ANNE MCCORMICK: A MODERN LADY FOR MODERN TIMES
PUTTING UP JARS
ETIQUETTE OF THE TABLE
BIG BLACK SPIDERS
ACORNS, BERRIES AND CAMAS
ROGUE VALLEY HEIRLOOM RECIPES
From the Director

Dear SOHS members and friends:

Thank you to all our readers and members who wrote and called to congratulate us on our last issue of Southern Oregon Heritage Today, which focused on race and ethnicity in Southern Oregon. We appreciate your support. We hope you find the current issue, which focuses on the region’s history of food and food preparation, as interesting and informative.

There has been a lot of activity in the past few months around SOHS, and I want to take this opportunity to summarize: We have completed the first big phase of the move of our administrative offices to Jacksonville. Most offices and employees are now moved out of the History Center in Medford and are in the Museums complex in Jacksonville.

As you may have read in the local newspaper, SOHS has leased the majority of the space in the History Center to Lithia Motors’ real estate division for use by Lithia as office space. It’s a good deal for Lithia, which needs space, and a good deal for SOHS, which needs new revenue sources. Our Research Library and Collections Department will continue to operate at our current locations at the History Center until we find a new permanent home for them. Meanwhile, the remodeling of the Hanley and Ferguson buildings behind the museums continues. That work should be concluded by winter.

I want to thank the 400-plus new members of the Society who joined during our recent membership campaign. Welcome to the Southern Oregon Historical Society. We hope you will enjoy the magazine, our exhibits and programs, Hanley Farm and the other special events we put on during the coming year. Thank you for joining.

Finally, for those of you who might be looking for an ideal gift for the holidays, please consider giving a gift membership in SOHS. Give the gift of history.

John Enders
Executive Director
These illustrations are from a scrapbook in the SOHS collection, circa 1925.

contents

SOHS Today
WE'VE MOVED! • 4

Exhibits
PETER BRITT:
THE MAN BEYOND THE CAMERA • 5

Then and Now
CUBBY'S DRIVE-IN
1963 & 2005 • 6

From the Archives
COOKBOOK & ADS FROM 1909 • 7
1930S MENU FROM VALENTINE'S CAFE • 14 & 15

From the Collection
BIG BLACK SPIDERS
by Steve Wyatt • 12

Features
ANNE MCCORMICK:
A MODERN LADY FOR MODERN TIMES
by Dawna Culer • 8-10

PUTTING UP JARS:
PRESERVING FOOD IN THE EARLY 1900S
by Sherry Wachter • 11

ETIQUETTE OF THE TABLE • 13

ACORNS, BERRIES AND CAMAS:
THE ABC'S OF NATIVE FOOD SOURCES
by Jennifer Brennock Buckner • 16

CAMAS
by Nan Hannon • 16 & 17

DEATH CAMAS
by Nan Hannon and Donn L. Todt • 17

FROM THE KITCHEN OF...
ROGUE VALLEY HEIRLOOM RECIPES • 18

ROGUE CREAMERY • 19

Members/Donors • 20, 21 & 22

Autumn 2005 SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY 3
A Recipe for Confusion?

Ingredients:
One tablespoon of Relocating to Jacksonville.
Two cups of What About the Research Library?
Three large helpings of New Phone Numbers.

Stir in a large fish bowl for several months and voila! Confusion Soufflé

But the good news is that the first phase of the Historical Society's relocation to Jacksonville is complete and we can now provide enough information to clear up any confusion. As of this issue of the magazine, here are the facts:

• Our administrative offices are now in Jacksonville and renovation of the Hanley and Ferguson buildings (located behind the museums) is moving toward completion.

• Lithia Real Estate, Inc. is continuing to remodel and relocate its offices to the former History Center in Medford.

• The Historical Research Library remains in its Medford location and will do so for the foreseeable future. It is open, as usual, Tuesday through Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm.

• Our Graphics and Collections departments continue to work out of the Medford location.

Listed below are our current phone numbers and department extensions in order to help you stay in touch with us:

Main Number: 541-773-6536
Executive Director, John Enders: 245
Finance and Rentals, Maureen Smith: 222
Development/Membership, Richard Seidman: 226
Education/Programs, Stephanie Butler: 229
PR/Marketing, Harley B. Patrick: 228
Volunteer Coordinator, Lara Duran: 223

New Phone Numbers
Historical Research Library, Carol Samuelson: 541-858-1724
Collections & Exhibits, Steve Wyatt: 541-858-1682
Graphics & Photography, Tracy Murphy: 541-858-1954

We hope you find this information useful. We value your continued support and always welcome your comments and suggestions.
exhibits

AT THE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM
5TH & C STREETS, JACKSONVILLE

PETER BRITT
THE MAN BEYOND THE CAMERA

MUSEUM HOURS:
The Jacksonville and Children’s Museum

Wednesday through Sunday, 10am to 5pm.

