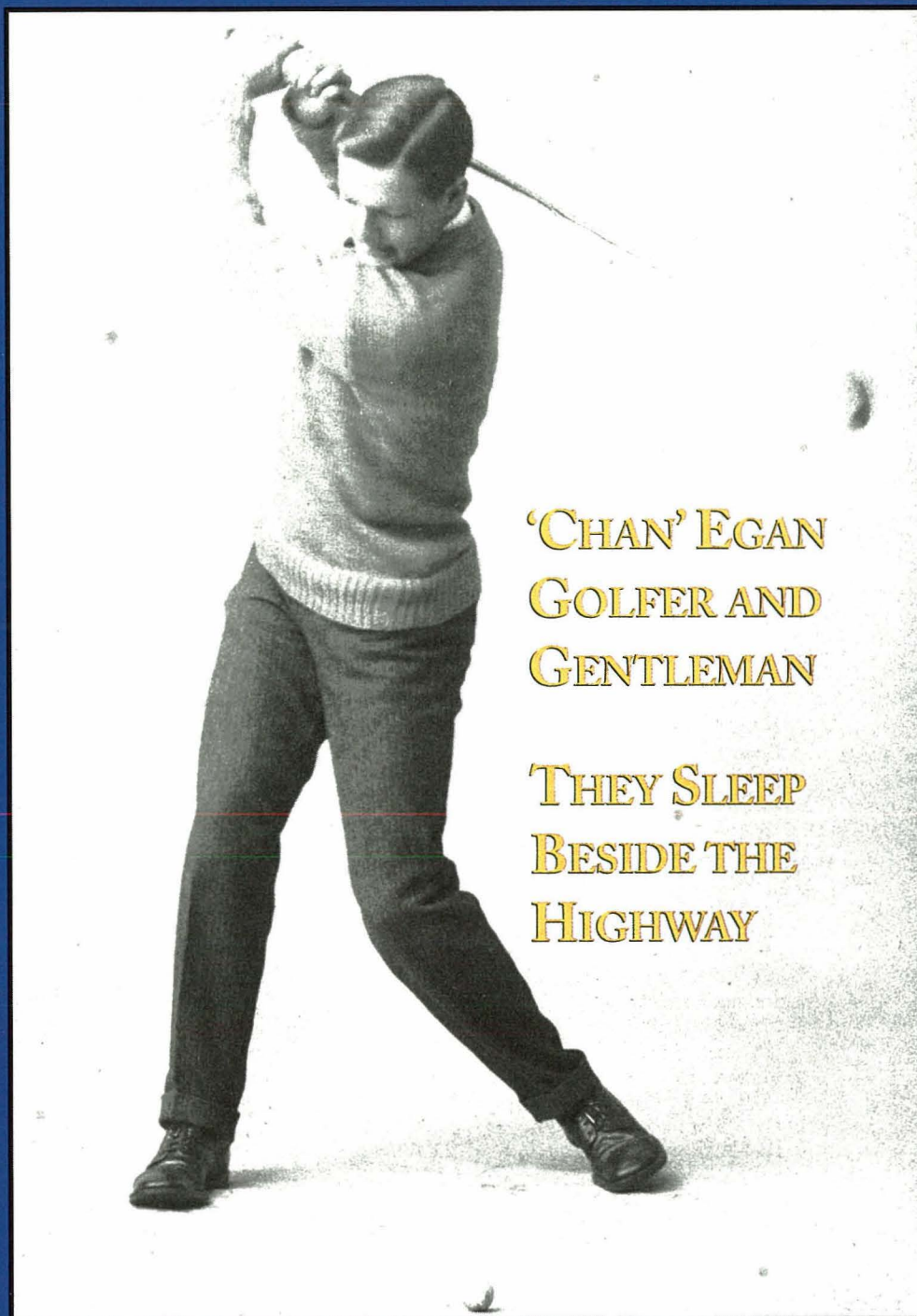


# SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE

April 2002 Vol. 4, No. 4

*Today*



'CHAN' EGAN  
GOLFER AND  
GENTLEMAN

THEY SLEEP  
BESIDE THE  
HIGHWAY





# Lilac

by Nan Hannon and Donn L. Todt

*In the dooryard fronting an old farm-house near the white-washed palings,  
Stands the lilac-bush tall-growing with heart-shaped leaves of rich green.  
With many a pointed blossom rising delicate, with the perfume strong I love...*

WALT WHITMAN  
*When Lilacs Last In The Dooryard Bloomed*

## BOTH TOUGH AND LOVELY,

Lilac is the ideal frontier shrub. Winter-hardy and drought-resistant, thriving in alkaline soil, lilac bushes endure the West's extreme weather, ask for little care, yet reliably open spires of fragrant flowers to welcome each spring.

Clumps of lilac often grow by old farmhouses, where they were planted by the door and watered when the housewife emptied her dishpan of wash water onto their roots. Because lilacs often survive without care once established, a stand of lilacs is sometimes all that remains of an abandoned homestead. They are also one of the most common plants in pioneer cemeteries in the West, blooming year after year over weathering graves.

Lilac is not native to North America. The old-fashioned lilac with purple or white flowers widely grown in the United States is *Syringa vulgaris*, native to rocky scrubland in Eastern Europe. Immigrants brought it to the United States and Canada in the 1600s.

Lilac is a plant easily shared. Because it expands in clumps from suckers at the base, it can be dug and divided and passed from neighbor to neighbor. Sometimes called "the poor man's flower," it is a democratic shrub, grown by both presidents and penniless pioneers. Seven years before he penned the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson made notes in his garden journal about planting lilacs. After the Revolutionary War, but before his election to the presidency, George Washington took time to transplant lilacs at his Mount Vernon estate.

Although a lilac blooms for only two to three weeks in spring, the rich fragrance and the abundant panicles of blossoms



make a deep impression, especially since lilac is one of the first shrubs to flower in spring, early or late, depending on the season's weather.

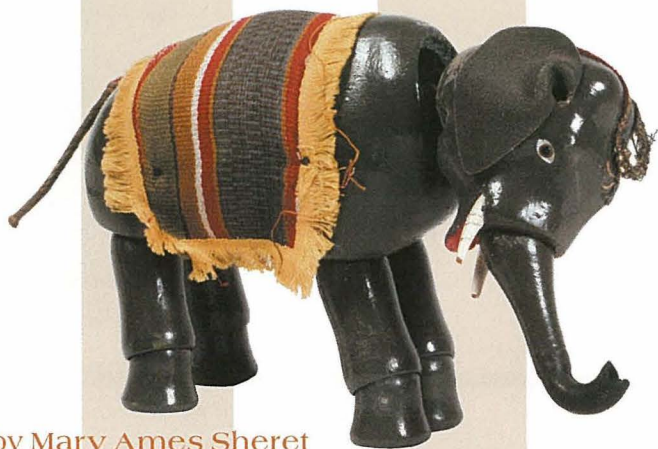
When Abraham Lincoln died on the morning of April 15, 1865, lilacs were in full bloom in Washington, D.C. Days later, a funeral train bore his coffin to rest in state in several northern cities on the way from Washington to Springfield, Illinois, where Lincoln was buried on May 4. Lilacs bloomed at each city along the way. Poet Walt Whitman, a passionate admirer of Lincoln, wrote "When Lilacs Last In The

Dooryard Bloomed," the famous poem expressing national grief for the assassinated leader. Whitman used lilac as the main symbol in his poem, contrasting the renewal and beauty of spring with loss and mourning. This simple spring symbol touched Americans, for lilacs were beloved in both city and country, and, as Whitman intimated, more apt funeral flowers than roses for a president born in a Kentucky log cabin.

