On June 24, 1990 the Historical Society tour took us up the west side of Klamath Lake to complete the trip around the Lake started in June 1989. Once again we were able to rent school buses and the drivers and left the Museum around 9 a.m.

Our first stop after crossing Fremont Bridge over Link River was at the site of Eualona Village. After being greeted by our Tour Coordinator, Verland Huff our first speaker was Paul Deller who told us: "Folks, we are standing on the site here of Eualona Village. When Fremont arrived here May 6, 1846 he found this Klamath Indian Village on both sides of the river and extending up and around this point which now belongs to Leonard Putman, I think. The Fremont Bridge of course wasn't here nor the dam. Fremont arrived with a retinue of horses and men. He had started out in 1843 or '44. He came up through the Klamath Marsh country and he thought at that time that he had seen Upper Klamath Lake, which of course he hadn't. He dragged with him a 16 pound Howitzer cannon, but that's another story.

The government had sent him out on a placid military expedition as we were having considerable trouble at the time and thought it was a good idea to come out to explore on down into California. He stayed there until 1846 when the Mexican authorities tossed him out.

So he decided he hadn't seen the Upper Klamath and on May 6th he crossed right in this area. It was too deep to ford so they swam the horses and all the equipment and men across in the boats. The Klamaths were very helpful but after awhile --- that is another part of the story.
Right here on this bench, the steamer Winema was constructed and slid sideways into the water. The Klamath Echoes has a very good story on that.

The road that you see over here goes along the canal and around the point was the road into town on the west side of the river. The road was abandoned just about the time the dam was built and "Copco" by the way, helped pay for the first part of this bridge over here in order to get the traffic coming from this side of the Lake across and off of this canal. Incidentally the Great Northern Railway ran a survey but abandoned the survey when they figured the dam was going to go in and found out that the entire side of the canal was completely solid rock.

Paul Fitzhugh then continued to tell us about the dam: "Paul Deller mentioned the Indian Village here and I'm not very good at pronouncing names but, Eualona, Yulalona, Iulanoe, translated means "receding and returning water" in speaking of the Lake when the wind blew. It would blow right up the Lake and dry up Link River.

Also at the foot of Link River there was another village called Ewauna. The Lake is now named after that and the Indians according to the Echoes who referred to Linkville as Ewauna (I-uauna). The rapids they called "Tiwishkeni" which means "rush of falling water place". They also built rock pools down Link River so the fish would be trapped there when the water quit running and then they didn't have to work so hard to get their fish to dry. They dried fish on the banks and they were really just for winter food.

The first Irrigation System was in place in 1878. However, according to Devere Helfrish who talked to a pioneer, he noted that there was a ditch on the East side of Link River in 1875 to irrigate the Riverside Community and certain water rights on the East side were purchased right with the land.

In 1878 a group was incorporated as the Linkville Water Ditch Company and they dug a small ditch heading high on Link River going down to irrigate the town lots. In 1884 William Steele enlarged the ditch to extend it 15 miles into the Klamath Valley. He died in 1888 and a new company was incorporated under the name of the Klamath Falls Irrigation Co. They enlarged the ditch and called it the Ankeny-Henley Canal. It was enlarged to about 50 CFS and
provided water for about 4,000 acres. I think it was this group that started boring the first tunnel. The first tunnel was never completed.

In May 1905 the Secretary of the Interior authorized the Klamath Project to negotiate the purchase of the Klamath Falls Irrigation Company property. They then bored the present tunnel and put in the headgates here or changed the headgates. As I understand, there were prior headgates but they improved the canal and at present it will pass about 1,500 CFS through the Main or "A" canal.

The Bureau of Reclamation operated this project, I believe until 1955 and then it became the Klamath Irrigation District, a farmer operated district. At the time I worked for them it was one of the oldest projects still operated by the Bureau of Reclamation in the United States. Normally after an operation goes on for a short time and things are working all right, they turn it over to the farmers operation. Incidentally, I started in 1948 with the Bureau of Reclamation and retired in 1983. And I started here on the Klamath Project as the Adam's Point Ditch Rider, Adam's Point being down below Merrill.

Also on the headgates which are directly across from us, it goes a short distance here and then goes into a tunnel which comes out on 11th Street. As we come up we cross over it. That used to be the old Reclamation Headquarters right there on 11th Street where the tunnel came out. The house that is right across Link River, you can hardly see it for the trees, in the early 1950's my sister, Madge Boley Walker - she was Boley then, operated the gates for several years and they lived there. Her oldest boy was small then and he assured his mother that if he fell into the water here, the ducks would get him out because they were his friends.

