



Historic mining cabin needs help (Photo by John Woodward)

Miners' cabin for Queen of Bronze Mine, believed last standing, needs some TLC

The last known miners' cabin from the Queen of Bronze Mine on Hope Mountain is crumbling from years of winter rain and floods.

Much of the exterior of the cabin -- including clapboard siding, doors, windows, hardware and trim -- remain in good condition, but the floor is gone. The front porch floor is missing.

The cabin floor has rotted away from decades of rain and flooding, leaving the building too unstable to move intact.

A sheet of roofing material protects what is left inside. There is a kitchen counter and sink. One remaining treasure is the

wood-burning kitchen stove. The cabin was inhabited off and on until about 1980. It was used afterwards for a storage shed.

The cabin measures 14-by-28-feet. This does not include the rear porch, which has also no floor.

The cabin is the last of 11 such cabins where miners' families lived in the valley below the mine, dating back to 1900 or earlier. The mine closed in 1917.

The miners lived in a dormitory near the mine on a ridge high above, and visited their families in the cabins on the valley floor below during their time off.

Someone must dismantle the cabin and rebuild it in

a new location where it can be seen. The last Queen of Bronze miner's cabin represents a key part of Illinois Valley's history. It could be restored for appreciation by residents and visitors to the area.

Perhaps a museum or someone interested in preserving the mining heritage of the area's past is looking for just this forgotten piece of copper mining history.

It would be a shame to lose it to the ravages of weather or clearing of a pasture, said the owners.

The owners may consider donating the cabin to a museum. For information or to see the cabin, phone (541) 592-6126.

'Swiss Army Knife of books' listed as handy read

The latest work from author Melissa Heckscher has been called "the Swiss Army Knife of books."

Packed with tools, charts, rulers, gadgets, form letters and more, "Use This Book!

The Only Book You'll Ever Need," can come in handy in thousands of everyday situations. For instance, forgot your watch? Turn to page 157 and assemble a sundial.

Need a drink? Go to

page 193 and fold together a drinking cup.

The book is available at retailers nationwide and online at www.quirkbooks.com. (NAPSA)

Oregon will ship 7.8 million Yule trees this season nationwide, plus globally

Don't look now, but the holiday season is just around the corner.

For Oregon's 720 licensed Christmas tree growers, the season is actually under way -- especially for those who ship their trees a great distance.

An estimated 7.8 million Oregon Christmas trees will be harvested during 2006. When you grow more Christmas trees than any other state, you should expect things to get hectic this time of year, said Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA).

"During the next four to six weeks, Oregon Christmas tree growers will be frantically harvesting and getting their trees ready to ship to market," said Gary McAninch, supervisor of ODA's Nursery & Christmas Tree Program.

Some Oregon Christmas trees are already making the voyage to the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong King, and Guam -- among other destinations. ODA inspectors will be facing a whirlwind of export activity during the next few weeks as growers seek an all-important piece of paper known as the phytosanitary certificate.

"The phytosanitary certificate is an Oregon grower's passport to the international marketplace," said Bryan Ostlund, executive director of the Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Growers Association.

Inspectors check trees bound for other states and countries to make sure they don't carry an unwanted insect pest or disease.

Domestic sales of Ore-

gon Christmas trees still overshadow international sales, but exports remain an important option for growers. Oregon does not have the population to consume all the trees it grows.

It would take every man, woman, and child in Oregon purchasing at least two trees each to cover the usual annual harvest.

Growers say that the export market takes surplus trees out of the United States, which keeps the price from depressing. Last year, approximately 16 percent of the 6.9 million Oregon Christmas trees sold left the United States.

ODA inspectors issued 1,947 phytosanitary certificates for Christmas trees during 2005.

The inspection of Christmas trees actually begins well before the holidays approach. Inspectors examine Christmas tree fields in late summer and early fall, looking for potential problems that could put a snag into out-of-state shipments.

"Oregon Christmas tree growers have a reputation for shipping high-quality, pest and disease-free trees," said McAninch.

According to the Oregon Agricultural Statistics Service, which earlier this year completed a biennial survey of the state's Christmas tree industry, sales in 2005 reached nearly \$108 million. The top destination for Oregon-grown trees continues to be California, responsible for 47 percent of all sales in 2005.

A combination of western states that includes

Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Alaska, and Hawaii is responsible for 11 percent of all sales. The Gulf States region recorded 9 percent of last year's sales with the Atlantic states and the state of Washington each responsible for 3 percent of sales.

Oregon itself bought only 8 percent of all Christmas trees sold last year.

Internationally, Oregon Christmas trees can be found in numerous markets, but Mexico continues to be the biggest customer. The survey shows that 13 percent of Oregon's Christmas trees are shipped to Mexico, which is an increase from 8 percent in 2003.

Canada accounted for 2 percent of Oregon Christmas tree sales while all other foreign markets purchased 1 percent of the trees last year. Those markets include Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Guam, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica, to name a few.

Christmas tree prices have stabilized this year. Five years ago, inventory was short and the industry responded by planting more trees. This year, there is a more adequate supply.

Still, some markets will pay higher than the normal price. A 7-foot Noble fir that an Oregon resident might purchase for \$40 will often be sold in Los Angeles for \$130. In Japan, most Christmas trees are taller and end up in commercial buildings and shopping malls. They have been sold in the past for as much as \$200 each.

STIHL®

Cut the high cost of heating your home.



Great Value for Homeowners!



MS 170 Chain Saw
\$169⁹⁵
14" bar

Includes many of the same excellent design features as our professional models.



STIHL Woodcutter's Kit
Carrying Case, STIHL Cap and Spare Chain
JUST \$29⁹⁵
With purchase of select saws. Up to a \$71.50 (SNW-SRP) value. See dealer for details.



MS 210 Chain Saw
\$249⁹⁵
16" bar

Economical homeowner saw for firewood cutting and pruning.



MS 290 STIHL Farm Boss®
\$359⁹⁵
20" bar

Our most popular model. Designed for rugged use.



STIHL®
Easy 2 Start®
Model Available for Only
\$299⁹⁵

Please wear protective apparel when operating power equipment. . .



STIHL - 8,000 Servicing Dealers Nationwide!

Count on us for: Free Set-Up • Reliable Advice • In-Store Parts • Trained Service Technicians

Cave Junction
Dave's Outdoor Power Equip.
287 Hamilton Ave.
541-592-3416

Store Hours:
Mon thru Fri 8am-5:30pm
Saturday 9am-3pm



All prices are SNW-SRP. Available at participating dealers. Copyright © 2006 STIHL STNW06-1321-63670-8

stihlusa.com

Are you ready for a **STIHL®**?