

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000130 Date Listed: 3/<sup>9</sup>~~10~~/92

Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469  
Property Name

Josephine            OR  
County                    State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Christine Glee*  
Signature of the Keeper

3/10/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: All references in the text to Criterion B and Criterion C are removed.

This information was confirmed with Elisabeth Potter of the Oregon State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 2064 Upper River Road N/A  not for publication  
city, town Grants Pass  vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Josephine code 017 zip code 97526

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*James G. ...* January 10, 1992  
Signature of certifying official Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. *Antoniotta Rice* 3/9/92  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall  
Education: school  
Agriculture: processing  
Recreation & Culture: auditorium

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall  
Education: school  
Agriculture: processing  
Recreation & Culture: auditorium

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century  
American Movements: Craftsman  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation wood: post and pier  
walls wood: weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof asphalt: composition shingle  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Social History

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1916-1942

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1923; 1930-1932

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Branscombe, J.M., carpenter, supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Josephine County Planning Department

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 0.97 acres Grants Pass, Oregon 1:62500

UTM References

A 

1	1	0
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4	7	1	1	2	5
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4	6	9	8	5	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 13, Township 36S, Range 6W, Willamette Meridian, in Josephine County, Oregon and is identified as Tax Lot 2200 at said location. Josephine County Assessor's Map Ref. No. 36 6 13-1.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The bounds of the nominated property correspond to the entire suburban tax lot occupied by the Rogue River Valley No. 469 meeting hall.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carolyn M. Schleif  
organization Nightingale Designs date May 28, 1991  
street & number 5039 Huntington Drive telephone (317) 575-8215  
city or town Carmel state Indiana zip code 46032

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The Rogue River Valley Grange #469, a one-story gable roofed frame structure, is located in northern Josephine County at the west boundary of the city limits of Grants Pass, Oregon. It is a simple, utilitarian building which was locally handcrafted. The hall retains integrity of its original site. The original building was constructed in 1916 along with 2 outhouses and a wood shed to the rear.<sup>1</sup> As the Grange grew there was a need for improvements and more space to accommodate the members and the community.

In 1923 the hall was extended 18 feet on the north side, and in 1929 a new rectangular hall was added to the west end creating a "T" plan.<sup>2</sup> Restrooms and an entry were installed in 1936.<sup>3</sup> The building retains integrity of materials and design and is in excellent condition.

The 1916 structure, was a simple rectangle measuring 48' x 32'<sup>4</sup>, containing a main hall with a stage along the east end of the hall.<sup>5</sup> The grange hall was built of indigenous materials by grange members under the direction of fellow grange member, dairyman, and carpenter Mr. J.M. Branscombe. Original horizontal wood siding still covers all exterior walls. Pictures and meeting notes indicate that there was a corrugated metal roof.

All windows are regularly spaced and are original sizes and locations. Three original 41" wooden frame windows along the east wall which would have been behind the stage are still present, and have since been covered with wood and painted to match the white siding (1974). Along the south facade are three regularly spaced 36" x 64" double hung windows.<sup>6</sup>

The interior walls were lined with wallboard. There was no attic, and the foundation consisted of intermittent solid concrete blocking. The building was heated and cooking done with wood stoves<sup>7</sup>, and water was obtained from a neighbor until a well was dug in 1924.<sup>8</sup>

In 1922 the membership had outgrown the hall and they were forced to hold ceremonies at the Woodmen Of The World hall in Grants Pass to initiate 100 new members.<sup>9</sup> Consequently, in April 1923 the building was extended to the

<sup>1</sup>Interview with Marie Jackson, Member of the Rogue River Valley Grange since 1926, her husband helped build the 1929 addition, Grants Pass, Oregon, 7 October 1988.

<sup>2</sup>Rogue River Valley Grange Minutes and Financial Records, 1911-1988.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Marie Jackson, 29 September 1988.

<sup>6</sup>Bid for Dining room remodeling by Harry McIntyre, Grants Pass, Oregon.

<sup>7</sup>Marie Jackson, 7 October 1988.

<sup>8</sup>Grange records.

<sup>9</sup>Grants Pass Courier, 1922.

