



Albany Old Times

A quarterly publication

Summer 2003

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President's letter

We noted in our last newsletter that one of our goals this year was a 30% increase in our membership. We have not met that goal yet but we are really pleased that we have achieved an 18% gain and we are hoping to get close to the mark by the end of the year. In addition to the funds from new memberships, old members who renewed and donated additional funds raised our total "new" money to \$4,335 that will be matched by a generous anonymous donor. We are grateful for your continued support of our museum and will continue to do our best to make it better.

The **Upstairs Downtown Tour** was a big success on the evening of May 9. We had 189 visitors who walked up the 26 steps to the 2nd floor to look around and visit our newly remodeled former lodge cloakroom (Knights of Pythias Lodge). The room will make a pleasant place for our volunteers to put numbers on all the objects and artifacts that are donated.

The room was remodeled largely by one of our volunteer Board members, Lois Bottomley, who has done a major part of our decorating and has helped make the building look so nice inside. Our Board members put in many, many hours working on all the things that it takes to make a museum successful. Volunteers are always welcome, so if you have time and talents we can use, please contact us.

Jerry Brenneman

"What-ya-may-call it" contest winners

The first place winner on our "What-ya-may-call it" contest in identifying the most of 22 old and uncommon items in a display case was Hank Horvath. He received a signed and framed watercolor print, "Doors of Albany" by Melissa Babcock Saylor, donated by Melissa Saylor and the Frame Shop. Second prize, a Robert Potts book of Albany "Remembering When" went to John Nowak. Third prize, an Albany Regional Museum T-shirt went to Oscar Hult. The museum thanks all those who participated in this contest.

The Old Albany Armory-

Recollections of Mildred Warner-Blake

The sedate office atmosphere that now exists in the old Armory building on the southwest corner of 4th and Lyons Streets veils a lively past history. It has been venue for auto shows, home shows, wrestling matches, and other activities beside its original role of housing the local State Militia unit. Mildred Warner-Blake, former Albany librarian, resident at the Mennonite Village, and in her 93rd year, has shared some of her early 1920's and beyond recollections of Armory events.

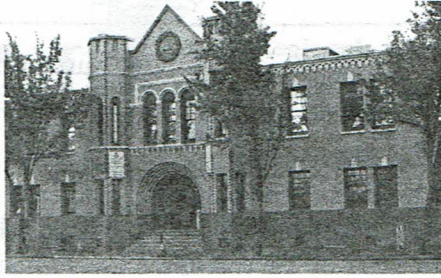
Mildred recalls when an evangelist/faith healer Dr. Charles Price preached there. Her Father and Mother, Grover and Irene Holeman, took her to hear him. Grover gave her 5 cents to buy candy at a nearby confectionary. She remembers being put out that he gave the Evangelist's collection 10 cents. Not fair she thought since Dr. Price failed to heal school chum Walter Traver who was crippled from polio. Great hopes and expectations of her Central School 6th grade class were dashed, and Walter was so distraught he could not return to school for several weeks. She remembers as a teenager the Armory

Continued on page 2

DON'T FORGET...
The Historic Interior Home Tour is July 26, 2003.

Albany Regional Museum
136 Lyon Street SW
Albany, Oregon 97321
(541) 967-7122
Free admission – donations welcomed
Open Monday thru Saturday
12 noon – 4 p.m.
Tours available at other times
by calling (541) 967-7122

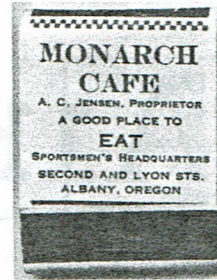
The Old Albany Armory, Recollections of Mildred Warner-Blake (Continued from page 1)



serving as a roller-skating rink. It was a time of chivalry when your skates were about to come out from under you a young gentleman would rush up behind you, catch you, and be your hero for the day. Dances were held there. Escorted one evening by an Oregon Agricultural College student, Bliss Worth, to an Armory Elks Club dance, Mildred learned that college students were not necessarily knowledgeable of all customs and courtesies. At 11pm the lights went out, and Bliss hooted WHOOOPEEE in the solemn, dark silence of Elk tradition

honoring a sacred moment. "He was SO embarrassed", she reminisces, when told what it was all about.

