

Book celebrates Timber Carnival history

Albany author Edward Loy helps us remember just how special it was

BY JULIE TRIPP
MUSEUM MEMBER

Hundreds of people worked hard, had fun and gave hours and days and weeks to the Timber Carnival, from the very first fireworks celebration in 1940 to its last gasp in 2000. This history, written by Edward Loy and published by the Albany Regional Museum, tells the story of how they did it, and why: Albany's young men and women were proud of their community, and in the World Championship Timber Carnival, it showed.

It was a 60-year moment in time that could never be replicated today. But it can be recalled, and celebrated, as Loy does so well here.

I was six months old for my first Timber Carnival in the summer of 1947 and, knowing my mom and dad, I

was probably decked out in a plaid diaper and a teeny-weeny red felt hat. Didn't want me to get thrown into that downtown stockade - "The Can" — for being out of uniform, you know.

We were always enthusiastic about participating in Albany's celebration of the logging industry, especially that year. Dad

was president and Mom worked hard with the Jaycee Wives to bring off the carnival's events. Lots of great Albany couples took their turn at running the show each year, boosted by an army of volunteers from the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the "Jaycees". Many of them are listed at the back of the book.

When I was 10, I sold buttons downtown for Sharron

Continued on Page 3

**From the book's
'forward,' Albany native
Julie Tripp writes about
her personal connection
to the Carnival.**

TIM BURR!

An Illustrated History of the
World Championship
Albany Timber Carnival



Edward Loy

READ MORE ABOUT AUTHOR EDWARD LOY ON PAGE 2

Sale of book begins with autograph party June 26

Tim Burr!, an illustrated history of the Albany World Championship Timber Carnival goes on sale Saturday, June 26, 10 a.m., at the Albany Regional Museum.

Author Edward Loy will be on hand for autographing the book, the first complete publishing effort by the Museum in its 30-year history. The celebration will continue until 2 p.m. The book will continue to be available for purchase at the Museum during regular business hours.

Consisting of 224 pages, the book has been in development for more than a year with the assistance of Meadowlark Publishing Services of Corvallis. The printer is Lynx Group, Inc., of Salem.

Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon said the initial press run is 1,500 copies. Retail cost is \$24 per copy. Museum members will be able to purchase the book for \$20 until September 19.

There will be multiple copy dis-

counts for those purchasing more than five copies. The book can be mailed for an additional handling and postage charge. Due to excessive user fees, the Museum no longer accepts VISA or MasterCard.

Chairman John Buchner calls the book's debut a "special moment in the life of the Museum" and its mission to preserve, exhibit and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of Albany and its surrounding communities.

View from Second & Lyon: Eddie Loy

BY JOHN BUCHNER
BOARD CHAIRMAN

When Eddie Loy was an Albany grade school kid he witnessed an out-of-control speed climber at the Timber Carnival on Waverly Lake sliding down a 100-foot spar pole with bark flying and the crowd gasping.

That is a vivid memory for 68-year-old Edward Loy, author of *Tim Burr!*, the Museum's first illustrated history book about Albany's signature Fourth of July celebration that began in 1940 and ended in 2000.

Loy's connection to Albany, the wood products industry and the Timber Carnival goes back to the end of World War II. In 1945, his family moved to Albany from California when his father was hired at Edwards Brothers Lumber Company. After attending Albany schools and graduating from Albany Union High School, Ed earned money for college by working at a local plywood mill during summers. Here he saw the importance of timber to the local economy and why the carnival celebrated the logging industry every Fourth of July.

In this book, readers will find that Loy does much more than just recite the carnival's chronological history. He does this, to be sure, but by putting some of himself into the story, the book turns out to be much better than those of us involved in the project planning ever imaged.

The idea for Museum books has been around for a number

JUST THE FACTS

Author: Edward Loy
Family: Wife Patricia and sons Nick, Greg and Tyler; sister Marolyn Brenneman; brother Vern Loy.

