



# Albany Old Times

A quarterly publication (usually\*)

Fall 2001/ Winter 2002

## President's Letter

The Museum has experienced many good things since we relocated to our present site. I feel I need to mention a couple in this letter. First of all our attendance in the year 2001 increased by 21% to 3,011, including 37 persons from 11 foreign countries, 280 from out of state, 898 from other cities in Oregon and 1,833 from Albany. We had 35 volunteers this past year who logged in 2,842 hours and helped us continue to improve our facilities. We were able to update and improve our electrical service in the building by installing lights in the attic and in the second floor newsletter room we are in the process of developing. We also rewired the rental facility we own that occupies the main floor on the west side of our building which at one time housed Foley Jewelry Store. The electrical improvements provide us with new wiring and removal of the old outdated wiring and improves our safety and convenience. We now have the Foley space rented to a music store that will begin business in February. The area had been vacant for the last 8 months and having it rented will certainly help our balance sheet!

Recently, we were given a donation of an old organ which at one time was owned by the Geisendorfer family from the Knox Butte area. The organ was used in the old hotel at Cascadia near Sweet Home. It provided us with holiday music during the Christmas Parlour Tour, courtesy of two volunteers who played it while visitors came through the museum. It is an unusual and rare organ, be sure to visit us and take a look.

Jerry Brenneman, President

## From the Newsletter Committee\*

Margo Coleman has been a cherished member of the Albany Regional Museum for many years. Over the years she has worn many hats including: volunteer, board member, newsletter chairperson, secretary, sign maker, mover, packer, cleaner, and coffee maker. Margo doesn't stop with the Albany Regional Museum. She is also a valued member of the American Legion and surely wears as many hats there. With so many hats it's no wonder that Margo is ready to hang up a few. Margo resigned from the museum board in the Fall 2001. Without her coordination, its no surprise that the newsletter committee took a bit longer putting this newsletter out. In fact we decided to produce one newsletter to represent two quarters. It has been a real joy to work with Margo, her energy and attention to detail will be missed and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

The newsletter will continue as a quarterly production under the new leadership of Jack Gillespie. You will recognize his name from his regular column "Looking Back." (page 6 of this newsletter). Jack brings with him a background in the printing and newspaper businesses and also serves as a member of the museum board of directors.

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### Albany Regional Museum

136 Lyon Street SW  
Albany, Oregon 97321  
(541) 967-7122

Free admission –  
donation welcomed

Open Monday thru Saturday  
12 noon – 4 p.m.

Tours available at other times  
by calling (541) 967-7122

## In Remembrance

The Albany Regional Museum and the Albany Community lost a good friend and supporter on the death of William "Bill" Scharpf on September 4, 2001. The Museum owes its existence today to Bill and Doris who purchased the building where we are now located and gave us encouragement and help for many years. We will truly miss him.

Jerry Brenneman

William F. "Bill" Scharpf, 82, June 15, 1919-Sept. 4, 2001.

Bill was born in Pilot Rock, Or. to Lou and Eva (Fanning) Scharpf. As a young man he attended the University of Arizona and later graduated from the University of Oregon. During World War II he served in the Army in the 28<sup>th</sup> Division, and was wounded in northern France on Aug. 10, 1944.

He married Doris Spiegelberg on April 15, 1945 in St. Louis Mo. The family settled in Albany, Oregon where Bill and his brother George

founded Scharpf Bros. Builders Supply Co. in 1946. Their father was a partner in Twin Oaks Builders Supply of Eugene.

After the senior Mr. Scharpf's death in 1952, the Eugene and Albany businesses were combined. Bill's son Tad now runs Scharpf's Twin Oaks Builders Supply.

As a member of the Albany Jaycees, Bill served as president of the Timber Carnival. He was also past president of the Kiwanis Club and the Albany Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Albany Tennis Club. He be-

longed to the United Presbyterian Church.

He was a philanthropist and in recent years enjoyed supporting the Albany Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Albany Regional Museum and special projects at the University of Oregon.

Surviving are wife Doris; sons Tad of Eugene and Lou of Mammoth Lakes, Calif.; and daughters Libby Kemp of Bellingham, Wash, and Susan McKay of Sisters, Or. There are eleven grandchildren.

## Carol's Corner by Carol McKay

"Never say our museum is just small town. We are known worldwide."



