

Albany Old Times

A quarterly publication

Winter 2003-04

President's letter

As we approach the end of the year I would like to inform you of many good things that we take pride in.

Visitors to the museum set a new record this year. Before the new-year we expect to meet our goal of 300 paid memberships, and we have already doubled the number of Patron's over last year. We raised \$4,500 new money in our membership campaign, as a result of a matching grant by a local donor. The annual membership meeting in October was attended by our largest crowd yet and featured the honorable Jackson Frost whose topic was "Stories from the Courthouse," which was enjoyed by all. Teacher and student materials were created for museum tours and our photo collection updated as a result of a \$2,800 grant and help from our interns, Patty Ball and Dennis Rector. Our open house with free coffee and portable toilet for the Veteran's parade was a big success with 102 person visiting our museum and looking at the exhibits. We plan to do this each year in the future so remember our location when planning to watch the parade!

Plans for the coming year include a new major exhibit on Albany Schools, to be completed and set up by next June. If you have any photos, memorabilia, artifacts or stories of school life in Albany over the years please contact us. We are now setting up committees to plan and create this exhibit. Let us know if you would like to help. Also, we are looking for older ornaments for our new Christmas tree. If you have extra old ornaments (prior to 1950) that you would like to donate please bring them in. This will be a continuing search so you can bring them in anytime during the year.

Without you our Museum would not exist. Thank you for your support.

Jerry Brenneman

REWARD!

Have you seen a picture of our building being moved in 1912? If you can provide the museum with a copy, we will reward you with an Albany Regional Museum T-shirt and much thanks.

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Great Gift Ideas...We Have Them!

Zed Merrill, former Albany resident who produced the award winning video "The End of Innocence" about Albany, Oregon during World War II, has now published a 205-Page paperback titled "Tales from World War II You Probably Never Heard Before." While researching for his W.W.II videos (we have them all for sale at the museum) he ran across numerous little-known stories and events about the war. Many of these stories are included in this book. The videos are priced at \$25.00 each and the paperback is \$17.95.

John Baker, of Newport, Oregon, had just published a book on the history of "Camp Adair" Oregon's second largest city in World War II and now it's the largest "ghost town." This informative paperback history of the camp is now on sale at the museum for \$16.95. The Albany Regional Museum is the only place where you can purchase these items in person without ordering by mail and paying postage. Drop in anytime between 12 noon and 4 PM to pick up any or all of these very excellent books and videos. These items would make great Christmas gifts.

Albany Regional Museum
 136 Lyon Street SW
 Albany, Oregon 97321
 (541) 967-7122
 Free admission –
 donations welcomed
 Open Monday thru Saturday
 12 noon – 4 p.m.
 Tours available at other times
 by calling (541) 967-7122



Albany 1903 Christmas Happenings by Gary Kingston

The **S. E. Young & Sons Store** (our museum building then at 304-306 W. 1st and now at 2nd and Lyon) advertised holiday open hours to 9pm until Christmas. The Albany Democrat noted that all the stores of the city would be observing evening hours for the convenience of shoppers. The Young store had pillow covers for 50 cents to \$1, fascinators (crocheted head covering) and wool shawls for 50 cents to \$4, and a selection of American cut glass, tumblers, finger bowls and dishes, including Haveland China. Selections in town were considered so good in 1903 Fred Nutting's newspaper stated: "With the best stock of holiday goods ever brought to Albany a resident of Albany who would go away after anything should be given a royal snub." The **Burkhart and Lee** (342 W. 1st) show window featured a burning candle the burning life of which could be guessed with the closest guesses winning prizes including a mandolin, dressing case, mirror, and perfume. The **Reeves Department Store** (201-25 W. 1st) enticed shoppers with a free doll given to those making at least \$10 in purchases. **F. M. French**, the jeweler (1st and Ferry), beckoned Christmas shoppers with his store's strong points of highest quality, best design, and right prices. The **Opera House** was featuring the Eastern press acclaimed performance of "The Minister's Son". Fresh, home-made, mince meat was offered at the 2nd street **Sugar Bowl**. A Grand Masquerade Ball was scheduled on Christmas Eve at the Maccabee Hall costing \$1 for dancers and 25 cents for spectators. Basketball was available at **The Armory** for 10 cents admission with both high school and college players contesting. Individuals with an urge to get out of town could make the railroad round-trip to Portland for \$3. In the midst of this a scientific minded youth experimented with a small candle and determined the **Burkhart & Lee** candle should burn for 45 and 1/2 hours; the newspaper commented that the estimate was likely four times too high. Hobos camping in Hackleman's grove were keeping Albany's famous lawman, Warm Springs Johnnie Catlin, busy. He took a shot at a couple gathering for Christmas dinner at the Chris Vandran chicken house near the railroad depot. Johnnie had ridden the rails himself and knew how to deal with local transients. Guy Lewelling at Tangent was doing some shooting, bagging 50 ducks (the limit) in local, wheat-salted, fields. He shared them in Albany for as little as 17 cents for the small ones. In Brownsville burglars, likely short on Christmas cash, attempted to blow the Southern Pacific Railroad safe. They managed to knock off the combination dial but failed to open the safe and probably had to suffice with a few lumps of railroad coal in their Christmas socks. So how long did the **Burkhart & Lee** Christmas candle burn? Scanning the newspaper for more days than the young man's estimate revealed nothing. Sorry.

