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JEFFERSON BACKROADS

GOD BLESS AMERICA



A Happy Little Publication

October 2017



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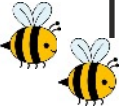
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***Additional \$50 new ad design fee will be applied.**

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Cover Image - Photo of my Lovely Chamomile Flowers - by M. Fain

Jefferson Backroads is proudly created and published for those Independent, Hard Working, Old School, Patriotic American Rebels who live in or travel through our Rugged & Beautiful State of Jefferson Region. The TRUE Independent Nature of The State of Jefferson can be found in Small Towns all across Rural America. We focus on the positive, the fun, the amazing local businesses, the history and The Adventure!!

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

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

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JEFFERSON BACKROADS A Happy Little Publication

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**MORE:
Pages
8-9...
See a
few
pics of
The
Jefferson
State
FLIXX
Fest
Event
and
Get
Ready
for
NEXT
YEAR!!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dunsmuir - Pie Camp - see Page 10.
Dunsmuir - Holiday Crafts Fair November 11
Dunsmuir - Candles in the Canyon December 2

Etna - Concert with Bill Staines at the Avery Theatre.
See Page 30 for details.

Fort Jones - Fall Festival Oct. 9. See Flyer Page 13.
Fort Jones - Volunteer Fire Dept. Chili Cook-Off Oct. 21.
See AD on Page 15.

Klamath River - Turkey Shoot on November 19
and Holiday Craft Fair Dec. 3.
See Page 5 For Story and All the Details.

McCloud - Apple Harvest Festival Sat Oct. 14

Mt. Shasta - North State Giving Tuesday November 28.
See Page 7 for Info.

Mt. Shasta - Winter Magic Festival November 24

Weed - COS always has a Holiday Craft Bazaar!
Watch for Dates!

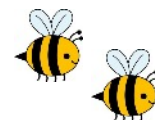
Yreka - Dear Mad'm. Birthday Celebration
on October 14 at the Sis. Co. Museum.
See Page 16-17 for Story and Info.

Yreka - 51st State Gun Show Oct. 21-22. See Page 31.

Yreka - Holiday Gift Fair at Fairgrounds November 18

Yreka - Veterans - Operation Mount Up Oct. 20-22.
See Page 34 for Info.

GO TO SiskiyouChambers.com
or Call Our Local Chamber of
Commerce offices for all info.



Scott Valley Theatre Co.

**Concert with Bill Staines
on October 8.**

See Flyer on Page 30 for Details!

Learn More about Our Fund
Raising Efforts to bring back Movies
to the Avery Theatre!!

Avery Memorial Theatre

430 Main Street - Etna, CA 96027

(530) 598-0989

www.scottvalleytheatrecompany.org

Call or check website for More Information.



Shoot and Shop Down the River this Fall!

Yes, it's that time of year again: Turkey Shoot Time! Buck season may be over but some shooting fun is still on the horizon. Come on down to the Klamath River Community Hall range on the Sunday before Thanksgiving to test your skills in a friendly competition. This year the Turkey Shoot will take place on Nov. 19th. The range is a half hour from Yreka on Highway 96, right on the scenic Klamath River at Round Bar.

But if guns aren't your thing you can play dice games and buy splatter boards circles (no shooting skills required) to win the same prizes as the shooters: turkey, ham, bacon, salami and cheese. Or, come enjoy a home-cooked breakfast or lunch, or just warm yourself by the bonfire, chat and watch the fun.

The shooting starts around 9am. The competitions include 50, 75, 100 and 150 yard rifle shoots along with Running Deer and Pistol contests.

The local Turkey Shoot tradition that began in the 1940s continues into the 21st century. Besides the fun, the get-together raises funds to keep the Community Hall afloat.

Two weeks later, right on the heels of the Turkey Shoot on Sunday, December 3rd, the Holiday Craft Fair (10 am – 3 pm) will return. A popular event in the 1980s, the Craft Fair made a come back a few years ago to everyone's delight. While shopping, your choice of homemade soups and chile will fend off the winter chill and the good cheer will warm your heart.

The Community Hall was built about 1948 by all volunteer labor out of locally milled lumber and has been the place for local gatherings ever since. It is now a federally recognized 501©(3) nonprofit.



Old Time Turkey Shoot

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

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 19
OPEN AT 9AM

BREAKFAST
8-10:30AM

LUNCH
11:30-3PM

50/50 Drawing ~ Splatter Boards ~ Dice Games

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

~ **PRIZES** ~

TURKEYS, HAMS, BACON, CHEESE, AND SALAMI

For event info call JoAnne Benson 465-2029



Holiday CRAFT FAIR

and
Brunch



Sunday, December 3rd
10am - 3pm

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

Vendors call Enid: 465-2373



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All the inspiration you need to plan your next excursion in Siskiyou County. Gather your information, grab a spot on the grass next to the beautiful Klamath River and start planning!



Collier Interpretive & Information Center,
Yreka, California - located at the Junction of Interstate 5
and Highway 96. Stop by for a visit...
Or call us at (530) 475-3814



**CALIFORNIA
WELCOME
CENTER**

NORTH STATE GIVING TUESDAY

Save the Date! North State Giving Tuesday is November 28th! Don't miss an opportunity to support nearly 100 regional nonprofits at the one-stop annual giving event on Giving Tuesday at www.northstategives.org! This nationally recognized day of 'giving back' follows two days of holiday 'deals' at Thanksgiving time – Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Shasta Regional Community Foundation hosts the giving platform website with generous support from Redding Bank of Commerce and United Way of Northern California. At the site, you can donate a minimum of \$10 to local nonprofits that have registered and are eligible for a share of over \$85,000 in incentive boosts and prizes on the day of the event.

New this year, you can schedule your donations in advance beginning November 14th to be debited from your account on November 28th. Visit www.northstategives.org in advance to orient yourself for this one day only - 6AM – 8PM secure online giving portal to help our local nonprofits garner extra cash to do the great work they do for our communities! Be sure to follow the excitement on social media on November 28th via Shasta Regional Community Foundation's Facebook page (ShastaRCF) and #NorthStateGivingTuesday.

** The Shasta Regional Community Foundation is a resource building organization in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties dedicated to promoting philanthropy by connecting people who care with causes that matter. Since 2000, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$18,000,000 in grants to area nonprofit organizations or public entities. Funds providing grant support are established by donors in our area who have a wide variety of charitable interests and choose to strengthen our North State communities with grants to local nonprofits and public entities. For more information, call the Shasta Regional Community Foundation at (530) 244-1219 or visit www.shastarcf.org. ■

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Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

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North State
GIVING TUESDAY

powered by Shasta Regional Community Foundation

November 28, 2017

A one-day online giving campaign

www.NorthStateGives.org

6 AM until 8 PM Pacific Time

Donate online to show your
support to nearly 100
local nonprofits doing great
work in our communities.

