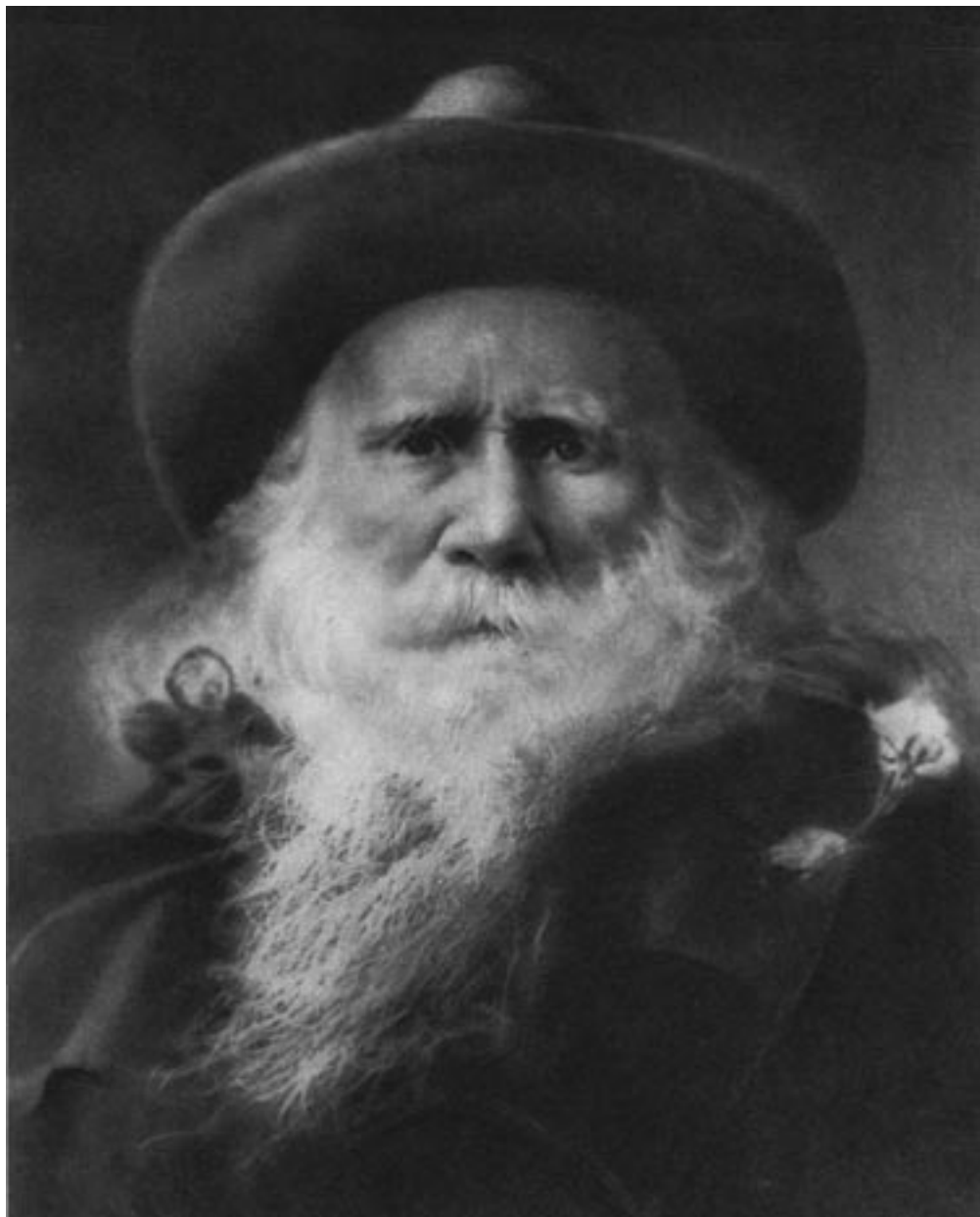


Joaquin Miller “Poet of the Sierras”

Conference and Celebration



Ashland, Oregon October 8 & 9 2004

Welcome...

After pondering the following list of titles and descriptions, one might wonder how many people it would take to fill all these shoes? “Poet of the Sierras”, the founder of California’s Arbor Day, prose stylist extraordinaire, horse thief, judge, Pony Express rider, newspaper editor, critic, gold miner, successful playwright, champion of Native American rights, Indian fighter, rogue and hero.

How about just one? How about Joaquin Miller?



For Joaquin, the world was a stage, a romantic setting. The cast included contemporaries, friends and rivals such as Walt Whitman, Jack London, Ambrose Bierce, Lillie Langtry, Ina Coolbrith, William Walker, Tennyson, Rossetti, Mark Twain, Bret Harte and Charles Warren Stoddard. His adventures through Oregon, Idaho and Northern California brought him fame in England, notoriety in America and provided fodder for much of his poetry and prose.