PEAR POSTER SALE

Originally produced by SOHS in 1992, these beautiful Rogue Valley Packing Label posters are now available at our Online History Store for only $8.95 (plus S&H).

TO ORDER: Log on to www.sohs.org and follow the links to the Online History Store. Supplies are limited, so order yours today.
Cubby's Drive-In, located on the corner of South Pacific Highway and Stewart Avenue, was a popular Medford hangout between 1956 and 1974.

Today, the same corner is home to many new businesses that have emerged over the last 40 years.
These local ads are from the cookbook pictured, published in 1909.

The secret of satisfying a man's appetite is in keeping his stomach in a perfectly healthy condition. This is accomplished by serving a bottle of **COLESTIN MINERAL WATER**

with each meal, making dyspepsia an impossibility. Remember, pure water is as essential to good health as good food. A trial will convince you that **COLESTIN** is best of all. **VIVE VALE** (live and be well) is our motto. Don’t forget the name **COLESTIN**.

Delivered at your door by P. C. BIGHAM, of the **MEDFORD SODA WORKS**

Phone 94

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**THE MEDFORD BAKERY and DELICATESSEN**

First Class Pastry and Bread

Lunches to Order for Picnickers, Parties, Etc.

22 South Central Avenue Phone 2151

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**Buy a “Real Estate Range” and your success is assured**

**Medford Furniture Co.**

The only Complete House-furnishers in Southern Oregon

Plain and Decorated China
Graniteware Glassware Tinware Cooking Utensils

Just ask for it We've got it

---

**Lewis’ West Side Confectionery**

ICE CREAM and all things pertaining to the business

West Main and Grape Streets Phone 573

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**Bank Your Money With Mother Earth**

And reap dividends in golden Newtons, Comice Pears and all the luscious fruits produced so abundantly by the tested soil in **Crestbrook Orchard Tracts**

Situated across the county road from HILLCREST. They contain the same quality and depth of soil as this famous orchard.

We plant and care for the land if desired and give it thorough and scientific attention

**Oregon Orchards Syndicate**

Selling Agents
Rogue River Valley

---

**ROGUE RIVER ELECTRIC CO.**

209 West Main Street, Medford

---

**Let ELECTRICITY Aid You in your Work**

Electric Irons save fuel and time.
Electric Fans keep the house cool.
Electric Chafer Dishes are fine for preparing quick, savory lunches without building a fire in the range.
Electric Toasters will make toast in 3 minutes right on your table.
Electric Percolators will make coffee on the table while the rest of the meal is being served.

The Electric Vacuum Cleaner is the greatest invention of the age; sucks all dust from carpets, rugs, curtains, floors and walls into a dust tight box. A child can operate it.

Ask us about these and other Electrical Conveniences
BORN OF PIONEER PARENTS IN 1890, ANNE MCCORMICK was raised on a small subsistence farm in Lebanon, Oregon. She knew the old ways of the settlers, but Anne came of age in the early 1900s and met the Twentieth Century head on. As a graduate of Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University), in Corvallis, Anne embraced the modern technologies and scientific methods of home economics and worked diligently to bring others along with her.

Although Anne McCormick spent just two years in the Rogue Valley, the work she did between 1917 and 1919 as Southern Oregon’s first Home Demonstration Agent laid the foundation for a strong home extension program that continues to this day.

Oregon Agricultural College established an off-campus extension service in 1911 to provide agricultural assistance to the non-academic community. By the time the nation entered World War I, male extension agents were already teaching modern farming practices in Southern Oregon but home economics issues had not yet been addressed. After the declaration of war in April 1917, nearly two thousand “emergency” home economists were hired throughout the nation to encourage victory gardens and food conservation due to national food shortages. Anne McCormick was the Emergency Home Demonstration Agent assigned to Jackson and Josephine counties.

During her first year of work, McCormick visited forty-two different communities. She organized a Home Economics Committee to help form study clubs in a number of those communities and gave lectures and demonstrations at schools and at Grange, PTA, Red Cross, and Ladies’ Civic Club meetings. Anne also met individually with women in their homes and organized a home study tour.

