The Historical Society Tours are always fun and informative. Our Tour Coordinator, Verland Huff, does a wonderful job and always seems to know just the right people to contact to get the needed information and speakers.

On Sunday, June 25, 1989 three school buses loaded with eager, curious people took off from the Klamath County Museum at 9:15 a.m. and headed north to highway 97.

Each bus had at least one person aboard who was knowledgeable of things of interest. Verland Huff, of course, and Helen Helfrich, Dorothy Teater, Janis Kafton, Paul Fitzhugh, Van Landrum and others were on the different buses. Paul Fitzhugh was the speaker on our bus.

The following is information transcribed from a tape made on the tour.

Paul told us: "There were four main dredges working on the lake, the Adams, the Klamath Queen, the James O'Grady and the large one still working on Agency Lake and that area.

Part of the diking was done by E.P. McCornack and Frank McCornack. E.P. McCornack was given credit for the diking and cultivation of the lake in many places. There were several farmers--Graham Bros., Jerry Short, Dwight Dixon and a Russian first farmed around 1918-1919. Old 97 went around the bay before they got the highway dikes through.

We passed the area known as Hank's Marsh and now is the Fish and Wildlife Service. James L. Hank homesteaded in this area and run
cattle from Rattlesnake Point towards Klamath Falls from 1873 on for quite awhile. He lost most of his cattle during the winter of 1889 and 1890. Hank's Marsh has other names also.

Highway 97 north followed around the hill through the area known as Shady Pine. It was diked off by the Railroad in 1911 and farmed by the Graham Bros. After World War 2 it was farmed by T.B.Waters and then sold to Don Hurd.

The name "Rattlesnake Point" was changed to Algoma when the mill went in. There are still traces of the old highway built in 1919 up above this one, that went in and around Algoma. Remember the drive-off for the "Look-Out" where you could park and look out over the lake?

At one time the Algoma Mill covered over a mile with their mill and stacks of lumber and mill pond and there was a fuel bin. Four Hundred people were here in 1941 and there were two school sites. The one above us moved down into the valley because of the light-eing strikes.

The Algoma Mill was the first one built by D.B Campbell about 1908 or 09 and bought by the Babe Ruth Company who enlarged it and moved part of the equipment from the Pokegama holdings to here and also bought some new machinery and made Algoma Mill what is was. It ran three 7 hour shifts.

The old school on the curve, which is now a home, was the last of the four schools according to Janis Kafton.

We passed the Scott Warren potato shed and home. He was a former County Commissioner, now deceased. Passed by the Hagelstein ranch and the Hurlihy ranch near the Incline.

After World War 2, Vincent Herlihy farmed the area again. He took out most of the rails from the Incline and the rails from the railroad. The Incline was an 800 foot drop from top to bottom, comprised of 2,800 feet of double track. If they hadn't built the Incline they would have had to build 5 miles of switch-back railroad to get up the 800 feet---so by building the Incline they saved 4 miles of railroad track and the maintenance. It was a 55% to 57% grade. There was a 12 by 12 hoisting engine to raise and lower cars. It pulled up an empty while lowering a full car.

Vincent Herlihy told Paul Fitzugh that one day the cable broke when the full car was almost to the foot of the hill. It smashed
into the little engine that was setting on track. About that
time the empty car arrived from the top of the hill and it was in
flight and lit on top of everything, so they had everything all
stacked together.

It was built about 1915 and rebuilt in 1927. The cement bases
are still on the top of the hill that the hoisting engine and the
water tanks and etc. set on. That is about all that is left up
there now.

Vincent Herlihy also said that in 1940 Copco's dike broke and it
flooded to the top step of their house. No one seemed interested
in fixing it so his mother went back to Washington D.C. and
appealed to Eleanor Roosevelt. Then Harold Iches, Secretary of
the Interior, appeared and soon after that the dike was fixed.
Copco built the dam at the outlet of Link River and it was their
responsibility to control the lake level.

Maloa was the name of the post office that was on the Herlihy
property near their house.

At Hagelstein Park we disembarked and listened to Ruth
Hagelstein tell about the Hagelstein family.

"My grandparents came from Germany in 1893. They took a train
to Grants Pass, took a wagon to Swan Lake and over to Antelope
Valley where grandma's sister lived at that time. So they stayed
there that winter.

