

Albany Old Times

A bi-annual publication of Albany Regional Museum

May 1998

Albany Regional Museum

302 Ferry Street SW
(3rd St. Entrance)
Albany, Oregon 97321-2263
(541) 917-7587
www.albanymuseum.org
e-mail: arm@skipnet.com

Free admission - donation only

**Open Monday thru Saturday
12 noon—4 pm**

Tours available at other times
by calling (541) 917-7587



Officers

Jerry Brenneman, President
Russ Sprague, Vice President
Margo Coleman, Secretary
Charlie Bottomley, Treasurer

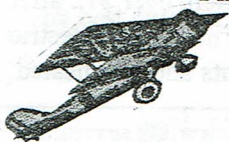
Board

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Current Exhibits

Aviation
Camp Adair
General Store
Photography
Railroad
Vaudeville
& more



President's Letter

After 18 years in the basement of the downtown Carnegie library, the Albany Regional Museum has been asked by the City Library Board to vacate its space and relocate. Over these 18 years, the Museum has presented some 25 major exhibits and counted as visitors persons from all 50 states, 85 Oregon communities, 20 foreign countries and thousands of adults and students from Albany. Students and teachers from Waldport, Eugene and Jefferson have also visited us.

While the Albany Regional Museum has been given a 2-year period to relocate, it presents numerous problems, not the least of which is to find a suitable building with adequate space. The Museum would prefer to relocate in the old historic part of town and close to the Montieth House if possible.

A new location should contain enough square footage to allow for expansion of exhibits since artifacts and Albany historical material continue to be donated. The Museum presently occupies 2,400 square feet, plus sharing a common area of approximately 300 square feet. It is hoped that a new location would have at least that amount of square footage, preferably more.

A major problem is that of funding. Sufficient funding would have to be secured to obtain a building and provide for daily operations. For the past 18 years, the Museum has been staffed and operated entirely by volunteers. Income has come primarily from donations, grants, sales of Robert Potts' books on Albany, and in-kind help.

The Museum is a non-profit organization recognized by State and Federal statutes, thus all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

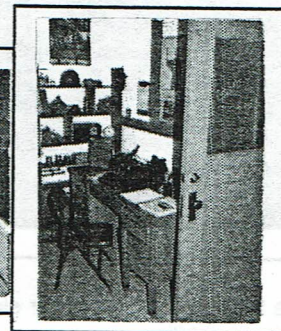
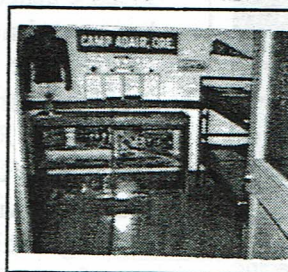
Contact the Albany Regional Museum if you have suggestions or wish to help in any way. Call us at 917-5787 or e-mail us at arm@skipnet.com.

We appreciate your past and continuing support and loyalty, and welcome your suggestions and ideas for the future.

Gerald Brenneman, President

CAMP ADAIR, OREGON

World
War
II
Training
Camp

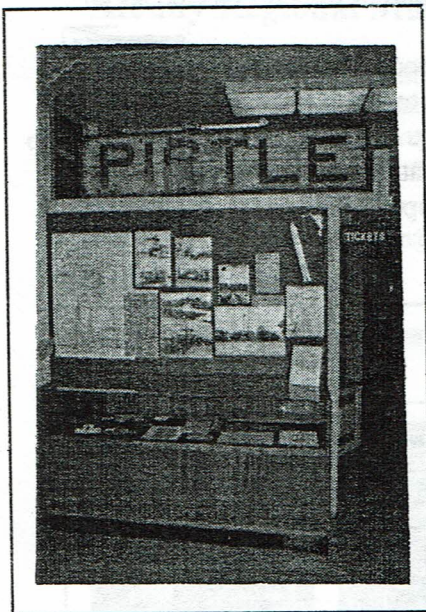


The Camp Adair Room exhibit remembers those some 50,000 GIs who lived, trained and worked there during WWII. Gas masks, C-rations, ammunition cases, canteens, bunk bed and other memorabilia abound.

Thank you...

