

# Albany Old Times

## The Messenger Tree

By Cathy Ingalls,  
Museum Board Member

Stands of majestic Oregon white oak trees that once dominated the mid-valley before settlers arrived have disappeared for the most part, but one tree of significance remains.

That is the “Messenger Oak” in the parking lot of Heritage Mall. The tree, thought to be somewhere between 200 and 300 years old, is a remnant of what is known as the Hackleman Grove.

The tree, with a circumference of 12.5 feet and a crown spreading about 90 feet, got its name because people used to leave notes for one another in a crevice. Because of the tree’s age and size, it was designated as one of Albany’s seven heritage trees in 1999.

(continued on p. 6)



Messenger Tree at Heritage Mall  
courtesy of Kay Burt

## Follow the Sash—Votes for Women

By Kathwren Hayes



Suffragette re-enactor

Abigail Scott Duniway, writer and teacher, wrote *Captain Gray’s Company* AKA *Crossing the Plains and Living in Oregon* in 1859. This was the first commercially published novel in Oregon.

At the age of 13, Abigail left Illinois with her family. It was in Oregon Abigail met her husband, Ben. Because of financial difficulties and Ben’s physical injury, due to a wagon accident, the Duniways sold their land and moved to Albany in 1865.

Abigail opened a millinery shop. This is where she was exposed to the inequalities facing women. In 1870 Martha Jane Foster, Martha Dawson and Abigail initiated the “State Equal Suffrage Association” for Albany and Salem.

In 1871 Duniway moved from Albany to Portland to launch and edit the *New Northwest* newspaper that was dedicated to human rights causes. Abigail’s strongest opponent was her younger brother, Harvey Scott, editor of *The Oregonian* in Portland.

In 1872 Abigail took employment at the Albany Post Office. Mart V. Brown, editor of *Albany Democrat*, severely criticized Abigail until 1876, when he heard her speak at the Court House.

(continued on p. 2)

## Follow the Sash—Votes for Women

(continued from p.1)

The issue of women's voting rights, appeared on the Oregon ballot six times (1884, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912). Oregon became the seventh state in the Union to pass a women's suffrage amendment with 52% yes votes. Governor Oswald West asked Abigail to write out the Equal Suffrage Proclamation for his signature. Abigail Scott Duniway was honored when she was asked to be the first woman to register and vote in Oregon on November 30, 1912.

In 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment extended voting rights to women nationally.

August 26, 2020, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Centenary, of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Abigail had died on October 11, 1915. She will be forever remembered for her gift to Oregon women...*"A government of the people, by the people, and for the people."*



*Duniway writes out Equal Suffrage Proclamation for governor's signature*

To learn more about Abigail & Women Suffrage, visit the Albany Regional Museum.

## From the Directors Desk...

### Be a part of history

What a world we live in. What a unique moment in history. I am sure you are tired of hearing about COVID-19, but here at the Museum we want to know more. We want to know more about your experience at home, at work, or out and about. Your Museum is collecting the stories of the pandemic and how our community responded.

Keeping a journal, writing notes, and recording your thoughts can be helpful in times like these. I bet you have wondered what life was like for those living through the Great Depression or the Spanish Flu. I am sure you've wished you could read about the everyday experience of your family from those days. Your experience NOW, during this pandemic will be a wonder to future generations. It will be something the next generation will study and want to know about.

We encourage you to add your voice to the historical record. Share your personal reflections by submitting your



**Keith Lohse, Executive Director**

experience through our online form, [armuseum.com/share-your-experience](http://armuseum.com/share-your-experience), or by mailing a note to the Albany Regional Museum (136 Lyon Street S., Albany, OR 97321). All written and electronic submissions must include your full name, contact information (address, phone number, or email), and the date.

