

Museum home gets a facelift

And in the process a couple of surprises are uncovered

BY KIM JACKSON

ALBANY OLD TIMES EDITOR

Jerry Brenneman is an archaeologist at heart. So when he suspected there might be more iron columns under some stucco on the side of

the Albany Regional Museum where the former Magnolia's Music Store once operated, he did the only thing any self-respecting digger would do: he drilled a hole in the wall.

Brenneman, founder of the Museum, had his suspicions confirmed. Inside the wall were two more iron columns that match the one on the Second Avenue side of



Keith Semmel Construction works on removing a decaying awning on the south side of the Museum building in August.

the building.

When Magnolia's — which housed Foley Jewelers before Magnolia's — closed at the end of June, the museum decided to make use of the space for a meeting room,

offices, a public restroom and space for a future elevator. The approximately \$100,000 project is being paid for by an anonymous

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Museum is recipient of family treasure

Gary and Nancy Ferguson, son and daughter of Esther and the late Bob Ferguson and grandchildren of the late D.E. Nebergall family, display a sign from the D.E. Nebergall Meat Co. The sign was among historic memorabilia they recently donated to the Museum. The Nebergall Meat Co. was once one of Albany's major industries. Other items included their mother's wedding dress that was sewn



by their grandmother, wood-working tools from their artist father's gallery and a series of packing

plant framed photographs that traced the firm's development over many years.

Author to speak at annual meeting

Albany author Edward Loy will speak about the development of his book, *Tim Burr!*, at the museum's annual meeting Sunday, Sept. 19.

The event also will include a review of the Museum's year and the election of board members. The program begins at 2 p.m. at the Museum, 136 Lyon St. S.

Loy is the retired Lemons Millworks estimator, secondary educator and Museum volunteer who spent more than a year and 600-plus hours writing and selecting photographs for the book. It was published in June.

Attendees can expect to

Albany woman won 5 Timber Carnival titles

BY EDWARD LOY
MUSEUM MEMBER

Albany's own Shirley Smith was the greatest of the local Timber Carnival champions. Despite the apparent disadvantage of being a

petite woman, she won five Jack and Jill Bucking titles, all with Melvin Lentz—from 1984 to 1989, missing out only in 1986.

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View from Second & Lyon: Legacy gifts

BY JOHN BUCHNER
BOARD CHAIRMAN

Recently you've been reading a lot in the public prints about how the super-rich in America are vowing to share their wealth with charities.

Led by Warren Buffett of Berkshire Hathaway investments (once an investor in our local newspaper by his holdings in Capital Cities and the American Broadcasting Co.) and Bill and Melinda Gates of Microsoft fame, about 40 mega-wealthy people have publicly pledged to give the majority of their riches to charitable causes.

This national effort, according to The Wall Street Journal, comes during the second consecutive year in which philanthropy experienced its deepest decline ever recorded. Buffett was quoted as saying the main goal of the public disclosure is to set an example over the long term for others to get involved in philanthropy.

All of this has caught my attention. One of my big-picture jobs is to help our local nonprofit Museum evolve and sustain its mission. I have a lot of help in the effort from our development committee and from many individual friends who value our institution.

The good news for us is that bequests that will insure the continued life of the Museum do not come from what is often defined as "the wealthy." Instead, most of our support will come from people with modest incomes and resources.

Nationally, according to the National Committee on Planned Giving, 36 percent of bequest donors earn less than \$50,000 annually. Seventy-nine percent have some affiliation or past connection with the beneficiary organization. More than 90 percent of these gifts are simple bequests from retirement plan designations or through living wills.

This year the Museum has been the recipient of four gifts that illustrate the kind of support that an organization like ours needs and encourages. One was a cash contribution that was specifically designated for the maintenance of our 1887 building. Because of that gift we will be able to paint the exterior and heat and cool our second floor which will help preserve our community artifacts. The second gift comes from an endowment that will provide the Museum about \$1,200 annually for its operation. The third gift was stock that will be sold and the resulting

revenue added to operations. The fourth was a notification that a member couple had included the Museum in their will which will result in a significant cash gift at sometime in the future. These gifts are in addition to modest annual membership support that all four maintain.

I believe these particular donors are focused on the impact and outcomes of their gifts. These gifts match their lifetime values and they are confident that the board of directors will use these gifts well.

