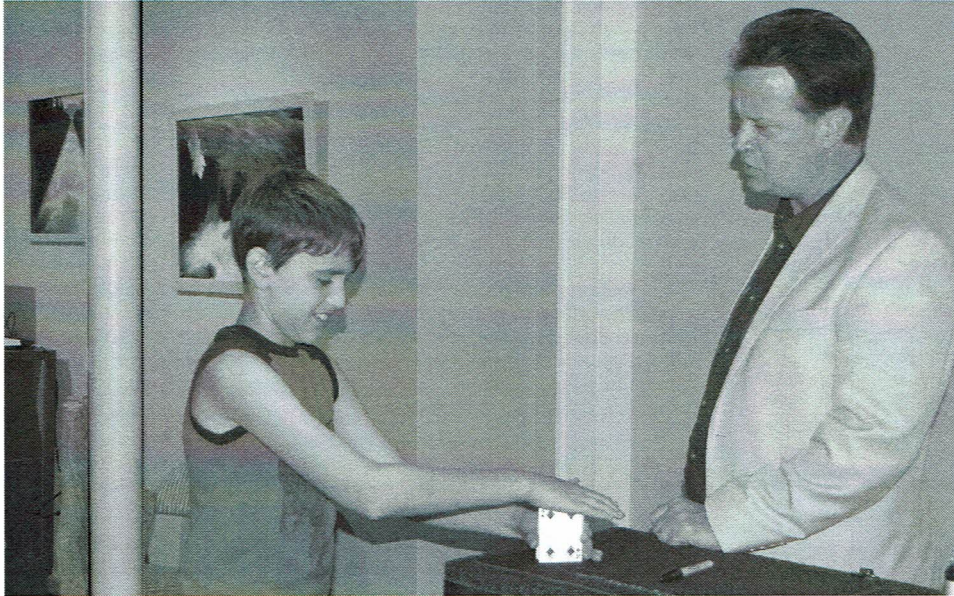


Albany Old Times



A magical morning. Spencer Weatherly, 14, is a willing partner for Jeff McMahon's card illusion presented in the Community Room on May 9. Spencer, his parents, and sister (all magic enthusiasts) drove to Albany from Lebanon for the event.

Andrus Brothers feted in May events

The Museum gave permission for friends and admirers to showcase the myriad talents of George (1916 -) and Jerry Andrus (1918-2007) all month through a series of talks, magic tricks, and exhibits that filled the walls of the entry and Community Room. From Jerry's costumes, magic accoutrements, and props, to George's photographs, creative writing, and musical compositions, the public came to appreciate their collective genius.

From Zone Zero to the Lost Sock Trick, the audience was entertained and amazed by

illusions created by Jerry Andrus and presented by local magician Jeff McMahon on Saturday, May 9 in the Community Room. "I trained and worked with Jerry Andrus over the years, and it's an honor to demonstrate his moves and principles," McMahon said. Also present was Jeanine DeNoma, who demonstrated several of Jerry's optical illusions.

Previously, Jerry's friend and magician, Ray Hyman, gave a talk on May 9. On May 23, George was able to attend and answer questions from his friends and admirers.

E & E Calendar Events & Exhibits

Wednesday, June 10
 "History Bites"- MoonShadow
 Lavender Farm with the Blasquez's
 Community Room - Noon

Saturday, June 13
 Summer Passport Kick-Off at the
 Museum - 10 am - 1 pm

Wednesday, July 8
 "History Bites" - The Cowgill-
 Weatherford-Thompson Story
 Community Room - Noon

Saturday, July 11
 Crazy Days Sidewalk Sale
 Downtown Albany

Wednesday, July 22
 History Through Headstones Tour
 - Albany Masonic Cemetery on
 Broadway - 7 pm - dusk

Saturday, July 25
 Historic Homes/Buildings
 Annual Summer Tour - 11 am - 5 pm
 Contact the AVA for more
 information

Saturday, August 8
 All Members Ice Cream Social
 - NW Banjo Band and ice cream
 with all the trimmings - 1-3 pm
 at the Museum

Saturday, September 12
 Antiques in the Street - All day

Sarah Helmick: The name behind the Hwy. 99 park

By Cathy Ingalls,
 Museum Member

If those traveling on 99W six miles south of Monmouth are paying attention, they can't miss the signs for the Sarah Helmick State Recreation Site located west of the highway.