In her first annual report, McCormick expressed pleasure with her Southern Oregon assignment but also noted drastic contrasts between some of her rural and urban clients and their receptivity to her programs.
The people in these secluded mountainous communities were at first somewhat suspicious of a person bearing such a title as "Home Demonstration Agent" and seemed determined to guard themselves and their homes against any attack from such "outside interference." In these sections, especially the arid mining districts, sanitary conditions were found bad. One saw many open wells, filthy outside toilets, and flies and bedbugs in nearly every home. Children in these communities were not getting the kind of food needed for their growth and development...

I quickly realized the opportunity for service in these communities, and although it was difficult at first to get women to understand the nature and purpose of home demonstration work, it seems to me now, looking back over the year that some little improvement has been effected in their lives... In the open Rogue River Valley, around the cities of Medford, Ashland, Grants Pass and other smaller towns, I found many progressive, well educated people who from the first were willing to co-operate with me in any work I attempted in their communities.

McCormick addressed all areas of home economics including household management, sanitation, and the repair and care of clothing. But the production, preservation, and preparation of food, child welfare, and nutrition were especially high priorities. McCormick gave immediate attention to a food conservation campaign because of the need to save certain foods for soldiers and allies overseas. She distributed information and recipes for food conservation through the newspapers, gave lectures illustrated with colored slides supplied by the OSU Extension office, and enlisted high school Domestic Science teachers to give a ten-lesson course outlined by the Food Administration. Housewives were taught to make "wheatless" breads and to make sugar beet and grape syrups as sugar substitutes.

In addressing drying techniques for fruits and vegetables, McCormick promoted the construction and use of a small, homemade dryer and reported that forty had been built and were used in Rogue Valley homes. A 1917 Department of Agriculture bulletin that she may have distributed as educational literature suggested an interesting variety of vegetables could be dried including Irish and sweet potatoes, celery, spinach, chard, beets, carrots, pumpkins, cabbage, and cauliflower.

Children's nutritional needs greatly concerned McCormick. She felt this was "by far the most important work" and stressed the relation of "right food combinations" to good health. McCormick taught the importance of vegetables, cereals, eggs, and dairy in a child's diet and implemented a hot lunch program in thirty Jackson County schools.

The "hot lunch" was a bowl of soup that supplemented other food from a pupil's lunch pail. Several of the oldest girls in the classroom prepared the soup on a portable two-burner oil stove or flat-topped heating stove if the room had one. Students brought contributions for the cooking pot from home and the soup simmered while they did their morning lessons.
After the Armistice was signed in November 1918, McCormick continued her work in the Rogue Valley, although her regular duties were interrupted for several months by the Spanish Flu epidemic. Between November and January she prepared meals and cleaned homes for sickened families and used "the press" to distribute nutritional information for feeding the sick and "keeping up the resistance of the body."\(^1\) Anne McCormick had a passion for travel, so in 1919 she resigned her post and headed for New York City where she attended Columbia University and worked with new immigrants in the Bowery. A few years later she returned to the west coast, settling in Santa Cruz, California, where she again worked as an extension agent until she married and raised her family.\(^1\)

The work begun by Anne McCormick has continued for nearly a century under the direction of successive home extension agents. While today's agent uses different terms and finds the Internet helpful in disseminating information, many of the issues dealt with—including nutrition and the welfare of young children—are the same. Because of a greater senior population now, more age-related matters are addressed and the original study groups have become volunteer groups of master gardeners, master food preservers, and family community educators. In spite of modern differences, the home extension program still strives for the same goal that Anne McCormick did: meeting specific community needs that are relevant to the times.\(^1\)

Dawna Curler is a writer and historian, and worked for the Southern Oregon Historical Society for 22 years.

**ENDNOTES**

1. Anne McCormick's father, born in 1833 came to California during the gold rush of the 1850s before settling in Oregon. Her mother, born in 1850, came to Oregon by covered wagon from Canada. Anne and five of her six siblings all attended college. The various brothers and sisters paid for each other's education. Interview with Annette Buchanan, OH 622, SOHS; Buchanan, "An Educated Farm Girl," *Special Women in Our Lives, A Family Scrap Book*, AARP, p. 15.


6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. In her annual report, Anne McCormick mentions distributing "bulletins" which could have included the following: "Drying Fruits and Vegetables in the Home, With Recipes for Cooking," *Farmer's Bulletin 841*, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., June, 1917.


10. Although designed for rural schools, the hot lunch program was so successful that four city schools also adopted the plan. McCormick, Anne. "Home Demonstration Work, Jackson County, Oregon, November, 1918 to July 1, 1919. (second annual report) Unpublished manuscript in files of Jackson County/OSU Extension Service.