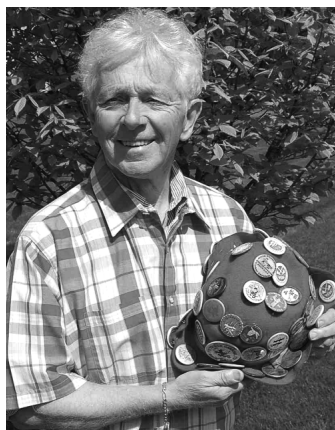
Residence: North Albany
Career: Lemons Millworks, retired; former secondary teacher.

Education: Madison Grade School; Sunrise Elementary; Albany Union High; University of Oregon.

Interests: History, writing, golf, tennis, hiking, mountain climbing, oil painting, Corvettes.

of years. The Museum did assist the late Robert Potts with his "Remembering When" pictorial books on early Albany. But the Museum itself had never ventured into publishing until now.

It certainly seems to fit with our mission statement "to preserve, exhibit and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of Albany, and its immediate surroundings through collection of artifacts, documents and photographs." The fact that the Museum has been the recipient of all the records and scrapbooks, photographs and other artifacts from the carnival's sponsoring Jaycees seemed to provide an abundance of material for such a book. The challenge was to find an author and to convince the Museum's volunteer board of directors that this was a project it could do. And one that



An appropriately attired Ed Loy.

would take some upfront money from the Museum's savings account.

It was never the intention of the Museum's directors to make the Timber Carnival book a big money-maker. But if the Museum is successful with sales, it will mean the project will do better than breaking even. This will be possible because author Loy is getting no monetary compensation for the more than 600 hours of effort he put into the project.

Loy, who retired in 2006 as an estimator for Lemons Millworks, was recruited as a volunteer in 2007 by Museum founder Jerry Brenneman. Loy began organizing collection photographs and writing articles for this newsletter. His writing skills were apparent, and the fact he had both a bachelor's and master's degree in history made him an obvious candidate for numerous projects. The carnival book proved to

be something right up his alley because he enjoyed primary source research and it fit nicely with his educational background and community connections.

Loy said he had conflicting feelings about taking on the project. On the one hand he knew there was a lot of material available to work with, but on the other hand he wondered if he could collect enough new information and recollections that would capture the spirit of carnival. "I wanted to make the book more than just a year-by-year accounting. It's a good thing that the Museum didn't wait any longer to do such a book because I was able to make personal contact with many former participants and volunteers. If we had waited another five or 10 years, many of these memories would be lost."

The author said the most challenging part of the book was the picture selections, not only choosing from the many available but putting them in some meaningful order.

The hardest thing he did was writing about the decline and fall of the carnival. "I didn't know in the beginning where that would take me. I had my own ideas, of course, but putting it together in a coherent fashion was hard."

Now that the book is published, what are Loy's thoughts: "I'm glad I got involved with the Museum and this particular project."

Ditto for the Museum.

Fifteen names added to museum's memorial roll

Fifteen names have been added to the Museum's memorial roll since the fall 2009 newsletter.

They include Katie Brenneman, Joan Butler, Marge Carter, Mary (Lee) Chandler, Wilma Yutzie Cox, Mabel Fehler, Fred and Vivian Forster, Larry Gordon,

Robert Groshong, Howard Hickam, Jack Kalina, Delmay Munsey, Sylvia P. Riders and Maxine Terhune.

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 quarterly newsletter, on its website (www.armuseum.com) and are posted at the Museum for a limited time.

A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recip-

ient (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).

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

Work of museum driven by volunteer committees

Nearly 40 volunteers serve on committees that develop and carry out Museum programs.

Board chairman John Buchner said he was especially appreciative of the time and effort these individuals provide the Museum. "These are the folks that make the Albany Regional Museum the active and vibrant nonprofit that it has become in recent years," he said.

The chairman said there is always a need for new faces to become involved in operational decision-making. Interested members are encouraged to contact Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon to learn more about committee work. She can be contacted at the Museum during regular hours at 136 Lyon St. S. or by calling 541-967-7122.

