



## SOC GRAB BAG

Southern Oregon Chapter ORSSAR

Editor Don Thomas

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### MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Our next monthly meeting will be at Mazatlan Restaurant on September 7th at high noon. See below as to location of restaurant.

This month we will have Ron Brown, an announcer at KDRV, give us talk about current events. Also Don Thomas will give a short report on the National Congress held in Winston-Salem,

Future meetings and the programs will be listed as they become available. All meetings for the rest of the year will be held at the Mazatlan Restaurant..

### LOCATION OF MAZATLAN RESTAURANT

If you are heading south on I-5, take Exit 33 and turn right on Pine Road. Go to first light (Freeman Road), turn left and enter the shopping center. Go back a ways and behind Albertson's and you will see the restaurant.

If you are heading north, take exit 33, turn left and then follow instructions above.

### SUPPORT OF THE CAAH PROGRAM

While in North Carolina I committed our Chapter to contribute \$250 to support the new library in Louisville. The other four chapters are also contributing \$250 each. That's a total of \$1,250 from Oregon. Hope this meets with everyone's approval.

### BRING A GUEST

Everyone is always entitled to bring guest to the luncheon and meeting as well as be able to listen to a guest speaker. Most of you know that our speakers cover a lot of subjects that are interesting and not boring.

The guest does not have to be a candidate for the SAR, but if he is--GOOD. Actually the more people hear about the SAR meetings and speakers, the better it will be for us. Called good PR.

### STATE OF FRANKLIN

Most of us know that there was a movement in Oregon and California to create the State of Jefferson. But did you know that there was for a short time a State of Franklin shortly after the Revolutionary War.

On August 23, 1784 four counties in western North Carolina declared their independence as the State of Franklin. The counties lay in what would eventually become Tennessee.

The state of North Carolina had previously ceded its western lands claims between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River to the United States Congress. The settlers in the area, known as the Cumberland River Valley, had formed their own independent government from 1772 to 1777 and were concerned that Congress would sell the territory to Spain or France as a means of paying off some of the government's war debts. As a result, North Carolina

### STATE OF FRANKLIN, CONT.

retracted its cession and began to organize an administration for this territory.

Simultaneously, representatives from the four counties declared their independence from North Carolina. Later the counties petitioned for statehood as "Frankland" to the United States Congress. A simple majority favored acceptance of the petition, but it fell short of the 2/3 majority needed to pass, even after the counties' changed their proposed name to "Franklin" in an attempt to get Ben Franklin's and others' favor.

In defiance of Congress, Franklin survived as an independent nation for four years with its own constitution, Indian treaties and legislated system of barter in lieu of currency, though after two years, North Carolina set up its own parallel government in the region. Finally, Franklin's weak economy forced its governor, John Sevier, to approach the Spanish for aid. North Carolina was terrified of this and arrested Sevier. When the various Indian tribes began to attack the settlements within Franklin's borders in 1788, it quickly rejoined North Carolina to gain its militia's protection from attack.

### INDEPENDENCE

On July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia, PA, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, which proclaims the independence of the United States of America from Great Britain and its king. The declaration came 442 days after the first volleys of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington and Concord.

The Declaration of Independence was largely the work of Thomas Jefferson. In justifying American independence, Jefferson drew generously from the political philosophy of John Locke, an advocate of natural rights. The first part of this declaration states that "all men are created equal" and "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights". The second part listed a long list of grievances that provided the rationale for rebellion.

The American War for independence would last for five more years. Yet to come were the Patriot triumphs at Saratoga, the bitter winter at Valley Forge, the intervention of the French, and the final victory at Yorktown in 1781. In 1783, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris with Britain, the United States formally became a free and independent nation.