Lilacs seem to be more appreciated in North America than in much of Eurasia, where more temperate climates offer gardeners a wider choice of plants. And the lilac was not introduced to Western Europe until the sixteenth century, too late to become a mainstay of European gardens, but just in time to voyage to North America. French gardeners, however, did seize on lilacs for their voluptuous fragrance and lush blooms. While Americans stuck their lilac shoots in the dirt of their dooryards and trusted their self-reliance, French breeders, ever eager to improve on nature, produced hybrids with a bolder range of colors and different bloom times. Today, with planning, a Southern Oregon gardener can lengthen lilac bloom time to more than six weeks by planting varieties that flower in succession. However, breeders have never surpassed the sweet, heavy fragrance and simple beauty of the old-fashioned lilac brought to this continent more than 350 years ago and grown in our grandmothers' gardens. 🌸

*Anthropologist Nan Hannon and ethnobotanist  
Donn L. Todt garden in Ashland.*





by Mary Ames Sheret

## Under the Big Top

**I**N 1903, THE SCHOENHUT Company introduced a brand new toy that was to become a best-seller for decades. The "Humpty-Dumpty Circus" featured brightly painted, movable figures set under a red-and-white-striped big top. The first characters toy maker Albert Schoenhut patented were a donkey and a seven-inch clown called "Cracker Jack." With slits in his wooden feet and hands, the clown could balance in various poses on a chair, ladder and other props. Soon, two more clowns, "Humpty" and "Dumpty" joined the set, and by 1909 the circus had grown to thirty-five animals, twenty-nine performers, and more than forty props.

Schoenhut learned about the toy business from his father and grandfather in their native Germany. In 1865, Albert immigrated to Philadelphia to work for Wanamakers & Sons department store repairing toys. In 1872, he opened the House of Schoenhut and began producing wooden toy pianos that featured steel sounding bars. The fine-quality sound made the piano an instant success. Other Schoenhut toys included wooden blocks, trains, ships, dollhouse furniture, and an extensive line of dolls.

Numerous factors made the Humpty-Dumpty Circus a success. Ringling Brothers and Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show were touring the country attracting large audiences. In the Rogue Valley, the circus drew huge crowds each summer as the performers, animals, and wagons formed a parade from the train depot to the circus grounds.

Schoenhut's circus figures were very well designed. They were crafted from solid wood with heavy elastic cord joints so they could be posed in lifelike arrangements. Bright enamel paint stood up to hours of hard play. And early figures, such as the bear in our set, had glass eyes. Schoenhut

added an array of props including barrels, stands, 100-pound weights, and animal hoops. The circus tent had a trapeze and rings for the acrobats, and the animals rode in gilded, wooden cages.

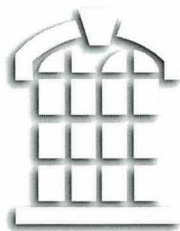
Sales of the Humpty-Dumpty Circus began to slump in 1923. Schoenhut's sons, who had inherited the company in 1912, introduced a line of smaller, five-inch circus figures, but it was not enough to offset rising costs of labor and materials. Like many other manufacturers, the Schoenhut Company did not survive the Depression and closed in 1935. Albert Schoenhut's fine line of toys, however, has lived on with collectors and circus enthusiasts.

This circus and many other antique toys are on display in "Let's Play: Pastimes from the Past," on exhibit in the History Center through July 5. Admission is free. 🎪

*Mary Ames Sheret is curator of collections/exhibits with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.*







SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Things To Do in April



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

	<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Craft of the Month	Museum hours	CHILDREN'S MUSEUM	Tissue Paper Flowers; 25¢
Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?	Wed., Apr. 10; 3:30-4:30 p.m.	Children's Museum	Workshop for ages 3-6; Fee: \$4 members; \$5 non-members
Games Galore!	Sat., Apr. 27; 1-3 p.m.	Garfield Park, Ashland	Family Day. Free

## PROGRAM DETAILS

FOR TIMES AND LOCATIONS, SEE SCHEDULE ABOVE.

### APRIL CRAFT OF THE MONTH

#### *Tissue Paper Flowers*

Spring has sprung! Come in and make a colorful tissue paper flower to brighten your room. Once you know how, you will be able to make a whole bouquet at home! Families. Fee: 25¢. Children's Museum.

### BUTTON, BUTTON, WHO'S GOT THE BUTTON?

#### WORKSHOP

Create a box covered with buttons to hold your treasures or to give as a gift. We'll play "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?" and learn a bit about the history of buttons in this fanciful workshop! Fee: \$4, Society members; \$5, non-members. Ages 3-6.

### GAMES GALORE!

#### A LET'S PLAY FAMILY DAY

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fun and games playing a variety of well-loved outdoor games including foot races, tag, and good old-fashioned tug-of-war.

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK APRIL 21-27

We thank our volunteers year-round for the many services they perform, but we'd like to give special recognition of the fact that we could not do what we do without our fantastic corp during this annual celebration. We truly appreciate all the assistance, kindness, support, and hard work! Thanks!!



### IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Volunteers are still being recruited for this year's Beekman Living History program. Greeters, teen-aged piano students and senior Mrs. Beekmans are still needed. A special airing of the video *America 1900* will be shown in the program space behind the Jacksonville Museum on **Tuesday, April 2, at 6:30 p.m.** for those interested in volunteering for this program. Staff and volunteers will be available to talk about their experiences and answer questions. **Please preregister for this program by Monday, April 1.** We are also recruiting adults to act as house and wagon tour guides or to assist with activities at Hanley Farm. Please call 773-6536 to find out how you can help.

## OREGON'S NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

All the winners listed below are from the Southern District competition held in Ashland. They all are eligible to compete in the state contest to be held April 20 at Willamette University in Salem.

### HISTORY DAY WINNERS!

#### Senior Individual Exhibit

- 1st • Ian Goff - South Medford
- 2nd • Crystal Walsh - South Medford
- 3rd • Andrea Manes - South Medford

#### Senior Group Exhibit

- 1st • Nathan Kobinsky & Scott Rowen - South Medford
- 2nd • April Bradshaw & Noah Brennan - South Medford
- 3rd • Gabe Carrick & Alex Mayer - South Medford

#### Junior Historic Paper

- 1st • Angela Kramer - Talent
- 2nd • Elizabeth Shinn - Talent
- 3rd • Rachael Jones - Talent

#### Junior Group Performance

- 1st • Michi Couch, Elizabeth Niedermeyer & Amber Rametes - Applegate
- 2nd • Sara Baldoni, Tamaria Favell & Erin Ingle - McLoughlin
- 3rd • Mazine Guenther, Annalicia Whittaker & Rebekah Whittaker - McLoughlin

#### Junior Individual Exhibit

- 1st • Snow Powers - Hedrick
- 2nd • Forest Giardina - Talent
- 3rd • Kate Warren - Hedrick

#### Junior Group Exhibit

- 1st • Marissa Shorland & Cassandra Williams - Talent
- 2nd • Justiss Kallos, Jessica Pittman & Cindi Staller - Hedrick
- 3rd • Lakin Rigby & Rachel Schwarz - Hedrick

#### Junior Individual Documentary

- 1st • Sara Fischer - McLoughlin
- 2nd • Andrea Herman - McLoughlin

#### Junior Group Documentary

- 1st • Dayton Hughes, Katie Sours & Deven Thompson - Hedrick
- 2nd • Josh Hoglen & Brandon Jackson - Talent
- 3rd • Rose Ballard, Kami Culver, Jessea Mucha & Layni Pistone - Lorna Byrne

## 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



# EXHIBITS : (see listings below for complete descriptions)

	LOCATION	MUSEUM HOURS
Let's Play: Pastimes From the Past 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 Southwest—Art and History 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.

