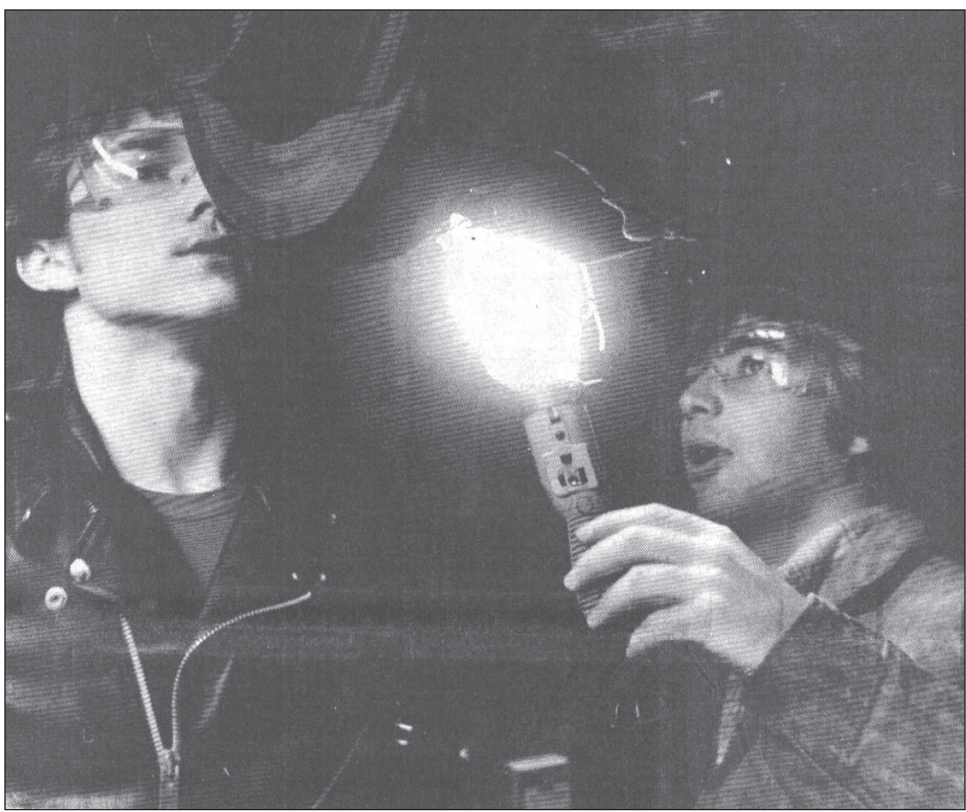


# Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at Sentinel stories from 30, 60 and 70 years ago



Feb. 13, 1985: Vocational education classes still keep wheels turning — Ed Walley and Davis Squires troubleshoot a problem in their automotive class.

Feb. 17, 1955

## Jaycees would like to get your goat

WANTED: (either to borrow or for keep) One goat. Sex, size or color is immaterial. Must like Jaycees. Contact either James D. Roles or Albert O. Martin at the Sentinel.

Phone 555.

The above want ad is being placed here to inaugurate the Cottage Grove Jaycee's membership drive. Membership chairman, Jim Rhodes and Al Martin announced to local JC's during their February 10 dinner meeting the following plan to obtain new members:

A goat will be borrowed, or accepted as a gift, from a local farmer and kept by the Jaycees for an indefinite period of time. Any

Jaycee who has not brought in a new member, dues paid, since the first of the year will be charged with the care of club's newly attained "treasure" until he has done so. At their next regular meeting every JC who has not done his part in the membership drive will put his name in a hat to see who will be the lucky one to first get the goat. From there "it" will be passed on. Jaycees not attending the next meeting will also have their names in the "pot."

Feb. 15, 1945

## Garbage service is available to those who may want it

Some confusion apparently exists among the residents residing within the city limits with reference to the garbage disposal service now available to every resident within the corporate limits. Last month the city council signed a contract for garbage disposal with Fred Annett, who lives two miles east of town at the dump grounds and in our issue of January 25th, rates for this service were published. Rates approved in the contract were 75 cents per month in the residential district; for restaurants, no less than \$3 nor more than \$10 per month. Others for dry refuse not including garbage by agreement between parties but not to exceed \$3 per load.

Mr. Annet said yesterday he had to take over the garbage route before he was really prepared, but that he was in position to care for the work now.

Feb. 2

## Criminal mischief, Village Green

An employee reported that a forced entry was made to the garden shop and possibly other buildings sometime over the weekend. It was unknown if any property was missing. Damage to door was estimated to be \$25.

Feb. 7

## Domestic disturbance, Van Buren Ave

A caller said that he woke up to his wife beating on him. He then said that she was unconscious and that he was bleeding. The call was transferred to 911. The female was interviewed at River Bend hospital.

Feb. 4

## Theft, N. K St

A complainant at the station reported that a theft had occurred at the location on Sunday between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The stolen property was valued at \$270 and included one ounce of marijuana, an iPhone, and 14 klonopin.

