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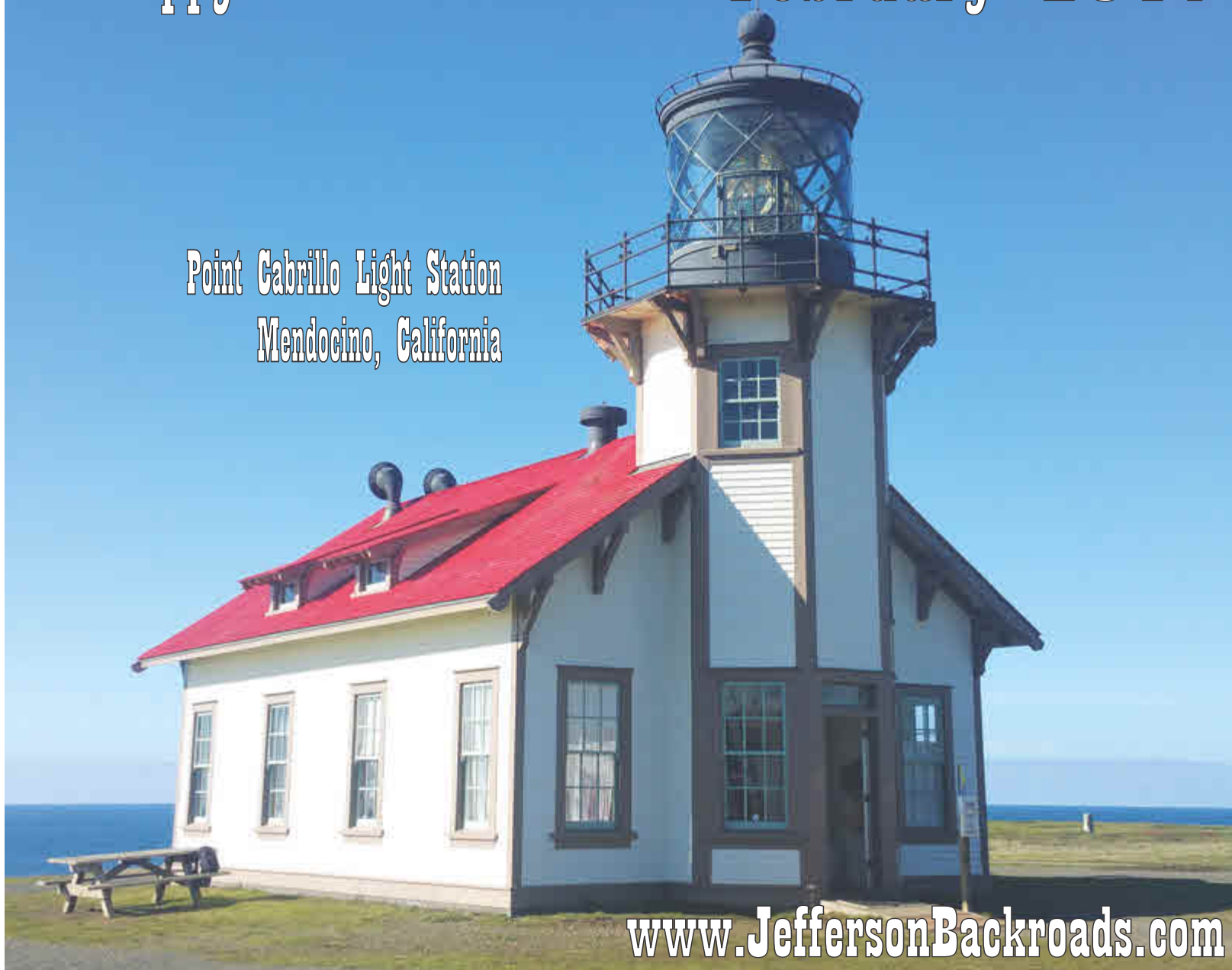


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A Happy Little Publication

February 2017

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Mendocino, California**



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Taken in January 2017 by Michelle Fain

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JEFFERSON BACKROADS A HAPPY LITTLE PUBLICATION

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Side Kick

www.JeffersonBackroads.com

Jefferson Backroads is proudly created and published for those Independent, Hard Working, Old School, Patriotic American Rebels who live in or travel through our Rugged & Beautiful State of Jefferson Region. The TRUE Independent Nature of The State of Jefferson can be found in Small Towns all across Rural America. 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.

Subscriptions are available by mail within the 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 or email. FYI: Our publications can be read ONLINE 24/7/365. Thank You for your Support!

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Printed by: Cascade Printing, Klamath Falls, Oregon

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Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers of all ages are welcome at Siskiyou Ice Rink.

♥ Help on the ice and off with school groups is needed typically 12-3pm, Tues thru Friday to assist children with getting their skates on and off, to help them on the ice, and to help put away skates away after the session is over.

♥ Experienced skaters are welcome to volunteer as rink guards on the ice during the season.

♥ Experienced hockey players are welcome to volunteer as assistant coaches for the rink's youth hockey program. Help is needed with setting up the rink for pick-up games, and volunteers will be needed at the annual Pick Up Hockey Tournament on Sat, Jan 30, 2016. Email Chris at hockey@siskiyourink.org for information.

Friends of the Rink is a volunteer-run organization dedicated to support the Siskiyou Ice Rink – if you have a particular area of interest you would like to be involved with, or particular skills you would like share, let us know – it's likely we can put you to work!

Call the rink office at 530-926-1715 or call FOR 530-926-5631. You can also email volunteer@siskiyourink.org.

Open thru February 26, 2017

SiskiyouRink.org • [Facebook.com/RinkFriends](https://www.facebook.com/RinkFriends)

Special Season Pass rate for those living 50+ miles from the rink

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- Jan 12 Full Moon Skate • Jan 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Skate
- Feb 4 Hockey Pick Up Tournament • Feb 10 Full Moon Skate
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day Couples' 2-for-1 Skate
- Feb 20 President's Day Skate • Feb 26 Closing Day

Rink Phone & Weather Line: (530) 926-1715
Located in Mt. Shasta at Shastice Park, 800 Rockfellow Dr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS:

Friday - February 10, 2017 from 6-9pm

A Valentine's Chocolate Affair
The Gallery - Black Bear Building - Mt. Shasta City
Call (530) 926-2334

February 11-12, 2017 from
Winter Art & Chocolate Festival

Brookings Harbor High School, Brookings, Oregon
Call Brookings Chamber of Commerce at (541) 469-3181

Friday - Sunday, March 3-4-5, 2017

NorCal Sports Show
Shasta District Fairgrounds - Anderson, California
www.norcalssportshow.com

Friday - Saturday, March 11-12, 2017

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March - Etna Elementary Talent Show

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Four Weather Shoot
Sunday, February 26th

Ryan D Campbell
Memorial Shoot
Sunday, April 23rd

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Backroads Adventures

By Ralph Fain

"Napping the Backroads"

"Let's begin by taking a smallish nap or two..."

