



GEORGE AND EDNA MOREY

By Yvonne Pettyjohn

George and Edna Morey lived in Agness, I think they lived in the Forest Service compound where there was housing for some employees, bunk houses and restrooms. I remember the road leading to the compound, it was so dusty.. deep dust that would boil up when a vehicle was driven by.

The Moreys contributed so much to the community of Agness, Edna arranged for Sunday School where I learned about Jonah and the Whale and so much more, the whale example is used to pinpoint my approximate age at the time I attended Sunday School when it was available. The Moreys provided movies for those who wanted to attend, I recall watching *The Yearling*, *Old Yeller* and *White Fang* when George would come pick me and my siblings up or Uncle Dale would drive us the six miles to Agness. George believed in sports and promoted baseball games between the schools of Illahe and Agness. He and Edna were excellent community stewards.

Sometime after they had passed I bought raffle tickets for two rugs Edna had made. One of the tickets was a winner, the beautiful rugs became mine! It was meant to be.

While reading George's story about transporting patients, it was surprising to see that an air mattress could be used! Information absolutely flows.... I found, in our Museum archives, a booklet about safety practices printed for USDA use. The Forest Service is USDA! You will see the year it was printed which was ten years after George was involved in safety practices and introducing them to employees of the Forest Service and members of the community.

It is my pleasure to remember George and Edna Morey as community stewards, but an even greater pleasure recalling the many wonderful memories of them that will live in my heart forever!



Cougar Lane store after power line was built (Photo courtesy of CHS)



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IMPORTANT DATES

BOARD MEETINGS

August 15
September 19 (Board meeting as well as Annual Meeting)
October 17
November 21

It is the mission of the Curry Historical Society to encourage and promote the study and understanding of the history, primarily of Curry County, but also the impact of neighboring counties and the State of Oregon as they relate to Curry County.

To accomplish this mission, the Curry Historical Society shall collect, preserve, exhibit, present public historical informational meetings, publish and make available materials of historical interest, and cooperate with other groups and individuals with similar aims.

Our primary focus is The Children of the County and bringing alive for them the History of Curry County.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

22 June 2023

Dear Curry Historical Members,

June has seen Summer finally arrive here on the Southern Oregon coast. It has been a fortuitous month for the Museum, as we received two large endowments. Our gratitude and a huge Thank You! go out to the Alfred Bowman estate and the Walt Edwards trust. Their generous donations to the museum came to nearly \$37,000 and will go a long way in supporting our non-profit museum for years to come.

A new project in the bidding process at your museum, is the south siding repair and painting of the main museum building this summer. We have received grant funds to offset this expense and have matching funds available to move forward. This will be our largest expenditure this year and is expected to cost about \$12,000 when complete.

We recently hosted a SWOMA event at the museum. We got to show off our three new displays and all the hard work getting the museum cleaned and polished this spring. It was a great collaboration of members from several local museums in Southern Oregon, including Bandon, Coquille, Chetco Valley, Oregon Coast Railway and Curry County. It was a great round table of like minds exchanging ideas, telling stories, and sharing our knowledge of museum operations, grant writing and non-profit funding events.

We have ten more sets of Dan Edgerton's "War Drums Along the Rogue, Volume 1 & 2" on the way and Dan has agreed to sign the editions for those lucky few. Be sure and stop by the museum and check out our collection of local books, authors and tales of Curry County. The books make great gifts and support your local museum!

Curry County Fair is just around the corner, July 26th – 29th. For just \$5, you can park in the museum parking lot and get free admission to the museum for everyone in your vehicle during your visit to the Fair in Gold Beach that weekend.

As always, we would like to encourage you to volunteer in your community and if you have a passion for history, we can always use volunteers for the front desk to greet visitors or serve on the Museum Board, and a good handyman is always in demand. In closing, if you would like to join our volunteer staff and write about Curry County History, instead of just reading about it, please contact the museum. We need a new editor for our Museum Echoes newsletter.

