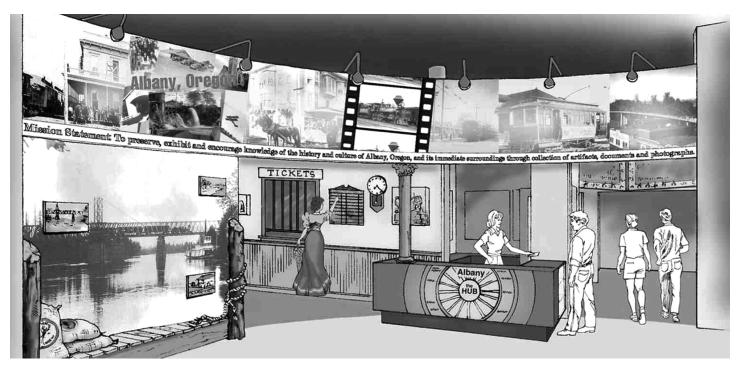
A quarterly publication

Fall 2011



### How the Museum entrance might look

his is an artist's conception of how the visitor's entrance to the Albany Regional Museum might look in the future. The Museum has been working on an exhibit update for more than a year. A principal in the former Interpretive Exhibits, Inc. of Salem, Ed

Austin, has been working on the project with other colleagues since November 2010. The task force of board, staff and community members has reviewed and prioritized goals and objectives for the project. The first phase is scheduled for completion in early 2012.

## Christmas historic homes tour planned for Dec. 11

Victorian holidays again will be celebrated in Albany on Sunday, Dec. 11. The Christmas Parlour Tour of historic homes and museums decorated for Christmas will begin at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, groups of 10, and children. The charges include hot drinks, entertainment, trolley and hay wagon rides. Tickets can be purchased at the Albany Visitors Association, 250 Broadalbin St. SW, No. 110. Information is available at 541-928-0911, or info@albanyvisitors.com.

The Albany Regional Museum, which partners each year with the AVA, is a regular stop on the tour. Museum administrator Tami Sneddon said the Museum will be decorated for the event and provide a warm and dry stop for visitors.

#### Board taps new chairman

Larry Bardell assumed leadership of the Albany Regional Museum this Fall when the board of directors elected him chairman.

His election marked the retirement of John Buchner who served as board chairman for six years and a board member since 2000.

Bardell, a psychiatric nurse practitioner and community volunteer, was board vice-chairman for the past two years.

He and his wife Linda reside in North Albany.

Joe Simon, retired Albany Police Chief who currently manages law enforcement accreditation for the State of Oregon, was elected vicechairman.

Re-elected secretary was Mary

Jacq Burck, a descendant of the Linn County pioneer Jenks family and a retiree from the Oregon State University Foundation. Michael Kok, an Albany accountant, was re-elected treas-

At the Museum's October 4th annual meeting, members re-elected Dr. David Fitchett, a retired orthopedic physician; Kim Sass, director of the Albany General Hospital Foundation; and Bardell to the board for three-year terms.

Judie Weissert, retired newspaper marketing manager, also was elected to the board.

Continuing members of the board include Mary Arnett, Gerald Brenneman, Linda Ellsworth, Michael Martin and Darrel Tedisch.

#### **View from Second & Lyon:** Connections

BY LARRY BARDELL

**BOARD CHAIRMAN** 

Many people can tell stories of having traveled out of town on distant vacations or trips and encountered persons or places that established a connection with back home in Albany.

My wife, Linda, and I were once on a cruise to the

Caribbean and while walking the streets of our first port of call were surprised to run into friends who were not only from Albany but were also members of our church.

While traveling through North Dakota on Amtrak a few summers ago, we sat at dinner with a couple from Minnesota who were traveling the United States to discover some of the finer restaurants the country had to offer. When we mentioned we were from Albany, OR, the wife excitedly commented, "Oh, that's the home of Novak's Hungarian Restaurant!"

I recently experienced an "Albany Connection" that came not from contact with a person or place, but a book titled "The Last Indian War, The Nez Perce Story" by Elliot West (Oxford University Press, 2009).

