

## *Illusionist headlines Chautauqua series*

Albany's world renowned illusionist Jerry Andrus headlines the Museum's Chautauqua programs for 2006.

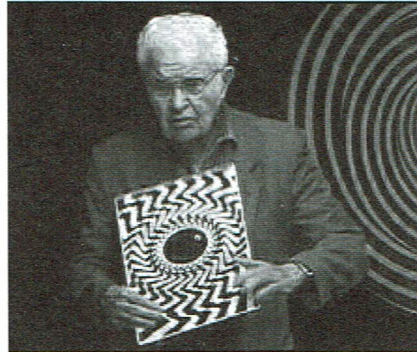
Andrus will be featured during an afternoon program at the Museum on Saturday, June 10. Andrus has been described as "the Thomas Edison of Magic" and appears frequently at the Magic Castle, a magicians' club in Hollywood. He also has lectured at MIT, Stanford and Harvard. He is a life-long resident of Albany.

As with most Museum events, seating is limited and reservations are suggested by calling the office at 967-7122. The programs are free and open to the public.

Other Chautauqua-like events include a presentation by Corvallis author Judy Juntunen. She recently completed a book entitled "The World of the Kalapuya," about the life of native Americans in the mid-valley. Her program will be at noon on Thursday, July 13. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch; soft drinks and coffee will be provided. It is the first "brown bag" event offered at the Museum. Juntunen's book is on sale at the Museum. She will autograph copies following her presentation.

Oregon State University Climatologist George Taylor

will speak on the "Climate History of Albany" at the Museum's annual meeting Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m. Taylor is among the most quoted sources of weather information in Oregon.



**World famous Albany magician Jerry Andrus entertaining an audience with one of his many ingenious inventions**

Other Chautauqua events scheduled include a four-day display of model railroading by the Oregon Electric O Gaugers, from Wednesday, May 24 through Saturday May 27. The display will be open to the public during regular Museum hours, noon to 4 p.m. Another special display will appear on Saturday, July 29, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. during Albany's Historic Home Tour. George Kurtz of North Albany will present his model tractor collection.

An outside display on the Museum's parking lot on Saturday, Aug. 19, will feature classic farm tractors and equipment. The display will be open during regular Museum hours.

Administrative coordinator Bill Maddy encourages Museum members to track Chautauqua events in the local media and on the Website at [armuseum.com](http://armuseum.com). "One of our goals as a Museum is to provide educational programs and events tied to the history of our community. We want to make the Museum experience as interesting and varied as possible," Maddy says.

**(See events schedule Page 3)**

## **Albany claims Chautauqua performer**



**Orah Harkness Buhl  
Chautauqua performer.**

Albany not only hosted Chautauqua performances for 22 years in Bryant Park, it provided one of the era's famous regional performers.

Orah Harkness Buhl, who died at age 93 in 1974, traveled the northwest Chautauqua circuit as a young woman, providing a type of entertainment she described as "higher than vaudeville." She performed with a trio called the Orioles, giving readings, while a second woman sang and a third whistled.

World War I and motion pictures ended Buhl's career with Chautauqua in 1919. She moved to Portland, according to the Albany Democrat-Herald newspaper\*, but returned to Albany with her husband in the 1930s to take care of her parents. She lived out her adult life in Albany, where she is remembered as a person who lived a full life, active in the Albany First United Methodist Church, the PEO Sisterhood and the Thursday Study Club. The family residence was on Sixth Avenue near the present Albany fire station.

Orah graduated from the eighth grade in 1895 in ceremonies at the old opera house at Second Avenue and Ferry Street. The graduation program lists her reciting "the Angels of Buena Vista" assisted by girls of the 16-member class.

Oration was to become a livelihood for the Albany student. She spent two years at Columbia College of Expression in Chicago, Ill., developing elocution. In 1914 she signed with the Ellison White Chautauqua troupe for "recitals of plays and stories in prose and verse."

