EARLY FIRES AND VOLUNTEER FIREMEN

As settlers came and communities formed, neighbor helped neighbor for their mutual benefit. Villages sprang up and the need for volunteer fire protection was essential.

The village of Linkville was founded near the banks of Link River in March (12) 1867. In 1893 the name was changed to Klamath Falls, the small falls in Link River almost disappearing when a power plant was established there but the name remains.

Many fires plagued Linkville in the 1880's and early 1890's and kept it from rapid growth. Devere Helfrich did research on the early fires for the Klamath Echoes #4 from which we will quote. "Information on the first of these catastrophic fires, 'the great fire of '89' which practically wiped out the entire business portion of 'Bunch Town,' has come to light, although in a somewhat limited amount. The Yreka Journal of September 11, 1889 reports: "The business portion of the town of Linkville, Oregon was destroyed by fire last Friday (Sept. 6, 1889), originating in back of Forbes' saloon about 2:45 A.M., extending from the bridge to U.S. Signal station (Telegraph office near the corner of Center and Main), part of which was burned, and from the hill to the lakeshore. The Link River bridge, near where the fire commenced, a fine structure of iron and wood, was saved by use of buckets and keeping it wet. The general merchandise store of Martin and Reames, and the hardware store of Baldwin and Forbes, supposed to be fireproof (Brick and stone, respectively), were destroyed, also the large and splendid hotel of Judge Smith, a stiff breeze at the time rendering all efforts to check the blaze of no avail. The losses are estimated as follows: Judge G.W. Smith, hotel and store, $40,000; Baldwin & Forbes, hardware, $30,000; Reames, Martin & Co., store, $30,000; Forbes' saloon building, $10,000; R.B. Hatton, saloon building, $2,000; John Feis' buildings, $10,000; R.W. Roberts,
$1,000; J.W. Hamaker, attorney, $15,000; Dr. Summer, $2,000; John Gleim, $10,000; Paul Breitenstein (Sr.), $5,000; Ed Bedfield, $850; Bedfield Bros., $1,500; Mrs. Heidrick, St. Charles Hotel, $4,000; H. Kessler, $6,000; E. Egert, $2,000; W.W. Wright, $2,000; Cranston and Parker, attorneys, $1,000; I. Leskeard, Klamath Country Star, $1,000; Joseph Kessler, $600; J. Houston, $150; K. Strummaker, $200; Thomas Greener, $400; Widow McLire, $300; Alex Martin, Jr., $600. Total loss, $162,550, Insurance, $37,550."

"The History of Central Oregon p. 979, next states: "Klamath Falls was again visited by fire on the morning of April 8, 1892, when the Grand Central block, in which was conducted a general store, hotel, barber shop and saloon, was burned, with a loss of between $20,000 and $30,000."

"Probably in reference to this same fire, the History of Klamath County, p. 181, tells us that Judge Smith had rebuilt his hotel and store after the fire of 1889, 'but lost the new hotel in another fire in 1892'."

"Next, the Klamath Falls Express of July 5, 1894, reported the following: 'For the second time within the past year....On September 16th last, fire wiped out a large portion of the east end of town, and on Monday the same district met with even a heavier loss...at from $20,000 to $25,000 loss, and about $8,000 of county funds were burned (cash)."

"The history of fires cannot be closed without mention of one more, the Houston Hotel fire of September 6, 1920. This fire was first reported in the Evening Herald of September 7th, and the succeeding issues for some time. The following is a brief recapitulation of the many newspaper articles.

The fire started in the eastern portion of the Houston Hotel, also known at one time as the Livermore Hotel and located on the northwest corner of 2nd and Main, presently the Shell Service Station site. The fire was first seen by City Patrolman M.L. Barnett at 3:17 A.M. Following is a list of buildings destroyed:

1. Houston Hotel, owned by Z.G. Harris, of Paisley, but conducted by Mrs. W.B. Barnes (mother of Marion Barnes). Loss on the building $40,000, and $5,000 on the furniture owned by Mrs. Barnes.

