Members, Members, Members, Members, Members

The Josephine County Historical Society is having a Membership Drive and you can help by asking your friends to join today. If we have a larger membership, the dues really help with all the bills we have to pay to keep the Society alive and well. So ask a friend to send us $20 today for a single membership, or $30 for a family for the entire year. Coming by in the Spring just to look at the giant Rhody in the front yard is worth the membership.

We Have A Date

As of this newsletter, these are tentative:

- Pie and Ice Cream Social July 22, 2022
- Porchfest June 18
- Graveyard Tour October 21
- Annual Meeting November 1
- Christmas Open House Dec. 17

This is the third issue of the Combined newsletters: The Historian was mailed up until the pandemic hit. The Oldtimer was electronic.

Issue 3 New name, New numbers.

Newsletters issued in February(1), April,(2) June,(3) August(4), October(5) and December(6).

The October issue is mailed with the ballot for officers.
On Friday, May 6, these students and their advisor from Three Rivers School District SOSA spent the day pulling grass and cleaning up vegetation from the Research Library parking lot and flowerbeds. They collected 10 large garbage bags of vegetation. The parking lot was spotless until that wind came through and blew some debris onto the lot. The wind also caused a downtown power outage and the traffic signals were not working. Many businesses had to close. These kids kept right on working through the sunshine, rain and wind. We thank them very much.

Have you been out to the Galice area to see this monument that was installed a year ago.

Tweet about Twitter
We recently opened an account on Twitter for those of you who like to tweet. We post news, small facts, and follow everyone who follows us. Drop a message and follow us @jc_historical. We look forward to seeing you!

In 1976, the year of the national bicentennial, we had over 1000 members. In 2022 we have 300+ members.

We would like to increase our membership and get the Board back to full membership which is 32.

We manage as we are, but the history of the community is important and preserving that history should be distributed into more hands.

Consider joining. It is not a lifetime commitment. but is not unusual for members to serve several terms. We lost a couple of Board Members because they moved out of State, but they were replaced with new people. We meet once a month, on the first Tuesday at 6PM (pandemic and weather considered) in our board room in the Schmidt Barn. Meetings last a little over an hour in most cases. Stop by and check us out or phone 541 479 7827.
Oregon Books will give members a discount if you show your JCHS membership card, and will donate 5% of the sale back to the Historical Society.

Oregon Books
150 NE E Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541-476-3132

The Josephine County Historical Society, a 501 (c) 3 organization, is the fiscal agent for the Brady Project. We collect the donations and pass them on to the artists. We do not keep any of the funds received. If you wish to donate, send checks to:
Josephine County Historical Society
512 SW 5th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526

You may donate on the JCHS website:
www.jocohistorical.org
Be sure to note “Brady” on your check or website donation. The Brady Project will be a memorial statue, as shown honoring Brady Adams.

Amazon can help us
If you shop at Amazon, please sign up asap. It only takes a few moments and we get a bit of money from your purchase. It costs you nothing. Sign up:
http://smile.amazon.com/ch/936015456

Fred Meyer Community Rewards also help. Sign up now or take the time to renew. If you shop at Fred Meyer, you have probably received a notice to renew.
www.fredmeyer.com/community
Our I.D number is NPO#94511

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NEW PERSON BLUB
Written by the new person
We have hired a new person this past month to help out around the library. Her name is Krista Bell and yes she is related to Ken. She has lived in Grants pass for eight years now, and is raising three children. She loves reading and games. Don’t forget to stop by and say “Hi.”
The advantage of an e-mail newsletter is that you can enlarge the print and the photos on your computer so you can read better and see the details of the photos better. The top photo shows Joelyn Schmidt, our Roaring 20’s lead entertainer, Vice President of JCHS, Leta; Board Member and Events Chair Linda; behind Linda is Joelyn’s Dad Irv, a LHP; and President Ken. The second photo shows Secretary Joan in the Dusenburg (cutout), 3rd photo is four of our Board members, tallying the tickets: Shawn, MaryBeth, Cindy and Linda. The bottom one is President Ken. Below is across J Street from the Schmidt House.
Mid-May into June, our alley is the site of construction...so we enjoyed the heavy equipment digging the trench and, of course, had to take photos. They speak for themselves with no captions. One tree had to be cut down, the trunk shown behind the “CAT”. The whole trunk will be removed when they fix the fence.