Last spring I told you about Royal Baking Powder. This was a product that did not contain Phosphates and Alum. It was used in the 1900's by people who did not want aluminum products in their system. My research here in town told me the product wasn't available in the stores here in 2001. On October 21<sup>st</sup> 2001, I received a package at the Museum from London, England. It had a green customs sticker on it saying it was baking powder and was worth 1lb. I opened it up and here was a can of Royal Baking Powder, 110-g size. I read the accompanying letter saying it was from an English couple who had toured our museum in July and had read our newsletter at the time. They were touring SW Co.

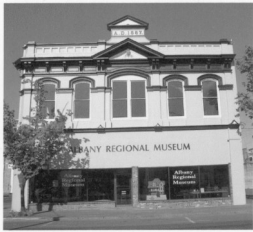
Cork in the Irish Republic and saw this product on sale there and couldn't resist buying a can and sending it to me, saying it still is available over there! The baking powder is owned by Nabisco and made by Nabisco TUNISIA. Never say our Museum is just small town. We are known worldwide.

Now, another column reference. Margo, a member of our Museum, brought me the Fall Miles Kimball catalog to show me page 25. "The Original White House Cookbook" is offered. The item number is 644906, price \$16.98. I quote from the catalog description "Frankly I prefer these recipes over newer ones: they're simpler, shorter, generally easier to make, and taste better, too."

Evidently, I wasn't the only person to be fascinated by this wonderful cookbook that was first published in 1887. All 570 pages are included so if you buy one you can try out all the handy household information such as the medicinal recipes I have written here in my column. I'm not advertising for this catalog, but if you are interested in receiving one, I have the phone number. Just call or better yet, come into the Museum and I'll give it to you.

That is all the room for this time. You'll have to wait till next time for more old goodies.

## Albany Regional Museum



Museum Hours  
Monday – Saturday  
12 noon–4pm  
(541) 967-7122  
armuseum@peak.org

We have a new brochure!

Did you know that Morris Graves – well-known NW mystic painter was born in Fox Valley, Linn County Oregon in 1910? Some of his paintings can be viewed in the Seattle Art Museum.

## Notes from the Research Room by Linda A. Ellsworth

In the Rod & Marty Tripp Research Room of the Albany Regional Museum can be found a unique reference source. It is four notebooks full of articles on various aspects of Albany history compiled by Edward L. Hereth over a number of years.

A volunteer at the Museum, Edward extracted information from various sources and arranged them in alphabetical order. These articles are written for the most part in a very clear and legible handwriting. Some articles have been typed. Sources range from newspapers to interviews. Topics include people, events, and businesses as well as records extracted from official sources.

Listed here are some of

the topics that caught my interest. From Vol. 1: Henry Althouse, Albany Armory, Charles H. Burggraf and Blain Clothing Store. Included in Vol. 2 : Linn County courthouse and clock, Abigail Scott Duniway, Fire department , F. M. French, Albany hospitals, and Amanda Gardener Johnson. In volume 3: Albany Library, Masonic Lodge, Monteith family, D. E. Nebergall, Oregon Electric Railroad, Opera House, Pioneers of 1847, Walter M. Parker, J. C. Penny Store, Knights of Pythias, James V. Pipe. Vol. 4: Rubenstein Furniture, Frank N. Wood, Red Crown Mill, Delazon Smith, Smead, Sprouse-Reitz Co., L. L. Swan,

Vine St. Canal, Western Stamp Collector, Wil-lamette Valley & Cascade Road and Samuel E. Young. Don't recognize these names? Come on in to consult Edward's notebooks.

Besides compiling these sources, Edward was also the cataloger for the Museum for a number of years. Besides a written description he drew a sketch of the item. He was very artistic and drew sketches of houses in Albany which the Museum has displayed at Home Shows. He died Sept. 1, 2001. He was a volunteer that made a difference.

## Timber Carnival is No More

The Sunday Oregonian of December 16, 2001 informed Oregonians that the World Championship Timber Carnival of Albany, Oregon had been canceled and would be no more. The Albany Jaycees who had sponsored the yearly logging event since 1941, said it could no longer attract crowds, once as many as 100,000 during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holidays, and could no



longer attract enough volunteers to keep it running. We are very disappointed this great logging event will no longer be a part of our Albany summers. It will have a marked effect on tourists and visitors to our community, which we will miss very much. We invite you to visit our museum and look over our ongoing Timber Carnival exhibit.

This exhibit will be expanding over time as we collect more memorabilia and artifacts from donors who will no longer be wearing the "Red Hats," plaid shirts, jeans, and the yearly buttons!

