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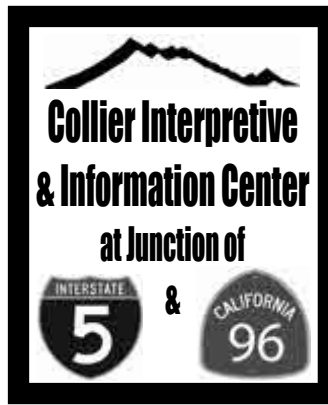
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 Glen Laughton Sprint Photo
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Che'usa loves writing stories about the amazing people and places she has discovered in beautiful Scott Valley. You can find more on her website: www.fromoverthehill.info.

"From Over The Hill"

By Che'usa Wend

Family Tree . . . Many people ask me, 'What are your roots?' This is the story I grew up with: "Our ancestor, Balser Hess, fought alongside General George Washington in the Revolutionary War and was with Washington at the crossing of the Delaware River."

At the age of 12, (George) Balser Hess was bound as an apprentice until he reached the age of 21 years. And in consideration of this, it was agreed he would be taught the trade or art of shoe and boot maker (cordwainer) and would be provided sufficient meal, drink, apparel, washing and lodging and be taught to read and write English and arithmetic as far as the rule of three. At the expiration of the term, he would be provided with two suits of apparel, one being new, and a complete set of tools of this trade.

I later learned that Balser was taken prisoner by Hessians during the Revolutionary War and confined to an old sugar house in New York that had been pressed into service as a jail. He was one of the few who survived that torture.

After the war, he moved to the 'Ohio country,' settling first at Hopetown, and then later in what is now 'North Columbus' along the west bank of the Olentangy River. He had to cut a wagon road from Franklinton (now Columbus), through the unbroken forest, his

wagon being the first that ever passed north from Franklinton. There he built a house and set up a tavern, a tannery and a shoemaking business on part of his 320 acres. In 1806, at age 59, he died of what was described as 'brain fever' and was buried on his family farm. Additional Hess family members and other area families were buried at the site over the next 40 years. The land was purchased from the Hess family in 1847 and Union Cemetery was established.

The original farm was passed down to Balser's son John Moses Hess, then to John's son Thomas Moore Hess, then to Thomas's son Henry Rutherford Hess, then to Henry's daughter Anna Reeb Hess Latham (my grandmother). My mother, Phyllis Latham Stoner was born and raised there and I was raised there until I was 3 years old when we moved 'out to the country,' about 12 miles away!

More of the original farm was bought to expand the original Union Cemetery and part was bought by Ohio State University for their Agricultural Department.

Maybe it was that 'farm heritage' that first attracted me to the 'old red barn' (known as The Geney Barn) in Etna, which 3-1/2 years ago I was able to purchase from Butch Bullinger. The property was originally part of the old Geney place on Main Street and Dave Campbell told me that growing up in the 2 story house, he used to ride his horse in the barn lot field! The barn served as tack room, manger and hay storage. We don't know the exact date it was built, but we are thinking maybe the early 1890's.



Photo of Eb and Che'usa's Red Barn in Etna

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I began planting 'Remembrance Trees' a few years ago. My first one was a Ginkgo tree for me, in May of 2010. I have always been fascinated with the wondrous leaves. After we planted the Ginkgo for me, Eb decided he would like a Blue Spruce planted for him. I got such a good price on it that I decided to get three . . . one for Eb, one for Daddy and one for Daddy's father, Homer Stoner. We moved two small pines I had originally planted in the front yard over to the barn lot, one for Daddy's mother, Alma Wehrle Stoner and one for Mother's father, Ivan Latham. In the past two years they have all doubled in size.

Last year I planted a Maple that turns a gorgeous orange in the Autumn in remembrance of Mother, as her colour was orange, and this year I planted a Curly Willow in remembrance of her mother, Anna Hess Latham.

When my dear friend Mildred passed in September, just 3 weeks after her 100th Birthday, I wanted to get a special tree in remembrance of her. I looked and looked, then saw a beautiful shrub called a Serviceberry. Not a pizazzy name, but the description of 'white blossoms in spring and fall foliage of brilliant red, orange and yellow, with appearance of a rainbow' sounded pretty neat. It said it makes good screening, so I bought three of them.

By the time I got them home, I thought, 'these aren't for Mildred, but her 3 daughters,' so I named them 'The Three Sisters!' Soooooooo, what would Mildred like??? A few days later I saw the **most gorgeous** shrubs in a flaming cranberry colour at the Mormon Church and found out they were a 'Dwarf Winged Burning Bush.' Scott Valley Feed Store in Greenview had a few and we planted them behind a 3-fold screen I painted orange.

That night I got to thinking about Moses and the Burning Bush and also how Eb and I began calling Mildred, 'Miss Marple.' She, like me, had a very inquisitive mind and we would sit on her sofa on Monday afternoons having tea and cookies, talking and trying to figure out the 'back story' or the 'real story' behind many events! Just like two 'peas-in-a-pod.' Then I got to laughing, thinking those two Burning Bushes were THE perfect choice!!!!!! I named them 'Mose and Marple.' I am sure for years to come, they will soooo enjoy just hanging out together behind the screen, talking and figuring out things!

One more added Gift: instead of a 'Partridge in a Pear Tree,' I have two Peach trees grown from their little pits by my friend Donna! They are doing well, as one is almost as tall as me and the other a little shorter.

I decided to ask my 90 year young friend Carol what she would like planted in her honour, as I didn't want to have to wait until 'later' to figure it out. I thought it would be waaaaaaay more fun to let her make the choice! After a few days' deliberation, she responded, 'How about blueberry bushes?' Soooooooo, off we went to Scott Valley Feed and picked four different varieties: Legacy, Jersey, Blue Crop and Patriot. They are all planted and nestled in for winter.

Which reminds me to tell you . . . I will be taking the Winter off from doing stories, both here and on the website. Come Spring, we shall see what I am up to.

Be sweet with each other, gather photos and write down stories to share with your friends and family so they can be read and appreciated for years to come. Many hugs, Che'usa ♦



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See AD on Page 9**

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YUMMY CRAB FEED !!

The Crab Feed Dinner will be Saturday, January 26th at the Butte Valley Community Park, located in Dorris, CA. The doors will open at 5:30 pm for the cocktail hour and the dinner will follow at 6:30pm. We plan to serve, relish plates with hard boiled eggs, homemade clam chowder, green salad, sourdough French bread, pasta and crab, all for \$40.00 per person. An alternative option (Tri Tip) is available by request to those that cannot have crab. 50/50 raffles and gift baskets load with wonderful items will be offered. Music will be provided by Spotlight Entertainment for our listening and dancing pleasure.

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BUTTE VALLEY HISTORY

“SETTLING DOWN IN DORRIS”

By Miss Emily P. Taylor

Butte Valley Historical Society, Dorris, California



Photo of Dorris & Fairchild, Courtesy Butte Valley Historical Society & Butte Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The town of Dorris is, for all practical purposes, the very heart of Butte Valley and was once an exciting little spot on the map. However, the now sleepy town has only three stores, four restaurants, one clinic, and a high school of roughly 75 students. Our town’s only redeeming features are a remarkably tall flag pole, a deep rooted community, and a rather colorful history.

In 1862, a man by the name of Presley Dorris, a former fur trapper, settled down a homestead called the “D” Ranch in Butte Valley, a scant two miles outside of the modern town. Mr. Dorris himself was not a very extraordinary man, and there is very little record of his personal life, aside from his house, which is still standing to this day. Nonetheless, the “D” Ranch was the closest island of civilization when the railroad came to our little corner of Jefferson in 1908 and cut through Dorris Hill one year later. Thus, the people of the newly-rising town gave it, rather uncreatively, the moniker of its first inhabitant.

Now anyone who passed U.S. History in school knows that to the pioneers, the railroad was the equivalent of what the internet is to us today. However, it is simply astounding to realize that the railroad birthed your very own hometown, and how the chance lying of a pre-modern highway of wood and metal would be the biggest reason people settled in the valley. Not to mention how the city of Dorris, and the rest of Butte Valley for that matter, could have very easily never come to be, had the settlers of Dorris not been the extremists they were.

