

## Timber Carnival gone but not forgotten

Albany's World Championship Timber Carnival, the community's signature Fourth of July celebration for more than 50 years no longer exists.

But thanks to the Albany Regional Museum, the event and the people who made it possible will not be forgotten.

In May the Museum signed a book deal with Meadowlark Publishing Services of Corvallis to create a

permanent record of the Timber Carnival. Planned publication date is July 2010.

Museum member and Albany High School graduate (1959) Edward Loy will be the publication's author.

Thanks to a treasure of scrapbooks, photographs and other records given to the Museum by the carnival's sponsoring organization, the defunct Albany Jaycees, a book will be possible.

Loy will further develop carnival history by interviewing former Jaycees, former participants and others connected with the event. In addition he will be researching the files of local newspapers in search of colorful nuggets of information. The Museum's Robert Potts photo collection also includes documentation of the carnival during its many years of existence.

Museum chairman John Buchner cited several goals for the publishing effort. He said that the Museum wants to preserve the carnival's history. In addition, he said "we want to acknowledge its significance to the community, including its extensive support by local businesses and volunteers, its salute to the timber industry and its ability to attract international competitors."

## 'Meek & Newell' to spin outrageous Oregon yarns

It will be an opportunity to rendezvous with two of Oregon's famous characters in a harmonica-blowing, myth-busting, fun-loving but serious living history program.

And it all takes place Sunday, Sept. 20, 2 p.m. at the annual meeting of the Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. S. The program, part of the Museum's commemoration of Oregon's 150th birthday year, is open to the public and there is no admission charge.

"Joe Meek" and "Doc Newell" will be portrayed by artists Al LePage and Bob Hart. Both LePage and Hart have experience with the National Park Service in presenting living history programs. LePage specializes in one-man shows, all in character, about Pacific Northwest history. Hart is probably better known as director of the Lane County Histori-

cal Society and Museum in Eugene.

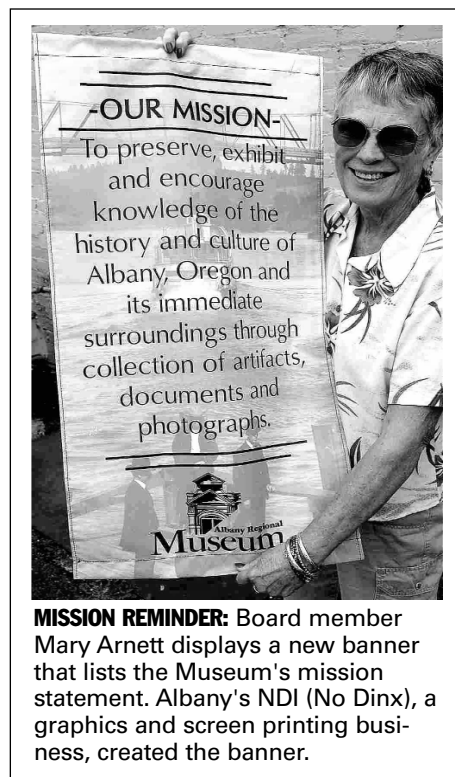
Meek and Newell had a life-long relationship, both personal and professional, first as fellow trappers eventually becoming brother-in-laws through marriage to Nez Perce Indian sisters.

When Newell decided to head west to the Oregon country with his wife and children, Meek joined him, and settled on the Tualatin Plains to farm near Portland.

The September event will include a short business meeting for election of board members and a "state of the museum" report.

□

Patrons of the Museum will be honored this summer at a special reception and program on Tuesday, Aug. 11, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is an invitation-only event. See Page 2 for more info.



**MISSION REMINDER:** Board member Mary Arnett displays a new banner that lists the Museum's mission statement. Albany's NDI (No Dinx), a graphics and screen printing business, created the banner.

## Bulldog Archie Hayes' curveball was nearly unhittable

**BY EDWARD LOY  
MUSEUM MEMBER**

When Archie Hayes first tried out for the Bulldog baseball team in the spring of 1940, coach Dwight Adams saw something special in the raw fifteen-year old. Adams was convinced

he was looking at a future star pitcher.

Growing up on the family farm along the Santiam River and attending a country school had left Archie with little opportunity to play organized sports. Although he had played a little

softball, before his ninth grade year he had never played baseball. Despite his lack of experience the freshman pitcher impressed Adams from the earliest practices with his ability to dominate older, more seasoned batters.