2. Houston Opera House block, on the southwest corner of 2nd and Main, across Main from the Hotel (new part of Molatore’s Motel), including the opera house, apartments, printery, etc. owned by J.V. Houston, loss between $30,000 and $40,000.

3. Two residences belonging to Mrs. Amanda Hamaker and located on the northeast corner of 2nd and Main, where the Willard Hotel is now located (Lake Park Tower). They were occupied by the Langtry and Conners families, valued at
about $3,000.

4. Building on the southeast corner of 2nd and Main, owned by Fred Page, Portland, with the ground floor occupied by the Gilt Edge Creamery, loss set at $6,000. (Most recently the Van Fleet Electric building). The second floor was apartments occupied by the Joel T. Ward and C.F. Stone families, loss $2,500.

5. Pioneer Printing in the J.V. Houston building, the business owned by William Bowdoin, John Jahnick and W.L. Kibbee, loss $12,000.

6. Mrs. E. Heidrich Apartments and residence, west of the Houston Hotel. Loss $10,000.

7. Argraves rooming house, owned by J.L. Barkley, loss $7,000. A Mr. Jasper Bennet, the former owner, still retained a $5,500 equity on the building and furniture, which he lost.

8. The J.V. Houston residence, loss $1,500.

Several lives were lost, the exact number seemingly never agreed upon."
Early fire fighting equipment was barely adequate but better than a bucket brigade. The old two-wheeled carts were used. Each cart carried about 500 feet of hose. A 50 to 60 gallon tank of water was also carried this way. Carbide was stirred into the water which would make it effervesce and build up the water pressure. When an alarm came in the first man to reach the City Hall to take out the hose cart received $5 as a prize according to Chief Keith Ambrose in an interview for the Herald & News January 28, 1931.

A Klamath Falls City Hall and Fire House was built in the early 1900's on the southwest corner of Third and Main Streets. It was a two story building with a hose drying tower at the back which appears to be about 4 stories high. This building, tower and all was moved to the northwest corner of Fourth Street at Klamath Avenue. According to an ad in the 1911 City and County Directory it was opposite the Big Store.....Virgil & Son Furniture, Hardware Etc. at 129-131 South 4th (near the alley at the back of the Hall [Stevens] Hotel.

KLAMATH FALLS CITY HALL and FIRE HOUSE.......Courtesy Klamath County Museum

The early Fire Department was composed entirely of voluntary workers. Starting in 1908 some of those early volunteers were: Chas. Baldwin, C.R. Baldwin,

The Klamath Falls Volunteer Fire Department met in regular sessions at the City Hall. Elections having been held, the President or Vice President presided and the offices of Treasurer, Secretary, Sargent at Arms, Fire Chief and Ass. Fire Chief were duly filled. The minutes from these early meetings are interesting and informative.

January 27, 1908 the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:
Fire Chief: Caleb T. Oliver; Ass. Fire Chief: C.R. Baldwin; President and also Vice President: W.W. Baldwin; Treasurer: C.I. Roberts; Secretary: Geo. Chastain; Sargent at Arms: J.C. Mongold.

During the meeting R.I. Hammond presented the Fire Department with a check for $293., subscribed to by the business men of Klamath Falls.

A bill from the Star Drug Store for $1.90 was presented and ordered paid. Ed Wakefield was to buy a pair of pants and have the bill sent to the Fire Co. Ed Gowen, Judd Low and Fred Niles were appointed to confer with R.I. Hammond in regard to the purchase of shirts for the Fire Company. A list of what the Firemen wanted was also sent to the City Council.

In order to join the Volunteer Fire Department an application had to be filed. A committee of three was then appointed to investigate the applicant. If the report was favorable the applicants were then voted in.

At the meeting held Tuesday February 4, 1908 a motion prevailed that the committee for the purchase of shirts be instructed to purchase 36 Fireman's Blue Flannel Shirts to be lettered with white letters as follows: K. F. F. D.

