

Albany Old Times

E & E Calendar

Events & Exhibits

March

In-house activities, such as 'History Inspector,' 'I Spy.'

Saturday, April 12

Poetry Reading
Community Room - 1 pm

Saturday, April 19

History Bites:
Collections Care Part I
Community Room - Noon

April 23-25

Oregon Heritage Conference
Downtown Albany
Registration and several
workshops at ARM

Saturday, June 7

Annual Membership Tea
Community Room - Time TBD

Wednesday, July 23

History in Headstones Tour
Albany Masonic Cemetery
Broadway Street & Seventh
Avenue, SW - 7 pm

Saturday, July 26

AVA Annual Historic Homes Tour

Saturday, August 9

All-Member Appreciation Day
Ice Cream Social
Museum parking lot - 1 pm

(See Page 6 for more information)

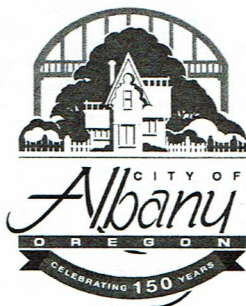


Dancin' the Night Away

Twenty-six kids (ages 7-19) and 12 adults from the Oregon Mid-Winter Festival of Square Dance, rocked the Community Room at 9:30 pm on January 10. The Albany Visitors Association had earlier bused them from the Linn County Convention Center for pizza downtown, a tour of ARM, and a scavenger hunt. The group donated \$50 to the Museum for hosting them. (More Museum Outreach, Page 5)

Albany's 'town cows' an early fixture

This is the first in a four-part series on lesser-known aspects of life in Albany as we celebrate its 150th anniversary of incorporation.



By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Member

Why were those pesky milk cows regulars on Albany's downtown streets back in the mid-to-late 1800s, often pausing to nibble on fruit and vegetables that Francis M. Redfield sold from bins outside his grocery store?

That is what author Ed Loy wanted to know after coming across anecdotes about the ambling "town cows" while researching the book he is writing on aspects of Albany's history, dating from the habitation of the Kalapuya Indians up to the 1980s.

Digging into the cows-at-large question, Loy discovered notes from Redfield indicating that not only did the cows snack on his produce, they often reared up on their hind legs setting their forelegs on a parked wagon to better peer into the bed to see if there was hay, lettuce or cabbages on board for munching.

Loy also came across a humorous account about the animals' meanderings by Robert L. Burkhart, who estimated that 75 to 100 "town

cows" wearing bells of different tones lived near downtown.

It is Loy's contention that some early Albany arrivals that had cows could not afford to construct barns or build fences, so the only way to contain their animals was to stake or tether them, primarily during evenings and milking times. He believes the cows were allowed to roam free to graze, often finding their way downtown.

The animals, Loy said, probably were dispersed mostly among residents who lived outside the boundaries of First and Fourth Avenues and from Washington to either Baker or Montgomery Streets. Because the homes beyond that area were spaced apart, there was plenty of pasture for the cows, whose

Continued on Page 6

From the director's deskChange is good!

Every museum goes through change and experiences the internal and external uncertainty that goes along with it. Change for the Albany Regional Museum comes in three parts, each part different, but all with the final outcome of providing the best facility, the best in professional staff and volunteers, and the best resources to better serve our members, donors, visitors and the community. Each of these changes begins April 1, 2014.

The first change involves the remodeling of our Community Room, and the added bonus of a work area for our growing team of volunteers. The ambitious workers of the facilities team and local contractors are updating the wiring, replacing the lighting, enhancing the window display area, adding a ceiling projector and pull down screen, installing Wi-Fi, replacing the carpet, adding picture rails for

hanging displays, installing current computer work stations in the



Judie Weissert

volunteer work area adjacent to the community room, and adding a new coat of paint from top to bottom.

The second change involves the Museum's parking lot. For many years the Museum has leased the majority of the parking spaces to the law offices on First Avenue for an annual charge. As the Museum continues to grow with members, visitors and special events, the

Board determined it was time to take back the spaces for Museum use.