Archie soon became a durable left-handed starting pitcher — always a precious commodity at any level of baseball-with a sneaky fast-ball and good curve. When his curveball was working

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# View from Second & Lyon: Home at last

BY JOHN BUCHNER  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

An oil portrait of the Rev. James Patterson Millar, a prominent leader in the affairs of the United Presbyterian Church and early Albany, is among artifacts recently donated to the Museum.

Millar came to Albany from New York state in 1851. Records indicate that he was influential in uniting the Associate and Associate Reformed churches into the United Presbyterian denomination which currently has a church at 330 Fifth Ave. SW.

Millar also was known for erecting a large octagonal house at the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Walnut streets. His plan was that the building should be



**PAST & PRESENT: Current Albany United Presbyterian pastors Sharon and Glenn Edwards are pictured with the oil painting of the Rev. James Patterson Millar.**

used as a United Presbyterian boarding school for young ladies.

The construction took several years, and it was not until 1854 that Millar and his wife took a steamboat trip to Portland to buy furnishings. Newspaper clippings

indicate that Millar's plans were never carried out because on the return trip to Albany the river boat "Gazelle" was accidentally blown up and Millar was killed.

The house was eventually sold and moved to the southwest corner of Second and

Washington streets. On July 4, 1922, it was destroyed by fire.

Millar's daughter later moved to The Dalles in Wasco County. She wrote a letter in 1911 describing the octagon house as "compact...easy to care for with plenty of room and no great expense to walk over."

The plans for the octagon house were published in a book on domestic architecture authored by the New York firm of Fowler & Wells.

It is reported that Linn County's first courthouse, which was erected in 1853, was modeled from the octagon plan.

Millar's heirs, who were prominent settlers in Wasco County and The Dalles, left many of their family's

artifacts to the mid-Columbia River county. This summer a teacher in The Dalles, working on historical collections there, was trying to find a better home for the Millar portrait. Because of Millar's rich history in Albany, a contact was made with the Albany Visitors Association and the Albany Regional Museum.

A third generation descendent of Millar's, Elizabeth Buehler of Beaverton, who provided the family signature of "giving the gift" to the Albany museum, is described as "thrilled" that her grandfather's 18 inch by 24 inch portrait is now where it belongs—in the town where his influence is well-documented on several fronts.

## Thank you to our patrons of the Museum

Patrons are those individuals who make an extra financial commitment\* to the Albany Regional Museum.

This qualifies them for a special event and recognition.

The 2008 event was a bus trip and lunch to the Mission Mill Museum in Salem. For 2009, patrons will enjoy hors d'oeuvres along with a slide show on historic Albany and a report on the park adjacent to the Museum's building designed by John Boock. The event will take place on August 11 at the Museum.

The 2008 patrons include:

Mary Arnett/Richard Applegate  
Larry & Linda Bardell  
John Birchfield  
Jim & Jan Blodgett  
John Boock  
Jerry & Katie Brenneman  
John & Kitty Buchner  
Jay & Teresa Burcham  
Wayne & Mary Jacq Burck  
Rodger & Joan Butler  
Don & Polli Butzner  
Lorraine Carter  
David & Darlene Chambers  
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Bill & Sharon Daley  
Admiral Vincent de Poix  
Beverly J. Decker  
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Cathy Ingalls  
Hilda M. Jones  
Gary & Treva Kingston  
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Howard & Barbara Kraus  
Greg & Mary Krpalek  
Clayton & Florence Lebow  
Ron & Diane Loney  
Robert Lowry

Don & Mary Martin  
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Roger & Ruth McClurg  
Rick & Mary Lou McCormick  
Betty McCoy  
Bob & Mollie McIntyre  
Carol McKay  
Carrie McKay  
Frank & Linda Morse  
Ralph & Viola Nielsen  
Bonnie Orr  
Zella Mae Packard  
Carolyn Palmer  
Diane Price  
Richard, Liisa & Nathan Reid  
George & Nancy Rowlett Jr.  
Thomas & Evonne Rutherford  
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Doris Scharpf  
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Rosemary Schoblom  
Steve & Kristen Schuttpelz  
Robert Shine  
Joe & Laine Simon  
Brian & Jim Smith  
Don, Tami & Genny Sneddon  
Charles & Joanne South  
Russell L. Sprague  
Sally Steelhammer  
Darrel & Linda Tedisch  
Judie Tibbetts  
Randy Tripp  
Rod & Marty Tripp  
Russell & Duffy Tripp  
Judy Weissert/Rolland Brower  
Roger & Martha Wells  
Charles Leland/Shannon Willard  
Don & Marilyn Wimer