*Your donations will be boosted
from an incentive pool provided by the
Knodel Family Endowment Fund of the
Shasta Regional Community Foundation.*

Local businesses provide hourly prizes

**Follow the excitement on social media!
#NorthStateGivingTuesday**

brought to you by



THANK YOU! FROM ALL OF US AT THE THE 2017 JEFFERSON STATE FLIXX FEST



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8.2888 | WWW.FLIXXFES



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
SEPTEMBER
20 – 23, 2018



THANK YOU!
FROM ALL OF US AT THE
THE 2017 JEFFERSON STATE FLIXX FEST



CONGRATULATIONS TO
MICHELLE FAIN AND HER TEAM
AT THE JEFFERSON BACKROADS!
**FRIENDS OF THE
FEST AWARD!**



"SURE I CAN MAKE PIE CRUST! I WENT TO PIE CAMP!"

PIE MAKING CLASSES COMING TO DUNSMUIR!

APPLE PIE

Nov 4th, 2017 1PM TO 3PM

CHERRY PIE with Lattice crust

Nov 18th 2017 1PM to 3PM

Dunsmuir Community Center

**4835 Dunsmuir Ave
Dunsmuir, Ca 96025**

**Making Pie is... well...
Easy as Pie!**

Pie making is a skill every cook should master, especially with Thanksgiving coming up. A perfect pie is something that just about every baker wants to be able to put together. Pie is a great dish with an unbeatable combination of flaky dough and rich filling – whether you're making luscious fruit pies or hearty savory pies.

Sign up for Pie Camp and leave with the know-how to make Pies for your family and friends all year long. The two-hour session includes hands-on instruction from the Pie Lady, Phyllis Skalko, recipe with tips, pre measured ingredients with all the tools you will need and a glass Pie Pan to bake now or a metal pan if you want to freeze and serve at Thanksgiving. There is time for personal discussion, and at the end of class we will enjoy a slice of Apple or Cherry pie made by two of our finest Dunsmuir Pie Makers; Vonnie Carr and Irene Wilson.

We will demystify the art of making dough, help you become a whiz at rolling out the crusts, and you will leave with your confidence so buoyed you will never, ever buy that pre-made stuff from the store again! Remember, pie is not about perfection! Pie should look homemade. So let's just go for it and have fun.

Each class is limited to 10 students so that you will get lots of personal instruction from our Pie Camp Team.

Class fee is \$45 and includes all pie making materials (including a glass pie plate or Metal pie pan for you to keep). You will go home with your very own APPLE PIE or CHERRY PIE ready to bake or freeze. Instructions will be given on how to freeze and bake your Pie later.

Call the "Pie Lady", Phyllis Skalko at 530-235-0839 to register. With only 10 spots, class will fill quickly!

AFTER you register, you can mail your check for the Registration Fee of \$45 made out to Phyllis Skalko, Address: 406 S 2nd Street, Dunsmuir, CA 96025. Please include your Name, address and phone number and which date you are registered for. A Registration confirmation card will be mailed to you by return mail.

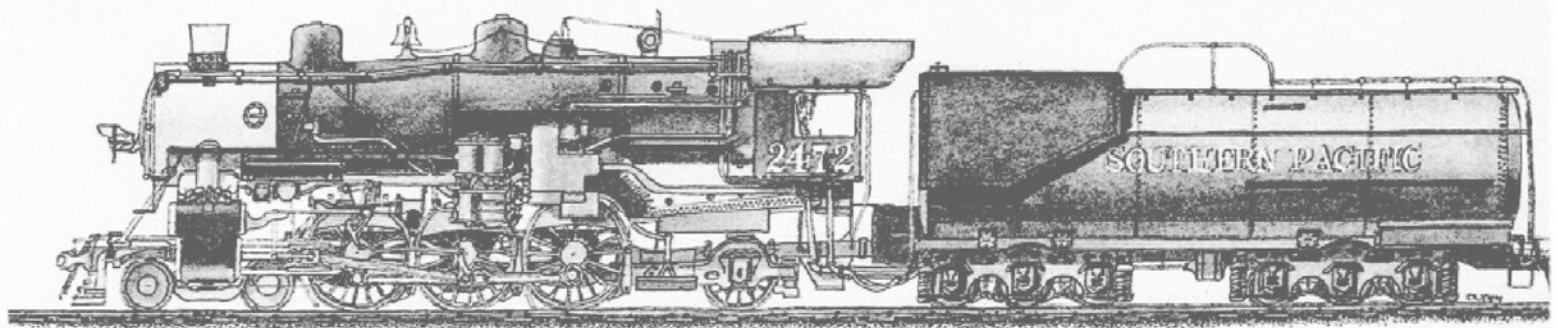
p.s. White Tee shirts with Pie Camp Logo

(image at left) and handmade coordinating Aprons (image above) by Mimi's Cottage will be available for purchase for \$15 ea.



Artwork designed by Dizzy Debbie





DUNSMUIR RAILROAD DEPOT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

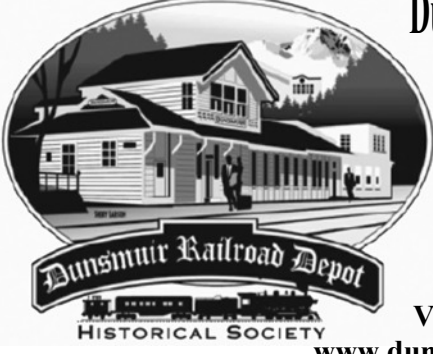
OCTOBER AT THE DUNSMUIR MUSEUM

The Dunsmuir Railroad Depot Historical Society will open the Dunsmuir Museum, adjacent to the Dunsmuir Amtrak Depot October 7th and 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

During the October 21st opening, a drawing will be held at 1:30 p.m. for a lovely quilt. Winner need not be present to win. Winners last year were from Dunsmuir and New Mexico! The drawing will help with the maintenance of the Amtrak Depot, the only Siskiyou County stop, and the Dunsmuir Museum.

The Dunsmuir Museum will close after October 21st for the winter months. Many thanks to our Depot Society members who volunteered to open the Museum for 1st and 3rd Saturdays and RAILROAD DAYS this year. They are Hank Billings, Hazel Billings, June & Neil Chichizola, Jan Connelly, John Dibelka, Jerry Harmon, Fred Koschnick, Gene Lachawicz, Billie Mathes, Stacy & Blake Michaelsen, John Signor, Carol Skalko, Phyllis Skalko and Rick Somers. Do email the Depot Society should you wish to volunteer at the Museum next year.

Follow the Dunsmuir Depot Society at www.dunsmuirdepot.com. Have a great winter, and see you at the Dunsmuir Museum April 2018.



