

Greetings From The President

This has been a great year for us at the Museum. It also has been a very busy and active year and much has been accomplished. Our attendance for the first six months of the calendar year has set a new record. The number of patrons has increased to 57 and we are currently planning a special event for them. Our paid membership has hit an all time high at 327 and increasing weekly. None of these things could have happened without your support. We are very thankful for your continuing interest in the Museum.

We had seven teacher interns from the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Education Service District grant program working at the Museum this summer. Two worked at organizing our research room, one helped with our photo collection, one helped construct our new Martha Anne Beauty Shop exhibit and is revising our student tour materials. Another two assisted in the development of an educational trunk of materials for school children and another helped gather materials for the new Albany schools exhibit now in progress.

Also, we are happy to report that our rotted beam posts in the basement that hold up our building have been replaced, new supports have been added where necessary and metal ties have been attached to beams and supports.

In addition, we have completed electrifying the west end of the second floor of the Museum. We have some additional work to do in the attic and, before winter, we plan to insulate.

These are all necessary jobs that the board has been concerned about and has planned for. We are happy to see these jobs completed.

And finally, please mark your calendars to attend our annual meeting. It is set for Tuesday, October 5, 7 p.m. at the Museum. This is your opportunity to vote for candidates nominated for the board of directors, hear about our future goals and listen to an entertaining program on Camp Adair, presented by author John Baker (see related information elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Jerry Brenneman

Author to Speak at Annual Meeting

The author of "Camp Adair" will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Albany Regional Museum.

The meeting is set for Tuesday, Oct. 5, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW.

Now a resident of Newport, John H. Baker has published three books of poetry and a Management Primer. "Camp Adair" is his first book of history. Baker will show slides and entertain questions about the camp and its major impact on this community during World War II following a short business meeting.

Copies of the "Camp Adair" book are on sale at the Museum for \$16.95. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Museum.

Baker was born in Devils Lake, N.D. and moved to Oregon in 1939, ending up in Salem. He attended Salem public schools, received bachelor and master degrees from the University of Oregon and a doctorate from Oregon State University. He has taught at both the high school and college level.

The book, a story of a World War II cantonment, details life at the camp and the men who trained and served there while preparing for combat. It is offered in memory of over six thousand Camp Adair soldiers who lost their lives in combat in Europe and in the Pacific and the more than 22,000 who were wounded serving their country.

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Albany Regional Museum

136 Lyon Street SW
Albany, Oregon 97321
(541) 967-7122

www.armuseum.com

Free admission –
donations welcomed

Open Monday thru Saturday
12 noon – 4 p.m.

Tours available at other times
by calling (541) 967-7122

Annual meeting October 5, 2004

All members of the Albany Regional Museum are invited to the annual meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.

Business will include election of board members, an update on the Museum's budget, a review of the year's activities and achievements, and a look ahead to goals for the new year. (see the detailed report on the board nominees at right.)

A volunteer will be honored with the Museum's first "volunteer award." Named for Gerald Brenneman, the award recognizes an individual for outstanding service to the Museum.

A program about Camp Adair, the World War II army installation northwest of Albany, will be presented by Dr. John Baker following the business meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Four seek board positions

The nominating committee has announced four candidates for four positions on the Albany Regional Museum's board of directors.

Museum members will vote on the board positions at the annual meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

Three of the candidates are seeking re-election to the board. They are Gerald (Jerry) Brenneman, Michael Kok, and Shannon Willard. A fourth candidate is Pat Eastman.

Nominations for the board can be made by any member if the nominating committee is notified a week prior to the annual meeting. Early notification is necessary to make sure that the nominee meets qualifications (must hold a paid membership in the organization, etc.) and is personally committed to the responsibilities of board membership as determined by the committee.

Eastman seeks the position now held by long time board member Russ Sprague. Sprague did not seek re-election but will continue as an active Museum member and docent.

Eastman is a community volunteer and Museum member. Among his activities are the United Way of Linn County, Kiwanis Club of Albany, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and St. Alban's Episcopal Church. His residence on Washington Street was a featured stop on this summer's tour of historic Albany homes. He is operations manager of Security Alarm Corp.

