

The Historical Oldtimer

The Electronic Newsletter
of
Josephine County Historical Society
512 S.W. 5th Street



HELP NEEDED

History is about the **past**, but the Historical Society needs some help in the **present**.

For the past few seasons we have had volunteers do many, many, many things. Most are members who have the time and energy to do such things as mowing lawns, weeding, spreading fertilizer, pulling weeds, weed-eating tall unwanted grass, pruning roses, etc, etc.

If you would like to help with the yard maintenance, please let us know. Leaf raking season is fast approaching and then we will have the winter rest period. So if you want to think about it, you have the fall and winter to think about what you might like to do in the spring. If you wish to do something sooner, when the leaves begin to fall, grab your rake and come collect some of our leaves. This can be just a one hour commitment and you are not obligated to work again.

Phone 541 479 7827 and we will pass your name on to our Grounds Committee and someone will contact you.

Maybe you would like to join the Living History Players.

Perhaps you would like to plan or manage one of our events, or just be a one-time helper at an event. Sometimes all you have to do is sit in the Schmidt House Museum and watch out for people with "sticky fingers" for about three hours on one Saturday afternoon at Christmastime. You could bring a friend to sit with you. It could be more relaxing than work. Many of our volunteers only work 3 or 4 hours a year...yes, you read it correctly. Try it, you'll like it. Remember, phone 541-479-7827 and we will find a place for you.

The Historian was mailed up until the pandemic hit. The *Oldtimer* was electronic, We now have just one newsletter and this is it. Five issues are sent by e-mail and October issue is mailed. Volume 2 Number 4 (2023)

August 2023

Newsletters issued in February(1), April,(2) June,(3) August(4), October(5) and December(6).

We Have A Date

As of this newsletter, these are tentative :

- ✓ **The Graveyard Tour** is now called Pioneer Spirits and is a presentation in the Schmidt House back yard.
- ✓ October 21
- ✓ Annual Meeting November 7
- Christmas Open House Dec. 16

Phone 479-7827

Board for 2023

President

Jodi Wainwright

Vice President, Historical Sites, Buildings & Properties

Ken Bell

Treasurer/Executive Secretary

Martha Metcalf

Secretary/Publishing

Joan Momsen

Events

Linda Fuidge

Living History Players

Vacant...apply now.

Parliamentarian

Sharon Allen

Board Development

Pam Petrusha

Grounds

Darrel Johnston

Directors-at-Large

Jim Van Delden

Jan Greenblatt

Shawn Karban

Krista Bell

Leta Neiderheiser

Lynn Snell

Taylor Roberts

Cindy English retired in August 2023.



FYI the Cave Queen pictured in the last issue is our current secretary.

Sixty years does make a difference

RESEARCH LIBRARY

Our research library is an old-fashioned research facility. We have not gone digital. You have to look in file folders and read off of pieces of paper. We have books, family histories, maps, news clippings and photographs. Check out some of the photos on our Website. If you are a member, all this is free for you to look through. If you are not a member, we charge a research fee. We do not loan out our materials so you need to plan to sit and look at what we have. We will photocopy items for you for a fee. We can reproduce photos for you. We can even research for you, but that costs you a research fee. Come and visit.

For a daytime meeting or picnic on Tuesdays, Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am until 3 pm you can rent the backyard of the Schmidt House. Phone for details. We have white plastic tables and chairs.

Special events at different times will be considered .541-479 -7827

Shamrock Technologies

Sean Malloy

2555 N.W. Highland Ave.

Apt. A

Grants Pass, OR 97526

541-761-0001



We sell books and photos. You can look at our website and see some of our offerings. However, not everything is listed. We are given many older books that have little to do with Josephine County History or are duplicates of what we have, so we put those out to sell. Maybe you had an old coffee table book that has disappeared or a book you remember from years ago. We have many one of kind, single copy, of many such books that we wish to place in good homes. So if you want a unique book, come visit our bookstore. It is never too early to start gift shopping for a special book. The prices start at just one dollar. Some cost more because we think they are worth more. Come and see what we have and make an offer.

The Schmidt House Museum

If you live in an old house, maybe at times you feel like you are living in a museum. We have an old house next to our research library and we give tours though the house for \$10. per person. It is unique because the family that built it...the Schmidts..were the only family who ever lived in it. It is almost 125 years old and the Schmidt's lived in it for 8 decades, It has turn of the century items along with things well into the Twentieth Century.

We prefer to have small groups of 2 to 6 people at a time to go through the house with one of our guides. The house is set out as it was when occupied. Combs and brushes on the tables, a bacon press on the kitchen store, a pantry full of kitchen items and food, a large bathtub in a room just for bathing...the toilet is in a separate room. In two of the bedrooms, the large closets even have windows.

