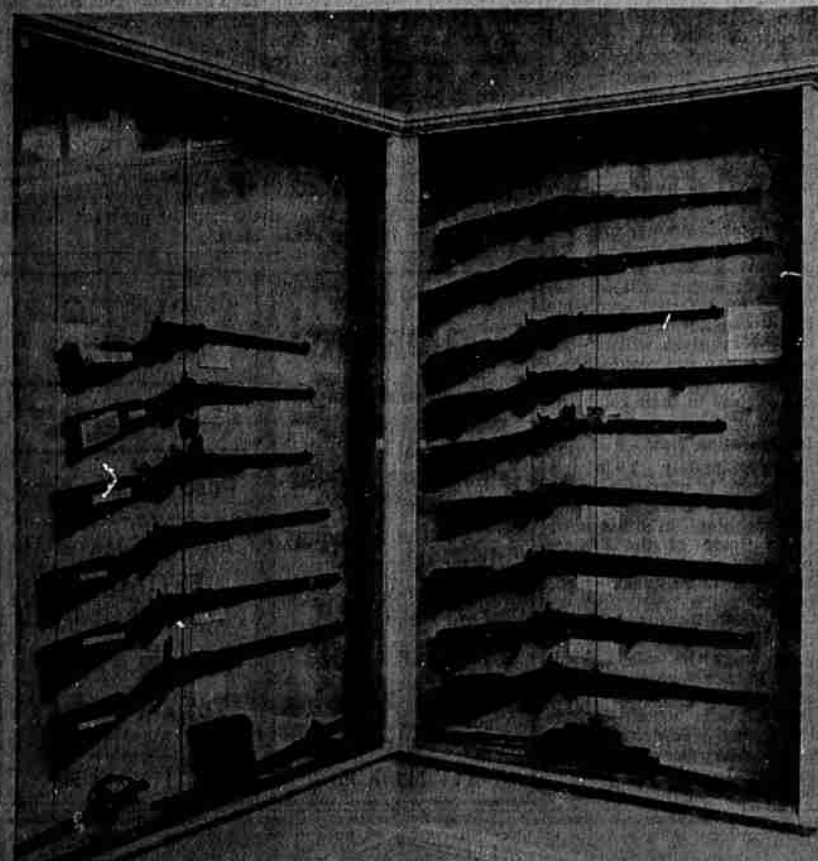
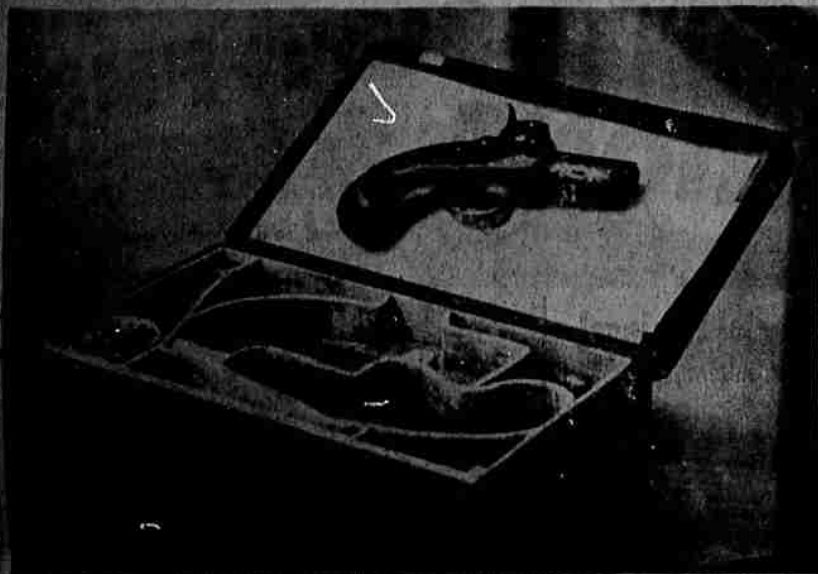


