

Albany Old Times

A bi-annual publication of Albany Regional Museum

October 1998

Albany Regional Museum

302 Ferry Street SW
(3rd St. Entrance)
Albany, Oregon 97321-2263
(541) 917-7587
www.albanyrm.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

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Remembering When... Volumes II, III, IV
by Albany Photohistorian Robert Potts
\$15.50 each or 3 for \$40
(normally \$16.95 each)

Albany Regional Museum Annual Meeting
on Tuesday, October 6, 1998 at 7 p.m.
in the Museum
302 Ferry St. SW, Albany
(3rd Ave. entrance)
All Members and Public Invited

President's Letter

Since our last newsletter, the Albany Regional Museum has been very active in a number of areas. Besides numerous tours of the facility and day-to-daywork with visitors and taking care of the artifacts, we have set up several exhibits outside of the Museum. We have set up several exhibits at City Hall in their hallway display case, and one display and information table at the Heritage Mall for the Albany Air Fair. In addition, we have been gathering photos and historical objects pertaining to steamboating on the Willamette River, with special emphasis on Albany, for display at the Museum.

As to the matter of finding a suitable building for relocation of our museum so the downtown library can expand into the present Museum basement space, we have nothing further to report, although the search continues.

We have been actively looking at various possibilities and several local persons who have been wonderful supporters of the Museum have been instrumental in our search. Two things have not been helpful in this search. One is the lack of suitable property for our needs in the downtown area and, two, is the high cost of property at this time.

Contact the Albany Regional Museum if you wish to help or have suggestions. 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.

The Museum will have its annual meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 1998 at 7 p.m. in the Museum. We invite all members and the public to attend.

Gerald Brenneman, President

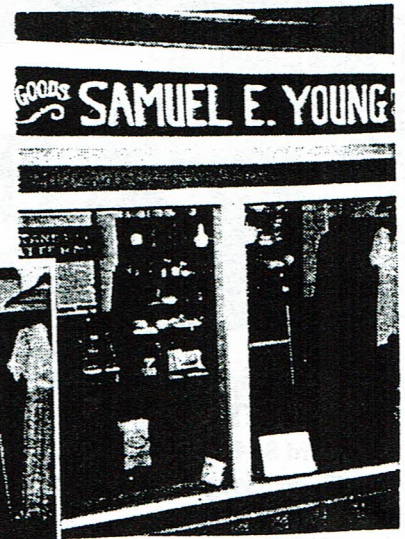
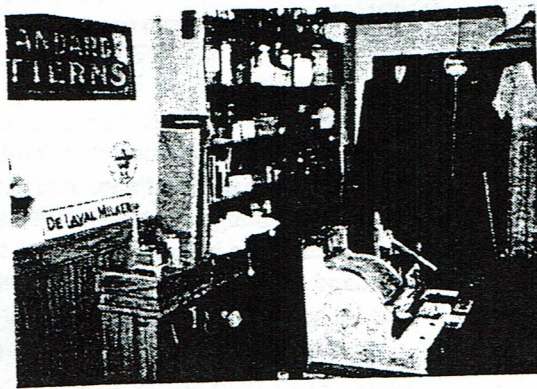
J.G. Crawford, Photographer

J.G. Crawford was an early Albany photographer, well-known around the country for his scenic "sterio" views of Oregon and the Northwest. He also did portrait work of individuals and families in the Albany area. Our Crawford exhibit on the stage of the Museum displays many of the early cameras and photography equipment of his day, and is set up similar to an actual photo of his studio in Albany.



~ L.E. Blain and S.E. Young ~

Two of Albany's most prominent businessmen are featured in exhibits at our Museum. In 1865, L.E. Blain, with John Barrows and S.E. Young, organized the general merchandise firm of J. Barrows and Co. In 1874, Blain and Young withdrew and established their own store. Two years later, the partnership was dissolved. Young took over the dry goods part of the business and continued operations as S.E. Young and Son, dry goods. Young located at several different places over the years, including what is now the Ace Hardware building at 2nd and Lyon. This building was formerly located at the corner of 1st and Broadalbin where Wells Fargo Bank is now. It was jacked up and moved by horses to its present location. Young's last location was the brick building on the north corner of 2nd and Broadalbin, later to become Montgomery Ward's and more recently Sid's Furniture.



L.E. Blain took over the Men's and Boys' department, which became the L.E. Blain Clothing Co. The firm prospered and, in 1892, the store was moved into the east half of the ornate Flinn building on West First Avenue, where it remained until closing. This establishment became the oldest store in Oregon where the founder was still active in his original business.

By 1921, Blain's was one of the largest firms of its kind in the Willamette Valley. The store and its "Iron Man" advertising signs were landmarks throughout the area. The Blain Clothing Co., facing increased competition from chain stores and malls, closed its doors for the final time in 1976, bringing to an end 111 years in the clothing business. It was the oldest, continuously-operating clothing store west of the Mississippi River. Recently, the present owners of this building uncovered the old L.E. Blain Clothing sign, and it can be seen if you stroll or drive down First Street in downtown Albany.

The Blain Clothing Co. "Iron Hanging Men" signs were among the first commercial outdoor advertising signs in the west, dating from the 1870s. This "Iron Man" picture is the only one remaining, and is found hanging in the Albany Regional Museum. It hung on a barn near Highway 34 for over 90 years. Marshall Gingrich, one of the farm's owners, received a new Stetson hat each year from Blain's as a "rental" payment.



