BABY PORTRAITS A SPECIALTY

All Aboard for the Issott Studio
AN ENTREPRENEUR AND AN INNKEEPER

The Baldwin Hotel Museum

A CUPID IN LITHIA PARK

The Butler-Perozzi Fountain

FEBRUARY 2000
Vol. 2, No. 2

The Magazine of the Southern Oregon Historical Society
Anna Niedermeyer remembers

Anna Caroline Niedermeyer was born in 1898 to Louis J. Niedermeyer and Charlotte
Bergfeld Niedermeyer of Jacksonville, where she grew up and attended school. In
1923 she married Chester Wendt, who was a Jackson County Commissioner from 1955 to

In these excerpts from an interview on June 19, 1980 with the Society’s oral historian,
Marjorie Edens, Anna recalled some of the people and places in Jacksonville history: Mrs.
Delia Nunan, whose home at 635 North Oregon Street still stands just outside town;
Dorland Robinson, daughter of Dr. James Robinson and a critically acclaimed painter who
shot herself at age twenty-five in 1917; and a Miss TouYelle, referred to as the sister of
Frank TouVelle, who named the park on the Rogue River for his wife.

ME: That means you also walked by
the Nunan house.

AW: The Nunan house, as it appeared when
she was a young girl.

The Nunan house, as it appeared when
Anna Niedermeyer walked by it to school.

(continued from Members and Donors, page 15)

ANNUAL
CONTRIBUTORS FUND
Mr. and Mrs. Norton Smith
Mr. and Mrs. William Snell
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Souer
Mr. and Mrs. William Spicer
Joan Steele
Ben Stinson
Gary Sumrak
P.K. Taylor
William K. Thomson
Charles A. Toce
Colleen Tokar
James Trecker
Ben Trowbridge
Dr. and Mrs. Leo J. Van Dijk

Joseph Vukovich
Patricia A. Walls
Patricia Watson
Marian Windell
Aaron Worthington
Jonnie Zheutlin
Gerald W. Zimmer

SOUTHERN OREGON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDATION
Endowment Fund
Contributors
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bryden
Joseph P. Busby, Palm Desert, CA
Edmund Dews

Karen Gernant
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Howe
Mr. and Mrs. William Milhoan
Dr. Joel Slaughter

CIRCLES OF GIVING
Mr. and Mrs. AlAlsing
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Arnold
Dr. and Mrs. Theodore P. Bars
Judith A. Drais
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Dunn
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Eccleston
Dr. and Mrs. Walter Emori
Richard L. Hay
Mr. and Mrs. Reeve Hennion
Hollywood Lights, Richard Fuller
Brad and Lorraine Linder

Lithia Automotive Group, Sid DeBoer
Alicia MacArthur
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Meese
Pamela R. Monroe
Tam and Ann Moore
Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Newby
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Pruett
Mr. and Mrs. John Sanderson
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Schmor
Security Insurance Agency, Inc., James
Cox
Dr. and Mrs. Joel Slaughter
John and Susan Cox-Smith
Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart
Letha Sweet
Elizabeth Udall
FEATURE:
The Baldwin Hotel Museum
by Doug Foster .......... p. 8

OUR OWN VOICES
Anna Niedermeyer Wendt remembers ... p. 2

SOHS News and Notes
Exhibits and program updates and calendar
p. 6

MEMBERS AND DONORS
p. 15

DEPARTMENTS

SUNDAY DRIVING
Lithia Park’s Fountain of History
by Ginger Brettschneider
p. 4

FROM THE ARCHIVES
“When Was This Photograph Taken?”
by Jacque Sundstrand
p. 5

THE PIONEERS:
The Issott Studios
by Bill Alley
p. 16

ON THE COVER
James and Anna Issott operated a photographic studio in Medford from 1919 to 1927, specializing in portraits of children such as this cherubic toddler.
In the heart of Ashland's Lithia Park, two tons of history take the form of an angelic marble cherub and swan. The Butler-Perozzi Fountain, purchased by Ashland philanthropists Domingo "D" Perozzi and Gwin S. Butler at the 1916 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, has long been a source of pride for the city since its dedication that summer.1

Sculpted in Florence, Italy, by artist A. Frilli, the fountain was named by Ashland for the city's two benefactors, who purchased the sculpture for $3,000 to commemorate their donations of land for the park. Perozzi, a native of Switzerland whose father was an early California pioneer, came to Ashland in 1897, when he purchased the Ashland Creamery. As a successful businessman, he and his wife, Louise, shared an interest in civic life and community development. Louise Perozzi actively promoted the causes of public education and health, while her husband was a charter member of several Elks lodges.2

Butler, too was a successful businessman, serving as a director of Medford Ice and Storage Co. and the State Bank of Ashland, and as manager of Butler and Thompson Co. He was also active in many civic groups.3

Both the Perozzi and Butler families resided on Granite Street, just around the corner from the fountain that stands in their memory.

The fountain, of peach-colored Verona marble, included a large base, thought to have some of the best cement work in the Northwest. A grand basin surrounded the fountain, with white cement stairs leading up to the waterway from Park Drive. The fountain and stairs were lit by strings of multicolored lights—illuminating the pedestal engraving "Flori di peshi," Italian for "Flower of Peaches," and the picturesque cupid and swan figures.

The fountain's grand presentation, complete with fireworks and a speech by the mayor, capped a series of developments at Lithia Park beginning the summer of 1915.4

Over the years, however, time and weather took their toll on the fountain, as did vandals.5 Still, the fountain site remained a popular spot for people to relax, read, or simply meet and chat. And yet, by the early 1980s, the area was overgrown with vegetation, and much of the marble work had vanished; Cupid survived—but in the library, not in the park.

In 1982, John Fregonese, the city planning director, embarked on a plan to restore the fountain. In 1985, after months of searching for the right sculptor for the job, Fregonese found Jeffrey Bernard, a sculptor who had studied in Italy.

