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Meeting Schedule 2019
7:00 p.m. at the Klamath County Museum
September 26, 2019 A living history presentation on the life of noted Oregon paleontologist Thomas Condon by Robert Hart
October 24, 2019 History of the Salmon Migration in the Upper Klamath Lake by John Hamilton
Other Events: October 5, 2019 Night at the Cemetery at Merrill Cemetery
November 10, 2019 2:00 p.m. Annual Potluck at the museum

GREAT FALL PROGRAMS
Bob Hart, Director of the Lane County Historical Museum, will portray a living history presentation about Thomas Condon. Thomas Condon was considered a natural teacher who explained the mysteries from the fossil beds near John Day, Oregon. Condon’s story is on the following page.

John Hamilton, a fish biologist and hydropower branch chief for the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office, reflects on his long career in the Klamath Basin. Credit: “I had to learn more. I wanted to know as much as possible about fish life histories and habitat. I was extremely lucky to have outstanding mentors to guide me.”

John Hamilton

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
Thomas Condon was born in County Cork, Ireland, on March 3, 1822. At age eleven he emigrated to New York with his parents. He worked as a school teacher before entering a Presbyterian seminary in Auburn, New York, at the age of twenty-seven. After graduating in 1852, Condon accepted a position as a missionary in the newly settled territory of Oregon. He and his wife Cornelia struggled to make a living in western Oregon before moving to The Dalles in the spring of 1862 to lead the town’s Congregational church. It was in The Dalles where Condon would make his first contributions to the geological sciences.

Long interested in natural history, Condon began collecting fossils and giving public lectures on geology soon after moving to The Dalles. In 1865, he accompanied an army patrol from Ft. Dalles into the John Day country, where he had heard there was a rich deposit of fossils. Although he was not the first to discover fossils in the area, he was the first to recognize the significance of the deposit. Condon’s fossil discoveries in the John Day country soon became known to some of the nation’s top paleontologists and geologists, a number of whom—including Othniel C. Marsh, Joseph Leidy, and Edward Drinker Cope—wrote him requesting specimens. Many of the specimens Condon sent were species new to science, and several were named after him.

In 1871, Condon published his first paper on geology, an overview of Oregon’s geological past, written, like many of his subsequent works, for a popular audience. That same year he gave a series of lectures in Portland that would solidify his position as Oregon’s preeminent geologist. In 1872 the legislature appointed him Oregon’s first state geologist, and the following year Condon resigned his position with the Congregational church and moved to Forest Grove, where he assumed a professorship at Pacific University.

In 1876 Condon became the first geology professor at the newly opened University of Oregon, where he taught for nearly twenty years. Over the course of his long career, Condon made significant contributions to scientific understanding of Oregon’s ancient past, but he was also a respected educator who sought to encourage the public’s appreciation of the state’s geological history. He died in 1907, leaving behind a lasting legacy of scientific and educational achievement.
2019 Bus Tour

On June 29th of this year the Klamath County Museum held a bus tour and the Historical Society joined it in place of its annual bus tour. All the tours that Todd Kepple has done have been great, and this tour was one of the best ones that I have been on. It was titled “Bus Tour of the Lower Lake area.” Topics included Midland, farms and ranches, drainage of Lower Klamath Lake, geothermal greenhouses, sucker rearing, White Lake City and Lower Klamath Refuge.

It was all that and more. I will not be able to do this wonderful tour justice in this short article, but I will try to hit the high notes.

The tour began at the county fairgrounds and the first point of interest was Washburn Way south of South Sixth Street. Before 1940, it was known as Midland Road. The Highway 97 bridge across the Klamath River opened in 1936 and Southside Bypass didn’t open until 1987. The road and highway systems in the Basin were very different in early times than it is today. We saw several other interesting and historic sites as we traveled toward what I was most interested in, Lower Klamath Lake. After reading the reprint of John Fortune’s “Early Transportation in the Klamath Basin.” I was very interested in learning more about the lower lake and how it became what it is today.

This is what Lower Klamath Lake looked like before 1909. Teters Landing was located about across Highway 97 and the railroad tracks from the pumping station that can be seen from the highway.

