

Albany Old Times



Albany Regional Museum

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

* effective year 2000 *

136 Lyon Street South
Albany, Oregon 97321-2794
(541) 967-7122

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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Current Exhibits

Aviation
Camp Adair
Photography
Railroad
Steamboating

a biannual publication

October 1999

President's Letter

The Albany Regional Museum has a new home! Thanks to an extremely generous donation of Nike stock from Bill and Doris Scharpf, the Museum was able to purchase the former Ace Hardware Store on the corner of Second Avenue and Lyon Street. Rod and Randy Tripp of Tripp & Tripp Realty were instrumental in the sale transaction. The building was purchased from Don Cowgill and his brothers representing the Weatherford Trust.

This wonderful and exciting gift of a building came just at the right time since the Museum was faced with moving out of its present location in December with no place to go and a bleak future that included closure. Since purchasing the building, the Albany Regional Museum's many volunteers have been very busy doing cleaning, some basic repair and remodeling, painting and creating exhibit plans for the main room. We have been getting estimates from various business for the additional work that needs to be done before we can move in. We also are preparing grant requests for immediate and long-term needs peculiar to museums and hope to receive funds to make completion of these projects possible.

We are very happy to have received a major donation of a heating-cooling system plus installation from Birchfield Heating, a generous stock donation from Rod Tripp, 20 gallons of paint from Lewis Paint, wallpaper from Whitaker Paint & Wallpaper, signage from Signs Express, installation of carpet from Ramiro Lara, labor and advice from Brent Gourley Construction, painting from Halcyon Painting, and many hours of volunteer labor from our board members and friends of the Museum. We are extremely grateful for everyone's time, skills and monetary contributions. We hope you will be happy with the end results and the fine Museum we are creating.

Gerald Brenneman, President

Goals /Aims of the Albany Regional Museum

In its new location, the Albany Regional Museum (A.R.M.) will continue to provide a focal point for exhibiting artifacts, photos, relics and other antiquities from the local area. Our aim is to preserve and present an exciting and graphic historical bridge between the past and present, featuring prominent individuals, families, businesses, events and artifacts that have been significant in this community's past. We are designing the Museum to appeal to all ages and hope that it will also serve as a learning center for Albany school children on tour throughout the school year. We also will have a section of the Museum devoted to archival and printed material available for research.

We hope that you will consider A.R.M. as a central depository for local artifacts and historic materials that are rapidly disappearing as families move, sell or throw away items that have significant historical value for a museum. Please contact us before getting rid of "old and useless junk" items!

Water under the Bridge

Riverboats were frequently seen at the Willamette River waterfront in Albany from 1851 to about 1918.

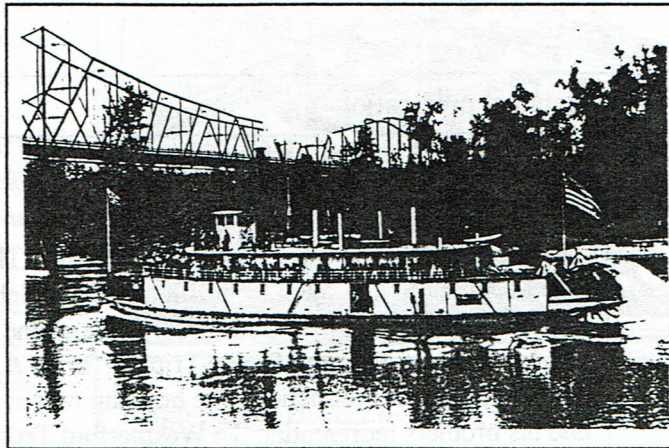
The first steam sidewheeler to reach Albany from Oregon City was the 135-foot long "Multnomah" in 1851.

In the early days, before the navigation locks were built at Willamette Falls in Oregon City, there were steamships that traveled far below the Falls, including Portland, and above the Falls, stopping at cities between Oregon City and Eugene, including Salem and Albany.

In 1873, the Willamette Falls locks at Oregon City were completed, eliminating the need for separate river fleets. Transit time over the locks was 45 minutes.

In 1870, the railroad reached Albany from Portland and the decline in riverboat shipping and travel began. The trains caused heavy losses in passenger traffic and a decline also in the shipment of wheat, which was the biggest river cargo at that time.

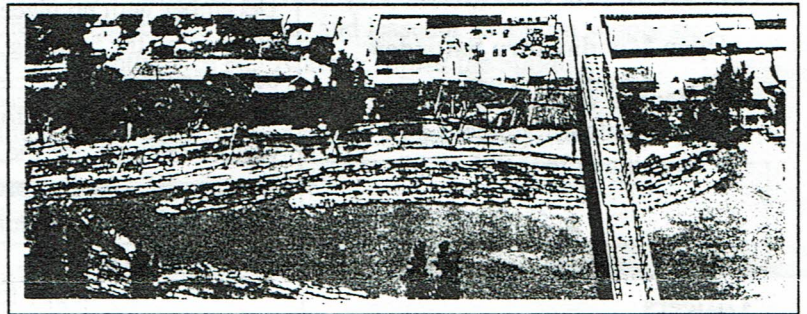
The last steamboat to Albany in 1918 was the "Grahamona."



In 1998, a sternwheeler returned to Albany for the first time in 82 years.

