

Albany Old Times

Membership Meeting to be held Oct. 15

The Annual Membership Meeting will be Thursday, October 15, 2015, beginning at 5 pm with snacks; the program will begin at 5:40 pm.

This year's program will focus on the Museum's new Rare Metals Exhibit which officially opens in November. "Members are encouraged to come and learn about the changes that are taking place at the Museum," said Darrel Tedisch, Board Chair.

During the business meeting, Members will vote to fill open positions on the Board for 2016-18. The slate includes: Cathy Ingalls, former *Albany Democrat-Herald* reporter and contributor to Albany Old Times; Kitty Buchner, former GAPS educator and creator of

(Continued on Page 4)



Founding Friends. Russ Tripp (left), Doris Scharpf, and Jerry Brenneman catch up on the latest news before the Bob Ferguson Exhibit presentation at the All-Member Ice Cream Social on Aug. 8. The trio has been instrumental in many of the Museum's milestones. (See Page 2 for 35 for 35 Campaign progress).

E & E Calendar Events & Exhibits

- Wednesday, September 9**
History Bites "It's All in the Hat" with Oscar Hult, Community Room - Noon
- Saturday, September 12**
Antiques in the Street Downtown all day; Passport Wrap-Up Party The Pix - 10:30 am - Noon
- Friday, September 18**
Craft Brew Smackdown 3 - 8 pm
Downtown Albany
Museum Hosting: Deluxe Brewery
- Wednesday, October 14**
History Bites "Bureau of Mines/NETL" with Howard Poppleton
Community Room - Noon
- Thursday, October 15**
Museum Annual Meeting and Sneak Preview of Specialty Metals Exhibit 5 - 7 pm - Community Room
- Monday, November 2**
Specialty Metals Exhibit Opening 11 am - 4 pm
- Wednesday, November 11**
Veterans Day Parade;
Open at 10 am with "Veterans Bites"

Loy chronicles Albany's rise as world's 'Rare Metals Capital,' beginning in 1943

This excerpt "From Army Rations to Zirconium," is from Chapter 23 of Ed Loy's book: Gem of the Willamette Valley: A History of Albany, Oregon. It is available at the Museum Book store for \$24.95.

A government research laboratory provided the catalyst for the next surge of local economic growth. By 1942, Albany College had been relocated to Portland and renamed Lewis and Clark College, and the campus at Queen Avenue and Broadway Street stood unoccupied, waiting for the town fathers to entice a new tenant. In addition, city leaders thought the local economy depended too heavily on farming and lumbering, and they sought to make it more diversified.

In July 1942, Congress appropriated \$500,000 for establishing in the Pacific Northwest a Bureau of Mines laboratory to investigate the use of electrical energy in processing minerals. Carl "Zeke" Curlee, secretary and manager of the Albany Chamber of Commerce, and Vin Hurley, the group's president, saw in the planned laboratory a possible solution to both of the city's problems.

Late in 1942, the Bureau of Mines announced that an inspector would be dispatched by rail from California to Washington to review Spokane's proposal, the apparent front-running site. A story centering on

Zeke, Vin, a red flag, and a flare is connected to the train's itinerary. At the hour the train was to arrive at Albany, the two chamber leaders and a group of supporters were at the station to greet the bureau representative. At the last minute the group was informed by a railroad official that the train would not be stopping in Albany as they had anticipated. Hurley

later swore in an interview with John Baur of the *Democrat-Herald* that the following events actually happened. "The trainmaster said, 'We don't have any orders for the train to stop.' And Curlee said, 'The hell it won't stop. We'll stop the train,' and he went running out on the tracks with a red flag and a flare, and a bunch of us got out and blocked the tracks."

As the story goes, the train stopped, Curlee convinced the bureau inspector to look over the college buildings, and the man was sufficiently impressed to add Albany to the short list of candidates. Following congressional hearings, Albany was awarded the laboratory in March 1943. Thus the genesis of Albany's rare metals industry can be traced to Zeke Curlee's audacious, impetuous deed.

In late 1945, the laboratory—by then named the Albany Metallurgy Research Center—added to its

WANTED

Photos, objects & documents relating to the early 1930s to late 1970s for the Bureau of Mines, Wah Chang, Oremet and other metal industry businesses.

(Continued on Page 4)

From the director's deskadvocacy at the center

Dynamic exhibits and programs make advocacy part of everyone's job and a factor in everything staff and the Board of Directors do. They are determined to provide excellent service which is essential in community recognition and support. They seek out the impact of local response and historical insights on contemporary issues as well as those of the past, and engage our visitors through the "real stuff"--original diaries, birth certificates, artifacts, oral histories and more. The director is a cheerleader and an ambassador to individuals, and community groups who rely on our institution for knowledge and educational support. We know our history. Our work helps Albany and surrounding area residents. It stimulates our economy. If we had more resources, we could do even more public good.

Our special fundraising initiative, **35 for 35 Campaign** is over a third

of the way to its goal of \$35,000 in celebration of the Museum's 35th Anniversary. Over 125 individuals and businesses responded to our request for donations, and they are listed below: Dennis & Nona Burkhart, Gary & Brenda Burch, Kristen & Steve Schuttpelz, Kay & Dave Burt, Mary Arnett, Darrel & Linda Tedisch, Debbie Heninonen, Jane Meiners, Lindell & Ernie Johnson, Albany Lock & Key, Ben B. Braat, Nancy Tropic, Gary & Bev Holliday, Scott Cowgill, Judie Weissert & Roland Brower, Berry & Gloria Price, Evelyn Farley & Michael Derrah, Jim & Nancy Goode, Cathy Ingalls, Rodger Butler, Cathy Baker, Alfred D. Fryer, Rhodes Warden Insurance Agency, Jeff & Ann Stroud, Mark & Kathleen Thomas, Anne & Tom Hatley, Shirley Schoblom Lindell, Sam & Lisa Dittmer, Russ & Duffy Tripp, Julie Tripp, Bonnie Orr, Axis Electric, Inc., Stanford & Marilyn Smith, Jason Darling, Jim & Linda Collins, Linn-Co Federal Credit

Union. Allen & Nita Campbell, Don Rea, LeRoy & Bev Haven, Weatherford Thompson, Eunace McClain, Karen Mills, Maryan Howard Roe, Allan & Shann Blake, Floyd & Peggy Collins, Bill & Deborah Maddy, Lorriane Carter, Jack & Georgie Thurber, Beth Nutting Powell, John & Kathleen Buchner, Irene Coburn, Clay & Donna Bluehosh, Polli Butzner, Joe & Mary Chido, Mae Yih, Betty McCoy, John & Lawanda Kollaer, Bari & Deedre Rogers, Connie Arthur McBride, Shawlene Holloway Martin, Neil & Cherie Reynolds, Vera Fox, Samaritan Evergreen Hospice Staff, Jim & Julia Keizur, Stavros Auto Services, Barbara R. Smith, Sully's Stay & Play Doggie Day Care, Edward & Patricia Loy, Shorty & Marsha Lindberg, Jim & Jan Blodgett, Karl Warner, Oregon Freeze Dry Foods, Postal Connections (Curt & Gayle Hinzman), Dick Olsen, Tom Anderson, Steve & Becky Metzger, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lanman, Jeff

Senders, Gale Borde, Shannon Willard, Jerry & Betty Thorn, T.A. Good, Nancy Ferguson, Crabtree Automotive, Nancy Robb, Jim & Sandra Smith, ATI, Fred & Peggy Kowal, David Fitchett & Marilyn Kirsch, Rebecca & Jason Bond, Smith Glass Service, Inc., Dell & Capi Alexander, Jack & Clara Frost, Clarence Opal, Jerry & Kathy Brenneman, Ruth Hope, Beverly Decker, Mikki Edwards, Larry & Florence Allen and many, many anonymous supporters.