Here is a listing of current committees and membership:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Officers and one at-large board member. Meets monthly or as needed. John Buchner, chair; Larry Bardell, vice-chair; Mary Jacq Burck, secretary; Michael Kok, treasurer; Gerald Brenneman, founder and member-at-large.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chaired by

treasurer, meets quarterly or as needed. Michael Kok, chairman; Gary Holiday, Shannon Willard, bookkeeper; Del Githens; Joe Simon and Linda Ellsworth.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE: Meets semi-annually or as needed. Gerald Brenneman, chair; Richard Reid; John Boock; Robert Phillips; Larry Bardell and Steve Thomas.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Meets quarterly or as needed. Mary Jacq Burck, chair; Bob Lowry; Kim Sass; Pat Thompson; John Boock; Kris Schuttpelz and John Buchner.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT: Meets semi-annually or as needed. Larry Bardell, chair; Gerald Brenneman; Linda Ellsworth; Tami Sneddon and Jennifer Jameson.

EVENTS COMMITTEE: Meets semi-annually or as needed. David Fitchett, chair; Bill Maddy; Shannon Willard; Mary Arnett; Karen Kuebrich and Tami Sneddon.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Meets semi-annually or as needed. Mary Arnett, chair; Bev Haven, Brian Faligowski, Joe Simon; David Fitchett;

Diane Miller and Peggy Kowal.

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE: Meets annually or as needed. Larry Bardell, chair; Tom Cutsforth; Gerald Brenneman; David Fitchett; Jennifer Jameson and Tami Sneddon.

VOLUNTEERS COMMITTEE: Meets annually or as needed. Peggy Kowal, chair; Kathy Martin; Del Githens; Bev Hall; Evonne Rutherford and Mary Arnett.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Meets semi-annually or as needed. Kathleen Buchner, chair; Scott McAleer and Amanda Pool.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Meets quarterly or as needed. John Buchner, chair; Kim Jackson, editor; Edward Loy; Rebecca Bond and Linda Ellsworth.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Meets annually or as needed. Kim Sass, chair; Michael Kok; and Edward Loy.

*The chair of the board of directors and the Museum's administrative coordinator are ad-hoc members of all committees in addition to being actual working members of several committees.

Remembering just how special Timber Carnival was

■ Continued from Page 1

McConnell, who seemed to me to be about the prettiest and nicest "big girl" I'd ever met. She became queen of the 1957 Timber Carnival, when my Uncle Russ was president. Their recollections are here, too.

And the parades! Marching bands and floats and sparkling-shiny trucks loaded with Douglas fir logs as big as houses, driven by hard-hatted loggers who blasted their horns and threw candy to the kids. Snow Peak Dairy drivers tossed Dixie Cups, but you had to be crafty or athletic or both to field one.

We loved to dress up and drive our old cars in the parades. One year Dad was Al "Scarface" Capone and my brother Randy and a bunch of his pals were the Capone gang. Albany's downtown had banks at almost every intersection and their managers played along in the spirit of the thing. The Capone mob hit all the banks during the parade, emerging with guns blazing and big bags of money.

My Mom says she still feels a little

guilty about the year she and Dad appeared in chauffeured splendor as the "Maharajah and Maharani of Kandabad." The Democrat-Herald was in cahoots with us and hinted in a pre-parade story that visiting royalty might be among the parade entries. We didn't think anyone would really be fooled by their cool costumes and the gold (bubble gum) coins they tossed to the crowd. But when a local woman Mom knew took her hand and bowed and said "Welcome to our country, your Majesty," Mom stayed in character and hoped the earnest woman wouldn't be too upset when she learned who the "royals" really were.

I got closest to the carnival in the summer of 1967, when I worked as a student reporter at the Democrat-Herald helping to put out the Timber Carnival special supplement and reporting on events from Timber Linn Park. When someone pointed out to me that only one person was entered in women's log rolling, and there was prize money for three, I signed up, thinking, "How hard could it be?"

