



**Crane lifts the HVAC unit.**

## HVAC system completes job

Birchfield Heating & Air Conditioning of Albany, winning bidder on heating and cooling the Museum's second floor, completed installation of equipment in February. The approximately \$40,000 HVAC project was partially funded by a \$9,000 grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission, a division of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The installation, which is critical in protecting Museum objects and artifacts, was the last of a major facility upgrade during 2010, which also included painting and repair of the second floor, minor interior remodeling of the former rental retail space, and replacement of exterior windows, and exterior painting. The investment for all the projects was in excess of \$125,000, mainly financed by an anonymous donor.

## Tea to focus on buttons

### Women's work topic for AAUW March program

A symposium on women's work, and the annual membership tea, headline the Museum's spring programs.

The Museum and the local chapter of the American Association of University Women are joining forces to showcase "Women's Work: Historical, Literary and Socioeconomic Perspectives." The program is Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Museum. The free event is open to the public; how-

ever because seating is limited, reservations are required.

These can be made by calling 541-967-7122.

The history of the button is featured at the membership tea on Friday, April 15, beginning at 2 p.m., at the Museum.

Those making reservations (541-967-7122) need to be current Museum members. The fee is \$5 at the door.

"Women's Work" includes a three-part program.

Volunteer actors will portray women from Abigail Duniway, who owned a millinery shop in Albany and was a major figure in the women's suffrage movement, to Evelyn Burleson, an Albany pilot in the 1930s and 40s.

Another session will find actors interpreting literary

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## Albany designer left indelible imprint on community history

**BY EDWARD LOY**  
MUSEUM MEMBER

Frank Merrill left an indelible imprint on the city of Albany, both as a civic leader and as a designer of many fine buildings. Albany was his town — he never stayed away for very long — and he worked diligently to make it a better community.

A strong belief in public service was an ethic Frank received primarily from his father, Zadoc Merrill. World War II presented Frank with his first opportunity to serve, and he attempted to enlist in the military. When his poor eyesight disqualified him for service, he volunteered for the Oregon State Guard, a defense force under the command of the governor, organized to provide immediate resistance to an enemy attack. The federal government rarely delivered on promised equipment, including antiquated WWI weapons, and in reality most of the guardsmen furnished their own hunting rifles and shotguns in

order to form an effective armed force.

Frank later moved to Vancouver, Washington, to support the war effort by helping to build troop ships and landing craft at the Kaiser shipyard.



**Frank Merrill: Best Dressed**

Frank's commitment to public service was most evident in the leadership role he played in the Albany Junior Chamber of Commerce in the decade following World War II. He led the postwar resurgence of the local Jaycees and served as the president of the Albany group for 1945-46. Frank helped bring Albany into the forefront of Oregon towns as he worked to make the Timber Carnival a Jaycee event of regional and national significance. He

later became the president of the Oregon Junior Chamber of Commerce and vice-president of the national group. For his accomplishments with the Jaycees, he was named Albany Junior First Citizen for 1947.

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# View from Second and Lyon: Albany's 'rag gal'

Esther Ferguson said one hour was long enough for just about anything; that included her funeral service

**BY JOHN BUCHNER**  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

Esther Nebergall Ferguson, was a woman who thrived in business and civic life. An Albany icon by any measurement, she died December 31, 2010, at age 96.

Like her father, meat packer D.E. Nebergall, Esther's life was lived in an environment of business and community leadership. There was evidence of this as early as 1933 when she was treasurer of the Albany High School Commercial Club.

When her father retired and turned over his successful packing plant operation to his sons, the business eventually merged with the national Swift and Co., and soon disappeared from the front lines of the community's economy.

A lot of "Albanians" believed that if Esther had been put in charge, Nebergall's would have bought out Swift and Co.

Born in Albany, Mrs. Ferguson attended first grade at Maple School, graduated mid term from Albany High in 1933, attended Albany College and Oregon State College before going to Northwest Business College in Portland. Her first job was as a secretary for the manager of the Albany branch of First National Bank. She married Robert O. Ferguson in 1936. He preceded her in death. They had two children, Gary and Nancy, who survive.

