



A classic car for a classic lady

Museum member Lorraine Carter enjoys sitting behind the wheel of a Ford Thunderbird which was on display during the Rhys Miller Classic car show in September. The show was one of the most successful Museum events of the year held during Albany's annual Antiques in the Street promotion. The classic honors the late Miller, who redesigned the 1957 Thunderbird. Miller lived in Albany as a small boy and attended Central Elementary. The classic was sponsored by Nissen Ford and organized by members Bill Maddy and Robert Phillips.



Help us celebrate Oregon's 150th

Downtown Albany and the Museum will be a great place to begin a journey celebrating Oregon's 150th birthday on Saturday, Feb. 14.

On that day in 1859, Oregon became the 33rd state.

The 150th party will continue for most of the year at the Museum and throughout the state.

Exhibits on that Saturday will take on a life of their own as members of Flinn's Community Players, a local drama group, and other volunteers will perform. Visitors will be able to chat with a railroad conductor, visit with a pioneer school teacher and sample produce at the Samuel E. Young store exhibit. It will be an opportunity to learn more about the Albany area as an early Oregon community.

The Museum will be open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

New exhibits will include Bik-

■ Continued on Page 3

Collection grows with Hackleman Family Bible, other items

BY JENNIFER JAMESON
MUSEUM CATALOGER

The Hackelman Family Bible, a 1950s wardrobe, and the first picks at an estate sale are among the donations made recently to the Albany Regional Museum.

Including these donations, the Museum received 128 accessions in 2008, significantly higher than the 87 it accepted in 2007.

The Albany Public Library made a large donation, which included the Hack-

leman Family Bible. The Bible belonged to Abner Hackleman, who came to Oregon in 1845 and staked out a land claim in what is now Albany. The Bible itself was later brought to Albany by his son Abram in 1847. The Hacklemans are among Albany's founding families.

Another memorable donation was one received from Sherrill (Kronsteiner) Kirchhoff, which included many pieces from her Albany Union High School wardrobe from the mid-1950s, the majority of which was hand-

made by her mother. Ms. Kirchhoff wrote a detailed account for each outfit, including stories of woe and humor for many of them.

In September, the Museum took in another significant donation from an estate sale before it was open to the public. The estate belonged to Oscar "Mike" and Georgia Mikesell. Mr. Mikesell was the senior Linn County agricultural agent from 1934 to 1974. The collection includes Georgia's wedding gown.

View from Second and Lyon: One vision

BY JOHN BUCHNER
BOARD CHAIRMAN

One of the chairman's duties is to nudge the board of directors into looking further down the road than just at annual operating plans.

That was the reason that I offered a vision to the board for reflection and direction as it began a more immediate goal-setting process last December.

We studied five categories and developed goals and a budget that will advance this vision a few steps, at least for the following year or two. (See separate stories elsewhere on goals and operating budget.)

The first category was the commitment to operational stability. This is probably the most obvious need and most important. That means to continue growing membership and volunteers, to reasonably compensate the paid staff, to seek out community leaders for board service, to strengthen the quarterly newsletter and website, to maintain our non-profit status, to provide educational

events and changing exhibits and subscribe to prudent fiscal policies.

A second category was collection preservation. The collection (or acquired artifacts) tells the community's true history and is a fundamental reason for the Museum's existence. Care in acquisition, handling, repair and storage of these artifacts requires ongoing financial commitment.

Growth of the Museum's endowment is a third category. It is the earnings of the endowment that ensures future operational funds and maintenance of a quality community asset.

The Museum has benefitted from a number of financial gifts over the years and it is important that individuals and families continue to remember the Museum as a responsible recipient of bequests from wills and estates.

Our partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation, which manages our endowment and most of the funds from other nonprofits in the

state, assures donors that their gifts will be part of a professionally managed investment program.

A fourth vision is to generate new publications including a further additions to "Remembering When," the picture books that continue the work of the late Robert Potts since the Museum is the recipient of much of his photo collection. There may be other and more immediate subjects for Museum books, like a history of Albany (which doesn't yet exist) and which could be published in both an abbreviated form and in a longer and more detailed version.

