

The Historical Oldtimer

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



Dear member,

Today I am sending you a newsletter as a "real" letter. This way you do not have to skip from box to box to see what is happening. Sad story is that I had three "hand written pages" that I managed to erase, so this second attempt should be great...or not. I will try to finish this and cover all that I wish to say.

I must have some interesting comment in the copy that disappeared so will think and see what I erased...It was the computer not me. Always blame the computer.

As I hope you know, the Josephine County Historical Society is a non profit and is not part of any government. Some people think we are and we continually have to remind them that we operate on the good-will of our membership and get NO funds from any government. I think the Jackson County Historical Society had a great idea when they named themselves the Southern Oregon Historical Society. There is no county named "Southern Oregon."

Speaking of foundation, we were

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 the October issue is mailed with the ballot for officers.

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2025

Newsletters issued in :
February(1), April,(2)
June,(3) August(4), Octo-
ber(5) and December(6).

You have a date at the Schmidt House Museum. Please stop in and see us. Members can come in and look at all our printed history. We are NOT a lending library, but you can sit and read as much as you like.

founded in 1960 when we asked the State of Oregon to let us incorporate. Therefore when looking for names of our founders somewhere around 1886 or so, we are at a loss. No one kept any records because they did not have to. Our first President was recorded in 1960. In our 64 years of incorporation, we have had less than 30 presidents, since some served more than one year, sometimes consecutive and sometimes years apart. For example our current president, Jodi Wainwright was also president in 2024 and 2006.

I do not know why I am typing this because unless you were sitting beside me, you would have no clue as to the difficulty I am having doing it in this format. Please appreciate my effort for trying to create a "more or less" interesting newsletter. I am sure many of my brilliant thoughts have disappeared and I will remember them long after this letter is in your hands, or should say on your screens, since this is an e-mail newsletter. At least you can enlarge the print to make easier for you to read. Good Luck on that too.

I would be remiss if I did not remind you that we are a non-profit and therefore must earn all our money so we can exist. We have had some money come to us from people and estates who wished to help the Society. However, we really operate on Membership dues and since Covid hit in 2020, we have continually had a loss of membership mostly by old members not renewing for some reason and not many new members joining. As a member, you could help by recommending membership to your family and friends and/or giving a year's membership as a gift. Mother's Day, Father's Day, Birthdays, Graduations are on the horizon. Think about membership as a gift and after the first year they can renew on their own. Hey, it is only \$20 for the year.

Versatile and Valuable Volunteers

By Cindy English

Volunteers are the backbone of the Josephine County Historical Society. JCHS has been fortunate enough to have two extra special and hard-working ladies, Joan Dougherty and Linda Fuidge. Each of these ladies have served more than a dozen years on the JCHS Board.

Linda has stepped down after many years as Events Chairman and several years on the JCHS Board. And Joan, after serving many years on the Board, 5 years as Events Chairman, and 17 years as Chairman of the annual Pie Contest, is moving from Grants Pass to a new home just outside of Vancouver, Washington. She and Les will be moving closer to their children.

Saying goodbye to Joan is very hard for all of us. Joan took on the very successful Pie Contest as part of our annual Pie and Ice Cream Social for several years. She served as the Events Chairman for five years. Additionally, she was a Living History Player, portraying brave, pioneer woman, Mary Harris. She even involved her grandkids as Mary's children. Over time Joan was a Victorian Lady, a Flapper, and helped write the Suffrage presentation where she portrayed the lady who was not a Suffragette.

Linda initially loved serving on the Board and doing Events but was finally persuaded to become a Living History Player. She started out slowly as a Victorian Lady, then a Flapper, next she became a Suffragette and then took on the role of Marie Kienlin, the brew mistress of the famous Grants Pass Brewery. Linda particularly enjoyed having a parrot on her shoulder (like Marie) which intrigued young children. Porchfest was also one of Linda's favorite community events.