The Fergusons opened a menswear store in the existing Sternberg Building on First and Broadalbin streets in 1938. Later they purchased Dena Sternberg's dress shop and expanded their operation to Ferguson's Men's and Women's Wear. In 1947, they sold the business to Miller's Department Store of Portland. In 1962, they returned to the retail clothing business as proprietors of Nancy's Apparel until 1987.

Esther grew up in a "man's world." There weren't many places that a woman could succeed outside of traditional women's professions. But that didn't stop Esther. She became the "first" in many things that today we



**Esther Ferguson**

take for granted. She blazed the trail for women's liberation before there was women's liberation. However, she was never comfortable with the movement. She told a reporter in 1975 that the "lib" term kind of "sets me on edge."

As an Albany merchant and store owner, she just showed up one day at Cleo's coffee and sandwich shop where the community's business leaders—all men—gathered weekday mornings for coffee. She hadn't been invited, but she fit right in and became one of the "guys."

One of the more successful retail promotions in Albany over the years was "Crazy Daze." Behind the scenes, hard-nosed and crafty, she acted as "sheriff" on other merchants who tried to take pricing shortcuts or dump poor merchandise on unsuspecting customers of the sales event. More than one neighboring store's manager received a "visit" if any shortcuts were in evidence. She knew merchandising and pricing and wasn't bashful in sharing her expertise.

As an employer, she had rules for her salespeople. Gum chewing could lead to serious consequences. The operative word was "fired" for such transgressions. Employees were trained how to wrap presents (Esther's way, of course), treat customers and how to buy for the Albany market. She and her husband Bob took great pride in the appearance of their stores, too. She fol-

lowed "Nordstrom-type" merchandising—once she marked an item down it never went back up in price.

A favorite story of local merchants was the time a "streaker" dashed in through the back door at Nancy's, in front of the dressing rooms and out the front door. Esther was reportedly perched in her office on the store's balcony and had a full view of the proceedings. The flasher was never seen or heard from again despite the efforts of then Police Chief Darrell Pepper.

Her agreement to become the first woman president of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce in 1974 hinged on her request that retiring president Glenn Cushman write her acceptance speech. Cushman recalls that as they would talk, he would record her thoughts on paper, with the final draft short and to the point. She remarked later to Cushman how good the speech was and how easy it had been to give. No wonder. The words and ideas were all hers.

At the Albany First United Methodist Church, Esther served as volunteer treasurer for 38 years. She often told members of the congregation that with the arrival of computers she would be finished in that position. And that proved to be so. During many of those years when church contributions were short, ministers recalled that she would just write a check and the budget was balanced.

While many of her ideas came to life, not all of them did. She wasn't a fan of long, drawn-out Sunday sermons and lobbied for a large clock to be installed at the rear of the sanctuary. This was not for the benefit of the congregation but rather for the minister. One hour was long enough for just about anything, including her memorial service.

Esther was generous with her resources, experience and time. There was never a good cause or an important Albany effort that didn't benefit from her involvement, including the Albany Regional Museum. She was recognized on numerous occasions by just about every nonprofit in town — and many others around the state — for her civic work. In 1978, she was named Albany's First Citizen.

As her automobile license plate once proclaimed, Esther Ferguson was Albany's "Rag Gal." Indeed, an Albany icon.



## Albany students visit for projects

Students from Calapooia Middle School and West Albany High School conducted projects at the Museum in January.

Cindy Etherton's technology students from Calapooia photographed Museum objects and exhibits. Zach Null, at right, an eighth grader with camera and clipboard in hand, was among photography class members.

Advanced Placement U.S. History students of Instructor Everett Hartman at West Albany write research papers each year based on Museum materials. Among those reviewing documents are (left to right) Keely Benedict, Annamae Sutherland, McKena King, Jessica Trisdale, Breezy Benedict



and Katie Austin.

Museum board member Linda Ellsworth assisted the high school students by answering questions and locating materials.

## Members elect two new faces to ARM board

Two new faces, Michael Martin and Darrel Tedisch, were elected to three-year terms on the Museum's board of directors during the annual meeting September 19.

Two others were also re-elected for three-year terms. They are Treasurer Michael Kok and Museum founder Gerald (Jerry) Brenneman.

Martin is the president of Security Alarm Corporation and past chairman of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. Tedisch is retired fire chief for the City of Albany. Both are active in numerous community projects. Kok is owner of Kok Accounting and Tax Preparation and has served as treasurer since 2003.