F. Zim Baldwin was granted the contract for putting in a 40 gallon water tank
and bath tub for use of the Fire Company at the cost not to exceed $85. The contract also to include the installation of a heating coil in the stove, the Fire Company to pay extra for lining the stove.

The Firemen's Ball originated back in these early years. A committee was always appointed and tickets sold. The dances were held on March 17th.

At the January 25th 1909 meeting, the application for membership for O.B. Gates and Dave A. Kenyon were presented and read. A motion was made that the Rules be suspended and the applicants duly elected to membership. Their names were ordered enrolled on the Active List. (Dave Kenyon, father of Letta Goehring)

New officers and Fire Chief were elected for the ensuing year. H.W. Baldwin became Fire Chief.

March 29, 1909, President Will. W. Baldwin appointed Foremen and Assistant Foremen. Foreman Hose #1...Al Gale ——Assistant Foreman Hose #1...Jim Baldwin, Foreman Hose #2...George Tugnot———Assistant Foreman Hose #2...James Wilson, Foreman Hose #3...C.E. Humphrey ——Assistant Foreman Hose #3...Sam Woodard.

A new committee was appointed to investigate the purchase of shirts for the Fire Department: C.I. Roberts, W.A. Leonard, Will Houston and Will Baldwin.

May 31, 1909 a motion was made and seconded ordering the Secretary to have Certificates of Membership printed for the members.

The meeting of January 31, 1910 the following committee was appointed to interview the City Council about the purchase of a new Fire Bell for the hose tower: W.W. Baldwin, H.W. Baldwin and C.I. Roberts.

Once again a committee was appointed to procure 36 Blue Flannel Shirts this time with the letters V. F. D. on the breast.

March 28, 1910 the committee for the St. Patrick's Dance reported: $213.75 on tickets sold. #33. paid for the Orchestra. $23. paid for the Hall. $2.30 paid for printing of the tickets and $3.32 for Incidentals, leaving a profit of $151.90.

And at last the Firemen received their Blue Flannel Shirts ...the cost $114.65.

Meeting of September 26, 1910. Officers reported a fire between 2nd and First Streets.

President Baldwin appointed the following committee to appear before the Council and make application for: a Fire Bell, Hose, Hose Nozzles, Axes and Hyderant Wrenches: O.B. Gates, Caleb Oliver, C.I. Roberts and W.W. Baldwin.

A further motion was made and seconded that the above committee be a standing committee and act on all matters that may come up between regular meetings.

The following bills were allowed for damages during a recent fire: T.L.
Houston $10.50...Ed Gowen $5.50...Neil Campbell $10.50...James Mongold $5.
Keith Ambroise $3...Sam Woodard $2.50...J. Unger $8...Vernie Houston $6.
Ed Wakefield $4...R.J. Low $4.50 and A.R. Pepper $25....Total: $84.50.

In the City and County Directory of 1911 it states:
- Fire Chief: Herbert Baldwin
- Central Station at City Hall
- Hose House #2-----30 Main St.
- Hose House #3-----710 Main St.

The Fire Department is composed of voluntary workers entirely.

To turn in the alarm, call up Central or the Central Station at the City Hall, and then ring the bell. (Remember those little red boxes on power poles etc. with a little glass window which you were instructed to break and then turn the handle to sound the alarm at the Main Station?)

January 30, 1911 the following were proposed for membership: Lennie Royse, Oscar Brenneman, Lester Terwilliger, W.S. Turner, Earl Beeson, Orville French and Harry Goeller (brother of Fred; father of Adra Turner of this city). The membership present voted and the above applicants were elected members.

March 27, 1911....Application of Keith Ambrose and B.T. McKimmens received and the following committee appointed to investigate: Alex Shive, D.A. Kenyon and Ed Gowen. At the April meeting they were elected to membership.

April 1911 Ed Wakefield was ordered to select one other member and go to Portland to look at Fire Equipment....A motion made and carried that the Fire Department purchase 4 dozen Badges with the letters K. F. F. D. and the Firemen be compelled to wear them at all times.

