

# Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum



## The Latest from FSCM: Projects

### Our Logo's Source

If you've wondered about the source of the FSCM logo, look no further than the front porch of the museum. The wood carving depicting people from



**Before**

that stood in front of the museum before age and drought did it in. This work of art has become one of the museum's favored "selfie" locations.

Siskiyou County's past was created by local sculptor Barbara Yates. Her sculpting medium was a trunk portion of the Dawn Redwood



**After**



*The Forest House in 1948, when Highway 3 ran right by the front door.*

### Forest House Partnership

Most locals are familiar with the Forest House, the large former hotel/stage stop just off of Highway 3 on the way to Fort Jones. Built alongside the toll road in the 1850s, it was not just a traveler's stop but it also was the center of area social life for decades. The entire upstairs was a ballroom. And, the Forest House farm was at the forefront of agricultural production. Cider and dried fruit and preserves were prepared with fruit from the orchard containing thousands of

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### Outdoor Museum



**10am - 2pm Tue - Sat**

*(FSCM Projects, continued)*

trees (the largest orchard in California at the time!), cattle were raised for meat, ice was cut from a pond in the winter, preserved and sold.

The Forest House holds a special place in Siskiyou County history. The hotel building remains and, given its age (~150 years) it is remarkably intact and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. But the building is deteriorating and the cost to save it would be prohibitive for the Burton family, owners of Forest House since 1909. With that in mind, the family proposed a partnership with the FSCM that would enable them to apply for preservation grants for this complex, expensive and long term project. The FSCM would receive certain benefits, such as use of the property for special events, etc. A partnership agreement is currently being worked on.



*Ralph Starritt at work on the lower leg of an oxen.*

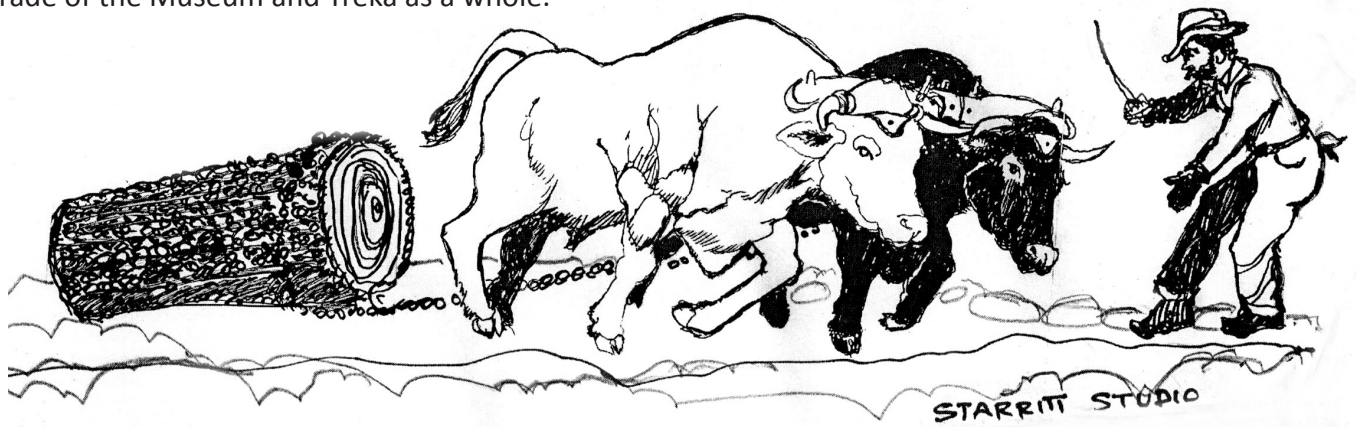
### **Museum Signage and Lighting**

Ralph Starritt's old-time logging metal sculpture (see sketch below) is on its way to completion and in a few months will be in place on that nondescript pile of dirt in front of the museum. But there is much more to the planned installation than just the sculpture.

There will be a decorative rock foundation, landscaping, watering system, solar lighting, and most importantly, a new sign for the museum which will be brushed metal letters on thick slabs of dark slate. An improvement of this caliber is costly, and the FSCM is on board with raising funds for this part of the installation.