The "Willamette Queen," a diesel-powered boat captained by Richard Chesbrough made its appearance. During the summer months, it sits in the water at Montieth River Park in the general location that previous steamboats docked. The "Willamette Queen" is available for a variety of cruises.

Log rafts were taken down the river by tugboats to Oregon City long after passengers and freight traffic



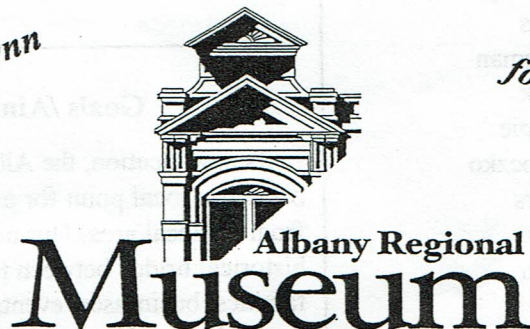
ended. The last log raft to be towed from Albany was in 1958. Many oldtimers remember the log trucks being loaded on the east side of the Albany Ellsworth bridge and the big splash as the logs hit the water where they were assembled into rafts. After log-rafting ended, recreational boating and waterskiing took over as more and more pleasure craft made their appearance on the river.



The good ship "Grahamona"

Thanks, Lynn

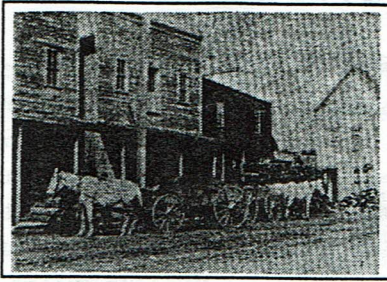
for the logo



Robert Potts has recently completed printing Volume V of the series "Remembering When: A Photo Collection of Historic Albany, Oregon." Bob can be reached at 928-9673.

V

"Chinatown"



The location of the Museum's new home—2nd Ave. & Lyon St.—was the center of what was called "Chinatown." The buildings on this corner housed laundries that also offered the "peculiar spit-moistening" system of ironing.

During the period 1868-1872, hundreds of "Celestials" (as the Chinese were called by some) lived and worked in the Willamette Valley, at one time outnumbering the farmers. They were invaluable laborers who worked for little money on railroads and canals, e.g. Santiam Canal, wood-cutting and clearing lands. Some owned businesses, e.g., laundry, garbage collection, eateries, etc.

In 1870, there were approximately 500 Chinese living in Albany. By 1880, the number had dwindled to approximately 118 due to completion of railroad and other projects.

Did You Know...

...that everyone is welcome to attend the Albany Regional Museum meetings on the first Tuesday of each month 7 p.m. at the Museum's new home (2nd Ave. & Lyon St.)



Albany Farm Store, 2nd & Lyon, 1914



Did You Know...

...that we found one of the original roof finials in the attic of our new Museum home? You will see seven of them in the picture of the building on the back page of this newsletter. Perhaps one of you would like to help re-create them for our building and they can be visible once again!



Thanks

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

Morgan's Bicycle and Lock
Armando de Rueda
Fred Ficq
John Buchner
Linda Ellsworth
Douglas Redie,
Bill & Ellen Lilja
Jan Doerfler
Terry Crook
Carol McKay
Lois Bottomley
Charles Bottomley
Jerry Brenneman
Rebecca Bond
Margo Coleman
Christine Putz
Nancy Daniels
Mel Brauner
Russ Sprague
Eugene Mroczko
Lynn Powers

(Please see President's Letter on page 1 for additional contributors.)

*** For further information/tours, phone (541) 917-7587 ***

Your Albany Regional Museum needs YOU as a volunteer or donor (\$'s or artifacts) or 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.

History is a *Moving* Experience

We have gathered together so many historical objects, items & photos related to our local history in the short span of our 20-year existence. Now that we have our own building, all these artifacts must be moved and placed on exhibit or in storage at our new location. This is no easy task. We are very grateful for those persons who have already helped us.

If you would like to contribute money, time, materials or skills to help us get situated in the new building, please contact us at our present Museum location (3rd and Ferry), 917-7587 (daily except Sunday from 12-4 p.m.), or call Jerry Brenneman, 926-2547. We now have a phone at the new location (2nd & Lyon). Call 967-7122 & see if anyone is working there, then come on down.




The new home of the Albany Regional Museum, designed in the Italianate style by Portland architect Warren H. Williams, was built in 1887 for the S. E. Young General Store at a cost of \$12,000. Originally located on the corner of 1st & Broadalbin (Wells

Fargo Bank's current location), the building was moved to its present location in 1914 by Pete Rittner and a team of horses and used by W. M. Parker as a grocery store & meat market.

At a later time, it was the location of the Monarch Restaurant. J. K. Weatherford and Charles Pfeiffer purchased the building and leased it as a farm supply store for many years. Most recently, Ace Hardware occupied the building.

In 1976, Lewis & Clark College History Professor Stephen Dow Becham surveyed the building for inclusion in the Oregon Historic Register.

The Albany Regional Museum is a non-profit 501-C3 organization recognized by State and Federal statutes, thus all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Our tax number: 93-079-2313.


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ALBANY OR 97321

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Albany Regional Museum Annual Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 1999, 7 p.m.
2nd Ave. & Lyon St.
Everyone is invited to attend,
hear about and be a part of history.