Annual Message from the President of JCHS
Presented at the Annual Meeting, November 5, 2019

2019, Wow what a year!

We hosted several new events this year that not only impacted our group but also had exciting community involvement. New events included the Oregon Book sales, and Oktoberfest with Weekend Beer Company. These events were not only a success but brought in needed new memberships.

Our traditional events were met with equal enthusiasm. The 2nd annual Easter Egg hunt, Porchfest, Living History Players, Graveyard Tour and soon Christmas open house, continue to thrive and bring in community support. All our new and traditional events have helped to boost involvement and membership. Excited to see all events thrive in 2020?

A big change we made this year is putting in a 2nd water meter. This has and should continue to show a lower monthly cost. Sadly we had some vandalism to a screen door and window screen. Both have been patched but are still in need of completed repairs. We believe that the continual presence of homeless people on the property has opened us to vandalism. A non-trespassing order will soon be put into effect. This will give us the ability to have the police take trespassing persons off the property who continue to cause issues. By doing this we are not only protecting the property but those who work and visit.

I want to wrap this up by thanking the board and all our wonderful volunteers for their continued support and donations, which has helped us to grow and flourish.  

Ken Bell, President

Darell Stafford swears in new officers: Martha Metcalf, Joan Momsen, Leta Neiderheiser and Ken Bell.
Board for 2020

President/Historic Sites
Ken Bell
Vice President
Leta Neiderheiser
Treasurer/Ex. Secretary
Martha Metcalf
Secretary/Publishing
Joan Momsen
Events
Sharon Allen
Finance
Rick Marshall
Living History Players
Cindy English
Parliamentarian
Darrell Stafford
Properties
Glenn Hearrell
Research Library
Patricia Heumann
Directors-at-Large
Joan Dougherty
Jim Van Delden
Linda Fuidge
Jan Greenblatt
Pam Petrusha

What is new?

Since our last newsletter, we have had our annual Graveyard Tour. It was on Oct. 12 and many people came to the event. We had 9 “ghosts” in the I.O.O.F. cemetery. On October 19 we had an Oktoberfest at the Weekend Brewery across the street from the Schmidt House. The Schmidt House Museum was open from 4 to 6PM for the attendees to visit free of charge.

On November 5, we had our annual meeting in the barn behind the Schmidt House. President Ken Bell gave the annual “state of the society” report.

We have two new board members. Sharon Allen is taking over the Events positions from Linda Fuidge who will still remain on the board. Pam Petrusha joins as a director-at-large. Both these ladies have been with the Society for awhile and have participated in our events. They know what they are doing.

Once again we include a coupon (below) for you to join the Society if you are not a member. If you are a member, would you consider forwarding this newsletter to a friend? We really could use some more members and only $20 per year, it is a minimal cost to help preserve the history of the county.

All that we do from the Boatnik Parade, to the Christmas Parade, to the Graveyard Tour, Ice Cream Social, and our recent Oktoberfest are the “fun” things we do to make people aware of our existence and our mission to preserve local history. Every step we take causes us to spend money and although our budget is reasonably low, money is needed to continue our mission and member’s dues are a part of our operational fees. We thank those who donate to help us continue our mission.

Jeanette Dickson and Wally Coleman will have a Christmastime book signing on December 6, 2019 at the Josephine County Historical Society, 512 S.W. 5th St. Grants Pass, OR Noon until 4 pm.

Join the Josephine County Historical Society.
Print the coupon, fill it out and send to
Josephine County Historical Society
512 S.W. 5th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526
You may also join online at our website.
You can have a guided tour of the Schmidt House each day the Research Library is open. 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 though 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.

Winding Down/Winding Up

It is the time of year when the Living History presentations tend to wind down but Programs and Events are increasing. We had a very successful Graveyard Tour followed immediately by an Oktoberfest event with the Weekend Beer Company. Now we are gearing up for Christmas and all that comes with it – Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting, December First Friday, Christmas Parade and, of course, our Christmas Past Open house at the Schmidt House Museum on Dec. 21. We will soon be decorating the Schmidt House in all of its Holiday trappings.