The conference is hosted on the beautiful campus of Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon on October 8th and 9th, 2004. The program includes individual and panel presentations, keynote speakers, exhibits, poetry readings, documentaries, multimedia presentations, socials, and opportunities to share in the events, culture and splendor of Ashland, Oregon.

Joaquin Miller Conference Program

Friday, October 8

Opening Session

9:00

Welcoming Messages

Dr. Gary Miller, Chair
Department of History
Southern Oregon University

John Enders, Executive Director
Southern Oregon Historical Society

David West, Native American Studies
Brent Florendo, Native American Studies
Southern Oregon University

Columbus

Poetry Recital by Alan Mainwaring

Morning Program

10:00

“Ah nee, ah nee” & Joaquin Miller

Margaret Guilford-Kardell

11:00

*Separating Fact from Fiction:
Joaquin Miller’s Life Amongst the Wintus*

Julie Cassidy

11:30

The Battle of Castle Crags

Valerie Gomez

Friday Afternoon Program

1:30

Keynote Presentation

*Brothers Under the Skin:
Joaquin Miller and Captain Jack*

Alan Rosenus

3:00

*A Deeper Wild:
Research on Joaquin Miller's Early Life*

William Sullivan

4:00

*A Pictorial Survey
of the Writings of Joaquin Miller*

Bill Miesse

Evening Celebration

7:00

Premier of Crater Lake
Documentary

National Park Service
Southern Oregon Public Television
KSYS/KFTS

Joaquin Miller's Oregon

Scott McKeown

Saturday, October 9

Morning Program

8:00

Koffee Klatch: Tall Tales, Lies,
and Rumors of Joaquin Miller.

Hosted by Chris DeHart

Saturday Morning, continued

9:00

Mount Shasta and Joaquin Miller: Bill Miesse
A Lifetime Bond

10:00

Joaquin Miller: First Encounters Panel Presentation
Alan Rosenus
(Sponsored in the memory of Frank La Pena
Judge Richard Eaton*) Darryl Babe Wilson
Malcolm Margolin

Afternoon Program

1:30

Joaquin Miller Park and the Hights Stephanie Benavidez

3:00

The Poetry and Prose of Joaquin Miller Hosted by Alan Mainwaring
Discussion and Recitals

* Legendary judge and historian in Shasta County, CA.

Saturday Evening Celebrations

7:00

Theatrical Presentation Written, Directed, and Produced
In the Land Where Acorns Dance by Michael O'Rourke
Center Square Theatre, SOU campus

That's not all! See next page for more.

Saturday Evening, continued

9:00

*A Night at the
Howlin' Wilderness***

Standing Stone Brewing Company
101 Oak Street, Ashland, OR

Hosted by Alan Mainwaring
Music by Siskiyou Summit

** The Howlin' Wilderness was immortalized through Miller's *Life Amongst the Modocs* as the local watering hole for Siskiyou gold miners in the 1850's.

Event Sponsors

Heyday Institute

Joaquin Miller Newsletter

Southern Oregon University Department of History

College of the Siskiyous Library

Southern Oregon Historical Society

Montagne Publishing Company

Oregon Heritage Commission

Humboldt State Department of History

Many Thanks to:

Emile Amarotico and the Standing Stone Brewing Company

Joaquin Miller Conference

Presenter Bios

Alan Mainwaring

Born in Wales, Alan is a director-graduate of the prestigious British National Film School. He was educated at the universities of Warwick and Bristol in England. A resident of Mt. Shasta, Alan has produced, directed and acted in theatrical productions through the Shasta Mountain Playhouse and Shadow Box Players. In addition, Alan has produced a commercial video, "Under Milkwood", a weekly program titled "Siskiyou Magazine" and "Siskiyou Portraits", a documentary on local artists. Alan has written feature screenplays, in particular, "The American", based on the life and times of Joaquin Miller.

Margaret Guilford-Kardell

A tireless seeker of reliable information on Joaquin Miller, Margaret was born seven years after Miller's death and learned his poem "Columbus" in grade school. During her girlhood, she enjoyed hiking the acreage surrounding his Oakland home at "the Hights." A whole lifetime passed after her graduation from U.C. Berkeley with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Economics (Natural Resources). She later received an M.S. from the University of Tennessee. Only in the 1970s after a life abroad did she accidentally discover that Joaquin was telling the truth about the Indians of the McCloud River locale where she was then living. For many years now she has edited and published the Joaquin Miller Newsletter--sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with others. Her many other publications include "Joaquin Miller: Fact and Fiction" in *The Californians*.

