

Some History - Current Events - Fun & Adventure in The Heart of The State of Jefferson !

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# JEFFERSON BACKROADS



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September 2011

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# DUNSMUIR HISTORY

By Ron McCloud

## THE VAN FOSSEN HOME

Standing almost un-noticed in the middle of the business district is one of Dunsmuir's oldest buildings. The Van Fossen home is a small one and one-half story wood frame structure which sits only a few feet back from busy Dunsmuir Avenue. It was originally a private home for one of the town's earliest and most prominent families. Since Dunsmuir's birth in 1886, the Van Fossen family played a key role in its growth and development. Levi Van Fossen, a pioneering resident and businessman arrived soon after the town was founded. He and his wife Matilda built their first Dunsmuir home on this location but it burned in the terrible fire of April, 1903. The present structure was then literally built on the ashes of the original home and has changed little since then.

Levi Van Fossen was the first treasurer of the Dunsmuir Masonic Lodge and served as the town postmaster from 1889 until 1893. He then operated a pharmacy on Sacramento Avenue and he and his wife Matilda acquired considerable commercial property. He operated the Mossbrae Falls Water and Power Company which began operation in 1888. That company consolidated with The Dunsmuir Water Light and Power Company in 1910. It became the Siskiyou Electric Power and Light Company in 1912 and was acquired by the California-Oregon Power Company (COPCO). It ultimately evolved into the water system which we enjoy today.

When Levi Van Fossen died in 1905, his son Frank took the reins of the family. He had earned a degree in engineering from Stanford University and was instrumental in developing the town's first water system as well as one of its first electric power plants. He was involved in an insurance business and an ice business and with his brother-in-law, W.B. Mason, operated a sawmill on the west side of the town in the 1910s. The two brothers-in-law were proprietors of one of the town's first auto garages. Just south of the family home they built the Dunsmuir Auto Company building (now Video Station/Glass Garden and Pacific Crest PCs) in 1912 and the "Brick Garage" building (now Dunsmuir Hardware) in 1916. These two business buildings on what was at that time Highway 99 reflected the changing times as train travel declined and automobile use grew in popularity. Frank Van Fossen and M.E. Dittmar of Redding were leaders in the campaign to establish the state park at Castle Crags.

Continued on Page 5 

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# “PAWS in the Park”

A fun day is in store for you, your family and your pets if you join the Siskiyou Humane Society for their yearly “Paws in the Park” pet walk on Saturday Sept. 17. The hours are 10:00am to 3:00pm, with the walk to start at 11:00 am. Bring a dog, cat, rabbit, horse, donkey, ostrich, giraffe – or

? All are welcome as long as they are controlled with a leash, cage, cart or - whatever it takes for complete control of your pet. This year's event will be held at the Mt. Shasta City Park on N. Mt. Shasta Blvd, the beautiful headwaters of the Sacramento River.

This is not a fund raiser. The only cost to enter your pet for this very popular “Walk” is one can of pet food or a \$1.00 donation for each pet entered. There will be contests, demonstrations and raffle prizes along with a FREE LUNCH of hot dogs, chips, drinks and cookies.

The Siskiyou Humane Society has been operating their shelter and adoption center in Mt. Shasta for over 30 years, supported by donations, grants, bequests and the proceeds of their Thrift Shops. The Shelter staff will be on hand to provide assistance, entertainment, and demonstrate animal obedience and agility training. We will also have a Sheriff's K-9 Unit demonstration. Call Joan Lynch, 530-842-2853 for more info.

## Siskiyou Humane Society Presents ..... “Paws in the Park”

Date: Saturday September 17, 2011

Place: At the Mt. Shasta City Park

Time: From 10 am to 3 pm  
Walk Starts at 11 am

Info: (530) 842-2853

Entrance Fee is 1 can of pet food or \$1.00 for each pet

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# On the Road to Castle Craggs

by Bob Pasero


The two questions I am asked most are (1) how do I chose the locations to write about, and (2) where do I get the photos? I write about my favorite places to visit. The locations are usually on my list of motorcycle rides, or day trips and camping trips with the family. As for the photos (some old and some new), they are photos I have taken during those trips. Most of the places are so photogenic that even with a "point and shoot" camera anyone can get very good pictures. In the future however, when I do get a bit 'creative' (as with a photo accompanying this column) I will offer some suggestions to help you get memorable photos.

1855 was a pivotal year in California history. The gold rush was well underway but by 1855 the diggings in the Mother Lode region began to play out. The easily found free, or 'placer' gold was disappearing. The one man placer operations were giving way to well financed companies and hydraulic mining operations. Prospectors, searching for new areas of placer gold moved north and displaced Native Americans wherever they discovered it. In some instances the Native Americans tried to fight back. 1855 was such a time.

In August of 1855 friction between the indigenous Modoc Indians and the white settlers came to a head in what became known as the Battle of Castle Craggs. The two factions engaged in a running battle through what is now northern Shasta and southern Siskiyou Counties. The settlers included famous 19th century author and poet Joaquin Miller. This is the last documented battle in the United States in which Native Americans fought exclusively with Stone Age implements of war. Miller and at least two other settlers were wounded in the dust up. Several of the Modoc were killed, including their chief, Dorcas Dalla. Allegedly, two of the more grievously wounded Modoc were thrown off of a cliff at 'Battle Rock' to die on the rocks below or in the lake at the base of the precipice. The sight of the battle is today's destination. The Spanish called it "Castle Del Diablo" (Castle of the Devil). But today let's just get on the road to Castle Craggs State Park.

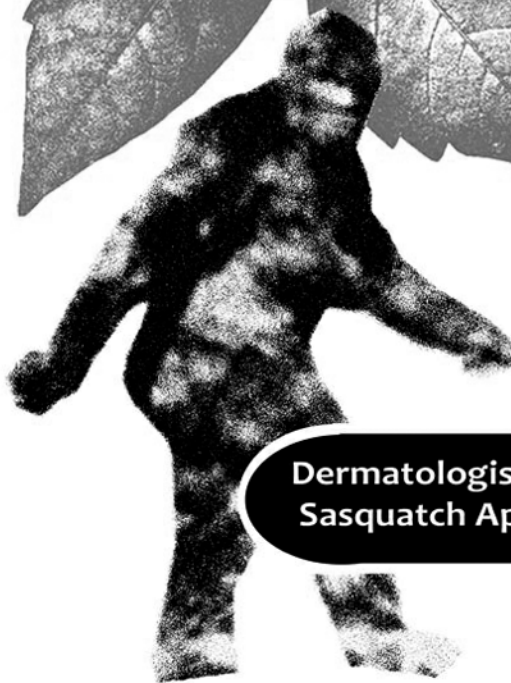
Castle Craggs State Park is found north of Redding on Interstate 5 through the upper Sacramento River Canyon. As you drive north from Redding you will round turns that offer marvelous views of 14,162 foot tall Mount Shasta. Joaquin Miller (mentioned above) described Mount Shasta as, "Lonely as God and white as a winter's moon." The drive along I-5 in the spring reveals Mount Shasta covered in snow from various vantage points. Near "Sweetbriar Road" you will round a sweeping corner and come face to face for a fleeting moment, as if to tease you, with yet another natural wonder; the granite outcroppings and spires known as "Castle Craggs." One of the first things you will notice is the large domelike outcropping on the north end of the Craggs. The real name of this outcropping is "Castle Dome." To me it has always been "thumb rock." It was formed when large convex portions of the rock sloughed away due to erosion,

leaving the characteristic dome appearance the same way Half Dome in Yosemite was formed. The tallest of the glacier polished crags towers 6,500 feet in height. Continue north to the Castella offramp (Exit 724). Take the off ramp and turn left. In approximately 500 feet you will find yourself at the entrance to Castle Craggs State Park.