In later years the audience choruses of "Amen" at lively sermons, the rattle of skate wheels that sometimes broke spewing ball bearings across the floor, and the sounds of classic 1920's dance music gave way to the Armory cooking school put on by a Professional Demonstrator, with the assistance of Hazel Haley Olson. This Mildred found useful as a married woman in an era when women stayed home, canned hundreds of jars of food, and made every meal from scratch.



SAVE A NICKEL

One of the businesses located previously in our museum building was the Monarch Café, located here in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Rod Tripp remembers when the Albany Board of Realtors met for lunch weekly in the big dining room of the Hotel Albany. When the hotel wanted to raise the price of a lunch from 30 cents to 35 cents about 1940, they were offered lunch for 30 cents at the Monarch and so they all moved to our building for their lunch meetings. Would you change restaurants today for a nickel? It made good sense then.

Carol's Corner by Carol McKay



Karen Rogers's cookbook collection yielded another sample of the diversity of these unique books. This one is called *The Successful Housekeeper*. The page that gives the publishing date is missing, but Karen thinks it dates back

to 1880. It is also called *Cooking from England*. I am going to present several Health items for your enjoyment.

Grandmother's Salve for Everything
Two pounds of rosin and half of mutton tallow after it is hard, half as much beeswax and half an ounce of camphor gum; put all together into old kettle, and let it dissolve and just come to a boil,

stirring with a stick; then take half a pail of warm water, just the chill off, pour it in and stir carefully until you can get your hands around it. Two persons must each take half and pull like candy until quite white and brittle; put a little grease on your hands to prevent sticking, and keep them wet all the time. Wet the table, roll out the salve, and cut it with a knife. Keep it in a cool place.

Here are a few short remedies;

For a Canker Sore Mouth

Burn a corn cob and apply the ashes two or three times a day.

Cure for Corns

The strongest acetic, applied night and morning, will cure hard and soft corns in a week.

Ring Worm

Put a penny into a tablespoonful of vinegar; let it remain until it becomes green,

and wash the ring worm with this two or three times a day.

For a Felon

There are two recipes for this, but I'm only going to quote the No. 2 one. Take common rock salt, as used for salting down pork or beef; dry in an oven, then pound it fine and mix with spirits of turpentine in equal parts; put it in a rag and wrap it around the parts affected; as it gets dry put on more, and in twenty-four hours you are cured. The felon will be dead.

Fig Paste for Constipation

One-half pound of good fig chopped fine, one-half pint of molasses, two ounces powdered senna leaves, one drachm finely-powdered coriander seed, one drachm finely-powdered cardamom. Put the molasses on the stove and let it come to a boil, then stir in all the rest and bring to a boil again. A teaspoonful once in a while is a dose. It will keep, when covered for a year.

A special thank you

The Albany Regional Museum would like to thank the following for their generous contributions:

Major Donors:

- Mrs. Doris M. Scharpf
- Rod & Marty Tripp
- Smith Glass
- Central Willamette Credit Union
- Albany Democrat Herald
- Krpalek Financial Services
- M & M Property Management
- Lemon's Mill Work
- Central Willamette Credit Union
- Smith Glass Service Inc.
- The Frame Shop
- Melissa Babcock Saylor

OOPS!

In the last Looking Back column the address of the Ballard's grocery store was incorrect. The grocery was located on the NE corner of Queen and Park Terrace in West Albany.

Albany museum patrons travel to Polk County

Patrons of the Albany Regional Museum are taking their first out-of-town summer trip on Saturday, July 26. The destination is the Polk County Museum in Rickreall.

The group will board a Classy-Mac tour bus at approximately 11 a.m. at the Albany museum, travel to Rickreall, tour the Polk County facility and then walk next door for a no-host lunch at Farrol's Restaurant at 1:30. The travelers will board the bus for the return trip to Albany about 2:30. The outing will end about 3:30.

President Jerry Brenneman said the event "is our way of recognizing the generous support of our Patrons, and to see and learn about other venues of history in the Willamette Valley."

The Polk County Museum is administered by the non-profit, volunteer Polk County Historical Society. Pat Smith is president. The artifacts on display at the museum are arranged and exhibited in display areas. The first floor contains agriculture, forestry, Native American, pioneer, military, old towns, post offices, a covered wagon and a historic gun collection. The museum has a Camp Adair display, similar to the one in Albany.

