

# Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum



## Images from *A Walk Through History*



Our second annual **Walk Through History** took place on a mild late October Saturday. Most of last year's participants returned plus the Clammers cooked hamburgers and the Friends had a very successful homemade pie booth. We thank Chairperson Kris Taylor of Shoppe Serendipity for chairing this event twice and getting us going on the right track. We will be back next year on a new earlier date (first Saturday in October) and will be trying out some new ideas, including more vendor opportunities. See you then!



**Come Shop  
at the  
Museum  
Store.**

**Toys**

**Jewelry**

**T Shirts**

**Books**

**Wool Socks**

**Mt. Shasta**

**calendars**

**& mugs**

**much more**



more photos inside



## *Last Chance!*

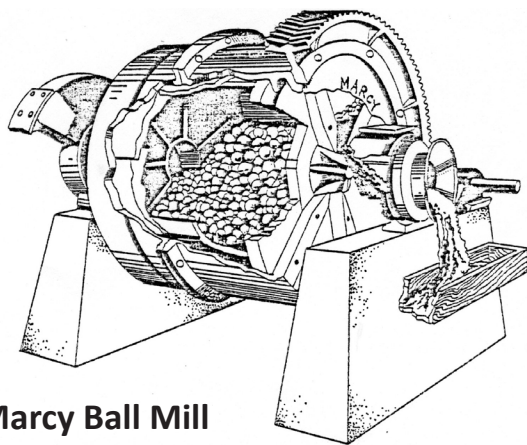
Still have recipes to contribute to the FSCM Heritage Cookbook? Deadline Jan. 2, 2019. Drop off or mail to the museum asap. Will be available for Mother's Day 2019

## Museum Report

In early November Museum Director Lisa made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the state of the Museum. Some of what she shared with them were “the numbers”, that is, yearly data summarizing Admissions, Visitors, Donations and Volunteer Hours from when she came here in 2014 up to July 2018. On a positive note, admission fees collected and the number of visitors have more or less doubled. Donations have increased dramatically. And volunteer time totaled about 2000 hours July 2017 - July 2018 (which shouldn't surprise many of us who spend time in the museum!)

She also noted building improvements (gutters, heater, more security cameras, etc.) and had other important items on her “Goal Setting and Accomplishments” list, such as developing more partnerships (such as she has with the Sheriff's Department work crew), digitization of some of the collection (made a big dent on this in 2018), new exhibits (such as the in-progress Veteran's exhibit), more volunteers, and cataloguing the collection.

It seems that quite a number of artifacts in the collection have not been adequately catalogued to current standards. There is a small learning curve, but learning to catalogue is a wonderful opportunity for an aspiring volunteer!



**Marcy Ball Mill**

Image from the book *Anatomy of Siskiyou County Gold Ore Mills, Issue 1 of Museum Series*, by James Rock and available for sale at the museum.

## Good News for the Passport Program

Aren't we lucky! In the fall FSCM submitted a grant application to Pacific Power Foundation to help us get our Passport Program up and running. And yes, we got the grant! Not quite as much as we asked for but plenty to get us going. Thank you, PacifiCorp!

Beginning early in 2019 the little passport booklets will be designed and sent to the printers. By spring they will be ready to distribute to all 13 museums in the county. Then we can all start touring the county to collect our passport stamps.



*Do you remember Reddy Kilowatt? Here he is, circa 1970s, welcoming us to Iron Gate Lake, one of the lakes resulting from the power dams built by Copco (which later became Pacific Power and Light, now PacifiCorp). Reddy was a spokesman for and promoter of electric power starting in 1926, when, yes, people needed to be persuaded to get onto the grid. He was licensed to individual power companies with the agreement that he would always be portrayed as “genial, likeable, well-mannered and even-tempered.” He has mostly disappeared with the exception of a handful of power companies, some of them foreign, that still license his image. Popular in his day, he even starred in a movie, but cartoon characters have generally fallen out of favor as corporate spokespeople.*





Join us for the December  
*Siskiyou Stories:*

**Local Authors  
Book Event**

Meet and greet many  
Local Authors

coffee, cookies & conversation

Friday December 14  
10am - 1pm

Shop for books and gifts in the  
**Museum Store**

FSCM General Meeting to follow

**more Images from  
*A Walk Through History***



**See you next year!  
Oct. 5, 2019**





## Rusty Relics

by Jill Livingston



**T**eepee burners. Once so ubiquitous in the Northwest that the opportunity to photograph one in action passed, as too many photo opps do, before we realized it. What you see now, where they haven't been torn down, are rusted relics, structures of simple, soaring beauty, testaments to a once thriving timber industry. Gone are the days when a warm glow in the distance pierced the drizzly night, embers spewing a welcome as your car passed by the mill site on the highway, windows transmitting a bit of the heat. Gone, for better or worse.

Teepee burners, or wood burners, were used to burn mill waste up until the mid-70s. And what a lot of waste there was. Even by 1970 it is estimated that only about 50% of every tree cut was utilized. Even less was used in the early days when refuse was often sent down a river or burned in open pits. Mills were tinderboxes just waiting to ignite (and many

did) and the flammable sawdust needed to be disposed of.

