



# Albany Old Times

A quarterly publication

Spring 2003

Albany Regional  
**Museum**

## President's letter

Historic Downtown Albany is celebrating National Historic Presentation activities through May 18. The Albany Regional Museum will be one of the buildings open for the **Upstairs Downtown Tour** on May 9. If you miss the tour, you are invited to visit our second floor and look around and see the completely remodeled room we have been working on for the last four months. The room will be used as a workroom for volunteers who number all objects that have been donated to us. Museum procedures require that each individual object coming to us be numbered, a picture taken of it, and then entered into our cataloging system before it can be displayed. Also, during the time of May 5-17 we are having a **Whatcha-May-Call It Discovery Game** and will be giving away three prizes. One display case is filled with strange historical objects that you have to identify in order to win. Come and test your knowledge through the 17th to participate in the game. The winners will be announced on June 3.

As you will note in another column in our newsletter we are in the middle of our yearly membership drive. One of our goals is to increase membership by 30%. I am happy to report as I write this column there have been 57 new members! If you haven't joined us yet please do. Like all other families and businesses our insurance costs have risen dramatically this year so we need your continued support.

Jerry Brenneman

### Did you know?

Albany was first choice as the site of the Oregon State Fair. In 1860 the Oregon Legislators voted to hold a State Fair and Albany was chosen as the location for the annual fair.

For some reason the people of Albany did not respond or show any interest for the fair and did not make any preparations for the event so the fair was organized in Salem—where it still is 143 years later.

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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

## ALBANY CANAL IS BIG PART OF ALBANY HISTORY

The Lebanon-Albany Canal extends some 12 miles from its source on the Santiam River above Lebanon to Albany where it flows down Vine Street and empties into the Calapooia River near the Bryant Park bridge.

The idea for such a canal was conceived by Thomas Monteith and a number of other prominent Albany businessmen. The purpose of the canal would be to transport, by horse draw boats (a small scale Erie Canal?), farm and timber products from East Linn County to Albany for processing and marketing.

In January of 1860, the Santiam Ditch and Canal Co. was formed with a capital investment of \$30,000. The ditch-digging job was completed in August of 1872 at a cost of \$62,000.

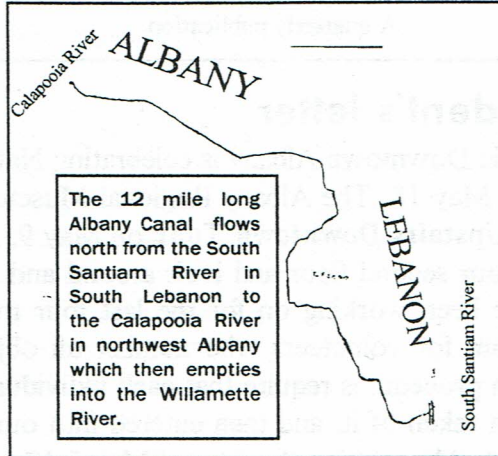
The canal was dug by Chinese labor imported from the California gold fields and by railroad labor gangs who were in the area at the time laying railroad tracks through the Willamette Valley. However, much to the despair of the stockholders, upon opening the water gates at the Santiam River it was soon apparent that the water was rushing into the canal much to swift for horse drawn barges to navigate. (Continued on page 2)

# ALBANY CANAL IS BIG PART OF ALBANY HISTORY... (Continued from page 1)

The canal had been dug on a grade of two feet at its source to 10 feet at its foot. Apparently too steep of a grade for the use intended.

To recover what it could of the revenue expected from shipping the company began selling the canal water to power water wheels for the various plants operating along the Willamette River. To better serve their new customers the company elected to extend the canal eastward between 7th and 8th Streets to Thurston where it was diverted north to the river. (This branch of the canal, which flow is now controlled, can still be followed today from its Vine Street origin to its emptying into the Willamette River.) The original Vine Street waters continued north to Third Street where it drops some 50 feet into the Calapooia River.

By 1878 there were manufacturing plants, sawmills, a foundry and a twine mill, 15 in all, being powered by the canal's water.



Also, during the 1870s, the canal became the source of the first piped in water supply for Albany residents,

replacing the expanding city's many dug wells, of which a great number were becoming contaminated.