We are open for tours Tues. thru Fri. 11am to 2pm.

Reservations appreciated.

In good weather you could plan a tour and bring your lunch and have a picnic in the Schmidt House garden.

Thanks to Ed and Cindy English for all the hard work both of you have done.

Cindy, we will miss you at the Board Meetings.

Need a Paper Copy?

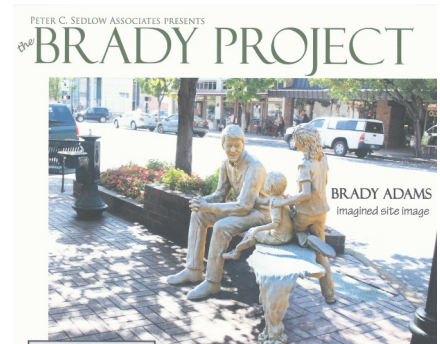
We are willing to mail to those who want a paper copy of this newsletter, but we would like some reimbursement for time and postage. You can add some postage money to your dues and make sure you tell us you want a mailed copy. You can always pick up a copy of a newsletter at the office. They come out every other month.

We will continued to mail the October newsletter with the November ballot enclosed.

Let us know what you think and if you need a hard-copy mailed newsletter, please let us know.

Hey, JCHS Member

We might have more members if we had a different name, but since we collect the history of Josephine County and preserve it for future use, it would be hard to call ourselves by another name. We are not part of county government and because of our name, many have that misconception. We do not get any money from the county. We are a private, non-profit that operates on what we have saved and what we get through our membership fees and bookstore. We really could use more members and as a member you can do nothing or you can participate in our activities. It only costs \$20 a year...or you could send us \$1,000 to become a lifetime member and never have to remember to pay your yearly dues again. You can give memberships as gifts to your kids, grandkids, neighbors, co-workers, or anybody that is hard to buy a gift for. Our six yearly newsletters will remind them of your thoughtfulness and the gift that lasts a whole year. Please consider helping us by renewing your membership and we will even let you pull weeds for free.



The Josephine County Historical Society a 501 (c) 3 organization is the fiscal agent for the Brady Project. We collect the donations and pass them on to the artists. We do not keep any of the funds received. If you wish to donate, send checks to:

Josephine County Historical Society
512 SW 5th St., Grants Pass, OR.
97526

You may donate on the JCHS website
www.jocohistorical.org

Be sure to note "Brady" on your check or website donation. The Brady Project will be a memorial statue, as shown above, honoring Brady Adams.

Oregon Books will give members a discount if you show your JCHS membership card, and will donate 5% of the sale back to the Historical Society.

Oregon Books
150 NE E Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526

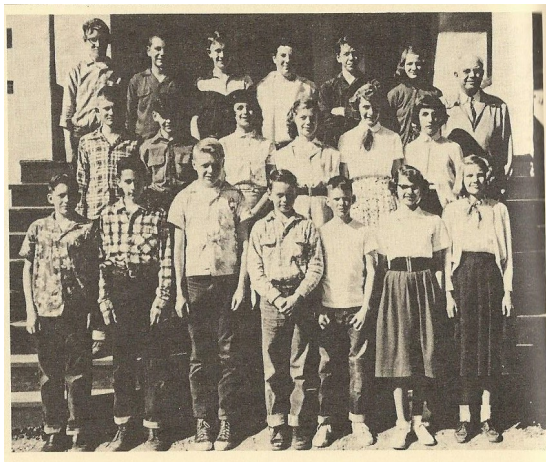
Fred Meyer Community Rewards also help. Sign up now or *take the time to renew. If you shop at Fred Meyer, you have probably received a notice to renew..*

www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.
Our I.D number is NPO#94511

Amazon can help us

If you shop at Amazon, please sign up asap. It only takes a few moments and we get a bit of money from your purchase. It costs you nothing. Sign up:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/936015456>



These three photos were in the last newsletter for pie social . Maybe you just know where was the top left one taken and who was the teacher. The top right is a GPHS football team. Any detail would have been worth a piece of pie. The one to the left is a wedding photo. If you identified the bride and groom, you would be rich with calories for the free piece of pie. Oh well, that is all over. The contest ended. Or did it?? The photo to the left is Dave and Shirley Stanger on their Wedding Day. The question now is where was it taken. This is an exercise quiz. You have to get out of the house and you do not even get a piece of pie. You even have to buy something. Come into the Historical Society Research Library at 512 S.W. 5th Street and answer the previous questions. Buy one of our books that we have printed about local history and we will give you a second book of equal or lesser value FREE. With the correct answer and the purchase of a book, you can get the second book FREE. If you are not the first one, you have a chance with the second photo and if you miss that one, you have a third chance with the third photo. (Read this whole newsletter carefully...there may be something else to look for.) We would like to meet some of our members, so come and visit us. With your membership, you can use our library free to look up things about Josephine County. Come on down. We are open Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 4pm.



