



Friends of the Siskiyou County Museum

Fall 2022 newsletter

New Sign for Blacksmith Shop!



A beautifully crafted new sign for the blacksmith shop in the Outdoor Museum was unveiled at the Museum Family Fun Day on Oct. 1st. Hans Peters with help from Smokey Dowling created the masterpiece that replaced the faded and deteriorated sign that had been in place for decades. Thanks and kudos to Hans and Smokey!

Harmon & Harmon was one of the two (along with Swan and LeMay) prominent livery stables/blacksmith

Continued on P. 3

Upcoming Museum Events

Friday, Nov. 11

Siskiyou Stories @ noon

**A River and a Beaver:
A Story of Beaver (Scott) Valley
Through the Eyes of a Rodent**

Charnna Gilmore
Scott River Watershed Council

Friday, Dec. 9

FSCM GENERAL MEETING @ 10:30

Join us for
Holiday Treats & Good Cheer

Siskiyou Stories @ noon

TOPIC:

***Renovations & Innovations
in Historic Yreka***

WITH: Connie Meek
Lonnie Cartright
Joan Favero

NORTH STATE GIVING TUESDAY

Once again, building our **Scholarship Fund** for a Siskiyou County high school senior.

We awarded two \$500 scholarships in June, 2022!

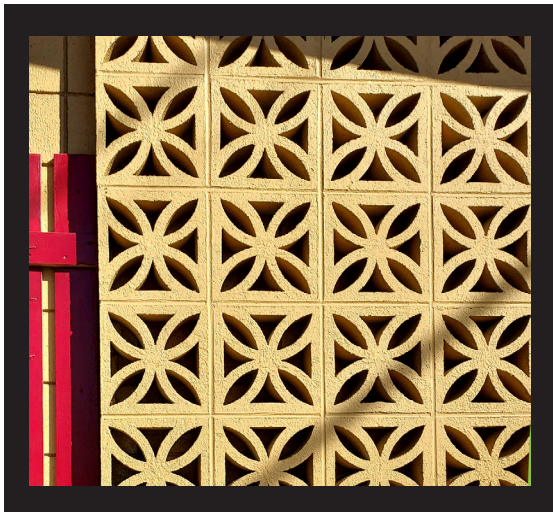
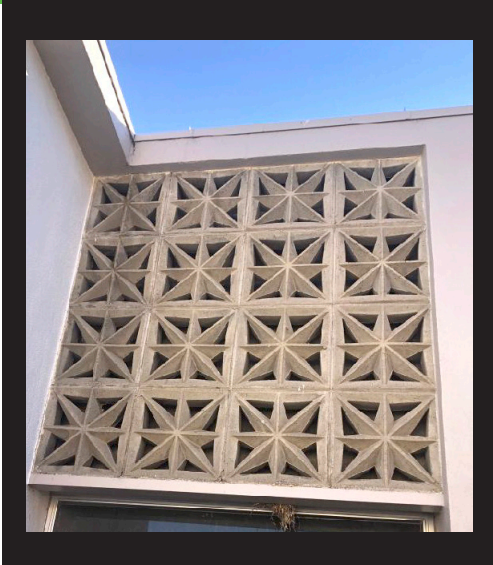
Tuesday, Nov. 29. **Early Giving** starts Nov. 15 www.NorthStateGives.org/FSCM

* you can also come into the museum to donate

Retro Design Features Still Intact in Yreka

Like all highway towns, Yreka had its “motel row.” Most of the motels built along Main Street/Highway 99 in the 1950s and 1960s still stand although they’ve unfortunately been shorn of their classic neon signs. But one remaining feature that you’ve probably barely noticed on a number of them is a mid-century architectural feature known as “breeze blocks” or “screen blocks.”

These decorative stackable concrete blocks are still being made. But in their heyday, at a time when almost every mid-sized town had a plant that produced concrete blocks locally, there were over 250 unique block designs that were used in all kinds of public buildings and homes. They are most common in hot climates, where a breeze block wall provides privacy while still allowing for the passage of a cooling breeze. However, once attuned to them, it doesn’t take long to spot many examples in Yreka.