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north 18 feet, just meeting the wood shed.<sup>10</sup> Out of the new space a dining room and an enlarged kitchen were created, freeing up the original room for larger gatherings.<sup>11</sup> In October of the same year the stage platform to the hall was also extended so that it ran the full length of the meeting room east wall.<sup>12</sup>

Financial records show that the first oil and gas heating bill was paid in January 1924, and a new well was dug that summer.<sup>13</sup> A Grange sign was erected in 1925 to identify the building, and the hall was equipped with electric lighting in April 1926.<sup>14</sup>

By 1929 the Grange had again outgrown its facilities and for \$1817.14 the present main hall, stage and anteroom were built to the west,<sup>15</sup> resulting in a "T" shaped building. "The original building was enlarged to more than twice its former size, making it capable of taking care of large crowds and larger fields of activity."<sup>16</sup> The old dining room was converted into a junior grange hall and the old 10-foot deep stage was replaced with a counter and this area became the dining room.<sup>17</sup>

The walls of the new wing were plasterboard, floors made of pine planks which are still present, and again there was no attic.<sup>18</sup> The same grangers who built the 1916 structure constructed this addition.<sup>19</sup> They included the same exterior wood siding and windows as the original hall, with the exception of a double-wide window centered in the west wall, which was filled with blue, amber, green 4 inch square glasses with a clear central glass, creating a rectilinear stained glass window.<sup>20</sup> Within a month approval to fix up the kitchen was given, and \$500 worth of lumber and hardware was purchased for kitchen cupboards along the east wall.<sup>21 22</sup>

In 1936 the grange hall was updated with lavatories. The floors were lined with vinyl and the 81" high ceiling and walls were made of wallboard, costing \$20.11.

There was talk of filling in the foundation in 1954 to keep out the cold, but this was not done.<sup>23</sup> The building

<sup>10</sup>Grange records.

<sup>11</sup>Bertha Calhoun, longest living Rogue River Valley Grange member since 1922, Father was J.C. Calhoun, Grants Pass, Oregon.

<sup>12</sup>Marie Jackson, 20 September 1988.

<sup>13</sup>Grange records.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Marie Jackson, 29 September 1988.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>Grange records.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Bertha Calhoun, August 1988.

<sup>21</sup>Marie Jackson, 7 October 1988.

<sup>22</sup>Grange records.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid.

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received an Ashley heater in 1957<sup>24</sup>, and a new oil furnace was installed in the anteroom between 1963 and 1966, and a Williams furnace placed in the CWA room in 1967.<sup>25</sup> The old wood stove in the main room was still being used, until it caught fire in 1969.<sup>26</sup> Burn marks on the panelling in the SE corner of the main room remain as a reminder of this event.

In 1959 new septic tanks were installed & two years later, the kitchen was updated costing \$522.28<sup>27</sup>. The present curved counters were designed by fellow granger Della Johnson in 1961, and more cabinets and sinks were built to accommodate large dinners and charity events.<sup>28</sup> In 1962 metal railings for the front porch were constructed costing \$21.20<sup>29</sup>, and a series of fire doors were installed in 1980 for safety.<sup>30</sup>

The dining room was remodeled in 1974. Heating the hall was still a problem, so the walls were insulated, panelled and the ceiling was partially lowered and florescent lighting recessed into the dropped ceiling. Energy efficient windows were replaced on one wall of the dining room and two walls of the main hall with aluminum double hung windows of the same size and location. The leaking metal roof was finally replaced after 48 years of leaks and repairs, with an asbestos shingle roof of approximately the same grey color. The bid for the project was \$4865.60.<sup>31</sup>

In 1983 the wood shed was joined with the kitchen to store fair supplies.<sup>32</sup> The wall was opened, the floor lined with linoleum, cabinets built, and fire doors added for safety.<sup>33</sup>

Periodically the drapes and stage curtains have been replaced, and the building has been conscientiously maintained over the years.<sup>34</sup> The Rogue River Valley Grange is the only grange building in Josephine County which was listed in excellent condition in the 1984 Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory, and the constant attention its members gave to their building is why it is in such good shape today.

Of particular importance are a few items on the grounds of the Rogue River Valley Grange. A safe currently in the

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Della Johnson, Grange member and wife of Grange master Wayne Johnson, 7 October 1988.

<sup>29</sup>Grange records.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>Martha Gentry, Grange member, past CWA Chairman and Chaplin, Grants Pass, Oregon, August 1988.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid.



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anteroom was given in 1959 to Wayne Johnson<sup>35</sup>, then Master of the grange, by the City of Grants Pass. The safe was from the water department office and was estimated to be 100 years old and came from when the City began.<sup>36</sup> Also on the grounds is a plow used by one of the early Rogue River Valley Grange (RRVG) members Joseph Clark Calhoun, and is considered symbolic of the farmer for whom the National Grange was established. It was donated by his daughter, Bertha Calhoun, the longest living member of the RRVG.

