

# Regional Roundup

by Cleve Twitchell  
Mail Tribune Regional Editor

Today's piece is really a guest column by Peggyann Hutchinson of the Mail Tribune editorial staff, who gathered some interesting tidbits of information while covering the dedication of the Randolph Collier tunnel Saturday. Her report follows:

Richard Kelly, assistant to Sen. Randolph Collier, reported Saturday that selection of the route for Interstate 5 south from the Oregon state line is now being considered in Sacramento and it is hoped it will be available in about "two months."

This will include the section of the highway to the south of Yreka.

When Senator Collier was questioned about improving the highway northwest of Happy Camp to Highway 199 in Oregon, he replied that he was presently working on the highway "down river."

### Lilies or Paper Napkins?

While Del Norte county's principal industry is lumber, another industry near the top of the list is the growing of lily bulbs.

At the dedication ceremonies Saturday of the Randolph Collier tunnel, the speaker's stand was decorated with the lilies stuck in chicken wire. The sweet odor of the flowers was quite evident in the area where the barbecue and program were held.

Unfortunately the majority of the persons there thought they were paper napkins, a more common decoration used in areas where flowers are not so plentiful.

The first shovelful of dirt which Senator Collier turned at the tunnel groundbreaking ceremonies three years ago was presented to the senator Saturday by Congressman Don Clausen. The dirt had been mixed with equal amounts from Oregon and Nevada. Officials from Nevada were quick to point out that the dirt from that state was from the Getchell mine so it included some gold.

The dirt will be placed somewhere in Del Norte county, Collier said, signifying the unity of the three states to promote a project "so helpful to us all."

California division of highways personnel were quick to point out Saturday that the old curving Highway 199 over Hazelview summit on Oregon mountain will remain, being maintained by Del Norte county.

### Take Your Choice

"Motorists will now have a slow route and a fast route over Oregon mountain," Samuel Helwer, state project engineer, pointed out.

While many persons in the Rogue valley mentioned that the new tunnel will give them quick access to the sunshine on the coast during the winter, it worked the other way Saturday.

Thick pea-soup fog rolled into Crescent City early Saturday morning and extended inland some 18 miles. Many residents attended the tunnel dedication "to get into the sunshine."

# Fire Rewrites Final Chapter in Life of Kubli Mill

By PRISCILLA AVERILL  
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Applegate — A brush fire which raced up a hillside in the Applegate valley recently almost wrote an end to a chapter of this region's history when it swept through the picturesque Kubli grist mill near Highway 238 between Applegate and Ruch.

Built in 1853 during the early days of the gold rush, the mill had ground out flour for the sourdough's biscuits and for the cavalrymen sent to quiet Indian uprisings along the Rogue.

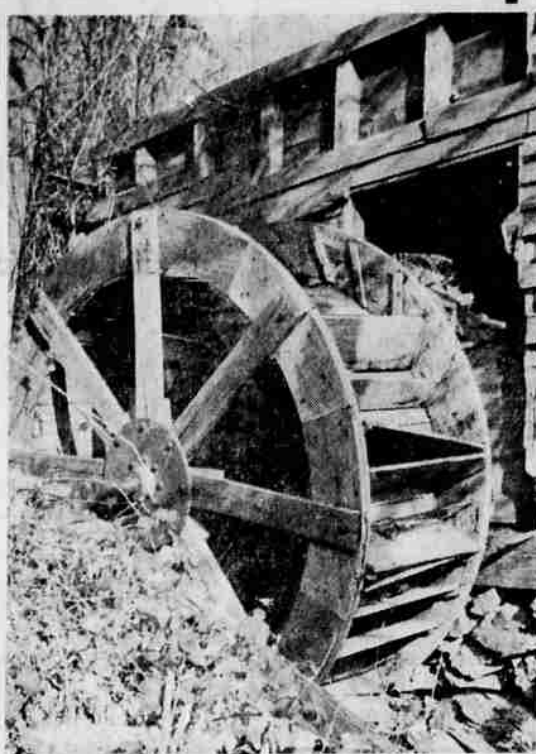
One of the first two mills in southern Oregon, and also one of the area's first trading posts, it was the only one to survive long into this century. The other, built a year earlier at Ashland, succumbed to progress when that city grew up around it.

### Stood 110 Years

The Kubli mill, however, stood for 110 years before it was taken by the brush fire. Its place in the area's history was recognized several years ago when, with the old roof threatening to cave in after the snows of too many winters, its grinding mechanism was removed by members of the Southern Oregon Historical society and taken to the Museum at Jacksonville.

Lately there had also been talk of dismantling the mill proper and setting it up to run again at Jacksonville. But it was later than they thought. In one short moment this summer, on July 12, ravages of fire completed what the ravages of time had not been able to accomplish in 110 years.

Only the old water wheel, miraculously saved by State



**HISTORIC WHEEL** — This photo of the old Kubli grist mill wheel was snapped a few months before the mill was destroyed by a brush fire. (Richard Boyd photo).



**AFTER THE FIRE** — The wheel was about all that was saved when fire swept through the Kubli mill on July 12 of this year. This photo, taken shortly after the fire, shows the charred back side of the wheel. (Hooker-Johnston photo).

forestry firefighters, remains. This will now be transported to Jacksonville to take its place among mementos of the area's past. But the unique inside works of the mill, the individual belts and wheels, all handmade, are gone—taking with them a colorful part of the region's heritage.