The third change involves the current fee structure for our membership base, the heart and soul of the Albany Regional Museum. After much consideration and discussion, the Board chose to change some of the dollar amounts associated with the different levels. More benefits have been added, the greatest of which is the satisfaction of helping to preserve the historic resources of the Albany, Oregon, area. A glimpse of the changes: added an Individual and Family level, combined business and patron to Museum Patron, and added the Kalapuya Club as an additional incentive to past and future members. The middle portion of the newsletter has a convenient pullout with all the information regarding levels of membership, dollar amounts, and benefits of

membership. If you are a current member, the new rates will not take effect until your renewal date.

Today is an invigorating time for the Museum. Our popularity and visibility in the community and surrounding areas has grown, thanks to its staff, volunteers, members, donors and visitors. There's no denying that the life of any museum can be hectic and demanding, but the Albany Regional Museum is grounded in its 34 years of service and ready for any change that comes its way. Venture beyond the familiar and become a part of the Museum family today!

Please feel free to get in touch with me. I can be reached at armuseum@peak.org or 541.967.7122.

Judie Weissert

For Your Convenience...the Museum now accepts major credit cards for membership dues, donations, memorials and gift shop purchases.

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Megan's Musings: Albany's history in 100 objects

By Megan Lallier-Barron,

Exhibits & Collections Coordinator

With the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the city, the Museum wants to highlight the variety of objects, photographs, and documents that pertain to Albany's diverse history. In order to do this, we have started a project that allows visitors to view the history of Albany in a unique way.

Following in the footsteps of larger institutions, such as the British Museum and the Smithsonian, we are offering a glimpse of a history of Albany in 100 objects. Our staff and volunteers have diligently been combing our collections to find objects that best represent the long history of the city. We hope that through this exhibit we will be able to share with the public what makes Albany a great place in which to live, work, and play. Within the coming months, we will share these items by displaying them at the Museum, as well as on our website. Stay tuned for more information regarding upcoming exhibits and events related to the sesquicentennial.

The history of Albany in 100 objects has also given us the opportunity to reevaluate and reorganize our collection and exhibit areas to better interpret and preserve Albany's history. In doing so, we have stumbled upon a number of unusual and puzzling objects. This experience has led us not

only to learn more about individual objects, but to get a better picture of what life was like in Albany during different parts of its history. This includes all aspects of life--from the domestic to the commercial, and from the agricultural-industrial to the recreational.

Over the years, the Museum has collected memorabilia from festivals, from high school annuals, and from objects such as tools, furniture, and photographs, to name a few examples. Countless staff and volunteer hours have made it possible to research, store, and preserve these items, but there is more work to be done. Currently, we have five volunteers who are dedicated to various collections projects throughout the Museum. This includes cataloging items into our computer database, photographing and scanning objects, and preparing objects for storage. A goal of the Museum it to have a complete inventory of our collections. Without the help of volunteers, it would not be possible. Many thanks to all of our collections volunteers!

With the Oregon Heritage Conference coming to Albany in April, Albany Regional Museum is diligently working on updating our exhibits area, as well as developing more rotating exhibits for the future. Be sure to check out our website for more information regarding exhibits and associated programming.

A day at the Museum...

Volunteers make Community Room remodel possible

By Darrel Tedisch,
Facilities Committee Chair

Members of the Albany Regional Museum Facilities Committee have spent hundreds of hours over the last year working on projects to improve the Museum's appearance and functionality. Some of the hours have been spent hanging the soapbox derby car, moving books and shelving out of the Reference Room to allow for more space for the patrons, cleaning the basement, and stringing CAT5 computer cable to provide our volunteers with better computer use.

