

Nifty Tidbits

By CHUCK RIGBY

In 1853 William Waldo was the Whig Party candidate for governor of California. He received a majority of votes in the county of San Francisco, but in the city of San Francisco, and in the rest of the state, another man by the name of Bigler received a majority of the votes and won the election.

Waldo also received most of the votes in the area known as "Sailors' Diggings," in what was thought to be Northern California.

Jackson County which included all of Josephine County of today, also had an election in 1853.

William Galley received the most votes, but Moses G. Kennedy won the election and became the first sheriff of Jackson County. Kennedy won because all of the votes from Sailors' Diggings which were in support of Galley, were not counted. Their votes were thrown out because Kennedy's staff was able to show that the town was actually in California.

By Sept. 4, 1856 surveys proved that Sailors' Diggings was really in Oregon and on that day a post office was created in the town of Waldo, being the dominant town in the area.

The town was named for William Waldo and became the first county seat for Josephine County in 1856, although the legislative act created the area named Sailors' Diggings as the county seat.

Generally, Sailors' Diggings referred to all of the small gold mining communities which had formed in the southern end of Illinois Valley. That region is known as Holland Loop today.

The town of Waldo was located near the end of Rockydale Road. If coming from Cave Junction, turn right at the end of Rockydale onto Waldo Road and in approximately a half mile there is a historical marker where Waldo was located. There are still remnants of the cemetery and the foundation of an old hotel. There are also many piles of rocks and potholes that were left behind when the whole town and nearby area was destroyed by hydraulic mining in the 1920s. Water rights and canals were a vital part of hydraulic mining and the first water rights issued in Oregon were in the Waldo Mining District.

In its heyday, Waldo was a bustling mining town with hotels, saloons, bowling alleys, livery stables and even a skating rink.

A book, "Sailors Diggings" by Willard and Elsie Street, itemizes the buildings and their location within the town. A log courthouse was the county headquarters until 1857, when Kerby was voted in as the new county seat.

The Waldo Post Office continued in operation until 1920 when some of the mailboxes, counters, and entry facade were moved to the Kerby Post Office. Those same structures are now on a display in the Kerbyville Museum.

Other items from Waldo are also on display at the museum, including copper ore samples. The Queen of Bronze copper mine was part of the Waldo Mining District and old maps of the mining district are also at the museum.

Another item showcased is one of the large iron doors from the old Waldo Store.

Three iron doors and matching shutters were made in 1863.

In her book "Golden Days and Pioneer Ways," Ruth Pfeifferle tells the story of gypsies arriving at the Waldo Store in 1910. Store owner George Elder, quickly locked all the doors and shutters in order to keep the gypsies from entering the store. One gypsy lady tried to crawl in a basement window but Elder pushed her out.

William Waldo had a brother Daniel who came to Oregon in 1843 with the Applegate wagon train.

He became an important figure in Oregon politics. Waldo Lake located in the Cascade Mountains east of Eugene was named after Daniel.

I was not able to determine when William Waldo arrived in the West, but in 1853 the citizens of Waldo tried to elect him as governor of California. I wonder if any California candidates today are interested in Oregon votes to become governor of California.

There is nothing more beautiful than cheerfulness in an old face.

-Jean Paul Richter-

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(Editor's Note: Names, ages, addresses, incidents and charges are provided by official law enforcement agencies. All persons listed in this report are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Charges can be amended or dismissed.)

Monday, Aug. 18

*Deputies said a woman who was reportedly driving "all over the road" was late for work.

*A motorhome was burglarized at Ol Jo Mobile Village. Deputies said someone broke the window to gain entry.

*A woman driving near the intersection of South Redwood Hwy. and W. Lister Street said she heard a "thump" on her car. She looked in her rear-view mirror and saw two children. She was unsure if she hit one or if they hit her car.

*A woman in the 400 block of Crooks Creek Road said a man was fainting and had turned blue. Deputies discovered Michael Gary Lager, 55, deceased on the scene.