Keep Moving Forward,

Your President

Dave Sanders



SWOMA attendees listen to Jim speak about grant availability, writing requests and other funding information about grants. (Photo courtesy of Yvonne Pettyjohn)

EMERGENCIES IN DOCTOR-LESS AGNESS

By George Morey, 1962

The Agness area, when we arrived in 1953, had a population of approximately 185. Some 50 percent were retirees and summer home occupants, the balance were old timers and workers on a few industrial projects such as logging, mining, and forestry. During the summer an estimated 15,000 people traveled into the valley, mostly by boat, a few by automobile.

The road into the area consisted of a journey of 144 miles from Gold Beach down through Bandon, Coquille, and up the Coquille River to Powers; then over 35 miles of rough, narrow mountain road that switchbacked up over the mountain between the Coquille and Rogue Rivers.

Travelers by car were mostly confined to, fishermen in the late summer and fall. some however, drove in just to enjoy a weekend under the Heidelberg Tree (then it was a madrona - now it is a myrtle). Others came just to raise hell. But always by late Sunday evening all would be quiet again and the only things to remind us of their visit was a few more beer cans and six-pack cartons scattered along the Agness road.

I do not have a record of the first aid cases during 1953. In fact, the forest service was not called upon for any help. The residents had, for so long, been self-sufficient in all things, that they did not need the help that we were now able to offer. The only first aid during the summer was to the forest service personnel and to the children who played near the work area.



Agness Ranger Station (Photo courtesy of CHS)



Suspension bridge in Agness (Photo courtesy of CHS)

We are unable to find a record of the first aid administered in 1954. Several took place, however. One was the case of a woman who got a fishhook in her ear. She came to me to get it removed. I suggested that we stick one in the other ear to match the beautiful Rogue River Special. I figured that she would be the only woman in the area with number 6 earrings. The hook was removed by Dr. Thomas, who was spending a weekend in his summer home.

This was also the year that two of the ranger station children used a sack of quicklime in their sand box, and after playing in it, tried to eat the balance. This cost me a six-pack of lime soda.

One tragic accident occurred in which a local man received a fractured neck. I did not do the first aid, but was called to set the preparation for transportation. In my opinion a good Job was done. Due to bad weather, we could not get a plane into the area that afternoon so the ambulance consisted of a pickup truck, which served very well during the two-hour trip to Myrtle Point.



***Agness Road
(Photo courtesy of CHS)***

I conducted a class at the guard station and acquainted the forest service personnel with their first knowledge of approved first aid.

It is not the intention of this writing to list all the first aid cases taken care of during the years, but I will show a total for each year and try to

explain a few. Total number by years were as follows:

Year	no. of Cases
1955	19
1956	31
1957	22
1958	26
1959	16
1960	27
1961	43
So far in 1962	14

Up to this year I have done all the first aid performed at the guard station. Richard Wessell

is helping me now and has handled several cases, doing a good job and showing much interest.

We have moved injured and sick victims out of the rough country by man pack, on horses and mules, boats, air mattresses, and by helicopter. We have called Mercy flights to the Agness area eight times and have had many trips to the Mast Hospital at Myrtle Point by ambulance. The mail boats have handled several victims as well as local guides taking the injured down the river to medical care.

In one case three local men, aided by two smoke jumpers, transported two Boy scouts nine miles down the Illinois River in a small boat. The injured were strapped in basket stretchers and had to be carried over the most rugged places. Injuries consisted of broken limbs and a skull fracture.

Many of the cases have required skill far beyond my knowledge and ability. However, the doctors at Gold Beach and an occasional vacationing doctor have been very willing to give me instruction in proper procedure in order to get relief to a victim.

The following is a list of the more serious cases I recall:

A 16-year-old girl died of a heart attack shortly after arriving here by the mail boat. We performed artificial respiration until the doctor arrived via plane from Gold Beach.

Two older men died of heart failure, one a local resident and the other a tourist. I did mouth to mouth artificial respiration on both.

A 4-year-old girl severed her index finger with only a thread of skin holding it. I did first aid and the surgery at Myrtle Point restored the finger.

One boy received fractures to both arms in a fall from a swing.