Since January, the facility committee members: David Fitchett, Gerald Brenneman, Larry Bardell, Gary Burch, Mike Martin, Dennis Burkhart and Greg Anable, have been working on a complete remodel of the Community Room. This includes such tasks as finishing the molding around the windows and door, placing track lights in the display windows, replacing the ceiling fluorescent lights with new track lights, and painting the ceiling and walls. In addition, they have been putting in a ceiling projector and retractable screen, building and installing new storage shelves under each display window, putting in new electrical outlets and light switches, and installing new carpet. We are also looking to replace our large, heavy, need-to-put-together speaker system with a permanent in-place system.

The goal is to complete the Community Room project by the end of March so it is ready for a conference the third week of April.

At this time, we will have much of the electric work completed, design of the storage units completed, the ceiling light holes filled, and lights to replace the fluorescents lights identified. We still need to identify the ceiling and wall paint color, rug style and color, and finish the molding.

The facilities committee is doing the majority of the work and has been meeting weekly to complete this project. We would encourage you to come by and watch our progress. Once completed, it will be a great location for non-profit organizations to hold their meetings.

A special thanks to all of the members of the facilities committee for the great work they continue to do for Albany Regional Museum, and on this specific project. The projects for a 127-year-old building never stop, and we have our eyes on the next one that will enhance the Museum.



Gary Burch tears out drywall around Community Room windows

Feedback.... Albany River Rat sets record straight

December 20, 2013

Dear Ms. Burt,

I am writing about the wonderful article published in the Albany Old Times, Winter 2013 edition, concerning Allan Blake and his soapbox derby car.

Al and I (and Fred Van Hoosen mentioned in the article) are very close friends and have been for many, many years. In fact, we all lived together for a time during our early college years in California. They are wonderful and very successful men. We are all still in touch with one another to this day.

This "letter to the editor" is written completely in good FUN and is in no way a criticism of Al or of Albany Old Times. But, I had to say something for the record about the "River Rats" mentioned in paragraph five of the fine article.

Reference to the River Rats as a "car club" is probably the most kind and flattering thing ever said

about them. I probably should leave that undisturbed, but I can't help myself and have to set the record straight.



The River Rats were NOT members of a car club. They never were such, never held themselves out as such, and probably could never qualify as such. Although the members did enjoy fast cars and customized cars, the Rats never pretended to be a car club.

The River Rats were a bunch of beer drinking hell raising, fun loving, girl chasing, mid-to-late

'50s teenaged boys. They got into their share of trouble as well, both with the local police (especially Officers Burkhart, Kaiser, and Spuruta), and with a few of the local moms, for reasons that still seem unfair and unreasonable. We wore leather jackets with the River Rat logo on it (a logo that was on the jacket is enclosed), and tried to look like a bunch of tough guys. Some actually were...most were not.

It has been over a half century since these guys cruised round Red's Drive-In and illegally raced their cars around the streets of Albany and vicinity, and engaged in a bit of mischief here and there. But, I must say, no one EVER accused them of being a car club. However, I must say that most of these "River Rats" managed to grow up to achieve success in many ways, much to my surprise!

*Jim Blodgett, Museum Patron,
Attorney-at-Law,
River Rats President
Seal Beach, CA 90740*

Memorial Roll recognizes eight

Seven new members have been added to the Memorial Roll through financial gifts since the winter 2013 edition of *Albany Old Times*.

They include: Eleanor Beight, Wilma Burch, Dorothy Hagerty, Wanda Humphrey, Lester Kropf, Garner Pool, Esther Simmons, and Martha Anne Warnke.

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorial gifts that honor a family member or friend. Names of those memorialized are listed in this newsletter, on the Museum's website, and are posted for a limited time at the Museum, 136 Lyon Street, S.

A card of remembrance is also mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, next of kin, or friend), and a thank-you card to the person or persons making the donation.

