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CHARNEL MULLIGAN-EUGENE F. SKINNER DEED—
front and back cover
The objectives of the Lane County Pioneer-Historical Society are to gather, preserve, and make available museum records and other material which specifically relates to the history of Lane County, and in a broader sense, to the southern part of the Willamette Valley; also to stimulate an interest in Oregon history and to carry on the tradition of the annual pioneer picnic.

The Historian, as the official publication of the Society, aims to assist in fulfilling these objectives by publishing articles of historic personalities and events as well as industrial, commercial, and political activities which have been influential in shaping the county's history.

There are no membership qualifications except the payment of annual dues of $3.00 for a single membership; $5.00 for family; or $8.00 if you desire membership in both the Lane County organization and the Oregon Historical Society.

The roster contains not only the names of Lane County pioneer families, but also a fine representation of citizens who have a continuing interest in local history. You are invited to become a member of this active historical group.

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The Walton House

Josephine Evans Harpham

One of Lane County's most historically interesting houses was the former home of Miss Pauline Walton at 433 East Broadway in Eugene. Some years ago the lovely old house and grounds were sold and the property used for rental purposes. The land was purchased in 1867 by J. J. Walton Jr., father of the late Miss Pauline, and in 1868 this gracious house was built and it was the home of the Walton family for 91 years.

Three Walton brothers came from England in colonial times and founded the family in America. Thomas Walton of Wethersfield, Connecticut was Captain of a sailing vessel. It was here that his son, J. J. Walton Sr., learned the trade of shoemaking.

In 1832 he moved to Rushville, Indiana, where in 1834 he married Ann McNab Shockley, a Kentuckian, and a first cousin of the famous southern general, Robert E. Lee. It was here that in 1838 J. J. Walton Jr., was born.

In 1842 they moved to Iowa and in 1849 they crossed the plains via the Humboldt Trail to Fremont, California, having been on the way for a period of six months. J. J. Walton Jr., was a boy of 11 at this time.

In 1851 the family moved to Yreka, California. The following year J. J. Walton Sr. took up a donation land claim on Wagner Creek near Ashland, Oregon. Here he built a log house and in 1853 assisted in building a blockhouse at Fort Wayne. Here father and son were on guard duty for six months during the Rogue River Indian uprisings.

In 1853 J. J. Walton Sr., sold his property, mainly because of his wife's intense fear of the warring Rogue Indians. He moved his fami-
The Walton House located at 433 E. Broadway, Eugene, was built in 1868. Now serves as rental property.

In 1858 the Walton family decided to come to Eugene City, so that the nine children could avail themselves of the educational advantages offered there. Here a home was built on Pearl Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets and the house at 626 Pearl is still part of the original residence.

J. J. Walton Jr., was married to Miss Elizabeth Gale, a teacher at the Select School located in the building of the original Presbyterian Church on Eight and Lincoln Streets on April 12, 1866. To this couple were born three daughters: Ada Osie, Clara Dell and Harriet (Mrs. S. B. Waite), now all deceased. In 1873, Elizabeth Gale Walton passed away. Three years later Mr. Walton married Miss Emma Fisher of Eugene, a teacher in the annex to the District School which was located where the former Osburn Hotel stood. A daughter, Pauline, was born to this couple in January, 1879.

In 1867 Mr. Walton bought four acres of land on what is now East Broadway and Eighth Streets from the Hilyard Shaw estate. An old brickyard was formerly located there, surrounded by large oak trees and the Mill Race just to the west, flowed peacefully nearby.

