O. C. Applegate Monument Dedication
Saturday, June 7
11 a.m.

Todd Kepple will dedicate the newly installed O.C. Applegate Monument at Linkville Cemetery on Saturday, June 7, at 11 a.m. Special thanks are due to Donald and Delores Olson for their generous donation to the restoration of the damaged tombstone—our tribute to this important figure in the history of Klamath County.

Meet at the north end of Linkville Cemetery for further directions to the ceremony.

Upcoming Meetings Schedule

September 25. Route Wars: The Politics behind our Transportation Industry, by Ryan Bartholomew

October 23. Catastrophic Weather Events in Klamath Country, by Todd Kepple

See Inside
⇒ Just the Flu: The 1918 Influenza Epidemic by Crissy Henderson
⇒ Spring Highlights
⇒ Upcoming Museum Events

KLAMATH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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, Klamath Falls.
Email: klcohis@yahoo.com

Butte Valley Bus Tour
June 28
9 a.m. at the Fairgrounds

Our summer bus tour through the Butte Valley area on June 28, led by Todd Kepple, will include stops in Dorris, Picard, Macdoel and Mount Hebron, with major themes to include the history of logging and lumbering, railroading and irrigation.

We'll take a look at the Picard Cemetery, the site of the Pepper-Cotton Lumber Mill, and places connected to the Modoc Indian War.

Cost is $20 and includes a picnic lunch. Sign up at the Museum, 1451 Main Street (541-883-4208); a few spaces may still be available. Meet at the Fairgrounds at 9 a.m. to catch the bus.

Summer Picnic at Malin Park
July 27
2 p.m.

The Klamath County and Malin Historical Societies will have a combined summer picnic at Malin Park on July 27 at 2 p.m. Join us to share good food, local history, and friendship in this lovely shaded setting.

Ryan Bartholomew will provide a talk on the unique history of the Malin environs and we can meet and get to know members of the Malin Historical Society.

We will provide the main meat dish, turkey or ham, with coffee, ice tea, and water. Bring a dish to share, your personal table service, any other beverage, and a lawn chair. The food setup will be near the community center in the park.

Feel free to bring your friends.
Toward the end of November 1918, the Hefner family was like many in Klamath Falls. Renna Hefner worked each day for the Post Office as a mail carrier. His wife, Addie kept house and raised their two little girls. Lillian Lucille was only two, but four year old Helen Louise was big enough to be excited about the new brother or sister she would soon have.

Having lost a child already, Renna and Addie were cautiously optimistic about this pregnancy. Renna, concerned about his wife and coming baby, had recently purchased a modern washing machine so Addie would have an easier workload. Anticipating their growing family, the Hefner’s bought 2 lots on the outskirts of town and daydreamed about the house they would build. Their future seemed bright. *(Evening Herald* Nov. 29-Dec 1, 1918; Probate Records, Klamath County Museum)

The Hefner’s had worried that the Great War in Europe might wrench Renna from the family. Huge headlines in the *Evening Herald*, November 11, announcing that conflict was over, lifted a burden from their shoulders. Concerns they shared with the rest of the country about the Spanish Flu must also have lessened. Influenza had hit Klamath Falls hard and suddenly in October, but the threat seemed to be tapering off as November progressed. **After all, it was just the flu.**

Influenza has been a constant companion of mankind since time immemorial. In recorded history scientists have identified flu-like pandemics as far back as 1510. The viruses that cause flu are able to alter their properties so that they pass from birds or other animals to humans. They mutate constantly as they move from host to host and victim to victim. Generally influenza is only temporarily debilitating causing respiratory symptoms, fever, and malaise. Most sufferers recover, but the elderly, very young, people unable to fight infection, and pregnant women are the most likely to die. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates approximately 1.4 to 16.7 deaths per 100,000 people in the U.S. annually. This represents a large area of variability from year to year and could be higher if deaths listed as respiratory failure, circulatory failure, and pneumonia were flu related. The Spanish Influenza of 1918 was perverse in that its most likely victims were young adults. *(www.cdc.gov/flu; The Great Influenza, John M. Barry, 2004, Viking Penguin)*

