

## Weather talk forecast for annual meeting

Awards, year in review, board election and refreshments on agenda

Everybody talks about the weather. But few have the speaking credentials that George H. Taylor does.

He's the state climatologist and a faculty member of Oregon State University's College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Science.

He will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Albany Regional Museum on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., at the Museum, 136 Lyon St. S. His topic will be "Willamette Valley and Albany Weather, History and Future."

Museum administrative coordinator Bill Maddy says he expects "an especially entertaining program, with many anecdotal references to local weather history."

The meeting will include a review of Museum activities by chairman Gerald Brenneman, a financial report by treasurer Michael Kok, presentation of a "volunteer award," election of board members and light refreshments.

Nominations for the board of directors can be made by any member in good standing if the nominating committee, chaired by Michael Kok, is notified a week prior to the annual meeting (September 26). Early notification

is necessary to make sure that the nominee meets qualifications (must hold a paid membership, etc.) and is personally committed to the responsibilities of board membership as determined by the committee.



Albany Regional Museum annual meeting guest speaker, George H. Taylor, Oregon State Climatologist.

A volunteer will be honored with the Museum's third "Gerald Brenneman Volunteer Award." Presented by the Museum's directors, the award recognizes an individual or individuals for outstanding service to the Museum. The evening's speaker manages the Oregon Climate Service, the state repository of weather and climate information, and supervises a staff of 10. Taylor is past president of the American Association of State Climatologists. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and has re-

ceived certification as a Certified Consulting Meteorologist by the Society. He has published over 200 reports, symposium articles and journal essays.

Taylor holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a master's degree in meteorology from the University of Utah. He has been at Oregon State since 1989.

## What is the Weather Doing? by Gary Kingston

It seems like a lot of people are saying that the sun feels hotter than in the past, apart from our discomforting summer temperatures and the now popular notion of global warming. The sun's radiation just feels more intense on the back of the hand, forearm, and forehead. Every time the weather seems different from previous years (in the Willamette Valley that can be an annual speculation) the long term trend of the weather gets kicked around.

If you think the sun temperature is warming you are in agreement with some scientists who say the sun was 75 percent as hot 4 billion years ago. Furthermore, they project that it will continue to warm over the next 4 billion years until all the hydrogen in the sun that generates the heat will have been consumed and the sun will die.

In the realm of plus-or-minus 4 billion years we haven't been doing badly, in fact our present Albany weather has been pretty stable for the past 10,000 years since the ice age glaciers retreated. Some scientists say that the retreat occurred as part of cyclical trends in sun temperature; that is a variation within the overall 4-billion-year trend of getting warmer. During the ice age our weather is said to have been cool and dry, but after the ice retreat there were a lot of things going on that made Albany and the encompassing Willamette Valley a garden spot to attract participants in the western expansion of the United States under the nationalistic "Manifest Destiny" banner. **Continued on Page 4**

Associated most dramatically with weather are the cataclysmic events that stand out from the day-to-day fluctua-

# Chairman's Letter

Since our last newsletter the museum has been very busy with its annual membership drive, providing additional "Chautauqua" programming for the public, finishing up the repair and painting of all of our upstairs windows, and planning for the future.

The really bright spot this year has been our all-time high in visitors, with a really great figure of 825 visitors just in the month of May. Our Chautauqua programs have been well received and attended, with 71 for illusionist Jerry Andrus, and 46 for our brown bag luncheon with Judy Juntunen, author of a recent book on the Kalapuya Indians. We also had 230 persons visit our Oregon Electric O Gaugers Model Railroad exhibit and over 100 visited the Museum and toured the second floor during the "Downtown Upstairs" evening, showing various upstairs areas of downtown Albany.

The downside so far this year is the fact that our membership numbers are not increasing as we would like. While we are holding our own, we would really hope we could double our membership numbers. Our membership dues are among the least expensive of any museum in the state, if not the least. No increase in membership dues have been made in 26 years and are still only \$10.00 for a single member and \$15.00 for a family. When you become a member you are helping us to fund programs and activities for the members and public at large, purchase needed museum supplies, create and print our newsletters, keep the building in good shape and pay wages for our three part-time employees. Without your continuing support we cannot improve our museum each year as we have done since we moved to our present location in 1999. We truly appreciate your help in establishing our fine local museum. Thanks.

