

Albany Old Times

Riverside Community Hall— 100 Years of Country Living at Its Finest

By Kathwren Hayes
Visitor & Member Services Assistant

The Riverside Community Hall was built by the Community for the Community. Riverside Thursday Club was formed in 1908 by women who sewed and held social events for the ladies in the Community. They were the “core” that held this tight-knit community together.

In 1918, the Riverside Community residents held meetings and social events in the district’s one room Riverside School. By 1921, funds from operating cafeterias at the county fair, hosting barn dances, and putting on dinners among other fund raisers made it possible to begin construction of the Riverside Community Hall. Eugene Canning donated the land that the Hall stands on and most of the labor and materials were given voluntarily.



Riverside Reunion, 2009

The Callamette Grange, whose name originated by combining the names Calapooia River and Willamette River which borders the platted land location of Riverside Community, added to the Community Fund. In exchange the Grange would hold their meetings for over 50 years in the Riverside Community Hall. The Callamette Grange also spearheaded the hard surfacing of the roads and eventually the naming of all the roads in the Riverside area.



1944 Women’s Club: Nell Miller, Florence Canning, Cora Burch, Lilah Smith, Margaret Canning, Florence Ohling, Ethel Caldwell, Olive Bryant, Susie Atkeson, Mrs. Frank Bryant (Christine), Viva Carnegie, Stella Stellmacher, Elizabeth Haddan (baby Phyllis), Laura Crouch (Photo Charlotte Houser)

In 1939, the Riverside Thursday Club changed their name to Riverside Women’s Club and minutes of the meetings were recorded.

Neighborliness and neighbors helping neighbors were synonymous when people described Riverside Community. At one time, when a family moved into the Riverside Community, they were given a welcome letter stating:

“You are automatically a member of this Friendly Community where people do things together. There are no dues. Everyone is expected to donate food, labor and participate in earning monies needed for projects.” (cont. p.2)

Riverside, *continued from pg 1*

Regular meetings included:

Community Meetings, Play/Game Parties, Garden Club, Extension Units, 4-H Clubs, Sewing for Red Cross, School Club (PTA), picnics, holiday parties, Sunday School followed by church services, Callamette Grange, Juvenile Grange for ages 5 – 14 and special events such as dances, flower shows, making a float for the Timber Carnival Parade, etc.

With no dues, there were still bills to be paid, maintenance, insurance, heat and electricity etc.

As a fundraiser, Annabelle (Ann, Annie) Edwards Decker recalls baking a lemon meringue pie with her mother for the Annual Community Hall Auction. For three years in a row, the same man bid on and won himself that delicious, homemade pie. Ann was too young to date in the beginning, but eventually she and he dated and years later both Ann and her husband were in his wedding.

You can't mention the Community Hall without mentioning Riverside School. The original school dating back to 1891 had one room, with a census count in 1900 of 30; that grew to 112 by 1948. On September 13, 1949, a new three-room school was erected by the school district of Albany. Today the building is used for Kidco Head Start, a tuition-free program.

Riverside School used the Community Hall basement for hot lunches Monday through Friday. The old school was directly west of the Hall. There was no road between the two buildings. Grace Bradshaw prepared the lunches and mothers helped serve those lunches.

All-School programs were held at the Hall. Playing and performing music was encouraged. A formal Eighth Grade Graduation was a big highlight recognizing the passage from the eighth grade to Albany Union High School. (Today it is West Albany High School.) Eighth graders dressed up. The boys wore boutonnieres and the girls wore corsages. Excitement ran high.

Bob Richard Jr. grew up in Riverside, pursued a career in Hillsboro, returning 32 years later to purchase his present home located in the Riverside area. Bob recalls his Sister's engagement reception:

My sister, Diane, was planning to get married in Texas. Since friends and family would not be able to attend the Texas wedding, my parents rented the Riverside Community Hall for an Engagement Reception. I remember my Dad getting really nervous with the Hall full of people who all were impatiently waiting. He said, "It is getting late, people are restless and where are Diane and Michael?" Finally Diane and Michael made their



(Photo Diane Cartright)

"Grand Entrance" fashionably late, although, a bit late for my Dad's liking!

There was music and dancing at their reception. Like most events kids took part in the dancing, as well. I remember seeing a video of my son making some fancy dance moves and having a great time.