Dunsmuir Museum

Located at the Amtrak Depot
Corner of Pine & Sacramento
Dunsmuir, Ca

For Info:
Visit Our Website
www.dunsmuirdepot.com

Revisit the past in this historic railroad town. Come visit our Museum and Railroad Display Room from April through October, every 1st and 3rd Saturday from 10am to 2pm.



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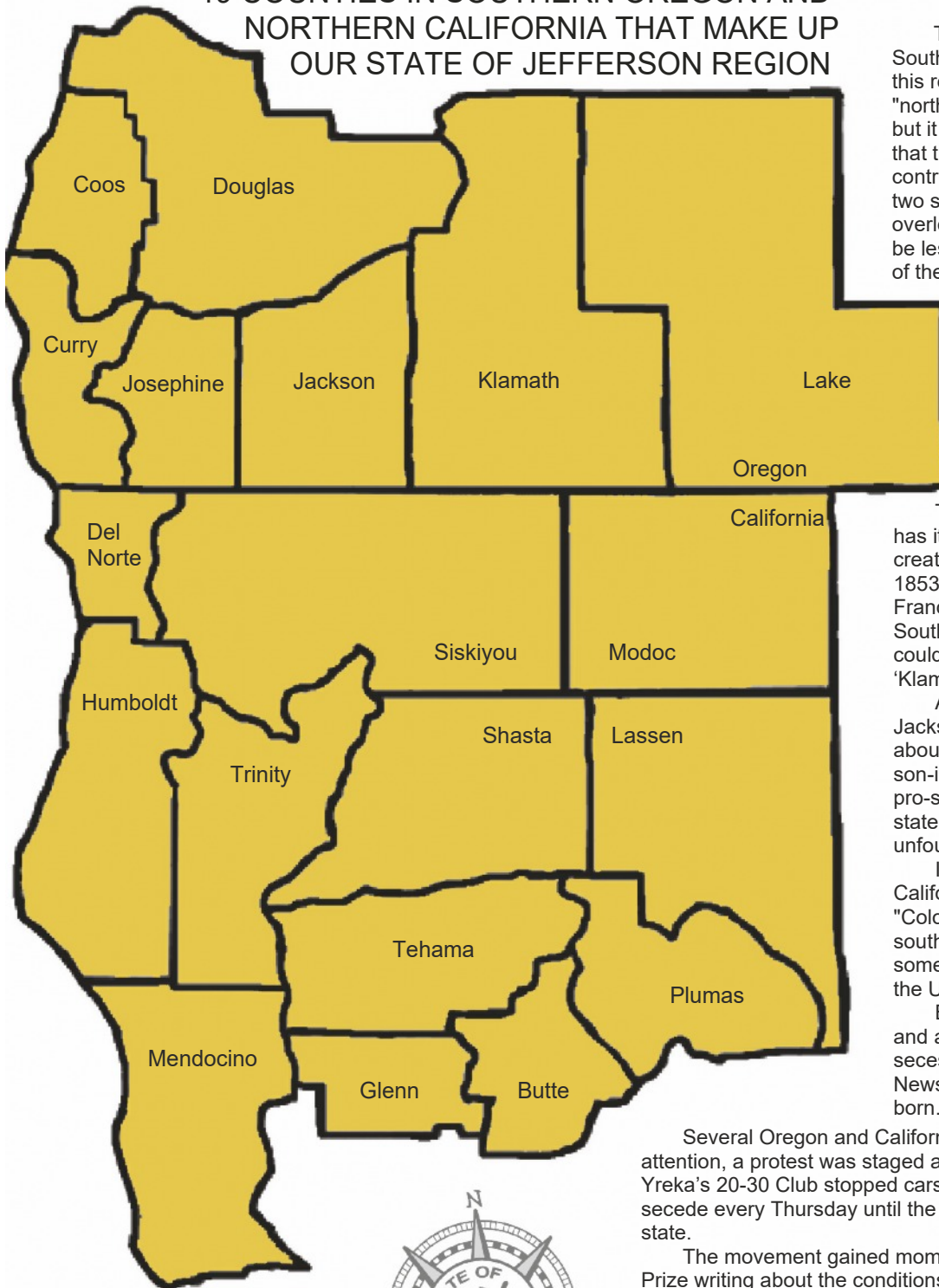
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Sunday 11-3**

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Our Historic State of Jefferson Regional Map

19 COUNTIES IN SOUTHERN OREGON AND
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA THAT MAKE UP
OUR STATE OF JEFFERSON REGION



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

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

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

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

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


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

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

Several Oregon and California counties joined in. In order to garner attention, a protest was staged along Highway 99 near Yreka. Members of Yreka's 20-30 Club stopped cars and passed out a declaration and pledged to secede every Thursday until the State of Jefferson became recognized as a state.