JCHS annually has four Events: The Easter Egg Hunt in April, the Pie and Ice Cream Social in July, the Graveyard Tour/Pioneer Spirits in October and Christmas Past in December. Linda is especially fond of the Easter Egg Hunt and helping Mr. Bunny during this event. Joan's favorite is the Pie Contest part of the Pie and Ice Cream Social. In addition to these annual Events, JCHS often added other activities. The Living History Players were also members of the Events Committee so many fun activities grew out of this blend of talents. As Events Chairs, Joan and Linda created other fun displays at the Schmidt House. We once had a Valentine's Day Red Wine and Chocolate Vintage Wedding Gown display. We have hosted two Victorian Teas with Fashion Shows. We have had a Mother's Day Hat Fashion Show and Dessert (wherein we beautifully decorated the individual dessert boxes). Additionally, we have sent our Living History Players into schools, retirement homes, and to various organizations. We have been in Parades, assisted downtown community activities, such as Blind George's Birthday. We have helped Wolf Creek Inn with their celebrations. We have participated in Porchfest since its inception. We have entertained hundreds of people with our Roaring 20s presentations and our Suffrage Ladies were a big hit. Linda and Joan have been part of all of these fun and wonderful Events.

Thank you, Ladies, for all the creativity and energy you have given to JCHS.

Here are the wonderful folks who have donated to the Josephine County Historical Society since the last time we acknowledged them in the Newsletter:

Frank Sprinkle

James and Karen Van Delden

Carol Smith

Joan Momsen

Ray and Marilyn DeBolt

Ronald Shrode

Martin Bauer

Joe Boyer and Family

Alan C. Miller

Stephen and Louise Martin

Norman Parker

Mary Slater

Susan Vannice

Robert and Dorothy Orey

Tom and Pamela Blanchard

Elizabeth Werner

Ann Kistler

Cindy and Gregory Stickland

Ed and Cindy English

La Rita DeYoung

Renee Barron

David and Georgia Applegate

Marie Randolph

Gerald Schulte

Carol and Gilbert Meek

David Cheshire

Janice Greenblatt

Judith and Dana Christensen

Gordon Russ

Teresa Thompson

Carol Loros

Tom Ford

Donna Tellyer

Michael Murphy

Donna and Charles Baird

Arden McConnell

Phyllis McGill

Virginia Mitchell

Linda Fuidge

Melonie Koski

Curt and Valerie Hall

Colene Martin

Antoinette Howell

Outback Septic Service

Lee and Patricia Webb

Linda and Gregory Day

Joan and Les Dougherty

Well, I guess a five page newsletter is sufficient for February...late February. I would like to thank Sean Malloy for keeping our computers running. He usually has an advertisement in the newsletter, but it just does not work and if he were here, he could tell me appeared. Forgive me. If you have computer phone is 541-761—0001 and he might be previous page of this electronic newsletter great people who donate to us above membership. Oh, look the space in this section has disappeared. The computer ghost has departed.

when written as a letter why this space has computer problems, Sean's able to help you. On ter is the list of all the and beyond a simple

I am sure some of the wonderful thoughts I had in my first attempt at this format will come to mind long after this has been sent to you. I will now pause and think. Oops, another thought just

**The Historical Oldtimer
JCHS' electronic newsletter**

Martha Metcalf, Executive Secretary

Joan Momsen, Publisher

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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

passed through my brain and disappeared.

Any way, hope this experimental letter was worth reading and feel free to email us, or stop by and tell us what you think. Remember we survive on the good-graces of our members and since you are reading this, that is YOU.

We can always find something for a volunteer to do, even if all you can spare is an hour or two a week. A reminder is our President is Jody Wainwright, V.P. Curt Hall, Sec. Joan Momsen, Treas. Martha Metcalf, Other board members are Ken Bell (buildings), Krista Bell, Evan Strickland, Darrel Johnston (yard), Linda Fuidge, Valerie Hall, Jan Greenblatt, Leta Neiderheiser and you can come to fill another space.

Just Joan, Secretary and Editor.