\* Democrat—Herald, September 2, 1974

# Chairman's Letter

Over the past several months the Board has been busy developing goals and priorities for the Museum. Some of the goals are long term, while many are just for the coming year. One priority is to offer more programs open to the public that will have wide appeal and interest. We planned several events during Spring Break in March and invited adults and elementary school students to visit us to enjoy several different programs, take a look around and to see what the museum has to offer in the way of an educational experience. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for a review and description of these events.

Starting in April we began the remodel and restoration of the west side second floor to get it ready for museum artifact storage. This will eventually provide us with a safe and climate-controlled facility to keep your donated items safe and secure when not on exhibit. This will be an expensive project and, hopefully, you will help us through your continued membership and support.

The recent video we helped Zed Merrill to produce, called "Albany, Oregon: Memories of an American Town," has just been awarded a "Top 10" rating status in the historical documentary category by the "Telly" awards group. A total of 162 entries were submitted for judging. The Albany history film competed with producers, such as the History Channel, Disney, Time-Warner and many others. This is the second "Top 10" award for an Albany film produced by Zed Merrill. The first was "Last Day of Innocence," about Albany in World War II. We have both of them at the museum. You can come in and watch either film on our TV in our research room.

Come and see several new visual exhibits, including photos and Albany postcards of 100 years ago.

*Gerald Brenneman*

## This issue's trivia question:

What event in December 1870 showed that Albany was on the right track?

## Linn grant helps information effort

A grant of \$1,000 has been jointly awarded to the Museum and the Monteith Historic Society for a printed rack card that provides location and other basic information about the two groups. The card will be distributed to various tourist information centers in the community. The grant was from the Linn County Cultural Coalition.

## Where does "Chautauqua-like" theme for educational programs come from?

When the Museum advertises its 2006 educational programs as "Chautauqua-like," what does that term mean and where did it come from? The linch-pin for this theme was last summer's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary program that featured a performance of "Meriwether Lewis, Letters Home," by Idaho actor and historian Tim McNeil. The anniversary dinner party and McNeil's performance were similar to the Chautauqua educational assemblies that were popular in Albany from 1910 to 1932.

Before talking movies and radio, performers and lecturers traveled the country presenting messages of self and civic improvement. These presentations were called Circuit Chautauqua, named after a New York state lake where the first Chautauqua assembly took place. These summer assemblies grew out of seminars for Sunday school teachers and the Lyceum movement of traveling speakers, lecturers and entertainers.

Albany jumped on the Chautauqua bandwagon in 1910. The local assemblies were staged in what is now Bryant Park, just across the Calapooia River from the present Monteith Riverpark.

In those early days, Albany's civic-minded citizens moved in - literally, they camped out in the park area - for 10 days of education, entertainment, religion and athletics.

At the first Albany Chautauqua, the Albany Democrat newspaper reported that over \$6,000 was guaranteed by the business community to cover expenses. Admission was \$2.50 for an

adult season ticket.

With no radio or television available, people were quite receptive to listening to noted orators and also local voices, including ministers and faculty from Albany College.

One of the most famous orators to visit Albany was William Jennings Bryan, secretary of state in the Wilson administration and three-time presidential candidate. He was here in 1913. Other programs over the years included the Chautauqua Ladies' Orchestra, which played for six days straight, a lecture on English Literature by Albany College professor Viola Price Franklin, cartoonist Ross Crane, who performed comedy sketches, and magician-illusionist Edwin Brush.

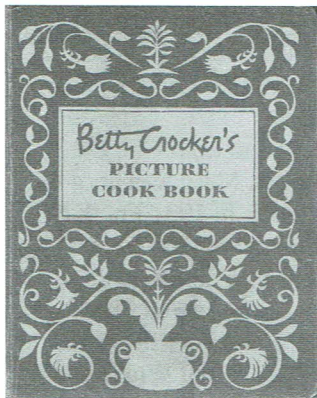
Albany's summer Chautauqua programs continued until 1932. The assemblies were the victims of the Depression and more sophisticated entertainment offered the year around by radio and talking motion pictures.

The goal of these early Chautauqua's was to encourage culture, civic pride and enhance the life of the broader community, according to newspaper accounts at the time.