Another motion also carried that six men be appointed by the Chief of the Fire Dept. to act as Fire Police and their appointments be made and confirmed by the City Council. The following were named: Ed Wakefield, Harry Stilts, Chas I. Roberts, W.W. Baldwin, Judd Low and Neil Campbell.

It was also voted that the Chief secure the Company's Silver Cup and put same on display, but the cup to remain in his charge.

November 14, 1911: Chief Wakefield made the following appointments: Chas. Biehn, Keith Ambrose, B.T. McKimmens, Vernie Cliff, Orville French, Ralph Dale, Jess Hunsacker, Lennie Royse, S. Crosby, Chas. Baldwin, L. Terwilliger, Sam Woodard and Alex Shive...to act as Nozzlemen....Fred Houston, Will Houston, Geo. Tugnot, O. Brenneman, Bert Withrow, James Wilson and H.W. Baldwin ...to act as Hydrant men.

Meeting of April 29, 1912. The office of Secretary and Treasurer was vacated
when T. McKimmens left the city. Harry Goeller was elected by acclamation. A motion was made and seconded that the Department buy 1 dozen chairs for the Fire Department. It was also voted to buy a Floral Piece for the funeral of James C. Mongold.

November 25, 1912—five applicants were elected to membership: L.C. Wishard, Martin Lavenick, Geo. R. Murphy, Ray Hunsacker and Leo Parrish.

Meeting of January 27, 1913. The following were elected to membership: Fred Murphy, Ed Propst, L.W. Brown, Phil J. Sinnott, J.B. McAllister and K.C. Westwood. Officers were elected for the following year: O. Brennemen, president; Geo. Tugnot, vice president; Harry Goeller, secretary and treasurer; Ed Wakefield Chief and Sargent at Arms. A motion was made and carried that the Secretary give bonds to the sum of $1,000 and the Fire Department to pay cost of same.

Motion made and seconded to have a flag for the Department with a committee named to purchase same.

March 31, 1913...Motion made and carried that the Chief appoint an Assistant Chief and a Fire Police. Geo. Tugnot was appointed Assistant Chief and Oscar Brenneman as Fire Police.

It was also moved and seconded that the Department pay for pictures and the rest of the members have their pictures taken.

May 26, 1913: It was voted and passed that the Department pay for washing the blankets "as they had not been washed for 7 or 8 years".

September 29, 1913: Voted to have a Semi Annual dance at Thanksgiving.

It was moved and seconded that Wakefield be appointed to get "Bed Bug Dope" and fumigate the Hall.

December 29, 1913: A. Helmer and J.W. Pringle were elected to membership.

Ed Wakefield and Martin Lavenick were appointed to audit the books for the past year of 1913. It was moved and seconded to get a search light and other things needed, and at the January 26, 1914 meeting it was moved and seconded that Chief Wakefield get a leather case for the search light.

February 23, 1914: F.W. Ritchie elected to membership. Moved and seconded that the Secretary and Treasurer (Harry Goeller) renew his bond for another year. The new City Hall building at the corner of 5th and Walnut was built in 1914 but the only reference to the move appears in the November 29, 1915 minutes.

April 27, 1914: Moved and seconded that a committee of three, to be called the "Appraising Committee" be appointed to ascertain the value of clothes ruined at fires.
The first truck...purchased in 1916 ........ KLAMATH COUNTY MUSEUM

January 14, 1915: Elections were held and the following elected:
Fire Chief: Ed Wakefield; President: Oscar Brenneman; Vice President: George Tugnot; Secretary and Treasurer: Harry Goeller.

Three were appointed to examine the books. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the annual dance to be held March 17th.

March 29, 1915: The auditing committee gave a favorable report. The dance committee reported $152.50 taken in.

A motion was made by Geo. Tugnot that $1,000 be used as a dividend. Motion carried. It was also voted that the dividend be paid to active members in good standing. Then the motion was made and carried that active members that have belonged to the Department over 6 years get $83. and active members that have belonged 6 years get $55. The difference in totals of dividends and $1,000 be given to the Treasurer for "his trouble".

