

Burck, Schuttpelz gain Museum honors

Mary Jacq Burck and Kristen Schuttpelz were honored as co-recipients of the second Gerald L. Brenneman Volunteer Award at the annual membership meeting of the Albany Regional Museum, held Oct. 4.

The award, created by the board of directors in 2004, honors those individuals who have made major contributions to the museum's operations and its growth as a community institution. Current board members and officers are not eligible for the recognition.

In July 2003, the ladies were appointed as at-large members and co-chairs of a task force committee to implement board goals. The committee was active until February 2005, when most of its charges were completed. The board's executive committee has now assumed the task force's role in museum operations.

The task force met monthly (sometimes more often) for more than a year and was responsible for implementing the annual patron recognition, the Pioneer Society of membership recognition, the establishment of a Web site, and other goals. The most important project of the task force was the development of a job description for a paid museum administrator. Many hours were devoted to this, preparing an advertising campaign, interviewing

candidates and finally recommending to the board the hiring of Bill Maddy as administrative coordinator.

In addition to this committee work, Burck and Schuttpelz took on the major responsibility of developing a new exhibit on Albany schools that was completed with a grand opening in February 2005. These individuals spent several months developing the concept and many hours contacting school officials, collecting and organizing artifacts, working on exhibit construction, and planning the grand opening reception. Individually, Schuttpelz has a long history of museum involvement. She was one of the original board members when the museum was founded in 1980. She served as chairman in 1984-85. She and her husband are museum patrons.

Burck first became involved with the museum as a member

of the fund-raising committee in 2001. She was a key contact person and planner when the committee made presentations to potential major business members. Currently, she is a member of the board nominating committee. She and her husband are museum patrons.

Both individuals continue to be regular participants in museum membership events and activities.

In its approval motion, the board noted: "These ladies exemplify the kind of volunteerism that the Gerald L. Brenneman Volunteer Award was established to honor."



Photo by John Buchner

Kristen Schuttpelz (left) and Mary Jacq Burck received the second annual Gerald L. Brenneman award during the 2005 annual meeting.

Museum Decks the Halls for the Holidays

"Come Home for the Holidays" at the Albany Regional Museum. The museum will be decorated for the holiday season and will be one of the historic places to visit during the annual Albany Christmas Parlour Tour. The museum will be open Sunday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 7 p.m. during the tour. The Musical Chairs will be performing holiday music at the museum. Refreshment also will be provided for visitors. For information and tickets for the parlour tour, contact the Albany Visitors Association at (541) 928-0911, or 1-800-526-2256.

Chairman's Letter

Our 25th Anniversary year is rapidly coming to a close and it was certainly our busiest and most successful year. At our annual members meeting on Oct. 4, Tony Farque, archeologist for the U.S. Forest Service, presented an infor-



Photo by John Buchner

Guest Speaker, Tony Farque captures the audience during the annual meeting.

mative and interesting evening on the "Cultural History of the Santiam Kalapuya Indians." Also, time was given to review the highlights of our year so far. The Chautauqua program at the Senior Center, featuring a buffet dinner and quest speaker Tim McNeil,

performing "Meriwether Lewis, Letters from Home," was the largest and most successful event in our 25 years of existence. The museum met and surpassed its membership goal, achieved the greatest number of patrons in our history and surpassed prior visitor attendance to set a new record! We had our largest two-day, eight-hour attendance of 248 persons visit our model train exhibit; purchased a new sound system with a grant from the Linn/Benton/Lincoln ESD; and made various improvements to the museum building. In addition, we achieved the goal of hiring an administrative coordinator, with Bill Maddy assuming that role. Board member Gary Kingston researched and wrote a history of the first 25 years of the Albany Regional Museum. It is for sale at the museum. An interesting evening was spent recently, with Robert Potts and Rodney Tripp reminiscing about old downtown Albany, with a capacity crowd present.

We spent a good deal of our time last year seeking persons to interview, gathering photos and information, and helping Zed Merrill produce his second film about Albany. The new production is called, "Albany, Oregon:

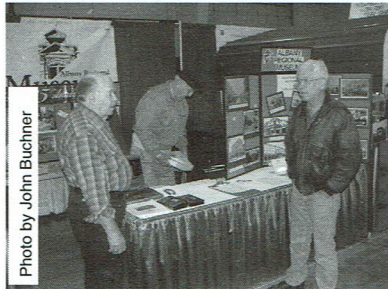


Photo by John Buchner

Volunteers manned the Museum's booth at the 2005 Fall Home Show.