The day park in Polk County is situated on the floodplain of the Luckiamute River and boasts grassy areas along with big leaf maple, Douglas fir and black cottonwood trees. Helmick donated about five acres to the

state in the early 1920s for a park and that was followed by other donations and a land purchase, bringing the park site to a little more than 30 acres.

Helmick gave the property for a park to thank the federal government for providing her and her husband, Henry, with a 640-acre donation land claim in 1846, a year after the couple arrived here from Iowa after traveling The Oregon Trail.

According to information on file at the Albany Regional Museum,

Gov. Walter Pierce, other state officials along with about 7,000 people, gathered on Sept. 24, 1924, to dedicate the West Side Highway as it was called then and to honor and pay tribute to "the spirit which prompted the generous gift."

By that time Helmick, a widow, was living in a home she had built at 138 Seventh Avenue, SE, in Albany. The house still stands.

So who is Sarah Helmick?

She was born in Mouckport, Ind.,

on July 4, 1823, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Steeprow. One of 12 children, she lived at home at age 22, caring for her widowed mother in Burlington, Iowa. It was said she was a gifted spinner and weaver, helping her mother make hats and clothing to sell. Her total public education amounted to three months.

Sarah's husband Henry was born Sept. 14, 1822, in Germany, and crafted wagons. In April

(Continued on Page 7)

From the director's desk—community connections

Community connections help build the vitality of our organization and our community by participating in events of other organizations and collaborative projects that support the Museum's mission.

Three recent events/projects come to mind that solidify the notion that when you combine your resources, your community power multiplies.

The first involves the **Albany Public Library** and the **Albany Regional Museum** working together to sort, rehouse and digitize the **Bob Potts Photo Collection**. This collaborative effort will preserve and develop heritage resources with the digitized photographs available for viewing, research, and further identification accessible on the Library and Museum websites.

The project has been made possible through the **Oregon**



Judie Weissert

Heritage All-Star Community 2014 Grant. Many individuals are involved in this partnership: Addie Maguire, Noah Weldon, Dennis Burkhardt (Museum); and LaRee Dominguez and Jason Darling (Library). Watch for details on our websites as the project progresses.

The second and third collaborative efforts involve two May events. The **Albany Vintage Bicycle Show & Swap Meet** hosted by Deluxe Brewing Co. who designated the proceeds from the entry fees to the Museum. Our 1949 Schwinn Deluxe Bicycle was entered in the show and is now available for viewing at the Museum. The second event was in support of **National Train Day** and held at the Amtrak Station. Dave Fitchett shared information about the Museum, and Bill Maddy acted as conductor for the trolley rides around downtown.

These three endeavors are only a sample of the many efforts of Museum staff, Board members, and volunteers in keeping the Albany Regional Museum connected with the community.

Museum Shorts...

*35 FOR 35 Campaign:

A special fundraising initiative to celebrate our 35th Anniversary. I urge you to consider making a tax deductible donation to embrace the Museum's current and future plans.

*AmazonSmile:

A simple and easy way to support the Museum. It's the same shopping experience as amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases to the Museum. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/93-0792313> which will link you directly to smile.amazon.com to start shopping.

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

Directors switch officer roles in May; Darling, Heinonen added to Board

Museum Board, Staff

Museum Directors:
Darrel Tedisch, Chair
Kristen Schuttpelz, Vice-Chair
Julie Sipe, Secretary
Debbie Heinonen, Treasurer
Mary Arnett
Cathy Baker
Gary Burch
Dennis Burkhardt
Kay Burt
Scott Cowgill
Jason Darling
David F. Fitchett
Erik Rau

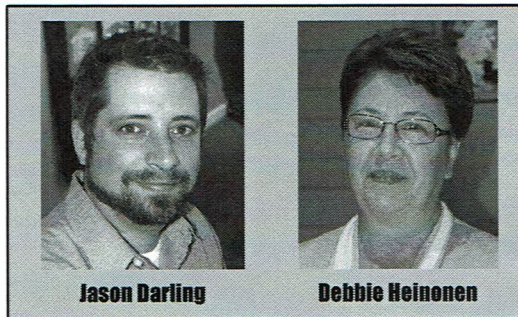
Liaison:
Rebecca Bond,
Albany Visitors Association

Board Member Emeritus:
Gerald Brenneman

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

Board officer positions were shuffled this spring and two new members were added to the Board of Directors roster.