Concerning the dam down here, I will now go into the power operation. In April 1895 H.B.Gates was granted a franchise to supply water and electricity to Linkville. It was accepted finally in November 1896 and the electric plant was located on the east bank of Linkville one half mile above the Link River Bridge. The plant was enlarged in 1902 with a large new dynamo purchased by George Baldwin. The first plant was replaced by a second small plant in
1906. In 1908 the Klamath Light and Power Company was built on the west side and received water from the Keno canal, that's on this side here. Prior to that the Moore Brothers built a canal down to their mill which was about a half mile down below here. Then the ditch was enlarged and extended for the Martin Flour Mill which was in the vicinity, I believe, of where the Power Plant is now.

In 1910 Siskiyou Electric and Power Company purchased both plants and became the California Oregon Power Company in 1912. In 1917 Copco executed a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to build the Link River Dam and necessary dike structure to regulate the Upper Klamath Lake and provide sufficient water for power generation and irrigation. They had to do this in order to assure themselves enough water to generate the power they were finding there was a demand for. Since the water rights had been acquired on Link River prior to that, they had to negotiate for more water storage. Actual work on the dam was started in July 1920 and completed October 1921. This Dam was built by Copco then and somewhat controlled by Copco. If I remember right, the Bureau always correlated their needs with Copco. The irrigation rights came first and if there wasn't enough water to run the power generators Copco was the one who got cut down. The Lake was regulated between the elevations of 4137 at low water and 4143.3 and the estimated volume of storage in the Lake was 440,000 acre feet. In other words building the Dam gave the storage capacity in the Lake here of 440,000 acre feet storage. However, it also raised the level of the Lake about 2 feet over the normal summer elevation. Of course, it fluctuated up and down as the water receded and the flows didn't come into the Lake. This caused quite a bit of concern to the irrigators in the Keno area and down in the Valley, that maybe they were loosing their water to California entities because the California Oregon Power Company was a California outfit. As the Echoes said, there was quite a bit of political dissension.

I've read the Echoes and 50 Years on the Klamath which has a lot of information and if anybody wants to go further into it, that would be a good source of information".

Verland Huff commented: "As they told you, the Lake was regulated about 2 feet higher than it ordinarily was. Now, that day
in May it was 2 feet lower right here and when those 141 men and 100 horses were right over there it probably wasn't as bad looking as it is right now".

Paul FitzHugh added: "I hadn't realized it, but in reading, there was a riffle or rapids right over in this area here and they called them the Upper Rapids and the Dam is built on the Lower Rapids. So at sometime they went in and excavated the Upper Rapids out. I believe they said 8 feet deep so that they could get into this area much better at lower water.

Also I am to mention as we go out past Lakeshore Drive, when we are going over the little hump between the McCormack and the Geary ranch areas -- off to the right about 100 yards, is what is left of an old stone fence as we hit the pasture land. In 1866 or '67, Wendolyn Nus wintered his cattle there. He was supplying beef to the Fort at Fort Klamath and by building that fence he was able to keep his cattle out on that peninsula. That's what it was at that time, and didn't have to worry about fencing except right across that short piece. The remnants of that old rock fence is there and will become a Historical Marker Site. Probably next year the Marker Commission will mark it".

A question came from the crowd: "Did the Klamath Indians live here most of the time? Was this their original site?" Paul answered: "In 50 Years On The Klamath they said there were about a dozen wikiups that were here, not necessarily throughout a year, maybe they would change families and they would move every year to a different area. It wasn't a great village, as I read, but there were quite a few wikiup holes because they moved their lodges to a new site every so often". Jeane MacBeth added: "Well, they moved around the lake at different seasons because of the wocus and different harvesting they were doing".

Our next stop was to be the Geary Ranch but before leaving the Link River area, Winston Patterson pointed out the house across Front Street where he had lived in 1914 with Straw, his mother and Dad and brothers and sisters. He told us he had attended Pelican City School and they had a ranch in Midland to which the family commuted".

As we traveled along Lakeshore Drive we neared the McCormack
land. The rock house on the point near the Lake came into view and those on our bus were told that it was the Agnes Oliver property. Agnes' maiden name was McCormack. She died 27 November 1989 at age 90 years.

The remnants of the Wendolyn Nus rock fence was pointed out at the end of the Oliver property on the right side and back from the highway a short distance.

