

Albany Old Times

Albany Street Railway History Tours

By Bill Maddy, Museum Volunteer

This year will be the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. In December 1870, a year after the driving of the ceremonial golden spike, or the "last spike", at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory, the first train arrived in Albany - the Oregon and California Railroad. With the arrival of the railroad, Albany grew and developed into the Hub of the Willamette Valley and the city we know today. Each year we commemorate the completion of the transcontinental railroad with National Train Day by offering a program about Albany's railroad history.

The Albany Regional Museum will present an Albany Street Railway Virtual History Tour by Albany historian, Bill Maddy, at History Bites at noon on Wednesday, May 8, at the Museum. The program will include the streetcar system history and a virtual ride on the Albany (Continued on Page 3)



Horse-drawn trolley seen here at the St. Charles Hotel at First & Washington, c. 1905. 2007.015.027

Old Charlie By Cathy Ingalls, Museum Board Member

Old Charlie, the whitish horse that pulled a streetcar in Albany for years, was quite the town fixture, yet not much is known about his early years or what eventually happened to him.

Most of what we know comes from Albany historian Bill Maddy

Events

Calendar

Friday, May 3

First Friday at the Museum — Open till 8pm

Wednesday, May 8

History Bites — Albany Street Railway Virtual

History Tour — Noon

Saturday, May 11

Albany Streetcar Tour — \$5 Adults, \$3 Children

Reservations required — 10, 11:30, & 1:30

Friday, June 7

First Friday at the Museum — Open till 8pm

Saturday, June 8

Summer Passport Kick-off at Fire Station 11, 110 SE

6th Ave. Albany, OR 97321 - 10-12 pm

Wednesday, June 12

History Bites — Talking Water Gardens — Noon

Friday, July 5

First Friday at the Museum — Open till 8pm

Wednesday, July 10

History Bites — History of Tec-Labs & Technu —

Noon

Wednesday, July 24

History Through Headstones at Albany Masonic

Cemetery — 7 – Dusk

and Justa Ross Hewitt, whose father owned the horse. Paperwork about the beloved animal is on file at the Albany Regional Museum.

First a little background on why there was a need for a horse to pull the city's streetcar.

Before a streetcar line was installed, hotels in Albany dispatched (Continued on Page 5)

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From the Directors Desk... A season of growth



Keith Lohse, Executive Director

I first arrived in the Pacific Northwest 7 years ago. I began the journey from Indiana to Oregon during a March ice storm. I came by a train crossing the snow-buried Midwest. As we crossed into Western Oregon we came into a land of green growth. Spring had already come to this part of Oregon and the contrast from start to finish of the journey confirmed we had made the right choice; the Northwest was a place for us to grow and flourish.

Jump ahead 7 years and I see this Spring as a reminder that, just as I had all those years ago, the Museum has made the right choices and is positioned to grow and flourish. We have passed the year mark with our newer staff, Amy Bozorth and Erica Broad, each really coming into their own as they grow comfortable with their roles and duties. Our latest exhibit, "Where There's Smoke", is an outstanding success thanks, in large part, to Amy's vision. The Museum rentals, research requests, and photo reproduction services are booming thanks to the fantastic customer service by Erica.

We have brought on new volunteers, including Dan Murphy who will be the Museum's Volunteer Coordinator beginning this month. We are fortunate to have Dan, who served the community as a Linn County judge for 24 years and is a Linn County local. Dan will be working with staff to grow our volunteer program as we expand our recognition (look for the volunteer highlights in this issue!) and training. This does mean that Peggy Kowal has stepped down from the Volunteer Coordinator role, but it is not goodbye. Peggy will continue volunteering and providing her insight to the Museum through the programs committee, exhibits committee, and at events. Thank you, Peggy, for all you do.

The Museum has started a partnership with Easterseals to bring additional help to the Museum. Maggy Giberson covers our front desk as a Visitor Services Representative and Maureen Woisard assists as a Collection Clerk. They are on training assignment with the Museum through the Easterseals program and have been outstanding at moving long-term projects forward. They are at the Museum during all open hours so be sure to say hi when you see them.

Growth is happening with our board as we welcome Fritz Darling and Hannah Darling. Our board is very involved in the operation of the Museum and is driving us to be focused on the strategic plan they approved in January. As noted in the last newsletter, our membership levels have changed and we are proud of the new benefits being offered. We have seen a decline in membership over the past few years, but we are confident the new member incentives will help us grow. With the launch of the new memberships, we have started using new branding; new colors and fonts have been selected for the Museum and are in use in this newsletter.