September 27, 1915: Application received for Clay Wilson, R. Motchenbacker, R. Wishard, Roy Nelson and Robert Shipley. The investigating committee was favorable and the 5 men elected to membership by suspending the Rules.

A motion made that a committee be appointed to sell the chairs and toilet articles. Then it was moved and seconded that any damage to clothing over $5 be referred to the Fire Department before the appraising committee could order it paid.
November 29, 1915: The following bills were allowed and ordered paid:
Doctors Truax and Hunt $4.50; L.H. Bath $1.50 and Klamath Dye Works 75 cents.

A committee was appointed to look up the receipts for the plumbing in the
old Fire Hall.

December 20, 1915: Special Meeting called to discuss charges made by the
City Council.

A committee was appointed to buy Mr. Renner a watch fob for Christmas to be
engraved as follows: K.F.F.D. to W. H. A. R. 1915 and a vote of thanks for
his services to the firemen.

December 27, 1915: At this regular meeting it was moved and seconded for
the Secretary to send to the Secretary of State for the laws governing
Volunteer Fire Departments.

January 24, 1916: The Committee reported on the sale of the chairs for
which they received $12.

Elections were held for the year 1916 and the following were elected:

Fire Chief: Ed Wakefield; President: George Tugnot
Vice Pres.: Keith Ambrose; Secretary & Treasurer: Harry Goeller

And this was the last entry in this book of Minutes.
The new City Hall was built at 226 South 5th Street at the corner of Walnut in 1914 by Cofer Bros. Contractors. The mayor was T.F. Nicholas; City Treasurer J.W. Siemens; Police Judge A.L. Leavitt. The Councilmen were: A.F. Goeller, I. Rogers, W.G. Townsend, J.H. Hamilton, H.I. Savage, R.G. Ownes, R.E. Cantrall, M.R. Doty, O.D. Mathews, G.H. Underwood and H.J. Lockwood.

The fire trucks were kept in the garage part on the right hand side of the building. The jail was in the basement.

The 1920 City and County Directory had this information: Fire Department: Fire Chief: Keith Ambrose; Engineer: M.T. Howard; Central Station... City Hall... 226 South 5th Street... In case of fire, Call 124. Following are the SIGNALS For Location of a Fire:

1...3 West of River
2...4 Near Main and Center
1...5 Near California and Teddy
1...6 Near Washington and Euwauka
1...7 Near Second and Jefferson
1...8 Near Third and Klamath
2...3 Near Fifth and Plum
...4 Near Fourth and Main
2...5 Near Sixth and Main
2...6 Near Fifth and Lincoln
2...7 Near Sixth and Roosevelt
3...2 Near Ninth and Walnut
3...4 Near Tenth and Main
3...5 Near Tenth and Jefferson
3...6 Near Reclamation Building
4...3 Near Sixth and S.P. Tracks
4...5 Mills Addition
4...6 Near Michigan and Main
4...7 Hot Springs Addition
5...2 Near Catholic Church (8th & High)
5...3 Near California and Mono
5...4 Near Oregon and Thrall
5...6 Shippington
5...7 Terminal City.

Keith Ambrose retired from the Fire Department on July 31, 1948 and received a wonderful letter of commendation from the Mayor, Ed Ostendorf.
Retired Fire Chief Geno Gheller thought all of the Volunteer Fire Department were put on salary about 1914 when the Fire Department moved to the "new" City Hall. We are very grateful to Mr. Gheller for having saved this one book of Minutes and some of the old pictures.

Photos Courtesy Geno Gheller

1919  Jack Hunsacker, driver; Keith Ambrose, Chief; Les Terwilliger.
In 1931 a new Central Fire Station was completed on the corner of Wall at 143 Broad Street. By January 30, 1932 the move was finished.

The building was designed by the office of Howard R. Perrin. The corner stone reads: City of Klamath Falls......Mayor Fred H. Cofer......Councilmen: J.E. Van Camp, J.D. Bagley, J.H. Driscoll, A.B. Moore, E.W. Vannice .........
Clerk: Roy N. Fouch.