Collecting stories of the community is not the only work we are focused on. We are also working hard to be ready to welcome you back to explore exhibits and enjoy our programs. The Museum is taking steps to mark 6-foot distances through the gallery space, reducing touchpoints, and developing enhanced cleaning schedules. Going forward, our reference room will be available upon reopening, but by appointment only, to allow time to disinfect between uses. These are some of the measures we are taking in preparation for a future reopening. All these measures are for the safety of our community, staff, and volunteers. We are in this together and we will do our part.

Some of you may be wondering how you can help, and we have several options for you. We are still selling memberships that start as low as \$30. If you already have a membership you can always donate \$10, \$20, \$50, or really any amount to help. Maybe you want to sponsor an object to support our preservation efforts, we have new objects listed on our website that need materials for care. Sponsor opportunities range from \$5 - \$100 and objects you can support include a Timber Carnival shirt, a songbook, and even an organ. We will reopen again, but we will only move forward with your support. Be safe, be well, and thank you for doing your part.

*Keith Lohse*

## Albany Regional Museum Selected to Participate in Collection Assessment for Preservation Program

We have some amazing news! The Albany Regional Museum is one of 75 institutions in the United States selected to participate in the [Collections Assessment for Preservation \(CAP\)](#) program.

CAP helps museums improve the care of their collections by providing support for a general conservation assessment of the museum's collections and buildings. CAP is a multiple-step process requiring close collaboration of the assessment team, consisting of the institution's paid and/or volunteer staff, a collections assessor, and a building assessor. The Museum will select assessors, complete several questionnaires, and then have a two-day site visit (involves interviews with staff and a review of all facilities that house collections). The assessors will then write and submit a report containing prioritized recommendations for improved collections care at the site.

This opportunity was identified in our 2020 strategic plan to support our preservation efforts. It gets right to the heart of our mission "To preserve, exhibit, and encourage knowledge of the Albany, OR area." The assessment report will be used for years as a guidepost for our preservation efforts and will be a support for future grant applications related to those efforts. We are excited for the chance to participate in this great program and to keep moving forward focused on our mission.

The CAP program is administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Foundation for Advancement in Conservation saves cultural heritage for future generations, protecting it from decay and destruction. Learn more about FAIC at [www.culturalheritage.org/foundation](http://www.culturalheritage.org/foundation).

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. They advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Their vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov).



## Protecting Your Family Treasures

Preservation isn't just for the Museum's objects, your own family treasures are important and we wanted to offer some tips on how you can protect your family heirlooms.

### Hanging Textiles

- Only hang clothes that have good shoulder support (no spaghetti straps/thin straps or items so heavy that their weight will over stretch the shoulder)
- Never use metal hangers which can rust or thin plastic/velvet covered hangers which can stretch out the shoulder. Instead use un-dyed padded hangers with plenty of width to support the natural shoulder. If possible, make hangers yourself to fit the garment, using wooden hangers, quilting batting, and 100% cotton, unbleached stockinette tubing.



### Framing Photos & Documents

- Use UV-blocking glass or "Museum Glass" found at most hobby stores.
- Make sure your photos/documents do not directly touch the glass. Photos can stick to glass and ink can rip ink off documents.
- Use acid-free mat boards and backing. Never use cardboard as it can badly discolor your items.

For more advice on preserving your family treasures visit our research page on [armuseum.com](http://armuseum.com). There you can find our May 2020 History Bites video on Preserving Your Treasures, as well as reference documents with more tips for preservation at home.

## Smith Glass: "On the cutting edge since 1945"

By Ed Loy



In August 1997, Democrat-Herald reporter Robert Hood interviewed Albany businessmen Lynn Smith and his son Jim, the owners of Smith Glass. In his write-up for the paper, Hood observed: "Like a mirror, Smith Glass Service has reflected the changing times in Albany for the past 52 years."