The other candidates are active board members. Brenneman, a retired teacher, is one of the Museum's founders and president; Kok, a public accountant, is treasurer and serves on several committees; Willard, retired Linn County treasurer, is chair of the volunteers committee and helps with organizing the Museum's collections.

The board will elect its officers for the coming year at its next regular board meeting.

Members of the nominating committee, as appointed by the president, are general members Rebecca Bond, Charlie Bottomley and board member John Buchner. The committee can be reached by contacting the Museum office at 136 Lyon St. SW.

Carol's Corner

by Carol McKay



Marguerite A. Burkhart

Here at Albany Regional Museum, we have been going through our Burkhart Collection, which we acquired from the City of Albany when we were first organized.

The Burkhart family arrived in Albany in 1847. John Burkhart is considered Albany's third founding father. A descendent, Robert L. Burkhart, was an Albany dairyman and dealer in Jersey cattle.

There is an enormous amount of history here—a wonderful collection of everything from tanned hides of cattle, furniture, and pictures, to reci-

pes and newspaper clippings.

One interesting item is a publication of the Extension Service, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, dated December 3, 1925. Included are songs to sing (and presumably teach your children) to encourage good nutrition.

- To the tune of *Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here*:

Milk! Milk! We all want milk!
Milk will make us healthy,
Milk will make us wealthy
Milk! Milk! We all want milk,
Milk makes healthy girls and boys.

- To the tune of *Yankee Doodle*:
A girl came to our club one day,
And found that she was losing,
And there we told her how to gain
By proper food choosing.
Cereal at breakfast time,
Green vegetables for dinner,

A pint of milk and fruit each day.
You'll be a 4-H winner.

Chorus:

Mary Jones, keep it up!
Mary, you're a dandy!
Don't forget the milk and fruit,
And leave alone the candy

There are other songs of the times that instruct children about chewing, not drinking tea and coffee, and being friends when trying to learn to eat differently "And good food makes the nation grow."

Is it that people here in Albany always watched what they ate and tried to do better? Of course, if you owned your own cows as the Burkharts did, then you would have your own dairy supply—milk, cottage cheese, butter, buttermilk, and probably a source of meat also. Ahhh. We think of those times as the *good old days!*

Townsend Plan: Once a big part of Albany scene by Jack Gillespie

Some 70 years ago debates on the Townsend Plan swept through the United States. In Albany the plan was enthusiastically praised by some and scoffed at by others.

The Townsend Plan was conceived in 1933 by a retired doctor, Frances Townsend. The essence of the plan was to provide a pension of \$200 a month for every non-working U.S. Citizen 60 years or older—all of which was to be spent within 30 days. Financing the pension would be provided by a federal 2% tax levy collected by the seller, “on the gross value of each business, commercial, and/or financial transaction.”

By 1935 the Townsend Plan was gaining momentum throughout the United States. At one time there were 160,000 members in Oregon. In a depression era where the average family was living on earnings of \$100 a month or less it was of little wonder that the plan was embraced by so many. In support, official Townsend Plan Clubs were organized in the cities, towns and villages in every state. For a number of years the Townsend Plan would be one of the most discussed social programs in the nation.

One of the Townsend Plan’s most ardent boosters was Francyl Howard, publisher of the Greater Oregon, a bi-weekly newspaper serving Albany. (Howard had purchased a Halsey weekly some years earlier and moved the newspaper to Albany. The newspaper ceased publication in the 1970s. For years news of various Townsend Plan activities, local, statewide, or national, were featured on the front page of each edition of the Greater Oregon .

Early in 1935 Albany’s Townsend Plan Club was organized and later became one of the most active clubs in the state. Officers were: J. W. Barton, president; Francyl Howard, vice president; Mrs. R. A. Irwin, secretary and Mrs. D. W. Rohrbough, treasurer. The club’s monthly meetings were first held at various locations including the Rialto Theater, the Evangelical Church, the City Library and the McDowell Building before obtaining a permanent meeting place in a building located at 223 Second Street. Later the club, as membership grew, moved its meetings to the Moose Hall .