We have submitted a grant proposal to the Shasta Regional Community Foundation and are also soliciting other donations earmarked for this particular project. Members are urged to spread the word to businesses or individuals who might be willing to contribute.

When complete, this installation will turn the heads of anyone driving down Main St. and will be a huge upgrade of the Museum and Yreka as a whole.



### **Short Notes**

☞ The museum now **accepts credit cards**, both for entrance fees and at the Museum Store.

☞ **Volunteer Opportunities** galore! Museum Director Lisa coordinates volunteers and knows how best to use your talents and skills. Call her ! (842-3836)

# Historic Curtain is Key to Hornbrook's Past

By Bett Peterson

Anyone who has visited inside of Hornbrook's Community Hall has, no doubt, noticed the large canvas painting with graphic writing that hangs just inside the dining room. If one takes the time to read these names, it seems pretty clear that these must be the business sponsors for the building, once known as Hornbrook Grange #391 (now currently the Hornbrook Community Association). However I wondered why such a huge advertisement was necessary, like an indoor billboard. The canvas is obviously old and has some historical significance, but why so big?

Hornbrook Community Association President James Hines filled me in that the canvas actually served as the curtain for the stage in the building's auditorium years ago.

In search of further information, I read local author Eugene French's book, *Cottonwood-Henley 1851, Hornbrook 1887 and Klamathon 1888-1909*, loaned to me by association Vice President Adria Buckley. The book is a compilation of historical letters, essays and photos of the area. In reference to what was then the old grange, French writes that by 1929, "...all indebtedness on the hall was paid. Most of the money was earned by having dances. Moving pictures were used as a means of earning money to finish the inside of the kitchen and dining room....in 1930 businesses were contacted about having their ads on the stage curtain which was to be repainted."



Yreka High School Senior Seth Stratton in front of the old stage curtain with advertisements. Stratton, a native of Hornbrook, volunteers for the Hornbrook Community Association for his senior project.

The painting from the 1930s seemed all the more intriguing now and I wondered more about the central landscape on the curtain that depicts a peaceful mountain lake scene. Surrounded by steep rocky shores and tall pines, could this out-of-place lake image be an allusion to the grange's advocacy for building dams to control the river? I looked further and found another clue in Eugene French's book. He wrote in reference to the dams "...in 1934 the Grange made their first attempt at having a dam built to conserve water for dry years." However, he says, the grange's project failed to receive enough support from area farmers. The aquatic theme of the painting as a potential reservoir on the Klamath River seems plausible, but was this image a portrayal of an actual place on the Klamath? Or just an idealized image of a picturesque mountain reservoir by dam advocates? I have not been able to determine for certain.

Still curious about these businesses that were probably pillars of the Hornbrook community in the 1930s, I inquired at the Siskiyou County Museum in Yreka. The volunteer researcher has been kind enough to aid in my obtaining more information about the old businesses featured on the curtain. It has been intriguing to sift through the museum's archives of Henley and Hornbrook to see genuine artifacts of the businesses and people who were once vital parts of the community. These photos provided the visual window for my mind to bring part of Hornbrook's past to life again.

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Inside the T. Jones Co & T. Jones delivery wagon.



One central sponsor that is prominently featured in large print at the bottom of the giant canvas is *The T. Jones Co.*, a store owned by Thomas Jones in 1881. We located several significant photos related to his business that sold “groceries and dry-goods” at the store in Henley (the southwest part of Hornbrook), but also delivered goods by horse and carriage to nearby areas.

A less prominently featured business on the curtain is *Fred Bloomingcamps - Meat Market* that is described as selling “fresh and salted meats.” The only photos found in the archives related to Bloomingcamp’s business were, unfortunately, the day the business met its demise in the Hornbrook fire of 1922.

The remaining shell of the concrete building still stands unrepaired today across from the railroad tracks in Hornbrook; like an echo from a more prosperous past, sadly fading away.