Continued on Page 18 

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The 1903 VanFossen family home is the last of the private homes that once lined Dunsmuir Avenue but have been replaced by commercial buildings. Photo courtesy of Ron McCloud.



After her husband's death Matilda Van Fossen lived in the family home until 1916. She then rented it as a residence until about 1925 when it was converted to commercial use. The bottom floor was divided into business space for one or two businesses and the windows were "modernized" to storefront windows. The top floor was converted into residential space with a separate entrance between the doors into the two business spaces. This explains the unique three side-by-side doors we see today.

Various businesses have occupied the two storefronts on the street level including a dress shop and a postal telegraph office. In recent years law offices have filled the spaces, including attorneys Howard Jones, Chris Stromsness and Willard Stone.

*Ron McCloud is co-author with Deborah Harton of A History of the Town of Dunsmuir published by the Arcadia Publishing Company in 2010. He is the owner of Dunsmuir Hardware – which dates from 1894.* ♦

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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.

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Kevin Citta photos in the great outdoors!

## Kevin Citta is Biking for Wishes

Kevin Citta of Weed, Ca. (left), is riding his Bicycle across the USA to raise funds & promote awareness for the "Make a Wish Foundation."

**Kevin's Blog Site:** <http://www.kevincitta.blogspot.com>

**There are links for Make-a-Wish AND to FEED KEVIN !!**

**OR you can call the Weed Chamber at (530) 938-4624.**

*He is due to arrive in Asheville, North Carolina in mid to late September. Here is one of Kevin's recent blog posts as he was going through Oklahoma in mid-August...*

First thing I did when I woke up was check to see if my tires were still holding air and they were! Very happy about that. I quickly packed up and planned to head out early to beat the mid-day heat. As I put my back tire on the quick release broke and would not tighten, not good. I spent the next two hours working on it and finally found a nut that would fit in my bag of spare parts and was able to at least temporarily fix my bike. So much for my early start but at least I was back on the road again! I headed down a hilly road to Boiling Springs State Park where I planned to camp for the night. It was very hot and there was a headwind but other than that a pretty nice ride. I passed a field of over 100 giant windmills and a ton of oil fields as well. About halfway I came to the town of Fort Supply and made a gatorade and water stop. The next town was Woodward where I stopped to get some groceries for dinner and used the free wifi to check emails at McDonalds. Boiling Springs was just another 6 miles down a quiet country road. I saw herds of 20 or more whitetail deer several times and each group had many fawns and even some 6 point bucks. I picked out a nice campsite in the shade and took a cold shower which felt great! Well worth the \$12. It was still hot and humid after my shower but I biked around the park and explored anyhow. First stop I checked out the lake and then biked down to the river on a fun off road biking/hiking trail. I came just feet from running over an armadillo, that was exciting! There was a swimming pool at the park that was closed for a family reunion but I managed to purchase some nachos and a soda and was then offered a beer by 2 guys carrying a cooler. When I went to open the cooler I was surprised by a giant Boa Constrictor in the cooler!! Scared the s!t out of me!!! The guy thanked me for not punching him and we all had a good laugh, definitely woke me up! I went back to the campsite and watched the very playful deer chase each other around and listened to the sound of the very loud cicadas. Fell asleep to the sound of trains and coyotes, slept great! ♦



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## “Rise to the Occasion” Montague Balloon Fair

The pilots are undergoing final stages of preflight preparations before they take to the skies over the little northern California community of Montague. As the Montague Balloon Fair (hosted by the Rotary Club of Shasta Valley) gets underway, the newly established Scott Valley Christian Academy is soliciting your help launching it into the future. With the additional assistance of the popular “Rare Bear” known as ‘Party Panda,’ raffle tickets are being sold to win a once in a lifetime opportunity to ride in this special shaped balloon.

Throughout the months of August and September, tickets will be sold to win a ride aboard the “Rare Bear” during the Montague Balloon Fair. A drawing will be held on the 19th of September 2011 and each of the three tickets drawn will provide rides for two people on each of the three days of the Montague Balloon Fair September 23rd, 24th and 25th. In addition, winners will be inaugurated as aeronauts during a special “tailgate” brunch celebration and will receive a one-of-a-kind Party Panda T-shirt immediately following their flight.

Thrill seekers may buy as many tickets as they want for \$20.00 each or three for \$50. Use them for yourself or give them away as gifts. Winning tickets are fully transferable but must be used during the Montague Balloon Fair 2011.

Win a Balloon Ride Raffle Tickets are available at these locations: Yreka Paint and Gold Rush Burgers in Yreka; Scott Valley Bank, Lalo’s Restaurant, and Frontier Hardware in Fort Jones,; Scott Valley Drug, Scott Valley Bank, Happy Toes and Hair Cottage and Dotty’s in Etna.

Or call the Balloonmeisters at 530-598-5667. ♦



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## Thank you from The Friends of Scott Valley Swimming Pool



The Friends of the Scott Valley Swimming Pool would like to thank everyone who was involved in helping make the Poolside Luau a successful fundraiser to help save the Dotty Olson Pool. We were able to raise \$9,500 which along with other fundraisers and donations has made it possible to keep the Dotty Olson Pool open to the public next summer! We could not have accomplished this without all of the support and hard work from our wonderful community! Also, the support shown from those outside of our Scott Valley community was amazing! Thank you to the numerous individuals and businesses for making so many wonderful donations to the live and silent auctions. We could not have done it without each and everyone of you! Thank you to the entire fundraising crew, who donated so much of their own time and energy. You know who you are! I would like to acknowledge a select few by name who went above and beyond in an effort to make the fundraiser successful: Bob and Linda Ward of Bob's Ranch House, Hap Munson of M & M Party Rentals, Dave and Vicki Harrison of the Alderbrook Manor Bed & Breakfast, Scott Valley Bank, and Laura Tippet. Please forgive me if I forgot to mention anyone else! We look forward to working with everyone again in future fundraisers to help keep the Dotty Olson Pool open! Photo by Maggie Nielsen. ♦




