

'Afternoon Tea' feted for April 24

Museum Member Nancy Robb, nutritionist and former educator, will present a program on "How to Brew and Serve a Proper Cup of Tea" at the annual tea slated for Friday, April 24 from 3-4:30 pm.

Robb's talk will include types of teas for special occasions, themed teas, and differences between "high tea" and "afternoon tea."

Tickets are \$15 per person, and this year the tea is open to everyone, with postcards going out to members first.

A variety of scones, tea sandwiches, and

(Continued on Page 2)



Going Down Memory Lane

The Rare Metals Committee looks over a large book of clippings from the ATI Wah Chang library in the Community Room on Feb. 4. From left at table: Viola and Ralph Nielsen; standing from left: Steve Anderson, Joseph Licavoli, Dennis Emerson, and Mae Yih. Not pictured: Bill Sissel and Howard Poppleton.

Metals group gears up for fall exhibit

By Megan Lallier-Barron,
Exhibits & Collections Coordinator

The mission of Albany Regional Museum is to tell the diverse history of the Albany area. To do this, we not only look to our current collection, but we also seek input from the wider community.

The reactive metals industry is a major factor in our area, and we have wanted to share their story, but did not have the opportunity to do so with our current collection. Therefore, we were delighted to be contacted by Dennis Emerson, newly retired librarian at ATI Wah Chang, who expressed an interest with us in preserving this history.

Through industry connections, we were able to quickly gather individuals from various aspects of the area's metals history to serve as a task force to launch an exhibit at the

Museum in October 2015.

Our goal is to share with visitors how the reactive metals industry began in Albany, the impact it had on the economy and social fabric of the area, who the leaders were in this endeavor, and what this industry looks like today.

We also hope to incorporate a more personal look at these companies by integrating into the exhibits oral histories of former and current employees, scientists, and other related individuals who can fully tell the industry's stories.

Task force members include: Emerson, Mae Yih, Viola and Ralph Nielsen, and Bill Sissel, ATI Wah Chang; and Howard Poppleton, Steve Anderson and Joseph Licavoli, National Energy Technology Laboratory (originally the

Albany Bureau of Mines). Input has been given by representatives of several other groups, including OREMET, and other interested members will be brought in as the project progresses.

The reactive metals industry has played a vital role in shaping the economy, outside presence, and shared history in the Albany area. From the initial step when the Bureau of Mines opened a station at the former Albany College campus, the industry progressed to the level that Albany was historically the largest producer of reactive metals in the country. This led to an unprecedented time of economic growth in the region as other metallurgical processing companies and support groups moved into the area as well.

(Continued on Page 2)

E & E

Calendar Events & Exhibits

Wednesday, March 11
"History Bites" – Spring Start-Ups
for the Garden with Sheryl Casteen
Community Room – Noon

Wednesday, April 8
"History Bites" – All about the
Hackleman Historic Dist.
with Emma Eaton
Community Room – Noon

Friday, April 24
Annual Tea – "Afternoon Tea"
with Nancy Robb
Community Room – 3-4:30 pm

Saturday, April 25
Procession of the Species Parade
Downtown Albany – 10 am

Friday, May 1
"Wine Walk" – Albany Rotary Club
Downtown Albany – 4-8 pm

Wednesday, May 13
"History Bites" – All About Trains
with Bob Lowry
Community Room – Noon

Wednesday, June 10
"History Bites" – Moon Shadow
Lavender Farm with Gale Blasquez
Community Room – Noon

From the director's desk 35 years...and counting

December 18, 2015 represents the 35th anniversary of the Albany Regional Museum. From its humble beginnings in the basement of the Carnegie Library to where the Museum is today, is remarkable. From paid staff to substantial increases in volunteers and visitors, a remodeled Community Room and new entry, the Museum is primed for the next 35 years of sharing the history of Albany with the community.

Speaking of staff, Megan Lallier-Barron, Collections & Exhibits Coordinator for the past two plus years, left to become the curator of the Museum of Mental Health in Salem. We wish her well in her new full time position.

