; and there'll be plenty of sun and rain."

Today Jacksonville is considered the entrance to the Applegate Wine Valley, which stretches from Jacksonville to Grants Pass. In 1966, Jacksonville was the first town in the United States designated a National Historic Landmark, and since then it has grown into a tourist and history buff's idyllic destination. Jacksonville's pioneer cemetery is one of the oldest in the Pacific Northwest and contains more than 4,000 gravesites. It is still in use. More than 100 buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Jacksonville Inn, the McCully House Inn, the Beekman House, the U. S. Hotel, and others. The U.S. Hotel housed many notables over the years, including President Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife and General Sherman, in 1880. Other buildings of interest include the Orth Building, the Beekman Bank, Redman's Hall, the Bella Union Saloon, the First Presbyterian Church, and many others.

Jacksonville is also home to the famous Britt Music Festival, which runs from June to September each year. From its location in the Rogue Valley visitors can also travel to nearby attractions such as Crater Lake National Park, the Oregon Caves, or the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. In addition, adventurers can seek out jet boat rides, whitewater rafting, fishing, hiking, cycling, and downhill and cross-country skiing. *Check out Pages 23 and also Pages 32-33 for more INFO!*

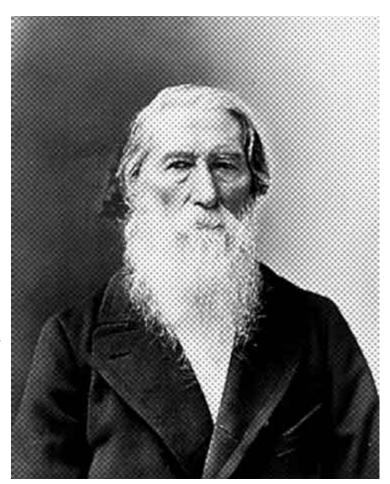
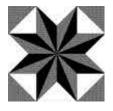
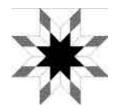
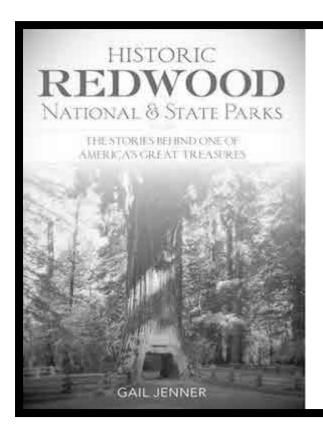


Photo of Peter Britt. Courtesy Wikipedia.





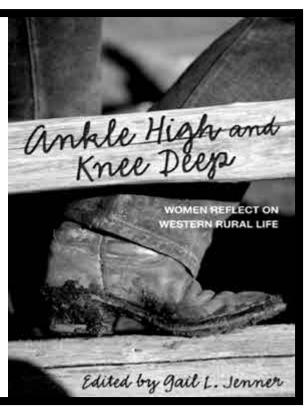






Here are two of Gail Jenner's most recent literary accomplishments...

Local Author www.GailJenner.com



THE RESOURCE AND EVENT CENTER IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Northern California Resource Center, Resource Management and the Scott Valley Film Coalition are now headquartered in the Resource and Event Center in Fort Jones, California.

The Resource & Event Center, also known as The REC, is Siskiyou County's new, dynamic creative space dedicated to supporting and entertaining the people of northern California.

Featuring a music studio, performance space, meeting rooms and administrative offices, the REC is as flexible as the people who hope to use it. Located in the heart of Fort Jones, the building has undergone a complete remodel including new roof, heating and air conditioning and state of the art projection, sound and light systems.

"I am a native of Scott Valley and have run a business here for twenty years," said owner and operator, Larry Alexander. "The need for a place for the community to gather to create, communicate and be entertained is a need that I am excited to fill. Everyone is welcome at the grand opening. Tours for the general public will be available starting at 5pm."

Already home to the wildly successful Jefferson State FLIXX Fest, The REC is looking forward to a busy few years ahead. The 2016 FLIXX FEST is overflowing with entries and is anticipating another successful run.

"The REC is truly the perfect place for the FLIXX FEST," notes Megan Peterson, Executive Director of the Scott Valley Film Coalition. "This is a film festival celebrating the independent spirit of the people of northern California and the REC is dedicated to just that. It is a special building with the perfect attitude in its own

right. As the festival grows and expands to other local venues, the REC will always be its home base for just that reason."