Uh, real hard. And slippery, and wet.

A little four-foot strawberry blonde beat me, birling her way to victory in our two-out-of-three match. Worse, I didn't collect a cent, thanks to two late sign-ups. I finished fourth of four and out of the money. But I got a fun story out of it.

When I was little and the celebration was still at Waverly Lake, I remember a crazy speed climber dancing a jig on top of one of the 100-foot high spar poles. He might even have been playing a harmonica. Does anyone else remember this? Am I dreaming?

On the other hand, I vividly recall the Fourth of July parties at the George Nissen home on Waverly Lake, the pungency of spent fireworks and the oohs and aahs when the "Niagara Falls" set piece dazzled the crowd. I remember at evening's end when everyone lit a match in the darkness and held the little flames aloft, as a sort of salute and goodbye to the carnival until next year.

And then one year, there was no next year. Thank goodness we have Ed Loy and the Albany Regional Museum to help us remember just how special it was.

Discover something new with each visit

BY TAMI SNEDDON

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

As the staff and volunteers move exhibit cases to make room for new and updated exhibits, even the unplanned moved cases get facelifts.

That is how our newest exhibit got its start as we moved our largest heavy, curved glass turn of the century display case. It had been full of mostly women's textiles and trinkets. It hadn't changed much over the past few years even though it has almost completed a full orbit around the Museum's exhibit hall.

Its new location dominates the side-wall of the permanent train station which also includes about eight feet of wall display area. With this prime space it offered an opportunity to enhance the rationale for this collection

with more "stories" about our local history.

This exhibit provides an opportunity to discover a little bit more about what the women of the Albany area were doing as well as their fashions from the 1850s to the 1950s. As women gradually gained political and property rights over this time period, they also took control over fashion. Besides the vote, they also wanted sensible clothing. The updated exhibit is entitled Attitudes and a Peek at Women's Under Fashions.

This topic developed from several sources including exhibits from other museums as well as our April Chautauqua membership tea, "A Peek at Women's Underwear."

Several Albany area women were

chosen to represent the decades of this 100 year time period. The women highlighted include Eleanor Hackleman, Catherine Pfeiffer, Margaret Monteith, Kate Powell, Maggie Veal, Marian Stanford, Carrie S.M. Henderson and Iantha Smith. But you can't talk about women and Oregon politics without learning about Abigail Scott Duniway and the time she lived and worked in Albany in the 1860s and 1870s.

We will carry on with these types of updates of our displays, while we continue to pursue our plans for a larger exhibit hall transformation that will enhance your visiting experience.

The Museum is the community treasure of local history and our goal is to help you discover something new with every visit.

Here's a view looking down on one of the guest tables at the annual membership tea. Museum founder and board member Jerry Brenneman (upper left in white shirt and bow tie) was among the men servers. Fifty-nine ladies attended the April 9 event.



'Undergarments' subject of annual membership tea



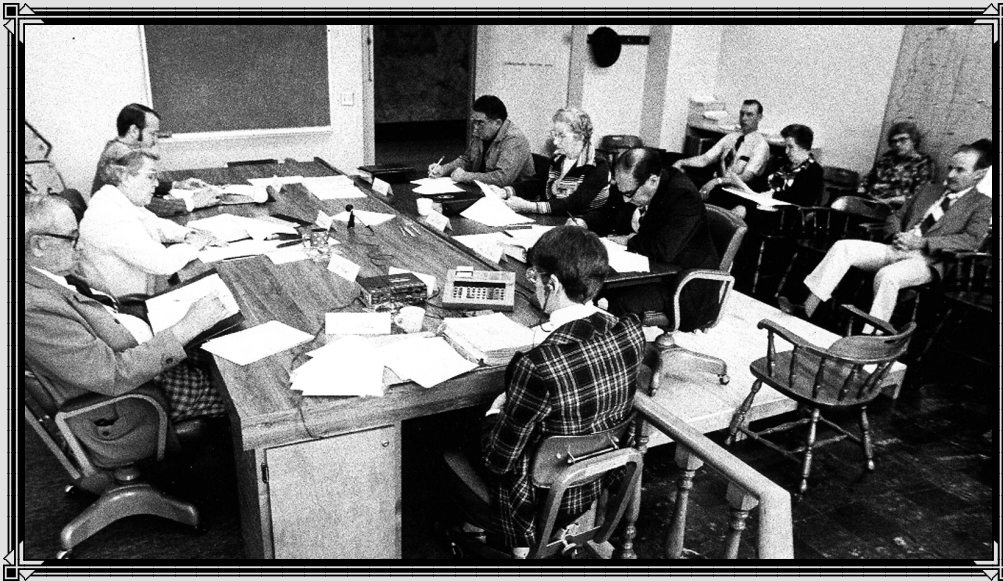
Joe Simon gets a tie adjustment from David Fitchett.