## Armed subject, Main St and River Rd

There were multiple reports of a subject walking westbound on Main St carrying a rifle. One caller said the subject was pointing it towards the street. The subject was brought into custody for unlawful entry into motor vehicle and theft I. The arrestee was released and transferred to the Relax Inn for the night. The gun was destroyed.

Feb. 8

## Criminal mischief, S. 14th St

A caller reported damage to the rear hatch of his vehicle while it was parked on the street in front of the residence overnight. Unknown suspects threw a fire extinguisher at the rear hatch causing \$500 in damage.

## Criminal mischief, E Washington Ave

A complainant at the station reported that unknown suspects sliced the passenger-side front tire sometime between 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 and 9 a.m. on Feb. 8. The vehicle was parked on the street.

## Suicidal subject, N. Mill St

A reporting person said a 42-year-old male had taken a full bottle of unknown medicine.

## CITY BEAT

Information gleaned from the City of Cottage Grove's 'Friday Update'

### NASA coming to town

On Monday, March 16, the Cottage Grove Public Library will host NASA Astronomer Teena Della and the Eugene Astronomical Society (and their telescopes) for an evening "Star Party." The party begins at 7:30 p.m. when it gets dark enough to really see some amazing celestial wonders through the telescopes.

Della will be on hand to

answer inquisitive astronomy questions inside the Library during the event.

The Library announced that it will also be holding nine astronomy workshops at Cottage Grove High School and Lincoln Middle School on Monday and Tuesday, March 16 and 17.

### New dog kennel opens

On Thursday, Feb. 5, the

Cottage Grove Police Department impounded the first dog at the new City of Cottage Grove dog kennel. The City says the dog was released later that night after the owner contacted the Police department and paid the \$20 impound fee. Now that the City kennel is in operation, the hope is that it will be easier and cheaper to reunite more dogs with their owners.

Additionally, information and photos for each of the dogs that are impounded will be posted on the City of Cottage Grove and the Cottage Grove Police Department Facebook pages. Other community pages are sharing the posts to increase the visibility of the

posts and should further increase the chances that owners are quickly reunited with their dogs.

### Bohemia Park pond cleaned

Last week, Cottage Grove Public Works personnel and inmates from the Cottage Grove Jail cleaned the Bohemia Park Pond. City officials say the pond had not been cleaned since it was installed and the rocks and liner had been coated with sediment.

A large amount of trash has also accumulated in the pond and sunk to the bottom. The pond was drained, trash

removed, and the bottom cleaned of sediment. Of interest was the large number of gold fish that were discovered in the pond, along with several other aquatic creatures.

The City says most of the fish were caught and stored in a stock tank. The pond has been refilled with fresh water and when the chlorine residual dissipates, the gold fish will be returned to the pond, as they help keep the bottom of the pond clean and free of algae and sediments. Eventually, City Manager Richard Meyers said the pond will be filled with treated effluent from the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will be used to irrigate the entire park on an ongoing basis.



courtesy photo

CJ Beach shows off two of the more notable creatures removed during a recent cleaning of the Bohemia Park pond.

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## 6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY Feb. 12

43° | 65°

Partly Cloudy

FRIDAY Feb. 13

44° | 64°

Partly Cloudy

SATURDAY Feb. 14

44° | 61°

Partly Cloudy

SUNDAY Feb. 15

40° | 60°

Partly Cloudy

MONDAY Feb. 16

42° | 58°

Mostly Sunny

TUESDAY Feb. 17

42° | 53°

Showers

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## OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

courteous. Did Mr. McCormack have an employee by the name of Armstrong, they wondered?

"As a matter of fact, I do," he replied, or words to that effect, and the captain then called to Armstrong to come out and give himself up. He was, as it turned out, a deserter from the U.S. Cavalry. Once he'd been collected, installed on a horse and surrounded by his once-and-future comrades, the bugler played "recall" and the troop rode away

in the direction of Eugene, leaving the astonished McCormacks to finish their supper.

"Now, these troops were stationed at Vancouver," Elwin McCormack wrote in his account of his relatives' adventure. "Had they ridden 150 miles to take Armstrong the Deserter? No, they had not. They had other business in this vicinity and had orders to pick up the deserter while they were there."

By the time poor Mr. Armstrong was on his way back to the barracks, that business was

all over and done, and the prize — a large home-made rebel flag — was safely stowed in a saddlebag.

One source claims there was a "small skirmish" before the flag was confiscated. While possible, this seems unlikely; if shots had been fired at U.S. Cavalry troopers, Smithfield would no doubt have been burned to the ground and its surviving occupants hauled back to Vancouver as prisoners. I've been able to find no record of anything like that.

But, skirmish or no, it was the first and only incidence of an operation by the U.S. Army against a non-Native American military enemy on Oregon soil, and it ended in defeat for the Smithfield rebels.

(Sources: McCormack, Elwin. "When the Rebel Flag Flew on the Long Tom," Lane County Historian, March 1962; Applin, Glenn. "Notes on the Civil War," Pacific Northwest Forum, winter 1978; Fletcher, Randol. Hidden History of Civil War Oregon. London: The History Press, 2011)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: [finn2@offbeatoregon.com](mailto:finn2@offbeatoregon.com) or 541-357-2222.

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