HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOUR #1
27 JUNE 1993
DALTON RANCH, TSCHIRKY RANCH, BLOODY POINT & PETROGLYPH

We are a little late in telling you about the first Historical Society Tour taken on Sunday, 27 June 1993. Our video camera gave us good pictures but no sound therefore this account is being written mainly from notes taken on the tour and from research.

As usual we met at the Museum at 9 a.m. The County school buses were available for a historical trip and we rented two of them for the 73 people taking the tour.

After boarding we went directly to Merrill where we were informed that it costs $1,000 per year to maintain the large MIA flag there.

On our way to Malin we passed the old J. Frank Adams house later owned by Orems. The two story rock house which is painted white was used as the bunk house, mess hall and for storage.

As we passed Wilson Road, Florence Wilson told us the road had been named for her husband's family who homesteaded and farmed in Poe Valley. Florence and her husband, Hab lived in the home on Wilson Road for 48 years. It too was surrounded by poplar trees.

Entering Malin we drove to the State Line Road and onward to the Dalton Ranch where Betty Lou Dalton Byrne Shirley greeted us from the lawn in front of the lovely old home.

Betty Lou and her husband, Bob Shirley invited us to follow them to the lawn on the right side of the house where chairs had been arranged for those wishing to sit. On the lawn table, shaded
by a large umbrella to protect them, were pictures and memorabilia. Betty Lou began to tell the history of how the Dalton family came to be here.

This part of their land sets on the California side of the line with the State Line Road only a few hundred yards from the back door with a wooden fence to mark the boundary was the first piece of land to be granted patent in the Tule Lake Valley. Henry Miller homesteaded this land for three years before being killed by Indians in 1870. His body was not found for two or three months. He was a bachelor and lived in a cabin just south of the California-Oregon border on the shores of Tule Lake. His heirs sold to Jesse D. Carr and the deed was dated 27 April 1876.

The barn was built in the 1890's and sets only two or three yards from where the shore of Tule Lake had been. This big barn had been put together with pegs instead of nails. It has been modernized in more recent years with electricity, an aluminum roof, new gates and white paint.

Betty Lou showed us a photo of the original Jesse D. Carr home which was built in the same place as this large, modern home built about 1919 when Betty Lou's father, William Carson Dalton became owner of the land. An architect from San Francisco was in Klamath Falls and Mr. Dalton asked him to draw up the plans for the new house.

Betty told us, her father, William Carson Dalton came here in 1900 to manage the holdings of Jesse D. Carr Ranch. Dalton was the grand nephew of Jesse D. Carr.

William C. Dalton was born 9 January 1874 in Hartsville, Tennessee to J. R. and Agnes Ball Dalton. It was only natural that William was interested in agriculture as his father was a farmer. He left Tennessee for California and as a young man of 19, he worked at surveying at Merced, California. He soon became foreman of the Ruddel Ranch at Snelling, California. His first marriage was to Katie Lee Little of Snelling on November 4, 1900. Two children were born to this union: Lytle C. and Paul J. on the Hartery Ranch belonging to Jesse D. Carr. Mrs. Dalton died March 27, 1922 and Lytle died January 15, 1928.

William Dalton's second marriage was to Elizabeth E. Sullivan
in April 1925. Two children were born to this union: Betty Lou, born in Klamath Falls on March 2, 1926 and a son, William Carson, Jr. born on November 24, 1931.

It was William Dalton who planted the poplar trees on the place, having obtained them from Frank J. Adams.

We were told the men's dining room would seat 24 men. The table was so big and heavy that when it had to be moved once it took a tractor and scoop to move it. With so many cowhands and workers to feed it was necessary to have a full time cook on duty at all times and another woman to do the clean up work and to clean the bunk houses occasionally when they were empty. It took up to 50 beef cattle a year to supply beef for the crews of men. There is a stone meat house behind the big house where the meat was stored after having been butchered. The cattle driven to Yreka to market lost about 50% of their weight on this long drive.

Hunters used to come and stay for a month or more at a time while hunting.