Throwing logic to the wind, they literally picked up and pulled together a makeshift town along the railroad tracks, using mules, horses, logs, and sheer stubbornness to move several buildings over the four miles of uneven land between the former Picard settlement and what is now Dorris, as well as five other buildings from various outlying areas. Of course, the buildings they brought were stores and as such, their owners did not lose one day of business, even while being rolled downhill on a conveyer-belt of logs.



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Photo Courtesy Butte Valley Historical Society and Butte Valley Chamber of Dorris circa 1940

Once the town was started, it grew rapidly. Aside from the railroad, the only way out of the valley, over Dorris Hill, was difficult in summer and impossible in winter. Even with a good horse it could take days to reach where Klamath Falls is now. This semi-confinement helped, rather than hindered, the growth of Dorris. Businesses and factories were able to sustain themselves in the Valley, as people could not go to larger towns to shop as we do now. Dorris continued to be a booming town until the devastating fire in the summer of 1934. On July 28th at three o'clock in the afternoon, a fire started at the Associated Lumber and Box Company building, the remains of which the Butte Valley Historical Society hopes to someday use as a museum. The blaze then spread across Highway 97 and into town. In the end, about 72 buildings were lost...notably the original Dorris City Hall and the George Otto General store.

Because the Highway was firmly established by the time of the fire, giving easy access to the towns outside the valley, Dorris has not returned to its former glory. However, history is first and foremost a story, and the fire was far from our last chapter. The pioneers who settled Butte Valley were as stubborn as the mules they used to pull entire buildings here, and the people of the Valley have changed very little. We are still here, and we're not leaving anytime soon. ♦

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by Jaime Tarne, President,
FireSafe Council of Siskiyou County
Forest Fire Prevention Officer (Retired) - Klamath National Forest

“A Room with a View” Part 2 of 2



Bear Basin Fire Lookout

Over the last few months I have shared with you some of our local working and historical lookouts and their importance to the overall fire suppression program. Though many of our lookouts have gone by the wayside of their original intent, luckily for us many have been saved so we too may experience the incredible views and quiet solitude. The Forest Service has turned some of these beacons into rentals for our enjoyment and pleasure. Be prepared to experience amazing sunrises, wonderful sunsets and views you will not tire of and serenity for the soul. California has 7 such rental lookouts available, while Oregon has 19.

Below are two that are available nearby in The State of Jefferson, including one on the Oregon coast on the Rogue River-Siskiyou N.F., and one in the California coast range mountains of the Six Rivers N.F.

Bear Basin Lookout Six Rivers National Forest Gasquet Ranger District

Enjoy hiking, biking, horse trails, and sight seeing during your stay. Experience life at the top of Bear Basin Butte (elevation 5303') through rental of a historic fire lookout and a new 1930's style cabin. The Lookout and Pierson Cabin, rented as a pair, may be reserved for one to four nights between June 1 and September 30, with reservations taken after January 1 for the current year. The adjacent Pierson Cabin was built in the 1990s, but it replicates the rustic cabin style commonly used in the 1930s.

The Bear Basin Butte Lookout is situated high atop a narrow mountain ridge and offers a 360° view of the Siskiyou Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

The Bear Basin Lookout and Cabin offer visitors awe-inspiring views of the surrounding terrain, as well as a quiet haven away from crowds. The lookout offers access to a variety of recreational activities, as well as views of both the mountains and the ocean.

Access is on a steep gravel road, so high-clearance vehicles are recommended. Guests are responsible for their own travel arrangements and safety, and must bring several of their own amenities.

Recreation: Prime bird watching is available, as well as great hiking opportunities. Horseback riding trails may be accessed nearby, and wildlife viewers may catch a glimpse of deer or bears, which make their home in the area.

Facilities: The lookout and cabin can accommodate up to eight guests, but up to 12 guests are permitted for an extra fee. The cabin has a kitchen, with very basic amenities, including a serving table. Three double beds are provided in the cabin and a futon in the lookout. The cabin also has a serving table. Board games and various books may be available for use and a fire finder allows guests the experience of feeling like rangers of the old days, protecting the forest. A vault toilet, picnic tables and a campfire ring are outside. No water or electricity is available. Guests should bring plenty of water, food, bedding, flashlights and other basic camp gear.



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Lake of the Woods Lookout - Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Gold Beach Ranger District

Lake of the Woods Lookout is surrounded by mountainous terrain, forested hillsides and spectacular views within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in southwestern Oregon.

The flat-roofed cabin was originally a "ground house" located on Barklow Mountain in the Powers Ranger District. It was flown by helicopter to its present location and placed on a 12 ft. tower and catwalk in 1974. It was then staffed during fire seasons from 1974 to 1996.

The lookout offers some amenities, but guests are asked to bring a few of their own supplies to ensure a safe and comfortable stay.

Natural Features: Lake of the Woods Lookout provides a panoramic view with vistas of the Pacific Ocean, the Kalmiopsis and Wild Rogue Wilderness areas, and the Wild and Scenic Illinois and Rogue River canyons. In the spring, the nearby Lake of the Woods, which is actually a fairly small shallow pond, is surrounded by wildflowers and welcomes the arrival of several species of birds and butterflies. As summer progresses, the lake fills in with tall reeds and grasses.

Recreation: Hiking, mountain biking and star-gazing are popular among guests at the lookout. Seasonal changes envelop the area as snowmelt gives rise to spring time flowers, and vivid autumn colors welcome a landscape blanketed with snow. Logging roads and trails extend from the area, providing guests with opportunities to explore the area's old-growth forests, rugged and steep river canyons and a variety of wildlife. Far away from city lights, the lookout provides a fantastic opportunity for star-gazing. Guests to the lookout search for constellations, planets and are treated to an occasional meteor slashing the night sky.

Facilities: The lookout is a one-room cabin, able to accommodate up to four people. It is equipped with a double bed with a mattress, a table and two chairs, foot stool, a propane stove, propane heater and cooler, propane and solar lights, cleaning supplies and a fire extinguisher. A solar shower is provided, however, guests must provide the water. On site, adjacent to the lookout, there is a picnic table and a campfire ring for outdoor dining. A pit toilet is also located outside the tower. There is sufficient room for one tent, but the ground is extremely rocky. Guests to this lookout should be prepared for a rustic camping experience, and will need to bring many of their own supplies. There is no water on site, so visitors must bring a sufficient amount for drinking, cooking and washing. Guests must also provide their own sleeping bags, sleeping pads, towels, dish soap, matches, cooking gear, first aid kit, toilet paper and garbage bags. Although lighting is provided, it is recommended guests bring an additional light source in case of emergency.

How to rent and what to bring: These lookouts have no cooking facilities, water, bedding or electricity. Visitors must bring their own water supply and garbage bags to pack out their trash. Recommended supplies include food, toilet paper, linens and blankets, firewood, cooking utensils, extra batteries and a flashlight or lantern. Visitors should also remember to bring the reservation confirmation and the lock combination.



Lake of the Woods Fire Lookout

The use of portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel is allowed with a valid campfire permit.

These lookouts are available for rent on a permit basis from July 1 through October 1 (weather permitting). Permits are issued on a "first come-first served" basis, to anyone 18 years or older. The permit lists the conditions the visitor must agree to. The rental fee is \$75 per night, usually for a party of four people. Rental fees are used to maintain the lookouts. No refunds allowed. For reservations, please visit www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777. Web Site: <http://www.reserveusa.com>

Information gathered for this article was obtained from the Forest Service and the recreation.gov websites. ♦

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Many travelers and tourists enjoyed the hospitality of Upper Soda Springs from the 1850s to the 1920s. The two story resort inn was constructed by Ross and Mary McCloud in 1874 and is now gone but Tauhindauli Park preserves the memory of Dunsmuir's first settlement. Photo courtesy of Ron McCloud.


DUNSMUIR HISTORY

“TAUHINDAULI”

Over the years it's been spelled in different ways – Tauhindauli – Towendolly – Towndolly. It seems “foreign” to us, but is not. In fact, it is a Native American family name that is older than this place we call Dunsmuir. Today we know it as the name of the park located on a bend of the Sacramento River in the shadow of the bridge which joins North Dunsmuir with South Dunsmuir. A popular place to fish or to stroll along the river-bank, the Tauhindauli Park area was for many years called Upper Soda Springs and was the site of the first settlement in what would become Dunsmuir.