13. Johnson, Sharon (assistant professor in family and community development, OSU Extension), phone conversation with the author, July 26, 2005.
Putting Up Jars: Preserving Food in the Early 1900s
By Sherry Wachter

HEIRLOOM RECIPES AREN’T ALWAYS SAFE

So you found Great Aunt Bertha’s pickle recipe and you’re thinking you’d like to try it out? Think again. There are several reasons to treasure that recipe as a family heirloom—and keep it as far away from the kitchen as possible.

1. There is no guarantee that Aunt Bertha’s pickles were safe even when she made them. Consider the tragic—and possibly apocryphal—case of the Southern Oregon family that was nearly wiped out at a family reunion. Somebody brought some pickled asparagus, which apparently just about everyone loved. The asparagus was tainted and most of the family died as a result.

2. The second reason using that old recipe might not be such a good idea is that we really can’t be sure exactly what went into it. Take vinegar for instance. For a housewife a century ago, vinegar was one of those things she made at home. As it turned out vinegar can be, and was, made from just about anything, which meant that there was no way of determining how much vinegar was needed to completely pickle the fruit or vegetable. There’s no way of knowing how strong Aunt Bertha’s vinegar was. Even if you follow the recipe to the letter, your pickles will probably not turn out like hers did—and might not even be safe.

3. The third reason to leave that recipe in the scrapbook is that vegetables and fruits have come a long way in the last century. As a result of genetic manipulation, grafting, and biological engineering, their acidic makeup may not be what it was in Aunt Bertha’s day. A recipe written to work with Aunt Bertha’s vegetables may come out very differently for you—and again, might be deadly.

DOES THIS SMELL FUNNY TO YOU?

Food covered in mold or in an advanced state of decay is easy to spot. But how did our great-grandparents know about some of the less obvious ways food went bad? They devised tests.

Canning using brass and copper kettles was an established practice, in spite of the fact that foods cooked and left standing in the pot reacted with the brass or copper to produce acetate of copper, or canker—also called verdigris. While the obvious solution would seem to be not using a copper kettle (and eventually they did disappear), crafty canners devised simple chemistry experiments to let them know if their canned food was safe to eat.

How did they do it?
They put a teaspoonful of the preserves into a cup, poured 30 drops of vinegar over it, and stirred it with a clean knitting or darning needle. If canker was present, the needle turned red. If no red had appeared after six to eight hours, the preserves were declared safe.

Meat, and other food that can become dangerous without showing obvious signs of decay, was often stored in a granite box down a well, in a springhouse, or in a running stream. Home-makers were advised to set the box in a stream and watch the water flow over the meat. As long as the meat remained firmly on the bottom of the box it was safe. When it started to float, it had to be used immediately.

“The outside may be somewhat whitened, but the flavor will be uninjured,” says turn-of-the-century home economist Sidney Morse. He further advises that meat that has perhaps failed the float test can be used if one applies “a solution of chloride of soda by means of a soft clean brush or sponge. With this quickly wash over the tainted portions and rinse immediately with fresh water. Afterwards broil or roast the meat so as to expose the tainted portion to a high temperature and char it with the heat.”

Sherry Wachter is a writer, illustrator, and graphic designer who cans only when she has to. This is an excerpt from Wachter’s “Always Use a Silver Knife” originally published in the August 1999 edition of Southern Oregon Heritage Today.

ENDNOTES
2. Morse, p. 559
3. Morse, p. 590
**Big Black Spiders**  
*By Steve Wyatt*

**BIG BLACK SPIDERS STOWED AWAY IN MANY** of the wagons crossing the Oregon Trail in the 1850s. For many pioneers, a spider in the wagon was a conscious decision, whether arachnophobia was a problem or not.

The spiders of the Oregon Trail were not bugs, but rather cast iron, three-legged predecessors to the modern frying pan. With some imagination, arachnid legs can be seen holding up the pan's round black body. The spider's legs elevated the cooking surface above the hot coals of a fire. Once cook stoves became more commonplace, the spider's legs became obsolete and it eventually evolved into the modern, legless, flat-bottomed frying pan. For some, however, the spider name stuck long after the evolution was complete.

The “spider” name for the three-legged pan can be traced to early nineteenth century New England. Cookbooks calling for its use were generally published in the region. The first known use of the term “spider” in terms of cookware dates back to 1790. An advertisement in a Pennsylvania newspaper announced:

> “William Robinson Junr. Hath for Sale ... bake pans, spiders, skillets.”

Since Robinson’s spiders were neither baking pans nor skillets (small-legged pots used for cooking on the hearth) they were by default a frying pan. Recipes from the era confirm this.