Jesse D. Carr was born in June 1814 in Sumner County, Tennessee. He came west to San Francisco, California by way of the Isthmus of Panama in 1849 where a few months later he was the deputy collector of San Francisco. He later made his home in Salinas, California where he had a ranch and also established a bank. By 1857 Carr was awarded a contract to carry mail and passengers between Lincoln, California through Sacramento, Scott Valley, Yreka to Jacksonville and on to Portland, Oregon for the California Oregon Stage Company.

Jesse D. Carr must have been in the Klamath Basin in 1871 or before. According to the Klamath Echoes #15, page 40 it is written that the Klamath County Records (Deed Book #1, pgs. 6-13) reveal he first received deeds to land here on 27 November 1871 and on 27 February 1872. The land purchased included 400 acres in Section 36, Township 39 South, Range 8 East, located where the town of Midland is situated; 640 acres or all of Section 36, Township 39 South, Range 9 East which lies west of the Klamath Falls-Merrill Highway #39, and North and West of Mac's Store; and 480 acres in Section 36, Township 40 South, Range 10 East which lies 1 mile directly North of Merrill. Carr seemed to have had
TIMES HAVE CHANGED — This two-story house in the poplar trees was original home of Jesse D. Carr, owner of thousands of acres of land before other settlers arrived in Northern California and Southern Oregon. It served as both dwelling and cook house for ranch hands. It stood on exact spot of large modern home built many years later when the late W. C. Dalton owned the land. He was a nephew of Jesse D. Carr.
sheep on part of this land.

William Brotherton brought his family to the Tule Lake area in 1872 and settled just north of the present California-Oregon border on the northeast shore of the lake, about 75 yards north of the Henry Miller cabin. Mr. Brotherton and a son were killed at the beginning of the Modoc War and Mrs. Brotherton sold their land to Jesse D. Carr before returning east with her remaining family.

William and Louisa Boddy brought their family to the northern shore of Tule Lake near what is now Payger Road between Merrill and Malin and north of the Lost River High School, in 1871. All of the men in this family were killed at the outbreak of the War at Stone Bridge (Malone Rd. in Merrill). Mrs. Boddy and her daughter fled to the Olene Gap and were taken on to Linkville for safety. After the war, Mrs. Boddy and her daughter went to the Peninsula where the prisoners were being held after the surrender of Captain Jack and his men and attempted to kill Hooker Jim whom they especially held responsible for their losses. Louisa Boddy held on to her land and eventually married her foreman, Michael Hartery. By 1903 she had acquired over 3,000 acres of land which she did not sell to Jesse Carr until 1903 when she and her husband decided to move to southern California.

James Bevans homesteaded adjacent to the hill known first as Bevans' Point and later as Turkey Hill. He patented the land on 11 July 1882. He acquired considerable land and the house he built was the only one on land bought by the Czech settlers in 1909. He sold to Jesse C. Carr in 1903.

Several miles to the South East of the Miller Brotherton cabins on the north shore of Clear Lake, was located the ranch buildings of the Jesse Applegate family. They had arrived in the early summer of 1871 to found a cattle ranch for Jesse D. Carr under the Swamp Land Act of September 28, 1850. Under this Act settlers could file on their claims by several different ways: homestead, The Swamp Land Act, desert land claims, timber culture claims, preemptions and etc..

It may have been Jesse Applegate who encouraged Carr to buy the land from Clear Lake to where the Fish and Wildlife Reserve is
ranchers chief amongst them were the Boddy-Hartry combination and James Bevans. A suit was brought against Carr charging him with being hostile and defiant of the law. Carr accused his attackers of wanting the wall down so their cows could meet up with his blooded bulls. The U.S. Attorney, a Mr. Carrie became involved. He even visited the Carr ranch and while there he interviewed Langell, Straw and others and came to the conclusion that there still was no reason to remove the wall. Others also came but each of them concluded there was no real problem.

During the hard winter of 1889-90 Carr had lost 200 head of blooded Durham bulls and several thousand head of other cattle.

