

PLAYHOUSE from page 1A

Henry was one of 10 children and eventually began a ministry in 1935. In 1943 he became the parish pastor of what later became affiliated with the Assemblies of God Church.

In 1946, a motion was made by the church board to purchase the property at First and Laurel streets in Florence for \$5,000 and build their own church.

Rose was actively employed in the logging industry at the time and not only put his personal savings into the construction of the church, but did the greater part of the construction work on the project himself.

Not many buildings in Florence incorporated basements built into the sand, but the new church did and used the space for its youth Bible study classes. The design called for the secretary's office to be located on the south side of the building and for the pastor's office and basement to be accessible on the north side adjacent to the parking area. An elevated stage for services was constructed between the two spaces.

Rose served as the first pastor in the new building from its beginning in 1948 until his untimely death in 1951 from a car accident. A succession of ministers followed with an ever-growing congregation. In March 1966, construction began on a new Assemblies of God Church at 10th and Maple streets, occupying an entire city block, and in November the church moved to its new location. The church there is now known as Cross Road Assembly of God.

Sisters Nancy Johnson and Sally Peterson were fellow church members who bought the building after the congregation moved. Having experienced success selling fabric to fundraise

for the church, they opened NanSal's Fabric Store. They did a bustling business selling everything from sewing machines to quilt kits.

When the sisters eventually decided to retire, the building was sold and leased out to Lane Community College for use as a dance studio, and later it was lined with cubicles and people selling aircraft parts internationally.

Meanwhile, Flaherty received a degree in economics from Cal State Los Angeles but felt drawn to the theater. Shortly thereafter, he enrolled in an acting program in Los Angeles. Upon completing the program, he traveled 1,000 miles north to the University of Oregon, where he completed a master's degree in theater in 1971 and headed for New York.

Over the next three years, he learned about life in professional theater. However, the pull of life on the West Coast brought him back to the University of Oregon, where he earned a second master's in counseling psychology. Upon completion of that program, he was hired by Lane County Juvenile Court and for the next 20 years he worked as a juvenile court counselor.

In 1995, Flaherty retired and decided to move to Florence.

Beginning in the late 1960s, the town had an economic transition from the timber, mining and fishing industries toward tourism and the eventual growth of retirement living. And what a pool of talent there was here!

Once again being drawn to the energy of the theater community, Flaherty resumed his acting with the Florence Repertory Theatre. Because the newer and more modern Florence Events Center was oftentimes beyond their fiscal abilities,

the repertory group began looking around for an alternative. The former church on Laurel Street became available and was just the place.

When Flaherty found the space in 2004, he spent over a year-and-a-half remodeling to fulfill his dream of hosting workshops and affordable theater presentations. He enlarged the stage, added a proscenium, remodeled below and created restrooms in the front.

The basement now provides space for everything a small-town theater needs — a utility room for building sets, dressing rooms and props galore. The ceiling over the main auditorium is filled with costumes.

Opening night in the summer of 2005 demonstrated the talent and resiliency of the theater folks we have here in Florence. The leading lady of "I Do, I Do" sprained her ankle during dress rehearsal the previous evening, but the show did go on. Local talent rallied with musicians and songs making the opening gala a remarkable evening.

Theater can always be a

surprise.

Over the years, there have been more than 40 productions at The Florence Playhouse. The building has an ambiance that lends itself to the magic created within its walls. It has been silent for a few years while John took some time off — but now it is back.

It's About Time Productions, the local theater company founded by longtime Florence thespians Judy Adams and Victoria Seitzinger, has a new lease agreement with Flaherty. The two are opening their run with a production of "The Red Velvet Cake War," a wacky comedy that is guaranteed to get you smiling and keep you laughing.

So grab your family and friends and come on down to Historic Old Town Florence and its famous Florence Playhouse for a fabulous time and step back into history with us.

Tickets are \$20, available at the door, by calling 541-999-9392 or at the Florence Playhouse box office. Box office hours will be from 4 to 6 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.

A Cool Walk by Two Lakes

The Yachats Coastal Gems walking group invites the public to join members on Tuesday, Sept. 3, in Florence to explore both sides of Honeyman State Park along the shores of Woahink and Cleawox lakes in a beautiful and peaceful park setting.

Dogs are allowed but must be on a six-foot non-extendable lead to walk with them and owners must carry and use appropriate cleanup materials.

The 5k (3.1 miles) walk is rated 1B for fairly level footing on natural trails. The 12k (7.5 miles) [all three sections] walk is rated 2B for those same

trails and a couple of easy hills.

The distance and speed of walking is tailored to those at the walk that day. Walking sticks and sturdy shoes recommended.

The Yachats Coastal Gems will meet first at the Sportsman, 249 Highway 101, at 9:45 a.m. then drive to the walk at 10 a.m. Though people may share rides to the walk start, please do not leave vehicles in the Sportsman parking lot during the walk.

Call Maryann at 541-961-4279 for more information or email yachats-coastalgems@gmail.com. On the day of walk, please use text or phone.

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If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 240 hours.

Get your emergency first aid kit started with these essentials:

- First aid manual
- Aspirin or pain relievers
- Laxatives, diarrhea medicine
- Rubbing alcohol, petroleum jelly
- Soap, salt, baking soda
- Sanitary napkins, matches
- Triangular bandages
- Elastic bandages, pressure dressings
- Cotton balls, disposable diapers
- Scissors, needles, tweezers
- Popsicle sticks, splints, heavy string
- Thermometer, paper tape
- Syrup of Ipecac
- Personal prescription medications

This message brought to you by the West Lane Emergency Operations Group. www.wleog.org

IDENTIFY • PREPARE • SURVIVE

A Great Big THANK YOU...

Thank you to the **237 people** who attended our Car Show Event! It was a pleasure to have all of you there! We would also like to thank the **Hanson Family Singers** who captivated us with their talent and **Automotive Solutions Inc.** for helping Florence families.

- Thank you to these businesses for making the Raffle a success:
- Florence in Bloom for the \$50.00 gift card
 - Fred Meyer for their donation
 - Coastal Fitness for their 6 month gift card
 - Ace Hardware for the \$100.00 gift card
 - Bi-Mart for the \$100.00 gift card and
 - Shorewood Senior Living for the \$750 visa gift card, the free lunch and giving everyone a very good time. It was our pleasure!

This gathering was a benefit event for Automotive Solutions Inc. This non-profit helps families in need with their automotive repair expenses. If you could not attend and you want to make a donation, please drop it by the Shorewood Senior Living office. We were able to raise almost \$500.00 during our event.

Thank you for helping us help so many in our community!

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