*Gerald Brenneman*



Jerry Brenneman and Zed Merrill are holding the statuettes awarded for "Top 10" ratings in the historical documentary category in the "Telly" awards group. The statuettes are for the two Albany history films. The first one was received in 2002 for "Last Day of Innocence," about Albany in WWII. The most recent one in 2006 was for "Albany, Oregon: Memories of an American town." Zed Merrill, producer, grew up in Albany and has produced several other award winning films. Merrill worked with and was aided by the museum in producing the Albany films. Both films were in competition with over 160 competitors, including Time-Warner, The History Channel, Discovery Channel, Disney. The films are available for sale at the museum.

## This issue's trivia question:

**Q: What was the name of Albany's longtime semi-pro baseball team?**

## Your Credit's Good at the Museum

The Albany Regional Museum now accepts Visa/MasterCard for payment of Museum merchandise. Credit card payment is accepted only for total amounts of \$25.00 or more.

Albany Regional Museum members receive a 10% discount on all Museum merchandise.

Remember the Museum gift shop if you are looking for something special for the holidays, a birthday, or other occasion. The Albany Regional Museum Gift Shop includes many Albany history items including the **2007 Albany Historical Calendar** (\$5) and the **Albany, Oregon: Memories of an American Town** video (\$25).

## 2007 Albany Historical Calendar

The 2007 Albany Historical Calendars will be available in September at the Albany Regional Museum. The calendars are a joint project of the Linn Genealogical Society and the Albany Regional Museum. The calendars are only \$5.00 each. Funds raised from the sale of the calendars will be used to help support both organizations. The calendar has been generously sponsored by Albany businesses. Each month of the calendar features a photograph and description of a historic Albany scene. The monthly photographs are provided in a postcard format that can be mailed.

The 2007 Albany Historical Calendar is a great gift for any occasion. Stop by the Museum and purchase a supply of calendars before they are all gone.

# Carol's Corner

By Carol McKay



I'm certainly relieved that our heat wave of July is over. I didn't even want to go into the kitchen, let alone cook anything, when it was so hot.

It is certainly better in the kitchen for the cooks nowadays, anyway.

I was looking through some boxes in my basement the other day and there was a cookbook that came from an Aunt of mine. It is *The Florence Cook Book*, put out by the Central Oil & Gas Stove Co., Gardner, Mass. On the back of the cookbook is a picture of the Florence Oil Cook Stove. It said to send for "Descriptive Booklet of Florence Products and Names of Nearest Dealers." This is a small cookbook, has only 49 pages, was probably published somewhere around 1914 to 1918, so I couldn't send for more information about these stoves that used oil for cooking. In the front of the book there are 11 statements about the stove, the first one being "No trouble to light it - turn a lever and apply a lighted match." And, "2. Burns kerosene with a clean, hot, blue flame." There is a Florence Oven, also, that is described on the inside of the back page and looks like a box with a window. It could be a one- or two-burner size that sat right on the top of the burners, but roasted or baked things rather than fried, boiled or any of the direct heat results.

I thought of using the wonderful world of the Internet, so I tried to learn more about these marvelous stoves online. Unfortunately, I could only find pictures of stoves, posters of stoves for sale, all the collectable paper about such a stove, but when I

asked for the history of this kind of stove I got nothing. I also found an oil stove called New Perfection oil cook stoves and Ovens, suggesting a different way of cooking where there was not any gas available, or the rate's too high. This had a price of \$55.00 in 1924. Anyway, the invention of other than wood heat must have been a great boon to the cook of the household. Yes, wood was plentiful, and once you mastered starting a fire, stoking the fire and damping it to control heat somewhat, the wood stove was great, but it also continued to put out heat. Either there was heat or there was no way to cook. Which made the kitchen of the house almost always hot. And you couldn't cool the wood stove down any way, either, as most stoves were made of cast iron, which held the heat wonderfully.

The cookbook is one that was put out by Royal Baking Powder, which was made from Cream of Tartar, derived from grapes. But the front and back covers are devoted to advertising the Florence Oil Cook Stove. Yes, we must be thankful that we modern cooks don't have to use wood for cooking anymore. Just be glad that we live here in the U.S. I'm sure that around the world wood is still the primary cooking source. Not every country even has electricity. If anybody out there has had experience with this type of oil cooking stove, I would be interested to hear about it. I only have had experience cooking with gas and wood, inside, and kerosene for our camp stove outside.