### LET'S PLAY:

#### PASTIMES FROM THE PAST

Using photographs, documents and artifacts, this traveling exhibit offers an intriguing look at the ways Americans enjoyed their leisure time at the turn of the 20th Century. It explores such topics as toys, the fitness craze, the role of organized sports, the rise of the sportswoman, and America on wheels. What were the favorite children's toys in the 1800s? What was the most popular college sport in the 1890s? Find the answers in this exhibit! Developed by the Rogers Historical Museum, Rogers, Arkansas, and supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

#### 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 Southwest—Art and History*

Tourists descended upon Arizona and New Mexico with the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1880. People from every corner of the United States, including Southern Oregon, came by train to see the red-cliff canyons, giant saguaro cacti, and the native people of the southwest. Tourists developed an appreciation for the native people as highly skilled potters and weavers. Entrepreneurs opened trading posts to serve as meeting points for eager collectors of American Indian art. For generations, tools and techniques were passed down bringing renown to families specializing in certain styles. Today, American Indian artisans sell their wares in small roadside shops and the finest Santa Fe art galleries. The objects on display are representative of what could have been found in trading posts throughout the southwest in the last 1800s and early 1900s.

#### HALL OF JUSTICE

History of the 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."

## SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SITES

PHONE: (541) 773-6536  
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  
Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sun., noon to 5 p.m.

### THIRD STREET ARTISANS' STUDIO

3rd and California, Jacksonville  
(closed for the season)

### U.S. HOTEL

3rd and California, Jacksonville  
Upstairs room available for rent.

### CATHOLIC RECTORY

4th and C streets, Jacksonville



*We invite YOU to  
become a member!*

Your membership will support: preservation of Southern Oregon's rich heritage; Society exhibits and educational events; outreach to schools; workshops for adults and children; living history programs; and tours and demonstrations at historic Hanley Farm.

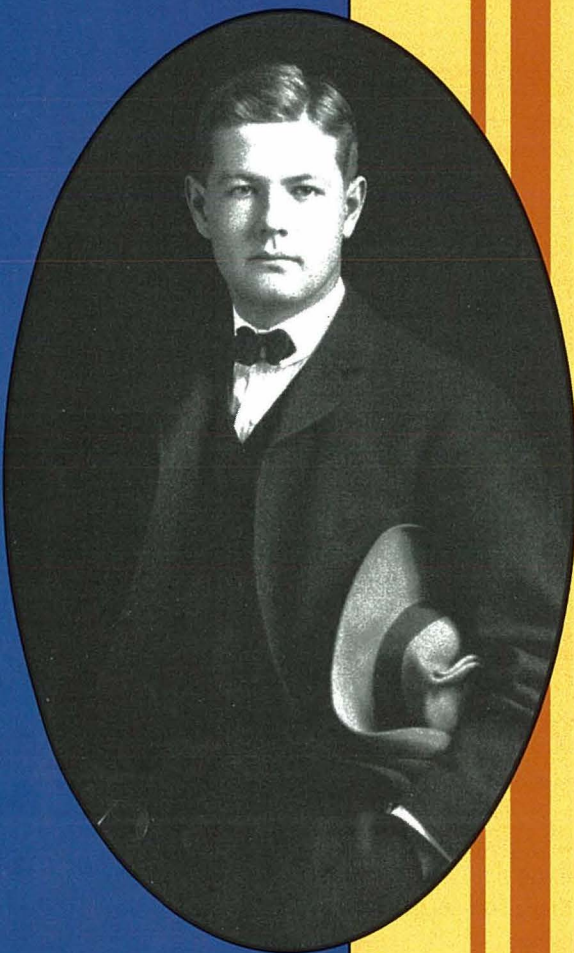
**Members receive** *Southern Oregon Heritage Today*, the Society's monthly magazine with newsletter, providing a view into the past and keeping you up-to-date on services provided by the Society.

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

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Lifetime ...	\$1,000	
Business ...	Two years \$200	One year \$120
Director ...	Two years \$450	One year \$250
Curator ...	Two years \$200	One year \$120
Patron ...	Two years \$110	One year \$60
Family ...	Two years \$55	One year \$30
Friend ...	Two years \$35	One year \$20





*Henry Chandler "Chan" Egan, circa 1903, when he and his cousin, Walter Egan, helped anchor the Harvard University golf team.*

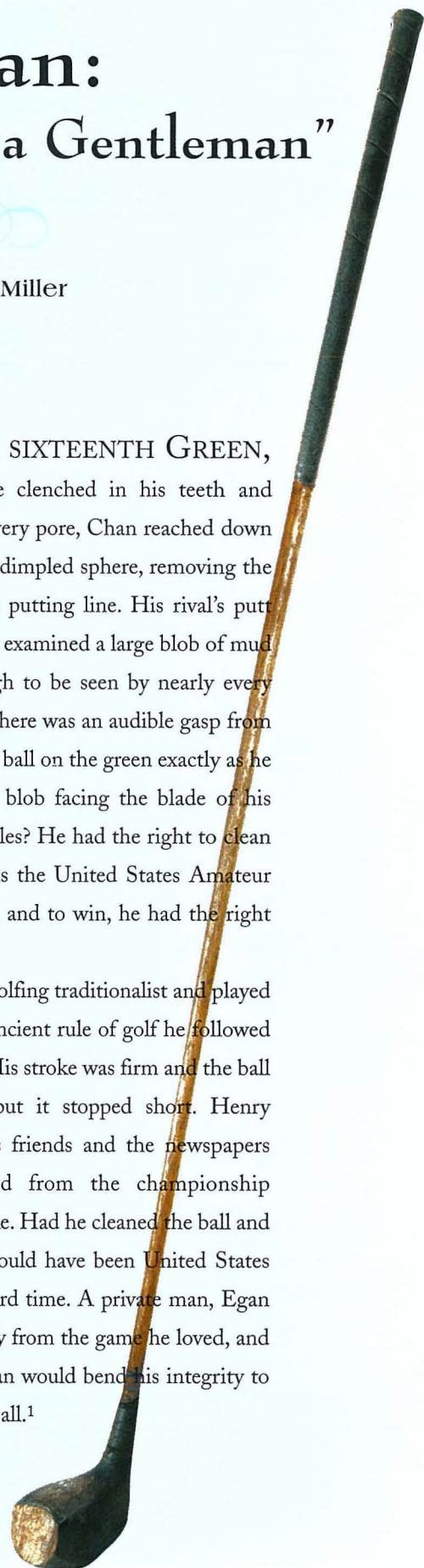
# Chan:

## "Yonder Goes a Gentleman"

by Bill Miller

**I**N THE SIXTEENTH GREEN, with pipe clenched in his teeth and perspiration dripping from every pore, Chan reached down to his golf ball. He lifted the dimpled sphere, removing the obstacle from his opponent's putting line. His rival's putt plopped into the cup as Chan examined a large blob of mud stuck to his ball—large enough to be seen by nearly every spectator around the green. There was an audible gasp from the crowd as Chan placed the ball on the green exactly as he had found it, with the mud blob facing the blade of his putter. Didn't he know the rules? He had the right to clean the ball. After all, this was the United States Amateur Golf Championship of 1921, and to win, he had the right to take any legal advantage.

