



# Albany Old Times

a quarterly publication

Spring 2000

## Albany Regional Museum

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

Free admission - donation only

Open Monday thru Saturday  
12 noon—4 pm

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



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*Rebecca Bond*, Secretary  
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Watch for the announcement of our  
Grand Opening  
at a later date

### President's Letter

Most of you are aware by now that in June 1999 the Albany Regional Museum received a generous donation of stock enabling us to purchase the S. E. Young building (most recently housing Ace Hardware) at 2nd Avenue and Lyon Street in downtown Albany.

Since July, volunteers from the Museum Board of Directors have been busy planning, working and directing the repair and remodel of the building, making it suitable for museum purposes.

The most exciting part of this remodel effort has been the terrific support from local individuals, organizations and businesses who have contributed money, time, supplies and equipment to help us succeed in our efforts to create a fine museum the community can be proud of. This wonderful outpouring of support already has amounted to 2,844 volunteer work hours from 55 different persons, 42 different individuals and businesses donating in-kind professional labor and materials valued at over \$30,000, and additional cash donations from others for the building restoration fund amounting to \$3,945. (See the list of contributors on page 3.)

As I write this letter, a local floor maintenance business is cleaning and waxing the main-floor exhibit room. This donated job will enable us to prepare for our final move into the building. While the work has progressed slower than we anticipated and we encountered more problems than we expected, I am sure you will be very pleased with the results.

Our first "open door" to the public will be Tuesday, May 16, 2000 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. when Izzy Covalt will have a book signing for her autobiography My Name is Izzy. Though our exhibits will not be up and ready, you are welcome to come in, meet Izzy and look around.

On May 18th, at 7 p.m., the Preservation Celebration and Awards Presentation will be held at our Museum. The public is invited.

Please allow us a month or so to set up our exhibits and to open our doors to the public. A grand opening date will be set later.

Thank you, Albany. You have been overwhelming with your support.

*Gerald Brenneman*, President

### My Name is Izzy

Isabel "Izzy" Covalt is co-founder of, and active in, Covalt Enterprises, the parent company of Izzy's Pizza Restaurants.

Izzy and her late husband Jim Covalt operated their several Shakey's Pizza Parlor franchises from 1959 to 1979, at which time they opened the first Izzy's Pizza Restaurant. Today there are 29 units operating in Oregon and Washington states.

In 1985, Izzy founded and remains in active management as president of Izzy Covalt Kitchen.

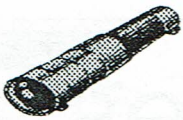
The mother of three daughters and three sons, Izzy continues to have a full family, civic and business life.

Izzy will be signing her book My Name is Izzy at the Museum's Open House.



Izzy Covalt

**Come meet Izzy at the Albany Regional Museum, May 16th, 4-6 p.m.**



## Looking Back

by Jack Gillespie

### In the beginning . . .

On a winter evening in 1979, a group of Albany citizens gathered at the old Albany Armory on Lyon Street to view a slide show entitled "Albany, A One Horse Town." The slides depicted pictures of Albany as it appeared years before.

Following the program, the group began discussing how concerned it was that over the years there had been a great loss of historical objects and artifacts pertaining to the City of Albany and surrounding areas. The question was how could the past be preserved for future generations.

Later in the session, a sign-up sheet was passed around for those to sign who were interested in Albany history and wished to work in some way to preserve the wealth of material and resources still available. Later, Roz Clark called an informal meeting of those signing the sheet to discuss the need for a local museum. Thus, a cornerstone of the future Albany Regional Museum was laid.

The Albany City Council, also realizing the need for an Albany museum, appointed a panel called The Historic Advisory and Museum Commission to look for a physical location for the museum as one of their objectives. This committee then called for the formation of a Museum Steering Committee to "organize, establish and maintain a museum."

On December 6, 1979, the new Steering Committee and City of Albany Librarian Wayne Suggs met at the City Fire Hall to open exploratory talks into the possibility of using the basement space in the old Carnegie Downtown Library on Ferry Street as a museum site. At the meeting, Jerry Brenneman was elected chairman of the Museum Steering Committee. After considering other sites, the Steering Committee decided that the library basement was the most suitable.

On May 27, the Steering Committee presented a proposal to the Library Board regarding the basement space. The Library Board responded favorably to the proposal and, on June 25, 1980, agreed to turn over the space to the museum group on July 1, 1981.

The first officers were elected on January 6, 1981: Chairperson Bonnie Orr, Vice-Chairperson Kristen Schuttplz, Secretary Jerry Brenneman and Treasurer Rod Tripp.

On July 24, 1981, the Museum was part of the Historic Home Tour. On display were historic Albany photographs, many from the Bob Potts Collection, and various other artifacts.

The Albany Regional Museum was now a reality.

Today, in its new home and own building at Second Avenue and Lyon Street, the Albany Regional Museum recognizes and thanks all those who began the hard work, as well as the generous contributions of time, labor and money by so many over the years.



### Did You Know...

...that in the early 1900s, an Albany City Ordinance required that anyone riding a horse within the city limits after 9 p.m. was to hold their mounts to a walk as they left town? Trotting or galloping a horse after that hour was ordained as too noisy and might disturb the sleeping occupants of homes along the streets (9 p.m. was the usual bedtime for most of the hardworking town people).