Looking at our recent attendance numbers, you can see the success the museum is having. Year-over-year we are nearly double the number of attendees. The Museum's time of change and transition is moving into a season of growth. All of us at the Museum are excited about our future.

But we can always use your help. Growth is wonderful, but it requires more time and energy. The Museum would not be where it is without our wonderful community. One of the biggest gifts you can give is your time. If you only have a little time to spare, consider helping with the occasional event. You can set up chairs, make coffee, or any of the number of small tasks it takes to run a smooth program. If you have a bit more time and enjoy helping children, you could be a tour guide for schools. No need to worry about what you would say, we have a script and will work with you to make sure you are ready. If you are handy, we can always use help around the building. Painting, changing lights, and cleaning around the building are just a few of the regular tasks. We have many more ways you can spend your time if you can spare it, so please spend it supporting our community's history.

Can't afford to give time or money? How about donating something on the Museum's Wishlist!

The following items would be helpful to the Museum and would save us the expense of buying new.

- Paper Cutter (rolling or straight blade)
- Folding Three Step Stool
- Folding Tables (6 or 8 ft)
- Furniture Dollies
- Cordless Drill & Bits
- Small Hand-Held vacuum

- Spot Carpet Cleaner
- Bagless Upright Vacuum
- Label Maker
- Office Supplies: Manila Folders, Sheet Protectors, Binder Clips, Tab Binder Dividers



Albany Street Railway History Tours

(Continued from page 1)

Streetcar along its original route featuring a then and now look of a few streetcar stop locations.

The Albany Regional Museum will also present an actual Albany Street Railway History Tour on Saturday, May 11th at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. You will board the vintage Albany Streetcar at the Museum, 136 Lyon Street S., for a narrated ride with Bill Maddy. Registration is required to reserve your ticket to board the Streetcar for one of the tour times. To make a reservation contact the Albany Regional Museum, 541-967-7122.

The streetcar tour will travel the historic route of the Albany Street Railway system that operated from 1889-1918. The route will feature former streetcar stops at historic locations including the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot (Albany Amtrak Station), the Depot Hotel and Van Dran Hotel, Oregon Electric Railway Depot, Hammel Hotel, Revere House, St. Francis Hotel, American Exchange Hotel, and the St. Charles Hotel.

Bill Maddy conducting a Street Railway History tour for National Train Day in 2017.

Collections Corner: Packing a Petulant Portrait By Amy Bozorth, Collections & Exhibits Manager

Painted in oils and surrounded by a gilded frame, the stern and somewhat disapproving face of Reverend James Patterson Millar has been scowling up at me for the past week. Reverend Millar's painting is one of many in the process of being moved and safely stored in a designated framed art storage space on the Museum's second floor. This space was made possible by a grant received in March of 2018 to purchase shelving to help house the Museum's photo, book, and framed art collections. The room designated to house these collections is the second floor's only interior room, ideal for storing the Museum's fragile paper-based collections, away from sunlight and temperature fluctuations caused by exterior

The paintings themselves are carefully measured, photographed, and catalogued before slid into envelopes made from Ethafoam® (an inert foam padding, safe to use with collection objects). The paintings are then labeled with tags that have photos of the paintings and their accession (or tracking) numbers. Tags allow collection staff to identify framed art pieces without having to pull them out of their envelopes, exposing the paintings to light and excessive handling.

walls.

Securing these art pieces in a safe storage environment is a time consuming and laborious project. The museum is lucky, however, to have a number of dedicated volunteers and generous financial donors to help us preserve our collection through projects like these. Grants help us purchase large items like shelving units, but generous donations from our members helps buy the Ethafoam® and cotton tie tape that we could not do this project without. So, thank you for your support! Let's hope when the work is done Reverend Millar approves of his painting's new, safe storage environment.

Find out more about the Reverend James Patterson Millar and his connection to Albany's Octagon House in the Museum's exhibit: "Albany Victorian Houses", on view in the Museum's Community Room.



Collection's new framed art storage area.

Volunteer Corner

By Peggy Kowal, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers are the main stay of any nonprofit organization. The museum is fortunate to have a pool of 36 volunteers ranging in age from 16 to mid-80's.

This hard-working group logged 3,113.75 hours in 2018 doing a variety of tasks, which included collections, research, facilities, building maintenance, school tours, docenting, working on special events and programs, and writing articles. Opportunities to be a part of the volunteer family are just waiting for you. Stop at the museum or go online to sign up.

