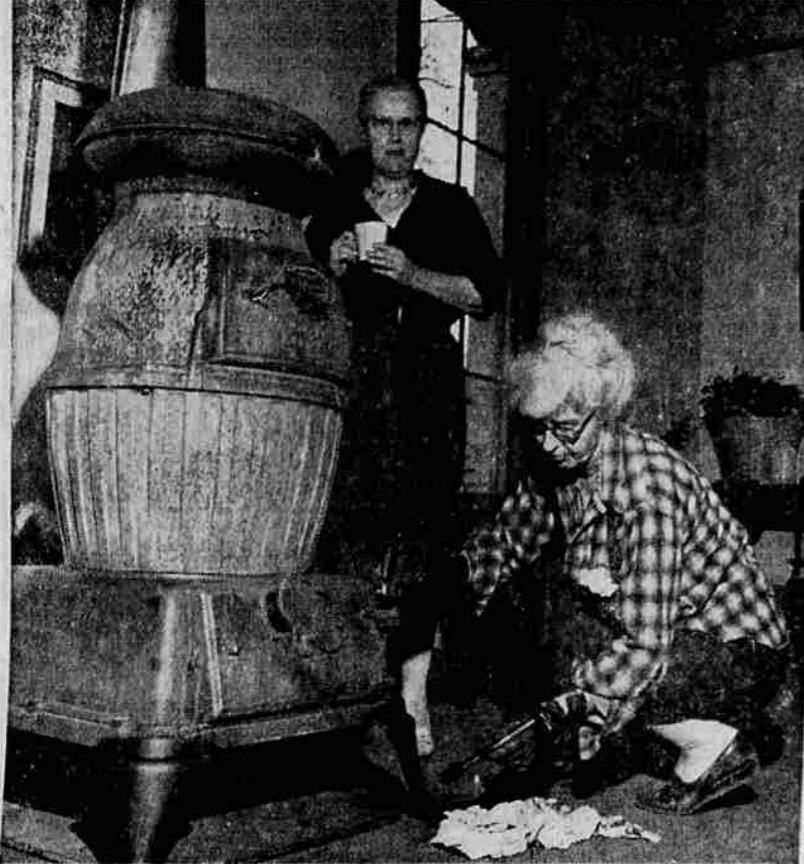


Rehabilitation of U.S. Hotel Is Started



CLEANS STOVE — Mrs. Edna Valentine, Jacksonville postmaster's wife, daubs on stove blacking in a room of the old U.S. hotel in Jacksonville. Mrs. Dwight L. Houghton, of the Siskiyou Pioneer Sites Foundation looks on. The room was used recently for a meeting of the Sites Foundation to discuss the rehabilitation of the pioneer hotel. Mrs. Houghton donated some of the fixtures in the room.



PIONEER HOTEL—This is the way the old United States hotel used to look in Jacksonville's pioneer days as pictured by pioneer photographer Peter Britt. Notice the band in uniform, the old gas light in the foreground, the dirt streets and the sign United States Saloon. It was constructed by George W. Holt from bricks of clay taken from Jackson creek north of town. It was completed in 1880. The organizations working on the rehabilitation of the hotel plan to construct the broad second story veranda as it was when the hotel was in its prime under the management of Madame Holt, the builder's wife.

Stillwater, Okla.—A moment of absent-mindedness by Mrs. Clara Purdy was credited with saving a building on the Oklahoma State University campus. Once outside she remembered she had forgotten her purse. When she reentered the building she smelled smoke and called the fire department which found a blaze in a partition.

Beekman Bank Among Buildings To Be Restored

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Staff Writer
Sweet strains of fiddle music accompanied by the shrill tinkle of an old time piano stir the stillness of Jacksonville's historical past as ladies and gentlemen dressed in antebellum costume swirl over the floor of the old U.S. hotel ballroom.

Downstairs a mustachioed hotel clerk in frock coat pushes the hotel registry across the ornate counter to out-of-state visitors. Gas lights flicker overhead.

This is the scene which many patrons and citizens of Jacksonville picture today as they go to work with hammer, saw and paint-scraper to rehabilitate the living town of pioneer history.

Two immediate goals are rehabilitation of the Beekman bank and the hotel. As interest snowballs the people responsible for this rejuvenation hope other projects will be started.

Support Project
Organizations pushing this work are the Jacksonville Lions club, Southern Oregon Historical Society and the Siskiyou Pioneer Sites Foundation. Backing the local historical society is the Oregon Historical Society, which has taken over the lease of the bank to further its rehabilitation.

Money is always needed in this kind of work. However, right now Jacksonville's George Brewer says they need anybody and everybody who can use a paint scraper, hammer, saw and putty knife.