Years later, my son had his wedding reception at the Riverside Community Hall with their family and friends. He still had fancy dance moves but since he was bigger than he was as a little kid. His pant seams could not handle the stress. He got a bit red in the face and others got a special showing!

Charlotte Haddan Houser was born in a small home across the street from the Riverside Hall. Charlotte recalls:

Mrs. Maxine Terhune giving music lessons at the Hall and many performances by the Riverside Orchestra in the Hall. Charlotte also entered flowers and vegetables in the yearly neighborhood Harvest Festival held in the Hall.

After traveling for 20 years with her husband, Chet, in the Army, they returned to Albany and moved into the home her parents, Phillip and Elizabeth Haddan, had built across the street from Riverside Community Hall.

Over the last century, agriculture in the Riverside area has become less predominant and a suburban life style has evolved. In the past one hundred years cars, TV, radio, internet, cell phones, increase in home structures size, renting instead of buying and changes in employment have changed how we live, our interests and activities. Today the aim for Neighborliness and a sense of Community is still in the forefront.

Today the Riverside Community Hall is supported through funds received from renting the building for various events.

For additional questions about renting call: 541-928-0737 or 541-974-1496. For more stories from locals who grew up in the Riverside Community, see Albany Old Timer, Fall 2010 Newsletter...page 2, [View From Second and Lyon](#) by John Buchner.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/591f85bebf629a91c57b37c8/t/5af56cd3f950b78091e5f43c/1526033680519/ARM+NL+Fall+2010.pdf> .

From the Director's Desk...

Long time, no quarterly...

Hello! We are excited to bring you 2021's second volume of Albany Old Times. I must beg your forgiveness and understanding for this edition being so late in the year. While we aim to be a quarterly publication, we will miss the mark this year. With the pandemic and "new normal" I hope you understand. We have adjusted how the newsletter is assembled for 2022 to meet the quarterly mark.

While it is unfortunate that we missed a publication I promise we achieved great things with our focus elsewhere. The Museum operation has returned to, essentially, pre-pandemic normal. We are open our full hours: Tues. - Fri. 11 am – 4pm and Saturday 10 am – 2pm. History Bites and our other programming is back in-person. We held our 11th Annual History Through Headstones in July with an amazing 150+ visitors joining us for the event! The staff and volunteers have done a wonderful job bringing us back to this normal. Thank you to the teams that keep this Museum running and our special events hopping.

My own time and energy have been focused on grant writing for special projects. This has landed us two fantastic grants I want to tell you about. The first is an Oregon Museum Grant that is providing \$5,700 to digitize film reels from the U.S. Bureau of Mines. These film reels were identified as a priority in our collection plan as they are deteriorating from "Vinegar Syndrome". As of September, we have contracted a specialist to clean and digitize the film. We hope to have them back by the end of the year. While we wait to get them back, we are working on a plan to share this history with you all!

The second grant comes from the Institute of Museum and Library Services & the State Library of Oregon. It is for a jaw-dropping \$50,000 to fund upgrades and staff time for our exhibits! I can't say too much right now, but we will be reimagining the entire 1800 sq. ft. exhibit space in 2022. In the coming months we will share little snippets to get you excited. For our members a full presentation on the plans will be made at our Annual Membership meeting in January. Be sure to attend to get the full story; I can't wait to share the big vision with you all! Until then you can support this growth and your local history by donating or being a member. Your \$30-dollar Friend membership does more than keep the lights on. It shows the love & support our community has for history. That local support helps us win these grants. We are grateful to you all, and we look forward to sharing more of Albany's wonderful history with you.

Stay safe & well,

Keith Lohse



Sponsorship Opportunities!

The Albany Regional Museum has items that need a little help. Special storage materials and spaces can be costly, but essential to preserving our past! Here are two items that are looking for sponsors.

Albany American Legion Band, 1930

(1989-014-200)



This photo was taken on July 13, 1930, when the Albany American Legion band traveled to Jantzen Beach to take part in the first annual Northwest Amateur Band Contest. Playing to an audience of thousands, the American Legion Band quickly won first place, winning \$1000 in prize money, used to help pay for their uniforms.

Needs: Print Box, Polypropylene Sleeve, and Custom-Made Folder Sleeve
Sponsor for \$50



Albany Brewing Co. Glass

Over 100 years old, this glass was made in commemoration of the Albany Brewing Co. contribution to the Linn County display at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial held in Portland, OR which showcased the county's rich grains, grasses, fruits, woods, mill products, and more.

