Upcoming Meetings

September 22, 7 p.m.
Italians in Klamath
by Richard Pastega

October 27, 7 p.m.
Town Founder George Nurse
by Connie McCornack

November 13, 1 p.m.
Annual Potluck with Fort Klamath Highlights
By Todd Kepple

Tours and Talks

September 10 & 11, 4-5 p.m.
Linkville Cemetery Tour
by Carol Mattos

October 7 & 8
Night at the Cemetery

October 15
Fall Color Bus Tour
By Todd Kepple

Museum Happenings

It's been a year of outstanding museum programs.

Don't miss the all cultural news, walks, talks, and great events.

Get on the Midge newsletter mailing list by sending your email to
midge@co.klamath.or.us

Going a bit Green

In keeping with the many organizations who are going green, we will be publishing an electronic version of the Trumpeter and send to all on our email list.

You can still receive a mailed newsletter, but we will ask you to specify your delivery preference.

We will begin polling members at our September 22 meeting.

To get on the mailing list, send a note to
klcohiso@yahoo.com

Klamath County Historical Society Meeting Programs

Be sure to attend the fall meetings of the Historical Society, hear what has been happening this past year, what is underway and upcoming, and enjoy the programs.

Italians in Klamath - Richard Pastega recalls the history of Italian-Americans in Klamath Falls, September 22, 7 p.m.

Town Founder George Nurse - A look at the life and times of George Nurse, founder of Linkville. A presentation by Connie McCornack, October 27, 7 p.m.

Meetings are held in the old Armory- Museum at 1451 Main Street.
A Year to Remember

It’s been a memorable and exciting year. The Museums, threatened with closure this spring, have survived with the passage of a three-year levy.

Our gratitude to the more than 300 people who worked so hard to make this happen, and to the people of Klamath County who voted so enthusiastically to keep our Museums open.

Of course, we acknowledge that it was truly a vote for Todd Kepple, his energetic community outreach and many unique programs that made this possible.

Armory on the National Register

The old Armory, that now houses the main Klamath County Museum, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places this summer. Many thanks to Judith Hassen, who wrote an outstanding nomination.

Constructed in 1935 during the middle of the Great Depression, the Armory and Auditorium provided space to the Oregon National Guard’s 249th Coast Artillery and functioned as a community center for local activities and large public gatherings through the 1960s.

The Armory served as a venue for boxing, wrestling matches, circuses, community dances, and also musical acts that ranged from Duke Ellington and B.B. King, to Tex Williams and Hank Thompson. Many a young man and woman met their future mates at these gatherings.

A dedication ceremony was held on July 14, and Dr. Jeff LaLande gave the keynote speech. He praised Judith’s nomination as “one of the best he had ever read.”

You can read the nomination online at www.oregonheritage.org.

Picnic on the Williamson

The Historical Society Picnic was held at Phyllis and Paul Goebel’s lovely cabin on the Williamson River on Saturday, July 23.

In addition to the delicious food, there was kayaking fun and lots of avid fishermen competing from the dock. Tim Connor took the trophy with a big four-pound trout.

Artillery and functioned as a community center for local activities and large public gatherings through the 1960s.

Special thanks to Phyllis and Paul Goebel for hosting our annual picnic at their lovely riverside location.
Westside Bus Tour

The Westside Bus tour on Saturday June 11 was surely one of the most interesting society-museum events this past summer. Todd Kepple and Ron Loveness provided a lively history of Upper Klamath Lake water transportation history with lots of points of interest along the way.

We offer special thanks to Pelican Charters, who once again donated a bus for our tour and to the skills of our driver Bill, who navigated along both winding highways and narrow gravel roads.

A tasty buffet lunch was provided by Rocky Point Resort where we also had an opportunity to view a meeting of small paddle steamers on the lake. The cost for this year’s lunch and tour was $20.

Points of interest visited included the Rock Creek Ranch, Tomahawk town site, Pelican Guard Station, and Pelican Cut.

Special emphasis was on the history of the several lakeside resorts developed during the early 1900s that once served as destinations for the rich and famous vacationers on the lake.

We were invited to view the handsome interiors of the Pelican Comfort Resort and the Crystal Wood Lodge and to explore the former site of the Odessa Lodge on the Wampler Ranch.

Rock Creek Ranch

Our first stop was at the Rock Creek Ranch where owner Cameron Curtiss provided the history of the ranch and discussed his strategies for land and stream conservation.

We toured the original barn built in the 1880s by a man who provided horses to the soldiers at Fort Klamath, still standing and in use after more than 130 years.

Lakeside Resort Lodges

Our tour then focused on the sites of some of these famous resorts once served by paddle steamers on the lake and we toured the wonderful lodges that remain today around Rocky Point.