In 1852, twin brothers Samuel and Harry Lockhart settled in the bend of the river near the soda spring and began to operate an inn – originally a simple log cabin and a corral – which catered to wagon and mule train travelers on the Siskiyou Trail connecting Oregon and California. At about the same time, the Tauhindauli clan of the Trinity River Wintu tribe came to the same bend of the Sacramento River. They had been forced from their ancestral home by the increasing number of white settlers and miners. They were led by Wi Tauhindauli who, with his wife Jenny, camped at Upper Soda Springs and were accepted by the Lockhart brothers. The title “Wi” was that of a chieftain but in time he came to be known as William and later as “Old Bill” Tauhindauli.







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Guided Nature Walk - Waterfowl Wednesday January 16, 2013

Please join Dave Johnson from the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office for a **FREE 2-hour guided nature walk on Wednesday January 16th from Noon to 2 pm** to observe and learn about Yreka's wintering waterfowl. We will meet at upper Greenhorn Park (rain or shine) so wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. Also bring water and binoculars, if you have them.

****Learn about Nature Photography at the next walk scheduled for Wednesday February 20th from Noon to 1pm at Greenhorn Park.**

For more information, please call (530) 842-5763 or visit our website at: www.fws.gov/yreka/cpwn.html.



Ross and Mary McCloud, who had been operating an inn at Portuguese Flat in Shasta County, came to Upper Soda Springs in 1855 and bought the property from the Lockhart brothers. Ross was a surveyor and as he worked to improve the wagon road passing by their inn, he and Mary built a two story addition to the original log cabin which, in 1857, was recognized by the Sacramento Union newspaper as "a very desirable resort." They continued to expand their operation with a long one-story building with porches in 1864, an impressive two-story building in 1874, a gazebo over the spring about 1880, and with the coming of the railroad in 1886 they built a bridge across the Sacramento River to connect the resort with a railroad stop on the other side. The impressive Upper Soda Springs resort grew in popularity as visitors arrived by train to "take the waters," fish, hunt, hike, and enjoy the scenery and the mountain air.

During the development of the resort and those busy years, Old Bill Tauhindauli worked for the McClouds, as did his two sons, Theodore and Laktcharas who was born in 1873 at Upper Soda Springs. His Wintu name meant "Tying With The Left Hand," but that name was too hard for white people to say so he changed his first name to Grant, and he also changed the spelling of his last name to become Grant Towendolly. Old Bill Tauhindauli chose Grant to become the next chieftain of the Northern Wintu and instructed him in the customs, rituals, and teachings of the ancestors of the Wintu.

In 1887 John Masson – an accountant working for the railroad – married Ross and Mary McCloud's daughter Elda. John died in 1911 but Elda and their three sons; James, Richard and Charles, along with Grant Towendolly, continued to operate the resort until the early 1920s. The resort had been declining as automobile travel became more popular and in 1916 the Sacramento River Bridge bypassed the once popular Upper Soda Springs. The California and Oregon Power Company (COPCO) acquired a small piece of property for a power plant substation which is still there today. After a massive slide buried the railroad tracks on the south side of the property in the 1920s, the Army Corps of Engineers rechanneled the Sacramento river and constructed the levee which still protects the park from flooding.

When Elda died in 1944 Charles Masson and his new bride, Marcelle moved from the resort to a home on the hill above the spring. Grant Towendolly and his wife Lillie moved south to Salt Creek in Shasta County. Elda's son Richard's widow, Nellie Masson, continued to live at the resort site until 1963. She then sold the property to Dr. Harry Chappell and his wife Patricia, and the original buildings were torn down. When Dr. Chappell died, Patricia remarried to William Rhinesmith, and they were the last private owners of the property.

Today the Upper Soda Springs property known as Tauhindauli Park is co-owned by the City of Dunsmuir, The California Department of Fish and Game, and the Union Pacific Railroad. Improvements to the property have included public parking, fishing access, a river trail, and preservation of native vegetation using grant funds from the Department of Fish and Game, the Cantara Trustee Council and the Ford Family Foundation. The Dunsmuir Garden Club and the City of Dunsmuir maintain the park with grant funding from the Department of Fish and Game.


Grant Towendolly never became the chieftain of the Northern Wintu. After the passing of his father and by the time Grant had

reached maturity, the Wintus were so dispersed that all tribal unity was lost. Until his death in 1963 at the age of 90 however, he followed the teachings of his ancestors and preserved the customs and rituals of the ancient ones. He has been called the last of the Wintu Shamans.

Ron McCloud is co-author with Deborah Harton of a History of Dunsmuir published by the Arcadia Publishing Company in 2010. He is the owner of Dunsmuir Hardware which dates back to 1894. ♦

Dunsmuir RR Depot Historical Society requests the public to "Ride its Membership Train." Funds raised continue maintenance of Dunsmuir's Amtrak Depot, as well as the RR Display Room and Dunsmuir Museum. Please Send \$10 check to Dunsmuir Railroad Depot, PO Box 324, Dunsmuir CA 96025. Call for more Info: 235-0929.





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"The Fish that Caught a Good Sized Man"

Story by Marilyn Kilpatrick

Before I tell you about our fishing trip, there is something you should know. I apologize to flies and mosquitoes before I swat them. Now you will understand my perspective on cruelty to animals. You also need to know Marlow, my husband, is not one of those organized fishermen that is out on the lake at the crack of dawn, or who knows the exact start and end of fishing season and precisely what lure to use and when. Marlow lists "fishing" as one of his hobbies, but I doubt he's tried to catch fish more than 30 times in our 55 years of marriage.

Diamond Lake in southern Oregon, one of our favorite fishing holes, has a campground that contains paved roads and paved parking spaces for recreational vehicles. They have picnic tables, enclosed fire rings, running water and clean restrooms with showers. The space we chose last summer was on the waterfront.

It was one of those rare days when we were actually out on the lake in our rental boat before 10 a.m. Marlow left the marina with the required safety equipment, a thermos of coffee, a Styrofoam container of nightcrawlers, his tackle box, a fishing rod and high hopes. I had a good book, a thermos of cinnamon tea, an inflatable pillow and no optimistic expectations.

We relished having our own private alpine lake; we saw no other boats. We putzed along at trolling speed admiring the mountains surrounding the lake. Marlow got a "bite" from time to time and caught a small trout. He decided there wasn't enough meat on the fish for a good sized sandwich so tossed him back.

An hour later, he was thrilled when "the big one" took his bait. The pole flexed all the way to the water's surface. It was at that moment he realized he hadn't brought the fish net. Marlow played the fish for awhile so it would be worn out and easier to get from the water into the boat without escaping.

Marlow landed the fish. What a beauty! The flashy bright hues glimmered in the sun as the Rainbow Trout flopped about on the boat floor. I whipped out my camera and took a picture of Marlow with his 18-inch long prize. The fish didn't appear "worn out." He was still full of fight, and bound to get even with Marlow for tricking him with that juicy worm. The fish succeeded.

Marlow tried to remove the treble hook from the fish's mouth. He held the fish in place on the floor with one foot. The fish was strong enough to throw his head to one side at just the right moment to drive a barbed hook through Marlow's finger.

Oh, my gosh! I was instantly nauseous. The fish writhed wildly, freeing itself from Marlow's foot. Marlow told me to take the hook out of his right hand or out of the fish's mouth; he needed his left hand and both feet to control the movement of the muscular wild animal.

I tried, really I did. I was also trying to be cautious so that the third barb didn't catch me. I was at the point of panic thinking of the pain the two caught animals were going through. Of course, the barbed hook would not go back through Marlow's finger the way it had gone in. The second barb was imbedded in the fish's jaw bone. It wasn't about to be removed.



Marlow said to hit the fish on the head and knock it out. I looked about for a weapon and found the oar. I thought better of swinging the oar at the united pair.