Speaker Nancy Bryant displays one of many under garments she discussed during her presentation on vintage under fashion.



It was a sold-out house at the Museum's annual membership tea. The program featured a presentation on vintage apparel by OSU professor emeritus Nancy Bryant. In previous years, the event featured women's hats, aprons and handkerchiefs.



LINN BUDGET COMMITTEE
— A work session of the Linn County budget committee in the 1980s at the Albany courthouse included (left to right) County Commissioners Vernon Schrock, Mary Keenan, Joel Fosdick; budget members Jack Fellers, Edith Hull and Eugene Ellis. Budget officer Shannon Willard is at front with back to camera. Among those sitting behind the budget members are (left to right) Sheriff Kenneth Goin, Treasurer Arlene Downing and Clerk Del Riley. (From the Stanford Smith collection)

We're looking for more photos from Albany area family albums

Pictures from the Past is a popular feature of the Albany Old Times newsletter.

The Museum needs members and friends to dig through their family archives for good quality photos to submit for future issues.

It makes the feature more interesting if those pictured can be identified with a few additional facts, like time frame, location and other details. Readers are encouraged to help identify

unnamed subjects or correct listed information.

Submissions need to be about Albany people and the Albany area to meet the Museum's mission "to preserve, exhibit and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of Albany, OR and its immediate surroundings..."

Drop off or mail submissions to the Museum at 136 Lyon St. S., Albany, OR 97321.

Kim Jackson, editor

Pictures from the Past

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

A special thanks to special friends

Four individuals were recognized for their support of the Museum over the years — for service, artifacts gifts, financial support, or a combination of all three — at a special tea held April 16. They included Carol McKay, Rosemary Schoblom, Mildred Hawkins and Hilda Jones. Pictured clockwise from lower left are Mildred Hawkins and her daughter Janet Hawkins; Carol McKay; Museum representatives Jerry Brenneman and Tami Sneddon; Kitty Buchner and her mother, Hilda Jones; and Rosemary Potts Schoblom. Development Committee Chairperson and board member Mary Jacq Burck organized the event.



Sam Kyle was quiet but effective

The Albany attorney would speak only as loud as necessary

BY JACKSON FROST
MUSEUM MEMBER

The late Sam Kyle infrequently appeared in court but he may have been the most quietly effective attorney Linn County and Albany has ever harbored.

If he was at the court house he was not unnoticed. Sam was a tall, straight man who was always impeccably but casually dressed, which included when out of doors, a soft but impressive hat bearing a fitting acorn or feather on its band.

One in a series of articles about Albany-area lawyers

Although when required he could speak loudly, it was his habit to speak softly and his knack to be

just as loud as necessary to invite and maintain the attention of his intended listeners so that they understood what he had to say. After business was done, if there was time, he must have enjoyed the telling of, as his audiences did, meaningful and delightful stories.

Kyle spent his boyhood years growing up on a farm along Kyle Creek between the towns of Harrisburg in Linn County and Monroe in Benton County. He attended grade school in Alpine and was an outstanding high school basketball player at Monroe. He graduated from the law school at Willamette University in Salem in 1941. After being sworn as a member of the Oregon State Bar, he joined the army as a commissioned officer with the rank of First Lieutenant.