Brenneman has served in all leadership positions since the Museum's founding in 1981. He is a retired Albany high school history teacher.

The annual meeting included an update on finances, a pictorial review of the year's activities and the presentation of certificates of appreciation to outgoing board members Shannon Leland-Willard and John Boock. Leland-Willard continues as the Museum's bookkeeper. Boock remains on several committees.

Meeting attendees were treated to a presentation by author Edward Loy. He recounted his work and experiences in creating the Museum's first pictorial history book, "Tim Burr!" The book was published in June following more than a year of planning and development. It documents the history of the World Championship Albany Timber Carnival, the community signature event for more than 50 years, ending in 2000.

At its regular October board meeting, directors re-elected their officers for 2011.

They include Chairman John Buchner, Vice-Chairman Larry Bardell, Secretary Mary Jacq Burck and Treasurer Michael Kok.

Following the election, Buchner announced that he planned to retire as chairman in September. He has served 10 years on the board and six years as chairman.



## Friends help founder celebrate

Family, friends and associates helped founder Gerald (Jerry) Brenneman mark 30 years of volunteer service at the Museum during the annual Albany Christmas Parlour Tour December 12. He is pictured here, second from left, with former board member Berry Price and Museum friends Bernice Wirowek and Lucille Pengra. More than 150 people attended the event.

# Frank Merrill was sly jokester

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Art and design were important to Frank for much of his life. While still in high school, he showed a remarkable talent for drawing; during his junior year, he created a cartoon bulldog that served as the school mascot for many years. After graduation in 1937, he attended Albany College for a year and then studied design at the Los Angeles Art School. Nearly a decade later Frank drew "Tim Burr," the little log roller who was the face of the Timber Carnival for over fifty years. In the late 1940s, he partnered with his brother Zed and friend Eric Ericson in the Ericson and Merrill advertising firm, which provided another outlet for his talent.

Frank's gift for blending beauty with utility, combined with his ability to observe and listen to his clients, led to a long, successful career in architectural design. Most of Frank's projects were residences, although he did produce notable buildings such as the Red Cross offices on Pacific Boulevard and the Queen Avenue Business Center. One of his finest residential designs was a home for Bill O'Hearn on Park Terrace. Frank tended to work in a traditional, modified colonial style with extensive use of brick, but his goal always was to satisfy the wishes and needs of his clients.

Although Frank was born in Spokane, Washington, in 1919, he lived most of his life in Albany, where he and his wife Evelyn raised their four children, Jane, Dan, Debbie, and Lisa. He had come to Albany with his parents Zadoc "Zed" and Daisy Merrill in the early 1920s. By the 1930s, the Merrill family had built a home on Nebergall Farm Road in North Albany, where Zed and Daisy cultivated a sizable filbert grove and surrounded the house with manicured gardens.

Young Frank learned the importance of hard work by tending the filbert trees and

doing other farm chores. As a teenager, he also began to appreciate the advantages of a fashionable wardrobe. Fittingly, his high school class voted Frank "Best Dressed Farmer." Though he soon dropped the farmer role, he kept his habit of dressing well throughout his life, and in the early 1950s partnered with his younger brother Zed in a men's clothing store at First Avenue and Lyon Street.

From his youth, Frank was reserved and had a sly sense of humor accompanied by a twinkle in his eyes. He liked the kind of joke that startled people. His sister Julia still recalls the day Daisy was busy in the kitchen whipping up a cake when she asked Frank to check a mouse trap in the basement. Frank returned and, when his mother was looking away, he placed a dead mouse on the counter near the mixing bowl. In the next instant, after Daisy turned her attention back to her baking task, there was cake batter all over the kitchen. Frank and Julia howled with laughter, but it was certainly not Daisy who cleaned up the mess.

Varied interests competed for Frank's time. He enjoyed playing golf and reading fiction, especially suspense tales and cowboy novels. He liked good food and enrolled in a class to lift his cooking to a higher level. Frank always pushed himself to do his best at any task. He loved to swim and taught all his children to enjoy it, too. Gardening was a passion he inherited from Daisy, and he passed that love along, like a genetic trait, to his children.