The story of Smith Glass begins with World War II. During the war and prior to entering the glass business,

Lynn Smith worked as a machinist in the Portland shipyards. During that time, he lived in Vanport, a boomtown on the Columbia River predominantly populated by shipyard workers and their families. Meanwhile, Albany businessman Allen Edwards, Lynn's uncle by marriage, had purchased a local planing mill. With the shipyards closing at the conclusion of the war in 1945, Lynn brought his family back to Albany and joined Allen as partner in a new glass company to complement the mill.

The original Smith Glass shop and the adjacent planing mill were located on the Willamette River at the north end of Lyon Street, a site now dominated by the south approach to the bridge. Dating from the 1880s when the river was the scene of most local industry, the wooden buildings that housed the mill and the glass business were built out over the river, and the air freely circulating beneath them made them drafty and very difficult to heat in the winter. Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the mill's machinery was powered by water channeled from the Santiam Canal through downtown by a system of flumes. Half a century later, just a few feet away from the Smith Glass building, log trucks routinely dumped their loads down the bank into the river where the logs were herded into huge rafts to be floated to mills downstream, a striking scene from an era gone by.

Many years later, Lynn recalled that he started Smith Glass with a single employee, and that in 1945 Albany's population was 5,280. Today, after 75 years in business, the company has approximately 20 employees at two locations, and primarily services Albany, Corvallis and neighboring towns, an area with a population of some 150,000 people. In the 1940s, Smith Glass produced mainly wood-framed residential windows and installed auto glass; today, residential windows with vinyl frames and window wall assemblies for commercial projects are the company's mainstay products.

Smith Glass had become firmly established by the close of the 1950s, and important progress and accelerated growth for the young company came over the following twenty years. Jim Smith decided to join the business in 1964 after attending the University of Oregon. About that time the company added paint and stains to its product line. The firm relocated to its present, larger location at 133 N. Lyon in the late 1960s to make way for the construction of the new Highway 20 bridge to North Albany and Corvallis. In 1967, Smith Glass expanded by adding a store in Corvallis, an outlet in Lebanon in 1976, and another in Tangent in 1978; the company no longer owns the Lebanon and Tangent operations.

Monday, July 25, 1977, marked one of the memorable events in the history of the company. Early that morning, the Albany Fire Department responded to a spectacular blaze that started in the planing mill and quickly spread to an adjacent storage building shared with Smith Glass. Dry lumber and paint stored inside the old wood buildings fueled flames reported to be anywhere from 60 to 300 feet high. The intense heat from the fire broke windows in the Smith Glass store half a block away despite a brisk south breeze that pushed the flames toward the river. The planing mill was a total loss and was not rebuilt. A few years later Edwards Industries sold the land to the city to become part of the future Dave Clark Path.

By 1983, Lynn was ready to call it a career, and son Jim assumed management of the business. Some years after taking over leadership of the company, Jim wryly confided to a newspaper reporter, "People usually aren't happy when they're buying glass. It's something you don't think about until it's broken. Most of our customers only see us once every five years or so, and that's about all they want to see us." In 1987, the business became entirely owned by the Smith family, and the Edwards interests relocated to the Portland area.

Jim Smith retired in 2006, and since then the company has been in the hands of its third-generation owner/manager, Jim's son Bryan. Bryan's chief concern is keeping the business thriving during the economic slowdown caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The genesis of Smith Glass in the historic wooden building that clung to the Willamette River's bank established an enduring link with Albany's past, an era when the area's trade was concentrated downtown and local business owners were the backbone of the city's commerce.



*courtesy of Kathwren Hayes*

## Welcome All Looky -Loos

By Kathwren Hayes

Did you know that the Milky Way makes up only 10% of space? That is the part that is known to today's astronomers. 90% is Dark Matter and it is unknown!

My husband John and I followed the sun this winter to Arizona. I wanted to see where that shiny gold sticker on my (ARM) Albany Regional Museum membership card that says "North American Reciprocal" would take me.