According to southern Oregon historian Jack Sutton, of Grants Pass, the Kubli mill was built in 1853 by a settler named Samuel Burr.

During the previous year a large number of immigrants from Missouri had crossed the plains and settled in this area —so many, in fact, that it is known to this day at "Missouri Flat."

By this time the first flush of gold fever had simmered down, and many of the settlers, who had been farmers in Missouri, started farming instead of mining. By 1853 they had produced sufficient quantities of wheat to justify the erection of a grist mill.

Government forces stationed at Fort Lane near Table Rock provided a ready market.

"People then were always wanting to sell to the government," said Sutton. "It was even a good thing in those days!"

With flour selling for as high as \$1.10 a pound, the mill and handmade machinery soon repaid the original investment of its builder; and in 1857 he sold it to a Swiss pioneer named Kasper Kubli, in whose family it has remained ever since. The family's present descendant, Edward Kubli, now lives in Medford and is prominent in the affairs of the Southern Oregon Historical society, which operates the Jacksonville Museum.

It is not generally known just how long the old mill continued in operation, though it is probable that its "lush" period of government contracts was diluted within a few years when another mill

to miners and others were conducted by barter, which gave the establishment its reputation as an early trading post. The mill was also one of several then in the valley which contracted to supply Fort Klamath.

Business picked up again in the '60's, however, when a new wave of mining development hit the area. Sales Although the exact date when the old water wheel finally creaked to a halt is not known, the ancient ma-

chinery which it worked is said to have been in good order up until a few years ago. Now that fire has rewritten the final chapter, all that remains is a broken millwheel clinging to a charred wall and, on the hillside above, a weather-beaten aqueduct long since dry except for rainwater.

### Bridge Inspector Uses Bike at Work

Norfolk, Va. —UPI— A \$15, second-hand bicycle is playing a small but vital role in the building of the \$150 million Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. The bicycle belongs to Elmer Campbell, an inspector for consulting engineers on the 17.6-mile long complex of trestles, bridges, tunnels and man-made islands that will span the bay.

Campbell's job is to travel back and forth across the completed portions of the structure to inspect construction and check the strength of the concrete roadway. Rather than walk his "beat," which gets longer every day, he bikes.

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## Bashaw Collection Featured In McCully Doll House Show

By BETTE HOSKINS  
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Jacksonville — A summer opening preview was held at the McCully Doll House museum at 204 California st. last Wednesday evening, July 17.

The featured guest collection of dolls was arranged in the big glass case in the center of the main room, which Mrs. Leona Salyer, the owner, has reserved for the display of dolls from other notable collections. She plans to hold an open house annually for this purpose.

The dolls for this occasion were loaned by Mrs. E. R. Bashaw of Medford who inherited the collection from her late aunt, Mrs. Fronia Tiltner of Portland.

Included in the assortment of 17 Antique dolls are:

A French fashion doll of the 1880's dressed to represent Mrs. Tiltner. The doll's wig is made from Mrs. Tiltner's own hair.

An Alice in Wonderland doll of beautiful luster which was the first doll collected by Mrs. Tiltner, and the doll which inspired her to continue the hobby. This doll is now the favorite of her grandniece Mrs. Bashaw.

A milliner's model of paper-mache from an 1860 display.

A large doll dressed as Mary Todd Lincoln of the 1850's and 60's.

A German bisque doll with Japanese features.

A German 'Pouty' doll and a Schoenhut boy doll with wood-carved spring joints.

Co-hostesses for the event were Mrs. Houston Valentine, Mrs. Galin Jordan, Mrs. John Crabb, Mrs. George Anderson, Mrs. Fred Scheffel, Mrs. Richard Hein and Miss Maryann Hein. All of these ladies are members of the Saturday Morning Breakfast club and were dressed in authentic pioneer costume for the occasion.

Over 100 guests registered during the evening, including a guest from London, England. The museum's cases also contain the antique doll collection of Mrs. Salyer's mother, the late Mrs. Lila Stone, numbering around 350 large and small dolls in various categories.

A recent addition to the display area is the attic room, which contains German and French Bisques, the pretty dolls.

The museum is open daily to visitors with a small admission charge. Tours are invited.



**GUEST COLLECTION** — Mrs. E. R. Bashaw of Medford has loaned her collection of dolls to the McCully Doll House museum in Jacksonville, where it is now on display.



**FRENCH DOLL** — This is a French fashion doll of the 1880's, dressed to represent the late Mrs. Fronia Tiltner of Portland, Mrs. Bashaw's aunt, from whom she inherited her collection.

### Visits Parents

Talent — Airman Robert Logan and family left recently after spending two weeks visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Baldwin and son, Albert Logan, and grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bell.

During the two weeks they were here they visited Crater Lake and also spent a week end at the coast, where they visited the Trees of Mystery.

During their visit, a picnic was held in their honor to which close friends and relatives were invited.

Attending from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bell, Betty Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Veril Bell and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Bell and son, Lonnie, all from Klamath Falls; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Black, Livermore, California; and Mrs. Angie Roberts, Klamath Falls.

Others who attended were Mr. and Mrs. Vern O'Brien and Mr. and Mrs. Jack O'Brien from Applegate. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Elden Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Schmelzer and children, Mrs. Lillie Harth, Mrs. Lucille Jackson and son, Warren, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Long, David Cooper and Mrs. A. O'Brien.



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