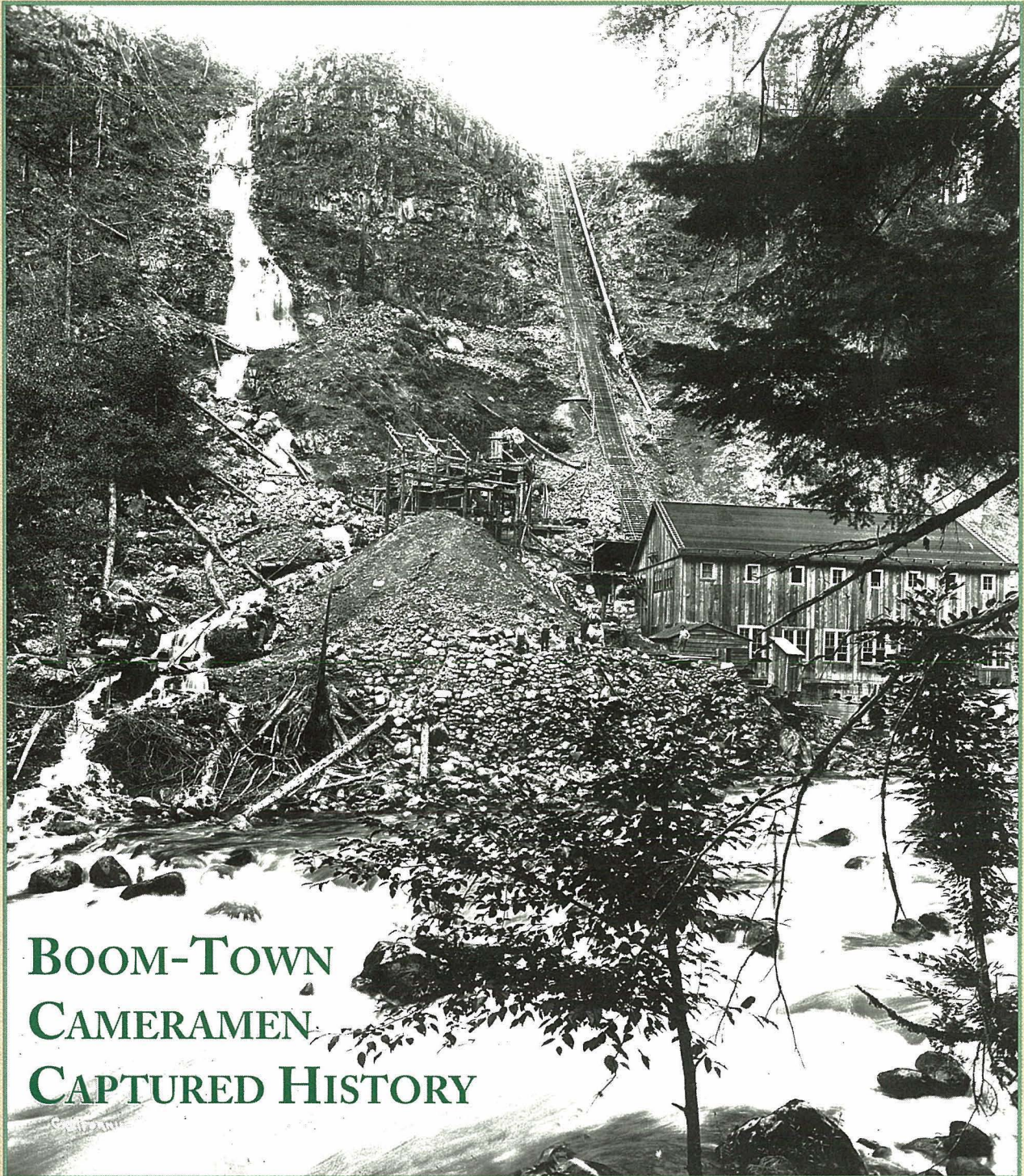


SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE

January 2002 Vol. 4, No. 1

Today



**BOOM-TOWN
CAMERAMEN
CAPTURED HISTORY**



Then and Now: The Harold Lumsden House

by Bill Alley

WHEN HAROLD LUMSDEN'S NEW home at 610 South Holly Street was completed in 1912, he was pleased enough to retain the services of commercial photographers Kunselman and Gerking and have it photographed. The little girl with the large bow and small dog might be the Lumsdens' niece, whom the Lumsdens adopted; both of their daughters had died before the photograph was taken. Today the home still stands, showing its age, but relatively unchanged from its original appearance.

Harold Union Lumsden (1863-1927) came to Medford from Minnesota in 1888 and by 1893 had formed a partnership with Clarence Hutchinson, establishing the Hutchinson and Lumsden store on East Main Street. For thirty years the business remained highly successful, and Lumsden, described as a "friendly soul of sterling character," served the community on the city council and as vice-president of the Jackson County Bank. Lumsden retired from the mercantile business in 1927 and died unexpectedly a few months later.



Medford merchant Harold Lumsden and his wife, Elizabeth, built this spacious home on South Holly Street in 1912; that may be the Lumsdens' adopted niece with the dog in the photograph. The house still stands today, close to original configuration.



Lumsden's widow, Elizabeth Berlin Lumsden, remained in the house until 1934, when she sold it to Oliver Overmeyer, a retired captain in the United States Army and vice-president of the Economy Lumber Company. Overmeyer, and later on his widow, remained in the house until 1968. Edward Wulfekuehler, retired pastor of the Congregational Church, was the next owner of the house, remaining there until 1974. Since then, according to the Polk's City Directories, the Lumsden house has been either owned by a succession of short-term owners or been vacant. 🏠

Bill Alley is senior historian/research manager with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

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SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE

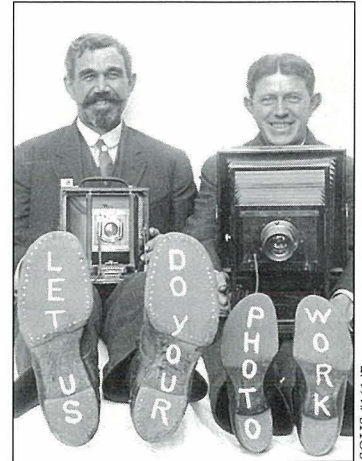
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ON THE COVER

This 1912 Kunselman-Gerking photo shows the just-completed Prospect power plant. The million-dollar facility went on line in February 1912, only two months after the plant's builder, Rogue River Electric's Prospect Construction Company, became part of the new California Oregon Power Company, or Copco.