—Winnie the Pooh

WE ♥ FISHERMEN

You read the title right "Napping the Backroads." With you ask. The answer is simple, like me. I love a nice fat nap! And the best naps to take are out in the fresh air and sunshine in our Great State of Jefferson! When I first retired I took a nap every single day. I figured it was my way of recharging from years of work and the environment in which I worked. After 6 months of daily naps, I began to feel a bit guilty. After a year, I began to feel a bit lazy. Beyond the year I felt a bit that maybe it was getting out of hand and I was taking advantage of a good thing and I should be doing something more productive every afternoon. So I tried to quit.

Now, I chewed tobacco for years and I know what it's like to be addicted and I know what it's like to break that addiction. It's hell. It's a long, slow, minute by minute agonizing hell which requires constant attention to be successful. Twenty years after quitting my tobacco addiction my mouth still waters every time someone opens a can of chewing tobacco and the aroma hits my nose.

Giving up napping is worse! How in the world does a person get up at the crack of dawn to go fishing along the Smith River (or any river but I have to get a plug in for my favorite State of Jefferson River!) and not get sleepy by one or two o'clock in the afternoon? Seriously, when the weather breaks, and it does in the winter time on the Smith, and you are sitting on a gravel bar soaking in the sun's rays, how do your eyelids not droop? The gravel gathers the warmth of the sun and throws it on me from all directions and my eyes become sandpaper while laying back in my zero gravity chair, and I nap. Unabashedly, I nap. I snore, drool, jump and pass gas contentedly while sound asleep. Why not? It is like homemade biscuits and gravy, one of life's great pleasures!

I also nap while beachcombing our beautiful beaches around Crescent City and into Southern Oregon. How can you not? You walk and walk. The sound of the surf is a continual massage in your ears and enters your very soul as you walk along; head bowed looking for agates and other treasures. A man can only take so much before plopping down in a warm, dry gravel bed with the sun overhead. Sometimes I pretend to dig around the gravel looking for agates. Usually, I don't pretend, I just fall right to sleep. Nap time! One warning of caution while sleeping in the gravel on the beach, make sure you know what the tides are doing and when! If you have to ask why, I will leave it to you to figure out thru your own experiences.

I nap when hunting too. Deer and elk both bed down mid to late morning for naps. They are smart animals. We are up early, before the sun and scour the mountains looking for our prey. While chasing big mule deer in the high desert of the State of Jefferson we watch the big bucks until they bed down for their nap. I learned from those bucks. They will find a high point on a ridge with a good view, back their butts up to a large rock or rock ledge then lie down and sleep with one eye open. I do the same thing but I close both eyes. Nobody is trying to eat me. I back up to the rock for warmth, not safety.




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STITCHING IN THE DITCH

By Judy Sartor of the Mount Shasta Lily Quilt Guild

The cabin is snug and warm. The wind sighs, and snowflakes float outside the window. The cabin walls are well chinked, so there are no drafts. The aroma of the pot of beans sitting at the back of the cook stove fills the air, overlaid by the yeasty aroma of fresh baked bread.

Annie has a few minutes before her husband comes in for lunch. He and their son Jase are doing chores in the barn. She sits in the rocking chair, pulling her sewing basket towards her, along with her scrap bag. Annie has already completed six blocks of her log cabin quilt. She smiles as she fingers one block, remembering the yellow summer weight dress whose scraps provided some of the strips. Then there are the the red center squares, saved from a worn tablecloth. Annie retrieves her needle and her deft fingers stitch the strips together. She might even complete one block before she serves the noon meal.

The log cabin quilt is a true American tradition. While the pattern may actually be an older design--something similar existed in ancient Egypt--its connection to the settlement and western expansion periods in American history are undisputed. It was a simple design, easily pieced by hand before yardage and sewing machines became available.

The quilt pattern was especially popular during the Civil War, partly due to an association with President Abraham Lincoln. It is no coincidence that the surge in the use of the pattern is linked to Lincoln's nickname, "Railsplitter." Dozens of log cabin quilts were raffled off for the Union cause.

The center of the Log Cabin block has always had significance as the heart of the home. A red center symbolized the hearth, while a yellow center symbolized the welcome light from a window. During the Civil War, a black center on a quilt hanging on the clothesline indicated a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Much has also been made of the color schemes of the block. In its simplest form, the block is constructed with light strips on two sides and dark strips on the other two sides. There are, of course, countless variations. Some go by the names of Courthouse Steps, Barn Raising, Eight Sided Pineapple, and Sunshine and Shadows. Strips are commonly 1-1/2" wide, but they can be both narrower and wider. Block size is normally 12", but that is not a requirement either.

Experiment with your colors and block arrangement. That's all part of the popularity of this block and why it is so user friendly and inviting. Just like the American Spirit. Every home should have at least one log cabin quilt. I made one for my daughter's wedding in 2002 from flannels in green and coral. But I cannot find one in my own home. I'll have to do something about that.

And I will close with one of my favorite Abraham Lincoln quotes, just because... "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." ☺



BITS AND PIECES



Diana's Challenge Corner: By this point, you should be working along well with the piecing of your landscape. That's Diana's hope. If you have questions please contact Diana at jdcucu@cot.net. We will have an opportunity to exhibit our completed landscapes at a special showing at the Sisson Museum in June, so the end of May is your deadline.

Project Linus Flannel Sew Day February 1: Sponsored by the Shasta Lily Quilt Guild, Shadow Mtn Rec Room in Mt. Shasta. All quilters welcome: Just bring your machines and sewing supplies. We've got the kits for Me and My Shadow. Questions? Sartor@nctv.com

Scholarship Opportunity: The Shasta Lily Quilt Guild is again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior in Siskiyou County in the area of fabric arts, fiber arts, fine arts, theater arts or design. Scholarship forms are available at any Siskiyou County High School or from sartor@nctv.com.