## Can You Grant Us Our Wish?

The Albany Regional Museum is looking for a volunteer to write grants on our behalf. The museum board of directors has been able to accomplish many projects with the assistance of grants including building repairs, new paint, a new roof and administrative tasks. If you have ideas or suggestions and would like to help, please contact us.

(541) 967-7122

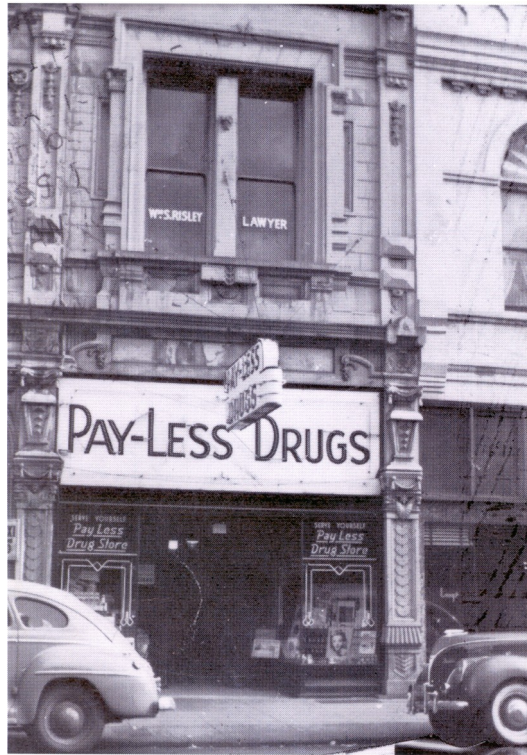
or

armuseum@peak.org

# ALBANY, FIRST IN THE PAYLESS DRUGSTORE CHAIN

The First store in the Payless chain (now Rite Aid) was opened at 234 West First Avenue, Albany, in 1942 by Leslie Downie. The location, in a section of the Flinn building, originally housed the First National Bank. Downie managed the operation for some time, then turned it over to Jack Kuhn and later to Jack Lammers. Lammers later started his own drug store, Lammers Pharmacy at 203 Main St, now the parking lot for Valley Fire Control. The store had a total of 2,700 square feet plus a full basement, great for storage except during flood times from the Willamette River. It was not uncommon to have two feet of water in the basement, making it difficult to get merchandise up and displayed! In 1944 Pay Less purchased Dawson Drug Store from Dell Alexander, the stores were combined and a room added for a fountain lunch, making the total space 4,100 square feet.

On January 1, 1946, Hollis Birchard joined Payless as partner manager. Birchard would remain as the most well known partner to the Albany public. He writes in his "History, Part I, Payless Drug Store, 1942 thru 1946," that "we operated the lunch counter several years featuring 5c coffee and 49c turkey dinners. This created a great traffic but the net returns were not worth the extra effort and troubles. It was eventually removed and the space used for our regular merchandise and lar-



ger toy line which helped a great deal on increased volume and net profits." Many of you old timers will remember the lunch counter.

In about 1953 a room of approximately 400 square feet at the back and side of the main store was acquired. By removing the wall and remodeling, they used the space strictly for pharmacy merchandise and prescriptions and gave them a doorway on Broadalbin Street. (This space was most recently the southwest part of Foxwood Antiques.) Philip Alexander, Dell's son, went to work in 1948 directly from the Oregon State Pharmacy school and in 1952 was sent to the new Payless store at The Dalles, Oregon as manager.

During the last days of

November of 1959, the store was moved to the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Broadalbin Street. This building had 7000 square feet of space and a full basement plus a 20 car parking lot. In 1967 they acquired more space by taking over the alley and the building back of them and built a 20'x125' garden shop plus a 73 car parking lot. You will know the location today as Two Rivers Market. The Payless drug store would remain in this location downtown until being moved to a new building at 1235 Waverly drive, helping to create an exodus of large stores moving from the downtown area, including J.C.Penny's and Sears. In the meantime, Thrifty Drugs was added to the chain, which would become one of the largest drug store chains on the Pacific Coast. More recently, in the late 1990's the Payless/Thrifty chain would be purchased by Rite Aid.

During the time from its founding in downtown Albany until its move to the Waverly Drive location, Payless Drug store was one of the busiest merchants in town and was a



*Fountains and magazine racks were a good way to keep those customers from bothering you on the sales floor.*

# Thank you

to the following for their contributions of time, materials, in kind contributions and money to our Museum since the last edition of our newsletter.