After reading several chapters that included the failed accounts of numerous Indian Agents who had worked with the Nez

Perce, I started a chapter titled "Conquering by Kindness" that described the relations between the Indians and an agent named "John Monteith."

The author gives no background on the man except to mention that he was "from the Willamette Valley." I immediately wondered if this could be another "Albany Connection". Could this John Monteith be related to the early Albany pioneer family by that name?

**Jack Gillespie** 

I decided to do a Google search to satisfy my curiosity. I hadn't searched very long when I came across a lead entitled "Mrs. Charlotta Pipe Remembers Albany." Mrs. Pipe, it turns out, was the daughter of Thomas Monteith, one of Albany's founding fathers. She gives the following account:

"... Thomas Monteith was of Scotch descent. His father was Archibald Monteith, born in Scotland. Together they

came to America at a date not definitely known and settled in New York State. Archibald, and his wife Mary McLain, were the parents of ten children. Those who came to Oregon were: Thomas Monteith, born near Broadalbin, Fulton County, New York, April 23, 1824, Oregon in 1847. Walter Monteith, born in New York, 1816, Oregon in 1847, with Thomas Monteith; died June 11, 1876. George Monteith, arrival in Oregon undetermined. William J. Monteith, arrival in Oregon undetermined, Presbyterian minister, first president of Albany College, serving from 1867 to 1868; he died in Idaho. John Monteith, arrival in Oregon undetermined."

There it was. Not a one-hundred-percent certainty, of course, that it was the same John Monteith, but there remains a strong possibility that this man who "conquered with kindness" is the Albany Connection that perhaps provides a link between Albany and one of my favorite Native Amer-

icans, Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce.

Do you have any stories of "Albany Connections?" As seen here, Albany Connections can go from the Wallowa Mountain home of the Nez Perce to the streets of a Caribbean village to the hearts of traveling connoisseurs of fine dining. We would like to hear of any "connections" you may have had. Drop in at the museum to let us know. We'd love to have you visit.



**Larry Bardell** 

#### Brenneman Award goes to Jack Gillespie

Albany Old Times columnist Jack Gillespie was honored at the Museum's

annual membership meeting October 4 with the Gerald Brenneman Volunteer Award.

Gillespie, who celebrated his 80th birthday in June, continues to bring smiles to newsletter readers with his recollections of growing up in Albany.

A 1949 graduate of Albany High School, Gille-

spie has contributed stories to the newsletter for most of its existence. He served for a time as editor. In recent years, his Looking Back column has been a particular favorite of readers. In

this issue he writes about catching the Greyhound bus in downtown Albany.

In addition to his column, Gillespie serves on the publications committee. He served six years on the board of directors, retiring in 2004. In earlier years he was a docent and helped with exhibit maintenance printer in California. He retired in 1992 as co-owner with his wife Margie of the weekly Review in Jefferson, OR. The Gillespies owned the Review for 20 years. Gillespie and his late wife raised two sons.

He now resides in the Mennonite Village retirement community.

The Volunteer Award, named after founder Gerald Brenneman, was established in 2004 to recognize a member or nonmember for service to the Museum and the community. Recipients are selected on a vote of the board of directors. Current board members are not eligible for the honor. There is no requirement that the award be given every year.



# Family attends Rhys Miller Classic

The Central Grade School student who grew up to be an automobile designer was honored again this year at the Museum's Rhys Miller Classic.

The annual car show, held each Fall during Albany's Antiques in the Street event, is named for Miller who is credited with redesigning the 1956-57 Ford Thunderbird and several other cars.

The late Miller lived in Albany as a youngster when his father owned the Buick dealership in the 1920s.

His family traveled to Albany from California to attend the fourth annual event on September 10. The family included his widow, Doris, daughters Debra and Cynthia, and Cynthia's husband Edward Smith.

The classic this year, again, featured Ford Thunderbirds. In past years, the car show has displayed Ford Model As; Chevrolet Corvettes, and Thunderbirds in the inaugural show in 2008.