Finally, a fifth category would be space expansion of the Museum's facility for exhibits, visitor restrooms, meeting rooms, collection storage and offices.

This might include development of the second floor of the existing building or acquiring adjacent property. This and other alternatives will be needed in the future if the Museum is to continue as a necessary community asset.

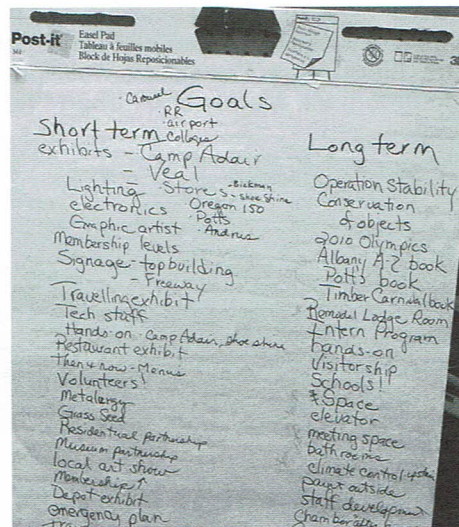
Updated Camp Adair exhibit among board goals

A major update of the Museum's Camp Adair exhibit was among goals for 2009-10 approved by the board of directors at its regular December meeting.

The approved plan calls for a grand opening on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2009. The exhibit would include video, sound and graphics. A committee has done some preliminary work including visiting other existing Camp Adair exhibits in Rickreall and Philomath.

Camp Adair, which was a major World War II training facility located about 15 miles northwest of Albany until 1945-46, is a subject of ongoing visitor interest at the Albany museum. Adair's population peaked at about 50,000 in the early 1940s. The site has been broken up into several areas, including a state game refuge, a trash disposal area, a private high school, an incorporated city and privately-owned farmland.

While the camp was in operation, Albany was a major destination of off-duty personnel and home for many military families. The camp had a major economic impact on Albany during its



operation.

In addition, several smaller exhibits were included among the goals. These included construction of Rufus Hale's shoe shine parlor and a recreation of Bikman's Ladies Shop, a popular coat and clothing business in the 40s and 50s. Longer term goals included the

construction of a 1940s kitchen and an exhibit featuring the late Albany illusionist Jerry Andrus.

Publishing two books about the community was another goal. An abbreviated history book that would look at Albany from A to Z and a picture book on the Albany World Championship Timber Carnival were suggested.

The board asked that an effort be made to repair several historical objects in the Museum's collection that need attention including some clothing and an oil painting.

Under the goal of space expansion and maintenance, painting a stairway that leads from the street to the second floor and the repainting of the interior walls of a portion of the second floor were listed. Putting plans in place for growth of the Museum's endowment was another high priority.

Other approved board goals were major attention to membership growth, volunteer help with operations, community partnerships, staff training and development, better communication and contact with public, private and home-schooled students.

Our mission statement: "To preserve, exhibit and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of Albany, Oregon, and its immediate surroundings through collection of artifacts, documents and photographs."

Stetter's building joins century attractions

BY LINDA A. ELLSWORTH
MUSEUM BOARD MEMBER

Joining Albany's list of buildings 100 years old or older is Stetter's Cash Store which was located at 206 W. Second Ave. It is now Sender's Custom Stained Glass but the building looks much the same today except the 1909 date is no longer on top of the building.

The building was built for William and Margaret Stetter as a grocery store with living quarters upstairs. Margaret is listed in the 1910 Oregon census as the proprietor with William as clerk. Besides groceries they sold crockery or dishware.

A grand niece of the Stetters, Beverly, remembers visiting the store and seeing a red wagon, a wicker baby stroller and the most beautiful doll on the shelves. She also remembers a sewing machine which for a small fee ladies could have hemstitching done on pillowcases so they could attach crocheted lace or they could have smocking done on blouses.

The Stetters also rented rooms. In 1910, the renters included Frank N. Wood, his wife Elizabeth and daughter Mary. Wood, with his father, carved the Oregon Stone which was placed inside the Washington Monument at the nation's capital.