## Memorial list grows with names

Fourteen individuals have been honored so far this calendar year with memorials to the Albany Regional Museum.

Names of those memorialized are listed in the museum's newsletter and are posted at the museum for a limited time. 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. Last year, a family donated a bench for the museum's lobby in honor of a loved one.

Money gifts are deposited in a memorial account in the museum's general fund. The funds are used for special needs of the museum.

Families, on the death of a loved one, often list the museum as a recipient of memorials in newspaper obituaries.

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.

Memorials listed since the 2006 spring newsletter include those in the names of:

**Malcolm Blohn  
Clifford Bryan  
Carolyn M. Kyle  
Roberta Ludwig  
George Petroccione  
Wayne Stoops  
Katharine Swatzka**



# What is the Weather Doing?

by Gary Kingston Continued from page 1

tions of temperature, precipitation, clouds, wind and sunshine. If there were humans in the Willamette Valley over 10,000 years ago they were likely noticing that tempera-

tures were warming and that it was raining more. They did not know it, but the glaciers were melting and retreating out of the Puget Sound and areas to the east. Near Spokane, WA, the ice age glaciers had created a dam that backed up a huge lake of water to the east (Montana region).

When the dam of ice melted all that water came rushing south-westward with tremendous force. It scoured the volcanic soils of eastern Washington into a slurry mixed with icebergs, carrying gravel and boulders, and all that water and debris tried to exit out the Columbia gorge to the ocean. Most of it did, but the constriction of the gorge topography caused much water and its soil and rock baggage to backup in the Willamette Valley. Water levels reached 350-to-400 feet above sea level. The Albany Airport elevation is 221 feet. This was a flood of impressive proportions and Knox Butte would have provided a ringside seat with its 600-foot-plus elevation. A Willamette Sound, like Puget Sound, existed for a while until discharging of the flood to the sea was complete. It was likely not that simple. The glacial dam did not give up so easily and advanced and retreated repeatedly. Each time there was another flood. There may have been as many as 40 before the glacial cycling ceased. Most important to us late-arrivers to this scene was the deposition of all that debris (soil, gravel, and boulders) from Portland to Eugene. This became the soil base (up to 100 feet deep) upon which Albany settlers grew wheat and fortunes; those soils have given 160 years of support and wealth to Albany.

Albany has had some flooding in recent centuries that covered Water Street, First Street, and flood-plain areas of North and Southwest Albany. The biggest in our historic record was the 1861 flood that measured 36 feet above flood stage. That one wiped out Orleans on our side of the Willamette River from Corvallis (St Marys in those days). It also took out the communities of Santiam City and Syracuse just west of Jefferson. To the north Champoege was washed away. None of these towns were rebuilt. In contrast, our Christmas 1964 flood was nearly 29 feet above flood stage, a 7 foot difference. Over the

years flooding of First Street was curtailed by gradual filling. It was 2 feet higher in 1908 after it was paved for the first time. A high-water reading in excess of 29

feet has been recorded at least 8 times since 1861.

William Hassler, a resident of the Scio/Lebanon area, recorded the local weather from June 1889 until his death on November 2, 1962. His comment on the October 12, 1962 Columbus Day storm was, "*Rainey a Big Wind storm typhoon Frieda*". His daily log was given to the museum by his family. The botanist David Douglas, for whom the Douglas Fir was named, toured the Willamette



Frozen Willamette River at Albany in 1888. Looking east near the present site of the Albany Senior Center.

Valley and further south in 1826. He recorded a storm on October 25 of that year:

*"Last night was one of the most dreadful I ever witnessed. The rain, driven by wind, rendered it impossible for me to keep any fire...every ten or fifteen minutes immense trees falling producing a crash as if the earth were cleaving asunder which with the thunder peal on peal before the echo of the former died away, and the lightning in zigzag and forked flashes. My poor horses were unable to endure the violence of the storm without craving of my protection, which they did by hanging their heads over me and neighing."*

Bill Hassler's journal of local weather makes the point that snow, though scarce in recent years, can be significant. He observed, "*the 1884-1883 winter was a hard one. Snow 3 feet deep with sleet on top...lasted 6 weeks with many barns caving in and livestock dying*".