But Chandler Egan was a golfing traditionalist and played to a higher set of laws. The ancient rule of golf he followed was, "Play the ball as it lies." His stroke was firm and the ball wobbled toward the hole, but it stopped short. Henry Chandler Egan, or Chan, as friends and the newspapers called him, was eliminated from the championship qualifying rounds by one stroke. Had he cleaned the ball and made the putt, perhaps he would have been United States amateur champion for the third time. A private man, Egan never sought publicity or glory from the game he loved, and anyone who thought that Egan would bend his integrity to win really didn't know him at all.<sup>1</sup>





Egan's appearance in the 1921 Amateur Championship in St. Louis ended a twelve-year absence from the event. In the 1909 tournament held in Chicago, he had placed second to Robert A. Gardner. After that September event, Egan's life reached a major turning point. Within the next year, he would marry and see the birth of his daughter. By May 1911, this wealthy Illinois gentleman would become a Westerner, purchasing an orchard and building a home in Medford. He joined a host of other affluent Easterners who descended upon Medford. Some were speculating in real estate and hoping to make easy profits. Others, like Egan, knew what they were doing. It was a time when gentlemen "needed" to find a profession, and golf was only a game. After spending a number of years looking, including stints as a golf writer and insurance salesman, Egan decided to pursue what he knew best—agriculture. His horticultural education had begun before he was born.

In October 1841, William B. Egan, Chandler Egan's grandfather, left New York City with his wife and six-month-old baby boy, bound for the new city of Chicago. William Egan built his home

In 1898 he presented his specimens and science library to the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

In 1871, when he was thirty years old, he married Evva Rockwell, who died two years later. Egan remarried in January 1878 to Detroit native Sarah Olive Chandler.

In 1887, the Egan's purchased an estate north of Chicago in the town of Highland Park. At the age of fifty, Egan retired from business and devoted most of his attention to floriculture. The Highland Park property, which he called Egandale, served as his horticultural laboratory. Egandale became a Mecca for flower lovers after Egan began to write books and magazine articles, using photographs from his own gardens as illustrations. Magazine journalists came from Europe to marvel at his work. An article in a 1912 edition of the magazine "Country Life in America" described Egandale as "the most famous small place (five acres) in the middle west." A number of plants have been named for William Egan, including the W. C. Egan rose, a phlox (*Egandale canna*), the W. C. Egan iris and a member of the Hawthorne family (*Cretaeus egani*). By the time Henry Chandler

old Chandler how to play golf. "The next summer," Chandler Egan remembered, "My brother and I ... built a nine-hole course up and down the street parkway, over the neighboring lawns and through the Egan cow pasture." With two irons, purchased for a dollar each, the boys developed their skills over the next few years, and very soon it was clear that Chandler Egan was a natural.

Egan attended school at Rugby, in nearby Kenilworth, Illinois. He was a standout on the football team, but sadly, the school didn't field a golf team. He contented himself with his improvised course. In 1899, when his father joined Exmoor Country Club in Chicago, Egan was quickly selected for its golf team. That same year, cousin Walter was attending University School in Chicago and leading it to the Preparatory League golf championship. Earlier Walter had

*A golfer makes his putt on a green at the Rogue Valley Country Club circa 1929. The golfer on the green at the right, wearing a brimmed hat, may be Chandler Egan, who helped design the course.*



SOHS #11877

"out in the country" on the west side of Chicago, near where the Sears Tower stands today. Egan was a lover of flowers and his property was soon well known for its attractive gardens. He had made some good real estate investments, and when he died in 1860, his son not only inherited a love of nature, but a sizable fortune as well.<sup>2</sup>

William Constantine Egan, Chandler Egan's father, was soon a partner in the old Chicago distillery H. H. Shufeldt & Co. Egan believed that a businessman must develop an outside hobby, so he began a widespread study of paleontology. For over thirty years he gathered and collected fossils, many of them named in his honor.

Egan was born, his horticultural education was ready and waiting for him.<sup>3</sup>

Sarah and William Egan had three known children. Daughter Evva was apparently named for William's first wife. Her brothers were William Bradshaw, named for his paternal grandfather, and Henry Chandler Egan, named for Sarah's father, Henry Bellows Chandler. H. Chandler Egan, as he was known to the golf world, was born in Chicago on August 21, 1884. The family escaped the sticky humidity of Chicago summers with extended vacations at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Here, in the summer of 1896, cousin Walter Egan taught twelve-year-

joined Chicago's Onwentsia Country Club. During the summer, he and Chandler would caddie for older members, and whenever possible, play a round of golf against each other. The cousins were soon known as two of the best golfers in the country. Walter stunned golfing experts in 1899 by placing second in the Western Amateur Golf Championship. In 1902 he placed second again, but this time it was his cousin Chandler who beat him. In 1903, Walter finally won, defeating his cousin by one hole. But now it was Chandler Egan who was beginning to dominate, with wins in three of the next four Western tournaments.<sup>4</sup>



## H. CHANDLER EGAN'S MAJOR GOLF TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENT	LOCATION	FINISH	DATE
California Golf Association	Del Monte Golf & C.C., Pebble Beach, CA	2d	1925
California Golf Association		Winner	1926
California Golf Association		2d	1928
Gearhart Amateur	Gearhart, OR	Winner	1915
Masters/Augusta National	Augusta, GA	60th	1935
Medford-Eugene	Eugene C.C., OR	won, 3 up	1914
Medford-Eugene	Medford Golf & C.C., OR	won, 3 up	1915
Bermuda Islands Championship	Nassau, Bahama Islands	Winner	1926
NCAA- Div. 1- Harvard	Morris County	Winner- Ind.	1902
NCAA- Div. 1- Harvard	Morris County	Winner- Team	1902
NCAA- Div. 1- Harvard	Garden City, NJ	Winner- Team	1903
NCAA- Div. 1- Harvard	Myopia	Winner- Team	1904
Olympics- Team Gold Medal	St. Louis, MO	Ind. Silver Medal	1904
Pacific Northwest Amateur	Seattle Golf & C.C., WA	2d	1914
Pacific Northwest Amateur	Tacoma, WA	Winner	1915
Pacific Northwest Amateur	Vancouver, B.C., Canada	Winner	1920
Pacific Northwest Amateur	Waverly C.C., Portland, OR	2d	1921
Pacific Northwest Amateur	Seattle G.C., WA	Winner	1923
Pacific Northwest Amateur	Tacoma Golf & C.C, WA	Winner	1925
Pacific Northwest Amateur	Alderwood C.C., Portland, OR	Winner	1932
Pacific Northwest Pro-Am	Tacoma Golf & C.C., WA	Tied 2d	1925
Panama-Pacific Exposition	San Francisco Golf & C.C., CA	Semi-finals	1915
United States Amateur	Baltusrol G.C., Springfield, NJ	Winner	1904
United States Amateur	Chicago G.C., Wheaton, ILL	Winner	1905
United States Amateur	Chicago G.C., Wheaton, ILL	2d	1909
United States Amateur	Del Monte Golf & C.C., CA	Semi-finals	1929
United States Open	Glen View G.C., Golf, ILL	Tied 20th	1904
United States Open	Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, ILL	Tied 8th	1906
United States Open	Chicago G.C., Wheaton, ILL	Tied 23d	1911
Walker Cup- won by U.S.	St. Andrew G.C., Scotland	Won 3 & 2	1934
Western Amateur		Winner	1902
Western Amateur		2d	1903
Western Amateur		Winner	1904
Western Amateur		Winner	1905
Western Amateur		Winner	1907

In 1902, Chandler and Walter had begun studies at Harvard University. Although they participated in many of the social and sporting activities offered by the school, the emphasis was on golf. In the fall, Chandler Egan took the individual honors while Yale beat Harvard in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Golf Championship. Harvard won the next two NCAA championships with both of the Egan on the team. After graduation, both Henry and Walter were voted into Harvard's Golf Hall of Fame.<sup>5</sup>

Walter Egan had tried his luck against the pros in the 1900 United States Open Golf Tournament, finishing forty-third and last. In July 1904, both Egan entered the tournament, with Chandler finishing in a tie for twentieth and Walter again finishing last. They had scrupulously maintained their amateur status and there

is no evidence that Chandler Egan ever contemplated turning pro. Tournaments were few and the early prize money rarely exceeded \$200 for first place. Chandler Egan played because he loved the game and the game was about to reward him with everlasting fame.<sup>6</sup>