The 1918 outbreak may have begun in Kansas, ironically Addie and Renna’s birthplace. In the early spring, Haskell County, Kansas residents fell ill with what seemed to be a rougher than normal flu. The number of victims and rapid spread of the disease alarmed and overwhelmed doctors in the area. Into this community of illness came a young recruit from Camp Funston at Fort Riley to visit his family before deploying overseas. He returned to Camp Funston to join 56,000 other troops. *(The Great Influenza)*

A few days later on the morning of March 4, 1918, an army cook at the camp reported to sick call with fever and cough. Overcrowding, inadequately heated barracks, transport of troops from one camp to another and questionable hygiene contributed to unknown numbers of men contracting the flu. 1100 were hospitalized at Fort Riley within the next three weeks, many of whom developed pneumonia. Exposed but apparently healthy soldiers travelled cross country to seaports then on to
Europe to bring the Great War to an end. Instead they infected foe and ally.

Four major factors were present that allowed this bout of influenza to become a plague that ultimately killed 50 to 100 million people worldwide between 1918 and 1920. First, there had been no significant influenza outbreak for nearly 25 years. This meant that the young had developed no resistance to the disease. It also contributed to the second factor: poor medical understanding of the flu as an epidemic.

Medical practice as a science was in its infancy. Little or nothing was known about viruses and how they behaved. Only doctors who had been in practice for more than 2 decades had experience in dealing with a truly virulent influenza. In any event the only treatment for any epidemic was palliative care and quarantine.

Selective release of information was the third factor. President Woodrow Wilson was convinced that the morale of the nation at war was at risk if any negative news coverage was offered to the public. News of the war and the need for sacrifice and patriotism from all Americans dominated the newspapers. The decision to downplay the illness was a calculated plan on the part of the administration with full cooperation of the nation’s newspapers.

Finally, unprecedented troop movement spread the mutating virus at a horrific pace. Countless soldiers and sailors died en route to the European war front and were quickly buried at sea. In Europe, one in six soldiers died of the flu, far outnumbering deaths in battle. Spanish Influenza was born in a perfect storm.

By the time the storm clouds were gathering in Klamath County, Spanish Influenza had blown through the cities of the East. Death rates were as high as 289 people per day, but the press did its best to prevent a panic by limiting coverage. Not until early September, as the Influenza washed back across the country to the West Coast, did the Government finally release a list of recommendations from the Surgeon General. Two weeks later the flu poured into California and Washington and began its journey to Oregon.

In 1918 Klamath Falls was a hardy town growing quickly. Besides a population of hardworking citizens, it was a base for many seasonal workers at its various mills. People flowed in and out of town on the waterways and trains. The city boasted three hospitals and a medical community of dedicated physicians. There were nurses, but never enough even in the best of times.

When the war started Klamath Falls was quick to respond. Its young men registered for the draft and many volunteered to join the armed services at the first call. Women joined the Red Cross and sewed, rolled gauze, collected linens and knit for the boys at the front. The people of the county bought War Bonds with pride, often exceeding the quota set for the community. War fever was at the forefront of daily life. Little thought and less worry were extended to the Spanish Influenza until Klamath Falls’ first citizen became ill on October 9.

The next day the Evening Herald announced that, “Influenza Started in Klamath.” It provided the list of suggestions from the Surgeon General. In a small note it mentioned that Seattle had reported 313 new cases of flu in the previous 24 hours. The articles may have caused a little concern but the war news, Red Cross issues, War Bond drives, and local news dominated.