### Have Committees . . .

#### . . . Need Volunteers

##### Acquisition

*Jerry Brenneman, Chairman*

##### Building Development

*Jerry Brenneman, Chairman*

##### Finance

*Charlie Bottomley, Chairman*

##### Fund Raising

*John Buchner, Chairman*

##### Membership

*Rebecca Bond, Chairman*

##### Publicity, Newsletter

*Margo Coleman, Chairman*

If any of the committees spark your interest, call the Albany Regional Museum at (541) 967-7122 or stop by.

Should you have a talent/interest/knack/suggestion for something not listed here, we welcome everyone to join our family of volunteers.



## Carol's Corner

by Carol McKay

I'd like to introduce myself. I am *Carol McKay*, a retired office manager.

On the day I walked into

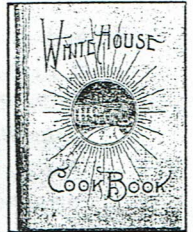
this Museum to volunteer, I was led back to the office and shown a printed form and a typewriter. Asked if I could type information to fill in the blanks on the form, I said "certainly." I instantly became the person who does the cataloguing. I come upon many interesting items in my work.

Have you ever read the old cookbooks that most families own? These were sometimes the only books the women of the household had. They had much more information than just recipes on how to cook. For instance, here is a recipe from the *Whitehouse Cookbook*, 1904, under a chapter called "Health Suggestions."

[Note: The following is reprinted here for interest only. This is not a recommended procedure.]

### Grandmother's Eye-Wash

Take three fresh eggs and break them into one quart of clear, cold rain-water, stir until thoroughly mixed; bring to a boil on a slow fire, stirring often; then add half an ounce of sulphate of zinc (white vitriol); continue the boiling for two minutes, then set it off the fire. Take the curd that settles at the bottom of this and apply to the eye at night with a bandage. It will speedily draw out all fever and soreness. Strain the liquid through a cloth and use for bathing the eyes occasionally. This is the best eye-water ever made for man or beast. I have used it for twenty years without knowing it to fail.

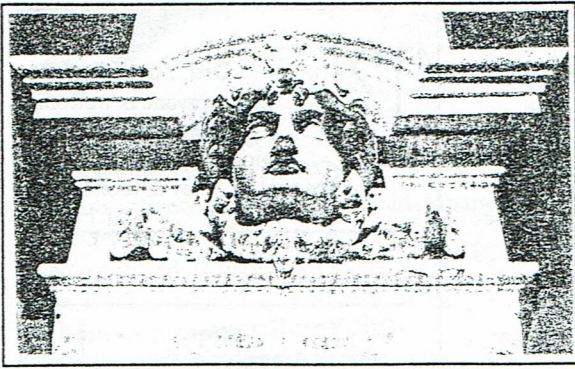


In later issues, I will be offering recipes from a variety of old cookbooks. I am open to readers sending me some of their family's unusual recipes that have been passed down through the generations. Send them to **Carol's Corner** c/o ARM, 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany, OR 97321-2794.



### Did You Know...

...that as late as the mid-1950s, you could get a room at either the St. Francis Hotel or at the Albany Hotel for as little as \$1.50 per night?



This bas relief sentinel appears on the vertical black pillar of the Museum's 2nd Avenue exterior wall.



**Did You Know...**

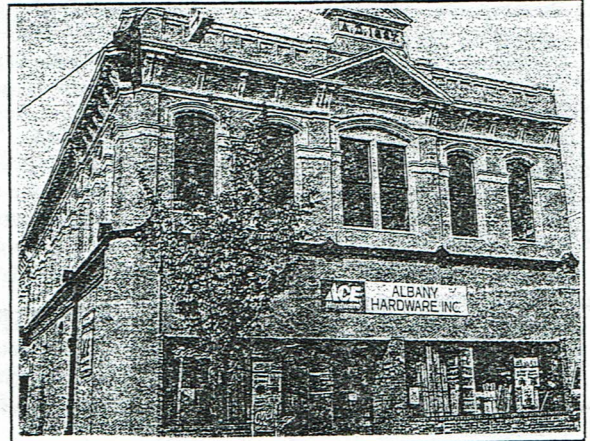
that in the 1950s there were as many as 20 gasoline service stations doing business within the greater downtown Albany area? Today there are none.

**Notice**

In conjunction with Albany Historic Preservation events, May 12-21 2000, the Albany Regional Museum will open the doors to its new home to the public on Tuesday, May 16th from 4-6 p.m., and Thursday, May 18th at 7 p.m.

**We're in our new home**

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 the corner of 1st & Broadalbin. The building was moved (over a period of 13 days) in 1912 to its present location by Pete Rittner and a team of horses. The first tenant was the W. M. Parker grocery store & meat market followed by Albany Farm Home Supply and Ace Hardware as the major tenants for the 87-year span from the move to the Museum's purchase date in July 1999. Secondary tenants included an archery range, pool hall and the Monarch Restaurant. The spacious second floor served as a meeting hall at various times for religious, civic, fraternal and Sea Scout groups.



Ace Hardware occupied the building until a few months prior to the Museum purchase.

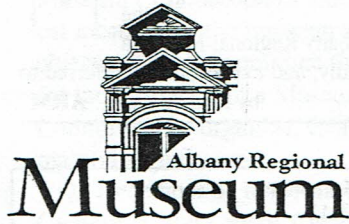
ARM is honored to be here today.

**Did You Know...**

...that members of the Albany Regional Museum receive the quarterly "*Albany Old Times*?"



For more information on Albany Historic Preservation events, call AVA (541) 928-0911



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Albany, Oregon 97321-2794  
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*You are cordially invited to the  
Albany Regional Museum  
Tuesday, May 16, 2000, 4 - 6 p.m.  
2nd Avenue & Lyon Street*