QUILTERS FOR FOOTBALL: Sunday, February 5: Super Bowl Sunday Super Sale at Weston's, our favorite Quilt Shop!

SCHEDULE OF 2017 QUILTING EVENTS

March 18-19

Valley Quilt Guild Quilt Show
Yuma Sutter Fairgrounds -Yuba City, CA

April 1-2

Sun Country Quilters Quilt Guild Quilt Show
Tehama County Fairgrounds, Red Bluff, CA

May 6-7

Grapevine Quilters Guild Quilt Show, Ukiah, CA

May 2017

Wait for it: A repeat of the Scott Valley Quilters' Guild Tea Party. The last was a great success.

June 24-25

21st Annual Fort Bragg Quilt Show
Dana Gray Elementary School, Fort Bragg, CA

June 2017

Sisson Museum, Mt. Shasta City, CA
Challenge Landscape Quilt Exhibit: Join us as we celebrate the completion of our landscape quilts, open to all county participants.

August 2017: Siskiyou Golden Fair

August 11-13

Heart of the Basin Quilters Quilt Show, Klamath Falls, OR

November 4-5

Annie Star Quilt Guild Quilt Show, Chico

Shasta ClayWorks, Mt. Shasta City, California

Pottery Science: Clay = Crystals!

Souls who love crystals will be happily surprised to learn that clay "mud" is a collection of extremely small crystals floating in water. The hexagonal, flat crystals are made of layers of silicon and oxygen, also known as "silica." Seen through a microscope, ordinary clay looks like a sea of clear, flat poker chips! When clay is fired in a hot kiln (2345* Fahrenheit) those tiny crystals grow into larger crystals, and bind the pottery together just like a rock -- which is why "stoneware" is so durable. You can easily see the pointy crystals protruding from the surface of a freshly-fired piece -- the crystals make pottery feel rough to the touch.

Our crystal cravings are catered to throughout the State Of Jefferson by a thriving number of crystal shops, yet addicts can also get their crystal fix from hand-made pottery kitchenware! Remember, Dear Reader, Clay = Crystals.



A Valentine's Chocolate Affair

Gourmet fundraiser! This fête is an annual occasion hosted by Mount Shasta 5 Star Kiwanis. Come join us at the Black Bear Gallery in Mount Shasta on Friday February 10th, 6 to 9PM. The evening features wine, chocolate, and a silent auction fundraiser that supports children in South Siskiyou County. Party-animals may bid on many treats, including a platter, a pottery class, and cocoa mugs made right here at Shasta Clayworks! Tickets are \$20 single / \$30 couple, available at the door. Dress up, show up, and enjoy A Valentine's Chocolate Affair.

Shasta ClayWorks Pottery Studio

WINTER HOURS:

Thursday	10am to 1pm
Friday	10am to 4pm
Saturday	10am to 4pm
Sunday	10am to 4pm
Monday	10am to 1pm

Classes are scheduled at your convenience.

Hearty Arty Party

On Sundays in February, paint a pottery heart for your special Valentine -- only \$5 per heart -- at our Hearty Arty Party. The entire proceeds from the Hearty Party will be donated to the SNIP Spay Neuter Incentive Program. I volunteered at the Snip'n'Save thrift store for several years, and know first-hand how much good our donations do for deserving animals. Due to the closing of the Snip'n'Save thrift store on December 31st, the organization's president, Cheryl Webber, will be grateful for our help with her mission to prevent pet overpopulation in Siskiyou County. Every Sunday from 11AM to 3PM you may visit Shasta Clayworks, no appointment needed, and paint beautiful heart ornaments for only \$5 each. The keepsakes will be fired with clear glaze, and ready for pickup in March. Love your pets, love your art, take home a heart!

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Trash or Treasure?

By Jill Livingston

Is it an artifact or simply a piece of junk? True, the rusted metal contraption in the photo was found (and rescued from) a scrap metal yard so to this writer at least, it is indeed a treasure. And believe it or not the gadget, a Fresno Scraper, was a very innovative piece of equipment in its day!

The tool looks primitive, yet “Fresnos” as they were often called, revolutionized the tasks of leveling fields, digging irrigation ditches, and building roads, tasks that would have been even more backbreaking without them. If you were a shovel man around the turn of the 20th century, you appreciated this.

As a piece of earth-moving equipment, the Fresno Scraper is in essence a small horse or mule-drawn bulldozer. Earlier scrapers that were little more than glorified boards set up on edge leveled the ground by pushing dirt along in front of the boards. The soil then had to be shoveled to the side or spread in a low spot using shovels and wheelbarrows.

But this new device featured a rotating blade that directed the load where you wanted it to go and had a one-yard capacity. The two horse model sold for \$28.

John Porteous, the inventor, was a Scottish immigrant. Living in California, he listened attentively to farmers complaining about their difficulties leveling fields and digging irrigation ditches. Then he started tinkering. He patented his first Scraper in 1883, then opened the Fresno Agricultural Works to manufacture and sell the ground-breaking (literally!) tools.

And sell them he did. Thousands were sent off around the country and across the world. There followed new improved versions and then various knockoffs, leading to “fresno” (with a small “F”) becoming a generic name. They were used in agriculture, highway and railroad grading, canal building (especially the Panama Canal) and general construction, and were used by the army in World War I.

A 1912 contract for building a portion of Highway 99 lists wages for a “two horse fresno and driver” at \$5 a day, \$6.50 a day for a “four horse fresno and driver”. A laborer (that man with a shovel) received \$2 a day.

By the 1930s tractors were used to pull larger capacity scrapers and soon self-propelled scrapers appeared. The humble Fresnos were abandoned to rust but are acknowledged today to be one of our most significant “modern” inventions. They helped shape the land around the State of Jefferson and can be found here and there abandoned and forgotten, or conversely, treasured and used as decorative yard ornaments. ♦



Photo: Fresno in the Snow, submitted By Jill Livingston

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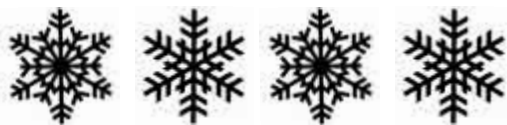


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Northern Klamath County Oregon History

By John C. Driscoll
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The Crescent School House, now the home of the First Baptist Church is one of the oldest and best preserved building located in north Klamath County, Oregon. It is a frame structure that cost \$2,500.00 and was erected during August and

September of 1914. It was, at the time of its completion, the largest one room building in the county.