Twenty-year-old Egan returned home to Illinois and began to prepare for the United States Amateur Tournament, which would be held at the Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey beginning in the last week of August 1904. Just a week before the tournament, a portion of the Exmoor Country Club burned to the ground. Egan's golf clubs were stored at Exmoor. He called his clubs "golf sticks" because the shafts were made of wood. On the morning following the fire, he found that the shafts were ashes and the metal club heads were either blackened or had

melted away. He quickly gathered another set of clubs, many of which he faithfully carried until he died. In later years it was Egan, rather than his caddie, who would pull a club from his bag. The clubs were unrecognizable to "modern" caddies and had no numbers on them. The joke was that Egan's clubs were old enough to vote.<sup>7</sup>

As Egan stepped from the train in New Jersey in the late summer of 1904, he was ready for the challenge of facing 141 of the best golfers in the country. The previous year in this tournament, he had won the medal for lowest qualifying score, but never made it to the final rounds. In 1904, Egan again was awarded the medal for the low qualifying score and this time he won the amateur championship by eight holes. In 1905, in the friendly surroundings of the Chicago Golf Club, he repeated as United States champion, defeating his challenger by six holes. He would win many tournaments over his lifetime, but after these tournaments, whenever someone wrote about Chandler Egan, they would always say, "Chandler Egan, two-time United States Amateur golf champion."<sup>8</sup>

Egan had little time to enjoy his 1904 victory. The third Olympics of the modern era had come to St. Louis in conjunction with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, or as we know it, the 1904 World's Fair.



*Chandler and Brook Spencer play golf, circa 1915.*

SOHS #16921



Golf competition was scheduled to begin in the middle of September, shortly after Egan's win in the U. S. Amateur. Chandler Egan, who was favored to win the individual gold medal, was also a member of the Western Golf Association team, joining his cousin Walter and eight others. Again Egan posted the low qualifying score and continued to eliminate his opponents until he reached the finals. Canadian George Lyon, one of the few non-Americans in the tournament, was a decided underdog to Egan, when he



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETTIE BUONOCORE

qualified to meet the U. S. Amateur champion for the gold medal. Lyon was 46 years old and had an unorthodox style, which newspapers called "a coal heaver's swing." Two rounds of golf would decide the winner. After the morning round Lyon surprisingly was one hole up. Perhaps it was Egan's heady victory in the U.S. Amateur, or maybe youth and inexperience that caused his game to disintegrate in the afternoon round. On the second hole he drove into the rough; on the third, his tee shot landed behind a tree and on the fifteenth and sixteenth holes, his shots sank into the water hazards. Lyon celebrated his three-hole victory and the Olympic gold medal by walking the floor of the clubhouse on his hands. Chandler Egan's silver medal must have been a great disappointment, but the sportsman within him would never allow

it to show. On the train ride home to Illinois, even the gold medal he had won as part of the team competition would have brought him little joy.<sup>9</sup>

Between his graduation in 1905 and settling in the Rogue Valley in 1911, Chandler Egan gradually began to feel the pressure of growing up. Though he continued to play amateur golf, his search for a true profession intensified. In describing this time in Egan's life, his daughter would later say, "My father was torn between duty and pleasure." One can hear the pushing voice of Egan's father behind that quote. Chandler Egan wanted to be a good son and tried a number of businesses but found them utterly dull. For a brief period he wrote a series of articles on golf for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, but at that time, golf was not a year-round sport and columnists were not considered professionals. Following his 1910 marriage to Nina McNally in

*Egan, with his ever-present pipe, sits at his typewriter circa 1915. Among other things, Chandler served briefly as a golf columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle.*

Chicago, and the subsequent birth of daughter Eleanor, Chandler Egan chose his profession. He would purchase the Bates Brothers Orchard, rename it the Egan Orchard Company and become an orchardist in the Rogue River Valley.

The Bates brothers, James and William, were popular self-taught Medford barbers as early as 1892. They saved their money, and in November 1901 they paid \$900 for 116 acres of land northwest of Roxy Anne Peak along Foothill Road. The brothers planted their first fruit, six acres of Jonathan apples, in 1902. Their first pears were planted in 1907, and one year later they shipped their first railroad car of fruit to New York City. On May 19, 1911, Egan bought the orchard for \$67,500. Until the full amount was paid, Egan agreed to maintain the orchard with "approved methods of horticulture in vogue in the Rogue River Valley." The Bates brothers would maintain the orchard until November. Egan left for Chicago and the 1911 United States Open. It was the last major golf tournament he would play for nearly three years.<sup>11</sup>

The tournament would allow him a visit with his wife and daughter. There wasn't a proper home at the orchard as yet, and his family would remain in Chicago while Egan supervised construction of a bungalow in Medford. Egan's only child, Eleanor, says she and her mother arrived in Medford when Eleanor was two years old. The local

## H. CHANDLER EGAN'S GOLF COURSES

DATE	GOLF COURSE
1912	Medford Golf Club, Medford
1917-18	Eastmoreland G.C., Portland
1921	Seaside G.C., Seaside
1922	Hood River Golf & C.C., Hood River
1923	Coos C.C., Coos Bay
1923	Rogue Valley C.C., Medford
1923	Tualatin C.C.—renovation, Tualatin
1924	West Hills Municipal
1925	Reames Golf & C.C., Klamath Falls
1926	Bend Golf & C.C., Bend
1926	Oswego Lake C.C., Lake Oswego
1926	Riverside C.C., Portland
1927	Eugene C.C., Eugene
1928	Bandon Dunes, Bandon
1928	Del Monte—remodel, Pebble Beach, CA
1928	West Seattle G.C., Seattle, WA
1929-30	Harding Park—reconstruct, San Francisco, CA
1929-30	Pasatiempo G.C., Santa Cruz, CA
1929-30	Rio Campo, Russian River, CA
1929-30	Valley G.C., Santa Barbara, CA
1930	Waverly C.C.—remodel, Portland
1930	Green Hills C.C., Millbrae, CA
1931	Crystal Downs C.C., Frankfort, MI
1932	Pacific Grove Golf Links, Pacific Grove, CA
1933	Augusta National, Augusta, GA
1934	Walter E. Hall Memorial, Everett, WA
1935	Indian Canyon, Spokane, WA
1935	Tuxedo Park—remodel, NY
1935-37	North Fulton Municipal, Atlanta, GA
1935-36	Legion Memorial, Everett, WA (Egan died while building this).

society pages appear to confirm her memory, as they begin to report joint appearances of "Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Egan" beginning in March 1912. Gradually over the next two years the marriage began to disintegrate. No one thought it unusual when it was announced that Nina Egan and her daughter would spend the summer of 1914 in Chicago; however, judging by the society pages, she may not have returned to Medford until after her divorce and remarriage in 1917.<sup>12</sup>

For the two years that Nina and Chandler Egan were together in Medford, Egan's golf was confined to the local area. In June 1912, the local golf club announced that it was moving its golf links to a new location. Egan, as the club member with the most golf experience, agreed to provide the basic design of the new course. Though he would modestly say that he only offered suggestions and ideas, it was the first documented instance of Egan working as a golf course architect.