### VEAL HEIRS MAKE MAJOR GIFT

The Museum is the recipient of a major donation of family and business items from the Veal family dating from the 1880s to 1980s. The family owned a furniture manufacturing business in Albany for several generations. The donation includes 14 chairs made by R. Veal & Son, a large box of textiles, a collection of family photographs and 13 boxes of business documents, ledgers, personal documents, family Bibles and miscellaneous objects. The donors are Beth Nelson of Portland and Ann Coddling of The Dalles, granddaughters of Clarence and Marty Veal, operators of the furniture business for many years. Two Museum interns, Kara Bishop and Kate Claussen, have begun processing the donation.

\*\$115 minimum membership

# Rookie travels from Albany to minor leagues

■ Continued from Page 1

for him and his control was sharp, Archie was nearly unbeatable in high school, and he and big right-hander Earl Kennel formed the best tandem of starting pitchers ever for the Bulldogs. They handled most of the starting pitching chores for three seasons when the Bulldogs were widely considered the best high school team in the state.

Archie's high school career was notable enough to lure Rudy Kallio, a scout for the Portland Beavers AAA club, down to Albany in the spring of 1943 for a first-hand look. Kallio liked what he saw in the young southpaw, but the certainty of military service caused the Portland team to back away from signing him. However, following a successful tryout with the Cincinnati Reds organization in October of 1943, Archie signed a contract that was not to take effect until he had fulfilled his military service. After graduation, he stayed a year in Albany and worked for his father under a farm deferment. As anticipated, Archie was drafted into the army in September of 1944 and served for 21 months, much of that time in the Pacific war zone.

He came home after his discharge and played the 1946 season for the Albany Vets team that included several of his old high school teammates. His pitching helped the Vets earn a berth in the state semi-pro tournament, where he threw a no-hit shutout against the powerful Reliable Shoe team of the Portland City League. Archie was back at the top of his game and ready for a shot at professional baseball.

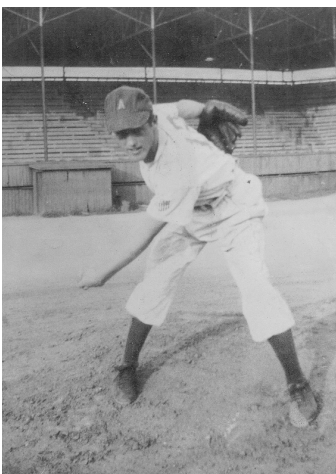
The professional minor league system that Archie entered was — and remains today — a vast, pyramidal hierarchy designed

to take in a broad base of talented young players at the bottom and, through a winnowing and developmental process, send the very best of them from the top to the major leagues. The many rookie and class D teams were at the bottom of the pyramid, a few AAA teams were at the top, and class C through AA teams lay in between. Like all the major league organizations, the Cincinnati Reds had its own "farm" system of minor league teams that fed talent to the parent team. Under the terms of his 1943 contract, Archie was to report after the war to Birmingham, AL, where he would be evaluated and assigned to one of Cincinnati's lower level teams for development. Sometime before Archie reported to Birmingham, however, Cincinnati sold Archie's contract to the Philadelphia Athletics, a detail that meant little to a young man who didn't care very much about the logo on his cap and just wanted to play baseball.

In the early spring of 1947, Archie boarded a plane to Birmingham. His tryout went well, and he was optioned to the Martinsville Virginia A's of the Class C Carolina League. While Archie threw a good fastball and effective curve, his pitching Achilles heel was his occasionally shaky control, and he was soon sent down to class D Lexington of the North Carolina State League. Archie finished 1947 with four wins and eight losses, not a remarkable start, but he believed better

results would come if he could cut down the number of walks.

Archie has vivid memories of his days in those eastern minor leagues. The people there were fiercely loyal to their home teams, and, though many of the towns were small, the games often drew several thousand boisterous fans. Travel to away games was by bus. On the



Albany star Archie Hayes.

bus the players read, talked about baseball and girls, or caught up on sleep. One player used the time to practice on his harmonica. Sometimes, when the team was playing nearly every day, the trips were rides through the night over winding, country

roads to little towns like Landis, Mooresville, Salisbury, and Thomasville. Landis was one of those North Carolina villages where the crowds at the ballpark were often larger than the population of the town. Archie recalls the ballpark at Landis with a wry grin. "There was no grass, and the whole field was a sort of fine gravel, or maybe coarse sand, instead of dirt. It was the worst field anywhere."

