

Era-By-Era History of Siskiyou County Shown in Displays

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Yreka—Mrs. Hazel Pollock, curator of the Siskiyou County museum here, recently finished arranging new portions of the first floor exhibit—one that gives an era-by-era history of Siskiyou county.

The exhibit starts with prehistoric days, covers the Indian period, the days of the Hudson Bay trappers, the gold rush era, followed by eras titled transportation, industry and development.

The prehistoric period tells of the formation of Siskiyou island in northern California, and of the fossils, bones of mammoth elephant, evidence of the marine life and a display of plant life fossils.

The second period covers the Indians who inhabited the area in 1770. They included the Karok, Konomihu, Shasta, Okwanuchu, Modoc and Achomawi. A large colored map shows which area each tribe inhabited. The story of making a corn bread is told by the rocks, each step from the grinding of the corn in mortars, until the dough is ready for baking.

The display also contains arrow heads, a bow and arrow, beads, baskets, papoose

basket, tools, idols and spoons made from wood. Some of the arrow heads are thin, sharp pieces of bone about the size and shape of a toothpick. They were placed on the shaft of the arrow, sealed with pitch or pine gum, and used to kill fish and birds.

There is also a ceremonial rock, oval in shape, which the Indians tied to bushes where they were fishing to bring good luck.

An Indian cave in the Shasta valley was the first cave to be studied in Siskiyou county by the University of California cave archaeologists. From the artifacts found, they were able to learn what the Indians ate and how they lived, what their tools were made of and how used.

Shaped Into Spoons

From bones found in one part of the cave, it was determined that the Indians ate squirrels, deer, mountain sheep, birds and fish. The bones were sharpened and used for awls, to punch lace holes in skins used for clothing, and for pipe stems and other uses.

Clam shells were shaped into spoons, and obsidian was used for arrow heads and awls.

Pictures show mats and

pieces of rope and cordage woven by the Indians. They were taken from the cave by sifting the dirt.

Another section covers the era of the Hudson Bay trapper. A picture shows where the trappers crossed the Klamath river.

Peter S. Ogden, who named the mountain and the river Sastice (Shasta); Alexander R. McLeod, for whom the river was named; and Stephen Meek, who lived and is buried in Scott Valley, trapped along the Shasta, Scott, Salmon and McCloud rivers.

On exhibit is a large rock which formed a tombstone from Oro Fino in Scott valley. It was from the earliest grave of a white man in California. The inscription reads, "Died June 10, 1839 Jon B. Smith."

Cabin Discovered

A trapper's cabin was discovered on Willow creek near Gazelle-Callahans rd. and many artifacts recovered there are on display. They include glass beads or trading beads used in barter with the Indians, a large iron kettle and a rock from the fireplace.

Trapper Thomas McKay and party trapped 1,800 beavers in one month in Scott valley, known as Beaver valley to the trappers in 1836.

The gold rush, the Chinese and the pioneers are covered in another museum exhibit, which includes a large map indicating the location of mines in Siskiyou county.

The display case holds a facsimile of the largest gold nugget found at Scott Bar in 1855. The nugget weighed 15 pounds, 7½ ounces, and was 7½ inches long and 8½ inches in circumference.

Found in Scott Bar
The story goes that Jim Linsey and Fred Lockery Jr. found the nugget at Scott Bar, and were so excited they hid it under their cabin for three weeks. They decided it would be safer at the express company in Yreka.

They sent it by stage, but after the stage had been on its way, they heard the express company went bankrupt. They saddled their horses and rode toward Yreka, hoping to overtake the stage and recover the nugget.

They had to travel in knee deep snow, and had to spend a night on the way. Upon reaching Yreka, they found the stage had arrived and the Adams Express company had the nugget.

D. Wadsworth, express agent, offered to buy the nugget. The transaction was made, and the nugget was sold for \$3,100.

Articles Exhibited
Other articles in the exhibit include gold scales, gold screens, a large tallow candle molded in Yreka in 1854, and a leather pouch for carrying gold dust or money.

There were many Chinese in the Yreka area, and the display case holds such items as a carrying yolk, which the Chinese used across their shoulders, suspending large baskets from each end.



DAYS OF THE TRAPPERS—One of the eras of Siskiyou county history covered in the recently completed county museum exhibit was that of the Hudson Bay trappers.

This display shows some of the items representative of that era, including a beaver pelt and a mountain goat horn.

