

A warm Museum welcome



Tami Sneddon and Steve Thomas escort fellow Museum member Virginia Koos into the Spring Membership Tea, held March 16 in the Community Room of the Albany Regional Museum. (For more photos, story, see Page 7).

Patrons to tour Camp Adair

A movie, lunch, and tour of the Camp Adair area are on the docket for Saturday, August 4. Patron level and above Museum members will be sent invitations and are advised to RSVP as soon as they receive them, says Mary Jacq Burck, tour coordinator.

The day begins at the Museum at 11 am, where participants will watch the video "Camp Adair: The Story of a World War II Cantonment," by John Baker. Lunch will be provided.

After lunch, two buses will journey to Camp Adair. Burck will play recorded music from the World War II era on one bus while Baker will speak about the history of Camp Adair on the other. On the way back, Baker will switch buses so that everyone will experience both presentations.

At Adair, patrons will see the old Camp Adair area and the Memorial Garden. Buses will return mid-afternoon to the Museum.

■ *More on Camp Adair, Page 3*

Oregon Electric Railway comes to Albany

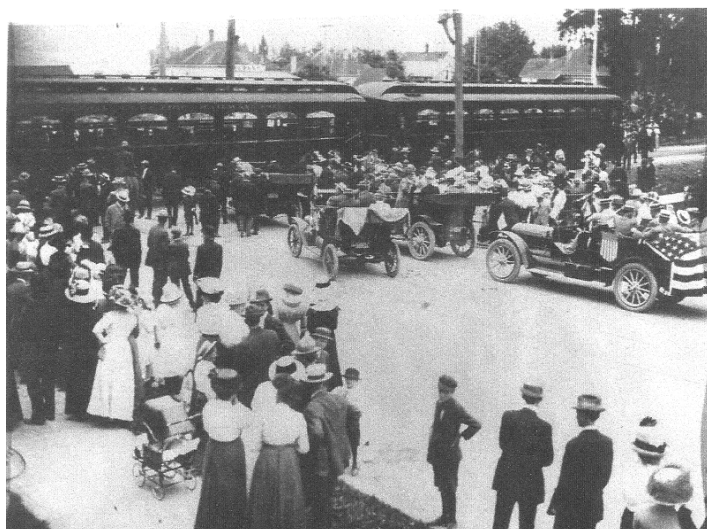
BY ED LOY
MUSEUM MEMBER

A cheering crowd, a glorious parade, colorful bunting, brass bands, and flags waving from store fronts, porch railings, and balconies all over town. It was July 4, 1912, and Albany was throwing a party, not only in recognition of Independence Day, but to celebrate the arrival of a railroad. And not just another railroad with steam engines; this was the long-awaited Oregon Electric.

How did it happen that Albany was about to become a regular stop on an electric railway? The seed that sprouted into the excitement of 1912 had been planted nearly twenty years earlier when electric trains began

running between Portland and nearby towns. The smooth riding, quiet, inexpensive trains were very popular and brought outlying areas within easy reach of Portland.

The push to build short lines was only the initial phase of development, however, and a route from Portland to Salem and, possibly, Eugene was the ultimate goal of the people running the electrics. By 1908, the Oregon Electric line had reached Salem, and trains were making the run in an hour and 45 minutes, the fastest means by far of traveling to and from the state capital.



ARM ARCHIVE PHOTO

Arrival of the first train from Portland on the newly completed Oregon Electric Railway at Fifth Avenue and Lyon Street on July 4, 1912.

Continued on Page 4

View from Second & Lyon: Change

BY LARRY BARDELL
BOARD CHAIRMAN

Change. Who, with any semblance of mental faculty, would even attempt to write on the subject? It seems incomprehensible. But, we at ARM, have taken on some other pretty incomprehensible tasks lately, so why not give it a try?

What is the relationship between change, so ever-moving, transforming, unpredictable, and dynamic, and an institution, such as a museum, where stasis is the rule of the day, where events are frozen in time, where a purposeful effort is made to prevent change, to preserve and protect artifacts, stories, and events? Can museums continue to have purpose, or even exist in an era when social, economic, and political changes are occurring at an ever-increasing rate of challenge to sustainability?

Nothing is impervious to

change. Under its influence, a fragile leaf will fall and decay, and a mountain will unexpectedly crumble and become the rubble that layers the plain. Nothing, no matter how delicate or formidable, can escape its effect.



Larry Bardell

Webster defines change as: "to make or become a different substance entirely; to transform; to move; to exchange something for another." It is not the intent of ARM to become something "entirely different," but we do need to consider our relationship with change as we

strive to remain relevant to our mission and to our community.