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ANGUS BOWMER SAW IT IN a crumbling Chautauqua shell, Chester Corry in an unfinished park, and Craig Hudson in an old pink church. More recently, add Crissy Barnett's bold venture to redeem a dilapidated former rooming house in the wrong part of town to the list of Ashland's visionary projects.

"It was scary just walking to my car each night"¹ Barnett recalls as she describes just how bleak things were less than a decade ago in Ashland's Railroad District. Nevertheless, Crissy and her husband, Steve, had recently moved from Hawaii, where they had witnessed a transformation in Honolulu of hopeless neighborhoods into luxury living spaces. Why couldn't that happen in Ashland's neglected Railroad District as well?

A considerable investment of time and money by the Barnetts in the former Peerless Rooms on Fourth Street has resulted in the preservation of one of the few surviving commercial buildings in an area that once rivaled the Plaza for business activity. Nearly torn down at one point, the building needed a new foundation, structural reinforcement, rewiring, plumbing, and a heating and air conditioning system.

Undaunted, Crissy could see woodwork, floors, brick walls, and a faded 1915-vintage Coca Cola sign painted on the building's side, all intact. George Kramer, an Ashland-based historic preservation consultant, was retained to seek National Register of Historic Places status for the 100-year-old building. Meanwhile, the work proceeded turning the former fourteen tiny rooms with one bath for all into a luxurious, six-room bed and breakfast with private bath choices ranging from a Jacuzzi to a clawfoot tub.

While Kramer's extensive research on the building and its relationship to Ashland's railroad history proved

Restoring Brick and Mortar and Perhaps Virtue at the Peerless

by Joe Peterson

successful, clearly the Railroad District was once shunned by those who lived and did business "above the boulevard." It had always been a workingman's kind of neighborhood with saloons, pool halls, and a brothel or two. Such a large railroad presence meant a disproportionate concentration of single men with paychecks and a free-enterprise economic environment that sprang up to meet their needs and wants.

Where did the Peerless fit into this mix? Was the well-known Madam Eva Pierce "working" there as has been asserted and repeated over time?² "I'm completely unconvinced"³ is Kramer's response. It does seem more likely that "Big Eva"



operated out of the Fairview rooming house just a half block up the street on Fourth and B streets, not the Peerless. A front-page article in the local paper referred to her 1917 conviction on a charge of running a house of ill-fame at the Fairview.⁴ Ever resourceful, reports of Eva Pierce moving her enterprise to a house on Third and B streets (a block away from the Peerless) persisted during the 1920s until her death in 1928.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

At right, the Peerless Rooms building was a dilapidated eyesore in 1991, the year before Crissy and Steve Barnett began their renovation project. Above right, the six rooms in the restored bed and breakfast are finished in Victorian décor with a safari flavor.

Samuel Davies's continuous barbershop operation, not Eva Pierce, is the real history of the Peerless building in Kramer's view.⁵ Davies cut hair for more than forty years where today a check-in counter for the bed and breakfast stands. Called the Mirror Barber Shop, a reference to a narrow, vertically mounted mirror between the two front doors, Davies' business kept him busy as both a barber on the main floor and a room-keeper upstairs. After passenger rail service through Ashland was severely curtailed by development of the Natron

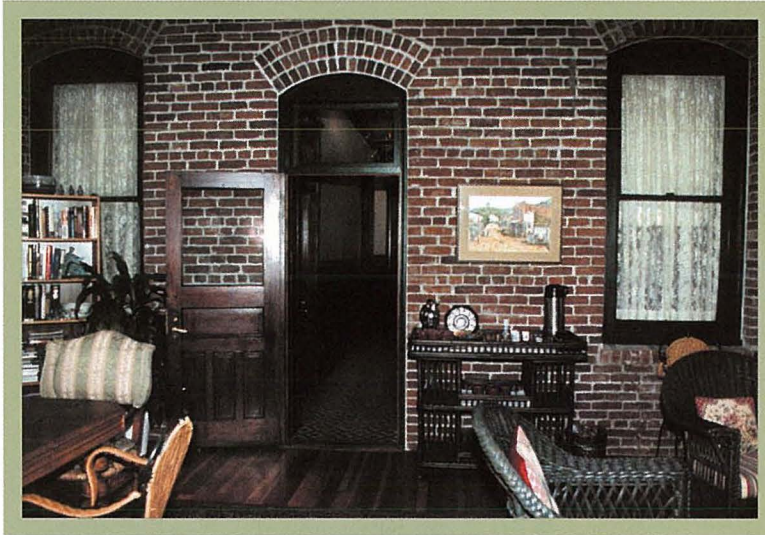
Cutoff through Klamath Falls in 1927, Davies carried on his business at the Peerless until his death in 1951, despite economic depression all around him.⁶

Fortunately for a much-maligned and neglected former rooming house and barbershop, the entrepreneurial Barnetts have transformed the structure, and the hotel, combined with adjoining gardens and the recent addition of a unique restaurant, continues to serve as a lynchpin and inspiration in the area's re-emergence. 🏠

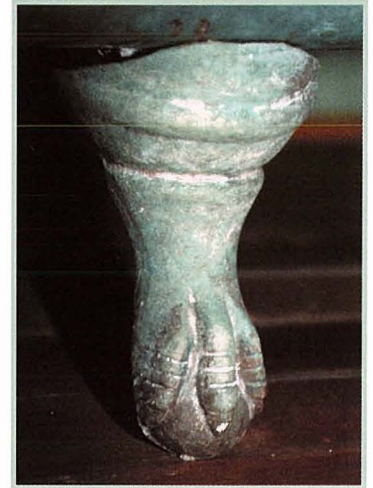
Joe Peterson is an adjunct history instructor at Southern Oregon University.

ENDNOTES

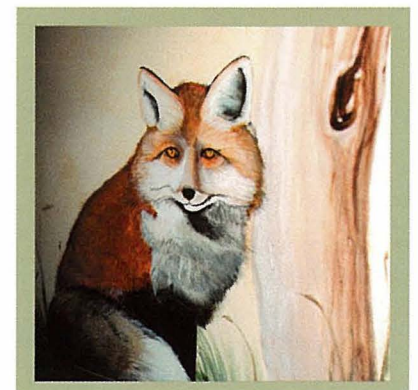
1. Crissy Barnett, personal interview, 25 July 2001.
2. Ellis Beeson, oral history interview collection, Southern Oregon Historical Society, 25 August 1977.
3. George Kramer, personal interview, 1 August 2001.
4. *Ashland Tidings*, 21 June 1917.
5. Kramer interview.
6. *Ashland Daily Tidings*, 10 April 1951.