In 1887 the canal was put to further use when the first electrical service was introduced in Albany and the canal was the source for generating the power.

Today the water flow from the canal is utilized by the City of Albany Water Treatment Plant and distributed to Albany residents and businesses.

For 130 years the canal, conceived by foresighted Albany business men, has served the city well in ways beyond the original use intended by its builders.

## Carol's Corner

by Carol McKay

GOOD MEALS —  
IN SPITE OF IT ALL



*It may not be convenient  
But we don't admit defeat  
For in spite of War and Rationing  
America must eat!  
It may take a deal of cunning  
And a bit of laughter, too  
To keep the meal-time pleasant  
When the rations are too few!*

This book is one of hundreds of cookbooks that Karen Rogers has in her collection. The cartoons I reproduced here are also from this book. The name is COUPON COOKERY by Prudence Penny, Nationally famous home economist, dietitian and nutrition expert. Published by Murray & Gee, Hollywood, California, 1943. How to Stretch a point is a section that explains about point rationing

and how to manage stamps and stretch them in order to get the best value out of them. Point Rationing was with us for the duration of the war. This page shows some of the steps that were taken so we all could contribute to the "cause" (war). Here is one recipe of the butterless butter spreads.

### Butterless "butter" Spread

- 1 T granulated gelatin
  - 1/2 cup mayonnaise
  - 1 T cold water
  - 1/2 teas. Salt
  - 3 T boiling water
  - 1/2 pound margarine
- Soften gelatin in cold water, then add boiling water and stir until gelatin is completely dissolved.

Add milk, then gelatin mixture gradually to mayonnaise, stirring until smooth. Cool until thickened.

Soften, but do not melt margarine. Add mayonnaise mixture, 1/4 at a time, beating with rotary egg beater after each addi-

tion. Store in covered dish in refrigerator. Makes about 2 1/2 cups, or enough for 10 sandwiches, 2 tablespoons each.

**PENNY TIP:** If this is used as a Mayonnaise spread, add 1/4 teas. Mustard, 2 teas. Vinegar Does the job of both butter and mayonnaise in the sandwich.

On page 100 there are a variety of food you fix for lunches including the sandwich filling combinations below.

**Work Mayonnaise Spread** with other sandwich ingredients to right consistency for spreading, then add suggested ingredients.

**Ham and Cucumber:** To 3 T spread add 1/2 cup diced cooked ham, 1/4 cup minced cucumber, 1 teas. horseradish, salt and pepper..

**Snappy Peanut Butter:** To 3 T spread, add 3 T peanut butter and 1 1/2 T chili sauce, salt and pepper.

**Liverwurst and Celery:** To 3 T spread, add 1/3 cup cut-up celery, 1/4 cup mashed liverwurst, 1 teas. Prepared mustard.

There is much more to this Coupon Cookery cookbook including advice on how to serve nutritious meals. All so that we all could help in the war effort.

LUNCH  
HAT PACKS A PUNCH!



*If Uncle Sam can carry food  
To all our fighting men...  
It's not too much for us to pack  
A lunchbox now and then.  
The mid-day meal must fight fatigue  
That's always somewhere lurkin'...  
It takes a sassy, hearty lunch  
To keep our workers workin'.*

## A special thank you

The Albany Regional Museum would like to thank the following for donating time, materials, equipment, and money since the last Newsletter:

### Volunteers:

Howard Kraus  
Karen Collie  
Anthony Bergeron  
Dr. Ted Deems  
Mary Jacq Burk  
Nellie Wilson

### Equipment & manpower:

Corvallis Moving and Storage  
Ron Knight Plumbing, Inc.

**Thanks to all of you!**

## Exhibits top museum board's list of priorities

Exhibits are the number one priority of the Albany Regional Museum's board of directors.

It didn't matter whether it was for the short-term or the long-term, directors agreed that museum exhibits were its number one priority. This included developing new ones, changing or updating existing ones and constructing portable exhibits that could be taken to schools and other public events. There was an indication during discussions that the museum needed to pay more attention to changing exhibits as a way to attract repeat and new visitors.

The museum board com-

pleted a three-month goal-setting process in April.