When we arrived at the Geary Ranch, Alice Geary Kilham told us: "I am kind of representing the descendents of E.P.McCormack. He was the one who bought most of the marsh land in this area including Lakeshore, Little Wocus which was where the Oliver ranch is now, Caledonia which is the lake side property and then Wocus which is all of this marsh land here. Various people bought up this marsh land in about 1860 and then in the 1880's he started buying parcels and by 1916 owned most of it. He bought the Wilson property which was Lakeshore but was called the Wilson property in those days. His brother who was Frank H.McCormack married Rosa N. Wolf and they had the big house on the hill across from the stone house. It was burned in the 1970's. They married in 1890 and built that house and Frank started farming in the sense that when the water receded in the summer a lot of land was exposed and there was wild grasses that grew and you could hay and pasture cattle all along the edges of these marshes. He started to build some dikes and did some irrigation projects as early as 1890. Then in 1905 he built the dike and headgates which is clear down here at the Geary Canal. It served to keep the Lake off of this whole marsh to the degree that in the summer time it could pretty much be all pasture. A little bit after 1900 he bought the Klamath Queen which was the dredge that Southern Pacific had used to build the railway along the Lake. It joined the J.Frank Adams dredge which already was doing a lot of diking projects all around the Lake and together they did a lot of the diking all over around the Lake.

Verland has asked me about Caledonia and how it was named. Because we are from Scottish and English descent, a lot of people have thought that it came from some Scottish ancestor of ours but according to my Aunt Martha, it was named Caledonia before we ever came and no one knows who named it or why.
In 1910 E.P. McCormack died and his estate was distributed between 27 nieces and nephews. He had no children of his own. His brother Frank and Rosa and their children, Frank Jr., Agnes and Mary kept Little Wocus as their farm and the rest of this property was divided among some McCormacks, Stevensons and Gearys. Andrew and Alfred Collier, whom you are probably all familiar with, also inherited part of this. They got some timber land and some bank stock. Andrew came down and started banking in Klamath Falls. There were no roads out here of course at the time, boating was the way they got around or by horseback. Aunt Martha was telling how Andrew would ice skate across the Lake to bring Christmas presents to his McCormack cousins.

The Stevenson heirs, Don, George and Ruth Stevenson Addison, took 2/3 of the Caledonia ranch. I have a little map you can all look at that shows the original property as it was divided.

The Geary brothers: Everett who was the oldest and a mining engineer and who laid out all the irrigation -- all of these little ditches; the second brother, Arthur, who was an Attorney in Portland and my father, Edward Geary, who was a graduate of Agriculture from Wisconsin and Oregon State, did the farming; and the younger brother, Roland, was in business and had an office in Portland and also down here. He and Everett took over the management of the Klamath Queen.

As time went by the Gearys purchased more of this property and a lot of the hill land clear back to behind Moore Park, some from the Dixon family which is an old pioneer family, and a piece of property that was called the Francisco property owned by people in California.

By 1917 Caledonia was growing rye and potatoes. Fairly early after that my father started doing experimental fields and found a number of crops that could be brought to maturity in this country. He started growing a lot of grass seed for golf courses and became the largest grower of bent grass in the world.

Of major concern during the development of Wocus was the Power Company's decision to build a dam on Link River for powering and as a part of the Klamath Irrigation District. So in order to obtain a release from damages that might occur to Wocus with manipulation of
the water level, the Power Company built the entire dike around the piece of property. The Geary Brothers never did release them for the Caledonia dike however and they are responsible for those dikes to this day. Everybody else sold out but we never did so the Power Company is still trying to take care of those dikes. They don't like it much but-----.

So most of the old McCormack ranch belongs to the heirs of Agnes Oliver. She died last year in California at her daughter Jean's. Her sister, Mary O'Laughlin still lives with Jean. She must be in her 80's as is Frank. Frank is in his late 80's and lives on the hill with his wife and is pretty frail.

The Stevenson share of Caledonia was sold in the 40's maybe. Don and Esther Hunt owned it for quite awhile and the Gill Cattle Company from California owned it for quite a long time. Now it belongs to the Shamrock Enterprises or Roy Disney who also owns this ranch.

The Geary third of Caledonia and properties behind Moore Park are still owned by the heirs of the Geary Brothers. Martha Smith, the wife of Arthur, the attorney, still lives on the property and she is in her late 80's. I have a little house up on the hill that overlooks the Wocus Marsh and then I have three cousins, Richard, Susan and Dorothea, who live in different parts of the country but they also share ownership of this last piece of Caledonia".

Verland Huff then added: "I was up here in about 1950 just buying some oat seed from Ed and he loaded out a little single axle semi of this bent blue grass and he said this seed is going to North Carolina and it's about $45,000. worth of seed in there. And you could just see a little bit in there! When Jim Kerns was talking to us at the last Historical Society meeting he mentioned Long Lake. Well, there is a little dip right in there and just the other side of the ridge is Long Lake and as you go down Doak Mountain some of the guides will point back into Aspen Lake and those are the two lakes Jim was talking about for extra storage for water".

