

KLAMATH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Issue 127

TRUMPETER

Winter 2021



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Programs for 2022 are still in the planning stages but we will have our regular schedule of interesting programs.



HAPPY Holidays to everyone. We are looking forward to a new and better year.

We worked hard in 2021 to bring regular programs and hope that you were able to enjoy them. We want to keep our membership and community safe, so face to face meeting don't look that they will happen soon.

In addition to programs, we have several projects being considered. To continue to do the work that the Historical Society has done since its beginning we need fuel to keep our light shining and your dues are that fuel. Please keep your membership up to date.

Museum Happenings

Check the Midge for museum details and a list of other cultural happening in the community. Get on the list by sending your email to midge@co.klamath.or.us

End of the Year Report

This has been a difficult year for our society since we have not been able to meet face to face. By March, our board decided that we needed to go online with our programs and try to conduct any other business by email to the membership.

We put five programs on Zoom and then stored on YouTube. We did a program on notable women in Klamath County history, then two programs on William "Bill Kitt" Kittredge in the spring. In September Moss Driscoll did a program on the 100th anniversary of the Link River Dam, followed the next month by a program Todd Kepple did for us using Google Maps in locating historic sites. All of these online programs were made possible by the expertise of Bill Lewis, our webmaster, Facebook guy and most everything that involves using technology.

During the summer Carol Mattos and I did a stroll through Linkville Cemetery which was well attended.

In October we set a booth up at the Merrill Potato Festival with books from the Museum. The Touslees, Marle Jandreau and I manned it and had a great time visiting with people and selling almost \$400 worth of books.

As October rolled around, there were a lot of public inquiries about "Night at the Cemetery." Unfortunately, the Museum could not do its usual arrangements due to the pandemic restrictions. So, Todd enlisted Carol Mattos and myself to put on a nighttime walk through the cemetery, stopping at various headstones and unmarked graves to talk about some

folks who weren't famous but come to tragic ends. The theme was "Lives Cut Short." Over several weeks, we did seven sessions that were well attended and Todd has put a slide show on line.

Our society paid for one of the plaques that will go on the "Klamath River" imbedded in the new cement apron in front of the Museum entry.

We received a very generous \$5000 donation from the Nicol family following our programs on William Kittredge, their ancestor. Part of that money will go to match funds for a grant that Todd has written that will put our very old newspapers in the archives in digital form. This will make the papers much more accessible while eliminating the wear and tear on them as we use them for research.
Bea Naylor KCHS President

The year 2021 has been a stable year financially for the KCHS. With no activities for the membership requiring funds expenditure – monies that were expended were for production/ mailing costs for the quarterly newsletter and website costs. The financial accounting stands as follows:

Checking Account, as of 12/02/21 -
\$ 14,591.79 . Petty Cash \$ 83.18

Of this total, there is \$680 which represents donations to the Phyllis Goebel Memorial. This amount sits in the account as a place holder until a memorial gift/remembrance is decided.

Additionally, the checking account is a place holder for monies received from a donation from the Nicol family of \$5,000. as a memorial to their family ancestor – William Kittredge. He was the subject of a spring 2021 KCHS program, via Zoom.

The KCHS Board voted in July 2020 to credit all members who were current in membership through 12/31/20 with an additional year of membership through 12/31/21 in recognition of Covid 19 restrictions and the resultant impact to KCHS membership activities. That consideration expires the end of December 2021

Additionally, Todd Kepple, KCM Manager approached the KCHS Board with news that KCM has applied for a grant of \$5,000. from the University of Oregon for a digitization project of the Klamath Republican, a publication that pre-dates the Herald and News. The KCHS Board voted to allocate \$2200 of the Nicol donation, pending the application being approved. KCHS membership must approve this proposed \$2200 expenditure, as the allocation exceeds the \$500 maximum the Board can spend without membership approval, per our 2018 revised By Laws.

Finally, monies which originated from early sales of the Klamath Echoes is currently invested in 2 mutual funds with Edward Jones. As of 12/02/21 the value of the two is: \$ 27,419.48.

This varies day-day with the stock market. Presently, sales of Echoes from the KCM Bookstore are deposited into the checking account.

Rich Touslee
KCHS Treasurer

Elections 2021

In October and November, both an email and letters were sent to the membership asking for nominations for the Historical Society Board.

The President of the Historical Society, Gloria Sullivan resigned and Bea Naylor the Vice President moved into that position. Bill Lewis volunteered to become Vice President and was accepted by the board. All of the board members and officers agreed to another term.