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

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

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



**UNITED WE
STAND**





FORT JONES FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH, 2017
FREE ADMISSION—GATES OPEN AT 9 AM
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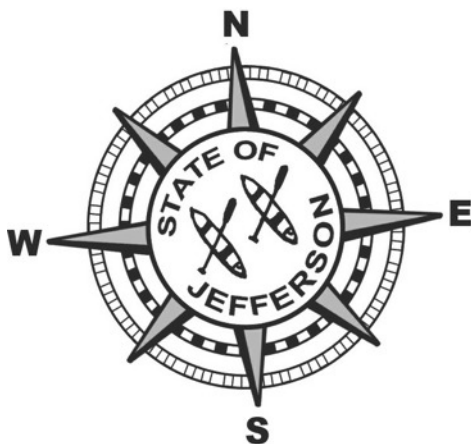
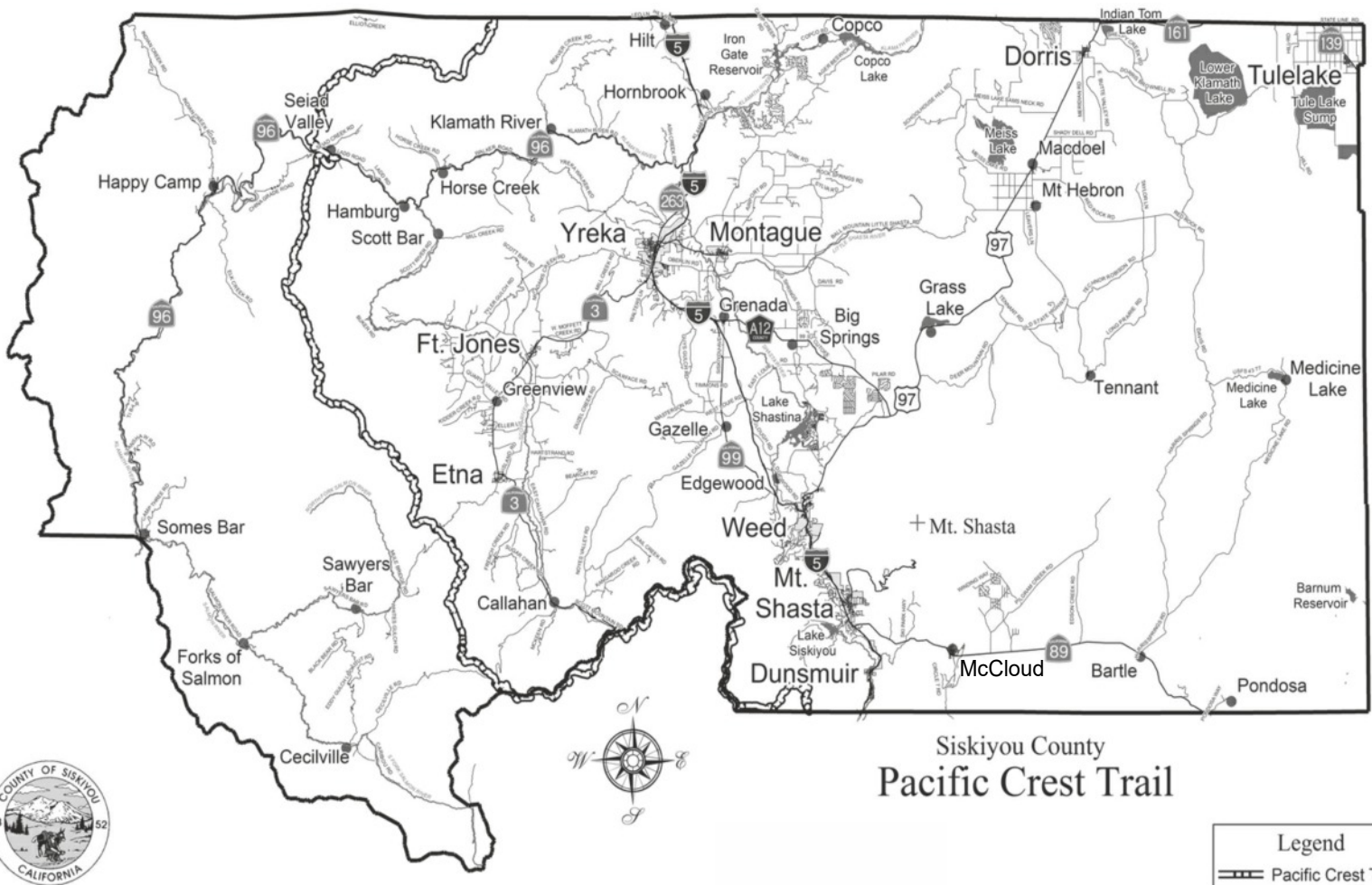
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Map of Siskiyou County in Extreme Northern California



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Kerosene, Oil and we now carry Wood Pellets.

Fort Jones Volunteer Fire Department Second Annual Emergency Services & Businesses Chili Cook-Off



Saturday, October 21, 2017 from
Noon to 7 pm

Fort Jones Community Room, Fort Jones, CA

Prizes and Bragging Rights for The People's
Choice and Judge's Choice Awards

\$5.00 per person for Chili Tasting
Hot Dogs \$3.00, Sodas & Water \$1
Dessert Auction, Music, Scott Valley Dalmatians

Further information contact Fort Jones Volunteer Fire Department Or
Chairperson Liz Nicholson at 530-468-4181.



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Octogenarian Told Story Of Her Klamath Before She Died

By Judy Bushy with quotes from 1956 news-clipping (in italics) by C. A. Jacobs.

The newspaper clipping was tattered and yellow, but that's how newsprint gets from over 60 years ago. It's special because it is about Stella W. Patterson, an Octogenarian at the time that she wrote one of our favorite books, down Happy Camp way.

Dear Mad'm was published in 1956. It has been kept in print by Naturegraph Publishers in Happy Camp since 1983. For that, we tremendously appreciate Barbara Brown, owner and editor at Naturegraph Publishing!!

The article announced, "*Stella Walthall Patterson of Clear Creek died in Redding December 23rd at the age of 89 with what must have been a fine feeling of accomplishment. She had finished Dear Mad'm, the first known book dealing with modern life on the Klamath River on its most isolated stretches. It probably is easier to read than any other book on the Klamath, but then Stella, as she was known from Arcata to Yreka, was a professional writer.*

"She wrote it, so her close friends say, because of the endless queries of the outlanders, "How can you stand it away up there away from everybody?" and also because she disliked steelhead and statistics. There seemed to be nothing in print on the region, but the weight, length and probable age of steelhead taken on Klamath Riffles and the values of gold washed from the diggings long ago."

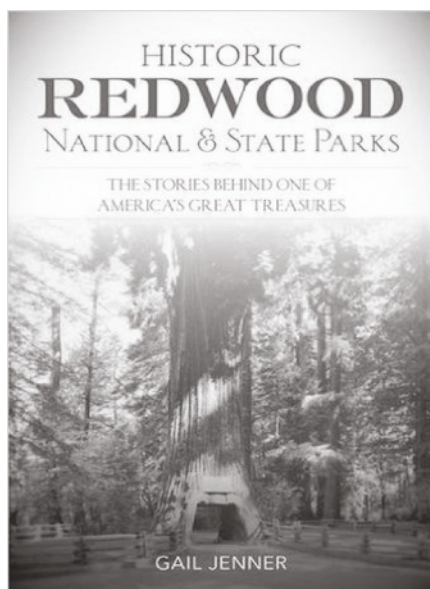
"They say she kept intending to brighten up the magazines with a few Klamath people but did not get around to it until it started to snow in November 1946. Starting with Julius "Pete" Peters of Happy Camp, the mail carrier known as Tom in Dear Mad'm she worked through the gallery of those working the mining claims they live on, the half breed Indians to the pensioners, such as herself and Frenchy who live on mining claims but only do the token work necessary to hold them."

Her closest neighbors were Frederick Henry Measer-Crooks known as "Dear Sir," and "Upn'Up" Clarence "Cy" Jenson, his tall mining partner. The youngest character in the story is Upn'Up's baby boy, Tim Jenson, who was "Benji" in the book. The Dear Mad'm Committee is so happy to have located Tim and hopes to meet him in person at the next Dear Mad'm Symposium at the Siskiyou County Museum in Yreka on October 14, 2017.

"Milly," the young Karuk girl was named Arleen Oates and visits Stella discussing Emily Post. Her brother, Huddleston Oates told us she read Emily Post from a column in magazines that he sold as a boy. They were the final two students in the Clear Creek School and then transferred to the school at TiBar.

"By May, 1955, the piece had turned into a 261 page book, slightly arch and a little too fictionalized in the opinion of some, but absolutely true to today's Klamath River in the opinion of those who know it best, such as the forest men and the welfare workers. Even her cougar behaves as all Siskiyou Mountain cougars do, tracking up the place only at five or six week intervals."

Three chapters were thrown out. She had a literary editor from the Bay area, Odessa Davenport, offer suggestions on her writing and we believe that's where her birthday was changed from October to April, Fred's 4 wheel drive jeep pickup became a jalopy and Stella forgot all the Native Americans she knew never lived in teepees.