Other renters included Margaret's brother Robert Seller. At the time he worked for the railroad but later owned Albany Sand and Gravel. By 1920 the list of lodgers still included Robert with the addition of Margaret's nephew, George L. Berry

Margaret died May 16, 1933. Her obituary in the Albany Democrat-Herald (May 17, 1933) gives her birth date as Aug. 10, 1864. She was born in Scotland and came to the United States with her parents at age 13. She married William Stetter at Shadron, NE in 1892. Two years later they came to Albany. She was survived by her husband, two sisters, Mrs. E.T. Berry of Corvallis,

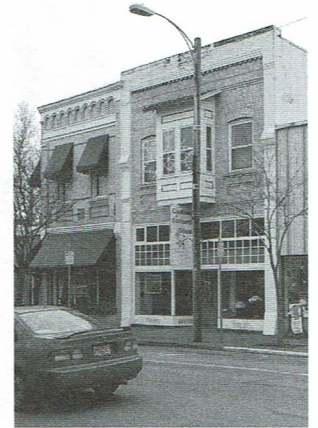


Original Stetter's building

Stetter's Cash Store Then and Now



Rear view of Stetter's



Stetter's building in 2009



Jeff Senders' Custom Stained Glass now occupies the building



Stetter's Store interior

Mrs. William Lang of Lebanon and brothers J.W. Sellers of Portland, George Sellers of Brownsville and Robert Sellers of Albany plus three nephews and a niece.

William Stetter died March 27, 1936. In the Greater Oregon newspaper (March 31, 1936) his obituary says he was born in 1864 in Richmond, VA; later moving to Nebraska where he married Maggie Sellers. According to the obituary they came to Albany 40 years previously which would be 1896. (This conflicts with information in Margaret's obituary.) They had a

restaurant at 322 W. Second Ave. where they also lived. Later they sold the restaurant and started a grocery store on the corner of Second and Ferry Street. Then they bought a lot and built a two story brick building on Second Avenue near Ellsworth.

And as they say, the rest is history.

Note: The name Stetter appears in various censuses as Stettin, Stetler and Stetter. Sellers also appears in a variety of spelling including Sellars and Sillers.

Help us celebrate Oregon's Sesquicentennial birthday

■ Continued from Page 1

man's dress shop and an updated Bessie and Rufus Hale shoe shine shop. Objects from Oregon's Centennial celebration in 1959 also will be on exhibit, according to Tami Sneddon, administrative coordinator.

As an added attraction, the

Museum will partner with the Monteith Historical Society and Monteith House in its presentation of a buggy and wagon show. Horse drawn wagon rides will be available on Saturday between the Monteith House, the Albany Brass Ring Carousel at 503 W. First Ave. and the Museum at 136 Lyon St. S.

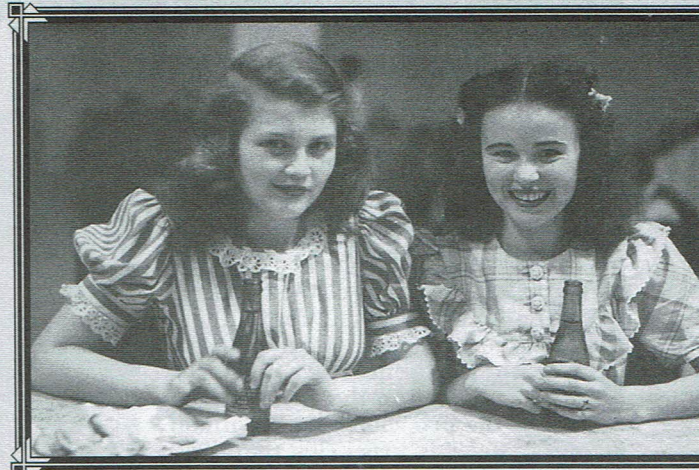
There will be a number of buggies and wagons on display near the Monteith House. The Museum also will have a buggy on display.

Other upcoming Oregon 150 Chautauqua events at the Museum include a program for students in March during spring break, the third annual spring tea on

April 11 with a program on "hats," a summer cemetery tour and quilts downtown July 23-25. In partnership with the Monteith House Society, the Museum will sponsor an Abraham Lincoln Town Hall meeting on Saturday, March 21. Watch for more information about these events.

