



Albany Old Times

a quarterly publication

Spring 2001

Albany Regional Museum

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

Free admission - donations welcomed

Open Monday thru Saturday
12 noon—4 p.m.

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



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Russ Sprague, Vice President
Margo Coleman, Secretary
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Rebecca Bond

Linn County Genealogy Liaison

Linda Ellsworth



President's Letter

We are extremely grateful for a recent donation from Hewlett-Packard of a computer system worth approximately \$5,000. The system includes a scanner and a digital camera that will enable us to take pictures of objects and reproduce photos and documents for our visitors and researchers. We have just purchased a Museum computer program called "PastPerfect," which will enable us to reduce the amount of time required to catalog and take care of the objects that have been donated to us. Cataloguer Carol McKay has been busy getting to know the program. Hopefully, we will be able to catch up with a lot of work that has been on the "back burner" while we were remodeling the building and creating our museum exhibits. Stan Smith, retired Albany Democrat Herald photographer, is now helping us organize our large collection of photos and negatives, and will be putting them on computer disc files so that anyone can see what we have available for viewing. We expect this project to take several years, but it will be invaluable when completed.

Other projects soon to be accomplished are new metal flashing for the top of the building, a new roof, and new paint on the outside of the building. We expect these projects to be completed by the end of June. If you haven't noticed, we recently had some "brick pointing" done on the north side of the building. While money for these projects come largely from private grants, we are expected to match much of the cost with our own funds. Be sure to read the article below from our Finance Chairman John Buchner to see what our long-term goals and needs are.

As you can tell, we have been very, very busy, but we always have time for you. Come down and see us when you can. We always have something new on display. Our hours are 12 - 4 p.m. every day but Sunday.

Gerald Brenneman, President

Securing Solid Financial Base is Goal of Fund-Raising Effort

Since the Museum acquired its own building last year at 136 Lyon St. SW, there are ongoing operational costs, as well as long-term capital needs.

The Museum's Board of Directors has estimated that annual operating costs total approximately \$35,000. Monies to meet this obligation will come from donations, membership fees, rent from the Museum's parking lot and adjacent retail space, grants and other fund-raising efforts.

Since the Museum is a non-profit 501-C3 corporation, gifts are tax-deductible.

Three levels of giving were established by the Museum's Board this year:

- Patrons** - \$100 annual minimum plus membership fee to be used for operations.
- Founders** - \$5,000 minimum plus annual membership fee to be spread over 5 years at \$1,000 a year to be used for operations, endowment or where most needed
- Benefactors** - \$10,000 minimum to be used for the endowment fund (includes life-time membership)

Initial fund-raising efforts will center on the Museum's membership. In addition, the fund-raising committee is launching an ongoing educational effort aimed at Albany-area financial planners, lawyers and accountants who assist clients with estate plans. The Board believes that charitable gifts from estates will be important to its institutional longevity.

While the purpose of the Museum is to collect, preserve, interpret, document and exhibit artifacts & materials of historic importance from the Albany area, a successful fund-raising effort is critical to ensuring the Museums' current operations as well as its future.

Additional information about the Museum's financial needs can be obtained from the Board or the Fund-raising Committee at (541) 967-7122. Committee members include Mary Jacq Burck, Michael Kok, Jack Gillespie & Nancy Daniels.

John Buchner, Chairman



Looking Back

by Jack Gillespie

Inasmuch as this column may drift into the first person at times, perhaps it is best that I introduce myself.

I was born in Albany in 1931 in a house near 3rd Ave. & Madison St. When I first became aware of life, I was living with my parents George & Gladys Gillespie & older sister Lois in a small house located on the NW corner of what is now 16th Ave. & Lincoln St. in the then-sparsely-populated Hazelwood Addition west of Broadway Ave. The Albany College was nearby and in operation at the time.

I attended Albany schools: Maple (grades 1-6), Central (7-9) and Albany High School (10-12) graduating in 1949.

In 1943, now living in the Sunrise Addition on Marion St., I had a rural delivery route for the Democrat-Herald. I later was assigned a downtown "walking" paper route. I held this route until 1947. I then went to work after school and on Saturdays for the Bains at the Albany Ben Franklin Store on First Ave.

After high school, I worked for two years at the original Sears store on 2nd Ave. SW as a shipping clerk. Leaving that job, I labored at a variety of jobs before becoming the mailing clerk at the Democrat-Herald in 1955, with the hopes of obtaining a printing apprenticeship. This didn't occur, so I moved on.

In early 1958, I ended up in Camarillo, California where I had been offered an apprenticeship with the town's weekly newspaper. In 1963, I married Margie, a receptionist at the newspaper. In 1972, we bought the Jefferson Review Newspaper in Jefferson and happily returned to Oregon. Margie and I published the Jefferson Review for 25 years, then sold the newspaper and our Jefferson home and moved to the Mennonite Village to retire. We have two sons, Richard and Mark. So, that's it in a nutshell.

My best memories of Albany are from the mid '30s to the late '50s, so many of my recollections will be from that era.

Thank you.

Did You Know...

