



## Some history of Cantrall Buckley Park

BY JANIS MOHR-TIPTON

The beautiful painting on the right, by Louis Arnold, is a step back in time to 1959, before we had a park on the river or a bridge to cross onto Cantrall Road. At that time the Arnolds lived upriver, near the old town of Copper, before the dam was built. Arnold sold the painting to James David Buckley, grandfather of Applegate resident Mary Mikkelsen. It has remained in her family ever since.

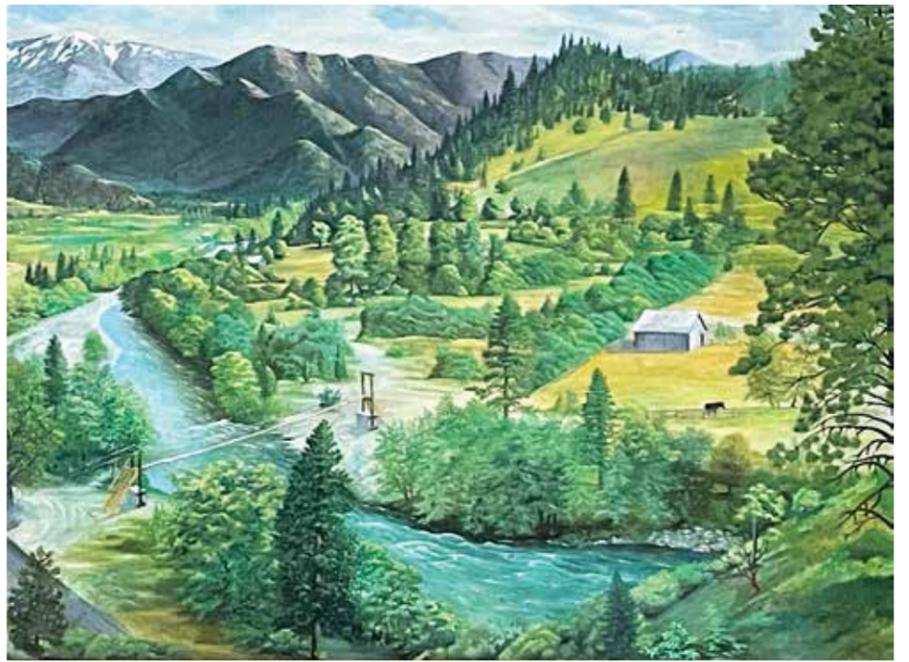
To paint this, Louis was seated on a rise on the east side of Hamilton Road (the gray road at the bottom left corner of the painting). He was looking at the old swinging footbridge on Marion Dunlap's ranch. The Dunlap boys used to cross this bridge to catch the school bus to Ruch School. In the painting, in the southwest background, you can see Dutchman Peak. A tiny gray-white roof next to a straight line of conifers near a spot of river is the Buckley Ranch barn. This barn is still standing today, behind a new home, near the old white house and tower you pass on Cantrall Road, coming from Highway 238, just before the turnoff for the bridge and park entrance.

### A brief history of how Cantrall Buckley Park started

In 1961, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) built a single-lane permanent bridge over the Applegate River to have access to their timberlands. This bridge replaced the old ford on the Cantrall family's cattle ranch.

The first Jackson County Parks Director, Neil Ledward, began to envision a county park on the west side of the river. In 1965, Harlan Cantrall agreed to sell 25 acres on both sides of the river. His neighbor Lewis Buckley eagerly offered to sell eight acres, and a park was born. The Ossenbrugges and the Dunlaps sold more acres, and BLM leased a portion. The park now has 54 acres.

The 1964 flood had caused much devastation to the flood plain. After cleaning up the damage, Jackson County began developing the park, with assistance from the Jackson County Youth Work Corps. These high-school-age youths learned a lot of skills as they helped build the infrastructure of the park. Cantrall Buckley Park opened on July 14, 1968, with a great celebration. A couple of years later, Harlan Cantrall sold an



Before there was a bridge for vehicles: This painting by Louis Arnold in 1959 shows part of the area that's now Cantrall Buckley Park. Photo: Mary Buckley Mikkelsen.

additional 34 acres to Jackson County, and a campground addition to the park became a reality.

The river flooded again in 1974, causing even more severe damage than in the previous decade. Much of the park's new development was destroyed. This time the river also shifted and changed course. (A painting from this time would have shown many changes.) But with the Jackson County Youth Corps still available to help the county work crews, the park was rebuilt again.

July 14, 2018, brought a 50-year celebration to the park. In the preceding years, the park had gone through more changes due to the loss of timber revenues shrinking budgets. Unwilling to see this jewel of a community resource shut down for lack of funds, the community took on management and maintenance of the park for a number of years. Since then it has thrived and grown.

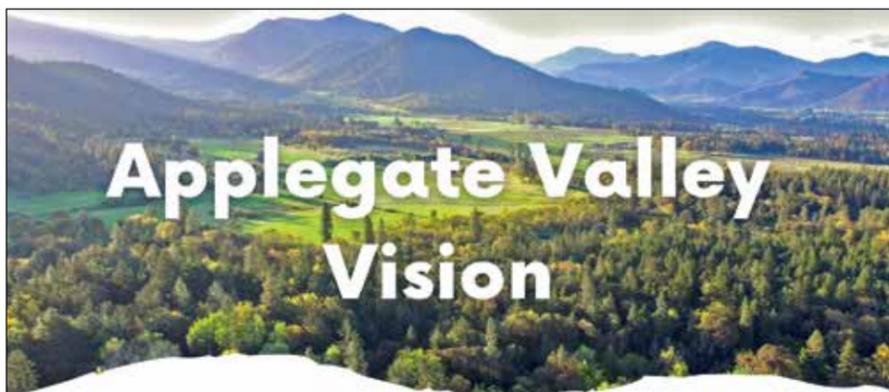
For a more extensive history of the park, see the article by Tom Carstens on page 10 of the summer 2018 *Applegater* and a more detailed *Jewel of the Applegate: 50 Years of Cantrall Buckley Park* under "Extra Articles" (visit [applegater.org](http://applegater.org)). Very worthwhile reads!

### Another celebration coming

Save the date—April 29—for another celebration to honor and thank all the donors, funders, and volunteers who have helped enhance and maintain the park, continuing the values of the families who sold the land and the Jackson County leaders who envisioned this beautiful park.

We need more community volunteers at the event. Contact Janis Mohr-Tipton (541-846-7501, [janis.agapark@gmail.com](mailto:janis.agapark@gmail.com)) to sign up for one-hour shifts.

And do plan to join in the celebrating!  
Janis Mohr-Tipton  
[cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info](mailto:cantrallbuckleypec@apwc.info)



**A Greater Applegate is excited to announce the release of the Applegate Valley Vision-- an initiative created for the community by the community that provides a catalog of possibilities to enhance our beautiful valley for years to come.**



Scan the QR code or visit our website to read the Applegate Valley Vision plan, learn how to get involved, and to support the work.

541-702-2108  
[www.agreaterapplegate.org](http://www.agreaterapplegate.org)  
[info@agreaterapplegate.org](mailto:info@agreaterapplegate.org)

Visit our office at Sunshine Plaza in Ruch Monday-Wednesday 10am-4pm or by appointment

### Join us in celebration, and have fun at your gem of a park!

**Saturday, April 29, Noon to 4 pm  
at Cantrall Buckley Park**

- Tour the park and see the displays and newest installations
- Meet artists, donors, funders, community leaders, and students
- Enjoy good food from local vendors
- Listen to the Ruch Outdoor Community School singers



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