

Uppity Women to be heard at Museum tea

Through stories, journals, songs, and readings, author and playwright Susan Butruille will invite Museum members' participation in "Tea, True Womanhood and Uppity Women."



**Susan
Butruille**

The tea will be held in the Museum meeting room on Friday, March 16, at 2 p.m., co-chaired by Judie Weisert and Cynthia Murphy.

"This is our fifth tea, and members can bring a nonmember as a guest. This is one of the perks of being a Museum member,"

said Tami Sneddon, exhibit and collections coordinator. "But call right away if you haven't already made reservations." Donations of \$5 per person is appreciated.

Butruille is a popular Northwest presenter, who cautions: "Watch out for tea parties! That's where many women have started thinking about their lives, their own freedom, and other radical notions." She says that women got the idea of the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y., over tea. "And ac-

Continued on Page 4



Kaley Sauer took the reins at ARM on Feb. 7.

Sauer to lead Museum staff

Twenty-five-year-old Kaley Sauer was looking for a position that would jumpstart her career in museums.

That's when she learned of the opening for administrative coordinator at the Albany Regional Museum. She began work February 7.

The opportunity developed after the

coordinator, Tami Sneddon, wanted to work fewer hours and concentrate on collections and exhibits rather than museum operations. That became possible when the current collections specialist, Jennifer Jameson, resigned and moved

Continued on Page 4

Son leaves Ferguson carvings to Museum

Robert Ferguson was a businessman who had a talent for wood and ivory carving that dated back to his school days at Albany High in the early 1930s.

An artist by any definition, he spent many of his retirement years in his Springhill Drive studio creating beautifully framed carvings from maple, walnut, alder and ivory. Ferguson had been involved in a number of family-owned Albany-area businesses, including the historic Blain Clothing Co.

He died at age 77 in 1991, and more than 100 examples of his artistry were acquired by his son Gary. Very few items were ever publicly sold. These Albany-produced treasures were complemented with another group of unrelated artworks (oil paintings, sculptures, metal and glass) acquired by Gary and privately displayed.

Earlier this year, son Gary, who never married, died of colon cancer at age 71.

With no lineal descendants, Gary

willed these two collections to the Albany Regional Museum. His mother, Esther Ferguson, died in 2010. His sister, Nancy, survives. Both he and his sister believed that their father's collection should remain in the community where it originated and where it could be appreciated and eventually displayed.

It was Gary's hope that the unrelated

Continued on Page 3

View from Second & Lyon: 'Haves & have nots'

BY LARRY BARDELL
BOARD CHAIRMAN

In somewhat of a departure from the usual Albany history theme, I would like to reflect on the topic of "Haves and Have Nots." This is not a commentary on social, economic, or cultural disparity, nor is it an outreach of the often overstressed and over-told story of dissension between our Monteith and Hackleman city founders. It is somewhat of a "state of the Museum" commentary, intended to draw member interests to both our assets and our needs as a Museum dedicated to the history of our city and region.

What we have is a fantastic collection of artifacts, articles and photos from the early beginnings of our history up through the 1940s, '50s, '60s and somewhat into the 1970s. What we have not but need are collections of important Albany events, businesses, personalities, and artifacts of the past couple of decades. These too are important to our history. ATI Wah Chang recently donated several interesting items that fit into this category, but what of some of the other industries, individuals, events that come to mind as you reflect

on this? We invite your ideas and comments.

What we have is a very efficient staff and a small core group of volunteers who dedicate hours of time and energy to make our history available and understood to visitors and community alike. What we have not is a large and stable cadre of volunteers to regularly draw upon to share in the work and enjoyment of preserving and sharing this history.



Larry Bardell

While current staff and volunteers willingly devote time, dedication, energies and enjoyment, a larger pool of volunteers is needed upon which to draw for daily operations and special events. As a health care professional, I frequently come across articles and research studies that emphasize the value of volunteerism, not only for personal well-being, but for the benefit of communities and neighborhoods as well. Who wouldn't want to be involved in an activity that fosters both personal and community well-being? We would love to have more of our members and readers enjoy the Museum with us and experience well-being, happiness and fun in the process.

Come spend time with us. You, and we

likewise, will be happy you did.