Grandpa had a hook on his arm. He was hunting over there in the
winter but didn't get anything so he shot his muzzle loader to
unload it. It blew up and blew his arm off above the wrist. So
Grandpa walked over the hill and down to the stage stop to ride to
Linkville. The stage got stuck so he walked back to the stage stop
again. The next day he rode a horse to Linkville to get his arm
fixed up...it was 2 days that way.

In 1884 they moved across the mountain and built a log cabin and
homesteaded along the lake because of course, this was all lake at
that time. Then in the very early 1900's they moved down to where
the school house is and built a two story house and homesteaded
somemore in that area. The school house was a part of that old
house.

Grandma used to have a boarding house for stage coach people.
The stage went through there and up the hill and came out past
Modoc Point or Lopert Draw it was called. They raised vegetables and hauled a lot of them to the Indian Agency around Fort Klamath. The Indians would come to buy from them. Grandma could not speak English and they could not communicate with each other so she would give them the vegetables and they would hold money out to her and she would take what they owed her.

In the early 1900's Grandpa was a County Commissioner for 4 years and was road supervisor for 15 years from the Williamson River to Klamath Falls. That is when this road was built right along the lake.

In 1910 the Eastern Oregon Railroad got an easement from Grandpa to put a dike along here and that is when the railroad came in--about 1911.

Ruth's dad, George Hagelstein, used to tell stories about the fishing in the lake. There were lots of mullet and you could catch sacks full and they lived on those a lot.

Grandpa was also very instrumental in Church work. A Preacher would come by and have church services in his home. He was instrumental in founding the Zion Lutheran Church. Him and Grandma and John, George and Fred were charter members of Zion Lutheran Church which was organized in 1924.

Grandpa and Grandma had four sons, John who lived down below Grandpa's old house--Lewis his son and Marie, his daughter and Shorty, her son and Regina or Sissy, Marie's daughter also. George was my dad and he lived just a little bit north of the old home place. I'm Ruth. Dorothy Hagelstein Buchanan and her kids, Bobby and Glenda, are still instrumental in running our ranch--not that we don't help, we do. But they are very instrumental in raising cattle and in keeping the Hagelstein/Buchanan ranch going.

John and George were partners in the cattle business. They had more land way up past Chiloquin and also up to the Old Fort Road, almost to ole O.I.T. They grazed cattle on it".

Ruth remembers driving cattle up 97. It took 3 days to get to the ranch. "Couldn't do that now!"

"Bill Hagelstein was a banker at Doris. He owned the Butte Valley State Bank. Dad (George) was a director for awhile. Bill was very instrumental in Tulelake and Doris, loaning money to the farmers to keep their land and get them started."
Fred Hagelstein was the youngest brother. He had a dairy right down there and used to haul milk to Algoma to all the homes on the hill there. Bobby Buchanan still lives there and has his Angus cattle there.

Then Van Landrum gave us this information: "The S.W. corner of the Indian Reservation was right over by Barkley Springs. There was large rock and it was supposed to be the starting point because this point here was defined as being "the point of rocks along 12 miles south of the mouth of Williamson River on the east shore of the middle Klamath Lake". If you measure along the shore line you come out at Barkley Springs but if you measure in a straight line you come out at Rattlesnake Point. The Indians intended the reservation to come out at Rattlesnake Point but it didn't. So they lost the land in between. The line of the reservation ran along the foot of the hill. We are outside the reservation here because we are in "lake country" here.

Naylox, down below here is the place where the wounded Alfred Mecham was brought after he was banged up by people of the Peace Standard at the Lava Beds. His brother-in-law was David Feree who ran the place for many years.

There was a road at the foot of the hill that was put there in 1873. Wagon traffic was going along the road not necessarily over the top. It was put in by Captain Henry Hasbrook in the months of June, July and August while the Indians were on trial at Fort Klamath. It was open just enough for wagons. But most of the people injured in the Modoc War were brought by canoe across the lake. The Modoc Indians when they were brought on to the Reservation on Christmas of 1869 stayed until the middle of the spring of 1870. We now know that Modoc Point was where the land projected farthest into the Lake--not the town of Modoc Point nor on the bluff behind it.

The Shaw Library and the library at the County Museum have further details.

Paul Fitzhugh told us: On the whole Klamath Lake averages 14 feet or less although there are places where it goes down to about 40 feet around Eagle Ridge. With the dam at the head of Link River they can control the flow of water.

Klamath Lake has a shoreline of 98 miles and covers 91,000 acres
Klamath Lake has a shoreline of 98 miles and covers 91,000 acres and stores 873,000 acre feet of water. An acre foot of water covers 1 acre 1 foot deep."

