Meetings Schedule 2012

**March 22:** Life in a Logging Camp, Dorothy Fairfield

**April 26:** History of Kingsley Field, Ryan Bartholomew

**May 24:** 100 years of HooHoo in Klamath Falls, Ron Loveness

**September 27:** Early School Houses in Klamath County, Todd Kepple

**October 25:** Rustlers, Rogues, and Range Wars, Liz Budy

Tours and Walks

**June 2 & 3:** Walking Tour; Historic High Street Houses, 1 p.m. Carol Mattos

**Summer Bus Tour, June TBA:** Along the Trail of the California-Northeastern, Todd Kepple et al.

**Possible Summer Trip TBA:** Paisley Caves and Summer Lake

Meetings are held at 7 pm on the fourth Thursday of March, April, May, September and October in the Armory-Museum at 1451 Main Street

March 22, Membership Meeting

Be sure to attend our first meeting of the year on Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m., at the Klamath County Museum, 1451 Main Street.

Dorothy Fairfield will present a slide show about her life in Weyerhaeuser Camp 6 in the years 1946 to 1954.

After Weyerhaeuser expanded timber harvest to their lands east of Klamath Falls in the 1940s, camps were established along the O. C. & E. railroad to house loggers, some of whom brought their families.

Dorothy visited Camp 6 as a young girl in 1946, met her future husband there, returned as a new bride in 1948, and lived in the camp until 1954. She will talk about her impressions of life in a logging camp, the men who worked in the woods, and the women who cooked, canned, and raised children in the primitive family cabins.

Museum Happenings

**April 15:** Italians Immigrants on the Land in America, by Vincenza Scarpaci, 7 p.m. at the Armory-Museum.

**May 8:** Teddy Roosevelt Re-enactor Joe Wiegand, 7 p.m., at the Ross Ragland Theater. Sponsored by the Oregon Historic Society and Klamath County Museum.

Check the *Midge* for Museum details and a list of other cultural happenings in the community. Get on the list by sending your email to *midge@co.klamath.or.us*. 
100 Years of Oregon Women’s Vote
By Liz Budy, with contributions from Carol Mattos, Bridget Burns, Polly Tickner, Jackie Bonner, and Sue Fortune

This year of 2012 marks the 100 year anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote in Oregon.

The campaign to achieve voting rights for Oregon women from 1870 to 1912 was part of a broad regional and national movement that began in the 1840s. In Oregon, the question of voting rights for women was placed on the ballot six times – more than any other state. It was defeated in 1884, 1900, 1906, 1908, and 1910. It wasn’t until 1912 that Oregon women finally got the right to vote (Jensen 2012: 1).

Western states and territories saw most of the earliest victories for women’s suffrage. Wyoming was first in 1890, followed by Colorado (1893), Utah (1896), and Idaho (1896). By 1910, Washington had the vote and in 1911 it passed in California. In Oregon, women finally won the right to vote in 1912 after successful coalition building of the many suffrage groups across the state (Jensen 2012: 1-2). One of these was the Equal Suffrage League in Klamath Falls.

Although Abigail Scott Duniway is renowned as the leader of the women’s suffrage movement in Oregon, beginning in the 1870s, other women activists are less well known. This is especially true for the supporters of women’s suffrage in Klamath County during the all-important 1912 campaign.

Suffrage Campaign in Klamath County

How did the Klamath County voters feel about women’s suffrage in 1912? Who were the influential male voters in the community, and did they support or oppose suffrage? Finally, how did Klamath County voters cast their ballots on November 5, 1912?

Little is recorded about women’s suffrage in the histories of early Klamath County, but a search of local newspapers, especially the Evening Herald, is revealing. We were rather surprised to discover that an Equal Suffrage League in Klamath Falls conducted an active campaign in 1912. It was led by important pioneer women and supported by influential men in the community. Importantly, the suffrage campaign received favorable coverage in both the Klamath Republican and Evening Herald, indicating support of the two prominent local newspaper publishers.

Women’s associations and organizations formed the backbone of the suffrage movement throughout Oregon. In a small community like Klamath Falls, which had a population of only 447 in 1900 and just 2,758 by 1910 (H&N 2003: 7), women’s groups were especially important in the suffrage cause.