By unanimous vote at the May meeting, Kristen Schuttpelz and Darrel Tedisch switched chair and vice-chair roles. Schuttpelz will also assume the chair of the newly-structured program committee that oversees events, volunteers, and membership. Julie Sipe moved to the office of secretary so that Kay Burt could devote more time to editing *Albany Old Times*.



Jason Darling

Debbie Heinonen

Jason Darling and Debbie Heinonen were elected to the Museum Board of Directors at the April and May meetings, respectively, and say that they are eager to lend their skills in such areas as grant writing and finance. Their terms expire in 2018, with Darling filling a vacant slot, and Heinonen assuming Board treasurer duties, replacing Shannon Leland-Willard.

Darling is from Syracuse, New York, and has lived in Albany for 12 years. He has run the downtown Carnegie Library for 10 years and lives downtown with his wife, Jennifer, and their one-year-old twins. Jennifer is also a downtown business owner. "For a Museum this size to have so much history intact is exciting," Jason said. He is especially intrigued by the Potts photo collection.

Heinonen is a graduate of West Albany High School and went right to work in the county sheriff's office, retiring in 2009 after 36 years. In 2014 she returned part-time as accounting clerk for Linn County Sheriff Bruce Riley. Heinonen admits to split loyalties: One daughter graduated from West and the other from South. Husband Allen is a retired banker. "It's early yet, but I hope to help the Museum in any way I can. It's a great group of volunteers—everyone has been wonderful," she said.

Wish List

- Battery-operated blower for outdoor use.
- Two metal shelving units for collections.
- Battery-operated vacuum for quick cleanups.

Call for Collections Volunteers

If you have interest in working with historical artifacts and learning more about Albany history, consider joining the collections team to help in this renovation effort! We are

currently looking for individuals who have experience working with computers and have a passion for history. E-mail Addie Maguire at cataloger_arm@peak.org for more information.

A day at the Museum...

Membership, Visitors & Events Update

New Members—

Individual—Kathwren Hayes, Debbie Heinonen, Luessia Thomason.
Family—Steve Anderson, Nick & Patty Baga, Jason & Jennifer Darling.

Museum sees spring flurry of activity—

Everything from A to Z has been happening in the Museum. Groups from AAUW to VVCA (car club) have visited or used the Community Room over the last few months. Our three History Bites programs have included spring gardening tips by Sheryl Casteen of Casteen Family Farm, architectural style homes in the Hackleman and Monteith Historic Districts by Jacho and Emma Eaton, and the history of Albany trains by Bob Lowry.

April brought cake and fun to the Community Room as one of our members celebrated an 80th birthday. One of our members, Nancy Tropic, Portland, and her sister, Jarra Wilson, Seattle, hosted a story-telling party centered on their great step-aunt, Ardyth Kennelly, one of Albany's most noted authors. Ardyth passed away before her last book, *Variation West*, was published. Nancy told stories then read a few passages from Ardyth's book that she edited and had published.

The Annual Tea was a smashing success with 68 guests being served once again by the men. The room was elegantly decorated with pastel tablecloths and beautiful flowers from director, Judie Weissert's garden. Nancy Robb gave an informative and fun program on the history of tea, how to brew a "proper cup" and explained the difference between noon tea and high tea.

The last few months have seen 195 elementary school children, an adult history class, 82 Fit Walkers and several senior groups come through the door, as well as the other 464 visitors. The Andrus brothers were the focus of the Community Room every Saturday in May. There was something for everyone, young and old—from longtime friends remembering Jerry with stories and performing some of his illusions, to watching a video of him, to exploring his props or trying their hand at his "magic." The hallway and Community Room is a gallery of beautiful, interesting and often awe-inspiring creative photos taken by George.

ARM's collection undergoing refinement

By Addie Maguire,
Collections Manager

The backbone of a museum is its collection. Over the past 35 years, the Albany Regional Museum has acquired a vast amount of archival materials, books, photographs and objects to "preserve, exhibit, and encourage knowledge of the Albany, Oregon, area." We have now reached a point in which the Museum can be more selective in what is acquired in order to better refine the collection. The new vision is to renovate the collections space to better house and preserve our historical treasures.