A 1956 turquoise Thunderbird with white top was the winner of the "People's Choice" award voted by show visitors. The car is owned by John and Judy Stackhouse. More than 160 visited this year's show. Museum volunteer Bill Maddy again organized the event.

Prior to his death, Miller provided memorabilia, on display inside the Museum, from his career. His family made a generous financial gift to the Museum this year.



Visitors check out a Ford Thunderbird exhibit at the Museum.



Doris Miller, widow of Rhys Miller, looks at a 1957 T-Bird that her husband redesigned. This car is owned by Carol Hood.



Miller family members, from left: daughter Debra, sonin-law Edward Smith, and Cynthia and Doris Miller talk with Museum administrator Tami Sneddon.

Car owners
John and
Judy
Stackhouse,
with Doris
Miller,
display their
People's
Choice
award,
which was
voted on by
attendees.



## Jansen cottages helped fill WWII needs

**BY KAY BURT**MUSEUM MEMBER

Although they take up an entire city block, the Jansen Apartments quietly blend into their surroundings. Underneath a canopy of mature maple, oak and elm trees, the one- and two-story tan buildings ring the edges of southwest Tenth, Eleventh, Elm and Maple streets. At the center is a protected area for resident parking.

These World War II-era cottages are included in the Monteith Historic District Expansion documents as a contributing resource due to their importance in helping Albany cope with the influx of soldiers being trained at nearby Camp Adair from 1942-45.

With only 5,600 residents, Albany was quickly inundated by the many women and children looking for temporary and permanent housing as nearby Camp Adair swelled to over 100,000 soldiers. The December 30, 1942, Democrat-Herald reported that housing worries were solved for 60 wives, mothers and sweethearts through the restoration of the abandoned Albany College women"s dorm, largely because of efforts of the Albany Chamber of Commerce.

"Carl Curlee, secretary of the Chamber, said today that the new occupants of the college campus are highly pleased with their new surroundings and are getting along well together, despite a few inconveniences, chief among these, lack of general heating and lack of running water in basins." Curlee failed to mention that there was major flooding in the Valley that winter, which further added to the general misery.

A year later, local newspapers continued to stress that demand for housing remained strong, and commended Albany citizens for opening their homes, basements and garages. The Oc-



Jansen Manor, seen from the corner of 10th Avenue S.W. and Walnut Street.



#### 'Classic' bridge at the Manor

The "Classic" Bridge Club of Albany began during the War with several founders living at Jansen Manor. Left to right: Jeanne Senders, Kay Primrose, Esther Ferguson, Carmelita Wade, Frances Rohrbough, Genevieve Hurd, Marge Barrett, and Lois Goode. Five-year-old Nancy Ferguson can be seen at left playing on the porch of the hostess' home. Hurd and Barrett were Jansen Manor residents in 1945. The bridge club met for over 50 years with other members, and expanded to a monthly dinner club that included spouses. (Photo taken by Don Primrose, circa 1950).

Susan Zito, daughter of Frances and Max Rohrbough, says that her folks often went to Jansen Manor to help with the local war effort, socializing with many residents. The bridge club grew out of friendships nurtured there, she said. Zito learned about this only after reading letters of condolence to her family when Max died in 1983.

tober 22, 1943, Greater Oregon quoted the Chamber as pleading for 100 more rooms for wives of service men, recounting that all guest houses at Camp Adair were full. A November 11, 1943, Greater Oregon account

grimly reported that "conditions remain unchanged. All vacancies are spoken for far in advance."

That same month the Albany Billeting Detachment was operating in the Albany Chamber of Commerce of-

fice and reported that in the first 26 days of operation, 1,420 persons had been registered for housing accommodation. They found emergency quarters for 102 Army wives and 87 couples. A November 25, 1943, Democrat-Herald recounted that "many women have been living temporarily with friends or occupying emergency rooms. Some have been staying at hotels for two to three weeks while searching for a place which they may call home.'

Needless to say, housing relief couldn"t come soon enough! Earlier that summer (August 24, 1943) the Greater Oregon reported that Albany building was high: "In addition to the many homes being built just outside the Albany city limits, building permits for the month of July totaled \$120,000. The principal construction started was that of the Jansen Investment Co., which is building the Modern Court apartment house on the former city owned lot on Elm Street."