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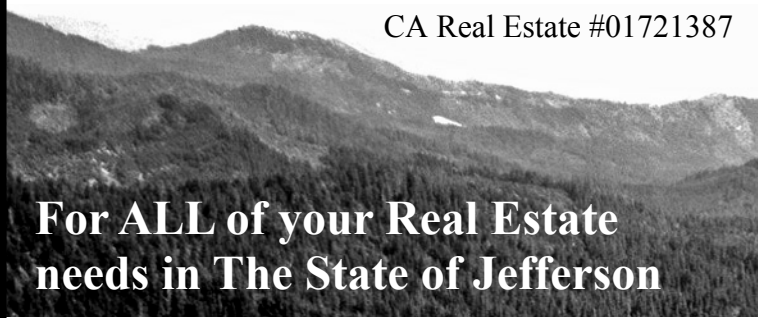
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**Backroads Adventures**  
by Ralph Fain

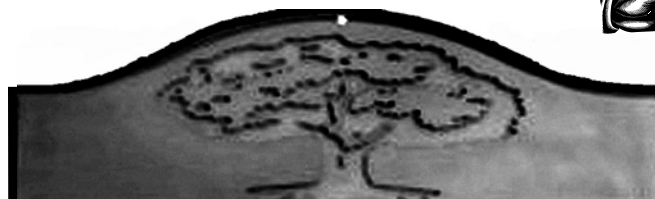
## Backroads Salmon with Shawn Bultena

*Bragging may not bring happiness, but no man having caught a large fish goes home through an alley. ~Author Unknown*

There are those that go fishing and then there are fishermen. Those that go fishing hit whichever body of water looks promising, toss in a line and hope for the best. Fishermen know which bodies of water currently have a hot bite, know the preferred bait and fishing methods attractive to those particular fish and consistently catch fish.

Shawn Bultena is a fisherman. Shawn is also an excellent fishing guide. Born and raised in the State of Jefferson along the backroads of Scott Valley, Shawn grew up hunting and fishing alongside his dad Gary. Since that time Shawn has honed his fishing skills on the Klamath River, Smith River and spent several summers in Alaska on the Kenai and Kasilof rivers.

Shawn has settled into guiding on the Klamath River for Chinook Salmon averaging in size from 9 to 18 pounds with fish up to 30 pounds. The fall Chinook season generally runs from the 1st of October thru the 25th of October. The preferred section of river runs from Iron Gate Dam down to the Klamathon Bridge. When fishing with Shawn all you bring is your food, drinks and clothing. October mornings can be very cold with afternoons being very warm, dress in layers and be ready for both. Call ahead for current weather conditions. You also need your fishing license including salmon and steelhead punch cards. Shawn provides savvy, the drift boat, rod, reels and bait. He also provides the intense desire to see his clients catch fish. He wants you to catch fish even more than you do!

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# Backroads Adventures by Ralph Fain

I have fished with Shawn on the Klamath River for salmon and on the Smith River for steelhead. He is always watching your rod tip and almost always knows you have hooked a fish before you realize the fish has taken the bait. I have caught fish on every trip with him. Be ready to fish. If you lose your rig, additional rods will be baited, ready and in your hands for the next cast. Your party can have up to three people per boat but if you have a bigger party, Shawn will make arrangements for additional boats and guides to accommodate any size group you bring.

Shawn also fishes what is called a "half pounder" steelhead run on the Klamath River in November/December. This is a perfect fishery for newcomers, kids, or those who prefer quantity over quality. By quality I mean trophy size fish. These fish are small but feisty with 20 to 30 fish caught and released on some days.

December thru March will find him fishing the Smith River out of Crescent City. Trophy 20 pound plus steelhead are the quarry in this fishery. A twenty pound steelhead is the trophy equivalent to a 30 inch buck! Most fish run from 10 to 20 pounds and will give you the experience of a lifetime. The current state record for steelhead came from the Smith River. Shawn is an expert on this river.

The fall run is almost here and the winter run just around the corner. Make your reservations now and partake of some of the best salmon and steelhead fishing on the west coast with a top guide! Book now for dates and rates! Tell him Jefferson Backroads sent ya!!

To make your reservations call Shawn's Guide Service, Shawn Bultena Owner/Guide Cell 530-598-8573 or Home 530-468-2771. He is Licensed-Insured-Bonded.

*Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after. ~Henry David Thoreau ♦*



Shawn Bultena of Shawn's Guide Service with one of his badass Steelhead from the Smith River.



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Hydraulic Mining at Happy Camp, c. 1915.  
Schueffler photo. Courtesy Jenner Family Collection

## Discovering The State of Jefferson by Gail L. Jenner

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

The first gold-seekers to Western Siskiyou County followed the waterways, in particular the Klamath River and its tributaries. A land of rugged mountain ranges and steep gorges, the only semblance of an earlier trail led to Oregon, a remnant of the Hudson Bay trapping era. That trail meandered up the Sacramento River, through Shasta Valley, across the Klamath River, and over the Siskiyou Mountains into Oregon.

This was not the route the original Siskiyou argonauts traveled. Most of these men, primarily young men under the age of 30 who had become frustrated by the waning deposits in the Sierras, sought new diggings. Traveling up the California coast, or down from Oregon, they discovered the Trinity River where prospects looked good. One miner, Major Reading, having left Coloma in the Mother Lode with nothing to show for it, took out \$80,000 along the Trinity.

Prospectors also traveled up from the mouth of the Klamath River. In H. H. Bancroft's HISTORY OF OREGON, the first likely discovery of gold cited on the Klamath River occurred in the spring of 1850 at Salmon Creek and in July 1850, on the main Klamath. In September, gold was discovered on Scott River. General Joseph Lane, arriving from Oregon, discovered gold on the Shasta River in 1850, near where the town of Yreka now stands.

The second group of miners to permeate the region was led by John W. Scott (whose name was then given to a valley, a river, and a mountain pass). He and his men discovered gold at Scott Bar in July or August 1850. And later, as reported in the SACRAMENTO UNION, June 23, 1851: "The largest lump of pure gold ever found in California was taken out by Messrs. Brown, Beach and Forest at Scott Bar on Scott River within the last few weeks and weighed \$3,140.00." It was reportedly free of "spot or blemish."

Scott Bar yielded richly, as revealed by an article appearing in the March 18, 1854, MOUNTAIN HERALD: "The bed of the stream has proved exceedingly rich, and has been worked with immense profit every summer since its discovery. It is not, nor will it be exhausted for many years. It is a stream of 'heavy strikes.'" In a short time, Scott Bar became a lively mining town with more than 50 residences, as well as stores, boarding houses, saloons, a butcher shop and blacksmith, a hotel, even a drug store. The cemetery dates back to 1857. Some of the early miners and settlers included Joseph Barney Leduc and Richard "Dick" Hetchel. Others included the Milne, Nesbitt, Simon, Noonan, and Andrews' families.