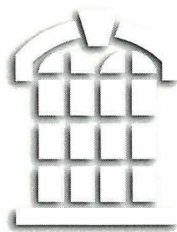


At left, this addition to what was once the Peerless building's exterior back wall makes a cozy spot for breakfast. Below left, the restored Peerless Rooms once again make an inviting place to stay.



Above, this detail from an original clawfoot bathtub at the Peerless shows where the descriptive name comes from. Below, hand-painted murals add to the charm of the renovated rooms.





SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Things To Do in January



PROGRAMS : (see listings below for complete descriptions)

	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Craft of the Month	Museum hours	CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	Paper Weaving; 25¢
His Story, Her Story, Our Story	Sat., Jan. 12; 2 - 2:30 p.m.	JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM	Workshop for ages 6 - 10 Fee: \$5 non-members; \$4 members
Cymbals, Sousa, and Uncle Sam	Mon., Jan. 21; 1 - 4 p.m.	HISTORY CENTER	Family Day. Fee: \$1

PROGRAM DETAILS

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS, SEE SCHEDULE ABOVE.

JANUARY CRAFT OF THE MONTH

Paper Weaving

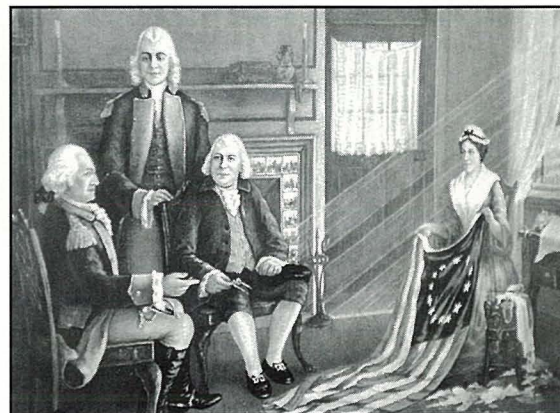
Families are invited to transform strips of paper into colorful and useful table mats to take home. A craft that's both fun and functional!

HIS STORY, HER STORY, OUR STORY!

Children ages 6-10 accompanied by an adult family member can begin to unlock the magic of their family history during this innovative family history writing workshop. Bring a photograph that records a favorite family experience, and work with your child to write a brief family story about the photograph. Then share the photo and stories with the group. Take home a Family Tree Diagram and a Family History Questionnaire to continue tracing and preserving your family history with your child. Preregistration is required by January 4. Call 773-6536.

CYMBALS, SOUSA, AND UNCLE SAM

Families are invited to enjoy an afternoon of fun at the History Center! Explore the "Stars and Stripes Through the Centuries" exhibit while discovering clues to a scavenger hunt. This special Martin Luther King, Jr., Day holiday event also includes creating a variety of patriotic crafts, enjoying stories and music, and marching in a parade. Call 773-6536 to preregister by January 14.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- The Research Library will be closed January 2, 3, and 4.
- The History Store Christmas sale continues through January 13 on normal business days and hours.

EXHIBITS : *(see listings below for complete descriptions)*

	LOCATION	MUSEUM HOURS
Stars and Stripes Through the Centuries Century of Photography: 1856-1956 The History of Southern Oregon from A to Z	HISTORY CENTER	Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
History in the Making: Jackson County Milestones Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker Politics of Culture: Collecting the Native American Experience Hall of Justice	JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM	Wed.- Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, noon - 5 p.m.
Ongoing 'hands on history' exhibits	CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	Wed.- Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, noon - 5 p.m.

EXHIBIT DETAILS

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS, SEE SCHEDULE ABOVE.

STARS AND STRIPES THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Featuring historic U.S. flags, Liberty posters, and more.

CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1856-1956

Highlights the work of two area photographers, Peter Britt and James Verne Shangle, with cameras from the Society's collection.

THE HISTORY OF SOUTHERN OREGON FROM A TO Z

Do you know your ABC's of Southern Oregon history? Even local oldtimers might learn a thing or two from the History Center windows along Sixth and Central as each letter of the alphabet tells a different story about the people, places, and events that have shaped the region we live in.

"HISTORY IN THE MAKING: JACKSON COUNTY MILESTONES"

The spirit of America is captured in the history of Jackson County. Follow in the footsteps of early residents who experienced the five historic milestones explored in this colorful new exhibit. You'll be inspired by the pioneers who arrived by sea or land; see the gold rush from the perspective of Chinese sojourners; discover the local impact of the railroad and automobile, and more. Artifacts include rare Chinese archaeological material and an early Coleman stove. A 1940s jukebox plays music and oral histories describing automobile travel experiences.

MINER, BAKER, FURNITURE MAKER

Explores the development of the Rogue Valley and the impact the industrial revolution had on the settlement of Oregon.

POLITICS OF CULTURE: *Collecting the Native American Experience*

Cultural history of local tribes and information on contemporary collecting issues.

HALL OF JUSTICE

History of this former Jackson County Courthouse.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Everyone enjoys exploring the home and work settings from the 1850s to the 1930s through "hands-on-history."

HISTORIC OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS:

- State Historic Preservation Office
prd.state.or.us
- click on "publication"
PHONE: 503-378-4168
- Southern Oregon Historical Society
PHONE: 541-773-6536



SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SITES

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unless listed otherwise

FAX: (541) 776-7994
E-MAIL: info@sohs.org
WEBSITE: sohs.org

HISTORY CENTER
106 N. Central, Medford
Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

RESEARCH LIBRARY
106 N. Central, Medford
Tues. - Fri., 1 to 5 p.m.

**JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM &
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**
5th and C, Jacksonville
Wed. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun., noon to 5 p.m.

HANLEY FARM
1053 Hanley Road
(open by special appointment)

C.C. BEEKMAN HOUSE
California & Laurelwood, Jacksonville
(closed for the season)

C.C. BEEKMAN BANK
3rd and California, Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE HISTORY STORE
3rd and California, Jacksonville
Wed. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sun., noon to 5 p.m.

