

Chautauqua 'tea' to show hanky collection

It is nothing to cry tears over but you may want to bring your hanky to "A Little Square of History...the Handkerchief" a program and tea party at the Albany Regional Museum.

The event, part of the Museum's ongoing "Chautauqua" programs, is scheduled for Friday, April 6 at 2 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of putting on the program.

Therese Blanding, the presenter, has had a life-long interest and love of vintage textiles. A Montana resident for most of her life, Blanding attended the University of Montana, majoring in art.

Blanding's extensive collection of vintage handkerchiefs appeals to her interest in design, needlework, textiles, history and storytelling. She delights in sharing the collection and accompanying history with others.

The program will explore the wide-ranging adventures of this versatile artifact, and incorporates many literary quotes. The collection of approximately 800 handkerchiefs provides a

beautiful visual display of the wide varieties of "little squares." The display includes "proper whites," bridal and mourning handkerchiefs, sport, dance and work examples, souvenir and travel handkerchiefs--monogrammed, embroidered, laced and printed.

Attendees are encouraged to bring one of their own favorites handkerchiefs for discussion as time permits.

This event will also serve as a reception and public introduction for the Museum's new administrative coordinator, Tami Sneddon.

Seating is by reservation only. Members have the first opportunity to reserve a seat by calling the Museum at 967-7122 before Wed., March 21. Seats that have not been reserved by that date will then be opened to the public. Last chance reservations need to be made by April 2. Board members Shannon Willard and Mary Arnett are co-chairing the event.

History wins out with university science major

How does a college science major get hooked on history?

Tami Sneddon, the Museum's new administrative coordinator, says it all happened when she and her family moved back to her hometown of Heppner in the mid-1990s.

Her husband Don had taken a job in nearby Hermiston after the family had lived for a time in Montana. Finding a suitable house for their young family led them to Heppner, a community of about 1,200.

There Tami was about ready to volunteer at the Morrow County Museum when she noticed an advertisement in the weekly Heppner Gazette-Times for a clerk at the county-financed museum. She applied and was hired.

That would be the beginning of her love affair with museum work. Under the guiding hand of Marsha Sweek, the late director of the Morrow County Museum, she began a five year assignment of various duties, including everything from greeting visitors to operating the computerized cataloging program to the understanding and interpretation of collections, and a lot more.

Then, county funding was curtailed and Tami was faced with finding another paying position, which she did with the Morrow County School District. But she had become hooked on museums and continued to hope for another opportunity.

In her letter of application to the Albany Regional Museum, Mrs. Sneddon wrote: "My previous museum experience was

very rewarding and I found tackling the varied duties to be a gratifying challenge. I knew I had finally found my niche.

With our move to the Willamette Valley area, I am hoping for the opportunity to work, once again, in a museum environment."

Sneddon began work in Albany on January 10 as the Museum's second coordinator. She replaces Bill Maddy, who had resigned in November. While understanding a lot about museum operations, Sneddon says she has a lot to learn about the history of the Albany area even though she was once a science student at nearby Oregon State University and a resident of Corvallis.

Her husband, a degree holder from both Oregon State University and the University of Idaho, is an account manager for a chemical company that specializes in livestock feed supplements. One daughter, Genny, lives with the family at their rural Linn County home. Another daughter, Amanda,

and her husband Thomas and grandson Taylor, live in Albany. Another son, Jeff, lives in Reno, NV.

You can reach Tami at 541-967-7122 or armusem@peak.org



TAMI SNEDDON: Says museums are her "niche."

Chairman's Letter

The view from Second and Lyon

Each year Museum bookkeeper **Charlie Bottomley** compiles a list of statistics for the board of directors that reveals some interesting information.

For example:

48 different individuals worked as volunteers during the 2006 calendar year. That's up from 33 in 2005. Their hours totaled more than 2,000 over the course of the year.

Paid membership passed the 400 mark (and counting individuals from families this means that nearly 600 people contributed financially to museum operations). This was a 7.5 percent increase from 2005.