There is still plenty of time for you to make your donation, and with your support, prepare for the next 35 years of telling Albany's story. For more information contact me at 541.976.7122 or armuseum@peak.org.

Judie Weissert

For Your Convenience...the Museum now accepts major credit cards for membership dues, donations, memorials and gift shop purchases.

Museum Directors:

Darrel Tedisch, Chair
Kristen Schuttpelz, Vice-Chair
Julie Sipe, Secretary
Mary Arnett
Cathy Baker
Gary Burch
Dennis Burkhart
Kay Burt
Scott Cowgill
Jason Darling
David F. Fitchett
Erik Rau

Liaison:

Rebecca Bond,
Albany Visitors Association

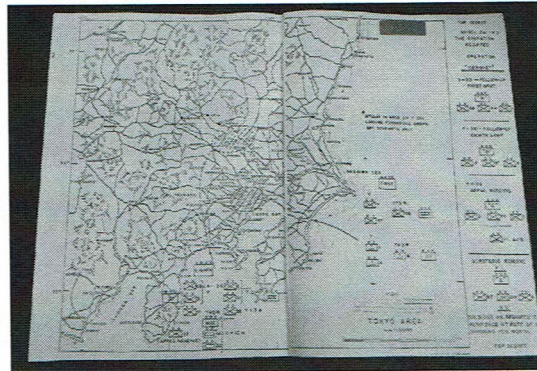
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Gerald Brenneman

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Peggy Kowal, Member
& Visitor Services
Addie Maguire,
Collections Manager
Shannon Leland-Willard,
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Ruth Dietrich, Proofreader
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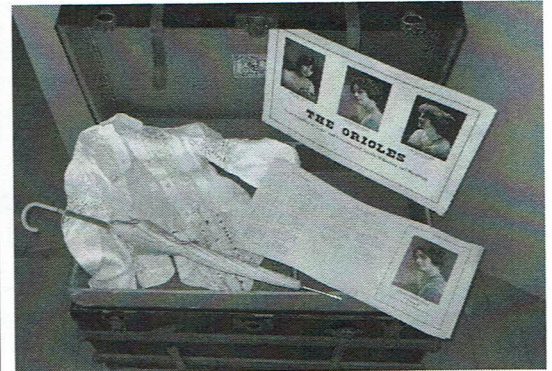
Addie's Addition...uncovered from the collection



By Addie Maguire, Collections Manager

During the steady renovation and refining of the Museum's collection, artifacts are being uncovered as boxes are being opened which have remained closed for decades. Thanks to a continual effort from the collections team, fascinating objects will continue to be rediscovered.

In 1945 the United States planned multiple strategies to end the war against Japan and Nazi Germany. Operation Downfall consisted of two parts: Operation Olympic and Operation Coronet. Both phases would be highly amphibious and were expected to cause extreme Allied casualties. Our Museum has a copy of the strategy for Operation Coronet, donated by a Navy veteran and Albany citizen. These plans are marked as Top Secret and detail the amphibious strategy to engage the Japanese on their own soil. (See photo above)



Orah Harkness was a skilled orator and elocutionist, living in Albany in the early 1900s. As a young woman, she began performing at the Chautauqua and was well known for her talent as a story teller. In 1913, she graduated from the Chicago School of Elocution. Ahead of her time, she studied in the program from Albany and aced exams from a distance. In our collection, we have her steamer trunk, school papers, entertainment posters, photographs, and some of her clothing. (See photo above). Just by examining these artifacts, a researcher can glean the sparkling intelligence, strong personality, and elegance of this historical Albany performer.

Museum Shorts...

Exhibit Changes:

Chambers Music Store (former Bikman's Dress Shop)
Wanted: Musical Instruments & other memorabilia for loan
Specialty Metals (takes the place of parlor & Albany history)
Albany History has found a new location
Railroad Expansion
Camp Adair & Timber Carnival modifications
Stop in & watch our progress!

A day at the Museum...



Member June Hemmingson admires some of the smaller brass and ivory carvings (far left), while Mary Jacq Burck shows fellow Members, Allen and Nita Campbell, patterns Bob Ferguson sketched prior to carving. Kitty Buchner (behind the Campbells) gave a short presentation at the All-Member Ice Cream Social, that explained the process of acquiring, curating and moving the Ferguson Collection to the Museum

Ferguson Exhibit to close October 3

See them while you can! The 30 wood, brass, and ivory carvings by Robert Ferguson can be viewed in the Community Room until October 3 when they will be retired upstairs for a time to make way for the Rare Metals Exhibit in November.

"When we unpacked all of the items, we also found some amazing paper items that show Ferguson's early work as well as many patterns he rendered and often modified for his carvings," said Mary Jacq Burck, who helped with the total curating process (See photo at left).

Among the items at the August 8 presentation were Ferguson's 1930 Albany High School hand-drawn blueprints of various machines.

Membership & Events Update

By Peggy Kowal

New Members:—Individual—Michele Baker, Mikki Edwards, Ross Hawkins, Jeff Horton, Marilyn Larney, Gus McCowan, Jr.; **Family** — Andy & Mikey Sedlock

Busy Summer

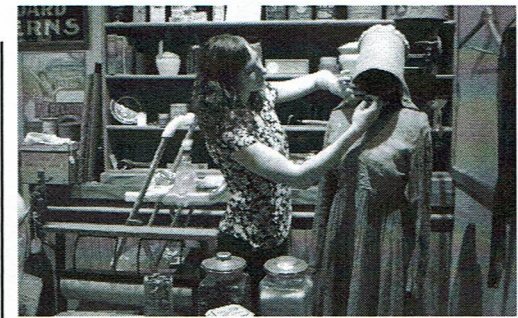
There were lots of smiles and laughter from the 380 children and parents who participated in the Summer Passport Program that kicked off at the Museum on June 13. Clothes and accessories were available for those who wanted to dress up for their passport photos. Some of those little minds got quite creative. Fun was had by everyone, including all the helpers.