I emptied the tackle box looking for pliers, a hammer, a weapon of some kind. I found none in the tangled mass of fishing line, lures, miniature lead weights and little jars of smelly goo. It didn't seem like the appropriate moment to reprimand Marlow for not having pliers to pinch the barb closed. I found a penknife and bravely suggested I stab the fish.

Marlow agreed to that and I held the two-inch long knife in my fist in the fashion learned from the movie, "Psycho." Marlow had second thoughts about me stabbing the fish. He suggested I cut its head off.

I couldn't do that! Marlow convinced me I had the ability. I held the knife an inch behind the pulsating gill, apologized profusely and inserted it. I kept saying, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry," aloud. Silently, I was saying, "Don't faint. DON'T faint."

Marlow said, "For heaven's sake, cut his head off. Don't just sit there mumbling." I hadn't realized that my hand was motionless.

The sight of blood on Marlow's hand gave me the incentive I needed. I started cutting. There was suddenly blood everywhere. I carefully avoided looking at the accusing eye staring blankly at me. Marlow's hands were covered with blood. My hands were covered with blood. The fish was covered with blood.

The fish's head was soon free from the body. Now what? The hook was still imbedded in both the head and the finger. With more gumption than I knew I possessed, I cut the hook out of the mutilated fish head.

Marlow told me I needed to cut the Rapala lure out of his finger. My gumption was totally depleted. There was no way I could deliberately cut a human being.

Marlow yelled, "Do you have any pliers?"

I yelled back, "No! I would have used them, if I did."

I realized Marlow was looking past me. I turned and saw a boat about 30 feet away. Where had it come from? It was a miracle! There wasn't another boat on the whole lake.

The fisherman had pliers and squeezed the barb flat so the hook could be pushed back its original path through Marlow's finger. We expressed our gratitude and headed for shore.

The fisherman turned his boat in the opposite direction saying, "You aren't quitting are you? You're catching the big ones."

What an ordeal! I was drained. Fortunately, our campsite was nearby and we pulled the boat ashore. Our travel trailer never looked so inviting.

Inside the trailer, I offered Marlow a pain pill left over from dental surgery one of us had sometime in the past. He said he didn't need it. I held the pill for a few seconds trying to decide whether I should take it or not. Decided "not."

Marlow stood in the tiny bathroom washing his hands. I stood behind him wringing my hands. I suggested I take him to the hospital for stitches and a tetanus shot. He thought about his brand new Toyota Tundra pick-up truck still attached to the new travel trailer (which I had never towed), the mountainous terrain between us and the hospital and emphatically rejected my offer.

I announced that I should flush the open wound with peroxide and tape it closed so it would stop hemorrhaging. That suggestion was rejected also.

Marlow turned and showed me the two teensy, tiny little black holes on either side of his finger. I gaped at the pinprick sized wounds in awe. All that blood had belonged to the fish!

Marlow attached a Band-Aid, changed clothes and took the rental boat back to the marina.

I showered, changed clothes and drank a glass of wine visualizing the emergency staff's expressions, if we had rushed into the hospital seeking assistance for Marlow's wounds.

Marilyn belongs to the Siskiyou Writers Club. See AD below. ♦

Siskiyou Writers Club



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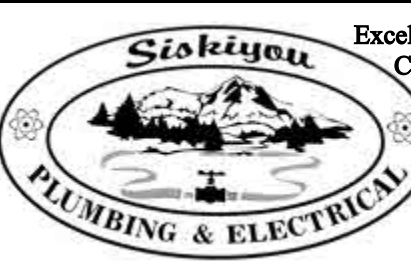
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HISTORY OF YREKA

by Claudia A. East

Join us each month for Claudia East's fascinating historical stories of the town of Yreka, California. Feel free to read & follow Claudia on her blog at: <http://yrekahistory.blogspot.com>.

Siskiyou County High School, Yreka, California

In 1894 Yreka became home to a beautiful new high school that served the County of Siskiyou. (According to historical records at the Siskiyou County Office of Education it appears that this was actually the second High School built in the county, with the first being Etna High School established in 1892 and the building erected in 1893.) Students in the Yreka area close enough to travel attended this new school, and those from some distance often boarded with "town folks" to be able to attend. The school was built just outside the edge of the city limits at the corner of what is today North Oregon and Knapp Streets. The city limit was right at the south edge of the school property. The first graduating class was celebrated in 1896, with eight students listed on the roster.

This fine building was one of major civic pride. The Siskiyou County High School was usually mentioned when promoting the City of Yreka or the County of Siskiyou. As one example, the County prepared a special booklet for the 1915 Panama Exposition in San Francisco and among the entries was an article with acclaim for the excellence of the school in Yreka.

On October 3, 1916 fire broke out late at night and the entire high school building was consumed. By morning the only remains were the first two floors of outer brick walls. The fire was said to have been started by chemicals from the laboratory where students had been working earlier in the day. The loss of the school was a staggering blow to the community. The *Siskiyou News* ran an article about the fire on October 5, 1916. The building was insured, however, and plans were quickly made to rebuild a newer, more modern building on the same grounds. While the school was being rebuilt students were housed at the Mt. Shasta Hospital, which was built by Kenneth Gillis and the building still stands at 303 North Oregon Street, Yreka. (This building was converted to a hospital in 1911, only two years after it was originally built as a home.)




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At the same time other communities in the county felt it was in their best interest to also have a high school available to students in their areas and quickly many other high schools were started within the next five years. The School was originally known as Siskiyou County High School, and later the school changed the name to the Siskiyou Union High School District. But for many, the name has rung true as Yreka High School. In 1969 Yreka withdrew from the Siskiyou Union High School District and officially formed the Yreka Union High School District.

The “newer” more modern school is one that is still fondly remembered today by many former students. It was the second school to stand in the original location and it served the community from 1918 to the last full time student body in 1958. Parts of the school were still in use for several years, but the Yreka High School that stands today in a nearby location was built during the 1958-59 school year. The second building was razed in 1974. Today this location is known as the Newton Sports Park.

It may be interesting to note that when the “second high school” was built it was originally designed as both a High School and Junior College. In the original architectural drawings a wing was designed to sit at the south side of the campus that was the Junior College wing. This wing was never erected, however. Whether or not curriculum was offered is unclear to this historical researcher at this time. In a short article published in the 1915 Siskiyou County High School “White and Gold” yearbook, under Principal’s Notes, it is stated: “...special departments...will be extended next year by the organization of a Junior College in connection with the High School. The Junior College will be affiliated with the University of California, which has promised to give credit for all work done in our school. This means that High School graduates can take two years of post-graduate work in the Siskiyou County Junior College and, if they desire to attend the University, enter at Berkeley as third year students.”

There is a lot of history surrounding the high school in Yreka and the three major buildings that have served the students who have entered its doors; this small article is only a small portion of what has been written. ♦



The Victorian high school building photo: [Siskiyou Co. High School](#) circa 1900 Courtesy Claudia East

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Space is limited, so early registration is recommended. Register in person at the COS Weed or Yreka Campuses or online at www.siskiyou.edu and click on the Navigator logo.

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The Free Kids' Dogsled Express Dogsled Rides day was rescheduled to the first weekend after the New Year. Bundle up the kids and grandkids for an educational opportunity and winter wonderland adventure they'll never forget. Kids ages 3 to 10 receive a free dogsled ride at the Siskiyou Snow Dog Sporting Association's (SSDSA) annual Free Kids Dogsled Rides. Rides are first come first served. A parent or guardian must be willing to sign the release form, no exceptions. See Page 24 for more info.

Call for information and directions : (530) 467-3009

Italy by Foot & Train - Mt Shasta

When Wed, January 9, 2013, 7pm - 9pm

Where Mount Shasta Resort, Mount Shasta

Description A slideshow by Raven Stevens and Bayla Greenspoon presented by the Siskiyou Land Trust.

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Friday Art Walk in Downtown Mt. Shasta City.

When Fri, January 25, 2013, 4pm - 8pm

Where Art Galleries in Downtown Mt. Shasta

Description Participating Galleries are: Blue Star Child Gallery, Siskiyou Arts Council Gallery and Cultural Center, The Gallery in Mount Shasta (Black Bear Building), Tim Corcoran Gallery, Red Door Gallery, and Kevin Lahey Gallery.