Addie Maguire, Collections Specialist, currently working for the past year on Saturdays, will add Friday to her schedule and take the lead as Collections Manager through October 31, 2015. Her direction will include completing

the project of identifying, researching and cataloging objects,



Judie Weissert

documents and photographs not currently in our data base, with help from volunteers Duwayne, Cassidy, Emma and Noah. This project will be completed March 31. From there, Addie will assess and inventory the entire collection with help from volunteers, Board members and staff. Her hours are: Friday and Saturday 9 am - 4 pm. The exhibit portion of Megan's position will temporarily be headed by myself as well as staff, volunteers and Board members

as we determine the next steps in changing out the current exhibits over the remainder of 2015. The change in exhibits has been in the planning stages over the past few months by a dedicated team of volunteers who are interested in key aspects of Albany's history. This team will take on key roles in the planning, development and execution of the new or enhanced exhibits. At this time, the launch dates haven't been implemented so there is still time for more volunteers to get involved, by calling or emailing me at the Museum.

These are the exhibit changes for 2015:

Early Albany History: Native Americans, early settlements and founding of the city. (Cathy Ingalls, Linda Collins, Judie Weissert)

Railroad History: Expand current exhibit to include maps of early

railroad lines/companies and their impact on Albany's commerce. Possible launch date May 9 to coincide with National Train Day. (Scott Pirie, Bill Maddy, Howard Poppleton)

Timber Carnival: Move to a different location and change out items. Enhance action with larger photos, videos and hands-on activity. (Nona Burkhart, Peggy Kowal, Don & Wilma Albright)

1940s Albany: Create a 1940s "Family Kitchen" and reduce the Camp Adair exhibit and change out current items. (Linda Collins, Peggy Kowal, Judie Weissert)

Building History/Lobby Area: Includes aerial photograph, building history/lobby cases (Tom

(Continued on Page 7)

Museum Board, Staff

Museum Directors:

- Kristen Schuttpelz, Chair
- Darrel Tedisch, Vice-Chair
- Kay Burt, Secretary
- Mary Arnett
- Cathy Baker
- Gary Burch
- Dennis Burkhart
- Scott Cowgill
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- Albany Visitors Center

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- Judie Weissert, Director
- Peggy Kowal, Member & Visitor Services
- Addie Maguire, Collections Manager
- Shannon Leland-Willard, Bookkeeper
- Ruth Dietrich, Proofreader
- Kay Burt, Editor



Afternoon Tea (Continued from page 1)

tarts made from recipes furnished by Robb, will complement the British style of tea with milk, or herbal tea. Tea will be brewed in-house on an outdoor stove with two burners.

ARM Executive Director Judie Weissert says she would like some volunteers to also set up small displays of "themed teas" for the guests to preview before and after the tea. These tables will be arrayed in the entrance and around the Museum exhibits area and could feature such themes as bridal or baby shower, Red Hat Tea, Western tea, travel tea, garden, tea, princess tea, etc. "There can also be displays of tea cozies, cups, teapots, etc. Tables will be provided for this. Various area groups, like PEO, book clubs, and other organizations who are interested, can call me at the Museum to reserve a display table," she said.

(Metals group Continued from Page 1)

A wonderful outcome of this project will also enhance Albany Regional Museum's mission. With the work of our rare metals committee, we will be processing and archivally rehousing many items and documents from this important industry.

Thanks!

Special thank-yous to Susan Lewis and her grandmother Susan for power washing the sidewalk and parking lot around the Museum building; Mary Arnett for her donation of two lobby chairs, a small desk and 3 bookshelves; and to Rolland Brower and Judie Weissert for their donation of the events sandwich board and the library table for the Tripp Reference Room.

For your convenience...the Museum now accepts major credit cards

Jenks, Waibel added to Memorial Roll

Two individuals have been added to the Museum's Memorial Roll since the winter issue of *Albany Old Times*. They are James Warren Jenks and Bob Waibel.

James, or "Jimmy," was born in Albany and was proud of being a fourth generation Oregonian. He was a pioneer in developing the area's seed industry.

Bob was born in Brownsville but lived most of his life in Sweet

Home where he was named a First Citizen. He was a lifelong logger and after retirement appeared in logging shows as the "Rhinestone Logger."