SOHS #14354

With the valuation of his property falling to \$15,500 in 1912, and fruit profits modest, Egan no doubt was thinking of alternate sources of income. How lucky to find a profession so intimately linked with the game he loved.<sup>13</sup>

Egan's return to tournament golf, if not a refuge from his troubled marriage, certainly presented the couple with a major conflict. It's probably not coincidental that just two weeks after Nina left for Chicago in 1914, Egan traveled to Eugene for a golf tournament between each city's best players. After this competitive warm-up, he drove to Seattle to play in the Pacific Northwest

Championship, where he placed second behind California champion Jack Neville. At the end of the year, the United States Golf Association ranked Egan as the eighth best amateur golfer in the nation. In December, Egan joined with his peers in the Society Vaudeville at the Page Theater in Medford and had his photo taken as he

danced with Dorothy Conner. He was pretending that nothing had changed, but everything was changing. He was losing his marriage, and for a while, golf and agriculture would be his only comforts.<sup>14</sup>

In the spring of 1915, Egan returned to Chicago for a short visit with his family. He left a week later—alone. By the first of April he was preparing for a golf tournament at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. His golf was improving, and in July he won the first of five Pacific Northwest Amateur golf championships. Earlier in the year Eugene golfers had come to Medford to play in the

*Egan, at left in the white shirt, plays a round of golf with friends, circa 1915. Roxy Anne Peak rises in the background.*

second annual intercity series. This time the meeting included a tennis tournament and Egan, with partner Hal Bingham, won the doubles tennis championship. Bingham, also from Chicago, owned the Miravista Orchards, which adjoined Egan's property on the north. Their camaraderie would not last.<sup>15</sup>

For the next four years, with trouble in his personal life and the slow collapse of the local orchard economy, Egan did not play major tournament golf. On September 13, 1916, Egan learned that Nina had secretly filed for divorce in Chicago. Saying that Chandler was in love with another woman, Nina was granted the divorce and was awarded custody of their daughter. In January 1917,

Nina shocked Medford society by marrying Egan's former tennis partner, Hal Bingham, and returning to the Rogue Valley. Romantic rumors had it that while Egan was away, Bingham had pursued Nina by riding his horse from his orchard to hers. Though possible, it is more likely they began to seriously court each other after 1914, while Nina was living in Chicago.<sup>16</sup>

Perhaps the "other woman" was Alice Barrett Scudder, who according to friends, kept her eye on Egan from the day she met him. Their first encounter probably came while Alice was visiting her sister Winnie,

wife of Medford orchardist Leonard Carpenter. Alice was married to John Arnold Scudder at the time, but the marriage was in trouble. In 1913, Scudder gave Alice nearly forty-eight acres of Jackson County orchard land. By April of 1916, Alice Scudder was using her maiden name "Barrett" in probate documents filed in Chicago, indicating that she was already divorced. With Nina remarried, Chandler Egan and Alice took their marriage vows in a private San Francisco ceremony in April 1917.<sup>17</sup>

Weeks before Egan's second marriage, the United States had declared war on Germany. Nine months later the Medford Golf and Country Club (at Springbrook and McAndrews) was abandoned when the mortgage holder, Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, initiated foreclosure proceedings. After paying the Jackson County sheriff \$6,082 in overdue taxes, the lending company regained control of the property. Most of Egan's wealthy Chicago friends had left the valley during the economic recession, many of their properties also having been repossessed by Pacific Mutual. Egan's property was safe, as he had made final payment to the Bates brothers in May 1916. Unlike his friends, he would stay in Medford; however, without a local golf course to play, Egan decided to build courses in other towns.<sup>18</sup>

Although he had designed the Medford course, Egan's paying career as a golf course architect seems to begin in 1917, with his design and construction of the Eastmoreland links in Portland. It is difficult to say how many courses he designed or assisted in designing, as most of these records are poorly kept, if kept at all. His last project, Atlanta's North Fulton Municipal Golf Course, opened a year after he died.

Of all the intervening projects, he is best remembered for his redesign of the Pebble Beach Golf Links near Monterey, California, in 1928. The course had been awarded the 1929 U. S. Amateur Tournament. Egan was hired to toughen the course strategically, but took his design to levels never before seen. Holes were lengthened and all the greens rebuilt. Rather than sand traps, he created "imitation sand dunes," that mirrored those found on the beaches. The finished course was not only more difficult to play, it was also more beautiful. At the tournament everyone expected Bobby Jones to repeat as champion, but surprisingly he lost in the first round. Forty-five-year-old Chandler Egan again stunned the experts when he made it to the semi-finals, but lost his chance for another championship by four strokes.<sup>19</sup>



During the 1920s Chandler Egan helped reestablish and design the Rogue Valley Country Club golf course and had successfully returned to tournament play. Between golf construction projects he managed to win a number of contests and played so competitively that many began to call him the "grand old man" of golf. Alice Egan rarely accompanied him on his travels, except to California, where the couple owned a house overlooking the Pebble Beach course. They spent the winters near the seaside links and return to Medford each spring. Egan's only known outside business investment came in 1926, when he and four others formed Southern Oregon Sales, the largest cold storage and packing plant in Southern Oregon.<sup>20</sup>

Daughter Eleanor Egan says she left Medford with her mother and stepfather when she was fifteen years old. That would have been in 1925 when Hal Bingham signed a quitclaim and lost his Miravista property. After moving briefly to Los Angeles, Nina divorced Bingham and returned to Chicago. In 1935, after visiting the golf course he was building in Atlanta, Egan traveled to Chicago for his daughter's wedding to Morris Everett.<sup>21</sup>

How ironic that Henry Chandler Egan would die in Everett, Washington. In the spring of 1936, while supervising a Works Project Administration crew as they constructed a golf course, he was stricken with pneumonia and died. Memorial services were held at the same hour in

Washington and at Egan's boyhood church, Trinity Episcopal, in Highland Park, Illinois. Alice Egan brought Chandler's ashes back to Medford and scattered them on his favorite part of the orchard property. No memorials were held in Medford until the following year. A group of dignitaries headed by golfing great Bobby Jones came to the Rogue Valley Country Club to honor the former champion and to dedicate a granite water fountain and bronze plaque that featured Egan's image. That year, thanks to Egan's efforts, the United States Amateur Golf Tournament was played in Portland.<sup>22</sup>

Egan was remembered as a quiet and kind man, "a high-minded loyal citizen, a devoted friend," said the *Mail Tribune*. "Golfdom [has] lost one of its most loveable characters," mourned *Pacific Coast Golfer Magazine*.

On a personal note, Medford resident Ruth Preston remembers that as a child, she and Egan's daughter would ride horses from Miravista to Chandler Egan's house after school. "[He] used to bake cakes if he knew we were coming and serve tea to us. He was fond of children. ... When I was twelve ... and [would] see him at the golf course, he always had time to stop and see how we were."

"It is not hero worship to admire him," said the *Oregonian*. "Nor flattery to praise. And when to these attributes is added that of an instinctive gentility, you may well say, 'Yonder goes a gentleman.' Such was H. Chandler Egan."<sup>23</sup> 🏌️

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

*Chandler Egan posed for this portrait by Verne Shangle, circa 1929.*

tournaments were not played on the West Coast. Although the Western has occasionally moved around the United States, for most of its history it has been played near Chicago. The tournament is not the "West Coast Amateur" as is stated in the nomination form seeking National Historic Status for the Chandler Egan house.