The receptions will feature original art and prints by a variety of local artists, and will offer light food and refreshments to visitors. Call Mt. Shasta Chamber for info: 530-926-4865

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Photo of Houdini - Courtesy Shirley O'Connor

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“On the Road to . . .” by Bob Pasero

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

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

“The National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas”

The National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas is 675 miles and a 10 ½ hour drive from the State of Jefferson. To state the obvious, it is long ways from “Glitter Gulch” to Shirley O'Connor’s cattle ranch on the outskirts of Orland. But that is the road we will travel today as we get On The Road to the National Finals Rodeo.

This edition of “On the Road” is different than any column I have ever written. We will be visiting Las Vegas vicariously through the efforts of a unique and wonderful lady who now calls Orland, in the State of Jefferson, her home. I had the good fortune to meet Shirley recently. The introduction was arranged by Bill Schroer. I have known Bill for nearly 30 years. Bill is a cow man’s cow man and when Bill talks, cows people listen. When Bill said he wanted to introduce me to a friend of his I didn’t hesitate.

On the appointed date I drove 3 miles northwest of Orland to the O'Connor Ranch. I found a nice, well maintained but nondescript ranch house. A blue healer was active in a pen next to the driveway and the barns echoed with the sounds of cattle at feeding time. Bill took me inside to meet Shirley O'Connor. I found Shirley to be an articulate, intelligent lady with a keen wit. On first meeting her I tried to put her at ease about speaking with a total stranger. Her first comment to me was, “As long as we are talking cows...I’ll talk to anybody.” Indeed, she was comfortable. I found her to be one of the most knowledgeable stock people I have ever met. For the next hour and a half we chatted. I am thankful to have had the foresight to have taken along a miniature recorder. I was far too busy enjoying her company and the conversation to have taken notes.

As I sat in her comfortable living room I saw an exquisite sculpture of a bucking bull in action on her coffee table. About the time I realized these bulls were like family to her she brought out pictures of some of the bulls she has bred and raised in Orland. These bills have graced rodeo arenas throughout the Western United States. She knew each one by name and, like a proud parent, told me of their accomplishments. “That is ‘Bo-Devil,’” she said, “He bucked to an 88 at Pendleton.” The Pendleton Round Up is one of the most prestigious Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Rodeos in the nation.



Shirley, I learned, is a retired school teacher. She spent 42 years teaching 1st and 2nd graders at the Wilson School in Petaluma, California: a school she calls a “little country school of 300 to 400 students.” A wispy look came over her face as she told of going the rodeo at the Sonoma County Fair. She would often see students (her ‘kids’ as she calls them), their parents and even Grandparents. Many of the parents and grandparents had been students of hers as well at the Wilson School.

While living in Sonoma County she began raising beef cattle. At about the about the time of her retirement in 1995 she took an interest raising rodeo rough stock...bucking bulls to be precise. By that time however Santa Rosa’s ranches began giving way to large vineyards that raised grapes to feed the world’s growing desire for California wines. The vineyards crowded out the ranches and Shirley knew it was time to move. In 2006 she moved her operation to Glenn County establishing her ranch in Orland.

It was also about that time that she started upgrading her stock - purchasing rough stock out of Texas to improve the quality of her own bucking bulls. The move has paid off.

Shirley has become a major player in the rodeo industry raising bulls that have gone on to perform at some of the biggest and richest rodeos in the nation including the Redding Rodeo, the Red Bluff Round Up, Oregon’s Pendleton Round Up and now: the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nevada - the biggest, richest and most influential rodeo in the world.

To be sure, Shirley has faced an uphill battle in the primarily male dominated business of rodeo rough stock producers. Her pronouncement at stock yards and sales that she breeds and raises bucking bulls is often met with rolled eyes and the occasional, “You can’t be serious?” comment from some of the “good ol’ boys.” But spend any time at all with her and you quickly learn that this woman knows her business well. She has done her homework and has conducted her own investigations. As a result she has constantly improved the genetic base of her herd with back breeding traceable to some of the most notable bulls in recent rodeo history.

Many of the bulls Shirley has bred and raised are descendants of such notables as “White Sport Coat” and the great bull “Houdini.” Houdini, born in 1991 in Colorado, was a National Finals Rodeo bull and was himself sired by White Sport Coat. Then Shirley told me about her latest bull, “Speckulation.” Shirley proudly told me that, “Speckulation was bred born and raised in Orland.” Speckulation is double bred back to the legendary Houdini. Speckulation has already sired a large number of calves and each has the markings so prevalent on their sire...each has multiple spots and “specks” of virtually every color imaginable.

Jeff and Terri Davis, owners of the Four Star Rodeo Company in Cottonwood, now own Speckulation. They announced that Speckulation was chosen by the PRCA to go to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Thanks to Shirley O’Connor a little bit of The State of Jefferson was featured prominently at The National Finals Rodeo in December of 2012. We can all proudly say that our “State of Jefferson” got on the Road to the NFR. ♦



Photo of Speck - Courtesy Shirley O’Connor



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Also: mark your Calendars to attend the Siskiyou Snow Dogs Siskiyou Sled Dog Races on Feb. 9th and 10th 2013. The races are held annually (snow conditions permitting), north of Weed off Highway 97. Mushers and their dog teams from around the continent compete in two days of exciting sprint and mid-distance races. This free event also features musher demonstrations and kids activities. Hot food, beverages and snacks are available at the Lake Shastina / Weed Kiwanis Club food shack. Warming hut and free parking.

For most current info and updates, visit siskiyousleddograces.com.

Siskiyou Sled Dog Races and Free Kids Rides Day are projects of the SSDSA, a federally recognized non-profit organization. The races are held under a Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service on a non-discriminatory basis. ♦

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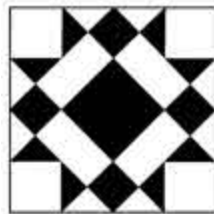
Gail Jenner Local Author

Gail is a contributor to NPR's Jefferson Public Radio series, "As It Was: Tales From the State of Jefferson." At left is her newest book, coauthored with Bernita L. Tickner.

Website:
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DISCOVERING THE STATE OF JEFFERSON BY GAIL JENNER

Follow along with Gail each month and enjoy another new story of the many historical towns and areas scattered throughout The State of Jefferson.

Winter in Siskiyou County, 1856-57

Siskiyou County suffered through the winter of 1856-1857. With few roads, citizens were isolated by snow and ice, and the mountains were covered with layers of heavy snow.

Because the mail route over the Scott and Trinity Mountains was impassable, mail could not move north from Shasta (now known as Old Shasta on Highway 299). In the first week of February alone, more than seven feet fell in southeastern Siskiyou, piling up as high as the second story on houses and covering woodsheds and outhouses completely.

Business was halted in the towns and miners were unable to work as the cold froze the streams and equipment.

In spite of this, however, the pioneers were optimistic as winter storms meant water for summertime when many of the local streams dried up after long dry seasons.

The inability to communicate with the outside world, however, dominated the politics and people called for better roads and trails. Businesses responded; the Tracy Express opened up routes between San Francisco and Shasta, Weaverville, and Yreka, which in 1869 gave way to Wells, Fargo, and Company, and the California Stage Company pushed up toward the Oregon border while reinforcing the Pit River immigrant trail to Yreka.

The California Stage Company also carved out a wagon road over Trinity and Scott Mountains, completing the Trinity route in 1857.

In 1858, the roads over both Trinity and Scott Mountains were improved and in February 1858, residents from Scott Valley and Trinity organized the Shasta and Yreka Turnpike Company. Within a year a relatively good road was built over Trinity, replacing mule trains with Concord stages from Trinity to the foot of Scott Mountain.



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The earliest-built stages were the 'thorough-brace' type as they were built to withstand rough roads, supported as they were by heavy leather straps of several thicknesses. Mud wagons were also used, though they were not as comfortable as the larger thorough-brace stages. The Concord stage was a heavier and larger coach drawn by four or six horses. It held nine passengers and accommodated ten or twelve more on top and two alongside the driver. There was a leather-covered 'boot' for carrying mail and baggage.