Attendance at the History Bites programs continue to grow. In June the crowd enjoyed "From Soil to Scent," by Ric & Gale Blasquez, owners of MoonShadow Lavender Farm, about growing, harvesting and making products from lavender and Pinot Noir. Mike Cowgill, in July, talked about his grandmother who was a Weatherford and the family history of the Cowgills, Weatherfords and Thompsons and their role in the history of the Albany community. The August program featured Bill Maddy and the "First Albany Airmail" that included his father, Ray Maddy, representing the Pony Express riding up on a Palomino horse named Timbuck, to deliver mail to J. Francyl Howard, the Postmaster who loaded it onto

a helicopter. Ron Terhaar gave the history of the Albany Airport and the "Young Eagles" program.

It was a perfect evening for the 236 people who attended the Masonic Cemetery Tour on July 22. The crowd learned from Gus McCowan, Jr. about the lives of two slaves who came to Albany, Ben and Amanda Johnson; Linda Modrell & Marilyn Hare talked about family member, Martin Payne, described as one of "Linn County's wealthy and most prominent pioneer settlers"; Betty Thorn talked about being a descendant of Cyrus Walker, said to be the first white male child born west of the Rocky Mountains who lived to maturity; Tami Sneddon told about Elizabeth Froman, who had the distinction of having the First Daughter of the American Revolution marker to be placed in Oregon; Dr. David Fitchett told the story of Dr. J. Lindsey Hill, one of Oregon's pioneering physicians and charter member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges in Albany, and Marilyn Larney talked about Fanny Chase, her English teacher and member of Linn County DAR.

It was a rockin' good time for the 107 members who attended the Membership Ice Cream Social on the sunny afternoon of August 7. Vanilla ice cream, fresh strawberries and chocolate syrup were the fare. Feet were a tappin' to the sounds of the Northwest Banjo Band with a few couples taking to the parking lot dance floor.



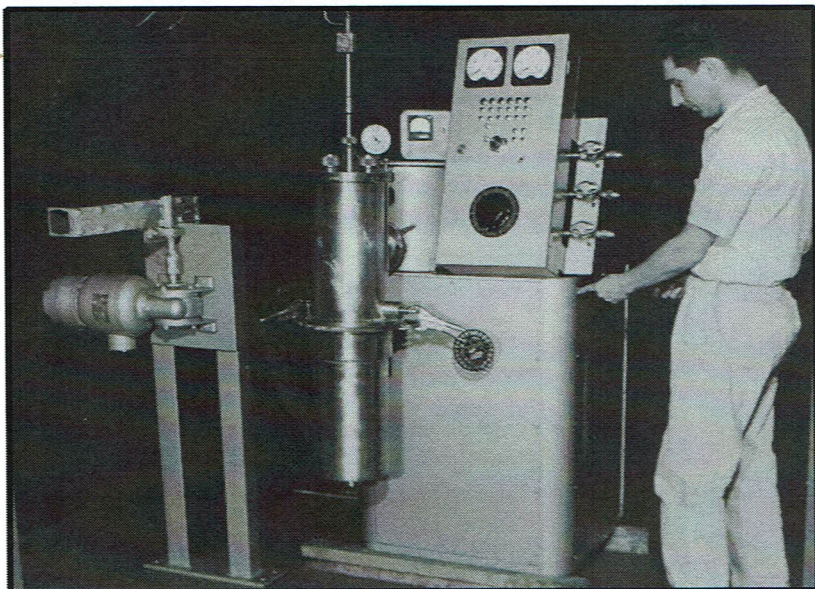
Learning the ropes...

Mara McKinney (above) is a senior history major at Corban University who began interning at the Museum in May, working on Tuesdays. Her two major projects have been cataloging collection items and working on the Specialty Metals timeline with Dennis Emerson. She's also done research, organized various sections in the Reference Room, helped with exhibits and taken some incredible photos for our "I Spy" game. "Her photos are making participants really hunt through the exhibits for their answers," said Peggy Kowal, Member & Visitor Services Coordinator.

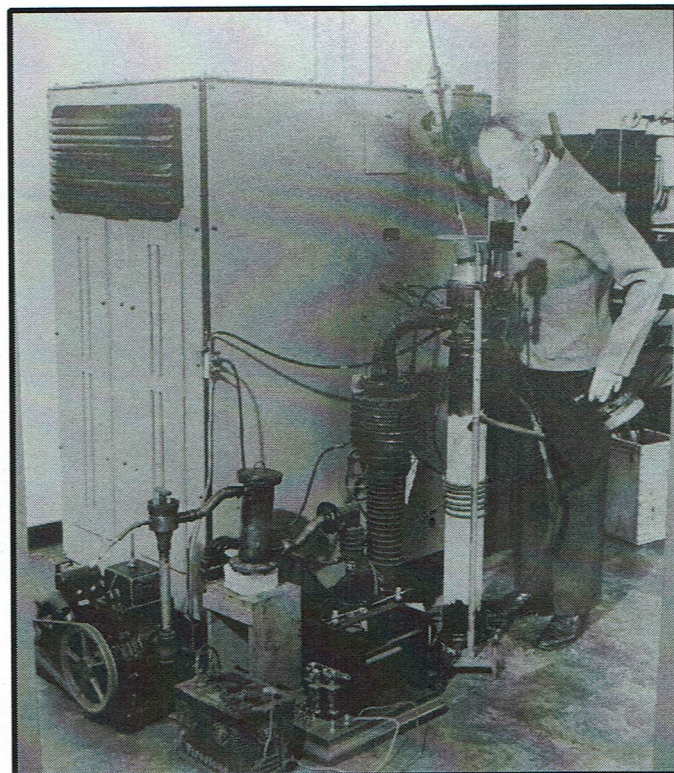
Historic Potts photos available to view online

Albany Public Library and the Albany Regional Museum have completed a joint project to sort, number, scan, and house about 7,000 historic photographs from the Robert Potts Collection.

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Frank Caputo, an OreMet executive, explains the intricacies of a small vacuum arc furnace, circa 1957. (Museum photo)



Dr. William Kroll inspects an early extraction device at Northwest Electro-Development Laboratory (1945-51), which became the Albany Bureau of Mines. (Museum photo)

'Rare Metals Capital' (Continued from Page 1)

staff Dr. William J. Kroll, an eminent European metallurgist and inventor....in 1937 he perfected the 'Kroll process' for producing pure titanium, a rare metal with a variety of potential and industrial applications.

In 1940 the German armies were on the move, and he escaped from Luxembourg with little more than the clothes on his back....After joining the Albany Bureau of Mines center, Kroll concentrated on working with zirconium, a metal similar to titanium, and similarly difficult to purify owing to its reactivity with gases. In 1947, he and a few colleagues devised a method of preventing the contamination of zirconium, and they were able to produce pure, ductile zirconium, a revolutionary development that attracted intense interest from the US Navy and the Atomic Energy Commission. Zirconium was an ideal material for application in nuclear power plants aboard navy vessels.