In addition, the board instructed President Jerry Brenneman to appoint a five-member task force to recommend an implementation process.

Membership development also drew strong board support. This was broken down into numbers growth, organizing volunteers, recognition, increasing participation, training opportunities, educational programs, events and recruitment of major financial support.

The museum's 1887 building was a third area of board concern. The need to select

an architect to evaluate building needs, utilization of the second floor and enhancing the structure's security system were cited.

Board member John Buchner, who led the goal-setting exercise, said that through this process the board has provided a road map for keeping the museum vital and ongoing. He said, "this will be an evolving process, one that should be updated and changed as necessary."

A point-by-point listing of the board's priorities is posted at the museum, 136 Lyon St. SW.

## Membership drive continues through June

The campaign to increase membership in the Albany Regional Museum continues through June. As of May 1, the campaign is on target to exceed its 2002 total membership of 232 individuals, families and businesses. This year's goal is an increase of 30 percent.

Annual memberships run from June to May. Cost per individual is \$10, family \$15 and business \$50. Members can become "patrons" of the museum with an additional contribution of \$100 or more. Major business contributions begin at \$250.

Membership fees are used for basic operational costs, including utilities, postage, printing and office supplies. An anonymous donor has agreed to match member contributions that exceed their prior year's gift as a way to provide additional contributions for the museum's operation.

*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  
\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

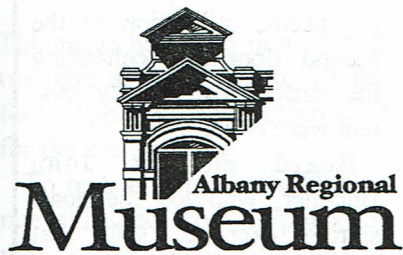
**Become a Patron of the Albany Regional Museum with an additional contribution of \$100 or more. The museum is a non-profit 501C-3 corporation. All gifts are tax deductible. Contact the Albany Regional Museum for more information (541) 967-7122.**

Membership total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generous gift!**



# Albany Regional Museum

136 Lyon Street SW

Albany, Oregon 97321

(541) 967-7122

e-mail: [armuseum@peak.org](mailto:armuseum@peak.org)

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## Board of Directors:

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Eugene Mroczo  
Berry Price  
Shannon Willard

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Linda Ellsworth, Linn Co. Genealogy

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Nellie Wilson

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2nd Floor – Berry Price  
Finance – Mike Kok  
Fund-raising – John Buchner  
Membership – Rebecca Bond  
Newsletter – Jack Gillespie  
Publicity – Jerry Brenneman  
Volunteers – Shannon Willard

## Looking back

by Jack Gillespie

Small neighborhood grocery stores were prevalent throughout the City of Albany for many years before fading away in the 1950s.

The stores were family enterprises, many of which were situated in front of the owner's home. These stores provided a convenient place for nearby residences to buy staple items such as milk, bread, lunch meat, candy, canned goods, pastries, etc. without going "into town" where most all the larger grocery stores were then located.

In the westside neighborhood where I spent my early years, our grocery was Ballard's located on the northwest corner of Fillmore and Queen Avenue—at the site of the present Ralph's Restaurant. The north entrance to

the Albany College, then in operation, was directly across the street.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballard had owned and operated the grocery for many years. They had a small home behind the business but spent nearly all their daytime hours tending the grocery. There was a small room in the back of the store where they had their lunch and relaxed between customers.

Seldom a day went by without my mother sending me to Ballard's for some needed item. She would write down her order and I would hand it to Mrs. Ballard who would fill and package the merchandise and then wrap any change coming back tightly into a piece of wrapping paper and push it down into a

pocket in my overalls. Mrs. Ballard would then watch from the store's door until I turned into Broadway Street and out of sight. She no doubt was concerned that I would somehow lose the change during my three block trip home. I never did.

As pre-schoolers, in the mid 30's, Harold and I would occasionally have our mothers sack our lunches and off we would go to Ballard's to join Albany College students having their lunches at small tables put out on the sidewalk in front of the store. Inevitably one of the students would spring a couple of nickels to buy us each a Pepsi or a candy bar—of course we had counted on this.

Ballard's was a very special place in a very special era.