They are:

Bea Naylor—President

Bill Lewis —Vice President

Mary Nobel — Secretary

Rich Touslee— Treasurer

Members at Large

Doy Touslee

Cindy DeRosier

Marle Jandreau

Valeree Lane was nominated to fill the vacant position on the board and has accepted.

Ballots for this election were sent out on the 15th of December and need to be returned by January 1, 2022.

Please respond when you receive the ballot with your wish for the entire board or individuals. We need to have at least 30 or 40 responses for a quorum.

Family Christmas Dinner

By Beatrice Naylor

Many years ago my British born grandmother and her circle of ex-pat British friends were bemoaning the fact that they never had a “proper Christmas dinner” anymore, meaning no roast goose with all the trimmings. My father, a poultry farmer, got tired of hearing about it so he volunteered to raise a “fatted goose” and my mother would cook the dinner for my grandmother and her friends.

My grandmother and her friends said it was the best dinner they had had in many years. My brother and I thought it was a disaster. The goose was so greasy that it slid right down your throat. There were many unidentified, peculiar tasting root vegetables and topped off with a steamed pudding, splashed with brandy and set afire. (If you dislike fruit cake, steamed pudding is worse.) After dinner my brother and I were looking for our Christmas socks to eat the leftover candy in them.

But that wasn't the end of the story. One of these Brits told my brother that they used goose grease to waterproof their shoes in England. Of course, my brother had to try it on his boots. What they forgot to tell him was that it was processed goose grease so it wouldn't go rancid. In short order, his boots stunk to high heaven. They were relegated to the outside back steps. A few days later, our huge barn cat was observed knocking them into the flower bed and trying to bury them!

It was one Christmas dinner to remember!

Christmas Remembrances from Long-age *By Mary Nobel*

Christmases 100 years ago were much simpler than today. For most, gifts were fewer, oranges were a great treat and certainly there were no electronics on children's want list.

Here are some remembrances from those long-ago Christmases:

Frances Juris in her book “PINE RIDGE A Forgotten Town in Klamath County, Oregon” remembers:

“Our first Oregon Christmas was spent in the little house, and a very sparse Christmas it was. Of course, Mama and Daddy had neither the money nor any way to make it like the Christmases we were accustomed to...

“Anyway, for our 1925 Christmas we received a sled for the three of us, woolen union suits, which we hated because they were so scratchy, and an orange for each. I don't know how Mama and Daddy explained the sparsity of gifts, but I do remember that Christmas.”

From “Bill Kitt,” the 2009 book by Donovan Nichol, we learn that, “Mother would somehow find three oranges to put in our Christmas socks.”

“Once Klamath Marsh became home, it was a perfect Currier-and-Ives Christmas setting with snow, teams of horses and bobsleds loaded with hay. A big feast was prepared at the cookhouse which included turkeys that were raised all year for this big event.

Maude kept busy making bowls full of cavity-producing divinity fudge and, of course, taffy. The kids – after a thorough hand washing - pulled taffy to keep them out of the way.”

Another memory comes from Claudia Lorenz, author of “The Time of My Life, Klamath County Museum Research Papers No. 4,” who remembers a very special Christmas. Lorenz was a student at a boarding school. Because of the distance from her home, she had to spend the holidays at the school rather than travel from Salem to Klamath County. She joined eight other students who would stay at Sacred Heart Academy.

One of the girls, Mildred, was to sing the solo at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Lorenz remembered:

“I was her devoted admirer and attended her every coaching lesson and rehearsal. I knew her song ‘Night of Nights’ forwards and backward. Two days before Christmas, Mildred contracted bronchitis and could not sing. It was a great disappointment to her and Sister Bernard, who was going to omit the song. Mildred knew I had been practicing the song and suggested that I sing it. Sister Bernard was skeptical at first but gave me an audition. Of course, I imitated Mildred as nearly as I could and Sister was surprised. I was to sing the song in Mildred’s place.

“Immediately after we had our tree and presents, I was sent to bed. Sister Lucid awakened me around eleven o’clock and helped me dress. I was get

ting very excited as we walked to the church. I ascended the stairs at the rear of the building which led to the loft. I sat beside Sister Bernard while the Christmas Mass was sung. Finally she nodded and played my introduction. I slid off the choir bench and walked to the railing. I sang the song from memory just as I had learned it and I will never forget the thrill of exultation when I realized that it was my voice floating through the church over the heads of the congregation.... I have never seen a copy of the song since, but I will remember it all the days of my life. Sometimes I try to sing it now, but my voice is old and broken, yet I wish I could hear it once more on Christmas Eve sung by a young, fresh voice.”