The time has come for me to step down as Volunteer Coordinator and give someone else the opportunity to serve. It's been my pleasure to work with this group of special people, many I've known since the beginning of my 11 ½ year tenure at the museum. I will become one of the now 37 volunteers. The new Volunteer Coordinator is Dan Murphy, yes, he's the one, retired Judge Murphy.

Volunteer Spotlights

April 7-13, 2019 is National Volunteer week. To celebrate, and get to know, the service of our amazing volunteers, we are highlighting several of them!



Clara Scillian Kennedy

Volunteer 2 Years Volunteer of the Year 2018

Why did you start volunteering at the museum?

When I started my Master's degree in Museum Studies, I decided volunteering would be a good way to gain experience and forge connections in the museum community. A friend pointed me in the direction of the Albany Regional Museum, and I was hooked!

What's the most interesting thing you've learned?

The most interesting thing I have learned about Albany is that the Veterans Day parade is the largest

of its kind west of the Mississippi River. I come from a very small town where there weren't many (if any) parades, and certainly nothing close to the kind of community involvement that Albany has with its Veterans Day parade.

What projects and/or events have you worked on?

I have inventoried, organized, and catalogued the many, many books in the museum, both in the Reference Room and in the collection. I have also assisted with some exhibits and the Art and Air Festival geocaching station.

What do you like most about volunteering?

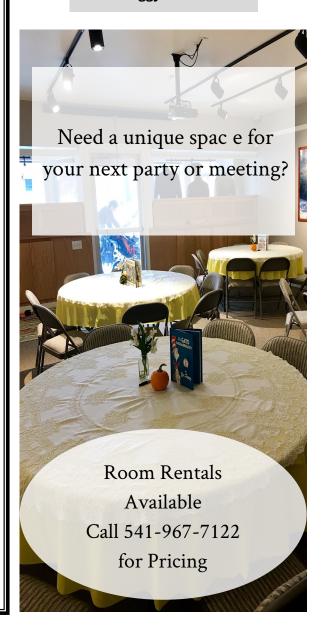
The best thing about volunteering is being able to come to the museum and do something I love. It is never predictable, and there are always new things to learn and discover.

What are your other interests/hobbies?

I crochet and knit, visit museums, read, and antique hunt. I also try to get out and hike as many new trails as I can during the summer.



Peggy Kowal



Volunteer Spotlight



Cathy Ingalls

Board Member, Volunteer 5 Years

Why did you start volunteering at the museum?

As a reporter for the Albany Democrat-Herald, I wrote many stories about the museum, museum events and its exhibits. I also used the museum to help when researching stories. Consequently, when I retired I thought that it would be both fun and rewarding to volunteer in a place where I had enjoyed spending so much time.

What's the most interesting thing you've learned?

Because I write a monthly history of the community column for the museum and for the Albany City Bridges newsletter, I do a lot of research at the museum. For that reason, I've learned so much about the "olden" days of Albany and Linn County.

What projects and/or events have you worked on?

I have helped out at a variety of events put on by the museum: the open house on Veterans Day, History Bites, the teas, and numerous other activities.

What do you like most about volunteering?

It's a treat to write the history columns, as a board member I like taking part in making decisions about the museum and its future, and I like being aware of upcoming museum events.

What are your other interests/hobbies?

Outside the museum, I am a member of two book groups, I am an officer in a women's organization, I am part of a women's walking group and now that I am retired, I've re-connected with friends and we eat out a lot and we take day trips. My house is ruled by two cats and I care for two feral cats.

Old Charlie (Continued from Page 1)

carriages to meet passengers at the Oregon and California Railroad Depot, according to Maddy. But nasty winter weather often resulted in muddy streets so carriages weren't always clean and the rides were rough.

So in 1888, the city authorized the Albany Street Railway Co. to build a streetcar line. Investors and corporate members of the company included some names familiar to us today: Abram Hackleman, William H. Goltra, Samuel E. Young, Moses Sternberg, and William Tweedale.

The line was ready to begin operations on Aug. 30, 1889, when Old Charlie was placed in the traces. Jared Elias Truax Ross, who was born in Quebec, owned the horse that he obtained from a family in Sodaville.

Over time, Old Charlie became so familiar with his route and the running times of the trains that he knew when to head to the depot to pick up passengers, Maddy said.

Once passengers were on board and the bell rang, Old Charlie took off leaving Ross free to move about the streetcar to collect the 5-cent fares.

When a larger car became necessary to accommodate more passengers a second horse was brought in to help Old Charlie.