By 1860, the road between Trinity and Scott Mountains had been replaced by an excellent stage road; there were 28 miles of roads, many miles of which had to be blasted from solid rock. The roads measured eleven feet wide and had turnouts that allowed eight-mule teams to travel to and fro.



Wooden bridges with stone abutments crossed the Trinity River in fifteen places. It was reported that stages could even cross Scott Mountain in two hours in the summer months.

The California Stage Company stage implemented a regular schedule of Daily Overland Mail Stages in September 1860 between Sacramento and Portland. "Jehus" or drivers included W.L. Smith who drove the first daily stage over Scott Mountain, Dan Cawley who took the first stage north from Yreka, and Henry C. Ward who drove the first coach from Yreka to Portland.

In 1883, L. Swan of Yreka built half a dozen new stages; ironwork was done by P. O. LeMay, blacksmith, upholstery was done by Fred Ringe, and Jake Martin did the painting. Wagon making continued to be a lucrative business in Siskiyou County until after the turn of the century. ♦



Photos Above left: Freight Team near Shasta (now called Old Shasta, near Redding). Courtesy Gail L. Jenner Collection. Above right: Stage Entering Etna. Courtesy Oliver Johnson Collection.



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HISTORICAL MARKERS OF THE STATE OF JEFFERSON

Berryvale Post Office

The Plaques of E Clampus Vitus--Humbug Chapter No. 73
The 10th in a continuing series of articles prepared by Bill Wensrich -
"If you ain't plaque'n, then you ain't Clampin'"



The Berryvale Post Office trail marker became the tenth historical monument erected by the E Clampus Vitus Humbug Chapter. Mac McKellar, Chapter president at the time, chose to commemorate this location situated 30 miles southeast of Yreka on the Old Stage Road (Highway 99 today). The trail marker and restored post office building can be found on the east side of Old Stage Road one tenth of a mile south of Hatchery Lane (Exit 738 on Interstate 5). Across the street is another historical landmark placed by the State of California.

The Chapter held their spring function at Lake Siskiyou where approximately 40 new members were taken in (or maybe it was "by") the

Honorable and Ancient Order. A school bus was rented to haul all the Clampers down to the Berryvale Post Office site for the dedication. Mac was Master of Ceremonies for the well-attended celebration of American history.

The local area was named Strawberry Valley in 1853 for its plentiful wild berries. By 1857 a two story log cabin named Mount Shasta Hotel was built. Operating as the Strawberry Valley Stage Station, this village center would evolve into what we know today as the city of Mt. Shasta.

In 1861 Justin Hinckley Sisson returned to the area with his new bride. A few years later they built a hotel to serve travelers and tourists. As Strawberry Valley began to fill with permanent homesteaders, the need for postal service became apparent. When the Post Office Department was initially contacted for a new office, the applicants were told to pick another name because there were too many post offices already named "Strawberry Valley." *Berryvale* was chosen as the new name.

Established April 15, 1870 as the first post office in the Mt. Shasta area, J.H. Sisson became the first Berryvale Postmaster. A new building for the post office was built around 1878 by Sophia Jane Fellows using cedar posts and shakes, square nails and sugar pine clapboard siding. The small building stood in front of the old hotel and stage stop. Appointed Postmistress the following year, Ms. Fellows also operated a small store inside the post office stocked with sewing supplies, fabric and yarn.

In 1886 Sisson convinced Central Pacific Railroad to extend their line north of Redding, and to build a railroad depot on land he would donate. Rail service replaced local wagon and stage service as the preferred method of transportation. By 1887 the center of commerce had moved from Berryvale to Sisson's new railroad stop named after him. The Berryvale Post Office closed and a new post office opened in the city of Sisson recognized as the Sisson Post Office in 1888.

Following World War I renewed interest in tourism and nearby Mt. Shasta recreational opportunities resulted in the town of Sisson being renamed Mt. Shasta. The area's first Post Office, Berryvale, was again renamed. In 1924 it became the Mt. Shasta, California Post Office. *Read below to see the words carved on the Berryvale Post Office Plaque....* ♦

SITE OF BERRYVALE POST OFFICE. IT OPERATED FROM 1870 TO 1887.
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Shane also enjoys giving back to the community. He has donated his time & services for the Etna pool fundraiser, Happy Camp's "Rockin' the Klamath," Fort Jones Community Church's pool & movie night, and a fundraiser for Butteville Elementary School.

Shane lives in Fort Jones with his wife Grace & three daughters Shanoha, Crystal, & Angelina. They have resided there since 2002.

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“Water, Water Everywhere” Story by Dana Goforth

We are in the Age of Aquarius. According to native prophecy, we are also heading into a water cycle on our planet. On a global level, the cleansing properties of Mother Earth via tsunamis, massive flooding in unexpected places, and the rising of the ocean, is clearly evident. More accessible to us are the natural springs that also provide an opportunity to cleanse and replenish.

Throughout time, people have sought the fresh water of springs and wells as places of worship, sanctuary, and healing. The purifying and healing properties of water, especially mineral waters, are well documented. Even today, we value the life giving power of water with many businesses devoted to providing a holistic environment that includes baths of mineral water and services that support well-being.

So, what is it about water that is so alluring? Undeniably, attraction to water is inherent to us. It's our nature to seek out sources, after all our bodies are 70% water, and it is as important as the air we breathe. Just as the ancients sought and followed sources of water, today's scientists seek to discover its presence on other planets, because if there is or was water, there could be life. Some cultures, including those of the ancient Egyptians, place the origins of life in the oceans, a fitting metaphor for the birth of the human race.

Water has long been used in spiritual ceremonies and plays an integral part in numerous belief systems. The premise of *Feng Shui*, (water-wind), is that everything has consciousness, including the home, and the Spirit of Water is used in a variety of ways to cleanse negative energies and promote harmony of the house and those who live there. Some Christian practices include full-immersion baptism in water while others require an anointing of holy water at baptism or before entering a place of worship. A time-honored, traditional practice of bathing in the Ganges River is essential for a Hindi to clear away sins and cleanse their soul. In classical mythology, the River Styx bestowed supernatural abilities to mortals who bathed in it, and survived. Many cultures have stories about a mythical Fountain of Youth with the promise of immortality to those who drink the source waters.

Closely tied to the importance of water in ceremony is the role of water in physical healing. Along with earth, air, and fire, water is one of the key elements that make up the medicine wheel of life — with water representing emotional energies (as with its use in Feng Shui). The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in southern France is a well-known grotto where many miraculous healings have occurred. Most Native American medicine people use water in healing ceremonies in a variety of ways including infusing the water with prayer and instructing the patient to take the liquid internally. One tribe referred to a local mineral springs as, “Big Medicine Fountain,” for its healing properties. This description alone speaks to the significance of water as catalyst for healing.

Natural mud baths, rich in minerals, like those on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, are excellent at drawing the toxins out of the body. The high silica content of the water at Stewart Mineral Springs in Mt. Shasta, California, has a similar quality, especially when combined with a dry sauna. Posting a testimony on the Stewart web site, one guest describes how she no longer needed kidney dialysis after repeated soaking in their waters. Ingesting the lithia water found at Ojo Caliente in New Mexico, aids

in digestion and has an added healing component that helps depression. The Kusatsu Onsen hot springs spa in Japan is said to cure everything but love sickness! Balneotherapy, the treatment of disease using water therapy, is prescribed by many physicians and is often recommended in conjunction with other treatments, most commonly in Europe and Asia. Hot spring waters rich in sulfur are found throughout the world but in Europe are routinely recommended to assist in healing a variety of conditions including skin ailments, liver toxicity, and gastrointestinal issues. German physicians routinely prescribe visits to the *badans* after major surgery. Mineral absorption through the skin is minimal but combined with heat, can be slightly increased and the healing properties intensified. Ingesting water has a more direct effect on the body but without the restfulness of a relaxing soak. The steam from mineral water, often enhanced with essential oils, is also a common way to experience the healing benefits.



