

# Celebrating a Keaton Classic



COURTESY PHOTO

Buster Keaton's 1926 design of the Civil War town of Marietta, Ga. circa 1861. Fourteenth Street in Cottage Grove was a dirt road with false-front buildings constructed on each side to create the town used in the film's opening sequence. At the end of the film, the scene was modified to become Chattanooga, Tenn. Today, Safeway is located to the left and Domino's Pizza and the Cottage Grove Post Office are to the right. In the background is Hansen Butte, seen many times in scenes shot from various angles.

## Historical Society hosting annual Buster Keaton Film Night

The annual Buster Keaton Film Night, a Cottage Grove Historical Society fundraiser, will be featuring the Keaton silent film classic, "The General."

This fun evening celebrates the silent film star, who was the son of vaudeville performers and grew up around the stage. His fame would peak in the silent film era as an actor and director.

While known for his deadpan facial expression during comedic routines, Keaton's true genius can be seen in his development of comedic stunts which he performed himself. Many of his rou-

tines have been replicated over the years.

Keaton came to Cottage Grove in 1926 to film what would become the blockbuster hit of the time, "The General." Local streets became the backdrop and local landmarks can be seen in the background of many shots.

Cottage Grove's railroad tracks were key to filming this Civil War tale based, loosely, on the real story of the chase to recover a stolen supply train.

The Buster Keaton Film night is an annual event presented by the Cottage Grove Historical So-

ciety to celebrate Keaton and his contribution to Cottage Grove's cinematic beginnings.

Participants will enjoy a couple of his short films, followed by the feature. Join the Historical Society this Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Cottage Grove Community Center, 700 Gibbs Street.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

There is a \$5 admission fee, and concessions will be available. Step back in time, smell the fresh air-popped popcorn, hear the hum of a reel-to-reel projector and enjoy the magic of silent films.



## Pet Tips 'n' Tales

By Mary Ellen  
"Angel Scribe"

### Gracie needs manners!



Gracie (left) loves cats and hates dogs — which is a good thing for her kitty sister, Fiesta.

Heartbroken after the passing of their dog, Emily, John and Donna were dog-less for the first time in 38 years!

"We can't live without dogs — just can't. We had to get another dog ASAP," admitted Donna.

An hour's drive south at a pet shelter, she located a dog needing a forever home that resembled Emily, except this Dachshund/Beagle cross, Gracie, had floppy ears.

"The dog was shy and standoffish, but we wanted her, especially since her adoption profile read, 'she loves other dogs, cats and children,'" said Donna. "Could it be more perfect?"

Two days later, "Gracie" was spayed; and as John walked her to the car, they noticed that life with Gracie may be a tad different than it had been with Emily. Gracie jumped behind the driver's seat and wouldn't budge. Donna sat in the back seat consoling their new pound pup.

Donna surmised, "If I hugged her for the hour's drive home, then maybe she'll feel safe and relax. But the scared dog did not respond as planned."

When they arrived home, John and Donna discovered that their new dog behaved more like a cat than a dog as it leaped onto their furniture, just like a cat. It had other cat-like behaviors, so they assumed that it was raised by cats. Which may explain her next behavior.

Excited to walk their new dog, they put a harness on Gracie and proudly led her around the neighborhood.

"Things did not go well," said Donna.

They discovered that the dog, who was supposed to be as peaceful as Gandhi, did not like other dogs — at all.

"She hated dogs; big ones, small ones, every dog she met," said Donna.

They promptly signed Gracie up for doggy obedience classes and, in the meantime, amended their walking behavior to meet her limitations.

"Well, her obedience classes did not go well either," said Donna. "After three exhausting lessons we decided to just keep her away from other dogs. We even thought of contacting TV's famous dog trainer, Cesar Millan, because when a dog approached, we had to reverse directions, pulling her down the road barking. It was like hanging onto a heavy log as it rolled down a hill. Walking a crazed 50-pound dog is exhausting. Gracie was teaching us that at four years of age, 'You can't teach an old dog new tricks!' Maybe her cat mentality made her hate dogs? Another mystery!"

All Donna knew about her dog's background was that she was found on the streets after delivering numerous litters of puppies. The canine mother's face has scars from previous dog encounters while fending for their lives.

"We love and accept Gracie for the way she is and work around her PTSD and separation anxiety," said Donna. "If she doesn't see me, she panics and, like most mothers, I have not been to the bathroom alone since her adoption. She is an affectionate dog who absolutely adores us and her two kitty siblings, Lily and Fiesta. She loves attention and people giving her pats, belly rubs and she snuggles with the cats."

In the five years that Gracie has kept Donna and John on their toes, she is slowly getting used to other dogs and has a few dog friends. Their house sitter, Alice (of the famous Buddy rescue article) brings Buddy with her and the dogs are best pals.

"We are dedicated dog lovers and, in our home, 'the dog always wins!'" said Donna. "We will never know what shaped her before she arrived. We've learned to read Gracie's body language. We adopted her for life. We were her hope and her love for us overrides any negative aspects. She is goofy, weird, makes us laugh, is a good guard dog and she has a home that dearly loves her."

#### TIPS:

"Sleep quality is often affected by depression and fortunately, sharing your life with a dog can improve your quality of sleep," writes Canadian pet trainer and columnist, Joan Klucha. "A Mayo clinical sleep disorder study found that people who slept with their pets felt more secure, relaxed and content when their pets slept close by, which led to falling asleep faster, staying asleep longer and an overall better quality of sleep."

Share your fur-avorite pet memory or adventure at [angelscribe@msn.com](mailto:angelscribe@msn.com). Visit Pet Tips 'n' Tales on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales](http://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales) Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program.

## LORANE NEWS

CONTRIBUTED BY  
LIL THOMPSON  
FOR THE SENTINEL

- The next CAL School Board meeting is next Thurs., Oct. 17, at Apple-gate Elementary.

- Lorane Grange hosts spaghetti dinner and bingo is this Fri., Oct. 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with din-

ner in the hall. Bingo starts at 6:30 p.m. The progressive bingo has grown. Come have great food, great prices and fun with family, friends and neighbors.

- You can still join the Ukulele Group at Crow

high school. Come by Wednesday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the music room. The class is from beginners to advanced and everyone had fun learning.

## 6-day weather forecast

THURSDAY

56° | 47°

Rain

FRIDAY

57° | 48°

Rain

SATURDAY

52° | 45°

Rain

SUNDAY

57° | 47°

Rain

MONDAY

65° | 48°

Rain

TUESDAY

63° | 43°

Rain

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