

Cottage Grove Retrospective

A look back at a Sentinel story from 30 years ago

April 23, 1986

Expo week kicks off

Expo '86 week has begun in Cottage Grove.

To kick off the event, local Expo committee members gathered at city hall Monday with freshly-produced buttons to sell and to generate excitement for the week's activities.

Expo committee button chairman Jim Reeves says the proceeds from the sale of the buttons (which cost \$1) will be used to help fund the committee's work toward providing a city display at Expo on July 5.

Reeves said the buttons are available at The Sentinel or city hall. Buttons are also available from committee members or at Bauder and Young, Specialty Tours, Siuslaw Valley Bank, The Baker on Main, McCoy's Pharmacy, The Cottage Grove Bank, First Interstate and Roud-tu-it.

However, he urged residents to buy their buttons early because only 1,000 were produced.

"I think people ought to buy them in a hurry because they aren't going to last very long," said Reeves.

He added that the committee should net about \$700 from the button sale. Jim Bailor designed the button logo.



Jim Reeves and Mayor Jim Gilroy help kick off Expo week in Cottage Grove Monday with the announcement of a button sale.

The button sale was one of several events designed to help link the community to the Expo which begins May 2 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Leading up to the Expo, Cottage Grove will hold its own week of

events which includes a "Friendship Relay," a sneak preview of Cottage Grove's Expo display at the National Guard Armory, a bicycle rally and a community-wide Expo open house at the Armory on Saturday,

POLICE BLOTTER

Cottage Grove Police Department 24-Hour Anonymous Tip Line: 767-0504

April 18

Patrol Request, E. Main St.

A reporting person requested a patrol car to come by the location during graveyard shifts due to skateboarders skating on the porch and rails around her location.

Foot Patrol, Riverside Park

During a routine foot patrol, officers contacted a group of seven males drinking in public. The officers obtained no names.

Drug Info, Bohemia Park

A complainant advised that a male is sitting under a covered area at the location, wearing a black T-shirt and a black hat and doing exchanges with teenagers that have showed up. The subject was sitting in the open end

of the covered area.

April 19

Abandoned Vehicles/Illegal Parking, various locations

Between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., a total of 10 cars were either moved or cited for illegal parking. Five of the six abandoned vehicles were moved, and the illegally parked cars were cited for parking in the wrong direction. Locations for these incidents include Carver Pl, South 8th St., 13th St., Taylor St., and Harrison St.

Suspicious Subject, S 6th St.

An anonymous caller reported of a male subject appearing to be "tweaking." The subject

had been outside all night, talking loudly and causing a noise disturbance. The subject was riding a girl's bike and still talking loudly. Another call reported that the same subject approached a complainant when he went outside to get the mail.

April 20

Disturbance, N 16th St.

A caller advised of a disturbance that occurred at the location and a male subject broke out all the windows of a motorhome with a pipe.

April 23

Criminal mischief, Johnson St.

The free library at the near-

by park had been demolished. There were no suspects or witnesses to the demolition.

Wanted Subject, Douglas Ave.

An officer was out with a subject who was wanted for the unlawful use of a vehicle and theft. The subject was taken into custody and transported to the station to be booked.

April 24

Reckless Driving, Row River Rd.

An orange Mustang was doing donuts and burning rubber in the parking lot. The driver was contacted and cited for careless driving.

CITY BEAT *From the City's Friday Update*

Drug take-back

The Cottage Grove Police Department is participating in the 11th annual Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 30. Everyone is encouraged to check their medicine cabinets for prescription medications that are outdated or unused and bring them to the collection box located in the Police Department, which is available seven days a week in the lobby.

Bikes to Blooms

On Saturday, May 7 from 8

a.m. to 2 p.m., six free wildflower tours will be offered at Row Point and Bake Stewart Park.

Lane Workforce Partnership open house

The Mayor and City Council have been invited to an open house that Lane Workforce Partnership will be holding on Friday, May 6 from 3-7 p.m. at their new location, 1401 Willamette Street (Eugene Chamber of Commerce building) in

Eugene.

White trucks in the roads

Residents may have noticed official looking white trucks parked in streets over the last couple of weeks running equipment down manholes and workers checking sewer cleanouts or gas meters. The City said the workers are contractors for Northwest Natural Gas and are conducting a "Crossbore" program, which aims to check existing sewer lines and laterals for intrusions from gas line installations. When boring to install gas lines, occasionally the line may go through a sewer line and go unnoticed for years compared to the immediate indication if a water line is damaged. The information gathered on the lines, including video, will be provided to the City at the completion of their project which the City said will "continue for a while."