Maggie Foster: An Albany woman who defied the norm

By **Addie Maguire**,
Museum Member

At the age of ten, Maggie Foster watched her mother fight for women's rights. You can imagine her standing in the corner of the Foster parlor while her mother, Abigail



A young Maggie Foster
(Bersch photo)

Scott Duniway, and Martha Dalton discussed the next political move. No doubt, this experience shaped her life and spurred her on to become yet another remarkable woman in the Foster family. In the last issue, the historical detective work of Gretchen Bersch uncovered the story of her ancestor Martha Foster, an Oregon pioneer. Continuing

the saga, Bersch investigates the next generation, primarily Martha's daughter, Maggie. Margaret Isabel Foster was born in 1859 to Martha and James Foster in Albany, Oregon. She had two older brothers, and a younger brother and sister. She was an early student of Albany College, graduating in 1878 with a B.S. degree, and with her best friend, Hettie. Maggie defied societal norms and worked as a bookkeeper at her father's mill in the years following her graduation. According to Bersch, this "was



Margaret Isabelle Foster
1859-1923 (Bersch photo)

considered very unusual and very daring. She was greatly



J.H. Foster Family: James & Martha with Margaret, Robert A., and James W., about 1860 in Albany, OR. (Bersch photo)

liked, respected and admired by all her father's business associates."

Because of her mother, she was involved in women's suffrage at a young age. When she was seventeen, she traveled with her parents and sister to Cincinnati, to the Republican Convention. Rutherford B. Hayes was a presidential nominee and Maggie's father, James Foster, served as Oregon delegate. Politics remained an important part of Maggie's life, and she later attended the Women Suffrage Convention in 1881, with her mother and sister. Unfortunately a few days after returning to Albany, Martha died. Shortly thereafter, Maggie's father and her younger brother passed away.

In 1883, Maggie married Captain Charles Francis Powell, a Civil War hero. The couple had seven children. Charles worked as a lighthouse engineer. Because of his work, Maggie moved with Charles all across the country. While living in Washington, DC, Maggie was Director of the Red Cross, and was often mistaken for President Cleveland's wife. When Charles died in 1907, Maggie moved her children

back to the west coast, to Seattle. Here, she married Charles's brother, Archie. Maggie went on to be active in Seattle society until her death in 1923.

Undaunted by distance, Bersch traveled from Alaska to her family in Washington State to further her research. Over the course of many years, she copied family records and photos. Recently, she traveled to Albany to gain more information about the Foster family. "Ironically, after I visited Albany," Bersch says, "I went to the State Archives in Salem to see if I could find some more records there. One of the volumes... had a notation inside the front cover that it had been reviewed by GIF [Maggie's brother, George Irvine Foster, nicknamed GIF]." Another important source of information was Richard Draves, a relation to Gretchen from Pittsburgh with a similar interest in family history.

Bersch continues to research her family history and is also focusing on summarizing her information into narratives. Maggie Foster was an important part of Albany history, and thanks to Bersch's work, her story of hard work and courage can be told.

Research Requests

We are here to assist you in your quest to find out more about your family or an interesting topic, photo, or clipping in the Tripp Research Room.

Research Requests - Initial fee of \$10, subject to additional fees
Photocopy service - Black and white, standard paper 25¢ per copy (first one free)

Color, standard paper \$1 per copy

Photo scan \$5 per image, \$2 for CD

Photo scan and print to photo quality paper - \$10 per image

Photograph Reproduction for Publishing - \$65 per image (per 5,000 publications)

Photograph Reproduction for Business Display or Exhibits \$25 per image

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Museum Outreach



Judie Weissert and Louie White put the finishing touches on the military Jeep co-owned by White and his son, Mike Pomeroy, in readiness for the Twice Around Downtown Christmas Parade. Several Museum board and staff members participated by marching and handing out candy canes to the crowd on December 1.