Kyle was ordered to duty in Europe and went ashore at Normandy during the allied invasion. During the fighting he was among allied forces in the hedgerows of France where he was wounded by a German sniper. He was



Albany attorney Sam Kyle.

evacuated to Britain for treatment of his wounds and later returned to a free Paris where he served with the military police. He was known to remark about his Paris experience with a slight smile that "it was tough duty, but somebody had to do it."

Returning to stateside, Kyle hired on with two Albany lawyers--Willard Marks and Millard Willis--to form the firm of Marks, Willis & Kyle. Marks died in 1948 and Pat Emmons joined as a third partner to do litigation work.

Emmons and Kyle made a thriving combination. Emmons was outgoing, often loud and yearned to go to court at the drop of a hat. Kyle was an office manager with business connections and a vision about building an outstanding law firm. After Willis left the firm in 1967, Richard Kropp was made a partner and the firm was renamed Kyle, Emmons & Kropp.

Soon, Kyle objected to the firm name,

pointing out that Emmons had become the best known of the trio and since he was often in the public eye his name should be first so as to better attract new customers. By tradition, law offices were named in order of the partner with the firm the longest as first. It was a tradition that the other partners felt should be honored, but Kyle eventually won out. He was satisfied that the change did attract more clients.

In addition to his principal tasks of being the managing partner of the firm and doing business law work, Kyle took part in community matters. He was a member of the Albany Union High School board of directors, and then a member of the Albany General Hospital Board and related public entities. By his membership, Kyle helped these boards to enlarge and build improved facilities to better meet the needs of the community. And there is no doubt that his advice and efforts made these institutions more valuable to the community.

Sam Kyle loved to hunt and fish. Each year, about Christmas time, he would sponsor a party open to his outdoor friends, members of the local bar, and others he invited. Sam would share foods made from his catches and hunts, with just enough drink to wash the food down. And, according to partner Dick Kropp, during the feed Sam and his guests would share their proud tales about how the big ones did not get away.

Kropp recalls that Kyle was a great man to work for and with; that every morning Sam would come into the office with a cigar in his mouth and was always in a good mood. "I still remember like it was yesterday, the day Sam came into my office and told me he had inoperable cancer. We sat and talked for more than an hour, and when he got up to leave we hugged with tears coming out of both of us. Sam died about four months later in 1987."

The author, Jackson Frost, is an Oregon Circuit Court Senior Judge (Retired)



Spring Vacation program: Learning about Arctic life

Roben Jack Larrison, left, curator of the Jensen Arctic Museum in Monmouth presented a children's program in Albany during spring vacation, March 22. Participants were able to construct snow goggles and other items that helped explain

how both humans and animals have survived the harsh arctic environment for thousands of years. The spring break event, hosted by the Albany Regional Museum, features something different for children each year.

Museum needs more volunteers

Opportunities abound for volunteers at the Albany Regional Museum.

Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon said the greatest need is for docents. These are individuals who learn about the Museum's exhibits and then are able to inform visitors as they examine the exhibits.

Docents usually work a two-hour shift. Sneddon said individual commitment could be once a week, every other week or once a month. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday's, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Docents allow the Museum's regular staff to work on office details, processing collections and attending to other needs.

Interested individuals should stop by the Museum, 136 Lyon St. S., or call 967-7122 for more information on volunteer service.

Albany's first city marshal lassos 1st suspect

When Albany was incorporated in 1864, John Cleaver was the first city marshal. He came to Oregon in 1848 with his father, Benjamin Cleaver. He went back to Macoupin County, IL, to marry Susan Rice on Jan. 20, 1853. By 1860 he was living in Albany, working as a teamster. The couple had three children, Alonzo, Thomas and Clifton.

Evidently he was well-liked because he was remembered in an article in the Feb. 17, 1893, edition of the State Rights Democrat entitled "Our First Marshal." It tells about his first arrest. "George Miller was on a spree and was painting things red. Clever (sic), not liking the job at close range, got a rope, and finally succeeded in lassoing Miller, when he was managed without further trouble."

