



## **A STORY OF CHRISTMAS, 1964 ROGUE FLOOD CAUSES WIDESPREAD DEVASTATION**

*By Yvonne Pettyjohn*

The following articles are reprinted from the Curry County Reporter, December 24, 1964.

### **1964 ROGUE RIVER FLOOD BELIEVED TO TOP PREVIOUS HIGH IN FEB., 1890**

Christmas spirits in the lower Rogue area were thoroughly doused this week as high winds and heavy rains Sunday night and early Monday morning were followed by floods, with the Rogue river rising to unbelievable heights, leaving mud and destruction in its wake.

This 1964 flood, now being called the "granddaddy of them all," has exceeded in extent the floods of 1955 and 1927 and is believed to have gone higher than even the 1890 flood, the previous record holder, according to the old timers.

The causes were much the same in 1964 and 1890 - torrential rains both on the coast and inland, and warm weather in the mountains, melting the snow pack.

Civil Defense Director Harry Hedderly estimated that at least 30 families had been evacuated from their homes and placed in motels in the area. The Red Cross disaster group is now functioning at the fairgrounds and damage claims should be filed with them.

Anyone in distress should go directly to the Red Cross, Hedderly said, and they will receive food and shelter without question.

Thursday, Civil Defense personnel will start going into the Jerry's Flat and North Bank Rogue areas to get a better picture of conditions there.

Long distance telephone lines were out Monday, however communication with outside areas was maintained through Civil Defense radio facilities operated by Derril Austin. Long



distance service was restored Tuesday night. A majority of the local phone lines remained in operation.

Coos-Curry Electric crews kept on the job, restoring service to Jerry's Flat and Wedderburn in less than a day. Lights remained burning in Gold Beach itself, and minor local outages were quickly repaired.

No school was held Monday or Tuesday in Gold Beach. Supt. Frank Ellis said the youngsters should save their exchange Christmas gifts for a "welcome January" party after the Christmas holidays. *(Continued on page 4.)*



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### **Reminders from the Board:**

- **ADDRESS CHANGES:** Every bulletin returned costs us \$0.75 plus another \$0.58 to mail it to the new address provided by the Post Office. Also please note the Society's mailing address: P.O. Box 1598 - Gold Beach, OR 97444
- **EMAIL:** info@curryhistory.com **PHONE:** 541-247-9396
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- **BOOKSTORE:** Full of great books
- **HOW YOU CAN HELP:** Please think of us when considering a tax-deductible donation or if you are interested in volunteering — we are looking for people interested in Curry County history.
- **GROCERY RECEIPTS:** We receive cash when turning in grocery receipts to McKay's Markets. Please drop off your receipts at the museum or mail them to the above address. They must be less than 12 months old when we turn them in to receive the rebate.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

*December 19*  
*January 16*  
*February 20*  
*March 19*

**I**t 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

10 November 2023

Dear Curry Historical Society Members;

As Summer Fades and Fall arrives wet and blustery. It is time to reflect on the last year and the wonderful blessing the museum has received. For the first time in my history on the board, endowments have allowed us to invest for the Museums future and get 5.3% on one year CD. This ability to generate income from your generous donations, helps offset the time and energy required for fundraising required to cover our expenses of operations. Thank you so much to all our volunteers, board members and membership for their efforts to support the Museum this last year.

We are finishing up two major projects at the Museum this last Fall. The Annex remodel is now complete and one step closer to being ready to set up new exhibits. The main Museum building siding repairs and new exterior paint project will be finishing up soon. Grant funds are a terrific opportunity to fund projects and I want to give a special thanks to Barbara Gauntlett for her efforts to find and apply for those grant funds for the Museum!

A new project started recently is updating our website software and adding new features and historical information to the site. As we are closed over the winter months, this project will be worked on behind the scenes and we expect updates to be complete in time for our reopening next year. Amber Hughes, our webmaster has generously donated her time and effort to assist us with these changes. We will be adding new features and historical information to the site. We will be adding a new link to our Facebook page for current updates and upcoming events. We eventually will be adding a page to accept membership fees and charitable donations online.