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The therapeutic values of mineral springs are diverse. All mineral springs contain a high amount of negative ions, which promotes physiological well-being and physical relaxation. Bathing in hot water increases the hydrostatic pressure on the body, which in turn increases blood circulation that assists in breaking down and eliminating toxins. It also increases the body's metabolism and stimulates the organs that improve digestion. Minerals that are absorbed through hot springs can enhance the immune system and the production of endorphins. For those persons with arthritis, the buoyancy of the water reduces stress on the joints, relaxes muscles, and increases range of motion. A deeper sleep is inevitable after time spent in the refuge of a warm bath.

Unfortunately, there is little *direct*, research-based evidence of the healing and health enhancing properties of water alone. For the past 100 years or so, both physicians and pharmaceutical companies, especially in the United States, have turned away from homeopathic and alternative healing methods – and even vilified such approaches. As such, research and testing have steered away from these solutions and focused on more profitable drug treatments. Yet people have continued to trek to remote locations to “take the waters.” Saratoga Springs in New York, Hot Springs in Arkansas, and Desert Hot Springs in California are just a few of the places that have enjoyed continuous patronage from those seeking a cure.

Sadly, we live in stressful times. We are blasted daily with negativity and fear. We worry about the quality of our food, our air, and our water. This, combined with the frustrating devastation being wrought on Mother Earth adds to the caldron of stress, which, as we know, only promotes ill health.

A Journey... Imagine a web-like network of tiny waterways weaving just below the surface of the earth. End to end, these rivulets and rivers are millions of miles long, ebbing and flowing on a path of their own choosing. As water moves through the earth's substrata of stone, minute bits of calcium, iron, and other solid minerals are absorbed and transported elsewhere. Underground water lacks oxygen so its ionic properties are increased. This feature attracts more minerals into the molecules than surface water and by the time the water emerges, it's loaded with nutrients. Mineral-saturated droplets make monster stalactites, while tiny streams rise to the surface and leave deposits on the banks of creeks and in larger pools as in the Salineras de Maras in Perú or the many colorful ponds in Yellowstone National Park. Interestingly, the warm waters of Yellowstone host heat loving, colorful microbes, and the temperature of the water can be determined by the color of the microbe is living in it. Most mineral water that comes to the surface is cool and mixes with snowmelt and rain. Occasionally, underground hot spots heat or vaporize the water before gushing into a geothermal spring or geyser. Because the earth's crust has unique geologic configurations, so does the mineral content of the waters passing through.

Fortunately for us, Mother Earth continues to provide healing waters in abundance. As the beauty of Botticelli's *Birth of Venus* illustrates the gifts of Nature, partaking of natural springs for sanctuary or healing brings a closer connection between ourselves and Mother Earth. We live in unique times and the opportunities to grow in many ways are abundant. Rejoicing in mineral water is one simple way to augment any spiritual and healing regime. ♦

Dana Goforth lives on the central California coast with 5 long-haired cats and an awesome vacuum cleaner. Her latest book, Hollow Reed Reiki I, was published this year and she continues to teach and practice Reiki.

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Backroads Adventures
by Ralph Fain

Plunking, Floating, Fishing and Friends!

"I do not wish to treat friendships daintily, but with the roughest courage. When they are real, they are not glass threads or frost-work, but the solidest thing we know." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

January, February and March tides bring fresh runs of Steelhead into the Smith River on the Northern Coast of California. The fresh runs of Steelhead bring my friends from over the years to the Hiouchi R.V. Park in Hiouchi California.

The R.V. Park becomes Steelhead Central. The place to gather and share information, the place to drink beer and play cribbage, the place to catch up with old friends and reminisce about old places and old times, the place to strengthen and reaffirm those friendships.

Our circle of fishing friends grows each year as folks retire and we are introduced to new friends. There is Gary, Shawn, Gerry, Daryl, Carl, Kurt Jr., Ron, Mark, Jay, Tim, Joe, Mark II and the Steelhead Patriarch Kurt Sr. I'm sure there are more I am forgetting. Most of us worked together in a profession that required you to rely on each other in an adverse environment. We formed friendships and those friendships prove enduring even though we see each other seldom except during fishing season.

We have the "plunkers." This method of fishing includes getting up before daylight, and preferably before your competing fisherman. Then, parking your truck on the bank of the river in that exact perfect spot to ambush a passing Steelhead. These guys have this down to a science. You check the river flow and color. Depending on the conditions of each, you head for this run, park by that rock, behind this willow, across from that stump and cast into this exact eddy. Oh, you bait up with roe and whatever colored, man-made hardware that floats your boat. But if you are not using roe, these guys consider you a rookie and amateur, this coming from the old hands who put little bells on the end of their rods to hear them tinkle (*their fishing rods*) when a fish hits the bait.



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Then we have the “side drifters.” This method of fishing also includes getting up in the pitch dark and launching your drift boat in the black of night, uh, early morning. According to our two guide friends, ya gotta be the first on the river before anybody else floats over the fish and scares them so bad the next boats don’t stand a chance of hooking into anything. River flow and color also must be considered in the days plans. Bait, it’s gotta’ be roe, ya rookie, did ya even need to ask! Duration of the float depends on river flows and where the fish are holding.

I fish both methods. My “drift boat” is my 13’ cataraft. This has caused me a bit of ridicule from my buddies and especially from the local guides. Nobody else uses this type of water craft on the Main Smith so it is an oddity. Buy the oddity works and folks tone it down when they see me landing fish. Oh, and I can fish the South Fork where there are no drift boats, as they are unable to navigate this water the way my cataraft will. And I plunk, which is my favorite type of Steelhead fishing. Rain or cold you can sit in your nice warm truck and B.S. with your buddies while waiting to ambush a passing Steelhead. I don’t catch a lot of fish but I do a lot of fishing!

The guys have figured out the best way to catch crab in Crescent City but that little bit of info I am omitting. You will have to figure out the how, when and where of it on your own but suffice it to say, the crabs are there! Last year the Herring entered the harbor and the locals were knocking em’ dead!

So, if ya want out of the snow for a minute, head to the Smith River and drop a line. This river is one of the Jewels in the “State of Jefferson!”

"It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." - Ralph Waldo Emerson



Photo of the Smith River, by R.Fain



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This winter the Mount Shasta Ski Park will offer guided backcountry skiing and boarding. The Ski Park has collaborated with Shasta Mountain Guides to form, Beyond the Boundaries, guided backcountry skiing and boarding. This backcountry program will operate on the high and wild buttes adjacent to the Ski Park.

For skiers looking to develop backcountry skills Beyond the Boundaries is a great first step.

Dane Brinkley - Courtesy Mt. Shasta Ski Park



With easy access directly from the Ski Park Beyond the Boundaries' backcountry terrain is perfectly suited for skiers of almost any ability level. A Beyond the Boundaries tour could include rolling meadows, Red Fir forests, or steep chutes. There is also a cozy little ski cabin at 7400' to serve skiers and snowboarders looking to warm up and dry out on cold stormy days.

Excitement is high about this season as a few early winter storms have left a heavy blanket of snow in the mountains. "There's already 7 feet of snow at the cabin!" said one Ski Park employee.

Backcountry skiing is growing in popularity. For some the backcountry is a great way to experience nature, avoid crowded lift lines, and ski fresh powder. It does however come with a certain amount of risk. There's no ski patrol and avalanches can be a concern. So, many people hire ski guides to safely introduce them to the sport. "For an inexperienced skier or snowboarder hiring a guide is a necessity," said Richard Coats, Mountain Manager of the Ski Park.

Shasta Mountain Guides has been offering guided backcountry skiing for decades. With the inherent risks of backcountry skiing and its growing popularity the collaboration between SMG and the Ski Park to form Beyond the Boundaries only seems natural.