A generous helping of multigenerational history comes with the flat-bottom spider pictured here. Williams family legend has it that this particular spider came with them when they immigrated from France around 1767. The great-grandmother of the last family member to possess this pan used it to cook a farewell dinner for her husband and son when they were called away to fight in the War of 1812.

Decades later this spider crossed the plains in the family’s ox-driven wagon on the journey to Astoria. When they ventured to the California Gold Rush, the spider accompanied them and served to help feed the family.

In 1865 the Williams put down roots in Southern Oregon. In 1938, a family member turned over this spider to the Jacksonville City Museum and shared its rich history. After the city museum closed in the late 1940s, its collection—and the spider—were turned over to the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

This well-used, well-traveled, eleven-inch, black, pitted, and slightly warped spider speaks of our culinary past, our nation’s westward growth, and Southern Oregon history. Proof positive that a recipe for an engaging history of this region calls for a myriad of ingredients—even spiders.

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*Steve Wyatt is the former curator of Collections and Exhibits at Southern Oregon Historical Society.*

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**Spider Corn Bread**  
*(for a flat-bottomed frying pan)*

Adapted from *American Cooks* by the Browns (NY, 1940)

1 1/4 cups white corn meal  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
2 eggs, well beaten  
2 cups milk  
4 tablespoons melted butter

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Preheat a thick iron frying pan on the stove top or in the oven. Meanwhile, sift dry ingredients together. Break in eggs. Add milk and 1/2 the melted butter. Stir very briefly until the batter just comes together, but is not yet smooth. Pour remaining melted butter into heated pan and immediately pour in batter. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve hot.
Table manners from an unknown 1887 publication.
OUR INCOMPARABLE SANDWICHES
PLEASE ORDER BY NUMBER

No. 1 Fresh Hamburger (Honest) Mixed with Onions and A-1 Sauce with Melted Cheese on Toast (This is a real hot number) ................................................................. 35¢
No. 2 Chicken White Meat on French Toast Sandwich (Fit for a king) ................................................................. 50¢
No. 3 Fresh Raw Hamburger with Onions on Rye or White (This will pep you up) ................................................................. 20¢
No. 4 Boiled Ham, Melted American Cheese, Sliced Onion on Toast ................................................................. 25¢
No. 5 Chicken, Cold Tongue, Lettuce and Tomato (This is always good) ................................................................. 35¢
No. 6 Chopped Chicken Liver Sandwich (Open) on Rye or White (Soothing and satisfying) ................................................................. 25¢
No. 7 Special Melted Cheese on Toast, Baked with Stuffed Olives (Good and How) ................................................................. 30¢
No. 8 Filet Mignon on Toast with Lettuce and Sliced Onion................................................................. 60¢
No. 9 Imported Sardines with Shredded Lettuce and Mayonnaise on Toast (Light and healthful) ................................................................. 25¢
No. 10 Crab Meat with Mayonnaise or 1000 Island Dressing (It’s a pay off) ................................................................. 35¢
No. 11 Open Turkey Sandwich, All White Meat ........................................................................................................... 35¢
No. 12 Top Sirloin Sandwich ................................................................. 50¢

Special Three Decker Toasted Sandwiches
No. 1 Virginia Baked Ham, Turkey, Tomato, Lettuce and Mayonnaise ................................................................. 50¢
No. 2 Sliced Chicken, Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato and Mayonnaise (The old reliable) ................................................................. 50¢
No. 3 Ham, Melted Swiss Cheese on French Toast (Everybody’s favorite) ................................................................. 50¢

Drink Extra with Above Orders

Our Tasty Salads
Fresh Vegetable Salad, Hard Boiled Egg ................................................................. 40¢
Fresh Crab Salad ................................................................. 60¢
Tuna Fish Salad ................................................................. 40¢
Shrimp Salad ................................................................. 40¢
Half Cracked Crab, 1000 Island Dressing ................................................................. 40¢
Imported Sardines with Hearts of Lettuce and 1000 Island Dressing 45¢
Lettuce and Tomatoes with French or 1000 Island Dressing ................................................................. 30¢

Cold Plate Specials
Cold Sliced Chicken, Asparagus Tips ................................................................. 65¢
Assorted Cold Meats ................................................................. 60¢
New England Meat Loaf, Sliced Tomatoes ................................................................. 45¢
Cold Ham, Pork, Tongue or Beef and Potato Salad or Sliced Tomatoes ................................................................. 50¢
Kosher Liverwurst, Potato Salad ................................................................. 45¢
Cold Plate Imported Salami ................................................................. 45¢
Genuine Italian Salami ................................................................. 45¢
Special Dutch Lunch ................................................................. 45¢
Home Made Head Cheese ................................................................. 45¢

