

## Civil War in Hub City

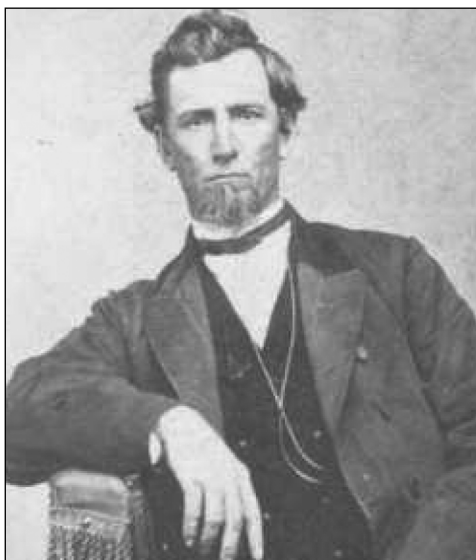
Albany played host  
to the OSU-UO rivalry  
in 1912 and 1913

**BY KIM JACKSON**  
EDITOR

Albany played a small role in the history of the annual Civil War football game between Oregon State University and the University of Oregon, thanks to enterprising Albany businessman William Eagles.

The games proved to be a windfall for Albany businesses and hotels, set a precedent for future Oregon State's homecoming tradition, and left a 10,000-seat stadium at what is

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**Early Albany attorneys N.H. Cranor, left and Delazon Smith.**

## The first lawyer to reside in Albany?

By the 1860 census, four lawyers, plus one law student and one judge, lived here, but who was the first to

hang out his shingle? See Linda Ellsworth's portraits of early Albany lawyers on Page 6.

## Youth joins Museum as youngest volunteer

Bradley Yechout, 11, a student at Memorial Middle School, is the Museum's youngest docent. He and student intern Kate Claussen enjoyed learning about Albany and museum operations during summer vacation. Claussen, a West Albany graduate, now attends Western Oregon University where she's considering becoming a history teacher. Brad, along with his mother, con-



tinues to volunteer on Saturdays during the school year. He is the son of Colleen and Paul Yechout and first

became interested in the Museum during a visit with Liberty Elementary School students.

## 'Indian Country' exhibit planned

A traveling exhibit, entitled Oregon is Indian Country, will make its Albany debut at three different locations beginning January 15.

The Oregon Historical Society exhibit will be featured at the Albany Regional Museum, the Albany Public Library and the main campus of Linn-Benton Community College.

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## Parlour Tour set for Dec. 13

The Museum will participate in the 30th annual Christmas Parlour Tour in downtown Albany on Sunday, Dec. 13. The self-guided tour of Victorian homes begins at 2 p.m. and runs until 7. Sponsored by Albany's Historical Interior Tour Committee, ticket price is \$10 for adults (\$8 for seniors and groups of 10 or more). Children under 12 are admitted free with a paid adult.

# View from Second & Lyon: Bonanza years

BY JOHN BUCHNER  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

Sherrill Kronsteiner Kirchhoff was a tall, 5-10 to be exact, editor of the 1957 Albany High yearbook, the Whirlwind.

As she recalls those school years, it wasn't easy shopping for clothes in downtown Albany. She was long-waisted and money wasn't plentiful.

Thanks to her mother, Kathryn, an accomplished seamstress, Sherrill dressed in style. "Mom always said she liked sewing for me because I was built like a coat-hanger. I somehow construed that into a compliment."

Can you imagine Sherrill's surprise when she discovered a suitcase full of these 1950s clothes (more than a dozen pieces) following the death of her mother? "They were 'her signature' in a life of sewing, raising six children and working fulltime," Sherrill said.

Sherrill recalls that her mother "sewed into the night after returning from whatever laboring job she held. Sewing for her three sons didn't tax her too much, but sewing for her three daughters was an endless challenge to her talents and time."

Today this Albany wardrobe has become part of the Museum's collection of textiles, a gift from Sherrill, who recognized its value in documenting a slice of Al-



bany history. Not only did she provide the clothing, in perfect condition, but also a written description of the specific items and photographs taken by her mother.

Quoting one item from Sherrill's written description of a polka-dot skirt, blouse and jacket:

"One of my favorite outfits sewn for me during my junior year in high school was the polka-dot skirt, blouse and bolero jacket. The skirt and jacket are turquoise--a favorite color in the 50s, with white dots and the blouse was white with turquoise dots.