Since the beginning of the year, incredible progress has been made in organizing the collections. The Collections Freeze, a helpful part of this process, was put into effect March 1 and ended June 1. This limited the intake of acquisitions which allowed for better evaluation of our pre-existing accessions. The Collections Office has been reorganized to include designated areas for temporary loans, volunteer projects, and exhibit staging. The supply room on the second floor has been reorganized, and overall, the second floor is undergoing a total transformation.

The first step in making this vision a reality is to invigorate our Collections Management Policy. This policy is a critical tool to solidify procedures, ethics, and legalities when dealing with acquisitions. It is a living document available to all staff, volunteers, Board members, and the general public as a set of checks and



From Babies to Bottles—(l to r): Noah Weldon, collections assistant; Cassidy Mayton, volunteer; Emma Hessel, volunteer; and Addie Maguire, Collections Manager, assess items for archiving.

balances to ensure all work in the collections is done in the most efficient and respectful way possible. The next step will be an exhaustive inventory to assess exactly what historical treasures we currently have under our protection. This will ensure our collection does not contain duplicates of items and contains the best representation of Albany's history

Transformation of our collection has been made possible thanks to a dedicated team effort. Noah Weldon, Collections Assistant, has been working to identify artifacts on the second floor and working in the Potts Collection. He will be graduating this spring from Oregon State University with a bachelors in history. Collections volunteers Cassidy Mayton, Emma Hessel, Paris DeMers, and Carri Bodi have been working to inventory and

catalogue neglected accessions. Carri is an OSU graduate with a bachelors in history, Cassidy is an OSU student studying anthropology with a focus in archeology, Emma is an OSU student studying art history, and Paris DeMers is an LBCC student studying anthropology.

We, as a Museum, should be proud of our collection, and that pride should be reflected in how we present, protect, and enhance our artifacts. Future donors and current donors alike will appreciate the work being done to protect their donations, and researchers and staff will have better access to the information these collections possess. The foundation has been laid, the structure has been built, and now we can begin an exciting new era of the Albany Regional Museum.

Eleven added to summer Memorial Roll

Eleven names have been added to the Museum's Memorial Roll since the spring issue of *Albany Old Times*.

They include: Marge Barrett, Don Brash, Adm. Vincent de Poix, Jim Fuson, and Marcia Lewis.

Also on the list are: Hector Macpherson, Jr., John William "Jack" Miner, Betty Lou Morris, Mary Belle Resser Vaughn-Reiff, Sam Suklis, and Robert Warren.

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 at the Museum.

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 Street, S for further information.

Story ideas?

Albany Old Times welcomes your ideas for stories as well as articles about area history for publication.

Contact Kay Burt at kathryn.burt@comcast.net with your suggestions and submissions.

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



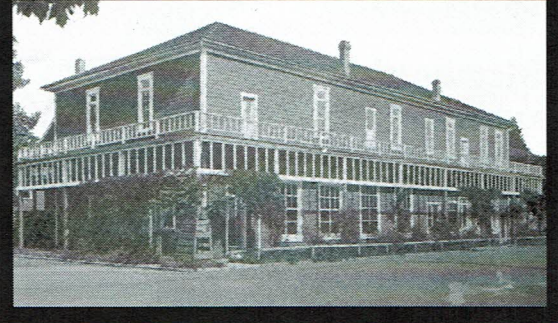
Amanda Gardner
Johnson grave



Ben Johnson grave



Martin Payne
(photo courtesy of Wes Hare)



J.L. Hill's museum at Third Avenue &
Washington Street, c. 1914. (ARM photo)

From DAR notables to a freed slave, eighth

By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Member

A wealthy farmer, two former slaves, and two women descended from Revolutionary War soldiers are among those whose lives will be profiled during the eighth annual History Through Headstones tour on Wednesday, July 22, at the Albany Masonic Cemetery.

The free event begins at 7 pm and concludes about 8:30 pm and is sponsored by St. John's Lodge No. 17 and the Albany Regional Museum. The cemetery, part of the Harvey Gordon Donation Land Claim and opened in 1868 but has a recorded burial in 1853, is at 700 Broadway Street SW. Because the cemetery is small, participants are asked to park on adjacent side streets.

As part of the tour, members of the Friends of the Albany Masonic Cemetery will demonstrate improvements being undertaken at the site, such as how to document, scrape, clean and seal a marker using approved preservation methods. Ongoing headstone cleaning and preservation work is funded in part by a grant from the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries.