Miscellaneous
Chinese Pork Noodles ................................................................. 30¢
Chicken ................................................................. 35¢
Italian Raviolos, en Casserole ................................................................. 35¢
Drinks Extra with All Above Orders

WE SERVE FLUHRER’S BREAD AND ROLLS
## A LA CARTE MENU

### Soups
- Consomme $0.20
- Chicken $0.25
- Tomato $0.25
- Ox Tail $0.20
- Beef Broth $0.20
- Vegetable $0.20
- Clam Chowder $0.25
- Chili Con Carne $0.25
- Mock Turtle Soup $0.20
- Cream of Celery Soup $0.20

### Salads
- Chicken Salad $0.40
- Half Portion $0.30
- Shrimp Salad $0.40
- Half Portion $0.30
- Crab Salad $0.40
- Half Portion $0.30
- Waldorf Salad, 40c; Half $0.30
- Potato Salad, 20c; Side Order $0.10
- Combination Salad 40c; Half $0.30
- Fruit Salad 40c; Half $0.30
- Sliced Tomatoes $0.20
- Sliced Cucumbers $0.20
- Crab Louis 60c; Half $0.40

### Garnishes and Sauces
- Spanish Sauce $0.15
- Mushroom Sauce $0.25
- Tomato Sauce $0.15
- Country Gravy $0.10
- Cream Gravy $0.10
- Smothered Onions $0.15

### Potatoes
- Shoestring $0.15
- Creamed $0.15
- Julienne $0.15
- Lyonnaise $0.10
- Au Gratin $0.20

### French Fried $0.10
- Hash Brown $0.10
- Cottage Fried $0.20
- Minced Potatoes in Cream $0.20
- O'Brien Potatoes $0.20
- O'Brien au Gratin Potatoes $0.25
- Sweet Potatoes $0.20

### Vegetables
- Asparagus Tips on Toast $0.35
- Early June Peas $0.15
- String Beans $0.10
- Stewed Corn $0.15
- Tomatoes $0.10
- Spinach with Boiled Eggs $0.30
- Spinach $0.15
- Corn on Cob $0.15
- Fried Egg Plant $0.35
- Side Order $0.15
- Fried Onions $0.15

### Special Dishes
- Pork Noodles $0.30
- Chicken Noodles $0.35
- Chili Con Carne $0.25
- Chicken Tamales $0.40
- Spaghetti $0.35
- Chicken Raviolos $0.35

### Sandwiches
- Toasted or Plain
- Hamburger $0.15
- Fried Egg $0.15
- Boiled Ham $0.15
- Tuna Fish $0.20
- Sardine $0.25
- American or Swiss Cheese $0.15
- Pimento Cheese Sandwich $0.20
- Lettuce-Tomato Sandwich $0.15
- Peanut Butter Sandwich $0.15
- Fried Ham Sandwich $0.20
- Limburger Cheese Sandwich $0.20
- Roast Beef Sandwich $0.15
- Roast Pork or Lamb Sandwich $0.20
- Ham and Egg Sandwich $0.25
- Tongue Sandwich $0.15
- Cheese and Ham Sandwich $0.20
- Ham and Tomato Sandwich $0.20
- Chicken Sandwich $0.30
- Denver Sandwich $0.25
- Turkey Sandwich $0.30
- Filet Mignon Sandwich $0.60
- Top Sirloin Sandwich $0.50
- Club House Sandwich $0.50
- Hot Pork or Beef Sandwich $0.25
- Potato Salad with Sandwiches $0.25
- Half Portion $0.10
- Full Order $0.20

### Pastries
- Made Cakes, per
- Cut $0.10
- Banana Cream Pie $0.15
- Pie a la Mode $0.20
- Old Fashioned Strawberry Shortcake, Pure Cream $0.25
- Strawberry Pie, Wh'pd Cream $0.15
- Jelly Roll $0.10
- Doughnuts $0.10
- Cream Puffs $0.10
- Coconut Cream Pie $0.10
- Apple Turnover $0.10
- Marshmallow Roll $0.10
- Pumpkin Pie, Custard Pie $0.10
- Butter Horns $0.10
- Maple Bars $0.10

### Beverages
- Beer on Draught and in Bottles

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**Today, the site is home to Gloria’s Mexican restaurant.**

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**SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACCESSION #: 2001.90.1.**

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* Autumn 2005 SOUTHERN OREGON HERITAGE TODAY 15
Acorns, Berries, and Camas:
The ABC's of Native Food Resources
by Jennifer Brennock Buckner

LEAH SCHRODT, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST
with the Bureau of Land Management, recently gave a presentation at Hanley Farm on Southern Oregon's Takelma people and the food they ate.