Also on display are a gin jug from Scott valley, cooley hat, and an opium lamp. Opium was cooked on a stick over the flame of the lamp before being put into the pipe bowl. Also on exhibit is a Chinese gin flask with pewter stopper, covered with bamboo wicker work, cake ink, similar to India ink, Chinese slippers worn on bound feet, and fire crackers.

A little blue Chinese bowl has been donated by Al Bagley. The bowl was purchased in 1871 by his mother from a Chinese man.

Mrs. Bagley said when she purchased the bowl, Al, then four years old, could use it as a mush bowl. This he did all his life, and prior to his death at the age of 85, he donated it to the museum. The course brown clay shows through the bottom where the glaze has worn off.

Many items left by the pioneers make a fine collection, including Bibles, some dated 1850 which were used in mining camps, autograph books, watches, coins, guns, paper money, pictures, medicine kits, and many other articles.

In the display on transportation, from foot, horseback and mule train to covered wagon, stagecoach and freight team, are a pack saddle, mule

shoe, whips, oxen shoe, and spurs. Pictures show freight teams with bells on their collars to announce their position on the narrow mountain roads.

Story of Power Told
In the power exhibit, the story is told from the beginning with candle molds and marketable matches, miner's candle holders, oil burning hand lanterns, and a table lamp found in a cabin near Mt. Dome in Shasta valley.

A peace officer's night light, bulls eye lantern and a folding lantern are displayed as are a candle snuffer and candle stick holders

of brass and white enamel. One outstanding item is an arm from the center chandelier of old Union church, built in Yreka on what is now the northeast corner of Oregon and Lane sts.

Progress developed from the oil burning lamps to gas lights generated by burning pitch pine, to the first electric light plant built in Yreka in 1891.

Following industry came development, first of agriculture, then cattle raising and lumbering.

Used Handmade Tools

With handmade tools, pioneers tilled the soil, and grain, fruit, vegetables and alfalfa grew abundantly. The first grain (oats) was planted in Scott valley in 1851. The orchard at Forest house on the Ft. Jones rd., was the largest in the state.

This section has on display some of the handmade tools used in agriculture.

Led by Ewing Young, the first cattle drive through the Siskiyou area reached the south edge of Shasta valley on the way to Oregon Sept. 12, 1837. Cattle became one of the leading industries of the county.

The exhibit shows early day branding irons, rope made from horse hair, and brands. The first cattle brand recorded in California was by Samuel B. Jackson in 1850. James T. Loury was the deputy recorder who drafted the paper.

Lumber Industry Story

The story of the lumber industry is one in which the ax and the saw became companions of the pick and shovel. Sawmills were built, and by 1860 there were 30 of them

in the county. After the railroads were available, Siskiyou county's lumber industry began in earnest. Specimens of lumber are displayed, donated by the McCloud Lumber company, and pictures of early logging, and a set of logging wheels carved by Bob Graham, former employee of Long Bell round out the exhibit.



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INDIAN PERIOD—This exhibit at the Siskiyou County museum in Yreka depicts the era when Indians were the only occupants of the county. It is part of a series of displays on the ground floor of the museum charting seven distinct eras in the county's history.

Oregon Leads U.S. In Freeway Miles Open to Traffic

With one section of Interstate 5 opened last Wednesday and another set for opening on Dec. 20, Jackson county has contributed toward making Oregon the nation's leader in percentage of interstate freeway mileage completed and opened.

The latest quarterly report of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads credits Oregon with 65.4 per cent of its interstate system open to traffic, nearly 5 percentage points ahead of second-place New York.

Of the 732 miles planned as Oregon's portion of the interstate highway system, the report listed 272 miles as com-

pleted and ready to handle traffic volume expected in 1975.

Rated As Adequate
Another 205 miles of highway in Oregon has been rated as adequate for today's traffic. The report also lists one mile of toll road — the Portland-Vancouver and Umatilla bridges between Oregon and Washington.

The report's data are based on progress through the month of September this year.

"By the time the next quarter ends, the last of December, we hope to add another

25 miles of completed freeway to our total," Forrest Cooper, state highway engineer, said.

Nationally, 32 per cent of the interstate system is open to traffic. The entire 41,000 miles are scheduled for completion in 1972, built to handle traffic volumes expected in 1975.

TOPS PAYROLLS

Salem — 477 — Contract construction workers topped industrial production payrolls in Oregon during September, the State Department of Employment reported.

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