**Sherrill Kirchhoff models one of the outfits she wore in high school. At left, one of her favorite ensembles.**

"The skirt, of course, was full-circle. Made of polished cotton, the skirt was lined with what my mother called 'nurses cloth.' It helped the cotton maintain its shape, but did nothing to provide a barrier between the itchy crinolines (a minimum of three!) that were required undergarments and my skinny legs. The 25-inch waist looks impossible to believe, but just remember: coat-hanger.

"The blouse seems to have escaped to closets unknown, but the skirt and jacket remain. The jacket has a petite shawl collar and closes with three covered buttons (one of my mom's signature details). The jacket is cropped just under the bust to em-

phasize the waistline (no bust to emphasize!).

"With the help of a cummerbund whipped up years later, I was able to wear the ensemble to several '50's parties. The first time I wore this outfit was to the cast party following the Junior Class Play, "Time Out for Ginger" (starring Jeanne Worthley as Ginger). This ensemble was also my outfit of choice when several girls in the Class of '57 were featured in the Albany Democrat-Herald's "The Realm of Society" full-page photo feature on Saturday, Aug. 24, 1957. The girls were grouped by the college they planned to attend in the fall."

Today, Sherrill is a widow and retired as a fundraiser for the Oregon State Scholarship Commission (now known as the Oregon Student Assistance Commission) and has lived in Eugene for 52 years. She has one daughter, Karen, and one grandson. She serves on the Eugene Public Library Foundation Board, is a member of Altrusa International and is a literacy advocate.

As the youngest daughter in her family, Sherrill says she had the benefit of her mother's sewing skills through her junior year in college. But it was her high school years that were the bonanza years for her wardrobe.

As it turns out, those were bonanza years for the Museum, too.

## Thank you to these Albany-area business members

The non-profit Albany Regional Museum is pleased to recognize the following businesses and major sponsors for the 2008 calendar year:

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce  
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Albany Downtown Association  
Albany Visitors Association\*  
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# 'Relevancy' continues to be issue for Museum

BY TAMI SNEDDON

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

The question of "relevancy" is an issue that every Museum struggles with.

Kelly Cannon-Miller, executive director of the Des Chutes Historical Museum, writes about "relevancy" in a recent issue of the Oregon Museum Association's newsletter, the Dispatch.

When Kelly wrote, "like everyone, we struggle with the most basic questions: Are we relevant?" it made me stop and think about our own Museum.

The definition of "relevant" is "being connected with the matter in hand; pertinent." So, are we (the Albany Regional Museum) relevant to the greater Albany community? We need to define our community and we need to find out what our community wants from us. We even have to take a step back further and "make sure

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## T-C book on schedule

Preparations for the publishing of the Museum's first print book remain on schedule, according to author Edward Loy. Publication date is set for July 2010.

While a working title is still to be determined, Loy says the selection of photographs, interviewing, sorting through collected materials and chapter writing is well in hand. The book is about Albany's World Championship Timber Carnival, the community's signature Fourth of July celebration for more than 50 years. The event ended in 2000.



**Board member John Boock gives a talk about artwork at the park on the corner of First and Lyon to attentive patrons during the annual Museum event. This was the seventh year that Museum patrons enjoyed an event designed particularly for them.**



**Patrons were greeted by Development Chair Mary Burck as they entered the Museum.**



**Zella Mae Packard, left, Kim Sass, Bob Lowry and Claus Sass make their way along the line of hors d'oeuvres.**

**Clockwise from foreground, Ralph Neilsen, Viola Neilsen, Greg Krpalek, Mary Krpalek, Tom Cutsforth, Betsy Cutsforth and Pat Thompson enjoy conversation and good food.**



## Patrons enjoy food, and history lessons

Patrons of the Albany Regional Museum were celebrated with hors d'oeuvres and history lessons August 12.

The annual event is staged by the Museum for those individuals who make an extra financial commitment during the year.

More than 60 turned out for food and two lectures.

Board member John Boock, who designed and developed the small park-area next door to the Museum, explained the reasons for the park and its development from an historic viewpoint.