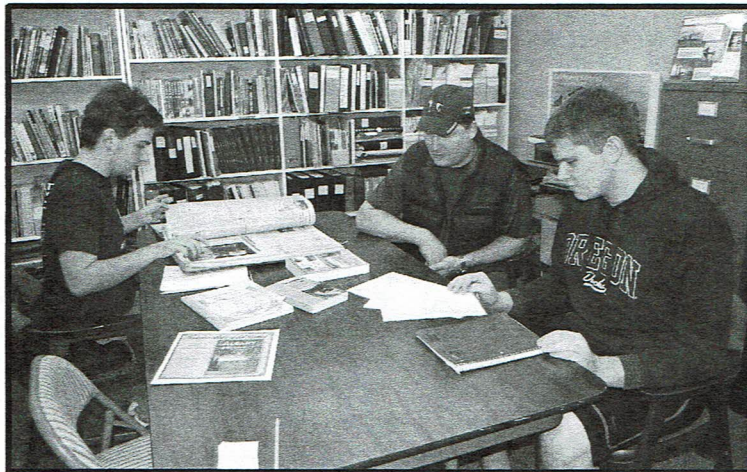
Mary Jacq Burck takes an intermission to visit with Linda and Larry Bardell. Fifty intrepid visitors braved the icy streets for the annual AVA Parlor Tour on December 8. Burck played holiday selections on the 1890 pump organ in the Parlor Exhibit.



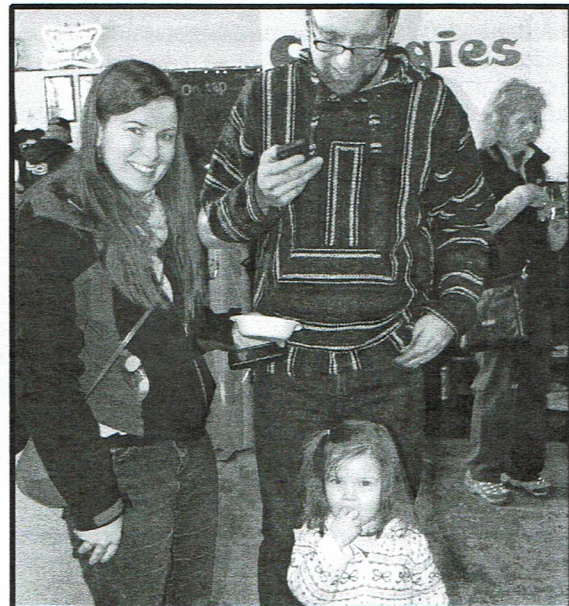
Bob McCormick, who is an historian on the Tangent-Shedd area, visits with Addie Maguire, editor of Jim Lindsay's novel, *The Little Bastards*. Lindsay (center) autographs McCormick's book at the January 11 signing, which drew over 60 people to the Museum.



Daniel Rackham (third from right) happily samples one of four beer offerings at the Hub City Beervana on January 25, sponsored by Deluxe Brewing Company and ARM. Eighty participants viewed the video "Oregon Beervana," toured the historic Borden Evaporated Milk Co., and tasted the brews.



Ninth hour. Chris Norris (left) and Taylor Shelby (right) spend a Saturday at the Museum Reference Room on January 11. They were narrowing topics for their AP History research papers due in a couple of weeks at West Albany High. Lending moral support is Taylor's dad, Jon.



A young family enjoys the festive Beervana atmosphere.

There's lots to do at Museum this spring, summer

Museum Members are sure to find some events to circle on their spring calendars, starting in April, and continuing into the summer months.

Poetry reading slated for April 12 at Museum

This year represents the 100th anniversary of the birth of Oregon's National Poet Laureate, William Stafford; October will be the 150th anniversary of Albany's incorporation; and April is the 18th anniversary of National Poetry Month.

These themes will be combined into a community poetry reading at Albany Regional Museum on Saturday, April 12, at 1 pm.

All poets, from middle and high school, to college and adults, are welcome to submit works that express a connection to Albany's past and life in our area today, said David Fitchett, event coordinator. "Contemplative themes, daily events, and humorous affairs can serve as recollections of the times we live in" he said. Metrical, free verse, limericks and jingles are poetic ways to express life in Albany, he added.