After seeing Bernard's work, Fregonese abandoned his plans for a crude "vandal-proof" bronze fountain replica. The city's community development department launched a project to raise $25,000 from the community to add to the city's $10,000 contribution—enough to restore the fountain's original beauty in the 1980s, the Butler-Perozzi Fountain, left, is again a focal point of Lithia Park.

Water once again pours from the cupid and his swan, right, sculpted of peach-colored marble from Verona, Italy.
“When Was This Photograph Taken?”

NEW REFERENCE WORK OFFERS HELP
by Jacque Sundstrand

Anyone who has ever passed around a bunch of vacation or holiday photos is usually asked the question, “When were these photographs taken?” And, it’s usually easy to answer that question when only a few days, weeks, or months have gone by. A few well-organized souls among us immediately label and place these treasured shots into albums. For the rest of us, however, the extra time it takes to complete these simple but necessary steps rarely seems available. So time passes, and the envelopes of photographs are shoved into a drawer or closet where others languish until that day arrives when we finally release them from captivity, only to murmur, “When did I take these?”

The Research Library staff faces that same question. Our task is made even harder when a donor of photographs cannot give us many clues as to the timing of events in his or her family’s past. (Identifying photographs soon after they were taken seems to have been a difficult task even for our ancestors!) Still, most images contain clues within the background or foreground that often help in dating, such as landmarks, apparel, businesses, or automobiles. Even more helpful can be the mark placed upon the image by the professional photographer.

In the course of our work, we have been able to more closely date photographs by knowing when a professional photographer was in business. Based upon this work with our collection of more than 750,000 prints and negatives, we are proud to announce the publication of A Century of the Photographic Arts in Southern Oregon: A Directory of Jackson County Photographers, 1856-1956. Compiled by Society archivist/historian William Alley, the directory gives an alphabetical list of the more than 140 professional commercial/custom photographers who have operated studios in Jackson County in the 100 years since Peter Britt took his first images here in 1856. Information about each photographer has been augmented by searching newspapers, city directories, and telephone books.

Reproductions of the photographers’ work are interspersed within the list.

A Century of the Photographic Arts in Southern Oregon was designed to complement our current year-long photographic exhibit, “Century of Photography,” now on display at the History Center, Medford. The directory should appeal to a wide range of people, from anyone who is conducting family genealogical research or who would like to know more about our library collections, to those who just love knowing more about our photographic past. While we have attempted to be as inclusive as possible; obviously there will be those of you with additional information – and from whom we will be delighted to hear.
**SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Things To Do in February**

**Programs:** (see listings below for complete descriptions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMS</th>
<th>DATE &amp; TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February Craft of the Month</td>
<td>Museum hours</td>
<td>Children’s Museum</td>
<td>“Victorian Valentines and Rebuses” Kay Alsing: Wagon train pioneers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversations with...</td>
<td>Sat., Feb. 5, 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ashland Branch</td>
<td>Speakers and Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Annual Genealogy Fair</td>
<td>Sat., Feb. 5, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Smullin Center, Medford</td>
<td>Story and craft event for families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Valentines</td>
<td>Sat., Feb. 5, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Rogue Valley Mall</td>
<td>Reception: RSVP by Feb. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Celebration of Dunn House</td>
<td>Feb. 11, 5:30, program at 6:00</td>
<td>Ashland Branch</td>
<td>Display and awards ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Day Contest</td>
<td>Sat., Feb. 12, call for times</td>
<td>Stevenson Union, SOU</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papermaking Workshop</td>
<td>February 19, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ashland Branch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbin Lacemaking Workshop</td>
<td>Feb. 19, 20, &amp; Mar. 18, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jacksonville Museum</td>
<td>Preregister by February 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Details**

For times and locations, see schedule above.

**February Craft of the Month**

“Victorian Valentines and Rebuses”
Create a valentine or rebus for that special someone. Families; 25¢.

**CONVERSATIONS WITH...**

Do you have relatives who came overland on a wagon train? Kay Alsing is a descendant of pioneers who were on the first wagon train through the Rogue Valley. She has researched original sources of the overland wagon train journey and will read excerpts from this material. A question and answer period will follow her reading. Free.

**Victorian Valentines**
Families learn the history behind the holiday at this special event. Create a unique valentine to give to the one you love. Hide a secret message in a flower and in rebus form or create a classic Victorian valentine. Families; free.

**4th Annual Genealogy Fair**
Sessions include “Beginning Genealogy,” “Genealogy on the Internet,” “Family Tree Maker,” “Scanning and Importing Photographs,” and “Oregon Family Tree Genealogy Resources.” Dr. Linda Willis, will present “Genetics vs. Lifestyle.”

Once a year we present a special event. February 19, 20, & March 18.

**IN CELEBRATION OF DUNN HOUSE:**
A reception for the community, volunteers, workers, sponsors and residents of Dunn House (RSVP to 773-6536 by February 7)
Since 1977, Dunn House has given shelter, support, and strength to the victims of domestic violence in Southern Oregon and Northern California. Countless contributors, staff, and volunteers have assisted women and children as they rebuild their lives. Help celebrate a community program and its powerful results. Free.

**HISTORY DAY CONTEST**
Each year the Southern Oregon Historical Society sponsors the local National History Day Contest for students in grades six through twelve. Come take a peek at this year’s entries highlighting “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.” Presentation and judging in the morning, followed by awards announcements in the afternoon. Winners of this district competition will advance to the state contest held in April. Stevenson Union, Southern Oregon University, Ashland. Families; free.

For more information, contact Dawna Curler at (541) 773-6536.

**PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP**
Create colorful sheets of paper as you learn simple papermaking techniques. Free for members, $1 for non-members.

**BOBBIN LACEMAKING WORKSHOP**
Members of the Siskiyou Lacemakers will offer a 3-part Bobbin Lacemaking Workshop for beginners. Participants will learn to master the very simple basic stitches of lacemaking. Workshop fee is $40 for members; $50 for non-members, and includes instruction, handouts, and thread. Call for list of materials to bring. Preregister by calling 773-6536, or e-mail to program@sohs.org by Saturday, February 12.