Later #2 Fire Station was built on the corner of Dalhia and Campus Drive. #3 Fire Station was built on the corner of Shasta Way and Mitchell Streets.

Fire Districts were formed in the County as the population increased. Klamath County Fire District #1 was formed in 1947. The building on Gettle at Crosby was a single story building built by Volunteers. Fire Chief Buster Gorden lived in this building and was the only paid person until 1975. The building was remodeled and now houses 2 fire trucks at this station.

Klamath County Fire District #2 was formed and a building built at South 6th Street and Hilyard Avenue. It opened in 1978.

Klamath County Fire District #3 was at Falcon Heights where the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs is now located.

Klamath County Fire District #4 was formed in South Poe Valley on the DeLhoop's Dairy property. An old potato shed was used to house the fire vehicles and equipment. It was not cost effective however, and is no longer in service.

The agreement for Klamath County Fire District #5 was signed in November 1981 and the Fire Station opened in 1982 in the Wocus area.

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CENTRAL STATION #1 .......... 143 Broad Street
Keith Ambrose came from Montana to Klamath Falls about 1908 while in his early twenties. According to City Records, Keith volunteered as a fireman in 1909 and then entered the paid Fire Department as soon as it was established.

On January 1, 1917 he was appointed Chief of the Fire Department but after six months he was given an indefinite furlough to enter the United States Marine Corps during World War 1 where he served with distinction. He entered the war as a private and was stationed in the tropics for some time and was then a sub chaser around South America. He received the rank of lieutenant before the end of the war.

After the war, Keith returned to Klamath Falls and served as Fire Chief again until receiving an indefinite furlough and leave of absence to join the State Police. After two years with the State Police, Keith again entered the service of the City of Klamath Falls as Fire Chief and held that position until his retirement which took effect on July 31, 1948.

Keith married Margaret J. Nitschelm, daughter of Fred Nitschelm. She was widely known in the basin for her association for many years with the Blue Bird Confectionery on Main Street. Margaret was affiliated with the American Legion Auxiliary and the Pacific Fire Chiefs Auxiliary.

While on a weekend hunting trip with Keith and friends, Margaret became ill and was rushed to a Klamath Falls hospital where an operation was performed on Monday but she failed to improve. She died in September 1941 at the age of 48.

During the years of 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930 Keith did double duty in the position of Fire Chief and Chief of Police. His educational programs on fire prevention helped to keep the loss by fire at a lower level.

On July 1, 1946 Keith Ambrose and Roxanne Shive were married. After his retirement they moved to San Diego to live. The Shive family had property there and Roxanne had lived there for quite a few years.

Keith Ambrose died in San Diego May 8, at the age of 79.
FIRES OF THE PAST

Smoke billowed from the Hessig building for 12 hours. Started in the Pioneer Drug Store. Black smoke seen pouring from Deffenbacher's barbershop. Nearly $75,000 damage reported from fire. [Do you remember when or where this was?]

Hamlin Apartments on 5th Street between main and Klamath Avenue....behind the IOOF building. (Boivin; Plumbing sold to Lorenz in 1919....apartments were upstairs over the Lorenz Plumbing Shop....fire in the building was in the early 1920's, according to Harry Boivin, att., former resident of Klamath Falls.)

White Pelican Hotel on the corner of Main and Esplanade Streets was burned to rubble on October 16, 1926.

1928....Towering flames roared through the old Ewauna Box Co. plant at noon today completely destroying the abandoned plant at Market and South 6th Street. The Hercules Powder Co. office went up in flames minutes later. The main Hercules plant to the southwest was not damaged.

Sunday February 16, 1947....Evans Apartment building at Tenth and Main Streets started from ashes left in a wooden or pasteboard box possibly....started shortly after 6 a.m. Five persons dies.

Friday January 7, 1949 (H & N 1/8/49) Ivanhoe Apartments at 419 North 10th Street. (Old Furch Apartments..10th & Washington) Three floors...21 apartment units.