Sadly, we will be bidding farewell to our Program and Events Director, Linda Fuidge. She has smilingly led us through event after event for several years. She is stepping down to care for her very ill husband but she will not be stepping away. She promises to continue to be a helping hand and she will now have time to be a Living History Player. Welcome, Linda!!!

What is new?
The December newsletter is electronic and therefore we can include more and colored photos. We would love to hear from you to see if you like this publication. Email our Executive Secretary if you like this publication. Email address is on the back page.

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

To see what has happened around the Research Library and Schmidt House since the last printed newsletter was mailed read the rest of the pages.

We are still open from 10 am to 4 pm Tuesday through Friday.

We still write an article each week for “Sunday Make History” in the Daily Courier. Would love to hear your stories. Email <jchsimages@gmail.com> for details.
Old Tokas

This is the second time we have put this in our electronic newsletter, just in case you now want to get a unique book for a Christmas gift.

Did you or your parents or grandparents graduate from Grants Pass High School? We have several old yearbooks...The Toka (named after the Tokay grape and pronounced the same way). Did you move and misplace yours? Did you only get one and your sister claimed it? Do you want to see what grandma did in high school. We sell them for $25. each. Some are written in by the friends of the original owner. They are getting scarce as time passes. We also know where you might get one that we do not have. So if you would like a copy of the ones listed below, phone Wayne Morrow (541) 479-5709 and deal with him. He also sells them for $25.


We have several that are older, so phone us (479-7827) and we will see what we have and phone you back. Do it now!

Board Members Needed

We always like to have new board members. If you are a member and would like to serve on the Board, call our office for further details. If you are not a member, you may join at anytime. To be on the Board of Directors, you need to attend two consecutive board meetings and on the third visit the Board will invite you to serve. You will then serve until the November election when your name is placed on our annual ballot. Board members serve for two years and attend one monthly board meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:45 pm in our board room in the barn located behind the Schmidt House Museum. Meetings last about 90 minutes. There are many committees that you might wish to chair, but we only ask you to attend the board meetings for a few months to see if you wish to get further involved in our activities. Volunteers are also needed. Living History Players could use a few more actors. Come see us and discuss the possibilities.

Donations and Letters to the Editor

We usually print names of donors only in the mailed copies of the newsletter, but a gremlin got into our records and a whole page of donors was omitted in the October printed newsletter. We are sorry and have captured the gremlin and sent him on his way. Here is what he had hidden from us. Sorry for the error.

June Cougle
Jennifer South
Richard Wilson
Dennis Eckstein
Peter Miller
Ed & Marilyn Hill
Markley Johnson
Colene Martin
Sharon Allen
Leo Champagne
Elizaberth Werner
Sheron Leigh
William Villani

Sustaining Donations

Virginia Graetch
Grants Pass Pharmacy
Candace Morasch
Sally M. Thomson
Cynthia and Mike Briseno
Thomas Ford
Deanne Vandervert

Look at the next page for letters.

Jeanette Dickson will be at the Research Library Dec. 6 from noon to 4 to sign YESTERDAY’S NEWS. She will also be present for our open house on December 21, 1 to 4PM. Wally Coleman will also be present to sign his book THE VALLEY OF LITTLE RIVERS. Come and visit and buy a book or two.
Our Bookstore has a selection of historical books. Come in and see what we have. We have some books that we print ourselves and are not available in bookstores but most can be found on Amazon.