Smith will give a short presentation about the museum and its volunteer organization.

For More information please contact the Albany Regional Museum at 967-7122. Members of the Albany Patrons as of July 1, 1903 are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Carrie McKay | Carol and Glenn Harrison | Beverly and Robert Potts |
| Mike Cowgill | Mildred Hawkins | Evonne & Thomas Rutherford |
| Mildred and David Blake | Kathleen and Hasso Hering | Doris Scharpf |
| Jill and John Boock | Jeanette and Howard Hickam | Laine and Joe Simon |
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| Kathryn and Jerry Brenneman | Janet and Michael Kok | Sally and John Steelhammer |
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| Mary Jacq and Wayne Burck | Barbara and Bob Lowry | Marty and Rod Tripp |
| Tom Clark | Roberta Ludwig | Duffy and Russell Tripp |
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| Esther Ferguson | Don Moreland | Shannon and Earl Willard |
| Pete Gray Jr. | Linda and Frank Morse | Marilyn and Don Wimer |
| Beverly and Jack Haines | Zella Mae Packard | |

Yes, I'm happy to support the Albany Regional Museum with my Annual Membership, June to May

Individual \$10 _____ Family \$15 _____ Business \$50 _____

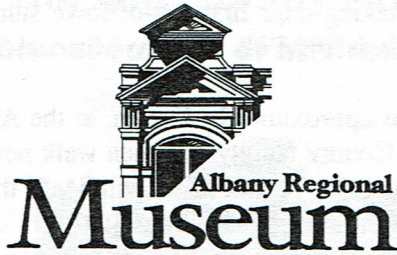
Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Enclosed is my check, payable to: Albany Regional Museum
 Please charge my credit card _____ Visa _____ MasterCard
 Card # _____ Expiration Date _____
 Name on Card _____
 Signature _____

Become a Patron of the Albany Regional Museum with an additional contribution of \$100 or more. The museum is a non-profit 501C-3 corporation. All gifts are tax deductible. Contact the Albany Regional Museum for more information (541) 967-7122.

Membership total \$ _____
 Additional gift \$ _____
 Total Contribution \$ _____

Thank you for your generous gift!



136 Lyon Street SW
Albany, Oregon 97321
(541) 967-7122

e-mail: armuseum@peak.org

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Albany OR 97321

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Volunteers – Shannon Willard

Looking back by Jack Gillespie

Some 50 years ago the nation's two top retail-mail order stores were competing in downtown Albany.

The local stores were located within a half-a-block of one another. Montgomery Wards, then the No. 1 retailer, was on the NW corner of Second and Broadalbin and Sears Roebuck and Co., the No. 2 retailer, was located on the north side of Second St. halfway between Broadalbin and Ellsworth.

In the Fall of 1950, I was hired by Donald Primrose, manager of the Sears store, as a shipping and receiving clerk. In my indoctrination I was informed, among other "do's and don'ts", that, as a Sears Employee, it would be well if I did not do any business with Montgomery Wards, and, in fact, it would

be best if I did not even enter the store. Also he looked me over and suggested that I get a haircut—a suggestion he would repeat several times during my tenure as a Sears Employee. My pay was \$1.00 an hour for 40 hours a week, served over a 5-1/2 day work week.

My title of Shipping and Receiving Clerk included washing the store's front windows, sweeping the front sidewalk, keeping the rest rooms clean plus any other chores needing done.

Every few months we employees would be invited to a 7 a.m. breakfast (on our own time) in the back dining room of the Jim Christie's restaurant located directly across the street from the store. At these breakfasts we were given "pep talks" and re-

minded that we were each an important part of the Sears Family and our dedication was appreciated (and expected). We were also kept updated on Sears race with Montgomery Wards for the nation's top retailer title.

I enjoyed working for Sears and the 20 or more other employees were like a family to me, but pay raises were limited, and promotions came only after years of service. Being young and in a hurry I decided that it would take much too long to "climb the ladder" at Sears and after two years I quit.

A few years later Sears did push ahead of Montgomery Wards to become the nation's No. 1 retailer. I was no longer a Sears Employee but still I felt a little proud.