The advertisement for the *Hornbrook Hotel* is located adjacent



to the landscape painting of the lake. The hotel is described on the curtain as “Everything First Class.” The old brick hotel, built by Thomas Jones in 1888, was a convenient overnight stop for train passengers. It was said that as many as 32 trains a day traveled north and south through Hornbrook to and from Oregon, so it must have been a busy



place. Sadly the hotel met its fate in 1967 after it was purchased by a family from Medford and dismantled for scrap. The Mail Tribune, a Medford newspaper, published an article and photographs of the hotel demolition. The locally kilned bricks were of good quality, the article states, and were shipped up to Ashland, Oregon for use as recycled construction materials.

Although it has been rewarding to locate these photos related to the canvas curtain and several news articles related to Hornbrook, I feel that the job is not complete. I hope that I might continue to find further information about these local businesses that chose to sponsor the old Hornbrook Grange community. If the old building’s walls could talk, many stories could be told about significant events and connections that were made here. Thankfully these business advocates for the community of Hornbrook left something behind for us to learn from; a lesson about supporting the community in which they lived – a lesson which carries on to this day with the devoted people who continue to support the Hornbrook Community Association with, not only financial contributions, but their time, energy and commitment to the community.

The old grange’s stage curtain with the historical advertisements is viewable at the Hornbrook Community Association building located at 225 Main Street in Hornbrook. The building was constructed sometime before 1927 and has been used over the decades as a school, church, emergency shelter and gathering place for numerous community events both public and private.

The historic building will be open to the public for summer “taco feeds” the first and third Friday of every month beginning on April 20th.

## Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Day

If you were expecting an informal chip, dip and chat gathering, you were in for a big surprise on the afternoon of January 27. The conference room/research library was set with linen-covered tables,



*The conference room all set up for the Donor Event.*

“real” dishes and glasses, fresh flowers, and tiered serving dishes laden with a most scrumptious variety of hor d’oeuvres. While a slide show of volunteers at work looped on the pull-down screen, volunteers, donors and FSCM accomplishments were recognized and lauded in heart-felt speeches given by Museum Director Lisa and FSCM president Mary and vice president Grace, and each volunteer was given a handsome cloth shopping bag as a token of appreciation.

It was truly a high-class event; Thank you Kris Taylor and crew for making it happen.



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## Local Photographers Alert!

FSCM is sponsoring a photography contest, ending with a show on Saturday, June 23, 1 – 4 pm. There are three categories; *Historic Landmarks*, *People/Animals* and *Landscapes/Scenery*. Prizes in each category is as follows:

First: \$30 and a year’s membership in FSCM

Second: \$15 and a year’s membership in FSCM

Third: a year’s membership in FSCM

People’s Choice Award: Honorable Mention and a ribbon

Winners will also receive publicity on social media and the newspaper. Winners must agree to a “one time right” release of their photograph for possible printing in postcard format, to be sold (credited, of course) out of the museum.

Registration forms are due by June 15 and can be picked up at the museum and at *Shophe Serendipity* on Main St. Only one entry per category please.

## Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum

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## Museum Store Growing



Store Manager Katherine continues to add to the inventory, with something for everyone. The selection ranges from inexpensive postcards to tee shirts to local jewelry and high end ceramics, and of course there is a nice selection of books. Katherine is starting to focus on children's items and there are presently gold mining kits in stock.

The Museum Store now accepts credit cards.

And, we still have quite a few 2018 Siskiyou County Historic Calendars. Reduced to \$3!!! Contains 12 historic images of the county that would be nice framed.

**Still available!**  
**Only \$3!!!**

## Schedule of Events

### April 13

Siskiyou Stories @ noon. Nanci Rogers of High Ace Leathers and Randy Risner of Sagebrush Saddle and Tack Repair with leather demonstrations.

FSCM General Meeting @ 1:30.

### May 11

Siskiyou Stories @ noon. A presentation from staff of Wyntoon, the Hearst Estate near McCloud.

FSCM General Meeting @ 1:30

### May 18 &19

Gem and Mineral Show 10am – 2pm

### June 8

Siskiyou Stories @ noon. Two films: *A Visit to Etna*, 30 minutes, poor quality but good information. *Travel to Scott Valley*, 9 minutes.

FSCM General Meeting @ 1:30.

### June 16

Yreka Gold Rush Days 10 am – 3 pm

### June 23

Museum Photo Contest & Show 1 pm – 4 pm

### August 8-12

Siskiyou Golden Fair, including Museum display