We are starting the process of implementing a new Point of Sale system, so the Museum can take credit and debit cards for donations and book purchases in the future. This has been an issue in the past when we are doing events like the Christmas Bazaar and didn't have the ability to accept credit/debit cards. The goal is to have the software, hardware and training complete intime to use for the 2024 season. The Block service and equipment are free and there is just a small transaction fee to be added to each purchase.

As we get closer to the Holiday season, be sure to reach out to your family, friends and community to support them. The connections we build with them make us stronger and our communities safer. As always, we would like to encourage you to volunteer, lend a hand and if you have a soft spot for local history, we can always use your help. Please keep Curry Historical Society in mind when you are deciding on local charities to support this year.

Keep Moving Forward,  
Best Regards, your President

Dave Sanders





*(Continued from page 1.)*

U.S. Plywood closed down operations about noon Tuesday as flood waters were blocking the Jerry's Flat road.

County Roadmaster Bill Dobyons said Wednesday night that at least one-way traffic was possible on all county roads with the exception of the Jerry's Flat, North Bank Rogue and Agness to Illahe roads.

He said the Jerry's Flat road would be open Thursday morning and they hoped to have one-way traffic up as far as Lucky Lodge early Thursday.

Reports on the Agness to Illahe road say that it is "almost a solid slide and completely impassable." Dobyons said a crew would start working on it Thursday morning.



***Where is this?  
(From CHS archive)***



***Jots, El Rio Vista. Notice the high water  
mark at building on left.  
(From CHS archive)***

No mail was received in Gold Beach from further away than the Coos Bay area and Crescent City on Wednesday, according to Postmaster Joe Omlin. Both of these were on special runs. Outgoing mail has been sent from Gold Beach and mail from inland will be brought in as soon as roads are opened from the valley to the coast.

Omlin commented that the postoffice would send the Agness mail, which did not go out on Wednesday, as soon as conditions permit travel.

#### **WATER, SILT AND FLOATING DRIFT COVER RESORT AREA ON WEDDERBURN SIDE**

Almost complete devastation was the story along resort row on the Wedderburn side of the Rogue river.

At the Del Rogue, much of the Ward's Catalog store and other stock was moved Monday night from the Marina into the Del Rogue club, then on T the Del Rogue club itself was flooded.

Water was up to the eaves on the Del Rogue Marina and also in the cabins at the Del Rogue, from which 18 families had to be moved. Paul and Agness Bosshardt, managers, reported that they were able to save practically none of their personal belongings.

Trailer houses belonging to Floyd Adams, Ed Gierlich, Frank Wilson, Jack Pacho and Glen Magrum, not occupied at present but parked at the Del Rogue, were submerged and severely damaged. The trailer belonging to Tom and Opal Campbell, owners of the Del Rogue Marina, was saved by pulling it up into the steep driveway leading to the club.

Al Griswold, owner of Angler's Resort, said that windows were out, doors were off and the roofs of some of the buildings were buckled, indicating extreme structural damage. An enormous snag was washed downriver and lodged in the trailer parking area between the Angler's Resort Cafe and the county road.

Flood waters reached window sill height at Jot's El Rio Vista, however they saved the charter boat by pulling it up into the parking area next to the cabins. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Giottonini, owners of Jot's, was flooded, as was their tackle shop.

Mrs. Franke Giottonini stated that they saved only a few of their clothes and the television sets, but no furniture, from the motel units.

The Jim Bedinger home, next to Jot's, was flooded and the yard Wednesday was a solid mass of floating debris.

The water was across the road at Bedinger's, just below the Rod 'n Reel, hut nothing on the north side of the road at this point was flooded.

Jerry Fendrich pulled his floating pile driver into slack water which covered the area used as a parking lot for the Rod 'n Reel, on the south side of the road.

Tiny Sundin reported that the water got about 4 inches deep in the basement of their home and began to trickle into the lockers, but did not reach the Sportsmen's cannery.

Rogue Bay, just across the road from Sportsmen's cannery, was badly flooded. Mrs. Sundin said that three small boats tied up there got loose and floated away.

The commercial fishing boat Halco, operated by Richard Marr, was tied up just west of the Rogue Bay office. The crew remained on it and, as the water rose, pulled the boat up until at one time it was floating on the county road, then were slowly letting it down as the river fell.