The REC is also hosting "A Siskiyou County Musical Homecoming" on June 25, 2016. "The Homecoming is an event that has really come about as a result of the success of the film 'Afterglow,'" said Alexander. "We are inviting musicians from every decade to join us to jam, enjoy and re-connect."

Following a screening of the film, the band 'Afterglow' will be performing while other musicians will be recognized throughout the event. Details will be announced soon.

The administrative space is also an asset the valley has long desired. Featuring ample power, fiber optic internet and



renovated offices, the building has already attracted tenants including the natural resources consulting firm, Resource Management, The Shasta & Scott River Watermaster

District, the National Wildfire Institute and Sonali & Company, a real estate broker.

The REC is located at 11236 Hwy 3 in Fort Jones, California. The general public is always welcome. More information can be found at www.TheRECinFortJones.com or by calling 530-468-2888.

Check out Page 17 for upcoming events!!





THE REC IN FORT JONES IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!!





The REC is Open For Business

"Siskiyou County's new and dynamic creative space dedicated to supporting and entertaining the people of Northern California."



Now Accepting Rentals



The Resource & Event Center
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www.TheRECinFortJones.com
530-468-2888

Welcome to Our Tenants

- · Resource Management
- Northern California Resource Center
- Shasta & Scott River Watermaster District
- Scott Valley Film Coalition
- · Sonali & Co.
- · The National Wildfire Institute
- Jefferson State FLIXX FEST





BITS AND PIECES:

QUILT SHOWS OF 2016

May 14-15: Starry, Starry Night Quilt Show in Grants Pass, Oregon at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

May 21: Scott Valley Quilt Show in Fort Jones, Ca. Theme is "Gotcha Covered," Featured Quilter Kathy Durret. See Page 21 for information.

June 21 - September 6: Row by Row Experience. Theme: Home Sweet Home.

June 22 - July 19: Siskiyou County Fiber Arts Show, Snow Creek Studio, Mt. Shasta, Ca. See Page 19.

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

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

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

October 1-2: Oroville Piecemakers, Oroville, California.

For MORE QUILT SHOWS: www.quiltguilds.com/

Row by Row Experience

The theme this year is "Home Sweet Home." Watch for Weston's unique panel. A lot of steps were involved in its creation. The panel itself is now available.

Potholder Queen Jeanne Welch of her target 1,000 potholders. As it is only May, she is well ahead of the game. Since Jeanne thrives on challenge, I believe that she should set her sights on a loftier goal, say 1,500.

Meet Meri Pace, one of the true angels of Project Linus. She makes quilt tops, beautifully pieced by hand, and brings us kits consisting of the top, the backing, and cut strips for the binding. We supply the batting and one or another of our quilters turns them in to Linus quilts. What a gift!

See photo of Two Meri Pace quilts, quilted by Sally Eagleman and bound by Judy Sartor at right......



STITCHING IN THE DITCH

By Judy Sartor of Mount Shasta Lily Quilt Guild

Spring is a prelude. For the quilter, spring brings quilt shows and the possibility of quilt shows.

First off, let's not forget to attend "Gotcha Covered" on May 21. It promises to be a great day with many lovely quilts to view and various boutique items to purchase. These ladies have been busy.

Many of us attended the Redding Quilt Show the weekend of April 22-24. What a spectacular show! Their featured quilters were Dorinda Goff and Blossom Hamusek. Blossom was a guiding force behind the 2012 quilt challenge, "A River of Quilts," which toured many venues.

Now it is a lot of fun to attend a quilt show, but it is much more exciting to plan one. There are logistics to be dealt with first: the venue, the featured quilter, the opportunity quilt, the submission of entries, etc. But then the excitement becomes palpable as guild members prepare their quilts for submission and discuss what they are doing and the hoped-for results. Advice is asked and given. It's not about the competition, though that element is there. It's about taking that step, putting yourself out there, and the feeling of pride in seeing your own work on display. And it doesn't matter whether you have created an original work of art or used a time-tested pattern. It's about feeling a sense of pride and enjoyment in the entire experience. And it's about sharing your experience.