By 1899 the Carr holdings in Klamath County amounted to 3,882.08 acres and in Modoc County, California 18,962.54 acres. In June a petition was circulated by Mike Hartery with 36 others claiming Carr now had 200,000 acres of public land enclosed by his fence. They threatened him but the threats were never carried out. Another suit followed brought by other larger cattle ranchers among whom was Pres Doris and now also Langell and Straw and others. They demanded the fence on the Oregon side also be removed. This time they won. The Oregon portion of the fence was declared illegal but the California portion remained intact. But President McKinley received a request from Roosevelt to have the rest of the fence torn down, a very difficult project for the winter time so it was finally agreed that it would be alright to have "gaps" in the fence so the cattle could drift in and out. By 1902 the project was said to be completed and anyone was free to enter the land thereby releasing 84,000 acres by Carr.

The Irrigation system started in 1878 when the Linkville Water Ditch Company started a canal with a headgate in the east bank of Link River near where it emerged from Upper Klamath Lake. The canal came through the town of Klamath Falls irrigating town lots. In 1884 William Steele, a rancher acquired rights to the company and extended the ditch out into the sage brush country for about 15 miles to irrigate crops. Steele died in 1888 and a new company was incorporated under the title of The Klamath Irrigation Co. They took over Steele's rights and enlarged the
canal to the capacity of 50 second feet. The canal ran along the foothills in a southwesterly direction from Klamath Falls for a distance of 8 miles and then divided into an easterly and southerly branch. It irrigated about 4,000 acres and was called the Ankeny Canal. The Carr Land and Livestock Company bought the Steele Swamp with 3,500 head of cattle after Steele died.

In 1882 The Van Brimmer Brothers had begun construction on a small ditch to supply water to about 4,000 acres of land lying on the south and west sides of Lost River in the vicinity of Merrill. The ditch had its source in White Lake and was completed in 1886 and water for irrigation was diverted from the Lower Klamath Lake Basin into the Tule Lake Basin.

During this same year J. Frank Adams, with the help of other settlers, completed a small canal from Lost River to Adams Point, a distance of 6 miles after making an agreement with the Van Brimmer Brothers to furnish 5,000 inches of water through their system to the west bank of Lost River, from this point Adams would build a wooden flume to carry the water over Lost River. By 1904 it extended a distance of 22 miles around the north side of Tule Lake as far east as the Carr Ranch and to eventually to irrigate about 10,000 acres.

As has been told before, William Carson Dalton came to manage his great uncle's ranch in 1900. What Wm. Dalton found on his arrival was a big lake, a few cabins, and the rest was sage brush. It took days of riding in all directions to explore all that had come under his management but he could see the great possibilities for this land. During the first years on the ranch he began a large scale cattle enterprise and also started clearing the land in small pieces for farming. Dalton had the foresight to build a reservoir on Bryant Mountain to irrigate his crop of potatoes planted experimentally on land later to be owned by Stastny.

By 1903 the Carr Land and Livestock Company holdings totaled approximately 40,000 acres in the two states. Then on 19 December 1903 Jesse D. Carr died. His land in the Tule Lake Basin went to his daughter, Jesse Carr Seale. In 1906 all of the ranch land at Clear Lake was purchased by the Reclamation
now, if he needed any encouragement that is. Some writers have quoted Carr as saying he bought the land sight unseen on the word of Jesse Applegate. He may have, but it seems very unlikely that an astute business man like Carr would not have ridden the many miles around Clear Lake and seen for himself the potential for this land with its natural barrier of rimrock which almost enclosed thousands of acres of feed and an unlimited supply of water. In 1871 the two were in partnership on this land and Jesse Applegate was his foreman for a time. Jesse D. Carr hired Sam Parker from Sacramento to supervise the construction of his rock wall. Jesse Applegate did the surveying.

About 300 Chinese were brought from Yreka to work on the construction. It took seven years of back breaking work to complete this solid rock barrier to the height of 5 feet and about 5 feet wide to surround the thousands of acres inside. There were gates placed for entrance but they were kept locked with heavy iron chains and spring locks. There wasn't much opposition to this fence -- at first.

As early as 1873 Jesse D. Carr had purchased eight or nine bulls for $10,000 for his Salinas ranch from outstanding herds in the United States and Canada. He served as the first national president of the Durham Association in 1873. Many bulls were sent from his ranch to his holdings in Oregon and the Clear Lake ranch.

