Upcoming Meetings Schedule

July 28: Picnic on the Williamson River

September 26: Prohibition: Dry Times in the High Desert, by Bruce McCornack.

October 24: The Region’s Earliest Inhabitants: Archaeological Investigations at the Paisley Caves, by Dennis Jenkins.

November 10: Potluck at the Museum

Museum Events

July 21: Baldwin Hotel Ice-Cream Social
August 3: Fort Klamath Barbecue & Speaker
August 17: Baldwin Hotel Vintage Wedding Dresses
August 22: Fort Klamath: The Tribal View
September 7-8: Fort Klamath 150 Celebration
September 15: Baldwin Hotel Living History Day
October 12: Baldwin Hotel Antique Toys Show

Special thanks to Judith Hassen for the street banners that now hang proudly on Main Street in front of the Museum and highlight the Old Armory’s National Register significance. Judith initiated the project and oversaw all aspects to its completion. Judith, Mary Van De Bogart and Jack Bowden contributed the unique design; Todd Kepple provided important support and advice. The Klamath County Historical Society, The Cultural Coalition, The Klamath County Museum, High Desert Promotions, and the City of Klamath Falls contributed funding and services.

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The Klamath County Historical Society’s annual summer picnic will be held once again at the Goebel’s lovely cabin on the Williamson River. Join us to share good food, music, and friendship under the big shade trees along the river. There is plenty of parking on Rivers Drive next to the cabin. If you bring a container, the Goebels have some viola plants to share.

Food will be served at 2:00 p.m., but feel free to come earlier to fish, paddle the river, or just laze about.

Phyllis Goebel and Kathie Inman are making lots of homemade ice cream, and we also are providing ham. Bring a dish to share, your personal table service, a beverage, and a lawn chair.

**Directions**

From Klamath Falls, north on Highway 97 to Modoc Point Road and turn left. Follow the road for 5.4 miles to the Williamson River Store and Resort. Turn right onto Rivers Drive, a gravel road across from the store. At the “T” in the road, turn left towards the river. The Goebel cabin is gold with a carport in the yard, and the address at 32604 is signed. Russian olive trees block the view of the house from the road, but look for balloons at the gate.

*For more information, call the Goebels at 541-884-0610.*
Linkville Cemetery Cleanup May 4

Thanks to All Volunteers!

Our 4th Annual Linkville Pioneer Cemetery Cleanup was another great success. More than 78 volunteers participated, including the Klamath Falls City Parks and Cemetery Division, the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, the Klamath County Historical Society, The Klamath Basin Genealogical Society, Sons of Norway, and the general public.

Special thanks to Ken Hay and Dave Andrews for supporting all our work and to Nic Phair who organized the many volunteers from the LDS Church.
Summer Tours and Walks

Merrill Cemeteries Tour, May 27

About 20 people braved the rainy weather for the tour of the Merrill and I.O.O.F cemeteries led by Polly Tickner and Jackie Bonner.

Polly Tickner discussed the history of Merrill Cemetery, originally called “Old Tulelake Cemetery,” which was established in 1896 and profiled several early settlers.

Jackie Bonner led the tour to the nearby I.O.O.F Cemetery, which was established by the Oddfellows in 1924. Jackie related the history of some early ranching families whose ancestors are buried here.

Pacific Terrace History Walk, June 15

About 100 people joined the walk along a section of Pacific Terrace.

Carol Mattos led the walk and described the early history of the Hot Springs neighborhood, so named for the many geothermal springs along the hillside. The Hot Springs Addition was developed in 1905 by the Klamath Development Company in anticipation of the coming of the railroad (which arrived in 1909).
Most of the homes viewed were built after 1910 by prominent doctors, lumbermen and businessmen and reflect an eclectic variety of architectural styles.

Jackie Bonner provided details for the distinctive Early Bungalow style home at 851 Pacific Terrace. Tom Molatore’s family is only the second owner since the home was built in 1916, almost 100 years ago.

Ron Loveness profiled three important lumbermen who lived on this street: Richard Hovey, who built and managed the lumber Mill at Algoma in 1912; Ivan Kesterson, who built the Kesterson Lumber Mill on Lake Ewauna in 1930; and J. Royal Shaw, the co-founder of the Shaw-Bertram Company in 1920.

Merland Phelps concluded the walk with a special opening and tour of Roosevelt School, which was built in 1929. Merland was first a student there in 1936 and then its Principal between 1978 and 1982. Merland continues as a school volunteer and lunch monitor, “to give the teachers a break.”

Where are the Hot Springs?

Long before the settlement of Klamath Falls, five specific hot springs areas were known and used by Native Americans and later by shepherders, homesteaders, and settlers.