**THIRD STREET ARTISANS'
STUDIO**
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4th and C streets, Jacksonville



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For membership information, call Susan Smith at 773-6536.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Friend	\$20
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Curator or Business	\$120-\$200
Director	\$250-\$500
Lifetime	\$1,000

BOOM-TOWN CAMERAMEN:

A Photographic Essay

by William Alley

THE SECOND DECADE OF THE TWENTIETH century continued to promise the good times brought by the boom in the region's orchard industry. It seemed to many to be an era of transformation for Medford and the surrounding environs. Substantial new buildings sprang up almost like mushrooms, sometimes out of the ashes of the older frame structures.

Southern Oregon's population grew dramatically with the new century. The 1910 census recorded Medford's population as 8,840, a 393% increase over the previous decade. Such a dramatic rate of growth made Medford the third fastest-growing community of its size in the nation. It was estimated to reach 10,000 by mid-decade. Automobiles had supplanted horses as the predominant means of transportation on Medford's streets. In 1912, Medford could boast the national record for the number of cars per capita, with more than 350 registered vehicles.

Fortunately for posterity, this phenomenal spurt of growth did not go undocumented. In 1912, two photographers arrived in Medford and set up a studio at 128 East Main Street, spaces earlier occupied by photographer H.C. Mackey and the firm of Tyler & Miser. This space was ideally suited for a photography studio, as it had a skylit studio installed by Tyler and Miser in the 1890s. One of these men, a tall, genial, bearded fellow named Jonathon O. Gerking (1868-1946), took up residence in the apartments adjoining the studio. His partner, Elton E. Kunselman (1880-1947), took up rooms nearby.

Gerking was born near the Marion County town of

Silverton, Oregon, on July 24, 1868, and married in Philomath in 1896. In the fall of 1910 Gerking and his wife, Mary Buoy Gerking, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, from Portland. They were only there a matter of months before Mary died in January 1911; the couple had two children. While in Phoenix, Gerking teamed up with a carpenter with an interest in photography—Kunselman. Little is known about Kunselman's early days. What is known is that the two of them made the decision to move to Medford in either late 1911 or early 1912.¹

The two partners, operating under the name Kunselman-Gerking, operated a full service studio, offering portrait sittings, flash photography, commercial work, and scenic views of Southern Oregon. If the surviving photographs are any indication, however, it was the scenic and commercial work that monopolized the firm's time.

Kunselman remained in Medford until sometime in 1913, at which time he packed up for sunnier climes.² He moved first to San Diego, California, where he continued to practice commercial photography. In 1916 he moved on to Phoenix, Arizona, where he would remain until his death in 1947. Kunselman was a busy man in Phoenix. There, he operated his own commercial photography studio and also worked as staff photographer for the local newspaper, *The Arizona Republican*. While in Arizona he also began working in a new photographic medium, motion pictures. He was a partner in the Kay-Zee Film Co. in Phoenix and was also the local stringer for the Pathe newsreels.³

Gerking remained in Medford and brought in a new partner, Loren Harmon, to take Kunselman's place. The studio's name was changed to Gerking & Harmon. Prior to joining the partnership, Harmon was a solicitor, or salesman, for the local office of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. According to their many advertisements in the local newspapers, their services included studio and home portraiture, "Flash Lights," as flash photography was known, and Kodak finishing for the area's growing number of amateur photographers. The studio also advertised "Post Cards, Fishing Scenes, Hunting Scenes and other Local Scenes," as well as "a large selection of Crater Lake Pictures. Negatives Made Anywhere Anytime."⁴



PHOTO BY
GERKING-HARMON
MEDFORD ORE.

Business must have been brisk for Gerking & Harmon, and, as was the case with Kunselman, much of the surviving work indicates the two preferred to spend their time out of the studio. In September 1913 they began advertising the sale of a book of hand-colored Crater Lake photographs. In order to maintain their portrait business the firm induced Ashland photographer Wynne Scott to take over as manager of the portrait department. It is unknown how long she remained with the studio.⁵

After a year with Gerking, Harmon availed himself of the opportunity to manage the studio of Edgar Weston, a competitor on the next block. By January of 1915, however, Harmon had again moved on, dropping out of sight.

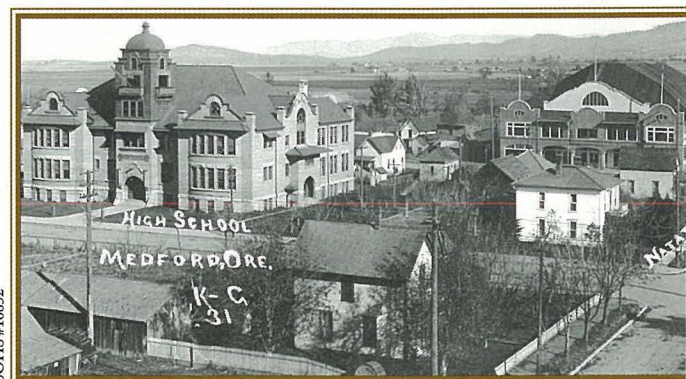
The 1910 census recorded Medford's population as 8,840, a 393% increase over the previous decade. Such a dramatic rate of growth made Medford the third fastest-growing community of its size in the nation.

With Harmon's move to the Weston Studio, Gerking again changed the name of his studio, this time to the Up-To-Date Studio. With unabashed confidence, the affable Gerking advertised himself as "The best all around photographer in southern Oregon. Always Reliable. Negatives made Anywhere, time or place." He also continued to offer photo finishing service for the amateur trade. Sadly, few photographs remain with the Up-To-Date Studio imprint. Gerking's Up-To-Date Studio remained in business throughout 1916, but after that the advertisements disappear.⁶

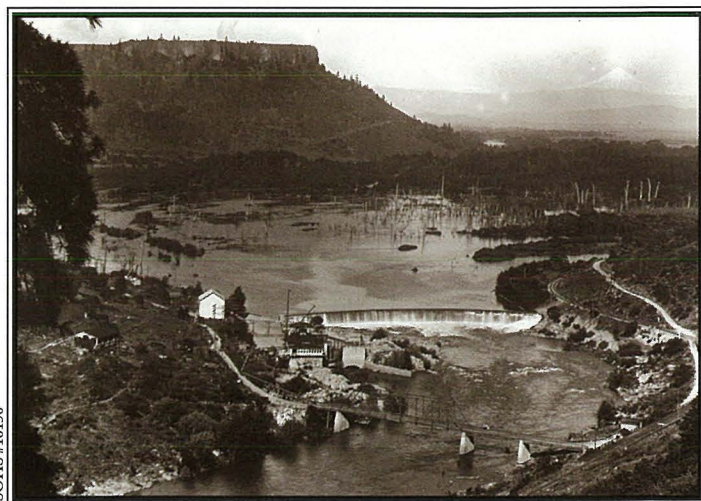
In the fall of 1916 Gerking made a foray into local politics. He was selected to run as the Democratic candidate for county recorder. He lost decisively, however, to the Republican incumbent, Chauncey Florey.