Last year the Museum's development committee wrote guidelines on how undesignated gifts would be managed. Specifically, the rules state that undesignated gifts of \$5,000 or less will go to the current operating budget. Gifts over \$5,000, but under \$10,000 will be split 50/50 between the operating budget and the Museum's endowment. Gifts over \$10,000 will go to the endowment where only earnings are returned twice a year by the Oregon Community Foundation, which manages the account. Of course any designated gifts will be used as the donor requests.

Kevin Johnson, a nonprofit consultant, has written in his book, *The Power of Legacy*

and Planned Gifts, that "events in the lives of donors are a primary driver when it comes to making estate and financial planning decisions." What he means by the word "drivers" is that it is the experiences of donors that spur a decision to make or complete an estate plan. Each time someone starts to work on or revisits their estate plans, an opportunity exists to include a nonprofit such as the Museum.

The fact that the Museum's endowment is managed by the Oregon Community Foundation is further assurance to all donors that funds will be wisely managed and cared for over the long haul. OCF is the tax-exempt organization that manages more than 1,700 charitable funds in Oregon with more than \$900 million in assets. Total annual investment return for the past 10 years is 4.6 percent.

I'm hopeful that this kind of information will help our members and other community friends examine the reasons why the Museum would be a responsible recipient of a legacy gift.

We can begin that conversation with a simple question: Have you ever considered including the Museum in your will?

Thank you to the 2009-10 patrons of the Museum

Each year the Museum recognizes its major donors.

There are four levels of gifting.

Patrons are individuals or couples that contribute \$115 or more annually to be members of the Albany Regional Museum.

*History Enthusiasts are individuals or couples that contribute \$250 annually.

**Chautauqua Circle recognition is for accumulative gifting. These individuals or businesses have given cash gifts totaling between \$1,000 and \$9,999.

The ***Brenneman Society, named for Museum founder Gerald Brenneman and his late wife, Katie, recognizes individuals or businesses that have exceeded lifetime gifts of \$10,000.

Patrons for the 2009-2010 year include:

Mary Arnett/Richard Applegate
Larry & Linda Bardell
Jim & Jan Blodgett
John Boock Jr.**
Gerald Brenneman**
John & Kathleen Buchner*, **
Jay & Teresa Burcham *
Wayne & Mary Jacq Burck**
David Bussard
Rodger Butler
Don & Polli Butzner
Lorraine Carter*
Marcia Coats
Bill & Irene Coburn**
Michael & Cheryl Cowgill *, **
Tom & Betsy Custforth
Bill & Sharon Daley*
Beverly Decker
Jim & Val Decker**

Adm. Vincent de Poix
Bun & Janet Doerfler**
Charlie Eads
Pat & Elaine Eastman
Linda A. Ellsworth**
Dayt Elston**
Michael & Gail Emmons
Evelyn Farley
David Fitchett/Marilyn Kirsch
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Gary & Beverly Holiday
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Greg & Mary Krpalek
Clayton & Florence Lebow**
Ron & Diane Loney*, **
Bill & Maureen Looney
Robert Lowry**
Bill & Debbie Maddy
Don & Mary Martin
Mike & Kathy Martin **
Richard May
Rick & Mary Lou McCormick
Betty McCoy**
Carol McKay**
Carrie McKay **
Molly Mikesell
Commissioner Linda Modrell

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Patrons renew acquaintances in main exhibit area of Museum.

Summer social honors patrons

And 'a few of our favorite things'

Patrons were honored at a summer social that featured hors d'oeuvres and a program about the Museum's hidden treasures of Albany items and documents.

More than 80 individuals gathered at the Museum on August 10 to enjoy food catered by Allann Bros. Coffee Co.

A program followed showcasing a treasure trove of trinkets and true stories about Albany family histories from the Museum's collection.

Speakers included Museum founder Gerald Breneman talking about his blue suede shoes, Bill Scharpf's purple heart from World War II and Spec Martin. Mary Krpalek talked about the Fisher Funeral Home family, and John Boock on the Ku Klux Klan in Albany.

Other presenters included Julie and Randy Tripp on the Tripp real estate family, Tom Cutsforth on the Nissen family automobile dealership, and John Buchner about the W.L. and Minnie Jackson family, owners of the local newspaper from 1919 to 1980.