In 1868 the Walton house was built and located on about the middle of the tract. Black walnut, maple, cedar trees and fine shrubbery were set out. East of the house was a grape arbor, and to the rear an orchard with a number of apricot, cherry, prune, apple and peach trees...
trees. Berries and a garden grew
down by the old Mill Race.
To the north of the house was a
sizeable red barn and a fenced-in
lot for the horses, cows and calves.
Miss Walton, with a twinkle in her
eye, recalled the names of several
of the latter which were Charles
Dickens, Joan of Arc, Julius Caesar
and Billy the Kid.
The windmill tower, northwest
of the house, provided water for
household needs and for irrigation
purposes long before there was a
city water system.
The four-acre tract originally in-
cluded what is now an extension of
Ferry Street. The Waltons later
gave this part of the property to
the City of Eugene. Next to this
street were formal bright flower
beds with tanbark walks between
them.
In 1909 the house was moved
farther to the west from its former
location on the center of the prop-
erty, a basement placed underneath
it, and the house rebuilt.
This lovely home reminds one of
some of the charming old Currier
& Ives prints. It is two story, all
wood construction, built of hand-
hewn timbers, and split shingles.
Originally a large front porch sup-
ported by pillars went across the
front of the house which was
painted white. Old-fashioned green
shutters hang at every window and
remain today as originally placed.
There was a center hallway with
a large living-room on the right
and a parlor on the left. Back of
the latter was a library divided by
sliding doors. To the rear of the
center hallway there was a spacious
dining room with kitchen adjacent
and to the east of it, the woodshed.
Near this area was the bathroom
with a large zinc tub, one of the
first in Eugene. Nearby in the sink-
room there was originally an old-
fashioned pitcher pump which was
used to get water for the tank.
A stairway with attractive balus-
trade and polished newel post led
to the upstairs. Above the living
room was a master bedroom. Over
the parlor and library were two
other bedrooms.
Adding to the interest of the in-
terior are wide board floors, high
ceilings, long windows with eight
panes, wide baseboards and other
woodwork especially grained to
match the natural wood and stained
dark. In earlier years, air-tight
stoves downstairs and drums up-
stairs heated the house. There were
also two fireplaces. For illumina-
tion, Rochester Burner fixtures
with crystal prisms were used.
Against this background were
numerous family pieces of Miss
Walton's which lent added attrac-
tiveness to the interior of this fine
old house. Among these were: a
plate-glass mirror framed in carved
walnut; landscapes framed in heavy
gilt; an old Durand piano; spool
day bed; solid cherry chest over
150 years old and a carved walnut
parlor set which came around the
Horn on its way to Eugene.
This historic home will always
be of lasting interest to Eugene
and Lane County, not alone for its
charm but because it has been the
home of the Walton family which
has contributed so much to the re-
ligious, civic and educational life
of the community. Miss Walton's
father, J. J. Walton Jr., was County
judge for many years. During his
term of office, the first road was put
through to the coast, so they named
the town of Walton after him. He
was also president of the Board of
the Union University Association
which organized the University of
Oregon. Later he was secretary to
the Board of Regents of the Uni-
versity for 33 years.
Miss Walton, a member of a pioneer Eugene family and a founder of the Lane County Pioneer-Historical Society, died on January 11, 1966 at 87 years of age. Her loyal and persistent interest in the Society and its objectives was demonstrated as a long-time member of its Board of Directors, contributor to The Historian, and a faithful attendant at the monthly public meetings.

She was related to Eugene F. Skinner, founder of the city of Eugene, and was to have represented the Skinner family at the bronze plaque presentation on January 15 dedicating the Mulligan-Skinner real property gifts to Lane County.

Her teaching experiences in Eugene's and Lane County's schools and as a University of Oregon librarian, provided backgrounds for continued public service. Her Oregon history lectures to the school children of Lane County created living imagery in young minds of Oregon's courageous pioneers and the part they played in developing the state.

We shall miss her friendly, sparkling personality at our meetings and as a never-failing source of information on Lane County people, places, and politics.
History of the Walton Piano

Pauline Walton

This square piano was bought in the late sixties by J. J. Walton Sr., for his youngest daughter, Iula Walton. It was brought around Cape Horn by ship to Portland, then by river boat up the Willamette River to Corvallis, and then by team to Eugene. It was the first piano in Eugene as far as can be ascertained.

The Walton home was located on the west side of Pearl Street about half way between 5th and 6th Streets. It was built by Mr. Walton in 1858.

Eugene F. Skinner was born in Essex, Essex County, New York, Sept. 13, 1809, and lived there until he was 14 when he was taken by his father to Green County, Wisconsin. His father was John Joseph Skinner, and his brother was St. John Skinner, Assistant Postmaster-General during the administration of President Johnson. While still young Mr. Skinner went back to New York State to Plattsburg. He then moved to Hennepin, Illinois where November 28, 1839 he married Mary Cook who was born in Augusta, Oneida County, N.Y. Feb. 7, 1816. While living in New York State, Mr. Skinner was elected Sheriff of Putnam County.