**UPCOMING PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**
Learn how to preserve photographs at the Photography Preservation Workshop, Saturday, March 11 at the History Center, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. $10 for members; $15 for non-members. Call 541-773-6536 for details and reservations.
**EXHIBITS:** (see listings below for complete descriptions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXHIBIT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>MUSEUM HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Century of Photography: 1856-1956</td>
<td>HISTORY CENTER</td>
<td>Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Sat., 1:00-5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miner, Baker, Furniture Maker</td>
<td>JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM</td>
<td>Wed.-Sat., 10:00 am-5:00 pm Sunday, noon-5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacksonville: Boom Town to Home Town</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics of Culture: Collecting the Native American Experience</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall of Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing ‘hands on history’ exhibit</td>
<td>CHILDREN’S MUSEUM</td>
<td>Wed.-Sat., 10:00 am-5:00 pm Sunday, noon-5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Private Life of a Non-Public Place</td>
<td>ASHLAND BRANCH</td>
<td>Wed.-Sat., 12:00-4:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exhibit Details**

*For times and locations, see schedule above.*

**CENTURY OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 1856-1956**

Features the work of two area photographers Peter Britt and James Verne Shangle. Also displayed are cameras from the Society’s collection highlighting a century of photography in the Rogue Valley, and an example of Britt’s studio and equipment.

**MINER, BAKER, FURNITURE MAKER**

Explores the development of the Rogue Valley and the impact the industrial revolution had on the settlement of Southern Oregon. Artifacts, murals and interactive stations provide visitors with a look at mining, logging, agriculture, and many other aspects of life in the late 1800s.

**JACKSONVILLE: BOOM TOWN TO HOME TOWN**

Traces the development of Jacksonville.

**POLITICS OF CULTURE: COLLECTING THE NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE**

A glimpse of the cultural history of local tribes and discussion of contemporary collecting issues.

**HALL OF JUSTICE**

Reflects the history of the former Jackson County Courthouse. Featured: architecture of the building; important events; influential people.

**CHILDREN’S MUSEUM**

Explore home and occupational settings from the 1850s to the 1930s through “hands on history.”

**THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A NON-PUBLIC PLACE**

Features Dunn House of Ashland that has provided a safe haven to abused women and children in Jackson County.

**STREETSCAPES AND CITY VIEWS**

Explores the visual history of Ashland through the eyes of yesterday’s photographers with images from the collection of Ashland resident Terry Skibby.

**PUBLIC PLACES AND PRIVATE LIVES**

Focuses on people and landmarks of Ashland.

---

**MYSTERY OBJECT OF THE MONTH**

**February Mystery Object:** We hope this one doesn’t shake you up too much! It’s not for babies but baby does it make you want to dance! It is 11”L and 4.5”W. Send your answer on a 3-1/2 x 5 card with your name, address and phone number to: News & Notes Mystery Object, SOHS, 106 N. Central Ave., Medford, OR 97501.

---

**SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY SITES**

**Phone:** (541) 773-6536
**Fax:** (541) 776-7994
**Email:** info@sohs.org
**Website:** www.sohs.org

**HISTORY CENTER**

106 N. Central, Medford
Mon.-Fri., 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sat., 1:00 to 5:00 pm

**RESEARCH LIBRARY**

106 N. Central, Medford
Tues.-Sat., 1:00 to 5:00 pm

**JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM & CHILDREN’S MUSEUM**

5th and C, Jacksonville
Wed.-Sat., 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday, noon to 5:00 pm

**THIRD STREET ARTISAN STUDIO**

3rd and California, Jacksonville
Closed in February

**U.S. HOTEL**

3rd and California, Jacksonville
Upstairs room available for rent.

**HANLEY FARM**

1053 Hanley Road (between Central Point & Jacksonville) Open by appointment.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF JACKSON COUNTY**

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>$60-$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curator or Business</td>
<td>$120-$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>$250-$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Give your Valentine a gift of membership**

January’s mystery object is a “traveler” used to measure the circumference of a wheel. Congratulations to November’s Mystery Object Winner, Jack Lajoie of Medford, who identified the gas lamp lighter.

January’s Mystery Object: A “Traveler”
Two very different personalities left their imprint on what became a Klamath Falls institution.

At the Baldwin Hotel Museum in Klamath Falls, a four-story brick monument to more than ninety years of Southern Oregon history, tour guides will tell you the hotel bears the imprint of two distinct personalities: visionary entrepreneur George Baldwin and light-hearted innkeeper Andy Moore. Baldwin built the building in 1906 but never lived there. The Moore family bought the hotel and lived there as resident managers for more than fifty years. The story of the Baldwin Hotel is, in many ways, the story of these two families.

Always the promoter, George Baldwin was successful in both business and politics. He was co-founder of a local bank and the first local electric utility company; and he was the first president of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce. He was elected county treasurer, county judge and state senator. In his day, George Baldwin was the town's leading citizen.

Andy Moore, in contrast, was known as a man who loved people, jokes, movies, and chess.

Baldwin built the tallest, most modern building in town using the best quality materials: oak for the floors; clear, heartwood ponderosa pine for the hand-beveled doors and banisters; and heavy steel I-beams, the kind used in bridge construction, for structural support. Even though piped water was not yet available at the site, Baldwin had his building plumbed, with a sink in every room and a complete bath on every floor; so that when city water was later available, only one hook-up would provide the building with running water.

Moore, on the other hand, was the kind of fellow who made slap-dash repairs. According to his granddaughter, Elaine Cook, Moore "fixed everything with rubber bands" and "painted everything with thick paint that you shouldn't use."

In the 1940s, when Moore wanted a shower in the hotel, he dug into the side of the hill on the mezzanine level, lined the walls with sheet metal, roofed it with a collage of small metal patches and painted it blue-green. That dimly-lit chamber now resembles a battered tin bread box, with one side following the contour of the rocky hillside. But Moore retained all the hotel's historic furnishings and made few changes to the original structure.