Wood burners were a vast improvement in efficiency and safety over open burning (i.e. CONTAIN the fire). Early cylindrical models came out of Michigan before 1900. They were lined with fire brick and they were expensive. A Northwest firm, Colby

Engineering of Portland, pioneered the economical cone-shaped design in 1916. With a flared base that kept the flames away from the cone, they were built of two steel shells with air in between, no brick necessary, and topped with a screened cap. Thus, a new icon was born.

Patents on variations of the cone proliferated from other manufacturers or sometimes the builders winged it and burners were fabricated on the site. The variety of building techniques, materials available and type of waste to be disposed of made each burner almost unique, although the basic form remained the same.

The most functional designs followed two rules of thumb. The first was that the diameter of the base equaled the distance between the base and the bottom of the cap. Secondly, the diameter of the cap was half that of the base.

Environmental laws regarding air pollution (the Clean Air Act of 1970) put the teepee burners to rest by about 1980. Besides the resulting cleaner air, as much "waste" material as possible began to be diverted into manufacturing wood products other than lumber. Some mills converted the burners into chip or sawdust hoppers.

It's fun to keep your eyes open for the rusty burners as you cruise the highways and backroads of northern California and the Northwest. With the industry dwindling, countless mills have shut down. And when the price of scrap metal went sky high a few years back, we lost many of the abandoned but still standing relics.

But when you do find them, they often stand alone in an opening that was once a bustling lumber mill.

*Upper left: From the inside looking out (Happy Camp). Below: One of two burners in Dorris.*







## HistoriCorps Paid a Visit

Wielding tape measures, clipboards and keen eyes, two members of HistoriCorps paid the museum a visit in early November. The two women spent a long full day inspecting and assessing every building in the Outdoor Museum. The information they collected is currently being analyzed and we should receive a report, actually an estimate, soon.

HistoriCorps is a program that restores historic structures using volunteer labor. However, should we decide to use their services, we would need to purchase the necessary building materials. This past summer one of their projects was restoring CCC-era Hirz Lookout on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Our dreamed-of project is an exciting possibility for some time in the future and we are anxious to learn about their findings.



**California Sketches**

**SACRAMENTO RIVER BRIDGE,  
DUNSMUIR, SISKIYOU COUNTY.  
IN JULY, 1953, A \$651,000 CONTRACT WAS AWARDED FOR WIDENING AND  
REDECKING THE ORIGINAL BRIDGE, BUILT IN 1917, AND CONSTRUCTING  
NECESSARY APPROACHES. IT WAS COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER, 1955.**

*From the Sacramento Bee, Nov. 29, 1964*

Artist Carl Somdal's *California Sketches* appeared in the *Sacramento Bee* on Sundays from 1951 until 1965. He was a newspaper cartoonist who started working for the *Chicago Tribune* in 1941, after working in such places as the Smithsonian Institution and the New York Public Library. He came to the *Bee* in 1948.

## Volunteer Opportunities

call Lisa 842-3836

- restorations
- construction
- grounds
- exhibits
- cataloguing

## Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum

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

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## Schedule of Events

**Dec. 14**

**Local Authors Book Event** 10am - 1pm  
FSCM General Meeting @ 1:15

**Jan. 8**

FSCM Board Meeting @ noon

**Jan. 11**

**Siskiyou Stories** @ noon  
FSCM General Meeting @ 1:15

**Board Elections**

**Feb. 5**

FSCM Board Meeting @ noon

**Feb. 15**

**Siskiyou Stories** @ noon  
FSCM General Meeting @ 1:15

From the *Yreka Journal*  
June 16, 1903.

### Automobile in Yreka

The appearance of a gasoline automobile on our streets last Thursday a.m. created considerable excitement, it being the first ever seen in Yreka. It was brought here by Dr. Thompson and Manuel Perry, who were about three hours making the trip from Sisson, a distance of 45 miles, having been delayed nearly an hour by the cutting of one of the tires in running into a deep mudhole near Edgewood as there had been a heavy rain shower the day previous. They can make the trip in about two hours very comfortably although the horseless wagon is really capable of running 50 miles an hour on a good smooth road.

The gasoline tank and machinery are enclosed in the wagon box, and the turning of the wheels is by

means of a connecting link chain attached to the center of rear axel, similar to those used in a bicycle. It goes along smoothly and noiselessly, and can be guided or turned around quickly, or backed up to any place desired as readily as in going forward.

The wagon is owned in partnership by Dr. Thompson and Manuel Perry, and cost them about \$700. It is always ready to run when the tank contains gasoline, and the machinery starts by moving a lever held by the driver. No effort was made to speed it to full capacity owing to fear of frightening horses on the wagon roads and streets. The novelty was a source of great attraction, and wherever stopped drew large crowds to examine its mechanism.

**Watch for announcements of  
upcoming *Siskiyou Stories*.  
We are lining up some good speakers!  
Suggestions? call Lisa @ 842-3836**

### Notes



■ FSCM membership is \$10/year.  
Renew now for 2019.

■ Board elections will take place at the January meeting, nominations will be made at the December meeting.

■ We are sad to announce that President Mary Shaw recently moved to Redding. Grace Bennet will move into her position. We will be electing one member-at-large, a Vice President and a Secretary.