

Siskiyou Museum Contains Display of Civil War Articles of Value

Articles Loaned By Residents of Siskiyou County

By DORIS ROBINSON
Mail Tribune Correspondent
Yreka—This is the Centennial year of the Civil War, which started officially April 12, 1861, with the battle of Ft. Sumpter.

In reality, the war was not fought just to free the slaves. There were three issues: first, the problem of states rights; second, secession; and third, slavery. There was only one issue solved and that was slavery. Today the south still is troubled with states rights in the integration problem.

At the time of the Civil War there were 23 states with a population of 22,000,000 and 9 1/2 million slaves. In four years of fighting there were 2,261 battles fought, and although some of the guns would only shoot about 200 yards, casualties were heavy. Not a Battleground

California was the only state not to have a battle within its borders. Although California was thousands of miles away from the war, a group of volunteers formed and went to Salt Lake City, Utah, and camped along the river. Later they pushed on to join Union forces, and before the end of the war, some of these men were leaders and generals of the Union troops.

The Siskiyou county museum is commemorating this centennial by having on display three cases of original and reproductions of Civil War articles of historical value. These articles have been loaned by Siskiyou county residents for the display.

The Siskiyou County Historical Society also had as its speaker Lauran Payne of Ft. Jones, who talked about the Civil War, at the museum at a recent meeting. The audience was seated facing the display of Civil War articles, which made a background for the speaker.

Large History Books
Included in the Civil War display are two large history books called, "Harper's History of the Great Rebellion." These are first editions dated 1866, and loaned by Mrs. Charles Masson of Dunsmuir.

In a large picture frame is a mat of 103 flags which were the flags of the principal nations of the world. This mat of flags was taken from the home of Jefferson Davis during the Civil War by a Union soldier, Jerry Mostoller of Dixon, Ill., when he and other soldiers of the north entered the abandoned Davis home while on duty in that vicinity.

After the war, he took it to his friends, the Thomas Harris family, who brought it to California when they came in the 1870's. Some of the flags are from China, Japan, Persia, Morocco, Egypt, Spain, France, American Jack, United States and Tripoli. Mrs. Masson also loaned the mat of flags.

News of Civil War
A newspaper, the "Boston Sunday Herald," printed March 29, 1863, contained news of the Civil War, and headlines include these: "A Raid Contemplated by Stonewall Jackson"; from the Army of the Potomac, "The Enemy Not Falling Back"; and "Probably Attack on Charleston."

In display cases there are five bits taken from calvary bridles, pistols such as Army Remington cap and ball model 1858 .44; Wesley - Richard's cap and ball 1864 used in the Civil War; a Philadelphia Deringer 1840-1868, the type used to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln; Springfield muzzle loading percussion rifle;

muskets .58 model 1857, used by the Southerners in the battle at Cold Harbor where 7,000 Yankees fell in 15 minutes.

Ornaments such as rosettes which were attached to bridles, and belt buckles are also on display. There are original carbine boot and a cartridge box made of leather, and a drummer boy's cape worn by James H. Robertson, who enlisted from Vermont in 1861.

Calvary Saber
A Civil War calvary saber and an artillery saber are included, as are a reproduction of a Union uniform, with original buttons, a Kepi (cap) with original calvary insignia,

regiment number, company letter and officer's wreath. These articles were loaned by Dr. A. H. Newton of Yreka.

Several Daguerreotype pictures, some taken during the Civil War, are displayed, and there is a receipt in full for the purchase of a 14-year-old negro girl, dated Oct. 31, 1845, which states the price and that she is sound in body and mind. There is a drum made in Civil War times, and although it is not known if it was used in the war, it is like the ones used.

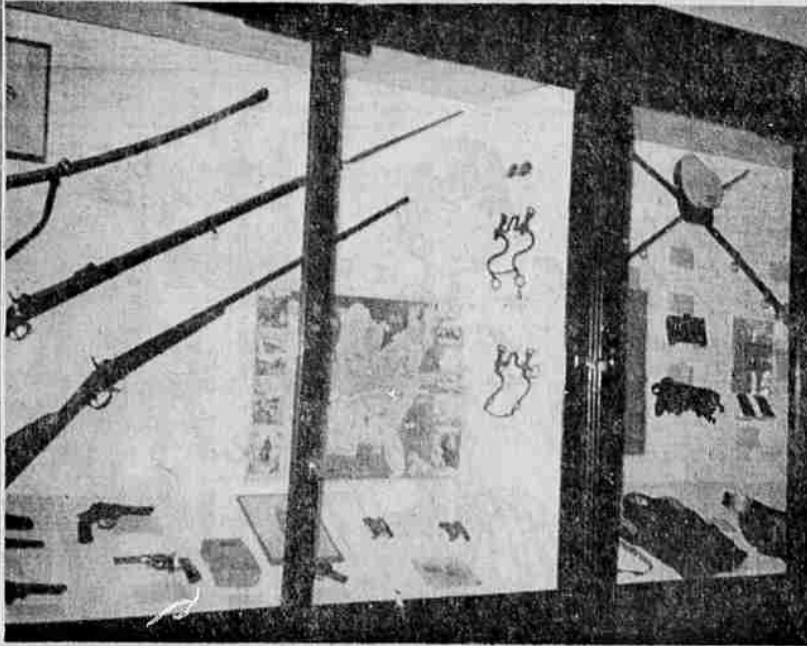
There are many other articles. Several teachers have taken their classes to visit the museum.

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1961



WAR DISPLAY—The Siskiyou county museum is commemorating the Civil War centennial this year by assembling a display of war articles. All articles have been loaned by Siskiyou county residents. Included are cap and ball pistols, muzzle loading rifles, bits used by calvary horses and various clothing articles.

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Two EP Students Place in Contest

Jim Ackerman and Aedene Jensen of Eagle Point High school placed in the 16th annual Northwest Journalism competition at Pacific university, Forest Grove, recently. Ackerman won second place in speech reporting, and Miss Jensen was third in editorial writing.

More than 130 high school students from Oregon and Washington participated in the annual competition sponsored by the Journalism department and Pi Delta Epsilon, national collegiate journalism fraternity.

Competition was in the fields of news writing, speech reporting, news feature, editorial writing, and sports reporting. Each field of competition was sponsored by an area newspaper and a representative of the paper judged the entries.

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