And during all of the construction our Board Treasurer Martha had a birthday but she didn’t want her photo shown, so we made it very small...All the other officers have their photos in this edition of the newsletter so it only fair that she is included.

Check our Facebook page for more photos.
Letters

Martha and Joan, liked your question, “When did root cellars begin”. I would suggest a couple thousand years ago. Or when man first discovered the need to preserve food and that cool moist air allowed some items to last longer. Root Cellars got their start by preserving root crops such as turnips, rutabagas, beets, potatoes carrots, parsnips, etc. Early man discovered that during the winter they could dig up well preserved eatable roots right out of the ground all winter. They then discovered that it would be nice to gather them up and store them maybe even travel with them by putting them in the ground in one location. Then using that location as they migrated around. We know native Americans cashed or stored food and other items in holes they dug in various locations. Lewis and Clark used the idea when they traveled west. I suspect Europeans and Asian peoples did the same. Many homes through history had special cool places to store food stuff particularly those mentioned above. The above picture is one I took in Nevada while working for the Geological Survey in the late 1950s. It was a rocked in room built into a hill side. The house was empty and the rock walls were falling down, however it still maintained a cooler temp than outside. When our family built a new barn in the late 1940s, on the Lower River Road, mom and dad built a special room that was an above ground root cellar. It had double walls that were filled with lumber shavings as was the ceiling space between the hay loft floor and a second ceiling in the room. The door looked like a safe door that was double walled with wood shavings between the walls. The opening side of the door was beveled so it could close. It stayed cool the year around. It was great in the summer to go in. We stored canned goods, home made cheese and other items were kept cool. We kept large sacks of flour and sugar in there as well. It truth we did not keep a lot of root crops because mom canned and we maintained a freezer at the ice plant in Grants Pass.

Native Americans also used ice caves to store food stuffs as well. In todays world we no longer eat many root crops like turnips, rutabagas, parsnips except maybe in soups and stews, but in the past they were the winters life line. My dad loved parsnips fried in butter. That is about the only food he cooked himself.

I, also, sent a picture of a Blacksmith shop that was across the road from the Nevada home. People that lived in the house didn’t get to town often so it was necessary they remained self sufficient for long periods of time. Even in the 1950s with modern transportation the people that lived in the house were several hours from a store.

Anyway these are my thoughts.
Gordon Russ

Note: Sorry, but the photos did not transfer well, so although mentioned in the letter, there are no photos from Gordon Russ.
When you live with heavy equipment for a month or more, it becomes part of your lifestyle. When will we get our alley back?
The Roaring 20’s Champagne Garden Party was great fun. We enjoyed a delightful afternoon in the beautiful Schmidt gardens. A big shout out to our fantastic gardening volunteers (GGoSH) for sprucing it up. The pink Dogwood and the Horse Chestnut trees were in full bloom and the roses were showing off as well. We had champagne, appetizers, a costume contest, a raffle, a fun photo booth and entertainment. We were pleased to have Jocelyn Vodovoz Schmidt and two of her dance students, Ashlyn Mosier and Lily Pitzak, perform for us. We even made a little bit of money for the maintenance of the historic Schmidt House. A huge thank you to the committee who worked diligently on this project and donated most of their expenses. (see photo below)

Coming up is Porchfest on Saturday, June 18. That is a fun musical walk through an historic neighborhood (Washington Blvd.). There will be food trucks near the park and musicians playing on many of the porches.

Back to the Fifties is coming up in July will have us preparing for our famous Pie and ice Cream Social. Mark your calendar for July 22.

Living History Players have been asked to perform for the campers at Valley of the Rogue State park this summer. **We are in need of a person to portray “Blind George” Spencer.** If you would like to portray him, or know somebody who might like to do so, please contact Cindy or Linda.**

Reminder:
The Josephine County Historical Society is a non-profit with no governmental connection. **We are not part of county government.**

We are self-supporting thanks to our membership and benefactors.

We invite you to join the Society. You do not have to attend meetings, but we can use your volunteer services in many ways. Phone us and ask.

Membership Dues per year are:

- Single $20
- Family $30
- Business $55

Donations accepted.

www.jocohistorical.org

Buy books and photos online too.