To Fence or Not To Fence

The homeless and others, have been using the Schmidt House grounds for overnight stays and looks like some parties. Everybody has to be somewhere during the pandemic, but we wish it was not on our grounds. We have decided to build a fence around the Schmidt House. We received a grant which will help but we sure could use donations for the project that looks like it will cost just over $20,000. We are still getting bids and have not decided exactly what kind of fence to build. It should be at least four feet tall and not easy to climb over. Many people seem to think we are a public park and anyone has the right to stay on the grass, in the bandstand, on the front or back porch, and even in the bushes. The bushes are most often used as the public latrine. Donations are being accepted and please write “fence” on the check memo. We thank you.

Thank you for Graveyard Tour Donations.

Kudos for the following JCHS Graveyard Tour In-Kind donations:

**Home Depot** - donated 5 gallons of paint and paint sprayer to paint Schmidt House bandstand

**Fort Vannoy Farms** - donated 6 hay bales, dozen pumpkins, 6 cornstalk bundles to adorn the JCHS Grave Yard Tour “Schmidt House Cemetery”

**Hillcrest Cemetery** - donated truckload of dirt to fill in lawn holes and create gravesite which is now just new lawn.

**Weekend Beer Company** - Instrumental in promoting Grave Yard Tour and Raffle baskets. All around great neighbor.

Thank you,
Sharon Allen, Events Chair

Electronic newsletter # 12

December 2020

Newsletters are issued:
Electronic: April, (Spring) August (Summer) and December. *The New Oldtimer*
Printed & mailed: February (Winter), June and October *The Historian*

Operations during the pandemic made this a bit different, but hope to be on the regular schedule in 2021. (FYI June was electronic in 2020.)

This is our email newsletter. You can “**blow it up**” so you can read the small print. This is the 10th electronic newsletter. We publish six newsletters per year, every other month. Three are mailed and three are sent via email. We hope you find them interesting.

**We Have A Date:**
Let’s make that: We had a date once-upon-a-time.

Holiday events have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

We try to be in office on Wednesday and Thursday.
Phone and leave a message.
We hope we get back to normal soon. This is here to remind you of normal times.

You can have a guided tour of the Schmidt House each day the Research Library is open. Under normal circumstances, we are open Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. If you want a tour, you should come before 2:30 pm because it takes an hour to an hour and a half to guide people through the house. People are not allowed to wander through the house without a guide. The fee is $10. per person and we would like at least two people on each tour. The history of the Schmidt family is told while walking through the house. You may ask questions and depending on how many questions are posed, makes the tour last from 45 minutes to 90 minutes. 

WE WILL NOT BE GIVING MUSEUM (SCHMIDT HOUSE) TOURS FOR AWHILE...BE SURE TO PHONE AHEAD.

A news clipping from October 1918

Mayor C.H. Demaray in a proclamation forbids public gatherings of every nature in Grants Pass until further notice. The last picture show was given Monday night. The order also applies to churches, consequently there will be no services Sunday. While the health officer and other physicians state that to the best of their knowledge there are as yet no cases of Spanish influenza here, the disease has made its appearance all around the city. There are a few cases of illness here that may develop into the dreaded disease.

Hops

Sometime people ask just what do you do at the Josephine County Historical Society. We do print our own books, but sometimes others request information or photos about Josephine County. The book pictured to the left includes photos from our archives. We hope to have copies to sell in the near future, since we are mentioned in the preface and many of our photos are included. It was written by Kenneth Helphand, an emeritus professor at the University of Oregon and printed by Oregon State University Press.
Everything considered, the fall foliage in Grants Pass was beautiful. Fall leaves even look good during a pandemic.

These trees are located in various places. Do they look familiar to you? Washington Blvd., Hillcrest Memorial Park, North 3rd Street...or maybe not. Trees seem to blend together when one spends two days and takes 62 photos.
You mean our dues are due every year?

When you join the Society, you pay your dues. Then each year, we ask you to continue to send in your dues. Dues are necessary to keep the Society operating. Donations are nice too. Often members send an extra $5 or $10 each year just to help us pay the bills. Some members send more than that on a regular basis. We love you for your support. We only list contributions in the printed and mailed editions of the newsletters. Sometime we miss a name or two and if we do, please let us know and we will list you the next time. Thanks to our members for “hanging in there” for the duration of the pandemic.

Brady Project

We are not sure what is happening to this project during the pandemic.

The Josephine County Historical Society a 501 (c ) 3 organization is the fiscal agent for the Brady Project. We collect the donations and pass them on to the artists. We do not keep any of the funds received. If you wish to donate, send checks to:

Josephine County Historical Society
512 SW 5th St., Grants Pass, OR. 97526

You may donate on the JCHS website
www.jocohistorical.org

Be sure to note “Brady” on your check or website donation. The Brady Project will be a memorial statue of Brady and his grandchildren, as shown below.

Oregon Books will give members a discount if you show your JCHS membership card, and will donate 5% of the sale back to the Historical Society.

Oregon Books
150 NE E Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541-476-3132

Fred Meyer Community Rewards also help. Sign up now or take the time to renew. If you shop at Fred Meyer, you have probably received a notice to renew.

www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. Our I.D number is NPO#94511

Amazon can help us

If you shop at Amazon, please sign up asap. It only takes a few moments and we get a bit of money from your purchase. It costs you nothing. Sign up:

http://smile.amazon.com/ch/936015456

Shamrock Technologies
Sean Malloy
2555 N.W. Highland Ave.
Apt. A
Grants Pass, OR 97526
Reminder:
The Josephine County Historical Society is a non-profit with no governmental connection. **We are not part of county government.**

We are self-supporting thanks to our membership and benefactors.

We invite you to join the Society. You do not have to attend meetings, but we can use your volunteer services in many ways. Phone us and ask.

Membership Dues per year are:

- Single $20
- Family $30
- Business $55 Donations accepted.

Join online:

www.jocohistorical.org

Buy books and photos online too.

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**Events & Living History Players:**

**We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and hope you are staying home and staying well. Yes, it is difficult this year and we too miss the Schmidt Victorian Christmas Open House, participating in First Friday and the Downtown Christmas Parade.**

**Hopefully we can plan a fun Spring Event so we can all be together.**

**Merry Christmas,**

**Cindy & Sharon**

Thank you Living History Players and Behind-the-Scenes people for this year’s Theater-in-the-Round Graveyard Tour’s success. In spite of unprecedented challenges and the inability to utilize the Odd Fellows cemetery, the one-time performance Sold Out, generated needed revenue and was thoroughly enjoyed by performers and patrons alike.

As Grave Yard Tour effort bonuses, JCHS increased membership by 9, 4 of whom were first time GYT LHP players. Bravo! Members also watered, weeded, mowed and blowed the Schmidt House grounds for four months, and revived the bandstand and Schmidt sign with a fresh coat of paint.

Thank you All for your support in Grave Yard Tour’s Out-of-the-Box escapade.

Sharon Allen and Cindy English