It is a similar goal that the Museum's volunteer board of directors has adopted for its educational programs and events. While the current programs are on a less grandiose scale than the earlier events, the Chautauqua theme is one more way that the Museum connects Albany's past with the present.

# Carol's Corner

By Carol McKay



I was wondering if my favorite cookbook was still being printed. I collect recipes, not cookbooks, so I haven't purchased many basic ones. My cookbook is "Betty

Crocker's Picture Cook Book," the covers are hard with a red and white folk art design and the inside is a loose-leaf notebook style. Mine was published in 1949, the year I received the book for a present. It is a pretty comprehensive how-to book, some 449 pages long. I searched on the Internet to find out if this book was still published. And, yes, it is still published. It's called "Betty Crocker's Picture Cookbook: The Updated Original 1950 Classic." The list price is \$29.95, but there are many bargains. Betty Crocker also has 29 other specialty cookbooks, so my favorite cookbook not only has survived, but has become one of the leaders of today's world of cookbooks.

In 1977 a young woman named Loraine Smith had come to Albany representing our Sister City of Albany, Australia. The person managing the Chamber of Commerce at that time called me to ask if I could be her hostess. I was in Real Estate sales at the time, so I was a faithful member of the Chamber. She was arriving by bus that day and it was a weekend. I told him I would be delighted, so I picked her up and we had a great time together before I put her on the return bus to

catch her plane back home.

In 1980 I was privileged to travel to Albany, Australia, representing our city and the Albany Chamber of Commerce. When I told her I could come over to visit her Albany, she contacted their Chamber of Commerce and set up a visit with them as well as accommodations at a motel. While I was visiting over there, Loraine kept telling everybody what a good cook I was, that I had this wonderful recipe for chocolate fudge that I was going to make for her while I was there. When we went shopping for the ingredients, there was an important item that we couldn't find. The unsweetened chocolate squares! That was the item we couldn't find in the whole town of Perth. We looked in all her cookbooks and could not find even a reference to chocolate baking squares. I told her that if I had my Betty Crocker cookbook I knew I could find the substitution table for how many tablespoons of cocoa it took to equal 1 square of baking chocolate. I remember reading it but had never had to use it and now I was afraid to guess. I told her that when I got home I would send her the right equation so she could make the fudge herself. Nowadays we would simply go online or pick up our cell phone, but a long distance phone call from the U.S. to Australia would have been considered too expensive. Then, while traveling north in the State of Western Australia, I was taken to visit an American couple from Texas who had homesteaded a banana plantation and had just gotten water rights for irrigation. Mary, the wife, had brought her Betty Crocker cookbook with her and we found the substitution for squares right where I remembered it in that wonderful Betty Crocker's Picture Cookbook. Here it is: 3 tablespoons of Cocoa plus 1 tablespoon of butter, margarine, or vegetable shortening for 1 square of unsweetened chocolate.

## 2006 Chautauqua Events

**February 18, noon**

Grandpa's Model T Ford. John Fruetel displays his 1915 roadster.

**March 28, 1 p.m.**

The Albany Chautauqua story. A Power-Point presentation by Kitty Buchner.

**March 30, 1 p.m.**

Schools Days Then and Now Oral history for elementary students presented by Maxine Humphrey.

**May 5, 4 to 8 p.m.**

Downtown upstairs tour (featuring Northwest Banjo Band from 6 to 8 p.m.)

**May 24-27, noon to 4 p.m.**

Oregon Electric O Gaugers model railroad display

**June 10, 1:30 p.m.**

An afternoon with illusionist Jerry Andrus (reservations required 541-967-7122).

**July 13, noon brown bag**

Judy Juntunen author of "The World of the Kalapuya." Bring your lunch, soft drinks provided.

**July 29, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Historic Home Tour. Museum exhibit of model tractor collection by George Kurtz.

**August 19, noon to 4 p.m.**

Classic farm tractors on display at Museum parking lot.

**October 3, 7 p.m.**

Museum annual meeting, program features Oregon State University Climatologist George Taylor. Topic: Climate history of Albany and surrounding community.

