

Dedication marks anniversary of Skinners' arrival

■ **PROJECT:** During the past eight weeks, volunteers restored the terrace viewing area on top of Skinner Butte

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

With rainy, windy days like last Saturday, it's a wonder that Eugene Skinner, the first settler to make his home on the western portion of what is now Skinner Butte, didn't turn the wagons around and head back to California.

Luckily for Eugene, Skinner stayed to brave the weather.

One hundred and fifty years later, members of the Eugene Rotary Club set aside a blustery Saturday to dedicate the newly renovated viewing terrace on top of the butte to Eugene, Mary and Mary Elizabeth Skinner on the anniversary of their move into their cabin.

With high winds pummeling the stage and rotary members struggling to hold down the

speaking tent, Ray Wiley, project manager for the Skinner Butte Renovation Project, kicked off a celebration that included a reenactment of the Skinners' first conversation on top of the butte.

Mayor Jim Torrey, who was on hand to praise the renovation work of the rotary and other community groups, quipped, "They realized that if anyone could keep this [tent] down, it would be me."

Wiley said the project, which has been in the works for eight weeks, culminated in Saturday's celebration. The 145 volunteers removed graffiti from and repainted the city's transmitter building, refurbished planters, repainted the iron railing around the terrace, and installed a park bench, drinking fountain and a dedication plaque.

The newly elected ASUO Executive and members of the Student Senate also donated their time to the project. They worked on the Skinner Butte "O," scraping off the layers of orange and

purple paint from previous Oregon State University and University of Washington pranks and returning it to its yellow color.

Wiley said the project began as an effort to keep the butte from being closed to motorists. In March, Bob Hammitt, parks maintenance director, said the deteriorating condition of the road, reduced staffing and vandalism led city officials to consider closing the road to the terrace area. The road closure was postponed after Eugene residents suggested alternatives for dealing with the problems, including the renovation project.

According to Wiley, the Eugene and Mary Skinner, both born in New York, traveled across the country to reach Sacramento in 1845. After moving to Dallas, Ore., in the Spring of 1846, Eugene Skinner, along with three of his friends, explored the south end of the Willamette Valley and decided to move his family there.



Local actors portraying Eugene and Mary Skinner reenacted a conversation Saturday morning that the Skinners might have had on top of the butte.

Symantec managers say ban is not 'official position' of company

■ **REQUEST:** Managers say two employees who asked for a ban on public nudity were acting on their own

By Eric Collins
Community Reporter

Don't get them wrong. They're not anti-breast. But then again, they don't want to be labeled as pro-breast either. They, the managers of Symantec Corp. that is, would just like to be breast-neutral.

But as the issue of breasts in the Downtown Mall area became the subject of front page head-

lines and conversations throughout Eugene in the past three weeks, Symantec, with its apparent plea to the City Council for a ban on female toplessness, in actuality wanted no such thing.

In a memo Thursday afternoon, John Ragsdale, site manager of the 530-employee customer call-in center, stated that Symantec was not asking the city council to enact an ordinance to prohibit toplessness. Ragsdale wrote that the letter submitted by employees David Fitch, senior facilities supervisor, and Jim Aydelott, senior facilities manager, was from "two employees acting

alone and was neither an official letter nor the official position of the company."

Ragsdale deemed the letter a "miscommunication that [Symantec] takes very seriously."

He said the company was embarrassed by the slip-up because the actions of Symantec send a large signal to the public.

"Our company does not take moral position on issues," Ragsdale said. "[The request] absolutely was not speaking for Symantec."

Teresa Bright, technical support director at Symantec, agreed.

"Topless women is not something we feel we are responsible for taking a stand on," Bright said.

Ragsdale is taking all calls for Symantec regarding the situation. Aydelott declined to comment Friday afternoon.

The confusion began during a City Council meeting on May 12 when Fitch delivered a statement signed by Aydelott asking the council to consider changing the city code to prohibit the exposure of female breasts. The statement maintained that the incidence of bare-breasted women in the downtown area was offensive

and the corporation could not continue its business without some attention directed to the "daily problem."

Bright said she and Ragsdale were not aware of the problem until local press reported the issue. She said the managers wanted to deal first with the miscommunication within the company before making a public statement.

City spokesman Phil Weiler said the City Council officers had already decided to avoid the issue because of the moral implications and the amount of time already committed to city issues.

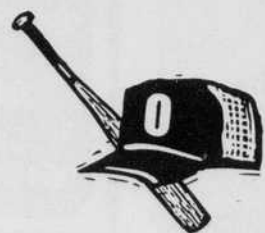
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