The Albany research center's small pilot plant for processing zirconium was at first capable of producing only sixty pounds of the metal per week; in 1949 the navy persuaded the center to increase production to five hundred pounds per week. By 1954 the expanded plant employed more than five hundred men and was capable of turning out seven thousand pounds of zirconium weekly, all earmarked for Admiral Hyman Rickover's nuclear submarine program....The Albany plant subsequently produced all the zirconium used in the reactor core of the Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine.

The Bureau...was not interested in being a producer of rare metals on a long-term basis, however, and invited private interests to bid on taking control of its Albany zirconium plant. The Wah Chang Corporation of New York was the

successful bidder and assumed operation of the Bureau's zirconium facility in 1956.

Preferring to develop its own plant, Wah Chang bought forty-five acres near the Willamette River northeast of Albany. In 1957, with Stephen Yih as general manager, Wah Chang fired up the furnaces of "Building 1" and began production of zirconium.

The research at the Albany Bureau of Mines birthed a second important metals company, the Oregon Metallurgical Corporation, better known by its abbreviated name, Oremet. Oremet sprang from the friendship of Stephen Shelton, a Yale-educated metallurgist and Bureau of Mines regional director, and Charles McCormick, an Albany insurance man and investor.

In March 1956, Shelton left the Bureau, bringing several research center employees with him. The company bought fifty-six acres on the south edge of Albany and began building a plant to produce titanium ingots. That summer, Oremet produced its first ingots, for sale chiefly to aerospace firms.

The success of Oremet and Wah Chang in the specialty metals industry and the presence of a skilled and educated labor pool led to the birth of numerous spinoff companies, and Albany awarded itself the title of "Rare Metals Capital of the World." Beginning in the 1960s, Rem Metals, Whittaker Tiline, Zirconium Technology, Albany Titanium, B-J Enterprises, Northwest Industries, and Selmet produced value-added specialty metal products for a broad range of customers around the globe.

Historic Potts photos (Continued from Page 3)

The effort was made possible through an Oregon Heritage All-Star Grant.

Robert "Bob" Potts was a lifelong Albany resident and co-owner of Duedall-Potts Stationers in Downtown Albany. Museum volunteers and staff had worked on sorting Potts' photographs for several years. The All-Star grant

made it possible for Library and Museum staff and volunteers to speed up the process and make these historic photographs viewable online.

The scanned images are hosted at Google Photos. The collection can be viewed online at the Museum's website: www.armuseum.com

Membership Meeting

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several visual presentations on Albany area history; Kristen Schuttpeitz, former Board Chair and current Programs Chair; and Kay Burt, former GAPS educator and current *Albany Old Times* editor.

Retiring from the Board are Mary Arnett, who has been active in hospitality events and will be moving to Connecticut in October, and Dennis Burkhart, who helped curate the Bob Potts photos and continues to serve on the Exhibits Committee. "Mary and Dennis have been so giving of their time to so many projects and events. They are hard to replace," said Tedisch.

Despite strong academics and sports, Albany College dogged by debt; closes in 1938

By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Member

A college in Albany that closed its doors 76 years ago once fielded the best women's basketball team in the Willamette Valley and employed a professor that later became the grandfather of Matt Groening, the creator of the animated sitcom, *The Simpsons*. The college was first known as Albany Collegiate Institute and later as Albany College.

The Oregon Legislature chartered the Albany Collegiate Institute in 1867 and enthusiastic residents responded by raising \$8,000 in cash and promissory notes to build a preparatory school and an institution of higher learning on land donated by the pioneer Monteith family.

The site consisted of four city blocks bounded by Ninth and 11th avenues and Ellsworth and Ferry streets. The first building measured 50 by 66 feet, and contained two stories and was crowned with a tower. Presbyterian minister William Monteith was picked to lead the school.

College officials noted that the school would be a good place for those "timid" souls who wouldn't be at home in a larger institution, for those wanting a Christian environment, for those without funds willing to work to pay for their educations, and for those looking for a town that had a "home atmosphere and high moral and intellectual standards."

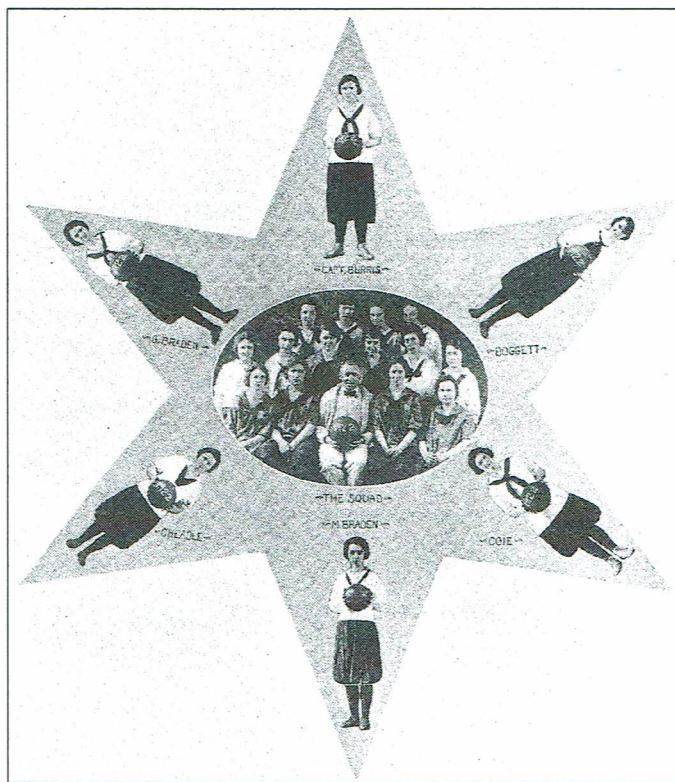
School opened in the fall of 1867 with 40 students. The first class graduated in 1873 and was comprised of four women: Maria Irvine, Cora Irvine, Weltha Young and Mary Hannon. By the early 1870s, college-age students studied the sciences, English, Latin, Greek, French, German, mathematics, political science, history and bookkeeping among other offerings. The school's colors were orange and black, the mascot was a pirate, and the yearbook was called the "*Orange Peel*." The school song was "The Orange and the Black."

In 1892 the Presbyterian Board of Aid for Colleges wanted the school's name changed to Albany College to better reflect the high caliber of its teaching staff and to recognize the recent inauguration of its advanced curriculum. The switch was not official, however, until 1905.

Also in 1905, the women's basketball team won nearly every game

it played even though it had only five players, allowing for no substitutions. Team members were Elsie Francis and Flo Nutting, forwards; Gertie Bussard and Wilda Starr, guards; and Rose Ficklin was the center. Arthur Wilson, a former high school player in Portland, was persuaded to coach the women. College teams in those days played against anyone available, even if it meant high school or community groups.

Despite boasting outstanding sports teams, debt and financial problems always dogged the school. There were times teachers sometimes went two months without pay.



The women's varsity basketball team were touted as "real stars" in the 1932 Albany College *Orange Peel* yearbook.