Visitor numbers were just about even with the year before (about 4,000). Of course, 2005 was our 25th anniversary year and we had a spike in visitations, which we think was due to activities surrounding that event. Of the 4,000, nearly 2,400 listed Albany as their address, another 1,000 were from other Oregon communities, 300-plus were from other states and about 50 were from foreign countries. Museum volunteers and staff reached out to another 100-plus through programs given to service clubs and organizations. Eleven different school groups also visited during the year.

During our transition to new administrative coordinator **Tami Sneddon**, several volunteers provided extra help as docents to make sure we adequately covered our hours of operation. Special recognition needs to be given to retired vice-chairman **Russ Sprague**, new board member **Mary Arnett**, board member **Linda Ellsworth** and members **Al Kok** and **Charlie Bottomley**.

We had outstanding attendance at our annual "patron's event" in December. Approximately 50 individuals attended a play at the civic theater and then enjoyed hors d'oeuvres afterward at the museum. Board member **Nancy Daniels** was responsible for the food selection working with caterer **Jacopetti's**. I heard nothing but compliments about the food.

Anybody associated with museum oper-

ations will know that having a good and reliable copy machine has been a challenge, almost since the beginning of our organization. Because our board included an equipment replacement fund in our annual operating budget, we were able to buy a brand new copy machine from King Office Equipment. **Michael McAdams** and **Mark Cuomo**, representing the business, provided staff training and promised us the kind of service that only a local business can do when it's located just a few blocks away.



Chairman John Buchner

During the Christmas season I hope you noticed the evergreen swags that hung outside our entrances. **Gary** and **Treva Kingston** provided this bit of holiday cheer from their farm on Hungry Hill northeast of Crabtree. Gary is a board member who contributes historical features for this newsletter. Treva has helped with docent duties, particularly on Saturdays during the past year.

Since this is my first attempt at writing the chairman's column, I referred back to the many that Museum founder **Gerald Brenneman** wrote over the years. He was particularly mindful of the continued support of so many of you in establishing and making sure the museum continues as a "gem" in our historic downtown. In my brief tenure, I certainly have come to recognize this also. Thanks so much.

Readers can e-mail the chairman at:

A handwritten signature of John Buchner in dark ink, written in a cursive style.

jkbuchner@comcast.net

Board feels loss of Albany leader Wesley Price Jr.

Albany Regional Museum suffered a major loss February 1 with the death of board of directors member Wesley B. Price Jr.

Price, with his wife Diane, chaired the 25th anniversary committee of the Museum in 2005. He planned to work on the financial development committee after being on a leave of absence this year. He also was thought of as a future officer of the organization.

He died, according to a newspaper report, from a brain hemorrhage. He was born in Albany and graduated from Albany High School in 1951. He was a retired certified public accountant.

Price, 72, devoted more than 40 years of service to many local nonprofits and schools. At his death he was chairman of the Linn-Benton Community College Board of Education. He was awarded the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

Board chairman John Buchner described Price as the model director, who also rolled up his sleeves to work on numerous volunteer projects.

This issue's trivia question:

How do I become a patron of the Museum?

Looking out the window with Ianthe Smith

By Gary Kingston

Some people can hardly speak a sentence without throwing in a superfluous “you know” or “do you know what I’m saying”. Ianthe Smith, the Albany Democrat-Herald columnist and society writer for many decades had the habit of declaring “let me tell ya!”.

Ianthe was the granddaughter of Albany newsman and politician Delazon Smith, one of Oregon’s first senators. Her father was Delavan (Van or Vannie for short) Smith who served as Linn County Sheriff from 1906 to 1913. Ianthe was born in 1901 on the family farm south of Albany about where Interstate 5 runs. It was homesteaded by grandfather Delazon. Her 78 years until her death September 4, 1979 were spent in Albany.