Mount Shasta Lily Quilt Guild

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



Shadow Mountain Rec Center Mt. Shasta, California www.ShastaLily.org



Weston's Presents:

Siskiyou County 2016 Fiber Arts Show

At the Prestigious Snow Creek Studio in Mt. Shasta City, California June 22 to July 19, 2016



\$100 gift certificate from Weston's for Best of Show! Entry Deadline June 17.
This is a juried show.

For Information and application contact
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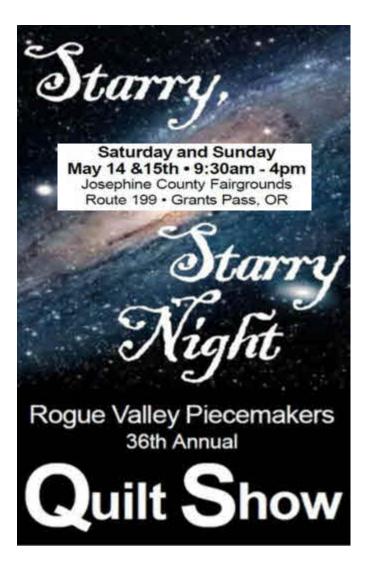
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SCOTT VALLEY QUILTERS 2016 QUILT SHOW

The Scott Valley Quilters Guild is having our Bi-annual quilt show 'Gotcha Covered'. You will be able to see the wonderful talent of our group of ladies. All the proceeds from our show are used to give scholarships to the high school students and returning students.

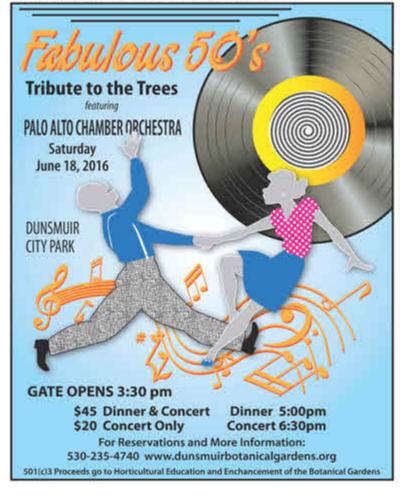
Our guild has been meeting since 1988 and started with 9 members. We now have many more and are growing. Many quilts have been made and given to Veterans; past and present, Needfill quilts for those needing support and love from disaster or loss, seniors and shut ins in the valley, firefighters and children in the hospital.

We have meetings on the first Thursday of the month, along with work days on Tuesdays, at the Methodist Church in Etna. We hope to see you on May 21 for our show! Come prepared to be amazed and maybe win some great stuff!



Scott Valley Quilters 2016 Quilt Show Beautiful Handmade Quilts, Basket Drawings, Country Store. Entry donation \$3.00 each. Featured Quilter: Kathy Durett 2016 Opportunity Quilt All Proceeds go to Scholarships All Proceeds go to Scholarships All Proceeds go to Scholarships Tickets-\$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 Tickets-\$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 Torawing May 21, 2016 9am to 4pm Fort Jones Community Center (behind Post Office) Fort Jones, California www.scottvalleyquiltguild.com

DUNSMUIR BOTANICAL GARDENS



Tribute to the Trees

Savor the sounds and beauty of summer at the 26th annual Tribute to the Trees, Saturday, June 18th in the Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens. "Fabulous 50's," the theme of this year's event, promises to be fun-filled as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra.

................

The Gate opens at 3:30 pm with special pre-concert activities. Raffles and a wonderful array of Silent Auction items wait. Bring a picnic or reserve an al fresco dinner catered by Liza Wood of Lunchbox Dinners in Dunsmuir. A beer and wine bar will also be available. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm with the concert beginning at 6:30 pm. Come spend the afternoon on the beautiful meadow, tour the Gardens and meet old friends and new.

Tickets for this wonderful event are priced to please: \$20 for open lawn seating or \$45 which includes dinner and seating at one of the beautiful tables surrounding the Gardens' meadow. Student tickets are \$25 for dinner and concert or Concert Only \$10. Group discounts are also available. Tickets can be purchased at several locations: Village Books, Mt. Shasta; Dunsmuir Hardware, Dunsmuir; the Dunsmuir Recreation District office: 4821 Dunsmuir Avenue or call 530-235-4740 and online at www.dunsmuirbotanicalgardens.org.