In the late 1980s, Frank was stricken with bone cancer, and, though he continued his architectural design business until mid-1991, he had to forego most of his civic activities. He died November 5, 1991, at the age of 71.

*The author thanks Evelyn Sandmeyer, Jane Ramsey, Debbie Russell, Lisa Merrill, and Julia Goode for sharing their memories of Frank Merrill.*

# Expert to share knowledge of buttons

Continued from Page 1

selections; a final session will look at pay equity issues.

Ilse Christensen of Corvallis will share her expertise with buttons at the annual tea. She began her romance with buttons when she inherited her great-grandmother's collection while in college. She says, at the time, she put them on a shelf and planned to someday learn more about the collection. In 2000, Mrs. Christensen joined a local button club and the state button society.

Tea attendees are encouraged to bring a favorite button for evaluation by Mrs. Christensen.

## MORE EVENTS COMING

Dates for events scheduled by the Museum for later this year include:

- May 17, History Circle recognition (Invitation only).
- July 27, Annual historic cemetery tour.
- July 30, Annual tour of historic homes and gardens\*.
- Aug. 9, Patron reception (Invitation only).
- Sept. 10, Rhys Miller Classic car show.
- Oct. 4, Annual Museum business meeting.
- Dec.11, Christmas Parlour Tour of historic homes\*.

\*Sponsored by other organizations, but with Museum participation.



Hollywood, 1940s.



High school portrait



High school graduation



Marquita (right) with Groucho Marx at the Earl Carroll pageant in Hollywood

# Marquita

## Albany woman rubbed elbows with Hollywood stars

Marquita Olsen was born in Albany in 1924, daughter of George and Anna (Spjut) Olsen. She grew up on North Albany Road, overlooking Thornton Lake. Even as a child, Marquita was always performing. Her sisters would pull her out of class at North Albany Grade School to help her practice on stage. At Albany High, she played clarinet in the band and further developed her love of theater.

In 1943, at age 19, she left Albany for California where she quickly landed a role in "Springtime for Henry" with renowned actor Edward Everett Horton.

A short time later, she found herself in Hollywood winning a coveted spot among the "Most Beautiful Girls in the World," at Earl Carroll's famous theatre. There she was part of their nightly pageant and escorted famous entertainers on stage.

During World War II, Marquita entertained servicemen at the USO. During this time, she became friends with Stan Laurel of "Laurel and Hardy," and was even asked on a date by film star Walter Pidgeon. (No, she would not go with him to Mexico!)

By 1947, Marquita was part of the Columbia "new talent" system, worked with 20th Century Fox, and appeared in several films with stars such as Glenn Ford, Cornel Wilde and Ginger Rogers.

One of her big thrills was the evening Humphrey Bogart noted she was shivering while waiting to shoot a scene. So while he was on the set, he invited her to warm up (alone) in his trailer. On another occasion, Ronald Reagan noted her peculiar stance with this comment: "I once had a horse who stood like that!"



A Hollywood promotion photo



As a youth in North Albany

*Thanks to Marquita's son, Scott Fisher, for providing these and other materials for the Museum's collection.*



In 1914, I remember a small shabby building facing the Southern Pacific railroad depot. The large hand-painted sign on its front read First Chance Saloon. On the opposite side was painted in equally large letters the words Last Chance Saloon. A well-worn path led to the door of this old building, which also operated a lunch room.

In 1940, Linn County began the construction of a new courthouse as the old one had served too long and could no longer fill the needs of this growing community. It was financed

### Excerpts from the published memories of Victor Olliver

with funds which has been set aside by the county over a period of years, and also with considerable government aid. It is an imposing structure and appeared adequate in size when built but was soon found to be too small. An addition was then constructed on the west end with funds given to the county in the will of the late L.L. Swan. Swan was an attorney of longstanding in Albany who passed away without lineal heirs.

It is not the purpose of this commentary to discuss national problems. But I will mention that which took place in the nation in the 1930s which was the enactment of social services legislation known as our Social Security laws. This law has been a life saver for millions of people in the aged and low-income brackets. Congress is working on problems for its improvement. Albany is deeply interested

## Judge Olliver's legacy include's manuscript

Circuit Court Judge Victor Olliver had been retired from the Linn County bench 20 years when he decided to write down his memories of Albany — at age 94.