Townsend Plan advocates from throughout the nation would come to speak at these meetings. These presentations drew an attendance of between 300 and 500. Each of these meetings were reported in detail by the Greater Oregon. The goal of clubs was to get the plan approved by state legislators and then take the plan to the United States House and Senate for approval. One speaker acclaimed that enactment of the Townsend Plan would provide a “war prosperity without a war” and another declared that “the plan would end economic depressions forever”. One wit, however, said the Townsend Plan would result in “all old people being dead in two years. Half would die in shock upon receiving their first \$200 check and the other half would die after orgies of gluttony and/or drunkenness.”

The Albany Townsend Club sponsored scores of events such as picnics and musical recitals, sometimes in accordance with other nearby clubs. (The Albany Club had its own band and a quartet.) On the 4th of July of 1935 the Townsend Club and the Albany Fire Department joined forces for a picnic in Bryant Park. Thousands of people attended and joined in the fun. Entertainment was usually held under the cover of the Chautauqua Pavilion. The biggest turnout ever was recorded on August 14, 1935, when Dr. Townsend himself came to Albany to speak. The Greater Oregon reported that an estimated 15,000 people came to Bryant Park to see and hear him. Albany was the only Oregon town outside of Portland privileged to be visited by Dr. Townsend—no doubt due to the influence and urging of Publisher Howard.

Opponents of the Townsend Plan pointed out at least two major flaws in the idea. First, the plan would not, as presented, add any new money to the economy. To the critics the idea was simply taking money from A and giving it to B who then would return it to A. Also, according to the opposition, the 2% levy would not be sufficient to put \$200 into the pockets of all those 60 or over qualifying—it was asserted that it would take at least a 14% levy to fill this promise.

In late 1935 the U.S. Senate and House approved the Social Security Act which would, in its initial form, provide a pension of from \$10 to \$80 per month for the aged. The cost would be provided by a one cent deduction on each dollar of a workers wages and one cent submitted by the employer for each dollar of wages paid. This grew into the Social Security plan we have today.

Upon passage of the Social Security Act and the easing of the depression as the U.S. prepared for war, the support for the Townsend Plan began to wane, although its advocates continued to claim that the Townsend Plan was superior to the government’s Social Security Act because it paid more to the elderly. In 1950 the Social Security Act was revised and retirees and dependents benefits increased to nearly that promised by the Townsend Plan. The fight was over.

The plan’s demise came earlier in Albany. As the United States entered World War II in the early 1940s, there was nary a mention of the Townsend Plan on any pages of the Greater Oregon.



THAW THEM OUT WITH THE TOWNSEND PLAN

The following “Expert” joke comes from an article in a 1935 Greater Oregon newspaper published in Albany. The joke was part of a pro-Townsend Plan speech in answer to an “expert” opinion that the plan was unworkable economically.

THE EXPERT

One morning a farmer tucked a box of dynamite under his arm and, accompanied by his dog, took off to a field to “blow some stumps”. As he walked along there was suddenly a blast as the box of dynamite exploded.

The family of the farmer and his neighbors ran out to the field and found body parts scattered over a large area. They got baskets and picked up the pieces. After all the pieces were boxed away it was brought to their attention that a portion of these bits were that of the dog. The family, not wanting the parts of a dog buried with the farmer decided to hire an expert to sort out the pieces. They hired the best expert they could find and after several days he brought the family together and pointed to one pile saying that was the farmer and the smaller pile was that of the dog. Satisfied they buried the remains of the farmer, and threw away those of the dog.

Two days later the dog came home.

Patrons to Witness Whodunnit

Patrons of the Albany Regional Museum are going to witness a good old-fashioned whodunnit.

Each year the Museum's membership and fund-raising committee plans a special outing for patrons. Last year patrons traveled to the Polk County Museum in Rickreall.