Two 10-year-old boys playing with black powder received first and second degree burns to their faces, arms, and hands. In trying to conceal the injury they covered the areas with butch hair tonic. I had some difficulty getting



Two Mile Creek
(Photo courtesy of Yvonne Pettyjohn)

them calmed down enough to use some approved burn ointment. They were taken to a doctor for treatment and after a month or two were as good as new.

There have been many serious accidents and injuries in the area such a transient drunk who lost a thumb and part of one ear as well as several other chunks of flesh from various parts of his anatomy in an explosion. He was unable to recall what happened. It is my opinion that the beer can exploded. After I had bandaged the worst wounds he ordered me to remove the bandages or he would knock hell out of me. I refused and as he raised up to strike me, he passed out and fell down in the dirt. We poured him into the seat of a pickup and headed it over the hill to medical care.

A man and a woman in their late 50s were cavorting the woods at night without a flashlight and tried to hide behind a tree. The difficulty was that there was nothing behind the tree to stand on. They fell 12 feet into a narrow gulch on top of some sharp rocks. We had a tough time getting them to surface again. Injuries consisted of cuts, bruises, fractured ribs, and other damage associated with such a fall. The man weighed about 225 lbs. He managed to land on the bottom, however.

First aid sometimes has its embarrassing moments ... A local guide was boating two fishermen on the Rogue River and during the morning run became very ill. As usual, his wife called me. When I arrived, I found the guide down on his knees vomiting in a dish pan. I tried to find out what the trouble might be by asking questions regarding his recent activities. About the time I was ready to give up and start him to the hospital, one of the fishermen remarked that it was a gall stone attack. I looked around in his direction and the lady said, "Excuse me, I forgot to introduce you. These men are two doctors from Los Angeles." Needless to say, I crawled back under my rock.



Suspension bridge across Rogue River at Agness (Photo courtesy of CHS)

I have felt really inadequate at times and especially one night in 1958. At 2 a.m. a request came for me to try to help a woman who was having a miscarriage. A call to Dr. W.A. Cartwright in Gold Beach gave me knowledge and confidence. Armed with a piece of sack twine and a pair of scissors the job was finally accomplished. The hardest job of all was a call I had to make to a neighbor's house at 3 a.m. with a request to borrow a supply of sanitary napkins needed to prepare the victim for a plane ride to Gold Beach. The biggest mistake I made was the disposal of the fetus. This I allowed to be taken to the cemetery for burial. It should have, as I learned later, been sent to the county coroner.



White Hotel at Big Bend Illahe
(Photo courtesy of CHS)

This was, of course, the first mistake I have ever made.

It has been the practice here to call the guard station in case of most any emergency. Recently a young lady broke out with a rash. The mother, fearing measles or something worse, called me. The miss was dressed in shorts and the other necessary garments. I leaned over and placed my hand on her midriff just as it contracted, her dog



Two Mile Rogue River
(Photo courtesy of Yvonne Pettyjohn)



Glenn Woolridge at Blossom Bar
(Photo courtesy of CHS)

bit my hand. Fortunately the dog had no teeth, but he did a fairly good job of gumming me.

The first aid at Agness has not always been confined to the relief of suffering humans. Animals at times have taken the attention to a degree far beyond first aid.

A young turkey, in some manner, received a compound fracture of the upper leg. Splints were applied and after three weeks the bird was able to walk again. I must say that there was a degree of permanent injury or disability and the case was not completely closed out until Thanksgiving. A try was made to repair a broken leg on a Golden Mantel squirrel. This was not a success. The victim died before the results of the treatment could be determined.

One successful attempt was made to de-odorize a skunk. Once was enough for this layman. I do not recommend the operation for the unskilled.

It has been my opinion that I was a good first aid instructor, having trained hundreds during the past 20 years and have trained instructors during World War II. Some incidents, however, during my stay at Agness, have shaken my ego and made me back up and wonder just how much I have been able to get over. Two of my

graduate trainees have given me grounds for such thoughts.

Shortly after having completed a first aid class one of my trainees had occasion to administer first aid to an incise wound of the upper arm in which the bleeding was severe. His first aid -- APPLIED HOT COMPRESSES. It's fortunate that the ambulance made a fast trip to medical care.