The December 26, 1920, Evening Herald told this story of one of its newsboys. Its title was “The Family Skelton.”

“It so happened that one of the Herald’s little newsboys found himself the fortunate possessor of \$2 on Christmas eve, and, wishing to buy his daddy a Christmas present. Not knowing what to buy, he sought Mrs. Murray’s assistance and she graciously accompanied the little fellow on his shopping expedition.

“The next day, after the articles purchased had been presented to ‘dad,’ the little giver confided in the latter, thusly:

“Say, dad, you know when Mrs. Murray went with me to buy presents last night, we didn’t know exactly what to get. First Mrs. Murray said to buy you a

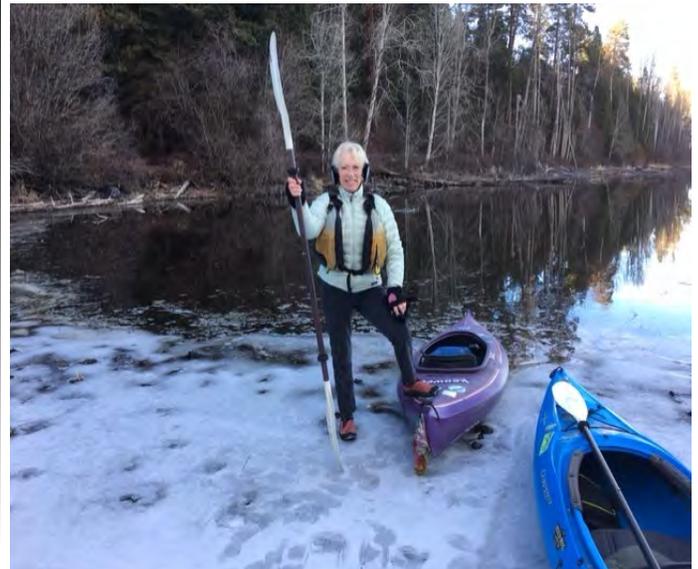
pair of wool socks, and a pair of cotton socks, and then she changed her mind because she said you'd be wearing the cotton ones one day, and the wool ones the next. And, believe me, dad. I was glad too, because I hated like the dickens to tell her you wasn't in the habit of changing your socks every day."

Winter Kayaking in the Klamath Basin – *By Marle Jandreau*

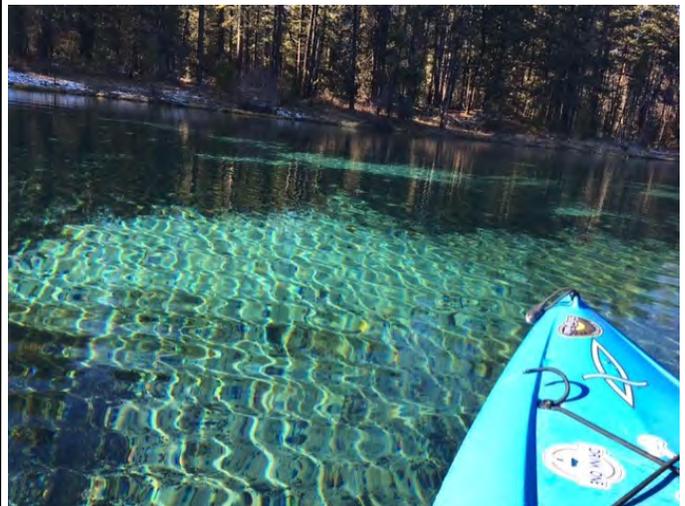
One of my favorite winter outings no longer involves cross-country, alpine skiing or even snow shoeing. I've lived in the Klamath Basin for nine years and have discovered the delight of winter recreational kayaking on waters that aren't frozen.

I wait for a clear winter day, blue skies, and no wind. I layer up in warm pants and top, including long underwear, gloves, ear muffs and windbreaker. Then I head out for any unfrozen flat water. I have the "kayak skirt" on the boat which keeps the heat in, also.

The first photo was taken February 22, 2021 at Shoalwater Bay, part of Eagle Ridge Park, on the Upper Klamath Lake. In winter kayaking, I always stay fairly close to the shore and feel invigorated by the brisk air, sparkle on the ice and snow. I love the surprise of spotting different animal tracks in the snow along the edge of the water. It's a winter adventure that never fails to boost my spirits.



Another photo below was taken New Year's Day 2018 while kayaking on Spring Creek. There's just a little snow to the left shore, and the water was its usual stunning aqua blue. Normally, the Log Museum Day Area off of Hwy. 97, north of Chiloquin, is snow-packed and inaccessible. But that particular winter, the snow was not too bad, and it was possible to get to Spring Creek. I kayaked from the Day Park to the headwaters of the springs and felt exhilarated. It will be a New Year's Day I'll never forget.