Submissions are due by April 1 to Albany Regional Museum by email at armuseum@peak.org, or by mail at 136 Lyon Street, S, Albany, OR 97321. Interested participants can view the manuscript requirements

at the Museum's website: www.armuseum.com.

Fitchett said that he hopes to fill the Community Room with poets proclaiming their feelings about the town we live in. A selection committee will decide which poems will be displayed in October at Albany City Hall's artistic exhibit that ties in with Albany's 150th anniversary.

2014 Oregon Heritage Conference convenes downtown April 23-25

The Museum will be the registration site and host of several workshops over the three-day Oregon Heritage Conference, April 23-25. While most activities are for registered participants, several events are free and open to the public.

A downtown walking tour is slated for 7:30 am on Thursday, April 24, and a walking tour of Talking Water Gardens will be at 7:30 am. on Friday, April 25. Two workshops are also free and open to the public—Cemetery 101: Mapping, Interpretation, from 1:30-4:30 pm (place TBD on April 23); and Breakout Stars—Oregon Heritage Fellows, from 1:30-2:45 pm (place TBD on April 25).

Interested persons can go to www.oregonheritage.org to check on registration fees and a full schedule

of events.

History Bites lunch series to be held third Saturdays

Museum Members and their guests are invited to a series of programs entitled "History Bites," to be held on the third Saturday of each month, starting in April. These brown bag noon offerings are organized by Museum Volunteer, Rachel Lilley.

April 19, May 17, and June 21 are dedicated to Collections Care by Megan Lallier-Barron and Judie Weissert. Part I will explain the care of artifacts and 3-D objects; Part II will discuss photos; and Part III will explain the proper care of paper.

The July 19 topic is Dinosaurs, and will be geared toward kids and fun. August 16 is dedicated to The Geology of Oregon, followed by a September 20 presentation, "So You Want to Work in a Museum?"

Year-end topics include: A Halloween theme, October 18; Oregon and the Civil War/World

War II, November 15; and December 20, Toy Trains, by Bill Maddy.

Membership Tea scheduled for Saturday, June 7

Featured speaker for the Membership Tea this year is Megan Lallier-Barron, Exhibits & Collections Coordinator, whose talk is entitled "When the Dead Talk Back: The History of the Modern American Spiritualist Movement." The event will be in the Community Room, Saturday, June 7 with time TBD.

"This movement was from the 1880s-1920s, and we'll explore what was 'modern technology' at the time that influenced people's notions about the spiritual world and how you could communicate with the dead," Lallier-Barron said.

Maximum capacity is 60 and reservations are required. Members may invite one guest, and invitations will be mailed several weeks before the event. Cost is \$10 each; guests are free.

Albany Masonic Cemetery showcased in July
This year's History in Headstones event, sponsored by the Museum, will be at the Albany Masonic Cemetery, Broadway Street and Seventh Avenue, SW, on Wednesday, July 23. It will be held at 7 pm. "This five-and-a-half-acre cemetery has some of the most interesting and outstanding graves in Oregon—from Amanda Gardner, freed slave, to Delazon Smith, Oregon's first U. S. Senator," said Linda Ellsworth, one of the organizers. Cathy Ingalls will write about the cemetery's history in the summer edition of the newsletter.

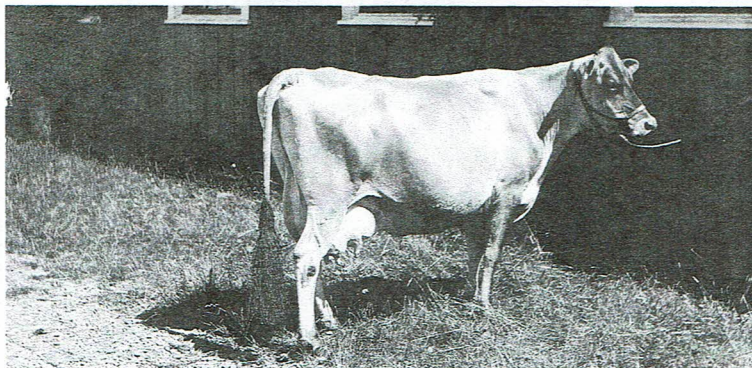


Town Cows Continued from Page 1

primary job was to provide milk and butter for their owners, while anything left over could be sold.

