

'Hands-on history' kicks off '08 events

A special program for students, grades three through 12, will kick off the Albany Regional Museum's Chautauqua series for 2008.

The event will be held at 10:30 a.m. March 24 at the Museum. Interpreters in period dress will bring to life Native American guide Sacagawea and Private Francois La Bische as they travel with Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery in search of the Northwest Passage.

The program is free and adults are welcome, too. Reservations are encouraged by calling the Museum at 967-7122.

In addition to the actors giving first hand accounts of real people and events, the program includes many

hands-on artifacts for the students. These artifacts are both authentic and reproduced to help illustrate the Lewis & Clark story.

Administrator Tami Sneddon said the Museum was delighted to be able to bring this "hands on history" to students. The educational road show is a production from the Lane County Historical Society and Museum in Eugene.

The program is about 1½ hours in length.

Other scheduled Chautauqua programs include the annual tea on Friday, April 18; the annual patrons-only trip to Salem to visit the Mission Mill Museum and the Oregon state capitol building on August 9 in honor of Ore-

gon's 150th anniversary; and the Museum's annual meeting, scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14. Specific details on these events have not been completed as of this newsletter.

In addition, the Museum is planning for several public activities tied to the historic homes tour in July, a summer car show and the reopening of an updated display on Camp Adair to be tied-in with Albany's annual observance of Veterans' Day in November.

The Museum itself is open Monday through Saturday, noon to 4 p.m., except for holidays and a two week period between January 21 and February 1 for building maintenance and exhibit work.

Hall of fame teammates recall days on the gridiron

BY KIM JACKSON
EDITOR

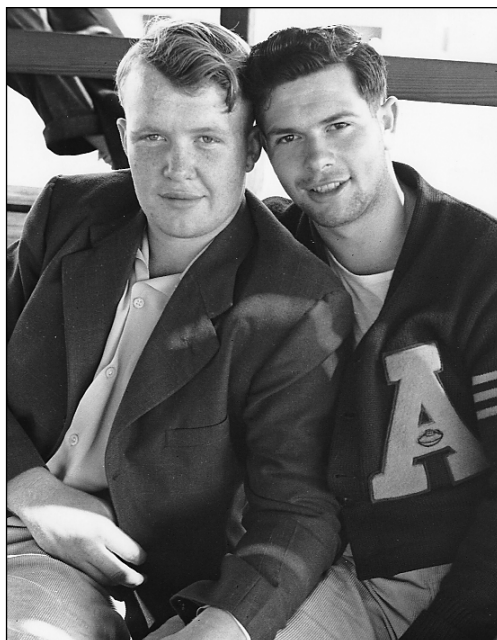
John Schlegal said he lived on a farm as a kid and had never seen a football until he got into junior high.

But once he did, he knew exactly what to do with it.

"It was very exciting to me. I really loved the game," said Schlegal, who played half-back for Albany.

Schlegal and his teammates from the 1939, 40 and 41 seasons were among the the second class of inductees placed into the West Albany Hall of Fame during a dinner in November, sponsored by the West Albany High School Sports Foundation. The hall honors athletes from Albany who attended West Albany, Albany Union and Albany High.

Inducted along with the Bulldog gridders were wrestling coach Bruce Glenn, wrestler Scott Glenn, tennis doubles players Deanne Larsell and Allison (Barnes) Reid, runner Dave Wilborn and former radio announcer Larry Gordon.



Albany football teammates Thad Looney, left, and John Schlegal.

Teammate Thad Looney said Schlegal was a very good halfback.

"He was the hardest hitter I ever tackled," Looney said. "I saw him knock three guys out of a game on the same play. One guy had to stay in the hospital while his team went home."

Schlegal returned the compliment to Looney, who played center.

Central boy had cars on his mind

One of the Museum exhibits that draws oohs and ahs from boys of all ages are two scale models of the 1956-57 Ford Thunderbird. One is in crystal and gold and the other more accurate model is of metal and plastic.

These models were a gift to the Museum in 2000 from Rhys (pronounced Reece) Miller of Orinda, CA.

Miller designed the 1956-57 T-Bird automobile for the Ford Motor Co.

His connection to Albany was back in the 1920s when he attended Central School and was a classmate of one of the Museum's founders, Rodney Tripp. At that time, Miller's father owned the Buick dealership in Albany.

