



WALK THROUGH HISTORY Coming Soon!

Last year was so much fun; let's do it again! All of your favorite activities will be back (butter churning, milking, Karuk dancers, bread making, raffle, etc.) plus even more:

Shasta basket weaving
Food booths
(including FSCM homemade pies & coffee)
Blacksmithing
Wool spinning
Denny Bar Store OPEN - and MORE!

Saturday, October 20th 11am - 3pm
Also: *Dear Mad'm Day* event
inside in Research Library @ 1pm



Friend's Siskiyou Golden Fair Exhibit

by Twyla Morford

The Siskiyou Golden Fair has been going on for 158 years in Yreka since 1867. This year the theme was inspiring: Heart of Siskiyou. We at the Siskiyou County Museum added a phrase that reflects our interest in the history of this county. So we made our theme title The Heart of Siskiyou is Those who Preserve its History. With this in mind we contacted the other museums in the county. Not all were able to participate, but we appreciated those who did, as all the museums in the county help preserve our history.

Items collected were placed in a large locked display case with labels describing each item and

which museum it was loaned. The display case was placed in front of a beautiful quilt that was made up of small blue and white hearts. The quilt was donated to the Siskiyou County Museum by Jeanne Welch of the Siskiyou Country Quilters.

Items loaned for the exhibit: a logging chair hook from Weed Historic Lumbertown Museum; a bottle imprinted "Peter Mugler, Brewer, Sisson California; *Ties and Tales*, a book by Patrick Coon, along with four Railroad Days buttons from the Dunsmuir Museum; an opium tin from the Fort Jones Museum; and a pair of oxen shoes from the Etna Museum. The Montague Museum was represented by a green bill cap with the word "Montague" in gold color. Other items were from our museum: a large photo album, a railroad spike,

an Indian basket for a child's doll, and a tree round and red shirt representing the first White House Christmas from the west that was taken from the Klamath National Forest in 1986.

To the left of the case an easel held a display board. On the board were the story of the Christmas tree, a poster with museum Upcoming Events and a poster listing the museums participating in the fair display.

To the right of the case was a small table with a notebook with sheets entitled "What does YOUR HEART say about Siskiyou?" People wrote: "I love the people. They are so friendly!"; "We fell in love here in 1989."; "...a wonderful place to grow up."; "We love you, Siskiyou!"; "The beauty of the river, mountains, swimming, hiking and all the fun".

From Lisa's Desk

Director's Message

We have had a very productive and busy spring and summer at the Siskiyou County Museum. In spite of the smoke we all endured, the museum welcomed many visitors. Our little corner of northern California is a stopping place for people from all over the world and the museum is often on their lists of what to see. However, we can't always count on visitors, either from afar or local, to come just for the exhibits and tour the museum. That is why we try hard to come up with ways to bring the history of Siskiyou County to the general public in a variety of ways.

We have been very pleased with the turnout for our events and programs. The lunchtime program, *Siskiyou Stories*, which takes place most months on the second Friday, has been the biggest surprise. Imagine, in the middle of the day during a work week the conference room is full of audience members anxious to hear from the likes of Walter Pollock, Ralph Starritt, and the folks from Wyntoon. They come for the movies, too. We don't want to run out of interesting topics or people to share, so if you know of a person or have historic home movies, photos, or slides that we could present during one of these programs, please contact Lisa at the museum.

Also, mark your calendars for October 20, 2018 for the Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum's *Walk through History*. Last year was the first time this event took place in the Outdoor Museum and it was fantastic. This year we expect it to be even better.

Some museum exhibits in progress include the Siskiyou Veteran's display on the second floor and an art installation to enhance the sculpture on the front lawn. We have a digital display, that includes photos and audio, of the tour Cal Fire took with Richard Silva of the Yreka Trail.

Ideas for exhibits are always on my mind, but not always so easy to conceive and install, so make sure you visit your local County Museum often to see what new and wonderful things are taking place.

Lisa



Heirloom Cookbook in the Works

Do you have old family recipes that you'd like to share with us? Well, keep in mind that FSCM is gathering these treasures to put into a new cookbook. The resulting cookbook is expected to be printed in 2019.

Sales of the cookbook will not only be a fundraiser for the organization but also a fun project for everyone involved.