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorial gifts that honor a family member or friend. The most common gifts are in the amounts of \$25, \$50 and \$100.

Names of those memorialized are listed in the quarterly newsletter,

on its website (www.armuseum.com) and are posted for a limited time.

A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, next of kin or other) and a thank-you card to the person or persons making the donation (which can be used for tax documentation).

Contact the Museum or stop by the reception desk at 136 Lyon St., S for further information.

A day at the Museum...

Kowal is 'friendly face' of Albany Regional Museum

"I wasn't really looking for a job—it came to me, and I took it," says Peggy Kowal, membership services coordinator. Kowal, who has been at the Museum since 2008, had retired early and after five years in Albany started volunteering for RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program).

One day there was a phone message for her, asking for her resume for a front desk/clerk position at the Museum. "I interviewed with Director Tami Sneddon and Board Member Mary Arnett, and the

rest is history," she laughed. Kowal is the longest-serving employee currently at ARM.

Kowal's job has morphed from "clerk" to one that reflects her myriad capabilities—from ordering Museum office supplies, to keeping track of membership renewals, to serving as docent, to planning, coordinating and hosting various hospitality events and greeting and helping visitors at the front desk.

"Every day is different. That's what keeps it fresh," Kowal said. Arnett pinpoints Peggy's interest in people as one of her major attributes. "It's a running joke that Merrill, Oregon, is the center of the universe," Arnett laughed. "Peggy always asks where folks are from, and invariably there's a direct or indirect link to Merrill where Peggy was born. She's so good at interacting with folks."

After early life in Merrill, a small agricultural town southeast of Klamath Falls, Kowal completed her bachelors degree at OSU in education, but teaching wasn't to her liking. Instead, she worked at Exxon Corporation in Houston, Texas, in the offshore exploration and government affairs departments, then did a stint in Washington, DC, in Senator Robert Packwood's office as a legislative assistant. Peggy says a highlight and honor there was serving on the original committee that created the Vietnam Memorial.

These days Peggy and husband Fred are avid OSU sports fans. She also enjoys reading mysteries and making her famous white chocolate covered popcorn as gifts for friends and family.



Peggy Kowal waves to the "Twice Around the Block" parade-goers on December 7 in the Museum "float" driven by Louie White.

Membership, Visitors & Events Update

New Members--

11/01/2014 – 02/13/2015

Individual: Eric Anundson, Evedene Bennett, Ron Haines, Timothy Jenks, Billie Ann Kumpula, Brian Lee and Diane Van Orden.

Family: Dale & Ruth Bargsten, Neal & Roseanna Maddy, Tom & Erin Maguire, Bill & Shirley Pintard, Jim & Phyllis Richards and Ron & Karen Romeo.

From tours to events—Museum hosts flurry of activities

Last year ended with a bang with 560 visitors in December, including 75 people at the book signing party for Ed Loy's book *Gem of the Willamette Valley*, 154 folks attending the Parlour Tour, and 30 for a History Bites presentation on toy trains by Bill Maddy. 2015 started off with a flurry, too. Several non-profit groups used the Community

Room for meetings. The Lions Club held a training session in January and a regional meeting in February. Fifty Oak Grove Elementary School children learned about Albany's history and had fun with some hands-on activities in January. Family and friends helped Dwaine Reid celebrate his 75th birthday.

We changed our monthly History Bites programs to second Wednesdays, still at noon. The first two programs have been well-received. Our January program was a panel of local authors filled with information about writing and lots of laughter with stories of their writing experiences. Albany's dairy farm history (who knew there were so many?) was the topic for February with Bill Maddy's "The Udder Story." The Community Room was host to another Red Cross blood drive February 12.

One of the big attractions for children of all ages, yes adults like it too, is the "I Spy" game. It's small snippet photos of items in the exhibits. One Salem woman learned about the game on our website and brought her two young daughters to play it. It makes one look at the exhibits closer and "see" more.

--Peggy Kowal, Member & Visitor Services Coordinator

Variation West on sale at Book Store

Sunnycroft Books recently announced the publication of *Variation West*, the last novel by Albany author Ardyth Kennelly (1912-2005). Museum Member Nancy Wilson Tropic spent two years editing her great-aunt's manuscript, making only occasional minor changes so that the book appears essentially as the author wrote it.