Breeze blocks date from the Art Deco period of the 1930s. But it was two widely celebrated buildings designed by American architect Edward Stone, the 1958 US Embassy in New Delhi, India and the 1959 Stanford Medical Center in California, that started the design trend, a trend that spread even to remote Siskiyou County.

© Jill Livingston

Top to bottom: Yreka Post Office (starburst pattern), Jefferson Inn, Relax Inn pool enclosure



Diamond



Clover



Circle



Square
in Square



Rectangle
in Rectangle



Double A



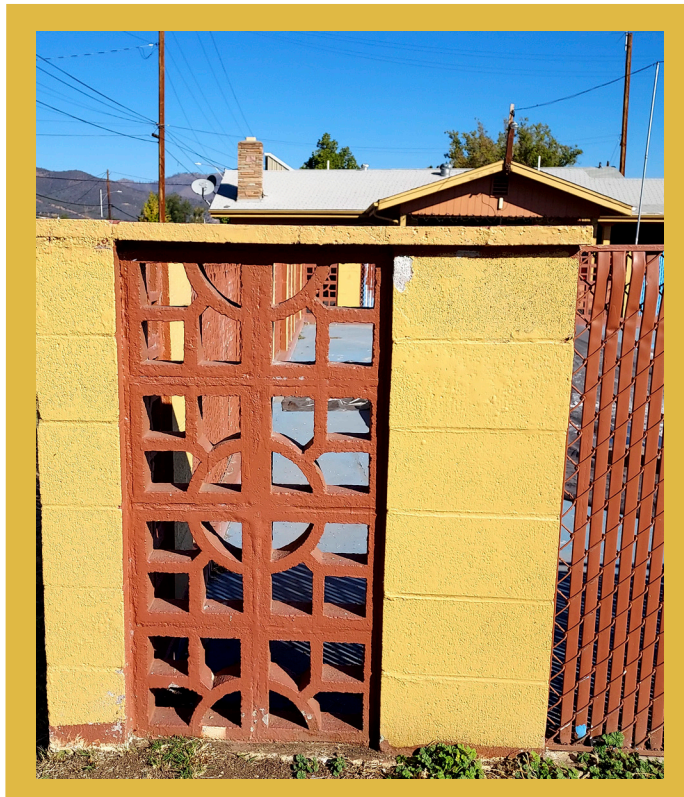
Double X



Double Y



Fan



Museum Notes



The second annual **Cowboy Poetry and Music Show** in September was another big success. Thank you Selma Schantz for organizing this. Also a big THANK YOU goes out to the Yreka High School **Interact Club** for their help with set up and take down on that day AND at the Museum Family Fun Day three weeks later.

Giving Tuesday is coming up on November 29, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Once again we will be using the donations to award a **\$500 scholarship** to a Siskiyou County high school senior. Last year we awarded two! We are very proud of this continuing program.

Looking for:

- Speakers for Siskiyou Stories in 2023. Drop off your suggestions!
- YOUR collectibles to put on display for a month or two in the rotating exhibit case in the museum entryway.
- Anyone interested in serving on the Friends Board of Directors. Bring nominations to the December 9 General Meeting.

NOTE: Museum will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 9. See you in 2023!

Go
Christmas Shopping
at the
Museum Store!

Books! Toys! Jewelry! Ceramics! Teeshirts! And More!

(Harmon & Harmon - Continued from P. 1)

shops in Yreka. It was located on the southeast corner of Broadway and Center Streets. Such establishments did horseshoeing, general blacksmithing, built agricultural implements, built and dealt in wagons and carriages.

The business was first called Nehrbass & Harmon but John E. Harmon bought his partner out around 1885. I could find no evidence of the second mentioned Harmon, such as a brother. John did have two sons but census records reveal that they both worked in banking. He kept the shop running until around 1930, when one could deduce that cars were in, horse and buggies well on their way out.

Harmon & Harmon wagons were prized for their workmanship and durability. With this new sign, we are helping to keep the legacy of the shop alive.

Museum Family Fun Day Oct. 1, 2022



It was a great day!

Thanks to all participants and also to Mechanics Bank for their Sponsorship!