Another winter kayaking venue is Harriman Springs. Because it is a spring, it doesn't totally freeze up. I get in at the boat ramp by Harriman Springs' restaurant and paddle towards Rocky Point until the water does freeze up. Then, I turn around and head back to Harriman's. There's often an eagle or two hanging around ready to dive in for an icy snack.

One more winter-kayaking area is Ewauna Lake. With the Link River flowing into Ewauna from the Upper Klamath Lake, there is an ice-free area where I can paddle around. The iced edges of the water often sport birds looking at me as I paddle past them. By their cocked heads and unblinking stares, they might as well be saying "... and they call *us* birdbrains?!" But as I often say, as long as one of those 500-pound sturgeons doesn't rise from the bottom of the lake, "what could go wrong?"

At seventy-five years (and still counting), I'm enjoying the wonder of winter kayaking. I started my first kayaking experience on the Wood River, at Kimball Park, when I had just turned fifty. I had no idea that kayaking would be such an important part of my life. I never considered myself a "water person." I was a sun-worshiper and had no interest in getting wet. But as I awkwardly paddled down the Wood River back in October 1996, I fell in love with kayaking. I don't consider it a water sport, but a sport that involves floating on top of something liquid that holds the boat up!

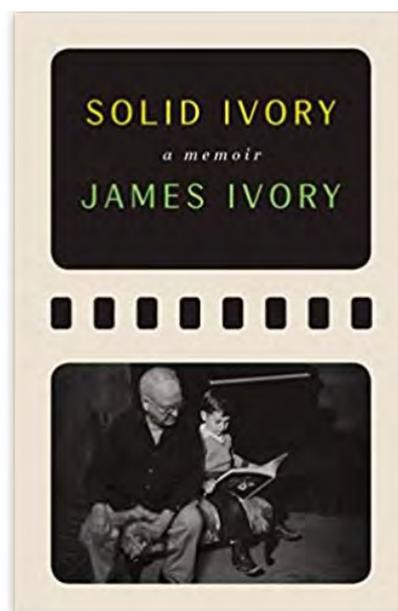
I always wondered why I liked kayaking. But then, a couple of years after my first outing at the Wood River, I was reading a book about the old-time French-Canadian trappers. (My father's grandfather was French-Canadian.) The story revealed, "The French-Canadian trappers loved their little boats, but hated water." I instantly got it! I was channeling my French-Canadian trapper genes! Mais oui!

The Klamath Basin has endless venues for recreational kayaking. Paddle on... any season will provide unique and exciting adventures!

Solid Ivory

Book Review by Mary Nobel

Available at the museum for \$30



Klamath Union High School named its theater after James Ivory. After all, Ivory was a graduate of the school and went

... on to become a renowned movie producer, director and screenwriter. Recently, he became the oldest Academy Award winner for his screenplay, "Call Me by Your Name."

In his memoir, Ivory recalls his early days in Klamath Falls. Emily Bobrow, in her review of the book, says:

"Although Mr. Ivory was 'the skinny boy with underdeveloped biceps who always hung back when a baseball happened to come in my direction,' he was at the center of an artsy clique in his Klamath Falls high school. "

Malcolm Forbes, in his review, tells us:

"The book's opening sections cover Mr. Ivory's early years growing up in Klamath Falls, Ore. Certain events stand out as character-shaping. He is ridiculed by his classmates for asking Santa Claus for a doll's house, and from that day on regards himself as being 'a bit apart from all the others.'"

Ivory's memoir brings the reader along on his partnership with Ismail Merchant. Together they brought the viewing public award-winning, period costumes films such as "Room With a View," "Howards End" and "The Remains of the Day."

As Forbes concluded, "As memoirs go, 'Solid Ivory' is candid, informative and infused with warmth, verve and humor. Sit back and enjoy a series of well-executed master shots and captivating closeups."

CHRISTMAS STORY WITH A SURPRISE BEGINNING

By Ron Loveness

December 7, 1941, (the "Day in Infamy") was an unlikely beginning of a good Christmas Story. John Parisotto and Opal Hill were then residents of Chiloquin. Opal was operating the beauty shop at the time, and John took her out to get a Christmas tree for her shop. While on the outing, John proposed marriage and Opal accepted. When they returned to town, they got the disturbing news about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Even though they faced an uncertain future, John and Opal were married the following April.

