



**New Home, New Well**  
from Tami Quinn Hollenbeck

Did you hear the one about the three holes in the ground filled with water?

No?  
-Well, well, well.... It's a Deep Subject!!!

Have you recently purchased a home with a well on it? If so, congratulations! When you live in a home that is supplied by well water it is your responsibility to make sure the well water is safe for drinking. It is recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality, as well as your favorite pump company, of course we hope is it Quinn's, that well water is tested for bacteria and other contaminants at least once a year. The chemistry of well water can change over time and can sometimes go unnoticed as the color and smell may not change. At Quinn's Pump Service we recommend that the well, pump equipment, and filtration is maintained at least once a year also. Servicing the equipment annually can help aid in the prevention of system failure. If you haven't had your well water tested or your well equipment maintenance done in the past year, you should stop reading this and call Quinn's 541-479-9355. If you call Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm a live person will answer your call!



**WELL PUMP & FILTRATION SERVICE**

Call us Mon. - Fri. 8 - 5, you'll have a live person answer the phone that is ready to help you!

Quinn's Well, Pump and Water Filtration is located at 6811 Williams Hwy. We install, maintain and repair complete water pumping systems, and we offer a complete line of water filtration equipment. Contact our professional staff by phone, e-mail, or visit our office. [www.quinnswell.com](http://www.quinnswell.com) CCB #192047

**541-862-9355**  
**541-772-7867**



Follow us  
on Facebook.  
[applegater.newspaper](http://applegater.newspaper)

**How can I help?**

BY THALIA TRUESDELL

Volunteers are the heart of many organizations. They may be unsung heroes, active board members, or leaders of the parade. They can be retired folks, high school students earning community service credits, or people dedicated to a certain cause, like literacy! Whatever the reason, they contribute to the community, and the services they provide help our valley thrive.

What unites the Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) is an overall passion for books and literacy. Their goal is to get books into the hands of community members through gifts to schoolchildren, the Little Libraries located throughout the area, gift certificates for Ruch Library reading incentives, and sales through the A-Frame Bookstore, Book Barn, and community events.

FORL volunteers operate the A-Frame Bookstore and the adjacent Book Barn, both enticing venues for book lovers and shoppers. Here volunteers receive and sort books, then shelve them for your browsing ease. The charming A-Frame houses the cream of the crop, gift books, and current editions. The Book Barn is home to more than 6,000 books, well organized and all for sale by donation. FORL also sponsors many library programs of interest to our valley.

**Why volunteer?**

"I love meeting new people." "We get a preview of what is new." "I always leave my shift with a stack of new and exciting reading material." And, as ex-librarian Laurel Prchal puts it, "It just feels good to be involved with the library and the community."

Barbara Krack, FORL president, is proud of leading FORL through the

pandemic, both online and in person, and helping make the Book Barn the wonderful place it has become. In 2007, she began helping at the library when the library was closed due to lack of funding and helped turn the A-Frame into a lending library. When the library reopened, she began shelving books there, and then began helping with periodic book sales with FORL. Once the Book Barn became available, she

moved onto creating that space by shelving the books that had once been in boxes in a tiny storeroom. "I have a real sense of belonging to the community as a volunteer, and I fully support FORL's mission of encouraging and supporting the development of Ruch Library by raising awareness of library services, offering programs that interest and unite the community, and promoting lifelong learning," she says.

Volunteer Janie Tibbals says, "Book lovers in the Applegate are a wonderful group of readers. I live in Jacksonville and come to Ruch to work with these folks. My love of books started as a young kid with a book-loving mom; then I got a degree in library science. I found this amazing group to work with (FORL), handling all sorts of delightful, informative, magnificent reading materials. So now, our sorting dates are the first thing on my calendar each month. Working several times a month in the cozy little A-Frame store is



FORL volunteers receive and sort books, then shelve them for your browsing ease.

a refreshing time to sit and enjoy the fruits of our labors and talk with like-minded folks—and even get in some reading or puzzle working. Come on and join us and find out what we do."

FORL is always looking for help sorting books and working a two-hour shift in the A-Frame Bookstore (1-3 pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday). Help is sometimes needed to supervise refreshments for programs at the library sponsored by FORL. Consider a membership in FORL or perhaps even a board position. To introduce yourself, you could attend a First Saturday Sale at the Book Barn (noon-4 pm), attend a FORL Board of Directors meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am at the library, or drop by the A-Frame to say "Hello." Here is your opportunity to join this vibrant organization, meet some great people, and serve the community of the Applegate Valley.

Thalia Truesdell  
[thaliatruessedell@gmail.com](mailto:thaliatruessedell@gmail.com)

**■ WILLIAMS-PACIFICA HISTORY**

*Continued from page 17*

Simon Messinger built a sawmill—the first mill on the lower Applegate—to supply lumber for mines and buildings. Even after the whipsaw hand operation was converted to a water-powered plant (still using an up-and-down motion), milling was very slow work. According to one old-timer, Messinger, after setting the saw to a log, could go and enjoy his lunch while the log was being cut.

Simon Messinger, a Pennsylvanian of German descent, came to Oregon by sea, around the Horn, in the 1850s. He married Martha Lindsay, age 16, whose father, David Lindsay, was a cousin of the Applegate brothers. She came west by wagon. Simon supported his family by ranching, lumber-milling, and working his mining claim, the Gold Standard Mine. Well-educated, Messinger also was considered a helpful neighbor whose early community functions included teaching



Athapaskan mother and child, c. 1900.

at the school when needed and crafting coffins.

"The Messinger boys reported a nice gold pocket on the hills above Oscar Creek in 1897... The Oregon Bonanza Mine on Powell Creek was worked as late as 1936. Also near Williams were the Red Rose diggings, the Snow Bird, and the American Beauty and Gold Standard claims, mined by Simon Messinger and sons" (Olga Johnson).

Si Messinger's great-grandson David says that although most people think that gold mining yields either spectacular results or tragic failure, most of the time Si and his sons worked "just for wages." For 30 years they operated their Gold Standard mine in the winter, hauling the ore to an arrastra on Williams Creek, and realized enough to buy needed livestock or farm machinery.

The Oregon Caves (now a national monument), located just over the mountain from Williams, was discovered by Williams resident Elijah Davidson on a hunting trip in the Siskiyou Mountains.

Peg Prag  
[peg@pacificagarden.org](http://peg@pacificagarden.org)

**Josephine County votes help Abraham Lincoln win the election**

*From the Daily Courier:* "In 1864 Abraham Lincoln received three votes from Oregon (three of the 98 votes by which he won the national presidential election). Those three Republican votes came from Josephine County...entered into the Williamsburg precinct tally by a most unwilling polls clerk—at gunpoint! Young Josephine County was completely Democrat; those three who voted for Lincoln considered themselves literally three against the world. They were Alex Watts, always in the front ranks of political endeavor in the younger days of southern Oregon (and a former next-door neighbor of Abe Lincoln in Illinois); Si Messinger, his neighbor, prominent rancher, miner, and a man of affairs; and Aug Bigelow.... The day of the election the three buckled on their six-guns as they set out for the polls. The polls clerk hastily started to slam down the voters' window, but six guns ominously pointed his way prevented the window from quite reaching the locking point, and Lincoln's only three votes from Oregon were thereupon loudly proclaimed to the world."

**Deadline for  
summer Applegater  
articles and ads:  
MAY 1**