In May, 1845 Mr. and Mrs. Skinner joined a wagon train going to California. Elijah Bristow and Wesley Shannon were in the same party. They spent the winter at Sutter’s Fort. In the spring of 1846 they journeyed to Oregon by horseback. They made baskets by weaving raw-hide strands around the pack saddle arms in which the children were placed so they would not fall out. They followed the old Hudson’s Bay trappers trail which lead from Fort Vancouver to the Sacramento Valley. It was a few miles west of Corvallis.

On the way to Oregon the party was attacked by Indians. The men put the packs in a circle to protect the women and children. The nine men who had guns crept out to the bank of a stream and when the Indians started to cross it the nine white men fired a volley and some of the others who had clubs...
splashed into the stream after the Indians and they disappeared.

The party from California reached the Rogue River Valley in June, 1846 and some of the party settled there, but the main train went on to Dallas and some to Oregon City. In June 1846 four men rode horseback up the Willamette Valley from Dallas; Elijah Bristow, Eugene F. Skinner, Felix Scott and William Dodson. They first helped Mr. Bristow build his claim cabin at a point between the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River on a hill he named Pleasant Hill after a place in his native state of Virginia. The party then came back down the valley and Mr. Skinner marked off a claim of 640 acres including what is now called Skinner's Butte, and started building his cabin on low ground west of the Butte. It was without doors or windows.

The party then returned to Dallas. In December of 1846 Mr. Skinner came back from Dallas to complete the cabin. It was built on level ground west of the Butte. The Oregon Lewis and Clark Chapter of the D.A.R. have placed a marker which was on Second Avenue, just off of Lincoln Street, but according to my Uncle St. John Skinner, the only son of Eugene Skinner, the marker should have been placed a block further north.

In 1847 Mr. Skinner went to Dallas and brought his family consisting of his wife and daughter Mary who had been born in Dallas to live in the new cabin. The Indians had never seen white people before and thought they were going to die as they were so pale. Mr. Skinner spoke about every Indian dialect and Mrs. Skinner could also in a limited manner. Yet in spite of this several times the Indians came to kill them, but Mr. Skinner scared them away with his old musket. Finally they smoked the “peace pipe.”

Here in the cabin in 1848 was born a daughter to the Skinners. Leonora C. being the first white child born in Lane County. The Indians came to see the new baby one day when Mr. Skinner was away and Mrs. Skinner let them in and they sat on the floor and passed the baby from one to another. Also born in the cabin were Phoebe Skinner (Mrs. John D. Kinsey) and St. John Skinner, the only son who was my uncle as he married my father's sister, Amanda Walton Nov. 23, 1871.

The Skinner family soon outgrew the cabin and so in 1855 they built a large frame house on 6th Ave. West between Charnelton and Lincoln Streets, which is still standing although it has been built over. The trees that Mr. Skinner planted have been taken down and the ivy that Mary Cook Skinner planted with her own hands, but they were still there when the 1947 pageant in celebration of the hundredth anniversary was presented.

Several times Mr. Skinner went to Oregon City for supplies. Tea, sugar and coffee were $2.50 per pound. The first stove cost $100, and also the first cow. In The Spectator, the first newspaper published in Oregon it speaks of prices being 50 per cent higher in Oregon City than in Vancouver.

Mr. Skinner went to the California mines during the Gold Rush in 1849, and mined some gold he had made into a Masonic Emblem and gave it to his son St. John who said the first grandson to become a Mason should have it, and Charles Skinner who is a great grandson and who now lives in New Hartford Connecticut, but this spring is moving to Bend, Oregon, got it.
took the part of his great-grandfather in the 1947 Pageant.

Mr. Skinner ran a ferry near where the Ferry Street bridge is, and his residence was designated a voting place for the election of the first representative in the Oregon Territorial Legislature. He was a lawyer and attended to the law business of a large number of settlers. He was Clerk of the Court and also postmaster for Eugene City. The Postoffice was in his residence and called Skinner's at first. He was a member of the first City Council.