The Baldwin Hotel initially catered to an upscale clientele; the 1911 Klamath Falls City Directory listed H. M. Bristol, occupation "capitalist," as a resident.
there. Within ten years after the Moores bought the hotel in 1923, it became a “bachelor hotel” and the Moores would later say they were trying to make a comfortable home for the better class of workingmen.

**The Baldwin Era**

George Baldwin's family came to Jacksonville from St. Louis, Missouri, when he was seventeen. Baldwin learned the trade of tinsmithing in Ashland, and in 1874 he set out with his bride, Josephine Nail of Ashland, for Linkville (present-day Klamath Falls) to start a business. The trip took three days by covered wagon. Baldwin set up his tin shop near Link River bridge when Linkville was just a handful of buildings sprinkled around the mouth of the river. At first he supplemented his income by serving as a county deputy sheriff. But he soon found success running a hardware store, and continued in that business for the rest of his life. When he died, he was the president of the Oregon Hardware and Implement Dealer's Association.²

Recognizing that the economic future of Klamath Falls hinged on getting rail connections to city markets, Baldwin helped pay for a costly survey to locate a railroad route. Anticipating the major business expansion he believed a railroad would bring, he decided to build a new building for his hardware business. Baldwin selected a site near the Link River docking area for steamships that served Lower Klamath Lake because, like most local business leaders, he believed the railroad terminal would be located near the docks to connect with the steamer traffic.

Work began in December 1904. Using picks, shovels and sledge hammers, workers labored for four months chipping away at the steep, rocky hillside to create stairsteps so that the first three floors of the building would rest on solid rock. Then they built thick native stone walls: thirty-six inches thick on the ground floor, twenty-six inches thick on the second and third floors, and twelve inches thick on the top floor. Baldwin had steel I-beams from the Carnegie Steel Company hauled in by mule teams, with three wagons hooked together to carry the long overhead beam for the lobby. After finishing the shell of the building, workers labored for more than a year and a half on its interior. In 1905, Baldwin started his own brickyard to supply bricks for the walls. The building cost $20,000 to erect.³

Baldwin’s hardware store occupied the first floor of the new building; offices and apartments for salesmen and visiting businessmen filled the upper floors. In 1907, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation occupied half of the third floor, and the Klamath Water Users Association, a powerful landowner group, took up half of the second floor; but these big tenants were gone within two years. In 1909, Baldwin opened a cafe on the second floor, offering “21 meals for $5.25, single meals for 35 cents, except Sunday.” But the cafe closed in less than three years.

Baldwin's successful hardware store sold everything from horseshoes and mattresses to plumbing supplies, silverware, guns, and linoleum. His most lucrative business was selling farming equipment and Studebaker buggies. A newspaper advertisement in the Klamath Republican of April 25, 1907, announced that Baldwin Hardware was the sole agency for Oliver plows in Klamath County, offering genuine Oliver’s “at the same price you would have to pay for imitations.”

The county Chamber of Commerce, under the influence of Baldwin as its president, offered a $100,000 bonus to the railroad if it connected with Klamath Falls by a set date. Baldwin expected to benefit handsomely from the arrival of the railroad. Unfortunately for him, the Southern Pacific Railroad bypassed downtown Klamath Falls, instead locating its terminal more than a mile east of the Baldwin building in the swampy “hot springs district” where the railroad interests, through the Klamath Development Company, had quietly bought up vast land holdings at pre-boom prices.³

Six months after the Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in town, a local newspaper speculated that George Baldwin might convert his building to a first-class hotel to serve the thousands of tourists the railroad was expected to bring. But he didn’t actually begin renovations until mid-1910, when the Klamath Development Company hired a San Francisco architect to build a...
Maud Baldwin was a professional photographer and ran the hotel after her father’s death before she drowned herself in Lake Ewauna.

Wood-burning stoves in the guests’ rooms provided warmth and a place to heat a meal.

Travelling salesmen would still rent suites at the Baldwin, however, laying out their wares in one room and using another for sleeping quarters. And Maud Baldwin sought to attract a new clientele, advertising the Baldwin in the 1920 Klamath Falls City and County Directory as “Home of the Automobile Tourists. Rates, $1.50 and Up.”

George Baldwin died of a liver ailment in 1920; he was sixty-five. Maud Baldwin managed the hotel for three more years before selling it. Then she and her invalid mother moved back into the family home, a three-story turreted Victorian house just across Lake Ewauna from the hotel. Three years later, Maud committed suicide by drowning in Lake Ewauna; she was forty-seven years old.

The Baldwin is an elegantly furnished first-class brick hotel, with large airy outside rooms

First-Class Cafe in Connection
Bus Meets All Trains

Andy Moore, who was born in a log cabin in rural Missouri, was twenty-nine years old when he brought his family to Oregon in 1910. In Missouri, Andy had taught school; in Oregon, he and his wife, Cordie, ran a hardware store in rural Klamath County before buying and moving into the Baldwin Hotel in 1923. When they purchased the Baldwin, the Moores had five children, ranging in age from four to twenty. They all had to share bathrooms, one per floor, with hotel customers. Andy and Cordie continued as resident managers at the Baldwin for twenty-eight years, living in the same two rooms the entire time.

The Moore/Jones Era

Andy and Cordie Moore, shown here in 1965, ran the Baldwin from 1923 to 1951.
The lobby still bore traces of previous managers in 1977. Maud Baldwin took the photo of the steamship on the wall at upper left; Andy Moore contributed the elk and deer antlers.

Photo Courtesy of Elaine Cook

Andy Moore, right, plays a game of chess with longtime Baldwin resident Cal Ellis. Moore had chess boards all over the hotel.

Photo by Will Foster

to see their grandparents every holiday, Mother's Day and Father's Day. They would slide down the banisters from the fourth floor and play games such as "Simon Says" on the mezzanine. "Imagine the noise we made," she said, but "we were never reprimanded or told to quit."[1] Andy loved movies. He often hired someone to watch the lobby so he could walk to the movie theater with his big alarm clock—to remind him when to race to the post office to pick up morning, hastening the process with a liberal dose of kerosene.