Early 1917 found Gerking in the Klamath Falls area, where he found work as a guard for one of the area's lumber mills. This was during the midst of intense agitation by the I.W.W. "Wobblies" and this sort of work seemed to lack any appeal for the former photographer. By April he was back in town. After the United States declared war on Germany in the spring of 1917 Gerking, along with seventy-seven other patriotic citizens who found themselves ineligible for military service, formed a regiment of Home Guards.⁷

Above, during their stay in Medford, many of the I.O.O.F. delegates and their hosts were treated to an excursion to nearby Jacksonville. They were transported on the Rogue River Valley Railway. Photo by Gerking-Harmon, May 20, 1913. Below, faced with a steadily growing student population, the citizens of Medford authorized a \$30,000 bond issue for the construction of a new high school building. The new school, located on Bartlett Street between Fifth and Sixth, opened in January 1909. It featured a large assembly hall with a gallery, a library, and twelve "sunny classrooms." It also boasted "a most inviting quarters in the third floor for a gymnasium." The building later served as a junior high school until 1931, when it was razed. Photograph by Kunselman-Gerking, 1912.

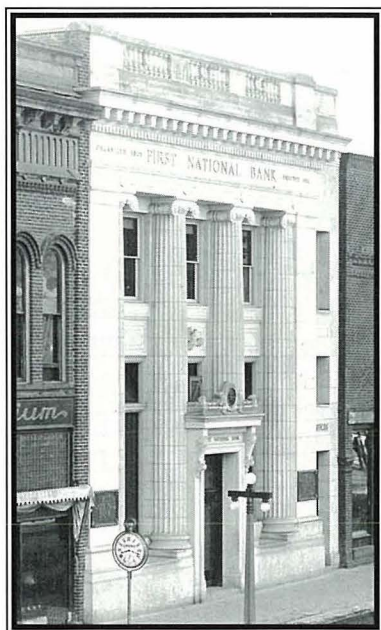


SOHS #16852



SOHS #16150

Col. Frank and Dr. C.R. Ray financed the construction of Gold Ray Dam, which was completed in 1904. Through their Condor Water and Power Co. and its subsidiary Rogue River Electric Co., the Ray interests were the principle providers of electrical power in the Rogue Valley. The first hydroelectric plant in the region, Gold Ray utilized a distinctive rope-driven turbine that remained in use until the facility was taken off the grid in 1972. The original timber crib was replaced with concrete in 1941. Photograph by Kunselman-Gerking, 1912.



SOHS #16853 DETAIL



SOHS #16854

Above, the First National Bank of Medford was the second of Medford's four original financial institutions. In 1912 the bank moved into its opulent new building adjacent to the Nash Hotel on Main Street. Three Ionic columns flanked an entry that opened into an interior boasting marble from quarries around the world. Kunselman and Gerking were retained to photograph the new bank at the time of its opening on March 12, 1912. These photographs show the building's exterior, and the board room on the second floor. At right, "Under the Mistletoe." Jonathon Gerking was a charter member of the "Grizzlies," a Southern Oregon hiking club, and often took photographs of their hikes. He took this photograph of the Grizzlies during a hike to the summit of Roxy Anne on April 18, 1915.

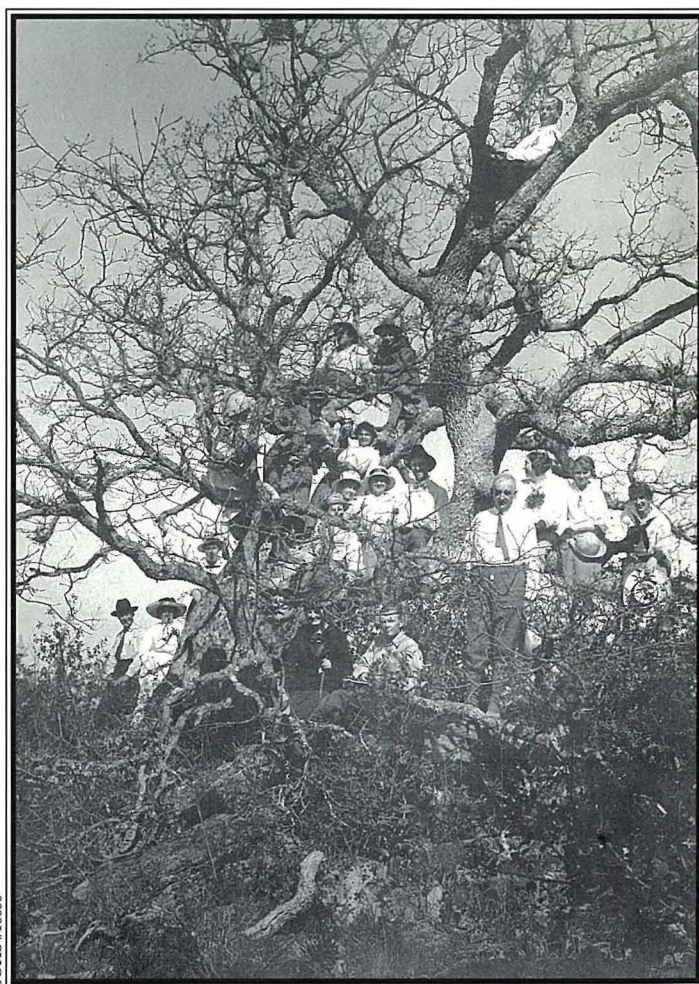
When Medford's night officer Eugene Amman resigned, Gerking was hired as his replacement. Working the night shift, Gerking spent much of his time enforcing the local "dry laws."

Eventually Gerking, like his partners before him, moved on. By the time of his death in 1946, he was living in Seattle, Washington. Fortunately, Gerking and his partners left behind a body of their work that documents a dynamic period in our region's history. What follows is a selection of photographs by Kunselman, Gerking, and Harmon that shows not only the high caliber of their work but captures forever a small slice of a dynamic and exciting period now gone forever. 🏠

William Alley is senior historian/research manager with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

ENDNOTES

1. *Arizona Republican* 31 January 1911; 1911 Phoenix City Directory.
2. Kunselman was known to have been in Medford at least through May 13, 1913, as he was the violinist at the Second Annual Medford Choral Society Concert. SOHS 1998.34.3
3. All of this information comes from a collection of undated newspaper clippings, presumably from *The Arizona Republican*.
4. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 19 January 1913.
5. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 11 September 1913.
6. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 11 April, 1917; 1 November 1917.
7. *Medford Sun*, 11 April 1917.