Despite complaints about the "town cows", Loy said they appear to have been a fixture until the 1890s, when new residents started to build houses on what was close-in pasture.

Loy was surprised to see in the Albany City Directory of 1878--the first



A "town cow" descendant? This bovine is hitched to the side of a barn at Maple Lawn Place Jersey Farm on Old Salem Road. (Undated Museum archive photo).

year it was published-- that there were ordinances to deal with loose dogs, hogs and horses, but not cows.

Dog owners were required to register their pets and pay a yearly \$1 fee. Payment information was retained by the city recorder and forwarded to the town marshal, who could determine if the owner of a loose dog had paid the tax.

It was against the law to let a dog run at-large without a collar, part of which had to be metal so the name of the animal's owner could be marked or stamped on it.

If a dog was found without a collar and an owner did not step forward to pay a fine, the dog could be put down.

Loose hogs would be penned and if not claimed, sold at auction.

The city marshal was authorized to secure an at large horse in a safe place and then post a notice with a description of the animal. If a horse wasn't claimed within 10 days, it could be disposed of according to state law.

Some of the information in this story appears in Loy's yet-to-be titled paperback that will contain 300-plus pages and be available in 2015. The price has not been set.

Books will be sold at the Albany Regional Museum.

1843: The Looney Family arrives in Oregon

By **Bill Looney**,
Museum Member



My family came to America in 1720, settled in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, and finally Missouri, before leaving for Oregon in 1843.

Leaving The South meant selling farm ground to your family, freeing your slaves, and coming west.

Jesse Looney was my great-great-great uncle. He and his wife traveled with their immediate family on the Springfield, Missouri, wagon train. Marcus Whitman, of Whitman Mission fame, was the wagon master selected by the train families.

Jesse took a donation land claim north of Jefferson, naming the nearby butte, Looney Butte, where mostly family members attended the first schoolhouse. Jesse was a territorial legislator who engineered the route of the Oregon Trail through his farm, and then back into a straight path southward. This way, newer Oregon residents could swing by Jesse's farm, lodging and resting their livestock on their journey.

Jesse also took out a donation land claim at Knox Butte, thought to be the first in Linn County. No white settlers were living there, so his wife, Ruby Bond, never wanted to stay across the river in Linn County because Indians and trappers were the only residents of that vast county. European descendants were only beginning to arrive in Oregon.

In 1844, Jesse's brother William, my direct descendant, (my great-great-great-grandfather), came to Oregon from the southern route, through Sacramento. William had money from selling land in Tennessee, and from his success as a farmer. William's great-grandmother made the trip as far as Sacramento, but then died. She was the first white settler to die in Sacramento. (My grandparents, Jed and Adra Perfect Looney, visited her grave in the early 1920s).

William and his family traveled on to San Francisco, then taking a ship to Astoria where they bought their livestock, wagons, and supplies. They settled near Jesse, while acquiring their donation land claim. William died on the Santiam River the next year, 1845, traversing a ferry across from Linn County. He was thought to have been kicked in the head by a horse before falling in the river. His widow married a man named Doty, as she would have lost the

farm if she had not married again. Many people today know of the Looney-Doty Farm west of Jefferson, and north of the Santiam River. Mary, William's daughter, resented the living arrangement with her new stepfather and her mother. At 10 years old, she moved in with Jesse's family.