This year, on Sunday, October 3, patrons will attend an Albany Civic Theater performance of "The Murder Room." The matinee begins at 2:30 p.m. followed by a reception at the Museum that will include hors d'oeuvres and a preview of the new exhibit on Albany schools.

Patrons will gather at the Museum at 2 p.m. and walk the half block to the theater and return to the Museum after the performance.

Cost of the theater tickets and reception will be paid by the Museum. The event is the way the Museum's board of directors recognizes the generous support of patrons.

The play is described as a fast-paced British comedy that mixes elements of farce and a good old-fashioned whodunnit. A woman decides to kill her rich husband, but plans go awry as she contends with a snoopy housekeeper, the unexpected arrival of her stepdaughter, and a strangely familiar police inspector.

Patrons can reserve performance tickets by calling the Museum, 967-7122, by Tuesday, September 28.

Saluting Patrons

(added since the summer newsletter)

Elaine McLain
David Lemons
Jim and Brian Smith
John Boock Family
Preston (Pete) Gray, Jr.
Jack and Beverly Haines
Dean and Hilda Jones
Clayton and Florence Lebow
Russell Sprague
Judie Weissert
and Rolland Brower

DID YOU KNOW ?

That from 1901 to 1962 the Veal Furniture Company in east Albany would blow a steam whistle in the morning telling its workers it was time to go to work. The whistle would blow again for the lunch break, and an hour later would signal the workers to return to work. The fourth and last whistle blow of the day was a welcoming blast in the evening calling an end to the work day.

The whistle could be heard as far as fifteen miles away and area residents would regularly adjust their watches and clocks as the whistle blew.

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR WEB SITE

Have you checked out our web site recently?

The Albany Regional Museum invites you to take a look at

www.armuseum.com

Here you will find information about the Museum, its exhibits and its operation.

The site was constructed as an in-kind contribution by Kathleen Buchner, retired Memorial Middle School teacher and librarian.

Honor a loved one with memorial gift

This is the theme of an advertising campaign launched this fall by the Albany Regional Museum.

Ads are appearing weekly on the obituary page of the Albany Democrat-Herald and in issues of the Museum's newsletter.

According to the Membership and Fund-Raising Committee, memorials could become a significant stream of revenue for the Museum. And it makes sense to alert the general public that the Museum accepts such gifts.

In addition to being just a nice way to honor someone, memorials give the Museum more visibility in the community and they give Albany people another opportunity to connect to the Museum.

Names of those memorialized are listed in the Museum's newsletter and are posted at the Museum for a limited time. A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, next of kin, etc.) and a thank you card to the person making the donation (which also can be used for tax documentation).

The most common memorial gifts are in the amount of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Memorial gifts are deposited in the general fund for Museum operational costs.

Gifts can be mailed (136 Lyon St. SW, Albany 97321) or dropped off at the Museum with proper instructions enclosed.

Persons honored with memorials

January 1, 2004 through August 31, 2004

Nell Barrett
David Blake
Cal Brenneman
Velma Brenneman
Barbara Tripp Bryant
Delbert "Mike" Cox
John "Andy" Cox
John Cude
Esther Elston
Pauline Fisher
Vivian Freerksen
Aldine Sprague
John Steelhammer

**Major business members of
The Albany Regional Museum**

- Albany Democrat-Herald
- Birchfield Heating
- Central Willamette
Credit Union
- Lemons Millwork
- Smith Glass
- Business Members**
- AK Carpets & More
Albany Area
Chamber of Commerce
- City Delivery Service
- Burcham's Metals
- Conser Design & Construction
- Fisher Funeral Home
- For Your Gifts
- Gordon E. Vogt, Jr.
& Associates
- Hasty Freeze
- Jack Miller Insurance
- Johnson, McGowan, Whitney
& Associates
- Krpalek Financial Services
- M & M Property Management
- MartInvest (Security Alarm)
- Nesting Instinct for the Home
- Stop & Go Market
- Sybaris Restaurant
- Train House Inn
- Tripp and Tripp
- Umpqua Bank
- Washington Federal Savings
- Weatherford, Thompson, P.C.
- Zed Merrill Associates

**Thanks to
Volunteers**

(since the summer newsletter)

- Al Kok
- Elmer Gatchet
- Jason Bradley
- Kristin Schuttpelez
- Mary Jacq Burck
- Jack Miller
- Sarah Theurer
- Leslie Griffen
- Kitty Buchner
- Charley Bottomley

FREE HOT COFFEE

Drop in to the Museum for free hot coffee on the day of Albany's Veteran Day Parade on November 11, 2004. The Museum will provide a portable restroom on its parking lot for parade watchers.