Museums are, in a sense, the custodians of change in that they keep record of the effects of change over time. To be the custodian does not entail immunity from its effects, however. It is in this respect that ARM has had to face some pretty incompre-

hensible challenges during the past several months. It was change that contributed to the loss of the tenant of the adjacent music store, and the challenge of what to do with the sudden acquisition of extra floor space. So, we created a new hallway that leads to what is now our new Community Room. One of the effects of change is deterioration, which was the case with our 125-year-old leaky roof.

So, we put down new layers of protective covering to keep out the rain. Change prompted the need for a new administrative coordinator, so we hired Kaley Sauer. Now, change is posing the need for a new staff person to be our cataloger/collection specialist. So, we are in the process of making a selection.

Change has been instrumental in the acquisition of the valuable art collection donated by Gary and Nancy Ferguson to honor their artist father, Robert Ferguson. Sometimes changes that happened in the distant past

can make their effects known in the present. Such is the case in a recent offer for an exhibit of the Albany Iron Works, the manufacturer of the black steel pillars that support the second floor of the Museum. Change is generating the redesign of our main entrance area as a precursor to additional exhibit enhancements to come in the months ahead. The list goes on, and so does change.

So, what is the relationship of ARM to the rapid pace and ever-present influence of change? We are to be the custodian/partner of change by keeping pace with events and situations as they occur within the Museum, and by preserving those events, stories, artifacts, and citizen accounts that are even now taking place outside the Museum. These elements are part of the ever-evolving history of Albany and the surrounding region, even though the challenges of change, can at times, make those tasks seem incomprehensible.

From the director's desk: A long-term vision

BY KALEY SAUER

Four months after accepting the honor to work with Albany Regional Museum, ARM, its dedicated constituents and volunteers, distinguished staff and Board, I find myself surrounded by the necessary motivation and energy to accompany my clear and sizeable vision for a museum and organization whose heart and hard work has seen it become a predominant figure in the preservation, display, and education of Albany's cultural stories and history.

I see an organization that's ever evolving, and looking to answer the question: How can we, ARM, best serve our community of – and around – Albany?

My long-term vision is that ARM becomes an example of best practices in the museum field and as a cultural partner in the community across generations. This will be accomplished in part by diverse programming, enhanced and updated exhibits, more interactivity, and a greater breadth of exhibit topics as well as a wider representation of local cultural histories that extend through to

include contemporary issues of interest and import.

In July of this year, ARM will usher in the installation of a brand new entryway that will change the shape and look of the foyer as well as provide direction to the visitor experience. Through fundraising and grant efforts, multiple subsequent phases will eventually change the look of our entire exhibition space. This major overhaul will provide us the opportunity to better serve the community with more user-friendly access to updated exhibits, and to make way for new contemporary topics.

We are currently undertaking major vision planning, and will soon launch a capital campaign to help fund our exhibit project, helping us strengthen the implementation of our commitment to our mission and to those we serve with that mission.

Be sure to check out the E & E Calendar on Page 10 to see what Events and Exhibits you can expect to see during the 2012 summer, and be sure to be on the lookout in your mail for special event reminders. Keep an eye out too for new fall events that will celebrate the 100th year anniversary

of women's right to vote in the state of Oregon, as well as annual events like the favorite, Rhys Miller Classic. For up-to-date information, follow our website, Facebook, and look for the fall edition of the newsletter.

Help us better serve you, and stay aware of the latest news! Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/albanyregionalmuseum and "Like" us, post on our wall, message us, or email me with your comments or suggestions for ARM, or just say hello!

What topics, programs, or exhibits would you like to see at ARM? Email me at armuseum@peak.org with the subject line "COMMENT," post on our Facebook wall, or write me at 136 Lyon St. S. Albany, OR 97321.

We have got a lot of work ahead of us, but with our talented staff and volunteers – and help from Museum members like you – this won't just be a great challenge, but our greatest opportunity. I look forward to seeing you down at the Museum; and as always, free admission.

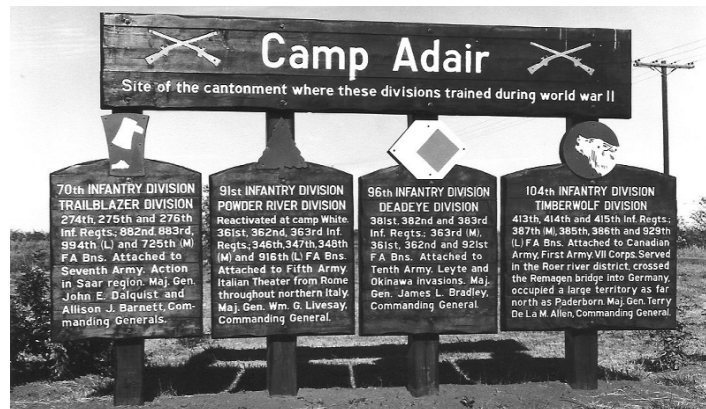
Camp Adair's impact is deep and lasting

BY JENNIFER OVERHOLSER
MUSEUM INTERN

In 1941, the Willamette Valley was on the verge of change. The local economy was still affected by the Great Depression. War was advancing abroad. The United States' allies were threatened, and involvement in the war was becoming inevitable. Need for military training camps was increasing, and locations were being scouted on the West Coast.