A minor leaguer's life was not always easy, but it did have its rewarding and entertaining side. Although the owner of the Lexington team was a notorious tightwad, Archie recalls that he ate well on a five-dollar

weekly allowance for meals: a punch card voucher during home stands and cash for road trips. When a pitcher threw a shutout, he got a free dinner. Same deal when a batter swatted a home run. In those days all the players on the team were expected to be bench jockeys, and heaping colorful verbal abuse on the opposing pitcher was great sport.

The Boston Red Sox acquired his contract, and in the spring of 1948 he reported to San Jose, CA, for reassignment. That was Archie's best year, when he pitched for the class D Oroville Red Sox in the Far West League. He won 14 games, lost four and earned a promotion the next season to the Mississippi Billies in class B Vicksburg. He went 7-10 at Vicksburg, but had a 2.93 earned run average, and his control was improving.

In the late 1940's the rosters of Archie's teams were sprinkled with players in their late 20's and early 30's, men still chasing the dream. For Archie, it was different. After suffering ligament damage in his left elbow in 1949 he knew it was time for him to leave professional baseball. Archie was only 24 when he left Vicksburg.

Back in his hometown, he married his wife, Bonnie, and settled down in the quiet neighborhood where he still lives. Archie worked for the R. Veal & Son furniture factory for 27 years, helping make Flintridge tables and chairs.

Samples of his work are displayed in many Albany homes today.

After he left Veal's he worked for Wah Chang and the U.S. Post Office in Albany.

## THREE JOIN MEMORIALS LIST

The names of Pat Eakin, Patrick Shane O'Neill and Ed Spiruta have been added to the Museum's memorials since the spring newsletter.

## Board election to take place at Museum's annual meeting

One member of the Museum's board of directors is not seeking reelection and three other incumbents are candidates.

Carol McKay will complete 13 years on the board this September, serving 10 of those years as the Museum's first cataloger.

McKay was responsible for having the Museum implement the use of the PastPerfect computer program that is the standard software for museums. That program, with updated versions, continues to be used by the Museum's staff in keeping track of artifacts and more recently, membership records.

Board members seeking re-election

at the September 20th annual meeting include Secretary and Development Committee Chairperson Mary Jacq Burck; Mary Arnett, former volunteers chair and currently involved with membership and events; and Linda A. Ellsworth, chairperson of accessions and involved with the newsletter and publishing committees. Ellsworth also serves as liaison with the Linn Genealogical Society.

Nominating committee chairman Michael Kok said several have indicated an interest in joining the board. The deadline for board nominations is Friday, Sept. 11, eight days prior to the annual meeting.

## Brenneman honored by Linn DAR

Gerald Brenneman, a person committed to the preservation of Albany's history, has been recognized by the Linn Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for his efforts.

Brenneman was presented the chapter's community service award in May by Regent Virginia Koos of Tangent. Brenneman is among founders of the Albany Regional Museum and the only one of the founders who has remained active in its operations for nearly 30 years.

The retired Greater Albany Pub-

lic Schools teacher continues to serve on the Museum's board of directors and its executive committee as well as being vice-chairman. Brenneman is active on numerous Museum committees and is chair of the facilities/building committee.

The DAR award is presented on local, state and national levels to individuals and groups who have contributed to communities in an outstanding voluntary, heroic, civil or benevolent manner, or who have participated in or organized community activities.