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most recent literary
project...**

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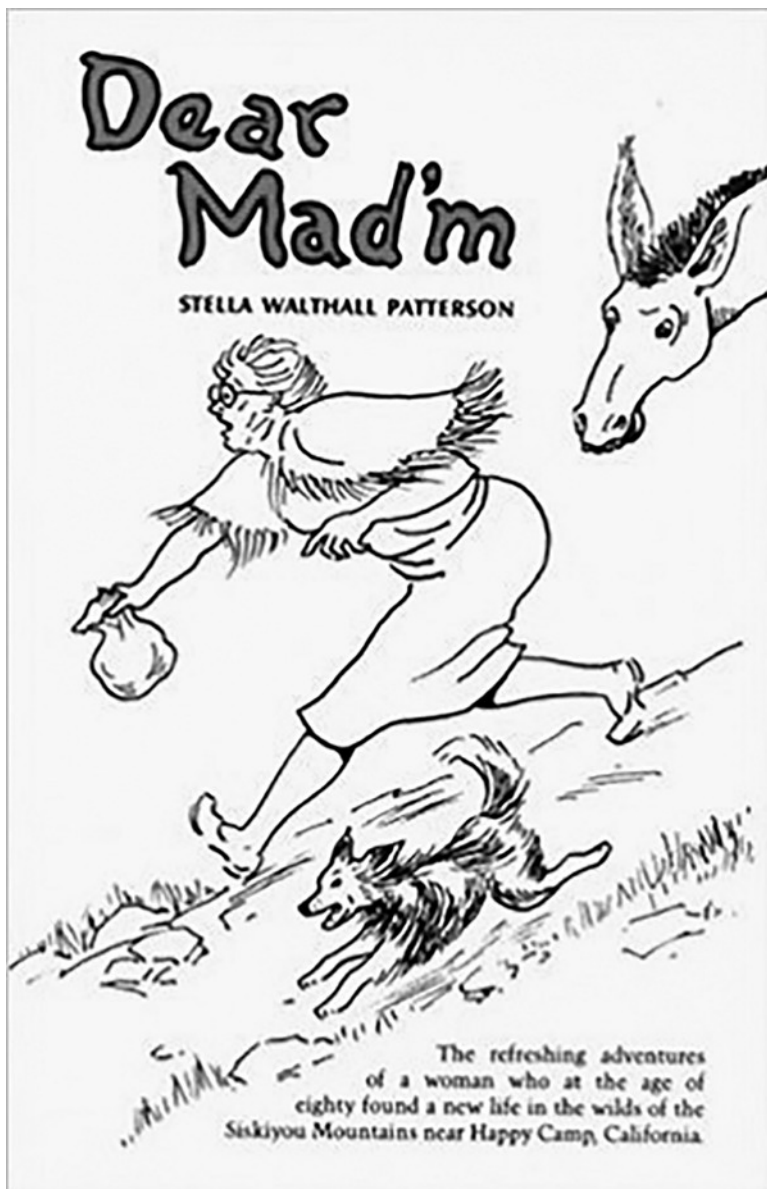
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"It was accepted for publication soon after." The news clipping continued and then told more of her life.

"Stella Walthall Patterson was born in Walthall, San Joaquin County, on October 14th, 1866 and was one of the early graduates of Mills College. She wrote stories for national women's magazines from 1890 to 1934, when she retired, for what she then thought was forever to live with her husband, James Patterson at the Circle P Ranch."

"In 1941 she first inspected her mining claim below Ferry Point on the Klamath River, about 13 miles below Happy Camp by a very bad road. For two years she lived a few months at a time on it, in Happy Camp and in Yreka. In 1946 she settled on the claim for good."

"She quickly became known as a character, a great lady and a charmer. She looked so much younger than her years that many doubted her claims to advanced age. This may have been why she stated in Dear Mad'm that she finished it on her 81st birthday..."



"In October (1955) she received an advance royalty check for \$1,000, with the promise of at least 30 more to come. She was en route by air to New York for television and radio appearances when she became ill and entered the Redding Hospital where she died. Her friends feel she did not care. She finally had chronicled the people instead of the fish of the Klamath River."

People who have loved the book still come to visit and see the place that Stella loved so much. Her faithful Border Collie companion Vickie lived on to the age of 18 with Fred/DearSir, who kept up the garden until he died at the age of 89 in 1975 and was buried in the Happy Camp Cemetery. After Stella was gone, he tried to answer all the fan letters but had a hard time and admitted he was behind.

Three ladies from Chicago read the book and were so inspired by the story they came out and moved to the claim above Stella's original cabin. Marie Miller, who first read Dear Mad'm in McCall's magazine, shared it with Vivian Witt (the artist) and Joan Richardson. They were all valuable members of the Happy Camp community the rest of their lives. Herman "Shorty" Lee, with the Happy Camp Chamber of Commerce tried to get their home place set aside in remembrance of Stella for her fans to stop by and see where her cabin was, The Happy Camp Chamber of Commerce still hopes, with the help of the E Clampus Vitus group to mark the place.

In the 50's, Stella's cousin John and his wife Alice Covert built a lovely home below her cabin. Their grand-children, Rodney, Claudia and Tom Diriden have come to Dear Mad'm Symposium to share those fun childhood summer times on the Klamath River visiting their grandparents. Grandpa John Covert always had the boys gather "ground apples," rocks the river left on the bank each spring. They built a wall along the road and even seating bench with them.

It seems a fitting tribute to collect rocks for a historical marker of Stella Patterson for her fans to visit. Perhaps a planter of lilies with a bench to sit on and appreciate the beauty of Ship Rock out there in the Klamath River could be added. That way the fans could enjoy the beautiful view that Stella saw as she sat by her cabin and enjoyed when she lived there so long ago. ■

**Attend the Dear Mad'm Symposium on
October 14 at the Siskiyou County Museum
In Yreka, California. Call (530) 842-3836 for info.**

Pioneer Country & Western Music

"Remembering Billy Aseltine and the Siskiyou Playboys"

Story by Hank Nelson



Photo Caption:
Billy Aseltine (l), Hank Nelson, Cattleman's Club
in Grenada, California 1976.



I like country music, bluegrass, western swing, and just about all kinds of music so long it's played well and from the heart, but there's more to Country than tight-fitting jeans, pickup trucks, 6-packs and momma run over by a freight train. In my day when you heard Johnny Cash you knew who it was by the distinctive sound of his voice... when you heard "Love Me Tender" that was THE King, Elvis! You get the idea. Still, in any small town today there's always an every-day hard worker, who, when the weekend rolls around, you'll find on a stool, guitar cradled on knee and other foot tapping in time with the music. There's a casually indifferent crowd, except when someone drops a dollar or a few coins into the coffee can "kitty." Later, somebody might think "Say... that old guy's pretty good."