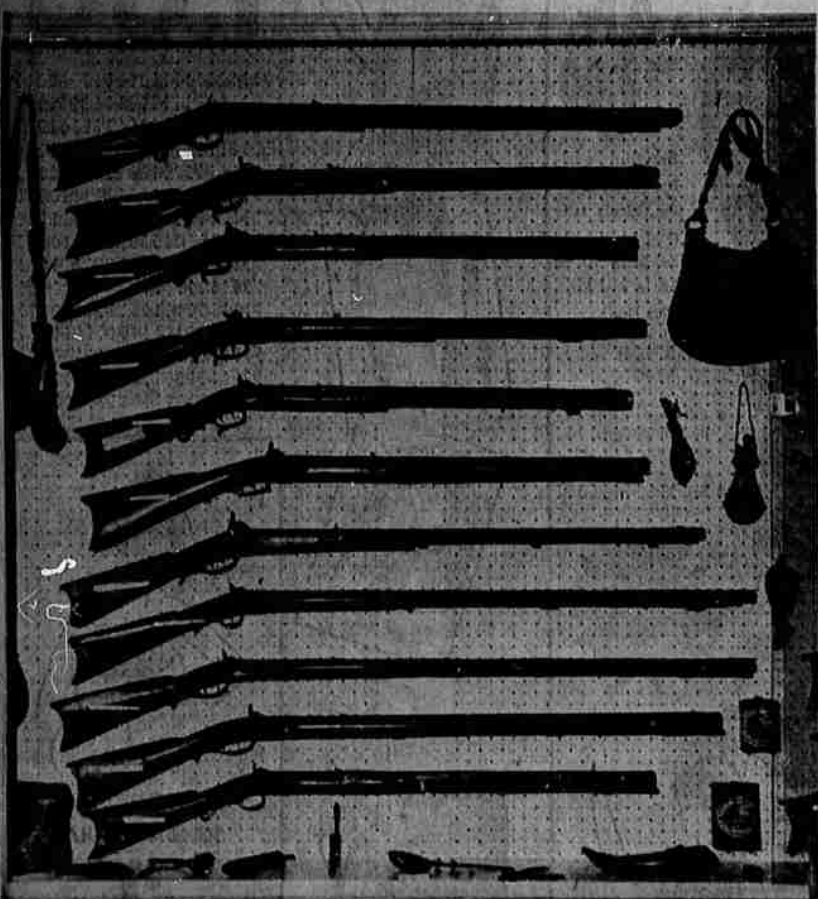
Area's History Contained in Museum Room



CIVIL WAR GUNS—Included in the collection of guns at the museum in Jacksonville is this collection of Civil War period weapons.



PERCUSSION PISTOL—This Derringer pistol was owned by C. C. Beekman, early Jacksonville banker. It is similar to the pistol used to assassinate President Lincoln.



MUZZLE-LOADERS—This is a portion of muzzle-loading percussion Plains rifles and the display in the Jacksonville museum of Kentucky rifles with accessories.

Gun Collection in Jacksonville Is Fascinating Display

By ART CHIPMAN
Mail Tribune Contributor

The television screens of the Rogue valley regularly portray quasi-historical experiences of early westerners. To the believing eyes of the young and unfortunately, many of the adults, too, the TV antics of Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp, Annie Oakley and so on, represent authentic history.

The facts are, Hickok was an effeminate phoney whose heroic killings turn out to be considerably less than courageous. Wyatt Earp was a fugitive from justice for a year and would probably be arrested for white slavery if he were operating in Dodge City today. Annie Oakley, most likely, never knowingly saw a live rustler or outlaw in her life.

History, as it is portrayed on the TV screen, by and large, merely represents the fertile imagination of Hollywood writers.

At the Jacksonville museum there is a room full of history which, if it could speak, would reveal volumes of true experiences far more exciting than the soiled heroics of Earp or Hickok.