While J. W. Scott and his men continued along Scott River, another group of miners prospected the Klamath River from its mouth up to the Shasta River in the spring of 1850. According to David Rys Jones, "It was this group of miners that established the course of the Klamath River below the junction of the Shasta. From that time on, the river that had been variously known as the Clamette, the Klamet, Indian Scalp River, and Smith River, has borne the name by which it was known near its source."

continued on Page 22 



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# MARBLE MOUNTAIN

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### Dude Ranch History at California's Marble Mountain Ranch

The recorded history of California's Dude Ranch, Marble Mountain Ranch, begins in the late 1860's when Samuel Stanshaw, a veteran of the Civil War, moved West and claimed water and mining rights to establish the Stanshaw Mining Company on the Klamath River just North of Somes Bar. His 1867 County Water filing records a claim of 600 miner's inches on the Klamath River tributary now bearing Stanshaw's name.

The "Stanshaw Mining Company" attracted Chinese immigrants to the Ranch to provide manual labor for the construction of water canals (seen still flowing in the image at right) and the extraction of ore. Historically, the canals were often lined in redwood planks and created a network of ditches that moved water through hundreds of acres to power giant "monitors" for hydraulic mining. Essentially a giant water cannon, the monitors were effective at removing overburden for ore extraction and equally effective in the transplanting of gravel and sediment into the Klamath River. These mining operations continued at least through the 1920s when this destructive practice was prohibited by some of our country's earliest environmental legislation.

Besides environmental disruption, the effect of mining as a pioneer industry enabled the establishment of the water distribution lines with concurrent production of hydro-electric power that further seeded the transformation of trail systems into roads, the establishment of supply depots, and the development of basic community infrastructure. The development of roads, water distribution, and hydro-electric power enabled Samuel Stanshaw and other locals to establish cattle grazing and conventional homestead ranch operations alongside their mining operations. The economic evolution seen in much of the Northwest moves from mining with homestead ranching, to logging and other resource consumptive industry such as fishing, then finally to service industries such as recreation and resource management. This evolution of economics and culture is closely mirrored in the history of Marble Mountain Ranch.

In the late 1800s, after Samuel Stanshaw took the easier accessed gold ore from his hydraulic mining operations, Mr. Stanshaw leased the mining operations to the same Chinese laborers who had developed the ranch water diversion system. In his lease, Mr. Stanshaw states that "the Indians across the river are to be left alone and not bothered" and that "all meat and eggs must be purchased from the ranch." Anecdotal evidence indicates that Stanshaw had taken a common law Indian wife from a Karuk family village located just across the Klamath River from his mining site. We are given just a glimpse of the entrepreneurial spirit of the times and a flavor of his dealings with nearby "in-laws". The Karuk are still the Native American sovereign nation of the mid-Klamath and have survived and matured to a modern people in spite of the disruptive influences of economic and cultural intrusions.

We also see some of Stanshaw's business savvy in his diligence at protecting his appropriated Stanshaw Creek water. In 1911 his efforts successfully culminated in the patenting of his mining operations with a U.S. Presidential proclamation deeding him the diverted water and canals that carry the water. Marble Mountain Ranch carries this deed signed



Photo of Ditch Line Near the Marble Mountain Ranch

by President Taft in 1911 and is the site of one of the State's oldest continuous water rights. The 150 year old Stanshaw diversion still carries domestic water, agricultural water, and hydro-electric water to Marble Mountain Ranch in the last remaining main artery of the original canal system.

continued on Page 21 



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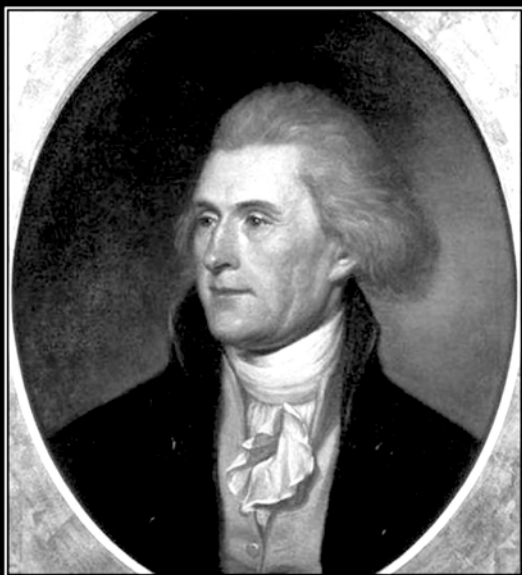
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## What IS The State of Jefferson ? By Gail Jenner



**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Thomas Jefferson lived from 1743 to 1826. He was the 3rd President of the United States, principal author of the Declaration of Independence, and an amazing inventor and avid gardener. He lived an amazing life.

*"When you get to the end of the rope,  
tie a knot and hang on."*

*Franklin D Roosevelt*

*"Half of the troubles of this life can be  
traced to saying yes too quickly and not  
saying no soon enough."*

*Josh Billings*

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.

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.

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.

