We Have A Date
Easter Egg Hunt
April 16
Roaring 20’s May 14

As of this newsletter, these are tentative:
✓ Pie and Ice Cream Social July 22
✓ Graveyard Tour October 22
✓ Annual Meeting November 1
✓ Christmas Open House Dec. 17

This is the second issue of the Combined newsletters: The Historian was mailed up until the pandemic hit. The Oldtimer was electronic, Volume 1, Number 2 (2022) April 2022 Issue 2 New name, New numbers.

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

DONATIONS 10/14/21 THROUGH 3/31/22
Judith Krohn
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Antoinette Howell
June Pratt
Celeste Guillery
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Midge Renton
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James M. DeCourcey
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Robert & Dorothy Orey
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Lee Babineaux
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Susan Vannice
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In Memory of:
Dick Strycker by Joan Momsen
Dave Stanger by Joan Momsen
Dick Strycker by Jim VanDelden

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Something I Never Knew

I was looking on the internet for something about root cellars. I wanted to know the origin of them and of course, varied uses. There is a little building behind the Schmidt House that we often refer to as the root cellar, which of course is incorrect because it is not a cellar. It more of a fruit “room”. It is cool and dry inside with a concrete floor and is currently (2022) a storage unit for some old ledgers.

Anyway back to fruit rooms or root cellars. If it is a cellar, it is underground or has dirt piled up against the outside walls. The dirt acts as a protector and insulator. However, according to one tidbit I read and probably would not be able to find again if I wanted to, said that outside plantings were used as sun barriers on free-standing fruit rooms. Mostly they were summertime plants that provided shade to the wall, usually on the southern and western exposures that got the hot afternoon sunlight.

After reading it, I realized that Claus Schmidt did that for his little free-standing fruit room. He built a very elementary trellis on the west side of the building. It reached to the top of the little brick building and in summertime when covered with leaves and grapes, of course, it provided shade for the building. A side line benefit was grape juice and jelly. On the south side he built a primitive trellis for climbing roses which in summertime would also cover the building and provide the needed shade. The trellis, in each case, was not an ornamental work of art, but just a collection of poles and sticks for the plants to climb upon. One can hardly expect some people in 2022 to even recognized the concept or question why such a structure existed. So, as we preserve the Schmidt House as a museum for patrons to see how people lived 100 years ago, we should also preserve the outside as much as we can.

Remember the normal lawnmower a hundred years ago may have been a goat and lawns were a luxury for most. Tall, unkempt by 2022 standards, flower beds, vines, bushes, hedges and plants that needed little tending were the standard of the day and as keepers of history, we should try to remember that.
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 it is not unusual for members to serve several terms. 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.

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

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

We are willing to mail to those who want a paper copy, but we would like some reimbursement for time and postage. You can add some postage money to your dues and make sure you tell us you want a mailed copy. You can always pick up a copy of a newsletter at the office. They come out every other month.

We will continued to mail the October newsletter with the November ballot enclosed.

Let us know what you think and if you need a hard-copy mailed newsletter, please let us know.

Remember, once again, just one Newsletter:

When we started having six newsletters per year, we had three mailed newsletters and called that the HISTORIAN, and we emailed three which we called the NEW OLDTIMER. (Our original mailed newsletter was The Oldtimer, but name was changed to the Historian because one of our past presidents thought that made us sound like “old folks.” and he wanted new and young members.) Have we gone full-circle yet?

The above paragraph and the ones to the right are reprinted so you know how the newsletter has evolved.

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 above, honoring Brady Adams.

Shamrock Technologies
Sean Malloy
2555 N.W. Highland Ave.
Apt. A
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541-761-0001
We have tried to keep our gardens looking good throughout the pandemic.

Pausing from garden duty, the volunteer crew poses for a photo. Shawn is in the background. She did not want to pose. Counting the background, left to right: Shawn Karban, Darrel Johnson, Fred West, MaryBeth Magarine and Sharon Allen.
We sell books and photos. You can look at our website and see some of our offerings. However, not everything is listed. We are given many older books that have little to do with Josephine County History or are duplicates of what we have, so we put those out to sell. Maybe you had an old coffee table book that has disappeared or a book you remember from years ago. We have many one of kind, single copy, of many such books that we wish to place in good homes. So if you want a unique book, come visit our bookstore. It is never too early to start Christmas shopping for a special book. The prices start at just one dollar. Some cost more because we think they are worth more. Come and see what we have and make an offer.

See the nice pile of bricks along our plastic fence. They are all gone. We used them to enhance the Schmidt House Garden, and we are now “brickless.” We always seem to find a use for a few bricks and if you have a couple of old red bricks on your property that you would like to donate, please deliver. We do not need many, but a couple of dozen would help fill the area around the bandstand and also keep down the weeds. Phone 479-7827 for details and if you have a small pile to donate, we will find someone to pick them up.

To the left is our front rhody in full bloom a couple of years ago and to the right is a view of some of the fallen camelia petals at the end of March 2022. We try to keep the Schmidt House Gardens in good shape, but cannot always find duplicate photos.
The Historical Oldtimer
JCHS’ electronic newsletter
Martha Metcalf, Executive Secretary
Joan Momsen, Publisher
Josephine County Historical Society
512 S.W. 5th Street
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526
541-479-7827
jchsmartha@gmail.com

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
Sustaining $100 or more
Donations accepted.
www.jocohistorical.org

Spring Has Sprung for Events & LHP
The Events Committee is very busy this Spring planning TWO Events. Mark your calendars right now for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This fun FREE event is for children 10 and under and will be held in the beautiful Schmidt Gardens on Sat., April 16, 1:00 p.m. sharp!! AND, we are having a drawing for an adorable crocheted baby blanket and matching bunny. See these items at Weekend Beer Company and buy some tickets. Be sure to tell them that you are JCHS members and thank them for helping us promote our event. Then gather up your kids and grandkids and come on down on Saturday.

The second event we are planning is a Roaring 20’s Champagne Garden Party….And All That Jazz. This fun fundraiser will be held on Sat., May 14, from 2-4 p.m.in the gorgeous Schmidt Gardens. Limited to 50 guests, tickets are $25 and must be purchased in advance from the JCHS Office. There will be music, food, champagne, a fun photo booth, a Costume Contest for our guests, and entertainment provided by our Living History Players. Please plan to come and support this fun event – invite your friends and family and encourage them to come in costume! Deadline for ticket purchases is Tuesday, May 10.

Remember to “blow up”print and photos on your computer so you can see things clearly.