Mistress of ceremonies was Mary Jenks Burck, chairperson of the Museum's development committee and secretary of the board of directors.

The event was a project of Burck, Kris Schuttpelz and the Museum's staff of Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon, Peggy Kowal and Jennifer Jameson.

Thank you patrons

■ Continued from Page 2

- Sen. Frank & Linda Morse
- Ralph & Viola Nielsen
- Bill O'Bryan
- Bonnie Orr
- Zella Mae Packard**
- Carolyn Palmer
- Diane Price
- Don Reeser
- Richard & Jeannette Reid
- Richard, Liisa & Nathan Reid*, **
- George & Nancy Rowlett
- Thomas & Evonne Rutherford**
- Lee & Evelyn Ruthruff
- Claus & Kim Sass*, **
- Ralph & Linda Scariano**
- Doris Scharpf***
- John & Bea Schlegel
- Rosemary Schoblom**
- Steve & Kristen Schuttpelz**
- Joe & Laine Simon*, **
- Stanford & Marilyn Smith**
- Jim & Brian Smith **
- Charles & Joanne South**
- Sally Steelhammer**
- Dean Stavros
- Darrel & Linda Tedisch*, **
- Beatrice Thompson**
- Pat Thompson
- Skip Throop/Nancy Dunn
- Randy Tripp**
- Rod & Marty Tripp ***
- Russ & Duffy Tripp**, **
- Karl Warner
- Judy Weissert/Roland Brower
- Martha & Roger Wells *, **
- Charles Leland/Shannon Leland-Willard**
- Don & Marilyn Wimer**
- Bob & Vickie Woods



Table of patrons include (left to right) Zella Mae Packard, Bob Lowry, Lois and Tom Holman, Doris Scharpf, John and Bea Schlegel and Carol McKay (back to camera).



Board member Joe Simon (left) selects hors d'oeuvres followed by Sen. Frank and Linda Morse, Wayne and Mary Burck and Tom Cutsforth.

Smith was greatest of Albany champions

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She still lives in Albany, and, as she prepares to go on her annual bow hunting trip in the eastern Cascades, she appears as slender and fit as in her competitive days.

Shirley was born into a world of axes, saws, and trees. Her parents, Clarence and Dorothy Bildeaux, worked side by side in the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota — the woods of the legendary Paul Bunyan — from the Great Depression until the late 1960s. Clarence was the timber faller and Dorothy was the buckner who sawed the trees into logs.

□
*There were many stories and pictures that didn't make the Museum's book, **Tim Burr!**, the illustrated history of the World Championship Albany Timber Carnival that ended its 60-year run in 2000. This is one of them.*

□
 Life was not easy for a lumberjack family in those days. Logging meant frequent moves as the Bildeaux clan followed the timber companies in their quest for more trees to cut. In the warmth of summer, the family stayed in a tent, but the freezing temperatures of



Shirley Smith and Melvin Lentz at 1987 sawing event

upper Midwest winters drove them to the shelter of a company-owned log cabin. The "shacks" as the cabins were known to logging families, were built on skids so that they could be drawn by horses to the next camp. Shirley spent her childhood brushing off the wood chips and sawdust of one logging camp while packing to move to the next.

Consequently, she received her early education in a series of small, rural schools. Shirley recalls that when she started school, her first grade class in the tiny community of Lutsen, Min-

nesota, "had three students, until one dropped out." When she was ready to begin high school, she chose to move to Grand Marais, Minnesota, to live with the family of a friend because her parents were living in a remote logging camp with no secondary school.

As she grew up, Shirley learned to use the implements of the logger. By the time she was eight years old she was helping her parents by sawing and splitting firewood. Many years later, her brother Tom, a lumberjack like their father, saw a competitive toughness in her and

encouraged her to enter bucking contests in Minnesota.

Melvin Lentz, the future "King of Logger Sports," was by that time competing in Midwest shows and was impressed by her obvious ability with a saw. In early 1982, when Shirley's husband Ron took a job with Albany Iron Works and the family moved west, Lentz called Shirley and suggested they team up in the Jack and Jill event in some of the West Coast shows.