In 1875 it came to his attention through his friend, John P. Irish, a Port Collector from San Francisco that the possibility of a bill being passed in Congress to permit cattlemen to lease huge blocks of homestead land from the government, was being backed financially and politically by the cattlemen and himself. It was practically a sure thing and there would be no restrictions about fencing these tracts of land held as deeded lands. The Miller and Brotherton tracts at Tule Lake both were under the Swamp Land Act and later became the nucleus of the Jesse D. Carr, then the William C. Dalton Ranch.

In 1885 a law was passed to prohibit fencing of public lands for private use. But Carr continued adding to his fence up until 1887. He was meeting with more and more opposition from other
Service. But meanwhile Jesse Seale formed the Tule Lake Land and Livestock Company and sold 1/3 interest to William C. Dalton, and John Franks, her financial advisor. Later Dalton acquired both Jesse Seale's and John Franks' shares of the company.

On 15 November 1909 the Malin townsite came into reality when Alois Kalina signed papers for 40 acres of land owned by Wm. C. Dalton. Dalton also donated the original 7 acre plot for the Malin Cemetery. He was never against settlers coming in and helped them all he could even to the extent of hiring the men to work on his ranch and loaning them the things they needed until they were able to pay him.

In 1914 Dalton and Emmett Lahoda and Jim Worlow owned a sawmill on Bryant Mountain.

Betty Lou Shirley told us she was almost born on the ranch. They were trying to get her mother to Klamath Falls and were met by Dr. Truax who got her mother on in to town in time.

Mrs. Dalton loved the ranch and her love is reflected in the beautiful grounds surrounding the lovely big home. She belonged to the Garden Club and did much to improve the landscaping in her community.

The Tule Lake Land and Livestock Company eventually became the Klamath Lake Land and Livestock Company. By 1939 Bill Dalton had bought out all of his partners and it became the W.C. Dalton Co. Mr. Dalton died in 1958.

Betty Lou married Robert Byrne and they had five children, three sons, Robert D., Michael J. and Daniel W. and two daughters; Libby Byrne Flynn and Patricia Byrne Freund. Betty Lou's husband, Robert died 30 December 1988.

Betty Lou is now Mrs. Robert Shirley.

Before leaving the Dalton/Shirley home we were taken towards the back of the house and shown the big bell used to call the men in from the fields for their meals.

After taking snapshots, we boarded the buses again and drove towards the Tschirky Ranch. We passed fields of sugar beets and a round-domed building that is a potato cellar. The day was so clear we had a wonderful view of Mount Shasta as we neared the Tschirky Ranch.
Paul and Ruby Tschirky greeted us as we drove on to their land which they bought from the Bureau of Land Management in 1954. The land was covered by sand dunes, sage brush and rock. Paul started clearing and leveling the place in 1956. They found what might have been a burial ground so he stopped leveling there and surrounded the remaining 5 or 6 graves with railroad ties to form a barrier. These are still there just as they were when the Tschirky's first moved there. They also left a piece of the original emigrant road which is about 200 feet above the graves. It is also still there.

A few years ago the University of Idaho made a dig to see if the land showed anything to indicate a burial ground. They didn't find anything. Roderick Sprague was in charge of the dig and dug through hard pan that had been there for a hundred years or more. This soil only has 4 or 5 inches of sandy top soil to cover the hard pan.

In early times the Upper Klamath Lake was about 50 feet higher than Lower Klamath Lake and Tule Lake was about 50 feet lower than the Lower Klamath. Lots of tules surrounded it's shores.

Jim Flowers told us fish, ducks and deer were plentiful. The wild rye grass grew very high, maybe 5 feet or better. It is a tough, wiry grass that does not crush down with the weight of the snow. When the area became more settled with cattlemen the cattle were driven down around the lake edge and left to feed on the wild rye grass during the winter.

The emigrants came around the north end of the lake when it was at a lower than usual level. A few years later where they came across from Bloody Point to Stone Bridge was under water. The feed and pasture was plentiful and the cattle found lots of feed.