When Goltra decided to extend the line using what Maddy describes as a steam dummy engine, Old Charlie was no longer needed. But that line was closed not long after it opened.

That is when a locomotive was purchased from the Rogue River Valley Railway and remodeled to do a reduced route. But when that locomotive broke down or needed repair, Old Charlie was called back into service.

When the streetcar line was electrified and Old Charlie got older, Ross and his horse were relegated to pulling a mail truck from the depot to the post office.

Because Old Charlie was so dependable, he never was tied up while he waited between trains. Once when a train was particularly late Ross noticed that when he brought the mailbag outside, the truck was gone and so was Old Charlie.

As it turned out, Old Charlie got tired of waiting and had gone home to his barn.

Hewitt said that when her father bought a 1910 Studebaker to deliver the mail he sold Old Charlie.

But while Old Charlie was still working, Hewitt recalled that Clara, Ross's wife, could be seen riding the horse sidesaddle, and the horse permitted children on his back, but if he got tired or put out with the children, he would walk under the low branch of an apple tree and brush them off.

More detailed information about Jared Ross's life in Oregon and in Albany is on file at the museum.

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Volunteer Spotlights



Jim Jansen,

Volunteer 3 Years 2018 Above & Beyond Award Recipient

Why did you start volunteering at the museum?

Love the museum. I was asked to join the board by a current board member. I agreed and that was the beginning of getting involved in the history of Albany.

What's the most interesting thing you've learned?

Preservation is not just saving items. It has more to do with keeping items in the collection safe. Much of our past has been lost due to poor handling. Keith and Amy have taught us all the correct procedures for handling and storing our precious items.

What projects and/or events have you worked on?

Biggest one is the finances. Moving our accounting back to the museum and directing our savings to more lucrative investments. Time to make money with money. Worked on 2 "Farm to Table" fundraisers. Fun projects.

What do you like most about volunteering?

The people and the community. There are so many people in Albany who are interested in history.

What are your other interests/hobbies?

Gardening, home restoration (we live in a home built in 1879), computer programming/administration, wood working. Oh and I love to go on vacation with Jeff and Roxie.



Madeleine Getz,

Volunteer 10 Months

Why did you start volunteering at the museum?

I started volunteering because I love history and wanted to learn more about my community, and because I wanted a chance to see what working inside a museum would be like.

What's the most interesting thing you've learned?

The most interesting thing I've learned is a tough question; I'd have to say learning about the buildings downtown. It's always really cool to be able to walk around with my family and say, "That used to be a saloon! That was a car dealership! This building was built as part of the New Deal as a post office!" It adds a whole dimension to downtown.

What projects and/or events have you worked on?

I started working downstairs as a docent, but I've done research requests, copied documents for our reference

room, helped research for our new firefighters exhibit, and now I'm upstairs repackaging our military artifacts in collections.

What do you like most about volunteering?

I really like that I can come in every weekend and learn something new about Albany, or the museum, or museum procedure. I also like getting to know people better as you work on projects because it makes the experience that much better.

What are your other interests/hobbies?

I'm really interested in politics, so in my free time I'm the president of West Albany High School's politics club, and I'm also the YMCA Youth and Government's Youth Secretary of State of Oregon. I play violin in the Corvallis Youth Symphony and a lot of local theater as well.

The Largest Monument in Albany's Masonic Cemetery By David Fitchett, Museum Volunteer

We don't know much about Felix O'Toole's early life. He was born in Ireland and settled in Detroit, Michigan as a shoemaker. In the summer he would take new shoes 200 miles north to Au Sable, a village on Lake Huron, and sell them to the fishermen there. In the winter he would return to shoemaking in Detroit. By selling his shoes and other merchandise, he gradually accumulated capital and acquired property in Au Sable and then settled there.

There were 400 - 500 fishermen in Au Sable with 52 small sailing boats. They would go out for whitefish and trout in Lake Huron. Felix O'Toole outfitted all the fishermen with their needed clothing and provisions. He was known for extending credit to the fishermen during the winter and the non-fishing months - and with a trustworthy community, he was always paid back.

In Au Sable, a main street was O'Toole Ave. and the main merchandise was on the O'Toole Block. There he had a merchandise store and, on its second floor, a public hall and Masonic lodge rooms. He also had a billiard room and a post office. Fishing in the region began to give way to the logging industry (Continued on Page 10)

Volunteer Spotlights



Mark Broad

Volunteer 1 Year

Why did you start volunteering at the museum?