For more information call (541) 967-7122

## Oregon Electric O Gaugers Model Trains at Albany Regional Museum

The Oregon Electric O Gaugers Club will have their model railroad layout on display at the Albany Regional Museum Wednesday, May 24, through Saturday, May 27.

The Oregon Electric O Gaugers layout will feature model trains that represent many of the railroad lines of the past and present. The model railroad layout will have all the sights and sounds of full scale trains.

The Albany Regional Museum also features a railroad exhibit. The railroad exhibit recreates an early railroad station on the Southern Pacific rail line. The exhibit includes railroad artifacts and photographs of the Oregon Electric Station, the Pirtle Station, and the Albany Depot.

# Oregon Stone and Frank D./N. Wood, by Linda A. Ellsworth

In the Washington Monument in Washington, D. C., is a little bit of Albany history known as the Oregon Stone. The various states were invited to send memorial stones to be placed inside the Monument. Frank Wood of Albany was selected to design and sculpt the stone. It was four and a half feet long, two feet wide and six inches deep. He carved in the center a shield with 32 stars representing the State Seal, surrounded by grapes, corn, and wheat. He received \$2,000 for his work.

When the Monument was dedicated February 22, 1885 only 14 states has sent their stones. The Oregon Stone was displayed at Frank Wood's shop at the southwest corner of 2nd and Ellsworth from September 5, 1885 until October 1, 1885, when it was accepted by Oregon State officials. Fortunately a photograph was taken of the Stone before it was shipped to Washington, D. C. It was set in place on January 22, 1887 at the 200-foot level on the West wall at the 20th landing.

Frank D. Wood was born in 1833 in Rutland, Vermont. His father, Cephas Wood, was among the thousands who rushed to California when gold was discovered. In the 1850 California census, Cephas was living in Trinity County, where he was working as a miner. By 1860 his son, Frank D. Wood, had joined him there, working as a blacksmith. In 1861 he married Mary DuCray, who was born in France. Their son, Frank N. Wood, was born Feb. 27, 1863, and a daughter Ellen known as "Nellie," born in 1864.

In 1868 the Wood family moved to Josephine County, Oregon, and then on to Albany, where Frank set up a blacksmith shop. His youngest child, Mary, known as "Molly," was born July 13, 1869.

By 1880 he had opened a marble monument shop, ordering marble from Vermont and Georgia. In 1870 he had discovered a stone quarry located a mile and quarter north of Albany in

Benton County, which he developed.

In the 1880 census Frank D. Wood's son Frank N. Wood's occupation is listed as a musician. In the **1888 Oregon, Washington and Idaho gazetteer and business directory, vol. 3** he is listed as part owner with his father in F. Wood &



**The Oregon Stone designed by Frank Wood of Albany for the Washington Monument in Washington D.C. It was dedicated February 22, 1885.**

Co., marble works. Frank N. married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Isom on Sept. 14, 1884 in Linn Co., OR. Their daughter, Mary was born in 1907 in Alaska. In 1931 Frank N. gave an interview in the *Oregonian*, claiming he designed the Oregon Stone. As late as 1948 Frank N. Woods was still operating Wood Monument Works at 288 East 3rd St. He died April 11, 1950, while visiting his son, John LeRoy Wood, in Laguna Beach, CA.

Mollie Wood, Frank D's daughter, married William Pfeiffer. Their daughter Hazel married Kenton Merrill. Their daughter and Frank D. Wood's great-granddaughter, Mary Merrill, married Lloyd Bates. She died March 4, 2000, in Mt. Angel, OR.

So which Frank Wood designed and sculpted the Oregon Stone? It would appear that both father and son had a hand in it and both claimed credit.

## Sources:

Albany city directories, 1878, 1892, 1936, 1946, 1948, 1952  
Hines, H. K. An Illustrated history of the state of Oregon. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1893, pages 1254-55.  
Nutting, Fred Old Time Albany; columns from the Albany Democrat-Herald 8 Feb. 1935 to 14 May 1938. Albany, OR: Richard R. Milligan, c1982.  
*Albany Democrat-Herald* newspaper, Wed. June 14, 1944 p. 2; Wed., April 12, 1950 front page and page 2; Mon. Oct. 19, 1959, p. 9; Mon. April 8, 1940; Thurs. Aug. 19, 1971; June 10, 1980 and March 5, 2000.  
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) censuses from 1850-1930 and CA Death Index  
[www.nps.gov/wamo/history/contents.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wamo/history/contents.htm) History of the Washington Monument.

