



Hallie Huntington

Photo by Dennis Hickok

Long-time Eugenean: city losing charm

By DINA MILES
Of the Emerald

Eugene's lost much of the charm it had as a small community in the 19th century the president of the Eugene Historical Society believes and she says it's a high price to pay for progress.

Hallie Huntington, a descendant of a pioneering family in Lane County who holds a long list of community activities, told the weekly Rubicon Society luncheon meeting Thursday of a few developmental historical landmarks.

She said Eugeneans are gradually becoming aware the area indeed has a tradition and it should be saved.

"Still, much of the heritage here has been lost," she explained, adding that many old buildings have been destroyed, along with some old traditions. "I admit I'm of another generation," she said, commenting on the modern city's image, but added, "I don't have to like it."

When she came to Eugene in 1921, she said, it was "a close, warm little town. I can remember walking down the street and if I saw a stranger I was amazed."

Huntington, who has been president of the historical society for 13 consecutive years, also gave the audience a taste of how the Eugene area was settled. She told how a young man named Spencer, a member of a group of trappers, wanted to climb the peak now known as Spencer's Butte.

She said Spencer, who harbored no fear of Indians in the area, decided to go ahead and climb the peak, but didn't come back by nightfall. The other trappers discovered him, "well-filled with arrows," she said, and they later heard the Indian chief had bragged they

had killed Spencer for his guns and clothing. The trappers decided to name the butte after him.

Similar incidents were revealed during Huntington's talk including stories about how Eugene's first courthouses were planned and what traveling conditions were like for stagecoach passengers.

Traveling via stagecoach was "rugged" she said, noting that "it took a stiff backbone and a lot of determination" to make the trips. One particular stagecoach driver, Charlie Parkhurst, was known to be a "tough, tobacco chewin', cussin' old guy" and he was frequently asked to head the coaches when a rough journey lay ahead.

Parkhurst died in 1878, she said, and it was only then that people discovered Parkhurst was a woman. Huntington said Parkhurst might well have been the first woman to vote in a national election in 1868, and no one knew about it.

On other subjects, Huntington said her grandfather gave eight sheep to the University, a common donation practice. Others, she said, gave wheat, cows or whatever could be converted to cash. At first, only a couple of professors taught, she said, and the first graduating class had six people.

Huntington also surprised the audience when she told about prices in the 1860s. A bushel of wheat could be purchased for 60 cents, 15 cents would buy a pound of butter or a dozen eggs and beef sold for six to 10 cents per pound.

Huntington has served as manager of the Lane County fair for a number of years, and has been involved in the Sacred Heart Auxiliary and the Red Cross. She is listed as one of 200 Women of Achievement in the United States.

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Counselor, lawyer form unique law firm

By BETSY ROTT
Of the Emerald

Two Eugene women who say they want to "fill a gap in the legal profession" opened the Family Law Practice this week. Geared to low-income persons and students, the practice is located at 1234 Pearl St. and offers counseling in addition to low-cost legal aid.

The Family Law Practice, a public interest law firm, specializes in divorces, adoptions, name changes, juvenile concerns and the problems of unmarried cohabitating adults.

Attorney Sue Miller supervises the legal processes while Counselor Ann Helen Webb deals with the psychological aspects of litigation, including adjustment counseling and referral services.

Miller anticipates a large number of divorce cases and emphasizes the need for counseling in family law.

Webb is available to discuss alternatives, help with statistical decisions and suggest courses of action for the future. The personal decisions involved in legal action require the services of a counselor, according to Webb.

Miller expects to handle the problems of unmarried or gay couples who suffer legal discrimination. Webb offers the opportunity to discuss the social and psychological implications of living together.

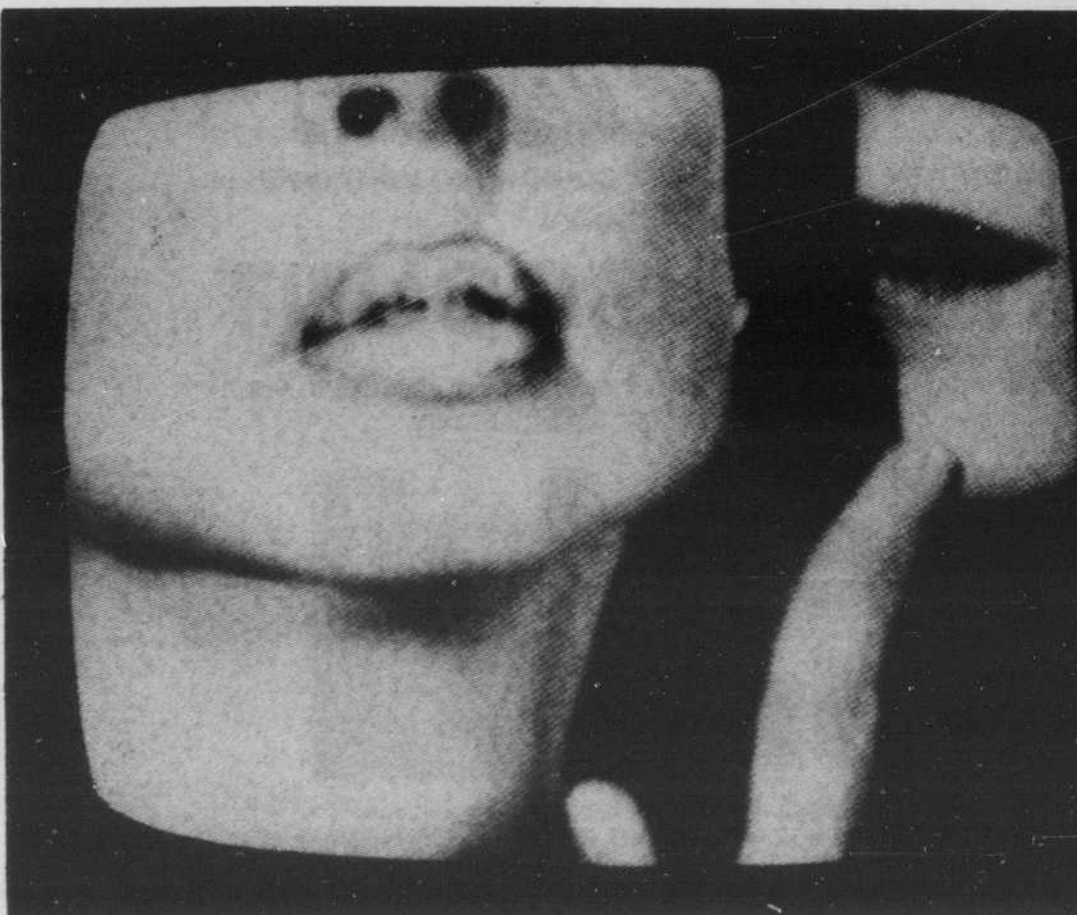
The Family Law Practice is the only service of its kind in Eugene. It is entirely self-sufficient.

Fees include counseling and range from \$35 for name changes to \$200 plus filing fees for divorces.

Seal savers raise funds

Eugene's Greenpeace organization is sponsoring a harp seal radiothon through midnight today to raise money for its fight against the annual Canadian seal hunt.

Local Greenpeace members will be available at the station to answer listener questions. The station's phone number is 485-3232; KFMV is 97.9 on the FM band.



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