Monday June 13, 1949...Blaze destroys Beck's Bakery plant at 2220 South 6th. Loss set at $100,000. Some smoke damage to Hendrick's Drug Store and Emil's Food Store on the town side of the bakery. Heaviest loss since Evan's Apartment fire 2/16/47. One of the largest Commercial losses in the history of the town.

Friday February 3, 1950....Main Street Fire Kills 4, 11 Victims in Hospital. The Oregon Rooms and two store buildings in the 600 block of Main Street in the 44 year old building. The Oregon Rooms were upstairs over the Arbuckles Shoe Store (Buster Brown), Bertrams' Jewelry and Swansen's Barber Shop. Bertrams' and Arbuckles were badly damaged by smoke, water and flames. Once the roof of the Eagles poolroom building next door caught but was extinguished. The blaze did not catch the Underwood building but water poured 5 feet deep into the basement of that structure. (Walgreen's Drug was in the Underwood building at that time.) Firemen had to battle 7° below Zero temperature as well as the stubborn flames eating through the frame interior of the building. The cold spray coated men and machinery with 1/2 inch of ice. It was thought to have been caused by Dean Thomas falling asleep while smoking a cigarette. $200,000 preliminary estimates of the damage, including stocks of the street floor businesses.

Tuesday January 6, 1953....Ewauna Mill Site Fire threatens at edge of Lake Ewauna. Fire started in boiler room as plant was being dismantled.

Sunday August 16, 1953....Fire Swept 8 Downtown Business Houses early Sunday morning on Main and 9th Streets. Combination of fire, smoke and water destroyed stock and fixtures in: Princess Dress Shop, Binkley's Fountain Lunch, Jeff's Barber Shop, and the Gift and Book Nook (Carmichael's). Fire Chief Roy Rowe said the fire apparently started in a storage loft which extends for half a block above the 8 business houses. Defective wiring may have caused the flames.
Attempts to have the buildings condemned last year failed. The Gift and Book Nook was next door to the Shanghai Cafe and magazines and newspapers were piled in front of it. The Gift and Book Nook was gutted by flames.

Chief of Police: Orville Hamilton.....Mayor: Paul Landry.

Sunday May  , 1959.....$300,000 Fire Destroys Klamath Drug Firm.....
A fierce fire all but destroyed the Payless Drug Store at 808 Main Street and the Derby Cafe next door on Sunday morning. Firemen of the Klamath Falls Fire Department were called to the scene at 3:29 a.m. A merchant policeman discovered the fire which started in the Derby Cafe operated by Mr. & Mrs. Mike May of Klamath Falls.

A fire resistant storeroom built recently in the rear of the Payless Drug Store housed merchandise that escaped all except partial damage by intense heat radiated by the fire in the main floor. Both the drug store and the cafe were insured. Noel Flynn, manager of Payless said he will get a store opened and operating at temporary headquarters soon——possibly as early as today.

Thursday January 29, 1966.....Hand set fire burned the last remnants of the old Ewauna Box Co. Sawmill on the east shore of Lake Ewauna. Erected about 1918.

The summer of 1967 is as close as we can come to a date for this one. Ellingson Mill Burns Destroying Equipment.....Flames roared through the Ellingson Lumber Mill on Lake Ewauna Saturday night and reduced the plant and thousands of dollars in equipment to a twisted pile of smoking rubble. Flames leaped hundreds of feet in the air and K. F. Fire Chief Geno Gheller said by the time firemen arrived the mill was a "ball of fire".....The mill is owned by Ellingson Timber Co., but the land is owned by Modoc Lumber Co. The mill was to have been razed to make way for Modoc's industrial park development. Fire broke out shortly before 9 p.m. The mill was a few hundred feet from the city sewage treatment plant.

Wednesday January 24, 1973.....Firemen Battle Stubborn Conger School Blaze. Began in the basement. Flames reported at 2 a.m. ....not brought under control for 3 hours.

August 21, 1973.....Lakeshore Drive Fire Burns 184 Acres.......

Sunday September 9, 1973.....Arsonist Blamed for Blaze at Empire Building Supply at Main and Spring Streets.....Damage Estimated at $70,000 by owner Norman Jones.