A rural section of farmland, and small communities along Highway 99 West between Corvallis and Monmouth, was chosen for its ideal terrain and weather conditions that could be used to train for involvement in the South Pacific and Europe. The over 60,000 acres would soon be known as Camp Adair.

On December 7, 1941, the attack on United States military personnel at Pearl Harbor suddenly brought the war home. Funding for Camp Adair was approved within five days, and construction began in January



ARM ARCHIVE PHOTO

A Camp Adair sign depicts the four infantry divisions with their names, symbols and theaters of battle.

1942. Within five and a half months, Camp Adair was a fully functioning army basic training camp.

World War II changed the way people lived, and Camp Adair changed the structure of a whole community. The impacts were social and economic, and tested the capacity of people to sacrifice and to work together. Over 400 families who had lived and farmed along Highway 99 West, some for nearly a century, had to give up their homes and land so that Camp Adair could be constructed. Pioneer settlements had to be demolished and cemeteries had to be moved.

Camp Adair became a city of close to 45,000 people during its two years as an army cantonment, at the time Oregon's second largest city after Portland. The influx of people into the area caused a shortage of places to live and people in the local community opened up their doors to share their homes with soldiers and their families. Camp Adair became one example of the mass relocation caused by World War II. Not only did families move to make way for the training camp, but thousands of soldiers and their families moved into the area.

Camp Adair's presence in the Willamette Valley was a financial stimulus to the local economy. Construction and operation of the camp

created thousands of jobs. United Service Organizations opened up to provide support and entertainment and to boost morale for soldiers in training.

Little evidence is left of the bustling camp. Of 1,800 buildings, only remnants of five remain. Two of the most prominent are the Ordnance Repair Depot and the Camp Adair Field House, with its jutting buttresses hinting at its past usage for training, sporting events, and dances.

John H. Baker is the author of "Camp Adair: The Story of a World War II Cantonment," an in-depth narrative about the history of Camp Adair. He was a just a boy when his father worked on its construction. He will lead a tour of Camp Adair on August 4, as part of Albany Regional Museum's 2012 patron event. He will show slides of images taken at Camp Adair, share a clip from Jack Benny's radio show visit to the camp, and will give an introduction to Camp Adair's history on the bus ride over to the site.

Baker considers Camp Adair to be Oregon's largest ghost town. He believes that an understanding of the experiences of the people who lived there, and in the surrounding communities, helps to make people realize just how big it was. According to Baker, of the some 130,000 soldiers that trained at Camp

Adair, approximately 7,000 were killed in the war and over 23,000 were wounded in action.

World War II impacted the Willamette Valley, not only in terms of loss, but also sociologically and politically, Baker believes. The United States was no longer isolationist. "It changed the fabric of the Willamette Valley," Baker said. "It just instantly brought people together." In addition, it changed the traditional roles of men and women. When men left to fight in the war, women suddenly had a new opportunity to be breadwinners.

Albany Regional Museum development committee chair, Mary Jacq Jenks Burck, will help to guide the Camp Adair tour. She was six years old when Pearl Harbor was attacked. A Willamette Valley native, Burck remembers her father inviting soldiers over for dinner when Camp Adair was being built. She recalls how families would take in the wives of servicemen and anybody that needed a place to stay. "It all happened so fast and there were so many people who came at once," said Burck, who had a young cousin who came from California to live with their family.

She remembers a common commitment among people to defend the United States. Those on the home front helped, not only through the production of equipment for the war, but also through rationing and recycling efforts to increase the resources available for war efforts. Travel and driving speed were limited because of gas rationing. Special trips out of town were a rare treat. "Going to the beach was big stuff," she said.

(Source information: Baker, John H., *Camp Adair: The Story of a World War II Cantonment*, 2004).

Overholser was a spring term OSU intern and will continue to volunteer during the summer.

Museum Directors:

Larry Bardell,
Chairman
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Kaley Sauer, Executive
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Peggy Kowal, Clerk
Kim Jackson, Editor
Kay Burt, Publications Chair

Oregon Electric comes to Albany

Continued from Page 1

In 1910, James J. Hill, builder of the Great Northern Railroad, gained control of the Oregon Electric. Hill, with deep pockets and seemingly limitless ambition, envisioned a lucrative Portland to San Francisco route through Eugene, Roseburg, and Ashland. The Albany link was the first piece in his grand design.