It is a room full of guns, powder horns, swords, daggers and so forth. Antique flintlocks from the late 1600's, percussion weapons of the 1800's to the present metallic cartridge guns, representative weapons are to be found in the fascinating gun collection at the museum.

The history that has touched some of the guns is known to a limited degree. For example, there is an unusual muzzle-loading percussion rifle, engraved and presented to N. C. Dean of the 1st Louisiana Volunteers and used in the Mexican War of 1846-1848. This beautiful rifle was carried through the war and eventually arrived in the Rogue valley with the Dean family, early settlers to this area.

Courageous Pioneer
And, for sheer heroics, little can surpass the story of Mrs. Mary Ann Harris, a courageous pioneer mother who fought off a band of attacking Rogue River Indians who had killed her husband. Although knowing little of the use of guns she managed to keep shooting frequently and accurately enough to save herself and her wounded daughter.

One of the muzzle-loading guns she used is on permanent display at the museum. Fittingly enough, the intrepid Mrs. Harris' granddaughter, Miss Mary Hanley, is the curator of the museum.

Another significant symbol of the virility and lusty days of the old west and southern Oregon is emphasized by the Derringer, once owned by C. C.

Beekman, the pioneer banker of Jacksonville.

This Derringer is the same type of pistol used by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Lincoln. Mr. Beekman is supposed to have kept it close at hand during banking hours to forestall any quick money making schemes dreamed up by the local residents.

May Have Carried It

Possibly this same Derringer was also carried by Mr. Beekman on his lonely courier trips over the Siskiyou. Who knows the comforting reassurance Mr. Beekman perhaps obtained by occasionally patting the handle of his Derringer as he rode along some dark, lonely trail with thousands of dollars in gold dust in his saddle bags.

Many tales could be unwound from the muzzle-loading combination rifle-shotgun made in St. Louis by the famous early gunsmith Horace Dimick, sold to some hopeful, westward-moving pioneer, later a possession of the unfortunate Modoc Indian Captain Jack and eventually to the hands of an early prospector who was shot and killed near Jump Off Joe Creek when he went berserk.

Each year many people visit the Oregon Caves and pick up snatches of information about their discovery, but in the gun collection at the museum one can see the muzzle-loading rifle actually carried by Elijah Davidson at the time he discovered the caves.

Horns of a Deer

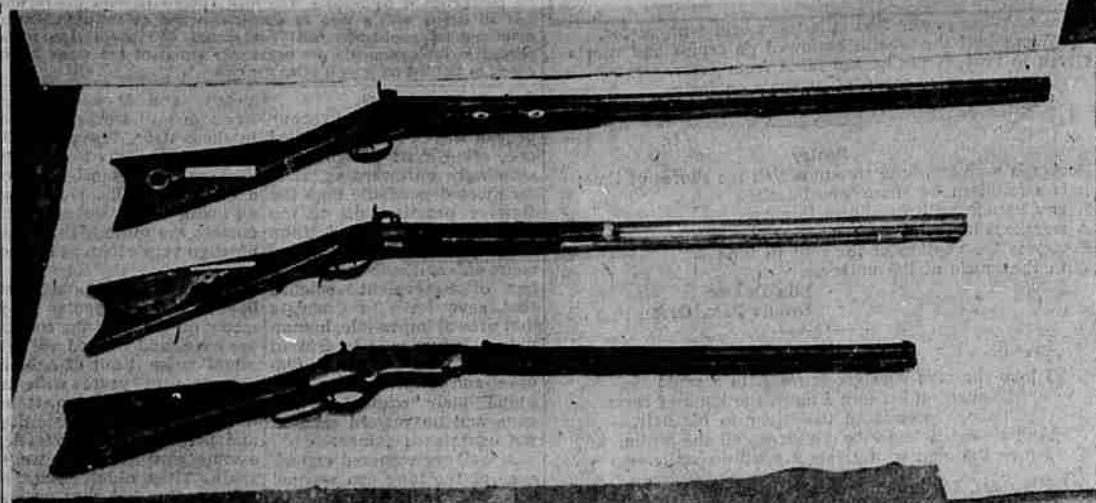
And, even more, the horns of the deer assisting in the discovery are mounted and displayed in the museum's gun room. Perhaps not as exciting an event as the "gun fight at the O.K. Corral," but nevertheless an interesting little sidelight of southern Oregon history.