Contact: Ellen McArron Dunsmuir Botanical Gardens 530-235-4372 ellenmcarron@sbcglobal.net

C.H. J.A. EATHER'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKS CAR SHOW & BOXCAR RACES Sunday June 19, 2016 Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds - Yreka, CA

Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds - Yreka, CA I-5 Exit #773 - Follow The Signs

35th Annual **Car Show** 8am to 2pm No Entry Fee **Free Admission** Info: (530) 842-3452



Catered Breakfast 8 am - 11am

Boxcar Races 11 am - 12:30pm

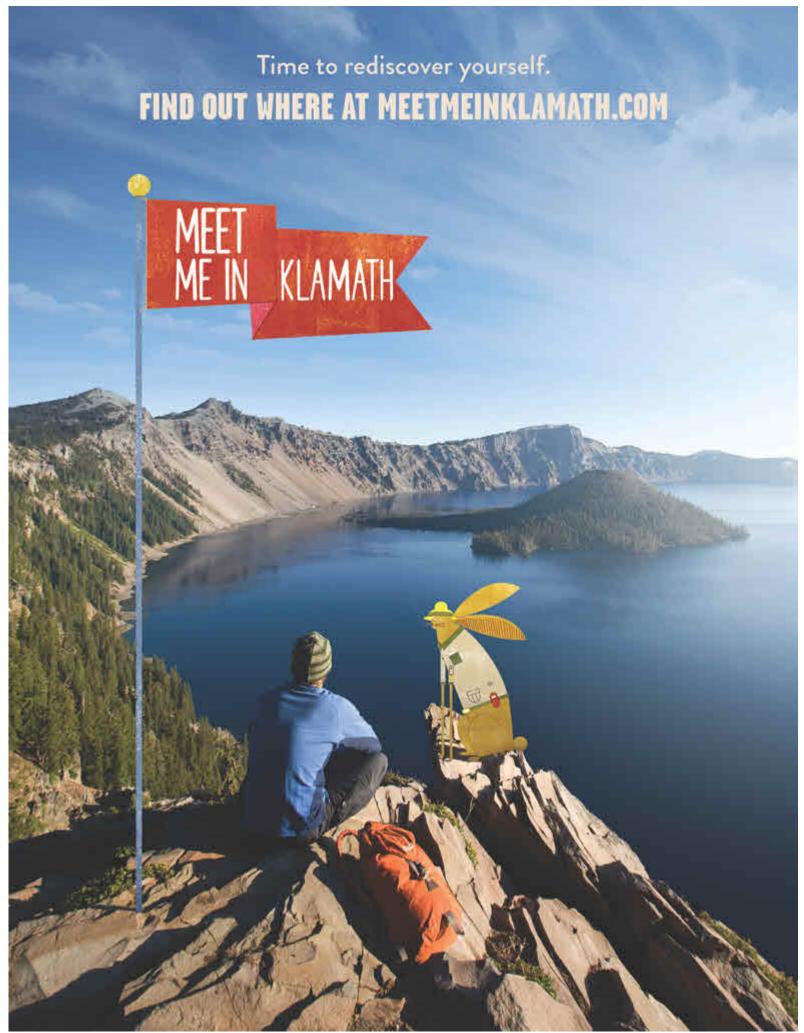




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Dogwood Daze ***

MAY 28, 2016

8:00 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST

10:00 am PIE SOCIAL

11:00 am DOGGIE PARADE

12:30 pm SOAPBOX DERBYALL DAY.....

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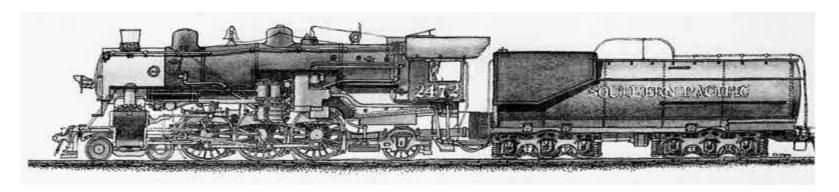


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EVENT LOCATIONS

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DUNSMUIR RAILROAD DEPOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PIES, PIES, PIES AND MORE PIES!

The Dunsmuir Railroad Depot Historical Society's 8th Annual PIE SOCIAL is scheduled for May 28th beginning at 10 a.m. and til the pies are sold out. The Dunsmuir Museum/Depot parking lot is turned into a pie bakery!