What we have is a fantastic 1887 historic Albany building that we call home. Once inside, you wonder at how in 1912 such a building could be moved several blocks across town by horse power over a span of several days, and not lose a single brick in the process. What we have not, however, is a roof for that stately building that keeps the interior free of leaks during our heavy winter rains.

Visitors to the second story might wonder if the many buckets scattered among the stored artifacts are themselves part of our collections. What we have is a contingency fund for such facility repair needs. What we have not, however, is a contingency fund that is always large enough or self-perpetuating enough to attend to all the facility management needs that a 150-year-old building requires.

May I be so bold as to suggest, as you look to year-end financial tallies, that you consider our dear old building among any gifts or donations you may want to include in your tax return? It would not only preserve a stately old building but help preserve our unique Albany history as well.

Come share with us in our "haves and have nots." It fosters a great sense of well-being and provides a lot of fun in the process.

Sneddon moves to exhibits, collections post

I completed working for the Museum as the administrative coordinator in February.

Over the past five years the Museum has increased visitors and membership. There have been events that have awed our audiences and they have taken home with them a respect for the Museum and appreciation for what is being accomplished here.

The board, staff and volunteers continue to care for our historical collection so the stories can be told for many years to come. The archives and objects have been given a few more years to their existence through the added care we have provided with light and temperature control, as well as many purchases of archival storage vessels. We definitely are on the right track in preserving our history.

The accomplishments are great in number over the past 30 years, and I am proud to have been your administrative coordinator to experience this evolution as the Museum has



Tami
Sneddon

grown.

With the opening created by the resignation of the collection specialist, it is my desire to continue with the Albany Regional Museum but in the capacity as caretaker of the collection and exhibits. I asked the executive committee to consider this change. They have agreed and been supportive of my wish.

I look forward to directly organizing and caring for the collection, and working with the exhibit committee on the goal of transforming our exhibit hall into the opportunity for a better experience for our visitors to learn about local history.

Your encouragement and support over the past five years is appreciated and I look forward to carrying on the Museum's mission.

*Tami Sneddon
Collections and Exhibits
Coordinator*

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.

Museum gets Albany craftsman's carvings

Continued from Page 1

works he had accumulated could be sold and that those proceeds be used by the Museum to help preserve and care for his father's legacy.

The Museum's board voted in October to accept the collections as outlined in its planned giving and endowment fund development policies. A number of steps, including estate settlement, preservation packaging and storing, consignment of the acquired artwork, and appraisal will take a number of months. An Albany attorney, Dell A. Alexander, is the estate's trustee.

Ferguson spent a number of months in 2010-11 acquainting himself with the operations and goals of the Albany Museum, its board and management. He told then Museum board chairman John Buchner that he felt comfortable in leaving the collections with an organization that had demonstrated community support, leadership, stability and vision over many years.

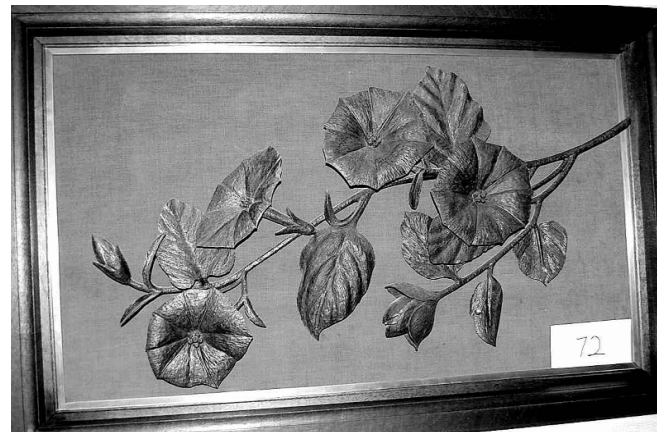
Current board chairman Larry Bardell said the Museum welcomed Ferguson's gift and described it as one of the most significant examples of Albany culture to be acquired.

"Robert Ferguson's works are of significant historical value to this community, and the Museum is honored to be entrusted by Gary and his sister with this gift. These carvings will be preserved and the public will be able to view examples of this gifted Albany artist's works for generations."