To help where needed as suggested by my wife who works at the museum. She voluntold me.

What's the most interesting thing you've learned?

I learned that a local funeral home took over ambulance services before the 1960's, and that 911 didn't exist until the 1970's.

What projects and/or events have you worked on?

Sealing the basement from water intrusion, repairing the stairs, installing shelving, building and repairing exhibit cases, moving heavy furniture, disposing of dead mice, and helping with the community room rentals. I also worked on the pumper in the fire department exhibit.

What do you like most about volunteering?

Helping make my wife's workplace better.

What are your other interests/hobbies?

Welding, restoring our historic house, day trips with Erica and our dogs, dirt bike riding.



Felix O'Toole Monument, Albany Masonic Cemetery 2019. Photo courtesy Erica Broad.

What's been happening at the Museum?

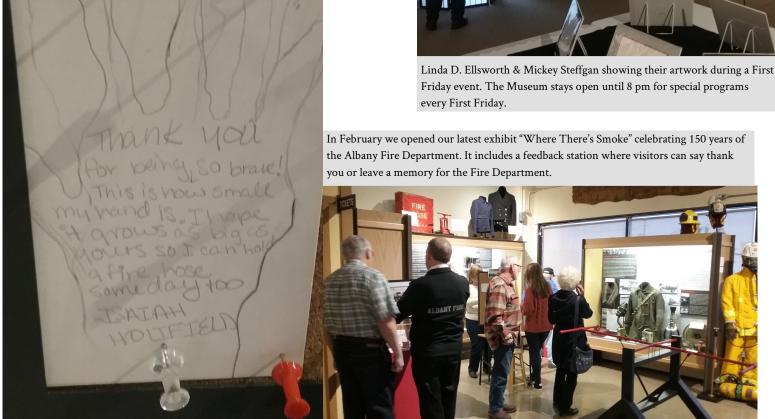


On February 14, 2019, Oregon Celebrated its 160th year of Statehood. The Monteith Historical Society partnered with the Museum to have a "Birthday Party" to celebrate this achievement on February the 16th.



History Bites remains popular. A packed house for Mike Martin's "Nutria, The Other Dark Meat".





Hubbard Bryant a civic-minded resident By Cathy Ingalls, Museum Board Member

At least one way Hubbard Bryant proved that he was a civic-minded citizen of Albany came in 1911 when he and his wife, Adda, announced their plans to deed about 40 acres of his 640-acre farm west of town to the city for a park.

The offer, however, came with restrictions.

Mayor L.M. Curl was uncomfortable with those requirements so it wasn't until 1914 that he put the issue to a city vote. By a 3-1 margin, voters declined to accept the gift.

Following the vote, Hub as he was known, and his wife issued a statement in writing: "You have chosen to refuse the offer of a tract of land for a park. In making this offer, we assure you we had it in our hearts to be generous...believe us, there will be on our part no ill will towards anyone, not contentions and no regrets."

The restrictions that the mayor and others found so onerous included: the city would have to replace any bridge onto the property when necessary, the city would have to maintain the road to the property and develop a branch stretch of street from the road; and no alcohol would be permitted in the park.



Hubbard Bryant & Family. Photo courtesy David Fitchett.

Bryant wanted to pick members of a parks commission to govern the park, and the Chautauqua Association would have the right to use the park each summer for its assemblies.

Five years later in 1919, the Bryants made another offer with mostly the same restrictions, however the park commission requirement was modified. Again Mayor Curl came out against the offer and another citywide vote was ordered. The folks who wanted the acreage for a park launched a well-organized campaign and this time the vote was favorable to accept the land.

To acknowledge the gift, the city ordered that a bronze plaque be erected on a rock at the entrance to the park with the following inscription, according to Dr. David Fitchett, who has researched the Bryant family. The plaque is still there.



It reads: "This tablet erected by the city of Albany in memory of Hubbard Bryant and his wife Adda E. Bryant whose love of nature and little children and their loyalty to home people led them to give 39 acres to make this city park possible. May 14, 1919."

So who are Hubbard and Adda Bryant?

Hubbard was born in 1848 in Missouri to John and Lucinda Bilyeu Bryant. He was the oldest of five children, based on material on file at the Albany Regional Museum.

The family, which at that time included Hubbard and his sister Susan, moved west by wagon train in 1852, settling in Jordan Valley near Scio. The three younger children, Nancy, Thomas and Mary, were born there. Hubbard attended a nearby school and later enrolled at Willamette University in Salem, graduating in 1872 at age 23. Although born with a clubfoot, Hubbard walked home most weekends during the school year to Jordan Valley, a distance of 25 miles.