John went into the Army Air Corps and trained as a pilot, eventually being certified in sixteen different aircraft. Opal was able to accompany him to some duty stations including Texas and Louisiana. She did not like the South, especially the bugs. A box of chocolate chip cookies from home arrived full of cockroaches.

When John was shipped to Europe, Opal and her six-month-old first-born took a train home to Oregon. She traveled mostly on troop trains which meant she had to wait for a spot to sit as trains were full of soldiers. She remembers being "bumped" once and said a nice Army captain walked the floor with her baby so she could rest.

John was a lifelong resident of Klamath County, residing in Chiloquin and Klamath Falls. John's Italian family lived in Klamath Falls when he started the first grade at Mills School. Because he didn't speak English, he flunked that year. Later, John and his family lived in Northern Italy for two years just before WWII. John was 13 at the time and had to be smuggled out of the country to avoid being conscripted into Mussolini's Fascist Youth Corps. John's parents and sisters had no problem leaving Italy for America.

Opal first passed through Klamath County ninety-nine years ago when her family emigrated via horse-drawn wagon from Idaho to Talent, Oregon. Two-year old Opal was the youngest of six children who took the month-long trip. Her family lived in a tent camping along Bear Creek near Talent before renting houses.

Opal's father was fond of his horses, so resisted acquiring an automobile. Opal, now 101 years old, recalls that as a little girl her wish was that they would get a car "so they could pass someone." It irritated her that cars would honk as they passed their horse-drawn wagon. She still remembers the names of her father's horses; Old Bird and Old Lynx.

Opal's family was further enlarged as they almost always had a cousin or two living with them. Opal had 80

cousins just on her father's side, none of whom are still alive or reached 100 years in age.

Opal graduated from Talent High School in 1938 and became trained in Medford as a beauty operator. Her first job was for Kathleen Isensee, who had beauty shops in Klamath Falls and Chiloquin. After working for a while in what is commonly called the Medical-Dental Building, she was offered the shop in Chiloquin which had living quarters upstairs. Opal didn't have a car, so occasionally traveled to and from Klamath Falls on the train which had several "mixed trains" throughout the day and night.

After WWII ended, John and Opal first lived in one of the Quonset huts at the Klamath Falls Naval Air Station, now known as Kingsley Field, because base housing was made available for returning veterans.

They soon purchased their home on Laurel Street where they raised their three children plus a niece and nephew who were treated as their own. This was their home for most of their nearly 70 years of marriage. John passed away in 2011, and Opal moved to a retirement community which could offer assisted living when needed.

Opal was an active member of the Klamath Historical Society serving on the calling committee. I was fortunate to be on her list to be called, so heard from her nearly every month. Opal's

husband, John, was the saw filer for my family's lumber mills until they all closed. He was like a brother to my father and three uncles.

Opal will be 102 next month and is an incredible and delightful person. She still gets around but tells me, "That old rocking chair is going to get me." .

She hears quite well without hearing aids and has vision adequate to do puzzles.

Before Covid, we'd visit often so I could bring roses from my garden. She's lost her sense of smell, but instinctively stuck her nose in the flowers for a sniff. Her short-term memory is pretty much gone, but it's always fun to prompt her to talk about something from the past such as her father's horses; roaches in the South and traveling from Chiloquin to Klamath Falls and back on the train.

I am looking forward to wishing Opal a happy 102nd birthday next month.



Opal Parisotto



The Museum Trolley at the Snowflake parade

Happy Holidays

Trumpeter Staff

Bill Lewis
John Fortune
Mary Nobel
Ron Loveness



For those of you who pay your membership dues yearly, you are paid until the end of this year. The 2022 dues will be due December 31, 2021.

Please renew then and support the Historical Society

KCHS Officers

President: Beatrice Naylor
Vice President: Bill Lewis
Secretary: Mary Nobel
Treasurer: Richard Touslee

Members at Large:

Doy Touslee
Cindy DeRosier
Marle Jandreau
KCHS Website :

klamathcountyhistoricalsociety.org

Bill Lewis— Webmaster

Email the Society at:

BillLewis62@Hotmail.com (Webmaster)

[Did you know?](http://klamathcountyhistoricalsociety.org)—The Trumpeters and Echoes are now online and can be viewed at:

<http://klamathcountyhistoricalsociety.org>

Membership fees are due at the end of each year.

Individual \$15.00

Supporting \$30.00

Life Membership per member \$125.00

Make checks payable to the Klamath County Historical Society

Mail to or drop off at the Klamath County Museum

1451 Main Street
Klamath Falls , OR
97601

Update your information: Mail to: KCHS at the address above.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____