Running the Baldwin Hotel required a lot of labor. Cordie Moore and her older daughters changed the bed sheets; Cordie mended all the hotel linen and set up stretchers on the second floor hallway to dry the hotel curtains. The Moore daughters emptied the cuspidors.

The Moores operated the hotel through the Great Depression, and it became a "resident home" for men. Andy Moore added a glass showcase and cooler in the lobby to sell lunch meat, milk, penny candy, cigarettes, snuff, Bull Durham, Prince Albert tobacco in the can, and papers to roll your own. Hotel residents sometimes cooked food on the wood stoves in their rooms, using free wood Andy provided: "slab wood," with bark on one side, from nearby sawmills.

Oscar Anderson, whose wife Dorothy has been a volunteer at the Baldwin Hotel Museum for twenty years, remembers the Baldwin from the early 1930s when he used to cook a pan of potatoes or heat up coffee on the pot-bellied stove in his room. Oscar and his brother stayed at the hotel when they first came to Klamath Falls in 1937, paying $6 per week for Room 317. At that time, most residents were men who worked for the sawmills; during his four-month stay at the Baldwin, the only woman he saw there was Cordie Moore. [2]

Another of Andy Moore's passions was hunting, and he filled the hotel lobby with the mounted heads of game animals, many of which he had bagged himself: a moose head, an elk head, deer and antelope heads, as well as buffalo horns and longhorn cow horns. He wrote explanatory notes for some of these trophies. Under the moose head, he wrote: "The old bull moose if it could talk would say in its day it weighed 1600 pounds and was Lord and Master of the immediate valley around Moose Jaw, Canada."

A practical man who wanted to get things done quickly, Andy believed the less spent the better. He left his mark, his little homey touches. Upon repeal of the State Closet Tax—which provided that any structure with three walls you could step into would be taxed as a separate room—he added built-in closets to many rooms that previously had only free-standing wardrobes. Andy built the closets using thin strips of wainscoting, even though the wood didn't match anything else in the rooms.

Andy's grandchildren still like to tell funny stories about his antics. When butter was being rationed during World War II, Andy tried to devise a solution: he would ask his granddaughter, Elaine, to sit on a stool and hold onto a gallon bowl of cream, then he put the wide belt from his old "reducing machine" around her and turned the machine on. Elaine said, "He had to hold me on the stool. It really shook the stuffing out of me." Andy's reducing machine may still be seen in the museum's "sporting goods room." [3]

In 1951, the Moores retired and turned over the hotel to their daughter, Vera Moore Jones. Andy and Cordie were each seventy when they retired; he lived to be ninety and she lived to be 102. Vera Jones and her husband, Mart, operated the hotel as resident managers for twenty-six more years. The hotel then offered forty-nine rental units: a

Moore attached this reducing machine to his granddaughter Elaine, who was holding a bowl of cream, just to see if he could make butter when that commodity was rationed during World War II.

During the tenure of Andy Moore, behind the counter in this 1930s photo, the lobby lost its ferns and gained mounted game heads. Moore also brought in a cooler for sandwiches and sold snacks, tobacco, and candy to the hotel's residents.

SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY
few multi-room housekeeping apartments and many “sleeping rooms.” Many Baldwin residents lived there for years. Rents remained modest; in 1977, the nightly rate for a standard room with a pot-bellied stove and a bath down the hall was $7.50.

By the 1970s, the community began to recognize the uniqueness of the Baldwin Hotel: it had become a living museum where Vera Jones treated her long-term, elderly residents like family, driving them to the doctor’s office, getting their prescriptions and seeing that they followed prescribed diets. In 1970, the Klamath Falls Exchange Club gave the Joneses an award for their years of humanitarian devotion to their residents, commending the couple for keeping alive a reminder of a life that was less complex, slower-paced, and friendlier. Every Thanksgiving, Vera cooked turkey for everyone in the hotel. Even when her long-term residents had to move to nursing homes, Vera remembered their birthdays and often would drive some of them out to the Elks Club for an afternoon of cards.

Most of the Baldwin rooms came with a brass bed, but few had built-in closets owing to a peculiar state law that defined a closet as a room for tax purposes.

An article in the March 24, 1974, Oregon Journal enthusiastically reported that entering the Baldwin Hotel was “like being turned loose in a museum where the protective ropes and ‘Do Not Touch’ signs have been removed. Not a single piece of furniture has been removed, not a nail pulled or a floor board replaced since the Baldwin opened to guests.” Nonetheless, in November 1977, the State Fire Marshal closed the Baldwin Hotel because it didn’t meet current fire codes; and the Joneses sold the hotel to the county for $120,000. According to Vera’s niece, Elaine Cook, a motel chain offered Vera “a heck of a lot more money, but they were going to level the whole thing.” Since Andy Moore “would’ve turned over in his grave” if the hotel were destroyed, Vera sold it to the county instead.

In an effort to cater to business customers, George Baldwin operated a cafe in the hotel from 1909 to 1911. This tea cart is part of the recreated cafe in the Baldwin Hotel Museum.

Step into the Baldwin Hotel Museum and you will be swept back to an earlier era. The lobby has been restored to look as it did when George Baldwin opened the hotel in 1911. Andy Moore’s collection of stuffed game heads has been relegated to an upper floor; and George Baldwin’s French jardiniere planters, which once held three-foot-tall fan palms, are again on display. Enlargements of Maud Baldwin’s historic photographs line the walls. Two elegant eighteen-inch tall, nickel-plated cuspidors bracket the stairs to the mezzanine, as they did in George Baldwin’s era. New carpet matches the pattern of the “battleship linoleum” that covered the lobby floor in 1911.