Cleaver served one year as the marshal. In 1876, Cleaver moved to Eugene where he sold agricultural implements and machinery. He died Oct. 21, 1888, and is buried in Eugene's Masonic Cemetery.

Linda A. Ellsworth



Upstairs tour nets 500th membership

More than 150 individuals visited the Museum during the Albany Downtown Association's Upstairs Tour and Wine Walk May 7. Museum visitors were able to see restoration work on the 1887 building's second floor and enjoy popcorn tasting. During the event the Museum signed up its 500th membership. Sue Hecht of Scio, above, became a "Friend" of the Museum. She won a copy of the first edition "Remembering When" picture book for her record-setting membership.

Calendar of events

Museum activities for the summer and fall include:

- **Saturday, June 26**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tim Burr! book signing and sale at Museum.
- **Tuesday, July 27**, 7 p.m., historic cemetery tour, Riverside Cemetery, east Seventh Avenue (west of Samaritan Albany General Hospital).
- **Saturday, July 31**, 33rd annual Historic Tour of Homes & Gardens, historic districts.
- **Tuesday, August 10**, 5:30 p.m., honoring Museum Patrons (invitation only) at Museum.
- **Saturday, September 11**, Antiques in the Street; Rhys Miller Car Show featuring Enduring A's, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Museum.
- **Sunday, September 19**, 2 p.m., annual Museum membership meeting featuring Tim Burr! author Edward Loy, at Museum.
- **Sunday, December 12**, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., annual Christmas Parlour Tour, historic districts.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Museum	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Patrons	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Patrons	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> History Enthusiast	\$250

☐ I want to learn more about the Chautauqua Circle and Brenneman Society.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

The Museum is a non-profit
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Albany Regional Museum
136 Lyon St. S., Albany, OR 97321
(541-967-7122)

www.armuseum.com



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Looking Back: Recalling first date

BY JACK GILLESPIE
MUSEUM MEMBER

It was the fall of 1945. The people of Albany joined the rest of the world with a giant sigh of relief as World War II had come to an end.

And I had my first date.

My friend Bob and I finally, after hours of rehearsals, got up the nerve to ask two girls from our 9th grade class at Central School for a date — and both said yes. Bernice would be my date and Barbara would be Bob's.

(Albany, at this time, had a three year high school — 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Ninth graders or freshmen went to Central School.)

We all agreed on attending a high school football game the coming Friday night.

The Albany Bulldogs played their home games at Hudson Field in back of Central School on Ninth Avenue. Black weather-worn covered wooden bleachers (built in 1915) ran east and west on both sides of the field. The larger of the two bleachers, for the home team rooters, was located on the north side of the field. Those rooting for the opponents sat in the smaller south bleachers, a track field wrapped around the football field.

Come "date night" I ran through my downtown Albany Democrat-Herald paper route and then sped home on my Western Auto bicycle to

my home on south Marion Street, where I had supper and spruced up.

I then hopped on my bike and pedaled to Bob's home a few blocks north on Jackson Street. He was ready to go and away we flew down Jackson to the railroad tracks where we lifted our bikes over the tracks and headed for Baker Street to the house where Bernice lived with her grandparents (now a parking lot).

We dropped our bikes on the lawn under the trees and walked up the steps to the porch. We rang the doorbell and Bernice and Barbara answered and invited us in to meet Bernice's grandparents. They were real nice and we chatted a bit and then the four of us began our seven-block walk to the football field.

We were seated for the opening kickoff at 8 p.m. During the game we had popcorn and soft drinks as we rooted with the Bulldog cheerleaders. The game ended about 9:30 and we walked the girls back to Baker Street before the 10 p.m. curfew horn bellowed a warning that all minors should be home or heading for home.

The four of us would go to movies together during the rest of the school year. After the fall school year began at the high school, we never dated again. But we remained good friends over the years and enjoyed "looking back."