Paul Tschirky pointed out to us the salt grass ridge, about five or six feet high leading out toward the lake and told us the higher ground is where the emigrants passed in 1852.

The buses then took us from the Tschirky land on up the old Applegate Emigrant road used from 1846 to the top of the hill. Here we could actually walk on the old road itself as the pioneers did.
Jim Flowers talked about the massacres occurring on this Bloody Point. On one wagon train coming through here, all the people were massacred by the Indians. Right afterwards another wagon train came through but they were saved because they were going to Yreka and they traveled down by Mount Dome. This wagon train was running out of provisions and they had sent word ahead asking for help. Of those sent here to meet the wagon train with supplies all but one was killed. This man escaped and went back for help. This time twenty seven men came back with provisions to meet the wagon train and try to save them from an attack. They were to meet them here. Three men were sent down the hill to see what the conditions were and they were killed by the Indians. The wagon train still went on down the hill following the men down to the lake. The Indians were still hiding in the rocks and tules and high rye grass so the wagons circled and began to fight off the Indians. This continued for about a day and a half. In the afternoon of the next day the relief group came charging in on horse back but instead of riding right up to the wagons to begin fighting, they got between the Indians and the wagons. The Indians had the advantage of having canoes which they could maneuver anyplace through the water. They left their canoes out in the water and walked in amongst the tules and rye grass to hide. When they saw they were being cut off by the 27 men in the relief group the Indians broke and ran towards their canoes. Running through years and years of intertwined tules is very difficult. The relief group killed about 40 Indians before the rest escaped.

The next day they scouted the area and discovered the remains of the previous wagon train and all the mutilated bodies. From the conditions of those bodies they could tell the massacre had occurred very recently.

Verland then told us that including the finding of the bodies of the 2 scouts they found the 22 bodies of the white people. The Volunteer Group from Yreka thought they had killed 47 Indians but the Indians only admitted to having 27 men killed. Then Ben Wright started to clear out the Modocs over the next two or three years. He probably killed 72. The census of 1864 showed there
were 300 Modocs left. It is not known whether that included women and children or not.

While we were standing there, Verland also told us that this power line above us was a 500 KV power line. Pointing, he also told us we were about 10 miles from the north east shore of Clear Lake. From the top of this hill we had a beautiful view of the many, many green fields stretching out before us.

From here the buses took us out through Copic Bay where Mr. Copic took up a claim in about 1872 and planted an orchard. We drove around in back of Newell and across the Peninsula and on towards the Petroglyphs.

Verland told us that the ancient Modoc Lake at the time the Petroglyphs were done was about 4,300 feet deep and this part by the Petroglyphs was a little less than 2,100 feet. You can see the round, curved portion where the waves cut the indentations at that level. It is quite obvious that it hasn't been under water too many times since they were put there 2,200 to 4,500 years ago.

Some of us on the tour can remember when the Petroglyphs were in much better condition than they are now and that would indicate that they haven't been under water too many times, if ever. There is a feeling that the people who put them up there were in canoes and did this work from the canoe.

There used to be a flag painted up there and one on the other side also, that was visible until about 1950. Verland passed here a few years ago after it had just rained and could still see the outline of the flag on this side.

The Fish and Wildlife and the Monument have been trying to figure ways to keep the Petroglyphs from further erosion. They have actually thought of filling this graveled portion where we were standing, with water to keep the gravel from blowing around.

This region is home to numerous gulls, swallows and birds of prey that live around this area.

After we had viewed the Petroglyphs more closely from outside the cyclone fence guarding them and taking snapshots, we proceeded to Captain Jack's Stronghold to take our lunch break.

written by Mae L. Smith
The Klamath County Historical Society Officers for 1994 are as follows:

Wayne Scott-------------------President
Billie Fitzhugh----------------Vice President
Janice Kafton ----------------Secretary
Paul Fitzhugh-------------------Treasurer
Board Members
Caroline Dearborn --James Flowers--Carol Mattos

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

If you have not remembered to send in your membership dues for 1994, please do so immediately to enable us to make our membership and mailing lists.

DUES ARE $5. PER YEAR WHICH INCLUDES RECEIVING THE TRUMPETER.