Flintlock pistols, matched dueling pistols, early Colt's pistols, suicide specials, Winchester, Kentucky rifles, plains rifles, each probably with buried tales of "derring do," are displayed on the walls. There is another wall filled with guns from the Civil War; a Smith Carbine, a Burnside Carbine, two unique and early breech-loading weapons.

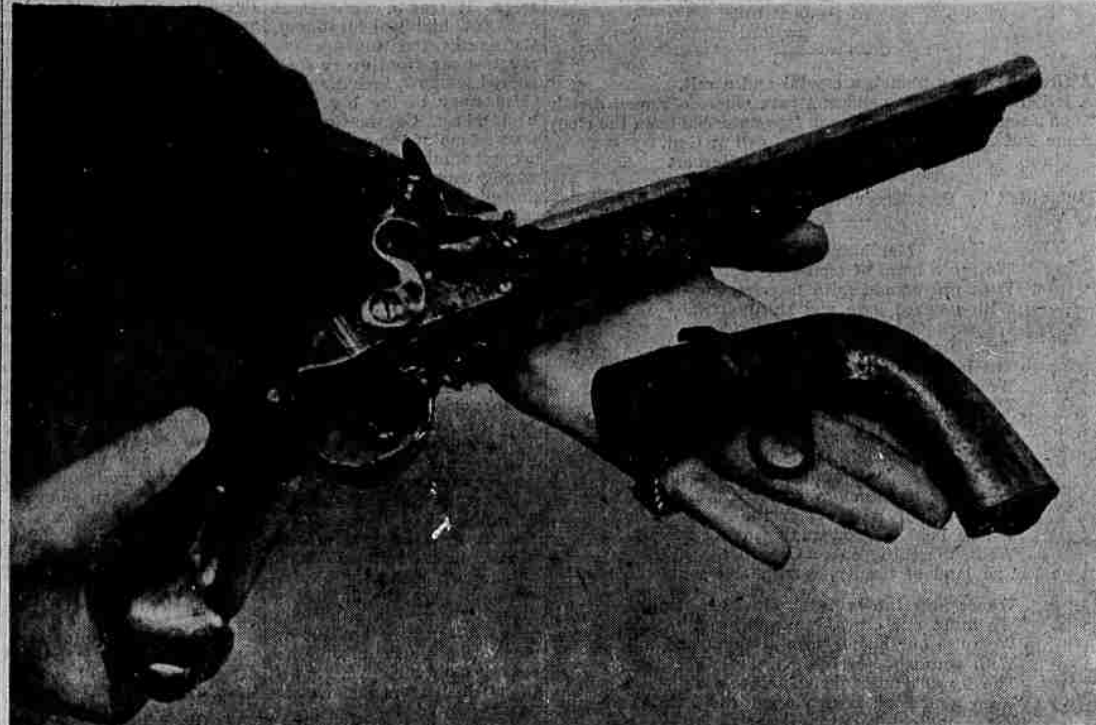
The Burnside Carbine was invented by the famous Union General, who is also responsible for a well-known expression of Americana in the matter of hair cuts, i.e., "burnsides."

Repeating Rifle

And, of course, Spencers. The earliest truly successful repeating rifle and a favorite of Abraham Lincoln. The inventor of this rifle was unable to convince the Union Generals during the Civil War of the practicality of using repeating rifles as the generals felt too much ammunition



OUTSTANDING RIFLES—Three of the outstanding rifles at the Jacksonville museum are shown here. From top they are a combination rifle-shotgun, reputedly once owned by Captain Jack, a presentation muzzle-loading rifle used in the Mexican War by N. C. Dean, and a presentation Henry rifle used in the Civil War by J. Klippel.