5. "Harvard University Golf Hall of Fame," <<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hvc/hofgolf.html>>, accessed 31 January 2001.
6. "Golfstats: The Majors," <<http://golfonline.com>>, accessed 1 March 2001.
7. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 7 April 1936.
8. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 6 April 1936. In amateur golf, the number of holes won by each player usually decides a match. Qualifying rounds often use total number of golf strokes to determine which players advance.
9. Eric Zweig, "Meet Me In St. Louis," *Beaver*, June/July 1996, p. 25-26. "George Lyon: The Accidental Golfer," Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, <<http://cbc.ca/sports/olympians>>, accessed 31 January 2001.
10. Macdonald, p. 44. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 9 April 1936.
11. Jackson County Deeds, 15 November 1901, vol. 42, p. 516; 23 May 1911, v. 88, p. 403-07. Outline Map of the Egan Orchard Company, S.O.H.S map collection. *Medford Mail*, 13 November 1908. Egan completed the U. S. Open, tied for twenty-third place, seventeen over par.
12. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 5 October 1911; 30 March 1912. Correspondence with Eleanor Everett and her son Chandler Everett, Chandler Egan's daughter and grandson.
13. By 1922 Egan's property valuation had fallen to \$10,950.
14. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 29 June 1912; 17 September 1913; 21 December 1914. Dorothy Conner would survive the sinking of the passenger ship *Lusitania* the following May.
15. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 25 March 1915; 18 May 1915; 10 July 1915.
16. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 14 September 1916; 27 January 1917.
17. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 12 April 1917. Jackson County Deeds, 23 April 1913, vol. 100, p. 381; 22 January 1914, vol. 103, pp. 514-15; 2 April 1916, vol. 111, pp. 298-302.
18. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 4 August 1918. Jackson County Deeds, 1 May 1916, vol. 111, p. 473; 15 July 1919, v. 121, p. 217.
19. Geoff Shackelford, "Doctor Dunes," *Golf Magazine*, August 1999, p. 76. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 6 September 1929. Shackelford notes that among the changes Egan made on the famous eighteenth hole at Pebble Beach, he did not change it from a par four to a par five as is often suggested. The change had been made earlier.
20. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 22 June 1923; 31 December 1928. The Rogue Valley course was announced in June 1923. Other partners with Egan in Southern Oregon Sales (S. O. S.) were A.S.V. and Leonard Carpenter, Gordon Voorhies, and Corning Kenly. In 1929, the company built its plant, which still stands, at Stewart and Riverside in Medford.
21. Jackson County Deeds, 16 February 1926, vol. 159, p. 121. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 19 October 1935.
22. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 6 April 1936; 22 August 1937. *Highland Park (Illinois) Press*, 9 April 1936.
23. "Our Editorial Stance," *Pacific Coast Golfer*, May 1936. *Oregonian*, "Death of a Great Golfer," 6 April 1936. SOHS OH-126.

#### ENDNOTES:

1. *Medford Mail Tribune*, 20 September 1921. Rule 21, as approved by the U.S. Golf Association, allows for the cleaning of a golf ball on the green.
2. *Highland Park (Illinois) Press*, 16 January 1930; 17 January 1930. The Egan house is said to have been the second house built west of the Chicago River. Part of the property fronted on Van Buren Street and has been described as being located near the intersection of Canal and Madison streets.
3. *Highland Park Press*, 16 January 1930. *Highland Park News*, 7 July 1949. "Paleontological Collections, Chicago Academy of Sciences," <<http://www.chias.org/biology/pale.htm>>, accessed 4 May 2001.
4. Robert Macdonald, "A Great Amateur: H. Chandler Egan," *Golf Journal*, May/June 1992, p. 44. "Western Amateur," <<http://www.westernamateur.com>>, accessed 22 February 2001. These Western Amateur golf





# Year in Review

2000-2001

by Brad Linder

**T**HE SOUTHERN OREGON Historical Society, founded in 1946 by community leaders, believes that knowledge of the past is a guide for the future. The Society's mission is to collect, preserve, research and interpret the artifacts and documents that connect us to the past. The Society's collections contain 80,000 three-dimensional items, e.g., furniture, wagons, china, silverware, clothing, tools, flags, etc. as well as two-dimensional items, including 750,000 visual images; approximately 27,000 books, maps, and oral history transcripts; and 3,900 linear feet of manuscripts that include diaries, correspondence, business ledgers, and records of local organizations.

## FACILITIES & SITES

In 2001, Hanley Farm was a high priority for the staff, and the Society's Foundation Board of Trustees and Board of Directors. The farm was open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from May 26 through September 30. Approximately 5,000 visitors enjoyed the draft horse wagon rides, hikes to the top of Hanley Butte, tours of the house, self-guided tours of the gardens, presentations by Native Americans, food preparation workshops and special events during the Native American Lifeways, Pioneer Settlement, and 19th and 20th Century Farm Life weekends. Trolley rides from Jacksonville to the farm were very well received.

In addition to maintaining the Society-owned History Center and Research Library in downtown Medford and the historic Hanley Farm, the Society continues to manage and maintain **ten county-owned properties**, which include the Jacksonville Museum of Southern Oregon History, the Children's Museum, the U.S. Hotel, the Beekman Bank, and the C. C. Beekman House, where the Beekman Living History Program takes place each year from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Increased rental of the U.S. Hotel ballroom took place by members and non-members alike.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The Society offers a wide variety of programs in a number of engaging formats. A strong outreach program includes speakers for classrooms and a variety of check-out Discovery Boxes for educators, programs to local campgrounds, Speaker's Bureau programs for community and service groups, summer programs to all Jackson County Library System branches, and Summer Sundays in Lithia Park, Ashland. Each year workshops for ages 3-6 are held at the Children's Museum and ten or more family day events are presented at various Society sites. Adults enjoy programs during Oregon Archaeology Month, Women's History Month, and the Genealogy Fair as well as lecture series and preservation workshops. Over 2,600 fourth-grade students from 96 classes participate in the Children's Heritage Fair each year. In 2001, the Society assisted with programming for Jacksonville's first Chinese New Year's celebration. The annual southern district level contest for Oregon's National History Day celebration has over 100 participants every year from Jackson and Josephine County middle and high school students.

## EXHIBITS

In May 2001, a traveling exhibit titled, "What's Cookin'?: Two Centuries of American Foodways" opened at the History Center. Due to a generous donation of new glass and oak cases from the Gold Diggers' Guild of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, many items from the Society's collections were put on display along with the traveling exhibit pieces. A large window display titled, "Southern Oregon from A to Z," also new in 2001, fills the History Center windows on the corner of North Central Avenue and 6th Street.

## HISTORY STORE & 3RD STREET ARTISANS' STUDIO

The History Store at the corner of Third and California streets in Jacksonville continues to provide earned income for the Society. More high-quality historic reproductions are being added to the inventory for 2002 to meet customer demands. The Third Street Artisans' Studio is also open during History Store hours, and offers for sale many handcrafted items by local artists.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to grow and by year's end nearly 1900 members support the Society, its activities and events. New two-year membership categories for 2002 make the benefits of SOHS membership an even greater value for individuals, family, and business members alike.



*Hanley Farm is fun for all ages!*



*Chinese New Year parade.*



*Children's Heritage Fair!*



*Living history at the historic Beekman House.*





*History is all around Southern Oregon.*



*Hanley Farm provides unique volunteer opportunities!*



*Keeping traditions alive!*



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Society is a member of, and provides leadership for, the Jackson County History Museums Association (JCHMA) which grew to 15 organizations and welcomed the McKee Bridge Historical Society as its latest member. Meetings are held at a different JCHMA site each month. JCHMA continually works to assist Jackson County in fulfilling its goals relating to education, historic preservation, and history.

## RESEARCH LIBRARY & COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

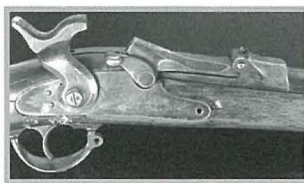
The Society's research library continues to provide support for patrons, staff, media, and local organizations needing photographic images or information on a multitude of subjects. In 2001, Collections Department staff proceeded with computer-cataloging the photographic collection and worked on inputting the entire 3-D collection. The Society's joint video project with Southern Oregon Public Television titled, "An Air Minded City," continued to be a popular gift item as were reproduction maps of Ashland, Jackson County, and Jacksonville, and *A Century of the Photographic Arts in Southern Oregon: A Directory of Jackson County Photographers, 1856-1956*.

## VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

With the support of its ever-growing volunteer program, the Society is able to provide many more educational programs and special events. A strong volunteer force makes it possible for the three-week Children's Heritage Fair to take place; the Beekman Living History program relies heavily on volunteers; and the Oral History program is made up entirely of tireless volunteers who interview Valley residents and then transcribe the interviews. Volunteers make up the Society Board of Trustees that guides the Society in its fiscal and legal responsibilities, while the Foundation Board of Directors oversees the Society's Endowment investments and implements fundraising to benefit the Society. Through fundraising events, the Gold Diggers' Guild of the Southern Oregon Historical Society provides special support for the Society. The Jacksonville Museum Quilters carry on their volunteer and monetary support of the Society through donation of a portion of the proceeds from their annual quilt show.



*Come see the collections through educational exhibits.*

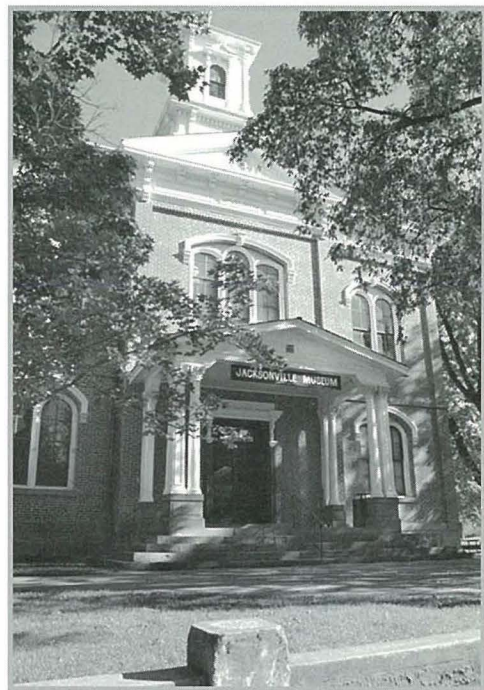


## PUBLICATIONS

*Southern Oregon Heritage Today*, the Society's popular monthly history magazine, continues as a membership benefit. Rogue Valley authors and Society staff provide articles on local preservation and flora, pioneer biographies, and collections highlights. *News & Notes*, the Society newsletter, provides information on workshops, exhibits, programs, and special events. *Hooked on History* is a quarterly newsletter for youth and provides stories, games, crafts, activities, and a calendar of upcoming workshops. *Hooked* is an optional benefit for the Family membership category and higher. Other youth publications are also options. The Society continues to distribute two very popular brochures, *Historic Discovery Drives* and *Spirit of Ashland*.



*Jacksonville-Hanley Farm Trolley Tours.*





# Modoc County's Tomb of the Unknowns by Jack Bowden

*In all America, perhaps no more unique or eloquent Memorial Day Ceremony in honor of hero dead was carried out than that by which two soldiers of the historic Modoc Indian War were paid tribute at the remote mountain flag stop of Stronghold, California, yesterday.*

*Klamath News, May 31, 1930.*

**ALTHOUGH IT STANDS ONLY A FEW FEET** from the pavement and is taller than a man, the white cross beside the highway eight miles south of Tule Lake remains unnoticed by most of the motorists hurrying by on busy California 139. Those who do see it rarely take the time to stop and read the inscription. For years the cross bore the simple epitaph, "TWO UNKNOWN SOLDIERS - MODOC WAR 1873," written in letters large enough to be read by travelers as they sped past in their automobiles. In more recent times, however, the large lettering has been painted over and replaced by a plaque so small that anyone desiring to read the inscription must now stop and get out of the car.

During the chaotic days of the Modoc War, the U. S. Army established its "Peninsula Camp," on this spot.<sup>1</sup> It was from this camp that Captain H.C. Hasbrouck set out with his troops on May 9, 1873, for the long ride which would culminate in the Battle of Dry Lake the following day, and it was to this camp that he later returned, bearing the bodies of two Warm Springs Indian scouts to be buried in unmarked graves.

Later, when the Southern Pacific Railroad was being built through the area (1928-29), contractors excavated a quarry just east of the spot where the cross now stands, from which they obtained gravel for use in the construction of the railroad grade. While working in the area, crews unintentionally disinterred the skeletons of two humans. They were unable to identify the remains, but belt buckles, brass buttons, and other insignia indicated that they were U. S. cavalrymen who had lost their lives during the Modoc War. Never positively identified, it later developed that

they were almost certainly the two Warm Springs who Indian Scouts had been killed at the Battle of Dry Lake.

After completion of the railroad in 1929, railroad officials made plans to rebury the two cavalrymen at a ceremony to be held on Memorial Day of the following year. Thus, on May 30, 1930, a small group gathered at the site for the short military service. The highway had not yet been built, and most of those in attendance traveled to the site by rail. The passenger train from Alturas stopped for ten minutes to give passengers an opportunity to detrain and participate in the ceremony. Honors were administered by members of the Clifford Harter American Legion Post No.162 of Alturas, California, and the Tule Lake Post of Malin.

A reporter for the Klamath Falls *Evening Herald* gave the following account of the service: "Passengers stood with bared heads as officials of the two posts read the rituals of their organization over the grave, placed the cross in position, fired a salute and sounded Taps as the color bearers placed the American flag above the grave. That was all."<sup>2</sup>

#### DIRECTIONS:

The cross stands on the west side of Highway 139, eight miles south of Tule Lake. Visitors could easily spend an entire day exploring the area. Directly across the highway are the remains of the Tule Lake Relocation Center, where Japanese-Americans were confined during World War II, while a two-mile drive to the south brings one to the site of the Battle of Land's Ranch. The county road that crosses the railroad just south of the cross leads east to the nearby Petroglyph section of the Lava Beds National Monument, while three miles to the west is the site of Captain Jack's Stronghold. 🏠

*Retired Southern Pacific Railroad conductor Jack Bowden has lived in and around Southern Oregon all his life, and has written extensively on logging and railroad history.*

#### ENDNOTES

1. Erwin N. Thompson, *The Modoc War, Its Military History and Topography* (Sacramento, California: Argus Books, 1971), Map 10, following p. 188.
2. Klamath Falls *Evening Herald*, 31 May 1930.

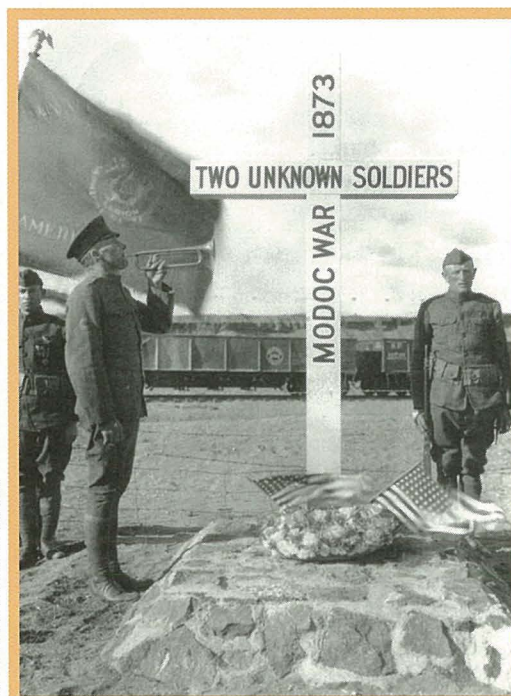


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

*While American Legion members stand at attention, a veteran plays "Taps" over the grave of two soldiers believed to have been killed during the Modoc War. This ceremony honoring their reburial took place May 30, 1930, near Tule Lake.*