On August 5, 1914 School Superintendent Peterson said in speaking of the building:

“It will be the best building in the county when finished. It is unique in that while it is a building built amply large to accommodate the students for several years, it is being so constructed that when the time comes it will be a simple matter to build onto it without defacing the original, but rather will add to the beauty of the structure.”

The Crescent School House was completed in time for the start of the 1914-1915 school year. During the Spring of 1915 two acres were purchased to provide the school with the area for a playground.

From 1914 until 1926, when schools were opened for students living Chemult and Crescent Lake, the Crescent school was the only school located in north Klamath County. Expansion of the Crescent School was announced on January 18, 1929. The one room addition, costing \$1,500.00, was intended to provide additional space for children who were residents of Shevlin-Hixon’s mobile town that was then located in north Klamath County. The arrival of the Gilchrist Timber Company significantly increased the size of north Klamath County’s student population. During April 1937, B. V. Wright wrote a letter to Fred Peterson, Superintendent of the Klamath County School District. He urged the superintendent to develop plans for a larger school, one capable of accommodating the children of the employees of the Gilchrist Timber Company.

The Gilchrist children attended school approximately a mile south in Crescent. The four-room school building was packed to overflowing with students. The elementary school students occupied two rooms, another room was used by junior high students, and the fourth room was occupied by the high school students.



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The year 1938 was the only one when Crescent had a high school. Bill Terrell, son of R. J. Terrell, was its only senior. He was the only high school student who graduated from the Crescent school.

Mary Geales Gilchrist Ernst said of her year attending the Crescent School:

“If we were in trouble in school, the teachers made us copy pages from Oregon History and learn the state song.”

F. A. Hendry remembered attending the Crescent school while Gilchrist was under construction:

“One thing I remember about that school, there was no running water. There was a hand pump outside there and we had to prime it and pump it to get water. All of us kids at noon when we had our lunch we would just walk out into the woods, in the snow and stand around out there and eat our lunch, probably build a fire. That’s the part I remember about that old school was going out lunch, building a fire, and going out into the snow.”

The 1938-1939 school year was the last year the Crescent School House was used as a school. In 1942 it became the home of the First Baptist Church. ♦

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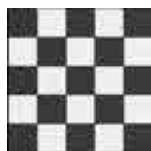


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Photo of Hank Nelson from the 1960s



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Ken Joling & Earl Joling

The lingering doldrum of the Great Depression turned the notions of the Gilded Age and Roaring 20's on their collective ears. It touched everyone in one way or another. It even reached far back into the remote reaches of Humbug Creek! There was no escaping the consequences of over-indulgence, which left in its wake disillusionment, pessimism, and hopelessness. What the country needed was escapism, an antidote of some kind or another. Broadway, the Minstrels, the Follies, and stage productions were re-adapted and made into movies. Some was a lot more local. In the short distance between the old mining shack and the creek, a bonfire glowed in the half-light between sunset and the night sky. Around its perimeter sat Rocky and his “three pebbles,” Billy, John and Bernie, Uncle John who had dropped by for a visit, and Rocky’s mining partner Harley Jenkins. Ten-year-old Billy poked the sputtering fire with a stick and glanced up now and then as the sparks spiraled into into the star-studded night sky. He held a battered milk can in his lap, strumming its sides as he sang, making up the words as he went along. Uncle John smiled and remarked, "The lad has got music in him, Rocky... he was born to sing."

In the Beginning: The Industrial Revolution that began in England found fertile ground for expansion in America, where there were wide open spaces and plenty of room to extend the railroad all the way to the Pacific, a Transcontinental line connecting the East Coast with the West. If a young man or woman wanted to follow their dreams of adventure and romanticism, and were bold enough and energetic, there was no limit as to what they could aspire to, and accomplish. It was Goliath Country, and an era of “Begat and by Gosh,” where one thing led to something else. The railroad, steam power and the towering high-rigged spar tree revolutionized the fledging timber industry, all helping develop the West faster than anything else could have in so short a time. It’s virtually impossible to describe it adequately. The country was indescribably beautiful, and to fully appreciate the grandeur you had to walk or ride the trails, hear an elk bawl at the bottom of a steep canyon, or listen from around a campfire at night to the coyotes out on a distant ridgetop, singing their choruses to the stars, maybe hear a mourning dove at daybreak... and perhaps savor the way timber and sagebrush smelled after a warm summer rain.



Heart-break at Medicine Bow: A sudden rush of fluttering wings from a covey of mountain quail caused the horse to buck. She rode it out, but then she swung down from her saddle, took a few steps and dropped to her knees, clutching her abdomen in pain. She was rushed to the hospital, four months pregnant. Her baby was stillborn, and a week later, she died due to infection and complications. Effie was an excellent rider, and it had been a pleasant day for a picnic. Ansel was overcome with grief and self-commendation, which were to follow him all the days of his life. It would come in waves, the grief and a dull ache under the heart. Ansel did the only real thing he could do-- he knelt at her headstone, laid a floral wreath of flowers and vowed that he would never forget her. His only antidote was to hire on with the Santa Faye Railroad as a coal-tender. Hard work, sweat, and toil would over time help assuage his grief. The small oval shaped black and white "tin-type" photo was testament to his remembrance of her, and would accompany him wherever he went. (see photo at right)

"The Santa Faye railroad went through Moapa, Nevada and that is where Dad met our Mother, as the train stopped there and that was where our grandmother had a store." --Johnny Aseltine.

Rocky was handsome, and possessed a charming and easy going way. Light on his feet, he could do a reasonable facsimile of the Charleston Rag, handle the two-step and the waltz. His effervescent smile just naturally drew you in. There is no question that Vada fell for him hook, line and sinker. Three sons would be born to them-- Billy, Johnny and Bernie.

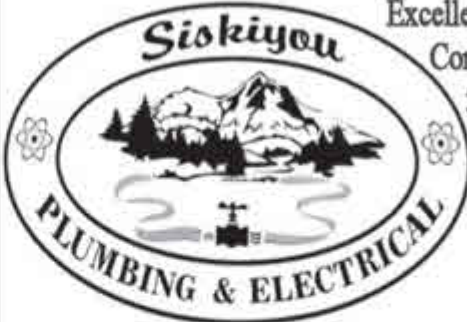
Vada Lorene Powers was pretty, quick-witted, and loved to dance and sing. Despite his periodic self-abasement, Vada was just the tonic that Rocky had been looking and longing for. Amidst the impending depression the job he found working on the Hoover Dam had been a God's send. Later, there were spasmodic mining jobs, while dreaming of striking it rich, but the glimmer had worn off. The inescapable realities of hard-scrabble living, hand to mouth, was more than Vada was accustomed to. Truth was, she missed the blinking neon signs, the glitter of the Great White way. She would, over time, confess that she had loved him and knew in her heart that her boys would provide the incentive for him to focus on the task of raising and nurturing his sons, providing clothes, food on the table and shelter.