Photos, Clockwise from top:

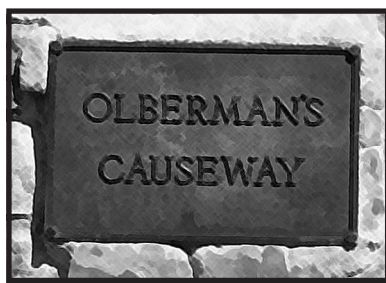
Elegant Bustles and Bows costume group from Central Point, Oregon

Backcountry Horsemen hands-on packing demonstration with Bill Roberts and Peggy Goshgarian

Blacksmith Shawn Gordon who comes out every year!

Trinity with the Siskiyou County Arts Council Art Cart

And of course that's Smokey Bear greeting the visitors!



Siskiyou County Historical Monuments

Have You Seen this One?

This is a monument you will need to take a hike to see, a 3.5 mile round trip trek that begins at Bunny Flat on Mt. Shasta. The monument and the Causeway are located behind the stone Sierra Club cabin at Horse Camp close to timberline where the real ascent of the mountain begins. The cabin itself was built in 1922 and was first known as the Mount Shasta Rest House. Keep in mind that in those days the trek began far below the current parking lot at Bunny Flat. More than just a day-hike destination, the cabin was, and is, a place for climbers to rest and regroup before the challenge ahead.

By the time the cabin was christened with a bottle of Shasta Ginger Ale the cabin was being called the Shasta Alpine Lodge. J. M. "Mac" Olberman was the first custodian of the Lodge. He lived and worked there for twelve seasons, caring for the cabin and the visitors and always making improvements. Each year he built about 100 feet of a flagstone paved path crossing a fragile alpine area on the first leg of climb. Mac passed away in March of 1946. The cairn and plaque were placed at the beginning of his trail by the Sierra Club later that year.

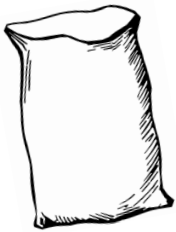


Source: "Shasta Alpine Lodge at Horse Camp: A Chronology" by Dennis Freeman

Meet Lotta Crabtree and Black Bart!



In anticipation of our October Museum Family Fun Day, late last summer the Friends commissioned local artist Gale Jensen III to paint life sized images of two of our favorite locally significant celebrities from days long ago. The obvious first choices were entertainer Lotta Crabtree and stage coach robber Black Bart. The full length portraits now greet visitors when they enter the museum. We are so pleased with them!

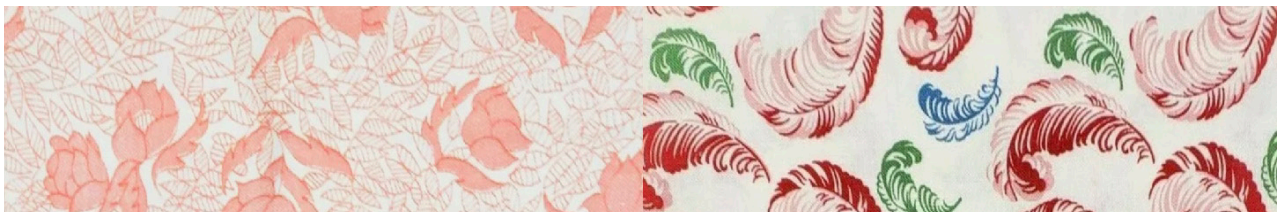


Feed Sack Clothing

You might remember a brand of clothing from the 1970s called Gunne Sax. Those loose-fitting dresses, sewn in a sort of prairie style out of cotton prints, had a vaguely historic look. The name, of course, is a play on “gunny sack,” which is a bag made of coarse fabric and used for storing such things as potatoes. But the clothing trade name is also suggestive of “feed sack” and “flour sack,” which were in fact significant sources of fabric for clothing during the lean years of the Great Depression and during WWII, when woven fabric was mostly diverted to the military.

Cotton fabric bags were first used in the grain industry in the 1800s. By the 1940s the tightly woven bags constituted 8% of all cotton goods production, declining until the 1960s when cotton bags were replaced by heavy paper bags. During the war years converting flour sacks, technically known as “cotton commodity bags,” into clothing

(Continued on P. 8)



Sacramento Bee, 11-16-56

Old Indian Uses Trance to Forecast Mild Weather

Hornbrook, Siskiyou County – Sargeant Sambo, Shasta Indian who was at least 95 years of age on October 6th, has his own ideas about the weather prospects for the winter but he pays little attention to such things as the color of autumn leaves and what the squirrels are doing.