History

Early explorers of the Klamath Basin recorded that the Klamath and Modoc tribes caught sucker fish from the upper basin and gathered the eggs of water birds in the marshlands. The women of these tribes gathered the yellow water lily that ripened in the marshes for food and used the stems of Tules for making baskets and mats. With the arrival of white settlers in the late 1800s, the food gathering by the tribes was disrupted as farmers began grazing cattle and constructing irrigation systems in the Klamath Basin to raise crops. Dramatic changes to Lower Klamath were accelerated when Congress passed the National Reclamation Act in 1902. In 1905, the new Reclamation Service authorized the Klamath Project, which straddled the Oregon-California state border.
The Klamath Project involved the creation of dams, dikes, canals, and drainage ditches that eventually drained large areas of the lower lake eliminating vast areas of marshland. The reclamation plan allowed the Southern Pacific Railroad to build a dike across the lake for their rail bed. The dike blocked the spring overflow from the Klamath River into Lower Klamath Lake.

President Theodore Roosevelt created the 80,000-acre Lower Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge in 1908. President Woodrow Wilson reduced the size of the refuge to 53,600 acres in 1915 to increase the area for agricultural development. “Some 85,000 acres were dried up and all that remained was a 365 acre pond by 1922,” wrote William Kittredge.

The drained bed of Lower Klamath Lake turned into a dusty waste of dried peat that burned annually into the 1930s. The Lower Klamath marshlands, however, gained a semblance of restoration, and waterbirds began to return in 1941 when engineers built a 6,000-foot tunnel from the Tule Lake Basin to deliver excess irrigation water to the refuge. Following World War II, farmers learned to leach the alkali through deep drains and began to grow profitable crops in Lower Klamath.

**Today**

What we saw on the tour told us that now the Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife and the lower lake farmers are striving for a balance between man and nature.

Liskey Farms is famous for its geothermal greenhouses. They cover 3.5 acres and though the years have raised many different plants. Many people in Klamath can remember buying garden plants from the outlet they had in Klamath Falls.

Tracey Liskey gave us a tour of the greenhouses. They have retired from growing the many different plants that they have in the past. They have leased the greenhouses to Rick Walsh who is growing and marketing microgreens now. They are also working with other experimental crops.
Tracey Liskey took us to the “fish nursery” were the geothermal heat is used as part of the process of hatching and raising shortnose and Lost River sucker fish.

Zach Tiemann, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told us how and why there is a nursery and how it works.

After spawning, the fertilized eggs are released in the streams and the biologist capture thousands in nets, then eggs are transported to the nursery on Lower Lake Road.

After being raised at the nursery for two or three years, about 30,000 are release back into Upper Klamath Lake each year. By protecting the fish in their early growth stage, it is hoped to re-establish a strong population of the shortnose sucker, so they will be removed from the endangered species list. We also learned that the sucker fish are an important part of the lake’s ecology. They feed on the larvae of midges.

Then it was lunch time. We headed to In Merrill, we ate lunch at the City Hall and got to tour their museum.

Back in the bus and we headed to Stateline Highway. On the way we saw the Anderson-Rose Diversion Dam (formerly Lower Lost River Diversion Dam), on Lost River about 3 miles southeast of Merrill, Oregon, which diverts water to serve the lands re-claimed from the bed of Tule Lake. That dam is built near the natural bridge which was use both by Native Americans and early settlers to cross Lost River.

On Stateline Highway, we crossed the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.

The 50,092-acre refuge is a varied mix of intensively managed shallow marshes, open water, grassy uplands, and croplands that provide feeding, resting, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl and other water birds.
“This refuge is one of the most biologically productive refuges within the Pacific Flyway. Approximately 80 percent of the flyway's migrating waterfowl pass through the Klamath Basin on both spring and fall migrations, with 50 percent using the refuge. Peak waterfowl populations can reach 1.8 million birds, including 500 bald eagle and 10,000 tundra swans. Spring and summer nesting wildlife include many colonial water birds, such as white-faced ibis, heron, egret, cormorant, grebe, white pelican, and gulls.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 2001 water cut off not only hurt the farmers in the Basin but also did damage to the refuge. Many species died and the Pacific Fly Way was altered because of the lack of water. The refuge is now recovering thanks to the combined effects of Lower Lake farmers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Next we saw one of the pumping stations that regulates water levels in the Lower Lake Refuge.

The giant pumps move the water back and forth between the Klamath River and Lower Klamath Lake as needed.

A Droplets Tale by Todd Kepple

Theoretically, a drop of water could fall in the Clear Lake area south of the state line, flow north across the border in Lost River, circle west past Bonanza and south past Henley and east past Merrill before crossing the state line back into California and ending up in Tulelake, just a few miles from where it started. It could then be pumped through the Sheepy Ridge tunnel into Lower Klamath Lake, then flow north across the state line through the Klamath Strait, and wind up in the Klamath River, which flows south into California to the Pacific.