How the carvings will eventually be displayed is a project for the Museum's board, development committee, and staff.



**An ivory orchid
in a wood frame.**



Morning glory carved out of black walnut.



**Cattails carved from
one piece of maple.**



**A spider web carved from
a single piece of wood.**



**Jewelry boxes made out of walnut
and brass, left, and ivory and
brass.**



**An abstract shell carved
from blue stain pine.**

Coordinator fell in love with Oregon as a teen

Continued from Page 1

to the Portland area with her family.

Following her 2010 graduation from the University of Oregon with a master's degree in arts management that included a multimedia concentration and museum studies certificate, Sauer freelanced from her Eugene residence in graphic design while continuing to look for a more permanent position.

Her university credentials also include a bachelor's degree in art history and internships at the Lane County Historical Museum and the Maude Kerns Arts Center. It was her experience at Lane County that opened her eyes to small museums. "I realized that I could learn more if I worked for a smaller organization. I wanted to be part of something where I could have an immediate impact."

Born in California, raised in Rhode Island, Sauer fell in love with Oregon when she spent several summers with her grandparents in the central Oregon community of La Pine. When her grandparents moved to Powell Butte near Prineville, the teenager moved west to live with them during her senior year in high school. She graduated from Crook County

High School in 2004 and entered the University of Oregon with an eye on architecture. This would evolve into the study of arts management and a growing interest in Museums.

Sauer says among her challenges at the Albany museum will be strengthening the membership base, increasing daily attendance, growing financial support, and seeking more community connections. "Getting acquainted and learning about the Albany community will be on my immediate list for things to do."

Her family includes two younger brothers who live in Rhode Island with her father. Her mother lives in California. Her fiancé is a Eugene resident.

Chairman Larry Bardell said the Museum had received a number of very good applicants for the position. "Kaley's references gave very positive reviews of their working experiences with her," Bardell said.

Sauer is the third person to fill the position of administrative coordinator. Bill Maddy, who remains a volunteer at the Museum, was the first manager and Sneddon was the second.

The Museum has funded the part-time position for seven years.

Author to speak at Museum tea

Continued from Page 1

cording to legend, it was at a tea party in South Pass City that women suffrage began in Wyoming, the first state or territory to allow women to vote."

Tea-goers will learn about Indian women, many of whom were free before their lands were taken. They will meet women who were jailed and force-fed for demanding the vote...cowgirls who rode the rodeo circuit wearing (gasp!) split skirts and riding astride!...activist women who stood up for workers and chil-

dren...women who braved the odds to create works of art, and westward emigrants who had no time for tea, Butruille relates.

Butruille lives in Leavenworth, WA, and is the author of the Women's Voices series on women in the West, numerous articles, film scripts and "Recipe for Justice," a reader's theater suffrage play. She has presented workshops and costumed performances from coast to coast and has lectured in Washington and Oregon as a humanities scholar.

WOMEN VOTE ON EQUAL TERMS WITH MEN

WYOMING
UTAH
IDAHO

COLORADO
WASHINGTON
CALIFORNIA

WHY NOT IN OREGON?

VOTE 300X YES! AMENDMENT NO. 1, NOV. 5, 1912

The Oregon chapter of the College Equal Suffrage League produced this handbill as part of a successful 1912 state campaign to give women the right to vote.

Centennial events to unfold in 2012

Who doesn't love a party? This year is shaping up to be a year of centennial anniversaries, giving ample opportunity for celebration. These banner events involve our State, our City and even our Museum building.

A year-long celebration is underway in Oregon to commemorate women's suffrage, nearly a decade before most women of the United States achieved the right to vote in 1920. A March 16, Museum member tea, (Page One), an October observance of Abigail Scott Duniway's birthday, and a November salute to the state proclamation are among upcoming Museum observances.

Albany is where Abigail Scott Duniway took on the challenge of women's rights. So, in 2012, as the state commemorates 100 years of Oregon women having the right to vote, we are looking forward to honoring her life and commitment to suffrage.

Two Albany landmarks, the Oregon Electric Railway Building and Fisher Funeral Home, will be feted this year. The Oregon Electric Railway Building commenced service on the Fourth of July of 1912. It was built at a cost of \$32,000, which would be well over a million dollars by today's standards.