The townsite of Eugene was platted in 1852, but a Charter was not granted until 1862. It was east of the Butte and as far south as 7th Street, and composed 24 blocks of eight lots each. After Mr. Skinner had it platted he turned to his wife Mary Cook Skinner and said "Mary now we have our little town what shall we name it?" And she said, "Why of course Eugene after you." It was made the County Seat in 1852. Then in 1853 Mr. Skinner gave 40 acres as did Mr. Charnel Mulligan for the location of the County Seat and Park Blocks. The Charter was granted Oct. 17, 1862.

In 1858 Mr. Skinner gave additional land to the east and west of the original town and west of his original donation.

Mr. Skinner passed away in 1864 as he never fully recovered from the chill he got while trying to drive his cattle up on the Butte during the flood of 1861-62. Mrs. Skinner died June 4, 1881. After her husband passed she had married Captain N. L. Packard in 1867. Both Mr. and Mrs. Skinner are buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Eugene as is the first white child born in Lane County, their daughter, Leonora.

(The above biography of Eugene F. Skinner was written by Miss Walton a few days before she died. In the cover letter to Mrs. C. P. Huntington, president of the Lane County Pioneer-Historical Society she said: "... but my eyesight is now so poor I cannot write as I would like to do. I made so many mistakes... but it is so late I will not have time to write the articles over..."—Ed.)
A Plaque Honors Mulligan and Skinner

On January 15, 1966 Harris Hall in the Lane County Court House, Eugene, was an appropriate place for ceremonies unveiling a plaque commemorating the generosity of Charnel Mulligan and Eugene Skinner who donated the land on which the court house stands and the Park Blocks across the street on Eighth Avenue.

The Oregon Lewis and Clark chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution were donors of the plaque unveiled by Mrs. Glenn Heisler of Eugene, a great-granddaughter of Charnel Mulligan. Members of both families were presented to the audience by Mrs. C. A. Huntington, chairman for the occasion.

Guest speaker was Thomas Vaughan, Executive Secretary of the Oregon Historical Society who enlarged upon Lane County's rich historical background and emphasized how the Society's new building in Portland with its treasured exhibits, fine library and research facilities, will enlarge its usefulness to all who are concerned with perpetuating Oregon's past and present history.

Other participants were Mrs. Ivan Spicer, State Regent of the D.A.R.; Mrs. R. A. Bowers, Chapter Regent, who presented the plaque; Dean Emeritus Karl Onthank, University of Oregon; and the Honorable Jess Hill, Chairman of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, who accepted it on behalf of the county. The plaque will be placed in one of the Park Blocks.

(See The Historian, History of Lane County Public Square, Leon L. Ray, Vol. 1, No. 3, December, 1956; Charnel Mulligan Co-Founder of Eugene City, Mrs. Orval Mulligan, Vol. 4, No. 3, November, 1959, and cover picture.—Ed.)
Early in March, 1907, Eugene, Brownsville and Portland newspapers broke the astounding story that a glass factory was to be built at Coburg, about six miles north of Eugene. The news was economically startling because the basic industrial elements were lacking, namely, glass sand, soda ash, borax, and skilled blowers. One ingredient, cheap fuel was available from the wood-waste of the nearby Booth-Kelly sawmill which threw away or burned thousands of cords of wood a month; but this was a poor substitute for coal or gas which were used in the glassmaking centers of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia. One wonders at this late date what prompted the promoters to engage in such a highly technical industry with nothing in their favor except a limited local market, and that would be non-existent if the glass was of poor quality.

Nevertheless, A. A. Stoneburg, a wealthy farmer who resided in that vicinity, C. Mathiesen, and John Hedburg, recently from Wisconsin, filed articles of incorporation on Mar. 9, 1907 of the Mathiesen Glass Company with capital stock of $10,000, and a per share value of $10.00. As was usual in such promotions, local residents bought stock.

A lot at the edge of town was purchased and a building erected to accommodate the furnace and other equipment to be used by the initial labor force of eight Norwegian families, all skilled glass blowers. These arrived in Coburg in September 1907, with a musical reputation comparable to their skill as glassmakers.

Machinery and materials were ordered from the East. The Frazer Iron Works of Eugene built a large hood for the furnace, and the Albany Iron Works made the molds for the fruit jars.