The women in the Klamath Equal Suffrage League were dedicated to the development and betterment of their small, emerging community, were active in all important social organizations, and maintained lifelong friendships.

Notable associations were the Pioneer Society established in 1905, the several church groups, especially the early Methodist Church, the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, and most crucial for the suffrage movement, the Woman’s Library Club (1904).
In fact, it seems that the Equal Suffrage League emerged out of the Woman’s Library Club. Certainly, there were close connections among women involved in both.

**Equal Suffrage League in the News**

Although we have no ledger listing all the women in the Equal Suffrage League, and there were sure to be many supporters, the names of four women were printed in the *Evening Herald* on September 9, 1912. Frances Boyd was listed as president of the league, Julia Zumwalt was secretary, and Anne Brockenbrough was treasurer. Luella Stearns hosted the important September campaign meeting at her house and was an important ally.

First mentioned in the May 3 edition of the *Evening Herald*, the Equal Suffrage League actively organized the Klamath campaign on September 9. Hosted at Luella Stearns’ home, Mrs. Sperry from New Era Club in San Francisco provided impetus and urged publicity to keep the work and aim of the league before the public. The local league joined the Southern Oregon Suffrage League: “This will insure the coming here of some of the big men of Oregon to speak in behalf of equal suffrage.” They also secured a booth at the county fair, a big event in Klamath at that time.

Although the editors did not editorialize, the inclusion of favorable articles indicated the newspaper publishers were sympathetic to the cause. In September, the *Evening Herald* favorably reported on the suffrage movement and highlighted the support of influential men: “Buffalo Bill After Votes for Women” (September 12) and “Ballot for Women Growing in Favor” (September 24). An October 18 article, “Votes for Women Being Discussed,” included the amendment language on the ballot and a portion of the arguments for and against. The selection of the arguments “for” were much more conspicuous.

Although not named in the newspapers, it is obvious that many prominent men in Klamath Falls actively supported the Equal Suffrage League. A large automobile parade was held in Klamath Falls on November 2, just three days prior the election. The *Evening Herald* on November 1 called on automobile owners to help the cause and loan their autos, noting that “Already a number of automobile owners have indicated their willingness to co-operate with the local suffragettes ....”

On November 2, the morning of the parade, an article on the front page of the *Evening Herald* announced,

**Parade to Boom Votes for Women**

The Women’s Equal Suffrage League will participate in an auto parade here tonight. A number of citizens have offered their automobiles for the purpose. At different points along the line of march speeches will be made by prominent Klamath Falls men.

So was the campaign successful? Did Klamath County male voters support the women’s right to vote on November 5, 1912? See the answer on page 5.
Who Were the Klamath Women in the Equal Suffrage League?

Two women, Frances Boyd and Luella Stearns, were among the earliest pioneers; Julia Zumwalt, an opera singer, performed at all important community events, and Anne Brockenbrough was a newcomer who became the first County librarian in 1914-1915.

Frances Boyd

Frances Ellen Corpe Boyd, president of the Equal Suffrage League, was among the earliest pioneers in Klamath. She was born in Nebraska in 1856 and travelled across the plains with her family in 1874 at age 18 (KCHS 1984: 150). Her family was among the earliest settlers in Klamath Country. In 1877, her father, Eumaeus Corpe, established their homestead on Corpe Island in the Klamath River. Her sister Mary married George Nurse, the founder of Klamath Falls.

Frances married Dr. E. J. Boyd, the first dentist in Klamath, in 1879 at the age of 23 and they subsequently had three children. Both were active in the early city development.

E.J. Boyd built a two-story building next to the Baldwin Building (later hotel) to accommodate his drug store and dental offices. The Methodists held services in the building (in 1899), the National Guard drilled in it, and young people gathered to dance there (Museum Biography files). The Boyds divorced at some point, but Frances retained her prominence while Dr. Boyd faded into the shadows.

Frances was a true pioneer. She “befriended the Indians, nursed the sick, and played the organ for dances,” helped organize the first Methodist Church (1890s), was a founding member of the Woman’s Library Club (1904), and was active in the temperance movement. She was instrumental in establishing the first City Library in the Methodist Church building in 1906. And it was in the City Library that the Equal Suffrage League often met while organizing the 1912 suffrage campaign (KCHS 1984:150).