Susanne Bagley, Louis G. Bowerman, Gerald Brenneman, Mary Brock, Elmer L. Cote, Bun Doerfler, Wendell Emmett, Harriet Deer, Floyd Dorris, First Interstate Bank, Frank Fisher, Mabel Hancock, Glenn Harrison, Della Hendricks, Theodore Hill, Betty Holcomb, Grace Judd, Key Bank, Mrs. Donald Landstrom, Bill & Lillian Lilja, Richard Maier, Sharon Matthews, Carol McKay, Mike McKechnie (Frances), Robert Melbo, Virginia Moore, Floyd Oster, Fred Piper, Bill Pirie, Scott Pirie, Robert Potts, Wes Price, Ron Purdom, Ken Radford, Jenny Richardson, Douglas Rieden, Rick Rogers, Maryon Howard Roe, Judy Rowland, Mildred Ruthruff, Bill Scharf, Rosemary Schloblom, Terry Shuck, Al Severson, Shedd Museum, Stan Sime, Russ Sprague, Angie Suoboda, Alene Thurber, Rodney Tripp, Jim Walburn, Pauline Wiley

for donated items, items loaned for exhibits, contributions of help, money and/or time from 1996 to the present.



Pirtle Station sign and other electric RR memorabilia.

"Remembering When....."

Have you purchased one of our pictorial books by Robert Potts that includes historical information and photos of Albany from 1885 to 1946? We still have copies of Volumes II, III and IV. If you come to the Museum to purchase your copies, we can give you a special, discount price. It is well worth your while in savings. These books also make great gifts!!!

Did You Know...

...that Albany went dry many years before national prohibition? The December 18, 1908 Albany-Democrat article tells about a "beer raid," and that beer was confiscated at the home of James Blackburn and at Al Peacock's livery stable. Bail was set at \$100.



Oregon Electric Railroad

The Oregon Electric line that ran from Portland to Eugene had its Grand Opening in Albany at its new station at 5th and Lyon Street on July 4, 1912. The station building remains (now housing Ciddici's Pizza Parlor). The line advertised "no soot - no cinders," with a running time from Portland to Albany of 2 hours, 35 minutes. The last Oregon Electric trip to the Willamette Valley was made on May 16, 1933.

Oregon Electric R.R. pictures and artifacts are displayed at our Railroad Exhibit, including a red felt Oregon Electric pennant from 1912 and a large wooden sign with the name "Pirtle" on it. Pirtle was a substation 3-1/2 miles from Albany. If you travel on Oakville Road, turn west on Pirtle Drive, go to the R.R. tracks and look south, you will see a large concrete building that housed electrical equipment for the R.R. and also served as a ticket stop.

Recent Grants

The Albany Regional Museum received a \$1,000 grant in December 1997 from the Oregon Community Foundation. The money was from their Advised Fund given by individuals, families and businesses to enhance and support the quality of life in their communities.

Two additional, large gifts of \$5,000 each were given to the Museum in December 1997 by local families who have been strong supporters of the Museum. We thank both families for their generosity and interest. It is much appreciated and allows us to improve our Museum and extend our hours open to the public

Did You Know...

...that Albany had an Apple Fair in 1908 with its own yell? "Apples, Apples, Apples? What Apples? Red Apples! Where? ALBANY!!!"



Did You Know...

...that a new streetcar on wide tracks made its debut on December 23, 1908?

The car met all trains from 4:18 am - 19:37 pm making some 15-20 trips per day and was used by all Albany hotels.

Walter Worrell, an "enthusiastic" Albany booster, paid \$1.05 for the first ticket which he kept as an "important event" in the history of Albany, after having Mayor Wallace and others sign it. Charles McDonah was the conductor and Elba Burnett was the motorman. The first day's receipts were over \$12 after 2 pm. The car had electric lights and was heated.

Space Warp

While the Albany Regional Museum is not planning on closing, we cannot guarantee that a suitable, new location will be found before the time allotted for us to move out of the Carnegie Library space.

For the past decade, the biggest threat was that of closing the downtown library building because of cost and duplication of services with the main library. As recently as this past year, cutbacks to the library were considered, so the movement to expand library services and move into the basement was not expected and caught the Museum completely by surprise.

In the 18 years the Museum has been operating, we have gathered some 10,000 objects and historical items from hundreds of local persons interested in preserving our heritage. Approximately 2,500 of the items we have were part of the Robert Burkhart estate which, along with Maple Lawn
(continued next column)

place and the land on which it stands, were donated to the city of Albany.

If a suitable location is not found to house & display the artifacts we have, it becomes a monumental task of storage, care and upkeep. Space required simply to store what we currently have would take approximately one-half the basement space we now occupy.