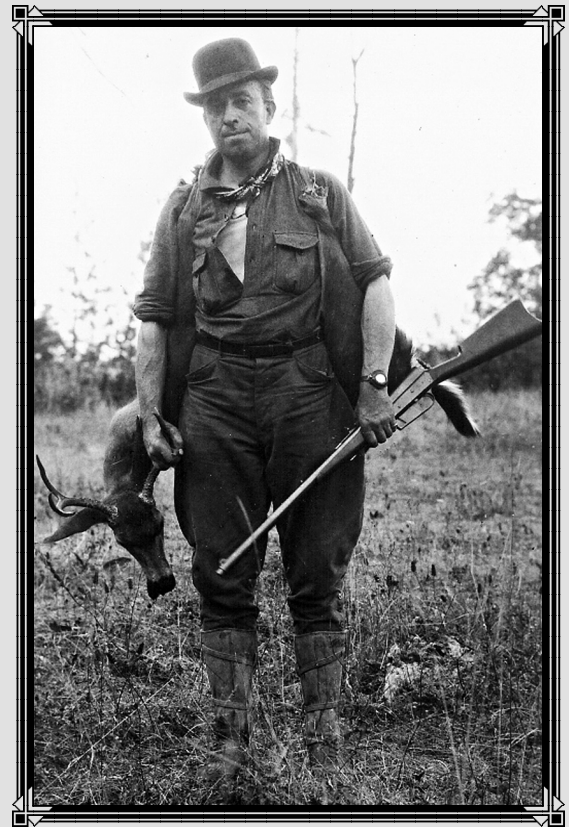
## Thanks to Museum volunteer

Khan Gorlewski has received a certificate of appreciation from the Museum for his transcription of audio tapes of Albany personalities housed in the Tripp Reference Room. The significance of this project is these recordings are now available in text versions, making them readable and searchable. Khan has completed the audio

collection and is currently transcribing videos of local personalities. Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon said the transcription project is just one example of how the Museum uses volunteers. She seeks volunteer help for other kinds of Museum projects. Contact her at the Museum in person or by calling 967-7122.

## Museum purchases flag in honor of Bill Scharpf

An American Flag has been purchased by the Museum for the Albany Downtown Association's Old Glory Project. The flag will have an inscription on its pole of "In remembrance of Bill Scharpf." The flags are to be placed in front of businesses in the downtown district on holidays and during other special events. The program replaces one that was operated for many years by local Boy Scout troops but no longer exists. Scharpf, a World War II veteran, was a major benefactor in providing the Museum a home and an endowment.



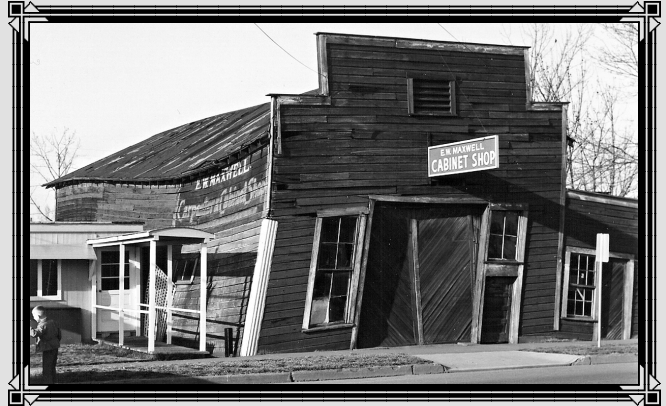
**PERCY YOUNG** was an Albany businessman and banker in the early 1900s. He is pictured here after bagging a deer in 1918. (From the Robert Potts collection)



**ALLISON'S GARAGE** at the corner of First and Washington streets in the 1920s was later the site of Martinak's automotive shop and today is the location of Albany's famous Sybaris bistro. The restaurant, at 422 First Ave. W., is owned by Matthew and Janel Bennett. (From the Robert Potts collection)



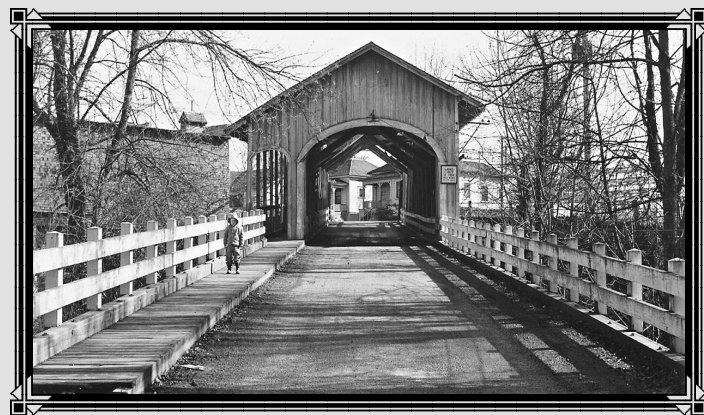
**DON DENSMORE** was the Chevrolet dealer at the northeast corner of the Second and Ellsworth during the 1950s. He built a model railroad at his home on Scenic Drive in North Albany. Here he drives the locomotive and a carload of guests around his property in the fall of 1960. (From the Robert Potts collection)