"Do you remember this one Hank!" Billy picked up the old flat-top guitar and strummed a few chords, breaking into "Walking the Floor over you"... my favorite country song. I remembered alright. I hadn't seen my old friend Billy in a long while and it was like going back in time as we commiserated, sharing memories of playing country music together. Billy laid the guitar on the couch and smiled. "I'm a little on the gimp side these days, but if it weren't for these darn fingers of mine I'd jump at the chance to play music again, even if I had to crawl up there on my hands and knees." Bill clinched his fist and worked his fingers around. "They hurt all of the time; it's sure tough getting old isn't it Hank... oh, if only we could turn back the clock, huh."

Billy's all-time favorite country musician was Merle Haggard, maybe because in many ways their lives paralleled each other. Both had gone through hard times, hardscrabble living, and were champions of the underdogs. Over the years Billy played a lot of Merle's songs. One time I asked him how many Merle recordings he'd saved. Billy rummaged in his closet, emptied shelves and drawers and laid them out on a couch. It was an awesome array. Billy smiled. "I think I saved just about every recording format I could get my hands on: 33's records, albums, cassettes and CD's." I took a photograph, and mailed a copy with a letter to Merle's agent. I never got a reply, often wondering if Merle ever saw the photo. I've no doubt that he would have been impressed.



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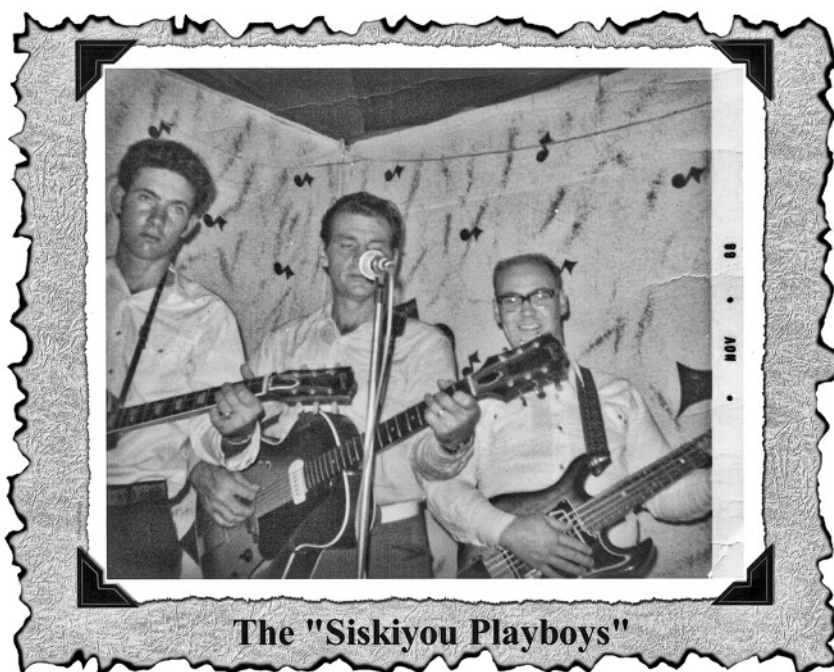
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Buck Owens, Wynn Stewart, Tommy Collins, and Merle Haggard will be forever etched into the minds of country music fans as the Bakersfield Sound, epitomized by the pedal steel guitar. As Buck would call it, "freight train music" with fullness of power ... a song going somewhere! Buck Owens and the Buckaroos was my all-time favorite country band, making history in 1966 at Carnegie hall in New York City, setting country and western music fans and Nashville on their ears. It was Honky-Tonk, Bar Room country and western music... raw and ribald, at times tenderhearted at the same time. It caught your attention, pulled you in, set your heart on fire... brash, electrifying, hard driving, heart throbbing music.

Billy and I got to meet Merle about the time "Merle Haggard and The Strangers" and wife Bonnie Owens were starting down the path to stardom. Billy and I drove over the Siskiyou's for a live performance at the Medford, Oregon Armory. During intermission we walked over to say hello. Merle saw us coming-- we were dressed in our music playing clothes-- and came right over, hunkered down, shook hands and talked to us. Billy told Merle how much we liked his music and played his songs— he thanked us for that. The night was also memorable by the way the band gathered onstage, then the MC's introduction: "Ladies and Gentlemen won't you please, put your hands together give a big hand for... Merle Haggard and The Strangers." The spot lit up center stage, Merle following the circle of light, walking up to the mike and saying: "How about a dance, folks...?" From then on, that's just the way Billy addressed his audience, "Hello folks, how about a dance."

Billy lived as long, productive, memorable, and meaningful life as anyone could ever hope. He drove truck most of his working years, playing country music on weekends. He was a virile, ruggedly handsome, blue-collar workingman, with a heart for people, family and friends as big as all outdoors. Women adored him, friends just liked to be around him. Most of all, Billy loved his wife, children, grandkids, friends-- and Country Music. Billy could sound just like Merle at times, really belt out a song. But, Merle had Norm Hamlet on pedal steel guitar and Roy Nichols on lead. We didn't have a steel player... it was just me.

Continued on Page 24.



The "Siskiyou Playboys"

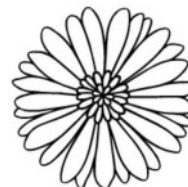
Photo Caption:
Hank Nelson (l), Billy Aseltine, Don Soldin.

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Northern Klamath County Oregon History

By John C. Driscoll
Johncdriscoll1068@gmail.com



Photo of Ralph E. Gilchrist

“Ralph Gilchrist: Mentor, Advocate, Innovator and Town Founder”

On August 31, 1936, Ralph E. Gilchrist died. He was 58 years old. Ralph Gilchrist was born on December 28, 1877 at Alpena, Michigan. He was the third child and youngest son of Frank W. Gilchrist and Mary Elizabeth Rust Gilchrist. In 1901, after graduating from Harvard, Ralph Gilchrist joined his father and brother in lumbering, shipping, sugar manufacturing, and mining business ventures. In 1918, following the death of his brother, Frank R. Gilchrist, Ralph Gilchrist became president of the Gilchrist-Fordney Company. In 1924 he began serving as president of the Detroit And Windsor Ferry Company.

In 1925, the year Gilchrist Timber Company was established, he became its first president. He directed the management and expansion of the Gilchrist family's Central Oregon timber holdings and also set the course which would lead to the establishment of Gilchrist, Oregon. Ralph Gilchrist carried on with his grandfather's plan for a north Klamath County mill and town. He refined and developed Gilchrist Timber's forest management practices as well as accomplishing significant preliminary work for the construction of the mill, town and railroad. During his tenure Ralph Gilchrist blocked up Gilchrist Timber's holding while increasing them by purchasing cut-over lands from Shevlin-Hixon and acquiring timberland that came onto the market.