*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.*



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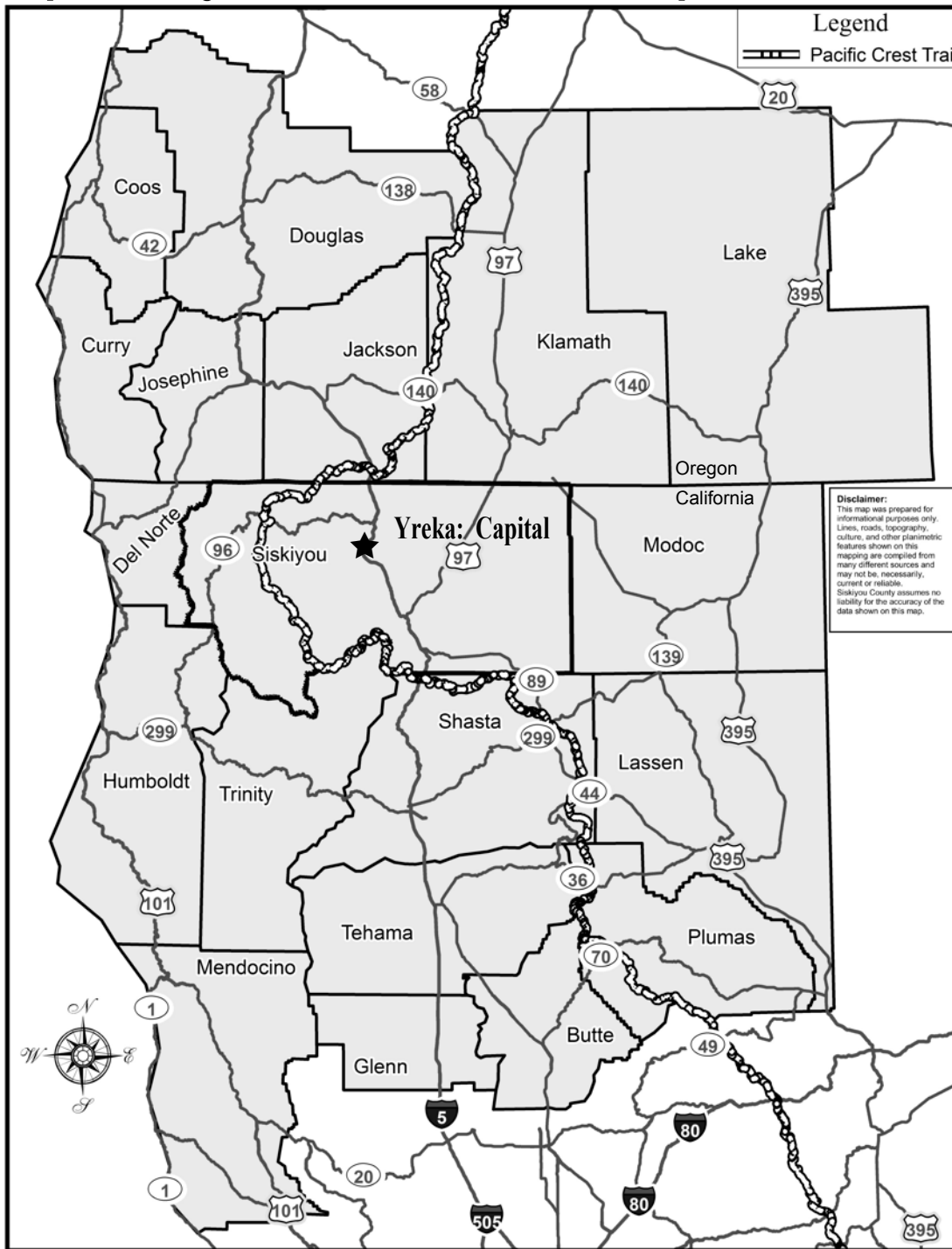
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# Map of The Oregon and California Counties that Make Up The State of Jefferson



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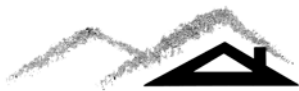
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# Siskiyou Clarity Medical Spa

## New Location & Open House

The first and only medical spa in Siskiyou County, Siskiyou Clarity Medical Spa has grown and is now in its new location at 106 Ranch Lane, Suite B in Yreka.

The spa was the brainchild of Dr. Rachel Dunn-Black who first began offering cosmetic services to her medical patients after-hours in the spring of 2006. As interest in her procedures grew she left her Family Practice business to open Siskiyou Clarity Medical Spa March 1st, 2007. Soon after opening she welcomed specialists in massage, facials and later she welcomed a nail technician into the office. As the number of specialists have grown, so has the list of services the spa provides.

Dr. Dunn-Black's procedures include Botox® Injections, Juvederm®, Dermal Filler, Acne Treatments, Chemical Peels, Laser Vein, Hair and Pigmented Lesion Removal and IPL Photo Facials.



Lovely Staff of Siskiyou Clarity Medical Spa

Louria Batson is the spa Aesthetician and her services include an array of Facials, Waxing, Spray Tans and more.

Catherine Virgin L.V.N., Reiki II, C.M.T. Comforting Hands Therapeutic Massage provides a TLC Massage.

Monica Cooley, L.M.T. provides deep tissue, hot stone massage and more.

Linda Ackerman is the spa's nail expert and her services include Luxurious spa manicures and pedicures.

Last but not least, to hold it all together, the spa is especially proud of their awesome office manager Jessica Arteché who herself is an Esthetician and has taught at the Oregon Institute of Aesthetics.

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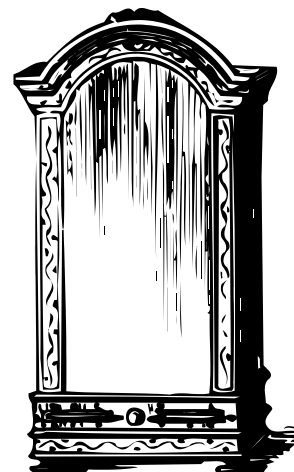
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Up and coming new services include body polish treatments, body wraps and perhaps laser skin resurfacing!

The spa staff invites you to join them in their luxurious new facility at 106 Ranch Lane, Suite B in Yreka and treat yourself, your friends and your family to a true spa experience.

Please see the invitation to our Open House at LEFT !! ♦





# HISTORY OF YREKA

by Claudia A. East

## Witherill & Winckler Building 1859

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



It was 1859 and the initial gold rush was past, Yreka was now an incorporated city and "city" life had been moving along in town for eight years! It was now time to invest in the future and local Able Witherill constructed this wonderful brick building standing at the southern corner of Miner and Oregon Streets. (Mr. Witherill's home was located just a very short distance on the northwest corner of Center and South Oregon Streets where the Christian Science Church now stands.) Originally the Miner Street building had six arches across the brick front... the building has seen some changes during its life, but the general feel and appearance remain fairly true to its original design. The west half of the building has been known as the Winckler Building and the east half as the Witherill building. (See photo top right from around the year 1900. Courtesy of Claudia East.)

In 1871 a great fire ravaged a large part of the business district in Yreka, but fortunately this building did not suffer much damage as according to records the loss because of the fire was only \$100.

One of the first businesses in this building was owned by an enterprising German immigrant; Mr. Adolph Winckler. According to historical records he rented the building in 1862 and opened his store. He advertised heavily in the local papers and sold general merchandise of the day: groceries, liquors, tobacco, mining tools and household implements. In 1877 Winkler moved his business a few doors down the street and the Wilson and Jackson Furniture Store occupied the space for about a year. Following that, a candy maker also had a short stay in the building. From 1880 to 1883 the building was home to two different law offices. Then in June of 1883 the *Yreka Journal* purchased the building for their newspaper office for the sum of \$1,900. The Journal operated here until 1915 when the Siskiyou News bought both the building and the newspaper. They continued operations in that location for over 60 years and then in 1941 the paper moved to the east side of Broadway.

The next thirty years saw different businesses use the building and much of the time it was used as a warehouse. In the first half of the 1970s the building was purchased from the Soldane Estate and began a fresh life. The once concrete facing was chipped off and wire-brushed revealing the looks of the original brick that was kilned in Yreka more than 100 years prior. Since the 1970s renovation, there have been several boutiques occupying the building.

Visitors frequently stop to photograph the Coca-Cola sign, reminiscent of depression years, that is illustrated on the west wall of the building to this day. ♦



## YREKA HISTORY!

These books available at the Siskiyou County Museum & at Yreka Preservation.