In the introduction to his two-part volume, *Memories: Albany from 1914\**, Olliver recorded in 1983 that his eyesight was failing. That's when he conceived the idea that "I might employ a part of my time by typing some of the memories I have from lifetime experiences...I had no notes, records or any other sources of information to refresh my memory and did my composing while typing."

Olliver's daughter, Mary Louise Broz, edited his copy. She wrote in an acknowledgement in 1987 that "none of the content has been changed except for some typographical improvements. The words, the phrases, are all his. And he wrote from a heart full of loving memories of these his friends and associates, and of his beloved town and community. In my opinion, this is the finest legacy he could have left to us, his family and friends." He finished the manuscript at age 97.

Olliver was born in 1886 in Indiana. He taught school for five years and graduated from the University of Indiana with an LL.B degree in 1912. He practiced law for one year in Marion, IN, came to Albany in 1913, and served as city attorney from 1916 to 1919. He married Mildred Slonaker in 1915. They had two children. He was appointed judge in 1946 by Gov. Earl Snell after many years as a practicing attorney. He retired as judge in 1963. Olliver's politics, according to Charles Carey's *History of Oregon*, were Republican. He was a member of the Odd Fellows and the Masons, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Linn County Bar Association. He died in Albany, May 31, 1986, at age 100.

*\*A copy of Olliver's manuscript is housed in the Rod and Marty Tripp Reference Room at the Albany Regional Museum*

in the law becoming satisfactorily permanent.

Unlawful sale and distillation, bootlegging and other crimes and violations kept officers busy during



As a school board member in the 1930s

prohibition. Our district attorney was particularly upset and worried and slept on an open back porch with a gun under his pillow for protection. Such is typical of how officers were kept alert.

Here is an interesting fact concerning the Willamette River. A senior citizen told me several years ago that in early days the river overflowed its banks during the winter season and that he had seen water so deep that travel was impossible on First Street downtown. He also said that at times the weather became so cold that people would travel across the river on ice. There were no bridges then, but there were ferries in Albany.

Sam Frager arrived in Albany about 1912 or 1913. The property he was known to possess at that time was a gray mare and an open one-horse wagon. With this equipment he began his business of buying old scrap iron and other throw-away items which were considered worthless. His little business grew and he began to deal in more valuable things. He always had an outlet where he sold anything he bought.

Sam and his wife, Regina, adjusted to community life very well. He prospered financially from the beginning. He began dealing in materials of good merchantable value such as chitem bark, various farm products, wood, wool and some livestock. He then rented a small building and started in the business of merchandising secondhand furniture. This grew and later became the largest secondhand business in this county. He then enlarged and founded the Frager Furniture Company. This was then the largest privately-owned retail business in Albany. Sam was considered to have been the most successful merchant in this community.

## Oregon Trail movie to repeat

Oregon Trail history will come alive on the silver screen in Albany for the second and third times this year.

Sponsored by the Albany Regional Museum as part of its education mis-

sion, the "In Pursuit of a Dream" film will be at the Pix Theatre, 321 Second Ave. SW, Monday, March 21 and Wednesday, March 23, at 1 p.m. The movie is free and the showing is during spring vacation for schools.

About 80 individuals were turned away from the first showing because the theatre has only 200 seats. Museum Administrative Coordinator Tami Sneddon said she hoped those that were

turned away can attend on the new dates.

"In Pursuit of a Dream" is a movie that retells the story of the Oregon and California trails of the 1800s. Twenty-four students exchanged their shorts and sandals for long dresses and pioneer pants to participate in the recreation of the westward migration. The film was produced for the Oregon-California Trails Association.

# Albany woman made flight instructor history

BY TAMI SNEDDON  
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

I recently discovered in the Museum's archives another remarkable woman in Albany history. She was Evelyn Burleson Waldren.

Mrs. Waldren was one of the Northwest's best known women aviators. She logged more than 23,700 hours of flying time and received national recognition for her contribution to aviation.

While preparing a traveling exhibit on Albany flight history for Linn-Benton Community College, I came across her photograph and information in a file from a collection of archives from the late Russell Sprague, another Albany aviator.

Evelyn and her husband, Howard Burleson, managed the Albany Airport from 1937 to 1941.