November 7, 1973.....Fire in Roosevelt School auditorium at 1125 Eldorado started Wednesday morning.

Tuesday July 16, 1974.....Arson Blamed For Fire Rash.....The Hart Hotel at 628 Main Street was vacant. Extensive damage was done to the Chuck Wagaon Cafe on the street level. The Hart Hotel alarm was reported at 11:52 p.m. .....fire located in rooms at the rear.....Fire Chief Geno Gheller...Ass. Chief John Mathews...

Sunday December 8, 1974.....Albers Mill Badly Damaged By Fire.....A fire described as "spectacular" destroyed most of the Albers Feed Supply Co. mill at 1537 South 6th Street Friday (6th) night. 80 firemen fought the fire approximately 5 to 6 hours before gaining control of it.....The possibility of a major explosion caused members of the K. F. City Police to advise residents in the area sided by the Southern Pacific Company railroad yards,
NEW EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM
Dr. Roberta Hall, OSU anthropologist, has created another display from her research on the Oregon coast near Bandon. A grant provided funding to create the display which comes to us at no cost. Our thanks to Dr. Hall for scheduling it here in Klamath Falls. (The following is from the brochure which accompanies the display.)

TRANSFORMATIONS IN TIME:

PEOPLE AND RESOURCES ON THE OREGON COAST

Just as the coastal environment provides plants and animals of economic and cultural value in the twentieth century, it provided bountiful resources for the native peoples who lived along it for 8,000 years. The coastal highlands, river valleys, and beaches supply food and raw materials for making tools, shelters, and clothing.

During 8,000 years of settlement Oregon coastal people slowly adapted their technology and culture to the resources available to them. The coastal environment was a frontier that in time they tamed, even as it changed them. By contrast, the frontier period of the European-American culture on the coast was short and tumultuous.

During the past two centuries changes in patterns of resource use have dramatically affected the resource base. Plants and animals introduced from Europe changed the habitat by competing with native flora and fauna. Commercial production, private ownership of land, and growing populations intensified the consumption of certain resources. In addition, the landscape itself has in a constant state of transformation.

A major task for the future is to understand the coastal ecology, past and present, in order to develop the area's total potential and prevent injuries caused by too rapid a pace of change.

TRANSFORMATIONS IN TIME: PEOPLE AND RESOURCES ON THE OREGON COAST is a travelling exhibit that portrays changing cultures and resource practices of the Oregon coast. It is available on loan from the Oregon State University Department of Anthropology, which produced it in 1988 with funding from Sea Grant.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN..................

The Director will be presenting the proposed Museum Budget to the Budget Committee on TUESDAY, MAY 1st at 11:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room.

Please plan to attend and support THE MUSEUM

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOUR HEIRLOOMS

INK SPOTS IN MAHOGANY-- To take out ink spots in mahogany, apply oxalic acid in water with a sponge till the ink is gone.

TO REVIVE THE GILT OF PICTURE FRAMES-- Beat up 3 oz. of whites of eggs with 1 oz. of chloride of potash or soda. Brush the frame carefully over with the above, then the frame will have a fresher appearance.

CEMENT FOR MOUNTING PHOTOGRAPHS-- Fine wheat starch, 4 drams, beat into paste with cold water, 1 oz. best Russian glue; dissolve in a pint of boiling water; while boiling pour on the starch; put the whole into a saucepan, and boil till as thick as treacle. When required for use a small quantity is to be melted with a little warm water.

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NEW FACES

Come in soon and meet our new Curator of Collections, Mary Jo Deiringer. Mary Jo has a B.A. in Telecommunications and Film and has an interesting work background. In college she was on the Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa. She likes music, biking, football, camping, etc.

You will also meet Lynn Jech, our Maintenance Technician. Lynn and his wife hail from Minnesota and they love our "warm" weather here. Teresa works at the Mental Health clinic. They enjoy bird watching, camping and going to the coast. Lynn tells everyone how much he enjoys his job at the Museum!

---Pat McMillen---