Carl Mendell's commercial fishing boat, the Besser, which was tied up to the Rogue Bay dock, did not break loose, but was hit and damaged by driftwood.

The crew at the Sause Bros. dock worked Monday moving the lumber stored there back to higher land and managed to save most of it, however Mrs. Sundin reported seeing three or four bundles float away. The small Sause Bros. tug, Little Richard, was still tied to the dock



***That's Edna's Beauty Shop.  
(From CHS archive)***



***Driveway of S.O. Newhouse home,  
Wedderburn.  
(From CHS archive)***



***CCR Lmbr. floats in yard at Sause Bros.  
dock on the lower Rogue.  
(From CHS archive)***





***Jerry's Flat Road  
(From CHS archive)***



***Lucky Lodge  
(From CHS archive)***

at last report. A barge had been expected in Monday to load, however was unable to get in because of weather conditions and flooding.

In the area above the Rogue river bridge, Edna's Beauty shop was evacuated before it flooded out. Water was still nearly at window level on the main floor Wednesday morning.

Lex Fromm's boat house and the Rogue River Mail Boat service warehouse were both flooded. Mail boats were anchored in the driveway by the boat house and in the yard near Edna's Beauty shop.

Fromm said that the floor came loose in the warehouse and they might lose four boats which

were still in there. He added that he had also lost four motors and a pile driver.

Considerable damage was done to some of the mail boats, however they hoped to save them if they could prevent further holes from being made in them as the water dropped.

The Rogue Mail Boat Service office had only its roof showing Wednesday morning and a large number of supplies which had been stored there were lost. After the electricity was turned on, the light over the door, barely out of water, was still burning brightly.

Water was over old Highway 101 at the boat service dock and further down the road near Roguewoods, isolating the people who live in between.

A group of boats, anchored in the boat basin below Edna's Beauty shop, and the dock to which they were tied, were washed out to sea on Tuesday. The boats included the Sea Hawk, charter boat owned by Tom Campbell, and Oscar Olsen's boat.

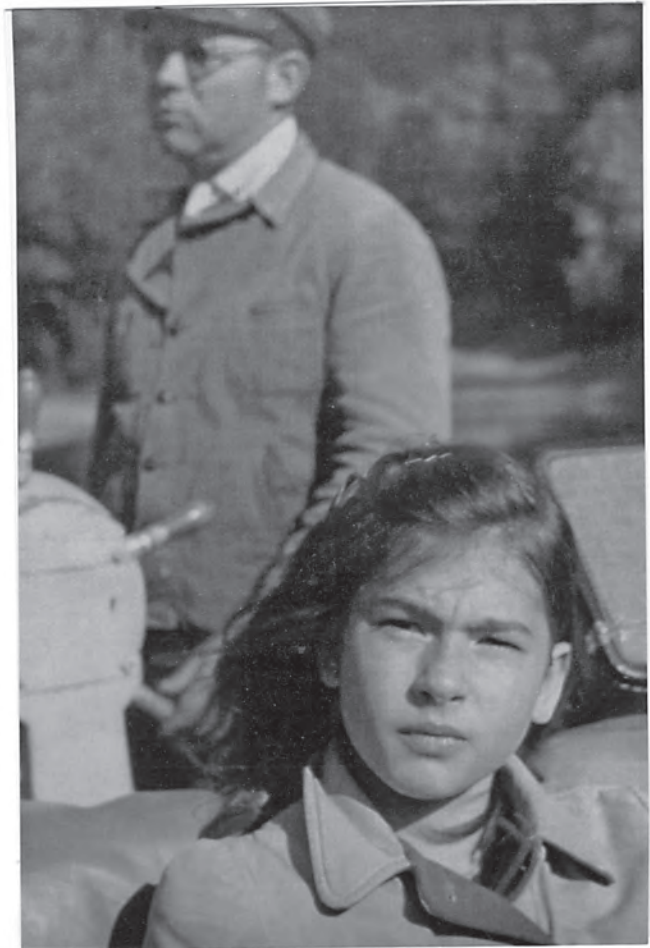
A boat, believed to be the Sea Hawk, was sighted about ¼ mile offshore about 1 mile north of Nesika Beach at noon Wednesday and unconfirmed reports say that it was broken up on the rocks near Port Orford Wednesday afternoon.



