



**Albany Regional
Museum**

Albany Old Times

A quarterly publication

Spring 2002

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President's Letter

Just last week I talked to a local person who was visiting the museum and I remarked that I had seen him several times before in the museum. He said yes he had been in to see us quite a few times. He said he enjoyed coming in and seeing "what new things have been added since the last time he was in." He then pointed out items that had been added to existing exhibits and to our newest exhibit. We continue to receive donations to our collections and, as a result, we do add many new items to our existing exhibits. Our newest exhibit is a large display of "piggy banks" or "penny banks," dating from the late 1800s to the present (see article on page 2 in the newsletter).

Since the last newsletter our rental space has been opened as "Magnolia's Music Store." Come in and take a look. The store is equipped with everything from pianos, drums, guitars, sheet music and CDs. We wish them success in this new venture in downtown Albany.

The month of May begins our yearly membership drive. We need the continued support of members, such as you, on a yearly basis. This support is necessary so that we can continue to provide you and the local community with the finest museum possible and enable us to preserve the history, artifacts, and memorabilia of Albany for future generations to enjoy. You can use the form provided in this newsletter to send in your membership, but better yet, come down in person and look around and visit with us. You will be glad you did.

Jerry Brenneman, President
Albany Regional Museum

Albany World War II Video Wins Award

"The Last Day of Innocence" the local Albany, Oregon video on World War II, produced by former Albany resident Zed Merrill, has won an International Telly Award for being one of the top ten video documentaries of 2001. The video was in a class of over 200 entries judged, including those produced for A&E, Discovery Channel, The History Channel and the Lifetime Channel.

Since making its appearance last November, Merrill has sold over 800 copies nationwide. The Albany Regional Museum is the only outlet for direct sales of this video. The video is \$25.00, and the museum receives \$2.00 for each copy sold. All other sales are by direct mail only.

Merrill received the award for this film in April. He has received numerous awards for his previous five videos on various aspects of World War II, which are also available for sale at the museum.

Don't forget...
to renew your annual
membership this May.

Albany Regional Museum
136 Lyon Street SW
Albany, Oregon 97321
(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

Chinese Were Part of Albany's Early History

In 1870 there were approximately 500 Chinese living in Albany. Many had helped build the railroad through Linn County and remained in Albany.

They worked at various trades including doing laundry and collecting garbage. They were well thought of by the local residents who saw them as hard workers and "very sociable people."

The site of the Albany Regional Museum was part of "Chinatown" which ran east to Baker St.

By 1884 the Chinese population was a little over 100 and soon later dwindled further until only a few remained. They had a big part in the early development of Albany.

By Jack Gillespie

"PIGGY BANKS" ARE NEWEST MUSEUM EXHIBIT



Remember when you saved your pennies in a "piggy" bank when you were small?

Our new exhibit displays a large collection of penny banks from cast iron to tin to the newer plastic ones.

Called "money boxes" in their earliest forms, banks were made out of clay and

had to be broken to get the coins out. In the 1800's money boxes were used as decorative and useful objects for adults and as children's toys that encouraged them to save. The term "Banks" began to be

used as many of them were shaped like the buildings that housed large banking firms. In the early 1900s people began collecting "penny" or "piggy" banks but the collecting hobby did not really catch on until the 1920's.

There are several categories of banks: "still banks,"

with just a slot and no moving parts, "mechanical banks," which have triggering movements to deposit the coin inside, "registering banks," to keep track of the money placed inside, "safe banks," which look like their large counterparts with combination numbers to open the door, and "vending banks," which trigger a device to release candy or objects when a coin is deposited.

The exhibit has a number of most of the above noted types including animals, buildings, persons, toys, advertising, cartoons, patriotic, space, etc. Come in and take a look.

By Jerry Brenneman

Carol's Corner by Carol McKay

My Aunt Grace belonged to a good many organizations including the United Artisans, which states in it's cookbook that it is a Social, Fraternal, Beneficial Society for Men, Women, and Children. Their headquarters were in Portland, Oregon with over 12,000 members in Oregon. In their cookbook published in the early 1920's is this recipe.

HOW TO COOK A HUSBAND

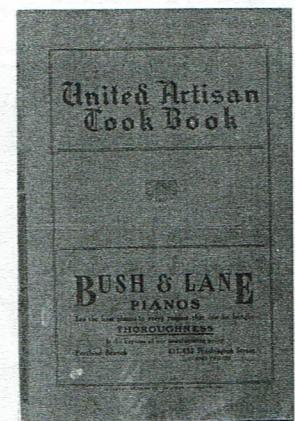
"A good many husbands are entirely spoiled by mismanagement in cooking. And so are not tender and good. Some women keep them constantly in hot water, others freeze

them, others put them in a stew, others roast them, and others keep them constantly in a pickle. It cannot be supposed that any husband will be good and tender managed in this way, but they are really delicious when properly treated. In selecting your husband you should not be guided by the silvery appearance, as in buying mackerel, nor by the golden tint, as if you wanted salmon. Be sure and select him yourself, as tastes differ. Do not go to the market for him, as those brought to the door are always best. It is far better to have none than not to learn how to cook them properly. It does not make so much difference what you

cook him in as how you cook him. See that the linen in which he is wrapped is white and nicely mended, with the required number of strings and buttons. Don't keep him in the kettle by force, as he will stay there himself if proper care is taken. If he sputter or fizz, do not be anxious. Some husbands do this. Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call "kisses," but no vinegar or pepper on any account. A little spice improves them, but it must be used with judgment. Do not try him with anything sharp to see if he is becoming tender. Stir him gently the while, lest he stay too long in the kettle and become flat and tasteless. If thus treated, you will find him very digestible,

agreeing nicely with you, and he will keep as long as you want."

