

Display from A1

Simonsen. “[Cascade Home Center] has gone through three sets of owners. The last owner, he started Gold Beach Lumber down in Gold Beach and we kind of got the feeling in the community that, ‘Oh, local people don’t own us anymore.’”

Simonsen lives in Lorane and went to Cottage Grove High School. “I’ve chosen to work in this community my whole life,” he said.

He decided to connect with the Cottage Grove Museum and Historical Society to see what could be done about putting some of the city’s history on display.

“I wanted to bring our community history back and just let people see what

these organizations do,” said Simonsen. “And just to beautify downtown, was what our thoughts were.”

Tara Sue Hughart, Cottage Grove Museum coordinator and vice-president of Historical Society, was happy to help the business re-establish its roots in the community.

“Stan wanted Cascade to reflect their heritage here in Cottage Grove – reflect how they feel being grounded in Cottage Grove,” said Hughart. “They wanted people to know that we’re still here — hometown people. And we’re vested in Cottage Grove. So we tried to reflect that with pictures.”

Cascade Home Center is not technically part of the Historic District, “but it is historic within itself.

It’s just got such a rich history,” she added. “I think it’s great that they want to embrace Cottage Grove. Our Historic District is just right here and this building’s been here a long time.”

After a lengthy selection process, a third party which handles vinyl displays was hired to install the photos.

The pictures have been turning heads almost since the moment they were put up.

“When we actually had the company coming to install these and they were installing them on this side (Fifth Street), there was a crash out here because somebody was looking at the images,” said Cascade’s head of marketing and advertising Teresa Engdahl.

“They rear-ended somebody.”

The collection includes photos of all the covered bridges in the area, turn-of-the-century miners and loggers, and snapshots of downtown celebrations and daily life.

Documented instances of flooding display the gravity natural disaster events had in the community, one photo showing a canoe paddling down Main Street.

Hughart estimated that some of the pictures date back to before the 20th century.

“These go back to, I’d say, 1895,” she said. “And then some are as recent as 1940s. So it’s a wide spectrum of the different times in Cottage Grove.”

Though many shots are striking and can transfix the attention of passers-by, Hughart did not think any photos were taken by famous or professional

Passers-by take a moment to enjoy the historic images on display on the street-front windows of the Cascade Home Center in the Cottage Grove Historic District.



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

photographers of the day. “These are just amateur photographers,” she said.

Katy Vaughn, president of the Historical Society, worked in tandem with the museum for the project. Vaughn and Hughart said they often work well together.

“We merge,” said Vaughn. “We send people back and forth because at the Historical Society we keep a lot of documents and paper files and things like that and these guys (the Cottage Grove Museum) have the stuff.”

Hughart added, “The museum and Historical Society just have an abundance of pictures, so that was quite a process of elimination.”

The pair estimate it took about a year until the photos made it up on windows.

“We went through hundreds [of photos],” said Vaughn, but added, “It was so much fun looking at old photos and helping them select what they wanted. I just loved the idea and we were so happy to be involved.”

All parties expressed their pleasure with the outcome.

“And I’m super happy with their selection,” said Vaughn. “I think they got a little bit from everything.”

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