Exhibit task-force member Tom Cutsforth narrated a slide show of historic photographs from the Robert Potts collection. The board-hosted event featured hors d'oeuvres catered by Allan Bros. Coffee/The Beanery.



**Tom Cutsforth, Lorraine Carter, Betsy Cutsforth and Doris Scharpf renew old acquaintances.**

# Group works to grow 'people connection'

When board member Mary Jacq Burck decided to chair the Museum's development committee, she said the first order of business would be to strengthen connections with Albany people.

That will not result in a lot of immediate financial support, but experience shows that it will lay the groundwork for stronger community involvement and gifts.

Burck has surrounded herself with a group of people who believe in the Museum as a valuable Albany institution. And this effort receives valuable assistance from administrative coordinator Tami Sneddon and her two other part-time staffers.

The committee has taken on the task of making sure that past and current supporters are appreciated for their involvement. It also is

conducting an on-going educational process that includes special invitations to Museum events; small-group gatherings where operations and goals are explained in detail; individual visits with supporters unable to attend events; an increased emphasis on notes of appreciation; documentation of historical data related to past giving; developing written guidelines for the acceptance of gifts and listening to what current members and the community-at-large think about their Museum.

For the Museum to continue to be successful, Burck says it needs to know what the community wants and expects from the Museum. Sneddon calls this "relevance."

With the local and national economy being in a downturn, it is no time to try to

conduct a fund-raising drive of any kind. But it is an opportunity to prepare for the time when the economy turns around in the months and years ahead.

The Museum has been in a favorable financial position for several years thanks to several benefactors, the establishment of an endowment, conservative management of its resources and an aggressive membership effort.

However, just maintaining present operations in the future will take increased support. The Museum is nearly 100 percent privately funded. It doesn't depend on tax dollars for its operation.

The development committee has indicated there are many ways besides money gifts for the community to offer support. These things

include providing artifacts that meet mission statement guidelines; attending a Museum event and asking a friend to join you; volunteering for a couple of hours a month as a docent or other specific activity; visiting Museum exhibits when downtown between appointments (admission is free); bringing your grandchildren for a visit when they are visiting; having your club or church group arrange a Museum tour.

Opportunities are almost endless, Burck says.

The development committee plans to continue working on these strategies and others into next year. Current members of the committee besides Burck are Kris Schuttpelz, Pat Thompson, Bob Lowery, Kim Sass, John Boock and John Buchner.

## Civil War in Hub City: 1912 and 1913

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now the field behind Central School.

Eagles brokered a deal between the schools to bring the game to Albany, a neutral site, after the contest had been cancelled in 1911 because of a riot between the fans at the 1910 game.

At that time the game was called the "State Championship Game" and Oregon State was called Oregon Agricultural College and known as the Aggies or 'Orangemen of the West,' in deference to Syracuse, which also was called the Orangemen.

Eagles, who owned a cigar business in downtown Albany, was an OAC fan and the brother-in-law of coach Samuel Dolan.

But most of all, Eagles was a shrewd businessman, who saw a chance to bring some money into Albany.

It also displayed the kind of swashbuckling attitude community leaders had at that time: they made a deal, but no stadium existed in Albany at the time to accommodate the kind of crowds anticipated for such a popular contest. They had to build one.

Backed by the Commerical Club, a kind of Chamber of Commerce organization, Eagles pitched a deal to both schools: Albany would provide a football field and stands to seat at least 8,000.

A contract was signed Nov. 21 and the game was to be played Saturday, Nov. 30.

Immediately, construction began. An untold number of people from all over Linn and Benton counties converged on Albany to help build the stadium, which had a covered portion at one corner of an end zone. Construction continued until the night before the game, according to a newspaper account in the Al-

bany Weekly Democrat.

The field was located behind what is now Central Elementary school and was called Athletic Park. It was later renamed Hudson Field.

The game was attended by about 8,000 fans, including Oregon Gov. Oswald West.

Businesses and banks from both cities agreed to close during the game, and police were on hand to keep the peace and to discourage gambling. Fans from both schools were given time at halftime to do cheers and stunts.

All told, about 7,000 attended the contest, which Oregon won, 3-0. The game was played again in Albany, ending in a 10-10 tie. OAC played one other game at the stadium, a 0-0 tie with the University of Washington.

On Dec. 3, the Beavers and Ducks will play at Autzen Stadium in Eugene. A crowd of 60,000 is expected to attend.