If you would like to join the Josephine County Historical Society or buy a membership for someone as a gift, you need to send us the following information and \$20 dues for a one year membership.

Name:

Address:

City, State and Zip;

Phone:

E-Mail:

Individual \$20, Family \$30, Business \$55., Sustaining \$100, Life \$1,000





This structure was in Grants Pass on E Street. Can you name it? (4th and last question.)

Since the last newsletter we have had three groups of young volunteers who have come to the Historical Society grounds to spruce up the place. The first was Project Youth and about a dozen teenagers came with their advisor and they pulled weeds, cut branches, swept the sidewalks and parking lot and filled all the garbage cans and debris cans to the brims. They covered the Research Library and Schmidt House. A couple weeks later a group of single young adults from the Church of Latter Day Saints removed all vegetation debris from the Schmidt House Gardens the Monday before the Pie Social. Previously, another church group came to remove the Spring debris from the Library grounds. We thank these groups who actively look for non-profits they can help. We thank these unexpected volunteers.

In 1976, the year of the national bicentennial, we had over 1000 members . In 2023 we have 300+ members .(354 exactly as of 2pm 8/10/23)

We would like to increase our membership and get the board back to full membership which is 32.

We manage as we are, but the history of the community is important and preserving that history should be distributed into more hands.

Consider joining. You might like to serve on our Board of Directors. It is not a lifetime commitment. but is not unusual for members to serve several terms. We meet once a month, on the first Tuesday at 6PM in our board room in the Schmidt Barn. Meetings last a little over an hour in most cases. Stop by and check us out or phone 541 479 7827.



The Historical Oldtimer JCHS' electronic newsletter

Martha Metcalf, Executive Secretary

Joan Momsen, Publisher

Josephine County Historical Society

512 S.W. 5th Street

Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

541-479-7827

jchsmartha@gmail.com

Reminder:

The Josephine County Historical Society is a non-profit with no governmental connection. **We are not part of county government.**

We are self-supporting thanks to our membership and benefactors.

We invite you to join the Society. You do not have to attend meetings, but we can use your volunteer services in many ways. Phone us and ask.

Membership Dues per year are:

Single \$20

Family \$30

Business \$55

Donations accepted.

www.jocohistorical.org

Buy books and photos online too.

Letters to the Editor.

7-11-23

Joan,

Thank you for the amazing stories over the years, in the Daily Courier "Sundays Make History."

The latest "The Elks Lodge as I Remember" brought me to write this letter to you.

My Father was a Mason, my Mother belonged to 'Eastern Star', the women's part of the Masons. I was a "Job's Daughter."

Our family was very involved with them while we lived in Wisconsin. We moved to California in 1952. Dad wasn't as involved after the move because he had to work 2 jobs. What I do remember was the friendship's between the families.

When I was 24 years old I took a second part time job at the Elks Lodge in Whittier.

When we moved to Oregon my husband, children and myself immersed ourselves in Josephine County. In the late 1990's, my husband, even though we weren't Masons, was called upon by the Mason Officers to help conduct some interviews for applicants wanting to work in the kitchen at the Mason's Lodge. Gil was so honored for those calls to help them.

I have my Dad's "old" Bible that is a "Mason" Bible.

Yes, it used to be a way to gather with people with like values.

Your Statements-Questions at the end of your article: I wonder what will become of that marvelous building. -Is an important statement.

Mary Lou Thomason

Howdy Folks,

Hope things are getting back to some sense of normal.

Not sure if I paid my dues for the past or the future. Any way here is some money to be applied as needed;

Thank you for all you do.

Gordon Russ, Lacey, Wn,

To the editor and Josephine Co. Historical Society

Thank you for the opportunity to share Jim Eastman's World War Two story with their readers. I feel honored with your interest, and the space it was give in the Memorial Day Weekend edition.

Until delving into our Eastman family history, I was completely unaware of Jim, and knew his story must be told. Without you, this might have never happened.

Thanks Again,

Judie Bunch

The County and City Schools.

What is old, is new again. A book about the local schools was printed in 2002. Written by Grace Blanchard and Joan Momsen, the book told some of the history of local schools. We have added some stories and printed it again, so if you need a copy, come see us.