The college nearly closed four or five times because of a lack of money coupled with a roller-coaster enrollment situation that left administrators wondering how much money student tuitions would bring in year to year. Competition for students grew as similar institutions opened in Corvallis, Eugene, Salem, McMinnville, Newberg and Forest Grove. Also, the school found it difficult to keep accreditation because there often were deficiencies in the curriculum and some facilities were ruled inadequate, such as the library and the science labs.

Nevertheless in 1925, the school decided to sell its property to the public school district and reopen on an expanded 46-acre campus at Broadway and Queen Avenue. Unfortunately, the new campus did nothing to resolve the financial crises and the school's demise began to take serious shape in the early 1930s, even when enrollment reached an all-time high of 214 students.

In a last effort, trustees attempted to try and secure more funds during the Depression era by offering classes in Portland, but that didn't help, and the threat of war in Europe made continuing problematic. The school's doors closed forever in 1938 and operations eventually moved to the Lloyd Frank family property in Portland. In 1941 the institution became known as Lewis & Clark College. The Albany College property was sold in 1942 to the U.S. Bureau of Mines for \$143,500. Most of the proceeds went to retire the school's debt.

At one of the last Albany College reunions, graduates remembered what it was like to go to school in a small town. They recalled enjoying tea at the homes of college professors in the afternoons and in the evenings sitting in front of their instructors' fireplaces talking of books and the problems of the world.

The college atmosphere was quite different back then, they said.

Albany Regional Museum is 35 years strong

MEMBERS

Individual 2015

Eric Anundson
Mary Arnett
Jeanette Ashby
Charlotte Atkeson
Michele Baker
Evedene Bennett
Mary Berry
Carol Bispham
Judith Blatchford
Mary Blohn
Carri Boddy
Ben Braat
Dan Brenneman
Don Brenneman
Doug Brenneman
Marv Brenneman
Jo Brew
Barbara Buchanan
Laurie Buchanan
Virginia Burkhart
Kathy Butler
Betty Carey
Karen Carnahan
Patricia Caughman
Bill Clotere
Margo Coleman
Jeannine Cook
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Judy Craig
Nancy Daniels
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Ginny Dickinson
Ruth Dietrich
Vickie Dones
Caroline Dreher
Mary Dugan
Marilyn Drugger
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Dave Engel
Mary Eusterman
Brian Faligowski
Wayne Faligowski
Marilyn Feldman
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Sarah Frazier
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Anne Galloway
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Michael Greenfield
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Marilyn Larney
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Kyle Odegard
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Alice Ordeman
Betty Orr
Tamra Pengelly
Lucille Pengra
Carole Perkins
Parnell Person
Charles Pugh
Mike Ransom
Gary Ray
Don Rea
Bob Riscoll
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Maryann Roe
Shirley Ruckert
Lars Sandel
Carol Sargent
Elaine Scheeland
Camron Settlemier
Susan Barrett Sheldahl
Helen Slaton
June Slaton
Barbara Smith
Bud Spencer
Alice Sperling
Ronald Strong
Ann Stroud
Berdella Stutzman
Al Tedisch
Matthew Tedisch
Luessia Thomason
Betty Thorn
Anne Hurd Transue
Nancy Tropic
Diane Van Orden
Karyn Walker
Marilyn Warren

Heather Wells
Louie White
Brian Willard
Florien Willard
Jamie Williams
Lois Winn

Family 2015

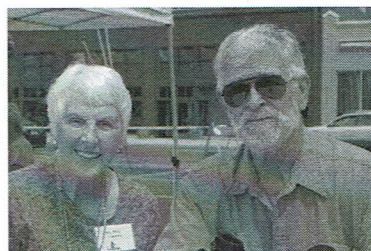
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Bill & Ruth Gropp
LeRoy & Bev Haven
Paul & Jean Heins
Ed & June Hemmingson
Hasso & Kathy Hering
Gary & Linda House



Nona & Dennis Burkhart
Family – 11 Years



Car Craft Auto Appearance Center
Business Partner – 12 Years



Mary Jacq & Wayne Burck
Patron – 16 Years



Stop 'n Go Market
Business Friend – 16 Years

and growing, thanks to our loyal members

Eric & Jamie Howard
Tom & Viola Hughson
Richard & Donna James
Don & Barbara Kerr
Alvin Kok
Steve & Sharon Konopa
Fred & Peggy Kowal
Fritz & Susie Kuebrich
Paul & Karen Kuebrich
George & Dortha Kurtz
Al & Dorothy Lafon
Jim & Linda Lawrence
Shorty & Marsha Lindberg
Jim & Karla Long
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lowry
Neal & Roseanna Maddy
Tom & Erin Maguire
Don & Mary Martin
Shawlene Holloway Martin
Mac & Lyn McGuire
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Jack & Diana Miller
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Ron & Donna Mullen
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Sura Rubenstein
& Rick Haselton
Rich & Judy Sabatka
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Hal & Nancy Schalles
Andy & Mikey Sedlock
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Randy & Pam Silbernagel

Earl & Linda Spires
Rosemary Staff
& Richard Walden
Rebecca Stillwell & Steve Hall
Larry & Faye Swain
Leo & Keo Teghtmeyer
Mark & Kathleen Thomas
Den & Kathy Tomlinson
Doug & Jean Tomlinson
Gary & Kaye Torgeson
Robert & Patricia Tucker
Paul & Julia Westerberg
Greg & Peggy Whalen
Bob & Karen Whitehead
Forrest & Marjorie Winkler
Ross & Cheryl Wootan

Business Friends 2015

Albany Antique Mall
Albany Area
Chamber of Commerce
Albany Downtown Association
Albany Visitors Association
American Bookkeeping
& Tax Service
Brennan Forensics
Budget Blinds of Linn
& Benton Counties
Carcraft Auto
Appearance Center
Classic Auto LEDs
Royal Collins
Custom Stained Glass
Fisher Funeral Home, Inc.
Keller Williams,
Katherine Domingo
KGAL/KSHO
Goby Walnut Products
Martin & Gayle Griffith
Krpalek Financial Services
Modern Travelers
Mouradian Properties LLC
Keith Semmel
Construction, Inc.
Smith & Company
Stop & Go Market

Patron 2015

Albany Lock & Key
Don & Wilma Albright

Dell & Capi Alexander
Tom Anderson
Larry & Linda Bardell
Birchfield Heating & A/C
Allan & Shann Blake
Jim & Jan Blodgett
John Boock
Jerry & Kathy Brenneman
Wayne & Mary Jacq Burck
David Bussard
Marcia Coats
Irene Coburn
Tom & Mary Cowgill
Jeff & Denise Croy
Tom & Betsy Cutsforth
Beverly Decker
Bun & Jan Doerfler
Bob & Gloria Eagan
Linda A. Ellsworth
Dayt Elston
Michael & Gail Emmons
Evelyn Farley
& Michael Derrah
David Fitchett
& Marilyn Kirsch
Frank & Yvonne Fixel
Glenn & Carol Harrison
Randall & Phoebe Harrison
Dolores Haslem
Rudy & Mamie Henny
Gary & Bev Holliday
Tom & Lois Holman
Chet & Charlotte Houser
Katy Hurley & Tom Griffin
Nadia Ilyin
Cathy Ingalls
Ernie & Lindell Johnson
Jim & Carol Jordan
Sherrill Kirchhoff
Roger & Barbara Kleve
Shirley Rae Klug
Mrs. Thomas Lanman
Clayton & Florence Lebow
Shirley Lindell
Bill & Deborah Maddy
Rick & Mary Lou McCormick
Tim & Jo Ann McQueary
Steve & Becky Metzger
Molly Mikesell
Bill Mikkelson
Frank & Linda Morse
Daniel Murphy
Jan Oden
Bonnie Orr
Carolyn Palmer