Originally steaming surface pools and mud pots, the springs have been covered and today are artesian or near-artesian wells. (Map modified from OIT 1989: Figure 9.)

The best known were “Big Springs” and “Devil’s Tea Kettle.” Located in present Modoc Field (adjacent to Klamath County High School), Big Springs was surface artesian and consisted of more than a dozen steaming springs with temperatures near the boiling point. “Devil’s Tea Kettle” was located in present Ponderosa Field (behind the city school administration building).

Other locations included one on either side of Main Street near the present swimming pool, and one between Mills School and the present railroad depot. The latter area was a swamp and provided excellent duck hunting for many years.

Native Americans used surface hot springs and mud pots for a variety of cooking and soaking purposes. According to Lizzie Schonchin, in an article in the Oregon Sunday Journal, January 8, 1939, both meat and fish were cooked in the springs while rabbit, porcupine, geese, and ducks could be easily skinned by dipping them in the boiling water. In addition, natives placed great value on the healing powers of the hot water and would soak in the cooler overflow pools of Big Springs.
In the 1890s, sheepherders would dig holes in the ground to obtain hot water in areas adjacent to the artesian springs and camp near the open springs for warmth. One sheepherder in 1912, however, lost his life in the boiling water.

John Hollenbeck, a sheepherder for Dave Elder, brought a band into town for shipment. Exhausted after standing guard over the sheep for several days and nights, he visited a spring in the Hot Springs Addition to rest and lay down on a plank across the boiling hot water to take a nap. It was warm and he soon fell asleep. Sadly, he rolled off the plank in his sleep and fell into the boiling water. He died from his burns six days later (Evening Herald, October 18 & 24, 1912).

Early settlers used the springs for cooking, scalding hogs, bathing, and just to keep warm. Big Springs was a favorite picnicking spot for early settlers who boiled eggs and wiener in the hot water. A large irrigation ditch near the High School was dammed by the Lioness Club to create an ice skating pond. Benches placed around the skating pond were warmed by hot water piped from a nearby spring.

In 1928, Mrs. R. M. Butler built a natatorium for bathing and swimming that used 10,000 gallons of geothermal water daily in the summer months to change water in the swimming pool.

Bathhouse photo courtesy Klamath County Museum.

Big Springs provided hot water for several early enterprises before wells were dug to tap the underground reservoir.

In 1911, the White Pelican Hotel, one of the most pretentious buildings in Klamath Falls, used hot water pumped from Big Springs to heat the hotel and its tile-lined swimming pool in the basement. Hot water from Modoc Field was pumped into a storage tank and then through an underground concrete tile and wood pipe placed in a rock-lined trench to the hotel, a distance of 2000 feet.

After the hotel burned in 1926, the property was purchased by Balsiger Motor Company who used the same pipeline to heat the building, wash cars and clean automotive parts.

In 1925, residents started drilling wells using cable drilling methods in the lower end of Pacific Terrace and Hillside Avenue. Today more than 550 residences use geothermal water to heat their homes as do several schools, shops, churches, swimming pools, the YMCA, the jail, the City District, among others.

People in the News

Warm Wishes to Lynn Jeche

Lynn Jeche has retired after more than 23 years as curator and maintenance manager for the Klamath County Museums. He will be sorely missed, but we extend our best wishes to Lynn in his retirement.

Welcome Niles and Jim

Niles Reynolds has accepted the curator position at the Klamath County Museums and is now at work updating polices and procedures for the county’s extensive collection of artifacts, archives, and photographs. With a Master’s Degree in anthropology and museum studies from Chico State and a Bachelors Degree in anthropology and history from UC Santa Cruz, as well as direct museum experience, Niles is highly qualified to take over the museum’s extensive collections management.

Niles hails from Alturas, CA, and has long had a special interest in the history of Klamath Country.

Special Recognition

Lynn Jeche, free life membership as a small token of our sincere appreciation for all his work with the Klamath County Historical Society over so many years.

Paul Fitzhugh, free life membership for his many years of service to the Klamath County Historical Society.

Pat Boyer, United Way Volunteer of the Year in Senior Division. Congratulations!

Alyssa McCue, Mazama High School Senior Project, “Klamath Falls Then and Now.” We appreciate your very good work!

Jim McClure is now in charge of maintenance at the museums. Jim hails from Texas where he was involved in the construction business. His knowledge and skills have already served the Museum well as he makes repairs and improvements.

Jim moved to Klamath Falls about a year ago and truly enjoys the outdoors.
Memberships for 2013

Membership fees are due at the end of each year.

Check your mailing label. The date above your name indicates if you are paid through the year.

Individual $15.00
Supporting $30.00
Life member $125.00

Make checks payable to the
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