Julie Cassidy

Julie Cassidy has a BA from U.C. Berkeley in Near Eastern Archaeology and History and an MA in Anthropology from California State University, Chico. She has worked for the Forest Service for 24 years as an Archaeologist and liaison to American Indian Tribes bordering the Forest. She comes to us not as a Joaquin Miller expert or aficionado, but as a researcher always pursuing names, places, and historical fact. In this case, Joaquin Miller has intersected with one of her passions, understanding the lifeways of the Wintu. To this end she has written or presented papers such as:

1999 Were the Sacramento River Wintu the First Watershed Stewards?. Paper given for the 23rd State of Jefferson Meetings, Klamath Falls Oregon, 1999. Paper also published in the 2001 issue of *The Covered Wagon*, Shasta Historical Society.

1999 Wintu Lifeways Along the Sacramento River. Paper given at Turtle Bay Museums and Arboretum in Redding, California.

1988 Astronomy, Myth, and Language of the Wintu in Northern California. Paper written for Masters Program at Chico State.

Julie's has had a long time friendship with Florence Jones, a well-known Winnemen (middle water) Wintu, who just passed away this last spring. Florence asked her to pursue her research on the Winnemem Wintu, hence the inception and dedication of this paper.

Alan Rosenus

Alan has reintroduced a number of California classics, including *The Indian History of the Modoc War* and *Joaquin Miller's Life Amongst the Modocs*. Miller's autobiographical novel was the first book Alan's Orion Press published in 1972. (The press name has since been changed to Urion Press.)

An honors graduate of Brown University, he received his MA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University and took his Doctorate in American Literature at the University of Oregon. In 1976 he published *Selected Writings of Joaquin Miller*, a collection of Miller's short stories, journals, and drawings. Alan's biography of General Mariano G. Vallejo, *General Vallejo and the Advent of the Americans*, received the Spur award for the best biography of the year from the Western Writers of America. A grantee of the National Endowment for the Arts, he has published work in the *California Historical Quarterly*, the *Northwest Review*, *New America*, and *Western American Literature*. He is also the author of a book of short fiction, *Devil Stories*. Rosenus has taught at Coe College, the College of Marin, and San Francisco State University.

William Sullivan

William "Bill" Sullivan is the author of ten books and numerous articles about Oregon, including "A Deeper Wild", an account of the life of Joaquin Miller and the "Oregon Trails" feature column for Eugene's Register-Guard. A fifth-generation Oregonian, Sullivan began hiking at the age of five and has been exploring new trails ever since. After studying at Deep Springs College in the California desert, receiving an English degree from Cornell University, and studying linguistics at Germany's Heidelberg University, he earned an M.A. in German literature from the University of Oregon. Sullivan's hobbies include backcountry ski touring, playing the harpsichord, reading foreign language novels, and promoting libraries. He helped with the campaign to build Eugene's new library, is a member of the Oregon State Library Board, and is vice president of the Lane Library League. He and his wife, Janelle

Sorensen, live in Eugene, but they spend summers in a log cabin they built by hand on a road less stretch of a remote river in Oregon's Coast Range.

Malcolm Margolin

Malcolm Margolin is the founder and publisher of Heyday Books, an independent publisher in Berkeley California, and since 1987 has been publishing a magazine, *News from Native California*, devoted to the history and culture of California Indians. He is also the publisher of *Bay Nature*, a new magazine devoted to the joyful and intelligent exploration of nature in the Bay Area. He has written a number of books on California history, natural history, and Indian life, including *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area*.

He has received the Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement from the San Francisco Bay Area Book Reviewers Association, as well as other awards from the Before Columbus Foundation, Society for California Archaeology, California Council for the Promotion of History, the California Indian Health Services, California Horticultural Society and the California Arts Council. He was given the Gerbode Fellowship, and has been awarded residencies at the Headland Center for the Arts and the Djerassi Foundation. Margolin also serves on the boards of the Save the Bay, the California Studies Association, River of Words, the Djerassi Resident Arts Program, the Yosemite Association, and is a member of the Bancroft Library's Publication Advisory Board.

Bill Miesse

Bill Miesse has a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from Evergreen State College and a MA in Environmental Education from Humboldt State University. An art and rare book dealer, art publisher, and lecturer, he is the author of *Mount Shasta: An Annotated Bibliography* (1993) and *Art and Artists of Mount Shasta 1841-1941* (1989) and is currently working on a history of the early naturalists of the region. He has been living at the base of Mount Shasta since 1981 and for recreation telemark skis and windsurfs. In 1987 he began researching and lecturing on Joaquin Miller's relationship with Mount Shasta and now considers Miller to be California's first environmentalist.