His school clothing consisted of a suit his mother made from homespun material and woven fabric. His shoes also were homemade. Later to accommodate his different foot sizes, he had to order one shoe in size 6 and the other in a size 7.

Following graduation, Hubbard wanted to make sure his economic future included a number of options, so he took business courses in Portland, read the law in Salem, and then after passing a test, was admitted to the bar.

The year 1874 was a big one for Bryant. He moved to Albany and married Adda. He also was elected surveyor, winning election to the post three times. Bryant practiced law for 10 years and then concentrated on becoming a big landowner. Eventually, he was one of the biggest taxpayers in Linn County. As his income grew, he moved to 1933 Santiam Road next to Periwinkle Creek, then to Fourth Avenue in west Albany, and he purchased the 640 acres just west of Albany.

At its peak, the farm boasted 24 acres of corn, two silos, 94 acres of oats that produced about 9,000 bushels, a large herd of Jersey cows, a pasteurizer, a cooling plant, and an ice works and water washing setup. Later he owned about 40 hogs.

His family included nine children and twelve grandchildren at the time of his death in 1924.

He died in a car wreck in Eastern Oregon, where he was scouting for farms and visiting his daughter and her husband in Union. His driver missed a detour and the car rolled twice down a 20-foot embankment, crushing Bryant against a fender, breaking his neck.

His funeral was on July 11, 1924, and as a sign of respect, banks, stores and the courthouse were closed.

Emblematic of his civic mindedness, Bryant was quoted as having said in wishing to donate his land for a park, "I think it is the duty of every man who makes money in town to leave something for that town...and I am willing to show by my actions that I believe that way."



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Unique Preservation Sponsor Opportunity

May is Historic Preservation Month, a great time to enjoy the many historical elements our community has saved. It is also a great time to think about how you can help preserve today so we can share tomorrow. Much of the Museum's preservation work goes unseen, happening behind the scenes and requiring specialized materials and handling to store our objects in the best conditions.

To assist in our preservation efforts the Museum will be launching a new sponsorship program for pieces in our collection that are in need of these specialized materials and handling. We will have a list of 10 items on our website and Facebook page that need someone to cover the costs of buying acid-free boxes, tissue paper, bags, etc. This sponsor will receive a tax deductible receipt, a thank you in our next newsletter, and an update on the care of the sponsored object from our Collections Manager Amy Bozorth.



Bomber Jacket, ARM Collection 2008.107.001

An example of an object we are seeking a sponsor for is

our Bomber Pilot Outfit, worn by Charles Langmack who at 13 years old established the air field that would become the Albany Airport. For this Bomber Outfit we will be seeking a \$150 sponsorship to give it the home and longevity it deserves. If you have questions about this program call the Museum at 541-967-7122 and speak with Keith.

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Services

The Largest Monument in Albany's Masonic Cemetery (Continue from Page 7)

watched his burial at the

and the local saw mills; that might be the reason why Felix O'Toole came west to Albany.

In 1878 he came to Albany with two friends from Au Sable - Fred Blumberg and George Warner. He invested his money in Albany and some in Portland. He purchased the Russ House on 1st and Lyon and the 1st St. block that Weatherford would later purchase. He did well with his properties and was respected by the community. They often called him "Doc" and he was known for his social nature and a good word for all.

He died in his room in the Russ House on Aug. 19, 1888 at the age of 74. A large crowd Masonic Cemetery with full Mason honors. He left an estate of \$43,000 (present value \$1,234,743), of which \$2,500 (present value \$66,500) was for his monument at the Masonic Cemetery. The rest was equally divided between his two Au Sable friends, with Blumberg getting the western 1st St. block and Warner getting the Russ Hotel. He also left \$500 (present value \$12,500) to Albany's Catholic Church for the care of orphans. Also, there was just \$5 left to Felix O'Toole of Liverpool, England (his relationship to Felix O'Toole is unknown).

On Feb. 3, 1889, several hundred people watched the unveiling of the monument at his grave in the Masonic Cemetery. It must have been a magnificent sight. On the following day the Albany Daily Democrat said "Mt. Hood may be plainly seen any pleasant day from the sidewalk this side of the Masonic cemetery..."

The monument was made in Vermont utilizing six massive pieces of Vermont granite weighing 16 tons. The surrounding curbing is made of California granite. William Steigner of Salem made the curbing and the walkway and supervised the erection of the monument.