

No. 110

Spring  
2018

## KLAMATH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *TRUMPETER*

### SEE INSIDE

This issue honors five women who have made important contributions to the Klamath Basin from a program organized by Gloria Sullivan

### Meetings Schedule 2018

April 26: 100th Anniversary of World War I, by Rich Touslee

May 3: Balloon Bomb Exhibit Opening, by Niles Reynolds

May 5: Annual Linkville Cemetery Cleanup Historical Society & City Parks

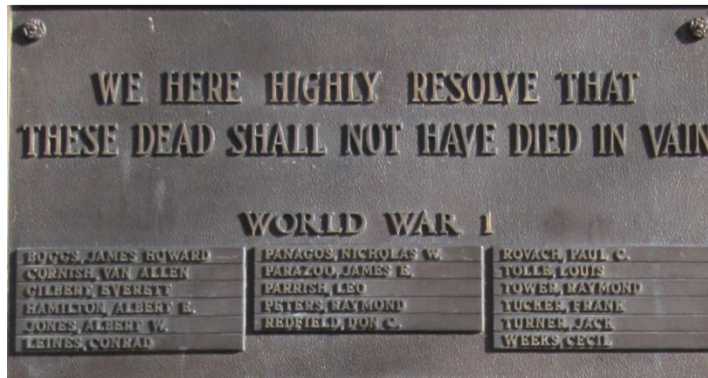
May 24: The Flu Epidemic of 1918, by Todd Kepple

June 17: Collier Park Heritage Day Info Booth .

June 23: KCHS Annual Bus Tour Signup and cost TBA in May

June 24: Tour of Bonanza Cemetery, by Gloria Sullivan & Carol Mattos

### April 26th Membership Meeting World War I Impacts on Klamath County"



Check last page for list of names

KCHS Vice President Rich Touslee will explore how the Great War affected everyday life in the Klamath Basin.

Topics will include food rationing, sending the boys off to war, fund drives and dealing with the news of local lives lost overseas.

7 p.m. Thursday April 26

Klamath County Museum meeting room

**Regular Membership meetings are at 7 p.m.** On the fourth Thursday of March, April, May, September, and October at the Museum

### Museum Happenings

Check the Midge for Museum details and a list of other cultural happening in the community. Get on the list by sending your email to [midge@co.klamath.or.us](mailto:midge@co.klamath.or.us)



**Buena Cobb Stone**  
by Cindy DeRosier

She born on 10/20/1896 in Groesbeck, Texas and died on 19/30/1972 in Klamath Falls, OR.

Buena graduated of Southern Oregon College and did graduate work at Fresno State College, University of California, University of Oregon, Stanford University, and Reed College.

She married Louis “Hub” Stone in 1921 in Salem. They moved to Klamath Falls in 1940. They one child, Stephen.

Work: 1916 teaching in Tulare, CA; 1920 taught high school in Salem, also taught in Fairview, Gresham and Welches. Buena taught at Pelican School and Klamath Union High School. From 1943 to 1966 she taught at Fremont Junior High School. She retired in 1966.

Buena wrote several books: Little Stories of the Klamath Country, Ft. Klamath – Frontier Post 1863-1890; Our Oregon, Our Great Northwest, Son of the Lakes; History of Klamath County Schools, Co-authored Ninety Years of Klamath Schools with Isabelle Brixner and Marjorie Howe.

**She was founding member of the Klamath County Historical Society 1943-1946, serving on the board of directors as well as being secretary. She also organized and served as advisor to the Klamath Junior Historical Society 1959.**

Buena was a member of these organizations in Klamath County:

First Presbyterian Church  
Honorary life member of the Chamber of Commerce  
Honorary life member of the Klamath Museum Associates  
Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Daughters of the American Colonists

Quota Club Woman of the Year 1967 and H&N Woman of the Week, February 25, 1950



## **Pat McMillan**

by Carol Mattos

Pat was born in Lubbock Texas. She attended school there until the family moved to Colorado. After finishing public school, she attended Colorado State University and Pueblo College.

After their time in the Willamette Valley, they purchased a small ranch at Swan Lake. They cleared the timber and built a three-story farm house, then sold the Swan Lake property. A portion of the proceeds were used to purchase a much larger ranch at the foot of Mt. Hebron in Butte Valley where they ranched for 32 years and raised sheep, cattle and horses. They also maintained a house in town, so the boys could attend school, and Pat could pursue her interests.

Pat was a member of the museum advisory board, so when the museum was in dire need of a new director, Commissioner Zon Gerbert recruited Pat for the job. She served from 1984 to 2000.

Pat continued to learn all she could about museum studies and practices then shared what she learned with the museum staff and volunteers.

Pat rebuilt the museum system. She developed a strong group of volunteers, planned and coordinated exhibits, trained staff and volunteers, inventoried the disarrayed collections, planned fund raisers, wrote grants and more.

In 1990 Pat was appointed to create the Klamath County Department of Tourism. This was in addition to her job as museum director.

In 2003 the Favell Museum recruited Pat as their new director, a position she held until 2012 when she became curator. Pat still works part time as curator.





## **Sophia Steele Henley**

by Gloria Sullivan

Born: March 19, 1854; Waupaca, Wisconsin. The family came to the Klamath Basin from Nevada in 1884.

She married Asa Foster “when a young girl”; some time after Mr. Foster died she married James Henley in Reno, Nevada. She had two daughters with Asa Foster, Sarah and Lucy. One son, James Jr., with James Henley.

The Henley's lived in Nevada for several years before coming to Linkville, purchasing “100 acres square” and for many years, the Henley's were one of the largest Landowners in Klamath County. They planted hundreds of trees throughout the valley.