*In the 200 block of Fir Drive a woman said a window was broken at her residence, but there was no sign of entry.

*Deputies recovered a stolen vehicle in the 900 block of West Side Road. Four tires were removed and the stereo was missing.

*Deputies responded to a traffic accident in the 200 block of S. Redwood Hwy. David Carter of Cave Junction and Tracy Preston of Kerby were transported to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass.

*In the 300 block of Caves Hwy. a man said he found a lethargic man with a head injury who needed medical attention. Robert James Myers, 33, was cited on a charge of assault in connection with the incident, deputies said.

*In the 200 block of Illinois River Road a man said his daughter was involved in a motor vehicle accident over the weekend but that the accident wasn't reported because there may have been alcohol involved. He said his daughter was injured and would like the accident investigated. Deputies said the accident appeared to be a vehicle rollover on a nearby forest road.

*A brother and sister

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 4
*Junior Varsity/Varsity volleyball vs. South Umpqua here - 5:15/6:30 p.m.
*School pictures
FRIDAY, SEPT. 5
*Making College Count Assembly - band room 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (freshmen only)
SATURDAY, SEPT. 6
*Boys soccer at Phoenix 8:30 a.m.
*Varsity football vs. Blanchet High School here - 3 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPT. 9
*Junior Varsity/Varsity volleyball at Henley 5:15/6:30 p.m.
*Boys soccer vs. St. Mary's here - 4 p.m.

Tales from the Police Blotter

got into an altercation and a girl was warned for trespassing in the 1800 block of Laurel Road.

*A man said people at Jubilee Park were yelling profanities. Deputies warned an intoxicated man for his antics.

*After another phone call from the same man concerning yelling in the park, deputies said numerous juveniles drinking beer scrambled into the bushes at Jubilee Park when they went to escort the drunk man out of the park.

*The man who complained about yelling at Jubilee Park said he was going to call the newspaper if deputies didn't do something about the yelling. Deputies said they spoke with the concerned caller and calmed him down.

*In the 100 block of Finch Road a woman said there were people fighting in her mobile home. Deputies said a former tenant that was evicted recently had come back and was involved in the fight.

Tuesday, Aug. 19

In the 200 block of Airport Drive a woman said a man was lying in a bathtub cutting his arms and acting strange. Deputies said the complaint was unfounded, that there were no marks on the man and he was not suicidal. The man said she may have imagined it.

*In the 3800 block of Holland Loop Road a woman said someone ransacked two of her unlocked vehicles. The estimated damage was listed at \$20. Deputies said they didn't have any suspect information.

*In the 100 block of S. Redwood Hwy. a woman

said somebody hit her vehicle causing a dent and a scratch and didn't leave a name at the scene.

*In the 100 block of S. Redwood Hwy. Eileen P. Szilagy Hedes, 43, was cited on a charge of third-degree theft in connection with a \$25 shirt at Puff-N-Stuff at 10:55 a.m.

*At Page Mountain Snow Park a man said more than 40 gallons of gas were missing from several of his vehicles and four road barricades were missing. The listed total value of the missing property is \$190.

*In the 200 block of S. Redwood Hwy. a woman said her son was struck by a car and nobody left a name at the scene. No injuries were listed.

*In the 100 block of Elwood Lane a man said he was being harassed by a family that is getting evicted. Deputies logged the information.

*In the 500 block of Deer Creek Road, a

woman said someone entered her locked shop. Several items were missing including sockets, wrenches and other tools.

Wednesday, Aug. 20

*In the 200 block of Finch Road a woman said someone used her vehicle without her permission. Deputies said the vehicle was recovered and a man confessed to the incident.

*A woman at Evergreen Elementary School said a door was kicked in, wood chips were thrown around, windows were pried, human feces was left on the roof and drains were damaged. Deputies said school officials contacted parents of some children that may have been involved and the school is going to handle it internally.

*In the 300 block of Waldamar Road an emotionally disturbed woman was warned for phoning 911 without proper cause.

(Continued on page 18)

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