The other happened on a work project. A man was struck on the head and was partly unconscious. The first aid by my trainee was... placed the man in a sitting position. When he started to fall over, straightened him up, slapped his face sharply, and said, "Now set up there... you, until you come out of it."

You know I could rattle on about the first aid activities I have taken part in for a long time...I wonder though what it would accomplish. seriously, I am proud that we are able to do what little good we can and proud to work with the

ANNUAL MEETING FOR CURRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"We will be electing officers and board members on September 19. Anyone with an interest in being on the board or serving as an officer should attend the meeting at 5:30 PM at the museum. It is open to the public, just like all our board meetings. See you there!" — **Dave Sanders**

American Red Cross. We will be ever grateful to Vivian Casebear and Laverne Middeke for the help they have given. Thanks for the supplies, the oxygen, and for all your thoughtfulness.

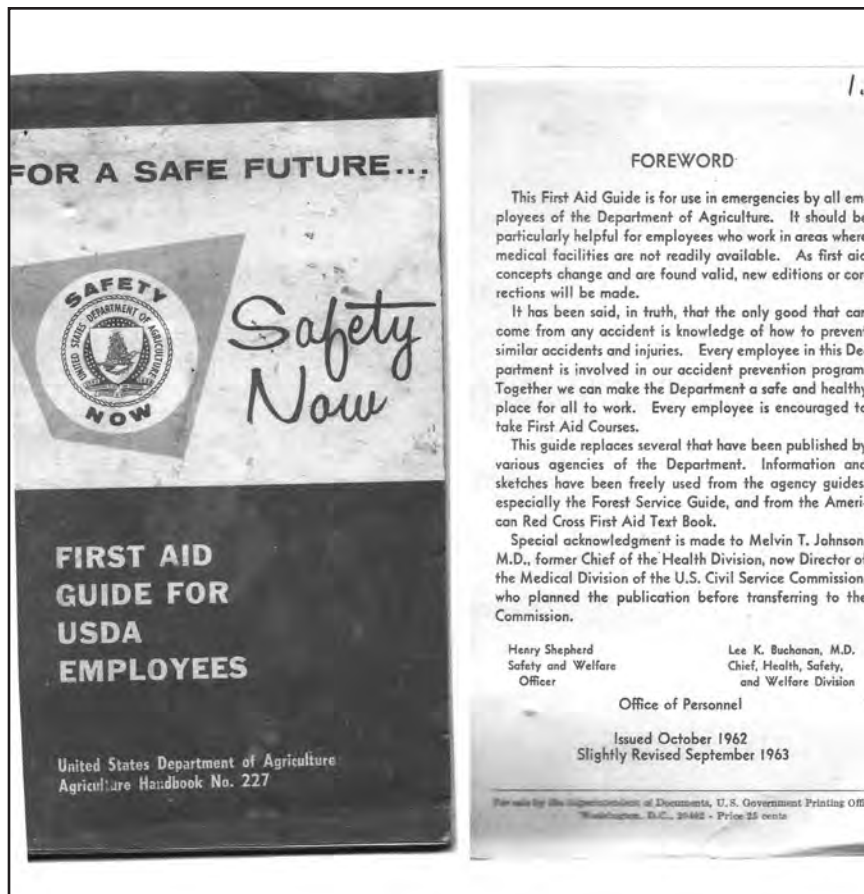
The last contract has been awarded that will bring a two lane road from Gold Beach to Agness. It seems like the passing of an era.

Agness will be just like any other community in a few years. It is with satisfaction that Edna and I will close a 30 year tour with forest service after one more year. This will permit us another summer of duty at Agness with the people that we have grown to love and enjoy serving. It is undecided as to where we will settle for the so-called golden (starvation) years.

I do hope that it may be possible to stay in Curry County.

I hope that this is enough information about the area and activities that we love and which God surely prepared for us. If more is required we'll try again.

Writing this nonsense has forced me to remain in a chair longer at a time than I have during the past 50 years.



... FROM THE MUSEUM NEWS DESK

We have lost two very important Curry Historical Society members.