Yard of the Week

The 19th season of the Yard of the Week will begin with the first 2016 Yard of the Week awarded on May 6. The Yard of the Week program will run through to the last full week of September. The City asks the public to be on the lookout for those members of the community that deserve recognition for their efforts to beautify it. Single-family residences within the City of Cottage Grove are eligible for the award. To encourage more participation and recognize more homes within the community, all recipients of the Yard of the Week must wait two years before receiving the award again. In addition to the attractive Yard of the Week sign in their yard, the recipients of the award also receive a credit for a free month of water from the City and a gift certificate from the Chamber of Commerce good at local businesses.

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Offbeat Oregon History

Oregon Trail Medicine; or, How to Not Die of Dysentery

BY FINN J.D. JOHN
For the Sentinel

Readers old enough to remember the Rex Morgan, M.D., comic strip will have a good sense of the glory years of medicine in Oregon, and across the country too. For the past 75 years or so, doctors have enjoyed probably the most prestigious position in American society.

But of course, 75 years is not all that long a time. You don't have to go too much farther back to find a very different kind of medical profession — one shot through from end to end with sadistic vivisectionists, skulking grave robbers, incompetent dabblers, ruthless dogmatists, delusional amateurs — and, of course, plenty of predatory swindlers.

It's hard for modern people to believe, but in the mid-1800s medical practice had much more in common with religion than science. Microbes were completely undreamed-of, and no one knew why people got sick; so everything from "too much blood" to the vengeance of an angry god got blamed for things like cholera and malaria. And, as is the case with religious instruction, followers of particular "sects" could get pretty fierce with one another.

Of course, the Native Americans had their own healing traditions, many of which are now lost. But back when the United States was founded, European medicine was still mired in the imaginings of Galen, a Roman physician from the second century A.D. who claimed that a balance of "humours" — blood, phlegm, "black bile" and "yellow bile" — was the key to wellness, and that all sickness stemmed from an imbalance in these four simple things. To cure disease, one simply had to restore that balance by various combinations of bleeding and purging.

By the time the Lewis and Clark expedition showed up in Oregon back in 1805, European medicine had barely moved from this position. The main innovation had been a sort of mania for "heroic" application of the bleedings and purgings — forcing already-sick people to endure the loss of pints of blood and spend hours straining and retching over chamber-pots and out-houses. Naturally, this abuse

killed plenty of people who otherwise would have survived. Everyday people had started to notice this, and the respectability of mainstream medicine was probably at its lowest ebb.

And that was the kind of medicine that was being practiced by the members of the Lewis and Clark expedition, on its way to Oregon. Prominent in the voyagers' first-aid kit were hundreds of beefy white tablets of mercury chloride, marketed as "Dr. Rush's Bileous Pills" — a concoction of American founding father Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The pills were designed to restore a patient's bile balance by inducing "heroic" purging, but mostly what they got used for was suppression of syphilis symptoms and as an emergency laxative. The men called them "Thunder clappers."

But, of course, the lore of medical men like Dr. Rush was supposed to be good for more than just temporary relief of constipation. By Lewis and Clark's time, the effective moral bankruptcy of mainstream medicine was common knowledge and was leading to fresh approaches such as homeopathy ("like cures like") and hydropathy (the hot-and-cold "water cure"), and to the witches'-brew formulations of herbalist Samuel Thompson. And it was those schemes that most characterized the state of the medical arts in early Oregon — especially Thompson's ideas, which borrowed heavily from Native American traditions.

By the 1840s when emigrants started coming out to Oregon on wagon trains, most regular people had little use for mainstream medicine and looked to Thompson's folk remedies to get them through tough times.

The lucky participants in Sol Tetherow's wagon train, back in 1845, got better medical treatment than most when they were sick, despite wagonmaster Tetherow's lack of medical credentials. What he did have, though, was a little book of remedies, courtesy of a Thompsonian practitioner named Dr. William Dains.

Everyone who's ever played the Oregon Trail educational videogame — that is, everyone who attended public school in Oregon in the last 30 years or so — knows what happened in the game when Little Sally got "dysentery." Despite administrations of Epsom salts,

Please see **OFFBEAT**, Page 11A

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