There is much concern today about the weather. Apparent warming of the planet has posed the possibility of catastrophic impact upon human existence. Some argue that man is the cause; others say it is a natural, cyclical phenomenon. The Museum annual October meeting will feature Oregon State University meteorologist George Taylor speaking on the "Climate History of Albany." He will enlighten us on what is really going on.

# Model T Ford Exhibit Brings Back Memories by Russell Sprague



1915 Model T Ford Speedster with owner John Fruetel

John Fruetel is a friend of mine who restores vehicles, and he agreed to loan one of them, a 1915 Ford Model T "Speedster," to the museum. The car was exhibited in the museum from February 18 through May 20. John was at the museum on February 18 to talk about the car, its restoration, and how he has used it for many enjoyable, and sometimes trying, journeys. Over 50 people were present at the exhibit opening.

The Model T Speedster was not a standard production vehicle. The "Speedster" designation indicated that it had been modified. This was frequently done by Model T owners, and that put them in the class of what today is called a "Hot Rodder". Modifications were

made to the appearance and the performance. Many accessories became available from inventive entrepreneurs to assist those seeking to make their car distinctive from others. One example on this car is the wire wheels to replace wooden-spoke wheels that would work loose in dry weather, causing them to squeak. A cure was to drive into a shallow creek to let the wood spokes soak up water, expand, and become tight again. This was a method used on horse-drawn buggy and wagon wheels.

Starting the car was done with a hand crank located in the front of the radiator. Failure to properly set the "spark" lever on the steering-wheel column could result in a "backfire" and the crank would reverse and generally break the arm of the person cranking. A lot of people were sure happy when the "starter" was installed later on!

Three floor pedals control the clutch, reverse, and brake. It was not uncommon to see new drivers, transitioning from the horse and buggy, pulling back on the steering wheel and shouting "WHOA" in a futile attempt to stop the vehicle.

The engine has 4 cylinders and boasts 20 horsepower. This was sufficient to move the car at 25 miles-per-hour (John's Speedster can go over 40), which Oregon established as the speed limit in 1920. The same Oregon law called for driver's licenses. To qualify, the driver had to be at least 16 years of age, have five days of driving experience, and pay a 25-cent licensing fee.

**Trivia Answer:** The ALCO's, which stands for Albany Linn County Oregon.

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

*Individual \$10* \_\_\_\_\_ *Family \$15* \_\_\_\_\_ *Business \$50* \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**You can become a Patron**  
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**The museum is a non-profit 501 C-3 corporation.**

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Albany, OR 97321  
(541) 967-7122**



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## Looking back: Cannery Worker

by Jack Gillespie

The fire which destroyed the long-closed Inland Quick Freeze building on Water Street this Spring brought back many memories.

In the early 1950s I had worked at the plant on several occasions. I can't recall what it was called in those days but it was a very busy place and, at the peak of the summer harvest season, the plant operated 24 hrs. a day, seven days a wk.

In those years there were plenty of jobs to choose from during the summer months. Among those were working in the fields, a job with the lumber industry, driving a farm truck, etc., or — as many did — seek work at one of the many mid-valley "canneries".

Working at a cannery was my last choice when I was in the position of looking for a job. It was long hours and tedious work, no matter what job you were assigned to. Most canneries were unionized

(loosely), so the pay was pretty good for the era, nearly \$2. an hour for some positions.

One summer I found myself between jobs and, needing funds, I chose to seek a job at the Water Street cannery. I had been told that going to the office and filling out an application was a waste of time. What you did was to go to building's west entrance and stand out on the loading ramp at a shift change and if a foreman needed an extra hand he would come out on the dock and hire one of those waiting.

It worked for me and I was assigned a job on an upright stapling machine. This job consisted of taking flattened cardboard boxes, folding them out and stapling the bottom flaps together to form a useable box. Like most cannery jobs this didn't stress my brain. However, I discovered that the plant was on 12-hour shifts, so when I went to work

I replaced the day stapler and he replaced me 12 hours later. Needless to say this was quite a strain. I don't recall how long I lasted on this job but I do recall how glad I was when it ended.

I worked at the cannery at various times over the next few years until I found a steady job. One night I was fired on the spot for not "being at my post" but I just came back the next day and got rehired as a new employee for a different job.

Many of the Water Street cannery's workers were housewives adding to the family income, and college students earning money for the fall term. Others, like me, just needed a job until something better came along — as it did for me.