We boarded the busses again and as we rode along, Caledonia was pointed out to us on the right and the dike on the left of the highway that the Power Company still has to maintain. The
"Peninsula" or "Skillet Handle" sticks out on the right into upper Klamath Lake. Verland Huff told us: "In the early days there were quite a few Russians in the area and they farmed up here. So far I have not been able to find much history about the Russian settlements in here but we will dig that out later".

Our next stop was at the Doak Mountain Alexander and Curtis Ranch. We drove through the gates on the left of highway 140 and towards where the old Tomahawk Tavern had been many years ago, on the old road to Lake of the Woods. Verland introduced Cameron Curtis, our host, to us.

Our first speaker, however, was Van Landrum who gave us a great amount of information concerning General Fremont and his party when they were here in May of 1846. Van also explained to us the use of a sextant, a chronometer, an astronomic transit, Greenwich time and longitude which made it possible for General Fremont to keep such accurate records of his travels.

We were told that General Fremont and his men crossed Link River about where the Fremont Bridge is on May 6, 1946. He had with him about 30 people of whom 3 were full blood Delaware Indians and a fourth one was a half breed Delaware and also a black named Jacob Dobson along with a 16# Howitzer cannon.

After crossing the river they obviously followed the ridge that goes between the Geary Ranch and Long Lake over near Aspen Lake. They stopped to camp that night on a creek flowing into Aspen Lake which was named Lajeunesse Creek for Basil Lajeunesse who was killed on this spot a few days later.

The next morning General Fremont and his men started traveling further north, camping at night until on May 9th. they were on Wood River about 1 1/2 miles south of Fort Klamath. While sitting around his campfire that night, Fremont heard the sound of two horses coming slowly nearer. The riders were Samuel Neal who had been a blacksmith on Fremont's second expedition and had a farm on Butte Creek in California, and the other man was Levi Sigler. They had been sent ahead by their commander, Lieutenant Archibald Gillespie of the United States Marine Corp., to stop Fremont. Their party was being harassed by Indians but so far there had been no fatalities. They thought there was going to be trouble,
however. Lt. Gillespie had with him none other than Peter Lawson whom we have always pronounced as Lassen, and a fellow whose name was Toplin.

The following morning Fremont and his party started south. As "horses don't have speedometers" the distance traveled was estimated to be from 38 miles to 45 miles by three different people. They camped that night on the same creek near Aspen Lake as before. About dusk Lt. Gillespie and Lawson rode in with a message from the Secretary of the Navy, George Bancroft and also a message from Senator Thomas Hart Benton, Fremont's father-in-law. It is unsure what those messages contained but it was probably the information which turned Fremont and his men back to California soon afterwards.

Fremont was sitting by the fire thinking and just before going to bed he heard a rustle of the animals down by the Lake. He went down to see about it but found nothing wrong so he went back and retired. Just as he got to sleep he heard a noise and a voice saying, "What's going on there?"

What was happening was, a group of Indians had attacked the camp. They had killed Basil Lajeunesse by hitting him in the head with an Indian club (tomahawk). Denny, the half breed Delaware and Delaware Crane were shot with bow and steel tipped arrows tipped with poison. By then the whole camp was awake and enraged. They then took care of the attacking Indians.

The next morning Fremont and his party traveled up the Lake a ways and camped that night on what was called Ambuskaid Creek which Van says he is sure is the creek we have always called Denny Creek. Lajeunesse Creek has been known by that name for about 20 years since Van petitioned the Federal Board of Geographic Names to make that name official.

Fremont and his men continued on the next morning to a branch of what we know as Cherry Creek near where the Brown's live. They built a corral for their animals and named the creek, Corral Creek, however. Years later, about 1916 or 1917, Sherman Brown who is a brother to the older generation of Browns found this corral when he was clearing timber. A tree had grown up in it so he sawed it off and counted the rings. According to his estimate the tree had grown since 1850 so there is little doubt that it was
Fremont's Corral of 1846. The Browns can not pinpoint the area any closer though than a branch of Cherry Creek.

Fremont continued on around the Lake camping again south of Fort Klamath. The next day at the Williamson River ford near the bridge (on the old highway) they had a fight with the Klamaths. The Klamath Indians have always maintained, though, that they were not responsible for the attack on Fremont and his men near Aspen Lake.

When Fremont and his party camped that night it was near where the old John Mansville plant is located (Hwy. 97 N). They built another corral for their animals which Oliver Applegate located about 1867. Another corral was supposed to have been built on a creek which flows into the upper Klamath from the valley above Algoma. Fremont named this creek We-tow-a Creek in honor of a Delaware Indian who had preformed a special act of bravery.