The plow was placed in a Memorial Garden in 1978, just after the building was painted white, its original color, it was landscaped along its foundation and along the east side of the lot.<sup>37 38</sup>

The rest of the site is as it was in 1916 with the exception of the natural death of some of the trees in the back lot and a huge tree along the front of the building which had to be cut down. The remaining trees include 9 oak, 5 locust and a pine tree<sup>39</sup>, all of which are indigenous to the Grants Pass area. These trees gave much needed shade for grange summer picnics, and many appear to have been there since the grange began.

<sup>35</sup>Interview with Wayne Johnson, past Grange Master, present Oregon State Grange Master, September 1988.

<sup>36</sup>Wayne Johnson, 20 September 1988.

<sup>37</sup>Grange records.

<sup>38</sup>Martha Gentry, 20 September 1988.

<sup>39</sup>Ibid.

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period              Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage               verbal boundary description  
 UTM's               boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Josephine

DATE RECEIVED: 2/06/92      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/18/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/05/92      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/22/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000130

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: Y    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    3/9/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*See Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469 is significant for its role  
in promoting agricultural interests in Josephine County.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept / A  
REVIEWER Anthony J. Lee  
DISCIPLINE History  
DATE 3/9/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR <sup>3/10</sup>  Y  N

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## SUMMARY

The meeting hall of Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469 occupies a scant one-acre site on Upper River Road on the northwesterly outskirts of Grants Pass, in Josephine County, Oregon. It is a manifestation of an historic movement of national scope and meets National Register Criterion A for local significance. The Patrons of Husbandry was organized nationally as a secret society, or fraternal order in 1867 and evolved as an effective political force to promote agricultural interests at a time of burdensome rail freight rates. The Grange also was instrumental in the institution of rural free delivery of the U. S. mail. In smaller, remote agricultural communities in the western United States, the Granges were significant for the social outlet they provided. The Grange is still an active organization that works cooperatively with state and federal Departments of Agriculture to keep up to date on modern farming methods, to support legislation benefitting agriculture, and to provide educational and recreational programs for farm families.

The Grange movement in Josephine County dates from the turn of the century. The Rogue River Valley Grange was the third to be organized in the vicinity of Grants Pass. It had its beginnings in 1911, and its meeting hall, the nucleus of which was erected in 1916, is the oldest standing Grange hall in the county apart from the Deer Creek Grange of 1910. In response to steady growth in membership and expanding fields of activity, the Rogue Valley hall was substantially enlarged in 1929. In the mid 1920s, the Grange had an active membership of over 300 and was said to be the largest group of its kind in Oregon. The hall was the setting of numerous state and county conferences owing to the fact that its facilities were so extensive. The interior was equipped for the traditional functions: ballroom/assembly area with stage, dining, kitchen and storage areas for large-scale community food-processing for fund-raising events and supplying fair booth concessions.

The headquarters of Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469 is readily recognizable as an example of vernacular building in the Craftsman tradition. Construction in both phases of development was undertaken by Grange members under the supervision of a local carpenter. The original meeting hall is a single-story rectangular volume with drop siding, regularly-spaced double-hung windows and a gable roof with overhanging eaves on exposed rafter ends. Its

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long axis is parallel with the road. The addition of 1929, which has similar finish materials with the added detail of triangular brackets at the gable ends, is oriented at a right angle on the west end, where an asymmetrically-gabled entry vestibule and rest-room block is telescoped from the south face. On the rear, or north face, shed additions were built at the back of the core volume for kitchen, dining and storage facilities in 1923. This interim enlargement encompassed original outbuildings of 1916, namely the pumphouse and wood shed. Though no longer detached, the early outbuildings remain distinguishable units to illustrate the Grange hall's evolutionary growth in its historic heyday.

The contributions of Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469 to community causes in the historic period 1916-1942 demonstrate the fact that the building was in constant use for social gatherings, educational events, fund-raising activities in support of area youth, health-care and emergency relief. Although its membership represented a significant political block that pursued a variety of issues, its support of agriculture in the county was paramount. Much of the Grange's effort was directed toward the 4-H and the Josephine County Fair. The Grange was instrumental in obtaining from Oregon State College agricultural extension services in home economics (about 1930). It aided organization of the Farmer's Cooperative Association (1923), the Dairymen's Association (1931), and the Turkey Growers Association (1932).