## BARBARA DUNKLEBERGER AND 14 MILE HOUSE

“My parents, Dick and Helen Dunkleberger moved to the lower Rogue in May of 1946 and built a hunting and fishing lodge, the 14 Mile House on the south bank, The south bank Rogue trail ran from Jerrys Flat Road up river all the way to Agness. I used to walk a mile up river on the south bank road to a school opposite Silver Creek and near Quosatne Creek on the Hawkins Ranch. That school closed during the summer of 1946, so I probably attended only a few weeks, but it seemed like months when I was 7 years old. I made the 6th student when I joined in June, the rest of the students were the Hoffman children, Max, Cecilia, Theresa, Lester and Willis. They lived on top of the mountain and walked 2 miles to and from school each day. Max was in the 12th grade, Cecilia in 10th, Theresa in 7th I believe, and Lester & Willis in 3rd and 4th, if memory serves. During the two years when there was no formal school for me to attend, Mother tutored me at home (among her duties as cook, hostess, laundress, mother, wife and steel head fisherman).

The trail up the north bank of the Rogue began at Lobster Creek (there was no high iron bridge over the river in the 1940's); the North Bank Road ended at Lobster Creek then. But a north bank trail kept on going upriver, past our place and all the way to Agness. The telephone line followed that trail, and we hiked both north bank and south bank trails. Often the trail passed through old homesteads where we would pick fruit. We used the north bank trail to walk a milk cow up to the gravel bar across from the lodge. She ran free but we had a stanchion between two small cedar trees with a feed box where Mom would milk her. The cow would get lonely and wade into the river and bawl at us. Or she would take off up the mountain to where the bulls and cattle were and have to be fetched back down. I suppose we only had her one season. She was brought from a cousin's 100 acre ranch



***Barbara on Mail Boat. Headed to Adams Ranch from school. About 1948. Driver Deforest Sorber. Photo taken by passenger and mailed “to the Indian girl who rides the Mail Boats to school. Wedderburn, Oregon”. (Courtesy of Barbara Dunkelberger)***

in Langlois in an open trailer as far as Lobster Creek. Then she was walked up the County Trail on the North Bank until opposite our Lodge with my young cousin riding on her back.

That north bank trail ran through what is now known as Adam's Prairie, but was then the Adams Ranch on Potato Illahe Mountain. The second two room school I attended was built on that ranch, approximately 9 miles up river from our lodge and on the opposite side of the



river. The trail ran right past the school built in 1948 on the Adam's Ranch, so anyone hiking up or down would stop in and visit. Even some horseback riders and motorcycle riders stopped by. The young man, Glen Sevey, who checked the telephone line also stopped by to visit. We got our water for the school out of a free-flowing spring that crossed the trail. The bucket and dipper sat on the railing of the school porch; no concern about germs. The school also sat in open range land and cattle, sheep & hogs roamed free. Jack & Mary Adams' four children, Pat, Peggy, Ray & Carol as well as Dick & Iris Adams' children, Darlene & Wayne. I believe the County or State said we had to have 6 students to make a "legit" school; so Carol & Wayne Adams and my brother Ray were enrolled, though they were too young to attend in 1948. The following year Wayne joined us, but I don't recall whether Carol



**Dick and Helen Dunkelberger, about 1949**  
*(Courtesy of Barbara Dunkelberger)*

or my brother Ray attending. We had a flagpole and hoisted the flag every morning while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The school was visible from the river, though about ¼ mile up a trail from the river. Interestingly, the same teacher taught at both one room schools I attended. She was about 72 when she retired from teaching. Leona Bridgeham had taught in logging camps around Oregon while her husband worked in them. When he retired she continued teaching. My dad and Raul Hawkins moved her and her husband to Powers when the Quosatne School closed. When the Adams school opened she was widowed and came there to the Adams Ranch & board with John and Sadie Adams.