Many of the windows have been repaired and the hotel's front door carefully scraped and rehung. A large hole pried through bricks in the rear of the building is being repaired.

The Siskiyou Pioneer Sites Foundation recently met in the rehabilitated hotel lobby. There the old woodburning stove has been polished and two ancient gas lamps swung from davits in the ceiling. Old paintings have been hung on the walls, too.

Large Deluxe Rooms
The old hotel contains large deluxe rooms and dining room on the first floor, plus the kitchen and lobby. The second floor holds the huge ballroom and smaller hotel rooms.

The broad balcony on which guests could promenade or "take the sun" will be restored along the two sides facing California st. and Third st.

According to historical notes on file in the Jacksonville Museum, the U. S. hotel was completed in 1880 by George W. Holt a master brick mason. Bricks for the hotel were made of clay from Jackson creek north of town.

The property was purchased from Sam Vore in 1879. He was given board and room for one dollar "for the rest of his natural life," according to the agreement.

Rooms Had Fireplaces
The downstairs rooms had fireplaces and some had stoves. They were large enough for two or three room apartments.

Guiding spirit behind this early day venture was a vivacious, strong-willed French woman who married George Holt so she could have her "dream hotel," according to early accounts. When out in public, so stories tell, Holt was made to walk behind his wife.

Madam Holt celebrated the opening of the hotel with a Fourth of July ball in 1880. Many of southern Oregon's notables received especially engraved invitations.

A small polished brass field-piece glistened in the sun. Its lanyard was yanked and it belched out black smoke with a roar. This was a signal for dedication speeches from the broad second story balcony and unfurling of a silken stars and stripes.

Open With Dance
That night under the yellowish glow of the gas lamps rough looking, heavily bearded miners and "their gals" stomped to the rhythm of Professor Scott's band, which opened the festivities with a rollicking tune.

They mingled with dandified gentlemen in their high stock collars and broadcated vests under jackets with velvet collars and tails. They also wore the tight-fitting trousers and highly polished boots of the period.



CHECKING BANK — The old Beekman bank in pioneer Jacksonville was open briefly recently as local historians and members of the Southern Oregon Historical Society made an inspection of the building and its contents. Raymond Reter, prominent packing house operator and a director of the local society, checks some of the contents. Off in a corner under the ancient eight-day



SCRAPE PAINT—George Brewer and Norman Butts, both of Jacksonville, scrape at some of the old blistered paint around a window frame in the pioneer U.S. hotel. Work parties have been at the hotel almost every day scraping paint, hammering, sawing and generally cleaning up the pioneer landmark. The people working on the hotel need donations of money and materials, but particularly need more manpower to continue the work.

more dignified dances. Through it all bustling Madame Holt who smiled graciously at the many compliments on her hotel as she saw to the passing of imported brandy and wine and distribution of dainty sweetmeats in a small ante-room reserved for the more distinguished guests and their ladies.

President in Hotel
This auspicious opening was followed that fall by the visit of President and Mrs. Hayes accompanied by General Sherman, famous Civil War commander of union forces. Also in the party were a number of cavalry officers, President Hayes' physician and his wife.

The special Presidential coach pulled to a stop in front of the hotel in a whirl of dust, and with the sun glinting brightly on the sabers and sidearms of the U.S. Cavalry escort as the troopers swung down from their mounts. They stood at attention as the President and his lady stepped from the carriage, followed by General Sherman.

Slapping the dust from their pants and stamping the dust from their boots, the soldiers followed the party into the hotel where Madam Holt and town notables stood to greet the new arrivals.

Set's New Custom
That evening Mrs. Hayes set a new custom among the gentility by turning her wine glass upside down on the table as waitresses moved along the table serving wine. Out of deference to the President's lady none of the guests accepted liquor.

The men excused themselves later to sip wine and smoke Havana cigars of the period in the President's suite of rooms.

The Presidential party left early next morning for Roseburg, but not before the bill was paid. And this provided one of the liveliest anecdotes of the day. Madame Holt presented the President with a bill for \$150.

Looking sternly at the proprietress, the President noted that the Palace hotel in San Francisco charged only \$6 a day per person.

"Madame, I did not want to purchase the hotel. All I wanted was to stay in it," the President stated. Whereupon Madame Holt looked the president in the eye and repeated the price. She finally got it after much protest.

Starts To Flourish
The hotel directly on the Oregon-California stage coach route soon started to flourish. The French woman soon became widely known and loved for her hotel service which included excellent food. She was reported as "very warm-hearted."

An advertisement of that day in the Democrat-Times featured her Franco-American meals, thanked the patrons of the hotel for their response and solicited their continued patronage. Madame Holt was well-liked by the newspaper's printers since she regularly brought them cake and wine. Outside of President Hayes' complaint about his hotel bill.