Fisher Funeral Home began as Fisher-Braden Furniture and Undertaking Parlor at the current location of Two Rivers Market, Third and Broadalbin.

For Museum patrons, a special event will honor our building, which has had many uses. Originally located at the corner of First Avenue and Broadalbin Street where Wells Fargo Bank is now located, the building was jacked up and moved 2½ blocks to its present location at Second Avenue and Lyon Street in 1912. It had been a dry goods store at its former site but began a new life as Parker's Grocery Store. Over the years it housed other businesses, including a pool hall and the Monarch Café. By 1940, it was the Albany Farm Store, and finally Ace Hardware before the building was purchased and given to the Museum in 1999. A grand opening was held on September 9, 2000.

Historic structure has mystery angle

Ninth Avenue rental
was once a bookstore

BY KAY BURT
MUSEUM MEMBER

Wedged between an imposing 1908 Craftsman and a stately 1888 Italianate, the narrow one-story rental at 315 Ninth St. exudes personality. With its green-striped awning across its width, it looks like a green grocer's shop in an English village. In the summer, its brick planters are filled with red geraniums that contrast nicely with its gray exterior.

Listed as the Albany College Bookstore in the Monteith District inventory of historic structures, it faces Central Elementary School. It's estimated to have been built in 1920, and is part of the same tax lot as the 1888 Italianate on the corner at 832 Broadalbin. But owner Allen Nelson doesn't have any records of its history.

A September 1888 Sanborn Fire Map (at right) shows Albany Collegiate Institute facing Broadalbin and two empty lots, except for the Benedictine Academy in the lower right. The rear of the building sports a long, narrow shed. Could this have been the college's book store? If so, it is quite a bit older than the 1920 age given in the Monteith District records.

Albany Collegiate Institute was founded in 1867 and was a true citizens' effort, built with subscriptions from \$10 to \$100 and upward. Thomas Monteith gifted four blocks of land and served as its first president. The two-story gray building had a two-story cupola and opened its doors on October 14 for 40 students. In 1873, the first class of four graduates received the degree of Bachelor of Science.

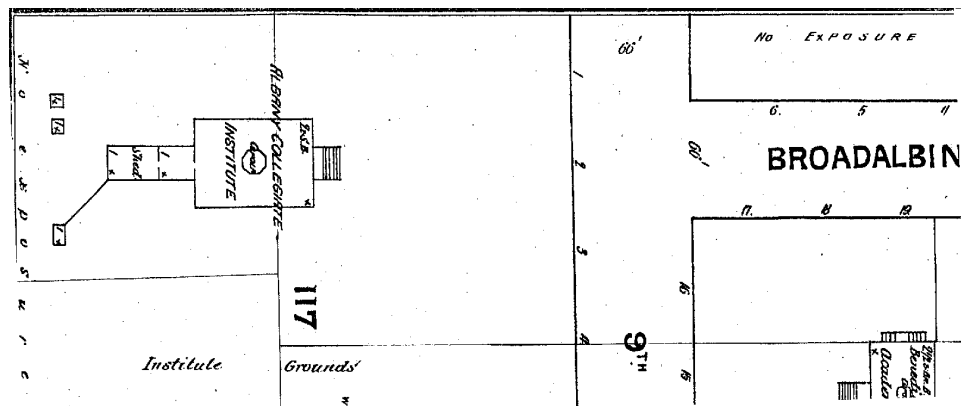
A city directory advertisement for 1892 boasts of an enlarged building with four departments of study: collegiate, business, normal and primary. Rev. E.N. Condit served as president.

In 1909-10, the Institute became Albany College and was owned by the Presbyterian Church in Oregon. Pressed for funds in 1912-13, the college sold the equivalent of a city block to the Albany School District, which built Central School there in 1915. In 1925, the college building was razed and the new campus was erected at Broadway Street and Queen Avenue on a 48-acre tract.

At right is a May 1925 Sanborn Fire Map that shows Albany Collegiate Institute (it should be labeled Albany College) before it was razed. Across the



Monteith District inventory lists building as college store.