Howard & Sharon Poppleton
Beth Nutting Powell
Diane Price
Don Reeser
Richard & Liisa Reid
Sema Roofing Experts, LLC
George & Nancy Rowlett
Jim & Sandra Smith
Charles & Joanne South
Ada Squires
Sally Steelhammer
Skip Throop & Nancy Dunn
Jack & Georgie Thurber
Gordon & Karen Vogt
Judie Weissert
& Rolland Brower
Shannon Willard
& Chuck Leland
Bobby Williams
Donald & Marilyn Wimer
Mae Yih

History Circle 2015

Burcham's Metals
Dave & Kay Burt
Don & Polli Butzner
Lorraine Carter
George Chambers
Wayne & Joann Chambers
Pat & Elaine Eastman
Julia Goode
Herb & Barbara Jenkins
Michael & Janet Kok
Greg & Mary Krpalek
Robert Lowry
Ed & Pat Loy
Steve & Kristen Schuttpelz
Russ & Duffy Tripp
Karl Warner
Weatherford Thompson

Kalapuya Club 2015

John & Kitty Buchner
Gary & Brenda Burch
Jim Lindsay
Bill & Maureen Looney
Ralph & Linda Scariano
Stanford & Marilyn Smith
Darrel & Linda Tedisch
Julie Tripp
Randy Tripp



Bobby Williams, Patron – 2 Years
John Boock, Patron – 16 Years



Burcham's Metals
History Circle – 7 Years



Betty Orr
Individual – 5 Years

*The Albany Regional
Museum annually lists their
entire membership based on
the level of giving in
Albany Old Times.
This list runs from June 1,
2014 – August 15, 2015.
Thank you for your
continued support.*

Steel Bridge serves City as first 'modern' span

A Log of Events

Nona Burkhart, Tom Cutsforth, and David Fitchett, members of the Exhibits Committee, spent this spring researching the bridges spanning the Willamette between downtown Albany and North Albany. Their work, in the form of a notebook and photos, can be seen in the Museum lobby, on a table just under the 1946 aerial map of Albany.

*Albany began construction of a bridge across the Willamette River in 1889 because Albany was growing and produce and personal transportation was becoming more important.

*As the construction commenced, the new ferry owner, George Carl, increased his fares and conducted excursions to the middle of the river so the townspeople could watch progress.

*On July 4, 1892, when the bridge opened at the foot of Calapooia Street, the ferry was permanently shut down.

*The bridge was dubbed "The Steel Bridge" because of its steel construction, which was unusual for the times, since industry was just replacing wrought iron structures with steel.

*Built by the King Bridge Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, the City of Albany bore the cost of \$100,000 for construction, but later Linn County extended additional bridge funds because of the county-wide benefit.

*With its 400-foot cantilever, it was one of the longest bridges in the country, which assured Albany's role as a transportation center with communication with Portland, Salem, and Eugene.

*The completed bridge had four golden balls at each end of the center span and a sign at each end that said: "Notice: \$100.00 fine for any person or persons riding or driving faster than a walk or for driving more than 20 head of horses, cattle, or mules, or 100 head of sheep at any one time, or driving any stock faster than a walk over the bridge."

*The bridge was wide enough for two horses and buggies to pass.

*In 1900 the City declared the bridge unsafe. Eventually, Linn and Benton Counties, the bridge caretakers, provided funds to repair it and restore it to normal use.

*The bridge was quite narrow and consistently slowed traffic; more importantly, the increased weight of truck and auto traffic weakened its wooden deck.

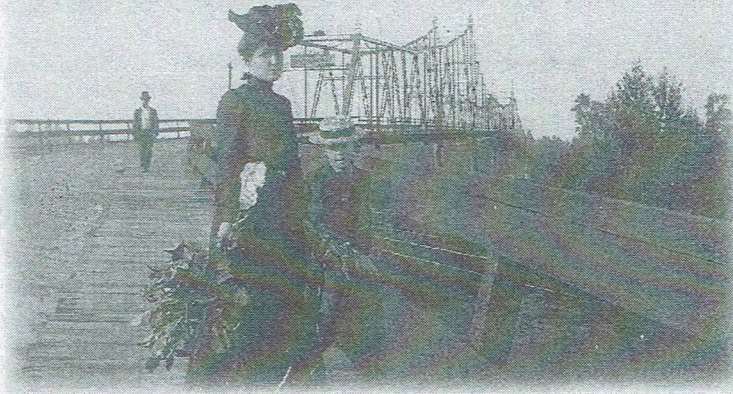
*During the floods of the early 1920s, school children crossed the flooded Willamette River to go to high school, and worried about slipping off the wooden planks into the roiling river below.

*In 1923 the state bridge inspector said that overstresses and fires made the bridge unsafe. Albany then posted a guard to keep loaded trucks off it, to keep vehicle speed under 10 mph, and to space traffic 100 feet apart.

*Work on the new Ellsworth Street Bridge began on August 19, 1924, and in November 1925 the Steel Bridge was closed to traffic,

*In June 1926 dynamite was used to salvage the structures and 400 tons of metal. However, the force of the dynamite sent metal debris south to Second Avenue and east to Ellsworth Street.

*Now, only a part of the Steel Bridge remains—its buttresses support an osprey nest and hydroelectric power lines.



A family wends their way across the wooden planks of the Steel Bridge at the turn of the century.

OR Blue Book still available

A limited number of the newly released 2015-16 Oregon Blue Book are still available. This edition features an expanded color section exploring Oregon's early rural schools with photos, artwork and memorabilia from Oregon's historical societies. The purpose of the exhibit is to look back at the colorful history of rural education in Oregon before World War II when small town life revolved around the local schoolhouse.

The 2015-16 Blue Book also features -- for the first time -- winning essays from a statewide contest that asked elementary and middle school children what they loved about Oregon. These essays provide a fresh perspective on our state

and create a time capsule for Oregonians in the future.

The Oregon Blue Book, Oregon's official fact book and almanac, has been updated and re-published every two years since 1911. It is an institution, a state icon and a collector's item. This year's Blue Book had a limited run and only about 1,300 remain. They can be purchased from the State Archives online: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/prs/shopBlueBook.do> or at the Capitol Gift Shop.