Bill Crook passed away April 16. Bill became a driving force in Curry County, among many accomplishments, he organized and became president of Siskiyou West which later became Curry County Historical Society, now Curry Historical Society. I attended his full house memorial at the Pistol River Friendship Hall.

Fred Notestine, a Friend of the Museum has passed. Fred was a wonderful member who sold tickets, supporting the museum in any way he could from his home even though he was too ill to go outdoors, he was a good man with a big heart. There will be a Celebration of Life for Fred, the event will take place July 3, 11:00 AM at the First Baptist Church with lunch following.

While in Coos Bay several weeks ago I visited with Jill Wentzel who was very involved with our Curry County Historical Society when she lived in Gold Beach a number of years ago. Jill, a Friend of the Museum donated a large amount of information to our museum. She gave me a collection of stories written by George Morey who lived with his wife Edna in Agness where he was employed by the US Forest Service. I have used stories from George in this issue of the Echoes. Thank you Jill.

Our Rogue River Cemetery was beautiful with rippling flags and white crosses on Memorial Day. I was unable to attend the Curry County Veterans Memorial ceremony at the south end of Gold Beach, everyone else got there first so I went to Kissing Rock and watched the two beautiful 400 mph thundering jets from Kingsley Field of Klamath Falls pass overhead. VFW Post 4439 of Gold Beach, Thank You!

Four of our museum board members have had a project they have completed or still working to complete.

Jeani Adams has been taking care of the museum planters that are now full of color and texture. She is busy planning a memorial for a museum member and local rancher who has passed. The memorial will be featured in the Estlund & Hoenie Annex.

Marian and Gil Davis have put together a stunning display, one a vessel drawing of schematics similar to the Mary D. plus two of her engine bells. You must visit the museum and see what they have accomplished.

Barbara Gauntlett planned and decorated a Curry Historical Society booth for the Volunteer Recruitment one day event held at Curry Public Library. She also planned and made items to give to those who visited the booth. Barbara was a one woman show although Dave Sanders, Curry Historical Society President came by to see how things were going for her.

SWOMA consists of a number of museums along the coast, CHS is one of those museums and we hosted the meeting June 12th. Members from five museums attended, each museum shared news of their projects completed and ongoing. The stories about each museum's project was fascinating and ran a course from remodeling a building that is 100 years old as a museum, building shelters over train cars, adding two thousand square feet to a museum, history club participants interviewing assisted living occupants and building a display for them in the assisted living area and CHS had projects listed three paragraphs above. Jim Proehl, of Bandon gave a great presentation about fundraising along with a handout titled Fundraising Timeline for Bandon History Museum. He gave other handouts and our Grant person has that information. I think we had a very good meeting, everyone was relaxed and contributed to the meeting conversation.

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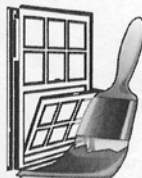
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REVIEW OF MADSTONE

By Yvonne Pettyjohn

We have one book, Madstone, on our museum bookshelf. Bonnie Jensen Cox who writes history, told me about the book which I immediately purchased and read.

The author Paul Fattig writes an fascinating story about his father and uncle hiding out as Conscious Objectors of WWI in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness for three years. He writes about his father and uncle's values in faith and politics and the necessities for living in in the wilds, shelter, heat, the choices of foods to eat or not to eat, getting drinking water, you name it. Fattig writes as a history buff covering some political history of Kalmiopsis Wilderness. None of his writing is dry and I enjoyed reading his book.

I gifted a friend the book at Christmas. He immediately looked to see what madstone meant, I related my joy in finding Madstone Cabin situated in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness on my Metsker map, he and his wife scrambled and hauled out their maps to find the cabin to no avail. Only the Metsker, my uncle Dale swore by them. I loaned another friend my copy of Madstone after he found who the author was! Fattig has written columns for the Medford Daily Tribune, the historical nature of the writing appealed to my friend. He was very happy to borrow my book, promising to return it as he and his wife left my home. During 1982 Paul Fattig was a staff writer for the Grants Pass Daily Courier and wrote a very good column about the passing of my Great Aunt Marial Billings



Pearsol Peak Kalmiopsis Wilderness
(Photo courtesy of CHS)



Lake in Kalmiopsis
(Photo courtesy of CHS)

Akesson. This column I read from papers gifted us by Jill Wentzel, a Friend of the Museum.