Miller began drawing cars

View from Second and Lyon: Abby's advice

BY JOHN BUCHNER
BOARD CHAIRMAN

In the newspaper business there are a few rules you need to follow if you want to get your publication into households.

One of those rules is to offer your readers a good advice column, like Dear Abby. Time and time again, Abby will top the list of most popular features with readers.

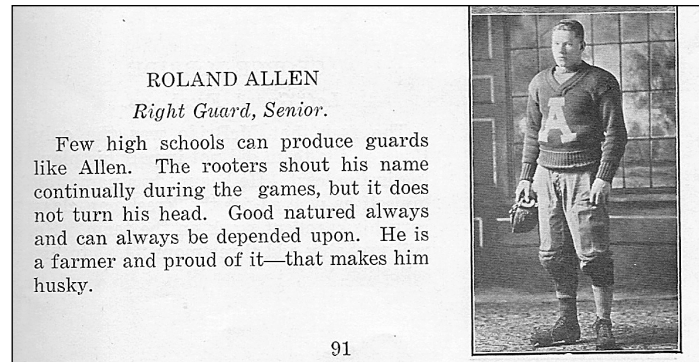
It was a rule that I found prudent to follow during my career as a mainstream editor and later publisher.

So it was not surprising to be leafing through the pages of our local Democrat-Herald recently to find Dear Abby's readers recommending libraries and museums as "places to find precious memories out of the ashes of time."

It reminded me of the collection of high school and college yearbooks, city directories, telephone books and other publications that we have in our Rod and Marty Tripp Reference Room.

Albany city directories go back as far as 1878. There are some gaps, to be sure, but there's a shelf full of these publications that stretch to recent years, at least until communities quit publishing them because of privacy fears and privacy laws.

Drop by and visit our reading room. Take Abby's advice and dig for a few memories.



A page from the 1917 Albany High yearbook.

Football champions in 1916

The greater Albany community is still popping its buttons over the state football championship won by West Albany High School last December.

Our reference room has a new file of information, clippings, pictures, programs and video due to this accomplishment. Congratulations to Coach Randy Nyquist and his Bulldogs for an undefeated season of 14-0, and 27 wins and only one loss (in triple overtime) in two years. It's a feat never before accomplished by an Albany high school.

However, there was another Albany High School state champion football team in 1916. It too was undefeated but the team played only six games, five against other high schools and one against its own alumni.

Quoting from the 1917

"Whirlwind" annual, "This season only five games were played and only one school (McMinnville) scored against A.H.S. and this was a decided fluke. To cinch the state championship Manager Wicks opened negotiations with Jefferson High of Portland, but upon their refusal to play the title came to Albany.

"Although the Portland teams were not met on the gridiron it is the opinion of experts that the Albany team was superior to any in the state. Albany High may well be proud of the 1916 team for they have established a record for A.H.S. football that will not be broken by every team that Albany High produces."

That remains true, but the 2007 Bulldogs did break the record.

Remembering Bob Potts

Albany lost another of

her favorite sons and a special friend of the Museum last December — historian Robert "Bob" Potts.

Most knew him as the author of a series of picture books of Albany entitled "Remembering When." These books continue to be a best-seller at the Museum's merchandise counter.

Museum founder Jerry Brenneman described Potts in this way: "He knew more about Albany than any living person, and if you ever had a question about Albany or an event, he usually knew the answer."

Potts was known as a devout Christian and as a partner in Duedall-Potts Stationers in downtown Albany.

He leaves a rich legacy for the ages.

Another friend remembered

The city and the Museum lost another friend in January, Mayor Douglas Killin. The retired school district teacher and administrator had served on the city's planning commission and council and was serving his first term as mayor (See story elsewhere in this edition about mayors). The 67-year-old civic leader was a victim of intestinal cancer. History was especially important to Mayor Killin. Having a friend at City Hall like Killin was important to the Museum and very much appreciated.

Jennifer Jameson fills Museum cataloger position

Jennifer E. Jameson has joined the staff of the Museum as cataloger.

The Oregon State University graduate began work Jan. 7. She replaces Diane Frampton, who left in December.

Jameson comes with a masters' degree in anthropology with a minor in cultural resource management. She also has a bachelors' degree in computer science with a minor in multimedia. She has a 1-year-old son, Liam. Her husband attends OSU.



Jennifer Jameson

The cataloger has worked as an intern and volunteer with the Benton County Historical Museum in Philomath, where her duties included collection maintenance, cataloging and exhibit assistance. She is familiar with the Museum's software, PastPerfect.