If you would like more information about the Blue Book and its availability you can contact Julie Yamaka at 503-378-5199 or julie.a.yamaka@state.or.us

Four names added to Memorial Roll

Four Albany names have been added to the Memorial Roll through financial gifts since the summer edition of the newsletter.

They are: Rodger Butler, Lorraine Carter, Marilyn Kok, and Robert (Bob) Gene Reeser.

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, and are posted for a limited time at the Museum on the Memorial Tree, 136 Lyon Street, S.

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

Museum Outreach



Gus McGowan, a Friends of the Masonic Cemetery member, discusses the lives of former slaves Amanda Gardner Johnson and her husband Ben Johnson on the July 22 Headstone Tour.



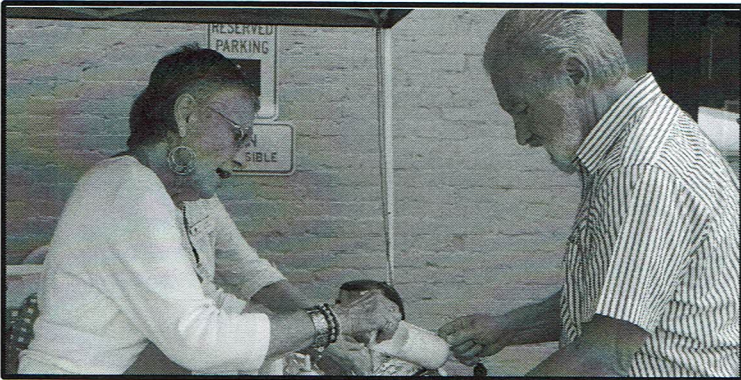
Graveyard Levity: Betty Thorn entertains History Through Headstones visitors with a tale about her ancestor, Cyrus H. Walker. From left, Museum Members Ernie and Lindell Johnson, Berry Price, and Karen Mills.



Museum Member Kathy Griffiths (in hat) and her son, Eric Sass, explain the proper way to remove lichen and soiling from an historic marker to interested Headstone Tour guests.



Cool Chicks. Marilyn Kirsch and Nancy Daniels, bedecked in summer hats and shades, listen to the Northwest Banjo Band in the Museum parking lot during the All-Member Ice Cream Social on August 8.



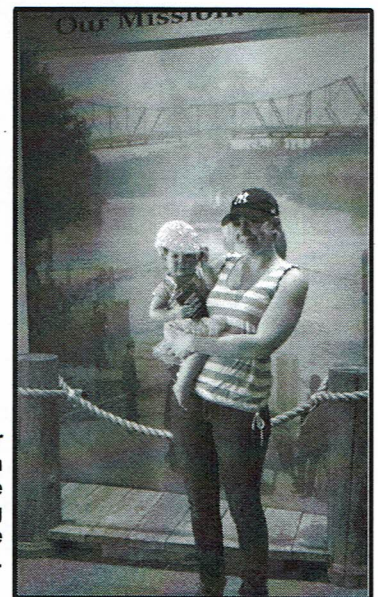
Board Member Mary Arnett anchors the ice cream and toppings tent at the All-Member Ice Cream Social on August 8.



A Museum visitor checks the progress of the 35 for 35 campaign depicted by an Albany logger climbing a spar pole. This creative visual had a lot of inspiration from—Larry Bardell, Gary Burch, Dennis Burkhart, Josh Carper, Sandy Danaher, David Fitchett, and Linda & Darrel Tedisch.



Cally Burt, 5, granddaughter of Kay and Dave Burt, admires the Albany Carousel Museum's "Cricket," a brown-and-white pony with intricate flowers braided in his tail. A true work of carved art, visitors can view it in the hallway leading into the Community Room.



A Darling Duo: Museum Member Jennifer Darling holds her twin daughter, Jane, as she sports one of the vintage hats available during the Summer Passport kick-off at the Museum on June 13.

Blain's: Oldest clothing store west of Mississippi

By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Member

The full-page advertisement that appeared in the May 6, 1976, *Democrat-Herald* for the Blain Clothing Co. told a sad tale: The store that had operated in Albany for 111 years was being forced out of business.

A narrative in the center of the ad surrounded by examples of items for sale read: "Forced by circumstances to close our doors forever. Truly the end of an era. We have been permitted under city license to liquidate the entire stock, including the fixtures. We will literally sell out the bare walls.

"If you value your hard-earned dollars be in line as the doors open Friday and Saturday at 10 a.m., Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Drastic reductions on every single item in the store. Signed Max H. Rohrbough and Lester Dye.

"Boys and men's clothing up for sale in the store located in the Flinn Block included: Men's suits, \$19.99, regularly \$125; Men's sports coats and leisure suits \$18.99, regularly \$55.

"Boys socks, four-pair for \$3.49; Arrow shirts, \$2.88; A 1939 tuxedo \$25; and a swallow-tail frock coat, \$20."

Also for sale was a "genuine" machine used to put buttons on high-button shoes that was priced at \$250, including the buttons.

D-H reporter Gus August recounted in a story than ran on April 28, 1976, why the store had to shut down, calling Blain Clothing Co. Oregon's oldest men's store.

August wrote that the Portland owners of the building leased by the clothiers asked for a rent increase of about 3.5 times the current \$230 per month being charged. The owners, members of the Forrest Jenks family, said Blain could stay by paying \$850 rent per month, later dropping the price to \$650.

The store's owners said they could not pay either amount and still maintain a "reasonable" profit. The owners looked for another location but couldn't find anything suitable that wasn't on a highway or in a shopping center. To maintain the flavor of the store, the owners wanted to remain downtown.

Founder Leighton Blain was born in Indiana on Feb. 18, 1842, to Wilson Blain, a minister and missionary. The family came west by wagon train, following the Barlow Trail. Blain's father established the Union Point Academy located three miles south of Brownsville.

At age 21, Leighton traveled by horseback to Albany to become a clerk at John Conner's general store.

He married Mary Muller, and they were the first couple to be married in the First United Presbyterian Church on the site of the present-day Whitespires church.

Around this time, Blain, Samuel Young and John Barrows became partners, opening a store on the first floor of the brick building at the west end of First Avenue and Calapooia Street. Barrows wanted to retire in 1874 so Blain and Young bought out Barrows, changing the name of the store to Blain & Young.



A festive occasion. Celebrating Blain's 92nd anniversary in April 1957 are (from left): Max Rohrbough, Deo McClain, Roy Nutting, and Bob Ferguson. (Museum photo)

But Blain later decided that he wanted to run just a boys and men's store so he moved in 1892 to the Flinn Block.

Deo McClain was a partner in Blain Clothing from 1909 to 1965 and others involved early on included Leslie Palmer and Roy Nutting.

McClain, who was born in Paxton, Neb., came to Albany in 1903, joining the store at age 20 after graduating from Albany High School. He was named 1962 Senior First Citizen.

To make his store as successful as possible, Blain made frequent trips to San Francisco to buy his merchandise, which arrived in Albany by going first around the Horn and then finally into town by rail.