In activities such as these, the Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469 provided crucial impetus to the growth of a base industry, agriculture and food processing, in southern Oregon and directly helped to sustain many farm families through the Great Depression to the time of the Second World War.

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The Rogue River valley Grange Hall built in 1916 by its members is, although very modern in design, locally significant under criterion A and B because its members contributed heavily to the social, political, economic and educational needs of the farming community, as well as the city of Grants Pass and the state of Oregon. The grange hall also is important under criterion C as the best preserved example of an historic grange building in Josephine County, and typifies an early twentieth century grange hall. The hall is an example of the spatial requirements for grange functions and meetings. It has a main hall space large enough for officers' desks and chairs to the front, seating on three sides of the hall for members, a stage for lectures and entertainment, and plenty of room for dances. Adjacent to the hall is a huge dining room for fund raising dinners, and a kitchen and storage area for food preparations and pie-making for the county fair concessions booth.

The National Grange began in 1867 with the organization of the Patrons of Husbandry by Oliver Hudson Kelley, clerk in the US Department of Agriculture. It was a social and cultural ideal which soon developed into a political force.<sup>40</sup> In the 1870's and thereafter it came to be the so called granger movement<sup>41</sup> and was involved in promoting further regulation of railroad rates and practices by state law. Eventually the state grange broadened to include issues such as education, progressive income tax, primary elections, free rural mail delivery, women's' rights, restrictions of Chinese immigration as well as railroad controls.<sup>42</sup>

In the 1870's Oregon farmers were faced with excessive rates charged by the railroad monopoly which made it impossible for them to transport their goods to market and still make a profit.<sup>43</sup> The farmers felt that the future of farming was dependent on group action, and in 1872 the first Oregon Grange was formed in Clackamas County by W.J. Campbell.<sup>44</sup> In the next year 44 granges began in Oregon, and the following year 136 new granges were organized in the state.<sup>45</sup>

In 1875 the first two granges were formed in Josephine County, Kirbyville #178 and Josephine #179. Twenty-four other granges were formed in the following years.<sup>46</sup> Of those only nine are still in existence, and only six grange

<sup>40</sup>Jani Brockley, Washington County Historical Society Express, Vol 15, No. 1, Winter 1988.

<sup>41</sup>Ibid.

<sup>42</sup>Ibid.

<sup>43</sup>Ibid.

<sup>44</sup>"Oregon State Grange: A History of Accomplishment", Oregon Grange Bulletin, 4 November, 1985

<sup>45</sup>Wayne Johnson, 3 October 1988.

<sup>46</sup>Ibid.

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halls are historic and listed in the county inventory. The Rogue River Valley Grange, constructed in 1916, is the oldest grange hall in or near Grants Pass. The only older grange hall still standing in Josephine County is the Deer Creek Grange hall, built in 1910. The Deer Creek Hall is about 25 miles from Grants Pass and could only be reached by crossing over a treacherous windy pass at Hayes Hill.<sup>47</sup> Consequently, the efforts of the Deer Creek Grange have been geared mostly toward the town of Selma and surrounding region.<sup>48</sup>

As early as the 1850's gold mining drew adventurers to Josephine County<sup>49</sup>. The first agriculture and lumbering industries began in support of the miners. From 1890 to 1920 it was felt that Grants Pass needed more people and it was promoted for its agriculture, and the community mushroomed. Farmers found the climate and soil conditions favorable and began farming throughout the Rogue River Valley and shipping their surpluses to market by stage until the Oregon and California Railroad arrived.

In 1907 granges were again being organized<sup>50</sup> in the county not only to find alternatives to railroad problems, but to cooperatively work toward improving their lives socially, economically, intellectually and politically.<sup>51</sup>

The precursor to the Rogue River Valley Grange, the Dimmick Grange, was started in 1908, and only lasted 2 years after many members moved from the county with the real estate boom of the first decade of the century<sup>52</sup>. The lower Valley was without a grange until October 7, 1911 when Lakeside Grange #469 was organized, in the same location as the very first Josephine County grange, and held meetings in the same place as the Dimmick Grange, namely the Dimmick school. It appealed to the surviving Dimmick Grange members who would not join unless it was moved nearer to Grants Pass. In 1916 Lakeside grange built its hall nearer Grants Pass and changed its name to Rogue River Valley Grange #469.<sup>53</sup>

The grange hall was built where it presently sits and has been in continual use by the Grange ever since. The hall was located at the north side of the junction of Lincoln and G streets at 2064 Upper River Road after a 99

<sup>47</sup>Bertha Calhoun.