...that in the 1800s, the only way Albany residents had to cross the Willamette River from south to north was by a ferry located at the end of Ellsworth St. A cable across the river guided the ferry over and back.

Join us for School Daze, May 19th



Historical Print Resources at ARM

by Linda A. Ellsworth

In the Tripp Research Center are some resources that I would like to call to your attention.

Original Linn County Record of Will books, Vol. 4-11, 1889-1964; Circuit Court Journal books Vol. 10-23, 25, 1886, 1887-1917, 1922-1927; Circuit Court Journal books Vol. 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 1902-1915 Index of Probate Bonds 1919-1955; Record of Guardians 1877-1980; Record of Appointment of Administrators, Vol. 2-8, 1876-1985;

A very good collection of Albany City Directories including 1878, 1892, 1905, 1910, 1911, 1922, 1924, 1928, 1931, 1936, 1939, 1942-1962, 1964-1978, 1980, 1982-1985, 1987-1996, 1998;

Albany High School *Whirlwind* annuals with a complete run from 1908-1946. We also have 1959 and 1964. (We need issues from the 1940s, '50s, '60s and through to the end of the 20th Century, as well as annuals from South Albany High School);

Orange Peel yearbooks from Albany College that later moved to Portland & became Lewis & Clark College; other college yearbooks include *The Orange* from Oregon Agricultural College, 1914-16 and *Beaver* 1917 and 1944.

A very helpful resource is a 3-volume set of binders containing articles on various topics relating to Albany written by Edward Hereth, former ARM volunteer & cataloguer, and a charming collection of scrapbooks kept by Girls League of AHS.

For general research into all sorts of historical topics there is *American Heritage Magazine* from 1954-1991.

For Oregon historical topics we have *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society* magazine 1904-1989 with a few issues after that, & various issues of the *Oregon Blue Book*.

The only run of newspapers that the Museum has are bound volumes of *Greater Oregon* published in Albany from 1929-1977.

We also have a good general collection of books on the Oregon Trail, the settling of the Northwest, Oregon government and history, Linn County & Albany, too numerous to list but there are some omissions that we hope people can donate. For example, we need Fred Nutting's *Old Time Albany*, 1982; *Oregon Biography Index*, 1976; Harvey Hines' *Illustrated History of the State of Oregon*, 1893; Herbert Lang's *History of the Willamette Valley*, 1885; *Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon*, 1904; William Loy's *Atlas of Oregon*, 1976 and Connie Battalile's *The Oregon Book, Information A to Z*, 1998.

If you have & are willing to donate any of these items, please call (541) 967-7122.

Carol's Corner

by Carol McKay



In browsing through my collection of cook books, I have noticed that quite a few very favorite recipes came from the small booklets

that were distributed by companies to entice the cook to use their product, for instance, NW Gas, PGE and PPL Electric, Crisco shortening, Fisher Flour, Gold Medal flour. I finally decided to investigate a booklet of 22 pages, 4-1/2"x7" put out by the Royal Baking Powder Co. in 1917. The title of the book "55 Ways to Save Eggs" made me wonder why and how this was done. There are statements saying "Absolutely pure, contains no Alum nor Phosphate. Made from Cream of Tartar, derived from Grapes. Adds none but healthful qualities to food."



The reason for this booklet was to be able to use their recipes for breads, biscuits, muffins, pancakes, cookies, doughnuts, cream puffs, pudding, fritters and pies, and use less eggs than was called for by substituting more of their baking powder. Also, there is a page of "secrets of good cooking." Here's one of them: "A teaspoon of Royal Baking Powder added to a dish of mashed or creamed potatoes greatly improves its appearance."

So...I wondered about today's baking powder and what the ingredients are. To my knowledge, Royal Baking Powder is no longer made. At least the few stores I called all said they don't carry it. Clabber Girl and Calumet are offered, but no Royal. At the Nutrition Center at Fred Meyer, I found Rummford Baking Powder that advertises "no aluminum." I would say that this baking powder offers what Royal did...no phosphate or aluminum! I find it interesting that back in the early 1900s, people were worried about putting chemicals into their bodies and that a company offered a product free of chemicals. Most of today's baking powders contain some phosphate and aluminum except baking powder that is available in specialty shops.

~ Reminder ~
Membership Dues Due June 1st

Thanks

to the following for their contributions of time, materials and money to our Museum since the last edition of our newsletter:

Hewlett-Packard
Custom Stained Glass
Weatherford, Thompson,
Ashenfelter & Cowgill Law Firm
Tripp and Tripp Realty
Earl Willard
Bob Egan
Jason and Rebecca Bond
Albany Visitors Association

Did You Know...

...that in 1912, the Vandran Hotel on the corner of 9th Ave. and Lyon St. advertised as being the only "Steam Heated Hotel in Albany"? (The hotel was razed some 10 years ago.)



Call to ARMs

We welcome everyone to join our family of volunteers. Just could be your knack fits our needs. We can find a niche for you. Call me and let's see what we can do.
Margo Coleman, Volunteer Chairman
928-1961 or wiseeyes@proaxis.com



Did You Know...

...that in 1903, the population of Linn County was 30,000 with 3,149 of that number living in Albany?