## Indian exhibit coming

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The exhibit provides text and historical and contemporary photographs about the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon. Themes include: The Land, federal Indian policies and traditions that bind. One panel and one introductory kiosk will be located at each of the three sites.

Museum Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon said this will encourage the public to visit all three sites during the five week exhibit. The traveling exhibit will end in Albany on February 20.

Sneddon encourages Museum members and friends to watch for more specific details about the exhibits in local media as the dates near for the Albany opening, including the Museum's web site: [www.ar-museum.com](http://www.ar-museum.com).



Members of the Albany police force pose with three of their Chevy Impala police cars in 1968 outside the police station, which was then housed in the former Post office at the corner of Second Avenue and Broadalbin Street in downtown. The building is now home to the Albany Downtown Association, other offices and a few retail shops.

# Pictures from the Past

Nostalgic photos from the albums  
of the Museum, its members and friends



The Millar House, which was built by the Rev. James Patterson Millar around 1854. It originally stood at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Walnut Street, but was later moved to Second and Washington. The house was destroyed by fire in 1922.

## Former police chief joins Museum board

Joe Simon, former Albany chief of police, was elected to the Museum's board of directors at its annual meeting in September. The board positions are three-year terms and voted on by members in attendance at the meeting.

Three others were re-elected. They included Mary Jacq Burck, Mary Arnett and Linda A. Ellsworth.

Simon served as police chief for five years, resigning in 2005. He came to Albany from Kirkland, WA, where he was a police department administrator. Simon and his wife, Laine, have remained in Albany, both becoming actively involved in civic life including being patrons of the Museum.

"Joe will bring an outsider's view to a board that is strongly connected to Al-

bany history," according to treasurer and nominating committee chairman Michael Kok. In addition to his interest in history, Kok said that Simon has important experience in budgeting and institutional operations.

The annual business meeting included an update on finances, a pictorial review of the year's events, and a review of the Museum's goals. Retiring board member Carol McKay, who completed 13 years of service, was presented a framed certificate of appreciation by Museum founder Gerald Brenneman.

Meeting attendees were treated to a living history program featuring two of Oregon's famous historic figures, Joe Meek and Doc Newell. Both were

prominent in the establishment of Oregon as a territory and later as a state. The pair was portrayed by actors Al LePage of Aurora and Bob Hart of Eugene, both well-known re-enactors of Pacific Northwest history. The reenactment was the final of several programs during the year that commemorated Oregon's 150th birthday.

At its regular October board meeting, directors elected officers for 2010. Re-elected were John Buchner, chairman; Mary Jacq Burck, secretary and Michael Kok, treasurer. Elected vice-chairman was Larry Bardell. Bardell succeeds Gerald Brenneman who remains on the board and on its executive committee as well as chairman of the facilities committee.



# Who was the first lawyer to reside in Albany?

*One in a series of articles about Albany lawyers*

**BY LINDA A. ELLSWORTH**  
MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER

In the 1850 Oregon Territory census there were 16 individuals who identified their occupation as "lawyer/counselor." None lived in Albany or Linn County. However, by the 1860 census this changed and four lawyers plus one law student and one judge were identified as Albany residents. They were N.H. Cranor, S.D. Haley, W.G. Haley, George Helms, J. C. Powell and Delazon Smith. So who was the first lawyer in Albany?

Nelson H. Cranor came to Oregon in 1853 from Muncie, IN. He had gone to school

there and practiced law. He took up a claim near Harrisburg in 1854 but by 1856 he moved to Albany to practice law. He served in the 1855, 1857 and 1858 territorial legislature. In 1859 he served in the Oregon House of Representatives. He was later to be mayor of Albany in 1871 and 1872. He was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1872 but did not serve because of ill health. He died Dec. 9, 1872.

Stephen D. Haley arrived in Oregon in 1851 and by March of 1852 had filed for a donation land claim near Peoria, southwest of Albany. He was elected Linn County probate judge in 1853 and served nine years. He later served in the Oregon State Senate from 1874 to 1880. He died Oct. 20, 1882, and is

buried in Albany's Riverside Cemetery. His son, William G. Haley, was also a lawyer. He died in 1862.