The tour guides will tell you that the Baldwin building, a state and federal historic landmark, entertained such well-known visitors as Zane Grey and three U.S. presidents: Teddy Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson. If you keep count on a tour of the museum, they say, you can tally thirty-two brass beds; twenty-nine Cole’s cast-iron stoves; and twenty-two oaken Cadillac desks made between 1906 and 1908 by the same Detroit company that manufactures cars.
Many rooms have been restored to look as they did ninety years ago, including Maud Baldwin's photographic studio and millinery shop on the fourth floor, the sleeping rooms on the second floor, and the Baldwin Cafe. A tiny apartment on the fourth floor is still furnished as it was when it rented out in the 1950s: low ceilings and sloping floors, worn linoleum underfoot, the table set with mismatched dishes, awaiting the tenant's return for supper.

Room 300, where Herbert Ballard lived for fifty years, still looks as it did when he left in the 1960s: bare wood floor, a sink, a wood stove, a brass bed, an oak desk, a rocking chair, and a window looking down on Main Street. An Englishman and a life-long bachelor, Ballard worked as a bookkeeper for several local lumber mills. He lived in this ten-foot by twelve-foot room from 1917 to 1968, using a bath down the hall and taking his meals at restaurants in town. Ballard kept on paying the rent—twenty dollars a week before 1957, and twenty-five dollars a week after—even when he had to go into a nursing home where he died; he always hoped he could return to the Baldwin.

Many upstairs rooms in the Baldwin Hotel Museum are now set up with donated antiques to represent bygone Main Street businesses, including a general store, a dry goods shop, a doctor's office, a movie house, a music store, a barber shop, a beauty salon, a railroad office, an insurance office, a nursery, and a bank. These various business displays are designed to represent different eras between 1900 and World War II.

Doug Foster is a writer and historian in Ashland.

ENDNOTES:
1. Author's interview with April Kramer, museum staff member, Baldwin Hotel Museum, 4 August and 17 September 1999.
3. Author's interview with Elaine Cook, Klamath Falls, 26 August 1999.
7. Interview with Elaine Cook.
8. Author's interview with Oscar Anderson, 4 August 1999.
9. Interview with Elaine Cook.

George Baldwin's daughter Maud operated this photography studio and darkroom on the fourth floor. More than 2,000 of her glass-plate negatives were discovered in the 1960s in a closed-off attic in the hotel.

Besides being a photographer, Maud Baldwin also ran a millinery shop in the hotel, where hats left by early guests are now on display.

HOW TO GET THERE:

The Baldwin Hotel Museum is located at 31 Main Street, Klamath Falls. To date, the Baldwin remains relatively undiscovered. During late fall and winter, special tours and school tours may be arranged by appointment. The museum is open from June 1 to the end of September from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. Call the Baldwin Hotel Museum, 541-883-4207 or the Klamath County Museum, 1451 Main Street, 541-883-4208 for further information and to schedule a tour. A one-hour tour costs three dollars per person, a two-hour tour costs four dollars.
Chinese Sacred Lilies

by Nan Hannon and Donn L. Todt

The blooms of Narcissus tazetta, or Chinese sacred lily, once brightened and scented many Rogue Valley homes in winter.

During the first decades of the twentieth century, the scent of an exotic bulb perfumed many Ashland homes during the dark days of winter. Forced like a paperwhite narcissus, each bulb bore multiple, sweet-smelling, winter. Forced like a paperwhite narcissus, each bulb bore multiple, sweet-smelling, white and yellow flowers.

The Chinese sacred lily (Narcissus tazetta ssp. tazetta) came from the Ashland store operated by the Chinese family known as Wah Chung. The Wah Chungs imported sacred lily bulbs each fall. They sold well not just to the local Chinese community, but to other Ashland residents. The Wah Chung family also gave bulbs as gifts to their special friends. Almeda Helman Coder recalled, “My mother knew Mrs. Wah Chung quite well and she used to go over there and visit with Mrs. Wah Chung sometimes. And I remember that Wah Chung gave my mother a big Chinese lily bulb one year and he said, ‘Mrs. Helman, if this is a double lily, that means good luck to you.’ So she planted it and it bloomed. It was a double lily.”

Probably no Ashlanders realized the rich cultural significance the bulbs held for their Chinese neighbors who lived in the Railroad District. Arab traders carried Narcissus tazetta to China’s Fujian province during the Song dynasty, almost a thousand years ago. After being grown in soil for three years, the bulb has stored potential to generate leaves and flowers even when set among stones and given only water. This seemingly miraculous life force impressed the ancient Chinese, who called the bulb Shuixian, meaning “water immortal.” Over a millennium, poets and painters made Shuixian a popular subject in their art.

Because the plants’ forced bloom coincided with the Chinese New Year, they came to be associated with that important Chinese festival. People believed that having Shuixian in bloom at the New Year promised good fortune for the coming year. Even today, after all the upheavals the Chinese suffered during the twentieth century, Shuixian bulbs are still raised in large quantities in the Fujian region and sold all over China for the New Year celebration.

During the time of the Chinese diaspora in the nineteenth century, Chinese immigrants maintained their distinct cultural identity in foreign lands by adhering to as many traditional aspects of their culture as possible. When Chinese worked in mines and on the railroad in Oregon and California, both Chinese- and Caucasian-owned stores furnished them with traditional foods and other items of cultural importance, which were shipped from trading ports in Southeastern China. Among the goods in this trans-Pacific trade were Chinese sacred lilies. These small bulbs, forced into bloom for the Chinese New Year, were a living point of contact with the homeland. Chinese in Ashland and Jacksonville celebrated the New Year enthusiastically, to the pleasure of their Caucasian neighbors, who came to enjoy the fireworks, feasting, pageantry, and the sacred lilies associated with the festival.

After enjoying the bulbs indoors, many Ashlanders planted them outside, where they multiplied for some years. “At one time, they were just all over town,” recalled Almeda Helman Coder, “and they all came from the first bulbs that Wah Chung used to bring in.” But the Chinese sacred lily is only marginally hardy in Southern Oregon, and the bulbs died out during Ashland’s colder winters, disappearing like Ashland’s Chinese community, which was treated with coldness and hostility by most Southern Oregonians.

Since the Wah Chung store closed decades ago, it’s difficult to obtain Shuixian locally. They can be mail-ordered from some larger bulb companies, and grown indoors for a sweet scent of local history.