The lives of seven Albany residents buried in the cemetery will be recounted by volunteers, some of whom are related to the people they will talk about.

Gus McGowan Jr., of Friends of the Masonic Cemetery, will offer insights into the lives of Ben Johnson and his wife, Amanda Gardner Johnson.

The Johnsons had been slaves in Missouri before traveling to the state over the Oregon Trail in 1853. Amanda's owners, the Anderson Deckards, offered Amanda her freedom if she wanted to stay in Missouri, but she elected to travel to Oregon, saying she was "afraid to accept her liberty."

Amanda later worked in the home of James and Martha Foster, where it was said that she was treated with respect and was like one of the family. The Fosters, defying the racism of the times, hosted Amanda and Ben's wedding in their home in 1870.

Cousins, Albany City Manager Wes Hare and Linda Modrell, former Benton County commissioner, will recall their ancestor Martin Payne.

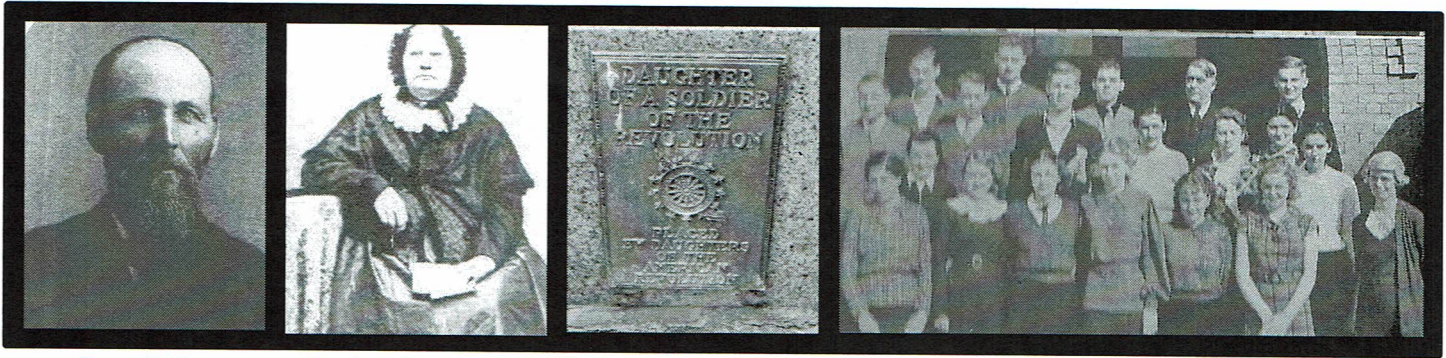
According to Hare, his great-great grandfather's brother arrived in Albany in 1851 from Vermilion County, Ill. He and his first wife, Mary Price, had seven children before moving to Oregon, where they established a prosperous farm. Payne settled on a donation land claim that still is being farmed near the intersection of Goltra and Grand Prairie roads. The Fairview Mennonite Church is thought to be on part of the property. In his obituary in *The Oregonian* in 1900, Payne is described as one of "Linn County's wealthy and most prominent pioneer settlers." He was a county commissioner from 1870-72.

David Fitchett will discuss the life of Dr. J. Linsey Hill, one of the state's pioneering physicians. Hill was born in McNairy County, Tenn., in 1845, and moved to Oregon with his father, Dr. Rueben Coleman Hill, in 1853. Linsey graduated from Willamette University in 1871. Later, he was described as a world traveler, a deep thinker and a writer of ability. His natural history objects collected on his tours became part of the Horner Museum collection. He was a charter member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges in Albany.

Betty Thorn will interpret the life of her great-grandfather, Cyrus Hamlin Walker, who is said to be the first white male child born west of the Rocky Mountains who lived to maturity. He was born at the Whitman Mission on Dec. 7, 1838, and was educated at Pacific University in Forest Grove and later farmed in that area. Walker served in the United States Cavalry during the Civil War and was stationed in Idaho charged with guarding the Oregon Trail. After the war, he lived on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and for a time was the assistant government agent there. He later lived in Linn County and was a religious leader and president of the Oregon State Pioneers Association. He died in Albany in May 1921.

Tami Sneddon will provide information about Elizabeth Carder Rand Froman, who was born in April 1802 in Brown County, Ohio, and died in September 1886 in Albany.