**E.W. MAXWELL** cabinet shop would never have passed inspection by the today's building codes. This scene is from 1960. The shop was located on the north side of First Avenue near the intersection with Railroad Street. This would put the shop just west of the current Parr Lumber Co, 415 E. First Ave. (From the Robert Potts collection)

# Pictures from the Past

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



**THE COVERED BRIDGE** crossing the Calapooia River at the foot of Third Avenue as one would look up from the entrance to Bryant Park in the 1950s. The bridge is still there, but not covered. The Albany Ice and Cold Storage plant is at the left beyond the bridge. (From the Robert Potts collection)



**HEAVYWEIGHT** boxing champion Jack Dempsey visited Albany in 1943 wearing his U.S. Coast Guard uniform and promoting the sale of war bonds. He had retired from boxing in 1940, but still remained one of the most popular professional athletes of all time. He traveled the country during WWII on behalf of war bond drives. Others identified here include Albany businessmen Ed Savage, Chet Wheeler and Carroll Waller. (From the Robert Potts collection)



**ALBANY HIGH** School students from the 1940s, Marcia Musgrave and Bud Fortier, during a student work party at Swanson swimming pool. Marcia was a 1945 graduate and Fortier's class was 1943. (From the Robert Potts collection)

# Mark Weatherford: Talented and respected

■ One in a series of articles about Albany lawyers

BY JACKSON L. FROST

OREGON CIRCUIT COURT  
SENIOR JUDGE (RETIRED)

During my third year in law school my wife Clara and I had decided that upon my graduation in the spring of 1961, we would make our home in Oregon. Before graduation I made a trip to the Willamette Valley to help us decide where we would work and live.

In preparing for the trip, by pure coincidence, I learned of the man who I believe was and is still remembered as, the most talented and respected Albany trial lawyer. I consulted the alumni files at the University of Michigan Law School and discovered the name of Mark V. Weatherford. I wrote to him from Ann Arbor and Weatherford invited me for an interview at his family offices on First Avenue, where the Weatherford firm is still located today.

I flew from Willow Run near Ann Arbor to Portland, and then came to Albany for my early morning appointment with Weatherford. During a lengthy wait I could hear him as he talked with clients in person or by telephone. Although he tended to be loud and gruff, he was friendly and encouraging to the others and then with me.

During our talk, in keeping with the old joke among lawyers, he encouraged me to practice in another town. What I remember was his grinning and yet encouraging comment that he did not understand why I would want to come all the way to Oregon, since he and other lawyers had already made all the money to be had in Albany. I didn't ask why he came all the way from Oregon to attend law school in Michigan. That was the only time I had a private conversation with Weatherford.

After we had moved to Albany in the summer of 1961, I began to appreciate and respect Weatherford's outstanding reputation as a trial lawyer and community leader. Sadly Weatherford was no longer practicing in the courts by then so I never made an appearance with or against him. But in conversations with other lawyers from all over Oregon, I learned Mark was held in high esteem.

Merle Long, an Albany attorney who died earlier this year, wrote of his experiences with Mark Weatherford. Merle tells how on the day after he was sworn in as a member of the bar, Mark telephoned and asked if he would accompany him to do a trial in Lincoln County. Merle took the offer and attended the day long trial with Weather-



**This 1952 photograph of Weatherford law firm partners include (back row left to right) Harrison Weatherford, J.K. Weatherford and Orval Thompson. Mark Weatherford is front and center.**

ford. The client was found guilty but was given a light sentence. Then Weatherford gave to Merle the full fee earned for that day, \$65, the largest fee Merle received during the first few months of his practice.

Attorney Bill Bodtker told me of his first case against Weatherford. Bill said he knew Mark was an outstanding advocate but Bodtker believed his client was entitled to have the case dismissed as a matter of law. Bodtker said he worked diligently to prepare appropriate papers and also practiced his oral argument out loud alone. On the day of the argument, Bill did his best to be clear, and to touch every point. When he finished his argument, the judge looked to Mark and said, "Mr. Weatherford, is there anything to what this young man has argued?" And Weatherford answered, "No, your Honor." Summarily the judge denied Bodtker's motion.

Bill said he was furious with the judge, and the way in which Weatherford had responded. But much to Bill's surprise Weatherford telephoned later that day and before the conversation was over, the case had been settled in favor of Bill's client. I asked Bill, "Why did Mark do that?" Bill thought and then said, "I think Weatherford was an honorable attorney and after court realized I had made a good case and must have believed my client was entitled to win."