Albany Christian School  
 Schoolworks Learning Center  
 Dutch Treat  
 John Buchner  
 Carpet Genie Floor Covering  
 Corvallis Moving and Storage  
 East Linn Christian School  
 Zed Merrill  
 Jack Gillespie  
 Stanford Smith  
 Electrical Construction Co.  
 White Rose Floral Co.  
 Elmer Gatchet  
 Love Lace Floral  
 Dennis Ashenfelter –  
 Attorney-at-law

**Business/major gifts**

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 Lemon's Millwork  
 Mildred Warner-Blake  
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 Rod, Marty, Randy & Julie Tripp  
 John & Margaret Boock

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 Duane & Barbara Cargill  
 Sally Haseltine  
 Ralph & Viola Nielsen  
 Claude & Phyllis Breshears  
 Bea Decker  
 Robert & Beverly Potts

## W. M. Scharpf Memorial Gifts to the Museum (Total \$2,695)

|                             |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Paul & Eleanor Beight       | Esther Ferguson             | Anne Pearce                 |
| Randall & Christine Bracher | Glenn & Carol Harrison      | Robert & Beverly Potts      |
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| Jeffrey & Denise Croy       | Carol McKay                 | Donnel & Stephanie Williams |
| Bea Decker                  | Doris Helen Nelson          |                             |
| Beverly Decker              | Ralph & Viola Nielsen       | Irvin & Nancy Wentworth     |
| Rubena Dye                  | Alice Ordeman               |                             |

## “The Last Day of Innocence”

If you missed the advertisements in the newspaper and did not hear about the Albany, Oregon video, featuring local persons, pictures of the community, and World War II combat film from Pearl Harbor to the end of the war you are denying yourself of a very good 70 minutes of history with a local slant. Many persons from Albany were interviewed in the Regional Museum and recollected their wartime experiences both in the military and on the Home Front. The video was produced by Zed Merrill, a former Albany

resident, now living in Portland. While the film is sold nationally by mail, the Albany Regional Museum is the only place where it can be purchased in person. The cost is \$25 with \$2 going to the museum. The film has sold over 600 copies in the U.S. and Canada since coming on the market in late November 2001. Many persons outside of Albany who purchased the film remarked that “this could have been my city” during World War II. The Albany Regional Museum is now looking into the possibility of assisting

Mr. Merrill in producing a “History of Albany” video. This video would feature Albany from its beginning settlement to the present, including old photos, stories, interviews with long time Albany residents, and other pertinent material illustrating important events and history in the life of this community. If you have important stories, photos, or have been a long time Albany resident and would like to be a part of this important venture, please call the Museum at 967-7122.



Yes, I'm happy to support the Albany Regional Museum with my Annual Membership, June to May

Individual \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check, payable to: Albany Regional

Please charge my credit card

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

**Become a Patron of the Albany Regional Museum with an additional contribution of \$100 or more.**

**The museum is a non-profit 501 c-3 corporation. All gifts are tax deductible. Contact the Albany Regional Museum for more informa-**

Membership total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your generous*



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Albany, Oregon 97321  
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## **Looking Back by Jack Gillespie**

Long ago, early in our marriage, my wife saw fit one morning to point out that I never seemed to laugh while reading the comics in the newspaper.

Unaware of this idiosyncrasy I thought back and realized that I have never laughed or even snickered at the comic even when I thought them quite funny.

Wondering why I pondered long and finally came to the cause of my “non laughter”. The reason lay with two wonderful lady librarians at the Albany Carnegie Library in the 1930s.

My father was of the religious persuasion that no money should be commercially exchanged on Sundays. That included spending a dime for a Sunday Portland

Oregonian or a Portland Journal, each full of colorful comics and adventure strips.

After Sunday School and a traditional Sunday dinner my sister, Lois, and I, usually accompanied by some of the other children from our West Albany neighborhood, would often walk the two miles to the Albany Carnegie Library for the primary purpose of reading the “Sunday Funny Papers.” (Yes, the library then was opened on Sundays.)

The library in those days was an enforced silence zone. You talked in low whispers and absolutely made no “unnecessary” noises—this included laughter.

A snicker would get a “sssh” from the nearby book check out station always manned by either Mrs. Neptune or Mrs.

Tracy or both. A slight laugh would result in a double “sssh” and an outright roar would bring a personal visit from one of the two. If laughing still could not be contained you were led out the front door to stay until you could “control yourself”.

These disciplinary measures were kindly executed with no expression of anger and we accepted them without argument.

After a time, of course, we were reading the comics without showing any reactions and avoided trips to the front door. The discipline remains with me.