Last year over 170 pies were baked/donated/sold! Each pie maker will again receive a Pie Maker ribbon and the Society's thanks. There's still time to call Phyllis at (530) 235-0839 to donate your pie(s). Proceeds will benefit the continued maintenance of the Dunsmuir Depot (the only Siskiyou County rail stop) and the Dunsmuir Museum.

The Dunsmuir Museum is now open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10 am til 2 pm. Thanks to the Depot Society volunteers we are able to open two Saturdays monthly and during town events.

The Museum will be open RAILROAD DAYS - June 10th 1-4 pm, June 11th 10-4 pm, and June 12th 1-4 pm. RAILROAD DAYS tee shirts and buttons will be displayed.

See you at the Dunsmuir Museum/Depot for PIES!





Pie servers Carol, Barbara, Vonnie and Josephine were ready to serve pies last year.

2016 Events – Mark your Calendar

May 28th: 8th Annual Pie Social

June 10 - 12: RAILROAD DAYS



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DunsmuirDepot.com

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Museum open 1st and 3rd Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm,
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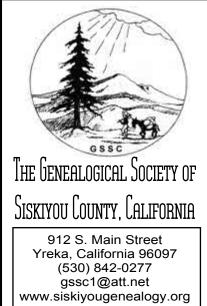
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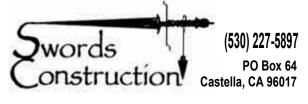
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HOLY GHOST FESTIVAL

Sunday June 5, 2016 Hawkinsville, California Fun for the whole Family!

Queen's Parade: 11 am

Mass of Thanksgiving: 11:15 am

Pit Barbecue Beef Dinner: 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Times are Approximate.

Games: Sack and 3 legged races
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Drawings: Cash, split firewood & gift baskets
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Curry County, Oregon Arch Rock Brewing Co.

Douglas County, Oregon

McMenamins Roseburg Station Pub & Brewery Wild River Brewing & Pizza Company

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Eel River Brewing Company Lost Coast Brewery Mad River Brewing Redwood Curtain Brewing Company Six Rivers Brewery

Jackson County, Oregon

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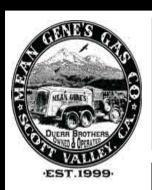
Friday May 6, 2016 at 6 pm **Montague Community Center** 200 South 11th Street Montague, CA

Music - Auctions - Door Prizes Grand Prize - No Host Bar by Shasta Valley Rotary

Info: Jeanne George (530) 524-7278 This event is raising funds for training and equipment.

The Siskiyou County Sheriff Search and Rescue Association is a non-profit charitable organization recognized by the State of California and the Internal Revenue Service under section 501 (c) 3. #47-4070089.





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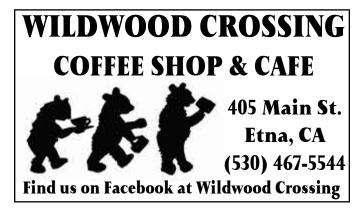
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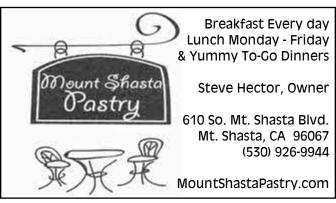
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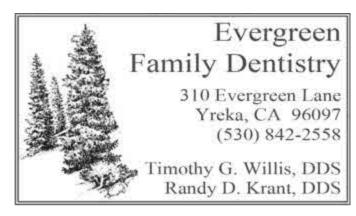


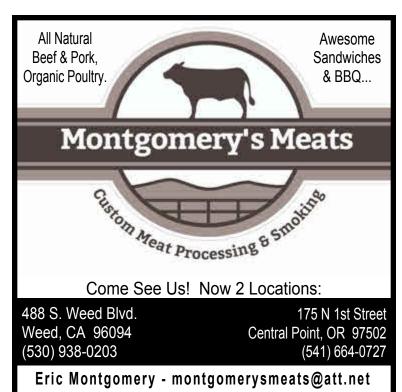












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www.survivalcentury.com or contact Linda at 541-723-3181

2016
National Park Service.

Lava Beds

NATIONAL MONUMENT



2016

National Park Service.