As Billy would later relate, "When Dad came home from work one day and looked down the track that ran by our bungalow and saw his baby boy, Bernie, playing nearby, he shuddered. It was no place to raise kids. Dad made up his mind right then and there, gathered up our belongings in the back of his best friend and mining partner Wally Wagner's 1928 Buick touring car, and headed North.

Billy Aseltine's Story Continued on Page 21



Photo: Ansel and Effie Aseltine, Medicine Bow, Wyoming from 1922. Photo Submitted by Hank Nelson.



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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.

“The 1800s were Tough Times for Siskiyou”

Life was not easy in the early days of Siskiyou County. Diseases – never uncommon in 19th century America – flourished during the post-war period. Cholera was not uncommon in the mining camps. Diphtheria and other childhood diseases took the lives of many children. John K. Luttrell, of Fort Jones, lost his two eldest children within a few weeks of each other. Scarlet fever hit Fort Jones and Yreka during January and February 1869. And small pox was discovered near Jacksonville, Oregon, in February 1869. In response to the outbreak, Yreka immediately imposed a strict quarantine and promoted a vaccination program. As a result, while more than forty people died in or around Jacksonville, only seven or eight (all in one family, the Castro family) died in Hawkinsville, a few miles north of Yreka. Unfortunately, 600 small pox victims died in San Francisco. Fear arose again when, in 1880, diphtheria reappeared, several cases occurring in Fort Jones again in 1883. Henley (north of Yreka), then known as Cottonwood, suffered under the blows of 89 cases in February, March, and April of 1884.

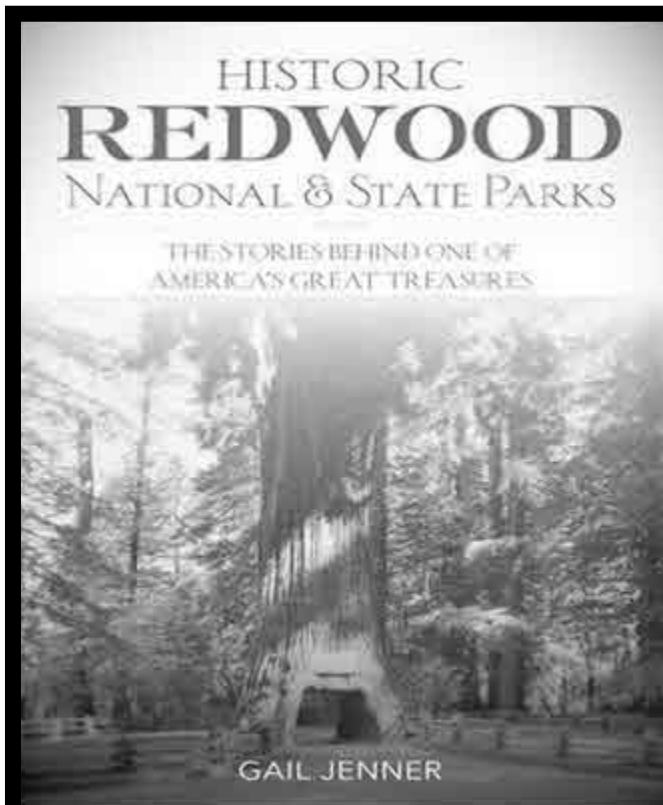
It’s not surprising that in researching the history of Western Siskiyou County, much was written about local doctors. And there were

many ‘favorites.’ One such early doctor was Dr. Joel Newton who began practice in 1862. A Civil War Veteran, he became famous for his successful practice and reasonable fees (often taking none). Many stories have circulated about Dr. Newton’s achievements. One involved a boy whose nose had been bitten off by a “vicious stallion.” Dr. Newton successfully replaced the end of the nose, lauded still as “the first tissue graft ever performed in Siskiyou County.” In another incident, Frank Hooper recalled how, as a boy, he suffered from an abscess in his cheek. Dr. Newton, seeing him on a street corner, “sharpened an old pocket knife on his boot and proceeded to open it and send me home without further dressing or attention to it,” with “good results.” Dr. Newton was also famous for his stable of fine horses and his faithful mule, Juanita.



Here is Gail Jenner’s most recent literary project...

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Dr. C. W. Nutting arrived in Etna in September 1878. A graduate of Atlanta Medical College, he was a “dashing, young 26-year old bachelor” when he first came. He married Jennie Parker, daughter of Alexander and Susannah Parker in 1881. Jennie, who had 8 brothers “learned to hold her own with menfolk.” She was an adept rider. The two quickly became well loved and well known for their generosity, deep faith, and love of education. Along with their seven children (four others died in infancy), they “took in” twenty other students so that they could attend school. Even the local high school teachers resided with the Nutting family.

Dr. Nutting practiced medicine in Scott Valley and the surrounding areas for 39 years, never refusing to attend anyone, no matter the weather or distance. Serving as his assistant when surgery was required was William J. Balfrey, the second Etna druggist (James A. Diggles was the first). Mr. Balfrey, who also kept saddle horses and a buggy team on hand for such medical emergencies, would administer chloroform or ether (which came into use during this time). When Charles Nutting died, his books revealed that “at least \$100,000 was owed him,” a fortune in those days. Two more generations of Nutting doctors followed in Charles W. Nutting’s footsteps.

Dr. William H. Haines was also a popular doctor. First entering practice with Dr. Nutting, he established his own practice in 1899. He also married Eugenia Mary Kappler, daughter of Charles and Florentine Kappler, who was a talented artist and musician. Dr. Haines practiced medicine in Etna for 51 years, until he and Eugenia moved to San Francisco. There are many anecdotes about his travels. As retold in the 1962 SISKIYOU PIONEER, in one incident Haines and Joseph Walker, who had accompanied him on his call, became stranded in a blizzard on Scott Mountain. In order to keep from freezing to death, “they started a fire with his raccoon coat which his mother had sent him from Illinois.” In another incident, he “performed an appendectomy on a patient at a mine near Cecilville on a kitchen table, with limited surgical equipment and used thread for sutures. There was no way to move the man except by horseback down the snow-covered trails.”