Slowly the area began to respond to the Influenza. As more citizens took sick, children with runny noses, sneezes and coughs were turned away from school. However, concerns about large gatherings did not keep the city’s fast crowd from a dance at the Elks Club! People got sick then improved. The flu seemed to have been more an annoyance than a problem. Then, on October 18th, Albert Perry, father of ten and a county road worker died of the Spanish Influenza. He was 51 years old. By Halloween, 11 people between the ages of 15 to 45 succumbed to the disease. (Evening Herald, October 9-31, 1918)
Schools, public places and churches closed by order of the State Health Authority (Evening Herald, October 18, 1918).

Whenever possible the people of Klamath hunkered down and stayed at home.

Renna Hefner had no option but to continue his work for the Post Office. Like the letter carrier in the photo below, he was as a government employee and would have been required to wear the gauze masks recommended for all but generally ignored.

Funerals were graveside and attended only by a few very close friends and loved ones. (It is interesting to note that Spanish Flu counted the mourning industry among its victims. Funeral crape all but disappeared and the ritual and etiquette of mourning fell by the wayside as the epidemic mushroomed).

In a community now gripped by fear, calls went out to women in the community to help care for the sick in homes where entire families were laid low by the flu. (Evening herald, October 21, 1918)

Maud Baldwin was one of 40 local women in communities throughout the county who did respond to the call. Nothing is recorded as to how much time each of the volunteers donated in caring for their neighbors, but nationally it was not unusual for well-meaning women to quit after a single exhausting day.

Whatever the women of Klamath Falls did for their community, it is heartening to know that none of the 40 volunteers died as a result of the flu.

The largest hospital in Klamath Falls was reserved for the exclusive care of Spanish Flu victims. Thirty-four nurses responded to Red Cross requests for trained caregivers. Not only women volunteered. R. S. Van Camper and Perry Gregg provided free transportation for patients, families, nurses, and volunteers to and from the hospital. As they had done with the War Effort, the citizens of Klamath County rose to the challenges of the Influenza Epidemic. (Evening Herald Nov. 1, 1918)

By mid-November the worst seemed to be behind them. Families like the Hefner’s began to open their doors and slowly resumed normal life. For two weeks it seemed that the storm had passed. The Evening Herald announced that flu bans might soon be lifted.

Then like a monsoon the second wave of flu hit (Evening Herald, November 25, 1918). Klamath was faster to respond the second time around, but efforts at isolation and care was ineffectual. The flu ran rampant through the county. Perry Gregg, who had donated his time and vehicle to provide transportation for the hospital, was now a patient there. John McCall, the assistant post master and Renna Hefner’s immediate supervisor, was slowly improving after being critically ill.
William Jardine was now suffering after traveling to Sacramento to nurse his ill sister, Verda Goddard. Sadly, he had to bring her body home. He was gravely ill at home and in the first week of December would be buried next to his sister in the Linkville Cemetery (Evening Herald, December 9, 1918).

On November 28 Renna and Addie celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary. Addie wasn't feeling well and wondered if the newest Hefner planned to make an early entrance. Premature labor was not the only thing she suffered from. Influenza snuffed out her life the next day. Her baby died the day after and Renna died on the 30th. The family was buried in Linkville Cemetery.

Only the two little girls survived. They were raised by Addie’s parents. Sadly, they were not the only children in Klamath Falls orphaned by the Spanish Influenza.

Klamath County lost at least 90 people to the flu by 1920 when the plague was declared over (Todd Kepple, Herald and News, Dec. 31, 1999).

The little house lived in by the Hefner family still stands on 9th St. It has clearly altered since Addie and Renna moved their little family in. So has much of what contributed to the ferocity of the epidemic. Medical and scientific knowledge of the flu virus has created vaccines to help prevent or minimize the effect of the disease. Personal and community hygiene has improved to the point of hand sanitizers being available everywhere to prevent the spread of the hardy flu virus.

Every winter we wait knowing there will be a flu season. We have information at our fingertips about the type and ferocity of the expected flu. As individuals and a nation we hope we are more ready for a calamitous influenza. But in all of us there lingers an almost blasé attitude. We'd like to believe that there isn’t much to worry about. After all, it’s just the flu.