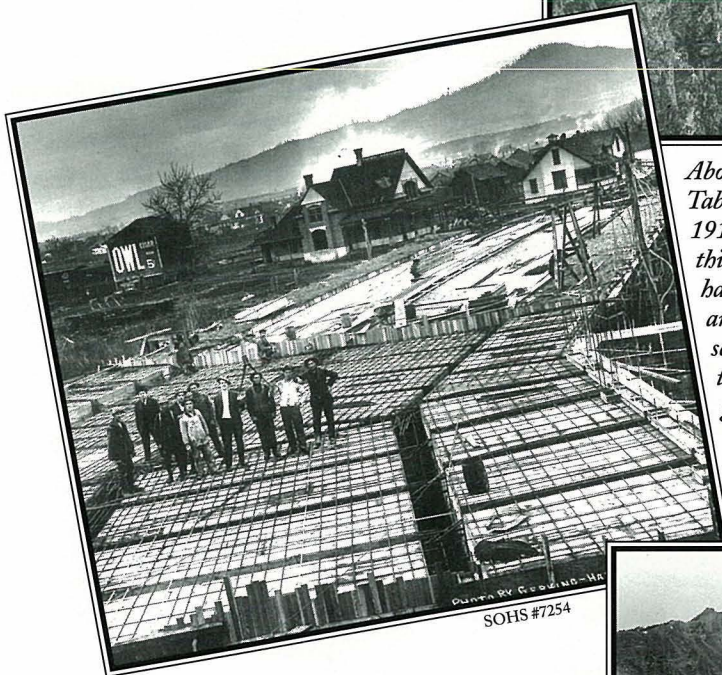
SOHS #16855



Above, suitable studio space is often passed on from one photographer to another. In 1895 the studio of Tyler & Miser occupied rooms in the Hamlin Block on Medford's East Main Street near Central. The rear of the studio had a skylight and glass wall to accommodate the longer exposures required for studio photography. The spot was later leased to popular photographer H.C. Mackey, who painted his name on the exterior wall. In 1912 Kunselman and Gerking moved into the space, and Mackey's name, as seen in this photograph, was painted over. Photo by Kunselman-Gerking, 1912.

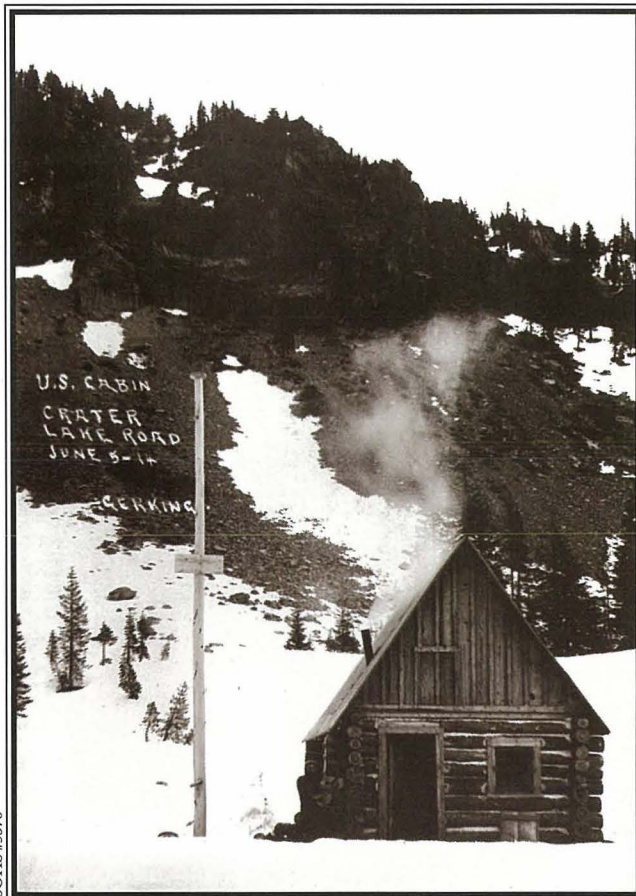


Above, "Simple Division." The Grizzlies selected Lower Table Rock as the destination for their sixth hike on April 11, 1915. Gerking accompanied them with his camera and took this photograph of a chasm in the rocks. Below, Crater Lake has long been a popular subject for area photographers, amateur and professional alike. In 1913 Gerking and his second partner, Loren Harmon, marketed a book of color-tinted Crater Lake photographs, including this one of a group enjoying a serene boat ride on the lake. Photograph by Kunselman-Gerking, 1912.



Above, the growth of Medford's east side soon outstripped the capacity of the old steel cantilever bridge spanning Bear Creek at Main Street, built in 1902. In 1913 Jackson County authorized the construction of a new, larger steel-reinforced concrete bridge. Construction workers take a few minutes to pose for this photograph. In the background, on the site now occupied by Hawthorn Park, sits the depot for the Pacific & Eastern Railway, which ran between Medford and Butte Falls. Photo by Gerking-Harmon, 1913.





SOHS #5376

At left, the engineers responsible for the construction and maintenance of the roads and trails in Crater Lake National Park were headquartered in Munson Valley, just below the crater's rim. This site is the current location of the park's headquarters complex. Gerking photographed the engineer's cabin on a trip to the lake on June 5, 1914, shortly after the park opened for the season. Photograph by Jonathon Gerking, 1914. Below, on November 28, 1913, a large crowd, including Oregon Governor Oswald West, members of the State Highway Commission, the Jackson County Court (commissioners) and dignitaries from Medford and Ashland gathered about twelve miles south of Ashland for the ground-breaking ceremony. At the invitation of the County Court, Samuel Hill, widely known as the father of the Good Roads movement in the Pacific Northwest, turned the first shovelful of dirt on the Siskiyou Mountain segment of the highway. Pictured here is Sam Hill (left) and Medford's founder, J.S. Howard, posing with the ceremonial shovel. Photographed by Jonathon Gerking, 1913.