The Oregon Electric tracks actually had reached Albany about the first of June when about 2,000 people gathered to watch a track-laying machine make the connection at Fifth and Main Streets. At the precise moment of the joining, the throng cheered and factory whistles erupted in a mighty blast. A thrilling moment, indeed, but an official, and much larger, celebration was not scheduled until the Fourth of July holiday.

Preparations had been under way for weeks. Professionally designed white columns and archways trimmed in red and blue decorated First Street, the principal roadway through town. Atop one of the arches, Jim Hill's likeness cast a benevolent gaze on the proceedings. Following the arrival of railway officials aboard a special train, the "Big Parade" kicked off at 12:30 pm, led by automobiles bearing the OE representatives, City of Albany officials, and

OPENING THE LINE
—OF THE—
OREGON ELECTRIC RY.
—TO—
ALBANY, OR., JULY 4TH

Portland Commercial Club Excursion—Special Train
Leaves 7:50 A. M., Jefferson St. Station Only
Arriving Albany 10:45 a. m., Returning in the Evening

ALBANY ROUND TRIP \$2.30 Going This Train Only—Returning Any Train July 4

TO JOIN THE EXCURSION, please call at City Ticket Office, Fifth and Stark Sts., or Jefferson and First Sts., Station.

For the
WILLAMETTE VALLEY GRAND CELEBRATION
of the
OREGON ELECTRIC RAILWAYS
ENTRANCE TO ALBANY

The city of Albany has arranged an elaborate program of entertainment for all visitors.

REGULAR TRAIN SERVICE JULY 4
Five Daily Trains To and From Albany

Trains Limited and Three Local Trains on and after July 4

Leave Portland	Arrive Albany	Leave Albany	Arrive Portland
8:00 A. M.	10:45 A. M.	4:00 P. M.	6:00 P. M.
8:45 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	4:45 P. M.	6:45 P. M.
9:30 A. M.	12:15 P. M.	5:30 P. M.	7:30 P. M.
10:15 A. M.	1:00 P. M.	6:15 P. M.	8:15 P. M.
11:00 A. M.	1:45 P. M.	7:00 P. M.	9:00 P. M.

The Portland time shown is from Jefferson Street Station; from North Bank Station (over river) add 10 minutes. Local trains as indicated.

NOTE: NEW LIMITED 4:00 P. M. TO SALEM AND ALBANY

ARM ARCHIVE PHOTO

Note the cost of traveling to and from the July 4th event.

members of the Commercial Club reception committee.

An estimated 25,000 people — the largest crowd ever assembled in Albany — turned out to watch the hour-long procession. Many among the multitude, including several hundred Portlanders, about 500 Dallas residents, and about 1,000 people from both Eugene and Salem, had journeyed from the hinterlands to Albany by train, over both Oregon Electric and Southern Pacific tracks, and by automobile.

It surely was a grand parade. Following the lead vehicles, the "splendid" 35-piece Dallas brass band played patriotic music,

members of the G.A.R. and the Albany unit of the Oregon National Guard proudly marched, horses pranced, and a number of fire engines and impressively decorated floats rolled past the appreciative onlookers to the end of the route at Chautauqua (Bryant) Park.

A notable parade entry was the "Original Hub" sponsored by the First National Bank and borne on an automobile driven by John Barrett of Barrett Brothers. The "hub" was a wheel from a wagon that had crossed the plains to Oregon in 1849. President of the Oregon Electric, Joseph H. Young, picked up on this theme in his remarks to a local reporter: "With the inauguration of service over the Oregon Electric Railway today, Albany, already named the Hub City, has a most important spoke added to the 'Hub.'"

One of the most thrilling spectacles planned for the day unfortunately ended in near tragedy. The Albany Weekly Democrat reported that pioneer aviator and hometown hero John C. Burkhart was scheduled to make two exhibition flights over the town in his "hydroplane"-equipped machine, using the Willamette River as his airfield. It was to be the first "hydro-aeroplane exhibition" ever in the valley and only the second in Oregon. Regrettably, me-

chanical problems limited Burkhart's first flight to barely a hundred yards. The second attempt ended after about half a mile when he crashed, causing some damage to the plane but, luckily, no injury to the pilot. Later in July the "daring young birdman" made a flawless flight, remaining aloft for twenty minutes after taking off in the early morning from the Chautauqua Park athletic field.

Even though Oregon Electric trains routinely began whirring into Albany in July 1912, there was no passenger depot at that time, only a plot of ground at the northwest corner of Fifth and Lyon Streets. A.C. Meyer general contractor began work on the red pressed brick, bungalow-style depot later that month and completed the building late in December. Today the depot building is occupied by Cidicci's Pizza parlor.