2019 Year End Review of Living History

Players/Events

February:
5 – Kiwanis – Joan Momsen
12 – Kiwanis – Irv Vodovoz (Dr. Loughridge)
26 – Newcomers – Joan Momsen (Virtual Walking Tour)

March:
5 – Wilderville Church – Leta Neiderheiser (Cynthia Applegate)

April:
13 – Easter Egg Hunt – LHP Assist only
20 – Pacifica – Leta Neiderheiser (Martha Messinger)
20 – Wolf Creek Inn – Stan & Darlene Olds, Rick & Kathy Marshall, Sherry Bullock

May:
13 – TRCH Aux – 11 LHP (Suffrage)
20 – SOHS Golddiggers, Medford – 6 LHP (Suffrage)
25 – Boatnik Parade – Several LHP

June:
1 – Spirits of the Schmidt House – Several LHP
4 – Madrona Elementary School -- Leta Neiderheiser (Cynthia) & Rick Marshall (Elijah)
10 – Newcomers – Cindy English & Linda Fuidge (Downtown Walking Tour)
15 – Porchfest – Several LHP

July:
26 – Pie & Ice Cream Social – Several LHP Assist

October:
12 – Graveyard Tour – Several LHP
19 – Genealogy Society Seminar – Cindy English (Edith Rehkopf)
19 – OctobertFest w/Weekend Beer Company – 9 LHP
31 – PEO – Leta Neiderheiser (Cynthia), Joan Momsen (Lonabelle), Rick Marshall (Elijah)

Dear Ms. Momsen,

I just want to send a personal note of thanks and appreciation for your contribution to the “Sundays Make History” articles in the Daily Courier. They are always interesting and as I love history, they are always a pleasure to read. It’s obvious that besides drawing on your own recollections, you also do a great deal of research. Thank you for your time and caring to convey these stories.

Judy
This was the photo on the cake at the Annual Meeting. Photo above, cake below.

President Ken Bell had a cake made with a photo of the Schmidt House on the top. It was edible, but no one really wanted to sample a door, window, snow-covered bush or an eave. After the meeting, the whole edible photo of the Schmidt House was removed before we cut the cake. See the front page of this newsletter for President Bell’s comments.
If you are a member of the Historical Society, you are probably familiar with the Schmidt House, our Museum. Many people drive by it each day and never have a thought about the 120 year old house. Construction of the building was started in 1899, and the Schmidt family lived in the single story brick house for about a decade as the wooden second story was planned and added. In the beginning the front bay window was the front door to the one story house. The porch to the left and a new front door was added as the second story was constructed. The Historical Society keeps the house in good order, as well as the surrounding lawns and gardens. Last summer one of our water bills to keep the grass green was $700. We are trying to get the water bill lowered and have put in a new water meter dedicated just to irrigation so we do not have to pay sewer fees for water that goes on the lawn and plants and never enters the sewer. The Schmidt House is a museum of how the Schmidt Family, first the parents and four children lived, and then the two surviving sisters, Anna and Flora Schmidt who lived in the house for nearly 70 years, deeding it to the Society in 1978.

Book Signing Dec. 6 Noon to 4 & Dec. 21 1 to 4pm
Jeanette Dickson will be present to sign YESTERDAY’S NEWS.
Wally Coleman will sign his THE VALLEY OF LITTLE RIVERS.
Come to our Research Library and look at the books in our bookstore. For December 2019 ONLY all the books we publish will have a 25% discount for members and 10% for non-members. You must ask for the discount or wave this ad in our faces. Thank you for your consideration.

Joan Momsen will sign any of her books. She is here most of the time but you can always phone and check.
We have many books that are only available at our bookstore. Here are some cover photos of a few of the books from the 30 year-old “A History of Josephine County Oregon” to more recent publications. There are six volumes of “Short Stories of Josephine County” and each is printed in large print for younger and older eyes. These would make great Christmas gifts. Come in and see what other books we have for sale.
Find the arrow and at the point you will find Jim. That is the advantage of having this Newsletter on a computer. You can enlarge the print for easier reading and enlarge the volunteers to find them among the leaves. Jim is not mowing the alley but picking up leaves the easy way. He must really have a good compost pile because when the leaves fall, he is here often. All the leaves should be gone by the time we send out the Newsletter.

Remember there is a discount for books that we publish for the month of December 2019. Give a book for Christmas. Read it first then give it as gift. Think of all the money you will save.

In the background of this photo you can see the Weekend Brewery across the street. They provided us with the idea of Oktoberfest and the event was well attended, thanks for their efforts on our behalf.
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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**Brady Project**

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.