Late during 1935, with failing health brought on by heart problems, Ralph Gilchrist moved back to Alpena. He remained there until his death.

The News of Alpena recognized his role in the lumber industry in an editorial published following his death:

“Born and bred in the lumber industry, Ralph Gilchrist to the last took deep pride in the affiliation... He was full of the lore of the big timber woods and the men of the mills. His loyalties were intensely with the men who labored with great character and muscle. With his passing is gone one of their most earnest protagonists.”

Ralph Gilchrist was a mentor to his nephew Frank W. Gilchrist, whose father died when he was thirteen. What best illustrates the esteem with which Frank W. Gilchrist held his uncle Ralph was that he proposed, in his honor, naming Gilchrist, Oregon - Ralph, Oregon. ■



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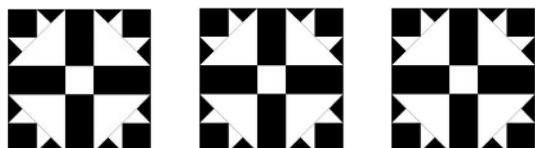


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Pioneer Country & Western Music
Continued from Page 19

Siskiyou Playboys musicians came and went over the years, but its core remained-- Billy, me and Don Soldin, a gifted musician and real-life law enforcement officer. Don on stage with that stand-up Dog House Bass Fiddle was a great player and an impromptu cut-up... we never knew what he was going to do next. He kept folks laughing and entertained... plopping a pair of huge beaver-like teeth in his mouth, sometimes straddling the Bass Guitar, waving his straw-hat around... "YAHOOO...!"

Billy Aseltine gave me my very first chance to play professionally, taught me about stage presence, how to talk and sing over the microphone. Down the road, I recorded a few logging songs, the last a tribute to my father, titled "Curley Joe." It's about a retired log truck driver working at a truck stop, epitomized by a red Mack truck setting forlornly in a field just outside of town. Grass is growing up around the wheels and moss-covered head-rack. "Praise the Lord Trucking" is on the door. It's a Go-Getter past its prime, out to pasture, unable to compete in the fast log-haul race. And... the son who for years had been looking for his dad, finally found him through word of mouth. Weekends, whenever he was able to spend time, they'd set on the front porch and reminisce. Sometimes in the evening as the shadows lengthened, or late at night when it was just still and quiet, he could imagine hearing the sound of a truck rounding the corner of the old scale shack, Jake Brake rapping: "Old Curley Joe on a Three Log-Haul Show, and that Old Red

Bulldog... Mack!"
Thanks Billy!

Postscript:

It was shortly after Billy's memorial service. I don't know if it was true or not, or if someone just thought that maybe it was Merle, standing alongside his car parked off the side of the highway on the outskirts of Yreka, strumming his guitar and singing a song... you know, by gosh... it would have been just like Merle Haggard to think like that. 🎵



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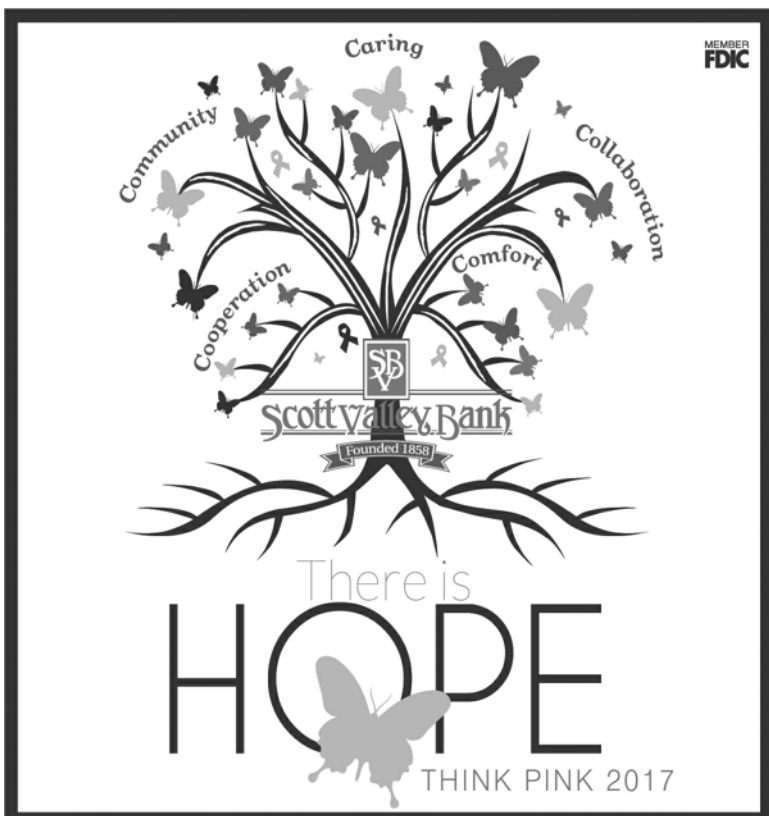
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Autumn Clouds & Balloons

We are so thankful that the extreme heat of summer has finally faded away, changing into cooler crisp mountain nights with a few blustery little storms (so far...) and more pleasant & milder days.

Autumn is our favorite time of year for backroads road trips, cruising around looking for bucks, looking for places to have picnics along the river banks amidst gorgeous trees with their leaves changing from greens to yellows, oranges and reds.


We braved the chilly dark morning to attend and marvel at the Hot Air Balloons in Montague like we do every September. It is always a fabulous time. Our family definitely loves the Autumn season the best. *Photos by –Editor, MFain*



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Andy Peek Livestock Scholarship Fund

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The Shasta Regional Community Foundation is pleased to announce the Andy Peek Livestock Scholarship is open for application with a December 13th deadline at 8:30 PM (Pacific Standard Time).

This fund was established by the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale in honor and memory of Andy Peek, General Manager of Shasta Livestock Auction Yard in Cottonwood, California, and a family owned business where he worked for over four decades.

Andy Peek was former president of Western Video Market, a past president of the California Livestock Marketing Association and served as a board member for the National Livestock Marketing Association. A past chairman of the Shasta District Fair Board in California, in 2007 he was named Tehama County (CA) Cattleman of the Year and had a major presence in the U.S. livestock industry until his passing.

To continue Peek's support of youth programs, this scholarship is offered annually to students majoring in Agricultural Studies (with a special emphasis in the livestock industry) who share a desire to work in the industry he dearly loved. Since its establishment at the Community Foundation, the fund has distributed \$46,500 in awards.

Visit www.shastarcf.org/scholarships to apply online for this and other upcoming scholarship opportunities. "Shasta Regional Community Foundation manages many scholarship funds that are awarded to graduating high school seniors as well as students already in an undergraduate program," says

Miriam Leal, Community Foundation Program Associate. "Some scholarships were started by families or individuals; others by businesses or organizations. All scholarships share one focus: helping young people reach their educational goals."