Needs: Specimen Box, Dividers for Box, Acid-Free Tissue Paper
Sponsor for \$60

Cumberland Church set for long-awaited move

Kim Jackson

Albany Visitors Association



Albany's historic Cumberland Church will soon take its long-awaited trip down the street to its new location, according to Emma Eaton, president of the Cumberland Community Center. Eaton said the company, Emmert International Moving Company of Portland, cited a lack of personnel to make the move safely. The target move date is October 17, it is scheduled to begin at approximately 8 a.m. and could take 6 to 7 hours.

Emmert International Moving Company of Portland will be moving the building, which will be transported about 1,200 feet from the corner of Main Street down Santiam Road to its new location next to the Skate Park on Pine Street, near Eleanor Hackleman Park.

Drivers should be aware of a road closure along Santiam Road from Main Street to Pine Street, as well as detours around the move site at the intersections of Main Street and Santiam Road, and at Pine Street and Santiam Road.

The public is asked to remain a safe distance from the site. Activity can be viewed early in the day near the northwest

end of the Carriage House Plaza Shopping Mall as the building is lifted from its foundation, or later from Eleanor Hackleman Park as the church approaches its destination. Spectators are asked to walk to the site, as parking is limited in the area.

The Cumberland, built in 1892, is Albany's second-oldest church and the only one built in the Queen Anne Style. The Church's steeple was removed on Sept. 1 to be refurbished separately and replaced, along with the church's original bell, which also is being restored.

Efforts to save the church and turn it into a community center began in earnest in 2018 with the formation of the Save Our Cumberland Association. Through fundraising, the group was able to work out a deal with the City of Albany in purchasing the new property, moving the building and ultimately purchasing it outright, among other contingencies.

Fundraising continues in hopes of turning the building into a Community Event Center for weddings and other gatherings.

*To receive the most current information please check the
[Cumberland Community Center website at contact@albanycumberland.org](http://CumberlandCommunityCenter.org)*

Or for more information contact

[Emma Eaton at 541-905-0545 or garden@aceweb.com](mailto:emma@aceweb.com)

[Joel Orton at joel.orton3@gmail.com](mailto:joel.orton3@gmail.com)

Road Trip—Visiting Ghost Towns in Marion and Polk Counties

By Cathy Ingalls
Museum Board Member

With the arrival of spring, here's a fun way to learn about some of the cities that were settled with great promise in Marion and Polk counties but ended up in most cases disappearing altogether: And it's a chance to teach children some history while enjoying a family road trip.

Settlers moved west to the Oregon Country in the 1830s and 1840s, all the time looking for new life opportunities. The arrivals staked out land claims near each other and then they built town sites.

The mini-cities consisted mainly of churches, saloons, post offices, hotels, gristmills, schools, warehouses, blacksmith shops and general stores.

Those towns prospered for a while and then for a variety of reasons, the residents were forced to move on, often leaving no trace that the communities ever existed.



Alfred Hovenden, pioneer of 1849, born in England in 1822. Lived with his family at Butteville in 1870 and worked as a farmer. No Copyright. Available digitalcollection.ohs.org reference code:ba000623

which consisted of four general stores, three saloons, several blacksmith shops and a vinegar factory, reached the height of its importance at the end of the Civil

War. For a time, Butteville was a contender for the county seat of the newly formed Clackamas County. But the town shriveled up when the railroad arrived on the nearby French Prairie in the early 1870s, by-passing the city. A general store is pretty much all that remains of Butteville.

Belpassi: It is south of Woodburn and was developed in 1851 around The Cumberland Presbyterian Church. With the opening of a one-room school, the site became a meeting place for pioneers and a regular stop on the valley stagecoach route. The town never blossomed into a residential settlement nor was it commercially important. Soon the railroad reached Woodburn and Gervais so the stagecoach route was discontinued. By the turn of the 19th century, a cemetery was pretty much all that was left of the gathering place.

Waconda: It is said that the name means God in a forgotten Native American tongue. It remains a modern-day community north of Keizer and dates to 1905 when a post office opened. The original Waconda was established several miles to the east and was a stage stop. That village was platted in 1866 and Main Street, now Highway 99E boasted a hotel, two blacksmith shops, two general stores, a saloon, a butcher shop, drug store and several homes and the Kern and Glaiser Brewery. Five years later the town was little more than a memory. That is because the Oregon and California Railroad established a depot a mile to the north, calling the new station Gervais.