A little over a year later, a November 1944 Albany telephone directory lists Jansen Manor with office at 936 West 10th St. Since commissioned officers were permitted to live off base, these apartments were known locally as "the officers" barracks."

Continued on Page 6



Trick-or-treaters gather at the Museum building.



Trick-or-treaters line up for goodies.

# More than 1,000 kids, parents visit Museum for Halloween event

Trick-or-treaters were out in force during the Albany Downtown Association's annual event for children on October 29th.

The Museum partners with the ADA along with other downtown businesses in providing treats. Visitors to the Museum were double from 2010. That means more than 1,000 kids collected candy and counted black cat stuffed animals posted among exhibits. ADA director Oscar Hult credited the large turnout to good weather and maximum participation by merchants. Museum administrative coordinator Tami Sneddon said "youngsters and parents seemed to enjoy looking at exhibits and we had just enough treats."



Clerk Peggy Kowal, left, distributes treats.

#### Loy to write book on Albany history

Author Edward Loy is going to write another book. This time he is tackling the history of Albany.

A goal of the Museum for several years has been to publish a definitive history of the Albany community. There is no detailed history volume on Albany, except for several notable picture books by the late Robert Potts and feature stories published in local newspapers and periodicals.

Loy is the author of *Tim Burr!*, the illustrated history of the World Championship Albany Timber Carnival published in 2010. This was the first complete publishing effort by the Museum in its 30-plus-year history. The Timber Carnival was the community's signature Fourth of July celebration that began in 1940 and ended in 2000.

Loy appeared before the Museum's board of directors in September to announce his intentions. The board was unanimous in its support of the effort. Loy said he believed research and writing would take about two years. His *Tim Burr!* book took about a year. He said, like the Timber Carnival book, he did not expect to personally gain monetarily from the project.

Loy, who retired in 2006 as an estimator for Lemons Millworks, became a Museum volunteer in 2007. He has been a regular contributor to this newsletter and a member of the publications committee. He has both a bachelor's and master's degree in history and also is a former secondary teacher. He lives in North Albany with his wife Patricia.

#### Museum joins other Albany nonprofits at 'historic' summit

What nonprofits can do to make the Albany historic districts thrive was the subject of an October "historic summit" at City Hall.

Called by the Monteith Historical Society, more than 35 representatives of a variety of Albany organizations attended. Pam Silbernagel of the Monteith Society facilitated the discussion. Representing the Museum were Chairman Larry Bardell, founder Gerald Brenneman, volunteer John Buchner and Tami Sneddon, administrative coordinator.

The meeting was an opportunity for the various organizations to put a face to the names of the area's nonprofit leaders. Ideas ranged from suggested new events, to better coordination of all activities, to the need to develop a "common message" that would benefit all the groups, to more food experiences.

A couple of subcommittees were asked to work on developing a list of contact people at the various nonprofits, create an online events calendar and to plan more exchanges of information.

## White compiles Veterans Day history

Albany and Linn County celebrated Veterans Day for the 60th time November 11th with the largest parade west of the Mississippi plus numerous other activities. Sunny but cool weather helped make the crowd of more than 10,000, one of the largest in recent years.

Thanks to Veterans Commemoration Association past president and previous Veteran of the Year, Louie White, a written history of the event was compiled and published in the official program.

Copies of the program are available from the VCA and at the Albany Regional Museum.

White spent most of a year going through boxes of records, newspaper files and volumes of historic photos and written material related to the Albany event. Help still is needed in identifying people, places and dates of the photographs by the Museum where most of the memorabilia resides. The preservation project involves needed financial help to purchase archival binders and sleeves, and volunteers to place contents in the museum"s data base. Contact Museum Administrator Tami Sneddon (542-967-7122) for

additional details.

White's history includes recognition of the late James L. Barrett who was the spark plug in rekindling patriotic interest in the local Veterans Day observance. Barrett was a Marine during World War II, worked as a mail carrier after discharge, managed the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, and retired as a public relations manager for Teledyne Wah Chang.