Froman was the daughter of Revolutionary War soldier, Thomas Rand, who was born in Ireland and emigrated to America at age 17. Froman, who came to the state on the Oregon Trail, has the



Cyrus Walker
(ARM photo)

Elizabeth Rand Froman

Plaque on Froman marker
dedicated by DAR in 1927

Fanny Chase (front row, far right)
with her '36 AHS yearbook staff

Headstone Tour recounts seven lives

distinction of having the first Daughters of the American Revolution marker to be placed in Oregon over the grave of a daughter of a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Marilyn Larney will profile Fanny Dorothy Chase, a

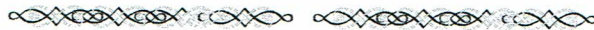
member of the Linn Chapter of the DAR, organized in February 1914. Chase's Revolutionary War patriot was Pvt. Nathaniel Tuthill (1730-1803) who enlisted from the state of New York.

Chase was born in March 1885 in Cayuga, N.Y., and

died in Albany in July 1973. She was an English teacher and yearbook adviser at Albany High School where she started the Literary Explorers Club that was popular among her senior students for many years. She lived with two sisters at the family property called Chase

Orchards on Queen Avenue, SW.

For more information about the tour, contact the Albany Regional Museum at 541-967-7122 or visit at 136 Lyon Street S.



Fraternal Movement remains in downtown buildings

By Cathy Ingalls, Museum Member

The Great Fraternal Movement in America flourished from 1865-1918, when one in every five men belonged to one or more fraternal societies. Several of those groups were active in Albany, and buildings where at least two of the societies met still stand downtown.

The Freemasons' St. John's Lodge No. 17 meets once a month in the 134-year-old Masonic Building, 425 First Avenue NW, while Knights of Pythias members gathered upstairs at Third Avenue and Lyon Streets, the structure that until recently housed The White Rose floral shop. The Albany Pythians appear to have disbanded several years ago.

Around the Civil War period, there were two Masonic lodges in Albany, one consisting of Southern sympathizers and the other reflected a Union viewpoint. Both met at different times at the lodge; but in 1904 the two lodges joined, taking the St. John's name. Notable members of the Albany lodge include Delazon Smith, a former United States senator; attorney J.K. Weatherford, and former Governor George Chamberlain.

Nationally, members included presidents George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Theodore Roosevelt. Today as always, Masons, probably founded during the Middle Ages, work to improve communities by helping others, particularly children and the elderly.

The Knights of Pythias was started in Washington, D.C., as a militaristic fraternal society about 1864 by Justus Henry Rathbone to aid those affected by the Civil War. There were thousands of members by the 1870s, who wore uniforms, carried ornate swords, and paraded publicly as a ceremonial unit.

The organization stresses friendship, charity, and benevolence and uses the Bible and the American flag in its rituals. Well-known members include Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, William McKinley, and Warren Harding.

The three-story, 60-by-100-foot Masonic building was constructed in 1880 in the American Renaissance style. The lodge retains use of the top two floors, while storefronts are on the street level. It sits on a brick foundation and at one time had a clock tower.

In 1913, the building was remodeled under the direction of noted Oregon architect Charles Burggraf, who lived and worked in Albany between 1899 and 1933. Burggraf also designed the three-story Pythias building in an Italianate style with the 14,342-square-foot first floor dedicated to commerce.

The second floor contains 14 apartments that ring the periphery. Laurel Lodge No. 7, organized in 1879, met in a room built in the center of that floor.

Floors and woodwork in the building need refinishing but are largely intact, according to Robert Dortignacq of the planning, architectural, and conservation firm in Portland that the City of Albany has used for consultant work. "The building has a high degree of historic integrity," he said in his 2013 report to the City.

Early on, Hulbert-Ohling Hardware Co. occupied the main floor of the structure. In the 1920s, Mountain States Power Co. took over the space; and its successor, Pacific Power & Light, moved in during the 1970s. Later, Home Federal Administration offices were there along with Patterson Furniture.

Museum Outreach



Museum members Sandy Hlebichuk and Mamie Henny wore festive hats to the annual Museum Tea on April 24.



Museum member Nancy Robb (in hat at lectern, above) enchanted the audience with tea lore. She also provided recipes for traditional scones, cookies, and tea sandwiches prepared by Museum volunteers.