Jesse and William's brother John never came to the west. He remained in Tennessee, running the family farm, while still owning slave labor. Jesse and William had religious problems with that practice so a new country and no slaves seemed like a fresh start to both. The father of these three brothers was a cousin to President Andrew Johnson, and John, their father, was one of the founders of Knoxville, Tennessee.



The 1858 marriage photo of Anthony and Mary Looney. The couple purchased the Looney Lane Farm in 1860. (Photo courtesy of Bill Looney).

Anthony, my great-great-grandfather, ran away from home at 16, and rode his horse to Oregon. His father John stayed in Tennessee. Anthony traveled through southern Oregon to reach his Uncle Jesse's farm sometime in 1848. He had a fine Kentucky rifle that he carried with him, which my family still owns. On his journey, he was forced to shoot an Indian that was threatening him with that very rifle. It was still the Wild West.

Anthony Looney had a remarkable life, considering all that he accomplished. He shot game and supplied the gold miners in Sacramento and southern Oregon for ten years, traveling back and forth. His wagons were allowed to pass because he always provided a bear or an elk to the hostile Umpqua

and Rogue Indians. Later, he was involved in fighting those Indians in southern Oregon. Anthony traveled to the Klondike to supply gold miners as well.

In 1858, Anthony turned 26 and married Mary, his first cousin, at Jesse's home in Shedd. In 1860, they settled on Looney Lane, south of where Linn-Benton Community College is today. He farmed over 600 acres there and paid for the road that is called Allen Lane. That way he could do business in Albany without having to travel round about to McFarland Road. Anthony was the father of my great-grandfather, William, who ran the farm after Anthony and Mary Looney.

Part Two of this story will arrive in the fall edition.



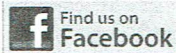


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Albany, Oregon 97321

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Looking Back: 1971-The Last AUHS Graduation Class

By **Bill Looney**, Museum Member

Six hundred seniors graduated from Albany Union High School in 1971. By 1972, AUHS was renamed West Albany High, while South Albany High began the first year of its existence.

Looking back on the grade school and middle school years of the Class of 71, we remembered the deaths of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Bobby Kennedy, and witnessed the escalation of the war in Vietnam. These events changed America's innocence.

In 1971, the Beatles had already broken up and gone their separate ways. Our high school saw the fad of long hair, colorful shirts and pants, continuation of the hippie movement, and a building that was so crowded, you had to walk in the halls sideways to your next class.

We are and were the children of the "Greatest Generation." We worked hard to find out what we wanted to do in life. We fell for the "Breakfast Club" definitions of who people were in high school. Yet, that did not break any of us. For me, time was a factor in really getting to know one another. I lived on a farm and rode the bus to school and back.

Our football team won only one game that year. Our basketball teams were neck-and-neck with Corvallis High for division titles. Our baseball, tennis, track, golf, wrestling, and gymnastic teams were very competitive. Albany High was a great school to attend for sports.

The Drama department provided us with *George M*, *The Ransom of Red Chief*, and *Our Town*. All were quite good; *George M* dazzled Albany with its production.

I was sports editor for the *Whirlwind* newspaper, although another Bulldog wrote the football stories. I loved to write, and to this day, I remember most of the Class of 1971 by name.

Kay (Olson) Burt, was my adviser on the newspaper staff and is editor

of this newsletter. Katherine (Wood) Butler, was my favorite English teacher. Classmate Steve Perfect and I found out where she and another teacher lived in an apartment, and we asked them to double date us. We never made it past their front door. Darn!

My future wife, Maureen Lowry, was in the same class. We've been married now for almost 35 years. Our class enjoyed the usual fun - eating at Shakey's Pizza, occasionally dating, and participating in school activities. Our senior class has lost close to 70 students now. I salute them --- "Hail to Albany High!"

(Editor's Note: Jack Gillespie is taking a well-deserved vacation, and Bill Looney is filling in for him this issue).



Bill Looney (far right) inches his way up the F Hall ramp at AUHS. (Photo from the 1971 Bulldog yearbook)