<sup>48</sup>Mary Buckles, member of Deer Creek Grange for 65 years, Deer Creek Grange History, Summer 1988.

<sup>49</sup>Jack Sutton, 110 Years With Josephine: The History of 1856-1966 Josephine County, Oregon, (Medford, Oregon: Klocker Printery, 1966).

<sup>50</sup>Wayne Johnson, 3 October 1988.

<sup>51</sup>Marshal E. Woodell, "Grange Influence on Direct Legislation in Oregon 1902-1934", Thesis, Master of Art, University of Oregon, August 1936.

<sup>52</sup>Grants Pass Courier, 3 April 1935.

<sup>53</sup>George Werz "A Brief Summary of Background and History of the Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469.", 1 January 1947.

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year lease was secured from Richard R Turner of Douglas County, Oregon. It is on a lot approximately 164 feet long and 230 deep, with the north edge along the irrigation canal. The building sits about 33 feet back from Upper River Road, 21 feet back from a ditch which parallels the street, and 33 feet from the east lot line. As the grange grew additions were added, most notably the 1929 addition which extended the building to the west 36 feet so that it was within 45 feet of the west lot boundary.

The neighborhood was and still is residential, though it is zoned General Commercial which recognizes the prior existence of the Grange hall and allows for buildings such as the Northside Baptist church which began in 1980 and resides in a converted residence, and the Chapel of the Valley Slawson's Funeral Home across the street which was built in about 1970.<sup>54</sup>

The Rogue River Valley Grange was a cultural, social and agricultural center for the community, as well as a staunch supporter of education, and women's' and farmers rights. Social and cultural activities included dances, stage and musical performances, movies and lectures by educators and dignitaries such as Senator Miller in 1928.

Fund raising dinners, breakfasts, fair booth concessions, and rummage sales were held for various community causes including the new wing of the Josephine County Hospital in 1940, Red Cross, March of Dimes (1950), Search and Rescue, Southern Oregon Health (since 1922), Grants Pass School Orchestra, Babe Ruth League (1972), scholarships for 4-H (beginning 1948) and Grange Home Economics Scholarship (1966), County Community Concert Association (1966), Girl Scout Campership Fund (beginning 1967), 4-H Leaders Association, free grange dues for servicemen, donations to Boys' Beaver State (since 1971), Cancer Fund (1972), Parkinsons Disease (1972), Care to Panama (1972), moneys for travel expenses to state meetings for youth, Fish(a community emergency travelers' agency), National Youth Travel fund for retarded children, as well as their own needs to care for their building. Dinners and dances were sponsored by the RRVG for the boys of at Camp White during the War, and dinners have been given for the Veterans of the Camp White Domiciliary recently.<sup>55</sup>

The hall has an asset to the community because it was the only, or one of a few places capable of accommodating large groups of people. For years it was the only place large enough for school gatherings or community dances.<sup>56</sup> Consequently, it has been continually rented or permission granted for use by such organizations as Dimnick School<sup>57</sup>, Fruitdale Grange when their building burned in 1929, Fort

<sup>54</sup>Urban Grown Area Zoning Ordinance #4415, current 1988 City and County Ordinance, Grants Pass, Oregon.

<sup>55</sup>Martha Gentry.

<sup>56</sup>Bertha Calhoun.

<sup>57</sup>Grange Records.



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Vannoy PTA,<sup>58</sup> Veterans of Foreign Wars (1972), Eagles (1972), Open Bible Church (1972), State and County Grange Meeting since it was constructed, Farmers' Protection Association, District 30 School Board (1937), Applegate Grange (1937), Catholic church (1946), and the hall is has been used since 1936 for elections.<sup>59</sup>

Picnics were held at the city park by the grange and were attended by several hundred towns people, including dignitaries such as Governor Pierce in 1923,<sup>60</sup>. Some of these picnics were given in conjunction with other community groups such as the Chamber of Commerce.<sup>61</sup> Other joint efforts at the park by the RRVG and the other community organizations include the construction of a bandstand in 1984.

The Rogue River Valley Grange took part in other City and County events including entering floats for the Fourth of July Parade,<sup>62</sup> the Strawberry Festival in 1948, and the annual Gladioli Shows, which began in 1936.<sup>63</sup> A 20 foot long mural was painted by RRVG member Edna Boylin to be used at the fairgrounds when the glad show was held there in 1953. It is now mounted on the east wall of the grange hall dining room. These events were important to Grants Pass because they showcased many of the large agricultural ventures which Grants Pass was known for throughout the country.