Carol's Corner by Carol McKay



Robert Potts, a historian and member, donated to the Museum the material that his first wife, Merna, produced with her **WRITE YOUR LIFE STORY** classes which she taught in the '80s. There are two cookbooks in this group. One is titled **A COOK-BOOK OF FAVORITE RECIPES, 1985** and the other says **WRITE YOUR LIFE STORY, OUR FAVORITES, 1986** They have many

wonderful mouth-watering recipes as well as pages of household hints that are just delightful. However, there is a food term, rivel, used in both books that was unfamiliar. An acquaintance suggested that I search Epicurious.com. Their dictionary has over 4,000 cooking terms, so I tried this web site. I tried several spellings of rivel, but the word just wasn't listed. Then I called the culinary department of LBCC. Her reply was yes, the word rivel was in her culinary book, the directions on how to make them, but she had never seen the word, nor had not heard of it before. Our Director, Jerry Brenneman said he had eaten rivel soup at his Grandmothers. I called Jerry's wife, Katie. She knew what they were, but had never made them. She said that practically every Mennonite cookbook has them. Perhaps this was a hardship food; one cook says her husband remem-

bered lots of meals when rivals in some form were all there was to eat. Here is one of the recipes for you to try:

Old Fashioned Potato Soup Contributed by Anna Heyerly.

4 Medium-sized potatoes	1/2 cup flour
1 1/2 quarts water	1 egg
2 Tbsp butter	1/4 cup milk
salt to taste	1/2 cup cream

Cook diced potatoes in salt water until soft, add butter. To make rivel, rub flour and egg together, add milk; these are best made by cutting through mixture with 2 forks. Drop rivels, which are no larger than a cherrystone, into boiling potatoes, stirring to prevent sticking together. Cook 5 minutes with kettle covered, add the cream, garnish with parsley.

The other recipe is kind of a pudding, sometimes flavored by Mapeline, sometimes with Chocolate.

A special thank you

The Albany Regional Museum would like to thank the following for volunteering since the last Newsletter:

Charlie Bottomley
John Buchner
Wayne Burck
Mary Jacq Burck
Judy Craig
Nancy Daniels
Linda Ellsworth
Haley & Spencer Egbert
& Mrs. Egbert
Jack Gillespie
Earl Kenagy
Al Kok
Irene Lehne
Carol McKay
Scott Pirie
Berry & Gloria Price
Kristin Schultpelz
Russ Sprague
Earl & Shannon Willard

Thanks to all of you!

Two new faces join Museum board

Two new faces have joined the Albany Regional Museum's board of directors.

Linda Ellsworth and Gary Kingston were elected by the membership at the annual meeting on Oct. 7. Ellsworth will serve a three-year term and Kingston a two-year term.

Three others were re-elected to the board for three-year terms. They are Lois Bottomley, Berry Price and Carol McKay.

Ellsworth is involved with Museum activities as liaison from the Linn County Genealogy Society, as a member of the membership committee and a contributor to the organization's newsletter, "Albany Old Times."