I rode the Mail Boat up river most Mondays and back most Fridays during those two school years of 1948-49 and 49-50, my 5th and 6th grades. The distance was 9 miles and cost us 50 cents each way. I believe the river trip Gold Beach to Agness was \$2 at that time or \$4 if round trip. My parents charged guests at the lodge \$2 a day, though it was \$20 a day for the boat and \$20 a day for the guide for salmon fishing or deer hunting. I think the cook got \$5 a day and room and board. My folks paid \$15 a month to Jack & Mary Adams for my room and board while attending school with their children."



*Bandon OR beach 1943*

**Barbie**  
*(Courtesy of Barbara Dunkelberger)*



## TWO NORTH CURRY HISTORY PROJECTS

*By Bonnie Cox*

A project to launch all yearbooks ever published within the boundaries of Port Orford-Langlois School District 2 CJ has been in the works for the past 10 months. Spearheaded by Pacific High School and U of O graduates Jerry and Bonnie Cox, the project has involved a small group of dedicated 2CJ alumni, local history preservationists, volunteers at Bandon History Museum, Port Orford Public Library personnel, two professional webmasters, and 2CJ's administration and staff. Funding for online launching has been provided by the Alan and Brenda Mitchell Port Orford Community Foundation under the auspices of the Oregon Community Foundation.

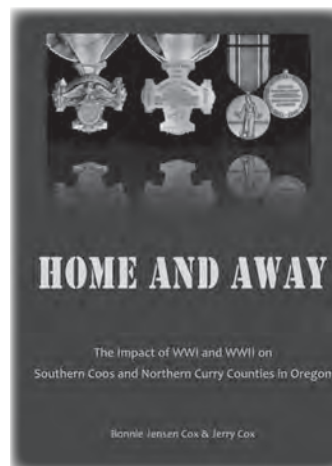
Not only are school yearbooks nostalgic in nature, they are a pictorial and data-rich source of the changing staff and curriculums, the growth and demise of extracurricular activities, the size and diversity of school populations, the varying landscape and building use, and the variable business community via the sponsorship of yearbook ads. Now, through the cooperation of a community of individuals, the yearbooks of Langlois High School, Port Orford High School, and Pacific High School can be researched online on both the Welcome to World Famous Langlois Oregon website at: <https://www.worldfamouslanglois.com/content/langlois-high-school-year-books-online>

and the Historic Port Orford Photos website at: <https://sixes.net/PHS-Yearbooks/By-Cover/>

Langlois High School and Port Orford High School both produced their first yearbooks in 1937 and continued through 1957, at which time the two schools consolidated to form Pacific High School. At the onset of the undertaking, it was projected that 107 yearbooks needed to be located. At the present time, only 7 years remain to be found. For Langlois High School,

the missing years are 1940, 1942, and 1943. For Port Orford High School, the years are: 1940, 1941, 1942, and 1943. If you have information that would help the project organizers find the missing years, please phone 541-808-0270.

The second North Curry project involves a local history book. Coauthors Bonnie Jensen Cox and Jerry Cox have combined efforts to produce *Home and Away: The Impact of World Wars I and II on Southern Coos and Northern Curry Counties in Oregon*. The 500+ page study offers a pictorial and narrative description of what life was like for people living on the homefront during World Wars I and II. The boundary for the study is the legal border that encompasses today's Port Orford-Langlois School District 2CJ, inclusive of the area from Laurel Grove in Coos County to Mussel Creek near Prehistoric Gardens, in Curry County. The eastern border of the study extends to the historic town of Eckley. Special in-depth attention has been given to the stories of local young men who lost their lives during the two wars, and to the development of the Cape Blanco State Airport built during WWII. The well-documented work of over 500 pages is published in hardback with over 200 pages utilizing color images and maps to validate



**Front and back cover of new book by  
Bonnie Jensen Cox & Jerry Cox**

the story. Multiple resources include interviews with local people who lived through those times.

Because it is the goal of the authors to put the information out to the public at an affordable price, they are selling the book well below printing costs. If they do not need to mail a copy to the buyer, the cost is \$35.00; if they do mail it, the cost is \$40.00 which includes shipping costs. The authors believe readers will find their work to be a very informative and important part of local history. For information and availability, contact 541-808-0270, or bonjercox@gmail.com.



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### LIFTING OREGON OUT OF THE MUD

By Joe R. Blakely ..... \$18.00

Please remember us as you are planning your Christmas gift list, we have several good books for children and there will be sales on some of our big books. We hope you will stop by with a curious eye.