FOREIGN PISTOLS—Among the firearms at the Jacksonville museum are these two foreign pistols. They are a 17th Century Italian flintlock pistol, and an early Belgian percussion pepperbox pistol.

would be wasted. The enterprising young inventor paid a call on President Lincoln, in those days when an average citizen could get in to see the President, and after seeing a quick demonstration, Lincoln ordered 10,000 Spencer rifles on the spot.

There are also a number of the famous Sharps rifles, some of which are Civil War vintage, others of the buffalo hunting era.

In the display of Winchester rifles is a magnificent presentation Henry rifle. This was the forerunner of the subsequently famous "Winchester '73." This particular Henry rifle is engraved "Death to Traitors" on one side and on the other "J. Klippel, Co. I, 7th Ill. Vol. Regt. St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., Mo." and was used through the Civil War by Jacob Klippel. It is a beautiful and rare weapon. There is a room full of liv-

ing, virile history, stretching from the elaborate brass decorated flintlock pistol laboriously hand made by an Italian craftsman more than 250 years ago, to the muzzle-loading rifles hand made in Jacksonville by old John Miller almost 100 years ago, to the modern German Luger, all symbolic of some wonderful adventure.

The excited "Oh Daddy, look at all the old guns" of the youngsters who each day pass through the Jacksonville museum give vivid testimony that the love and fascination of old guns and the lusty days of adventure they stand for is not lost. The far away look that comes into some older's eyes as he stands looking at an old muzzle-loader murmuring "Just like I shot when I was a kid, I wonder what ever happened to Dad's old gun."

The proud father explaining to a small child that these were the guns used by our ancestors who shot buffalo, grizzly bears, and Indians. Ancestors who didn't have to worry about automobiles, electric lights, telephones, income tax, the Congo situation or what was on TV that night.

But, these ancestors did leave a living history with their weapons that our descendants will have the opportunity to enjoy for many generations.

Collection Grows

The gun collection at the museum is constantly growing larger, according to Miss Hanley, curator, as many people like to see their cherished historical items on display for others to also enjoy.

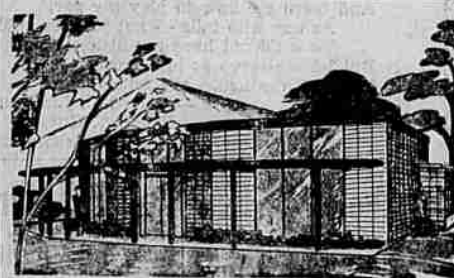
This is one of the finest public display of weapons on the west coast, and it is the museum's objective to continually enlarge the collection and display it in such a way that it covers all phases of weapons from the very antique to the modern, giving a comprehensive picture of the development of firearms. And, even more important,

giving our residents and visitors a first hand picture of the historical aspects of the early west which is so closely associated with the use of guns.

The early west may have had its phoney heroes like Earp and Hickok, but it also had honest adventuresome citizens like the Applegate brothers, Joseph Lane, Col. John Ross and many others who made solid, proud history in southern Oregon.

Much of this early history

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Group's Program To Be About Blood

The way blood is used to treat patients, the need for it, how the American Red Cross supplies the need, and the importance of local donors of blood will be among the subjects discussed on the half-hour television program concerning the blood bank on KBES-TV this afternoon.

The bi-weekly program is sponsored by the Jackson County Tuberculosis and Health association and by the Jackson County Medical Society. Viewing time is 4:30 o'clock this afternoon.

Moderator of the program will be Mrs. John Boe, Grants Pass, who is substituting during the next few months for the association's program director, Mrs. C. Ivan Burton, who is convalescing from surgery at Rogue Valley hospital.