The RRVG always promoted and stimulated interest in the County fair. It instigated the idea of food concessions after the fair began in 1910. RRVG members planted shade trees, trellises, and shrubs along the entry road and surrounding the grounds in 1951 and 1952<sup>64</sup> many of which are still present. When the main fairgrounds pavilion burned down in 1926 the RRVG helped reconstruct it that year. The importance of the RRVG was demonstrated by the fact that its members were on the Fair Board,<sup>65</sup> and in 1929 a granger was put in charge of the Agriculture building. Member Judge Raymond Lathrop, who was Agriculture Chairman, was so important that the fair installed a plaque on the pavilion in his honor which is still present today.

During the depression the RRVG was actively helping the community through its programs which collected food to be given to the needy, participated in the Ground Observer Corp in 1953, and the implementation of a mobile cannery.

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<sup>58</sup>Ibid.

<sup>59</sup>Ibid.

<sup>60</sup>Grants Pass Courier, 25 July 1924.

<sup>61</sup>Grange records.

<sup>62</sup>Ibid.

<sup>63</sup>Edna May Hill, Josephine County: Historical Highlights II, (Grants Pass, Oregon: Josephine County Library, 1979), pp. 12-13.

<sup>64</sup>CWA Scrapbook notes.

<sup>65</sup>Grange records.

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Farmers and the community benefited for several years from a travelling cannery run by Sarah Wertz, a ROGUE RIVER VALLEY GRANGE grange member and county superintendent of the portable cannery. It was built and run by the RRVG, and went to surrounding areas to allow farmers in these areas to can their fruits and vegetables which otherwise would be lost. The only charge was for the cans.<sup>66</sup> It also allowed growers who could not grow produce, to trade canned produce with those who grew non-produce crops, such as was done with Deschutes County in 1932.

Sarah Wertz was one of the first home demonstration agents, working for the Agriculture Extension Service of Oregon State University. RRVG obtained the Extension Service for the Valley about 1930.<sup>67</sup> The Extension Service became the lifeline of agricultural information for the Grants Pass farmers through meetings and classes. It kept the agricultural community abreast of the times when farming technology was changing so rapidly. It also brought current economic information on new crops, coops, marketing, and home skills.<sup>68</sup>

RRVG support for the Extension Service has never faltered. They have participated in support of the county agents with regard to salaries beginning 1926<sup>69</sup>, and feedback as to good and bad agents since the Service came to Grants Pass.

As recent at 1986 the Extension Service announced that it would lose 2 employees due to the lack of funds. The RRVG joined forces with Redwood Highway Grange, which RRVG helped start, and raised \$26,000 in eight days, and the agents were retained.<sup>70</sup>

Since Grants Pass is located in the mountains, it is subject to forest fires. When this has happened, the Extension and RRVG have hosted "Canteens" to serve meals to the fire fighters.<sup>71</sup>

Information gained through the Extension has allowed RRVG farmers to improve the City of GP by support, promotion and instigation of new industries to the area. They have had a hand in starting a Farmer's Coop beginning 1923, Cheese Factory beginning 1927, Strawberry Barreling Factory in the 1930's, Dairymens' Association started in 1931, Southern Oregon Milk Producers' Association, still in operation, and the 1932 Turkey Growers Association. Throughout the years, these agricultural endeavors have been the largest industries in Grants Pass, alternating with lumber and mining.

RRVG has helped Grants Pass in the health care industry. It had a big part in establishing the Southern

<sup>66</sup>Edna May Hill.

<sup>67</sup>Marie Jackson, 22 August 1988.

<sup>68</sup>Grange records.

<sup>69</sup>Ibid.

<sup>70</sup>Martha Gentry.

<sup>71</sup>Grange records.