## ... FROM THE MUSEUM NEWS DESK

*By Yvonne Pettyjohn*

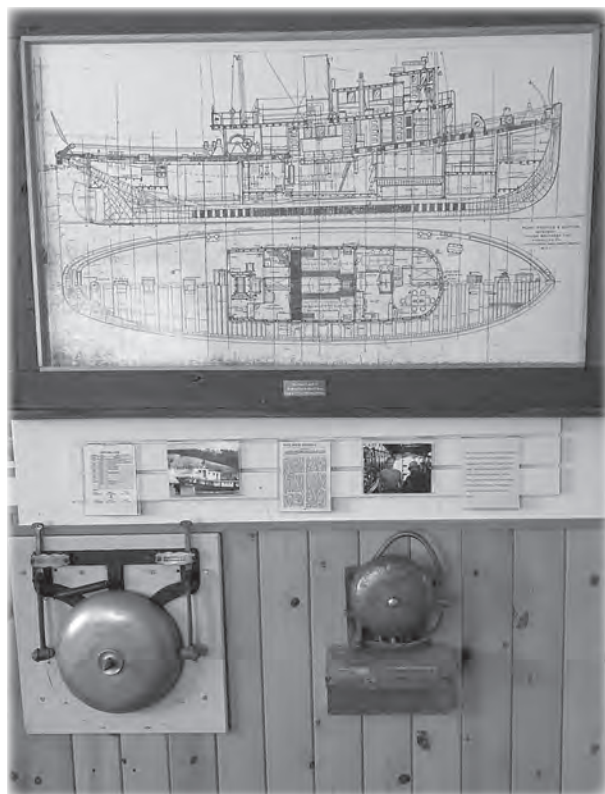
This Echoes will be my last. Mandy Keady will be replacing me and I am sure she will do a wonderful job!

Mandy is a busy lady with fascinating interests, one is learning more about Curry County. She has been an English teacher so that knowledge will reign supreme in the future Echoes. The Museum Board was so agreeable to work with, I am sure Mandy will be quite comfortable.

Thank you Readers who have supported me with wonderfully written or worded comments about the Echoes I edited. Thank you for suggesting topics you wished to read about and Thank you for your stories you wrote for the Echoes!

Thank you Curry Historical Society Board for your support and always asking if I needed anything. How could I with that wonderful stash upstairs!

***Barbara Gauntlett and Dave Sanders are featured in these photos taken at the Curry Historical Society booth at the Curry Public Library during Volunteer Recruitment event.***



***Marian and Gil Davis put together this stunning display of two of Mary D Hume's engine bells and a vessel drawing of schematics similar to the Mary D Hume vessel. You must visit the Museum to see what they have accomplished.***

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

*Jack Lee*

*Mandy Keady*

*Gerald Frye*

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

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Video Webcams of Pistol River Coast Oregon



Wedderburn, flood 1964  
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Drift In Motel  
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## **YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

### **MONETARY DONATIONS**

Roswitha A. Marg Taylor

Ron and Tru Houghteling

Ann and Dennis Jacobs

### **ARTIFACT DONATIONS**

Dorothy Donnelly and Matthew Andrew - Antique octagonal glass doll case

Jeffery Brock -- delivered two glass display cases from the Illahe Museum. Five Native American baskets in one and seven types of materials used for basketry in the other case.

Yvonne Pettyjohn - book "Madstone", a story of two conscientious objectors who hid out in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness for three years of WWI.

Fran Grossman – Recipes for edible plants and wild flowers of Curry County.

Maja Druzdzal - Antique glass display case from "Young & Sons", Pittsburg PA.

Bo Shindler - book "Piecing Together the Price Family History"

Fred Bowen - Collection of small mammal skulls and skins including a collection catalog, all specimens are native to Curry County. He included two carousels of slides of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

### **DONATIONS**

Oregon Historical Society

Quarterly Summer and Fall 2023 Issue

The Curry Historical Society appreciates your thoughtful support.

Marian Davis, Accessions Director







Curry Historical Society  
Alice Wakeman Memorial Building  
29419 Ellensburg Ave. (Hwy. 101)  
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## **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.**