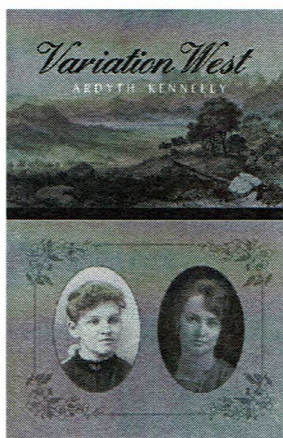
The book follows the lives of two fictional daughters of John D. Lee, the ringleader of the Mormons' 1857 massacre of a wagon train at Mountain Meadows, Utah, and their descendants, from the Old West through the changing eras up to the 1960s. The author spent her earliest years

in Salt Lake City, but lived in North Albany after age 10, graduating from Albany High School and attending Oregon State College. "In *Variation West* she does give some nods to Albany in the form of several mentions of people having the name of an Albany person in the same profession (e.g., Holloway's Grocery,

a lawyer named Swan, a physician named Beauchamp, and Judge Skipworth), and a few incidental characters with the surnames of Aunt Ardyth's step-relatives or neighbors," Tropic said.

Kennelly became nationally famous in the 1950s with *The Peaceable Kingdom*, *Good Morning, Young Lady*, and three other novels.

Variation West (760 pages) is available at the Museum Book Store for \$17.95 for Members. It can also be downloaded for \$11.95 through various e-book sources.



Wish List...

To enhance our mission, the Museum would like a small scanner for one of the volunteer work stations as well as a slide scanner as we focus on documenting our entire collections into the database. Archival boxes and protective sleeves are always welcome.

Watch for details of upcoming events/activities on Facebook and armuseum.com.

Fairmount Grange has storied past

By Cathy Ingalls, Museum Member

There's a Fairmount Grange and Fairmount School in North Albany, but once there also was a Fairmount Lake and home called "Fairmount."

So where did the name come from?

Early settler Jesse Quinn Thornton named his home and lake in front of his house "Fairmount," according to Mark Azevedo, who has researched North Albany's history. The waterway is now known as Thornton Lake.

"The entire lake, except the extreme western corner, was part of the Thornton land claim, and we have handwritten correspondence between Jesse and Illinois senator Stephen Douglas (for who Douglas County is named) that is titled 'from Fairmount lake,'" Azevedo said.

"It is also interesting that Jesse was instrumental in starting the county and state fairs in Oregon and that he was intimately involved with matters concerning 'modern' agriculture, so there may be a connection with Thornton and formation of granges in Oregon," he said.

According to other Albany historians, there is a possibility that Thornton really wanted to call his property "Forest Grove," but the name was already taken. Instead, he called his property "Fairmount."

Fairmount Grange #252, which still operates, received its charter for 32 members on Feb. 21, 1891, according to an article written by Mrs. Don Parker that appeared in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* in 1957. Meetings were held at Fairmount School until a hall was built in 1892 at Springhill Drive and the railroad tracks.

Fairmount Grange soon became the social hub of the community, Parker said in her story. Members met at 10 am on first Saturdays for winter all-day sessions, while summer meetings began at 1 pm. An orchestra played for dances after meetings, and children were put to bed on the stage during the meetings and card playing.

One meeting day, when it was time for everyone to go home, members went outside to discover the nearby river had risen too high for anyone to leave. The next morning, members' cars were pulled down the railroad tracks to another road so they could return home.

During the morning of July 26, 1929, Chet Hughson discovered a fire burning at the hall. All of the contents including the charter were destroyed. The cause was never determined, but one theory is that a smoker pitched a still-burning cigarette, igniting the tall grass around the building.

Until another structure was built, members met at the homes of Russell Parker, Hiram Parker and Charles Crocker. Meanwhile, the grange site was sold, insurance collected, and Hiram hosted an auction to raise money to purchase land and erect a new building on North Albany Road, where it is today. The Parker family had donated some of the land for the grange and the remainder was purchased from the Peacock family, said 91-year-old Albany resident Jean Anderson. Her grandfather was Hiram Parker.