## Chautauqua history gains a new life in Albany

Thanks to a museum volunteer, the history of Albany's Chautauqua has gained new life, says Museum administrative coordinator Bill Maddy.

A PowerPoint program that reproduces pictures, printed materials and commentary from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century runs about 60 minutes. A 15-minute version is also available.

Volunteer Kitty Buchner, a retired Albany Public Schools librarian, has put together the program as a Museum outreach effort. She became interested in the subject while serving on the Museum's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee in 2005. The anniversary event was billed as a "Chautauqua-like" event.

The Museum program uses materials from its own files, pictures and artwork from the collections of Albany historians Bob Potts and Gerald Brenneman, newspaper clippings, memorabilia from the Buhl family provided by Randy Tripp, and the Library of Congress American Memory Project.

Presentations to date have been made during the Museum's "Spring Break" program and to several Albany service clubs. Maddy says such efforts help call attention to the Chautauqua-like programs that the Museum is planning on hosting on a regular basis. "It demonstrates our value to the life of the Albany area."

# West Albany students open door to local heritage



Class from Central School visits with Nellie Wilson, Museum Assistant.

High school history teacher Everett Hartman drives by the Albany Regional Museum every afternoon on his way home from school.

Knowing that many Albany-area residents had never stepped inside the door, he pondered on what he might do to get his students in the door to gain a

knowledge and appreciation of their local heritage.

He also knew that just suggesting to them to visit was not producing results.

That's when he began assigning his college level (advanced placement) U.S. History class to write a two-page information paper on local history. The assignment, due each year one week before the end of the fall semester, is to "visit the Museum, look around at the displays, ask questions, even go with your parents."

Students may select any topic, locally or regionally, that Hartman approves. This year just over 100 West Albany High School students participated in the project. Grading is based on writing, grammar, attendance (he checks the Museum's sign-in book), research procedures and citing of materials.

The most popular topics include the Monteith brothers (community founders); Camp Adair (the World War II army facility just northwest of the city that housed 50,000 soldiers at one time and now has been returned to farmland, a game preserve and the incorporated city of Adair Village); the Albany water canal (which transports part of the city's domestic water supply from the South Santiam River); railroads and community development; and the Hackleman family (also

among the community's founders).

Hartman says most of his students are "amazed by what they see and find" at the Museum. "I've had several parents thank me for initiating this project. It is not uncommon for parents to visit the Museum while their students do their research. I've found that students love to learn about their own community."

The West Albany teacher was "turned on" to the fascinating subject of history when he was a student at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. He believes that schools do a good job of teaching world, United States and Oregon history, but there is little opportunity for local-regional topics. By adding this particular assignment, Hartman believes he's filling in a gap.

The Museum is appreciative of Hartman's initiative. Bill Maddy, the Museum's administrative coordinator, says one of the board's goals is the involvement of young people. "We really enjoy having the students visit and assisting them in finding information for their reports." Maddy hopes the students return for visits and bring family members along, too.



Participants in the Museum's first spring break event for children pose for a class picture with volunteer instructors (left to right) Kitty Buchner, Maxine Humphrey and Cass Templeton. More than 30 children and adults attended the March 30 afternoon program, part of the Chautauqua series of events sponsored this year by the Museum. This particular program included an oral history lesson on early community school days and activities with music and art.

**Trivia Answer:** The first train arrived here (Oregon & California Railroad).

## Time to renew memberships

Membership renewal cards will arrive in May's mail. Annual memberships run from June 1 to May 31. Dues remain the same as in past years. Individuals are charged \$10, families \$15 and businesses \$50. To become a patron of the Museum, an additional \$100 investment is attached to the membership fee.