The Wilderness hosts many species of trees, a great number of flora species as well as an abundance of rare and unusual plants. Being one of the most lightly used wilderness areas in the Pacific Northwest recreational areas, it is home to at least 250 species of wildlife. A breakdown of species would be amphibians, reptiles, large and small mammals as well as over 150 species birds, some are there in the summer, others in the winter, and some throughout the year. I lightly read a few pages of a 1976 Recreational Use on the Illinois River in Planning Unit. I did read some fascinating information about topography and geology of Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Information gleaned from reading gave me a yearning to drive there and do a windshield survey... LOL

What we really need is Mr. Fred Bowen to share his slide show about his trip or trips to Kalmiopsis Wilderness one more time. A photo of Vulcan Lake was featured in the 1976 Recreational Use on the Illinois River



Vulcan Lake Kalmiopsis Recreational Use
in Illinois River in Planning Unit Study

in Planning Unit. Vulcan Lake formation is amazing due to big rocks deposited by nature, Jill Wentzel took a ten day trek, recalling that every rock was pointed! I asked Mr. Bowen who was my teacher when I was in school, about the geology around the lake, his explanation was "glacial effects".

If you were to read Madstone, it might open a door to inquiring into some refreshing information as well as find out what madstone means.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dixie Russell

Janet Green

Memberships are due end of February 2024. Dues are good for one year, renewal form is on back of these Echoes.

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING AND GIVING TO OUR MUSEUM

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ARTIFACT DONATIONS

April Smith – a saddle owned by her grandfather Paul Smith

Lois Wacken – who has passed away requested her friend Elaine Hustad bring to the museum Lois’s personal possessions; Gold Beach High School black letter sweater, picture of Langlois Elementary School 1952-53. Over 100 photographs of Lois’s students over years 1952-1956 and all are identified. A small medallion “Curry County 1942” and many GB High School yearbooks, the “Prospector”.

DONATIONS

Oregon Historical Society – Oregon Historical Quarterly – Spring 2023 issue.

In great appreciation to all of your generous donations.

Marian Davis, Accessions Director

BOOKS FOR SALE FROM THE MUSEUM BOOKSHELF

MADSTONE

By Paul Fattig \$23.00

THE STORY BEHIND THE TREBLE CLEF: Family Roots in Denmark, Oregon

By Bonnie Cox Jensen \$30.00

LIFTING OREGON OUT OF THE MUD

By Joe R. Blakely \$18.00

FOREST FIRES AND WILD THINGS

By Bob Gray \$13.00

NOTHING BUT A BLAZE

By James Boyle \$10.00

CRESCENT CITY’S DARK DISASTER

By Wallace Griffin \$15.00



Curry Historical Society
Alice Wakeman Memorial Building
29419 Ellensburg Ave. (Hwy. 101)
Mail: PO Box 1598
Gold Beach, OR 97444
(541) 247-9396

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PLEASE RENEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS EACH JANUARY

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Curry Historical Society
P.O. Box 1598
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Keeping History
Alive!**

Curry Historical Society

The museum is located across from the Fairgrounds, and although we are small, we are organized. We do not have a Curator, but depend entirely on willing volunteer help. We are open from March through December.

We have many wonderful historical donations, which enhance our exhibits. Since this was once the home of the first Indian nation, we have an exhibit to honor them. We are also a county that at one time was a mining and early logging area with fishing, farming, and cheese factories. Our other exhibits represent these industries.

Note the watercolor presentation of the Rogue River and all its tributaries and lodges and a historical exhibit of our Isaac Lee Patterson Bridge, judged as the most beautiful bridge known at that time. It opened in 1932, and reconstruction was finished just recently.

We have a small gift shop and some interesting books for sale by local authors about our early pioneers and Indians. We welcome all visitors, and look forward to your visit. We share with our members the Echoes, a newsletter publication with historical stories.