The Weatherford law firm's reputation continued to be enhanced by Mark's leadership. The firm had been founded by Mark's uncle, James K. Weatherford, who was born in Missouri in 1848, drove a team of oxen to Oregon, attended Corvallis College (later

Oregon State University), "read law" with an Albany attorney and was admitted to practice law in 1875. James was joined in his Albany practice by his nephew Mark, after Mark had graduated from Michigan law school.

When I came to Albany in 1961, I was introduced to "J.K." Weatherford. He was a tall, dignified and somewhat quiet man who was the grandson of James who had founded the Weatherford firm in 1875. J.K. attended the University of Oregon Law School in 1926, but a year short of graduation was admitted to practice by the Oregon State Bar. In 1930, J.K. was elected as the Linn County representative to the Oregon Legislature. In 1934 he was elected district attorney for Linn

County and served one term. He also served one term on the Albany School Board and two terms from 1953 to 1962 as a member of the Albany Union High School District Board. His practice of law was primarily devoted to real estate law and general business law.

Another member of the Weatherford firm, Harrison, was the son of Mark Weatherford. Harrison was older than I, but nearer my age. Harrison tended to be quiet, and spoke softly in conversation, unlike his father. However, I found Harrison always prepared but not loud or forceful in his courtroom presentations.

Harrison preferred the rancher's life to that of the lawyer. Unfortunately he died as a result of going off the road in a loaded grain truck while working at the family ranch in eastern Oregon.

I also came to know and appreciate another of Mark Weatherford's partners, Orval Thompson. Thompson was raised near Shedd (about 10 miles south of Albany). He was another thoughtful and usually quiet man. But even while speaking softly, he was heard and listened to because most of what he had to say was valuable to know. Thompson also had experience in political matters (he was a state legislator, counsel to governor and considered as a candidate for governor) and community business (on the board of Oregon Metallurgical Corporation, Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, etc.)

When I became an attorney and then district attorney I sometimes sought Thompson's views and advice when I was in doubt or in quandary. Thompson always listened and either answered or not as he deemed correct.



**PHOTO HISTORIAN VISITS:** Carole Glauber of Portland chats with board member David Fitchett following the July 14 Chautauqua at the Albany Regional Museum. Ms. Glauber presented the work of various early Oregon women photographers to an audience of about 50. This was another in a series of presentations in honor of Oregon's 150th anniversary. The program was partially funded by the Oregon Council for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

## Museum seeks new members

A 10 percent increase in membership numbers is the goal of the 2009 campaign being conducted by the Museum this summer. That would mean that by the end of the year, paid memberships would total 500.

That also would mean that individual involvement in museum activities would be in the neighborhood of 750 counting family, business and patron membership levels.

The goal is ambitious, according to Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon, especially in these economic times. However, dues are the same as originally established nearly 10 years ago.

Dues pay for museum operating costs such as utilities, postage, printing, events and other miscellaneous costs.

The membership campaign runs from June through September even though membership is on a calendar-year basis.

The membership committee includes Brian Faligowski, Karen Carnahan, Mary Arnett and Dr. David Fitchett. They are assisted by staff and board members.

## Cool things are not 'Albany,' (but that's not completely true)

BY MARILYN SMITH

My husband Stan moved to Albany 41 years ago, so he's spent two-thirds of his life here. He knew Albany's blue-collar timber-town reputation when he came here and, a child of Eugene and a professional journalist, retains the perspective of the observer.

When we first started occasionally having lunch at Matt Morse's Wine Depot early in our marriage (we bought our wedding champagne from Matt when he had his wine shop in the garage of what is now The Train House Inn), Stan described the hole-in-the-wall on Ferry Street as "not Albany."

It was that good.

We've been Wine Depot devotees forever. Manhattan Deli salad. Salami on sourdough with champagne honey mustard. The vegetarian sandwich! Seven-layer pea salad on Wednesdays. And don't get between me and one of the gigantic dark chocolate-dipped macaroons.

After Matt and Marcia (both Albany natives) sold Il Capriccio, their stellar Italian restaurant, to Matt and Janel Bennett, who turned it into Sybaris, they came back to The Wine Depot to create a new tradition, we've rarely missed. On the first Friday of each month (sometimes the second Friday if the first one is early, we go there for the modestly-named wine tasting.