Tule Lake Unit

WORLD WAR II VALOR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL MONUMENT

The ART OF SURVIVAL BICYCLE RIDE (AOS) takes place on Saturday, May 28, 2016 in Tulelake, California and Malin and Merrill, Oregon. The setting for this unique ride is in one of the most beautiful, remote and undiscovered part of Siskiyou and Modoc Counties in California and Klamath County in Oregon.

CELEBRATE with us our National Parks 100th Anniversary throughout this gala event and during our postride meal. Our Nation is being encouraged to get outside and FIND YOUR PARKS! Well look no more, we found your parks right here in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Whether you ride a bicycle, or not, there will be activities for you and your family at our event on May 28th. A special grant was just received from the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund to help CELEBRATE OUR NATIONAL PARKS with our surrounding communities in the State of Jefferson. Our Honored California Highway Patrol will host a Bicycle Rodeo for the children, so bring your children, their bicycles and helmets. Raffle prizes will also be awarded. So, let the CELEBRATION begin! Register today at www.survivalcentury.com.

Both the 100 and 45 mile routes of our AOS RIDE pass through the Lava Beds National Monument which has an unparalleled volcanic landscape with towering cinder cones, expansive black lava flows and more than 700 lava tube caves. The park also has a rich cultural history, containing thousands of petroglyphs and pictographs, as well as the major battlefields of the Modoc Indian War.

The Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds in Tulelake, the RIDE headquarters, has numerous visitor services available including a museum of local history, a WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument Visitor Center, which is open to on Friday, May 27, 8:30 am-5:00 pm and 8:30 am-5:00 pm on Saturday May 28th. The Fairgrounds also has RV and Camping sites with full hookups for \$18/night or dry camping for \$15/night. Reservations will be accepted by calling Linda at 541-723-3181. Payment required upon arrival.

Art of Survival Continued from Page 32...

The ride weaves through rich farmland and incredible wetland areas with a vast array of birds, wildlife and springtime wild flowers. It follows the historical landmarks that were part of an event that Japanese American internment camp survivors and their families make a pilgrimage

to honor every other year.

The Century ride has six strategically placed rest stops and the 45 mile ride has three. The rest stops will be fully stocked with healthy snacks, drinks, restrooms, and five out of the six will have an educational component that



we encourage all riders to experience, for example learn about the Tule Lake Segregation Center where 18,000 Japanese Americans were held, Captain Jack's Stronghold a Modoc Indian War site, and the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

This incredible and awe inspiring area promotes an experience you and your family and friends will not forget. Come celebrate

with us! ◆

For more info on the The National Parks Centennial Celebration, read Gail Jenner's story on Pages 14-15. She wrote a book on the Historic Redwood National & State Parks as well! Check it Out!!





CYCLE SISKIYOU

George Jennings, The EGG and SCBTP Coordinator

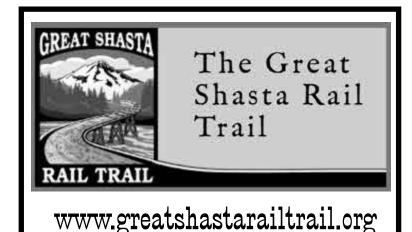
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Celebrate America's National Parks Centennial!!

Even if you don't want to ride a bicycle in this event, Come Share in the Festivities and Learn & Enjoy some cool Stuff!!

Also we are having a BICYCLE RODEO the day of the event, put on by the California Highway Patrol for the children. Come Out with your kids and bring bikes and, of course, bring your helmets.







Regional Cycling Event Schedule

Anderson Century Anderson, CA	May 21, 2016	www.andersoncentury.com	
Art of Survival Century Tulelake, CA and Klamath Falls, OR	May 28, 2016	www.survivalcentury.com See AD and Story	
Castle Crag Century Mt. Shasta, CA	June 18, 2016	www.castlecragscentury.com	
Humbug Hurry Up Yreka, CA	June 25, 2016	www.jeffersonmountainbike.com/hhu/	
Mt. Shasta Summit Century Mt. Shasta, CA	Stay tuned	www.mtshastasummitcentury.com/	
Siskiyou Century Mt. Shasta, CA	September 10, 2016	www.yrekarotary.com/siskiyou-century-2-2/C1	
McCloud BikeToberfest McCloud, CA	September 24, 2016	www.mccloudchamber.com/	



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Check out their website to see the many photos of Alderbrook Manor Bed & Breakfast.



