

# Hebron remembered at Cottage Grove dam presentation

BY SAM WRIGHT  
The Cottage Grove Sentinel

When asked how many knew where Hebron is, the audience at the Cottage Grove Community Center presentation burst into laughter. That's because it would take a boat and perhaps some scuba gear to reach the old Oregon town. While the topic of Saturday's presentation by Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Christie Johnson was on the Cottage Grove dam, the town of Hebron was very much the heart of the story line.

A vital source of information for Johnson was the book "They Called it Hebron," by the late Marie Geer.

"It was an invaluable source for learning about the town," she said.

Before a lot of the dams were built around the area, the Willamette Valley consistently fell victim to mass flooding. Johnson shared photographs from the early 20th century that depicted Cottage Grove residents getting around town by boat. The Cascade mountain range on the east and the Coast Range on the west make the valley act as a geographical bowl, where snow melts from the mountains, funneling a massive amount of water into the Willamette River, which passes through all the major towns in the Willamette valley. Without any dams, early



Construction of the dam began in 1940 and ended in 1942.

settlers suffered damages and loss of life over the course of

Please see **DAM**, Page 9A

## LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON  
For the Sentinel

Twelve Crow Middle/High School students attended the 2016 Math Fair at LCC on April 7. There were six different levels of math — pre-algebra through calculus — with two of our students in each group. The teams competed against seven other teams from Churchill, Creswell, Junction City, Marist, Oak Hill, Sheldon and South Eugene.

Two local students, Grace Wagner (Level 1) and Teancum Jentsch (Level 6) had high scores of 12 on a 15-point test. Only one other student from all the other schools scored that high. State competition will be

## OFFBEAT

Continued from page 5A

with an NBC show called "Highway of Adventure" (sometimes listed as "High Road to Adventure"), in which he recounted spine-tingling moments from the previous dozen years of hunting for dinosaur eggs and exploring unknown landscapes. He also sought and won the hand of Miss Paulina Stearns, daughter of a wealthy Michigan timber family. And then, in 1933, he went to Port Orford — probably to search for the legendary Port Orford Meteorite. It was a historic moment indeed.

"Two years later, to the amazement of its 300 inhabitants, Gilbert Gable appeared at Port Orford, Ore., and formed six companies to promote it as the only natural deep-water harbor on the rugged coast between Puget Sound and the Golden Gate," reports TIME Magazine in its somewhat supercilious 1938 account.

### The empire builder

Gable hit Port Orford like a temperate-zone hurricane. He was convinced the nearby countryside was peppered with deposits of copper, gold and other resources, all covered

over with billions of board-feet of old-growth timber. The harbor, having no river to complicate navigation with a bar to fight through, was just a million-dollar jetty away from becoming the perfect port ... but, of course, it would also need a railroad line.

For a few years things went very well indeed. "Since 1935, Gilbert Gable has wrought such changes in Southwestern Oregon that the region has been called his 'empire,'" TIME Magazine reported in April of 1938.

But: "Last week, Emperor Gable was dethroned by the Interstate Commerce Commission," the article continued.

It was the railroad line that took Gable down — the railroad line, and the sea. Just three months after Gable (now mayor of Port Orford) dedicated the harbor in a splendid ceremony before dignitaries from all over the state, the massive new Trans-Pacific and Port Orford Dock and Terminal Line breakwater collapsed in a huge storm. A temporary pier was soon built, but it didn't afford the kind of protection the harbor would need, and Gable's backers weren't willing to invest in a railroad line to service a harbor that might not be capable of functioning as more than a tem-

porary port of refuge.

In 1938, an ICC examiner quashed the whole plan, opining that Port Orford was never going to be an important center of commerce, and pulling Gable's "certificate of convenience and necessity" — and with that, his permit to build the railroad line.

**Desperation sets in**

Now Gable was caught in a catch-22. Without a railroad connection, his backers wouldn't help him finance the necessary repair and beefing-up of the harbor jetty. Without a beefed-up jetty protecting the harbor, the ICC wouldn't issue a permit to build a railroad.

An increasingly desperate Gable looked to the state for help in getting roads improved, so that the mining, logging and shipping companies that he'd founded could get their produce out to markets.

But politicians in Salem could barely be bothered to even notice the tiny port city of 1,000 residents that still cherished hopes of superseding Portland's harbor. Road-building dollars remained in scarce supply.

By fall of 1941, Gable was watching his dream slip from his fingers for want of a railroad

link. He started thinking about ways to bring pressure on the state to help him out. He started advocating for Curry County to split off from Oregon and become part of California — a suggestion that seems to have yielded amusement, alarm and ridicule in roughly equal measures from the governments of both states, but nothing more.

The suggestion did bring something else, though. It brought a visit from one of the West Coast's most enterprising and colorful newspapermen — Stanton Delaplaine.

Gable and "Del" hit it off immediately. Soon, the two of them were cooped up together in a cozy office with a bottle of 150-proof rum as a hard winter rain pounded the roof, making plans that would soon blossom into an apparently serious proposal to secede from the state outright.