Sophia's father, William Steele, is given credit for the construction of a canal that transformed that part of the valley from sagebrush into rich farmland. Upon his death, he left his irrigation interest to his children. Sophia became well known to all users of water. Since she was the most interested and active of the heirs in that line, she secured a one-half interest. Mr. Ankeny acquired the other half (a familiar name?).

The land where the Henley school complex now sits was part of the original holdings of the Henley family. In 1909, according to a H&N article, students in the Henley area attended class in an old house. In 1910 a one-room building was used for the school. In 1914 one room was added to the south side and in 1916 another was added to the north side. High school work started in 1917 and Henley High School became “standard” in 1924. In 1930 a new brick elementary building was completed.

Even though Sophia didn't belong to or attend meetings of various organizations, she was instrumental in the growth and well-being of our community.



## Helen Reed Helfrich

by Gloria Sullivan

Born: 10/29/1907, Bend, Oregon

Schools: Lamonta, Terrebonne, and Prineville, graduating high

School in Redmond. Helen attended the University of Oregon for her freshman year, then went to work in Bend at the First National Bank .

Helen married Devere Helfrich in 1926. The married lasted for 55 years. They had daughters, Darle and Delores.

She and Devere purchased a new and used furniture business in Redmond and moved the store to Klamath Falls in 1933, locating it at 833 Klamath Avenue. They sold this store to Harry Hafter in 1939 and bought Meriloe's Ice Cream Store at 337 E. Main St.

The store closed during World War II because of a lack of ingredients for ice cream and candy, and parts for equipment. Helen and her daughters worked at the Klamath Creamery for a time.

Devere worked in the surveying of the air base, the marine hospital and various other jobs until going into rodeo photography first as a hobby and then as a profession. Helen was his partner in this business until they both retired.

After retirement Helen and Devere actively pursued a hobby of following and researching the history of early immigrant roads. They used copies of diaries written by immigrants to map the roads and became known as authorities on locations of the Oregon Trail and the California Trail and their branches. Some of the rail markers you see in Oregon and Nevada are the result of their extensive travels and research.

In the 1960s, the Klamath County Historical Society appointed Helen and Devere as editors of the Klamath Echoes, an annual history of communities in the Klamath country. From 1971 through 1978 they published 16 volumes of Echoes. Some of the covers of the first volumes were drawn by Helfrich family members.





## **Jean Elzner** by Nancy Brace

Frances “Jean” Elzner was born July 4, 1932 in Alturas, California. She grew up in Klamath Falls, attended Mills Elementary School, Fremont Junior High and Klamath Union but graduated from high school in Yakima, Washington.

She married Franklin Elzner on June 12, 1954 in the Klamath Falls Church of the Nazarene. They had four children: Diane, Mike, David, and Lori.

Jean began working in 1952 for U.S. Bank – advancing from messenger, to bookkeeper, commercial and note teller, and clerk in the note department. She was a stenographer in the real estate loan department then worked as a loan counter assistant in 1968. She was proud to be the first woman promoted as a real estate loan officer for U.S. Bank.

In 1973 Jean was appointed by the Klamath County Commissioners as Klamath County Treasurer to serve the unexpired portion of the elected treasurer, Eva Cook. The appointment was until January 1, 1975. In November of 1974 Jean was elected to the position of County Treasurer. She held this position until 1993, five terms. She also served at this time as Klamath County Tax Collector.

While serving as county treasurer she was responsible for investing funds and was justifiably proud of the investments she made, as the county profited from those investments.

Jean continued serving this county by running and being elected to the Position of Klamath County Commissioner and was sworn into this position January 1993. She served one term and retired in 1996.

### Organizations:

- Quota Club, past president
- Klamath Falls Kiwanis Club
- Klamath Business and Professional Women
- American Business Women's Association, past president
- Rainbow Girls, Mother Advisor
- Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts organizations
- OSU Moms
- Klamath-lake Employment Training Council
- Oregon Assoc of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors, president in 1979
- Manzanita Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, past worthy matron & held numerous offices in this organization
- Chairman for the Klamath Falls study group of the American Institute of Banking
- United Way
- REACH
- Klamath County Commission on Children and Families
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Klamath County Library
- Klamath Basin Senior Citizens Council

Jean was also proud of having met President Ronald Reagan. She died February 24, 2001.

### Trumpeter Staff

Bill Lewis

Sue Fortune

John Fortune

Phyllis Goebel

Mary Nobel

Ron Loveness



### 2018 KCHS Officers

President: Dave Taylor

Vice President: Richard Touslee

Secretary: Sally Bailo

Treasurer: Avis Kielsmeier

Members at Large:

Doy Touslee

Cindy DeRosier

Bill Anderson

Gloria Sullivan

Carol Mattos

KCHS Website :

[klamathcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://klamathcountyhistoricalsociety.org)

Bill Lewis— Webmaster

It is time to  
renew your  
Membership

Membership fees  
are due at the end  
of each year.

Individual \$15.00

Supporting \$30.00

Life Member  
\$125.00

Make checks  
payable to the  
Klamath County  
Historical Society

Mail to or drop off  
at the Klamath  
County Museum

1451 Main Street

Klamath Falls , OR

### Names from WWI Plaque

James Howard Boggs

Nicholas W. Panagos

Paul C. Rovach

Van Allen Cornish

James E. Parazos

Louis Tolle

Everett Gilbert

Leo Parrish

Raymond Tower

Albert E. Hamilton

Raymond Peters

Frank Tucker

Albert W. Jones

Don C. Redfield

Jack Turner

Conrad Leines

Cecil Weeks