"Iron Man"

Thanks...to the following persons and organizations donated or loaned items, money, help and/or time since our last newsletter in May:

Albany American Legion Post #10
Betty Bragg, Richard Chesebrough,
Anna Cobarrubia, Ruth Dawson,
Larry Dixon, Et Cetera Shop of
Lebanon, Ron Fisher, Virgil & Lavon
Hart, Ed Hereth, Ginger Hermans,
Emma Hewitt, Oscar B. Hult,
Steven Isom, Bill & Ellen Lilja,
Dick Marthaller, Bill Mikkelson,
Robert Milbeau, Jim Miller, Dan
Miltenberger, Clintina Olsen,
Scott Pinkston, Max Rohrbough
Family, Richard Satter, South Oregon
Historical Society, Alta Taylor,
Rod Tripp

Attendance up!

In our last newsletter, we informed you of several grants of money we received. Some of the money was specified for the hiring of a person to help us keep the Museum open more days of the week. Subsequently, we hired Nancy Strobbe to work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12 - 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays are staffed by volunteers, as we have done since opening in 1981. Our attendance so far has jumped by 39% over last year's figure, and will probably go higher since we will be open more days in the winter months. If you would like to volunteer to help, especially on Wednesdays or Saturdays, please let the Museum know. There is always plenty to do!

Did You Know...

...many streets in Albany were named by and for "city fathers."

Thurston St. was named for Thurston Hackleman and *Denver St.* for his brother, both sons of Abram Hackleman.

Lyons St. was named for Hackleman's wife Elizabeth Lyons Hackleman. The Montieths brought the name Albany with them from New York state.

Broadalbin St. was named for the town in which Thomas Montieth was born, and *Ellsworth St.* for the town where Walter was born. The Burkharts gave their name to *Burkhart St.* and *Burkhart Creek.* Another early family, the Dr. Reuben Hills, gave us *Hill St.* and *Gale St.* was named for a Linn Co. judge. An early doctor was Edward Geary for whom *Geary St.* was named.

The Bryants, early pioneers, gave us *Bryant's Park* and *Bryant Dr.*

Rainwater Lane was named after the first donation-claim farmer in North Albany, and *Nebergall Loop* was named for S.E. Nebergall, a well-known Albany meatpacker. *Calapooia* and *Umatilla* are Indian names.

Traveling Exhibits

Over the past several months, the Museum has had four different exhibits outside our Museum building. We exhibited three times this year in the display case located on the main floor of City Hall downtown. The three exhibits were: *Albany Railroading and Train History*, *Albany Timber Carnival*, which included a Red Hat with all buttons from 1941 to present that was recently donated to us; and the most recent display in August on *Steamboating in Albany.* Our fourth exhibit was at Heritage Mall during the Albany Air Fair Days of August 7, 8, 9 that included several mannequins depicting an early parachutist and a World War I aviator, as well as a panel exhibit of early airplane pioneers in the Albany area.

Did You Know...

...that Lewis and Clark College of Portland was originally started as a Portland extension campus of Albany College? The name was changed to Lewis and Clark College when the Albany College in Albany closed its doors during the Great Depression.

Did You Know...

...that most Albany city streets were dirt (mud) and gravel till 1908, when the first macadamized (forerunner of asphalt) streets were laid?

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Did You Know...

...that Albany College had a fine football team in 1902 that was good enough to defeat both the University of Oregon and Oregon Agricultural College (OSU)?



*** For further information/tours

phone (541) 917-7587

or

e-mail: albanym@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 _____

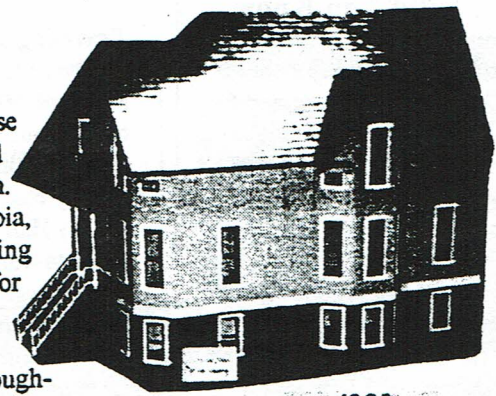
The best day and time to reach me is M / T / W / T / F / S / S _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

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

The Marshall House

About nine years ago, the city of Albany donated a plain, plywood dollhouse to the Museum, built by someone whose name we don't have on record. It had been sitting in a city warehouse for some time prior to arriving at the Museum. We thought that the historic 1898 Marshall House, located at 6th and Calapooia, would be a nice home to replicate. Since that time, we have been slowly working on it in our spare time and buying shingles, lumber, etc., as donation money for its completion has been received. Recently we received a large donation of Victorian doll furniture. Soon we will arrange it inside the house. The house originally was planned to have electricity, and many tiny wires are found throughout. Since no one on the Museum staff has any clue as to how to wire and provide electricity to a dollhouse, we are looking for an "electrician" to volunteer some time and help us out. If you would like to do this, please get in touch with us.

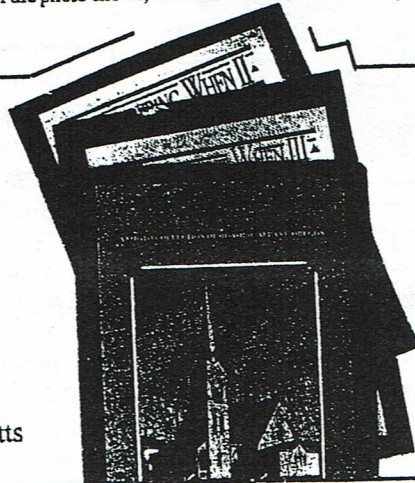
(Note: the house has more work done on it than the photo shows, as we continue to work on it.)



1898
MARSHALL
HOUSE
UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY
CITY OF
ALBANY, OREGON

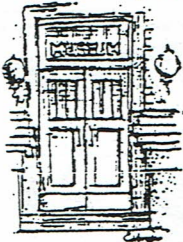


Albany Photohistorian Robert Potts



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