Because the Takelma people didn't farm, they traveled to where food resources were available according to the season. Gathering was an important activity for both men and women. Their diet consisted mostly of foods such as wild onion, miner's lettuce, tarweed, grasshoppers, black oak acorns, camas, dessert parsley, and manzanita berries. Deer and salmon, when available, supplemented their primarily vegetarian regimen.

According to Schrodt, of all the food sources, acorns were the most important for the Takelma people. Black oak acorns, which are identified by their pointed leaves, were the preferred acorn because of their higher fat and nutrient content. Acorns were gathered in late summer and fall, stored over the winter, then processed and used throughout the year.

Camas:
Meadow Flower, Edible Root
by Nan Hannon

IN 1806, WHEN MERIWETHER LEWIS FIRST SPOTTED camas meadows, he mistook the expanses of blue flowers for "lakes of fine clear water." Today, grazing animals, the plow, and the bulldozer have destroyed camas meadows in valley floor locations in much of the West, including Southern Oregon. Often, a few plants surviving along fence lines are all that remain of vast camas meadows that once fed Native American families. Camas, a plant found only in western North America, grows in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, coastal Northern California, Idaho, Montana, and Utah. Camas is originally a Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka) Indian word meaning "sweet."

Native Americans prized camas as a carbohydrate-rich food that could be harvested in large quantities and stored through the winter. In the Southern Oregon region, harvest took place in May and June, as family bands camped near camas meadows. While men hunted, groups of women pried mature camas bulbs from the earth with their digging sticks.

Native American harvest practices actually made a camas meadow more productive over time. Digging loosened the soil, providing a good germination bed for camas seeds and better rooting conditions for growing plants. Indian women kept the big bulbs that they dug, but tossed small ones to keep growing. Released from competition with larger bulbs, the young bulbs flourished. As women worked through a camas patch with their digging sticks, their accidental nicking of bulb coats stimulated the plants to produce daughter bulbs.

Camas requires slow cooking to convert its indigestible starches to sweet and nourishing fructose. Indian women constructed earth ovens by digging pits at the edges of camas meadows, lining them with rocks, and letting a fire burn to ash inside. Then they placed the camas bulbs on a layer of skunk cabbage leaves or other foliage laid atop the ashes and covered the pits with earth. Fires burned on top of the ovens for a day or more, until the camas baked to the consistency of roasted potatoes. Botanical explorer David Douglas likened the flavor to baked pears. Women shaped the cooked camas into loaves that could be stored for years.

Today camas lilies can add native beauty to a perennial garden bed. Each plant flowers for a month-long period, as three-inch blossoms open up along the stalk.
Camas and buttercups bloom together in moist meadows in May and June.

Although the quamash subspecies grows to two feet and leichtlinii to four feet, their sturdy stems require no staking. After bloom, the grasslike basal leaves are inconspicuous among companion plants.

Plant bulbs six inches deep and six inches apart in a sunny, moist location where the lilies can naturalize undisturbed. Since camas can take five years from seed to flowering size, and bulbs should not be removed from the wild, buy mature bulbs from native plant nurseries. In our garden, we interplant camas with Ranunculus gramineus, the wild yellow buttercup that often grows naturally with camas in wet meadows and blooms at the same time.

To enjoy camas in the wild, look for the tall, blue flowers along the lower portion of the trail to Upper Table Rock in May. Or from late May to early June, visit the northern portion of Howard Prairie, east of Ashland. In the large meadow to the left of the intersection between Howard Prairie Reservoir and Dead Indian Memorial Highway, camas still blooms in such abundance that the meadow looks like a lake.

ENDNOTES

Death Camas
by Nan Hannon and Donn L. Todt

One of the plants about which we are most frequently asked is Zigadenus venenosus, commonly called death camas. How did Native Americans avoid poisoning themselves when death camas often grows intermingled with the true camas (Camassia quamash) important in Native American diets?

Native Americans kept an eye on their food gathering places, noting where death camas grew, and women surely weeded death camas out of the camas patches that they harvested. They also took careful note of the characteristics of the two plants so that they could distinguish between them.