In reality, that probably doesn’t happen to any water molecules. But it does serve to illustrate how complicated water issues are around here.
This intriguing story broke the week after the Fourth of July in 1925. The sensational story took several bizarre twists and turns making headlines during the rest of the month with newspaper coverage all along the Pacific Coast. The story is repeated in this article as it was reported with most wording, punctuation and spelling that was used 95 years ago. Langell Valley was then known as Langell’s Valley. Tule Lake (two words) refers to the district of the actual lake. The town of Tulelake (one word) did not exist for another six years. There were no railroads nor Highway 139 in the area in 1925. The road from Malin to Alturas traveled by the Modoc County Sheriff was not paved. Try to visualize the headlines that are shown below in all caps and bold print screaming for attention by using large block letters that sold papers. Most sub-titles were printed with bold large lettering with the first letter of each word capitalized. The headlines of the first two newspaper articles are repeated here to refresh your memory.

Friday July 10, 1925 - Headline -
KLAMATH GIRLS DISAPPEAR
– Girls Ran Away Because They Had To Herd Sheep on Fourth – Authorities Unable To Find Any Trace of Juveniles - Note Left to Father Telling of Their Disappointment - Whereabouts Are Unknown.


[Note – at this point we continue with the “rest of the story.”]

Wednesday July 15 - MISSING GIRLS REPORTED SAFE – Bradshaw Sisters In Dunsmuir; Constable Cozad Leaves This Morning. Sheriff Sharpe of Modoc County On Likely Clue –Mysterious Letter Gives Information of Whereabouts--- Unknown Man Faces Arrest.

I.W Rhodes, former employee of the Bradshaw ranch, was taken into custody Monday night by county authorities and has been held for investigation in connection with the disappearance of the two Bradshaw sisters. Rhodes denies having any knowledge of the girls’ whereabouts, according to sheriff’s deputies, but says he thinks the girls are safe.

According to information received by authorities, Rhodes is said to have taken an auto trip into California at about the same time the girls disappeared.
However, he is reported to have a hazy recollection as to where he went or the purpose of the trip.

On the hottest lead uncovered since the mysterious disappearance of Esther and Junie Bradshaw from a lonely sheep camp on the edge of the lava beds one week ago, Sheriff John Sharp of Modoc county, and Constable Gary Cozad left at 6:30 a.m. today for Dunsmuir where they hope to locate the two missing girls.

They will stop at Alturas, California, and search for the man who, according to their information, transported the girls to the northern California town. The man would be prosecuted under the Mann act if captured as he is reported to have driven from the sheep camp into Oregon, over the Ashland-Klamath Falls highway and into California by way of the Pacific highway. A letter received from a person in Dunsmuir by Cozad yesterday gave the officers the information which led them to believe the girls are in Dunsmuir. Constable Cozad declined to disclose the identity of the man who is said to have taken the two girls from the sheep camp, nor would he tell the name of his informant.

There is no doubt in the minds of the officers before they left this morning, that they were on the right track and that before nightfall they would locate the two girls and the man who took them into California.

Suspicion of ranchers of Tule Lake that the girls had met a violent death, at or near their sheep camp, was not mitigated yesterday, when the bodies of the girls were not located at the bottom of a well which had mysteriously caved in the night of their disappearance. The sheep camp is located on the edge of the lava beds. A ranch employee, working on the Harder ranch, expert in tracking, picked up the track of a large man which lead direct from the sheep camp back into the wild and desolate lava beds. The track was about a week old and was lost by the tracker among the caves, rocks and chasms of the lava country.

Decision to organize a searching party into the Lava Bed country was made by the ranchers at the Harder ranch yesterday afternoon. It was thought that the tracks led to the bodies of the two girls.

Two members of the Evening Herald staff yesterday afternoon visited the deserted sheep camp. As far as one could see, there was no sign of habitation. The girls lived alone in a little tent and herded sheep. Their father’s camp was four miles distant.

According to reports of Tule Lake ranchers, a ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw is now herding the Bradshaw sheep. Mrs. Bradshaw was reported still in the Tule Lake country.

Thursday July 16 - Authorities Expect To Find Sisters In Portland By Tonight.
I.W. Rhodes, Former Employee at Bradshaw Ranch, Makes alleged Confession That He Aided Girls to Run Away—Officials Leave For North.