Whether you decide to use this recipe or not, I don't think it would hurt to try it out. There are lots of other interesting articles in this cookbook. I may use it again.



Thank you

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

United Way
Maxine Humphrey
John Buchner
Margery Barrett
Barbara Slinger
Beta Sigma Sorority
James Blodgett
Oregon Heritage
Commission
Electrical Construction Co.
Albany-Lebanon Sanitation
Gary & Company
Patron
Robert Ludwig

Notes from the Research Room by Jack Gillespie

Albany Man's 1867 Poem

Still Applies Today

In the Fall of 1867 a young man from Albany, Sam Simpson, sat on the north bank of the Willamette and, as he looked across the river to the City of Albany, he penned the following lines:

"Beautiful Willamette"

From the Cascades' frozen gorges,
Leaping like a child at play,
Winding, widening through the valley,
Bright Willamette glides away;
Onward ever.
Lovely river,
Softly calling to the sea,
Time that scars us,
Maims and mars us,
Leaves no track or trench on thee.
Spring's green witchery is weaving
Braid and border on they side;

Grace forever haunts they journey,
Beauty dimples on they tide;
Through the purple gates of morning

Now they roseate ripples dance,
Golden then when day, departing,
On they waters trails his lance.

Waltzing, flashing,
Tinkling, splashing,

Limpid, volatile and free—
Always hurried
To be buried

In the bitter, moon-mad sea.

In they crystal deeps inverted
Swings a picture of the sky
Like those wavering hopes of
Aidenn,

Dimly in our dreams that lie;
Clouded often, drowned in turmoil,
Faint and lovely, far away—

Wreathing sunshine on the morrow
Breathing fragrance round today.

Love would wander
Here and ponder,

Hither poetry would dream;
Life's old question —
Sad suggestions,

"Whence and whither?"

through they stream.

On the roaring waste of ocean
Shall thy scattered waves be
tossed,

'Mid the surge's rhythmic thunder
Shall thy silver tongues be lost.

O, thy glimmering rush of gladness
Mocks this turbid life of mine,
Racing to the wild Forever

Down the sloping paths of Time.
Onward ever,
Lovely river

Softly calling to the sea;

Time that scars us,
Maims and mars us,
Leaves no track or trench on thee.

"Beautiful Willamette" first appeared in the Albany Democrat in its April 18, 1868 edition. The author went on to write many more poems as he worked for various Oregon newspapers. "Beautiful Willamette" was the most remembered.

Mark Your Calendar!

- Preservation Week, May 13-19
- Mid-Willamette Valley Quilt Show, May 16-18
- ★ Recreating Heirloom Quilts workshop at the Albany Regional Museum, May 17 ★
 - Boston Mill Annual meeting and Mill Tours, May 18
 - Living History Pioneer Days at the Monteith House Museum, June 8

For more information contact the Albany Visitors Association (541) 928-0911

Yes, I'm happy to support the Albany Regional Museum with my
Annual Membership, June to May

Individual \$10 _____

Family \$15 _____

Business \$50 _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Enclosed is my check, payable to: Albany Regional Museum

Please charge my credit* card

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

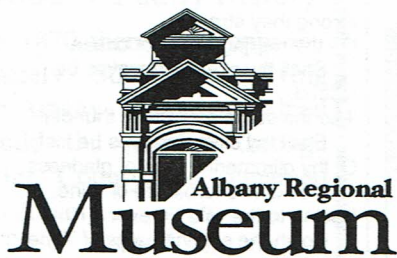
Membership total \$ _____

Additional gift \$ _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

Become a Patron of the Albany Regional Museum with an additional contribution of \$100 or more. The museum is a non-profit 501 c-3 corporation. All gifts are tax deductible. Contact the Albany Regional Museum for more information (541) 967-7122.

Thank you for your generous gift!



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Looking Back by Jack Gillespie

The 1949 telephone directory listed some 32 restaurants, diners and confectioneries doing business in Albany—the majority of which were located in the greater downtown area.

Older residents will remember such names as: Quick Lunch, Christie's Fine Food, Cleo's, Stiles Café, Downing's Dinky Diner, Cravemore Fountain, Norm's, Owl Lunch, Joe's Diner, Grill Café, China Café, Albany Creamery, The Bulldog, The Hub, Helen's Place, Elite Café and the Rose Garden Café.

The "fine dining" restaurants were the Hub, Jim Christie's and The Timber Room (located in the Albany Hotel).

The diners and cafés of-

fered hearty breakfasts, lunches and dinners, hot coffee, soft drinks and pastries for those on "breaks." While having your meal a nickel Juke Box would be playing songs by favorite singers of the era and, when it became time to pay for your eats, tipping was not expected and not prevalent.

The confectioneries provided a variety of sandwiches and ice cream "goodies." Milk Shakes and Sundaes were individually "hand dipped" with real ice cream—not dispensed from a machine. These establishments usually opened about 10 a.m. and remained open until the last shows were over at the three downtown movie theaters—around 10 p.m.

The only restaurant offering

food other than American staples was the China Café on East First Street. Most local residents were unfamiliar with such foods as tacos or pizzas.

For those feeling hungry late at night or very early in the morning, the places to go were Pop's Corral or the Nu Hy Café, which were open for business 24 hours a day. Both were located in East Albany on what is now Pacific Blvd.—then referred to as the New Highway or 8th Street.

All of these eating establishments were privately owned and family operated. Chain restaurants had not yet reached Albany.

Pop's Corral is the only one of the above named restaurants still in operation today, now Pop's Branding Iron.