True camas may bear either white or blue flowers. Death camas is white. The flowers of the two plants differ greatly, and the seed heads, which linger on the plant for more than a month after flowering, are also very different. And to the practiced eye, subtle differences in the bulb coat distinguish death camas from true camas. As a last resort, an Indian woman uncertain about which plant she had dug might perform the taste test. The smallest bit of death camas immediately numbs the lips and tongue, leaving no doubt that the bulb should be discarded. (We've done this experiment for you. Please do not try it yourself.)

Native Americans recognized the virtues of death camas. Various Indian tribes of the West used the Zigadenus species medicinally to induce vomiting, or externally as a poultice to relieve the pain of rheumatism, sprains and broken bones. Well aware of the numbing properties of the toxic alkaloid in death camas, the Navajo used a tiny amount of a pulverized bulb—with great care—to numb the area of the mouth around an aching tooth.

Livestock have died from grazing on the leaves of Zigadenus species, but there is actually no documented human fatality from consumption of death camas, a beautiful plant that commands respect.

ENDNOTES
TABLE ROCK BILLIARD SALOON MUSTARD

This mustard was served at the lunch counter of Table Rock Billiard Saloon, which was operated by the Helms family 1860-1914. Today the Good Bean Company coffeehouse operates at the same location in Jacksonville.

Saloon Mustard

3 tablespoons Coleman's dry mustard
6 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt

Mix all together. Pour in enough boiling water to make a thick paste; add enough vinegar to thin to desired consistency, but thick enough to spread on sandwiches. It will be lumpy so beat until smooth. Let stand uncovered for 24 hours.

ENDNOTES
OPENED IN 1935, ROGUE CREAMERY IN CENTRAL POINT began producing their first blue cheese in 1957. It was claimed as the first blue cheese produced west of the Missouri River. Recently, their Smokey Blue variety, a traditional blue cheese smoked in hazelnut shells, won the 2005 Best New Product in the World award at the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade Food Show in New York.

OREGON BLUE VEIN BUTTERMILK BISCUITS

2 1/2 cups unbleached all purpose flour or whole grain pastry flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoons coarse salt
1/2 teaspoons baking soda
2/3 cup chilled solid vegetable shortening, cut into inch cubes
1 cup crumbled Oregon Blue Vein cheese
1 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
1 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
1 cup plus 1 tablespoons buttermilk
ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Whisk first 4 ingredients in medium bowl to blend. Add shortening; using fingertips, rub in until coarse crumbs form. Mix in 3/4 cup cheese, chives, and 1 1/2 teaspoons thyme. Make well in center; add 1 cup buttermilk and stir until dough forms, gradually mixing in dry ingredients. Turn dough out onto floured surface. Knead gently until combined. Pat dough into 1 inch thick rectangle. Cut into 8 squares. Transfer squares to baking sheet. Brush with 1 tablespoon buttermilk. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup cheese, 1 1/2 tsp thyme and pepper. Bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes.

ENDNOTES
1. www.roguegoldcheese.com, Rogue Creamery, August 2005
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Continued on page 22.

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  - Subscription to *Monthly Calendar* and historic photograph suitable for framing.
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Member Profile: Lovella Moore

THE HERITAGE CIRCLE is a group of dedicated lovers of history who have committed to making a bequest or other planned gift to the Endowment Fund of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Lovella Moore is a charter member of this illustrious group.

"Especially as you grow older, you realize how important history is," Mrs. Moore says. "When I was younger, I didn't give it much thought. But now I feel very strongly about maintaining a sense of our heritage and preserving the past. That's why I support the Historical Society and why I intend to leave a bequest to SOHS."

Lovella has deep roots in this region. She was born here. Her grandfather ran the old pool hall in Talent and another pool hall on Highway 99, where he kept a black bear in a cage as a tourist attraction. Her father managed a pear orchard near the present site of the Medford Airport, and Lovella remembers walking to town as a little girl along Table Rock Road. "Over the years, I have become very interested in how the valley has changed," she says.

SOHS documents this change and reminds us of the people and places that used to be here. We invite you to join Lovella Moore in becoming a member of the Heritage Circle, and helping to ensure that SOHS can protect and share Southern Oregon history for generations to come.

For information on naming SOHS in your will or trust, please call Richard Seidman, Development Coordinator, at 773-6536, ext. 226.
An artisan cheese company, with people dedicated to sustainability, and the art and tradition of making the world's finest handmade cheese
"The Coffee Pot," formerly located at 1132 N. Riverside in Medford, was a popular spot for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, circa 1939.

Southern Oregon Historical Society Mission:
To make history come alive by collecting, preserving, and sharing the stories and artifacts of our common heritage.

Southern Oregon Historical Society
A MEMBER-SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION
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