Ianthe’s interest in journalism came to her early. At 15 years she was a subscription collection agent for the Albany Democrat, receiving 10 percent of what she brought in. The paper subscription was 50 cents per month, giving her 5 cents each. At Albany High School she was business manager for the school paper, “The Whirlwind.” After attending the University of Oregon journalism school she was employed by the Albany Evening Herald and continued her education at Albany College. She briefly tried, but did not like, classified work at the Salem Capital Journal. In 1925 the Albany Evening Herald and the Albany Daily Democrat were merged and Ianthe was hired as a proof-reader. That led to reporting opportunities and a long-term role as Society Editor.

In 1955 Ianthe began a weekly column for the Albany Democrat-Herald which she continued essentially until her death. Newspapers with columnists give character to their towns of origin, e.g., Herb Caen’s Baghdad by the Bay column in the San Francisco Chronicle gave that major city a gossipy, home-town character. Albany’s newspaper owner and writer Fred Nutting did the same for Albany in the early years. And so, Ianthe Smith reflected for several decades on Albany’s past and present. She left us comments on Albany life as she was writing as well as for the period of her childhood and young adulthood by reminiscing through newspaper records of 1916 to 1922. We today,



Ianthe Albany High School photo



Ianthe as Society Editor

“For my money you haven’t lived if you haven’t driven a Model T Ford.”

“Wish someone I knew would walk along outside my window – haven’t seen a soul I know. Might just as well be in Timbuctoo!”

as those in the future, can and will gain a richer appreciation of local history and culture through her writings.

The first weekly column (or as she liked to say, “colyum”) dubbed “Let Me Tell Ya!” was printed in the Albany Democrat-Herald on January 4, 1955. She promised a little bit of everything each Tuesday and wanted it to be fun both for her and her “dear, gentle readers” to whom she would ingratiatingly refer while drawing them into her world. She said, “I’m planning to incorporate into the column bits of old Albany, to bring back a nostalgic twinge to old Albanyites, things of today and mayhaps the morrow,” and on that she made good. Her column entertained, informed, and gave Albany a week-to-week sense of presence and continuity in an otherwise uncongealed if not indifferent world of individual and commercial endeavor.

Ianthe was a romantic, schooled in the classics. Hats, scarves, gloves, and a handbag always adorned her 5’-1-and-1/2” frame accompanied by galoshes and an umbrella on rainy days. A fur stole she favored added an ultimate touch of class. Confessing to a glove fetish of

sorts, she owned up to maybe 40 pair in her dresser. Once roused in the middle of the night by a Eugene-hotel fire-alarm, she recalled first grabbing her hat, thinking how much it had cost. It was a bit of excitement she shared with readers that revealed the simple but important things in her life. Early in her column she took to closing with an observation out the office window, and it became a trademark.

As her retirement from society page writing and her daily presence in the newspaper office approached, she would write several times of how she would look forward to that final day, when looking out the window, she would see a band playing and her many friends cheering. On that final day she looked out and saw, with incredulous disappointment, nothing. It was enough to send any feeling person to an elixir stash in the lower desk drawer.

Her favorite Albany character was Johnny Catlin, Albany Police Chief when she was a youngster:

“Right now I’d like to look out my window and see Johnny walking along and I’d run out and hail him and have him show me how fast he could draw his oversize six shooter. What a guy!”

“Ah! That Chief of Police Johnnie Catlin. Don’t believe his imagination was dormant more than five minutes at a time.”

Childhood memories:

“The sound a bicycle made when it ran along on a board sidewalk when some of the ends of the boards were loose.”

“Swimming in the canal at the spillway (diversion point at Eighth and Vine) wearing stylish bathing garb, ‘little cotton dresses and black bloomers.’”