Frances Boyd died in 1939 at the age of 82.

Luella Stearns

Luella M. Sherman Stearns, another early pioneer, was a supporter of the Equal Suffrage League and hosted an all-important September 9th meeting of the league at her home, where they first truly organized the local 1912 campaign.

Luella M. Sherman was born in Iowa in 1862, and moved with her family to Oregon in 1874. At the age of 16, she was teaching school in Jackson County, Oregon (1877).

In 1897, Luella married O.A. Stearns in Klamath Falls. She was 35; O.A. was 54. Luella was his second wife and she and O. A. had one son born in 1898. O.A. had three other children from his first marriage, but they were mostly grown by the time of his marriage to Luella. The Stearns lived on their ranch after they married in 1897 until 1909 when they moved into Klamath Falls (Good 1941: 278).
By the 1912 meeting of the Equal Suffrage League at her home, Luella’s husband O.A. was well-established in the county and a man of considerable influence. He was a Civil War veteran, having enlisted in the Oregon Volunteers in 1864, and filed one of the first homesteads in the county in 1867 on a ranch 8 miles west of Linkville (Klamath Falls) where he started the first dairy. He was the first Justice of the Peace in Lake County (which then included Klamath), and was elected to the State Legislature under the Republican ticket in 1880 (Good 1941: 276-278).

As the wife of a respected early pioneer and influential politician, Luella had considerable influence in the Klamath Falls community. She was a member of the small organization that developed the present modern library, was active in temperance work, and in all “the important social and civic movements of her time in Klamath Falls” (Good 1941: 278).

Luella Stearns died in 1942 at the age of 80.

Julia Zumwalt

Julia Kinsey Zumwalt, secretary of the Equal Suffrage League, was a formally-trained opera singer and gifted instrumentalist. She maintained a music studio in Klamath Falls, was a popular music teacher, and frequently performed at important community functions. In 1915, she joined the Andrews Opera Company in Medford and toured in Oregon, California, and Arizona. She continued to teach music after she returned to Klamath Falls.

They came to Klamath Falls on a four-horse stage on a hot July day in 1905, “only to find there wasn’t a single lemon in the town to make a cool glass of lemonade” (Evening Herald, Feb 3, 1915).

Don became the City Engineer and was responsible for laying out town additions, irrigation networks, roads, and overseeing dam construction.

Julia was an early member of the Woman’s Library Club, performed annual benefit concerts for the library, and maintained lifelong friendships with many of the original Equal Suffrage League members well into the mid-1950s (see Minnie Grizzle scrapbooks and Museum Biography files).

Julia Zumwalt died in 1960 at the age of 85.

Anne Brockenbrough

Anne C. Spencer Brockenbrough was treasurer of the Equal Suffrage League in 1912, but we have little other information about her so far.

Census records indicate she was born in Indiana around 1862, and married John C. Brockenbrough in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, in 1880. She was about 18 years old; John was 24. In 1885, they were in Lafayette where John was working as a cashier in a bank. In 1910, they were living in Goldfield, Nevada, and John was in the real estate business. By 1911, they were in Klamath Falls and John worked as a bookkeeper.

In 1914, Anne became the first librarian for the County Library. The Brockenbroughs lived in Klamath Falls until at least 1920.

How did Klamath County Vote in November 1912?

The campaign was successful. According to Linda Smith, our Klamath County Clerk, the official election results of 1912, under the issue “Equal Suffrage Amendment, extending the right of suffrage to women,” was:

Yes 919
No 688

Sources: Rachel Applegate Good (1941), History of Klamath County Oregon: Its Resources and People; Klamath County Historical Society (KCHS)(1984), Klamath Country History; Evening Herald 1912 (articles as listed); Kimberly Jensen (2012), “Woman Suffrage in Oregon,” in www.centuryofaction.org; Herald and News (H&N) (2003), Klamath County Historic Photo Album, Volume II. Other sources include Federal Census (1880, 1900, 1910, 1920); Klamath Falls City Directories (1909, 1911, 1920, 1933); Oregon Death Indexes; Klamath County Marriage Index; Klamath County Museum Archives (Minnie Grizzle Scrapbook, Biography Files, Pioneer Society Ledger); and obituaries.
Irene Currin, Born January 29, 1912, Celebrates 100th Birthday

Irene Currin celebrated her 100th birthday at the Klamath Yacht Club on January 29. Son Hugh and his wife Denise hosted the party, and about 70 friends dropped by to eat cake with Irene and help her celebrate this momentous occasion.