Pictures from the Past

Nostalgic photos from the albums
of Museum members and friends



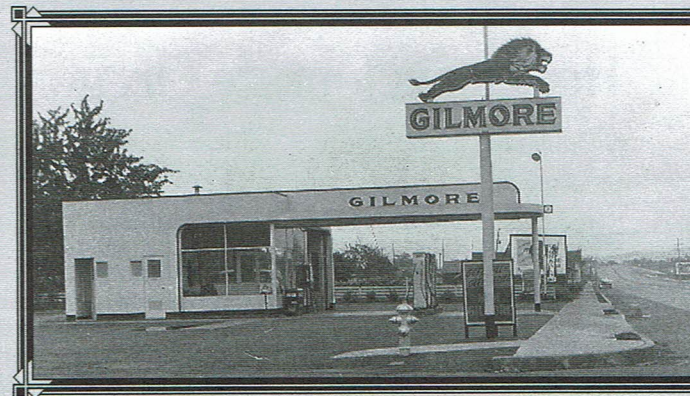
HIGH SCHOOL SMILES. Lois Johnson (Whitaker) and Lois Long (Carey) were students at Albany High School in the 1940s. They are pictured at the Kenilworth Club for years in downtown Albany. Lois lives now in Dallas and Bob Long resides in Albany. (From the Robert Potts collection)

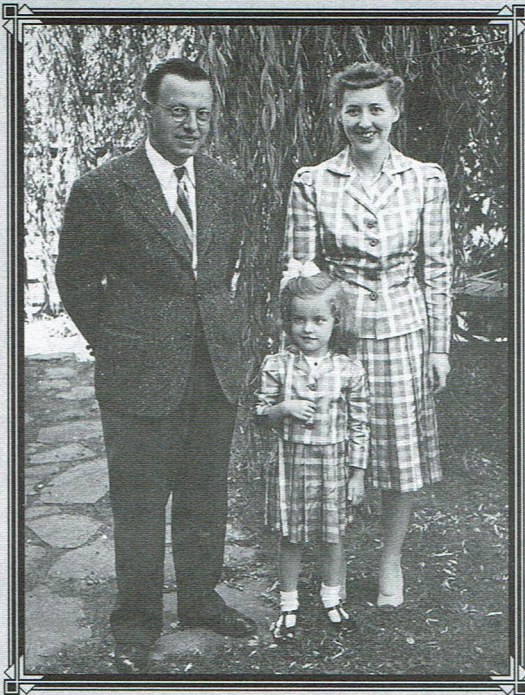


LOUD SOCKS DAY. A parade was part of the Loud Socks Day observance at Albany High School in 1947. This scene is in front of the high school on Third Avenue (now the Willamette Community Church). The Bull Dog Confectionery was across the street from the high school, a popular stop for candy and soda. The snack shop, owned by the Stuarts, was well-known during the 1950s for milkshakes made with whole milk. Students identified in the scene include Dick Spencer (far right standing in the street) next to Buzz Collins (with right foot on automobile's bumper), Verl Cox on a bicycle facing the camera, Bob Nissen riding his bike in the opposite direction, and Dick Grosbeck (with cigar and hat on the beach bound car's right fender). The person on the other fender is unidentified. You can identify her or others pictured by calling us at 967-7122.

(From the Robert Potts collection)

FORGOTTEN BRAND — Curt Doty operated this Gilmore gasoline station on the corner of Main and Highway 99E (now known as Pacific Boulevard) in the early 1940s. The Albany overpass can be seen in the distance and development along this stretch of roadway was a bit skimpy at that time, just a few years after completion of the highway. Doty was a well-known mechanic in the Albany community for many years. His wife, Grace, was a legal secretary for attorneys Weatherford and Thompson. (From the Robert Potts collection)



