



Albany Old Times

A quarterly publication

Summer 2004

Albany Regional Museum

President's letter

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We are entering the second year of our grant from the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Educational Service District. This summer we will be working on creating new educational programs for school children, improving and revising what we did last summer, continuing our film cataloging for research and exhibit, and looking at ways to enhance our exhibits.

Items for our newest exhibit on Albany Schools are being gathered and we expect to have it up and ready for your viewing before the end of August. Be sure to come and see it, and relive your school days!

Just when we had given up hope for raising \$20,000 for our earlier-mentioned video on the history of Albany, which was a new Zed Merrill film project we were working on together, something wonderful happened. Zed received word last week that an anonymous donor had pledged the full amount for this project. We are again proceeding with the project and developing script, content, photos, etc. You might remember that we interviewed about 24 "old timers" some time ago. Their interviews are available for viewing anytime at the museum research room.

Our biggest crowd yet met in the museum on April 21, to view photos of historic Albany buildings and listen to information provided by local historian Robert Potts with additional audience input. Over 70 people attended for a pleasant evening together. Hopefully we can have programs of this type on a yearly basis.

Thanks for your response to our membership drive. Your interest and help is greatly appreciated.

Jerry Brenneman

WOULD YOU SHARE SCHOOL MEMORABILIA?

Members of an Albany Regional Museum task force are seeking school articles dating from the mid-1800s to the 1980s for a school exhibit which will be mounted early this fall.

They would appreciate articles which might be loaned or donated such as sports equipment, school-room staples, text books, pictures of early schools, etc.

If you have items, please call the Museum 541-967-7122 with your name and number. Thank you!

Robert Potts, His Cameras and World War II by Gary Kingston



Experience as a shortwave radio ham operator (W7FJY) placed Bob Potts in the World War II Army Signal Corp, but his experience as a cameraman played an even bigger role in his military destiny. Photography was Robert's hobby in the 1930s. He used a *Zeiss Super Ikonta B* to take over 10,000 pictures of people and things around Albany. The camera was of the folding-bellows type popular at that time. Bob wanted to take pictures while in the Army but this camera

was a little large to be carried about easily. A trip to Sandy Photo in Portland made him owner of a *Zeiss Super Nettar A*. It also was a folding-bellows camera, but more compact and could be easily carried in the Army-fatigue-shirt pocket. Following his basic training and specialty schooling he was assigned to the Signal Company of the 45th Infantry Division that shipped out for the Mediterranean, first to practice amphibious landing on beaches of North Africa, and then on to make beach assaults at Salerno and Anzio, Italy, and at St. Tropez, France. Cameras were not permitted during the landings, so Bob's was locked in the Company safe. That was fortuitous in that had the camera been carried on his person it would have been ruined by water up to his chest. After regaining access to the camera, and with film supplied by numerous people back home or other sources along the way,

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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

First Automobile in Albany Arrives By Rail by Jerry Brenneman

While going through old newspaper clipping from the Burkhart Collection I ran across an article on the arrival of the first car of Albany. Unfortunately the article does not have a date or make of the car.

Winfield R. Royce, an Albany native and former Western Union messenger boy knew just about everyone who lived here in the late eighteen nineties and a good bit of the nineteen hundreds. He witnessed the arrival of the first car and enjoyed telling others about it. The following is from his account.

According to Royce, the new car arrived in a freight car and was unloaded at the Southern Pacific freight platform where a curious crowd was gathered. Father Matayer, priest in charge of St. Mary's parish at that time, was the purchaser of the car. The most "expert" of local mechanics were on hand to get the thing going. They read the instruction book thoroughly and then proceeded to apply it.

One after another the craftsmen and their helpers turned on the valves, pulled all the levers the book told them to and then whirled the crank. Nothing happened. They went through the prescribed directions again and again. For a full hour they toiled away. The contraption would not budge, nor did it emit a cough or a sputter.

The tiring "experts" had just about given up when a youngster who had been getting in the way took off the gas tank cap while no one was looking and peeped in. The gas tank was empty. Someone remembered that one of the local grocery stores stocked gasoline. A messenger was dispatched downtown and back he came with a gallon of gas.