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Dr. Edwin W. Bathurst, with his wife Anne Mary Hutchins and baby, came to Sawyer’s Bar around 1877. Dr. Bathurst “rode mules, horses, and once a donkey to mines or homes in the Salmon Country, ministering to the needs of the people.” After five years, the doctor moved his family to Etna and there set up his practice, a practice that lasted for 62 years. An avid gardener, he and his wife raised four children. Two boys died in infancy during the diphtheria epidemic at Sawyers Bar.



Continued on Page 20 ...



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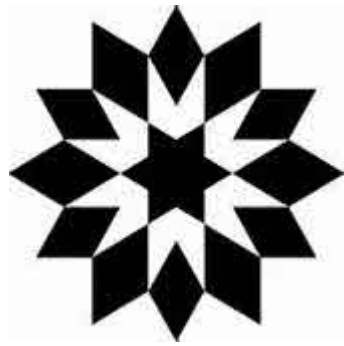
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Dr. Daniel Ream, who stood over six feet and was a consummate horseman, was at times popular and then controversial. Coming to Siskiyou County with a band of cattle, Ream's first aspiration was to mine. He settled on Humbug Creek, but before long, entered actively into medical practice. He opened a drug store at Deadwood in 1856. While living there, he entered politics and was elected Siskiyou County coroner in 1859. He moved to Yreka, the new county seat, where he also continued his practice.

In 1861, Dr. Ream was elected sheriff; in 1867, he was elected tax collector. In 1877, he was elected state senator and served the counties of Modoc, Siskiyou, Shasta and Trinity. Dr. Ream was married twice and had four children, two who died in childhood. An intelligent man, he pursued many hobbies or interests: farming, horses, mining, patent rights for a butter churn, newspapers, drug stores, politics, and lodge service, principally the Masons.



Photo: From L-R: Hovenden, Dr. Ream, A.B. Carlock, and Luttrell. Fort Jones. Courtesy Fort Jones Museum.

Because of his political aspirations, however, Dr. Ream was criticized frequently. This was especially true when, in 1870, he sold his home and property to the Board of Supervisors for a

hospital, "at a price considered, by many, excessive." At the same time, he was commended on his service as a state senator and as a physician. He would travel great lengths, even falling asleep in the saddle while snow fell around him. And, according to Chester Barton, in his memoir (see MEMORIES FROM THE LAND OF SISKIYOU, edited by Davies and Frank), "...he'd go anyplace, anytime, whether there were roads or whether it was on the other side of the Klamath. He had a team of horses and a buckboard and he even swam across the river to get places. In his latter days, he had a big white horse." For 50 years Dr. Ream tended patients throughout the county. To many, he was one of the county's most prestigious pioneers. He died in 1906.

Dr. J. B. Robertson was a popular doctor in Yreka and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, after a fall from a horse while making a call along the Klamath River, he suffered internal injuries and died on August 15, 1878. He was 32 years old. Sadly enough, his 22-year old wife died only a few months later while visiting her husband's family in Georgia. A three-year old daughter was left orphaned.

In many of the area's early towns and communities, however, there were no doctors. Lydia Head, writing in her memoirs, noted that in Sawyer's Bar "for years there was no doctor. Lard and turpentine was a panacea for many ills such as colds, pleurisy and pneumonia. Usually this medication was followed by large doses of castor oil. Then, as spring approached, we would take sulfur and molasses to thin the blood." Lydia Head lived to be 102 years old; she died in 1979. ♦

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Billy Aseltine’s Story
Continued from Page 17



Mount Shasta - Painting from the 1920s - by Gertrude Brooks.
Courtesy Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Redding, California.

As Mount Shasta came into view, Dad knew that this was the new country he'd been looking for, everywhere. You could work, raise and care for a family and maybe scratch out a living with your own hands and strong back, determination and perseverance. There was gold in the mountains waiting to be found; I was the oldest, then Johnny and Bernie. Our dad was called Rocky because he was a hard rock miner and Wally Wagner was the one who aptly referred to us as ‘Rocky and his three Pebbles.’”

Rocky, Billy, Johnny and Bernie, along with Wally all crowded together in a cabin on a mining claim on Humbug Creek. A hard rock miner and placer gold prospector, Rocky managed to put food on the table and a roof over the head of his little brood. The country was just beginning to crawl out of the great depression. His boys meant the world to him. It was hard scrabble living, but scratching out a few dollars mining for gold had a way of getting into a person's blood-- it was the lure of searching, then finding, and the freedom that comes from being your own boss.

Humbug Creek had been scoured and gone over with a fine tooth comb by then, as the placer miners had swept the bedrock clean as a jaybird, and then the big Dredges had gone over the whole thing again. Even so, Dad kept saying, "If you could just locate the source... the mother lode back there in the head of the canyon, somewhere up there on the ridge line between the Klamath and Scott’s River, you'd have enough money in the bank to buy Fort Knox, lock, stock and barrel."

In the evening, after supper, they'd sit around the camp fire, gazing at the stars, watching the sparks spiral skyward. Money was scarce. Purchasing the essentials took everything Rocky could earn, but watching and listening to his ten-year-old son Billy singing and keeping rhythm banging on a battered milk can cradling it in his lap like a guitar made Rocky long for the day he would be able to buy his boy a real guitar.

Billy Aseltine’s Story Continued on Page 22



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One evening, Rocky climbed out of his Model-T Ford truck and walked up the path to the front door. Three sets of eyes and noses pressed against the window pane from inside the cabin. "Look there... wonder what it could be Daddy's toting around in that old gunny sack?" Rocky had laid aside until he had saved up enough money to send off and buy a brand-new five-hole Silvertone guitar from Sears and Roebuck. It came (at no extra cost) with a home study course book and a pick. It was worth \$15.00 in 1940.

Uncle John had come to stay awhile and help out around the place. Later, as Billy reminisced, "Uncle John could play a few chords. He showed me how to tune it and that's how I learned to play, strum and figure things out on my own. But he was the one that got me started."

Billy never forgot the sacrifice his father had made so that he could have a real guitar to play. "Dad was always thinking of other people. That was the way he was. Dad taught us to work hard and put in a good day's work, no matter what... even if the pay was less than the next guy; always finish what you started. Show loyalty and always show up on time. I think Mom knew that our dad would



drum those values and work ethics into us. Mom could dance and she could sing. I think that was passed down to us in our genes I guess, because all three of us could sing as well."