Although living and nursing through our tragic war, Irene has maintained her dedication to living life to the fullest, and to the celebration of the history and beauty of Klamath County.

Klamath’s Oldest Veteran

Irene began her Army career at Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1942. She worked at Fitzsimons General Hospital, served in French Algeria, and was in Besancon, France, with the F46th General Hospital. She returned to the U.S. in August 1945.

An outdoor enthusiast all her life, Irene loves boating, hiking, camping, bird watching, and cross-country skiing.

With Letta Goehring along the Rogue after both turned 80.

Irene is a long-term supporter of the Historical Society & Museum, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a founding member of the Yacht Club.

From all of us,

Happy 100 Years to an amazing woman!
Link River Canyon and Klamath Vista

Link River Canyon is a unique open space in the center of downtown Klamath Falls. Many of us enjoy walking the trail, picking blackberries, or watching the pelicans herding fish along the river, and know that the canyon is a very special place. It remains essentially wild and rugged, while at the same time preserving our important history, but a proposed subdivision threatens to spoil the view throughout the entire canyon.

The natural beauty of the landscape preserves a feeling of other times. We can recall Alfred Meacham’s words in 1875:

“Along the banks of this stream flowers bloom the year round, and vegetation is green for several rods from the banks. The scene from the ridge on the north that overlooks Link Valley is one of rare beauty” (Wigwam and Warpath, p. 286).

The earliest history of Klamath Falls developed along the banks of Link River. George Nurse established Linkville (Klamath Falls) at the mouth of the canyon in 1867; Thomas Martin built the first flour mill here in 1885; William S. Moore built an early sawmill in 1877; the earliest irrigation systems, so central to our agricultural economy, drew waters from the river (1878-1905) (Klamath Country History 1984: 5-28).

The Klamath Indians lived along the river for thousands of years before the first settlers arrived, locating their villages along the lake and river edges and fishing at the falls, which was “one of the principal fishing places of the region” (Klamath County Museum papers).

The Moore family, were among earliest settlers, but they recognized the importance of preserving open spaces.

Descendants of patriarch William S. Moore twice gifted land to the City for a park. The first, located on the west shore of Lake Ewauna, was sold to the Great Northern Railway. The second gift, this time with a careful deed restriction, is the Moore Park of today. The park encloses the western canyon ridge and protects the west side of the river (Klamath Country History 1984: 327).

The history of the eastern rim is more complex. George Nicholson set aside 90 acres in 1980, and citizens subsequently have had to work hard to maintain this as open space. The only unprotected ridge is 28 acres on the northeastern canyon wall. It was platted for 50 homes in 2006, but none have sold. The homes would be visible along the entire reach of the canyon.

The Klamath Greenways Foundation proposes to take advantage of the stalled housing development, seek a grant to purchase the properties, and create a vista point. The ridge top provides spectacular views of Upper Klamath Lake, its marshes and wildlife, extending to snowy mountains on the horizon, as well as the views along the extent of the Link River below. It could snag visitors off Highway 97 and draw tourists to the area. It would be a wonderful opportunity to open the eyes of our children to the beauty and history of Klamath Basin.

Todd Kepple & Tim Meidinger at proposed Lot 8, Link River Estates, February 26, 2012.

Klamath County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the past for the future, and Link River Canyon is a cultural treasure. Please show your support for the Klamath Greenways Foundation’s Klamath Vista Project now and in future developments.

Visit www.linkriver.org to keep informed, sign up for Greenways, and link to the photo log on Facebook.

Photos courtesy of Klamath Greenways Foundation.
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 will still receive a paper copy via the regular mail in 2012 to maintain minimum needed for our bulk mailing permit, but we will ask that you specify your delivery preference in the upcoming year.

If you do not want to receive the Trumpeter via email, send a note to klcohiso@yahoo.com

Please feel free to share with friends.

Don’t forget to renew your memberships for 2012.

We value your support!