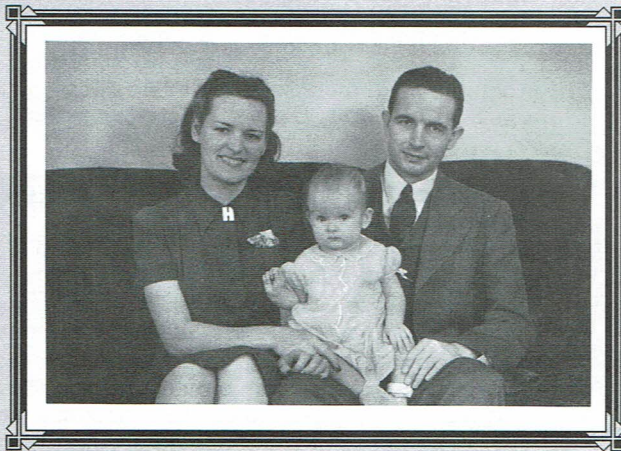


FURNITURE FAMILY. Albany furniture manufacturer Clarence Veal, his wife, Martha, and daughter, Doris Helen, were dressed in their Sunday best for this photograph taken in the 1940s. Notice the mother and daughter look-alike fashions. The Veal chair factory was known for its "Flint Ridge" maple furniture brand.
(From the Robert Potts collection)



MODERN TRAVELERS - In 1934, members of Modern Travelers dressed in colonial togs for their monthly meeting at the Burkhart family's "Maple Lawn Place," at 1950 Salem Ave. SE. Marguerite Alderson Burkhart is seated first on the left. The study club continues in 2009 with monthly gatherings at members' homes. Membership is limited to 30 women. Its object shall be the improvements of its members in history, art, sociology and current events, according the club's 2007-2008 yearbook. Dorthea Kurtz is the current president. Modern Travelers was founded in 1898.

(From the Burkhart collection)



ALBANY FAMILY. In the early 1940s, a young medical doctor and his family were photographed in their home. This is Albany physician E. Lew Hurd, his wife Genevieve and their daughter Elizabeth Anne. Hurd currently resides in Albany. His daughter Anne Transue is retired from the Greater Albany Public Schools and lives in Albany.
(From the Robert Potts collection)

We're looking for nostalgic photos from your albums

Pictures from the Past is a new feature of the Albany Old Times newsletter.

The Museum needs members and friends to dig through their family archives for good-quality photos to submit for future issues.

It makes the feature more interesting if those pictured can be identified with a few additional facts like time frame, location and other details. Readers are encouraged to help identify unnamed subjects or correct listed information.

Submissions need to be about Albany people and the Albany area to meet the Museum's mission "to preserve, exhibit and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of Albany, OR and its immediate surroundings..."

Drop off or mail submissions to the Museum at 136 Lyon St. S., Albany, OR 97321.

-Kim Jackson, editor

National search locates Albany wave machine

BY TAMI SNEDDON

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

You may wonder what the Albany Regional Museum has to do with a national diversity forum in Tennessee.

The forum, sponsored by FedEx at its headquarters in Nashville, runs for seven days beginning Feb. 6.

Last November I received a call from exhibit planner Vivian Montgomery. She was asking for information about the Museum's electric perm machine. She learned of the Museum's machine through an internet search.

The device is pictured on the Museum's website and one of the few

Montgomery could find.

She asked if the Museum would lend this object for an exhibit about early beauty parlors.

The executive committee and I thought this would be a great opportunity to share a little Albany history and be part of a special occasion. The Museum will be acknowledged as contributing to the national exhibit. FedEx also asked to borrow the beauty parlor chair and hair dryer. FedEx is paying for all costs involved, including crates for the items and shipping.

The Museum's beauty parlor objects, which were part of Martha Anne's

Beauty Shop in Albany, were donated in 1987 by Martha Anne Warnke. She had purchased the perm machine from Adgen's Beauty Shop in the 1940s for use in her own parlor.

Theme for the 2009 FedEx forum is "Turning Barriers into Bridges," focusing on African American Firsts. One of the featured individuals at the diversity forum will be Madame C.J. Walker (1867-1919), an entrepreneur who built a hair products empire.

Because of Walker's success, she became an inspiration to many black women, thus the beauty parlor exhibit.