We will have a table set up at the *Walk Through History* where you will be able to drop off your recipes or learn more about the project. Or, if you are unable to come down on that day (Oct. 20) you are welcome to drop them off at the museum anytime.

Be sure to put your name on the recipes and don't neglect to add interesting comments and background information about your family favorites.



Museum Spotlight

Montague Depot Museum

Montague began as a railroad town, so it is most fitting that their small but mighty history museum is located inside the old railroad depot. Montague is where the Yreka Western Railroad shortline branched off of the mainline and headed a few miles west to the bypassed county seat of Yreka. Though the days of bustling passengers and loads of logs and lumber and cattle are mostly gone, the town is reminded of its connection to a railroad past by the neatly-kept two story building painted Southern Pacific yellow on 11th Street across the road from the railroad tracks.



Built of redwood in five weeks in 1887, how the depot ended up *across the street* from the tracks is a Montague success story. Following the depot's last day of service on October 15, 1977, Southern Pacific agreed to donate the building to the town, providing it would be moved out of the railroad right-of-way. The town came together and made this happen. The old depot has been renovated and updated as needed, has been filled with railroad and Montague related artifacts nicely displayed, and is staffed by dedicated volunteers. And don't miss the cozy stationmaster's quarters upstairs with its view over Shasta Valley.

This museum is generally open in the summertime only (Memorial Day to Labor Day). But, according to a posting at the museum entry, special visits can be arranged by calling Ward Foster at 530-459-3025.

Earlier this summer in the museum Research Library, Dr. Eddie Wai of Phoenix, AZ (left) and his wife Teresa examined an uncatalogued museum artifact containing Chinese characters. Since the writing was reversed (as confirmed by using a hand mirror to examine) it was determined that the artifact is likely a printing block used to print a prayer book. Theresa and Eddie are old friends of FSCM president Mary Shaw.





Seeking Homemade Pie Donations.....

for our pie and coffee booth at ***Walk Through History*** on Oct. 20.
Proceeds will benefit the museum through the Friends group.

Pie donation drop-off at the museum
Friday, Oct. 19 or the morning of Oct. 20.

Looking for **fruit pies** (**no cream, custard or meat fillings allowed**).

Passport Program Coming Up

Did you know that Siskiyou County has 13 history museums? To encourage people to visit more of them the Friends will soon be implementing a Passport Program. All of the outlying museums have embraced the idea which should be in place by early next year.

Here is how it will work: “Travelers” will purchase an inexpensive Passport booklet at any of the museums. As each museum is visited the traveler will request a rubber stamp on the appropriate page of the booklet.

Each museum will have their own individual rubber stamp design.

The booklet is currently in the design phase as we are working to secure funding so that all of the museums can hit the ground running. A number of the museums are all volunteer run and have meager budgets. We’re hoping that, Passport in hand, locals and visitors alike will be encouraged to make the rounds of all of these gems in the coming year.



Slowly but surely our front-of-the-museum art installation is taking shape. Ralph Starrit spoke about this project at the Sept. Siskiyou Stories. In the coming months other elements funded by our Shasta Regional Community Foundation grant will be added. These will include a standing 11' long slab of gray slate bearing the words “Siskiyou County Museum” in lighted metal lettering. Kris Taylor is overseeing the installation.

A Little Town with a Big Challenge and an Even Bigger Heart

Yreka's 1957 Polio Fund Drive

Editor's Note: My father sent me this clipping in 2000 when it appeared in a column in the San Diego Union-Tribune written by Marilyn Salisbury. She tells the story related to her by her then neighbor Jim Pratley.

In the 1950s the nationwide effort to find a cure for polio brought communities together in that pursuit. In 1957 the great crusade against polio reached its zenith in a very dramatic fashion. Small towns all over this nation undertook various activities to generate donations to this very worthy cause. In fact, one small town in the Midwest with a population of 25,000 raised \$3000 and was praised by the various media of the day as a world beater in this regard.

When the news hit Yreka, in Siskiyou County with a population of 3000, the inhabitants, guided by the local radio station, decided they could raise \$25,000 in three days, and undertook to do just that.

The campaign got underway with a parade down Miner St. and up Main St. collecting loose change, and perhaps some paper money, in a blanket from people lining the sidewalks.