Shirley immediately accepted the opportunity. Tandem bucking at the highest level is not learned overnight, and they often practiced at the Lentz family home in Creswell. Mervin Lentz, Melvin's usually taciturn father — himself a champion sawyer — sometimes sat in on their practice sessions and occasionally offered his advice as they refined their technique. They clicked as a team, and two years later they proudly stepped into the winner's circle at Timber-Linn Memorial Park.

Shirley has many good memories of the years she spent competing all over the United States and as far away as Australia. She says she values her experience because "it made me believe in myself."



Tim Burr! autograph signing party draws friends

Nearly 200 attended the autograph party for the Museum's new book on the World Championship Albany Timber Carnival June 26. Author Edward Loy (left) signed copies and

greeted guests. Book purchasers (middle) line up for autographs. Albany artist Peg Bridgeman (right) works on painting of Tim Burr during Museum party.

Museum remembers Russell Sprague, 91

Retired Museum vice-chairman Russell Sprague died June 20 at his Riverside community home west of Albany. A memorial service was held July 20 at Twin Oaks Memorial Gardens.

Sprague, 90, served 17 years as a director of the Albany Regional Museum, and nine years as vice-chairman, retiring in 2004.

Sprague was born in Illinois along with a twin brother to Leigh T. and Bertha Houston Sprague. His parents died by the time he was a junior in high school. Before his senior year he got on a bus and headed for Oregon. He graduated from Albany High School in 1938 and joined the Oregon National Guard while still in high school. In 1941 he transferred to the Army Air Corps because of his interest in aviation. Sprague had earned a pilot's license at age 16, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1943. He began flying helicopters as a test pilot in 1945.

He married Aldine Myrick in 1944 in Albany. They lived overseas during the early years of their marriage including stops in France, Germany, the Arctic and numerous stateside bases. They had two children, Pamela Sprague of Alaska, and a son, Gary, who died in 1984. Aldine died in 2004.

The Spragues owned Fortmiller Funeral Home in Albany from 1945 to 1948. They sold the funeral home and moved to California where Russ returned to military service until 1962, mainly in the area of air rescue.

Sprague worked for the city of San Jose, CA, before returning to Albany in 1984. Sprague became an active volunteer for the Riverside Community Hall, the Masonic Lodge, the Albany Regional Museum and high school and military reunion organizations.

Survivors include daughter Pamela, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Katie Brenneman had important museum role

Kathryn "Katie" Brenneman, 78, wife of Museum founder and director Gerald "Jerry" Brenneman, died March 31, 2010.

While never serving the Museum as an officer, Katie was involved in the Museum in almost every way imaginable as her husband's helpmate-volunteering on committees, assisting with special events, serving as a greeter, baking cookies, encouraging Jerry's dedication to the Museum and attending activities for more than 30 years.

A graduate of Goshen College, her career in nursing covered more than 35 years, mostly in Albany. She retired in 1989 as a nurse for William Endicott, MD.

Survivors include husband Jerry, daughter Ann Marie and sons Douglas and Daniel, and three granddaughters. A memorial service was held at the Albany Mennonite Church, April 5, 2010.

Visitors often have special stories to tell

People share memories of Camp Adair, family and violins

BY TAMI SNEDDON

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

One never knows for sure who is going to walk through the doors at the Albany Regional Museum.

In 2009, of our 4,800 visitors, 31 came from 15 foreign countries, plus 180 from thirty-two states. Many of these visitors have a connection to the area and a story to share and others are just interested in visiting a museum.

Everyone that walks through the door is special including Jeff Protherore from Hoquiam, WA. Protherore and his family stopped by the Museum to share memories of his time at Camp Adair where he was a trumpet player in the 91st Infantry Division Band.

He brought photos taken at Camp Adair. He was proud that his grandson still plays the

same trumpet that he had used in World War II.

James Richards of California was pleased when we found his grandfather Hiram Richards listed in the 1911-12 Albany City Directory. Hiram was identified as a "violin maker." It was gratifying that we also were able to show him a violin we had recently acquired that had an interior label stating it was reconstructed by H.E. Richards in 1917.

The violin had belonged to Daisy (Burkhart) Ashton.

We received a kind note from Janet Annal, a Monteith descendant, that stopped by in June. In August we had a wonderful visit with Don and Clare Haley of Bend. Don is a retired Albany postmaster. He had great memories to share about his life in Albany.