Lyle Utt of Albany and a grange officer recalled that people could either pay \$25 toward construction, or as reported in the GT article, they could do 10 days of labor. The new hall was dedicated in 1930.

Anderson lived for years across from the current grange located at 835 NW North Albany Road. "The grange had a wonderful youth group, and all the neighbors belonged," she said. "I have fond memories of the grange, and our drill team won a state championship." That year was probably 1940.

Snapshot



Jean Parker (center) one of 16 award-winning Rose Drill Team members who competed for the Grange in the late 1930s.



Shirley Parker (left) as Bert the Bell Girl in a play on Fairmount's stage.



The 1943 flood, launching boat to get folks across the railroad tracks. Grange is in background.

Memories....

Parker descendant records Grange social life

Compiled by Nancy Trotic, Museum Member, Jan. 2015

(The Parker-Umphrey-Cowan family reunion —for descendants of Moses and Allen Parker, Linn County pioneers of 1852, and their wives Mary Catherine and Julia Umphrey—was held at Fairmount Grange from probably the 1920s-70s. The reunion began in 1925 at the home of Hiram Parker, 820 N. Albany Rd., moved to the Fairmount Grange at some point, and from the 1980s continued in other locations).

Jean (Parker) Anderson, from an interview with her niece Nancy Trotic on May 14, 2010:

You could join the grange at age 14, which Jean did. You could sit through the meetings and learn about farming, but the social life was more fun. They always had dances and parties, including square dances. They would socialize with and visit other granges in the area, including Riverside, Lewisburg, Morningside and Monroe.

Ann Olsen, from an interview with her first cousin (once removed) Nancy Trotic on September 5, 2010:

The typical grange activity was a potluck supper followed by dancing and singing. A dance band would play honky-tonk there every Friday or Saturday night. The band included Ann's mother, Ruby Parker Olsen (Hiram Parker's daughter), on piano, her husband Francis Olsen on banjo, and neighbor Ed Austin on violin. [This would have been sometime in the 1930s/40s—NT]

[Side note: Jean Anderson, in an interview with Nancy on Oct. 21, 2012, said she thought the Fairmount Grange didn't pay the band very much; Ruby, Francis, and Ed got paid more playing at the Tumble Inn, located about where Wah Chang is now, before I-5 was built. Jean remembers going to dances there during the early years of WWII. She thinks you had to be 18 to go there. It was "kind of a wild place" during the war.]

Marion Kennelly Brownell, from an interview with her step-great-niece Nancy Trotic on May 10, 2011:

They had "box suppers" at the Grange. You'd take your box, and the fellow that got it, you'd eat with him. You'd eat in the basement where there were big tables set out and coffee made. On Friday or Saturday night, there was music and dancing upstairs. There were some drop lights—two or three in something like a chandelier. On the wall was something to adjust the level of the light. There was a constant battle over this with the "old-timers": "the young people in love, we'd turn it down," and then "some militant individual would immediately go and flip it up to full blast."

Marion also told me that North Albany was called by the derogatory name "Hogtown" when she was little, and it made her "so mad," because North Albany was beautiful. If a new acquaintance in high school found out you were from North Albany, they'd say "Ohhh," in a tone of disgust.

Nancy (Wilson) Trotic's memories of the Grange:

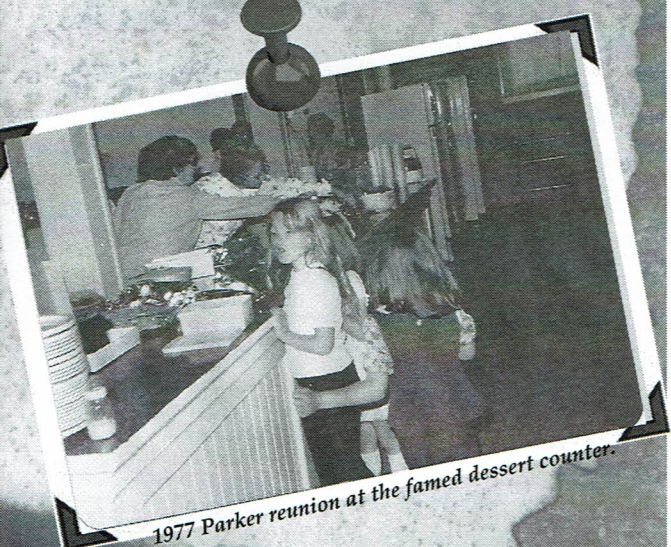
My memories of Fairmount are connected with the annual Parker reunions which traditionally began at noon when families arrived with potluck dishes; "dinner" would start at 12:30. Tables and chairs were set up in the basement, the hot dishes were warmed in the kitchen, and all the food was laid out on the large serving counter—except desserts, which had their own big table on the north side of the room. Many families brought their own specialties year after year; my grandmother Jessie Parker was famous for her chicken and noodles. The legendary dessert table was a wondrous sight to the children, holding at least two dozen cakes, pies, cookies, and other sweet dishes.



1949 Parker reunion, Allen Parker branch.



Hiram Parker & 2nd wife Lulu (Olsen Kennelly Parker) abt. 1923.



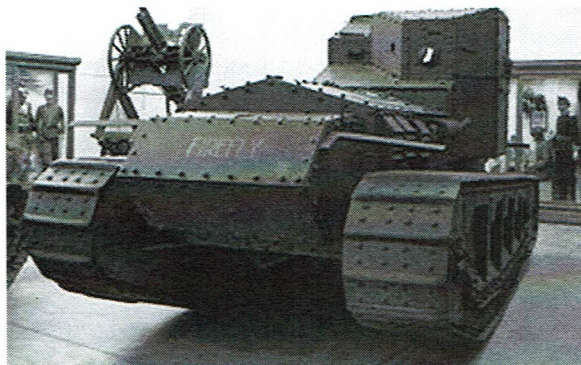
1977 Parker reunion at the famed dessert counter.

Photos courtesy of Nancy Trotic

WW I Whippet destroys Old Central School

By Ed Loy, Museum Member

On a cold, wet Friday morning in April 1919, Albany's customary tranquility was shattered by the rumble and clatter of a military



A 1918 Whippet "Firefly" A347 tank housed at the Museum of the Army, Brussels, Belgium.

tank lurching through the downtown streets before coming to a halt adjacent to the stately old county court house.

Why was this menacing-looking machine parked on an Albany thoroughfare as if posed to assault the very halls of Linn County government?

The tank certainly did stir intense interest among the people of Albany, but aroused no alarm. Their curiosity had been piqued by a series of reports in the *Democrat* that heralded the arrival in

Albany of a Whippet, an armored vehicle that had been used with considerable effect in France during the Great War.



Students at Old Central School as seen from the courthouse in 1905. (Museum Photo)

The Whippet was being transported by rail around Oregon as a method of promoting the Victory Loan war bond sales campaign that followed the armistice of November 1918. Before coming to Albany, the tank had been deployed in Eugene, Springfield, and Marshfield where it had demonstrated its destructive capabilities.

On that April morning, several hundred people patiently stood in a heavy rain and listened to patriotic speeches from Mayor L.M. Curl and W.L. Jackson, the chairman of the Linn County Victory Loan Committee.

Then the tank driver maneuvered the Whippet into position to begin the program's eagerly anticipated main event. The tank's daunting task was to demolish the massive brick foundation of the old, wood-frame school building that had long stood on the block east of the courthouse. The building's upper floors had been dismantled earlier in 1919.





As the twin engines roared, the 30,000 pound machine easily crashed through the 12-inch-thick walls and quickly reduced the foundation to a pile of rubble. The tank's power awed the audience; the number of bond sales it inspired, however, was not reported in the *Democrat*.

ARM MEMBERSHIP FORM

To renew or begin your annual membership, fill in the form below :

_____ Individual	\$15
_____ Family	\$25
_____ Business Friends	\$50
_____ Museum Patrons	\$150
_____ History Circle	\$250
_____ Kalapuya Club	\$500

Amount enclosed \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

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City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

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'History Bites' now on Wednesdays



Book Talk. Authors John Lindsay, Kathy Hering, Ed Loy, and Betty Orr visit before the Jan. 14 'History Bites' event.