Born Ansel Aseltine in Titusville Pennsylvania, young Rocky Aseltine worked his way across the prairies of Saskatoon and Western Montana. He worked as a cowboy on ranches. He was a gandy dancer on the Great Northern Railroad, worked lumber camps and sawmills. He once was a prize fighter, and worked on the Hoover Dam where he ran a Cat-60 gasoline powered bulldozer during the late 1930's. After Vada left the family for Las Vegas, Rocky and his three pebbles, Billy, Johnny and Bernie drifted to

wherever work could be found. The Hop fields in Albany, Oregon... sacking potatoes in Klamath Falls, hoisting heavy, unwieldy 60-pound gunny sacks of potatoes onto the back of a flat-bed truck; working in the pear orchards in the Rogue Valley when in season. They all did whatever it took to put food on the table and a roof over their heads. Although Billy had no way of knowing, the mages and hard times had stirred something deep down inside, transcending uncertainty... Music!

Mom had a good singing voice, Dad told us, and mom was just following a dream... he couldn't blame her, the hardscrabble life was just too much for her. She intuitively understood and knew that her sons would be in good hands, and that their Father would instill virtues and values that would help them later in life. During the difficult depression years they would learn the value of a dollar and resiliency. Rocky passed on mottos, words to live by.... always do a good day's work... finish what you started. He taught his boys that your word and integrity were the most important things in this world. Rocky would always love Vada... and always had uplifting things to say about her.

Rocky and his partner did okay for a time, following a promising paystreak atop a high channel the earlier prospectors had somehow overlooked. It paid just enough to keep them going. Brother Johnny remembered that his big brother Billy "was like a father to us; Dad was busy and there was no one else. He was ten years old and knew how to build a fire in the wood stove and keep it going. He could cook a meal, wash the clothes in the crisp, cold waters of Humbug Creek that flowed close by, hang them out too dry, and make the beds. He'd shepherd us on jaunts to explore, and we'd play and kick around together. One day we decided to wade in the shallow water of the Klamath River next to the bank, as the main stream was swift and the current was strong. There was a small pool just below us, it was nice and sandy and we were having a ball, laughing, running around, splashing water on each other. Suddenly little Bernie started floating away and Billy tried to get around and behind him to push Bernie back to high ground, but not a one of us could swim."





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"The next thing I knew, Billy was hollering and carrying on... and there he was holding on to his little brother. I saw what was happening and I just started running up and down the bank below the road and yelling my head off. The Dredger crew was close by and it just so happened a couple of guys, Bill Croy and Harley Jenkins saw me running around and waving my arms in the air. They dropped what they were doing and came running down the road. They jumped in and grabbed Billy and Bernie under each arm and waded out to safety. The good Lord was just looking out for us that day I guess. That happened along about 1939 or 1941.

Billy and I attended grade school, and took Bernie right along with us. By then Dad wasn't too happy with the mining, and that close call we had shook him up. His partner was disgruntled too and told Dad that he thought maybe it was a good time to call it quits and look for work somewhere else. Dad couldn't blame him and they parted friends."

The big Gold Dredger was the dominant feature against the landscape, you could see it miles away and it held your interest. It was, for a time, the main source of productivity, employment and commerce. It was the nucleus, heart and soul of the small community, and everything swirled around its parameters. There were also a one-room school house, a country store and the scattered shacks where the miners and their families lived. The Dredge at the mouth of Humbug creek remained a landmark long after the gold had petered out and the operation closed.

December 7th 1941 changed everything...

PART 2 WILL BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH ♦



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February is Pet Dental Health Month. At Shasta Legacy Law Center, we love our pets. And we know you love yours, too! Therefore, as a public service announcement we wish to spread the word that February is National Pet Dental Health Month. "Dog breath" is just as much a concern for our furry friends as it is for people. According to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMA), "[T]he odor might signify a serious health risk, with the potential to damage not only your pet's teeth and gums but its internal organs as well." Also, "Periodontal disease is the most common clinical condition in cats and dogs even though it's completely preventable." For more information about what you can do to improve your pet's dental health, go to www.avma.org and put "dental health" in the search box.

Estate Planning for Pets: Speaking of pets, have you thought about what will happen to your pets if you die or become disabled? At Shasta Legacy Law Center, we find that most of our clients treat their pets as part of the family. We always inquire about pets when creating estate plans and work with clients to devise a plan for them as well. Here are three ways you can provide for pets that outlive you:

Informal Arrangement: For some families, an informal agreement with loved ones is all that is needed. An informal agreement usually consists of a verbal conversation during which a friend or family member agrees to care for your pet after you become incapacitated or pass away. If you decide to go this route, be sure that you select a trusted family member or friend. This is important because you have no way to control how the pet guardian spends the money you leave him or her in order to care for your pet, and you cannot prevent the pet guardian from abandoning the pet in an informal arrangement.

A Will: You can also provide for the care of your pet through a will. In order to do this, simply include a clause in your will that designates who will care for your pet and leave an appropriate amount of money to that person to provide for the care. Keep in mind, however, that a will does not account for your incapacity, so alternative arrangements will need to be made should you experience a prolonged hospital stay or become otherwise incapacitated. This technique may not create an obligation on the part of the designated caretaker, however, so work with an attorney if you wish to make certain your pet is taken care of.

Pet Trust: A pet trust is often the most certain way to protect your pet's future. A pet trust addresses periods of incapacity, as well as the death of a pet owner. Through a pet trust, you can designate exactly how funds should be spent. Moreover, the pet guardian will have a legal responsibility to care for the pet.

The Bottom Line on Providing for Pets - HOW TO DECIDE: As everyone's situation is different, it's important to analyze every aspect of your situation – and what the future may hold – so that you can determine what's right for you and the pets you love. Many people receive the greatest overall peace of mind from having a pet trust included among their estate planning documents.

ACT NOW: Without an estate plan in place, you and your family (and this includes your pets!) are left completely unprotected. A qualified estate planning attorney can help you determine whether a pet trust makes sense for your situation.

For a Free copy of the "Who Will Care for my Pet?" report, published by the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, contact Shasta Legacy Law Center. This report explains how you can provide for the care of your beloved pets, no matter what happens.