The Shasta Regional Community Foundation is a resource building organization in Shasta and Siskiyou counties dedicated to promoting philanthropy by connecting people who care with causes that matter. Since 2000, the Community Foundation has awarded over \$20,000,000 in grants to area nonprofit organizations.

For more information, call the Shasta Regional Community Foundation at (530)244-1219 or visit www.shastarcf.org. ■

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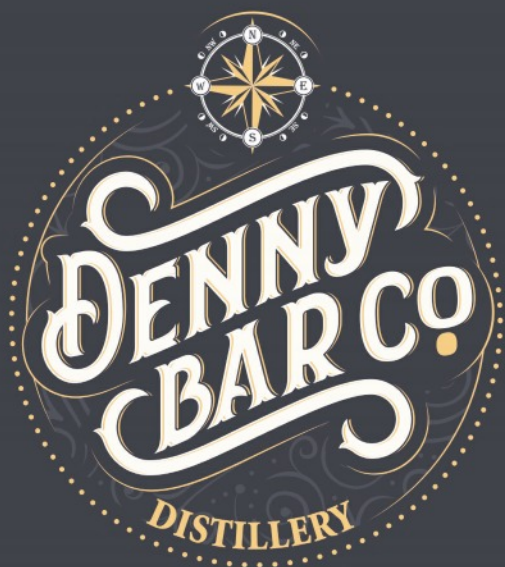
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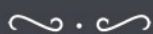


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2017 Operation Mount Up Horsemanship Weekend for Veterans October 20-22, Yreka, CA.

Operation Mount Up is open to eight Veterans. We provide natural horsemanship instruction & trail riding on the picturesque Double H Ranch, in Yreka, Ca. Meals and Hotel will be provided. There is no cost for participants due to the generosity of our donors and local veterans groups.



To Register or learn more, contact
Marcia Cushman at (530)598-2310 or
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To Jefferson State FLIXX Fest: Thank YOU from Jefferson Backroads

Never having attended a Film Festival before until The Jefferson State FLIXX Fest started up in Fort Jones in 2015, well this sure has turned out to be a very big deal for me personally, as Humble Editor of Jefferson Backroads.

I have been fortunate to include their festival PROGRAM inside our happy little publications for this amazing local film festival all 3 of the years it has been in existence and boy have we all learned a LOT in the process!

I was so thrilled, shocked and very PROUD to be honored and awarded this absolutely gorgeous locally crafted belt buckle for Community Spirit. I have never before received an award such as this and I just wanted to say thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me to be a part of it all. I will cherish this buckle forever.

I can't wait till NEXT Year's Jefferson State FLIXX Fest and Hope to see y'all there! It is one of the most amazing events in this entire REGION!



ALSO A GIANT THANK YOU TO CASCADE PRINTING IN KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON FOR THEIR FINE JOB PRINTING OUR PUBLICATIONS!!
Thanks also to Ralph, my side-kick, for helping so much with deliveries.

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Stitching in the Ditch

By Judy Sartor of the Mount Shasta Lily Quilt Guild
www.ShastaLily.org

Let me tell you a story about a quilt. Rebecca Lambert Williams did not have the right to vote in 1844, but she did have political opinions and a creative way of expressing them. In her mid twenties at the time, she created one of several Henry Clay Campaign Quilts. Her scrap silk counterpane now hangs in the Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR) Quilt Museum in Washington, DC. Campaign Ribbons are included in the outer border.

Henry Clay, by way of background, was a Senator and Speaker of the House for many years. Although not without controversy, he was a consummate statesman. He served as Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams. Clay ran unsuccessfully for the Presidency in 1824, 1832, and 1844 (founding the Whig Party).

Let's take this story to the present. Sherry Werum recently presented a fascinating lecture at a brunch meeting of the Shasta Lily Quilt Guild. She displayed a copy of this very Quilt, all done in silks without the benefit of a pattern. It is stunning. Interestingly enough, Sherry (as a member of DAR) has the right to copy, exhibit and show quilts from the museum. This quilt has won several prizes. Do any of you feel motivated to take on this project?

However, you might make an effort to see her presentation if you get the chance. We plan to have her return for another lecture/trunk show. Sherry's website is www.mosaicque.com. ■



Copy of Henry Clay Campaign Quilt, Made by Sherry Werum, Photo by Cathy Gonce.

BITS AND PIECES

November 4-5, 2017: Annie's Star Quilt Guild Quilt Show, Silver Dollar Fairgrounds, Chico: Featured quilters Janice Maxey and Janet Alexander, raffle baskets and quilts, Boutique and vendors. Times 10:00-5:00.

May 19, 2018: Scott Valley Quilters Quilt Show, Fort Jones Community Center, contact Michele Estrada, 598-2444. Photo of quilt for Drawing is on Page 37.

September 1-2, 2018: "Quilting Around the Mountain," Mt. Shasta High School Gymnasium: Featured Quilters Mickey Weston and Diana Fogle, Quilts, raffle baskets, boutique, silent auction, and vendors. Contact Sally Eagleman, 859-0656.

News from Scott Valley Quilters

Scott Valley Quilt Guild will have its annual Quilt Show on May 19, 2018 at the Fort Jones Community Center. Proceeds from the Quilt Show fund scholarships for Etna High School graduates. The Scott Valley Quilt Guild meets the first Thursday of the month at the Methodist Church in Etna, 137 Diggles. But, since they are very active and involved, they also meet every week to share new techniques and work on comfort quilts. This guild is super busy making lots of donation quilts, lovingly constructed. They donate quilts to firefighters (both 2014 and 2017), scholarship recipients, Veterans past and present, children in need, those who have lost their homes to catastrophe, seniors homebound or in assisted living, and the Siskiyou Golden Fair. Contact Michele Estrada for more information, 598-2444.

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*Michaela Weston
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Scott Valley Quilt Guild Opportunity Quilt, Drawing May 19, 2018
Photo by Kathy Overman



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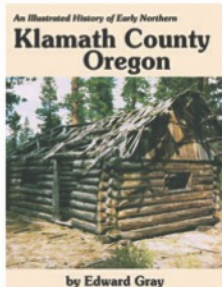
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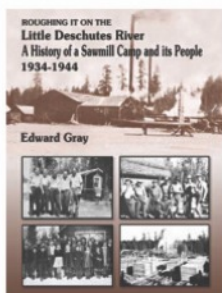
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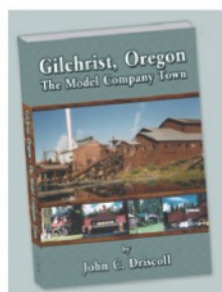
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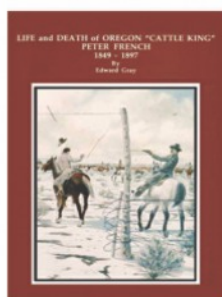
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