Members hear State of the Museum message

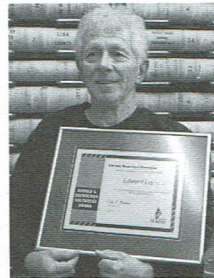
A pictorial review of memorable Museum events highlighted the 2008 annual membership meeting.

Chairman John Buchner narrated the "state of the museum" PowerPoint report which detailed events and the work that staff and volunteers put forth during the year. More than 50 people attended the Sunday afternoon meeting and program on September 24.

The business meeting included an update on finances by Treasurer Michael Kok (income and expenses were in balance), minutes from the previous year were ap-

proved as presented by Secretary Shannon Willard, and candidates for election to the board were presented to the membership for voting.

Elected to three-year terms were Dr. David Fitchett, retired Albany orthopedic surgeon and Larry Bardell, a psychiatric nurse practitioner who is retired from the Veterans Administration. Kim Sass, a manager for Samaritan Al-



Ed Loy, winner of the Gerald R. Brenneman Volunteer Award

bany General Hospital, who was filling the unexpired term of the late Wesley Price, Jr., was elected to a three-year term. Buchner, retired publisher of the Albany Democrat-Herald, was also re-elected for three years.

Member Edward Loy was honored with the Gerald L. Brenneman Volunteer Award.

Retiring board members Nancy Daniels and Gary

Kingston were presented with certificates of appreciation.

A program featuring retired Linn County sheriffs David Burreight and Art Martinak completed the program. The two retired sheriffs reminisced about humorous moments in their local law enforcement careers.

At its regular monthly meeting in October, the board elected officers for 2009. Buchner was re-elected chairman, Gerald Brenneman, vice-chairman and Michael Kok, treasurer. Mary Jacq Burck was elected secretary.

Peggy Kowal joins ARM staff

The smiling face that greets visitors as they enter the Museum belongs to Peggy Kowal.

She joined the staff last fall as clerk. Mrs. Kowal and her husband Fred live in Albany. Both are retired. She is a graduate of Oregon State University.



Peggy Kowal

For 13 years she was the owner-operator of Candies by Peggy in Merrill, OR. She manufactured chocolate confections for all occasions, many custom designed and shipped nation wide.

Mrs. Kowal has an extensive

background in administrative duties. At one time she served as recruitment and client relations administrator for the Portland law firm of Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt. She also worked as director of membership services for the National Apartment Association in Washington, D.C. Her resume includes work at Mitchell Energy Corporation in the nation's capital and the Exxon Company, U.S.A in Houston.

She also served as a legislative assistant to former Oregon U.S. Senator Bob Packwood.

Mrs. Kowal is involved with P.E.O. chapter CK and has been involved with several volunteer groups.

Five added to list of Memorials

The names of five individuals have been added to the Museum's list of memorials since the fall newsletter.

They include Elsie Tripp, Margie Gillespie, Michael Loney, Gary Dahlinger and Lauren Karstens.

These names, in addition to being published in the newsletter, are listed on a plaque at the Museum for a limited time and posted on the Museum's website.

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorials that honor a family member or friend. The most common gifts are in the amount of \$25, \$50 and \$100.

Families, on the death of a loved one, often list the Museum as a recipient of memorials in newspaper obituaries. A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient and a thank you card to the person or persons making the donation. Others honor individuals that have been promoted or have been cited for some achievement with memorials.

Gifts can be mailed to the Museum, 136 Lyon St. S., Albany, OR 97321, or dropped off at the Museum with proper instructions attached.



Del Riley



Christmas fare at parlour tour



Mike and Kathy Martin view carvings



Gale Lebow

Parlour tour stop highlights wood art

An exhibit of sculptured wood art greeted Museum visitors during the 29th annual Albany Christmas Parlour Tour.

Two retired Linn County elected officials displayed their carvings during the event.