Lamp chimneys were the first products to be blown, followed by fruit jars and souvenir paper-weights which were used for advertising. One story relates that a conductor on the railroad which ran up the Valley from Coburg via Albany, brought one with him and exhibited it to the editor of the Albany Democrat. The greenish-blue, air-bubbly item created considerable comment and the factory received free publicity, but it was a doubtful example of the proposed high quality products which the owners hoped to produce.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce, always a booster for home industry and payrolls, lauded the formation of the new company at Coburg exuberantly exclaimed upon the vast industrial possibilities offered by such a factory and pointed out that “A good quality of sand for the making of glass is found near Coburg.” This was typical of the booster style of news story not founded on fact as there are no glass sand deposits in Oregon.

Stiff competition from imported glass products followed the introduction of the factory-molded, bubblefilled fruit jars. As for the lamp chimneys, they had no chance at all.

Labor troubles and poor management headed the company into receivers hands and within a year the little plant had closed down.

(Continued on Page 12)
LANE COUNTY JUSTICE

Justice Kinsey is to try the Brown-Burneson homicidal case. Brown demanded a portion of the potatoes which Burneson had planted on a leased hop yard owned by Brown. Brown went to Burneson to collect; the latter ordered him to leave and he refused. When Burneson aimed a combination rifle-shotgun at his adversary, Brown pulled a self-cocking six-shooter. Burneson fired the shotgun but missed, then fired the rifle and shot Brown in the head. Brown was a watchman; Burneson was a quiet, peaceable citizen. The quarrel was over potatoes valued at $25.00. The verdict: murder in the first degree. (Oregonian, October 26, 1882.)

Miss Sadie Hawk of Brownsville and Mr. C. O. Mulligan of Hazel Dell were united in marriage in the parlors of Hotel Eugene by Justice Charles A. Wintermeier. The groom is the son of the well-known, old pioneer Charnel Mulligan. Mr. Mulligan is engaged in the stock business. (Brownsville Times, February 22, 1901.)

Grading on the Willamette-Pacific roadbed between Eugene and Mapleton will soon be finished. (Florence Pilot, September 3, 1913.)

The annual salary of the Eugene postmaster has been advanced from $2,100 to $2,200. (Brownsville Times, June 7, 1901.)

Lane County Treasury receipts last year were $55,913.11, disbursements $48,726.02. (Oregonian, July 19, 1875.)

The little steam launch Merle S. cannot carry passengers between Eugene and Fairmount without a license. (Florence, The West, May 26, 1893.)

The steamer Ohio reached Eugene with 60 tons of merchandise, then loaded 20 tons of flour at Springfield, and 120 tons of wheat at Eugene, the largest ever taken by boat from Eugene (Oregonian, May 17, 1875.)

Six dozen iron bedsteads have been shipped to Booth-Kelly's new bunkhouse at Wendling (Brownsville Times, February 20, 1901.)

Expenses of administration of Lane County affairs for the year ending July 1, 1865 are $20,542.36; $9,000 was paid for the McKenzie and Springfield bridges leaving $11,542 for ordinary expenses. (Oregonian, May 10, 1875.)

Archie Knowles left for Eugene on a business trip. Mrs. Knowles will visit in Mapleton during his absence. (Florence Pilot, September 3, 1913.)

THEY FIDDLED BETTER THAN THEY BLEW

(Continued from Page 11)

Years went by with the building used as a potato warehouse. When sports-minded Coburgians needed a baseball field, the boiler footings and foundation were blasted out and the area levelled for recreational purposes. (See also Lee H. Nelson, The Coburg Glass Factory, 1907-1908. The Historian, Vol. 1, No. 3, December, 1956.—Ed.)
Sharply outlined against the dark, rocky background is the easily distinguishable white Heceta Head lighthouse. Thousands of travelers on the coast highway (U.S. 101) have stopped at the viewpoint near the Sea Lion Caves to photograph the rugged cape and the turbulent surf which beats at its base, or have driven the short road which runs seaward to the lighthouse grounds.

The easy access to western Lane County's headland-marked coast tends to obliterate the transportation problems which faced settlers in the river valleys and the navigators of coasting vessels. Hazards of the reef-lined littoral were all too well-known to ship captains, but in spite of appeals to the Federal government navigational aids were slow in coming to this part of Oregon. Even the steam-propelled sidewheelers of the 1850s and 1860s and the screw propellers of later years met disaster on the reefs and capes of the western shoreline in company with the less easily controlled sailing ships.

