

Mondays Make History

PRESENTED BY THE JOSEPHINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lucky Queen Mine

Did you know that...?

1. John H. Williams owned the first automobile in Grants Pass. He brought it via Crescent City in May 1904. The second was brought here in July 1904 by B.O. McCulloch and the third in Nov. 1904 by Carl Gentner. The first license plates were issued in 1905; license fees were \$3 and the same number could be kept for 3 years. License #1 went to Helmus W. Thompson of Eugene.

2. During the last few years of hauling limestone from the Marble Mountain quarry (in the 1950s), the railroad bridge over the Rogue River had become so unstable that Mac McGhehey, the local engineer, would stop the train before crossing and send the crew across on foot. After they were safely on the other side, Mac would crack the throttle and send the engine across by itself. When it arrived on the far side, the crew would board it and wait for Mac while he walked across.

3. Jump Off Joe Creek, located in the northeast part of Josephine County, received that name in 1828 (according to the Oregon Historical Society) when a party of trappers camped along the stream. One of the party was Joe McLoughlin (McLaughlin), son of Dr. John McLoughlin, "The Father of Oregon". Joe came in after dark and fell over the edge of a bluff, receiving injuries so severe they subsequently caused his death. This is the proper spelling for the Creek; however, the road that runs along it is properly spelled Jumpoff Joe Creek Road.

4. Territorial Law of 1854 required each male resident to give two days work each year on the roads in their

road district or pay \$2 for each such day to the road supervisor to be spent on the roads. The workers were required to furnish their own tools and put in 8 hours of labor each day of work.

5. In the Santee dialect, Winona means "first born" (girl). The principle use of that name in Josephine County has been for a place on Jump Off Joe Creek, a few miles north of Grants Pass. A post office called Winona was established there in June 1897, with Herbert M. Gorham as first postmaster. The office closed January 31, 1905.



6. The Wonder Store

6. Around 1902, a man named John T. Robertson opened a small store, which he began to call the Wonder Store because neighbors wondered where he would get his trade in a sparsely settled territory. Later the postal authorities used the name of the store for the



7. Bolan Lake

name of the post office, which was established in Dec. 1903. Thus the town of Wonder, Oregon.

7. Bolan Creek, near

Bolan Lake, was considered to be an Indian name. The publication of the Reinhart recollections, *The Golden Frontier*, provides a different source. Reinhart describes how he and several others crossed the divide from Althouse Creek in 1853 and built a small community at the forks of Sucker Creek. Their buildings, including a bowling alley, were burned by Indians in 1855. Reinhart returned in 1857 to what he says was then known as Bowling Creek, where he staked a claim and constructed another alley. His description of how three men

carried 30 balls and 20 pins over the divide of Althouse Creek convinces one that in those days, men were strong of purpose as well as back.

8. The first ferry on the Rogue River, just up from the Caveman Bridge, was that of Joel Perkins, established in March 1851. He also built the first house ever constructed in Josephine and Jackson counties, a fortified log building where Perkins and his assistant lived. Hence the early references to the area as "Perkinsville". There were three ferries operating during the summer of 1851:

Evans, at the mouth of Evans Creek; Perkins ferry near present-day Grants Pass; and Long's ferry at the mouth of Applegate Creek.

9. Applegate Creek is believed to have been named in honor of Lindsay Applegate, brother of Jesse and Charles Applegate. Lindsay was one of the 15 road builders that opened the Southern Route (Applegate Trail) in 1846. In 1848, Lindsay Applegate was a member of a party of Willamette Valley settlers who visited the Rogue Valley on their way to the mines in California. One story has it that on sighting the creek, Lindsay felt it to be an independent stream while the remainder of the party thought it only a part of the Rogue River. They laughingly referred to it as "Applegate Creek". Another story says the party prospected on this stream on their way to California. It wasn't until quite a bit later that the "creek" was promoted to "River".



10. The Lucky Queen voting precinct of Josephine County, about 10 miles north of Grants Pass in the Jump Off Joe area, was named for the well-known Lucky

Queen Mine operated by the Rush family for many years. The Lucky Queen post office was established in 1876 with David H. Sexton as postmaster. The office was closed by July 24, 1896. The mine was located off Shorthorn Gulch but the town of Lucky Queen was further up Jump Off Joe, near its intersection with Jack Creek.

11. In 1897, Hugo Garbers established a post office - and a small community - named for him, about 12 miles north of Grants Pass, on the Southern Pacific railroad. Lumber from the Three Pines Mill was flumed 12 miles or so from upper Jump Off Joe Creek to Three Pines about a mile south of Hugo and loaded on railroad cars to be shipped. The railroad stop had previously been called Gravel Pit Station.

12. The mining town of Williamsburg, located in 1857 on a bench of land about three miles from the present site of Williams, had between 500 and 600 people doing business in the town. While there were few families, there were many single miners, and the town sported three merchandise stores, two saloons, a blacksmith shop, and two hotels. After 1863, the occupants were replaced by the Chinese who came by the hundreds to clean up the remaining gold and the town removed itself to the current site.

Continued next week

First Friday Art Night
Feb. 2 • 6-8 PM
Schmidt House & Barn

Mary Paetzel, naturalist, artist & author of *Spirits of the Siskiyou: the Journals of a Mountain Naturalist*, will share her drawings, watercolors tales of her treks in the Siskiyou & excerpts from her upcoming book, *Solitary Wasps and Bees of the Siskiyou Mountains*.