2016 SSCC

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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

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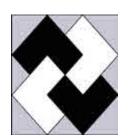
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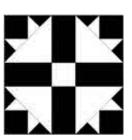


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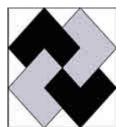














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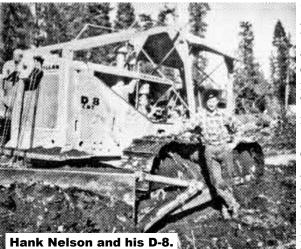


The Siskiyou Playboys Continued from Page 9

Then, one night after the show, we went to an all-night restaurant where the local musicians got together for breakfast and to hobnob with one another, bragging about their "gigs." Right out of the blue Billy introduced me as his new lead guitar player. I was on cloud nine! I had always dreamed of being in a band, and NOW! I was actually getting paid to do it! I got "real" serious. I gathered up a stack of old 33 1/3 records and started imitating as best I could the way the guitarist played, especially on the songs Billy liked to sing. I got so I could do okay. Billy liked the way I played guitar, and kept telling me that he wanted pure country and nothing else, no fooling around with jazz or rock and roll, just straight forward country music. I buckled down and learned a few snappy instrumentals. Billy taught me how to "eat" the mike and to loosen up and smile every now and then... to look and act like a professional. Things like that—which one day, a long ways on down the road, would come in mighty handy in my "day jobs."

I was working for McCloud River Lumber Company running a cable-blade D-8 Caterpillar. I took good care of it too; pampered that ol' girl like a mother hen. The logging Superintendent noticed and made me the Dozer man on the Salvage side, building spur roads, clearing out the turnouts for the trucks and the log loader and crew and cold-decking the logs. I took my responsibilities seriously. I was proud that the Superintendent should have faith in me... and I was not to going to let him down. It was the first job I ever had that I relished, and I couldn't wait to go to work. The big pine country on the East side of Mount Shasta was beautiful... something right out of the movies, nearly too good to be true. It had everything you wanted or expected, romanticism, adventure, sweat, blood and tears, toil and danger! The Big Mill, the clatter— an embodiment of symphonic cacophony— and the winsome, lonesome sound of a train whistle and the hurried bustle of life in the raw. It had it all! A veritable Utopia. And I loved it.

The first time I'd met Billy was with his brother Bernie, when we drove across a rickety bridge just below the Elkhorn Tavern to the little cabin overlooking the Klamath River where Billy and his new bride Joyce



lived. Billy had just gotten out of the Navy where he had seen action in the Pacific during the closing months of World War Two. Bernie wanted me to hear him sing.

Billy smiled obligingly, cradled his guitar in his lap, made a nifty little lead-in and began singing a spine-tingling rendition of Jimmie Rodger's Blue

yodeling classic: "T" for Texas, and Ernest Tubb's signature song, "Walking the floor over you." It was my favorite song and made me remember the times I'd tag along to Yreka and back with my Uncle Fred, when we'd stop off at the Elkhorn Tavern for a game of pool and a cold beer. Seeing as I was underage, I'd sit at the far end of the bar and play the juke box with the handful of quarters Fred had given me, and much to the bar tender's consternation played "Walking the Floor" over and over.

The Siskiyou Playboys Continued from Page 36

Finally one day he told Uncle Fred that if I didn't stop playing that song so much I'd wear it out! But I couldn't help it, I loved that song, especially the way E.T. would say to his lead guitar player, Leon Rhodes-- "Ah...take it away, Leon." Years later, when I became Billy's lead guitarist, I was always thrilled whenever Billy sang that song, especially when it came my time to step forward and crank out the lead part and hear him say "Ah... take'er it away....Hank"

I looked forward to those weekends. They were magical—playing country music, and the euphoria of being onstage in front of a live audience was a dream come true. All of a sudden I'd discovered the symmetry and definition that I needed... answers I had been looking for all along. Truth was, for the first time, I was able to look the world in the eye. Back as a youngster turning 13 things in general had been largely uncertain. It was an awkward time, growing up on the Klamath River 40-miles from town, on the backside of the ridge, surrounded by forests and tall mountains. I'd wanted to be a mountain man, a fly fisherman— and a writer. When we were a little older, my best pal Ed Groves and I fought forest fires during the summer for the United Sates Forest Service. We'd even tried out for the Klamath River Merchants baseball team and had made second-string. We learned all about girls and life in general from reading Western Romance dime novels and going to the movies. Okay... so let 'm scoff— all along I was out to prove something— to myself and maybe those who thought I would never amount to a hill of beans. I was driven. I wanted to measure up and be somebody. Most of all though, I wanted my mother, who could sing and who loved dancing, to be proud of me.