"Modoc Point was a lumber town owned by Lamb. It was a nice place to work. Married couples living there had houses heated by steam and there was a school for the children. At Christmas time the children could each make a list of 8 things they would like to have and Mrs. Lamb would shop in San Francisco. The kids would each receive one of the eight things they wanted.

There was a boarding hotel there for singles. Ross Ragland lived in a big house there. He taught at Bonanza also.

We were told the Williamson River was navigable up to a point. They brought boats up and hauled hay and such out of the areas around there. Don't know how far up the Williamson River they went. Navigation was plagued by sharp turns and sand bars".

We stopped at the Henzel Potato sheds across from the Williamson River store. Wendell Thompson gave us information on the River.

"The Williamson River heads on the Yansey Ranch in a spring at the foot of Yamsey Mountain. It was named for a Lt. Williamson who was the director of the Pacific Railroad survey in 1855. He was the first man to accurately survey Mt. Hood and give it's height. The Williamson is the only river that flows into upper Klamath Lake about 3 miles west of us here, near the narrows between Agency Lake and the Upper Klamath Lake.

Some of the early travelers through this country were Finnan McDonald, Thomas McKay, Freemont and Peter Skeen Ogden.

Freemont, incidentaly, named the river Torrey in honor of a Professor Torrey who was a famous botanist of that time. He named the Torrey Pine, if you have ever heard of that one.

The principle tributary of the Williamson is the South Fork of the Sprague which heads at the foot of Gearhart Mt. and the North Fork of the Sprague heads north of the Gearhart Wilderness.

The principle tributary of the Sprague is the Sycan River and many, many smaller streams. Sprague River was named for Lt. Charles Sprague who was the commander at Fort Klamath in 1866. He also surveyed and helped build the road from Fort Klamath that parallels highway 62 to Union Creek and then south to Jacksonville.
This was the second road. The first one was called the Ranchareo road which more or less paralleled Hwy.140 and went north of Mt. McLaughlin and near Four Mile Lake.

Unlike the Williamson River which seldom floods, the Sprague is notorious for over flowing it's banks.

The Oregon Central Military Road followed the Sprague River for a good part of it's length. It came over the Willamette Pass, around the Klamath Marsh and down into this country and followed the Sprague out near Lakeview and terminated near Silver City, Nevada".

Janis Kafton told the history of the old Methodist Church. "It was a congregation organized at the Indian Agency in about 1876. The building, a little later. Indians did a lot of the work using lumber from the Old Fort. It's interesting as to how it happened to be a Methodist Church. The Government, at that time, assigned what denomination would serve which Reservation and spread them around so each was different. It so happened that the Klamath Reservation was assigned a Methodist Minister.

The people became motivated to build their own church from lumber from the old sawmill plus what they could get from the old buildings at the Fort.

In the early days of the church, the area around consisted of mostly Indian farms but it wasn't unusual for 200 or more people to come to worship, traveling by boat, canoe, horseback and buggy. Following the services it was traditional for the congregation to turn the old wooden benches, used for pews, around and place boards across them to serve as tables. Almost every Sunday there was a big pot-luck dinner.

Their first minister was a man named Rourk and he was assigned at the Agency.

The Klamath County Historical Society has put a Marker at the church".

Verland Huff then told us:"The land was given to the Indians by the Treaty of 1864 and they lived all the way out to the river and all around in here. But about 45 years later, the white man decided to build a dam down on Link River and they backed the water up a little bit on the Indian lands up here and they'd wait until
the irrigation started before it would go down. So the Indians got a "little warm" and sued Copco and won the law suit and collected. Ever after that, everytime the water would get up a little bit they'd "gouge" Copco a little bit. Copco got tired of it so they bought the land and proceeded to dike it and farm it. But they weren't farmers so in 1948 they sold their 8,200 acres here to a private corporation by the name of Tulana Farms. Dick Henzel was president and Ben Henzel was vice president. They operated a lot of land down in the lower lake area and so they purchased this here and one of the things they had to do here was dike it.

They studied the diking down around Stockton, CA., how they diked those islands down there. With the aid of Bill Wales Sr. and Jr. they decided a big dredge with a 50 foot boom was necessary to scoop the dirt up. They set it quite a ways from shore, now this between the dike and the shore is called a "Burm" and that was what defeated a lot of the dikes down further south here and they had to be re-done. Tulana Farms built this dredge down in that canal where the Boy Scout Mill was.