By October 1912, the Oregon Electric was running seven trains daily from Portland to Albany, with five of them continuing on to Eugene. The Southern Pacific later introduced electric railway service to the west side of the valley, reaching Corvallis in 1917. The available business could not long support two competing lines, and both electrics suffered financially. James J. Hill died in 1916, and the Oregon Electric never built beyond Eugene.

Area business members recognized for their support

The nonprofit Albany Regional Museum is pleased to recognize the following businesses for annual membership support for 2011-12:

Businesses are recognized under several giving designations: Business, \$50; Business Patron*, \$150; Business History**, \$250; and Chautauqua Circle***, \$1,000 and above.

Albany Antique Mall
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
Albany Downtown Association
Albany Visitors Association
Birchfield Heating & A/C, Inc.*,***

Budget Blinds of Benton County
Burcham's Metals**
City Delivery Service
Classic Auto LEDs
David Delsman, Esq.
Elmer's Restaurant
Fisher Funeral Home, Inc.
Flinn Block Mall
For Yours*
Heath's Laundry
Jack Miller Insurance
Johnson McGowan & Associates
KGAL/KSHO*
Keith Semmel Construction, Inc.

Krpalek Financial Services**
Linn Veterinary Hospital
M & M Property Management
Main Auto Body, Inc.
Martha Anne's Beauty Shop
National Frozen Foods Corporation*
Pacific Auto Body & Paint*
Roger Reid, Esq.*
Rhodes-Warden Insurance
Riverside Community Hall
Security Alarm Corporation*,***
Sema Roofing Experts, LLC*
Smith & Company

Continued on Page 5

Museum outreach



Larry Bardell, board chair, Mary Jacq Burck, board member; and Kaley Sauer, executive director, await visitors at the HARP-sponsored Mid-Valley Made event at Two Rivers Market on March 3-4. Also displayed is the Museum's new sign.



Judy Craig's third and fourth grade class from Central Elementary toured the Museum on May 18. Here, students learn how to use an embossed dry seal. They also tried out a rotary phone and put paper into a typewriter platen, among other activities.



Sauer, Jacq Burck, and Jasmine Fletcher clean up the alley between the Museum and the Weatherford Building during Albany's Big Cleanup Day on May 12.



Clerk Peggy Kowal demonstrates how lemon juice can be used to make "invisible ink" at the Carnegie Library's "Magnificent Monday" event on April 9. Museum members provided pioneer dress up, games like whirligigs and thaumatrope, churning butter, and making a quilt.

Area business members recognized for their support

Continued from Page 4

Smith Glass Service, Inc.***
Steve Brennan
Susan South Brennan

Stop & Go Market
Sybaris Restaurant
Synthetech, Inc.
The Post Law Firm, P.C.
Tripp & Tripp*

Gordon E. Vogt, Jr. & Associates
Weatherford, Thompson, PC**, ***
Willamette Community Bank
Willamette Water Technology, Inc.

ARM recognizes major donors for '11-'12

Museum recognizes its major donors for 2011-12

Major donors are recognized by the Museum each year and are designated by four levels of gifting.

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

*History Circle recognition is for 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 2011-2012 year include:

Mary Arnett
 Larry & Linda Bardell*
 Allan & Shann Blake
 Jim & Jan Blodgett
 Barbara M. Boggs
 John Boock**
 Gerald & Kathy Brenneman**
 John & Kitty Buchner*, **
 Wayne & Mary Jacq Burck**
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 Rodger Butler*
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 George Chambers*
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 Marcia Coats
 Irene Coburn**
 Buzz Collins
 Jeff & Denise Croy
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 Stanford & Marilyn Smith*, **
 Charles & Joanne South**
 Bud & Flora Spencer
 Ada Squires
 Sally Steelhammer**
 Darrel & Linda Tedisch*, **
 Steve Thomas**
 Skip Throop & Nancy Dunn*
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 Randy Tripp
 Julie Tripp*
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 Karl Warner*
 Judie Weissert & Rolland Brower**
 Roger & Martha Wells
 Shannon Willard & Chuck Leland**
 Don & Marilyn Wimer**
 Dave Wood
 Bob & Vickie Woods

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

☐ Friends of the Museum \$15
☐ Business \$50
☐ Patrons \$115
☐ Business Patrons \$150
☐ History Circle \$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 nonprofit
 501 C-3 corporation.

Albany Regional Museum

136 Lyon St. S., Albany, OR 97321
 (541-967-7122) www.armuseum.com

Our mission statement: "To preserve, exhibit and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of Albany, Oregon, and its immediate surroundings, through collection of artifacts, documents and photographs."

Tea focuses on suffrage

Sixty Museum members and guests sipped tea from vintage tea cups, ate cookies prepared from heirloom recipes, and enjoyed guest Susan Butruille's talk on "Uppity Women of the West," March 16 in the Community Room.