Tami Sneddon, administrative coor-

dinator, said she was pleased to be able to fill the part-time position with someone of Jameson's background and experience.

Sneddon thanked Frampton, the Museum's first paid cataloger, for her care and knowledge of data entry. The Museum acquired the PastPerfect software, a program considered the standard for museums, several years ago, thanks to the vision of board member and volunteer Carol McKay.

‘Napoleon’ was mayor of Albany

BY GARY KINGSTON
BOARD MEMBER

Fifty-one men have held the unpaid office of Albany mayor, two of whom served second nonconsecutive terms.

Beginning with J. C. Powell in 1865, the mayor was elected one year at a time until 1886, when the term was lengthened to two years with the election of J. K. Weatherford, founder of the still-existent Albany law firm.

Many of the mayors served on the City Council before their election to mayor. Doug Killin, retired Assistant Principal of West Albany High School, was elected in 2007 and spent 10 years on the Council. Due to illness, Killin stepped down as mayor earlier this month. He died Jan. 11 of intestinal cancer. His successor had not been chosen at this writing.

The longest serving mayor has been Charles McLaran in office for 12 years. Like his successor Killin, he was born in Dallas, but in Texas rather than Oregon. Both have degrees in English and taught high school.

McLaran retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation before coming to Albany. Highlights of his long service of Albany were the annexation of North Albany, largely to gain sewage treatment for that septic-tank-dependent area, and the building of a new water

treatment plant in a joint project with Millersburg.

Albany’s first proper sewage system was initiated in 1891 by Mayor J. L. Cowan, 1888-1893, with the help of C. G. Burkhart, who was to be mayor 1896-99.

Marsha Morse says that her father, mayor Platt Davis 1973-74, graduated from the University of Oregon and had a distinguished career in World War 11 as a Pentagon staff officer to General George Marshall; he helped develop the “Marshall Plan.” Dr. W. H. Davis, physician and mayor 1900-05, was Platt Davis’ father and Marsha’s grandfather.

Larry Roth 1963-64 was a pilot in the same war and served in the Pacific Theater doing aerial reconnaissance. Much controversy engulfed his proposal to make a significant part of the downtown inaccessible to the automobile.

Percy Young 1921-24 was a Stanford classmate of Herbert Hoover, the future President of the United States. M. V. Brown 1874 became the Commanding General of the Oregon National Guard.

N. B. Humphrey 1876 was Napoleon Bonaparte the mayor. F.P. Nutting, an Albany newspaper editor, described him as a wag about town. He likely was encouraged to entertain by his flamboyant name.

Other Albany mayors had distinguished careers in politics and business.

The occupation of one has escaped our identification. A.W. Leveeny 1872 doesn’t seem to show up anywhere. Can anyone help?



Doug Killin



Charles McLaran



N.B. Humphrey?

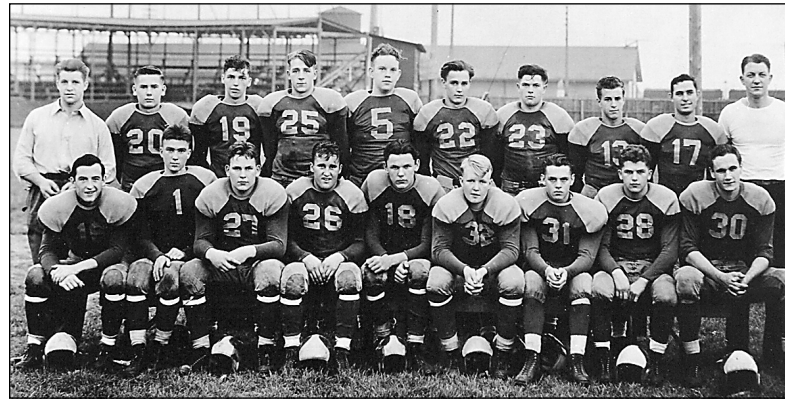
ALBANY MAYORS

Fifty-one men have held the office of mayor in Albany, two of whom served second nonconsecutive terms. Beginning in 1865 the mayor was elected annually until 1886, when the term was lengthened to two years.