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### **Volcanic Geology Courses this Fall**

Lassen National Park Field Geology – September 16 and 17. We will explore the geology of the Lassen Volcanic Center—which last erupted in 1917—and include a short hike to the boiling springs and mudpots of the Bumpass Hell geothermal area. Contact the instructor, Bill Hirt, at (530) 938-5255 to sign up.

### **Ballroom Dancing Classes at COS**

Students may register for a variety of late-starting Ballroom Dance classes to be held in Weed and Yreka. Classes to be offered this fall include: Foxtrot, Tango, Rumba, Cha-cha, Waltz, Samba, Swing, Quickstep, Salsa and Zydeco. Call (415) 215-2652 to sign up!

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## **Where to Go - What to See - When to Do It**

**Call or email by the 20th of the month to publicize your upcoming event. We normally distribute between the 5th and 10th of each month.**

**Labor Day Weekend Dunsmuir City-Wide Yard Sales** - call the Dunsmuir Chamber for more info at 530-235-2177.

**Labor Day Weekend Happy Camp, The Bigfoot Jamboree** is held annually on Labor Day weekend at River Park. Join in for three days of entertainment, fun, and festivities. This event includes food, crafts, vendors, parade, a dance and lots of good old-fashioned contests and fun along the banks of the wild and scenic Klamath River. For info call 530-493-5106. [www.bigfootjamboree.com](http://www.bigfootjamboree.com)

**Labor Day Weekend - Cool Mountain Nights, Tinman Triathlon & Blackberry Festival** - Mt. Shasta. Friday and Saturday Classic Car Show n' Shine; enjoy 50's & 60's DJ music and the street fair with food & vendors. Sunday is the Tinman Triathlon at Lake Siskiyou. Sunday is the Blackberry Bluegrass Music Festival at City Park. Rotary Club doing BBQ lunch, desserts, and event t-shirts. Blackberry pies! Call Mt. Shasta Chamber for info at 530-926-6004.

**Labor Day Weekend - 93rd Annual Intermountain Fair** in McArthur, California. Come enjoy this most amazing small town FAIR! Please call 530-336-5695 for information or visit their website at [www.intermountainfair.com](http://www.intermountainfair.com).

**September 8-11 60th ANNUAL TuleLake/Butte Valley Fair** Tulelake. 530-667-5312 With fun for the whole family, this year's events include carnival rides, 4H barns, live music and vendor and food booths. Call for info: 530-667-5312. [www.tbvfair.com](http://www.tbvfair.com)

**Friday September 9 Clarity Medical Spa Open House**. Come to Yreka and see their gorgeous new SPA! See story and AD on Page 14.

**Sept 9-11, 2nd Annual Sundial Music Festival & Rib Cook-off**, Redding Convention Center, Redding. Free General Admission. Awesome bands such as Mark Chestnut, Nuthin Fancy - Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd and Journey Unauthorized will perform. Tons of entertainment, dancers and music, 100 indoor and outdoor vendors, and amazing BBQ competitions. For info call 530-638-5493 or go to [www.sundialmusicfestival.com](http://www.sundialmusicfestival.com).

**Saturday Sept 10 Happy Camp Chamber Office Grand Opening**, from 7 to 10 pm. Refreshments will be served. Contact the Chamber at 493-2900 for more information.

**Sunday Sept. 11 - Remembrance of 911 - Honoring our Military**. Held at Decision Life Church in Yreka, 1301 So. Main St. at intersection of Oberlin. Also a restored Military Vehicle Show and free lunch. Call Beverly at 530-680-1474 for info.

**Monday September 12 "Prepare the Product to Can" Canning Class** at Siskiyou County Economic Development's Siskiyou Harvest Food Center, 1512 S. Oregon Street, Yreka. Call 842-1638 for more info.

**Friday September 16 - Historic Downtown Yreka Art Walk**, 5 pm to 8:30 pm. Presented by the Yreka Chamber, Y-Town Art Action Team and JEDI. Artists display and present their works. Call Yreka Chamber at 530-842-1649 for more info.

**Saturday September 17, PAWS in the Park Event**, put on by Siskiyou Humane Society 10am-3pm at Mt. Shasta City Park. Please see story and AD on Page 3.

**Saturday September 17, Yreka Elks Motorcycle Ride**. Registration at 9am, departure at 10:30 am. 1pm at Lower Greenhorn Park, no host bar, raffles, 5 card stud, horseshoes, dancing to rock n roll and blues music. Call 530-459-3994, 842-1850 or 842-1980 for more info.

## Where to Go - What to See - When to Do It

**Saturday September 17, Sacramento River Clean-Up.** 9am-2pm  
CoCome to DuDunsmuir and help clean up the river. Garbage bags, gloves and river access maps are provided along with complimentary lunch afterwards. For info call The River Exchange at 530-235-2012.

**September 23-25 Montague Balloon Fair,** Montague, California. The Montague Balloon fair is an annual event that attracts pilots and crews, fun-seekers and nature enthusiasts from all over the USA. For info call 530-643-1305. See AD on Front Page and Story on Page 7.

**Saturday September 24, Sizzlin September Show & Shine,** downtown Yreka on Miner and Broadway Streets. Call 530-842-1649.

**Friday Sept 30 Mt. Shasta Rotary "Celebrity" Golf Tournament.** 9am shotgun start at the Mount Shasta Resort, a four-play scramble for \$75.00 per player. Join us for a fun-filled day of golf, lunch, lots of prizes and a chance to win \$10,000.00 for any "hole in one" on 17. An awards banquet will follow at 3 pm. If not a player, you may sponsor a hole for \$100.00. For info call Rod Sims at 530-926-3052.

**Saturday October 1 - Art Walk downtown Yreka.** 5pm-8pm, come and stroll around historic downtown Yreka. Event brought to you by Y-Town Arts in collaboration with the Yreka Chamber and JEDI. Call Yreka Chamber at 530-842-1649 for more info.

**Friday October 21 - Sun Kings - a Beatles Tribute Band,** put on by the Red Scarf Society. 7:30 pm, Yreka Community Theater. Call Yreka Chamber at 530-842-1649 for more info.

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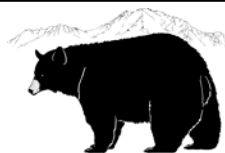
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- ★ Sept. 9 & 10 - JJ Lewis Nichols directs SPAC Production of "The Spoon River Anthology"
- ★ Fabulous News! Scott Valley Bank has partnered with Scott Valley Theatre Co. to bring great entertainment to The Avery Theatre. Coming up in December is the Annual Acoustic Piano Concert Fund Raiser for the Volunteer Fire Departments in Scott Valley.