Several new displays will be featured at the Museum which will be open before and after the parade.



Pioneer Society New Recognition Level

The board of directors has approved a new level of recognition for individuals supporting the Albany Regional Museum. Named the "Pioneer's Society," qualifications are 10 years of continuous volunteer service to the Museum or \$1,000 or more in cash contributions and membership dues for individuals. For businesses to qualify, the cash contribution is \$2,500. These are accumulative figures and not necessarily one-year gifts.

Museum treasurer, Michael Kok, as a member of the task force committee, developed the criterion that includes current involvement with the Museum at the time of recognition. A plaque is on display at the Museum listing members. Pioneer names also are listed once a year in the Museum's newsletter.

Other levels of recognition include "patrons," (\$100 annually plus membership dues); "founders," (\$5,000 minimum over a period of five years plus annual membership dues); and "benefactors," (\$10,000 minimum accumulative).

Initial "pioneers" include Katie and Gerald Brenneman, Dayton and Esther Elston, Russell Sprague, Kathleen and John Buchner and Carol McKay. There are no "founders" at the present time. Doris Scharpf and Rod and Marty Tripp are "benefactors."

Questions concerning funding levels should be directed to the Membership and Fund Raising Committee, Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany, OR 97321.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

To renew or begin your annual membership, indicate the type and fill in the form below.

Individual \$10 _____ *Family \$15* _____ *Business \$50* _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

You can become a Patron
of the Albany Regional Museum with an additional
contribution of \$100 or more.
The museum is a non-profit 501 C-3 corporation.

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



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2nd Floor – Berry Price
Finance – Michael Kok
Fund-raising – John Buchner
Membership – Rebecca Bond
Newsletter – Jack Gillespie
Publicity – Jerry Brenneman
Volunteers – Shannon Willard
Task Force – Mary Jacq Burck and
Kris Schuttpelz

Looking back: Swimming

by Jack Gillespie



25cent photo of Jack Gillespie in basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio Texas in the summer of 1946.

In the late 1930s nothing was more delightful to us kids living in the west end of Albany than a trip to the “old swimming hole” on a hot summer day.

Our favorite swimming spot was Perfect’s Bar along the Calapooia River.

Perfect’s Bar was located on the east bank of the river just south of a steel girded bridge then spanning the Calapooia along Queen Ave. The bar (a rocky/sandy area) was named in reference to the Perfect family who owned the land on which the bar was located.

Several days a week, during

the summer, my older sister, Lois, and I, usually accompanied by neighborhood friends, would wrap our swim suits in towels and head down Queen Avenue for the half mile walk to Perfect’s Bar.

A narrow dirt path beginning at the SE entrance of the bridge led down to the bar. As we neared the river the girls would disappear into the brush to change into their swim suits and we boys would likewise find a secluded place to change—always on the lookout for poison oak plants prevalent in the area.

Upon changing we would then run into the river and join the others in swimming and splashing about. At this time of year the river was quite shallow and calm—seldom were we in water “over our heads”.

We were careful not to swim too far down river toward the bridge as there were swift rapids that could sweep a person away.

At times our swimming would be interrupted by a dead sheep floating by— but this was considered merely an inconvenience.

After an hour or so in the water and sunning on the bar our swimming group would dry down and return to our respective bushes and change into our clothes. We would then head for home where our mothers were sure to have jelly sandwiches or other “goodies” waiting for us.

Swimming at Perfect’s Bar was curtailed by the 1940s when a polio scare warned against swimming in certain spots along the Valley’s rivers.