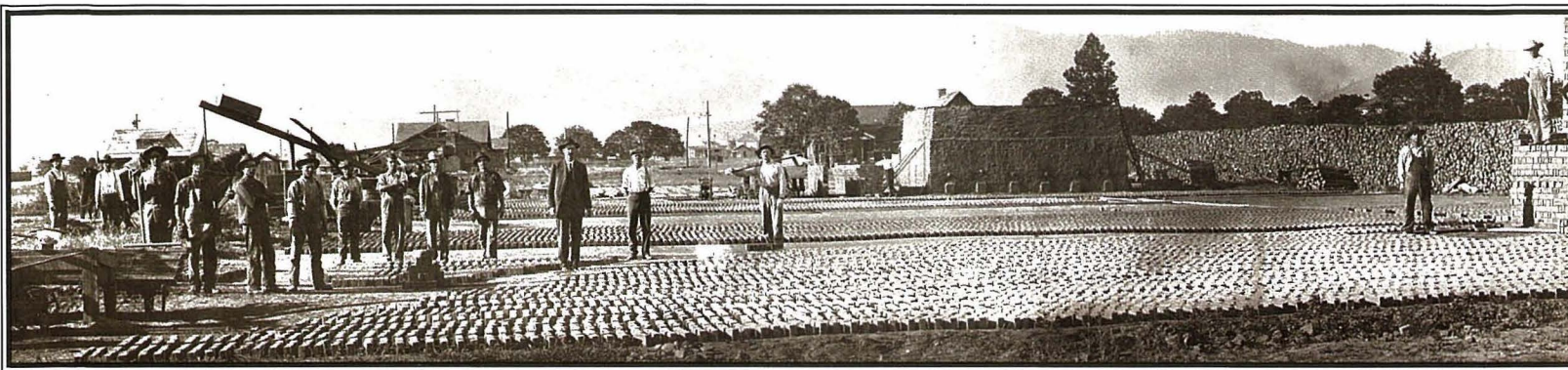


SOHS #7429

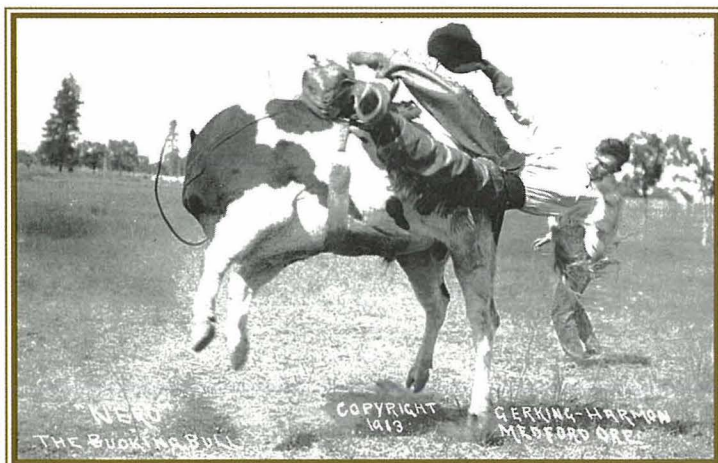


SOHS #1937

At left, Samuel E. Dunnington opened his Marble Corner Saloon in Jacksonville circa 1900. When Oregon went dry in 1917, and after national Prohibition in 1920, Dunnington modified his business to the sale of soft drinks. He posed for the photographer in 1912. Today the Marble Corner Saloon is the site of Scheffel's Toy Store. Kunselman-Gerking photograph, 1912.



Above, as the city of Medford grew during the boom years, many of the original frame buildings gave way to more substantial brick structures. The Medford Brick Co. met much of this new demand for brick at its manufacturing facility at Fir and Tenth. When Sacred Heart Hospital was built, Medford Brick supplied the estimated 1 million bricks required. In the background is a kiln and the massive amount of cordwood needed to fire it. Photograph by Kunselman-Gerking, 1912.

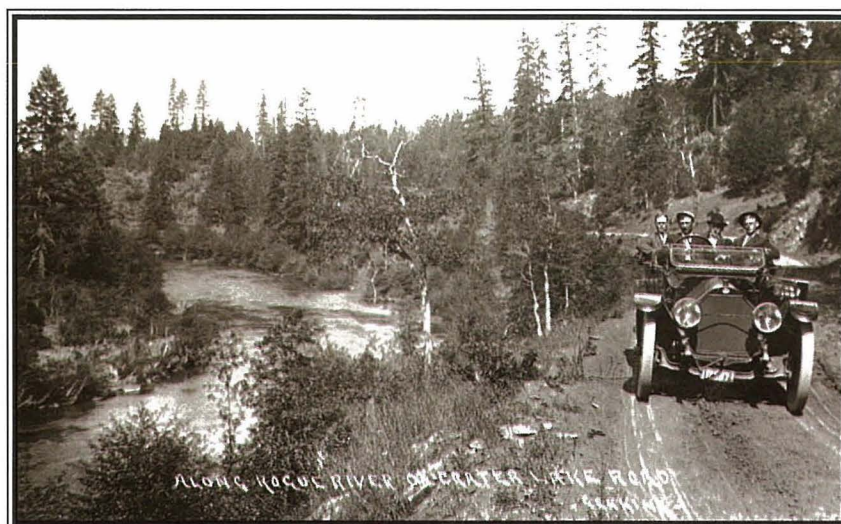


SOHS #16857



SOHS #16895

Above left, outside the studio it is not always possible to stage the desired photograph. During the county fair in 1913, the team of Gerking and Harmon was able to catch some of the excitement and action of the rodeo events. This photograph shows "Neo the Bucking Bull" getting the better of his rider. Photograph by Gerking-Harmon, 1913. Above right, in 1916 Gerking was working on his own, under the name "Up-To-Date Studio," when this portrait of two unidentified teenagers was taken. Below, in 1914 the Hall Taxi Company began offering excursions to Crater Lake for thirteen dollars. The taxi would leave Medford at 8:00 a.m., stop at Prospect for lunch, and arrive at the lake about 5:00 p.m. Jonathon Gerking went along on one of the first trips in June of that year, taking this photograph of the 1911 Cadillac, driven by Seely Hall, alongside a stretch of the Rogue River. Photograph by Jonathon Gerking, 1914.



SOHS #5378

Pop Quiz

by Bill Miller

“ALL RIGHT CLASS, EVERYONE PLACE ALL BOOKS and papers under your desk. We’re going to have a pop quiz.” Through the years, from elementary school through the university level, these are the words that nearly always engender fear in the hearts of students. At old Washington School in 1905, Medford high school students were surprised with a ninety-minute, twenty-question test of their knowledge. Here is a selection of our favorite questions from that quiz. Ready ... begin.