Ellsworth retired in 1994

after 31 years as an educator and junior high school librarian in Hillsboro and Lakewiew. She moved to Albany in 1998 to be near her brother who is an Albany resident. She has a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University and master's from the University of Oregon. She says, "one of the best ways to learn about Albany is to join the Albany Regional Museum."

Kingston and his wife Treva came to Oregon in 1957. He retired in 1984 after an engineering and management career with the U. S. Bureau of Mines on assignments in Albany; Spokane, WA; Washington D.C.; and back to Spokane as chief of

the field operations center. After retirement, the Kingston's came back to Albany where they now reside on a 60-acre tree farm in the Crabtree area.

Kingston is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Eastern Washington University, the Federal Executive Institute and The Fort Knox Armored School. He is a recipient of the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service medal. He says, "the Museum offers him a new opportunity for research and writing about our chosen land." He writes for the Museum's newsletter and is working on a major project—writing a history of Albany.

Your contributions can count double through the Oregon Cultural Trust

The Cultural Trust is an innovative way to double your support for culture by using the Oregon tax credit available from the Trust. First, write a check to an Oregon cultural nonprofit (Albany Regional Museum). Then make a matching gift to the Cultural Trust. Up to \$500 of your donation to the Trust, \$1,000 for couples filing jointly, qualifies for a 100% tax credit on your Oregon income tax. A credit of 80% for corporate contributions of up to \$2,500 is also available. To find out more, contact the Oregon Cultural Trust 775 Summer Street NE Ste #200, Salem Oregon 97301(503) 986-0088, Website www.culturaltrust.org

Yes, I'm happy to support the Albany Regional Museum with my
Annual Membership, June to May

Individual \$10 _____

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Business \$50 _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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Enclosed is my check, payable to: Albany Regional Museum

Please charge my credit card
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Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

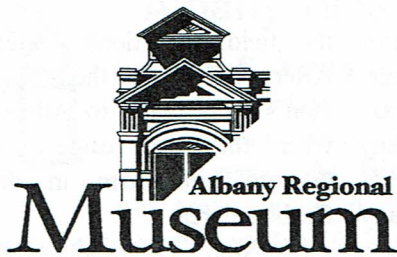
Become a Patron of the Albany Regional Museum with an additional contribution of \$100 or more. The museum is a non-profit 501C-3 corporation. All gifts are tax deductible. Contact the Albany Regional Museum for more information (541) 967-7122.

Membership total \$ _____

Additional gift \$ _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

Thank you for your generous gift!



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Looking back, Christmas by Jack Gillespie

As children most of us remembers a certain Christmas which was very special and still remains very vivid in our memory.

1941 was the year of my “special Christmas.” That was the Christmas I received my Western Flyer bicycle.

I was 10 years old and when, on Christmas Eve, my father wheeled in this sparkling brand new bicycle I was completely overwhelmed. Never before have I received such a gift.

The Western Flyer was dark blue, had a headlight and a horn and all the other “necessary” accessories. It had been purchased, for well over \$30, from the Western Auto Store located at 130 West First Street.

I was so proud the first time I rode my treasure to Maple

School where I was then a fifth grader.

As soon as I turned 12 years old I applied for my first Democrat-Herald paper route and thus put my bicycle to work. I was assigned the newspaper’s longest (nearly 5 miles), and largest route (over 100 papers). I would pick my papers up at the newspaper’s press room downtown and my first paper delivery was to the KWIL Radio Station then located near the SW corner of Elm St and what is now Queen Avenue.

My route continued east along Queen Ave. and then up and down Jackson and Marion Streets. Enroute I was to put my Western Flyer to many speed tests in order to avert rock throwing neighborhood rowdies and vicious dogs laying in wait to terror-

ize the paper boy.

For nearly six years my Western Flyer filled my transportation needs. But as I neared 16 I began yearning for a car. One day my father alerted me of a 1929 Dodge Coupe (complete with a rumble seat) for sale by a clerk at Holloway’s Market in North Albany.

The owner wanted \$185 for the car but I only had \$165 (saved over a long period.) He finally agreed on that amount and my Western Flyer as a “trade-in”.

As we drove away in the Dodge, I took one last look at the Western Flyer leaning against the market building. It was like leaving an old friend behind. I felt a little sad—but I had my Dodge.