George Helm came to Oregon in 1851 with his father, Lawrence Helm, who settled in Linn County in 1853. George studied law with Nelson Cranor and later became Cranor's partner. George served in the Oregon House of Representatives in 1866 and 1870. He was elected county clerk in 1868. He died on Oct. 29, 1876.

J.C. Powell was elected Albany's first mayor in 1864. He married Kate M. Finlayson in 1862 and they had two children. He served as county probate judge from 1862 to 1866. He was Linn County's prosecuting attorney from 1868 to 1872. He died in 1899.

Delazon Smith came to Oregon in 1852. He studied law in New York State and was admitted to the bar there. He published newspapers in Rochester, NY; Dayton, OH; and Albany, OR. He served in the Oregon Territory House of Representatives from 1854 to 1856 and was a delegate to the 1857 Oregon constitutional convention.

He served as United States Senator from February 14 to March 3, 1859. He died Nov. 19, 1860 in Portland and is buried in Albany's Masonic Cemetery off Broadway Street.

It would appear from the short survey that Delazon Smith was the first lawyer to live in Albany as well as being the first U.S. Senator from Oregon.

## Museum gets Riverside garden club records

Thanks to Betty Stellmacher Milton, the Museum is the recipient of the records of the Riverside Garden Club.

That organization served the rural community just southwest of Albany for seventy years, being organized in 1938. Earlier this year the club decided to end its official life, but members will continue to meet informally and probably, less often. Mrs. Milton has served as president for a number of years, but as the membership aged it has become harder and harder to function on a monthly basis.

Milton's mother, Eldred Stellmacher, was among the charter members of the club. Membership records reveal a who's who of the Riverside community. Other charter members included Olive Bryant, Grace Bradshaw, Cora Burch, Corinne Robison, Minnie Harman, Florence Canning and Lilah Smith.

Other member names over the years that readers will recognize include Elizabeth Haddan, Ada Greene, Barbara

Stellmacher, Margaret Burroughs, Lois Norris, Aldine Sprague, Eileen Richard, Lynn Welp, and Susan Atkeson, to name just a few.

The club met monthly in member homes to discuss garden topics, to socialize and to enjoy homemade food. Meeting topics, according to the club's annual yearbooks, included "What trees can teach us," "New vegetables we have grown," and "Use of fruits and vegetables in holiday arrangements."

In each yearbook, since 1940, the club published this conservation pledge: "I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country--its air, soil and minerals, its forest, water and wildlife."

In the future, when students and writers search for information about Albany's rural communities, these records (including minutes, yearbooks, correspondence and photographs) will be preserved at the Museum.

## 'Relevancy' an issue

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they remember you exist," or know that you exist.

Currently, the Albany museum has an exhibit task-force committee trying to help us do a better job of making that community connection. This group consists of current and new volunteers to help define our goals in exhibit strategy. In this process, hopefully, they'll help us define our audience (or audiences) and make sure we are on a path to making our exhibits more relevant. Another group, our development committee, is meeting with small groups of Museum members over dinner or dessert, to make stronger connections with supporters and listen to suggestions and ideas they have about the future of the Museum.

The Bend manager points out that the Des Chutes Museum also is changing its collection

and exhibit methods "from passive to active to force ourselves to be visible in the community." Their goal is to "be proactive in greeting the new Bend, as is our responsibility, we will not only meet our mission to actively preserve our county's history, we will give Bendites who have lived here 10 years or less a sense of belonging, too." She also makes the point that they do not want to alienate the old Bend that has supported the museum from the beginning. Their strategic plan "must be a road map to help us bridge the two Bends."

As administrative coordinator of the Albany Regional Museum, I would hope that we take on a similar challenge through our committees to remember the long-time residents of Albany as well as the newcomers. Once we connect with both sets of audience we can begin our own journey of "relevancy."



**Corvettes on display at the Museum. The 'People's Choice' winner, a 1961 roadster, is at right.**

## Auto classic features Corvettes

Albany's connection to the design and development of automobiles was recognized at the second Rhys Miller Classic September 12.

The classic featured Chevrolet Corvettes. Last year the car show featured Ford Thunderbirds.

More than 150 people visited the display of nearly 20 cars on the Museum's parking lot during the annual "Antiques in the Street" event sponsored by the Albany Downtown Association.

Jim Basile's 1961 Corvette Roadster was the winner of the "People's Choice" award voted by show visitors.