It was Barrett and a few friends that provided new energy for the Linn County Veterans Council (later to evolve into the Veterans Commemoration Association) and its annual Veterans Parade.

Under Barrett"s leadership, the goal was to make the local Veterans Day observance the largest in the nation. Barrett and his friends succeeded; and by the late 1960s, the parade included 3,000 participants and parade watchers numbered nearly 40,000. Celebrities including Jimmie Doolittle, Jessie Owen, Don Scholander, Raymond Burr, Hugh O"Brien, Ronald Reagan, Bob Hope, plus astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, Judy Reznik and Sally Ride participated during different years.



An Oregon National Guard entry marches in the 2011 Veterans Day Parade.



Spectators watch the parade from an upstairs window at the Museum.

#### Fond memories of cottages

Continued from Page 4

Anne Hurd Transue fondly recalls living at Jansen Manor as a little girl from 1945-46. Her father, Dr. Lew Hurd, was called up for officer training in 1943, so he closed his downtown Albany office "and we put all our worldly belongings inside it, as the owners, the Weatherfords, let him keep our things there." Transue said her mother, Genevieve, thought that her husband would be stationed on the east coast, so she left with two children in tow, only to learn that he would be on a Liberty Ship headed to war. She drove back as far as Idaho and stayed with relatives until housing became available in Albany.

They moved into Jansen Manor in 1945. When he resumed his practice, "Dad took home movies of us, and I

have fond memories of playing in the center courtyard that was surrounded by a picket fence. Inside it was a sandbox, teeter totter and swings. I learned to ride my bicycle there," Transue said.

Transue also remembers that the apartments had hardwood floors upstairs and down. Other amenities were laundry rooms in the basement of each unit and a caged and locked area to store family belongings. "The only drawback was a cement bathtub because porcelain was unavailable during the war," she said.

Current Jansen Manor owner Scott Lepman says that the tubs are still in use 67 years later and if there is a plumbing problem, the tubs are hard to bust out.

Both Transue and Lepman affirm, "These apartments were solidly built!"

# Board to receive budget proposal

A preliminary 2012 Museum budget document lists income at \$88,500 and total expenses of \$151,100.

Finance Committee Chairman and Treasurer Michael Kok said that the \$62,600 negative cash flow represents \$22,000 for building improvements and \$40,000 for an ongoing exhibit project. This means that those dollars would need to come from the Museum's reserves which would cover items that are not considered "operational."

Kok said that some "belt tightening" would be needed in 2013 because of the proposed use of some of the reserves for the two projects in 2012.

The budget document was presented at the December meeting of the full board. Kok said he anticipated a board vote on the proposal in January.

# Student volunteers gain knowledge of operations

Nine volunteer college students, one high school volunteer, one middle school volunteer and one paid sum-

mer intern provided staff assistance to Museum operations this year.

Michael Richardson, a 2011 West Albany High School graduate and Oregon State University student, served as a paid intern this summer. His salary was financed, in part, by a grant from the Albany Visitors Association.

Richardson, who has a special interest in Albany history, assisted with a variety of duties

including research, building maintenance, object cleaning, serving as a docent and helping with several events.

Sofyan Saputra, a recent West Albany High graduate, volunteered on Saturdays throughout the year assisting with the Museum reference room.

Bradly Yechout, an eighth grader at Memorial Middle School, was a summer volunteer.

Jeb Oliver received spring credit from Linn-Benton Community College for his work with the Museum's military collection. Jenna Evans, another LBCC student, received spring credit and also volunteered during the summer.

Western Oregon University graduate Danile Wilson is a current volun-

teer.

Oregon State University graduate
Addie Maguire received spring quarter credit.

Two OSU students, Kara Bishop and Carri Boddy, received winter term credit and also were summer volunteers. Boddy also gained spring term credit for her volunteer work.

Nicole Jenkins, an OSU junior with a history major, received summer credit for her

volunteer work on the Museum's cemetery tour and patron event. She did research and coordinated logistics. She continues this fall as an intern.