The Siskiyou Playboys playing at Klamath River Community Hall in 1971. Left to right: Chuck Leader, Billy Aseltine, Hank Nelson. Photo submitted by Hank Nelson.



Billy would step up to the mike and said "Hello folks, how ya doing" and then "How about a dance!" Right away people were in the mood. Our opening number and the one we always closed with was "They call me A Playboy," but the one song I remember that really turned me on, set me on fire and caused goosebumps and the hair on the back of my neck to stand up and take notice was Billy's rendition of Ernest Tubb's... "I'm walking the floor over you." When it came my time to step forward and play the instrumental lead-part....he'd say to me..."Ah take 'it away Hank" and I'd bare down and play it as close I could to the way Leon Rhodes played it. It always gave me a rush of adrenalin, because

traditionally when you are playing music in the background the spot-light is focused on the vocalist. Then, all of a sudden you are in the glare of the circle of light and it's all up to you, like walking the gang-plank. You hafta do it, sink or swim... and if you do it right or even okay there is no better feeling of pure, inexorable exhortation!

Billy Aseltine gave me my first chance at playing guitar professionally in a real country and western band, and I loved every minute of it. When you come right down to it, I'm lucky, I've a lot of good memories. I loved being up there on stage in front of crowds. Seeing folks pile out of their seats and fill the dance floor with happy feet, having a good time ... music with a beat... you know... so the folks could dance—that is what it was all about. •



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Hank Nelson (left) and Billy Aseltine. Photo submitted by Hank Nelson.

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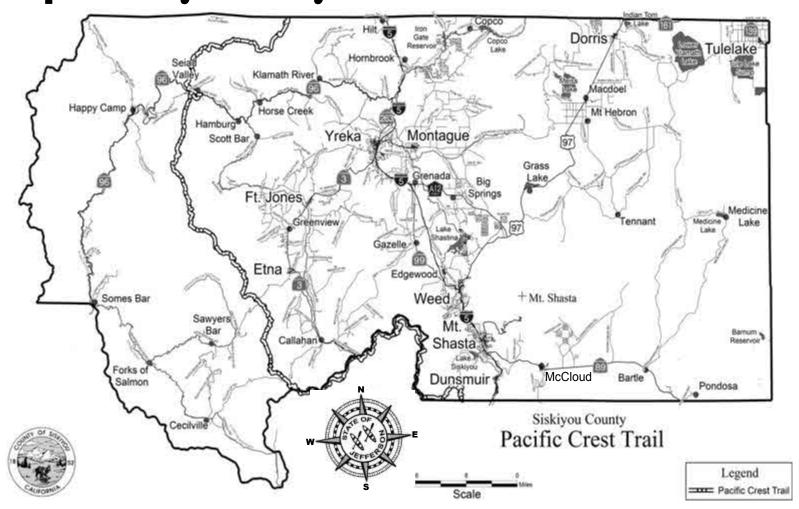
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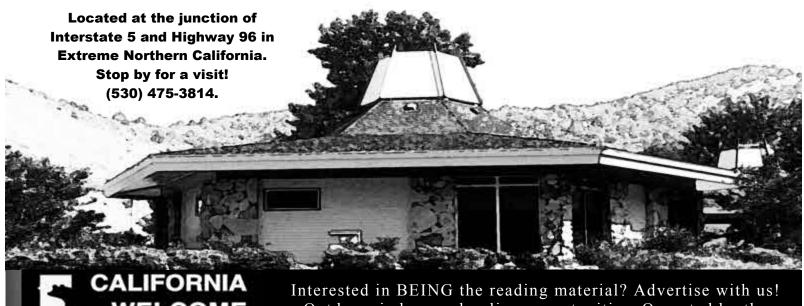
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Genealogy Society of Siskiyou County Research Library 912 S. Main Street - Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 842-0277 www.siskiyougenealogy.org

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