Carol's Corner

By Carol McKay

I belong to a wonderful book club. This year we are getting reacquainted with some of the great classics like *Little Women*, by Louisa May Alcott in 1866. As I was reading about those wonderful girls and their experiences, the word picnic caught my eye. I started to wonder if we still have picnics anymore? Yes, we have a lot of meals outside in the summer, but are they true picnics? The dictionary says the word picnic means *excursion with meal out of doors*, agreeable situation. From there I went online and found 5 million pages that I could explore. Because I get easily confused, I decided to use just 2 pages. They are Foodtimeline.org and Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. I have been irritating everybody that I have come in contact with by asking the question "When was the last time you went on a picnic?" I'll admit that my acquaintances are mostly in my age group, but there are enough people of different walks of life that made my survey more or less accurate. Mostly my answers were after several moments of deep thought, and then..well, I think it was about 2 years ago, or golly, maybe 5 years? Some wanted to call eating in the backyard a picnic, but, I said, no, you have to go somewhere else and take everything with you like people used to do before fast food became the common thing. My survey told me that people don't do picnics anymore. Or, so rare, that they are remembered well.

Picnic. Originally, medieval hunting feasts clear back in the 14th Century, but what is an American picnic? Here, Picnics are personal. We choose the foods we serve, Our dining partners, and the venue. They are different than community feasts (New England clambakes, Texas barbecues, New Orleans shrimp boils) trendy cafes and fair foods.

"Traditional American foods" prepared at home and served on a blanket in a local park.

This definition fits my family's way of picnicking. At least that's the picture that came into my head when I thought of the word. My parents were both raised here and I can still remember all of the aunts and uncles talking about going picnic-

ing at Soap Creek or Sulfur Springs, the games they played, how cousin so and so knocked a baseball into the potato salad. Obviously, the memories of having picnics has stayed with me a long time and I think that I miss those times. So, I'm promoting picnics this time. Let's make the year 2007 the year of the picnics

to remember. Now, remember, you should fix most of the food and drink at home, pack it up in whatever you can find that will keep today's food safe. You can use paper plates, but, please, no plastic forks or spoons. If you have a picnic basket with everything you need for a picnic, use it. I'll let you use pop in the cans for drinks, or if the occasion calls for it, wine, by all means, bring it. You can use the picnic tables, you don't have to use the blanket on the ground, but take the blanket by all means. You might want to take a nap after eating. Go somewhere close. Do I need to name a few places? Monteith Park, Eleanor Park, all the within the city parks, are just there waiting for us. If you have to go farther to make a big deal about it, go toward Lebanon, Sweet Home, Corvallis, Brownsville, Tangent, Shedd..get out in the country. They, too, have wonderful parks. What I'm saying is you don't have to go far to have a picnic, but you do have to go further than your own back yard, please. And have a PICNIC this summer.



Pre-school students from the Albany United Presbyterian Church were among recent group visitors to the Museum. Each of the students was given a "I visited the Albany Regional Museum" sticker and a coloring sheet featuring a drawing of an historic quilt. Assisting with the visit were administrative coordinator Tami Sneddon and cataloger Diane Frampton.

Calendar sales coming to a close

Copies of the 2007 Albany Historical Calendar are still available at the Museum's front counter. Cost is \$5.

The calendars are the result of a partnership between the Museum and the Linn Genealogical Society. Both nonprofits share from the revenue generated.

As in the past, the calendar is more than a calendar. It features postcard photographs of scenes from early Albany. The cards can be removed from the calendar and used in the mail or saved as collector items.

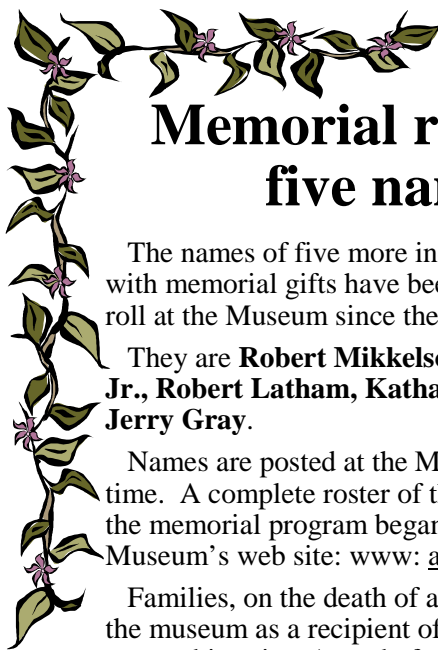
This year's scenes include an aerial view of the 1946 World Championship Albany Timber Carnival at Waverly Lake; a group picture of Linn County pioneers taken at the 1910 Chautauqua Assembly in Bryant Park; and a view of the First National Albany building in downtown Albany taken in the late 1890s.