After previewing my options online at (NARM) North American Reciprocal Museum, I decided to visit Kitt Peak National Observatory. But wait, before that I got wind that I could take a tour of the Mirror Lab at University of Arizona. There we saw one of the mirrors being made for the world's largest optical telescope to be located in Chile—5 times larger than the top observing instruments in use today. U of A is the only place in the world making these mirrors.

A couple days later the sky was clear. We drove SE from Tucson, AZ, 37 miles. We ended up on top of Kitt Peak at an elevation of 6,875 feet. There are 25 optical and 2 radio telescopes there.

I handed my card to the cashier and he said that being a NARM member entitled us to all three tours. Adult admission was \$15, but with my NARM status it was FREE to me and my husband... a \$30 savings! A retired astronomer showed us the McMath-Pierce solar telescope, the 2.1-meter telescope, and the 4-meter Mayall telescope.

If you go, pick a clear day, pack a picnic lunch, bring a jacket, walking shoes, camera. Allow plenty of time to see the exhibits in the Visitor Center, and prepare to be amazed by viewing the Sun. Yes, that's right. A public solar light filter reduces the brightness by 99.99%, allowing for observations of the sun. Or you can plan an overnight Stargaze.

Going on vacation in the future? With a Hub City, Heritage Circle, or Takena Society level of ARM membership, you'll automatically become a member of NARM, receive a percentage off purchased merchandise, go places you might not have considered and learn things you didn't know. NARM museums, galleries, gardens and zoos are located in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, El Salvador and Mexico. So go ahead! I'm inviting you to be a Looky-loo too! <https://narmassociation.org>



## Membership Benefits Us All

The North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association® network is a mosaic of 1,169 art museums and galleries, historical museums and societies, botanical gardens, children's museums, zoos and more. When you sign up at our Hub City (\$150) level or higher you also become a NARM member and receive reciprocal membership benefits across the United States, Canada, Bermuda, El Salvador and Mexico.



**NORTH AMERICAN  
RECIPROCAL MUSEUM (NARM) ASSOCIATION**®



136 Lyon Street SW

Albany, Oregon 97321

(541) 967-7122

e-mail: info@armuseum.com

### Board of Directors:

Darrel Tedisch, Chair  
Kristen Schuttpehlz, Vice Chair  
Linda Collins, Secretary  
Jim Jansen, Treasurer  
Ruth Alderson  
Kitty Buchner  
Fritz Darling  
Hannah Darling  
Jason Darling  
David Faller  
Cathy Ingalls  
Dan Murphy, Volunteer Coordinator  
Erik Rau

### Staff:

Keith Lohse, Executive Director  
Amy Bozorth, Collections & Exhibits  
Manager  
Erica Broad, Member & Visitor Services  
Coordinator  
Kathwren Hayes, Member & Visitor  
Services

## The Messenger Tree *(continued from Page 1)*

Other Albany Heritage Trees include:

- The Incense Cedar at 406 Sixth Ave. S.W. The tree boasted a massive trunk and stood 100 feet tall. The tree probably was planted about 1880.
- The Camperdown Scotch Elm at 547 Seventh Ave. S.W. Camperdown elms have weeping branches so they often were planted in cemeteries.
- The Shagbark Hickory at Henderson Park, Calapooia Street and Eighth Avenue S.W. When it received heritage status, it was considered likely to be very old.
- The American Chestnut at 393 Creswell Lane N.W. in North Albany. It was probably planted in the early Albany settlement days.
- The Copper Beech at 532 Ferry St. S.W. It is of the purple-leaf variety and probably was planted at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- The Black Walnut at 1431 Highway 20 N.W. It measured 83 inches in diameter and 22 feet in circumference. The tree was planted around 1889.
- Hybrid Persian Walnut at the U.S. Department of Energy Research Center. The tree can be traced back to 1899, where a small wood-framed home and Albany Nurseries were located.

Albany was named a Tree City USA 20 years ago. The program, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, involves meeting standards related to tree planting and management.