Michael O'Rourke

Michael recently returned to the Rogue Valley from Alaska where he served as managing artistic director for Anchorage Community Theatre. To celebrate the company's 50th Season he designed and built the ACT Studio Theatre. He led the company (by invitation) to a triumphant production of *Bus Stop* at the prestigious Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez, Alaska. Thirty years ago he directed five midnight projects at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which set the stage for con-

struction of the Festival's Black Swan. He co-founded Actors' Theatre in Southern Oregon in 1982, producing 100 productions in 13 years, and served as executive director for the capital campaign to purchase and remodel the Minshall Playhouse, now the home of Camelot Theatre. Michael's collaboration with Lakota actor Robert Owens resulted in a one-man show that toured internationally for six years. Recipient of grants for development of heritage scripts celebrating the Klamath Siskiyou Bioregion, he wrote *In the Land Where Acorns Dance*, a screenplay based on Joaquin Miller's life among the Waimuk in Northern California during the Gold Rush. He dedicates the merit of his practice in the theatre to his love, Becky, and his three children, Morgan, Tansy and Toby. Hoka hey.

Scott McKeown

Scott's education includes a Juris Doctorate from Lewis and Clark College, Northwestern School of Law 1985, a MBA from Portland State University 1983 and a BS in Political Science from University of Oregon 1971. He is one of the two founding partners of McKeown and Brindle, P.C., a law firm with offices in Portland and Beaverton. There are eighteen attorneys in the firm. He has maintained an active general real estate law practice since his admission to the Oregon State Bar in 1985. Scott has devoted approximately 25% of his legal career to the practice of juvenile law. He is on the board of directors of Innovative Housing, Inc., a non-profit provider of low-income housing.

Frank La Pena

Frank LaPena, an internationally exhibited painter and published poet, was born in 1937 in San Francisco. As a young man he became interested in the song, dance, and ceremonial traditions of his tribe. He has worked with the elders of the Nomtipom Wintu, the Nomlaki Wintun of northern California, and elders of neighboring tribes, and is a founding member of the Maidu Dancers and Traditionalists, dedicated to the revival and preservation of these Native arts.

LaPena lectured widely on Native American traditional and cultural issues, emphasizing California traditions, and he is a professor emeritus at California State University, Sacramento. His art has been exhibited since 1960 in twenty-two one-man exhibits and numerous group shows across the United States, Europe, Central and South America, Cuba, Australia, and New Zealand. He has been a consultant to museums across the country including the de Young, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. He lives in Sacramento and is still active in ceremonial life as a singer and dance leader.

Stephanie Benavidez

Refuge Naturalist, Raconteur, and Keeper of the Flame of Joaquin Miller's & Paul

Covel's Legacies. Has worked for the City of Oakland's Office of Parks and Recreation for over 30 Years. For the past five years she oversees the daily operations at the Rotary Nature Center and the Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge. As the Citywide Naturalist she creates and implements Natural Sciences and outdoor education programs during the school years and runs The Touch the Earth, Young Naturalist and Shake Rattle and Roll summer camps for ages 6 to 15 years. Has had two programs about Joaquin Miller, (one showing his monuments) on Evening Magazine and the other with Huel Howser's California's Golden Parks on PBS channels.

Has a children's book written by Patricia Pollacco "I Can Hear the Sun", featured in numerous newspaper articles and local media programs, Ishmael Reed's "Blues City a walk in Oakland", Sondra Clark's "Cool Careers in Parks & Recreation" and "Bay Nature Magazine Premier Issue. Worked on filming segments of Reading Rainbow's "Reshenka's Egg" and Bay Area Backroads both with Jerry Graham and Doug McConnell. Has three years invested at Mill's College and is part of their Oral History Project about Oakland. She inherited her love of history from her mother, Clarice Benavidez, a Center Director for the City of Oakland and resides with her in Oakland, CA. with two loving dogs Honi and McDuff and a cat named Zeus. Currently sits on the Board of Dunsmuir House and Gardens, Inc, member of Business and Professional Women (BPW) and National Interpreters Association (NAI).

Darryl Babe Wilson

Darryl's novel *The Morning the Sun Went Down* received the 1999 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary award, for "outstanding literary achievement by writers living west of the Mississippi". He co-edited *Surviving in Two Worlds: Contemporary Native American Voices*, and is also the author of *Wilma Mankiller: Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation*.

He was born Sul'mae'ejote near Fall River Mills, CA. His mother was from the Iss people, his father from the Aw'te. Darryl says, "The arrogance of colonization invited anthropology to change the identity of the landscape and the identity of the people. Some know them as the Pit River Tribe of California but I disagree with that paradigm." He attended high school near Redding, did undergraduate work in English at UC Davis, and received his Ph.D from the University of Arizona.

Darryl writes, "I am waiting for my next book to be published – a history of some of the things Joaquin Miller recorded concerning my people and the move of empire through our homeland with a devastating effect that still lingers."

For more information about the Joaquin Miller Conference visit www.joaquinmiller.net. Website and Program designed by Erik Schjeide. E mail: erik@hummm.net