Museum volunteers Bill Maddy and Edward Loy organized the show.

The classic honors the late Rhys (pronounced Reece) Miller who lived in Albany during the 1920s and attended Central Elementary School. As an adult he became a designer of automobiles and is credited with the redesign of the 1957 Ford Thunderbird.

He also worked for a number of different automakers including General Motors, Chrysler, Nash and Kaiser.



**From left, Museum volunteers Del Githens, Bill Maddy and Edward Loy join the owner of "People's Choice" winner, Jim Basile, during the September event.**



**A 1959 'Vette' with flags.**

## Cultural Trust donations due Dec. 31

A financial gift to the Albany Regional Museum and a subsequent matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust will make you eligible to receive a 100 percent tax credit on your gift to the trust.

And you have until December 31 for the 2009 calendar year.

The process is simple, according to Museum treasurer Michael Kok.

First, make a contribution (renew your membership, make a cash donation to the Museum's endowment or

operating budget).

Second, make a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust, 775 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301.

Third, claim your tax credit - \$500 maximum for individuals, \$1,000 maximum for couples filing jointly or \$2,500 for corporations - when you file your Oregon State income tax returns.

Among Albany-area eligible non-profits are the Albany Regional Museum; the Albany Civic Theatre and Albany Downtown Association.

## Six names added to memorial roll

Six new names have been added to the Museum's memorial roll since the summer newsletter.

They include Mildred Warner-Blake, Harold L. Kachel, Darrell Dannen, Russell Harrison, Elmer Kyle and William Mitchell.

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorial gifts that honor a family member or friend.

The most common gifts are in the amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100.

Names of those individuals memorialized are listed in the Museum's quarterly newsletter and are posted at the Museum for a limited time.

A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, next of kin or other) and a thank you card to the person or persons making the donation (which also can be used for tax documentation).

### MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

To renew or begin your annual membership, indicate the type and fill in the form below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Major Sponsor	\$250

☐ I want to learn more about the Pioneer Society, Founders and Benefactors levels.

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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The Museum is a non-profit  
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#### Albany Regional Museum

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(541-967-7122)

[www.armuseum.com](http://www.armuseum.com)



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## **Looking Back: Changes on Eighth**

**BY JACK GILLESPIE**  
MUSEUM MEMBER

One would have to be about my age (78) to remember the serene working class residential area of Albany's East Eighth Avenue which spanned from south Lyon Street to Santiam (Highway 20).

Both sets of my grandparents resided on East Eighth. My maternal grandfather, Edwin Wilcox, a widower, worked for the railroad and had a home on the south side of Eighth Avenue and Jackson Street.

My father's parents, William and Ethel Gillespie, lived in the parsonage of the Free Methodist Church on the southwest corner of Sherman Street and Eighth Avenue. That's where my grandfather served as pastor. I was born in their home on June 20, 1931.

On both sides of Eighth were rows of well-kept middle class homes running from south Lyon Street to the Santiam intersection.

In the mid-1930s the powers that be came to the conclusion that the two-lane Pacific Highway (99E) running through towns and cities in Washington, Oregon and California was getting too busy and needed fixing. Their conclusion was that the highway would go around all towns en route — including Albany.

First, an overpass over the railroad, com-

plete with on and off ramps into the downtown area, was to be constructed across the Southern Pacific railroad tracks at south Lyon Street. This project was completed in the late 1930s and early '40s.

To the east a ramp was built over Eighth Avenue from Lyon to Madison Street. All the houses along this strip were either destroyed or moved. My grandfather's former home (he died in 1936) was moved over the tracks to Ninth Avenue and is still there, what's left of it.

After World War II the three western states got together again and declared the Pacific Highway project "inadequate" and that an interstate freeway running further east of Albany would connect the three states.

Downtown business took a big hit and many gasoline stations and stores did not survive.

After Interstate 5 was completed and chain retailers began building in the east end of town, Pacific Boulevard (99E or Pacific Highway) grew into a very busy and sometimes hazardous state arterial highway through the city. So east Eighth Avenue today is now Pacific Boulevard with traffic lights and lined with strips of small businesses filling the space which was, at one time, one of Albany's nicest neighborhoods (only Pop's Branding Iron restaurant remains from earlier days).