

FOREWORD

In the 20+ years since *Sandust & Cider* was first published, the tapestry of the community of Lorane has changed dramatically. Many of those who provided memories and stories for the book, those whose family roots were deeply imbedded in the soil of the valley, have passed on and a great many of their sons and daughters have followed their education and careers to other parts of the state and country. Family homes and farms have been sold and new faces and ideologies rapidly have become woven into the community fabric. Many of the people who moved into the area in the past 20 years were seeking a quieter, more rural setting in which to raise their families. Many were children of the 60s and 70s who came from urban areas and brought with them new ideas and a rich appreciation of art, culture and the environment. During the same time, the whole Northwest underwent a major shift in its resource economy. Environmental concerns over the harvesting of old growth timber and the fate of the Northern Spotted Owl drastically curtailed the timber industry. Small and large mills found it necessary to shut down because of the limited number of logs available to them and because of the prohibitive cost of retooling the mills for the smaller-sized logs. Loggers and millworkers suddenly found themselves without the jobs they and their fathers and grandfathers before them had held all of their lives. Because these businesses were gone, more of the property tax burden in Oregon was placed on the shoulders of the homeowner and a stringent property tax relief measure was passed to help relieve the load. The funding for the Oregon school system was reworked to try and make up for the loss in revenue from property taxes. Suddenly, once prosperous and successful small rural school districts, including our own Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District #66, began to struggle. Some small schools were closed down and the children bussed to larger, more urban schools. Others, including the Lorane Elementary School, began to combine classes and decrease staff. Fortunately,

Lorane Elementary has been able to continue providing education for the local children, but its fate is uncertain. Our school has historically been the center of the community, bringing together through its social activities not only the children, but the parents and elders of the community, as well. It continues to do so today. The traditional values and the progressive ideologies have been able to blend in order to work towards the goal of keeping that center intact for future generations.

Economically, Lorane has rebounded from the demise of its robust logging industry of the past. In its stead has risen a growing wine industry. Chateau Lorane, owned by the Kester family, was the first one in the area and has grown steadily, not only for making award-winning wines, but also for its upscale wedding milieu on the shores of Lake Louise. A few years later, the King family bought and developed the land of the former Lorane Valley Orchards and has made it into a world-renowned vineyard, winery and grape nursery. Our newest, but rapidly growing winery is Iris Hill Winery, owned by the Boyles/Frye family. It's located on property formerly owned by Lincoln and May Diess.

The local wine industry has combined with the wealth of world-class artists who have settled in the Lorane area to establish the popular Lorane Art and Wine Festival held each year on Memorial Day weekend in May. People from all over Oregon and beyond flock to Lorane to sample and enjoy our wealth of excellent wines and beautiful art creations. They continue to visit throughout the year to partake in the special essence of our community. In addition, the wineries have provided much-needed jobs to members of the community.

The community tapestry has certainly changed, but the special "flavor" associated with Lorane, Oregon and the Siuslaw Valley have not. The new and the old are blending their best characteristics, working towards the same goals, in order to retain a very special and unique community for generations to come.