The purpose of a museum is to educate. It is a good feeling when you know you have helped visitors to learn the history of the area, or make a connection and find information about their families; but better yet, there are many days that our visitors can also educate us.

Come visit us soon, let's share some stories.



Protherore in 1943

Memorial roll adds four

Four names were added to the Museum's memorial roll since the spring newsletter.

They include Vira Lemons, Jack McGuire, Russell Sprague and George Koos.

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorial gifts that

honor a family member or friend.

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

RETAIL COUNTER ADDS BOOK, VIDEO

Besides the Museum's new book, Tim Burr! (\$24), the retail counter has two other new offerings.

Albany native Zed Merrill has authored another World War II book, "Invisible are the Brave: What they forgot to tell us, or just plain didn't want us to know," (\$20).

George Andrus has a video titled "Dancing Rainbows," (\$20).

Renovation project uncovers columns

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gift dedicated for building maintenance.

Albany contractor Keith Semmel was hired to tear off the stucco and old awning. He then had the walls replastered and will put in new glass and wood window trim to match the Museum.

Other parts of the project include painting of the second floor interior, already done by Dan Miller Painting, and the exterior painting, which will be done by Fitzpatrick Painting in September.

Tami Sneddon, administrative coordinator for the Museum, said \$5,000 in matching CARA money has been secured for new awnings, and a \$9,000 grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission will be used toward a heating and air conditioning system for the second floor.

Brenneman said he often wondered why former owners of the building had left one ironworks column and removed five others. Then, about six months ago he noticed that the one remaining column was about six inches closer to the building than where other columns were supposedly removed during an early renovation.

"I immediately wondered if perhaps they did not remove the other five iron works but just built a wall



The finished column, left, with 'Minerva' face and one of two recently exposed columns on the south side of the Museum.

around them when they modernized the building," Brenneman said.

To test his theory, he told members of the museum board he wanted to knock a couple of holes in the wall to see if they might be there.



"After the meeting, Barry Price, a former board member, and myself went outside and drilled a couple of holes," Brenneman said. Because of the hard stucco surface, they couldn't drill holes big enough to see much. A

probe with a screwdriver failed to hit anything, leaving the theory just that.

But Brenneman wasn't finished. He went back a few days later with a hammer and chisel and expanded the hole.

"I peeked in and saw this round knob and thought, 'Oh boy, we struck gold.'" he said.

Semmel's work uncovered another surprise: the tops of



Jerry Brenneman takes a peek inside first test hole.

the columns are made of intricately carved wood. Brenneman said he didn't notice the woodwork on the one exposed column when he painted it because that part of the column didn't need painting at the time.

Much of the woodwork was cut away in another renovation, but Brenneman said a local woodworker, Paul Davis, will attempt to recreate as much as he can.

Brenneman said the faces — which are called 'Minerva,' named after the Roman goddess — will be replicated on each of the newly exposed columns.

Albany author Ed Loy to speak at annual meeting Sept. 19

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see pictures, hear stories and other personal observations that weren't included in the book. Loy says one of the difficult aspects of producing the book was deciding what to include and what to leave out. "There just wasn't enough space for everything," he recalls. Loy also will entertain questions from the audience.

Members in attendance also will vote to fill four positions on the nonprofit's 12-person volunteer board of directors. The terms are for three years.

Two current members, John Boock Jr. and Shannon Leland-Willard are not

seeking re-election. Founder Jerry Brenneman is seeking re-election as well as Treasurer Michael Kok.

Candidates for the vacancies include Michael Martin and Darrel Tedisch. Martin is the owner of Security Alarm Corporation and former chairman of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce and president of various community service organizations. Tedisch is a history buff and retired Albany Fire Chief. Both are long-time members of the Museum.

All the candidates declared their intentions to run prior to the deadline for nominations, Sept. 10, eight days prior to the annual meeting. While Leland-

Willard is not seeking re-election to the board, she will continue as the Museum's bookkeeper. In that role she will continue to attend board meetings, but not as a voting member. She also continues as a member of the finance and events committees.

In October the board will re-organize and elect officers.

Chairman John Buchner will give a presentation on Museum activities for the year.

Leland-Willard will report on the Museum financial status. Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon will present volunteer awards.

Light refreshments will be served.