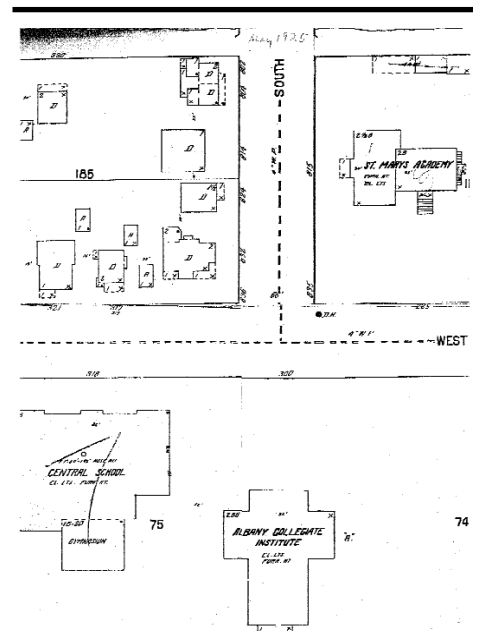


Above: 1888 Sanborn Fire Map.
Right: 1925 Sanborn Fire Map.

street on Ninth and Broadalbin are the Italianate home and a small, narrow structure between it and the Craftsman at 317 Ninth Ave. Could an enterprising neighbor, knowing that the college building was to be torn down, have salvaged and relocated the shed/bookstore to its current site?

BJ, the Nelsons' renter for 17 years, had heard that its earlier usages were a neighborhood grocery store and then, during World War II, as a rental to relatives of soldiers stationed at Camp Adair. BJ also said the 592-square-foot building has been added onto by about 12 feet in front and back, and has probably been a rental since the early 1950s.

If anyone has information that would solve this "little" mystery, please write or e-mail us at armuseum@peak.org.



Museum offers several historic looks at Albany

Do you need a program for a club or other organization? The Albany Regional Museum can help! As part of outreach and educational programming, there are several presentations to choose from.

ALBANY CHAUTAUQUAS

The first program developed is about the Albany Chautauquas (1910-1932). Chautauqua "assemblies" were a national phenomenon in the early 20th century. These were weeklong combination camping and lecture/entertainment gatherings held in over 10,000 American towns and cities. They were held outdoors, and were described as being "culture in one big yearly gulp." Many families camped for the entire week in what is now Bryant Park.

Chautauquas in Albany were particularly successful because the town was well served by the railroads. There were Chautauqua circuits, just like vaudeville circuits, though both spectators and performers considered the Chautauquas "higher than vaudeville" (according to Albany native Orah Harkness Buhl, who spent a number of years traveling on the Ellison-White circuit). Many old-time Albany residents felt that the annual Chautauqua assembly was the high

point of the year.

The Chautauqua presentation was originally developed for use during the Museum's 25th-anniversary celebration in 2005. A shortened version of this program was presented at last July's patron event. That program was followed by the Museum's own homegrown Chautauqua performance.

If your organization is interested in either the long or short form of this slide program, contact the Museum.

THE HUB CITY

In December 2010, a program was created about Albany history with a business slant for presentation at the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Forum. It includes some early city lore (the North-South Civil War-era feud, the "lost" cannon, the coming of the railroads, etc.), then moves on to various business types, Albany College and the Bureau of Mines, streetcars, schools, etc.

It's interesting to note how the city's infrastructure developed — and when. Although there were a few efforts by private individuals to pave streets in front of their businesses, even the busy downtown avenues remained unpaved until after 1910. The Santiam Canal was originally intended to transport goods to Albany

for shipment. However, the current was too swift, so it was instead used to provide water power for businesses and also as a source of clean drinking water. The Willamette was too polluted, which is why the turkey processing plants, meat packers, etc. were located right over the river. Waste disposal consisted of opening the back door and dumping it directly into the river. Albany did not have a sewage treatment system until 1950 — and neither did any of the other towns in the valley.

Again, if your organization would enjoy this program, call the Museum.

HOW WE LIVED

A third program about life in Albany was created for middle school audiences, though adults will enjoy it also. Its purpose is to help students see what can be learned about daily life and customs through careful examination of historic photos, using pictures from the Bob Potts collection (owned by the Museum).