1. WHO is the present governor of Oregon?
2. FIND the simple interest on \$245.60 for 2 years, 7 months and 21 days, with interest at 9 %.
3. WHO is the present secretary of state under President Roosevelt?
4. FIND total cost of the following: (Regard all fractions). Nine yards of cloth at 12 1/2 cents; 21 pounds of sugar at 6 1/4 cents; 15 yards of cloth at \$3.18 3/4; 5 1/2 yards linen at 62 1/4 cents; 13 1/4 yards of calico at 16 2/3 cents; 12 1/2 yards of ribbon at 18 3/4 cents; 10 1/4 yards of silk at \$3.27 1/2 cents a yard; 15 1/2 bushels of oats at 37 1/2 cents.
5. WHO is the state superintendent of schools?
6. A farmer sold 6 1/2 dozen of chickens at 33 1/3 cents per chicken; he also sold at the same place and time 37 1/2 pounds of butter at 37 1/2 cents a pound. In exchange he received \$36 in money and the rest in sugar at 12 1/2 cents a pound. How many pounds of sugar did he get?
7. WHAT is the longitude of Medford? (Within 10 degrees is OK.)
8. AT 12 1/2 cents a yard, what will it cost to carpet a room 18 feet, 4 inches long and 15 feet wide with carpet 3 1/4 yards wide? Strips to run lengthwise.
9. HOW many miles from Medford to Portland?
10. A cistern is two-thirds full of water. After 35 gallons are drawn out it is three-eighths full. Find gallons entire cistern will hold.
11. a) HOW many feet in a mile? b) HOW many square rods in an acre? c) HOW many acres in a section? d) HOW many rods in a mile?

PENCILS DOWN!

Check your answers below.

1. George E. Chamberlain. Remember this is 1905.
2. \$23.75. This one is tricky and you may have other answers. Ours was based on a period that started January 1, 1905 and ended August 21, 1907. If you chose a different period, your total days may not match ours but your answer should be close.
3. Elihu B. Root.
4. \$97.61. As with all the math problems, rounding of decimals may allow for varied, but close answers.
5. J.H. Ackerman.
6. Nearly 32 1/2 pounds of sugar.
7. 122° 52'—roughly the location of the History Center.
8. \$1.53.
9. 331 miles by rail. In 1905 distances between cities were usually given in miles by rail.
10. 122.8 gallons or nearly 123.
11. a) 5,280 feet. b) 160 sq. rods. c) 640 acres. d) 320 rods (319.99996).

How did you do? The highest score for the Medford students was 64 and the lowest 11, with an average of 33. I don't know about you, but I certainly could do without pop quizzes for the rest of my life.

Bill Miller is a library assistant with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

ENDNOTE

1. Southern Oregonian, 20 October 1905.

A Washington school classroom, circa 1905.





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(Continued on page 2)

She Sleeps on the Hilltop

by Bill Miller

JENNIE JANE SOMEHOW SENSED HER TIME was short. Claiming to be Lady Oscharwasha, daughter of a chief, she followed the tradition of the Takelma tribe, and many months before she died, began to sew her royal burial robe. To a buckskin base she attached colored beads, seashells, and transparent pebbles in intricate patterns, until the elaborate shroud weighed almost fifty pounds. While she worked at her home near Jackson Creek, passersby would stop to admire her handiwork, some even offering to buy the robe or pay Jennie for the right to exhibit it at the Chicago World's Fair. She always refused. After nearly forty years of living among whites, Jennie wanted to die a Takelma.¹

With her passing in May of 1893, an unexpected eulogy came from Elisha Applegate, son of Lindsay, co-founder of the Applegate Trail. Elisha had been a volunteer during the Rogue River Indian Wars, and he remembered that, in 1853, Jennie and eleven other "Indian women paved the way for the ... peace and security of the settlers." It was a time when panicked whites gathered together for safety behind barricaded doors. Greatly outnumbered volunteers and U. S. troops waited for reinforcements at Fort Lane, their camp below the cliffs of Lower Table Rock. The massing of Takelma forces north of the Rogue River seemed a clear indication that bloody battles were inevitable.

Jennie and the other native women had lived near Jacksonville for some time, and when asked to negotiate with their tribe for peace, they quickly agreed. The army provided comfortable tents for the women at the Table Rock encampment, and early each morning for a number of days, the women would saddle military ponies and ride to the camps of the increasingly agitated Takelmas. There they exaggerated the strength of the settlers, and assured their tribesmen that the white man would continue to come in ever-increasing numbers, and none would survive what would soon become a war of extermination. The native attack was delayed, and in a few days reinforcements arrived and later a peace treaty was negotiated and signed.

Jennie was the last of the dozen Takelma women to die. The *Jacksonville Democratic Times* felt an obligation to Jennie's memory and offered thanks for her service to her people and to the European American settlers of the valley. "These Indian women ... were treated with respect and consideration, and as they dropped from the ranks of the living, ... their services were remembered in funeral tributes and civilized burial in the quiet grounds of the dead."²

Jennie Jane spent her last months sewing this stunning buckskin burial robe.

On Sunday evening, May 14, 1893, Jennie Jane—Lady Oscharwasha—was buried in Jacksonville Cemetery wearing her traditional robe. The newspaper said, "There was something pathetic in the sole survivor, thus respecting the traditions of her tribe, in making such elaborate preparations for her interment. Let her remains rest in peace ... the last of the royal line."³ 🏠

Bill Miller is a library assistant with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.



ENDNOTES

1. In 1876, an Indian woman known as "Jennie Rogue River" traded two horses for the residence and gardens of Rappel Mortal along Jackson Creek - Jackson County Miscellaneous Records, 19 November 1876, Vol. 1, p. 236. The 1880 Jackson County Census shows Jennie Gin, an Indian woman, living in Jacksonville precinct. Certainly a census enumerator might misinterpret the pronunciation of Jane as Gin, especially in the Kanaka Flats area, where many Chinese lived along with Indians and poor whites. There is no way to know if these two Jennies are Lady Oscharwasha; however, since there is so little information on her, I have included this information as potential clues to other researchers.
2. *Jacksonville Democratic Times*, 19 May 1893.
3. *Jacksonville Democratic Times*, 8 January 1894.

SOHS #773