Initially developed as landings for passengers and to ship out logs and log rafts, such as at Crystal Creek landing on the Brown Ranch, several were later developed by a variety of different ranch owners as camping spots and vacationers’ resorts.
Crystal Creek Ranch and Lodge

Owned by Liz Parish and Jan Kelley, the Crystal Wood Lodge is located on the old Brown homestead. Dan Brown talked about the history of his ranch and life on the lake while lodge owner Liz Parish invited us in to see the lodge as it is today.

The property was first homesteaded by the Brown family in the late 1800s, and the building that is now the Crystal Wood Lodge was built in 1892. It was owned by the Brown family until 1975.

Steamer boats would come up from Klamath Falls to Crystal Springs with supplies for Fort Klamath soldiers, which would be transferred to wagons and driven the 15 miles to the Fort.

Today, Crystal Wood Lodge is rented to private groups for fishing, weddings, and other events.

Pelican Bay – Point Comfort

The Pelican Bay resort was built in 1899, was purchased by the Klamath Development Company in 1906, with railroad mogul E.H. Harriman as its silent partner and actual owner.

Harriman renamed it Harriman Lodge and vacationed there in 1907–1908. Among Harriman's guests were naturalist John Muir and financier J.P. Morgan.

After Harriman’s death in 1909, the property was sold back to the Klamath Development Company and in 1912 they built the Point Comfort Lodge.

The Point Comfort Lodge has been meticulously restored and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Note. The original two-story log structure has been removed.

Harriman Lodge. Courtesy Klamath County Museum

Odessa—Wampler Ranch

Initially a homestead and developed as a resort known as the Poplars, the property was purchased and developed by a Mr. Griffith in 1901.

Griffith erected a new hotel in 1902 and the name was changed to Odessa. Later a dance pavilion was added and a sawmill was built in 1904. In 1909, the property passed into the hands of E.H. Harriman.

Bev Wampler showed us the locations of the former Odessa Lodge and the buildings that once occupied this important landing on the lake.

The original cabin (below) at Odessa that served as a trading post in the early 1900s still remains today.

Basket Seller Trading at Odessa from canoe
**Museum Highlights**

The museum has had a busy summer with walks and special field programs every week. Family outings especially appealed to parents with children. Some favorites were the programs on digging ipos roots, collecting rocks, and star watching at Fort Klamath.

**Malin Bus Tour**

The Malin Bus Tour is an annual favorite. It is jointly sponsored by the Malin Historical Society and the Klamath County Museums led by renowned guides, Ryan Bartholomew and Todd Kepple.

Starting out near Midland, Todd highlighted land developments, cattle ranching history, Italian pioneers, and the central relationship of the livestock industry to the railroad and the town of Midland.

As we travelled along Lost River and around Tule Lake, Ryan discussed the complex misunderstandings and treacheries leading to the Modoc War and important sites of conflict—the Natural Bridge on Lost River, Bloody Point, and the ranches attacked by Hooker Jim’s Band.

**Upcoming at the Museum**

**Link River East Side hike**, 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Meet at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office on California Ave.

**Linkville Cemetery walk**, 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, and will be repeated at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11.

**Rattlesnake Point hike** - 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 17. Space limited. Call the museum to reserve a spot and obtain directions.

**Volunteer Huddle**, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20 at the Klamath County Museum.

**Italians in Klamath**, 7 p.m., September 22. Klamath County Historical Society Meeting, at the Museum.

**Night at the Cemetery** -- Oct. 7-8, Linkville Cemetery. Tickets $8, available soon.

**Fall Color Bus tour** - Saturday, Oct. 15. $25 includes bus ticket and lunch at Rocky Point Resort. Call the museum at 883-4208 to reserve your seat with a bank card.

**Oak Woodlands walk** - 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, at the Running Y Resort.

**Klamath to Lakeview tour** - October 20, details soon. Sponsored by Klamath Community College, with support from the Klamath County Museum.

**Town Founder George Nurse** - 7 p.m. October 27, Klamath County Historical Society meeting at the museum.

"Treaties and Treachery" - 7 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Klamath County Museum. Lecture and book signing by author Kurt Nelson.

**Breakfast with Santa** - 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Klamath County Museum.

Get details and keep updated on events in the museum’s *Midge* newsletter.

Not on the list? Send your email to

midge@co.klamath.or.us

or call the museum at 541-883-4208.
We are redesigning the *Trumpeter* and propose to join the many organizations that are going green and using electronic publishing.

The newsletter is published quarterly, and future articles will highlight new research and special reports on unique aspects of Klamath County history.

You can still receive a paper copy via the regular mail, but we will ask that you specify your delivery preference. We will begin polling members at our September 22 meeting.

Do you want to continue receiving the *Trumpeter* via email? Please respond to the email listed below.

klcohiso@yahoo.com

Please feel free to share with friends.

Be sure to update your membership by the end of the year so you won’t miss any upcoming issues.