This program is more conversational, covering clothing styles, schools, sports, downtown business buildings, social customs, etc. When used in the classroom, the students will have previously viewed the 90-minute DVD "Albany, an American Town." Then the program examines about 70 photos to see what can be learned about Albany and American life in the last century.

Contact the Museum for more information about all three programs. (541-967-7122 or armuseum@peak.org)

Meet volunteer Andrew Levin

My name is Andrew Tsvi Levin. I am 24 years old, and a volunteer at the Albany Regional Museum. I hold a B.A. in history from Oregon State University and have always enjoyed teaching and learning about mankind's past.

Unfortunately, finding a rewarding career outside of classroom education is near impossible with only a bachelor's degree.

After graduating in March 2009, I moved to South Korea in order to give teaching a whirl. Although working with students was always a joy, the daily grind of drudging through textbooks began to wear on me. I realized classroom teaching would not be an ideal career path, so I began to think outside the box to figure out what else



Andrew Levin

I could do.

The next year I moved back to the Willamette Valley and began brainstorming. After months of turmoil, I concluded that working in a museum was the best path to follow, as there are infinite possibilities for both teaching and learning.

In addition to volunteering at the Museum and other historical societies, I am trying to start graduate school.

I look forward to studying for an M.A. in public history and continuing toward my goal of a historical career.

Oregon Trail movie shown again

An encore free showing of the movie, "In Pursuit of a Dream," was presented at the Pix Theater in February. The event was sponsored by the Museum and member Steve Thomas. The film chronicles the journey of twenty-four students who traveled by wagon train in 2008 on the Oregon Trail. The students left the comfort of their American homes to travel in long dresses and pioneer pants during a two-week summer journey reliving the history of the Old West. The film was shown last year during spring break. This year's showing was on President's Day, a school holiday. This is the second year that Thomas has helped with the movie's sponsorship.

Betty Orr writes about historic homes

"If only these walls could talk!"

Local writer and historian Betty Orr has taken this phrase to a new level, inviting readers to "listen" to 12 Victorian homes tell their stories of grandeur in Albany's Monteith and Hackleman Historic Districts. They range from Albany's venerable Monteith House to the newly restored Keyhole House once owned by renowned magician Jerry Andrus.

"I was also able to write about a house with a ghost... people like that!" Betty said, speaking of the Hamilton House on 928 Ferry St. SW, where Blanch (or "Blonce") was a housekeeper for the Hamilton Family. Allegedly, she appears nightly by the fireplace in a little white dress, holding a tray.

Orr believes that for a smaller town in the 1870s and '80s, Albany was fairly wealthy. "They built as big a house as possible to show the world their success...better than inside trading today." (See her article on Albany in the 1870s, below.)

Orr says that Rebecca Bond from the



Albany's Betty Orr.

Albany Visitors Association had read some of her work and approached her last year to help create a book featuring Albany's historic homes. "The Victorians, an Albany Treasure" took about eight months to complete and made its debut at the Christmas Parlour Tour on December 11.

Orr was scheduled to sign her book at the Museum that day, but illness kept her home instead.

Sales have been good, Orr said. The book is for sale at the Museum and the Albany Visitor's Association in the Two Rivers Mall for \$5 per copy.

1870s Albany: 'Best & worst' of times

BY BETTY ORR

MUSEUM MEMBER

Perhaps some lines from Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" say it best. "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Some historians describe the year 1873 as the start of a national, yes, even an international, depression that lasted for at least six years: banks failed, the stock market tanked, citizens lost their savings.

However, that time, and up to the beginning of the 20th century, is also referred to as the "Gilded Age," a time when wealthy philanthropists willingly funded museums, libraries, great statuary, parks, etc. All over the country, and even here in Albany, this trend was felt. (Example: Our Carnegie Library in 1914).

In downtown Albany, we still have some fine buildings that were built within this timeframe. With renewed interest in preservation, we are seeing these buildings being restored to their original and impressive conditions. Some had been swathed in 1940s "wrap" of fancy plastic. Kudos to those owners

who are ripping away these inappropriate coverings to reveal the original facades of these buildings.