Search for the missing Bradshaw sisters – Junie and Esther – today centered in or around Portland.

I.W. Rhodes, former employee at the Bradshaw sheep ranch, is reported to have confessed last night to Sheriff Sharp of Modoc County and local officials that he aided the girls in their escape from the Tule Lake sheep ranch late on the night of July 7.

Rhodes is further reported to have told them he could take them to the girls where they would be found unhurt.

Acting on this purported confession, Rhodes last night accompanied sheriff Sharp and Constable Cozad to the north where they expected to locate the girls by nightfall.

A report that the girls would be found at the home of their sister, Mrs. H.E. Bryant, 1460 Minnesota Avenue, Portland, was proven unfounded when Portland newspaper reporters today checked up on the rumor and found the girls had not been seen by their sister.

There was another report that Rhodes had taken the girls to the home of his brother in Goldendale, Wash., but this could not be verified, as Rhodes would not reveal the hiding place to anyone but the officials to whom he is said to have confessed.

Rhodes is said to be about 42 years old. On Monday of last week, he received his wages in full when he left the employ of A.W. Bradshaw, father of the missing girls. He received approximately $311. With this money he came into Klamath Falls and purchased a secondhand automobile. He is reported to have returned to the camp where the girls were camped and to have aided them in their escape late Tuesday night. They are said to have been seen or heard passing another camp on the way to the main highway at about two o’clock Wednesday morning, a week ago.

Whether or not Rhodes found the two girls an apartment or furnished room in Portland and left them there or took them to the home of friends or relatives could not be learned this afternoon and will not be known until Rhodes leads the officers to the place where he says the girls can be found.

A.W. Bradshaw today made an attempt to have a warrant sworn out for Rhodes charging him with a violation of the Mann act for transporting the girls across the state line from Modoc County into Oregon. The complaint was refused, it was reported, because of the absence of anything showing that said transportation, if any, was for immoral purposes.

The girls’ father declared that the authorities had promised to release Rhodes and not press any charges against him if he would lead them to
.the girls and aid in their apprehension.

The rumor or clue which sent the officers speeding toward Dunsmuir yesterday morning was a blind lead, and the Portland angle did not become known until they had returned to the city last night.

Friday July 17 - BRADSHAW GIRLS FOUND; WILL BE BACK HOME SOON. Girls Who Ran Away From Sheep Camp Located in Rooming House.

WERE TOO LONESOME.

Work of Sheep Herding in Tule Lake too Much for Adventuresome Girls.

PORTLAND, Ore., July 17---Junie and Esther Bradshaw, aged 14 and 12, daughters of A.W. Bradshaw, sheepman of the Tule Lake district in Klamath County, who disappeared from their sheep camp several days ago, were located in a Portland rooming house late yesterday. They are now in the custody of the Women's Protective Division.

PORTLAND, Ore., July 17---Junie and Esther Bradshaw, aged 14 and 12, daughters of A.W. Bradshaw, sheepman of the Tule Lake district in Klamath County, who disappeared from their sheep camp several days ago, were located in a Portland rooming house late yesterday. They are now in the custody of the Women's Protective Division.

Klamath officials came to Portland after I.W. Rhodes, former employee on the Bradshaw ranch, confessed to aiding the girls to make their way out of the Tule Lake district. They claim they ran away because their father kept them in the desolate sheep camp and that Rhodes had helped them at their request.

“We're tired of living in the open,” Junie told officials, “the old tent leaked. The water was awful and full of alkali, and we had to carry it about 500 yards. The country is desert. It gets awfully hot in the daytime, and there isn't a tree for miles. Then it gets cold at night. The coyotes came around and howled. We two girls hadn't slept for a whole night while we were out there. We were just scared to death.

“Yes sir, you said it when you asked if we weren't gypsies. That's all we are. We have four brothers and three older sisters, but they've all scattered, and we two girls are the only ones left with dad and ma. We were too busy moving around. "We just got tired of it, tents and deserts and alkali and sheep camps, and thought that we would come to Portland and find a job working in some one's house. We wanted a chance to live in a real house, with a roof over our heads, and bathtubs and gas and electric lights and other things. We want to be white girls; not gypsies.”

The girls will be returned to Klamath County today.

The discovery of the girls in Portland yesterday bears out the news story in the Herald yesterday afternoon in which it was stated the girls were known to be
in hiding there and would be found just as soon as the ex-employee, Rhodes, directed officers to their hiding place.