The event called attention to the struggle for woman's suffrage. Butruille's thesis was that it was only natural that women in the western states voted before their eastern sisters because they were used to self-reliance and independence of mind and spirit. If they were "uppity," it only came out of these characteristics.

In her talk, Butruille called up such icons as the mythic "She Who Watches," a Celilo Indian pictograph, who guarded her nation on the Columbia River; Annie Oakley, who dared to wear a split skirt and ride a horse like a man; and local hat shop owner, Abigail Scott Duniway, whose anguish over injustices to her clients helped spur her on to champion the vote for Oregon women in 1912.

Mike Martin, Larry Bardell, Ed Loy, David Fitchett, Bill Maddy, Steve Thomas, and Andrew Levin braved the "uppity" atmosphere by pouring tea and replenishing cookie plates. Tea items were loaned by Shannon Leland-Willard, Tami Sneddon, and Kay Burt. Several guests received violets planted in vintage tea cups as raffle gifts at the tea's close.

Judie Weissert and Cynthia Murphy co-chaired this year's event. Judie said they have completed an assessment of the tea and have recorded procedures to help with future planning.

"What a wonderful afternoon! I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and community of like-minded women," said guest Linda Webb-Bowen.



Left, Nancy Schalles, Dorothea Kurtz and Nadia Ilyin carry on an animated conversation before the program begins.



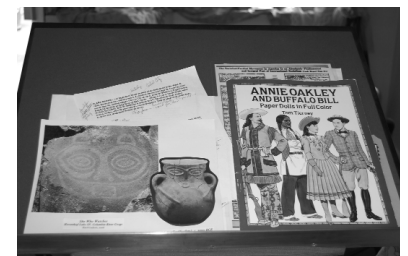
Below, Guest Sharon Gisler is amused by an "Advice to the Housewife" placard at her table.



Above, a guest wins a door prize at the end of the tea.

Right, Mike Martin deftly places a cookie plate on a tea table.

PHOTOS
BY KAY
BURT



Annie Oakley and "She Who Watches" were two of several visuals used by Susan Butruille.

Weissert volunteers window trimming skills

As the weather improves, Museum members might want to stroll by the building's Second Street display windows to see what Judie Weissert has created.

"Windows are the best form of advertising. These pique your interest, especially if you love history, and they hopefully will direct you inside," Judie says.

This board member and regular volunteer began her windows project in October 2011 with a Veterans Day Parade theme. Recent displays have showcased vintage typewriters, the membership tea (with flowers, teapots and glassware), spring themed twigs, seed packets and planting implements, and currently a

sparkling Fourth of July offering with some Camp Adair books included.

Most of Judie's items are her own, since it's hard to find usable items from the Museum that wouldn't become damaged from the sun's rays.

"Soon, the display windows will be framed from the inside. Once that's done, it will look a lot better. And some

spotlights might be added down the road," she said.

Judie learned her window and interior display skills from Esther Ferguson when she worked at Nancy's Apparel, branching out to a few other local stores before working at The Lebanon Express for 23 years and six as advertising manager at The Albany Democrat-Herald.

Six generations of Fishers have

A tribute to grandmother

BY MARY KROPP KRPALEK
MUSEUM MEMBER

Neosho Hazel (Smith) Fisher was born January 6, 1886, in Nebraska. She was one of nine children in the family of Mary Trevor Smith and Barnum Ephraim Smith. She was named after the Neosho River by her father, a Methodist circuit rider minister.

Throughout her vivacious youth, she was called "Neosho." When she fell head-over-heels in love and married Everett, he preferred her middle name, Hazel. But, in her long social and club life in Albany, she was most often known as "Mrs. E.C. Fisher," as was customary at the time. She was also known as "Albany's Mrs. Astor" because she always wore her hair on top of her head in the fashion of the famous Mrs. Astor. I simply called her "GrandmaDear" when I was little.

Neosho dreamed of becoming a nurse. Such an idea was not in keeping with her father's desires. So, when she was old enough, Neosho and her brother Charles cooked up a courageous plan for her to run away. With a helping hand from Charles, Grandma left the family farm in Nebraska and took the train to Janesville, Wisconsin, where she fulfilled her dream.

While working at the hospital in Janesville, it didn't take long for Everett Cleland Fisher, the most eligible bachelor in town, the one with the dashing pacer horse and elegant buggy, to sweep Neosho off her feet. He came

to the hospital more and more often to visit his mother, Mary, who was being treated for pneumonia. At Neosho's nursing station, Everett left violets with the message, "Keep a little cozy corner in your heart for me." Neosho did just that. She found herself listening for the distinctive arrival of Everett's horse's hoof beats. At age 20, Neosho married Everett (30) in Janesville in 1906.