Memories of an American Town." The Museum has these for sale now for \$24.95 in both VHS and DVD formats. This film, approximately 80 minutes long, presents a history of Albany from its foundering to the present. Zed's first video of Albany during WWII was an award-winning film and also featured many Albany persons you are acquainted with. Both of these films would make great Christmas gifts.

Thanks again to each of you for your continuing support of a great local museum and helping us improve it each year.

Gerald Brenneman

Museum Gift Shop

Looking for a great gift for the holidays, a birthday or special occasion? The Albany Regional Museum Gift Shop may have just what you need. Proceeds from the sale of these items help support the Albany Regional Museum. Here are a few great new items now available:

- **2006 Albany Historical Calendar** (Albany photograph postcard format) \$5.00
- **Albany, Oregon: Memories of an American Town** (new complete video history of Albany) --VHS Video or DVD \$24.95
- **A Painter's View: Lewis and Clark in Western Oregon and Washington**, by Albany artist Katy Grant Hanson (autographed by the artist) \$29.95
- **Camp Adair: The Story of A World War II Cantonment**, by John H. Baker \$16.95
- **Albany Regional Museum 1980-2005 History**, compiled by Gary Kingston, Museum Board Member and Volunteer \$3.00

This issue's trivia question:

In 1855, Linn County voted 644 to 484 to move the county seat to what place?

A salute to Museum business members (2005 - 2006)

Albany Area
 Chamber of Commerce
 Albany City Delivery Service
 Albany Democrat-Herald*
 Albany Visitors Association
 Baldwin General Contracting Inc.
 Briscoe & Associates
 Burchams Metals Inc.
 Central Willamette Credit Union*
 Conser Design & Construction
 Fisher Funeral Home Inc.
 Gordon E. Vogt Jr. & Associates
 Hasty Freez
 Jack Miller Insurance
 Lemons Millwork*
 M & M Property Management

McKay Truck & RV Center
 Pacific Auto Body & Paint*
 Roger H. Reid, attorney
 Security Alarm Corp.
 SELCO Community Credit Union
 Smith & Company
 Smith Glass Service Inc.*
 Train House Inn
 Tripp and Tripp Realty
 Umpqua Bank, Albany branch
 Weatherford & Thompson, attorneys
 Zed Merrill Associates

* Major business sponsors

Carol's Corner

By Carol McKay

Do you remember a magazine called The Woman's Home Companion? I don't think it is published anymore. It used to have very good recipes in it and I was always cutting them out and trying them out on my family. One recipe in particular survives to this day and now has become a selling item. I'm talking about something called Chocolate Popcorn. When I was in high school I worked for Cleo's, a downtown restaurant that sold the movie houses popcorn and also made caramel corn, so I thought I would try out this chocolate flavored popcorn. I experimented some with the ingredients, making it taste more "chocolately." and thinner, therefore easier to stir. As children moved out, creating their own families, the recipe went with them, being a big favorite. Now, one of my grandchildren is selling this product worldwide. Of course, she went to college first to learn how to market and sell things, but it just shows what a little recipe that has been a fam-



ily favorite can become. You cooks out there have to be careful what you create in the kitchen, or what you find in old cookbooks or magazines. I can say I am very proud of my granddaughter, Morgan McKay, and hope that she will make a go of this business of hers. Unfortunately I can't give you the recipe, as it is a secret. She has worked with the original until it no longer is the same. Today's products are different, having been altered and making things bigger and better. Her product is called Chunk-O-Hunk Gourmet Chocolate Popcorn, and although it is locally produced, it is not locally sold here, but at trade shows. I'm not selling a product here, I'm telling the story of how one recipe from one family went national. She does have a Web site and you can learn more there if you so desire.

Mark your calendar

Veterans Day Celebration

*Friday, November 11,
museum opens at 9 a.m.,
Parade begins at 10 a.m.,*

Christmas Parlour Tour

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.-7 p.m.