Thursday July 23 - BRADSHAW GIRLS TO SOON RETURN.

Within the next few days, Constable Cozad and possibly Mrs. A.W. Bradshaw, will leave for Portland to bring back Esther and Junie Bradshaw who ran away two weeks and a half ago.

Word was received this morning by Constable Cozad from Carrie S. Turner, operative of the Woman’s Protective Division, that the girls may now be released from the care of the juvenile authorities of Portland.

Just what will happen to the girls when they return to Klamath Falls nobody seems to know. Whether they will be restored to their father, to their mother or will be taken in charge by county authorities is yet to be decided.

Before the county may assume figural authority over a girl, a complaint must be filed with the county court and a hearing held before the county judge to determine whether or not it would be advisable to return the children to their parents, County Judge R.H. Bunnell explained this afternoon. In case the children are taken in charge by the county, they would be kept in some public institution. No complaint has as yet been filed with the county court, Judge Bunnell said. Note – apparently no complaint was filed in court as the following article appeared in the Evening Herald in the Fall of 1925 – Ed.]

Friday September 25 - BRADSHAW WANTS AUTO BACK FROM ANNOYED SPOUSE

Sheep Man Asks Help of Police in Negotiating With Wife Here

CHILDREN NEED IT

Mrs. Bradshaw is Adamant; Refuses to Turn Car Over to Husband The A.W. Bradshaw family is again in a turmoil, this time over the ownership of an automobile, police reported today. Mrs. Bradshaw has deserted her husband and is now residing on Applegate Street in this city, police say. Bradshaw is tending to his flock of sheep in the Tule Lake country.

Girls With Father

Junie and Esther Bradshaw, whose mysterious disappearance from their home two months ago caused such an uproar in the county, are with their father. Bradshaw claims that his wife has his automobile and that he needs the machine badly because his children must drive 12 miles to school in Malin each day. He came to police and solicited their aid in securing his property. Every time he would approach his wife on the subject, he would meet with silence, he told the police.

Police Refuse Aid

This morning bright and early, he was on hand at the police station and endeavored to secure the aid of a patrolman in negotiating with his wife for the car.
Taking the position that it was more or less of a family altercation, the police decided to leave their hands off. So far as was known by authorities here today, Mrs. Bradshaw still has possession of the automobile. (End of newspaper reports.)

[Note – The manner of reporting this story during 1925 is an example of what “Slow Journalism” is not. Speed to report unverified rumors grabbed headlines and sold papers but was often in error. Today, the rush to be first is mostly left to social and broadcast media. Sensational initial reports are commonly in error and overstate actual events. “Slow Journalism” is preferable with responsible, accurate and confirmed sources - Ed.]

Paul Bunyan Discovers Buckskin

It is reported that the buckskin harnesses for Paul’s oxen were invented when he came to log where the Interstate deer herd roams near the Oregon/California state line. Everyone knows how buckskin stretches when it gets wet and how it shrinks to almost nothing when it dries out. This was the principle utilized by the buckskin harness and the discovery is believed to have been an accident, in this manner:

Paul was logging on Fishhole Creek south of Bly when one of the bull-cooks found all the dry wood in camp had been used up. He had to go a long way into the woods to find some more. It was raining pitchforks, and the harness used on the ox was a brand-new buckskin harness from deer harvested from the Interstate herd.

He finally found a patch of dry wood and loaded the sled to capacity and started back to camp. He was on a good road and went back in a hurry without looking back to see how the load was. When he got to camp, he found out that the buckskin harness had stretched, and the load was nowhere in sight – only a thong of buckskin stretched back into the woods. About this time the dinner bell rang, so he went in the cookhouse to eat, leaving the ox standing. While he was eating, the sun came out and when the bull cook got back, he found that the shrinking buckskin had dried and drawn the load out of the woods all the way into camp.

Paul heard of this and took out a patent on the idea, and after that only buckskin harnesses were used in Paul’s camp for the long hauls.

NO TALE IS TOO TALL FOR PAUL
Trumpeter Staff
Bill Lewis
Sue Fortune
John Fortune
Phyllis Goebel
Mary Nobel
Ron Loveness

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KCHS Website:
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It is time to renew your Membership
Membership fees are due at the end of each year.
- Individual $15.00
- Supporting $30.00
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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

Are you update on your KCHS dues? Please check and if not please catch up. The Historical Society needs your support!

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

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

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