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Oregon Health Plan, and financially supported hospital  
expansions. The Plan was called the Josephine County Rural Health Protection Association and was a health coop started in 1943 as a government pilot study for farmers health insurance. Master WA Johnson served on the Board and helped promote the program. Members, Josephine and Franklin Smith managed it for years while other members, Josephine Powers served as Secretary and Sarah Wertz was Assistant Supervisor. This plan was the first health program of its kind in Oregon. It was the only pilot study health plan in the state to survive. It is now open to all, and is currently the 7th largest program in the state.<sup>72</sup>

The RRVG was very active politically in securing a hospital and Red Cross for the County since 1927. The hospital was located in the Clark residence, and was desperately outdated, and a new hospital was built on the site in 1929. RRVG lobbied heavily for the hospital and Red Cross. In 1930 a grange member became the Red Cross leader for the surrounding neighborhood, and by 1936 was active in securing a Board of Health for the County. By 1940 the hospital needed more room and equipment, and the Grange gave support to the hospital along with fellow member Franklin Smith, who became Hospital Administrator. In 1949 the Grange sponsored a tax bill<sup>73</sup>, which along with the Pomona, or county Grange support, gave \$80,000 per year to help run the hospital.

RRVG community service projects have always benefited Grants Pass. Projects included donations for Christian education, support for Dogs for the Blind, March of Dimes, Flood Control Committee, Church Sunday Program, Christmas gift boxes to retirement homes in Grants Pass, and cleaning and landscaping of the Old Tuffs Cemetery in 1961. The cemetery was noted for being started in the 1850's during the Indian wars in the Valley, and containing graves of some of the earliest settlers in the Valley along with soldiers who died in the Civil and Mexican Wars.<sup>74</sup> <sup>75</sup> and was riddled with neglect until the RRVG began this project.

RRVG fought long and hard for relief from devastating floods caused by the Rogue River since before recorded history in the valley. Efforts by the Grange and the farming community paved the way for construction of the Ament dam in 1911, Savage Rapids Dam (1921), and after several more floods in 1956, 1958, and 1964, they lobbied for what became the Rogue Basin Flood Control & Water Resources Association in 1958. Meeting notes reflect the Granges importance by being asked to be represented on the Board of Directors. Not only has the association helped allow for more flood control, but it has aided hydroelectric power to the surrounding communities.

<sup>72</sup>Interview with Josephine Hull Smith, 25 August 1988.

<sup>73</sup>Grants Pass Courier, August 1959.

<sup>74</sup>Ibid., 13 May 1961.

<sup>75</sup>Ibid., 25 May 1961.

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In 1947 the strength of the RRVG was demonstrated by being the largest grange in Oregon with more than 360 members.<sup>16</sup> Its legislative persuasiveness were obvious as meetings with the Governor, Senators, Representatives, City and County Officials were held frequently.

Locally the RRVG exerted its influence regarding hospital management by the county in 1927 and won, as well as jail enlargement, education of school children, roads and highways, flood control, and women's' rights. At the state level, the grange supported the Oregon State Grange issues including fire income taxes and no property tax, limit on state indebtedness, education, increased compensation for legislators to lure the best men, agricultural marketing bills, liquor control, regulation of public utilities, labor laws, primary elections of which 75 of 115 grange positions passed into law the first time, and later many more became law.<sup>17</sup>

As a group, members of the RRVG were the politically active farmers of Grants Pass.<sup>18</sup> Members such as WA Johnson and Raymond Lathrop were Josephine County Judges for over 20 consecutive years, while others held offices such as County commissioner.

One of its early members was Lincoln Savage (1935) and his wife. He was the superintendent of schools, and has one of the schools named in his honor today.

Another member of the RRVG was Elmer Gilmore, whose parents built the first Store-post office-stage coach station in Merlin, a few miles west of Grants Pass.

Judge Raymond Lathrop was responsible for the creation of a 50 acre lake and recreation area at Lake Salmac, which supplies domestic and irrigation water to the area. He was on the "Redwood Empire Association" and got better roads on Highway 101, was responsible for Collier tunnel construction, which cut 18-20 miles off the dangerous road to Selma and Crescent City.

RRVG continues to inspire active members as is demonstrated by members such as Scott Hasset, NASA astronaut trainer and past state grange officer, and Wayne Johnson who presently holds the prestigious office of Oregon State Grange Master.

Obviously, the members of RRVG have over the years given vital service to the City of Grants Pass socially, politically, economically and educationally since early in this century. The Rogue River Valley Grange hall was built and occupied with them, and is the best preserved example of an historic grange building in Josephine County, and the oldest Grange building in or near Grants Pass. It also

<sup>16</sup>Scott Hasset, "A Brief Summary of Background and History of Rogue River Valley Grange No. 469 Addendum", August 1979.

<sup>17</sup>Marshall E. Woodell.

<sup>18</sup>Interview with R.G. McCarthy, Extension Office, Grants Pass, Oregon, 8 September 1988.