Lincoln: It is in north Polk County on the Salem-Dayton Road. Today it is at a crossroads boasting only a country store, but it once was a bustling town that claimed to be the largest wheat-shipping port upstream from Portland. Wharves and warehouses once stretched for a half mile along the Willamette, but they have vanished without a trace. What was to become Lincoln began as Doak's Ferry and was established by Andrew Doak in the mid-1840s. Grain brought to the site was shipped to markets in California, Alaska and Asia.

Lincoln took its new name from the Civil War era to honor President Lincoln. By the late 1870s besides regular businesses, it was home to a tin shop and a beehive enterprise. By the early 1880s, the steamboat trade had given over to railroads, and years of successive wheat crops had depleted the fertile farm land. As yields fell, residents moved on.



Bethel Church (formerly Bethel College), northwest of Salem, Oregon; looking southeast from driveway. The building in the rear is the former school's gymnasium/auditorium. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license. No changes made. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bethel_Church_1.jpg

Bethel: The community, which is 6.2 miles west on Zena Road from Lincoln, traced its beginnings to an accredited college. The first school was opened in 1852 by Dr. Nathaniel Hudson in a log house less than a mile south of the present church. The school offered classes through the 8th grade to area emigrants. When Hudson moved to Dallas in 1854, the school closed. But then Bethel Institute opened in 1856 as a high school, and in 1858, Bethel College was chartered by the Oregon Territorial Government. However, residents could not afford to pay to keep up the schools so when the railroad arrived at the nearby town of McCoy, Bethel practically vanished.

Ellendale: It is about 2.5 miles west of Dallas and first appeared in 1864 when area businessmen incorporated as the Ellendale Mill Co., and began constructing a woolen mill, hoping to capitalize on the region's growing number of sheep flocks. A crew of 20 staffed the mill, mostly people from England and Scotland. One of the workers was Thomas Kay, who later founded the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill in Salem. Never a commercial success, the mill caught fire in 1871 and was not rebuilt, and the town went into a decline.

Eola: It is on Highway 22 west of Salem and was first known as Cincinnati. It is said that A.C.R. Shaw named the town that because he fancied the location reminded him of Cincinnati. At one time, the place was considered to become the state capital. The town was platted in 1855 with 45 city blocks and 18 streets.

At one time, Eola had a newspaper, The Weekly Times. As Salem became a regional trading center, Eola's future declined, and then a flood in 1890 destroyed warehouses and businesses. Suffragette Abigail Scott Duniway taught school there in 1853. (The word Eola means winds in Greek mythology.)

Finally, Silver Falls City also known as Silver Creek Falls, Falls City and Argenta east of Salem became the locale for major timber interests. The first sawmill was built in the late 1880s near the present state park campground. By 1905, there were three mills employing loggers and millhands. The town contained a general store, post office, hotel, church, blacksmith shop, school and dance hall. Supplies and mail were hauled in from Sublimity, and lumber was freighted from the mills by horse-drawn wagons to the rail spur at Shaw.

With the arrival of the railroad, the commercial success of Silver Falls City grew. But by the mid-1920s, logging operations had moved east deeper into the Cascades, leaving the Silver Creek watershed a near wasteland of stumps and snags. The area later revived with the creation of Silver Falls State Park in 1931.

The Albany Regional Museum is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. You can call 541-967-7122 or email info@armuseum.com with questions or requests for assistance.



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Albany Regional Museum Call for Artists

Each month as part of 1st Friday Downtown, the Albany Regional Museum plans to host local artists in our Community Room. The Museum is now accepting inquiries to be a featured artist for our Temporary Gallery for November 2021—July 2022.

The goal is to raise awareness of, and encourage the art produced in the Albany, OR area. The number of artists to be displayed and amount of work is dependent on interest and size of the artwork. Artists are encouraged to visit the Museum to view the space before participating. Work displayed will be displayed for viewing between the 1st and 25th of each month. A reception with the artist will be held on the 1st Friday of the month, the artist or their representative must be on site for the reception. Artists are welcome to sell their work but are not required to.

Artists interested in being featured please send an email with your name, a sample photo or description of your work, and your availability to Keith Lohse at klohse@armuseum.com or call 541-967-7122 for more information.