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Fort Klamath Cemetery
Soldier Memorial Dedication
May 24, 2014

On Saturday, May 24, the Fort Klamath Cemetery Association, with the assistance of the Civil War Society, dedicated a new monument to the soldiers who died while serving at military Fort Klamath. Formerly buried in the southeast corner of the present cemetery, most of the soldiers’ remains were later removed and reburied at the Presidio in San Francisco. This special burial area has been carefully demarcated for preservation, and the soldiers’ names have been etched into a granite monument nearby. They shall never be forgotten.
Thank You Volunteers

Linkville Cemetery Cleanup

May 3, 2014

Thanks to all the volunteers at our 6th Annual Linkville Pioneer Cemetery spring cleanup. More than 60 volunteers participated, including the Klamath Falls City Parks and Cemetery Division, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Klamath County Historical Society, the Klamath Basin Genealogical Society, Sons of Norway, Kinetic Challenge, and the general public.

Special thanks are due to John Bellon and Dave Andrews from the City Parks and Cemetery Division for help organizing the event.

Nic Phair deserves our special thanks and recognition for his many years devoted to organizing and directing the large group of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints.

What a great cooking crew!

The Swansons weed while Cliff dosses graves.
### Museum Levy Success

The Museum Levy passed with 63% of the voters supporting.

Thanks to all the volunteers and voters, our three museums will remain open to the public.

Todd Kepple and staff will continue to provide the outstanding programs that so capture our imagination.

### June Events

**June 7. Saturday.** O. C. Applegate Monument Dedication, by Todd Kepple. Linkville Cemetery. 11 a.m.

**June 21. Saturday.** Native Plant Garden Tour. At the Klamath County Museum. Presented by the Klamath County Museum and the Klamath Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

**June 28. Saturday.** Butte Valley Bus Tour. Meet bus at Fairgrounds. 9 a.m.

### More Upcoming Events

**July 10. Thursday.** “What if Heroes Were Not Welcome Home,” Opening Exhibit, 7 p.m.

**July 11. Friday.** Merrill Cemetery Restoration Training, by Dirk Siedlecki. 9 a.m. Contact Polly Tickner at polly@tickners.net to reserve a spot.


**July 19. Saturday.** Wood River Valley Barns, A Bus Tour. 8:30 a.m. Contact the Museum to reserve your seat (541-883-4208).

**June 28. Saturday.** Butte Valley Bus Tour. Meet bus at Fairgrounds. 9 a.m.

**July 27. Sunday.** Summer Picnic: Malin and Klamath County historical societies. Malin Park. 2 p.m.

**August 10. Sunday.** Linkville Cemetery Tour, Carol Mattos. 6 p.m.

**September 25.** Route Wars: The Politics Behind Our Transportation Industry, by Ryan Bartholomew. Klamath County Historical Society, Museum Front Entrance. 7 p.m.

**October 2. Thursday.** Museum Anniversary Banquet. Kerry Tymchuk speaker. 6 p.m.

**October 10 & 11. Friday and Saturday.** Night at the Cemetery.

**October 23.** Catastrophic Weather Events in Klamath Basin, by Todd Kepple. Klamath County Historical Society, Museum front entrance. 7 p.m.

For more upcoming events, go to www.klamathmuseum.org and sign up for the Museum’s weekly newsletter at midge@co.klamath.or.us.
Trumpeter Staff
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2014 KCHS Officers
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Vice President: Polly Tickner
Secretary: Sally Bailo
Treasurer: Mickie Vandenburg
Past President: Sue Fortune

Board Members:
Phyllis Goebel
Jack Inman
Carol Mattos
Bruce McCornack
Mae Rutherford

Memberships for 2014 are due!
Membership fees are due at the end of each year.
Check your mailing label. The date above your name indicates whether you are paid through the year.
Individual $15.00
Supporting $30.00
Life Member $125.00
Make checks payable to the Klamath County Historical Society.
Mail or drop off at the Klamath County Museum
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