Sambo, who dislikes the term “medicine man” and prefers to be called a shaman or witch doctor, gets his advance information by going into a trance, as, he says, he was trained to do when he was a youth.

Big Snow – Then Rain

He did this the other evening. First, the snow gods swirled outside his window but did not stay. Then, Sambo saw himself slogging through the mud in his galoshes to the grocery store. This went on for quite a long time.

And what does this mean? Quite simple. The brief appearance of the snow gods means there will be only one real snowstorm, probably December 23rd or 24th.

And the mudslogging to the grocery store? Again, quite simple. There will be more rain than snow and on the whole the winter will be mild.

Melody Really Haunts

Another thing – three days before anyone in Hornbrook dies, Sambo finds himself absentmindedly humming the ancient death chant of the almost extinct Shastas. He tries to shake off the refrain running through his mind, but it will not go. After three days, he goes to the grocery store and asks, “Who died?”

And they always tell him.

Named for Father

Sambo was named for his father, who received the name from the first United States soldiers stationed at

Fort Jones in 1852. His father named him Sargeant for a noncommissioned officer friend.

One of his first duties as a very young shaman, Sambo recalls, was to go with the hunting parties to ensure their getting plenty of game. To this day, he says, he quietly calls upon the game gods whenever his close friends go out for buck or ducks and the gods always deliver.



Sargeant Sambo in his younger days, wearing a “chief’s costume” (as it says on the back of the photo) that was buried with his mother. Sargeant Sambo was born in 1865 on the Klamath River near Oak Bar. He is buried in the Hornbrook cemetery.

(Continued from P. 6)

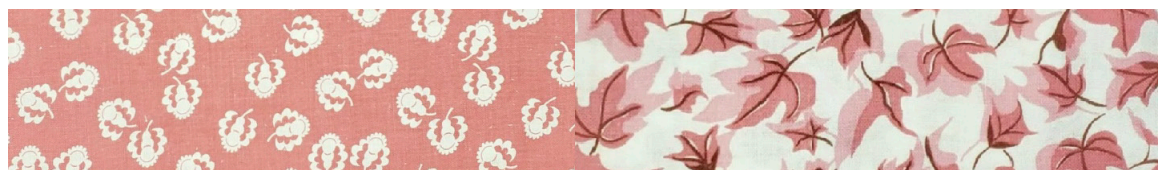


and other useful items such as diapers and dishtowels was viewed as being not only frugal but also patriotic. "A yard saved was a yard gained for victory!"

Two or three 100-pound sacks of flour or chicken food would provide enough salvaged fabric (about three yards) to sew the average woman's dress. Milling companies jumped on the patriotic band wagon and began to produce a variety of prints pleasing to women. However, the printed company logos and label information were NOT popular elements of a stylish flour sack dress. According to the 1933 booklet *Sewing with Cotton Bags*, "Under ordinary circumstances, it is sufficient to cover the inked places with lard or soak them in kerosene overnight." Hmmm, ok. Eventually, the labeling came to be printed with water soluble inks for easier and safer removal.

The next step was to pull the stitching out from the seams, wash, starch and iron the sack, which was now a 36" X 44" piece of fabric. At the feed store it could be a scramble to find another bag or two with the same print in order to have enough fabric to sew a favored pattern. Hundreds of different prints were produced during the war years, and feed stores turned into de facto fabric stores. Sewing patterns for using cotton sack fabric were widely available; cotton sack sewing

By Jill Livingston
Major Source: "From Feed Sack to Clothes Rack" by Margaret Powell



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Board Meetings: Second Tuesdays @ 10am
General Meetings: as announced

contests became popular at county fairs. There were assorted categories to compete in such as children's wear, women's wear, household curtains, table linens, etc. But even the chance to be the next "National Cotton Bag Sewing Queen" was not enough to sustain the practice once regular fabrics returned to the shops postwar.

The ingenuity and skill these women exhibited in creating stylish serviceable garments and other useful items is a fine example of resourcefulness in a national time of need.