A salute to Museum Patrons, 2006-07

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Memorial roll gains five names

The names of five more individuals honored with memorial gifts have been added to the honor roll at the Museum since the fall newsletter.

They are **Robert Mikkelson, Wesley Price Jr., Robert Latham, Katharine Schmidt and Jerry Gray.**

Names are posted at the Museum for a limited time. A complete roster of those honored since the memorial program began can be found on the Museum's web site: [www: armuseum.com](http://www.armuseum.com).

Families, on the death of a loved one, often list the museum as a recipient of memorials in newspaper obituaries. A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, parent, next of kin, etc.) and a thank you card to the person or persons making the donation (which also can be used for tax documentation).

The most common memorial gifts are in the amount of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Such gifts are listed in a memorial account in the museum's operating budget. These funds are used for special needs.

Gifts can be mailed to the museum, 136 Lyon St. S., Albany, OR 97321, or dropped off at the museum with proper instructions enclosed. Funeral homes also will forward designated gifts.

Trivia Answer: By giving \$100 in addition to your membership fee. This qualifies you for special recognition and a special event during the year.

A Little Square of History – The Handkerchief

A Chautauqua Presentation and Tea Party!



Friday, April 6, 2:00pm
Albany Regional Museum



For reservations and more information
Contact the Museum at 541-967-7122

There is always a need for volunteers.

Currently we are in need of volunteers to label objects from the collection that have been through our accession process.

If you have good penmanship and some time to spare, let us know and we will put you to work!



136 Lyon Street S
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Open
Monday thru Saturday
12 noon – 4 p.m.
Free admission
donations welcomed
(541) 967-7122
e-mail:
armuseum@peak.org
website:
www.armuseum.com

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Nellie Wilson, Assistant
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Newsletter Editor
– Kim Jackson

Looking back: A trusting merchant

by Jack Gillespie

Bob Potts, truly an Albany icon, has announced plans to publish the sixth volume of his sequence “*Remembering When—A Photo Collection of Historic Albany, Oregon*”.

At 90 years of age, Bob has declared this to be the final book of the series - but who knows.

Both Bob’s generation and mine grew up in a different Albany. Fifteen years my elder, Bob has a much wider scope of this change than I have. By the time I graduated from Albany High School in 1949, he had graduated from AHS, attended college, and served overseas in the Army during World War II. Upon returning home he became a respected Albany businessman and an ardent City of Albany booster.

(Up until the late 1950s, the core of the City of Albany was along First and Second streets, flanked on the east by Lyon Street and on the west by Washington Street. Along these streets

could be found a large variety of retail business, professional services, a Greyhound bus station, two hotels, a post office and the City of Albany Police and Fire Departments - plus you could do your grocery shopping, buy a new car, do your banking, visit a dentist, doctor or lawyer, go to the post office, have a meal or snack, catch a bus, etc., or just enjoy window shopping.)

After returning from the war, Bob and his friend, Hoyt Duedall, opened a stationary store on Broadalbin just south of the old post office.

Early in the 1950s I was working as a \$1 an hour mailer for the Democrat-Herald (on Second Street, where Two Rivers Market is now). At the time I was taking some correspondence courses and was in dire need of a typewriter. (Remember the typewriter?)

One day I dropped into Duedall and Potts to yearn over

their stock of typewriters. As I was looking, Bob Potts came over and asked if he could be of service. I told him I could really use a typewriter but lacked the funds. He said, in effect, that perhaps being fund-less was not a problem. He lead me to the store’s counter, took down some basic information and asked me if I could pay a certain amount for a period of months until the typewriter was paid for. I agreed to the terms. I assumed that after I had paid this amount I would take possession of the typewriter, but as I started out the door, Mr. Potts handed me the typewriter and wished me well. I never forgot the trust he put in me that day.