Blain also knew something about advertising. He had 11 metal emblems made called "Barn Man" that he hung on an area of barns and fences. It is believed that the emblems were the first outdoor advertising to appear west of the Rocky Mountains. At least one sign remains and it can be seen at the Albany Regional Museum.

Blain kept chairs at the front of the store so his daily visitors could have a place to talk with each other.

One of Blain's morning rituals was to sweep the sidewalk and chat with other business owners, exchanging both news and gossip.

Blain died at age 86 in 1927 and is buried in Riverside Cemetery.

When the store closed in 1976, Blain's was the oldest continuously operating clothing store west of the Mississippi.

(Continued on Page 12)

Dr. John Lindsey Hill: Albany's 'renaissance man'

The following summary of JL Hill's life came about as David Fitchett prepared to present Hill's life at the History Through Headstones Tour at the Albany Masonic Cemetery on July 22. A more detailed account is in the Museum Reference Room files.

By Dr. David Fitchett, Museum Member

John Lindsey Hill was born on Feb. 28, 1845, in McNairy County, TN, and went over the Oregon Trail in 1853 with his family. The Hills settled on a farm in Benton County, three miles west of Albany. In 1860 they moved to Albany.

JL attended local schools and learned the printer's trade, initially working for the *Corvallis Gazette* with TB Ordenal. In 1865 he began studying medicine under his father's tutelage. He also worked as a printer at the *States Rights Democrat* in Albany. When the paper couldn't pay his wages, he became owner in 1870, but quickly sold it in 1871.

In 1869 he had entered the medical department at Willamette University, graduating with an M.D. degree in 1871. He started a practice at Buena Vista but soon moved permanently to Albany. Over the years he was chair of the genito-urinary diseases department at Willamette, surgeon general of the Oregon National Guard, and surgeon general of the Knights of Pythias.

Although medicine was his profession, JL's interests branched out in many directions, but the City of Albany was central. At one time he owned more than 100 dwellings, among them the St. Charles Hotel (where the Carousel Museum now sits), as well as the Hill Block where his office and residence were located.

In 1901 he purchased the Monteith House and moved it 80 feet to its present site on Second Street. He owned the famed Octagon House after his father's death, and established a museum on the northwest corner of Third Avenue and Washington Street. He also acquired a 250-acre farm in Benton County and owned Breitenbush Hot Springs for a time.

As a civic leader, Hill was mayor of Albany in 1884, past grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, and a charter member of the St. Johns Masonic Lodge. He was active in the Elks, Odd Fellows, Artisans, and Order of the Moose. He founded a local insurance society, the 2500, continuously serving as president.

Hill traveled extensively and made a trip around the world in 1914. Enroute, he was delayed for a time in Africa because of World War I maritime conflicts between his German passenger ship and a British war vessel.

As an ornithologist and historian of the region, he developed an extensive collection of birds and American Indian and antique relics. With a government permit from the Smithsonian to assemble scientific collections without restraint, he gathered many artifacts from the Kalapuya mounds in the Albany-Tangent area.

Dr. John B. Horner, professor of history at Oregon Agricultural College, frequently brought students to Hill's museum to inspect the over 10,000 items. In 1925, Horner got permission from the Hill Estate and from another prominent collector, JG Crawford, to take the items to OSU for the Horner Collection.

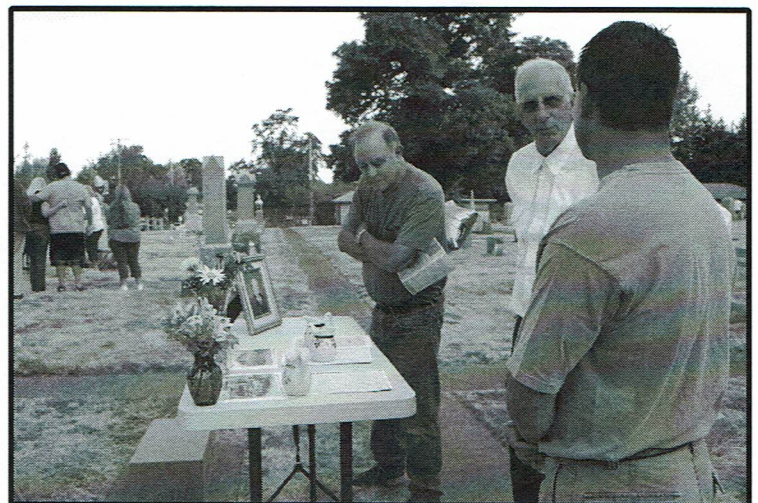


JL Hill oil portrait by William Maurice Ball, founder of Ball Photography Studio in Corvallis. (Photo taken courtesy of Benton County Museum)

Hill was a writer of some note, contributing articles to local papers and to the *Youth's Companion*, then the leading juvenile periodical in the U.S., as well as medical articles for west coast and national journals. His approach to medicine and his logical thought are present in a discourse printed in the *Philadelphia Medical World* in 1914. Although insulin and current science regarding diabetes mellitus was not known, Hill treated it with a purgation, three-day fasting except for water, then followed by a simple diet from which all "fermentables" were excluded. He stated: "Diabetes is very frequent in heavy beer drinkers, in obese persons, those of sedentary habits, and omnivorous gourmands of all classes."

Hill was found dead in his home on August 7, 1919, but was presumed to have died on July 24. He was planning a trip to his Breitenbush cabin at the same time as his son and son-in-law were also taking a vacation. After a week and a half, the family discovered he had not been to the cabin and broke into his residence. He was found dead in his study, apparently writing a lecture. The last two lines were very unsteady, and it was felt that he suffered an apoplexy (stroke).

Hill's wife, also of a pioneer family, Mary Pennington Hill, had died in 1895. He was survived by three children: Clyde L. Hill, in the mercantile business in Sydney, Australia; Gail S. Hill of Albany, who was Linn County district attorney; and Emily G. Ward of Albany.



Dr. David Fitchett answers a question about JL Hill's life from a curious History Through Headstones Tour participant. Chris Keys, a Broadway neighborhood resident, inspects some items that Fitchett used to enhance his talk.



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Blain's: Oldest clothing store

(Continued from Page 10)

Other haberdashers in Albany included Bickman's, SE Young, The Gay Blade and the Gent's Den.

Prior to the opening of the Natty Dresser in 2014, Phil Small's was the last menswear shop in Albany, closing in 1989.

For those who might be interested, Blain Clothing Co. records from 1882-1910 can be found in the special collection of the University of Oregon Archives. They include bound financial ledgers, account journals and cashbooks.



The iconic front of Blain Clothing Store as it appeared in the 1960s. (Museum photo)

ARM MEMBERSHIP FORM

To renew or begin your annual membership, fill in the form below :

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_____ Family	\$25
_____ Business Friends	\$50
_____ Museum Patrons	\$150
_____ History Circle	\$250
_____ Kalapuya Club	\$500

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