We'll talk about those plans and their implementation next week.

(Sources: Laufer, Peter. The Elusive State of Jefferson. Guilford, Conn.: Twodot, 2013; "Gable's Gold Coast," TIME, 04 Apr 1938; Gable, Gilbert. "Thrills," Radio Digest, March 1931; Los Angeles Times, 1927-1930)



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## THINK BEFORE YOU REACT

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a reminder that every child deserves to feel safe at home and in his or her community.



If you feel you are in danger of harming your child, help is available. We provide support and counseling. Call us at 541-942-3939

**South Lane Mental Health Services, Inc.** 1345 Birch Ave., Cottage Grove  
541-942-3939 • slmh.org

To report possible child abuse or neglect, call 800.422.4453 or contact your local child protective services or law enforcement agency.

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# Worship Directory

**WORSHIP WITH US**

**6th & Gibbs Church of Christ**  
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822  
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine  
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey  
Services: 9am and 10:30am  
Christian Education  
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade  
www.6thandgibbs.com

**Calvary Baptist Church**  
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290  
Pastor: Riley Hendricks  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
Worship: 11:00am  
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm  
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

**Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove**  
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)  
541-942-6842  
Pastor: Jeff Smith  
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am  
Youth Group Bible Study  
Child Care 10:45am Service Only  
www.cgcalvary.org

**Center for Spiritual Living Cottage Grove**  
700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center)  
Rev. Bobby Lee  
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.  
(907) 230-5070  
www.facebook.com/CSLCottageGrove

**Church of Christ**  
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565  
Sunday Service: 10:30am

**Cottage Grove Bible Church**  
1200 East Quincy Avenue  
541-942-4771  
Pastor: Bob Singer  
Worship 11am  
Sunday School: 9:45am  
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,  
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm  
www.cgbible.org

**Cottage Grove Faith Center**  
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851  
Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet  
www.cg4.tv  
2 Sunday Services: 9am & 11am  
Full Children's Ministry available

**Covered Bridge Nazarene Church**  
152 S. M St.  
541-942-4422  
Pastor: Cindy Slaymaker  
Sunday School: 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am

**Delight Valley**  
Church of Christ  
33087 Saginaw Rd. East  
541-942-7711  
Pastor: Bob Friend  
Two Services:  
9am - Classic in the Chapel  
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

**First Baptist Church**  
301 S 6th St 541-942-8242  
Pastor: Steve Johnson  
Sunday School: 9:30am  
Worship: 11:00am  
Come Worship with us

**First Presbyterian Church**  
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479  
Pastor: Karen Hill  
Worship: 10:00am  
Sunday School: 10:00am  
www.cgpresbynews.com

**Grove Community Church**  
77820 Mosby Creek Rd.  
Cottage Grove, OR 97424  
541-942-0123  
Pastor: Bryan Parsons  
Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Nursery: Infant - Pre-K  
Kid's Church: K to 5th grade

**Hope Fellowship**  
United Pentecostal Church  
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061  
Pastor: Dave Bragg  
Worship: 11:00am Sunday  
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday  
www.hopefellowshipupc.com  
"FINDING HOPE IN YOUR LIFE"

**Living Faith Assembly**  
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612  
Pastor Rulon Combs  
Sunday School All Ages 9am  
Worship & Children's  
Church 10:30 am  
"The Bridge" Sat Evening Service 6:00pm  
Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm  
Children's Breakout Class: Wed. 6:30pm

**Non-Denominational Church of Christ**  
1041 Pennoyer Ave • 541-767-0447  
Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans  
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am  
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm  
www.pennoyeravvecoc.com

**Old Time Gospel Fellowship**  
103 S. 5th Street • 541-942-4999  
Pastor: Herb Carson  
Sunday Service: 10:00am  
Sunday Bible Study: 6:00pm  
We sing the old time hymns.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi**  
Catholic Churches  
1025 N. 19th St.  
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712  
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.  
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm  
Sun. 10:30am  
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:  
552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686  
Sunday: 8:30am

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050  
Rev. Lawrence Crumb  
"Church with the flags."  
Worship: Sunday 10:30am  
All Welcome

**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
820 South 10th Street  
541-942-5213  
Pastor: Kevin Miller  
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am  
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am  
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373  
Pastor: James L. Markus  
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am  
Sunday Worship 10:30 am  
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur  
5:00pm TLC Groups  
tlccg.com

**United Methodist Church**  
334 Washington • 541-942-3033  
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen  
Worship: 10:30am  
Adult Sunday School: 9:30am  
Comm. Dinner (Adults \$5, Kids Free)  
2nd & 3rd Monday 5-6:00pm  
cottagegroveumc.org

**"VICTORY" Country Church**  
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913  
Pastor: Barbara Dockery  
Worship Service: 10:00am  
Message: 11:00am  
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**Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature in the newspaper. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, please contact the Cottage Grove Sentinel at 541-942-3325.**