Chairman Gerald Brenneman reports that paid membership in 2005 was 376. This means that more than 500 people supported the Museum through its varied membership categories. The 2005 figure was an increase of 12 percent over the 2004 year. Brenneman hopes the Museum can gain another 10 percent in 2006. The board of directors has set a five-year goal of 500 paid memberships.

Dues are used for basic operational costs, including utilities, postage, printing, office supplies and educational programs.

Among membership benefits are the 2006 Chautauqua events listed elsewhere in this newsletter, the quarterly newsletter, gift store discounts, free admission to the Benton County Historical Society lectures and voting privileges during the annual meeting in October.

## Memorials honor family and friends

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorials that honor a family member or friend. The most common gifts are in the amount of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Those honored since the winter newsletter are:

**Beverly Berks**  
**Beatrice "Bea" Decker**  
**James O. Ellsworth**  
**Keelan Hoover**  
**Nellie C. Kelly**  
**W. Donald Moreland**  
**H. Joe Myers**  
**Robert Schmidt**



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO 83  
Albany OR 97321

136 Lyon Street S  
Albany, Oregon 97321  
Open  
Monday thru Saturday  
12 noon – 4 p.m.  
Free admission  
donations welcomed  
(541) 967-7122  
e-mail:  
armuseum@peak.org  
website:  
www.armuseum.com

**Board of Directors:**  
Gerald Brenneman, Chairman  
John Buchner, Vice Chairman  
Michael Kok, Treasurer  
Linda Ellsworth, Secretary  
John Boock, Jr.  
Lois Bottomley  
Nancy Daniels  
Gary Kingston  
Carol McKay  
Berry Price  
Wesley Price  
Shannon Willard

**Liaisons:**  
Rebecca Bond, Albany Visitors Assoc.  
Linda Ellsworth,  
Linn Genealogical Society

**Staff:**  
Bill Maddy,  
Administrative Coordinator  
Nellie Wilson, Museum Assistant  
Diane Frampton, Cataloguer

**Committee Chairs:**  
Executive – Gerald Brenneman  
Nominations – Michael Kok  
Building & Facilities –  
Gerald Brenneman  
Membership & Fundraising –  
John Buchner  
Finance – Michael Kok  
Public Relations – Bill Maddy  
Volunteers – Bill Maddy  
Collections – Lois Bottomley  
Social – Nancy Daniels  
Newsletter Editor – Kim Jackson

**Looking back:**

In the Fall of 1946 my classmates and I entered Albany High School as “green” sophomores. (Albany then had a 3-year high school program.).

Albany High School was then, and still is, a striking building, (a church now occupies the site). The school gym was located in the east wing of the building, while the west wing housed an auditorium/theatre large enough for the entire student body to gather for assemblies and other special events.

Between the wings was the school building proper, consisting of three levels, a basement, the main floor and an upper floor, all containing classrooms and other facilities.

One semester I had Journalism in the basement, English on the first floor and Bookkeeping on the second

**by Jack Gillespie**

floor.

Our teachers varied in age, gender and disposition. Some were nearing retirement age and others were in their first years of teaching. Most were women and most were very pleasant—others were just nice.

At lunch time we could opt to “dine” at the cafeteria, or find a place to eat a sacked lunch, or walk the few blocks into town and have lunch at one of the many restaurants, cafes and soda fountains. Also, The Bulldog, directly across from the front entrance of the school, offered an ample variety of “goodies”

Albany High School had many fine athletic programs during these years. In 1949 the Bulldog’s varsity football team went undefeated in Big Six completion (the Big Six teams were Albany, Bend, Corvallis,

Salem, Eugene, and Springfield). The basketball, baseball, wrestling, and track teams also were very tough competitors within the Big Six.

The High School years went flying by and it was finally time for my class ( I had began first grade with many of them) to be presented their High School Diplomas. It was a great occasion as we lined up and walked onto the auditorium’s stage with our parents, relatives and friends seated in the audience. Prior to handing out our diplomas, Principal Henry Otto introduced us 49ers by saying, in effect, that the Class of 1949 was, perhaps, not the best class to have graduated from AHS but it certainly was not the worst—however, he continued with a smile, it was surely on of the most unusual. We took that as a compliment.