Museum Member Don Albright displays two of his train collectibles—an "N" (tiny) and "G" scale (large) model—at the Feb. 11 'History Bites' talk on toy trains by Bill Maddy.

Our Mission Statement: "To preserve, exhibit, and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of the Albany, Oregon area"

Earl Dickson: Colorful Albany Coupon King

By Jerry Brenneman,
Museum Member

In 1942, only three or four months after the U.S. declared war against Japan, my family moved from our small Witham Hill farm in Corvallis to Albany. My father had been hired by the new Malarky & Malarky (M & M) plywood mill. Our new home was on the west side of the block on Geary Street, just inside the city limits, between the railroad tracks and Santiam Road, and the street was gravel from the Willamette River to the "boondocks" that began where Arby's is today. Having brought my Shetland pony from the farm, I had to get rid of him because horses weren't allowed within the city limits. I was in the fifth grade at Madison School.

North of the railroad tracks was a small grocery store on Geary and Salem Avenues where we often bought groceries (on credit), and another larger store on Geary and Santiam called Dickson's Grocery where Petco is located today. Earl Dickson was the owner of perhaps the largest grocery in the 1940s, and certainly the largest one owned by an individual. There was a Safeway downtown located on the north side of the block where Albany City Hall is today, but I believe Dickson's was larger in size.

Earl Dickson was way ahead of Costco in one thing, in that it was always a mystery finding

the location of items you bought recently and wanted again but couldn't find. Earl moved his groceries around (it seemed like weekly) so that in looking for the item you wanted, you might buy something else you might want while looking. Our home had a large lot and we had seven cherry trees and some quince, and we picked them and took them to Earl, who would buy them and put them right on his counter.

Dickson's Grocery was unusual because the roof was held up with what looked like telephone poles, and even some of the floors were still dirt! Earl would often be seen in the store's center, standing on a wooden platform a foot or so above floor level with a microphone, informing customers of the "bargains of the day." In summer he would be clad in shorts and white sleeveless tank top, informing his customers of sale items. Some years later, he called his store "Dickson's Corral," and erected a huge sign out front.

The thing that made the store "famous," was that Earl started taking coupons for groceries without buying the products on the face of the coupons! In the 40s and 50s, coupons were usually in the pennies, such as three or four cents, but groceries, of course, were much cheaper then. If customers saved up 50 cents or so of coupons, they could buy any product in the store with them. Naturally, Earl ran into opposition from the

producers of the coupons. This battle between Earl and the food companies was referred to as his "Coupon Crusade."



In the early 50s, I left for college in the east and later in the fall of 1954 was drafted into the army and sent to Germany for 19 months. On Thursday, August 5, 1955, I picked up a *Stars and Stripes* newspaper and on the front was Earl Dickson of Albany, Oregon. (See photo). Dickson was in New York outside the United Nations building dressed in a coonskin cap, carrying a buffalo rifle, with a suitcase full of unredeemed food coupons! What a surprise to see my old grocer on the front of the army newspaper. Dickson wanted to find out why the coupons he accepted at his store hadn't been redeemed by General Foods Corporation.

The obvious reason was that he took the coupons as money without buying the product!

director's desk (Continued from Page 2)

Cutsforth, Dave Fitchett, Peggy Kowal)

Ferguson Collection Display: New items added and expanded to current exhibit. Launch date, mid-March. (Mary Jacq Burck, Linda Collins, Peggy Kowal, Judie Weissert)

Use of the Rivers and Waterways: Includes waterways for transportation, power, recreation and impact on Albany residents. (Tom Cutsforth, Judie Weissert, Nona Burkhart)

Some exhibits not mentioned here will also be refreshed with new items, and most exhibits will contain an interactive element to boost interest. Please look over the list, and give me a call or send an email letting me know your interest. We will be meeting again in early March.

Looking Back: Gal Pals

(Continued from Page 8)

all our friends were there, too. There were no fast food restaurants to work in so most kids worked in the fields through high school.