Its tank partially filled, the gas buggy readily responded and Father Matayer proudly drove his car away, murmuring something like "a little child shall lead them."

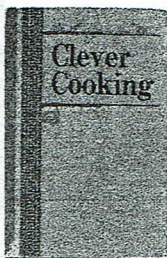
(If you have further information on the date and make of car please let us know)



Volunteers are the
keys to our
success,
thank you to the
following who
helped since the
last newsletter

Jason Bradley
Ned Goldman
Elmer Gatchett
Al Kok
Earl Willard
Mary Jacq Burck
Kristen Schuttpelz
Judy Craig
Ric Blasquez
Dennis Rector

Carol's Corner by Carol McKay



While rearranging the books in our storage, I came upon another cookbook by the Ladies of the First Presbyterian Church. It is named Clever Cooking, has a semi-hard binding, is 152 pages. I'm guessing the date is around 1922 as there are no dates. There are the usual intriguing recipes by names I recognize, like L.L. Swan, Mrs. Wm Barrett, Mrs. George Chamberlain, Mrs. Althouse and so on. I am totally fascinated by all of the advertisers, their names and addresses. Most of them list a phone, so Albany was becoming a busy, big town.

There is an Insurance Co. that says CLEVER COOKS KNEAD DOUGH. Then F.G. Will, Jeweler, tells how to have your table look its best by buying their best silver and cut glass. THE BAND BOX MILLINERY 114-116 Ferry St., between First and Second, proprietor, Evalyn B. Rhodes, Order work a Specialty Satisfaction Guaranteed. The Blain Clothing Co. has

things like *duchess trousers, 10c a button. \$1.00 a rip.* Millinery and hair goods by appointment at 337 W. First St., home ph. 841. If you need Wooltex Suits or McCall patterns go to W.B. Steven & Co. Footwear is at Stoltenberg's, 334 W. First.

Cusick & Co. Bankers have a full page advising the house-wife to keep an expense account. Both First National Bank and First Savings Bank want to help *your money make money*, but Albany State Bank has a better deal.

I don't know what HOF LICH'S was; that was all it said. City Bottling, carbonated beverages and oyster cocktails, a specialty for parties. Then Bruce & Anderson has care of the face and Ladies Shampooing a Specialty!

There are a good many grocery stores advertised: Mrs. M.G. Stetter, 206 W. Second. Holt's Market. W.S. Eastburn, 212 W. First, H. Lemke Both Staple and Fancy Groceries, and Square Deal Grocery, 436 W. First. Schultz Meat Market, 220 W. First. Albany Supply Company. Conrad Meyr, Staple and Fancy Groceries, also proprietor of the Star Bakery. Walter M. Parker, grocer and baker, 215 West First. I.S. Rowell, Dealer in Staple and Fancy

Groceries First and Lyon St. S.E. Young and Son also carried a complete line of Grocery.

Red Crown Mills has Snow Flake Flour as well as 2 others. Johnson's best flour came from Albany Mill & Elevator Co. Beam-Fletcher had breads, coffee and Marvel Flour. Commercial T Company, 223 W. First has coffee, teas, and spices. Meiser & Meiser, W. First opp. P.O., guarantees *Pure and Best Extract, spices and Coffee using only the Ruby blend.*

The doctors, dentists, and insurance agencies are all in here. There are even 2 women doctors. L. Viereck's Baths Tonsorrial Parlor, Ladies shampooing a Specialty. Barrett Brothers had Paints and Kalsomine for Interior Decorating.

It is interesting how many grocery stores there were for such a small population. What went wrong with our society that I, who live close to downtown Albany have to drive 3 miles to buy groceries today? Of course, in those older days, the customer simply told the grocer what was wanted and it was packaged up for you. Or you picked up the phone and ordered and they delivered that same day.

Volunteer of the Year nominations due soon

Nominations for the first "volunteer of the year" award are due August 3 and will be announced at the annual membership meeting on October 5, 2004.

The Gerald L. Brenneman Volunteer of the Year award was created this year following a process of developing short-term and long-term goals for the organization. Selection is based on a written report containing biographical information on the nominee, specific efforts on behalf of the Museum, and other related activities and endorsements.