She was the flight instructor after becoming the second woman in the United States to earn an instructor's rating in 1939.

Born in Nebraska in 1908, she started

flying in 1928 in a surplus World War I open biplane.

On Oct. 1, 1941, Burleson flew non-stop from Vancouver, B.C. to Tijuana, Mexico, in "Miss Liberty," a single-engine Taylor craft, in 16 ½ hours, setting a speed and distance record for light airplanes.

In her 58 years of flying and 47 years as a flight instructor, Burleson trained thousands of pilots. When civilian pilots west of the Cascades were grounded during World War II, she went to Alturas, Calif., to teach military cadets to fly.

Burleson died in 1986 in Vancouver, WA, at age 78.

Albany aviation history includes the initial flight of the first aircraft built in Oregon, constructed and flown by John Burkhart. And Albany was the site of the first airfield in the Northwest that was later developed into an airport under the leadership of Charles J. Langmack.

March is Women's History Month, and I am adding Evelyn Burleson Waldren to my list of notable Albany women.



**Flight instructor Evelyn Burleson conducts class.**

## Brenneman Society member Martha 'Marty' Tripp dies at 91

Brenneman Society member Martha "Marty" Tripp, 91, wife of Albany businessman and community benefactor Rodney Tripp, died February 2.

Mrs. Tripp and her husband were among the founders of the Museum. She had lived in the community since 1936, coming to the city from North Dakota. She graduated from Albany High School in 1937 and attended Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, ID. She married Mr. Tripp

in 1941.

Active in the revival of the Albany World Championship Timber Carnival after World War II, her involvement was documented in *Tim Burr!*, the Museum's illustrated history book published in July 2010.

Survivors include her husband, son Randall W. "Randy" Tripp of Albany and daughter Julie Lou Tripp of Portland. A memorial service was held at Fisher Funeral Home on Feb. 8.

## Memorial roll adds 10 names

Ten names have been added to the Museum's memorial roll since the Fall 2010 newsletter.

They include former state legislator William Gwinn, Dr. Lew Hurd, Len and Sally Britton, Joe Bispham, Esther and Robert Ferguson, Doug Gore, Jerry Murphy and Martha "Marty" Tripp.

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 or \$100.

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

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. The card may 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.

### 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 Circle	\$250

☐ I want to learn more about the Chautauqua Circle and Brenneman Society.

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

[www.armuseum.com](http://www.armuseum.com)



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## Looking Back: My first plane ride

**BY JACK GILLESPIE**  
MUSEUM MEMBER

In the summer of 1969, I was living in Simi, CA, with my wife, Margie, her son Richard and our five-year-old son, Mark. At the time I was working as a journeyman printer for the *Camarillo News*.

One day I got a letter from the Albany High Class of 1949 alumni committee announcing its second reunion scheduled for June. (I missed the first reunion having just begun work at the *News*.)

Margie and I talked it over and we agreed that I should go.

The only way I could get to Albany and back without taking time off from work would be to fly--something I had never done before.

The next Saturday, Margie and I drove to the Los Angeles airport to get my ticket.

We entered the terminal, found the ticket counter and went through the routine without any problem. The cost was about \$100 roundtrip to Portland. The ticket attendant advised me to get to the terminal at least 10 minutes before takeoff.

The next Saturday, I drove my pickup to the airport, parked (no charge), and walked a

block to the terminal and checked my baggage (no inspection), then got in line for departure. In just a few minutes I was in my seat being tucked in by a stewardess wearing a sharp uniform. We went airborne and off to Portland. This was my first "ride."

As we all settled in, lunch was served. A hot meal in a special tray was locked onto my seat and I was asked what kind of beverage and dessert I would like (all at no additional charge).

After a hearty lunch, passengers were asked to pick a drink from a list (no charge), then we all leaned back to enjoy the ride.

We landed in Portland in about two hours, right on schedule. I disembarked, walked a few yards and picked up my luggage (no waiting or inspection).

I found the car rental garage, a short distance away, rented a Chevrolet and was off to Jefferson where my parents lived. I spent the night and the next day (and evening) attending a wonderful class reunion.

The next day I bid my parents good-bye, drove the car back to the terminal, hopped on my plane and headed home to my family in California.