It was budgeted at about $250,000 but like everything else it went over the budget considerably---as much as 2 or 3 or 4 times that. I don't know the exact figures. On this dredge in back of us it has the facilities on it to run for three weeks, fuel, storage and also housing facilities for the whole crew. They worked 6 days a week, 24 hours a day for many years up here. They diked all this land around here. Then Tulana Farms, Dick and Ben Henzel, acquired some 5,000 acres across the other side of Agency Lake. I don't know the disposition of that land but they diked it and they may have made an exchange with the Fish and Wildlife or they may own it yet. Then they bought 3,200 acres from Bill Hooper and diked that---not exactly using this particular dredger because they had to go inland a little bit.

Ben Henzel passed away in 1962. We'll be passing a little Memorial Park up here in memory of Ben Henzel and given to the County by the Henzel family. The guides will point this out to you. Dick Henzel continued to operate it by himself---it is a private corporation. In 1978 they sold all the holdings in here, some 34,000, some in California and near Worden and there are two areas up in here. They sold to an Oil Company for quite a sum of
money. Dick Henzel took a sizable portion of this money and divided it up among the six employees who had been with him for a long time and had helped him make the money—and that money ran into about six digits. All the foremen and supervisors and field advisors benefited. Dick has retired and lives down on the south end of the Upper Klamath Lake. So this ended probably about the most successful reclamation project in this part of the country here."

Then Van Landrum gave us some more information: "We'll be driving up here a few miles and as you look off to your left, near the road is a little park called Neptune Park or Neptune Beach---originally named "Hastee" which means "starting place" or "new launching place". As for so many things in this country we are indebted to the Helfriches for having located that. Devere Helfrich was the one who spent a lot of time chasing down ancient roads and ancient survey plats to come to the conclusion that this was where the first Agency was. It started there about 1867. About 1869 the then Klamath Indian Sub-Agent who was Lindsay Applegate at that time, moved the Agency site to where we know it now, just below the little spring which was known as "Beetle's Rest". It was used to drive an "over shot" water wheel sawmill that was intended to be a flouring mill. I don't believe the flouring mill was ever built but the sawmill was. There are a few pictures of some of the old stuff that was there. Some of the old boards are still around the country that were sawed at that place.

Just before we get to the Agency, on the left there might be a sign. It's where the north road from Chiloquin comes into Klamath Lake highway here. The south road from Chiloquin is only up here a half mile. It comes in from our right. The north road comes through the meadow and to the left there is a big field which you can easily see has been used as an air field. It was named "Rayenouf Field" and it was named for the only Klamath or Modoc Indian who was killed during World War 2.

The Agency and the rest of the Indian Reservation was liquidated starting in 1959. Many of the buildings are torn down, the old superintendent's house went down and right beyond the superintendent's house were six buildings which were Agency headquarters. Those six buildings had very thick walls, you could
tell when you went through the doors. The reason for that was, they were originally log. They were the Applegate log buildings. They had siding on the outside and wall board on the inside. They are gone as are most of the buildings. The first building on the left is the Hospital and the second building on the left will be the headquarters building. In the headquarters building was half of a log, a sawed off piece of log with dates dating back to the date the first horse came on the Reservation which was in 1794 and brought in by the Yahooskin Snakes. That was the starting point as far as the Indians were concerned on their time table.

On beyond the Agency we will see Crooked Creek and to the left of Crooked Creek you will see a grove of pine trees. An the old stump still stands around which the Treaty was consummated. Seldon Kirk was the man who first showed it to me in 1965. The tree was cut down but the stump was still there. That Treaty was considered the "Great Treaty" for the Klamath Indian Reservation.

Before we boarded the busses again, Verland Huff gave us some additional information about Tulana Farms and Barkley Springs. "When Tulana Farms bought this ground there were still about a dozen Indians who owned land in here so they purchased those down to the only one that owns land in this 8,200 acres here is an Indian by the name of Al Lang.

And backing up a little further to Barkley Springs----Barkley Springs has two names. There was a man discharged from the military up here in 1866 and he lived in a cabin right close to Barkley Springs. He moved from there on into Yonna Valley but by coincidence he was riding along in a cart close to where Barkley Springs is now and was thrown from the cart and killed. Now there are some Indians by the name of Barkley too so it takes it's name from the both of them".

On the bus Paul Fitzhugh told us: "The last Agency was dissolved in 1948 as a Tribal Indian Head. The Indian land was sold later than that. The Indians voted in 1944 to close the Tribal Rolls. Van Landrum spoke about this being the area where the Council Grove is at where the Indian Treaty was signed. All that remains is a stump and there is a Marker by it. However, the access to that area is not open. You have to get permission to go in.