PHOTO COURTESY
MARY KRPALEK

Neosho Fisher as she looked at age 26, in 1912, her first year in Albany.

Alice (Summers/Roberts), boarded the train with Everett's parents, Abel and Mary Fisher, and Braden cousins. Oregon or bust!

In April of 1912, Abel and Mary Fisher, Everett (36) and Neosho Hazel Fisher (26), and the Braden cousins, incorporated and opened the family businesses in the building known today as "Two Rivers Market," calling it "Fisher-Braden Furniture and Undertaking Parlor."

Uncle Dale Braden demonstrated the sturdiness of the home furnishings by jumping up and down on the oven doors. It seems that Dale wasn't the only one busy "demonstrating." Neosho Hazel believed that women had the right to vote and took an active part in the local suffragette movement. When she marched in the downtown Albany suffragette parade, Everett proudly cheered her and her cause as she paraded by.

After settling in Albany, Neosho shared much time and energy with the community. She founded the Linn County Republican Women. She was a Past Worthy Matron of Eastern Star. Knowing her bible backward and forward from childhood, she was active in the United Presbyterian Church as well as the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Modern Travelers, PTA, YMCA exercise classes, and Boy Scout den mother activities were

other favorites.

Grandmother was a devoted wife and mother. She is remembered by her adoring family as vibrant, playful, and full of personality. Her creativity and sense of humor shone. If children cried needlessly, she escorted them to "The Bawl Room" (the bathroom where crying needn't disturb the peace). Neosho's handwritten list of Good Manners used for mealtime instruction made her the original "Mrs. Manners" of the family. Although she never learned to drive, Grandmother loved to travel, both in America and Europe.

Upon first moving to Albany, the Fisher Family settled at the corner of Fourth and Washington. From there, Everett and Hazel moved in at 527 West Fifth, right on the streetcar line. Grandfather was terrified that the girls would be hit! The longtime family residence, still family owned, would be established at 606 SW Washington. There, you can still see the white cement posts that Grandfather had installed to prevent the Model T's from jumping the curb and hitting the children at play in the yard. After Grandfather passed away, Grandmother purchased what we children called "The Castle" at Sixth and Ferry. Everett always wanted his family to live with a view of the White Spires Presbyterian Church at Fifth and Washington. Each of the aforementioned addresses had that view.

In 1925, Everett (49) and Neosho (39) welcomed a son, William. And over the ensuing years, the furniture component of the business was phased out and later the family moved to its current location at Third and Washington. With the buy-out of the Braden cousins, the business name was updated to "Fisher Funeral Home."

Over the course of proudly serving the community for 100 years, many challenges and changes have occurred. The horse-drawn funeral carriage has become the sleek motor vehicle hearse of today. The business has weathered the storm through hard times — the Great Depression, multiple wars, and hometown tragedies. Likewise, it has helped with jubilant celebrations of life lived to the fullest. Services have evolved in style and custom to meet individual needs and wishes of each grieving family.

Our family and employees are honored to have served our community for 100 years. Everett and Neosho would be mighty pleased to know that six generations have carried on in continuing the tradition of Fisher Funeral Home.



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'Uncle Dale Braden demonstrated the sturdiness of the home furnishings by jumping up and down on the oven doors.'

served mid-valley funeral needs

Fisher-Braden becomes trusted downtown business

BY KAY BURT
MUSEUM MEMBER

For a hundred years, six generations of Fishers have attended to Albany citizens' funeral needs.

Fisher-Braden Furniture and Undertakers started in the spring of 1912 when the Fisher Family came from Wisconsin — Everett and Hazel Fisher, his parents, the Abel Fishers', and Everett's sister and her husband, Ethel and Sam Braden.

For a decade, the undertaking parlors were upstairs and the furniture store was

the furniture, carpets, linoleums, curtains, ranges, sewing machines, and porch furniture, while the upper level featured casket models and funerary items.

To call attention to their offerings in late 1912, Fisher-Braden printed a popular cookbook featuring Albany business advertisements such as The Blain Clothing Company, Tomlinson & Holman's Grocers and Bakers, and S.E. Young & Son.

By 1922, the furniture business was sold and property was purchased at Third and Washington. A 1922 Democrat-Herald advertisement framed at Fisher Funeral Home shows how the business had become a stable presence in Albany within ten years: "April 8, 1912, we made our initial bow among the business houses of Albany. Strangers are always welcome to our store and the use of our rest rooms."

Some of the original building includes the first brick residence built in Albany. The chapel and parking areas have been expanded a number of times.

In 1931, Martha Fisher Kropp and her husband Walter became associated with the business. Her sister Alice and husband Dan Ordeman associated as partners in 1958. Alice's son Tom and wife Denise started in the late 1970s, followed by son Wally in the mid-1980s. "And now my son Perry is a licensed full-time employee, making him the sixth generation of continuous service to the community," Wally proudly said.