Nina Whitehurst is the owner of Shasta Legacy Law Center, serving Siskiyou County and surrounding counties and providing legal advice in the areas of business law, real property and estate planning. Nina can be reached at 530-456-7123 or nina@shastalegacylaw.com. ♦

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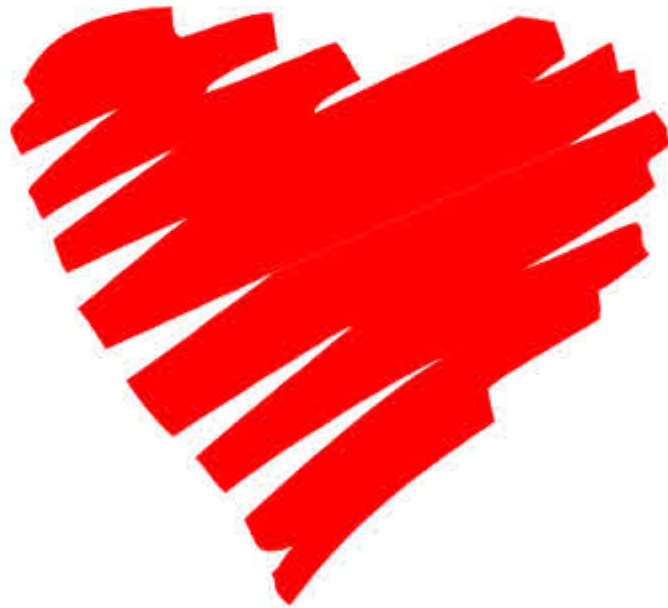
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Next, locate a stream. Either small or large it doesn't matter. The mountain music bubbling from the stream, that is what matters. Now find a nice, big comfortable rock warmed by the sun. Remove your pack and lay on the rock. I defy you to not fall asleep into a big fat nap.

I lied, I'm not going to give up napping, and I love napping! No apologies, no regrets and no worries. The Siesta is one of the great inventions of this world and I will happily partake as the mood strikes me on those warm sunny afternoons!

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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 of the two states.

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 unfounded fear.


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 the U. S. Congress vetoed the proposal.

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 born.

Several Oregon and California counties joined in. In order to garner 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 state.

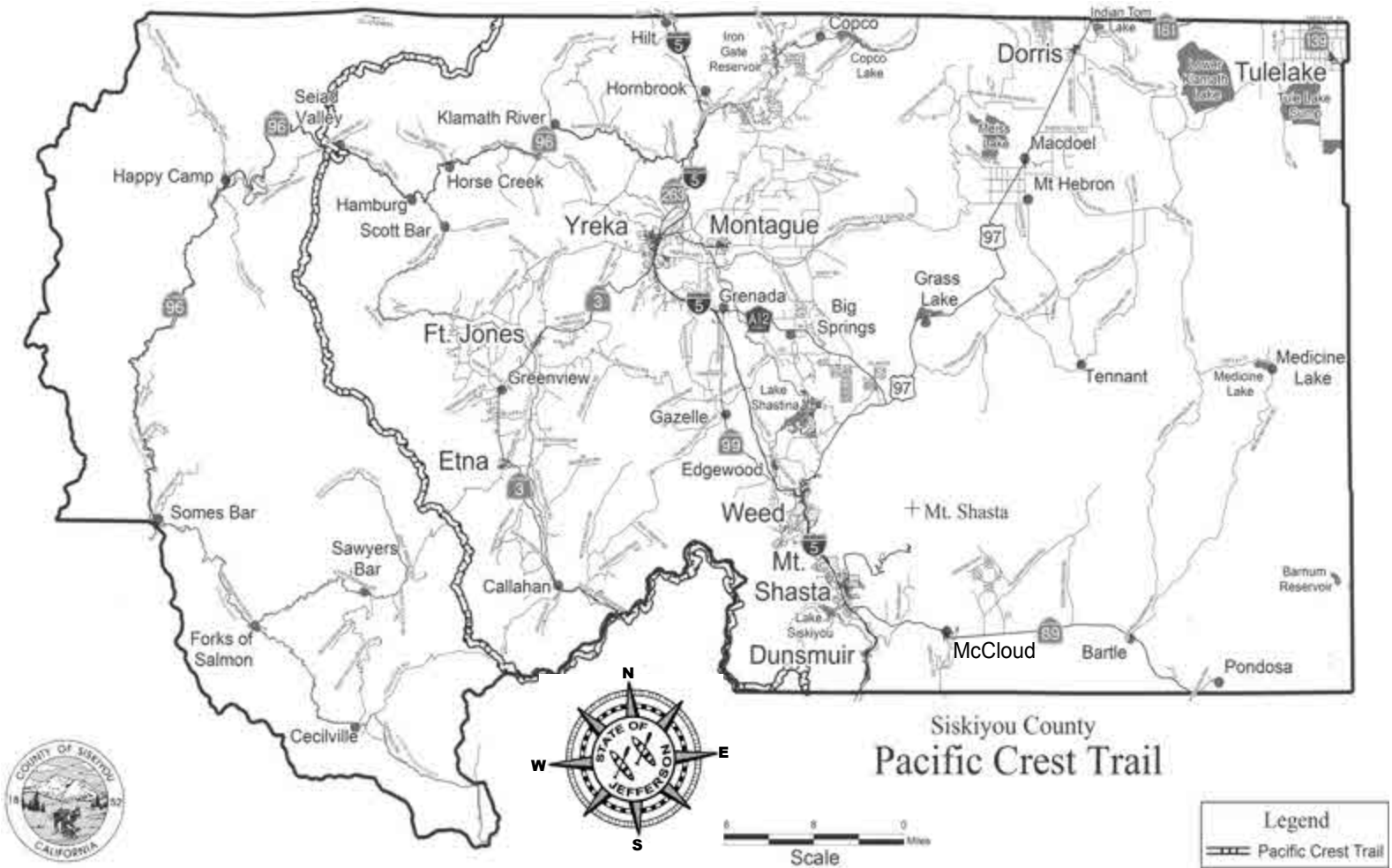
The movement gained momentum and Stanton Delaplane won the Pulitzer Prize writing about the conditions leading up to The State of Jefferson's "official" secession. A gubernatorial race was held, complete with a parade and speeches and even a dancing bear, but then, on December 7th, 1941, the bombing 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 now recreation and tourism compete as major industries.

But it's the people who reside here that make the greatest contribution to the character of this region we call The State of Jefferson. 



Map of Siskiyou County in Extreme Northern California



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