Did You Know...

...that in the early 1900s, up to 26 trains a day stopped at Albany? All persons getting off in Albany on the first five trains had their names and the name of the hotel they were staying at printed in the afternoon paper.

Did You Know...

...that the first Chautagua Assembly came to Bryant Park in July of 1910 a new pontoon bridge was built over the Calapooia for foot traffic to the park?

Did You Know...

...that a 1908 Sunset Magazine advertised Albany as follows: Good schools, good churches, the railroad center. Better land for less money than anywhere in the Northwest. No floods, no cyclones, no blizzards, no sun-strokes. An ideal climate with roses in February.

Did You Know...

...that the population of Albany in the 1940s was almost identical to the 5,636 of July 1909? The 1950s introduced growth to Albany's present size.

New Hours

The Albany Regional Museum is now open each day Monday through Saturday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Tours can be arranged at other times by calling (541) 917-7587, or e-mail us at arm@skipnet.com.

*** For further information/tours

phone (541) 917-7587

or

e-mail: albanyrm@skipnet.com ***

Your Albany Regional Museum needs YOU as a volunteer / donor (\$ or artifacts) / all of the above.

Yes!

I would like to volunteer: days/hours available _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ / artifacts _____

I would like to become a member: [] Business \$50 [] Family \$15 [] Individual \$5 [] Senior/Student \$3

I would like more information regarding _____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ City, State, ZIP _____

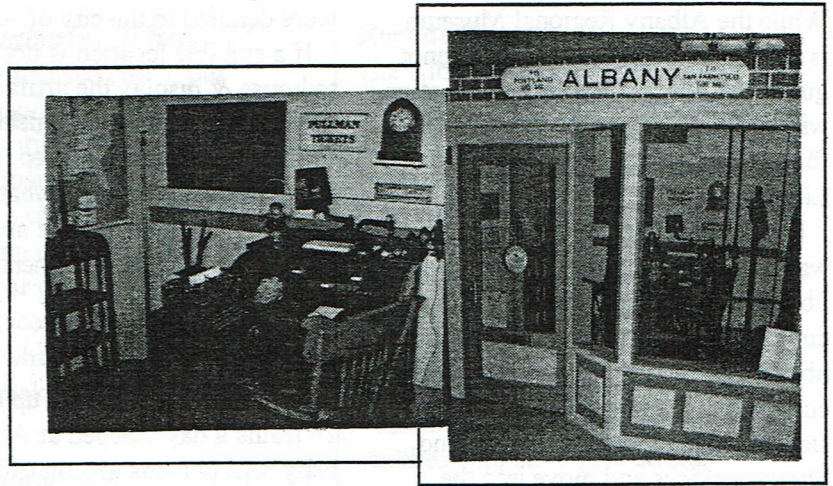
The best day and time to reach me is M / T / W / T / F / S / S _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

Mail or bring in to Albany Regional Museum, 302 Ferry St. SW, Albany, OR 97321-2263. Thank you.

Our Newest Exhibit

Come in and see our recently constructed Southern Pacific Railroad Stationmaster's Office from the early 1900s. The first railroad line to Albany was the Oregon and California line in 1870, followed by the Oregonian Rail Co. in 1880 that ran a narrow-gauge line to East Albany.

In 1887, the Willamette Valley and Coast line opened from Albany to Yaquina, where passengers had to board a ferry to Newport. Also in 1887, the Southern Pacific R.R. bought out the Oregon and California R.R. and remained in Albany until sold to Union Pacific R.R. in 1996.

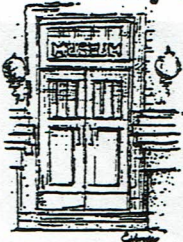


The Stationmaster has just stepped out. Your ticket can be purchased when he returns.

Albany was an early stopping place for trains and steamboats and was referred to as the "Hub City." In 1899, the Southern Pacific train #11, the Shasta Express, stopped at the Albany station for a 20-minute lunch stop. The station housed a restaurant and hotel as well as the ticket office. This large wooden building was moved to Lyon St. around 1912 and operated as the Depot Hotel for many years. It was torn down to make room for the 99E-Pacific Blvd. overpass and the lumber was used for the present-day Depot Cafe.

The new Depot built in 1912 presently is owned by Union Pacific R.R., but leased to Willamette Pacific R.R. The Amtrak ticket office is located there also.

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PERMIT NO 166
ALBANY OR 97321

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