J.C. Powell, attorney	1865
E.F. Russell, real estate	1866-67
Jacob Norcross, merchant	1868
A.W. Stanard, merchant/farmer	1869-70
N.H. Cranor, attorney	1871
A.W. Leveeny, (?)	1872
Collins Van Cleve, editor	1873
Martin V. Brown, editor	1874
David Froman, marshal	1875
N.B. Humphrey, attorney	1876
Allen Parker, lumbering	1877
Jason Wheeler, farmer	1878
Thomas Monteith, flour mill owner	1879
D.G. Clark, hardware merchant	1880
David Froman, previous mayor	1881
Ira C. Dickey, marshal	1882
Walter M. Ketchum, merchant	1883
John Lindsey Hill, physician	1884
Walter M. Ketchum, previous mayor	1885
J.K. Weatherford, attorney	1886-87
J.L. Cowan, banker	1888-93
L. Flinn, attorney/banker	1894-95
C.G. Burkhart, real estate	1896-99
W.H. Davis, physician	1900-05
J.P. Wallace, physician	1906-11
P.D. Gilbert, furniture merchant	1912-13
L.M. Curl, attorney	1914-20
P.A. Young, merchant/banker	1921-24
J.H. Robnett, physician	1925-26
Mark Weatherford, attorney	1927-28
V.L. Calavan, drug store prop.	1929-32
W.L. Jackson, publisher	1933-36
Charles Ashton, farmer	1937-39
A.G. Senders, grain/seed dealer	1939-42
G.C. Knodell, petroleum distributor	1943-46
Ralph Banton, farmer	1947-48
Jess Savage, beverage wholesaler	1949-50
Lyle M. Bain, physician	1951-52
Charles K. McCormack, insurance	1953-56
William L. Fitzpatrick, power co. exec.	1957-62
Larry D. Roth, merchant	1963-64
Russell W. Tripp, real estate investment	1965-70
Donald R. Catt, insurance agent	1971-72
Platt Davis, mechanical contractor	1973-74
David C. Hayes, contractor	1975-76
Leonard Roche, banker	1977-78
Richard Olsen, research scientist	1979-80
Donald Brudvig, accountant	1981-84
Tom Holman, school administrator	1985-88
Keith J. Rohrbough, attorney	1989-92
Eugene Belhumeur, tobacco merchant	1993-94
*Charles A. McLaran, FBI agent	1995-2006
Doug Killin, school administrator	2007-08

Linda Ellsworth, Marilyn Smith and others contributed to this compilation.

* The longest serving mayor has been Mr. McLaran, who held the office for 12 years.



The 1940 Albany High football team.

Hall of fame

Continued from Page 1

"He did a lot of blocking for me and opened a lot of holes," Schlegal said. "Thad and I have been good friends for years."

The two lived near each other as they grew up. Looney said they used to punt the football to each other out in a cow pasture and then try to run the other person over.

"John was so fast, I told him he couldn't run around me, he had to go through me," Looney said. "Sometimes in a game if I didn't get out of the way fast enough he'd hit me right in the back."

Over three seasons the Bulldogs compiled an impressive record of 22-5-2.

In three seasons Albany

outscored its opponents 642-159 and registered 13 shutouts.

Playing in what was then called the No-Name League, the 1939 team tied for second, the 1940 team was league co-champs, and the 1941 squad tied for the league title and played for the unofficial state championship against Milton-Freewater, losing 18-14.

Schlegal and Looney credited a lot of their teams' success to their coach, Tommy Swanson, for whom Swanson Park is named.

"Tommy was about the finest person that I knew as a coach," Schlegal said. "Morally and clean cut. He taught me a lot of fundamentals. He was a good motivator. A good man."

Central boy

■ Continued from Page 1

when he was about nine years old. He never went to art school and there were no formal automobile design classes at the time.

He did take art in high school in Los Angeles, but mostly he learned on the job. He took his drawing samples and literally went knocking on the doors of Detroit automakers. While still in his teens he got hired for \$15 a week by a small design firm that was contracted by Ford.

This was the beginning of a lifetime career that found Miller bouncing around to almost every manufacturer of automobiles of the time: Gen-



Model 1956-57 Ford Thunderbirds on exhibit

eral Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Nash, Kaiser and others.

The exhibit, in addition to the models, includes a number of printed articles and photographs. Here the Museum visitor can learn more about the legendary automotive designer of the 1950s, who spent part of his childhood at Albany's Central School.

Carol's Corner

BY CAROL MCKAY, BOARD MEMBER

I have wandered out of the kitchen and into the library here at the Museum with this issue's column. This library is unique to our Museum in that most of the books have been donated and are either old or discontinued, except the collections of newsletters of organizations. We even have a few novels that Oregonians have written, but mostly ours is a research library. We have the original books from the Linn County Courthouse from the early 1800s on.