Cemetery tour draws community interest

A July tour of historic grave markers at the Riverside Cemetery sponsored by the Museum attracted nearly 150 people. Carri Boddy, above, Albany Regional Museum's summer intern,

organized the event. Above right, volunteers, including board member David Fitchett at right, narrated stories about Albany notables at a dozen different gravesites.

Summer project Inventory taken of Museum's reference room collection

LINDA A. ELLSWORTH
MUSEUM MEMBER

Remember the first assignment of the new school year? Write an essay on "What did you do during summer vacation?"

As a retired school librarian, I decided to inventory the collection in the Rod and Marty Tripp Reference Room at the Museum.

With help from South Albany sophomore Aline Salisbury, West Albany senior Sofyan Saputra and intern Kate Claussen, the project took about a month, working two to three days each week. Books were moved, re-shelved, and straightened up.

The collection had added about 60 books from when inventory was taken in 2004.

Some titles were missing, such as two copies of Camp Adair and volume one of Sweet Home's Good Old Days.

Upon entering the reference room, as one looks to the left (south wall), you will see a small number of books on the history of local churches, city directories, how-to volumes on museum preservation, the Daughters of the American Revolution Patriot Index, telephone books, individual biographies and family histories. Yearbooks from the Albany high

schools, Albany College and Oregon State University complete the shelves.

Looking straight ahead (west wall) one will see a set of encyclopedias reflecting the state of knowledge in 1900; 50 years or more of American Heritage magazines with indexes and atlases.

In addition, there are books on Native Americans, United States history, Oregon Trail, the Pacific Northwest, Linn County and Albany.

Looking right (north wall) are books on World War II, Camp Adair, general history, large-sized picture books and almost 100 years of the Oregon Historical Quarterly with indexes. Completing the shelves are videos containing interviews with Albany old-timers, Sanborne fire maps and bound volumes of the weekly Greater Oregon newspaper.

The bulk of the reference room collection has been entered into the Museum's computer program (Past Perfect), but the inventory turned up a number of needed additions.

This is the value of doing an inventory. It tells you what you have and reminds you of what may need to be added.

This was my summer project. What was yours?

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
501 C-3 corporation.

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(541-967-7122)

www.armuseum.com



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Looking Back: A trip into town

BY JACK GILLESPIE
 MUSEUM MEMBER

In my pre-school days during the early 1930s, a trip to town was a big deal.

My dad and his partner were often on the road those days buying livestock that they could resell for a profit, leaving my sister, Lois, and me and my mother at home. If a nice day happened along the way, mother would all at once tell me "let's go to town, I need some things."

We would spruce up a bit and walk a block to Broadway Street which was then the boundary of the city limits. The family lived on Lincoln Street in the Hazelwood Addition of Rural Route No. 4.

On Broadway, we walked north to Ninth Avenue where we turned east and continued to Washington Street and then north to the southeast corner of First Avenue and Washington Street. The entire walk was about a mile or so.

On the corner, my mother often would meet an acquaintance and a lot of chatting took place. I would stand on the corner and look southwest across First Avenue and see a boarded up old building which reminded me of a giant white box left out in the weather.

That building was what was left of the St. Charles Hotel--once the pride of Albany. Before the arrival of the automobile, salesmen

traveled mostly by train and the St. Charles was the place they stayed while making their local business calls.

The second thing I remember, while standing on the corner, was a middle-aged, stern looking lady on a three-wheel bicycle speeding around the corner on Washington Street onto First Avenue (then a two-way street). She would be staring straight ahead and getting into the middle of the street pedaling between the old and unused trolley rails. The rails were barely visible under the paved road. She soon would disappear into the traffic.

The third and last thing I remember is my mother lifting me up to get a drink out of the bubbling water fountain at the southwest corner of Broadalbin Street and First Avenue, in front of the First National Bank building (now Wells Fargo). The popular fountain had cold water spouting out of a dozen projecting spouts ready to drink. (The fountain is no longer in existence, disappearing sometime in the 1950s. Today, in its place, is a yellow-orange fire hydrant.)

Those memories of a deserted and spooky hotel, a three-wheeled bicyclist and a magic water fountain were enchanting. Adding to the fun for a four-year-old was getting to ride home (most of way) on the city's Red Bus.