We all started high school in 1954 as sophomores at the brand-new Albany Union High School on Queen Avenue. Classes were much more sophisticated where we were introduced to chemistry, shorthand, typing, biology, and even study hall—and, a cafeteria!

Clothes and hairstyles didn't change much, but brand names became important. If we had a Pendleton pleated skirt and matching jacket, we were really cool. These were purchased at Millers, which later became Nancy's, on First Street. Guys purchased their Levis at Blain Clothing, or the CC Store. Albany had Woolworth, Giles dime store, and a Pay Less, all on First Street.

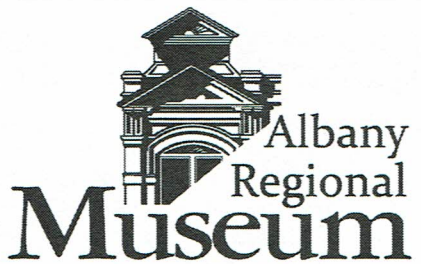
Our social lives revolved around sporting events, school dances, and Masonic sponsored Rainbow for girls and DeMolay for boys, and these organizations gave us the opportunity to practice etiquette and wear formal attire.

Our hang-outs were Red's Drive-In, Tops, the Red Hat, Norms, Cravmore, and for a really good hamburger, the In-And-Out.

Albany was a wonderful town to grow up in and to raise our families. Now that we are in our retirement years, it's still been good to us.



Museum Member Ralph Scariano is in line early on December 6 to have author Ed Loy sign his copy of *Gem of the Willamette Valley: A History of Albany, Oregon*. Books have sold briskly and can be purchased at the Museum Bookstore.



Respect the Past. Build the Future.

136 Lyon Street, S
Albany, Oregon 97321

Open Hours
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11 am - 4 pm
Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm

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Looking Back: Gal Pals recall '50s school life

By Museum Members **Mary Arnett,
Shannon Price Willard-Leland, and
Gloria Willis Egan**

(This trio went to Albany schools from grades 1-12 and became friends in junior high school. They have remained in contact ever since).

There were two grade schools for the town kids—Maple for the west end, and Madison for the east end. Tangent, Fir Grove, Cottonwoods, Knox Butte, Millersburg, Oak Grove, Riverside, and more, were the “country schools.” Grade school was 1-7, and we all came together in the eighth grade at Central School, which was then the junior high building.

There was no bus service, so we walked to school because our dads had the one family car at work. No one was concerned about our safety until we got to school, and then student crossing guards helped us. They were very important, wearing their special belt and holding their sign.

Classes were divided alphabetically so we ended up with the same group of kids from grades 1-7. We recall classes of about 30 with one teacher and no aids. Teachers must not have had any breaks during the day. We ate our brown bag lunch in the classroom. It was also okay to bring homemade treats for school parties. Apparently, no one was concerned if we were lactose or nut intolerant, or what kind of kitchen the food came from.

Music was offered in the classroom, religion class was provided weekly by a person outside of the school system, and we learned

to play musical instruments so we could be in band or orchestra later on.

By junior high (grades 8 and 9), all the grade schools funneled into this one school at Central where it was our first opportunity for country and town kids to interact.

Like teens today, we were concerned about clothes, school dances, sports, fitting in, and of course, burgeoning relationships. School dances were held on Friday nights, and learning to do “the dip” was a must!

Girls didn’t wear pants to school (pre-Title IX), and fall and winter attire was long wool skirts, sweaters, and white buck shoes. We carried a “bunny bag” which contained a white powder to keep them white at all times. We bought our shoes at Burch’s on First Street, Long’s shoe store, Ben Franklin variety store, or at JC Penney. Spring and summer attire was long cotton skirts and blouses. Our hair was either long with a flip and bangs, or a short cut with a ducktail back. Gym class required a regulation uniform of white shorts, top, and tennis shoes, all worn only in gym class.

Most kids worked in the fields during the summer picking beans and strawberries to make money. A bus or truck picked us up in our neighborhood and transported us to the fields and back home at the end of the day. Again, no one worried about being kidnapped or being harmed. It was our first experience doing hot, hard work and being paid for our efforts, and besides that,

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