Anyone can nominate a Museum member or non-member for the award, however, current Museum board members are not eligible for the recognition. The winner will be determined based on a majority vote of directors present at a board meeting.

There is no requirement that the award be given every year or that the recipient be limited to one person. However, every effort will be made by the board and officers to make sure that a deserving recipient is considered each year.

Please send nominations to the Albany Regional Museum, 136 Lyon St. SW, Albany, OR 97321 or drop off at the Museum office.

A Salute to Our Museum Patrons 2004-5

Wes and Diane Price
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Continued from page 1 ...he took over 3000 photographs of military life and local color from Italy, through France, to Munich, Germany and the liberation of the Dachau prison camp. Robert felt the camera to be his personal good luck charm because, after the Sicilian landing and fighting, more radio operators were needed for infantry rifle companies being staged to make the Anzio landing in Italy. As a junior member of the Signal Corp Company, Bob was a candidate for that assignment, but was not selected because they felt they should not separate him from his camera locked in the then inaccessible company safe. It might have been a life-saving turn of events as the

first day casualties at Anzio were heavy, and infantry radio men with large radio back packs were prime targets for the enemy fire. Bob still has his *Zeiss Super Ikonta B*. The whereabouts of his *Zeiss Super Nettar A* is a lingering question. All of us over half way down the trail understand that.

Robert Potts celebrated his 88th birthday recently and has lived within 4 miles of his birth home on 2nd Street all those years, except for 2 weeks and three years (as he likes to put it) spent in the Army. Many of his Albany photographs appear in the five volume series "Remembering When" for sale at the Albany Regional Museum. Also, the Museum has for viewing several video tapes of Robert recalling life in Albany and in the Army.



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 _____

Membership total \$ _____

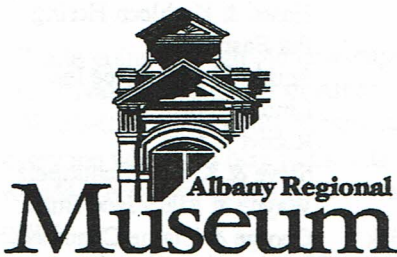
Additional gift \$ _____

Total Contribution \$ _____

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.

Thank you for your generous gift!



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Kris Schuttpelz

Looking back: Movies in Albany

by Jack Gillespie

For many of us growing up in Albany during the 1930s and 1940s, motion pictures were a significant part of our entertainment.

During those years Albany had three movie theatres - the Venetian, the Granada and the Rialto.

The recently remodeled Venetian Theatre is located at the NE corner of First Avenue and Broadalbin. The Rialto, at the NW corner of First Avenue and Lyon Street, is now the home of The Albany Civic Theatre. The Granada was razed long ago and its former site is now part of a parking lot adjacent to the Venetian.

The Venetian showed one feature film, and the Granada and Rialto offered "double features" —two full length movies. Each theatre also

showed a cartoon and a news-reel plus previews of "coming attraction." The Venetian also had a variety of other short subject features such as travelogues and Our Gang shorts.

The Venetian showed the "bigger movies." It was there we saw "Gone With The Wind," the Shirley Temple movies, The "Andy Hardy" series with Mickey Rooney, and "The Wizard of Oz." Also offered were the very popular Walt Disney's productions such as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "Cinderella."

Up to my teens the Granada was my favorite theater. The Granada had the "cowboy movies" with heroes like the Durango Kid, Hopalong Cassidy, Tex Ritter and, of course, the Lone Ranger. The

second feature could be a comedy starring comics such as Abbott and Costello, Judy Canova, Eddy Cantor, or perhaps a Sherlock Holmes or Boston Blackie mystery. Also there were the musicals starring a variety of singers, dancers, and big time bands.

The Rialto was the home of cowboy stars Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. They were not my favorites—they sang too much and, to me, were not "tough" enough to be western heroes. The Rialto also ran first-rate movies from major studios. There we saw "Sunset Boulevard" and "The Lost Weekend."

Each of the three theatres changed their programs twice weekly. A movie buff could thus view 10 new movies a week for less than \$4.00—including popcorn.