From there they continued south to Lawson's ranch on Deer Creek near Vina, California and on to Sutter's Fort and the war with Mexico.

Cameron Curtis then spoke to us about the Denny Creek power house. The power house was built about 1923 or 1924 by Charles Bennett, a stone mason, to provide power to the little town of Tomahawk and to the ranch buildings and the owner's house which was about three miles away. It consisted of a 15 3/4 inch horizontal shaft turbin, a 145 kilowatt generator, 1690 feet of 22 inch wooden banded pinstock and a small diversion dam. The pinstock was creosoted so you can imagine what the water tasted like when used for drinking.

In the 1950's the power house was shut down. Probably because P.P. & L. had built a power line through there making it cheaper to buy from them than to continue to run the power house.

In 1978 Congress passed a law requiring power companies to purchase power from a qualifying facility. So, if you produced the power P.P. & L. had to buy it. The State of Oregon passed a small scale energy loan program in 1980. Then the Federal Government provided investment tax credits and windfall tax credits and the State gave a tax credit which made it feasible to refurbish the Denny Creek power house in 1983. The new power house includes
the original power house which was a rock structure and the turbine then they added a 75 kilowatt generator to it and built about a 250 foot power line to the P.P.& L. grid. The new pinstock consists of about 1,700 feet of 24 inch 10 gauge steel pipe plus a rather extensive concrete intake structure. It would more than supply the power needs of the ranch but it is less expensive to sell 100% of their power to P. P.& L. and buy back what they need.

Winston Patterson then pointed out the spot on Denny Creek where the old Tomahawk Tavern stood and the monument honoring Gen. Fremont which is now out on highway 140.

Winston told us that he and his family would "leave Klamath Falls about 8 a.m., come up through Long Lake, up the switch-back and around through Aspen Lake and get here at noon". This was their lunch stop. It was a beautiful "corduroy road" between the trees. The road then left Denny Creek and switched back up on the ridge to Aspen Lake and north to Odessa.

Verland Huff had interviewed Jack Linman on June 16, 1990 and was told that Jack who is now 88 years old, and his father had boats and barges and a pile driver on upper Klamath Lake. He said "the Doaks developed the ranch which later became the Alexander ranch. The house which they built was looked upon with great respect. It was splendid and just short of a mansion. Any of the buildings that were on the place when the Alexanders bought the place were put there by the Doaks". When the Doaks were up in years they moved to California where they died, still owning the ranch.

The Alexanders expanded the ranch and were the first to introduce Black Angus cattle into the area. They also moved to California in their later years where they also died.

We boarded the busses once again and drove on to Wampler's Odessa Ranch which we will tell you about in the June issue of The Trumpeter.

Transcribed from tape and written
by Mae L. Smith.
MUSEUM WISH LIST

Extra tools, almost any kind, would be helpful as we use them between 3 museums.

Working washing machine for cleaning rags and overalls etc.. I know, we have umpteen on the bleachers but they are not just what we need!

Power tools, Lynn really needs a saw in the shop, small power tools, too.

Washers, screws, nails, all sizes that you may have sitting around needing a home.

Old light fixtures, we need these for our Baldwin exhibit rooms.

Volunteers who will help frame in the Baldwin back porch.

COMING EVENTS

(subject to additions)

Klamath County Museum:
SCULPTURE OF DON SLOAN
May and June
DRAWINGS OF NO. Klamath County
by Ed Gray....July and August

Baldwin Hotel Museum
VINTAGE WEDDINGS
Every weekend in May
Grand Opening--June 1
MAUD BALDWIN HISTORICAL ARTS
FESTIVAL August 3, 4, 10, 11
PELICAN PIECEMAKERS QUILT SHOW
August 23, 24

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU,

MODOC LUMBER COMPANY

for the extremely generous donation of lumber which will be used to enclose the Baldwin back porch. We are planning to "spruce up" the back parking area of the Baldwin and the porch is the first step.

Also, the vacant lot at 41 Pine Street now belongs to the County and has been added to the Baldwin property. Maybe we can pave it and have additional parking for our patrons and special events!!

A project of the Historical Society has been to have some of the older taped interviews transcribed and also retaped as the old tapes are in danger of breaking. A young man from OIT has been accomplishing this for us.

THIS IS A REMINDER TO THOSE FEW OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT AS YET PAID YOUR 1991 HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES. DUES ARE $4. PER PERSON.

Our Tour this year is scheduled for Sunday June 23rd. We will visit the Dairy, Hildebrand and Bonanza areas.

Keep in touch!

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