Others appearing on the panel will be Dr. Robert H. Buck, pathologist, Dr. James W. Quinn, chest surgeon, and Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of the Jackson county chapter Red Cross. In addition, Mrs. M. O. Grove, a member of the association's board of directors, and her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Hasler, will demonstrate the procedures used in obtaining blood from donors who visit the Red Cross mobile blood unit.

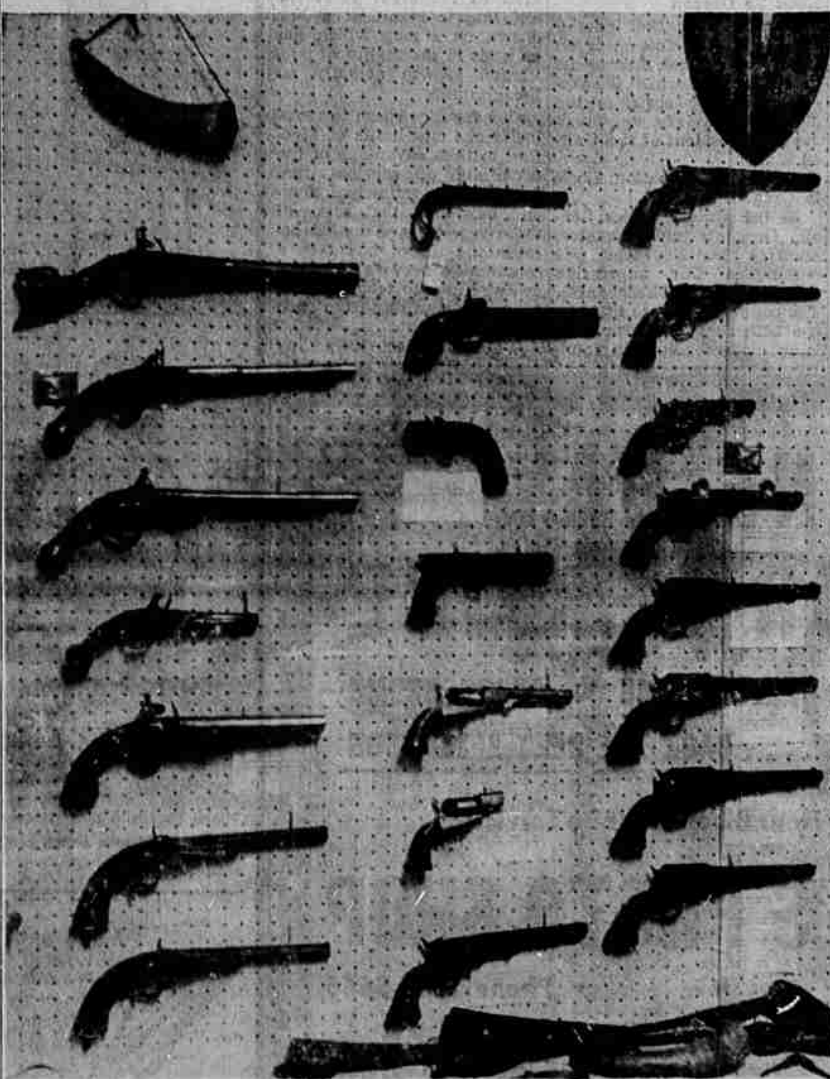
The program is being presented at this time because of the week-long visit of the bloodmobile in the Jackson county area during the coming week and because of the need for blood at this time.

Gold Hill Woman Files Damage Suit in Court

Joan Williams, Gold Hill, is seeking \$30,000 general damages, and \$750 special damages from Earl Dudley Scripser, Medford, as a result of an auto accident near the Industrial Air Products company on Highway 99.

The complaint charges that Mrs. Williams was severely injured as a result of the accident. She charges that Scripser failed to yield the right of way, did not keep a lookout, remain in his single lane and failed to keep his car under control.

Mrs. Boe pointed out that more blood is used in the Jackson county area than is contributed by local donors.



ANTIQUE PISTOLS—Shown in this Jacksonville museum case is part of the antique pistol collection.