Anthropologist Nan Hannon and ethno­botanist Donn L. Todt grew Shuixian in a sunny window in their home in Ashland.

When Toy Kee posed for Peter Brit in this nineteenth century portrait, pots of blooming lilies completed the picture.

ENDNOTES


Members

New Members

FRIENDS
Eva Albert, Medford
Mike Beagle, Eagle Point
Adelia Coffman, Central Point
Kristine DeMaria, Jacksonville
Justine Emmens, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Emmens, Medford
Darrel Hinnewinkel, Talent
Charles Jandrea, Frederickburg, TX
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen G. Lewis, Lake Oswego
Mrs. Mauree Lining, Ashland
Lucy M. Lutes, Ashland
Mr. and Mrs. William Makoney, Portland
Jack Milhoan, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Seaman, Phoenix
Norman Smith, Central Point
Mr. and Mrs. David Straus, Medford
Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Tennyson, Jr., Medford
Reginald Tracy, Rogue River
Leitha Trefren, Medford
Don Van Curlier, Ashland

PIONEER/FRIENDS
Philip L. Newman, Ashland
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Ordeldon, Jersey City, NJ
Dorothy L. Weissenske, Shady Cove
Phyllis Wendt Skinner, Medford

FAMILY
Bill Collins, Gold Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Grout, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Tapp, Medford
The Kriegel Family, Santa Rosa, CA

PIONEER/FAMILY
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Miller, Ashland
Robert L. Kelsoh, Medford

PATRON
Dr. and Mrs. Joel Slaughter, Central Point

PIONEER/PATRON
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Pruett, Central Point

LIFETIME
Robert L. Lewis, Jacksonville

BUSINESS
Bureau of Land Management, Medford

Renewing Members

FRIENDS
Arnold J. Adams, Hornbrook, CA
Brad Allen, Medford
Eva Andrews, Medford
Art Barnett, Medford
Juleen Bethelfield, White City
Charles L. Bishop, Coral Gables, FL
Walter R. Bolz, Medford
Nancy Carlisle, Pine Grove, CA
Harry Chipman, Medford
Barbara A. Coldwell, Ashland
Janet L. Crawford, Portland
John G. Crawford, Jr., Portland
Margaret Croly, Medford
Robert Eastman, Medford
Margaret M. Edwards, Medford
Lois Endres, Medford
Helen Farmer, Klamath Falls
John Gartman, Central Point
Ralph E. Gies, Littleton, CO
Steven Gillispie, Seattle, WA
The Grant Family, Central Point

Patria Haley, Rogue River
Ann Hamilton, Medford
Merle Harper, Trafil
Jerry G. Henderson, Seattle, WA
Loren Heuerst, Rogue River
Mr. and Mrs. Perry Hilger, Rogue River
Lois Hudek, Medford
Karen Ireland, Liberty Lake, WA
Mr. and Mrs. Frank James, Puclcia, CA
William F. Johnlin, Phoenix
Dr. Harry L. Lydiard, Port Angeles, WA
Dale A. McCoy, Jacksonville
Mr. A. Morano, Rogue River
Mr. and Mrs. A. O’Connor, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Oldson, Medford
James Peck, Grants Pass
S. R. Reese, Medford
Ruth A. Reid, Jacksonville
Stephen W. Ryder, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sapp, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Franz Schlottmann, Olympia, WA
Florence Schutz, Phoenix
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Seibert, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Slack, Ashland
Ms. Maryvn Solow, Jamestown, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stacy, Medford
University of Oregon Library, Eugene
Jennifer Williams, Sarasota, FL
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wissel, Beaverton

PIONEER/FRIENDS
Mary Arthur, Medford
Bertha L. Bennett, Grants Pass
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bennett, La Quinta, CA
William H. Breese, Medford
James W. Corcoran, Mill Creek, WA
Mr. and Mrs. James Delman, Ashland
G.R. Dews, Esg., Santa Cruz, CA
Wayne E. Huffstutter, Portland
Susanne Krieg, Medford
Betty Applegate Melling, Lake Oswego
Mac A. Moore, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Niedermeyer, Medford
Dutch Offenbacher, Jacksonville
Warren H. Parker, Placerville, CA
Diane Richardson Marsh, Pullman, WA
William P. Russell, Bend
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stephenson, Grants Pass
Marcia P. Sydor, Roseville, CA
Mary Taylor, Central Point
Vern W. Voss, Medford
Bea Walker, Central Point
Evelyn Byrne Williams, Jacksonville

FAMILY
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Burnett, Gold Hill
Mr. and Mrs. William Dreher, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Don Goheen, Jacksonville
*Gene Gressley, Jacksonville
Joyce Hailieka, Butte Falls
*Mr. and Mrs. John Jarolimle, Bothell, WA
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Lewis, Ashland
Jean Libante, Phoenix
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McGraw, Gold Hill
Mr. and Mrs. William Milhon, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Post, Central Point
*Bill Ryan, White City
*Mr. and Mrs. C. Aubrey Sander, Medford
Dr. and Mrs. John Traynor, Medford
Bonnie J. Whiteside, Rogue River
Mr. and Mrs. Delmer L. Wright, Medford

PIONEER/FAMILY
Mr. and Mrs. Al Alsing, Ashland
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Anderson, Central Point
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Darling, Ashland
*Jim Ferry, Rogue River
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Gambee, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Lilly, Beaveron
Dee Linton and Danette Mulrine, Sacramento, CA
James W. Maize, Sr., Santa Rosa, CA
James W. Maize, Jr., Medford

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Merriman, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Slusser, Ashland

PATRON
Mr. and Mrs. Desmond Armstrong, Jacksonville
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Caspkey, Medford
Karen Gerrant, Talent
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Gleaves, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald T. Latham, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Linder, Jacksonville
Dr. and Mrs. Ron Moyler, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Perry, Medford
Dr. Ruth A. Rabinovich, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Thonndike, Jr., Medford
Samae J. Whitford, Medford

PIONEER/PATRON
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Arnold, Medford
*Joseph P. Busby, Palm Desert, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Busby, Central Point
Edmund Dews, Ashland
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Wilson, Medford

CURATOR
Stuart Allan, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bryden, Medford
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Howe, Ashland

PIONEER/CURATOR
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Applegate, Darville, CA
Mr. and Mrs. John Sanderson, Henderson, NV

PIONEER/DIRECTOR
Mr. and Mrs. John Hamlin, Medford

BUSINESS
Grocery Outlet, Medford

PIONEER/LIFETIME
*Alice Mullaney, Central Point
*Indicates upgraded membership category or monetary contribution in addition to membership dues for Society programs.