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retains integrity of site, and has been in continual use by the Grange since it was constructed. it is my opinion that it qualifies to be on the National Register of Historic Places.

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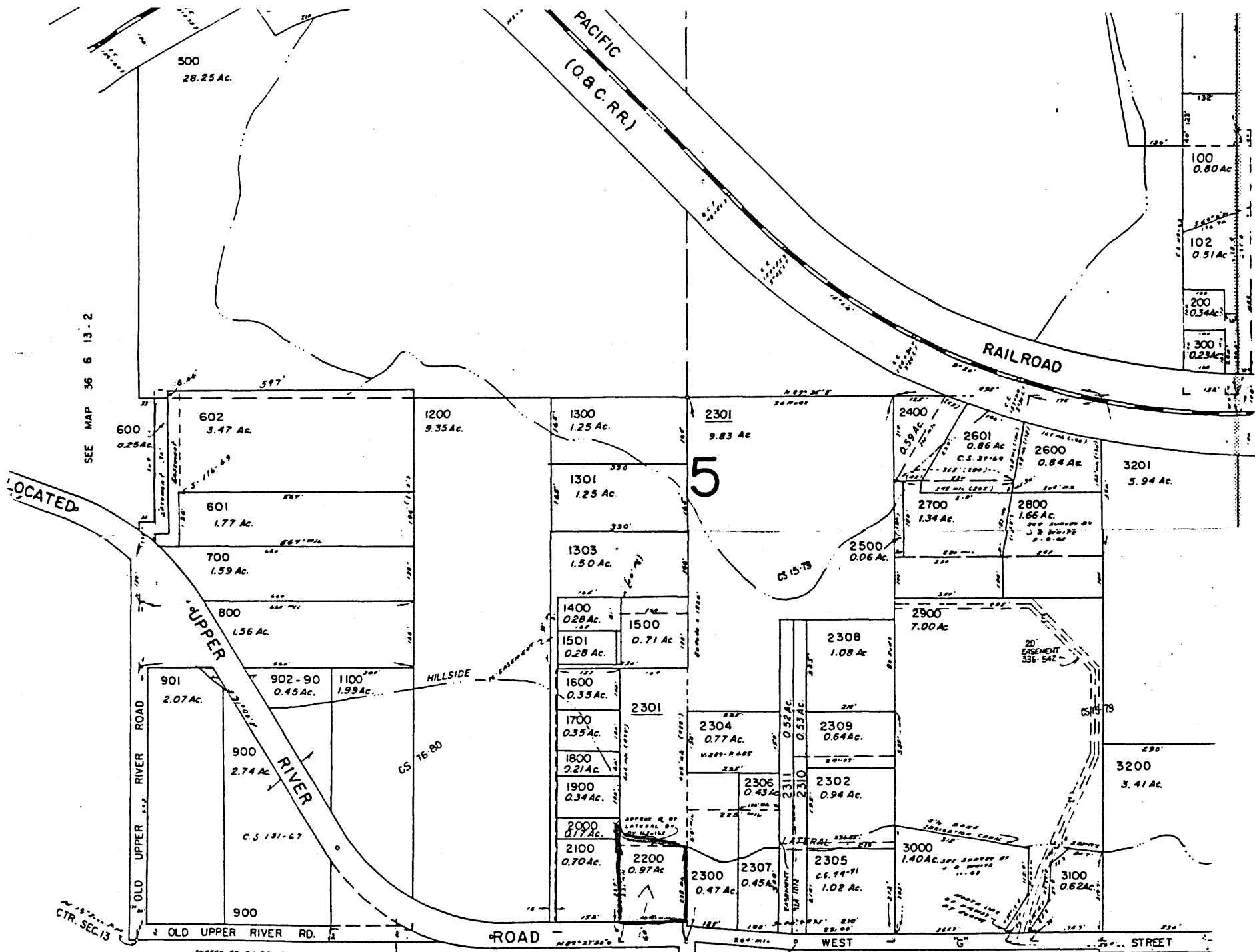
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SEE MAP 36 6 13-2



LOCATED  
OLD UPPER RIVER ROAD  
CTR. SEC. 13

SURVEY BY G. J. ...  
OF ...  
...  
...  
...  
...  
...

Rock River Valley  
G Range

SEE MAP 36 6 13-4

# ROQUE RIVER VALLEY GRANGE

GRANTS PASS, OREGON  
BY CAROLYN SCHLEIF  
1988 1/8" = 1'-0"