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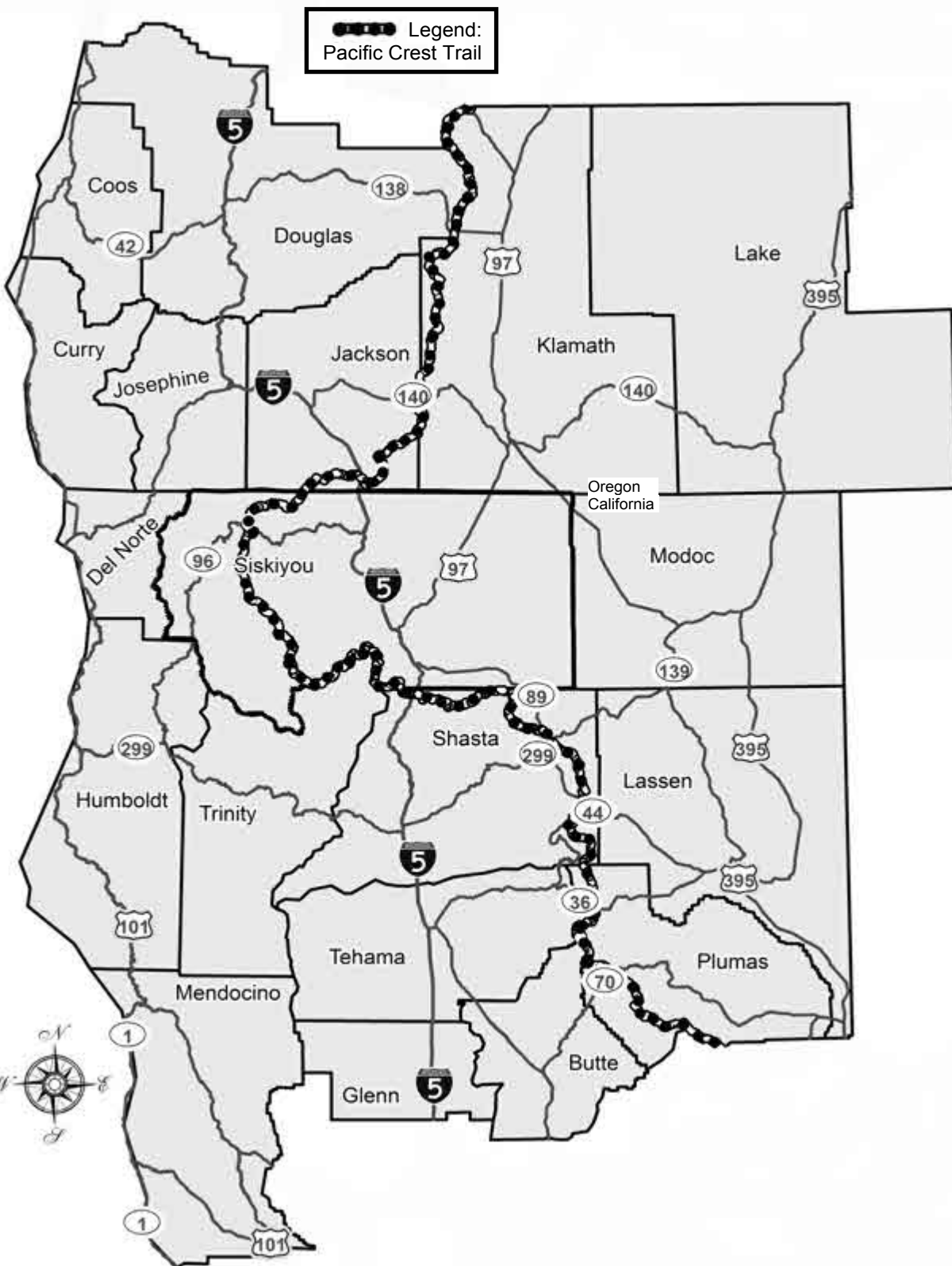
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**BIG FOOT LIVES IN
THE STATE OF JEFFERSON**

WE BELIEVE.


What IS The State of Jefferson? 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. See Map image at left of the counties that make up The State of Jefferson.

The name Jefferson was selected after Yreka's local paper, The Siskiyou Daily News, ran a contest. J. E. Mundell of Eureka, California, submitted the winning name. A seal was created: a gold mining pan etched with two Xs to signify the double-cross by Salem and Sacramento politicians. Today the seal is still used on flags, banners, and State of Jefferson memorabilia.

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 dream lives on for this unrealized 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.

It is the people who reside here that make the greatest contribution to the character of this region we love, proudly called The State of Jefferson. ♦

We started printing Jefferson Backroads in April of 2010. This happy little publication has proudly become the Quality Local Business Directory for our region.

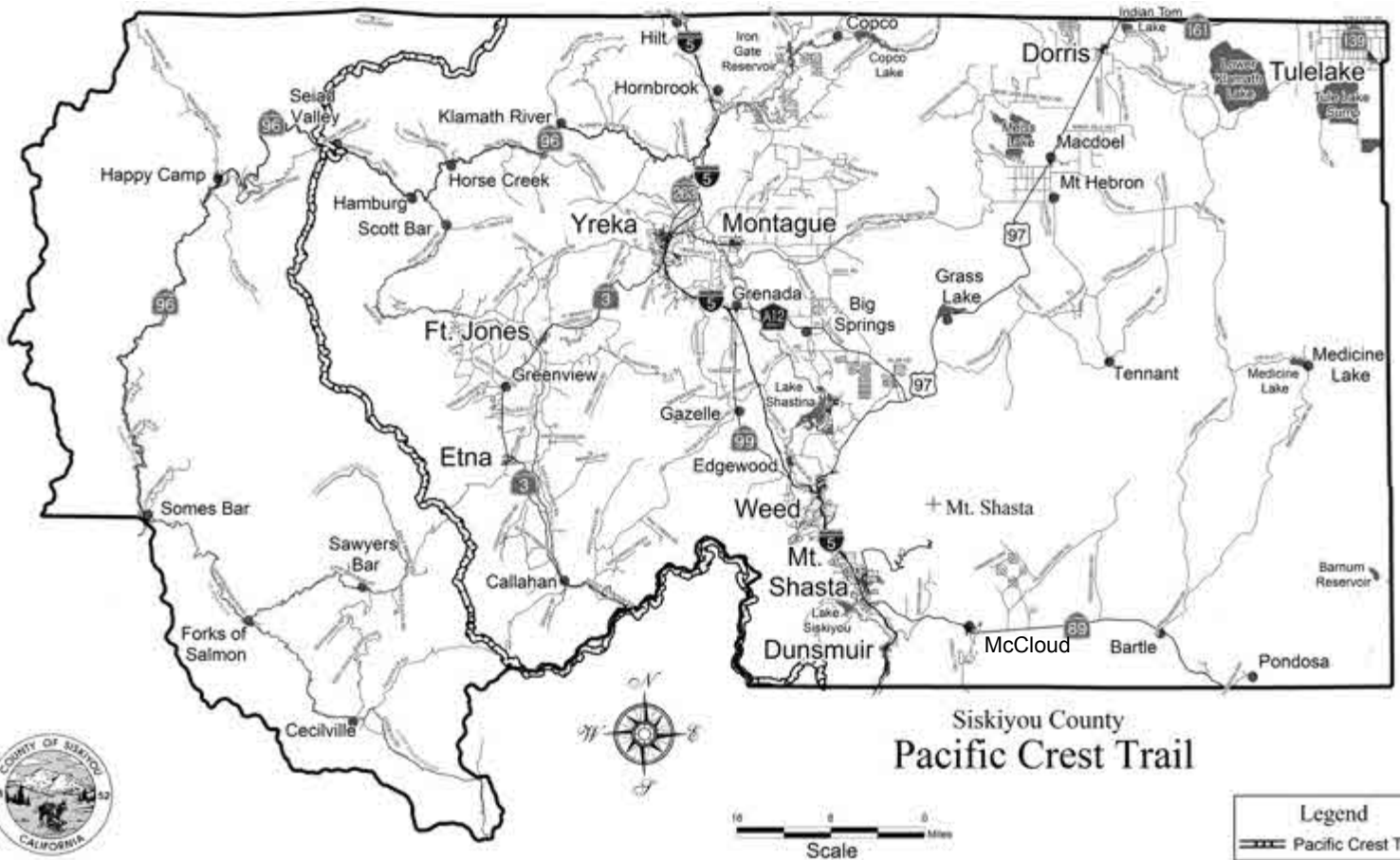
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Map of Siskiyou County - The Heart of The Great State of Jefferson



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