From time to time congressional appropriations were made to build lighthouses on the almost inaccessible promontories from northern California to the Straits of Juan de Fuca. Heceta Head lighthouse, completed in 1894 at a cost of $180,000 including an access road, dwellings, and the tower was one of these.

Transportation of construction materials was a real problem. Lumber, cut in the Mapleton and Florence mills was taken to the river mouth and there towed in rafts to
the cove below the lighthouse site. These did not always arrive intact, but efforts were made to salvage the loose pieces. At other times, lumber bound in bundles was carried to the site by the tug Robarts, thrown overboard on the beach, then hauled up the steep slope to the lighthouse.

Bricks and cement were brought to Florence from San Francisco by sailing vessel, then reloaded on the tug Lillian owned by Meyer and Kyle which then unloaded the cargo at the river mouth. It was then carried overland to be stored at the Cox Ranch at the foot of the mountain until summer brought improved road conditions. The lighthouse tender Columbine also brought in supplies to the mouth of the Siuslaw River thence hauled to the site. During this period 64 men were employed on the project.

The light equipment consisted of a 5½-inch diameter wick which burned refined coal oil. The mechanism which controlled the alternating flashing light was operated by a system of weights and pulleys which had to be wound every four hours. The 80,000 candlepower lenses and prisms 208 feet above sealevel, could throw a warning beam 20 miles to sea. When the plant was modernized to use electricity it produced 1,000,000 candlepower and projected the light for 22 miles.

Personnel was drawn from the Cape Mears lighthouse near Tillamook, Cape Blanco in Curry County, and from the Umpqua area.

A postoffice was established, but carrier service was mostly intermittent, so once a week a trip to Florence was necessary.

Isolation disappeared as road conditions improved and summer campers from Eugene and Willamette Valley points vacationed there.

Captain Clifford B. Herman who spent a lifetime at lifesaving stations and lighthouses on the Washington and Oregon coasts, came to Heceta in 1925 where he and his wife lived until 1950 when he retired.
Authors Draw Big Crowd

The announcement that the Society's public meeting on February 13 would have as guest speakers Mr. Reub Long and Mr. E. R. Jackman, brought out a record attendance of 180. The reputation of that most readable book, The Oregon Desert, of which they are the authors, induced several to bring their book for autographing; others purchased the volume and had it autographed.

Mr. Long has spent most of his life from young boyhood in the Christmas Lake, Fort Rock and Silver Lake area of central and southeastern Oregon. Much of his talk was a summary of these life experiences herding horses and cattle which drew him into contact with the Indians of the region, the wildlife, and the many times discouraged settlers.

In the early 1900s there was considerable traffic in the vicinity of the Long home, which was situated close to the crossroads to Prineville, The Dalles, and Yreka over which were driven the cattle, sheep and wool wagons.

Enlarged color photographs of central Oregon desert scenery were displayed to prove that the desert is not always the drab, grey region it is oftentimes described.

Heceta Sidelights

One thousand barrels of Giant powder used in grading the site for the lighthouse and keepers' dwellings were transported over the mountains in wagons as steamers were not licensed to carry explosives.

The lighthouse tender Manzanita has the lenses and other equipment for the light proper and will unload same at or near the Head by means of surf boats, but the surf was too rough to land.

Work on the lamps at Heceta Head is finished and is ready to have the match applied. (Acknowledgment is made to the Siuslaw Pioneer, August 1955, and the article on Heceta Head by Mary L. Dowell.—Ed.)

Copy for The Historian

The editor would like to re-emphasize what he has said at the public meetings; he would like to have on his hook (journalism term for plenty of copy ahead) manuscripts written about Lane County historic events, industry, transportation, people. The subject matter need not be concerned with the Pioneer Period although these stories are always welcome. Here is a fine opportunity for members of the Society to break into print and tell about some of the interesting experiences of members of your family, their accomplishments in politics, religion, business and a thousand aspects which relate to the development of Lane County and this part of Oregon. Telephone 344-8786 or write to 1976 Onyx St. 97403, or 740 West 13th Avenue 97402, Eugene.