Amanda Hutchison, a recent OSU graduate in history, volunteered as an intern and helper to the Museum"s collection specialist in scanning and photographing objects. She also was able to add information to the Museum"s PastPerfect database. Her work helped finish up college credits.

Dean Canucci, an Oregon State junior with a history major, volunteered during the fall 2011 quarter. His career goal is to become a police officer.



**Michael Richardson** 

#### Silver tea honors longtime friend of Museum, Rosemary Schoblom

Rosemary Schoblom was a friend of the Albany Regional Museum since its beginning in 1980.

The sister of the late Albany historian and author Robert Potts, Schoblom asked her family to honor her with a memorial silver tea instead of a traditional funeral at the time of her death.

That request was carried out October 23rd at the Museum when more that 70 of her friends and family celebrated her life. She died Sept. 30th at the age of 91.

A lifetime resident of Albany, Mrs. Schoblom served on the Museum's board of directors from 1985 to 1988.

She volunteered at the Museum in other capacities for many years. She was a patron and a member of the Chautauqua Circle gifting.

She was born to Leslie and Louise Potts on May 12, 1920. After graduation from Albany High School, she held several jobs including stationery department manager at Duedall & Potts Stationers. Her husband, Mauritz, preceded her in death. She is survived by one brother, two daughters, two sons, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations to the Museum in Schoblom's name were in excess of \$700.

## Memorial roll adds five names

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

Five individuals were honored since the summer newsletter. They include Joan Lee, Charles Halstead, Gary Mc-Clain, Della Hendricks and Rosemary Schoblom, all with longtime connections to the Albany community.

Names of those memorialized are listed in this newsletter, on the Museum's web site (www.armuseum.com), and are posted for a limited time at the Museum.

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

A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, next of kin or friend) and a thank-you card to the person or persons making the donation.

The card can be used for charitable gift documentation.

Contact the Museum at 541-967-7122 or stop by the reception desk at 136 Lyon St. S., for additional information.

#### MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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#### **Looking Back:** Travel by Greyhound

BY JACK GILLESPIE, MUSEUM MEMBER

Recently, I went in search for the site of the old Second Avenue Greyhound Bus Terminal, a tunnel running through the block between Ellsworth and Broadalbin streets.

Over 60 years ago, the tunnel ran south off of Second to the alley. It has since been sealed off at both ends and is now part of several businesses.

Growing up in Albany in the 1930s and 40s, the bus depot tunnel was one of the most fascinating places downtown for me. Watching those huge buses maneuver into the tunnel from the narrow alley was something to watch — which I did often.

The bus station itself was rather small. It consisted of a waiting room with a few seats, a ticket counter, and luggage stalls. If a traveler wanted something to eat or drink, a door in the waiting room led to Jim Christie's restaurant and bar.

In the late 1930s, my older sister Lois and I would each summer travel to visit our grand-parents for a week. Ethel and W.P. Gillespie lived in west Portland. Our parents would take us to the Albany bus depot, buy our tickets and see us off. The main highway to Portland then was 99E which wound its way through many Willamette Valley towns.

The trip would take about three hours. Grandpa would be waiting for us and, as always, take us to a small grocery store just east of the Portland depot. In the south end of the market, separated from the grocery section, was a small diner where we would be treated to a "goodie" of our choice.

While we were enjoying our treats, the grocery proprietor would come by and greet Grandpa, who in turn introduced us to Fred Meyer. As we all know, Fred went on to bigger one-stop shopping centers, including one in present-day Albany.

Lois and I stayed the week with our grand-parents and had a wonderful time. Grandma seldom left their home, but Grandpa would have us hopping on and off city buses as we went to area parks to watch softball games and a variety of other activities. He was a wonderful grandparent — as was our grandmother. She always had a hearty dinner waiting for us on our return from the outings. Our visiting time went fast (other grandchildren would follow) and we would be put back on the Greyhound and head south to Albany and home.

In later years, the Greyhound moved its depot to the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ellsworth where it just faded away. The Greyhound no longer stops in Albany.