For more information give us a call 541-967-7122

Oregon Cultural Trust

Give the Gift that Grows.

www.culturaltrust.org

Museum Volunteers Needed

Each year volunteers give many hours of their valuable time to the Albany Region Museum. Volunteers have made the museum a success and new volunteers are needed to help it continue growing and developing as a valued community resource. You are invited to join the museum volunteer team!

There are many opportunities where help is greatly needed and vital to the museum. All volunteers are provided orientation, resources and training related to their volunteer role. Here are a few positions to fit a variety of schedules, available hours, interests and skill levels:

- **Docent:** is a teacher and a museum guide; this position offers a chance to share your knowledge and interest of Albany history with museum visitors.
- **Archive Numberer:** helps assure that all museum archives are properly identified for the cataloging system.

- **Cataloging Assistant:** records and enters archive data into the cataloging system.
- **Museum Exhibit Developer:** assists with the development of exhibits and displays utilizing Albany historical archives.
- **Computer Data Manager:** records and enters vital museum data (membership, donations).
- **Museum Newsletter Writers:** researches, creates and writes articles about Albany history for the Albany Regional Museum newsletter, "Albany Old Times".
- **General Museum Maintenance Staff:** assists with the upkeep of the museum (cleaning, sweeping, changing light bulbs, repairs and/or small painting projects).

For information about being a volunteer or any of the available volunteer positions, please contact Bill Maddy, Museum Administrative Coordinator at (541) 967-7122 or email: armuseum@peak.org.

Steamboat Connections to Albany

by Gary Kingston

Early in the morning of April 8, 1854, the Reverend James P. Miller walked the portage path just above the Willamette River falls at Oregon City. He and others were boarding the steamboat *Gazelle* that was making its first regular run upriver to Corvallis. He was getting off at Albany where he lived.

Reverend Miller was pastor of a recently organized Albany United Presbyterian Church congregation. He had come to Albany in 1851 as a missionary from Argyle, N. Y., to become a part of the Associate Presbytery of Oregon, one of two church branches that were soon merged. Rev. Miller's Albany congregation in October 1853 was the first new group to be received into the

United Presbyterian Presbytery of Oregon. He was working to establish a Presbyterian girl's boarding school in Albany as part of an early Presbyterian vision of educational programs for the area. For that purpose, an eight-sided building with sixteen dormitory rooms, known as the Albany Round House, was completed in 1853 at Fifth Avenue and Walnut Street. It was the same design as the Albany Octagon Court House built the same year, which later burned down in 1861. Getting the school started was one of Rev. Miller's concerns as he boarded the *Gazelle*.

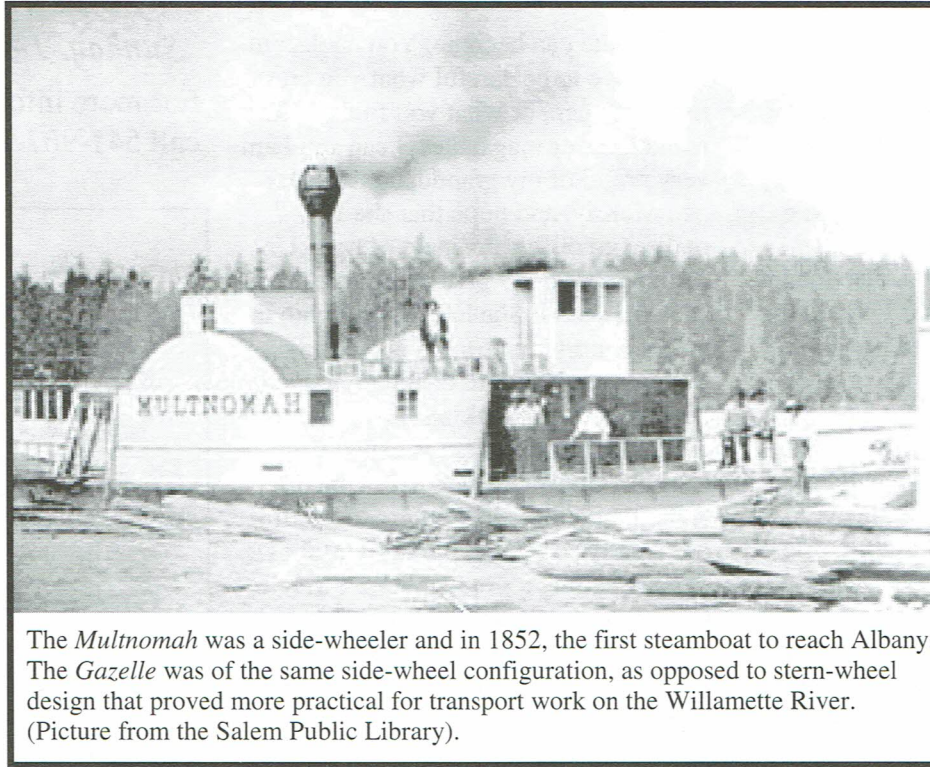
The *Gazelle* moved upriver from the passenger portage to the freight dock at Canemah. She was a side-wheeler constructed by the Willamette Falls Company at Canemah. A maiden voyage the previous month had displayed her as one of the best to appear on the river and was called "Tyee" by an Oregon City editor, that being Chinook for "splendid, or superior." The day portended a commodious cruise up the Willamette, bursting with spring runoff and shipping potential.