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Majestic Castle Crag - photo courtesy of Bob Pasero

Continued from Page 4  
On The Road to Castle Crag

Castle Crag State Park is little known in the over all scheme of California's State Park System. The Park encompasses over 4,300 acres. There are 76 improved campsites some of which are quite close to shower facilities. If you enjoy hiking there are nearly 30 miles of hiking trails in the park. A portion of trails are along the Pacific Crest Trail. If you are a fan of water falls Castle Crag is a great day trip and get away for you. During the spring and early summer I recommend the moderate 5½ mile round trip hike to Burstarse Falls (photo on Page 20). When you reach Burstarse Creek hike upstream to see a small cataract and then on to 40 foot tall Burstarse Falls. The trailhead is 3 miles west of the park entrance on Castle Creek Road. These falls are seasonal, so go in the spring to early summer months. A camera with an adjustable shutter speed, combined with a tripod and a good polarizing filter allows an opportunity for a photo that gives a feeling of motion to photos of the water while making the colors come alive.

There are a number of falls in the park. One I have not yet hiked to is actually a series of falls on Root Creek as it cascades down a steep granite face along the Root Creek Trail. The Root Creek Trail is listed as a gentle 2 mile round trip hike. For the flower fancier the Root Creek Trail is the trail for you. On this hike one can see many varieties of orchids that grow naturally in the park; some of which grow nowhere else in the world.

One of the easiest hikes in the park (I prefer to call it a "walk") is to the Park's Vista Point. The Vista Point parking lot is a short drive to the north east portion of the park above the campgrounds. Don't try the vista point road towing a trailer and be forewarned, the road to the parking lot is narrow and definitely one lane only. From the parking lot there is a very short walk up to the Vista Point. At the point you will be rewarded with unique and exciting views of both Castle Crag and Mt. Shasta to the northeast. The Park Service has installed benches at Vista Point to allow for a moment of contemplative thought and even telescopes for close up views of the Crag and Mt. Shasta. Take your camera. You will want to capture the views.

Castle Crag Park also extends to the east side of Interstate 5 and includes a portion of The Sacramento River. This portion of the park is accessible by the River Trail. The trail crosses under the Freeway and parallels the railroad tracks and the frontage road then crosses over the Sacramento River by a pedestrian suspension bridge. This is a very easy 1½ mile hike that begins near the Lower loop campground and ends at the Day Use picnic area and the Riverside Campground (you can also drive to the day use area and Campground by taking Riverside Road just north of the freeway interchange). Unlike some of the higher elevation trails this is a year round trail. During the spring the trail is alive with wild flowers and if you can't get to Castle Crag until the fall then this trail is a must. The autumn colors along the river accessed by this trail are second to none.

Castle Crag offers many diversions for a day trip or for a week of camping in the Sacramento River Canyon. Nearby attractions include the Historic Railroad town of Dunsmuir. Dunsmuir is a full service community that offers shopping, dining and lodging. Midway between Castle Crag and Dunsmuir is Railroad Park that offers a unique stay in their "Caboose Motel" as well as a seasonal dinner house and lounge that is open on Fridays and Saturdays from mid May until mid September. The dining room and lounge are set in refurbished train cars.

Continued on Page 20 

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## SISKIYOU PELLET MILL ALFALFA PELLETS

The other day, Ralph and I were buying more chicken and duck scratch and layer pellets at Siskiyou Pellet Mill in Grenada. There was some commotion going on behind the store in that big wooden building. In answer to my question, Ralph says, "Yes, Michelle, that's one of the things that Siskiyou Pellet Mill DOES. They make pellets from local grain and alfalfa hay!" Gosh, although I am a little "slow" catching on to some of these family businesses that have been running here for decades, well it doesn't mean that I don't totally MARVEL at all of them once I DO know their stories! It's all just so fascinating to me!

So I decided I better have a little chat with Larry Dancer who runs Siskiyou Pellet Mill. Apparently it has been run by the Dancer Family since 1957. They arrived here from Camas Valley, Oregon (northwest of Roseburg) in 1956. Pumping out alfalfa pellets all year 'round, they are still proudly using the same CPM 100hp Century Pellet Mill after all these years!

Their process is simple. Local ranchers supply them with alfalfa hay and wheat or barley grain. Some of the local ranchers have the Siskiyou Pellet Mill custom produce pellets specifically for their own ranch use, while the rest of the pellets produced are sold to happy customers throughout California and Oregon.

When the hay comes in it is run through a bale breaker. It then goes through a grinding process and through a 3/16 screen. This ground hay gets mixed with steam and goes through the die mechanism which forms the pellets. The hot pellets are cooled and then go into the sacking bin or one of 3 bulk bins. The sacking bin uses Made in America bags produced by "American Bag Company" located in Oakland, California. The bulk bins are used to load pellets into trucks for local delivery.

Alfalfa pellets as a supplemental feed is said to be more nutritious than straight alfalfa hay as the grinding process used to create the pellets concentrates the nutrition. Alfalfa pellets add protein, vitamins and valuable minerals and are a major feed choice for the dairy and beef cow industry.

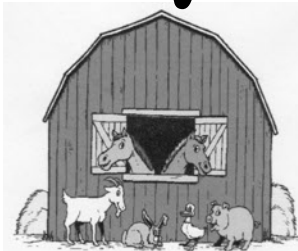
Alfalfa is a deep-rooted legume. This plant extracts nitrogen from the atmosphere and turns it into plant proteins. Before commercial fertilizers, farmers grew alfalfa or clover and tilled it into their fields to add nitrogen and nutrients to the soil. Thankfully, this practice still continues today.

Interestingly, alfalfa has been nicknamed "the father of all foods." It is beneficial as a food (such as alfalfa sprouts) and has been used as an herbal medicine for over 1500 years.

Apparently alfalfa pellets also make an excellent garden fertilizer! They break down very easily and offer nitrogen to your hungry plants, making them another wonderful alternative to chemical fertilizers. Google it !!

Siskiyou Pellet Mill is a long time honored advertiser with Jefferson Backroads. Come by their store in Grenada to see another fantastic product made right here in Siskiyou County: The very Heart of The State of Jefferson! ♦

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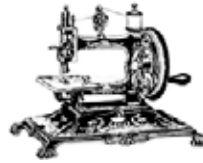


Photo of  
Burstase  
Falls in  
The Castle  
Craggs  
State Park  
Courtesy of  
Bob Pasero



Continued from Page 18  
On The Road to Castle Craggs

This area of the Sacramento River is one of the premier fly fishing streams in all of California. Be sure to check the updated regulations but in broad terms this is an area in which man made lures and barbless hooks must be used (no bait fishing allowed) and it is a catch and release area.



For those who would like to enjoy their catch, there are limited 'catch and keep' areas. To be on the safe side and to assure your fishing experience makes for a lasting (and pleasant) memory, check the rules before you fish in the "California Sport Fishing Regulations" pamphlet. The pamphlet is available at any fish and game licensing agent.

Just a couple hours and a world away, Castle Craggs calls to you. It is a great getaway; hopefully I'll see you soon, on the road to Castle Craggs.