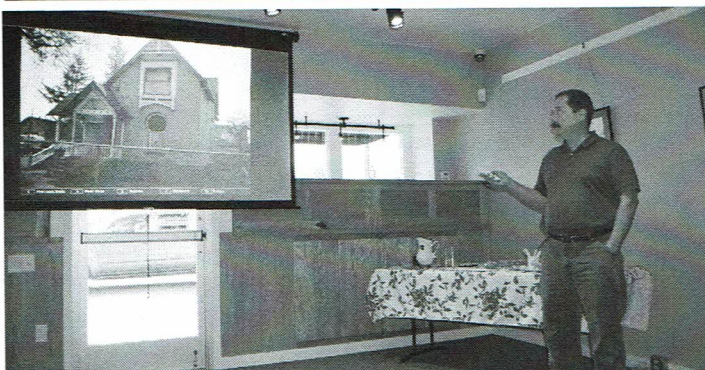


The Community Room was filled with 68 Annual Tea-goers who didn't mind the close quarters as they awaited the featured speaker.



Photos courtesy of Addie Maguire

This themed table (at left) entitled "Christmas Wonder" welcomed members and guests as they entered the Museum lobby. Designed by Betty Dwyer of PEO Chapter O, it was one of 8 tables created by area women's groups.



Jacho Eaton (above) and Emma Eaton took History Bites participants on a virtual tour of historical homes in the Hackleman and Monteith districts on April 8.



ARM was a checkpoint for area Volkswalkers on Saturday, April 11, followed by their state meeting in the Community Room.



Mitzi and Paul Dykast enjoy Jeanine DeNoma's explanation of one of Jerry Andrus's optical illusions on May 9. Behind the trio are two of George Andrus's award-winning photos.



Bob Lowry, retired OSU chemistry professor and noted railroad historian, presented 46 images of Albany area railroading from 1870-1970 at History Bites on May 13. His talk began with the 1870 Albany Old Depot (on screen) that featured tracks on both sides of the building.

Area's shivarees a good excuse for partying, pranking

By Nancy Tropic, Museum Member

The old-time custom of the shivaree, as practiced in the Albany area in the 1930s, was remembered by former North Albany resident Marion Kennelly in 2011. "When someone got married and got home safe from their honeymoon, a couple of days later, all the neighbors would be recruited for a shivaree. The couple would know it was coming, but they wouldn't know exactly when. We'd do detective work and figure out when the couple was going to be home and when they went to bed. When the couple's lights went out, everyone would suddenly start making as much noise as they could," with tin pans, singing and shouting, cowbells, and so on. Marion's stepfather, Hiram Parker, had a homemade contraption designed specifically for shivarees: the horse fiddle, a large wooden plank with a toothed gear and a crank, which when turned would cause "the most terrible, frightening racket" when placed up against the outer wall of a house.

Once roused, the couple was expected to invite the crowd in and treat them to cigars, candy, or other refreshments. Marion and her husband, after their marriage in March 1936, filled up two dishpans with the new little Babe Ruth candy bars in preparation for the shivaree they knew was coming—although when the neighbors showed up, about 30 or 40 of them, the couple played along by acting surprised. Afterward, the partiers went across the street to the Fairmount Grange hall; someone had a guitar, someone played the piano, and they danced til after midnight.

The newspapers of the era contain many reports of these affairs. A "regular old-fashioned charivari" (shivaree) was given to Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Crocker of North Albany in 1925, according to the *Albany Daily Democrat*. About 40 friends made "a concert of tin pan music," after which "the visitors were invited in and spent several hours socially, followed by refreshments." Three days later, "practically the

same party drove to the home of another newly wedded couple, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Falk, and treated them to a charivari."

In 1916 the newspaper reported on the shivaree for Prof. and Mrs. O. V. White on their two-year anniversary. "About 9:30 on the front porch of the U. P. parsonage, where they are stopping, there was suddenly an awful din of tin pans, whistles, and numerous other noises. At first it sounded as if some Ford might have run completely into the house, but it proved to be simply some neighbors, who wanted to show their appreciation for the two-year weds, and they did it well. A fine time followed, seasoned by home-made candy and other eats."