While on deck waiting for the loading of freight, Rev.

Miller would have noted the ship's stack belching copious smoke as the boiler built steam. If previously introduced, he would have recognized Moses Toner, the *Gazelle*'s first engineer, rushing out of the engine room to the deck and dashing ashore and onward toward town.

These would have been the Reverend's last sights before the *Gazelle* erupted into fragments with a violent explosion strewing her parts and passengers over a wide area, killing 28 and seriously injuring over two dozen more. Rev. James P. Miller was among the dead.

A coroner's jury decided that the explosion resulted from the



The *Multnomah* was a side-wheeler and in 1852, the first steamboat to reach Albany. The *Gazelle* was of the same side-wheel configuration, as opposed to stern-wheel design that proved more practical for transport work on the Willamette River. (Picture from the Salem Public Library).

negligence of the first engineer in running too much steam and having too little water in the boiler. Engineer Toner disappeared into the wilderness and was not to be heard of again. All that remained of the *Gazelle* was her hull. It was resurrected into a new life as the *Senorita*, with service for many years on the Columbia River. The Presbyterian girl's boarding school in the Albany Round House died with its champion, Rev. Miller. The building was recognized by 1914 as the wedding site for 300 couples. The structure came into the possession of Dr. John Lindsey (not Leslie as reported in the spring 2005 newsletter) Hill who later moved it to Second Avenue and Washington Street, where, while inhabited as a rental residence, it burned on July 4, 1923.

Sources: 1). Mills, Randall V., *Stern-Wheelers Up Columbia*, University of Nebraska Press, 1947. 2). *Workers of the Writers' Program, History of Linn County. Work Projects Administration in the State of Oregon, Reprinted 1970.* 3). Potts, Robert, *Remembering When - A Photo Collection of Historic Albany, Oregon, Volume 1, 1990.* 4). *Recollections of Robert Potts.*

Ad campaign for memorials in newspaper

An advertising campaign promoting memorials for the museum is currently under way in the Albany Democrat-Herald.

The one-column by three-inch ad can be found on the obituary page of the newspaper each week during the months of October and November. The ad appears on either Monday or Thursday, the days that most obituaries appear in the newspaper.

In the past year, memorials have become a new revenue stream for the museum, as friends and relatives seek ways to honor loved ones. Memorials also give the Museum added visibility and provide the community another opportunity to connect with the Museum. Names of those individuals 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 or persons 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. Recently, a family donated a bench for the museum's lobby in honor of a loved one. Memorial gifts are deposited in the museum's general fund for special needs. The staff and board are in the process of developing a "wish list" of items that would be appropriate for memorial funds.