Donors

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Gold Diggers’ Guild of Southern Oregon Historical Society
Betty S. Latti* 
Rogue River Studio, Dan Shere
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simpson
Patricia D. and William B. Smillimn Foundation*
TooVelle House Bed & Breakfast
* Designated for Hanley Farm Development

GENERAL COLLECTION
Diame Alvarez
Cindy Felix
The Haggan Museum
Diane Marsh

EDUCATION COLLECTION
Ed and Virginia Hoag

IN-KIND GOODS & SERVICES
Deli Down
Minute Man Press
Rogue Disposable & Recycling, Inc.
Valley Web Printing

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS FUND
Darlene G. Anderson
Cynthia Bagley
Cindy G. Bailey
Elmer G. Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Brent Barr
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Benis
Dr. and Mrs. Steve Bennett
Patricia Benson
Victor Berg
Marilyn Boesch

Charlotte R. Brown
Paula Brown and Patrick
Flannery
Jane Buffington
Ralph C. Burgess
Dr. Malcolm and June Byers
Mary Ann Byrne
Doris O. Chang
City Of Jacksonville
Bill Collins
Hazel Colvig
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Costle
John G. Crawford, Jr.
Bernice Curker
Dorothy E. Dewing
Viola A. Donhue
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Doolen
Dorothy Duthie
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Elmore
Mrs. and Mr. Robert Fasel
Judith L. Faukner
Rocky Marcov
Dixie Lee Pfeeger
Laura Jeanne Frost
Murrs Gibbons
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Gossen
Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Gottesmann
Grange Co-op
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Green
Seely V. Hall, Jr.
Elizabeth L. Harris
Tom Hennion
Rev. B. J. Holland
Dr. and Mrs. Jack Ingram
Vicki Keeney
Lucile Kepner
Jean Zachariens Kircher
Beverly Kirkpatrick
Donald W. Kitchens
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kreisman
Richard Leever
Amy Lepon
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Martin
Jack P. Martin
Beverly A. McKey
Matt Messner and Neil Sedan
Ed Milne
Karen Mitchell
Mr. and Mrs. Neil J. Murphy
Naumes, Inc., Sue Naumes
Mr. and Mrs. John Newell
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Niedermeyer
Roger G. Nielsen
Margaret Noble
David A. Oas
Claire Colvig Obrone
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Oldson
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Olson
Bruce and Carol Oxley
Donna O. Feby
Laura J. Patton
Bettie J. Paul
Roger Paul
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Potvin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Powell
Christine Raedke
Mary Ragland
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Ramsey
Roy A. Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Don Reynolds
Ken Rheo
Paul A. Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Robinson
Karne Roemer
Rogue River RV Park, Kathleen Collins
Rogue Valley Chiropractic, Gustav E. Scheffstrom
Hayes Rossman
Bill Ryan
Thomas Saydah
Carolyn Sharrock
Clyde L. Shoemaker

(continued on page 2)
This two-ton White truck, loaded to capacity with babies of all shapes and sizes, is, in actuality, a clever advertisement for the Issott Photography Studio in Medford. James H. Issott, the proprietor, was a native of Liverpool, England. Born in 1875, Issott immigrated to the United States at the age of seventeen. In 1916, while in San Rafael, California, Issott married Anna H. Wendt (1883-1974), daughter of Jackson County pioneers Henry and Mary Wendt. Although born in Clatonia, Nebraska, Anna grew up in Jacksonville. In 1919 the Issotts settled in Medford, where they opened a photography studio at 331 East Main Street, above the Hubbard Brothers hardware store, space previously occupied by photographer Frank Hull.1

On Saturday, July 26, 1919, a small advertisement appeared in the local and personal column in the Medford Mail Tribune. “Issott’s Photo Studio now open for business over Hubbard Bros.,” the ad read. “We do portrait work exclusively and make a specialty of baby photos. Your satisfaction guaranteed.”

Little is known of the Issott Studio, but judging from the surviving photographs and advertisements, it is clear that the Issotts specialized in children’s portraits. Both of the surviving advertising cards preserved in the collections of the Southern Oregon Historical Society consist of collages of baby pictures pieced together and re-photographed as postal cards. The Issotts soon expanded their practice to include copy work. In September of 1919 they began running ads that read: “Bring in that picture you want copied. We will do it right. Issott’s Studio, over Hubbard Bros.”2

As these four portraits show, the Issotts were masters at capturing everything from smiles to wonder to pensive reflection.

James and Anna Issott operated their studio above Hubbard’s until the spring of 1927. In April of that year Albert E. and Lorene Peasley purchased the business. They announced their grand opening with an ad for Mother’s Day photographs in the Medford Mail Tribune: “The Peasleys Photographic Art, 331 East Main Street, For 20 Years Makers of Good Photographs, Successors Issott Studio.”3

The reasons for the Issotts’ departure from their studio remain a mystery; none of the surviving records indicate what either Issott’s new occupation might have been. For the remaining years of their lives the Issotts lived in their comfortable cottage on Windsor Street. James died in August 1953; Anna lived on until 1974. The photographs that make up the Issott collection were found in the attic of their home after Anna Issott was moved to a nursing home in 1971. They were later donated to the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

William Alley is historian/archivist for the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

ENDNOTES
2. Medford Mail Tribune, 26 July 1919, 4 September 1919; Medford Sun, 27 July 1919, 21 September 1919.