You Make a Difference

It is time to renew your membership with the Albany Regional Museum. Albany's historic community counts on you to help provide a safe & secure place to show off Albany's historic treasures. Your commitment to the museum is a wonderful way to show your support. The annual membership runs from June 1 through May 31.

A 1-year family membership is only \$15. As a member, you will be given a membership card that entitles you to receive a 10% discount on all purchases made in the museum gift shop & museum-sponsored events & you will have the right to vote on incoming board members at the Annual Meeting. You will also continue to receive this quarterly newsletter with museum information and interesting facts, not to mention special dates to put in your calendar.

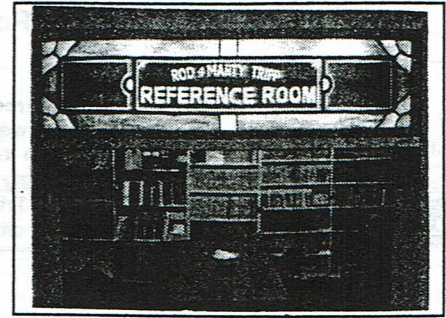
We count on your annual membership dollars to help pay for the costs of maintaining the building including heat, electricity, water and sewer. If you have not sent in your renewal form, please take a moment to fill out the form herein and send it to the Albany Regional Museum along with the appropriate fee. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join you in supporting the Albany Regional Museum by becoming an annual member as well.

Your commitment and efforts to support the museum make a difference in our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rebecca Bond, Membership Chairman

Rod & Marty Tripp Research Room



This room holds the records listed in the Historical Print Resources at ARM article on facing page. Chairs and a large table facilitate researchers' work. The illuminated sign over the room's entrance was designed and crafted by Albany's Jeff Senders, Custom Stained Glass. Rod Tripp served as first treasurer of the Museum Board upon its formation in the 1980s.

Your Museum Needs You

As you know, we currently don't require donations to visit the Museum. However, basic operating expenses (utilities, insurance, maintenance, etc.) need to be covered. There is much more work to be done to be able to open the second floor for additional exhibits. Aside from one part-time employee to cover the phone and desk, all others are volunteers.

Please consider contributing whatever you can afford to help keep your Museum continue its value to the community.

Thank you.

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.

*** For further information/tours/donations/to volunteer, phone (541) 967-7122 ***



Membership Form

I would like to become a member and receive the quarterly newsletter *Albany Old Times* and a 10% discount on all Albany Regional Museum purchases and events.

Annual membership is June 1 to May 31 [] Business \$50/yr [] Family \$15/yr [] Individual \$10/yr

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

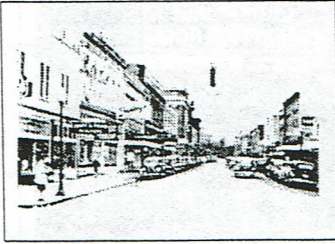
Phone _____ e-mail _____

(optional) I would also like to become a [] Patron \$100 [] Founder \$5,000 [] Benefactor \$10,000

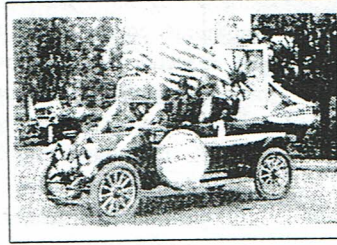
Make check payable to Albany Regional Museum. Mail or bring in to 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany, OR 97321-2794

Thank you

NEW!!! Picturesque Postcards - now available at Albany Regional Museum only



< "First Street in Albany looking west from Ellsworth Street in the mid 1940s. The empty parking area in front of Tripp & Tripp Realtors was the city bus stop."

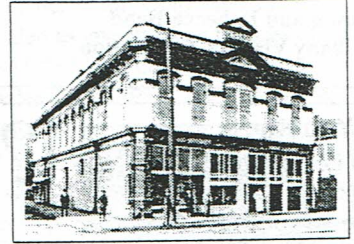


< "A float in the early city parade depicts Albany as the 'Hub City' of the Willamette Valley because of its central location in the valley and its accessibility by the river, highways and railroads."

> "In the early 1920s the Willamette River flowing by Bryant Park was a popular swimming area for Albany residents. The old Albany bridge can be seen as well as waterslides on the riverbank."



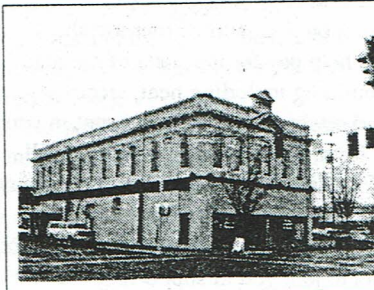
> "The present home of the Albany Regional Museum, on the corner of Second and Lyons, is pictured not long after being moved in 1912 from its First Street location."



**Open Monday thru Saturday
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**Free Admission
Donations Welcomed**


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



The Albany Regional Museum building at 2nd Ave. and Lyon St. SW as it looks today (shown at left). Note the front of the building at street level is different. Future plans include restoring the front of the building as it appears above on the postcard.

The main entrance to the Museum is located on the north (parking lot) side of the building.

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