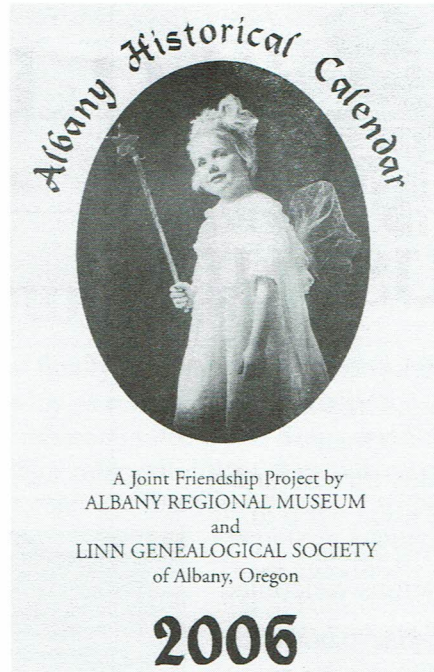
Gifts can be mailed to the museum at 136 Lyon St. S., Albany, OR 97321, or dropped off at the museum with proper instructions enclosed. Funeral homes also will forward such gifts.



Memorials honor family and friends

(July 15, 2005 through October 1, 2005)

Frank Fisher
Ray Maddy
Emma Stephen



A Joint Friendship Project by
ALBANY REGIONAL MUSEUM
and
LINN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
of Albany, Oregon

2006

Albany Historical Calendar

The 2006 Albany Historical Calendars are now available at the Albany Regional Museum. The calendars are a joint project of the Linn Genealogical Society and the Albany Regional Museum. The calendars are only \$5 each. Funds raised from the sale of the calendars will be used to help support both organizations. Each calendar month has been generously sponsored by an Albany business or organization.

So, stop by the Museum soon and purchase one or more of these special calendars before they are all gone. Hurry, they are going fast!

Trivia Answer: Sand Ridge.

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 _____

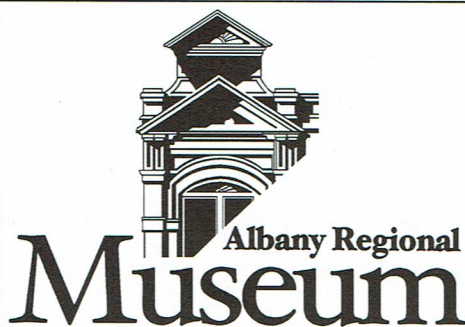
Address _____

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**



136 Lyon Street S
Albany, Oregon 97321

Open
Monday thru Saturday

12 noon – 4 p.m.

Free admission
donations welcomed

(541) 967-7122

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armuseum@peak.org

website:

www.armuseum.com

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Looking back: Maple School Days.

I have always felt fortunate to have attained my entire primary education (1937-49) through the Albany school system; Maple Elementary, grades 1-6; Central School 7-9; and Albany High School 10-12.

When I entered Maple School as a first-grader in the fall of 1937 it was a sparkling, newly constructed building, replacing the old double story wooden structure in use for many years. Maple School in the west end of Albany and Madison School in the east end, were both depression era federal government work projects (better known as the WPA).

At Maple School the first grade room was located on the northwest corner of the building and all of us first-year pupils gathered there for our introduction to the school. Parents attending sat in the back of the room for “moral support.”

Our first grade teacher was Miss. Mischener, who quickly put us all at ease. (She was very special.) I was present, a few years ago, at her 100th birthday reception. She passed away a few months later.

At each of the six “first day of school” each pupil was given a list of basic school supplies and then dismissed for the rest of the day to go into town and purchase the listed items. The list included pencils, pen and pen points and a bottle of ink (no ball point pens then), note pads, lined paper, etc. As I remember, the cost of these items would add up to around \$2.00.

Those of us who took our lunch to school would, on nice days, eat them at various sites along the back of the school. On stormy days we would have our lunch in the basement “boiler room” aside the school’s giant heating unit.

by Jack Gillespie

During recesses we played a number of “ball games,” football, baseball and a form of soccer. There also were swings, teeter-totters and a slide.

Always on hand was a long pole with a net on the end to retrieve any errant ball landing in the City Canal running along the east end of the school building.

Maple School had a fine gym/auditorium and it was there all 6 classes gathered on Monday, December 8, 1941, to hear President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “day of infamy” radio speech. The president then declared war on Japan and Germany. World War II was underway.

In the summer of 1943, my class completed its studies at Maple School. We then prepared, with some anxiety, to start Junior High, at Central School just a few blocks down the road. Will tell of that “adventure” in a future column.