Shivaree planners sometimes resorted to trickery to get newlyweds to come out of hiding. After Arthur E. Thompson married Helen Federmeier in Albany on Thanksgiving Day, 1923, and the couple returned to Harrisburg. Arthur's fellow employees, "getting news of the event, immediately began laying plans for their welcome. Fake telegrams and other pretenses were used to get the couple to come from their room in the local hotel where they had successfully receded, but all in vain. They were finally induced by a regular charivari which followed. Congratulations and treats were then the general round." When newly wed Mr. and Mrs. Van Crider returned to their home in Monmouth in August 1935, reported the *Oregon Statesman*, "a bonfire was started in the street fronting their house as an excuse for calling out the fire department, and the blare of sirens together with torpedo and firecracker explosions made a merry din until the groom promised refreshments to the large crowd of serenaders." The shivaree, which dates back to the Middle Ages, had not always been such innocent fun. Until the late 19th century, it generally was an expression of a community's disapproval

(Continued on Page 8)

Sarah Helmick: The name behind the Hwy. 99 park (Continued from Page 1)

1845, the two started west with a wagon and supplies totaling about \$2,000. Sarah's brother Harvey made the trip with them along with a cousin, James Schuck.

For the most part, Sarah walked while Henry drove the ox team. The two reached a place near The Dalles six months and three days after leaving Iowa. Henry had placed all of their belongings on a moored raft to float down the Columbia River, arranging to meet up with their oxen and other members of their party that made that part of the trip overland.

The raft broke loose during a big wind, floated into the river, and was dashed to pieces in some rapids. Alone without food or shelter, two Native American women came across the Helmicks, providing them with some potatoes and then left to notify a Mr. Ebberts of Tualatin Plains of the couple's plight.

Ebberts found them and took them to his house where Henry did carpentry work for about two

weeks. Helmick repaired an old hay wagon and had his oxen delivered so the pair could travel on to Oregon City. There, Dr. John McLaughlin gave Sarah enough cloth to make Henry a shirt and a dress for herself

The couple moved on to Salem, where Henry helped Ebberts and Mr. Judkins build a grist mill. From there, the Helmicks moved south of Monmouth on a land claim, where they built a log cabin.

The two raised hogs, built and repaired wagons, planted corn and hops, and had a smokehouse. That first year was the hardest, as their diet consisted mostly of boiled beans and wheat.

In 1849 Henry caught gold fever, left his wife behind, and traveled to the California gold fields where he stayed about a year. It was noted by family, that Sarah began smoking a pipe, preferring the ceramic model.

He returned, it was thought, without the fortune he anticipated and died on May 28, 1877, at age 57. His holding was valued at \$35,000



Sarah Helmick built this home between 1878 and 80 after the death of her husband. It is on the corner of Seventh Avenue & Baker Street, SE. An upper story was removed many years ago.

and he had 750 acres of land.

The couple had four children, but two died in infancy. It was rumored that Henry cut a daughter out of his will because she married a hired hand. Sons Lewis and James remained on the farm and built a grain warehouse at Parker, on the Siletz Railroad.

After more than 30 years on the farm, Sarah moved to Albany,

where she was a founding member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She donated small rawhide-seat chairs until pews could be obtained.

On her 100th birthday in July 1923, a large celebration was held at her house and she is quoted as saying that she never more thoroughly enjoyed a day so much in her life. Helmick died at the age of 101.



Albany Regional Museum
Respect the Past. Build the Future.

136 Lyon Street, S
 Albany, Oregon 97321

Open Hours
 Tuesday through Friday
 11 am - 4 pm
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Shivaree...

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of a marriage. For example, *The Albany Daily Democrat* reported in 1889 that a Polk county man "received a 'shivaree' because he married within a month after his first wife's death. He told the serenaders that he didn't think it showed good taste to come hanging around a man's house so soon after a funeral." And the more raucous crowds might even use gunshots or dynamite to get the couple to come out of hiding, or invade the home and damage property. Newspaper editors complained even into the 1930s that shivarees were "disgraceful"

and "asinine" affairs.

But by the 20th century, they were only a community's playful way of welcoming newlyweds. The pranks sometimes played on the couples—chasing them down if they tried to hide, mock kidnapping, parading the bride and groom down Main Street in a procession of cars or wagons trailing tin cans—could be dangerous. But usually the evenings ended with good feeling, treats and dancing, presents for the couple, and wishes for a happy wedded life.



An interesting hat display from the Esther and Bob Ferguson collection is located on the Lyon Street side of the exhibits area.

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