This is good cattle grazing area, excellent grass full of
nutrition. In the area here we have Crooked Creek and there are two Fish Hatcherries here now.

Also the first sawmill in Klamath County was built on Crooked Creek and furnished lumber for the Agency and the Indians. It was built in 1863 and was known as a Sash Mill---an up and down sawmill not a circular mill. It was later moved to Yanix and operated there until it burned.

Cattle are trucked in here and fed during the summer and then trucked south to feed lots in the fall. The stockmen lost their cattle if they tried to keep them here and feed them. They lost their entire herd a couple of times in 40\* below weather and high snow".

After we arrived at the Fort Klamath Museum we were given the following information by Van Landrum. "In the fall of 1863 the First Oregon Cavalry Commanding Officer was L. Col. Charles S. Drew---not any relation to any of the Drews in Klamath that we know today.

The Fort was first proclaimed as a Military Reservation. Roughly the center of which is the flag pole as you see behind you. The east boundary is over to the foot of the hill to the right, the south boundary is down a half mile below us. The north boundary is just above the Fort Klamath Cemetery and the west boundary is on the far side of the river on the north/south road over there. Then north of that was a piece of land about twice that size that was proclaimed a "hay reservation". The westerly boundary of which is that road that leaves the tangent that leads northwest out of Fort Klamath. Not north - south but in a north westerly direction and then makes the curve up there. Incidentally, the stone corner of the Reservation is about 3/8th of a mile out in the field beyond the barn. Most of the corners of the Reservation are big stone monuments and most of them are still here. I think there are 3 or 4 missing. The Reservation was intended to be a two Company Post ---one a Cavalry and one Infantry. The Parade Ground is where we are standing now. The officer quarters were over where the highway (62) is and one barracks was up behind the flag pole, one was almost directly behind us and the last one to be built was built just north of where the graves are over here. The little building which sets over here, was intended to be at the same site and was
intended to be the same width and length as the Guard House. The location is quite accurate where it is. The roof on this building is considerably steeper in order to shed the snow. The original Guard House roof was relatively flat.

The trial of the Modoc prisoners from the Modoc Indian War of 1873 were held here in the Adjutant's building which would be over to my right about where the highway (62) and gate is --in that general area. The Indians were hanged on a scaffold way down towards the barn and they were buried over in the four graves. Six graves were dug and four were buried. The Indians were buried headless.

The Fort was finally abandoned in 1889-1890 and that is the winter which practically everyone in the cattle business was wiped out because of the bad storm. I'll reiterate what Verland told us, the snow that year was 17 feet on the level. The one story buildings disappeared and the two story buildings looked just like little nubs above and as you would guess, most of the roofs fell in that year. So that was a good year to quit with the thing. The Fort then lay here in ruins for many years. The siding off the buildings was taken off and taken down for the little Methodist Mission. The Officer's Quarters over here, were there for quite some years. The Indians lived there because we are on Indian Reservation, the west boundary being the east bank of Wood River to our left. Seldon Kirk recalls living over here in the officer's quarters.

It was in 1962 that the first survey of the old Fort in this area was made and the flag pole relocated and a piece of land was sought to be purchased from the then owners, Mr. & Mrs. Zumbrum. But that didn't work so well. So then in 1966 Scott Warren ran for County Commissioner and I happened to be his campaign chairman and sent him out in the Mills Addition country to ring doorbells. But instead he came to Fort Klamath because he knew the people here—which was the last place he had to come for votes. But he did put a deal together with the Zumbrums which is the land you see now included in the chain length fence right here. It is owned by the County and is maintained as a park and there is only one real restriction put on by the Zumbrums. Under NO circumstances can you dig for anything here other than the foundation for the buildings.
and the flag pole. No other digging is permitted."

Verland Huff then introduced Lynn Long, a native of Klamath Falls and with a very interesting story about his grandfather, A.A. Soule'. However, due to the length of this half of our 1989 tour, we will give this information on A.A. Soule' in a future Trumpeter.

We then joined together in singing "Happy Birthday" to Florence Horn who was 92 years young that day. Birthday cakes had been brought on the busses with us and everyone enjoyed the treat after eating their lunches as we sat on the Museum lawn and at some of the tables there.

To be continued.

****Spelling: Yamsey--Yamsay--Yamsi

---Mae L. Smith---