Gale Lebow worked for Linn County for 23 years and retired as county assessor and tax collector. Del Riley served 18 years as recorder and clerk. Both answered visitors questions dur-

ing the parlour tour on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Lebow's framed sculptures begin with a pattern on paper which is used as a guide to cut the wood with scroll saws. The process of making the intricate cuts involves use of several saw blades, some as small as .010 thick, with 28 teeth per inch. Riley's work is more traditional carving using larger blocks of wood that result in mostly animal and fowl figures. Both individuals took up their hobbies after retirement.

2009 budget reflects two percent increase

A 2009 operating budget of \$110,000 was approved unanimously by the Museum's board of directors at its January meeting.

It is a 2 percent increase over the 2008 budget.

The document was developed by the finance committee, chaired by Treasurer Michael Kok.

Before board action, it was reviewed by the executive committee for minor adjustments.

Income and expenses balance for a break-even financial year for the Museum, which is a non-profit organization.

The income stream flows from the Museum's endowment, individual donations, membership

fees, rent and interest from other investments. The endowment is the largest single contributor estimated at \$67,575 for 2009.

Major expenses are personnel, exhibit construction, special projects (book publishing, collection repairs), building improvements, and operations.

More volunteer docents needed for museum

Opportunities abound for volunteers at the Albany Regional Museum.

Volunteer coordinator Mary Arnett said the greatest need is for docents. These are individuals who learn about

the Museum's exhibits and then are able to inform visitors as they examine the exhibits.

Docents usually work a two-hour shift on weeks of their choice.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP FORM

To renew or begin your annual membership, indicate the type and fill in the form below.

- Individual \$10
- Family \$15
- Patron \$115
- Business \$50
- Major Sponsor \$250
- I want to learn more about the Pioneer Society, Founders and Benefactors levels.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

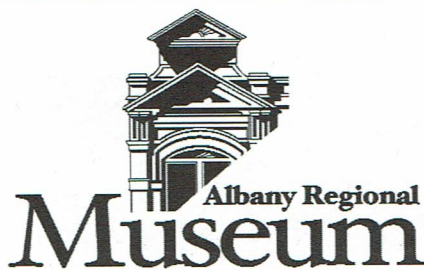
Zip _____

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The Museum is a non-profit
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Albany Regional Museum

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(541-967-7122)
www.armuseum.com



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Looking Back: Black market gum

BY JACK GILLESPIE
MUSEUM MEMBER

During World War II (1941-45) many foods, candies and other such items — taken for granted today — were either rationed or in short supply.

One of these was a brand of bubble gum, a favorite among my age group. A single wad of the gum, which sold for a penny, was twisted into a colorful wrapper. Inside the wrapper, along with the gum, was a small colored comic strip. (I can't remember the name of the gum).

Merchants would receive allotments of candies at various times and my friend Bob and I would check all these outlets to see if any of our favorite sweets were to be had.

On one of our noontime searches we dropped into a neighborhood store. These were very small grocery stores scattered outside of the downtown area. The tiny stores were usually located just off the sidewalks on the owner's front yard. The stores stocked staple items such as bread and milk thus saving their neighbors a walk into town if such an item was needed quickly: few two-car families in those days.

As we scanned the store's candy selection, the lady behind the counter asked if we were looking for anything particular. We told her of our search for this special brand of bubble

gum.

She confided in us that she had a box full of 100 wads of this brand put away. She was wary to put them out on the counter because it would bring all the children of the area into her small store. We offered to buy the whole box and she accepted, so Bob and I got a dollar together and took the full carton of gum off her hands.

Back at Central Junior High School the word got out that Bob and I had a treasure of bubble gum and we were soon being accosted by schoolmates wanting to "buy a wad of gum."

We came up with a price of 5 cents for the penny candy and were swarmed with buyers. We sold out with a nice profit in our pockets.

But any elation was soon to end.

I was in class when a monitor came in and informed the teacher that I was to go "NOW" to the principal's office. Bob was already seated when I arrived. We were charged with "causing a commotion." It seems there was a surge of students chewing bubble gum in class and that Bob and I were fingered as the source.

After a lengthy lecture the principal sentenced us to spend our next noon hour helping the janitor. The janitor didn't want anything to do with us so he took us to the basement, sat us on wooden boxes and we served our hard time staring at the furnace and popping gum.