Small Worlds Around Us



By Lynn M. Watkins

The Tick is One Pinhead Who Actually is Dangerous
It's not a very illustrious family. Well-known of course, but with one or two exceptions, the members of this class of living animals are rated pretty low in human estimation. Of the entire group the daddy-long-legs is probably the least obnoxious to the greatest number of people.

One of the members of the group, the spider, is tolerated, but even this one is objectionable to many folks. The others are treated with horror, rage, or absolute disgust; they are the mites, chiggers, scorpions and the ticks. The ticks are probably the worst. There are many kinds; the cattle tick, dog tick, chicken tick, ear tick, and Lone Star tick.

Millions Lost
The cattle tick transmits tick fever to members of the bovine family of warm blooded animals, and has caused millions of dollars loss to cattle raisers. Peculiar, but the cattle tick only seems to infect bovines with tick fever, other animals seem immune.

It would seem to be the prize winning statement of all time, to have had the scientist say that a tick is a mite. Somehow we always thought of a mite as something sort of cute, or very, very small. Although the tick is small, he certainly isn't cute. He's a monster, a creature that sucks the blood from warm blooded animals.

Ticks are wingless, but they get around. They have four pairs of legs and a grasping nature, along with an inexhaustible amount of patience. They seem able to spend an entire lifetime waiting for some unsuspecting victim to come along close enough for them to get aboard.

In actual stature, the individual tick doesn't amount to much. A full grown one would be about 1/32nd of an inch in overall length. His head just about comes to a point. Unlike the sideshow freak, however, this "pinhead" is actually dangerous. His one ambition in life is to drive his pointed head into the flesh of some animal, fill himself with blood, and later die on a full stomach.

That happy event of death usually does not take place until after a group of eggs are laid, so that the tick race goes on endlessly.

Arms Act As 'Pointers'
Located on either side of the tick's head are two arms which act as "pointers," and spread apart once the have entered the skin of the victim, making the tick's removal pretty difficult. Forceful removal sometimes results in

and reinforced most beams and braces.

In 1959, the Gold Rush Jubilee proceeds went to the Sites Foundation for reconstruction of the hotel. Jacksonville citizens and patrons hope these efforts will continue until all of the historical buildings are reconstructed.

In 1948, the Jacksonville Lions club gave it a new roof

pulling the tick in two, so secure is its hold in the victim's flesh.

Once attached, the tick sucks blood into its body until it can hold no more, then he drops off to lay eggs and die. But for the uncounted millions of ticks that patiently wait on grass stems, leaves, bushes, trees, or on the earth itself, only a relatively few can expect to make the transfer.

Most of them wait in vain and eventually die after several months, their appetite for blood unsatisfied—this should happen to more of them.

(Released by the Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1960)

Phoenix High to Use Readers in English Classes

Phoenix—Use of qualified personnel to act as English theme readers recently was approved by the Phoenix school board.

The program, according to E. B. James, superintendent, will go into effect immediately, and will provide a reader for each full time English teacher in Phoenix High school.

The regular teachers will assign weekly themes to all high school students. About half of these will be corrected and evaluated by the teacher aides, and the other half by the regular English teacher. The themes will then be returned to the students for correction under the supervision of the regular teacher.

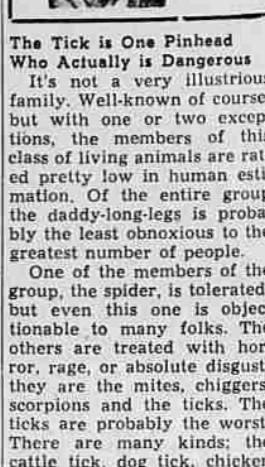
Purpose of Program
The purpose of the program is to impress the quality, and increase the writing output of each high school student, with all themes being graded for content, usage, punctuation, grammar, spelling, and style, and then returned to the student for correction or rewriting.

Readers for this program have been available through the efforts of Dr. Arthur Kreisman, chairman of the humanitarian division at Southern Oregon college.

A group of more than 50 qualified aides were selected from 300 applicants on the basis of comprehensive and exacting tests, as well as personal interviews administered by Dr. Kreisman and his staff. These readers are qualified for use by the schools of the area who may desire to employ them for this purpose.

Use of this means for improving the writing ability of high school students has been successfully pursued in a number of schools in the country in recent months, James said.

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Pioneer Hotel Keeper



GEORGE HOLT
Builder of U.S. Hotel

4-H NEWS
Milk Pail Ranglers
On Dec. 3, the Milk Pail Ranglers held their 4-H meeting at Linda Sommer's house. We set our goals for the following year.

Christmas presents were exchanged. Refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned.

Douglas Cook, Reporter

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