COURTESY OF FISHER FUNERAL HOME

In this early photo, one can see the household wares, such as the Mission-style furniture in foreground, and stove behind the sofa. One can also make out various caskets ringing the perimeter of the undertaking parlor on the second floor.



COURTESY OF FISHER FUNERAL HOME

The Fisher building at Third and Washington in the 1920s.

on the main floor located at 300 S.W. Second Ave. Fisher-Braden would have occupied the left side of Two Rivers Market, coming into the building from Broadalbin Street. Later, the building was Pay Less Drug Store for many years and now currently houses Two Rivers Market

Wally Ordeman, a fifth generation Fisher Funeral Home associate, says the original store would have looked a lot like The Broadway Department Store Building, which is now Riley's Billiards, at Second and Broadalbin. "It would have had a similar layout, open to the ceiling with a second floor and railings circling the perimeter," he said. The main floor showcased

Memorial roll increases by 11

Eleven names have been added to the Museum's memorial roll since the winter/spring 2012 newsletter.

They include Richard Arnott, Robert Caldwell, Elaine Chambers, Col. Richard Chandler, John Dalen, Prudence Draeger, Richard Kelly, Gary McClain, Bill O'Bryan, Ruth Reeser, and Roger Schrater.

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 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 recipient (spouse, next of kin or other) and a thank you card to the person or persons making the donation (which 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.

Sneddon resigns as Collections Specialist

Tami Sneddon, most recently collections and exhibits coordinator, resigned effective May 3. A cupcake reception at the Museum was held in her honor.

Sneddon served as administrative coordinator, starting on January 10, 2007. According to John Buchner, "Tami was the first to bring professional museum experience to our operation. Her enthusiasm, knowledge and growth as a coordinator have contributed immensely to the Museum's position as a viable community asset."

Sneddon plans to spend more time with her grandchildren, who live in the area, and to travel with her husband.



In the heart of downtown Albany

136 Lyon Street S.
Albany Oregon 97321

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Monday through Friday
Noon to 4 pm
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E & E Calendar

Check out the Events and Exhibits pages on our website for more information:

June 15 – Aug. 31 – Journey to the Center of Albany: Summer Passport 2012 ; A children's activity developed by local nonprofits.

June 21 – Centennial Celebration: feat. Albany Iron Works. Guest speaker & presentation 1pm & 7pm. New Exhibit. Light refreshments provided.

June 27 – Celebrating the Oregon Electric Railway, 7 pm; Guest speaker. Updated Railways Exhibit. Light refreshments provided.

July – Installation of Museum's New Entryway. More details will follow, exact days TBD

July 25 – Interpretive Cemetery Tour, 7 pm

July 28 – Historic Interior Homes Tour 11 am-5 pm

August 4 – Patron Recognition Event : Camp Adair

September 9 – Rhys Miller Classic, 10 - 2 pm. Featuring the Nash Metropolitan and '56-'57 Thunderbirds. For information, 541.967.7122

Looking Back: Marion St. — Plus

BY JACK GILLESPIE
MUSEUM MEMBER

The other day I was driving east on Queen Avenue when I came upon Marion Street and got an urge to drive through it to 34th Street. As I drove south, many memories gathered in my head. While I can't return to the years 1941-49, when my family lived on Marion Street, I can still look back to the wonderful times we had in that part of Albany.

As I started my way up Marion Street, the first thing that hit me was the shadiness on a sunny day. Then I realized that "my" Marion Street sat on a knoll with wide open spaces both east and west. During the summer months, I would often walk across the street from our house and look down the east slope to the beautiful acres of ash trees, and beyond them, the Brickyard Road.

From my "station," the few cars going north and south looked like little ants crawling back and forth. Of course, the acres of lovely ash were beautiful to view the year around. Many of these trees have been cut down to make room for the scores of homes built in the area. Some of the farm homes are

still standing — but you have to look for them — mostly on the west side of what is now Waverly Drive, which is now one of the busiest streets in the area.

In 1943, I got a Democrat-Herald route which took me up and down Marion Street and dipped me down toward the railroad to deliver papers to the residents there. The area was pretty well populated in those days — and a little scary.

During the hot summer months, Bob would help me deliver my papers and then we would head south down Marion Street to the railroad tracks, looking both ways for "Railroad Cops." If none were in sight, we would carry our bikes over the tracks that took us to the public swimming pool. There, we would pay our 35 cents, get into our swim suits, and jump in the cool water for an hour or so, then head home for supper, following the same route back.

(My sister, Lois, and her friends, would follow the same route we came in from, only they would go past the swimming pool and go west to the skating rink, just a block away. It was War Time and the rink was a popular place for the Camp Adair soldiers to spend their off time).