The courthouse has put all its information on microfiche, but we were able to store these old original tomes.

However, the books that I really become intimate with are ABSTRACT OF TITLE

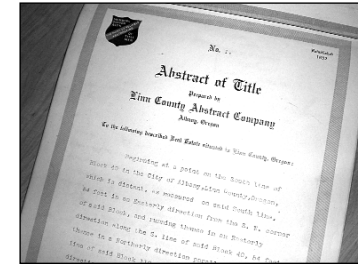
books, which document a piece of property from when it was platted to when this form of documentation stopped. In this case it was dated 1863 to 1913. The books are 8½- by 11-inches and bound at the top with two brass fasteners. On the cover there is the number 4724, an empty space with a \$ sign, then the words "ABSTRACT OF TITLE," then "Prepared by the Linn County Abstract Company, Albany, Oregon."

Inside, the first page titled no.1 is a legal description of the property. The second page is No.3. It starts out with the United States granting Walter Monteith a patent Feb.8,1865, cl.# 55, and this abstract is documenting the flow of ownership from Walter Monteith to a family. Evidently the will was never recorded, so when this man died, his widow and children had to go to court so that they could legally inherit his property. This abstract continues through 37 pages of legal talk and different people being involved with this one piece of property. With each new page, the property is again described. I have decided that this piece of property is somewhere near the cemetery by the hospital here in Albany. These pages are written in legal language, but once you understand it, it's easy to read. This is history with a legal slant. We have quite a few Abstract of Titles books that reveal much about Albany history. We have quite a few Abstract of Titles books that reveal much about Albany history.

My family owned a house in Newport for a long time and we had the Abstract of Title for that property. I took this to the people who now own this property.

Thanks to many helping hands

A number of individuals have assisted facilities chairman (and board vice-chairman) Gerald Brenne-man with work on the Museum's building during the fourth quarter of 2007. They include Lee Lehman, Dean Butts, Barry Price and Bob Knight. A special thanks to these individuals.



The first page of an abstract with the legal description of the property.

Chairman: '07 'year of transition'

The year 2007 was described as a "year of transition" for the non-profit Albany Regional Museum at its annual meeting, Oct. 2.

Board chairman John Buchner reviewed events, personnel changes and building improvements to an audience of about 30 members.

Paid membership set a record for the fifth consecutive year and indications were that another record was likely for 2007. The official figure for 2006 was 398. That means that more than 500 individuals contributed to the Museum operations through memberships.

Tami Sneddon became administrative coordinator during the year, replacing Bill Maddy. Former Linn County Treasurer Shannon Willard took over as the volunteer bookkeeper, replacing Charlie Bottomley.

The two events that were most popular during the year were the Chautauqua tea that featured historic handkerchiefs, and the annual patrons' event that included hors d'oeuvres and a classic movie at the



Shannon Willard

Pix Theatre.

More than \$15,000 was spent on the second floor of the 1887 Museum building redoing window frames and painting an area that eventually will be used for exhibit overflow.

Treasurer Michael Kok reported on the Museum's financial condition which he described as "solid and in the black." Copies of the financial statement and minutes of the previous annual meeting were provided to those in attendance.

Member Howard Hickam made the motion to unanimously re-elect four board members for new three-year terms. Linda Ellsworth seconded the motion. The votes cast were for Jerry Brenneman, John Boock, Michael Kok and Shannon Willard. Following the business meeting, member Patricia Benner presented a power-point program on the history of the Willamette River.

At a board meeting on Nov. 6, directors elected officers for the 2008 year. Re-elected were chairman Buchner, vice-chairman Brenneman, secretary Willard and treasurer Kok.



Patricia Benner

Training workshops held at the Museum

Six new volunteers participated in the Volunteer Training Workshop at the Albany Regional Museum on November 7. The workshop included a Powerpoint presentation by Tami Sneddon, administrative coordinator. Volunteers learned about docent duties and other opportunities. Volunteer Coordinator Mary Arnett assisted with the workshop. Training concluded with a tour of the entire building, from the basement, exhibit hall, workspace and cataloging mezzanine up to the second floor exhibit overflow space and numbering office.

Newly trained volunteers include Beverly Hall, Edward Loy, Elisa Marvin, George Rowlett, Evonne Rutherford, and Ada Squires.