This soon escalated into getting various city officials and other functionaries to wear outrageous hats, ties and other clothing, by a caller to the radio station who donated \$5 if the official complied with this request.

The ball was rolling, with local residents calling in and donating everything from the kitchen sink to an old bathtub. My wife, Virginia, a remarkable pastry cook, donated a lemon meringue pie, which was auctioned by the radio station for \$7.50. The pie was purchased by Bess Waters, owner of the L&B Café. She sold slices of the pie for \$1 each, adding another \$8 to the ever-building total collected.

Locals thought up all sorts of devilish requests and pranks to get even with people that they thought deserved a little payback for some obscure reason, or for no reason whatsoever. It was fun.

One item donated in this city-wide frivolity was a full-grown goose. The owner donated \$10 to the cause if the goose would be delivered to this writer (Jim Pratley) with the stipulation that I keep the monster overnight and return it the next day--intact, unharmed and uneaten--to the radio station. Just who the benefactor was is unknown to this day.

But my wife and I were not to be undone. Just before 10pm, sign-off time for the radio station that started this affair, we received the goose in a suitable cage. Calling the radio station, I offered \$20 to

the cause if the next day the goose could be delivered to Charley Davis, with the provision that he keep it all day or until he could unload it on someone of his choice, either friend or enemy.

And so it went, with that single goose generating a great deal of money, as nobody in their right mind was going to keep that noisy, mean and dirty goose for any great length of time.

Then there was the mile of dimes. Masking tape was laid on the sidewalks of Miner and Main Streets promoting competition between the US Forest Service and the State Division of Forestry to see which organization could outdo the other in putting dimes on the tape.

Pride soon took over, with members of each organization going to Yreka's two local banks to get rolls of dimes until each bank ran out. Each length of masking tape was suitably identified as to the donor organization, clearly a means of intimidation. It worked.

When it was all over, the small town of Yreka, with a population of 3000, did indeed raise more than \$25,000 for the cause and put to shame the town of 25,000 that raised a paltry \$3000.

Museum

Volunteer Opportunities

- restorations
- construction
- grounds
- exhibits
- cataloguing
- call Lisa 842-3836

Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum

a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, EIN 82-1833303

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Note: This is one of the *As It Was* segments written by FSCM member Gail Jenner and broadcast on Jefferson Public Radio.

Etta Soulé, Early Pioneer and Lively Young Girl

by Gail L. Jenner

Esther "Etta" Soulé was born in a log house in Little Shasta Valley, Siskiyou County, California. She attended a rough board, box-shaped schoolhouse built in 1860. One of several Soulé children to grow up in the area, she was a lively young girl.

One story about Etta involved the family's orchard. A large orchard had been carefully laid out. Every tree bore a tag that listed the type of fruit, for example, apple trees such as wine sap, belle flowers, or golden russet. There were also different peach and plum varieties. One day, as Etta's father returned home from a trip to Yreka, he discovered that his young daughter had removed more than fifty tags and decorated herself with them. With no way to retag the trees, little Etta received a serious spanking.

When she was eight years old, Etta accompanied her mother to Illinois where they spent the winter. To reach Illinois the pair traveled by wagon to Marysville—a trip that took a week—where they boarded a train to the east. On the trip to Marysville, they spent one night at the John Bidwell ranch in Chico where she recalled sleeping on the floor.

Etta eventually attended the Ashland Academy in Ashland, Oregon. In 1889, she married Davis Earhart.

Source: Soulé, Dr. A. A. "Notes on Little Shasta School..." Siskiyou Pioneer and Yearbook, 1955. Vol. 2, No. 7. Yreka: Siskiyou County Historical Society. pp. 39-40.

Schedule of Events

Oct. 2

FSCM Board Meeting @ noon

Oct. 12

FSCM General Meeting @ 1:15

Oct. 22

A Walk Through History, Outdoor Museum, 11 to 3

Dear Mad'm Day, Museum Library, 1 pm

Nov. 6

FSCM Board Meeting @ noon

Nov. 16

FSCM General Meeting @ 1:15

Dec. 4

FSCM Board Meeting @ noon

Dec. 14

FSCM General Meeting @ 1:15

Watch for announcements of upcoming *Siskiyou Stories!*

A Walk Through History

Sat. Oct. 20 11am - 3 pm

See you there!