The wine tasting offers four Italian entrees and four Italian and/or Oregon wines to sample. Matt has an Italian grandmother, visits Italy often and knows his regional food. He chooses the monthly menu from out-of-print ethnic cookbooks while soaking in the bathtub. He creates magic (oh, that pesto!), served up on bright white pottery plates with crisp white napkins.

We show up as close to 5:30 p.m. as my work schedule allows. I choose the entrees; Stan talks to Matt about the wine. Matt knows what we like. He opens a bottle of whatever and he's never been wrong. We often end up meeting people we've known for years. We see the other regulars and say hello to them when we run into them in other Albany businesses later. We don't know their names. They don't know ours. They know we know good food and where to find it, good music and good company.

Matt calls his event "the best Italian restaurant in Oregon once a month." No argument here. For years, we've each described exceptionally cool things here as "not Albany." Rainbow's End bookstore, Boccherini's Coffee and Tea

House, Sid Stevens Jewelers, the original Footwear Express, the new Pix, The Depot café, the late Albany Hardware and Vince Barrett's Sporting Goods, Café Cristo, Capriccio, Sybaris, Magnolia's-I'd put them all in that category. But when you add up all the places that are too good to be in Albany, they make up what Albany is. They are Albany, Albany is that good, and we are so glad we live here.

(Embellished a little and reprinted with permission from dhone.com)

**Editor's note:** Marilyn Smith used to be a newspaper reporter who has lived in Albany for 29 years. She has spent the last 10 years at Albany City Hall as the city's public information officer, answerer of strange questions, code enforcement administrator, and doer of things that no one else wants to do. She writes a blog for the Democrat-Herald, mostly about helping elderly parents. She and her husband, Stan, a retired photographer for the D-H, live in south Albany with their Queensland heeler, Radler, and cat, Selma.

### MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Major Sponsor	\$250
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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](http://www.armuseum.com)



136 Lyon Street S.  
Albany Oregon 97321  
Open  
Monday through Friday  
Noon to 4 p.m.  
Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Free Admission  
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## Looking Back: Former hangouts

BY JACK GILLESPIE  
MUSEUM MEMBER

In June the "Albany High School Class of 1949" held its 60th reunion. I am a proud alumnus of that class. We graduated in a time where there were no televisions, no computers, no cell phones or other electronic "gadgets".

We had three busy movie theaters on First Avenue, locally owned soda fountains and restaurants, a youth club and more — most in downtown Albany.

How fun it was to be with friends enjoying a soft drink or milkshake while listening to the current top songs on the juke box. (We also had a curfew. When the "Bull Horn" blew at 10 p.m. we were to head for home).

Following is a 1949 list of the restaurants and confectionaries located throughout the town. Pop's Branding Iron remains, the only one still in existence.

China Cafe, 123 E. First Ave.  
Rose Garden Cafe, 115 E. First Ave.  
Cristie's Fine Foods, 225 W. Second Ave.  
Top's Drive Inn, 2530 E. Pacific Blvd.  
Downey's Dinky Diner, Third & Ellsworth  
Stile's Cafe, 333 W. Second Ave.

Depot Cafe, 822 Lyon St.  
Sunnybrook Cafe, 338 W. Second Ave.  
Elite Cafe, 209 W. First Ave.  
Timber Room, Hotel Albany, Second & Lyon  
Grill Cafe, 220 S. Ellsworth St.  
Hamburger Grill, Hwy. 99E  
Helen's Place, 227 W. First Ave.  
Nu Hi Cafe, Pacific at Burkhart  
The Hub, Second & Ellsworth  
Nick's Steak House, N. Hwy. 99E  
Jiffy Way Lunch, 940 Eight Ave.  
Ballard's, 1439 Queen Ave.  
Joe's Diner, 237 E. First Ave.  
The Bulldog, 433 E. Third Ave.  
Lewis and Browns, 129 E. Second Ave.  
Cleo's Confectionary, 125 W. First Ave.  
Owl Lunch, 118 E. Second Ave.  
Cravemore Fountain, 140 W. First Ave.  
Pat's Café, 721 E. Eight Ave.  
Norm's Ice Cream, 130 Ferry St.  
Pop's Restaurant, 1404 E. Eight Ave.  
Linn Creamery, 435 W. Second Ave.  
Pop's No. 3, 331 E. First Ave.  
Reeser's Creamery, 440 E. Fifth Ave.  
Quick Lunch, 119 W. Second Ave.  
Rich Maid Ice Cream, 1035 E. Eighth Ave.