



# Albany Old Times

A quarterly publication

Spring 04

## President's letter

One of the goals we set this past year was to increase our membership to 300. We are happy to report that we met that goal and exceeded it. Now our plans are to keep the members we have and add additional members. It may seem that we are overly concerned with this aspect of the museum but this is a concern of any organization that is to be successful. In our case, we depend on membership dues to help keep the building in good shape, develop exhibits and programs, and care for the things that you have donated to us.

This winter we were finally able to complete the attic cleanup and get it ready to finish our installation of electricity in the half of the second floor that had no lights or electrical outlets. When the electrical work is completed we will then add insulation to the complete attic. Sometime in the future we contemplate the addition of an elevator so we can use much of the second floor for exhibit space. This will take much planning and a great deal of money but will give us a chance to put more of our items on view for your enjoyment.

We are still working on a new exhibit on Albany Schools through history, which will be on view sometime this summer. A few things have been donated but we are looking for more. If you have a desire to help us put this exhibit together or have items we might use please let us know. We are always grateful for your continued help and support.

Jerry Brenneman

### Historic Albany Lecture & Slide Show

The Albany Regional Museum and Landmarks Advisory Commission will host a free evening lecture and slide show by local historian Robert Potts on Wednesday, April 21, 7 p.m. Museum doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. For more information or to RSVP contact the museum 967-7122 or Anne Catlin 917-7560.

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It's Time To  
Renew Your  
Annual Membership  
See page 3 for details

### Hiram Smead Not Forgotten, by Gary Kingston

Albany celebrates two of its early founders, Thomas and Walter Monteith, with a house converted to a museum. The Monteith house was the first frame structure in the town they laid out and named. The land on which the Monteith house and town was established was first claimed by Hiram Smead, a young man born in New York that made his way to Iowa and came west on the Hackleman wagon train of 1845. Hiram became associated with others looking to claim the land southeast of the Calapooia River confluence with the Willamette River. He wound up, at least in part by happenstance, holding the prime Albany town site after spending a year securing it by living in a log cabin erected in the area. This act established him as the first settler to live on the town site: he was, arguably, Albany's first citizen. Subsequently he sold his claim to the Monteiths, went to the California Gold Rush, returned and acquired other land in the Albany area. There has been no structure in town memorializing his presence.

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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

## Hiram Smead Not Forgotten, by Gary Kingston

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In 1887 he built a house on the SW corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Montgomery and died a year later. There his widow, Rachel Jane, lived with his children, the youngest of whom was Emma. Around 1915, Rachel and Emma moved into a house they built facing Montgomery between their corner house and the alley. The first house was either sold or rented. Rachel died in 1922 and Emma continued to live in the Montgomery Street abode working as a seamstress. The corner house was torn down and the Montgomery house, pictured here, was moved to the NW corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Railroad sometime prior to her death in 1945. That house is still there and is as close as we can get to a remaining structural remembrance of the Smead history in the community. Hiram's life has been portrayed in a local play, "Four Hundred Dollars...and a Horse." Prominent Albany businessman, philanthropist, and former Mayor Russell Tripp played the part of Hiram Smead. If watching he must have been pleased.



## Albany Regional Museum Home Show Display

The Albany Regional Museum's booth at the annual Home Show held February 6, 7, & 8 at the Linn County Fairgrounds featured a display of pictures and history of the Payless Drug Store in business in downtown Albany from the 1940s into the 1980s.

The Museum would like to thank the following for volunteering at the Home Show:

Jerry Brenneman  
Russ Sprague  
John Buchner  
Barry and Gloria Price  
Linda Ellsworth  
Shannon and Earl Willard  
Charles Bottomley,  
Jack Gillespie  
Pat Eastman

## Carol's Corner by Carol McKay



This month I am quoting from a cookbook called MRS. OSBORN, CAKES OF QUALITY—HOW TO MAKE THEM. by Mrs. Grace Osborn, Bay City, Michigan, Copyright 1919 by C.F. Porter. On the cover letter Mrs. Osborn tells how you can make money with these cakes. She has several pupils making good money by just putting an ad in the newspaper saying they were willing to make cakes for parties, fairs, etc. The key is to master her technique and then your pleasure will be hers. Mrs. Osborn calls herself a cake specialist. You are warned to do exactly as she says, or the cakes will not do. She can see no reason why anyone who can read as they run should make a failure. Angel-cake is the first recipe. You are given utensils needed, then ingredients and how to mix and then how to cook.

1 1/2 cups granulated sugar (cane)

3/4 cup cold water,  
whites of 11 good sized eggs  
(measuring 1 1/3 cup)  
1/2 pint of soft winter wheat flour  
(Swan's Down Cake Flour)  
1 heaping teaspoon of cream of tartar  
(equal to 3 level teaspoons)

Place the sugar in a sauce pan and pour the water over the sugar and let it stand while measuring and sifting the flour and cream of tartar. Then put the sugar mixture on the stove to heat, but not boil...*Hey! Wait a minute!!* I have never heard of this? And so on throughout the recipe, very strange orders given. You have to remember that it is 1919 and things were different then. Then you are supposed to use a *clay pipe* with a straight stem for testing the sugar syrup. And then blow bubbles? That's when you know it's done, but if you use a candy thermometer it should register 250 degrees when syrup is done. Then you pour this syrup in a fine stream over the beaten whites using the left hand for pouring while beating

constantly with the right hand. *Sounds like making divinity to me! I have never had any luck with that candy..* Continue beating until the mixture is cold.. This will take at least 10 minutes. The beating is being done with a wooden beater!! By hand!! It will look like a huge meringue she says. Then you add the flour mixture. These instructions take 2 paragraphs to tell how to do, then you put the cake in a cold oven, but at the end of 15 minutes it should be 200 degrees, then at the end 30 minutes 230, at end of 45 minutes it should be 280, then at the end of 60 minutes it should be 300 degrees, then at the end of 1 hour 15 minutes it should be 320 degrees.