A second training workshop was held in December to learn techniques about numbering objects in the museum collection. Objects conservator Thomas Fuller of Northwest Objects Conservation, Inc. in Corvallis, volunteered his time to review techniques in permanently numbering different types of artifacts. Six people attended this workshop.

If you would like to join the volunteers at the Museum in assisting the staff, the next volunteer training workshop will be held, Monday, Feb. 11, at 11:00 a.m. For more information call the Museum office at 967-7122 or email armuseum@peak.org.

ALBANY REGIONAL MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

☐ Individual \$10
☐ Family \$15
☐ Patron \$115
☐ Business \$50
☐ Major Sponsor \$250
☐ I want to learn more about the Pioneer Society, Founders and Benefactors levels.

Amount enclosed \$_____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name(s)_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____

Zip_____ Phone_____

The Museum is a non-profit 501 C-3 corporation.

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

Museum budget approved for '08

A 2008 operating budget of \$108,000 was approved unanimously by the Museum's board of directors at its Dec. 4, 2007 meeting.

The budget document was developed by the finance committee, chaired by Treasurer Michael Kok.

Before board action, the document was presented to the executive committee for minor adjustments.

Income and expenses balance for a break-even financial year for the nonprofit Museum.

The largest amount of income comes from the Museum's endowment, which is managed by the Oregon Community Foundation, the major funds manager of nonprofits in the state. The annual earnings are estimated at \$64,000. Other

major revenue streams include individual donations (\$15,000), rents (\$7,650), memberships (\$7,000) and interest from other investments (\$7,000).

The major expenses are personnel (\$42,000), building improvements (\$17,000), operations (\$10,000), equipment replacement (\$6,000), exhibit construction (\$5,000), and taxes (\$2,000).

A complete copy of the budget is available for review by any member of the Museum, according to Kok. The document is a guide for Museum operations and can be adjusted during the year as circumstances change. The finance committee meets quarterly to review the budget and the executive committee meets monthly.

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."



136 Lyon Street S.
Albany, Oregon 97321
Open
Monday thru Saturday
Noon to 4 p.m.
Free Admission
donations welcomed
(541) 967-7122
e-mail:
armuseum@peak.org
website:
www.armuseum.com

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Tami Sneddon,
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Erin Jones,
Clerk
Jennifer E. Jameson,
Cataloger

Newsletter Editor
– Kim Jackson

Looking Back: Revivals at the Albany Armory

BY JACK GILLESPIE, MUSEUM MEMBER

My first memory of the Albany Armory on the southwest corner of Fourth and Lyon St, was going there as a child with my parents to revival meetings. I don't remember too much about the meetings but that they were very long and the building was very hot. However, there was a reward for me attending these revivals: across from the Armory, on the corner of Fourth and Lyon, was a bakery that my parents visited after each meeting and there I was treated to a huge, hot-out-of-the-oil donut of my choice.

Later on, prior to and during World War II, the armory was used as a training area for the local National Guard. My friend Bob and a brother were in the Guards and we would often go with him on the evenings he drilled with 20 or so other young men. Bob and I would roam around the old building and even one time explored the attic where we ran across all sorts of old army "stuff" probably dating back to World War I or before.

After the war ended the Armory was the scene of many events, including the annual Timber Carnival dances. I recall one year, in the early 1950's, Smiley Burnett, the side-kick of cowboy movie star Gene Autrey, was grand marshal of the Timber Carnival and how he vigorously danced the night away

with the Albany ladies.

During this era professional wrestling came to the Armory. Wrestling matches were very popular at that time and huge crowds packed the Armory to watch big names in the wrestling world "compete." Actually these wrestlers toured together and their wrestling was strictly an exhibition. But the audience didn't seem to know or care as they rooted on their favorites — the women, it seemed, more so than the men. Throughout the Korean War the Albany Draft Board was located off the entry hall of the Armory. A few rooms were converted into somewhat of a draft board where we men of draft age had to report. I had joined the Air Force before the war and received a medical discharge because of an old elbow injury. I still had to periodically report to the Draft Board in the Armory - I guess to prove I still had the old injury.

The old Armory building perhaps has been taken for granted by some of us "old timers." But it was, and still is, a very big part of Albany's history. In the '70's it was converted into Linn County offices. Drop in and look it over sometime. Its history can still be felt.

I would like to thank those who contacted me about the Mr. Honey column in the last issue. It's good to know that he was remembered.