*Bob Pasero, was a former Police Officer in Dunsmuir from 1978 to 1983, and recently retired as Orland's 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 State Chaplain for an organization called The Missing in America Project, a Veteran Recovery Program. Please go to [www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us) for more info. ♦*



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The construction of a reliable road was essential to the development of the mid-Klamath region and by the 1920s, the Klamath River Road had been completed from Yreka to Happy Camp, and from Orleans down river. At that point, there remained about 60 miles of river with mule trail access, but with no road access between Happy Camp and Orleans. The Stanshaw Mining Company (now Marble Mountain Ranch) was strategically placed in the center of the unfinished road section and became the support hub for road development as the ranch transitioned into a State Highway Yard, housing facility, and teacherage. California State road engineer and supervisor Guy McMurtry purchased the ranch from Samuel Stanshaw, moved with his wife Mary to the property, and developed additional housing for the families of the crews he employed in the construction of the final stretch of the Klamath River Road (now State Hwy 96). Most of the ranch guest cottages currently in use at Marble Mountain Ranch were originally constructed by Guy McMurtry to provide housing for road



*Guy McMurtry and company. Guy and Mary McMurtry purchased the Stanshaw Homestead and contracted with the State of California for its use as a road construction yard.*

construction crews and their families and later by the Hayes family to provide additional teacherage housing and housing for employees of what was a

newly established United States Forest Service. *Vintage Photo above of Guy McMurtry and Company.*

When Guy McMurtry purchased the ranch and moved the State Highway Yard onto the ranch there were so many construction workers with families that in 1918 the state built a school on site (the Irving Creek School) to service the many resident and area children. The first school was a one room structure with outside toilets that overlooked Irving creek and the first teacher was Benjamin D. Spaulding. Minerva Starritt, one of the Irving Creek School teachers from the 1920s records in her historical journals of struggling to single handedly teach 52 students all in the eighth grade! After a visit from the Siskiyou County Superintendent of Schools to view classroom size and conditions, a decision was made to enlarge the school and bring in additional teaching staff. Contributions for school construction came from the road crews who contributed equipment and time,

and from the Waldner Ranch and sawmill located up Irving Creek.

During your stay at the Ranch, you will see the original water diversion that continues to provide domestic water, agricultural water, and hydroelectric power for the Ranch and you will take a trail ride down into the last hydraulic mining pit. The ranch hydro-electric power is now a much more precious commodity than the gold that was it's original motivation for development. Marble Mountain Ranch continues "off grid" and generates all it's

Continued on Page 22 



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electricity as well as its domestic and agricultural water from the original water diversions first built to allow mining. You will see remnants of the giant water cannons (monitors) that once washed away mountains of material, numerous relics from past logging and agricultural operations on the Ranch, our 100-plus year old barn and home, and the original feed and hay store and the site of the Irving Creek School on the South end of the ranch. Unfortunately, not enough is left preserved in record of the Chinese inhabitants or the pre-historic native Karuk Indians that inhabited the immediate area.

Our self sufficiency for power, our 150 year tenure of gardening, ranching, and orchard tending, our "catch and release" guided fishing practices, and our practiced "no impact" wilderness ethic allows us to also make strong claim to "sustainable tourism" in our operations as a dude ranch. The current ranch owners still reside permanently on the ranch, tend the orchards, pastures, and gardens, raise and train their own horses, and strengthen community infrastructure with power, water and housing during times of community need. Marble Mountain Ranch has regularly been on the community support team at times of disaster such as the Dillon Complex Fire, the 1997 floods, and the Happy Camp Complex fire when the ranch was a designated FEMA evacuation center.

*If you would like to make reservations or have any information to add to this amazing history, please go to their website [www.marblemountainranch.com](http://www.marblemountainranch.com). ♦*

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Continued from Page 10  
Discovering The State of Jefferson

Prospectors from Trinity River likewise mined the Salmon River region as early as June of 1850. There they established a small post or settlement - the first - called Bestville, in honor of Captain Best, a sea captain, miner and trader in the party who discovered gold with the help of Squirrel Jim, a Shasta Indian who became a 'friend' to many whites. When Squirrel Jim died in 1919, he was buried on the Sallie Burcell allotment in Etna. He died from "the infirmities of old age" and was "about 100 years old".

The richest and most extensive discovery north of the Trinity range of mountains was found near Yreka, but this site was ignored for several months until a party from Oregon camped at "Yreka Flats," a popular camping ground between the Shasta and Scott Rivers. Most miners passing through were so intent on getting to the stream beds, they never dreamed that gold lay just below the surface of the ground - literally beneath their feet. But one day in March 1851, Abraham Thompson, did do a little 'scratching'. "After washing three pans of dirt beside a small ravine, later called Black Gulch, a good prospect of coarse gold was found. He took it to his companions and finding 'little scales of gold clinging to the roots of the long grass, convinced them of the richness of their find.'"

It didn't take long for Thompson's Dry Diggings to mushroom into a tent city, first known as Shasta Butte City, then renamed Yreka. Within six months there were 5,009 men vying for thirty foot claims as well as the water that became more valuable than gold. ♦



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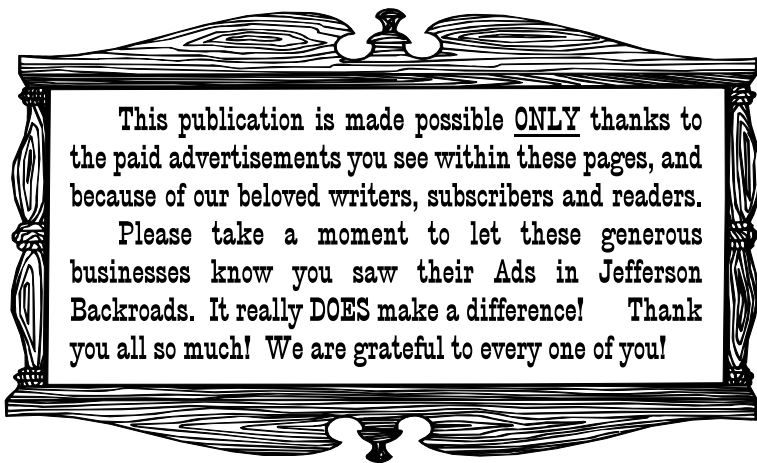
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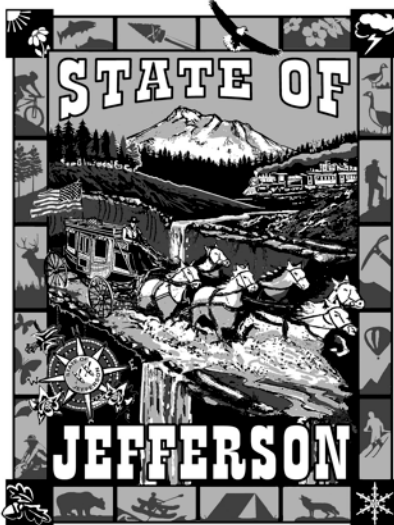
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