*I give up!!* This is too difficult for me to even *think* about, let alone *do*. Those who used these recipes and instructions really had to work hard with all kinds of tools that were not electrical. *Plus* cooking on a wood stove. We must admire them.

# Thank you

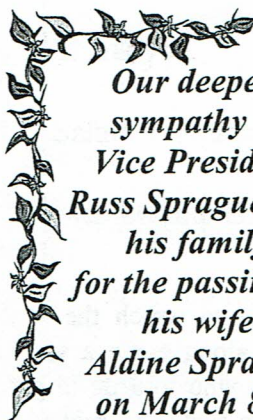
The Albany Regional Museum would like to thank the following for volunteering since the last Newsletter:

- Al Kok
- Scott Backer
- Scott Pirie
- Mary Jaque Burck
- Kristin Schuttpelz
- Irene Lehne
- Don Gillham
- Pat Eastman
- Nellie Wilson
- Doug Burck
- Elmer Gatchet

**Thanks to all of you!**

# A Salute To Our Museum 'Patrons'

- |                              |                             |                                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kie Birchfield               | Jeanette and Howard Hickam  | Laine and Joe Simon             |
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*Our deepest sympathy to Vice President Russ Sprague and his family for the passing of his wife Aldine Sprague on March 8th.*

## Membership challenge: Grow last year's record number

The challenge for this year's membership drive will be to grow the record 30 percent increase in members realized last year, President Jerry Brenneman reports. Museum membership now totals more than 300. The 2004/05 goal is to increase that by another 10 percent. Plans for this year's effort will be formulated during February and March with the actual drive to begin April 1 when renewal letters will be mailed. Annual memberships run from June to May.

The good news for members is that the fees remain the same: individual membership \$10, family \$15 and business \$50. Members can become "Patrons" of the Museum with an additional contribution of \$100. Major business contributions begin at \$250.

Monies from memberships are used for basic operational costs including utilities, postage, printing and office supplies, all expenses that increase each year. The Museum's annual expense budget totals \$36,000. Funds for these expenses come from memberships, grants, investments, rents and major gifts.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

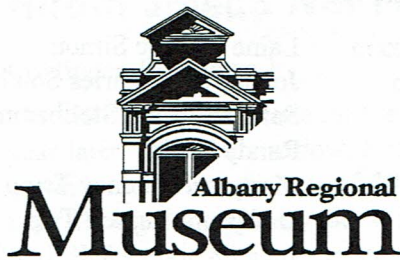
**Become a Patron of the Albany Regional Museum with an additional contribution of \$100 or more. The museum is a non-profit 501C-3 corporation. All gifts are tax deductible. Contact the Albany Regional Museum for more information (541) 967-7122.**

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

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

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

**Thank you for your generous gift!**



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- 2nd Floor – Berry Price
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- Newsletter – Jack Gillespie
- Publicity – Jerry Brenneman
- Volunteers – Shannon Willard

**Looking Back**

by Jack Gillespie

Unlike the traveling carnivals, several of which would visit the smaller Oregon cities like Albany in the summer months, the bigger circuses rarely stopped here—favoring the larger metro areas with more people to fill their tents.

However, occasionally a smaller (two elephant) circus would be booked in Albany and be well received.

In the mid-1940s an announcement was made at Central School, where I was a 8th grader, that a certain circus was scheduled to be in Albany soon and it would be enlisting some boys to help in setting it up. There would be no money involved but the volunteers would be awarded the “best seats in the tent” at the opening performance.

My friend Bob and I immediately signed up, somewhat by a desire to see the circus but equally motivated with an opportunity to get out of school for the an afternoon.

On the afternoon designated Bob and I, along with ten or so of our classmates, showed up at the circus site, located on a few acres of land along the SP railroad abutting Queen Ave. and Pacific Blvd.

The tents were already up when we arrived. A grubby, gruff middle aged circus man took us in toll and we spent the next couple of hours setting up bleachers in the main tent for the 4:00 show. For the “deluxe seats” facing the center ring we set up folding chairs.

After finishing our jobs we all settled down in the center

ring section to watch the circus. Then along came a surly circus man who told us to get out of those seats and move to the end bleachers (the worse seats). We protested but to no avail, and grumbling, we moved.

Before the circus began it was announced that vendors would be selling boxes of 5¢ Cracker Jacks for 35¢. In one box a \$50 bill would be inserted. After the whole circus crowd was sold, a voice near us yelled out “I found the \$50.” I spied the “winner” before he vanished and he looked a whole lot like the man who kicked us out of our good seats.

I don’t remember much about the circus itself but getting there was quite an experience.