Albany is unique in one way. Everything that the Monteith brothers planned for Albany could be placed close to the riverfront. The same for Hackleman District. Because the area was large and flat — no troublesome hills to contend with — there was plenty of room to build. Streets were laid out and named in the 1850s. The riverfront was ideal for landings, making it usable for dozens of plants and warehouses.

Businessmen from the beginning of the era had vision. They were willing to invest \$50,000 to bring the railroad through their new city, and also \$63,000 to have the Santiam Canal dug. While this endeavor encountered some financial difficulties, nevertheless it got completed and provided transportation, drinking water, water power, and even recreation for Albany.

Today other men and women of vision are willing to invest time and money to assure that Albany remains The Hub of the Valley.

Nine names added to memorial roll

The names of nine individuals have been added to the Museum's memorial roll through financial gifts.

Willis Hart, Howard Workerger, Richard Milligan, Herb Aschkenasy, Lou Rambousek, William Coburn Sr., Douglas Peacock, R. Morgan Harman and R. Gary Ferguson joined the list since the fall newsletter. All had long-time career connections with the community before their deaths.

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorial gifts that honor a family member or friend. Names of those memorialized are listed in this newsletter, on the Museum's website (www.armuseum.com), and are posted for a limited time at the Museum, 136 Lyon St. S.

A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, next of kin or friend) and a thank-you card to the person or persons making the donation.

The card can be used for charitable gift documentation.

Contact the Museum at 541-967-7122, or stop by the reception desk for additional 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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



136 Lyon Street S.
Albany Oregon 97321
Open
Monday through Friday
Noon to 4 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. -2 p.m.
Free Admission
donations welcomed
(541) 967-7122
e-mail:
armuseum@peak.org
website:
www.armuseum.com

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 83
Albany OR 97321

Return Service Requested

Museum Directors:

Larry Bardell,
Chairman
Joe Simon,
Vice Chairman
Michael Kok,
Treasurer
Mary Jacq Burck,
Secretary
Mary Arnett
Gerald Brenneman
Linda Ellsworth
David Fitchett
Michael Martin
Kim Sass
Darrel Tedisch
Judie Weissert

Liaisons:

Rebecca Bond
Albany Visitors Assoc.
Linda Ellsworth
Linn Genealogical Soc.

Staff:

Kaley Sauer,
Adm. Coordinator
Tami Sneddon,
Collections/Exhibits
Coordinator
Peggy Kowal, Clerk

Kim Jackson, Editor
Shannon Leland-Willard,
Bookkeeper

Looking Back: Visiting Takena Park

BY JACK GILLESPIE
MUSEUM MEMBER

On occasions during the hot summer months in Albany, my father would get up from the supper table and announce that we were going downtown to Takena Park and listen to the band (My father never asked, he announced).

My sister, Lois (four years my elder) and I gave no resistance — we loved going to the park, whatever the occasion. This was in the late 1930s and the park was a busy place during the summer.

By the time we got to the park, the band was already playing to a large audience wrapped around the front of the grandstand, most sitting on blankets and folding chairs brought from their homes. Others were just flopped on the cool green grass of the park.

Me — I just took off wandering around the large park, climbing onto the Civil War cannon (a must) and then took off my shoes and sloshed around in the water pool with the other children. Then I did my favorite thing — I went underground.

The bandstand was atop a half basement which served as a storage area and housed the public restrooms. Men would enter on the

north side and women on the south side. (The old Linn County Court House was at the west end of the park.)

Down into the men's facility I went alone. It was cool and half dark and a little spooky. The "stalls" were on the east side and storage space was on the west side. Even though it was a little eerie down there, it was one of my favorite places "to visit." Many towns offered similar facilities for those coming to visit and shop.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the new court house was under construction just east of the old one which was torn down later. Takena Park, as we knew it, was dwarfed and the bandstand was no more — which saddened some of us 8-year-olds.

The Linn County Court House is one of the most beautiful in the state. I say this even though I still miss my trip (underground).

GIFT SHOP SALES SET RECORD

Gift shop sales for December totaled close to \$1,000 — 60 books and 12 DVDs. Also, Betty Orr's booklet, "The Victorians, an Albany Treasure," garnered \$105, mostly from the Christmas Parlour Tour; \$52 came from the sale of Monteith wooden toys.